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# Stakeholders seek re-launch of floating restaurants, permitting casinos

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 25/--/ With increasing tourist footfalls in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a section of tourism stakeholders in the islands have underscored the need to the re-launching of floating restaurants by ANIIDCO. It may be recalled that during 2015-2017, ANIIDCO with the support of the Department of Shipping Services had launched a floating restaurant by converting the vessel 'MV Panchavati' into a floating restaurant operating till late night. Tourists and locals were able to enjoy a one-of-akind dining experience at the firstever floating restaurant in the islands. Besides providing the experience of dining on a moving vessel, the floating restaurant was

opportunity to spend the night at the vessel enjoying the beautiful nocturnal ambience of the islands. MV Panchavati, the DSS vessel was modified with facilities like Bar, Restaurant and AC Rooms. Gradually, it started attracting tourists and in no time it became a famous pastime for tourists and locals as an evening destination. This venture was a successful model from the 2015-2017. But suddenly, citing low occupancy, ANIIDCO abandoned the project and since 2018, MV Panchavati is berthed at Cholunga Jetty. Before the launch of MV Panchawati as a floating restaurant, the Tourism department of the Administration also proposed a project of launching a floating restaurant. Accordingly, a SCI vessel 'MV Ramanujam' was purchased at Rs.

also offering tourists and locals an one crore from SCI. However, the project from the beginning was marred by controversies and the initiative never took off. MV Ramanujam is presently dumped in a dilapidated condition at Panighat jetty. Night clubs and casinos are part of nightlife in most exquisite tourist destinations around the world. In India, casinos have taken strong roots in Goa with a number of offshore casinos fused with the landscape helping the tourism industry to grow. Like Goa, Andaman & Nicobar Islands too have the same landscape and all the required ingredients for a booming business. casino Undoubtedly, the decision to open casinos in the islands will not be a smooth sail for the administration as it will be met with strong opposition from various corners, including

political parties. It will also give a tool to almost all political parties in the islands to oppose this decision. But this had to be done sooner or later. For some in the tourism industry this is the right time to open casinos in the islands, despite all opposition. The reality is that the planners of the tourism policy have to formulate a policy on casinos which advocates formulation of sustainable strategies in order to maximise gains from casinos and counteract its prospective ill-effects of casino gambling.

Casinos need to be promoted in tourism areas due to their assumed capability of being the largest employers and their potential to attract a huge number of tourists who otherwise might not have considered



Though, there are potential negative aspects of casino development, this can be checked by taking necessary safeguards. Formulating a casino

policy and establishment of a casino controlling regulatory authority can become the guiding force for running

# **Apollo Clinic lives up to** patients' expectation

#### Performs successful surgical procedure

major breakthrough, Dr. Sumeet Sharma, Interventional Radiologist, Apollo Clinic, Garacharma have performed a procedure on Mr Sanjay Krishna and removed 100 ml of fluid collection from the pancreas with the help of a needle and local Anaesthesia. The procedure which lasted for one hour was performed on Saturday in the CT Scan machine.

The experienced and humble Doctor took extreme precautions to perform the procedure.

According to the patient, the overall cost of the procedure was just Rs 27,000, including USG, CT Scan with contrast, essential blood test, procedure charges, cost for culture, along with medicine charges. The same treatment is likely to cost around Rs 3-4 lakh in other private hospitals. Patients availing treatment from the Apollo Clinic has appreciated this reputed clinic for its maintenance, upkeep & hygienic level. Well experienced and highly qualified doctors from the mainland visiting the Islands and providing consultancy on a regular basis has added to the hospital building a reputation among the patients.

**Vellore Institute of Technology** 



The Bakuntala Fire Service Personnel carried out a mock drill in front of the Durga Puja Committee, Bakultala Durga Puja Pandal (PIX ASHIM).

Blair Guru Ki Rasoi in association with Coast Guard Wife Welfare Association distributed health and ration kits to 15 single mothers in a small event. MrsAnju Sharma, President, Tatrakshika, along with MrsJyotiKhariyal, Coordinator, Tatrakshika took an  $initiative \ to \ help \ single \ mothers \ of$ the islands and contacted MrMandeepGrewal, President, PBGKR. All single mothers were handed over a month-long ration, along with health drinks and other items. MrGrewal thanked the President, Tatrakshika for taking a noble initiative.

**CAMPBELL BAY SEPT** 25/--/ Sunday bazaar-an initiative of the Assistant



# Stalemate ends as Punjab Guv convenes Assembly session on Sept 27

The state Cabinet met

CHANDIGARH, SEPT 25 /--/ After days of squabble between the Raj Bhavan and the AAP government over holding an assembly session, Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit Sunday gave his nod to convene the House on September 27.

governor's approval came a day after the AAP government informed him about the issues to be taken up during the session. Earlier, the governor had withdrawn the permission to hold a special session on September 22 when the AAP government wanted to bring a confidence motion. According to an order issued of the governor, he has now summoned a daylong session at 11 am on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan tweeted, "The

#### 55 sikh, Hindu refugeesfrom Afghan reaching Delhi: MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney Chandigarh, Sept 25 /

--/ A batch of 55 Sikh and Hindu refugees stranded in Afghanistan will land in New Delhi on Sunday evening, AAP MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney said. The Rajya Sabha MP said the Ministry of External Affairs had earlier granted this "last batch" of refugees e-visas and their repatriation was facilitated by both Indian and Afghanistan governments. A special aircraft has been organised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Amritsar, to bring 38 adults and 17 children, including three infants, Sahney said in a statement. "We were in continuous touch with the Ministry of ExternalAffairs for the evacuation of this last batch which was stranded there, "he added. "We have been coordinating the repatriation rehabilitation of the Afghan refugees and will continue to support these families by providing them free housing, giving them monthly household expenses, providing them skills, medical insurance and educating their youth," said Sahney, who is also the president of World Punjabi Organisation. Healso said his organisation is running a programme 'My Family My Responsibility' under which 543 Afghan Sikhs and Hindu families have already been rehabilitated in West Delhi.

#### Maharashtra: 12 infants rescued after fire in hospital ICU in Amravati

A congregation is being held

at the Arjun Nagar Gurdwara

in West Delhi in the evening

to welcome the refugees, he

said. (PTI)

AMRAVATI. SEPT 25 /--/ Twelve infants kept on ventilator support in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at a government-run hospital here were rescued unhurtafterafirebrokethere out on Sunday, officials said. The incident occurred around 11 am at the District Women Hospital in Amravati city in eastern Maharashtra. they said. "The hospital staff noticed smoke coming out from the neonatal ICU. They immediately informed the fire brigade and rescued 12 newborn babies, who were kept there on ventilator support, in time and avoided a major tragedy," a district official said. The fire tenders reached in time and doused the blaze, which broke out apparently due to a short circuit in one of the ventilators, he said. "No infant was injured in the incident," the official said, adding that the rescued babies were shifted to a superspeciality hospital and other facilities immediately. According to the official, deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, who was newly appointed as the guardian minister of the district, directed the authorities to submit a report over the incident within 24 hours.(PTI)

Hon, Governor, Puniab, has very kindly acceded to our Wednesday evening and request and summoned the called the governor's move "arbitrary and anti-democratic". It also decided Punjab Vidhan Sabha to meet for it's third session on 27.9.2022 at 11.00 AM at to hold the session of state Chandigarh." The approval Assembly again on comes after days of public spat between the Raj Bhavan and the AAP dispensation over the issue. The row started after the governor on last Wednesday withdrew his permission to hold a special session the next day when the AAP dispensation planned to bring a trust motion,

alleging the BJP was trying

to "poach" ruling party

MLAs under 'Operation

Lotus'. The governor had

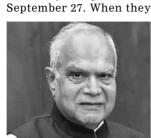
said he cancelled the special

session and sought legal

opinion after the Congress

and the BJP approached the

Raj Bhavan arguing that the



Banwarilal Purohit

requested governor's permission, he sought details of the legislative business to be taken up, which prompted a strong reaction from the Bhagwant Mann slammed him on Saturday, saying, "Gov/Presi consent before any session of Legislature is a formality. In 75 years, no Presi/Gov ever asked list of Legislative business before calling session. Legislative business is decided by BAC Advisory Committee of the House) and Speaker. Next Gov will ask all speeches also to be approved by him. Its too much." Purohit hit back at Mann, seeking to remind him of his duties and telling him that his legal advisors were not briefing him adequately.

In the letter to CM Mann, the governor had said, "After reading your statements in newspapers, it appears to me that perhaps you are 'too much' angry with me." AAP leader and Cabinet Minister Aman Arora had

cancelling the September 22 session at the instance of the BJP-led Centre in order to make the saffron party's alleged 'Operation Lotus' succeed. Arora had also said the Punjab government does not want any confrontation but asserted it will be unacceptable if anyone tries to deprive them of exercising their constitutional rights. On the governor seeking the legislative details about the September 27 session, the state government had said this cannot be a precondition for calling a session once decided by the council of ministers. The Mann government, however, relented Saturday and informed the governor that the issues like stubbleburning, goods and services tax and power supply will be discussed in the regular Assembly session

# House rules did not allow a September 27. (PTI) session just for. Chief minister

Rahul Gandhi along with other party workers at Bharat Jodo Yatra at Thrissur, Kerala

# Bharat Jodo Yatra: Congress workers protest with cutouts of gas cylinders in Kerala's Thrissur UR, SEPT 25 /--/ Opposition, VDSatheesanand hospital in Kozhikode on Modiover the rise:

THRISSUR, SEPT 25 /--/ Congressleader Rahul Gandhion Sunday resumed the Bharat Jodo Yatra from Thiroor inthedistrictaccompaniedby hundreds of party workers holdingbanners and placards against the high cooking gas prices in the country. The morning session of the 150day-long yatra covered a distance of around 11 kilometres before concluding at Wadakkanchery. Senior Congress leaders including, K Muraleedharan, K C Venugopal. Ramesh

MPs from the district among others joined Gandhi in his walk. The Congress workers were carrying placards in the shape of LPG cylinders highlightingsteepcookinggas prices in the country. After concluding the morning session of the foot march at Wadakkanchery, Gandhitook a chopper to Nilambur and paid his respects at the residence of late Congress leader Arvadan Mohammed. Senior Congress leader and former state minister Mohammed died at a private

Sunday. He was 87.

Gandhi said Mohammed was a pillar of the Congress and his demise was a great loss for the party. "He was a pillar for the Congress, a grassroots party worker and an excellent politician and even a better human being. It's a huge loss for us and a tragedy for us. For me, he was a guide and an elder brother. It's a personal loss for us," Gandhi told the media. On Saturday, Gandhi had launchedascathingattackon

Modi over the rise in fuel and cooking gas prices in the country, and charged that the BJP and the RSS were spreading hate and violence to distract the people from such main issues. "A gas cylinder used to cost Rs 400 when the UPA government was in power. The prime ministerwentoncomplaining about the Rs 400 for gas cylinders. But today he doesn't say a word about Rs 1,000 for gas cylinders." the Congressleaderhadsaidwhile addressing a massive crowd

#### Time has come for everyone to work towards ensuring change of govt in 2024: Pawar

FATEHABAD, SEPT 25 /--As several opposition leaders came together on one stage here, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar on Sunday said the time has come for everyone to work towards ensuring a change of the government at the Centre in 2024. Referring to the stir against the agrilaws, he said

farmers committing suicide is

not a solution and that the real

solutionwouldbetobringabout the change in government. Farmers staged protests on the borders of the national capital, butthecentralgovernmentdid not heed to their demands for averylongtime.Pawarsaidhere at a mega rally organised by the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD). The rally was also attended by Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar and Shiromani Akali Dal's



Sukhbir Singh Badal among others. Pawar said farmers and youths committing suicide is not a solution, but the real solution is to bring about a change and everyone must strive for a change of the government at the Centre in 2024. He said the central government had promised to withdraw cases filed against farmer leaders, but it has not fulfilled it as yet. (PTI)

# Rajnath Singh to visit Himachal today

soldiers who sacrificed their

lives while serving the

NEW DELHI, SEPT 25 /--/ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to visit Kangra in Himachal Pradesh on Monday to attend a felicitation ceremony for the families of soldiers who have laid down their lives while serving the nation. The minister shared the information about his planned visit in a tweet on Sunday. "Tomorrow, 26th September, I will be visiting Badoli, Kangra in Himachal Pradesh. Shall attend the felicitation ceremony of the families of our brave

nation. Look forward to it," he tweeted. In another tweet, the defence minister paid tribute to BJP ideologue Deendayal Upadhyay. He shared a small video clip showing the legacy of Upadhyay, using archival images and a recorded video message. "I bow to Pandit Upadhyay ji on his Jayanti," he tweeted. In his recorded message, Singh praised the

Deendayal philosophy and ideology of the late leader, and said if

can surmount some of the challenges it faces today. Born in 1916 in Mathura, Upadhyay was an RSS functionary and one of the founding members of the Jana Sangh, the forerunner to the BJP. His philosophy of "integral humanism" and 'antyodaya' (uplifting the most deprived) has been cited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a guiding principle government's

### Govt aims to deliver 10 lakh Ayushman Bharat cards every day: Health minister

has been successful in

bridging the gap between the

rich and the poor in terms of

accessibility of healthcare

NEW DELHI, SEPT 25 /--/ The government aims to deliver 10 lakh Ayushman Bharatcardseverydayunder its flagship health insurance scheme AB PM-JAY, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Sunday while highlighting that 3.95 crore admissions in hospitalsamounting to Rs 45,294 crore have been done so far under it. Over 19 crore people have been provided Ayushman Bharat cards so far under the scheme spanning its coverage in 33 states and Union Territories, he said. The minister said this after inaugurating the "Arogya Manthan 2022" to celebrate four years of the implementation of the Avushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and one year of the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). More than 24 crore ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) numbers have generated under the ABDM, Mandaviya said. "This reflects an important milestone in the digitisation of health records in the country," he said. "Earlier 1-1.5 lakh Ayushman cards were made daily, now the number is 4-5 lakh. The target istomake10lakhcardsevery day," Mandaviya said. He said under the Ayushman Bharat Infrastructure Mission, about Rs 100 crore will be spent in every district to strengthen the health

 $He said \, the \, government's \,$ focus is to make health services reach a person at the end of the delivery chain, enabled by technology. Mandaviya said the PM-JAY

infrastructure in the country.

services in the country. "Stressed on making healthcare more affordable and accessible while addressing the august gathering. Also, called for taking AB PM Jan Arogya Yojana & Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission schemes to

Mansukh Mandaviya greater heights by working together in cooperation with States & private players," the minister said in a tweet. Over 28,300 hospitals, of which 46 per cent are private, have been empanelled so far under the scheme. Of the total 3.8 crore hospital admissions under the scheme, 46 per cent were in government-run hospitals. Fifty-two per cent of the total admissions were male. While 27 per cent of the total patients admitted to hospitals were between 45 and 59 years old, 24 per cent were in the age group of 3-44 years, as per the official data.

Addressingthegathering, Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said the interplay between information technology and healthcare could achieve the vision of the prime minister of making health services accessible to all in the country. He said every village in the country will be connected through high-speed optical fibre in the next few years, which will connectivity and continuous health access to all. Vaishnaw also highlighted that the government is making adequate legal framework towardssafeguardingthedata of the health beneficiaries. Mandaviya said the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission(ABDM)has crossed the landmark of one crore digitally-linked health records, with over 27 lakh records linked in a day. Since its launch in September 2021. the ABDM has achieved significant growth with over 24 crore ABHA numbers (earlier known as Health ID), 1.50 lakh health facilities registered in the Health Facility Registry (HFR), over healthcare

professionals under the Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), 7,11,571 ABHA app downloads and 1,10,89,509 health records linked to ABHA of individuals, DrRS Sharma, CEO of the National Health Authority, said. For digitisation of old

health records, individuals can use the ABHA appor any other personal health record (PHR) app to scan and save their records. By linking these digital records to their ABHA, individuals will be able to connect with professionals and facilities digitally and get quality and affordable health services irrespective of geographic distance, according to officials. (PTI)

#### BJP chief says Kerala CM's office in ambit of corruption, facing heat of gold scam where the government will

KOTTAYAM, SEPT 25 /--/ BJP chief J P Nadda on Sunday attacked the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala by saying that chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan's office was "not out of the frame of corruption" and the "heat of gold scam" has also reached

Nadda further accused the Left government of creating a situation where the state will "end up in a debt trap" and added that its debts have almost doubled. He also said, while speaking at a meeting of PM Awas Yojana beneficiaries here, that drug menace, fringe elements and lawlessness were on a rise in Kerala. "The present government, the LDF government, the CPI(M) government, is trying to create a situation be in a debt trap and the debt has almost doubled," he said. "If I talk about corruption, even the CM's office is not out of the frame of corruption. It is very much in the ambit of corruption. If I talk about the gold scam, the heat has even reached the CMO. Drug menace, fringe elements are on the rise and not only that you will also see that lawlessness is there...." he said. The senior BJP leader also pointed out that many party workers have been murdered or physically marginalised in Kerala and said that there is no place for violence in democracy, "that too statesponsored violence". "In democracy, there is no place for violence. There is only place for argument, and discussions. But we see that physical assaults, violence, that too state-sponsored

violence, goes on," he said. Nadda said that if people of Kerala want the state to develop, have infrastructure. corruption free and the public be empowered, then they should "support" and "empower" policies and programmes of the BJP. "The only way is to support the BJP," he said. At the event, he also said that various scheme and welfare measures, like PM Awas Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, PM Garib Kalyan Yojana and PM Kisan Yojana, have been introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that crores of families across the country have benefitted from the same.

# Every child in Gujarat will prosper if AAP comes to power: Kejriwal

AHMEDABAD, SEPT 25 / --/ Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said if people of Gujarat bring the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to power, then every child in the state will

prosper. **K**ejriwal and Punjab Bhagwant Mann addressed a gathering of youth in Ahmedabad where Kejriwal targeted both the ruling BJP and opposition Congress in Gujarat, where the Assembly elections are due in December this year. "I was seeing a wonderful message being shared in a Gujarat WhatsApp group that I follow. It says if you vote for Congress, then Sonia Gandhi's son will prosper. If you vote for BJP. (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah's son will

prosper, and if you vote for AAP, then every single child of Gujarat will prosper," the Delhi CM and AAP national convener said. Like the AAP governments provided 12 lakh jobs in Delhi and 20,000 in Punjab in less than six months, the party is committed to provide 10 lakh jobs in Gujarat when it comes to power in the state, he said. Kejriwal again listed the "job calendar" for Gujarat and said the AAP will provide 10 lakh government jobs by filling teachers' posts in schools, opening new colleges and mohalla clinics, and providing more doctors and health care staff in hospitals, among others. "I believe if 10 lakh jobs are less, we will be able to

provide 20 lakh government jobs in five years," he said. The AAP will also

provide an unemployment allowance of Rs 3,000 per month to youth till they get a job, he said. Kejriwal claimed people have been voting for BJP because the "Congress is even worse, but this time they have an alternative in AAP -- "an honest party with fresh faces and new politics." He said "leaders of both the BJP and Congress have stolen so much of public money that if their properties are sold, then I believe the entire debt of Gujarat can be paid". "If the AAP forms a government, we will spend every single penny on you (citizens), and will not let it be stolen," he said. Kejriwal said if the

AAP comes to power in Gujarat, it will raise money by stopping theft and corruption. The AAP will stop the "loot" carried out by leaders of the two parties, he said. "We will stop the loot



and recover the money. Every single penny of Gujarat government will be spent on you," Kejriwal told

e gathering. He said the guarantee is

the state, irrespective of the leaders they support. Recalling a group of youth shouting "Modi, Modi" when he came out of the airport in Vadodara recently, Kejriwal said he would not ask them to change their slogan. "I would like to tell you from this stage that I will never ask you to change your slogan, you are free to raise a slogan for him. But if we form a government, we will give you a job and unemployment allowance as well. Those people shouting slogans are also

ours. The entire country is

ours, the entire Gujarat is

ours," he said. Kejriwal also

targeted the Guiarat BJP

government over cases of

exam question paper leak

and said if voted to power,

applicable to all youth from

the AAP government will open such cases. "Leaders who have played with the future of the youth will be sent to jail. We will ensure there is no paper leak in Gujarat.

And if anyone dares, we will bring a law with a provision of 10 years imprisonment," he said. 'While the paper leak happens in Gujarat, the Bureau Central Investigation conducts raids on (Delhi Deputy CM and Education Minister) Manish Sisodia and AAP in Delhi," he claimed.

Punjab CM Mann urged the youth to use their energy positively to change the government in Guiarat. "For the first time it has happened in 27 years that (senior BJP leader) Amit Shah went to inaugurate a government school (in Gujarat). He is forced to pay attention to the education sector, but didn't do so in the past," the AAP leader claimed. Mann said the AAP has set the narrative that politics based on religion, caste, allurement money will not work. "Votes will be given only on the politics of work," he said. Mann claimed the BJP and said its leaders only know how to speak and not to listen to the public. "If you have done 'Mann Ki Baat,' then why do it again on radio (referring to Prime Minister Narendra programme)? Listen to the public's 'mann ki baat'. But they have no habit of

listening," he said. (PTI)



#### **CPI(M)** conducts mass demonstration at Mayabunder

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 25/--/ As part of the All India Campaign by the CPI (M) on the increasing assaults of the BJP central government on people's livelihood, the Diglipur Area Committee of the CPI (M) has conducted a mass demonstration in front of the office of Assistant Commissioner, Mayabunder on 23rd Sept .2022.

**CYMK** 

Party leaders and workers from different parts of Diglipur participated in the programme. The demands raised in the mass demonstration were to withdraw GST on food articles, restore subsidy on gas cylinders, abolish Central government cess/ surcharge on petroleum products, fill-up all the vacant posts in various government departments,

Mr. AVA Samad, Secretary, Diglipur Area Committee of the CPI(M), Mr. DilipKarmakar, SmtSaraniTopno and Mr. Sunil Bepari, State Committee Members of the party led the mass demonstration.

Mr. D. Ayyappan, Secretary, CPI (M) A & N State Organising Committee, who is currently on a tour of North Andaman and DrGaurangaMajhi, Secretariat Member also attended the programme.



# Varshikadhivesan of NSKS held



PORT BLAIR, SEPT 25/--/The day-long Varshik Adhivesan of Nagarpalika Swachhtha Karmachari Sangh (NSKS) held on Sunday at the Dairy Farm Community Hall. In the inaugural session, Mr. Vijay Kumar, ZillaSanghchalak was the chief guest and Mr. M. Veeranna, State President, BMS, Mr. Jaydeep Kumar Dey, Andaman RajyaKarmchariMahasangh (ANRKM), Mr. S. BijuPillai, General Secretary, ANRKM were also present, alongwith Dr. T.

Thirumuniyan, Secretary, NSKS. Mr. Vijay Kumar in his address appealed to bring unity among the coworkers and unitedly we can achieve any goal. Mr. Subramaniam presented the report on the activity of NSKS and Dr. T. K. JijithRekh expressed gratitude and expressed anguish on not getting justice with the Sanitary workers for their basic needs for which the Prime Minister is very

K. JijithRekh, President, NSKS and Mr.

M. Veerannaji, State President, BMS addressed on Organisation setup and difference between other trade unions and BMS and stated that the focus of BMS is Nation First. In the last session of out by Mr. S. BijuPillai, GS, ANRKM.

At the end, Mr. Jaydeep Kumar Dey, President, ANRKM and Mr. G. Anoop, Organising Secretary addressed the gathering to go all level to resolve the issues and the year 2023 will blossom with a new ray of working atmosphere. Smt. Savitri, Joint Secretary, NSKS expressed vote of thanks to all supported organisations and individuals. The programme concluded with the traditional dance of Ranchi

#### interactive, resolution was adopted on the issues of Sanitary workers wherein main focus was regularising service, timely issuance of broom, soap etc., Providing basic facilities of drinking water and toilet facilities with space for taking food and hand wash. The resolution passed was read

#### much concerned. In the second session, Mr. Waahid Shah, team performs at Flag Point



PORT BLAIR, SEPT 25/--/ A musical & cultural show was presented by popular local singers including Mr. Waahid Shah and team at Flag Point on Friday. The singers presented patriotic songs gluing the audience to their seats. The performance also earned appreciation from the audience. The Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture, GoI had organised this programme on the culmination of the classical dance workshop with the support of the Art & Culture Dept. of A&N Islands, where the classical dancers/participants of the workshop also presented dance performances.

#### Mariyam Bibi, team meet Secretary (APWD)



PORT BLAIR, SEPT 25/--/ Miss V. K.Mariyam Bibi, ZPM, Bambooflat and Panchayat Samiti Member, Hopetown met Shri Kishore Kshirsagar, Secretary (APWD) in his chamber on Saturday and discussed various issues concerning her area. Notable issues includes improvement of road from Wimberlygunj to Wright Myo, development of water supply project at KoilaNallah, Mannarghat, construction of 50,000 litre capacity RCC water tank at Azad nagar, construction of side drain from Bambooflat to Chunnabatta, strengthening of Panighat jetty and immediate repair of passenger hall at Panighat jetty, improvement of Panighat dam and development of sweet water lake project at Stewartgunj. The Secretary gave a patient hearing and assured the delegation that all the workS will be taken up on top priority for the benefit of the public.







Editorial THE ECHO OF INDIA PORT BLAIR Monday · September 26, 2022

Sim/by/ave/s///swe/with/mever/ have all the facts to make a perfect judgement, but with the aid of basic experience we must leap bravely into the future

Russell R. McIntyre

#### **Bumpy road** ahead for RBI

With several agencies cutting the GDP growth forecast to 7 per cent and lower, the Union finance ministry is in a dilemma whether an aggressive tightening of the monetary policy is the appropriate strategy for India, which faces challenges that may require a different response than the western countries. In this context, Finance Minister NirmalaSitharaman has already said that "the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may not be as much synchronised as the western countries would do" - in other words, hiking policy rates may not be the best thing for India. This scenario comes against the backdrop of the rupee breaching the 81-mark to the US dollar intra-day Friday, as the greenback continued to strengthen against all other major currencies following an aggressive rate hike announcement by the Federal Reserve. Policy framers in New Delhi are all the more puzzled as the RBI has burnt forex reserves at a dramatic pace this calendar year to prevent exchange rate volatility. In just eight months between mid-January and mid-September this year, forex reserves have depleted by almost \$90 billion, or approximately an average of \$11 billion a month. For the week-ended September 16, India's forex reserves stood at \$545.65 billion compared with \$634.97 billion in the week-ended January 14.

While sustained high inflation of 7 per cent plus has prompted the RBI to hike policy rates, the government is keen to preserve GDP growth and create more jobs as several big states head for polls over the next 12-18 months. Such an intervention, many in the market believe, would be to defend the currency at a particular level. Growth imperatives and need to create jobs weigh heavy on the government's mind with elections in over a dozen states in the next 12-18 months. Instead of sharp rate hikes to contain inflation, policymakers would rather let the rupee depreciate. Policy makers in the government as well as the RBI are convinced that a large part of inflation is "imported". They are discussing relative advantages and disadvantages of an "overt" action such as an interest rate hike versus "covert" gradual depreciation of the rupee. Unlike monetary tightening through rate hikes, which is akin to the use of a sledgehammer, letting the rupee find its level, is a better tool to rein in demand, say

A depreciating rupee makes imports more expensive, and curbs demand. According to RBI's monetary policy report of April 2022, a 5 per cent depreciation in rupee could result in inflation edging up by 20 basis points while the GDP growth could be higher by 15 basis points. In 2022 so far, the rupee has depreciated by 8.2 per cent in 2022 against the US dollar. Policy makers in New Delhi seem to be veering around the view that the RBI should not hold any particular level sacrosanct. This (gradual weakening of rupee) covert measure is better than an overt monetary policy action of hiking rates. The three-day RBI monetary policy committee is scheduled to begin September 28, and the action to be announced on September 30 will be the cynosure of all eyes.

# Nitish Kumar imparts fresh dynamism to opposition unity

Take a look at three significant events in recent weeks These political initiative will be a crucial in the general election scheduled for 2024. Earlier, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met all opposition leaders for several hours in New Delhi. He met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and had dinner with Delhi CM, ArvindKeiriwal, Although Kejriwal has declared himself a Jihadi in fight against corruption. Nitish Kumar has also met with convicted leader. Om PrakashChautala. He met with various Leftist factions and did not forget to meet Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, who is recovering in Medanta

His son Akhilesh was also present during the meeting. On the final day of his visit, he had a lengthy conversation with senior most opposition leader SharadPawar. Nitish had previously met with Telangana CM K. ChandrashekharRao in Patna. He is scheduled to meet more non-BJP states' ruled CMs like Mamata Banerjee and Naveen Patnaik. Will Nitish Kumar be able to unite the divided Opposition and defeat the BJP?

Nitish and his allies think that because the BJP won 200 of the 250 seats in north and west India, even if it loses 40 of them, the picture might change. They know that BJP-led NDA won all of the seats in ten states and union territories in 2019 elections. This vast area is represented by 83 MPs. Furthermore the saffron party had won 184 LokSabha seats from a total of 264 in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Bihar. The major NDA constituents in Punjab. Maharashtra and Bihar have chosen to break away. On this

# REFLEX ACTION

#### Harihar Swarup

basis, they believe that the BJP will struggle to repeat the miracle on its own or with the help of some smaller parties. This argument appears appealing, but it contains numerous pitfalls. Consider West Bengal. In 2019 general elections, the BJP won 18 of the state's 42 seats. Mamata Banerjee on the other hand, secured unprecedented victory in the recent assembly elections, it is worth noting that the Congress did not get any seat in 2021 assembly elections, so was the position of the erstwhile powerful CPI(M)

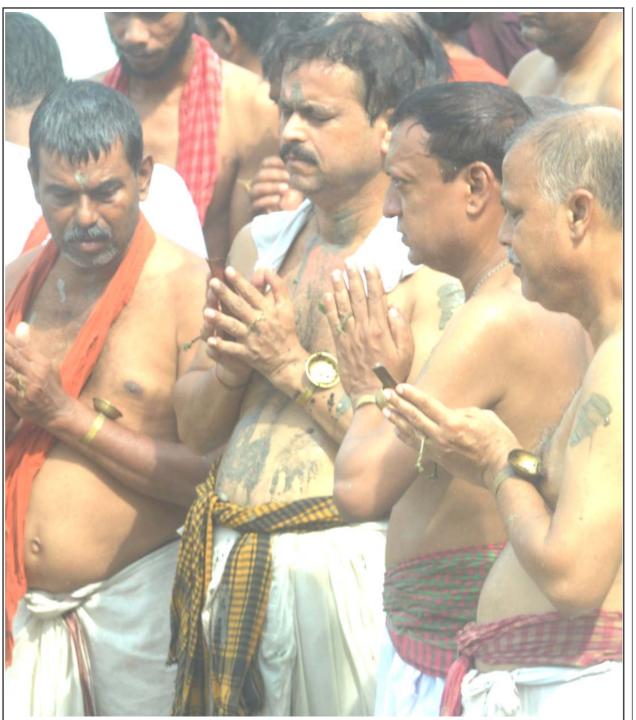
Even after being in tune with Nitish Kumar, Mamata is not well disposed towards Congress and the Left parties.. Telangana's CM KCR has expressed similar sentiments. Nitish Kumar will be in West Bengal in the coming days. Will Bihar CM be able to persuade Mamata and KCR, both Third Front supporters, to form a "Main Front"? Kejriwal, on the other hand, is opposed to such "manipulative" politics. Apart from these three, two other leaders have potential to stymie Opposition unity-AkhileshYadav and BSP leader Mayawati. It is impossible to win battle in U.P. unless these two are brought together.

Let us now look at the two other incidents. Recently, Rahul Gandhi embarked on the Bharat JodoYatra from Kanyakumari. During this he will travel up to Kashmir. His

motive is clear. In South India, the UPA, led by Congress, is in a relatively strong position. The Congress won 27 out of 129 LokSabha seats in Tamil Naidu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, while the BJP won 29 LokSabha seats. The Congress believes that if the atmosphere of unity warms up, the BJP will be unable to win as many seats there as it did in 2019 polls. Kejriwal is flexing his muscles at the same time. Recently he launched the "Make India number one" from his home town Hissar. During this he will meet voters from across the country. He fought against Modi in 2014 but lost. It remains to be seen how successful his efforts will be in the coming days

Let us come back to BJP. There are no major allies left with it, but BJP's leadership doesn't seem to mind. The reason? Modi, home minister Amit Shah, and BJP President J P Nadda continue to nurture the BJP's desire for victory at any cost. It is not without any reason that on the same day Nitish Kumar met Kejriwal and Chautala, Shah and Nadda met the party's ministers and office bearers. The agenda of the meeting was to focus on the 139 seats where the BJP finished second last time. The BJP is also looking into forming an alliance with Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh. The Saffron Party is adept at playing its cards such as to catch everyone off guard. Maharashtra is the most recent example of this. Who knows what its next move

One thing is certain. The board for 2024 has been set up, but preliminary bets do not lead to any conclusion. Both teams have proficient players. It is preferable to wait for the final outcome. (IPA)



People pray for the souls of their departed ancestors by offering Tarpan at the AriadahaKheyaGhat on Sunday

# on the occasion of Mahalaya--Arijit Ganguly

#### Following a more in-depth study of history. Marx was now fully aware that the schema of linear progression through the "Asiatic, ancient, feudal and modern bourgeois modes of production," which he had drawn in the preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy, in 1859, was inadequate for an understanding of the movement of history, and that it was indeed advisable to steer clear of any philosophy of history. He did not see historical development in terms of unshakable linear progress toward a predefined end. The more pronounced multilinear conception that Marx developed in his final years led him to look even more attentively at the historical specificities and unevenness of political and economic development in different countries and social contexts. This approach certainly increased the difficulties he faced in the already bumpy course of completing the second and third

In the last decade of his life, Marx undertook thorough investigations of societies outside Europe and expressed himself unambiguously against the ravages of colonialism. It would be wrong to suggest otherwise, and to attribute him a Eurocentric view of societal development. Marx criticized thinkers who, while highlighting the destructive consequences of colonialism, used categories peculiar to the European context in their analyses of peripheral areas of the globe. He repeatedly warned against those who failed to observe the necessary distinctions between phenomena, and — especially after his theoretical advances in the 1870s — he was

volumes of Capital.

Karl Marx's translation of "Capital" in French turns 150 years

#### **Marcello Musto**

highly wary of transferring interpretive categories across completely different historical or geographical fields. All this is clearer thanks to Le Capital.

In 1878, in a letter in which Marx weighed the positive and negative sides of the French edition, he wrote to Danielson that it contained "many important changes and additions," but that he had "also sometimes been obliged — principally in the first chapter — to simplify the matter." Later, Engels thought that these additions were simplifications not worth reproducing, and he did not include all the changes made by Marx to Le Capital in the fourth German edition of Capital, published in 1890, seven years after Marx's death. Marx was unable to complete a final revision of Capital, Volume I. In fact, neither the French edition of 1872-75 nor the third German edition issued in 1881 can be considered the definitive version that Marx would have liked it to be.

for the diffusion of Marx's work around the world. It was used for the translation of many extracts into various languages — the first in the English language, published in 1883, for example. More generally, Le Capital represented the first gateway to Marx's work for readers in various

Le Capital had considerable importance

countries. The first Italian translation published between 1882 and 1884 - was made directly from the French edition. In the case of Spanish, Le Capital made it possible to bring out some partial editions and two complete translations: one in Madrid, in 1967, and one in Buenos Aires, in 1973. Since French was more widely known than German, it was thanks to this version that Marx's critique of political economy was able to reach many countries in Hispanic America more rapidly. Much the same was true for Portuguese-speaking countries. In Portugal itself, Capital circulated only through the small number of copies available in French until an abridged version appeared in Portuguese, shortly before the fall of the Salazarist dictatorship in 1974. In general, political activists and researchers in both Portugal and Brazil found it easier to approach Marx's work via the French translation than in the original. The few copies that found their way into Portuguese-speaking African countries were also in that language.

Colonialism also partly shaped the mechanisms whereby Capital became available in the Arab world. While in Egypt and Iraq it was English that featured most in the spread of European culture, the French edition played a more prominent role the 1960s, was a significant center for facilitating the circulation of Marxist ideas "non-aligned" countries. The significance of Le Capital stretched also to Asia, as demonstrated by the fact that the first Vietnamese translation of Volume I, published between 1959 and 1960, was based on the French edition.

Thus, as well as being often consulted by translators around the world and checked against the 1890 edition published by Engels, which became the standard version of Das Kapital, the French translation has served as the basis for complete translations of Capital into seven languages. One hundred and fifty years since its first publication, it continues to be a source of stimulating debate among scholars and activists interested in Marx's critique of capitalism.

In a letter to his longtime comrade Friedrich Adolph Sorge, Marx remarked that with Le Capital, he had "consumed so much of [his] time that [he would] not again collaborate in any way on a translation.' That is exactly what happened. The toil and trouble that he put into producing the best possible French version were remarkable indeed. But we can say they were well rewarded. Le Capital has had a significant circulation, and the additions and changes made by Marx during the revision of its translation contributed to the anti-colonial and universal dimension of Capital that is becoming widely recognized nowadays. thanks to some of the newest and most insightful contributions in Marx studies.

# **Conventional Crossword** DOWN

#### **ACROSS**

- Sharp blow Face of a building
- Greedy Spanish title
- Dry inflammable
- Very hard mineral Postpone
- 20 Lessened in intensity
- 24 Narcotic

#### 15 Extinct bird Cerea 17 Means of entry

12 Frozen treat 13 Stain

Discharge Worship

Deeply engrossed Chess piece

- 18 Airman 19 Scolds
- 21 Resting places 22 Look after 23 Obligation 25 Kitchen utensil

#### **SUDOKU:3651** 2 9 8

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1659 OW R ı RU Ε S N D GE Е G

8

#### **DISCLAIMER**

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environment.Giving

which eventually results in

large-scale dumping of

waste in landfills. Showing

keen interest to invest in

Punjab, Gurjot Singh,

Director BioShakti said

presentation

/--/ Punjab new and

renewable energy sources

minister Aman Arora on

Sunday emphasized the

need to make optimum use

of municipal solid waste to

generate green energy and

representatives of a bio-fuel

company and senior

officials of the department,

an official statement said

here. The minister said the

Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab

government is committed to

promoting non-conventional

and natural energy sources

minister held

bio-fuel.

deliberations

#### Laughter, Yoga & Meditation sessions at C/Bay



**SUBRATA** 

CAMPBELL BAY, SEPT 25/--/ A fit body, a calm mind, a society full of happiness. These things cannot be bought - they must be earned. With this motive in mind, a Hasgulla Club has been started in Campbell Bay by Dr. Nitin Shakya, Assistant Commissioner, Campbell Bay. The aim is to conduct laughter sessions, yoga and meditation sessions every Saturday at 6 am at Children Park, Campbell Bay.

Dr. NidhiTiwari, PhD in yoga, took part in the session, along with Ms. Sheela, Yoga Teacher at PHC, Campbell Bay. During the session, the participants were told about the importance of teaching and learning yoga for good health and children for participating in the International level competitions.

More than 50 residents participated in the sessions, along with MrPradeep BDO, Engineer

#### Cleanliness drive at MES new colony

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 25/--/ As part of the efforts of SmtLaxmiGaneshan, Municipal Councillor, Ward No-8 to keep the entire Bunidayabad area neat & clean, a cleanliness drive was conducted at Ward No-8 at MES new colony playground. Smti.LaxmiGaneshan, Ward

Councillor- PBMC, along with Shri. K. Ganeshan, Ex-Chairperson PBMC and youths of MES Colony participated in the cleanliness drive. The playground of the MES Colony was in a very bad shape as wild grass and bushes had grown up in the entire colony complex. Children were unable to play in the playground due to wild grown-up grass and slippery ground. The grasses were chopped off and the footpaths were cleaned by spraying bleaching powder. Several bags of garbage were collected which were collected which were handed over to the PBMC

#### Gehlot approves Rs 25 crore fund forwomen self-help groups

JAIPUR, SEPT 25 /--/ Chief minister Ashok Gehlot has approved an additional budget provision of Rs 25 crore for the establishment of 'Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi' for the financial management of the self-help groups in the state. Gehlot started 'Mahila

Nidhi' on the occasion of Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2022, for social economic progress. Through the fund, the women of the self-help group will be able to easily get access to loans for their daily needs and selfemployment and incomegenerating activities.'Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi' has been formed through Rajasthan Rural



Ashok Gehlot

Livelihood Development Council (Rajeevika). In the budget 2022-23. Gehlot had announced to assist Rs 50 crore for the establishment of the fund in the next two years. This financial sanction has been given in

pursuance of the said declaration.Under this scheme, loans up to Rs 40,000 will be deposited in the bank account of the group members within 48 hours of its application and loans above Rs 40,000 within a time limit of 15 days. At present, 2.70 lakh

self-help groups have been formed in 33 districts of the state, in which 30 lakh families are connected. In the financial year 2022-23. 50,000 self-help groups are proposed to be formed, in which about 6 lakh families will be connected. A total of 36 lakh families in the state will get benefits from Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi in a phased manner based on

## Covid helpline received 6.62 lakh calls related to viral disease between Sept 2021 and August this year

More than 6.62 lakh calls were made to the government's Covid-19 helpline number -- 1075 - with queries related to the disease while another 7.55 lakh calls were related to Co-WIN registration and vaccination appointments between September 2021 and August 15 this year, according to official data.

The 24x7 toll-free national helpline number is run by the National Health Authority (NHA) on behalf of the Union Ministry.The

operated through a call centre service provider of the NHA since March 15. 2020.From September 2021 to August 15 this year, 6.62 lakh calls were received on the helpline with queries related to the disease, the NHA data showed. The helpline was also used for helping citizens with Co-WIN registration and vaccine appointment booking since December 2020. During the period, 7.55 lakh calls were received for the registration and

vaccine appointments for

Co-WIN. The country saw

helpline number is a single-day rise of 4,777 coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,45,68,114, while the active cases have declined to 43,994, according to the **Union Health Ministry** data updated on Sunday.

The death toll has climbed to 5,28,510 with 23 fatalities which includes 11 deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. The active cases comprise 0.10 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.72 per cent, the ministry said.

for 2022 is "building inclusive

Saturday 17. (PTI)

memorabilia Commonwealth Games, started on

feasibility to generate biofuels and hydrogen using solid waste, Arora was apprised that urban areas of Punjab generated about 3,800 tons per day (TPD) MSW in 2021. Unsegregated MSW remains a major challenge as manual segregation is not possible for such large volumes,

Punjab minister bats for generating green

developed a hub and spoke model, unsegregated MSW in nearby urban local bodies will be segregated using an

will further be converted into an organic-rich fraction and a combustible fraction  $\begin{array}{lll} (RDF) & using & welle \\ e \ s \ t \ a \ b \ l \ i \ s \ h \ e \ d \end{array}$ technologies."The organicrich fraction will be processed into a dry anaerobic digestion plant to produce bio-CNG and highquality compost, while, the RDF will be shredded, baled, and transported to a central refinery where it will be gasified to produce a range of fuels including methanol, biodiesel, and sustainable aviation fuel,"

He evinced that the first

energy, bio-fuel from municipal solid waste MSW is proposed to be set up in Ludhiana, Patiala, SAS Nagar, and the nearby Urban Local Bodies. The company will make an investment of Rs 1,500 crore to set up the hub and spokes in collaboration with the ULBs. The plant will create up to 500 green jobs and could handle 1600 TPD of MSW from these major urban centres, added.Hydrogen mobility can play a pivotal role in decarbonizing sectors such as long-distance transport by trucks and buses that are difficult to electrify, he said.

#### Hilltopvillage setto get allweather road in J&K's Doda

BHADERWAH, SEPT 25 / --/ Known for growing red beans, organic vegetables fruits, Panchayat in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda will soon have all-weather road connectivity with the construction of 15-km Nagar-lanchan to Kanser

Situated at an elevation of 7,780 ft above sea level Kanser village is primarily inhabited by Gaddi and Sippi tribes. They earn their livelihood by rearing sheep growing organic vegetables, red beans and high-quality fruits like quins, apricots, walnuts and plump. Over 3,500 tribal residents of the hilltop village, which provide a bird's eye view of Bhaderwah town beside the iconic Ashpati Glacier and Kailash Kund, are beaming with joy since the beginning of the macadamization work.District Development Council (DDC) Chairman, Doda, Dhananter Singh

Kotwal along with vice chairperson Sangeeta Bhagat kick-started the work on the 15 km road stretch passing through steep and dense coniferous forest."The road is being constructed at a cost of Rs 9.40 crore and will be completed by October 10 subject conditions," Assistant Executive Engineer, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Bhaderwah, Atta Mohd Sheikh said. Bhagat said the agricultural especially 'Rajmash' and due to the non-availability of connectivity, the people were facing hardships while reaching out to markets."Now their dream is going to come true," she said.Locals expressed their gratitude to the government and PMGSY authorities for taking care of their grievances regarding road connectivity."We living in miserable conditions due to the absence connectivity which is very necessary development of any area, Sudhir Kumar, a local resident, said."Nature has gifted us with famous Rajmash and other products but we were unable to get benefits as it was very difficult for us to reach the market by foot to sell our

produce, "he added. The villagers hoped that the road connectivity will help them get good rates for their produce and also ensure admission of their children to reputed schools.



Members of AAP women wing raise slogans during their protest against BJP over the killing of Ankita Bhandari,

#### UP: Cheating case filed against ex-BSP MLC Haji Iqbal

against former Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLC Haji Iqbal for allegedly not paying money to a contractor for the construction work of Glocal University, police said on

Iqbal is the founder of Glocal University, a private institute located in Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh.The contractor, Karamjit, a resident of Yamunanagar in Haryana, filed a complaint with the police on Saturday evening alleging that Iqbal cheated him and did not pay the

amount for the construction work of the university, they said. The construction of the university had started in 2015 and it was completed in 2017. But Igbal did not pay the money to Karamjit who had secured the contract to build the institute, Saharanpur Senior Superintendent of Police Vipin Tada said. The complainant said instead the former MLC demanded money from him, he added. On the basis of the complaint, an FIR for cheating, dacoity and assault was registered against Iqbal and his 11 associates at Mirzapur police station, police said, adding he is absconding. (PTI)

conservation

## 20 forest divisions in UP made fraudulent payments against plantation works: CAG report

NOIDA, SEPT 25 /--/Uttar Pradesh's 20 forest divisions made fraudulent payment of Rs 1.37 crore for various works by mentioning false registration numbers of vehicles using which works were claimed to be executed, a CAG audit report has revealed.

The registration number of vehicles for which payments were done in the name of tractors and excavators were found to be registered as motorcycles, jeeps, scooters, mopeds, etc, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)'s compliance audit report for the year ended March 2020 revealed. Accessed by PTI, the report was tabled in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly recently and highlighted fraudulent payment against plantation work by the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, among

other state government organs. Citing rules, the CAG said the Uttar Pradesh government contractors for works or payment authorised subordinate officer.No payment should be made until the correctness of the claim, in respect of quantities and rates as well as the quality of work or supply and other necessary factors, has been accepted by an authorised officer, it noted.A test-check by Audit (December 2020) of monthly vouchers of payment for various works for the years 2016-17 to 2018-19 in 20 Forest Divisions' revealed that the Divisions had executed work of digging of pits and trenches, soil work, transportation of  $saplings, cow\,dung, brick$ works, watering of plants, etc., for plantation

purposes by tractors and excavators on contracts, provides that payments to the report stated. The vouchers supply can be made only contain details of name of by the divisional officer or the contractor to whom payment was made, registration number of tractor or JCB, etc., through which the works were executed, details of works executed, rates and amount paid against executed works, etc, it noted.However, it added that the audit verified the tractors  $\mathbf{or}$ registration number mentioned in the payment vouchers with the records of the Uttar Pradesh transport department.It was noticed that the vehicle registration numbers indicated in the payment against which payments were made by the divisional forest officer, were registered as vehicles other than tractors and excavators viz. motorcycles, jeeps, scooters, mopeds, etc, the CAG report stated. Thus, the works for plantation conservation purposes, claimed to have been done under vouchers with false tractors or JCBs' numbers, had actually never taken place and the payment of Rs 1.37 crore involved in 1,058 vouchers made to contractors or individuals was prima facie fraudulent and the amounts so claimed tantamount

> embezzlement, it stated. The audit reported (in December 2020 and March 2021) the matter to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF).In its reply in January 2021, the PCCF accepted the audit observation and initiated disciplinary against the delinquent officials, and added that the works were actually executed while

incorrect vehicles numbers were posted, the CAG said. Further, the PCCF stated that an inquiry has been set up under senior officers at the headquarters for physical verification and checking of records, it said. The audit, while appreciating the course of action taken by the PCCF as per the reply, is of the view that given the serious nature of infraction, appropriate and timely action needs to be taken by the government against the responsible officials for the fraudulent payments and dereliction of duty. the CAG stated. Further, the government may conduct a comprehensive examination of all of vouchers concerned years in these Divisions for detecting similar fraudulent payments as Audit conducted test check for only selected few months in 20 Divisions, it said in the report. In its reply in January, the government had said the 14 officials had been suspended, 137 charge-sheeted and 44 officials had either retired or died while disciplinary proceedings against the remaining were under process, the report added.

NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (A Wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd.)

(55 MW DUAL FUEL BASED POWER PROJECT AT A&N)

NOTICE

It is to inform that the proposed project "55 MW DUAL FUEL BASED POWER PROJECT AT ANDAMAN & NICOBAR" o NTPC VIDYUT VYAPAR NIGAM LIMITED (A Wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd.) has been accorded environmental clearance by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on 15th September 2022. The copies of the clearance letter are available with the Andaman & Nicobar Pollution Control Committee and may also be seen at website of

the MoEF&CC at http://parivesh.nic.in The Chief General Manager M/s NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. NTPC Bhawan, Core 7, SCOPE Complex, 7 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 Email: nvvnbd@ntpc.co.in

**Leading the Power Sector** 

# NGMA fosters inclusivity: Guided tour in sign language, catalogue in Braille

NEW DELHI, SEPT 25 /--/ From holding special guided tours for the differently-abled in sign language to publishing a catalogue of select items in Braille, the National Gallery of Modern Art is taking steps to foster greater inclusivity while giving visitors a holistic museum experience.

The celebrated gallery, located in the iconic Jaipur House near India Gate, comes under the purview of the Ministry of Culture.It is currently also displaying a large number of mementos gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the past as part of an ongoing e-auction of the gifts that will end on October 2."The NGMA has made great strides towards making the museum a democratising space, one that gives access to all including to those who are differently-abled," a senior official said. It has initiated several creative museum practices with the idea of inclusivity."In addition, for the very first time in the history of the museum, we have also published a catalogue of select items in Braille along with an audio guide app," the official said. Various well-known people have visited the exhibition of mementos, and the gallery has taken care to make the experience inclusive for all. Notes singer Mohit Chauhan visited the NGMA on Saturday and took a tour of the exhibited mementos.

As part of the International Week of the Deaf being observed globally, a guided tour of the exhibition of mementos received by the prime minister was held in sign language. This was followed by the recital of national anthem also in sign language, by Sai

Swayam Society for the differentlyabled visitors on September 23, the official said. Besides, a cultural extravaganza was organised that not only celebrated inclusivity but also put the spotlight on the role of museums in uniting communities, said."The scintillating performance by young artists set the stage for next performances including a puppet show, a magic show and a musical performance by Anhad, a gifted band of visually impaired people," the NGMA said.International Week of the Deaf is celebrated by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and its national associations and their affiliates globally during the last full week of September, culminating with International Day of the Deaf on the last Sunday of the week, which falls on September 25 this year. The theme

communities for all". "Bearing in mind the significance of the ongoing International Week for the Deaf, we have introduced several innovative solutions to keep those with hearing and visual impairment, engaged with happenings at the museum."This will ensure a wider participation in the fourth edition of the series of auctions first launched in 2019," said Temsunaro Jamir, Director, NGMA."All communities should be able to participate in big numbers to bring the visionary ideas of the honourable PM Modi to fruition," the director said. The online auction of over 1,200 items gifted to PM Modi, including a model statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and sporting

THE ECHO OF INDIA PORT BLAIR • MONDAY • SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 PAGE-6

#### **Kurmis lift** rail, road blockades in Bengal after 5 days

KOLKATA, SEPT 25/--/A rail blockade by Kurmis, demanding Scheduled Tribe status, at two stations in Adra and Kharagpur divisions in West Bengal withdrawn on Sunday morning after five days, officials said. The agitators also lifted their blockade on a national highway, they said. The agitation, since September 20, led to cancellation of more than 250 express and passenger trains and  $queuing \ up \ of \ hundreds$ of goods vehicles on National Highway 6.

Train services in the Kharagpur and Adra divisions under the South Eastern Railway iurisdiction restored following the lifting of the blockade at 7 am on Sunday, an SER official said. A roadblock in Paschim Medinipur district's Khemasuli on National Highway 6, connecting Kolkata with Mumbai, along with the train tracks blockade. was lifted, a West Bengal government official said. Hundreds of trucks and buses, which were stranded causing a traffic snarl stretching several kilometres, started moving after the agitation was lifted.

The 123-hour-long blockade at Kustaur (in Purulia district) and Khemasuli stations from 4 am on September 20 severely affected train services in Kharagpur and Adra divisions of SER, inconveniencing thousands of passengers every day, the railway official said. Kurmis had first taken to rail and road blockades in West

Bengal neighbouring states on September demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and inclusion of the Kurmali language in the eighth Constitution. Jharkhand and Odisha, however, the blockade of railway tracks was lifted that very day itself, but the protest at the two stations of West Bengal continued. After discussions among Kurmi leaders and government officials, protesters started moving away from Saturday night and cleared the tracks on Sunday morning. Apart from the cancellation of around 295 mail or

express and passenger

trains since September

20 owing to the

agitation, 90 others were

short terminated, and

105 were diverted to

other routes, the railway

official said. (PTI)



WHEN ART BECOMES WORSHIP: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee painting the eyes of the idol of Goddess Durga at Chetla Agrani, in Kolkata ------ Photo : Arijit Ganguly

#### Don't believe in revenge, otherwise CPI(M) leaders would have been in jail: Mamata

on Sunday said she does not believe in politics of revenge otherwise she had enough grounds to send some CPI(M) leaders to jail after coming to power in the state.

Unveiling the festival edition of TMC mouthpiece 'Jago Bangla', Banerjee also took on social media trolling and alleged that outsiders have been hired to spread misinformation about the state. "At times I feel ashamed and embarrassed when I visit Delhi and discover how some people are spreading falsehood to malign Bengal, how they badmouth the state," she said. The chief minister said that these people cannot see the recognitions received by her government, and the achievements it made. "One particular comment is picked up and twisted and circulated in social media and you are trolled," she said. "Some outsiders have

been hired to spread misinformation. This is not the We are not culture of our state," she added. Hitting out at the vindictive enough opposition CPI(M), which has to send some of our been upping the ante against predecessors, CPIM the TMC government over the corruption allegations, leaders, to jail Banerjee said she does not though there were believe in the politics of enough grounds. revenge. "We are not vindictive enough to send Still, if they believe in some of our predecessors, speaking ill against CPIM leaders, to jail though us, all I can say is there were enough grounds. Still, if they believe in please carry on. We speaking illagainstus, all I can don't care, we can say is please carry on. We don't care, we can only feel hurt," only feel hurt she said. "All in the TMC are – Mamata Banerjee bad and those in your party

good? Please don't be so myopic," she said. Banerjee also slammed the CPI(M), saying that its mouthpiece Ganashakti took advertisements from corporates and also got government ads when the Left Front was in power. "CPI(M)'s Ganashakti had government advertisements on all its pages, and also had chit fund ads. We do not take ads from corporates to run the paper like the Left. They don't have any moral right to speak. We will continue to sustain without any ad," she said. The CPI(M) said that Banerjee was "frustrated" as she could find any misdeeds during the 34-year rule of the Left Front. "In comparison, everyone knows how one after another leader of her party are getting arrested on corruption charges, with crores of rupees being found with them," CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty said. "She is desperate and making all sorts of allegations," he claimed. BJP vice-president Dilip Ghosh said that Banerjee was "scared and nervous" as the "misdeeds" of her party are getting exposed. (PTI)

## U'khand resort murder: Ankita Bhandari cremated, Rishikesh-Badrinath NH blockade ends

DEHRADUN, SEPT 25/--Relatives of the 19year-old receptionist allegedly murdered by a BJP leader's son cremated her Sunday and protesters lifted an eight-hour blockade of a key highway after Uttarakhand Chief Minister Dhami assured justice.

Ankita Bhandari was cremated on the

banks of the Alaknanda at Shrinagar around 6.30 pm in the presence of Commissioner, Garhwal, Sushil Kumar and Pauri District Magistrate Vijay Kumar Jogdande. Her body was found in the Cheela canal close to Rishikesh on Saturday, six days after her parents found her missing from her room. She was killed allegedly by her employer. Bhandari's family had initially refused to perform her last rites until they received the final postmortem report. A preliminary report of an autopsy conducted at AIIMS Rishikesh, said she died of drowning but there were antemortem injuries (injuries before death) on her body. A message from the chief minister that the SIT was doing its job and perpetrators of the murder would get the punishment they deserve helped convince the woman's relatives to finally cremate her. Earlier on

Sunday, protesters demanding justice for Bhandari sat on a dharna on the Rishikesh-Badrinath national highway in Uttarakhand's Srinagar. The blockade lasted for nearly eight hours, leading to a nine-km-long traffic snarl.

The woman worked at the Vanantara resort in Pauri district's Yamkeshwar block owned by Haridwar BJP leader Vinod Arya's son Pulkit Arya. Pulkit and two other employees have been arrested in the case. Violent protests had erupted in areas surrounding the resort with local people breaking glass panes and some trying to torch a pickle factory on its premises as news of the murder spread.

Earlier, the administration had begun demolishing the structure, prompting critics to say that this might have destroyed some evidence. Former Uttarakhand DGP Aloke Lal told a TV news channel that the demolition was not right as it was a scene of crime and it should have been retained as it was. On

fast-track court. On Sunday, as protesters blocked the national highway in Srinagar, the police tried to have Ankita's father Virendra Singh Bhandari talk to them to lift the dharna, but it did not work. The protesters demanded that the perpetrators of the crime be hanged immediately. A section of women at the dharna



People block the Rishikesh-Badrinath highway in protest against the killing of Ankita Bhandari, at Srinagar in Pauri Garhwal district

Sunday, the SIT headed by DIG P Renuka Devi reached the resort for a forensic examination. State DGP Ashok Kumar, meanwhile, assured the victim's family that the police would produce enough evidence in court to hang her killers. "I have spoken to the victim's father on the phone and assured him of an impartial probe into her killing and strictest punishment to the guilty. They will not be spared at any cost," he said in a social media

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the Uttarakhand government should act with seriousness and sensitivity in the case and demanded that the accused be tried in a

over to them so that they could be punished appropriately. Virendra Singh Bhandari told the crowd that the police were cooperating with him and investigations were being carried out properly. The protesters, however, claimed that he was making the statement under pressure from the administration. Additional Superintendent of Police Shekhar Chandra Suyal had appealed to the protesters as well, saying all necessary action was being taken against the accused. Shops in Srinagar also kept shutters down in protest against the murder. Ankita Bhandari's village Shrikot is about 23 km from Srinagar. (PTI)

site also demanded that the accused be handed

#### Mamata asks mayor to rename Kolkata road, park after Pranab Mukherjee

KOLKATA, SEPT 25/--/ **Chief Minister Mamata** Banerjee on Sunday directed Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim to rename a road and a park in the city after former president Mukherjee. Speaking at the inauguration of Chetla Agrani's Durga Puja pandal in south Banerjee Kolkata, remembered Mukherjee. "I will ask Bobby (Firhad Hakim) to name a road, even if small, and a small park in remembrance of Pranab Mukherjee," she She said. also remembered singers Sandhya Mukhopadhyay, Dwijen Mukhopadhyay and Nirmala Mishra, and asked the mayor to rename roads and parks after them. Banerjee said the Durga Puja festival has twin feathers on its crown this year --Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO and Best Destination for Culture by a global organisation of travel writers. (PTI)



BJP National President JP Nadda with Kerala BJP President K. Surendran, party MP Prakash Javadekar and others pays tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya on his birth anniversary, in Ernakulam district

#### **Boat carrying Hindu devotees to historic** temple capsizes in Bangladesh; 24 killed, several missing: Official

DHAKA, SEPT 25/--/A boat carrying Hindu devotees to centuries-old Bodeshwari Temple capsized in the Korota river in northwestern Bangladesh on Sunday, killing at least 24 people, including women and children, while over a dozen remained missing, officials said. The incident happened in Bangladesh's Panchagarh district when the devotees were travelling in the boat to the Bodeshwari Temple on the occasion of Mahalaya, the auspicious start of the Durga Puja

#### Law and order situation in Left ruled Kerala 'deteriorating' very fast: Nadda

KOTTAYAM/KOCHI, SEPT 25/--/Days after Kerala witnessed widespread violence after a hartal was called by PFI, BJP national chief J P Nadda on Sunday alleged that the law and order situation in the Left ruled state was deteriorating very fast. Nadda also accused the Left government of being "tainted" and "neck deep" in corruption and other scams, including the gold scam and said Chief Minister Pinaravi Viiavan's office was "not out of the frame of corruption" and the "heat of gold scam" has also reached it. He charged the state government with 'supporting' fringe elements. At the inauguration of a BJP district committee office here, the saffron party's president said, "The CPI(M) government in Kerala is a tainted government. Violence is taking place, law and order is going down. This government is fully neck deep in corruption, may it be a gold scam or other scams. "We have to fight it out. Law and order is deteriorating very fast. Fringe elements are getting full support and state sponsored lawlessness is going on." Nadda also blamed the Left dispensation for creating a situation where the state will "end up in a debt trap" and added that its debts have allegedly almost doubled to over Rs three lakh crores. "The present government, the LDF government, the CPI(M) government, is trying to create a situation where the government will be in a debt trap and the debt has almost doubled. If I talk about corruption, even the CM's office is not out of the frame of corruption. It is very much in the ambit of corruption. "If I talk about the gold scam, the heat has even reached the CMO. Drug menace, fringe elements are on the rise and not only that you will also see that lawlessness is there...," he said earlier in the day while speaking at a meeting of PM Awas Yojana beneficiaries here. Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan, who was also present at the inauguration, spoke along similar lines when he accused the Left government of not taking action to prevent the violence caused in Kerala on Friday allegedly by the Popular Front of India (PFI). (PTI)

# Lalu, Nitish meet Sonia; say focus on uniting opposition parties to defeat BJP in 2024

NEW DELHI, SEPT 25/--/Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav met Congress president Sonia Gandhi here on Sunday and later asserted that there was a broad agreement over taking on the BJP unitedly in 2024 but a concrete plan would be formulated only after a new Congress chief is elected. The meeting at Gandhi's 10 Janpath residence was seen as very crucial in forging an Opposition unity with efforts on to reconcile differences between the Congress and some regional parties that have been at loggerheads traditionally. This was Kumar's first meeting with Gandhi since he severed ties with the BJP and joined hands with the RJD and the Congress to form the government in Bihar in August. Notably, the three leaders were meeting together after over five years. This was also Lalu Prasad's first active political engagement in a long time. He has been ailing for some time now. Speaking with reporters after meeting Gandhi, Kumar said they held talks with the Congress president as it was their view that Opposition parties should come together and work



for the progress of the country in the future. "We held talks on these matters... But there are presidential elections in the Congress and only after that she (Sonia Gandhi) can say something," he said. He said there was broad agreement on an Opposition unity to take on the BJP but a concrete plan of action could be formulated only after Congress president polls. "We will hold further talks after the Congress organisational elections,' he said. Echoing similar views, Lalu Prasad said, "We have to remove the BJP and save the country. For that, we all have to come together in the same manner as we have done in Bihar and dislodged the BJP from there, the response to that is being seen in the whole country." "We all are united. We told Sonia Ji that Congress is the biggest party and all should be called and talks held and bid adieu to them (BJP) in 2024," he said. Lalu Prasad said Sonia Gandhi has told them that AICC president elections are going to take place and then they will meet again after the polls when all can sit together along with the new Congress president. (PTI)

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#### Iran summons UK and **Norway ambassadors** amid violent unrest

DUBAI, SEPT 25 /--/ Iran's foreign ministry said Sunday it summoned Britain's ambassador to protest what it described as a hostile atmosphere created by London-based Farsi language media outlets. The move comes amid violent unrest in Iran triggered by the death of a young woman in police custody.

The state-run IRNA news agency reported the ministry also summoned Norway's ambassador to Iran and strongly protested recent remarks by the president of the Norwegian parliament, Masud Gharahkhani. The death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in custody after being detained by Iranian morality police launched unrest across Iran's provinces and the capital of Tehran. Protests over Amini's death have spread across at least 46 cities, towns and villages in Iran. State TV has suggested that at least 41 protesters and police have been killed since the protests began Sept. 17. An Associated Press count of official statements by authorities tallied at least 13 dead, with more than 1,200 demonstrators arrested. Running clashes between demonstrators and security forces have continued to erupt. A member of the Basij, a volunteer force with Iran's Guards, was killed by protesters last night in Tehran, semi-official Fars news agency reported Sunday. Another Basij member, who was in a coma since Thursday after street clashes, died in Urmia, West Azerbaijan province on Sunday, IRNA reported. The Iranian Foreign Ministry's website said it summoned Simon Shercliff, the U.K.'s ambassador to Iran, on Saturday and protested the hosting of critical Farsilanguage media outlets. The ministry alleges the news outlets have provoked disturbances and the spread of riots in Iran at the top of their programs.

Iran said it considers the news agencies' reporting to be interference in Iran's internal affairs and acts against its sovereignty. The crisis in Iran began as a public outpouring of anger over the the death of Amini, who was arrested by the morality police in Tehran for allegedly wearing her Islamic headscarf too loosely. The police said she died of a heart attack and was not mistreated, but her family has cast doubt on that account. Amini's death has sparked sharp condemnation from Western countries and the United Nations. Pro-government rallies were also held on Sunday in several cities across Iran. Thousands attended a rally in the capital's Enghelab, or Revolution Square, waving Iranian flags. Some officials, including cabinet spokesman, Ali Bahadori Jahromi, attended to the rally in Tehran. (AP)

#### **Biden administration launches** environmental justice office

WARRENTON, SEPT 24 /--/ Forty years after a predominantly Black community in Warren County, North Carolina, rallied against hosting a hazardous waste landfill, President Biden's top environment official visited what is widely considered the birthplace of the environmental justice movement on Saturday to unveil a national office that will distribute USD 3 billion in block grants to underserved communities burdened by pollution.

Joined by civil rights leaders and participants from the 1982 protests, Michael Regan, the first Black administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, announced he is dedicating a new senior level of leadership to the environmental justice movement they ignited. The Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights comprised of more than 200 current staff members in 10 US regions will merge three existing EPA programs to oversee a portion of Democrats' USD 60 billion investment in environmental justice initiatives created by the Inflation Reduction Act. The president will nominate an assistant administrator to lead the new office, pending Senate

In the past, many of our communities have had to compete for very small grants because EPA's pot of money was extremely small, Regan said in an interview. We're going from tens of thousands of dollars to developing and igning a program that will distribute billions. But we'r also going to be sure that this money goes to those who need it the most and those who've never had a seat at the table. Biden has championed environmental justice as a centerpiece of his climate agenda since his first week in office when he signed an executive order pledging 40 per cent of the overall benefits from certain federal clean energy investments to disadvantaged communities overwhelmed by pollution. Now, Regan said, this new office intertwines environmental justice with the central fabric of the EPA, equating it to other top offices like air, land and water, and cementing its principles in a way that will outlive the Biden administration.

North Carolina in 1978 designated Warren County, a small, Black farming community along the Virginia border, as a disposal site for truckloads of soil laced with highly carcinogenic chemical compounds that later contaminated the water supply. As the first trucks rolled into town in 1982, hundreds of residents flooded the streets, blocking their path to the landfill. Though they were unable to shut down the operation after six weeks of nonviolent protests and more than 500 arrests, their efforts have been lauded by civil rights leaders as the impetus for a global uprising against environmental racism in minority communities. (AP)

# Jaishankar says Russia major partner in many domains

# Discusses Ukraine, G20 and UN reforms with Lavrov

NEW YORK, SEPT 25 /--/ External affairs minister S Jaishankar has said that he had a wide-ranging conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov during which they discussed a number of issues, including bilateral cooperation, the Ukraine conflict, G20 and UN reforms as he described Russia a "major partner in many domains."

Jaishankar made the remarks during his interaction with a group of Indian reporters after his meeting with Lavrov on the margins of the UN General Assembly session, just hours before his address to the UN General Debate on Saturday. "We discussed a number of issues. Some part of my meeting was focused on our bilateral cooperation because Russia is a major partner in many domains," Jaishankar said while responding to a question by PTI on his meeting with Lavrov. "A wideranging conversation with FM Sergey Lavrov at #UNGA 77. Discussed bilateral our cooperation. Exchanged views on Ukraine, G-20 and UN reforms," Jaishankar had tweeted after his

question, he said while "obviously" there are big issues, which focus both the Russians and the rest of the world, the

relationship has to address its

own requirements, processes and objectives. "We spend some time on the bilateral side, where things are, taking stock," he said, adding that they also spoke in "some detail" about issues related to Ukraine. "A lot of it was he briefed me about various developments from the Russian perspective. I also shared with him what I picked up from some of the others. So that was a back and forth conversation." Jaishankar said as he wrapped up the New York leg of his visit to the US

He said there was also a discussion on the G-20, with India beginning the G-20 presidency this December. "Russia is very much at the centre of debate where G-20 is concerned. And finally, we spoke about the UN reform." The meeting in New York is the fourth between Jaishankar

and Lavrov this year, including on the sidelines of the G-20 foreign ministers' conclave in the Indonesian city of Bali and when Lavrov was in New Delhi earlier



this year. In his address to the UN General Assembly just an hour before Jaishankar's speech, the Russian foreign minister voiced Moscow's support for India and Brazil as worthy candidates for permanent membership in the UN Security Council, calling them key international actors.

Later, addressing a press

conference, Lavrov said that we view India and Brazil as strong candidates given, they are leading international players. India has been at the forefront of efforts at

the UN to push for urgent

long-pending reform of the Security Council. emphasising that it rightly deserves a place at the UN high table as a permanent member. Jaishankar said that there has been a "shift" on the issue of UN reforms among the international community. "In respect of UN reform, every General Assembly (session) you revisit that issue, but this time something has shifted. You can see that, you can sense that, he told reporters, referring to remarks of US President Joe

Biden earlier this week that the US supports increasing the number of both permanent and non-permanent representatives of the Security Council. Jaishankar said that his Russian counterpart "explicitly" mentioned India from the General Assembly podium, a number of countries also referred to India in

their statements. Jaishankar added that it is not usual in a General Assembly for presidents, prime ministers or foreign ministers of a country to refer to another country. "We've got some tailwind behind us. Now we have to see what we can make of it. I think it's a welcome development. As someone who's been coming here for many years, I do believe that it's more than a subtle shift and I welcome it," he said.

In response to a question on his meeting with Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal this week on the UNGA margins and what were the concerns articulated by the leader, Jaishankar said "a big concern was the conflict itself. He gave me his perception, his assessment of what was happening in Ukraine". "In terms of India, we had a discussion on what was our position and my sense is that he clearly appreciated the fact that we were against the continuation of the conflict and for the return for dialogue and diplomacy, he said, adding that Shmyhal had his own views on why this was not happening. (PTI)



Kites hover above the beach during a kite festival in the Hague, the Netherlands

#### South Asian origin women unite against senseless violence in Leicester

leaders of South Asian heritage based in weeks and left many people injured, it said, Leicester has come together to fight back adding that as a result, whole on their city's streets between men from Hindu and Muslim communities in the wake of an India-Pakistan cricket match.

In a joint appeal on Saturday, the community leaders and local politicians from the eastern England region described Leicester as a great place to live and work and called for solutions to the hate-filled violence. According to local media reports, they gathered outside the Town Hall in the centre of Leicester where Indian-origin councillor Rita Patel read out a joint statement. "We as Asian women from Leicester, call upon the people of this city to rally together and oppose the senseless violence that has torn apart our community over the last week. We condemn those perpetrating hate and violence in our city you will not succeed in dividing us, the statement read. As your grandmothers. mothers, sisters, aunts, daughters and friends we have come together in collective solidarity to say no to the senseless violence

LONDON, SEPT 25 /--/ A group of women that has plagued our great city in recent particularly women, children and elders are now living in fear. "It is now time for solutions. We therefore, ask the women of Leicester to join us in taking action and bringing out communities together once again. As strong proud Asian women, we know that when Leicester is united, it can never be defeated. Leicester, united as one." it added. Their plea came as Leicestershire Police announced that proactive and highvisibility patrols will continue on the streets of Leicester into next week, when

Navratri festivities are set to begin. The police have charged a total of eight people related to the incidents of violence over the course of this month, including for possession of offensive weapons and making threats to kill. Following evenings of calm on the city's streets this week, the proactive and high-visibility patrols will continue all over the weekend and into next week, ahead of the start of Navratri on Monday, the police force said. (PTI)

#### Fire breaks out at world's biggest produce market in **Paris**

PARIS, SEPT 25 /--/ A billowing column of dark smoke towered over Paris on Sunday, from a warehouse blaze at a massive produce market that supplies the French capital surrounding region with much of its fresh food and bills itself as the largest of its kind in the

Firefighters away from the area, in Paris' southern suburbs, while they tackled the blaze at the warehouse in the **Rungis International** Market. There were no immediate reports of injuries. The sprawling wholesale market is a veritable town unto itself, with more than 12,000 people working there and warehouses filled with fruit and vegetables, seafood, meats, dairy products and flowers from across France and around the world.(AP)

# Pak's former FM Dar to return, take charge next week

ISLAMABAD, SEPT 25 /--/ Former finance minister Ishaq Dar is set to return to Pakistan next week to facilitate Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the

economic ostensibly by taking over the key portfolio of finance, according to a media report on Sunday. The decision was

taken in a meeting between the Prime Minister and his brother Nawaz Sharif London Saturday, while **Interior Minister Rana** Sanaullah confirmed development during a press conference held earlier in the day.

"Ishaq Dar is coming back next week to facilitate PM Shehbaz on economic affairs, the interior minister told a press conference in Lahore. Dawn in a report said Shehbaz Sharif stopped in London on his way back from the UN General Assembly and met his elder brother and party supremo Nawaz Sharif on Saturday. Sharif brothers in the hours-long meeting at Shehbaz's flat on Edgware Road discussed the political and economic situation, as well as, the development of Dar's return to take charge of the finance ministry. The report said Dar was also present at the meeting where it was decided that he would take charge of the economy as early as the coming week. Miftah Ismail, whose tenure as finance minister ends on October 18, is expected to remain in the cabinet as an adviser.

In a brief interaction with reporters after Saturday's meeting, Dar said: We have another meeting tomorrow, so I can share more tomorrow. When asked if he would take charge of the finance ministry, he said: We have discussed many things but I can share decisions tomorrow. This was a family meeting, not a formal [one]. He added that he was booked to fly to Pakistan on Wednesday. For months now, sources close to Nawaz Sharif have detailed how the premier's elder brother was unhappy with Ismail's economic policies and had been eager for Dar to replace the current finance minister as there have been conflicts on key economic decisions. Reports of Nawaz Sharif leaving a party meeting over a fuel price hike in August added to the perception that he and Ismail were not on the same page when it came to Pakistan's economy. An insider, who spoke to Dawn on the condition of anonymity, said: If they were not happy with Miftah, they should have told him to go home. Keeping him as finance minister but constantly undermining him is not ethical.

The source added that Ismail learnt about Dar's imminent appointment as the finance minister through media reports and that it was not communicated to him by the prime minister. Ismail did not respond to requests for comment. These Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leaders, including the elder Sharif, want senator-elect Dar to return and take over the finance ministry as he can better manage the economy being an experienced person, a party leader told Dawn. Dar is likely to assume charge of the ministry this month. To a query on the possible return of the elder Sharif, the interior minister said: Nawaz Sharif has been requested to lead the party campaign in the next general elections and he accepted it. Dawn also reported that regarding the army chief's impending appointment, Sanaullah said: If the appointment of the head of the institution is made under pressure or before the time it will be detrimental to the institution. The appointment of the army chief will be made in accordance with the laid down procedure at its due time, he stressed. Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa is set to retire in November this year. (PTI)

# South Korea says North Korea test-fired missile toward sea

SEOUL. SEPT 25 /--/ North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile on Sunday toward its eastern seas, extending a provocative streak in weapons testing as a US aircraft carrier visits South Korea for joint military exercises in response to the North's growing nuclear

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile launched from the western inland town of Taechon flew 600 kilometres (370 miles) cross-country on a maximum altitude of 60 kilometres (37 miles) before landing in waters off North Korea's eastern coast. South Korea's military condemned North Korea's launch as a serious provocation that violates UN Security Council resolutions and damages the peace and safety of the region and the broader international community. The US Indo-Pacific Command said the launch did not pose an immediate threat to US personnel or territory, or to our allies, but still highlighted the destabilising impact of North Korea's illicit nuclear weapons and missile programmes. North Korea has dialed up its testing activities to a record pace in 2022, testing more than 30 ballistic weapons, including its first intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017, as it continues to expand its military capabilities amid a prolonged stalemate in nuclear diplomacy.

The launch came as the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its strike group arrived in South Korea for the two countries' joint military exercises that aim to show their strength against growing North Korean threats. In a discussion over the launch Sunday, South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff chair Gen. Kim Seung-kyum and Gen. Paul LaCamera, an American general who heads the South Korea-US combined forces command in Seoul, reaffirmed plans to bolster the allies' joint defences posture through training, according to South Korea's military. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said in a statement Tokyo is doing its utmost to gather information on North Korea's launch and confirm the safety of ships and aircraft, although there were no immediate reports of damages. The North Korean threat is also expected to be a key agenda when US Vice President Kamala Harris visits South Korea next week after attending the state funeral in Tokyo of slain former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. North Korea has dialled up its testing activities to a record pace in 2022, testing more than 30 ballistic weapons, including its first intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017. North Korea is exploiting a divide in the United Nations Security Council that

deepened over Russia's war on Ukraine to speed up arms development.

The country has so far rejected US and South Korean calls to return to nuclear diplomacy, which have been stalled since 2019 over disagreements in exchanging the release of US-led sanctions against the North and the North's disarmament steps. The USS Reagan's arrival in South Korea came after Kim told Pyongyang's rubber-stamp parliament this month that he would never abandon his nuclear weapons and missiles he needs to counter what he perceives as US

Kim's speech came as North Korean legislators passed a law that enshrined its status as a nuclear power and authorized the preemptive use of nuclear weapons over a broad range of scenarios where the country or its leadership comes under threat,

spelling out an escalatory nuclear doctrine. Speaking to US and South Korean troops Saturday aboard the Reagan, South Korean Defence Minister Lee Jong-sup said the dispatching of US strategic assets to the region shows unwavering US commitment to defend South Korea. He said the North would be met with an overwhelming response if it attempts to use nuclear weapons, according to a statement by his

Sunday's test could soon be followed with a more provocative weapons demonstration as South Korean officials said they detected signs that North Korea was preparing to test a missile system designed to be launched from submarines. The office of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said on Saturday that he was briefed on such developments before his flight back home from a visit to Canada. (AP)



# End of an era, BCCI says after one of greatest Jhulan's retirement



NEW DELHI, SEPT 25 /--/ The described Jhulan BCCI has two decade-long international career "monumental", saying an era has come to an end with the retirement of one of women's cricket's greatest players. The 39year-old Jhulan retired from international cricket following the conclusion of the ODI series in England, in which the visitors secured a first-ever clean sweep to give the legendary seamer a farewell.

international career spanning over women's international cricket -204 ODIs and 68 T20Is, picking 355 wickets across formats. "With Jhulan announcing her retirement from international cricket, an era has come to an end. She took immense pride in representing India and always put her best foot forward as she served Indian cricket with distinction," BCCI president Sourav Ganguly said in a

press release. "She was the leader of two decades the second longest in India's bowling attack and her feats will continue to inspire the present Jhulan, who made her debut in and budding cricketers. Her 2002, represented India in 12 Tests, contribution to the game has been monumental. "While her inspiring presence on the field will be missed. her achievements will continue to motivate the upcoming cricketers,' Ganguly added. Jhulan, who went on to play five ODI World Cups --2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2022 -remains the leading wicket-taker in the history of the Women's World Cups. She also remains the only

secretary Jay Shah said: "Jhulan Goswami is one of the greatest to have ever graced the game. She, with her exceptional bowling skills, led India's bowling attack with elan for numerous years and will remain a benchmark for the young cricketers who wish to represent the country at the highest level. "As she embarks on a new journey and starts a new inning, I wish her all the very best." In her farewell game, Jhulan finished with excellent figures of 2/30 in her full quota of 10 overs, including three maiden overs. The competitive Indian has seen the game evolve during her long journey that was marked with some unforgettable moments and few unpleasant days, something that the board's treasurer Arun Singh Dhumal also observed. "As women's cricket continued to grow in the country, Jhulan Goswami, along with Mithali Raj, remained at the forefront. Jhulan never shied away from going that extra mile, be it with her performances on the field or be it for the preparations to seek excellence," said Dhumal. "Her stellar achievements and tremendous work ethics were there for everyone to see and her outstanding contributions towards our game will continue to inspire her teammates and budding



Virat Kohli registered his 33rd T20l fifty on Sunday

# Kohli, Suryakumar star as India edge Australia in decider

HYDERBAD, SEPT 25/--/ India defeated picking 3 for 33 in his four overs. India had Australia by 6 wickets in the third and deciding T20I in Hyderabad. Virat Kohli scored 63 runs while Survakumar Yadav hit 69 runs as India chased down a 187-run target in the game on the penultimate ball. Earlier, India lost the wickets of KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma early in the innings but the Kohli-Survakumar duo added 104 runs for the third wicket to bring the side back in the game. Daniel Sams got the better of Rahul while Rohit was outplayed by Pat Cummins. Earlier, Tim David played a 54-run knock and Cameron Green smashed 20 overs. Axar Patel once again starred with the ball picking 3 for 33 in his four overs. India Axar Patel once again starred with the ball wickets down

won the toss and opted to field in the series decider. After Cameron Green gave Australia ablistering start in the third T20I in Hyderabad India came back strong. After Bhuvneshwar Kumar sent Green packing for a 21-ball 52, Glenn Maxwell and Steve Smith fell in quick succession as well. Maxwell's run out, however was contentious, as Dinesh Karthik had accidentally knocked one stump off before he got the ball. Thankfully for him, though the other bail was still lodged on the stumps and when the ball hit and removed it, the third a 21-ball 52 as Australia posted 186 for 7 in umpire deemed it to be out. Maxwell was not too happy about it, but the Indian camp was in a cheery mood. A relieved Rohit Sharma had won the toss and opted to field in the series even went up to Karthik and gave him a kiss decider. Earlier, Tim David played a 54-run on his helmet. It was some lightning-fast work knock and Cameron Green smashed a 21-ball from Axar Patel in the field that led to Maxwell's 52 as Australia posted 186 for 7 in 20 overs. run out, and the dismissal saw Australia three

#### Julius Baer Cup: Carlsen wins first match of final against Indian GM Erigaisi

NEW YORK, SEPT 25 /--/ form in the first match and Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi in the Julius Baer Generation Cup rapid online chess tournament. After the first set of matches of the two-match finale, the Norwegian ace with a 2.5-0.5 victory, holds the advantage. The Indian now needs to win the second four-game match to take the final to the blitz tie-break. Carlsen was in imperious

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen won in 40 moves with white underlined his superiority, pieces. In the second, the winning the first two games Norwegian upped the ante and in the opening match of the claimed a win in 29 moves. finalagainst teenaged Indian Erigiasi did well to hold the rampaging world No.1 to a drawinthethirdgamebutthat did not stop Carlsen from closing out match one comprehensively. "It's just evident that he's the better player but hopefully things will go my way and I'll try to play my best chess." Erigaisi was quoted as saying after the first match, appearing to sound optimistic. (PTI)



North 24 Parganas Zilla Parishad Tender

Additional Executive Officer, North 24 Parganas Zilla Parishad invites tender as follows :- NIT NO. NPG/N-09/22-23 (Eng) (3rd Call) (Online), dt: 22/09/ 2022 (Sl. No.- 1 to 30). Details may be btained from the Office of Executive Engineer (in charge), North 24 Parganas Zilla Parishad.

Sd/-Additional Executive Officer, North 24 Parganas Zilla Parishad. 1190(3)/DICO/N24Pgs, dt. 23.09.2022

#### GAME NOTES -

#### ICC hails Jhulan's "incredible" achievement

DUBAI, SEPT 25 /--/ The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Saturday hailed iconic India pacer Jhulan Goswami for her "exceptional international career" that saw her finish as the world's most successful bowler in women's ODIs. The 39-year-old fast bowler, who retired from international cricket after India's 16-run win over England in the third and final ODI in London, played in five ICC Women's World Cups including in 2005 and 2017, when India made the finals. Goswami also turned out in five ICC Women's T20 World Cups. ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice praised Goswami's longevity and said she would be remembered as one of the greats of the game. Jhulan has had an incredible career over two decades, enjoying great success across formats. For a fast bowler to continue for so long is amazing and it is no wonder that she leads the list of wicket-takers in Women's ODIs," Allardice said in an ICC release. Jhulan's career span included a crucial period of growth for women's cricket and her presence helped raise the profile of the game. I am sure many young boys and girls in not just India but around the world would have been inspired by her over the years. On behalf of the ICC, I congratulate Jhulan for a wonderful career. Goswami finished with 44 wickets in 12 Tests, 255 wickets in 204 ODIs and 56 wickets in 68 T20Is. (PTI)

#### Run out perfectly legal, but still leaves opinions divided

London, Sept 25 /--/ Going by the ICC manual, India allrounder Deepti Sharma's run out of Charlie Dean in the third ODI was perfectly legal, but it still divided opinions with some backing it and Englishmen, such as Stuart Broad and James Anderson, expressing their annoyance. The Indian women's team beat England at Lord's to sweep the three-match series and give a fitting farewell to the legendary Jhulan Goswami on Saturday. However, bowler Deepti running out Charlie Dean to claim England's last wicket, after the batter had backd up, caused a controversy. Dean was backing up when Sharma stopped in the middle of her bowling action to run out the batter for 47 runs with the target just 17 runs away. The dismissal is perfectly legal according to laws of the game. "I find the debate of the Mankad really interesting. So many views from either side. I personally wouldn't like to win a match like that, also, very happy for others to feel differently." Broad tweeted. Broad's longtime teammate and leading wicket-taker among pacers, Anderson said, "Will never understand why players feel the need to do this. Is she stealing ground?" Another English player, Sam Billings, wrote on his Twitter handle. "There's surely not a person who has played the game that thinks this is acceptable? Just not cricket " (PTI)

#### Rahane sets example, asks Jaiswal to leave field for sledging rival batter

COIMBATORE, SEPT 25 /--/ In a rare act, West Zone skipper Ajinkya Rahane ordered his teammate Yashasvi Jaiswal to leave the field for disciplinary reasons, setting an example on the fifth day of the Duleep Trophy final against South Zone here. The 20-year-old Jaiswal had a great time with the bat, smashing a brilliant double century to set up a big win for West Zone in the summit showdown. However, the same cannot be said of his time on the field as he found himself at the centre of controversy on Sunday. He was asked by his captain Rahane to leave the field for going overboard with sledging against South Zone batter Ravi Teja. South batter Ravi Teja had apparently complained about the verbal volleys that Jaiswal was consistently firing at him as he was fielding close to the bat. After being spoken to earlier, Jaiswal came under fire again in the 57th over when the on-field umpire complained about the young batter's alleged verbal volleys. Jaiswal appeared to be animated when Rahane had a word with him with regard to his action and sent him off, leaving West Zone with 10 men on the field. Jaiswal returned to the field after being away for seven overs. He was later declared Man of the Match after West won by 294 runs. The unassuming Rahane has always been like that. When Mohammed Siraj faced racial abuse in Australia, Rahane, who was leading the team in Virat Kohli's absence, brought it up with the match referee, but refrained from engaging with the Australians on or off the field. (PTI)

#### Whatever we have done I don't think it was any crime: Harmanpreet

LONDON, SEPT 25 /--/ India women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur says her side had committed "no crime" after completing a first-ever whitewash in ODIs on English soil with a legal yet debatable run out. Harmanpreet was responding to questions on the run out effected by her bowler Deepti Sharma at the non-striker's end to claim the crucial wicket of Charlie Dean, after the batter had backed up too far, and end England's innings 17 short of the target of 170 in the third and final ODI here on Saturday. Batting at number nine, Dean had staged a dramatic recovery with a fighting 47 and shared a 35-run stand with No. 11 Freya Davies to put England within reach of the target after the hosts had slipped to 65 for 7 and then 103 for 8. "Today whatever we have done I don't think it was any crime," Harmanpreet said at the postmatch press conference.

It is part of the game and it is an ICC rule and I think we just need to back our player. I'm actually very happy she was aware of that, and the batter she is taking too long a stride I think. I don't think she has done something wrong and we just need to back her." The India skipper, who was named the Player of the Series, did not agree that the controversy took the sheen off the legendary Jhulan Goswami's farewell game. "I don't think so, because, like I said, I don't think we have done any crime. I don't think we need to talk about that because the first nine wickets were also very important and everybody was working so hard. "It was a chaseable total but the way our bowlers bowled and the whole team putting in the effort, there were a lot of things to celebrate other than just talking about the last wicket." Harmanpreet was annoyed with the line of

questioning at the presentation ceremony, when the presenter kept harping on the the run out, instead of the Indian team's historic series triumph that was built on the back of a terrific all-round display. "Well, to be honest I thought you will ask about the nine wickets which was not easy to take as well. It's part of the game. I don't think we have done something new. It shows your awareness, what batters are doing," Harmanpreet said. "I will back my players, she hasn't done something outside the rules. After the first game we discussed, we wanted to do really well, we have that much potential. We want to continue this kind of cricket." At the post-match presser, she also pointed out how India suffered when Smriti Mandhana was given out in the third match of their T20I series, which England won 2-1, despite the ball touching the ground after Sophie Ecclestone went for the catch. Very recently only the ICC reiterated the dismissal was completely legitimate, moving it from 'unfair play' to 'run out'. The MCC Law 41.16.1 states: "If the non-striker is out of his/her ground at any time from the moment the hall comes into play until the instant when the bowler would normally have been expected to release the ball, the non-striker is liable to be run out.'

Weighing in on the run out, England's senior seamer Kate Cross, who grabbed 4/26 with the ball, said this sort of dismissal will always divide opinion. "I think it's a dismissal that's always going to divide opinion. That's all that's ever going to get said about it: some people are going to like it, some people aren't. "Deepti chose to dismiss Charlie Dean that way. I'm more disappointed for Charlie Dean that she couldn't get a fifty at Lord's today because she looked set to do that," Cross said. PTI)

#### Nations League: Portugal thrash Czech Republic to top group; Spain lose to Switzerland

PARIS, SEPT 25 /--/ Diogo Dalot helped Portugal take control of their Nations League group by scoring his first two international goals in a 4-0 rout at the Czech Republic on Saturday. Spain blew their lead of Group A2 after flopping in a 2-1 loss to Switzerland in front of their disappointed fans in Zaragoza. Portugal moved

two points ahead of Spain before the neighbours meet in Braga on Tuesday in a winner-take-all clash to see who advances to the tournament's final four next June. While his Portugal rolled in Prague, Cristiano Ronaldo had a rough night, first enduring a nasty blow to his face that made his nose bleed and required a small bandage. International football's all-time leading scorer with 117 goals also committed a penalty that, fortunately for him, the Czechs failed to convert with the score 2-0.

Dalot put Portugal ahead in the 33rd minute when the right back scored from a pass by Rafael Leão. Bruno Fernandes doubled the lead in first-half injury time moments before Ronaldo was guilty of the handball inside his own area. But Patrik Schick wasted the penalty kick by sending it onto the crossbar. Dalot put the result beyond all doubt in the 52nd with a curling shot into the corner. Ronaldo finished with an assist for Diogo Jota to take a fourth goal in the 82nd. Luis Enrique, who last year guided Spain to the semifinals of the European Championship and the final of the Nations League, is known for making unpopular decisions and sticking to them.

And, once again, he surprised by starting Marco Asensio, who has been relegated to a substitute role at club Real Madrid, as a false nine while leaving pure strikers Álvaro Morata and newcomer Borja Iglesias on the bench. Spain failed to disturb the Swiss in attack and their defense conceded two goals on corner kicks featuring Swiss defender Manuel Akanji. Akanji struck with a great header in the 21st when he outjumped his marker and drove the ball off the turf and into the top



corner of the net. Asensio finally managed to pick apart Switzerland's defense in the 55th when he dribbled past four players before laying off for Jordi Alba to rifle in the equalizer. But Switzerland hit right back three minutes

later when Akanji was left unchecked at the near post to use one touch to redirect a corner kick into the sixyard box where Breel Embolo nudged it over the line. "They said that it was easy to beat Switzerland and we have seen that is not true in the least," Luis Enrique said. "They stopped us from playing our game, and you

> have to add to that our very sloppy first half. We improved in the second half, showed more precision, but just when we scored, we conceded another goal from a corner. Now we have to go to Portugal and win." Iglesias and 20-year-old Nico Williams debuted for Spain as substitutes. Nico's older brother and clubmate Iñaki Williams debuted for Ghana on Friday after he changed allegiance from Spain. Switzerland host the Czech Republic in St. Gallen on Tuesday to decide who avoids relegation. Switzerland have two more points than the Czechs in last place. Portugal, Spain and Switzerland will all play in the World Cup in November. Israel were promoted from Group B2 after they beat Albania  $2\mbox{-}1$  thanks to a goal by Tai Baribo in injury time. It is all level between Serbia and Norway atop Group B4 ahead of their game in Olso to see who join League A. Erling Haaland scored for Norway but Slovenia fought back for a 2-1 home win, while Serbia's Aleksandar Mitrovic netted a hat trick to lead a 4-1 victory over Sweden in Belgrade. Scotland remained in charge of Group B1 after edging Ireland 2-1 in Glasgow. Ukraine are two points behind after routing Armenia 5-0 before they play the Scots in Krakow. Greece earned promotion from Group C2 despite losing

to Cyprus 1-0 thanks to Northern Ireland's 2-1 comeback win over Kosovo. Senegal prepared for the World Cup by beating Bolivia 2-0 in a friendly in Orleans, France. (AFP)

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