

'Sentimental' drains refuse to let effluent flow

Clogged city arteries major concern for residents of Ward No-17, Dollygunj

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, NOV. 21/--/Residents of Dollygunj, Ward No-17 are up in arms to get a clogged drain cleaned up has become a cause of concern for the people, are unrelenting in their pursuit. For the past many months, residents had complained about the clogged drain in the Municipal Office as well as area Municipal Councillor, Ward No-17, Mr. Dharmendra Narayan who has been elected from his ward as a BJP candidate. But the request of the residents has been ignored by the Municipal authority as well as Ward Councillor. Deaf ears & blind eyes are an impediment to getting the issue solved, residents rue the stalemate.

The drain constructed on the side of the road stretch connecting Dollygunj junction to Polytechnic Hostel has been covered with wild bushes leading to overflowing drain resulting in flooding of the road during rainy season. The area has many residential houses and people have to face a lot of difficulties due to the clogged drain.

Residents say that the old Pahargaon road is divided between Ward No-16 and Ward No-17. The right side of the road falls under the jurisdiction of Ward No-16 which is cleaned on a regular basis while the

Residents of Dollygunj blame that Dharmendra Narayan, Municipal Councillor, Ward No-17 has been playing hide & seek with them. He is blamed to have been working for only those who have voted in his favour in the recent municipal election



left side of this road falls under the jurisdiction of Ward No-17 and has not been cleaned for years. The residents say that due to clogged drains, the entire stretch of roads get submerged in rainwater, causing hardship for the movement of people and vehicles. Besides, these areas turn into a breeding place for mosquitoes. Ward segregation seems to be the matter of contention and thus the issue remains 'orphaned'.

The local residents have taken up the issue with the Ward Councillor, Mr. Dharmendra Narayan many times, but every time he had some or the other excuse and passes the buck on the other Municipal Ward stating that this particular area is under the jurisdiction of Ward No-16.

Meanwhile, speaking to EOI, Mr. Dharmendra Narayan said that he is unaware about any clogged drain in his ward. On being asked about residents of his ward complaining that he is not available to people for the past many months and not attending to the people's problems, he told that he has a habit of visiting this ward once in the morning daily to listen to the problems and issues of the people. He has been making utmost efforts to resolve their problems and assured to look into the clogged drainage problem, brought to his notice by this Correspondent.

MP donates freezer box to GP Mithakhari from MPLADS fund



PORT BLAIR, NOV 21/--/The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma on Monday donated a dead-body freezer box to the Gram Panchayat of Mithakhari, Ferrargunj, South Andaman from MPLADS fund. For a long time there was a huge demand for a dead-body freezer box from various panchayats of the South Andaman region. In absence of a dead-body freezer box in the area, often people of South Andaman villages had to face a lot of difficulties in arranging a freezer box, which is not easily available in these Islands. Considering the demand of the general public, the Member of Parliament donated a dead-body freezer box to the GP Mithakhari which will be available for the people of the area as well as all nearby panchayats.

3rd-accused in the gang rape case surrenders

ROOPALALL

PORT BLAIR, NOV 21/--/In a dramatic turn of event, the third accused in the alleged gang rape case RL Rishi, suspended Labour Commissioner, A&N Administration has surrendered before the Police on Monday. He was declared absconder by the A&N Police and a reward of Rs one lakh was announced on him.

In Today's Paper...

- Vishal raises burning issues of Nicobar District before CS – PAGE 3
- SC terms Morbi bridge collapse as an 'enormous' tragedy – PAGE 6
- England trounce Iran 6-2 – PAGE 8

CS launches mobile app for online booking of ATR Express bus tickets, online vehicle permit module



PORT BLAIR, NOV 21/--/The Transport department has been constantly striving to adopt the latest technology for delivering better quality of services to the citizens at their doorstep. As part of the endeavour with the aim to provide efficient and easy facility of ticket booking, the Transport Department in association with NIC Uttarakhand has developed a Mobile application "ANTS PATHIK" for commuters travelling in STS Express buses on ATR route between South Andaman and N & M Andaman. The application was launched by Mr. Keshav Chandra, Chief Secretary on Monday in the presence of Mr. Nikhil Kumar, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Transport) and Mr. Vishwendra, Secretary-cum-Director (Transport). This app will enable the commuters to make online reservation/cancellation of Express bus tickets using Android Mobiles. The mobile app can be downloaded by visiting <https://ants.andaman.gov.in>. The mobile application will also be made available in the Google Play Store soon. Further to enhance efficiency and transparency, the

Transport department had made the services online related to registration of vehicles and driving licenses by implementing National software 'Vahan 4.0' and 'Sarathi 4.0'. In order to minimize the visit of vehicle owners to the RTO office for permit related services and to eliminate the citizen-Government office interaction, the Transport department has under the ease of doing business through adoption of e-Governance developed an online permit module within 'Vahan 4.0' application. This application will enable the applicants to apply for all sorts of transactions related to permits of commercial vehicles in online mode. The Chief Secretary also launched the online vehicle permit module by carrying out a citizen centric activity through online mode. Now the vehicle owners can avail the online services i.e. Issue of New Permit, Renewal of Permit, Issue of Temporary Permit, Duplicate Permit, Replacement of Vehicle, Change of address, Transfer of Permit, Permanent surrender/cancellation of Permit, Permit endorsement etc. by visiting the portal <https://parivahan.gov.in>.

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Congress oblivious to existence of tribals in India; mocked me for wearing tribal attire: Modi

JAMBUSAR, NOV 21 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday took a swipe at Congress saying its leaders remained oblivious to tribals for a very long time



even though tribals have been living in the country since the days of Lord Ram and Lord Krishna.

Canvassing for Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jambusar town in tribal-dominated Bharuch district in poll-bound Gujarat, the prime minister also said leaders of Congress mocked him for wearing traditional tribal attire at public functions. "For a very long time, Congress leaders remained unaware of the existence of tribals in India. Weren't they living here since the days of Lord Ram and Lord Krishna?.. Weren't they part of the 1857 mutiny? Tribals did so many things for this country. But, Congress leaders never knew that Adivasis exist." "Otherwise, why was there no separate ministry for tribals until Atal Bihari Vajpayee became prime minister? It was Ataljee's government at the Centre which carved out a separate ministry and allocated a budget for their welfare. Even today, Congress leaders make fun of me for wearing tribal attire," Modi said while addressing a poll rally.

The prime minister, who is campaigning in his home state since November 19, said Adivasis cannot expect Congress will improve their condition because leaders of Congress mock tribal outfits and insult tribals at regular intervals. "While past Congress candidates left tribals to fend for themselves in Gujarat, it was BJP, after coming to power, resolved their issues such as education, health, malnutrition and employment among others," he added. Campaigning in Gujarat on Monday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told a gathering of tribals at Mahuva in Surat district they are the "first owners" of the country but BJP was trying to take away their rights. A day earlier, Gandhi had accused the Narendra Modi government of weakening the laws framed by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) to empower tribals and said his party will strengthen them further after coming to power again. (PTI)

Felt pain of farmers, youth and tribals after meeting them during Bharat Jodo Yatra: Rahul Gandhi

MAHUVA, NOV 21 /--/ Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said he felt the pain of farmers, youth and tribals after meeting them and listening to their problems during the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

In his first election rally in poll-bound Gujarat, Gandhi while addressing a gathering of tribals at Mahuva in Surat district said they are the first owners of the country and claimed the BJP was working to take away their rights. "They call you 'vanvasi'. They do not say you are the first owners of India, but that you live in the jungle. Do you see the difference? It means they do not want you to live in cities, they do not want that your children become engineers, doctors, learn to fly planes, speak English," he said. "They want you to live in the jungle, but do not stop there. After that, they start taking the jungle from you. If it continues like this, then in another 5-10 years, all the jungles will be in the hands of two-three industrialists, and you will have no place to live, and won't get education, health and jobs," Gandhi said.

He said during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which was for the unity of the country, he felt the pain of farmers, youth and people from the tribal community after listening to their problems. Elections to the 182-member Gujarat Assembly will be held in two phases on December 1 and 5 and the counting of votes will be taken up on December 8. (PTI)



Chhatrapati Shivaji remarks row: Protests in Maharashtra for ouster of governor Koshiyari

NCP's Supriya Sule slams Maharashtra Dy CM for 'defending' him

PUNE, NOV 21 /--/ Amid a row over Maharashtra governor B S Koshiyari's remarks about Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, NCP's Supriya Sule on Monday wondered how could Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis "defend" the "insult" to the warrior king even as protests were held in Mumbai and other cities for the ouster of the governor.

The protesters, belonging to Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, and NCP also slammed BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi for "insulting" Chhatrapati Shivaji during a television debate. Sule said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has no moral right to take the name of the Maratha king. As Koshiyari's remarks that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was an icon of "olden days" caused a huge furore, Fadnavis on Sunday appeared to defend the beleaguered governor: "One thing is clear Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj will remain a hero and idol of Maharashtra and our country till the Sun and the Moon exist. Even Koshiyari had

no doubts about this in his mind. Thus, there are various meanings derived from the remarks made by the governor," he had said.

BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Udayanraje Bhosale, a descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji, on Monday demanded the ouster of the governor and BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi over their remarks on the Maratha warrior king. Bhosale said he will decide his future course of action if no decision is taken on his demand. Sule wondered how could Fadnavis, a former chief minister, is defending the "insult" of Chhatrapati Shivaji. "I was expecting more from Fadnavisji. He was the chief minister for five years. You may have a different ideology, but if Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is being insulted and if you are defending it, then it is unfortunate. Going forward,

BJP has no right to take the name of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj," the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader said in Pune.



B S Koshiyari

Referring to a video clip of Trivedi, Sule said it seems like these people are committing the sin of insulting Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj constantly. It is unfortunate and it should stop. Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad of Chief Minister Eknath

Shinde-led faction on Monday demanded Koshiyari be shifted out of the state. Gaikwad, who represents the Buldhana

A s s e m b l y constituency, claimed Koshiyari had made statements about the founder of the Maratha empire and stoked controversy in the past as well. Protests were held in Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, and A u r a n g a b a d demanding the removal of the governor.

Activists of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav B a l a s a h e b Thackeray) led by Nagpur district chief Kishor Kumeria staged an agitation at Gandhi Gate in the Mahal area. A similar protest was held by NCP workers at Variety Square, while activists of the Congress and its youth wing agitated near Raj Bhavan in Civil Lines. In Pune, NCP's Pune city

unit staged a demonstration during which a party worker dressed like Koshiyari participated. They raised slogans against the governor. In Aurangabad, a student organisation staged a protest on the campus of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University and demanded that the governor is shifted out of Maharashtra. A separate demonstration was held by Shiv Sena (UBT) activists in the TV Centre area.

"This (making intemperate remarks) is 'vikruti' (abnormality) which is beyond caste or party. If any part of our body is affected by gangrene that part is removed. Similarly, such people should be thrown out of the party," Udayanraje Bhosale told reporters at Nalasopara in Palghar district. He said if the person holding a respectable position of governor doesn't maintain dignity and makes such a statement about national icons, he should be removed. Bhosale appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expel Trivedi from the party and shift Koshiyari. (PTI)

Pune bridge pile-up: Truck hit multiple vehicles after driver switched off engine on slope, say police

PUNE, NOV 21 /--/ The driver of the truck, which hit several vehicles on M u m b a i - B e n g a l u r u highway in Maharashtra's Pune district and caused a pile-up, had apparently switched off its engine on a bridge slope resulting in the accident, a police official said on Monday.

Switching off the engine affects the vehicle's braking ability and this possibly resulted in the truck hitting other vehicles on the bridge slope on Sunday, as per a probe conducted into the accident by the Regional Transport Office (RTO), he said. At least 24 vehicles were damaged late Sunday evening after the truck lost control on the downward slope of Navale bridge on the Mumbai-Bengaluru highway in Pune. More than 20 people suffered injuries in the accident and eight of them were hospitalised, an official said.

A case was registered against the absconding truck driver, identified as Maniram Yadav, under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the

Motor Vehicles Act. The driver fled from the spot after the accident and efforts were on to trace him, police said.

A s s i s t a n t Commissioner of Police Sunil Pawar said, "The probe by the RTO indicates that the truck driver might have switched off the engine by turning off the ignition while on the slope. If the engine is switched off, it affects the vehicle's braking ability. That is how the truck might have gone hitting the vehicles on the slope." The truck was from Tamil Nadu and was heavily loaded with some goods, he said. A man, whose car was damaged in the accident, had said the speeding truck first rammed into some of the vehicles on the road, which in-turn hit some other vehicles leading to the pile-up. "Our car was also hit. We were four people in the vehicle and fortunately, nothing happened to us as the airbags opened, but we saw that several vehicles around us on the road were badly hit," he said. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Supriya Sule,

who is the Lok Sabha member from Baramati in Pune district, visited the accident spot on Monday.

Sule in a tweet said she spoke to officials of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), police, and the National Highway Authority of India. "They all will visit the spot to assess it and taking that report, we will meet Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and discuss what measures can be taken to make this road accident free," she tweeted.

It is necessary to make the Road Safety Act more effective, she said. "Citizens also need to follow all the traffic rules. If there are service roads, good footpaths, and traffic rules are followed, it will definitely help reduce the accidents," Sule tweeted.

She said it is necessary for the PMC to make a service road at this place (the accident spot), but it has not been done. "At the same time, it is also necessary to take measures to reduce the slope at the spot with the help of experts," she said. (PTI)

Gyanvapi row: Allahabad HC fixes Nov 30 for hearing revision plea seeking carbon dating of 'Shivling'

PRAYAGRAJ, NOV 21 /--/ The Allahabad High Court on Monday fixed November 30 for hearing a revision petition challenging the Varanasi district judge's order by which the lower court had refused the demand of carbon dating of a 'Shivling' claimed to have been found in the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

Justice J J Munir passed the order on the revision plea filed by Laxmi Devi and others. On October 14, Varanasi District Judge A K Vishvesh had turned down the plea seeking scientific investigation and carbon dating of the 'Shivling', citing Supreme Court directives for its safe



keeping so that no tampering can be done. When the matter was taken up in the high court on Monday, counsel for Archaeological Survey of India submitted that an application has been moved for extension of time for the survey. However, the court commented that there should be no damage to the 'Shivling'. Then the ASI's counsel said that there are more ways to determine the age and no damages could be caused.

On behalf of the Anjuman Intezamia Committee which manages the Gyanvapi mosque, it was said that a 'vakalatnama' has to be filed in the meantime. 'Vakalatnama' is a written document signed by a client to allow his advocate to plead a case in a court on behalf of him. Four of the five Hindu parties had sought carbon dating of the 'Shivling' found during a court-mandated videography survey of the mosque premises close to the "wazookhana", a small reservoir used by Muslim devotees to perform ritual ablutions before offering Namaz.

The revision petition has sought appropriate survey or excavation to find out the nature of construction beneath the 'Shivling' discovered on May 16, 2022. The Hindu parties have also sought scientific investigation by carbon dating to determine the age, nature and other constituents of the 'Shivling' in accordance with the provisions of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. (PTI)

BJP releases purported sting to claim AAP selling ticket for MCD polls, Kejriwal's party terms it fake

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 /--/ The BJP Monday released a sting video shot purportedly by a former Aam Aadmi Party volunteer from north west Delhi's Rohini to allege the AAP sold tickets for MCD polls.

AAP MLA Dilip Pandey rejected the sting video as "fake". The AAP and its chief Arvind Kejriwal are deeply involved in corruption, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra alleged at a press conference here, playing the purported sting video. The video was purportedly shot by former AAP volunteer Bindu who was allegedly demanded Rs 80 lakh for an AAP ticket from the Rohini D ward in the MCD polls, Patra alleged. The video shows Bindu purportedly discussing the payment of money with some purported AAP leaders including its North West Delhi Lok Sabha incharge RR Pathania and Rohini Assembly constituency incharge coordinator Punit Goel, Patra claimed. Patra claimed "These leaders including Pathania and Goel have links with a five-member committee of the AAP that was associated with ticket distribution. AAP minister Gopal Rai, MLAs Durgesh Pathak, Saurabh Bhardwaj and Atishi as well as Adil Khan are its members," he said.

Patra also said the sting video revealed that 110 tickets of the AAP were reserved for distribution on the basis of a payment. (PTI)

Leaked Tihar videos: Court to hear today Satyendar Jain's plea for contempt action against ED

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 /--/ A Delhi court will hear on Tuesday a plea moved by jailed AAP minister Satyendar Jain seeking contempt proceedings against the Enforcement Directorate for allegedly leaking CCTV footage of his prison cell to media. The matter, which was scheduled to come up for a hearing on Monday, was adjourned for Tuesday since the judge was on leave. Special Judge Vikas Dhull had on Saturday directed the agency to file its response on Jain's plea accusing the Enforcement Directorate (ED) of leaking the CCTV footage from inside the Tihar jail "despite an undertaking given in the court". The AAP on Saturday drew flak as videos purportedly showing Jain receiving massage and meeting visitors in his prison cell emerged, with the opposition BJP and Congress demanding his sacking and a probe by agencies into violation of jail rules.

The ED had, during a bail hearing earlier, accused Jain of getting special treatment inside the jail. The court had ordered the ED and Jain's legal team not to leak any content of affidavits and video in this regard and had taken their undertakings in the matter. (PTI)

Mehrauli killing: Police recover human jaw during searches, seek dentist's help

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 /--/ Delhi Police has recovered a human jaw during searches for the remains of Shraddha Walkar and approached a dentist here in a bid to ascertain whether it is of the 27-year-old murder victim.

The dentist, who did not wish to be named, said he wanted more information to arrive at a conclusion. "The police came today. They had a picture of the jaw which they recovered during investigation. I asked them to get an X-ray from the Mumbai-based doctor who treated the woman, for a root canal treatment or so. Without X-ray, it is very difficult to identify," he said. Walkar moved from Mumbai to Delhi with Aaftab Amin Poonawala (28) earlier this year and they were staying at a flat in South Delhi's Mehrauli. (PTI)

MRI shows significant brain abnormalities post-Covid: IIT Delhi study

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 /--/ Using a special type of MRI, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi have uncovered brain changes in patients up to six months after they recovered from Covid-19. Studies have shown that about one in five adults go on to develop long-term effects from Covid-19.

Neurological symptoms associated with long Covid include difficulty thinking or concentrating, headache, sleep problems, lightheadedness, pins-and-needles sensation, change in smell or taste, and depression or anxiety. However, studies have found that Covid-19 may be associated with changes to the heart, lungs or other organs even in asymptomatic patients. The latest study, being presented next week at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), used susceptibility-weighted imaging to analyse the effects that Covid-19 has on the brain. Magnetic susceptibility denotes how much certain materials, such as blood, iron and calcium, will become magnetised in an applied magnetic field. This ability aids in the detection and monitoring of a host of neurologic conditions including microbleeds, vascular malformations, brain tumours and stroke. "Group-level studies have not previously focused on COVID-19 changes in magnetic

susceptibility of the brain despite several case reports signaling such abnormalities," said study co-author Sapna S Mishra, a Ph.D. candidate at IIT Delhi. "Our study highlights this new aspect of the neurological effects of COVID-19



and reports significant abnormalities in COVID survivors," Mishra said in a statement.

The researchers analysed the susceptibility-weighted imaging data of 46 Covid-recovered patients and 30 healthy controls. Imaging was done within six months of recovery. Among patients with long Covid, the most commonly reported symptoms were fatigue, trouble sleeping, lack of attention and memory issues, the study found. "Changes in susceptibility values of brain

regions may be indicative of local compositional changes," Mishra said. "Susceptibilities may reflect the presence of abnormal quantities of paramagnetic compounds, whereas lower susceptibility could be caused by

abnormalities like calcification or lack of paramagnetic molecules containing iron," she added. MRI results showed that patients who recovered from Covid-19 had significantly higher susceptibility values in the frontal lobe and brain stem compared to healthy controls, the researchers said. The clusters obtained in the frontal lobe primarily show differences in the white matter, they said. "These brain regions are linked with fatigue, insomnia, anxiety, depression, headaches and cognitive problems," Mishra said.

69TH ALL INDIA COOPERATIVE WEEK CONCLUDES



PORT BLAIR, NOV 21/--/ The 69th All India Cooperative Week Celebration-2022 concluded on Monday at the conference hall of A&N State Cooperative Bank Ltd. Mr. Raajesh Goyal, Secretary (Coop)-Cum- RCS was the chief guest, in which office bearers of various Apex and Primary Level Cooperatives, Govt. Officials, and a huge gathering of cooperators were present.

Mr. Raajesh Goyal addressed on the topic "Financial Inclusion, Digitalization of PACS". He appreciated the A&N State Cooperative Union, Cooperative Societies and staff Members of Cooperative department for successful conduct of cooperative week, across in A&N Islands. He put a light on the theme "India @75 growth of Cooperatives and future ahead. He informed that the cooperative has done tremendous growth in A&N Islands and it started way back from 1946, the first Cooperative Society registered is 1946 in the name & style of Rangachang Land Syndicate Cooperative Society. Almost 2200 societies are registered in 30 various sectors touching construction, shipping repairs, Consumer, Bank, credit etc. He further informed that in comparison to the mainland we have to do more businesses and He cited the examples of successful cooperatives like AMUL the Milk cooperative is doing best business in all over India as well as abroad and a construction cooperative of Kerala having 26,000 crore turnover cooperatives of Andhra Pradesh also doing well.

Mr. RaajeshGoyal handed over the accreditation of Rajiv Gandhi Cooperative Training Centre received from C-PEC, BIRD Lucknow as centre for "Professional & Excellence of Cooperatives" to Mr. P.G.Paul, General Secretary, A&N State Coop. Union, Teylerabad.

During the weeklong celebration the A&N State Cooperative Union Ltd various competitions like Essay writing and Quiz competition among the College, School students and Employees of Cooperative organization were held in order to inculcate the spirit of cooperatives. The Secretary(Coop)-Cum-RCS handed over the Certificates and Mementos to the winners of various competitions. He also felicitates the best working cooperatives in various sectors and also handed over the certificate to the candidates who successfully completed Beauty parlor, Tailoring, Fashion Designing and Computer courses.

English Essay Writing Competition

Sl. No.	Name of the Student	Name of the College	Position
01	Mr.DipaniwanHaldar	Arulman Law College	1 st Position
02	Mr.G.Ajith	TGCE	2 nd Position
03	Ms.DivyaKumari	TGCE	3 rd Position

Hindi Essay writing Competition

01	Ms. Archana Singh	TGCE	1 st Position
02	Ms. Nazreen Khattun	Andaman Law College	2 nd Position
03	Ms. Pooja Halder	Andaman Law College	3 rd Position

Quiz Competition

Sr. No.	Name of the Participants	Name of the Organisation	Position
01	Mr.Sudeep Kumar Laxford&SakantaMalakar	A&NSCB	1 st Position
02	Mr.Srinivas&Wajid Ali Shah	ANCOFED	2 nd Position
03	Mr. S. Netaji	Ekdut Housing Coop. Society Ltd	3 rd Position
04	SabnamBibi& T. Thanviya	CCWS	3 rd Position

Best Working Cooperative Societies

Sl. No.	Name of the Coop. Societies	Sector
01	Wisdom Const. Coop. Society Ltd, Ferrargunj	Construction Cooperative
02	ANIDCO Employees Multipurpose Coop. Society Ltd	Multipurpose Cooperative
02	Island Progressive Women Coop. Society Ltd, Shadipur	Industrial Cooperative
03	Kisan Service Coop. Society, Tushnabad	PACS (Agri. Credit)
04	Women Welfare T&C Coop. Society Ltd, Prothrapur	Thrift & Credit Cooperative
05	Bangashree Coop. Coconut Farming Society Ltd, Prothrapur	Plantation Cooperative
06	MahilaPragatiShree Housing Coop. Society, Prothrapur	Housing Cooperative
07	Durga unemployed Coop. Society Ltd, Sippighat	Labour Contract Cooperative
08	Jagrook Coop. Society Ltd, Austimabad	Others
09	Mahasaagar Fisheries Coop. Society Ltd, Dairy Farm, Port Blair	Fisheries Cooperative
10	Shanmuga Women's Coop. Society Ltd, Port Blair	Canteen Cooperative

Mr. Suresh Babu, Principal, Rajiv Gandhi Cooperative Training College (RGCTC) also spoke on the topic "Financial Inclusion, Digitalization of PACS and Strengthening of Cooperative Database ". He informed that, Financial Inclusion meant for including all sections of the community is financial services of banks. He briefed as to how PACS can play pivotal role in financial inclusion, Financial inclusion helps the rural poor to access banking facility to meet the economic needs of its members as well as to help them to save their money Govt. has taken many initiatives like DBT, opening of no frills account, branch expansion of bank and appointing business correspondence, introduction of KCC, ATM card and GCC etc. He further informed that PACS is going to Digitalization in all over India and in A&N Islands 46 PACS are going to Digitalize with this rural populace will benefit and Govt. of India has prepared Model Bye law for the PACS for doing as a multiservice centre.

He further informed that the A&N State Cooperative Union has brought momentum in Cooperative Development & training in A&N Islands through Rajiv Gandhi Cooperative Training Centre, Teylerabad.

READ EOI

Vishal raises burning issues of Nicobar District before CS

PORT BLAIR, NOV 21/--/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, BJP's National Executive Member met the Chief Secretary on Monday and highlighted various burning issues pertaining to Nicobar District. He said that there is a serious requirement of proper village roads as all roads in Car Nicobar are in a completely damaged condition and not motorable at all. He further said that 95% of the street lights are not working. School infrastructure is completely in a bad shape and students don't even have benches to sit and study. During the rainy season, the rain water flows directly upon them due to damaged roofs.

He further highlighted the poor & damaged condition of water pipelines due to which the villagers face acute shortage of water round the year. Furthermore, the issue regarding construction of the Sea Wall at Mus was also discussed elaborately. Mr. Vishal Jolly further raised the issue of Copra and informed the Chief Secretary that despite the Government of India fixing a MSP (Minimum Support Price) of Rs. 105.90/-, in the month of December 2021, the ground level implementation of copra procurement at MPS has not started yet. Hence, the poor farmers are forced to sell their



copra in a meagre price of Rs. 35 to Rs. 39/- only, causing immense hardship to earn their livelihood. Appointment of Surveyors by NAFED at copra collection points was also placed and discussed elaborately. The Chief Secretary, A & N Administration after hearing & discussion assured that he would soon visit Nicobar District and ensure that all these issues are sorted out at the earliest. He further assured that on the issue of Copra, he would soon convene a meeting with officials of NAFED and all procurement agencies for effective ground level implementation & grant of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to all farmers.

Girl students should give more priority for their health and hygiene: Adhyaksha, SAZP



PORT BLAIR, NOV 21/--/ Girl students should give more priority for their health and hygiene and to take more nutritious food to improve their mental ability, says Smt. PramilaKumari, ZillaParishaad Chairman, South Andaman in an awareness programme organized by Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Port Blair during the Integrated Communication Outreach Programme on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Swatch Bharat Abhiyan & Central Welfare Schemes at Govt. Senior Secondary School, Manglutan South Andaman today.

While addressing the gathering, Smt. PramilaKumari praised the students for their achievement particularly girl students and narrated the sacrifices of our great freedom fighters during our freedom struggle. So we should know the great history and culture of this country. Teenagers, especially girls, should eat more

nutritious food to improve their mental ability and physical condition. Also she elaborated various schemes implemented for women and child development by the Central Govt.

Dr. Anni Das, Medical Officer, PHC, Manglutan delivered a special address and emphasized the importance of nutritious food to students, particularly girl students. She also added the importance of hand washing and demonstrated how to wash our hands.

Mr. K. AnandhaPrabu, Field Publicity Officer delivered the keynote address. Mr. Durlav Das, Pradhan, Manglutan Panchayat and Mr. Prakash Howladar, Principal Incharge, GSSS, Manglutan participated and Mr. M. Murali, Technical Assistant proposed a vote of thanks .

Competitions like Painting and Essay writing on AzadiKaAmritMahotsav and Swatchh Bharat Mission were held for women and winners were awarded prizes.

ACTA call on Education Secretary



PORT BLAIR, NOV. 21/--/ The newly elected Office Bearers of the Andaman College Teachers Association (ACTA) led by Mr. N. Balakrishnan, President, ACTA, Dr. K. Venkatesan, Secretary ACTA, Dr. Vivek Kumar Sahu, Treasurer, Ms. Jochibed Vincent & Dr. Ratna Kushwah Executive Members paid a courtesy call to Ms. Veditha Reddy, Secretary (Education) A&N Administration on Monday. During the meeting, the delegation has submitted

a detailed memorandum of demands containing issues of promotion of faculty members of JNRM, ANCOL and MGGC under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) as per UGC 2018 regulations, infrastructure development for providing conducive learning environment to the students. Further, the delegation has apprised the Secretary about the activities carried out by JNRM, MGGC & ANCOL for the betterment of the student community.

MP seeks reservation of 15 tickets for Long Island residents in every sailing from Port Blair

PORT BLAIR, NOV 21/--/ The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Secretary of Shipping Services to reserve at least 15 tickets for the residents of Long Island in every sailing of vessel from Port Blair to Long Island, which will largely benefit the residents of Long Island.

In a letter addressed to the Secretary of Shipping Services, Mr. Sharma mentioned that 20 tickets have been kept reserved for the residents of Long Island






in every sailing of ferry from Long Island to Port Blair but no such tickets are reserved for the residents of Long Island in ferries,



sailing from Port Blair to
Long Island.


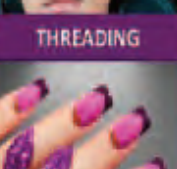
He added that because of this, residents of far-flung and isolated Long Island often find it difficult to get tickets for ferries sailing for Long Island from Port Blair, even in case of emergency.


Considering this problem, he requested the Secretary Shipping Services to reserve at least 15 tickets for the residents of Long Island in every sailing of vessel from Port Blair to Long Island.



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Flowers never emit so sweet and strong a fragrance as before a storm. When a storm approaches thee, be as fragrant as a sweet-smelling flower

Jean Paul Richter

India launches first privately made rocket

India presents a paradox. It has more than 350 private firms in the space sector making it the fifth-largest in the world in this respect after the US, UK, Canada and Germany. But the country's share in the global space economy is barely 3 per cent. The government intends to increase this to 10 per cent by 2030. Against this backdrop, it's quite appreciable that India's space programme last week accomplished a landmark when the country's first privately-developed rocket lifted off from ISRO's launch pad in Sriharikota. Developed by the Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace, the 550-kg vehicle, Vikram S, is the forerunner of the much-larger Vikram series rockets, the first of which is slated for launch next year. The latest mission will help test the technology systems of these satellite carriers that hold exciting possibilities. Small satellites developed by businesses, universities, private laboratories, even students, can hitch a ride on these vehicles and send back information that's today the preserve of super speciality institutions — data on weather and earth sciences, for instance. Vikram S carries a 2.5 kg payload developed by students from India, the US, Indonesia and Singapore. The government estimates that more than 20,000 small satellites will be launched in the next decade.

The successful launch on November 18 of India's first privately made rocket, developed by a four year-old startup, marks the entry of the private sector into the country's space ecosystem which is currently dominated by the state-run behemoth ISRO. The rocket, Vikram-S named in a befitting tribute to the father of the country's space programme Vikram Sarabhai, tasted success in its maiden mission. In the process, the firm became the first privately held company in India after the space sector was opened for the private players by the Centre in 2020. The three payloads that rode piggyback on the rocket are from Chennai-based start-up SpaceKidz, Andhra Pradesh-based N-SpaceTech and Armenian BazoomQ Space Research Lab. The Mission unveiled by ISRO Chairman S Somanath had three payloads with two belonging to domestic customers and one from a foreign client.

The 6-metre tall rocket is one of the world's first few all-composite ones that has 3-D printed solid thrusters for spin stability of the launch vehicle. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the launch as "historic" and said the accomplishment bears testimony to the immense talent of India's youth who took full advantage of the landmark space sector reforms of June 2020. The mission is considered to be a significant milestone for Skyroot Aerospace as it would help test and validate majority of the technologies in the Vikram series of orbital class space launch vehicles, including many sub-systems and technologies that would be tested before lift-off and post lift off phases of the launch. 'Fun-Sat', a 2.5 kg payload belonging to Chennai-based Spacekidz, has been developed by students from India, the US, Singapore, Seychelles and Indonesia. The 545 kg Vikram launch vehicle consists of the Vikram II and Vikram III series. The technology architecture of the launch vehicle offers unique capabilities like multi-orbit insertion and interplanetary missions, while providing customised, dedicated and ride share options covering a wide spectrum of small satellite customer needs.

Both Uddhav and Rahul can differ on Savarkar

REFLEX ACTION

Arun Srivastava

Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray refutation to Rahul Gandhi's remark on Savarkar might have been driven by political compulsions, but it has provided with the much awaited opportunity to BJP to humiliate and slander him as the true inheritor of the legacy of Balasaheb Thackeray.

Vitriolic avowal from his trusted lieutenant Sanjay Rout has simply pushed Uddhav to the wall from where it is really a tough proposition to come back. The recent split of the Shiv Sena by Eknath Shinde has proved beyond doubt that he is not an astute politician.

A politically judicious politician always keeps his channels open to handle and get out of the crisis. Instead of rushing in haste and disproving Rahul's remarks purely with the motto to keep his supporters happy, Uddhav should have waited before jumping into the fray. It was his impulsive reaction that conjured Sanjay Rautsaying that Congress leaders in Maharashtra won't support Rahul Gandhi's comments on Savarkar. "Coming to Maharashtra and saying things about Savarkar won't be accepted. Congress leaders won't support him. Bharat Jodo Yatra is against dictatorship and issues like unemployment, inflation and Congress is getting support". This underscores his political immaturity.

Rout further said: "Giving such a statement can cause strife in MVA. We believe in Veer Savarkar and we want to ask the fake Hinduvaadi that we are demanding Bharat Ratna for Veer Savarkar for 10 years. Even though BJP is in power, why are they not fulfilling our demands?" Undeniably it was his targeting the BJP that prompted to lash out at Uddhav. He could have bought more time to finalise his strategy by resorting to politics of passive silence.

Rout's sends a clear message that he has failed to comprehend the political orientation and also the mind-set of Rahul Gandhi. He has not come out with his statement out of impulse. It was a planned attack on Savarkar. Ever since he resigned as the Congress chief in 2019 after Lok Sabha elections Rahul has been striving to shape his own political line. He is not scared of the dissidents, or who is attacking him or who is turning his enemy or who dislikes him or whether his observations are appreciated. He is in the process of restructuring the Congress, arm it with new philosophy and ideology.

Uddhav and Rout should have noticed the unprecedented turnout of the people at his meeting just a day after Rahul's criticism of Savarkar. This implied that the people of Maharashtra are more concerned of their fight for survival than turning the pages of history and decipher the text. For them whether Savarkar was the symbol of Hindutva does not matter at all.

Uddhav and Rout have every right to worship and respect Savarkar and are not under any kind of coercion to believe what Rahul says. But it certainly does not imply that their devotion to him will change the historical facts or obliterate the facts from its pages. This was not for the first time that Rahul raised this issue. Savarkar and his RSS have earned the unkind reputation of being appreciative of the Britishers. But never in the past, this virtuous revelation was

challenged by anyone, even by the relatives of Savarkar. Savarkar's grandson, Ranjit Savarkar, has filed a police complaint against Gandhi for making comments on Savarkar and has demanded his arrest. The Sena had always held Savarkar in high regards and had, in the past, threatened to beat Congress senior leader Mani Shankar Aiyar with slippers if he ever came to Maharashtra after he criticized Savarkar. Soon after Rahul Gandhi made this remark, FIRs were filed in Maharashtra, and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's cabinet adopted a resolution condemning Rahul Gandhi. Effigies of Rahul were burnt in several cities of Maharashtra.

Nevertheless on Thursday (November 17), a case was registered against Rahul Gandhi for mocking the contribution of Savarkar to the Independence Movement. The complaint was filed by a leader belonging to the Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena with the Thane police station against Gandhi under non-cognisable offences. This is nothing but a cheap political mockery to get space in the newspapers and TV news channels. A cursory probe would reveal that most of the people who are spearheading the protest are unaware of the letters he wrote to the Britishers or have not fully acquainted with the historical developments.

The most entertaining has been the observation of Maharashtra's Deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis. He said "I want to point out that the closing lines 'I beg to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant' written by Savarkar in his mercy petition to the British, were almost the same written by Mahatma Gandhi in his letters to the British rulers. This was actually a letter writing format during the British Raj". (IPA/To be continued)

Conventional Crossword

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

ACROSS
1 Counterfeit
3 Tiny
8 Operatic air
9 Gloomily sullen
11 Verge
12 Musical instrument
14 Bishop's territory
15 Time in grammar
18 Strict vegetarian
19 Anger
21 Woel
24 Flaxen cloth
26 Festive
27 Gem
28 Narrates
29 Agitate

DOWN
1 Long detailed story
2 Be adjacent to
4 Spoil
5 Get up
6 Row
7 Bodies of water
10 Silent
11 Trite
13 Commenced
16 Hidden obstacle
17 Flier
18 Corruptly mercenary
20 Mature
22 Preservative
23 Couple
25 Old cloth measure

SUDOKU:3703

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

Yesterday's Solution 3702

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1711

R	I	F	L	E		T	E	L
O	N	E			K	E	G	A
A	V	E	R	T		N	O	U
D	E	S	I	R	E	D		K
N			M	I	X		S	P
S	T	Y		T	A	P		R
I			R	E	C	E	D	E
G	L	E	E		T	R	A	C
H		Y	A	M			L	I
T	E	E	M		Q	U	E	S

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The city of football lovers. Kites engraved with Fifa World Cup emblem being sold at Bowbazar on Monday --Arijit Ganguly

Funds outflow from third world countries strengthening US Dollar

There are two defining and portentous features of the current world economic situation. One, which is well discussed, is the world-wide increase in interest rates in response to the pervasive inflationary upsurge; it would indubitably generate recession and unemployment, which, not with standing all protestations to the contrary, is the real objective behind it. The second feature, which is less discussed, is the outflow of finance from elsewhere in the world to the US that is contributing to a strengthening of the dollar vis-à-vis virtually all other currencies, with the sole and ironical exception of the Russian rouble. While all major currencies are weakening against the dollar, including the euro and the pound-sterling, what concerns us here in particular is the weakening of third world currencies, of which the rupee is a prime example.

In the current calendar year an estimated \$200 billion has already flown out of India which amounts to a third of India's exchange reserves. These reserves themselves have been drawn down by over \$100 billion by the Reserve Bank of India in its bid to shore up the

rupee against the dollar; but despite such drawing down the rupee has depreciated by about 10 per cent.

There is a belief that financial flows across nations are determined primarily by interest rate differentials, so that the current inflow into the US is a result of the US having raised its interest rates to a greater extent than other countries. From this it follows that when the other countries raise their interest rates by as much as the US has done, they would no longer face such capital outflows.

This however is not true. While interest rate differentials no doubt have an effect on financial flows, there is something even more basic that influences such flows; and that is the state of euphoria among the financiers. When their expectations are euphoric, they move into countries in the periphery (some countries not all); but when their expectations are gloomy

they prefer to move back to their home base, the United States. And a crucial factor affecting their euphoria or gloom is the level of US interest rates.

When American interest rates are low, the entire system ipso facto is flush with cheap liquidity which then goes all over the world in search of opportunities for profitable deployment; but when the US raises its interest rates, there is a tightening of liquidity and a fear of world recession, and finance flies back to its home base. It follows that while the US interest rate is close to zero and India's is, say, 3 per cent, there will be a larger flow of finance to India than when the US interest rate is close to 6 per cent and India's close to 9 per cent, even though the interest rate differential between the US and India is the same in both cases.

The fact that any jitteriness in financial circles, such as what the prospect of a world recession invariably

introduces, drives finance to its home base, the United States, was demonstrated in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. The US had been at the very epicentre of that crisis, its financial system filled with "toxic" assets consisting of loans made to borrowers who could not possibly repay; and yet the financial crisis, instead of resulting in a flow of finance out of the US, led immediately to a flow of finance back to the US from all over the world, including even from countries like India that had barely any exposure to "toxic" assets!

The main reason for the current financial inflow into the US that is strengthening the dollar lies of course in the rise in the US interest rates. But this rise matters not so much because it makes the US a more profitable destination for financial deployment; it matters because it portends a period of world recession that makes finance extremely jittery. In other words, world capitalism is entering into an altogether new phase in which third world economies will witness a persistent outflow of finance, even if they raise their interest rates in tandem with the American rates. (IPA/To be continued)

FOCUS

Prabhat Patnaik

Over 33,900 candidates appeared in Common Recruitment Examination to fill up 565



PORT BLAIR, NOV 21/--/ Common Recruitment Examination for filling up Group 'C' vacant posts in various department/Boards/ PBMC etc. was conducted today across the A & N Islands at 9 Tehsils by the R & E Cell of A & N Administration with the help of Staff Selection Commission, New Delhi. About 39000 candidates had applied online for around 565 vacancies and almost 87% of the candidates appeared for the examination.

Despite various constraints, Administration had made elaborate arrangements at the examination centres located at the far-off Islands to conduct free, fair and transparent

examination and to maintain the sanctity of the examination.

The Administration used the services of several IAS Officers, DANICS Officers apart from other officers from the local Administration viz, Education, APWD, Police, Forest among others. To rule out any possibility of electronic unfair means, the R & E Cell had for the first time installed jammers at all the examination centres with the assistance of Bharat Electronic Limited, Panchkula.

The Common Recruitment Examination was held after a gap of almost 5 years. This was perhaps one reason why such a large

number of candidates had applied for these posts. In order to accommodate such a large number of candidates, R & E Cell had made arrangements at 64 centers across the Islands. 45 of these centers were located in South Andaman District while out of the rest, 14 were located in N & M Andaman District and 5 were located in the Nicobar District.

During the examination, suitable arrangements were made for the eligible specially abled candidates belonging to Visually Disabled (VH) & Cerebral Palsy (CP) category. Hon'ble Lt. Governor had earlier allowed relaxation of age by 2 years for candidates. There

were several other requests from various quarters. Administration tried its best to accommodate them to the extent possible within the framework of Rules to allow all eligible candidates to have a chance to try their luck at the examination.

The Administration is trying its best to provide job opportunities to the eligible aspirants of the Islands and fill up the vacant posts. In this regard, it is also taking various initiatives including establishing infrastructure for online examination in the Islands so that examinations could be held frequently for job aspirants and there is no delay in filling up the posts.

Main accused in voter data theft case held

BENGALURU, NOV 21 /--/ The Bengaluru city police, probing into the alleged voter data theft case, on Monday said they have arrested the main accused.

Co-founder of the Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Institute (Chilume Trust) Krishnappa Ravikumar was the main accused, according to the police. The police said they registered a case against the Trust and one of its employees. The trust has three directors. The Congress party demanded that the government arrest the founders and directors by saying that they should be questioned first to bring out truth. The State president of the party D K Shivakumar said he has sought an appointment with the Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday to brief the latter on the scam. The Congress leader further said his party was monitoring the way investigations were taking place. The Opposition party alleged that the Trust had hired many private people who were given fake identity cards that showed them as booth-level officers (BLOs) of the city civic body. The party alleged that the private trust, assigned by the Bengaluru civic agency to spread awareness among voters, collected details of the voters such as name, mother tongue, gender, religion, caste, voter ID number, and the Aadhaar number. It has demanded chief minister Basavaraj Bommai's resignation by saying he was responsible for the illegal survey since he is in charge of the Bengaluru city development. Bommai denied the allegation, saying that such surveys took place when the Congress was in power. He said he has ordered the police to investigate into the matter. (PTI)

354 people died in nearly 900 road crashes during Jan-Oct 2022: Noida Police

NOIDA, NOV 21 /--/ More than 350 people lost their lives in road accidents this year across Noida and Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar district, according to police data. The district, adjoining Delhi, recorded nearly 90 road crash incidents on an average per month during the period, the data showed. From January to October 2022, a total of 897 road accidents took place in Gautam Buddha Nagar, in which 354 people died and 680 were injured, according to the police. The figures were shared as the Gautam Buddha Nagar police marked the 'World Remembrance Day' on Sunday to pay tributes to those who lost their lives in road crashes. "A two-minute silence was observed and candles lit in memory of the deceased during the programme attended by Noida traffic police officers, personnel, traffic volunteers, NGOs, members of civil society and trade associations, (PTI)

Two-day Island seafood festival at Corbyn's Cove beach



PORT BLAIR, NOV 21/--/ A large number of crowd converged at Corbyn's Cove Beach to be a part of the 'Island Seafood Festival' organized by the Department of Fisheries in association with Tourism Department, A&N Administration. The two-day festival is being organized in connection with celebration of 'World Fisheries Day -2022' and also to promote tourism in A&N Islands. The festival was inaugurated by Secretary (Fisheries), A&N Administration, Mr. G. Sudhakar as chief guest.

The Secretary (IP&T), Mr. Hari Kallikkat was the guest of honour. The Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman, Smt. Pramila Kumari was also present on the occasion. The festival which mainly focused on popularizing seafood culture of the Islands among the local population as well as tourists visiting Isles was participated by people of all ages.

In her brief address, the

Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad complimented both the Departments for conducting the programme in a grand manner and praised their efforts in developing both Fisheries and Tourism sectors for the benefit of the Islanders.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary Fisheries, A&N Administration, said this is for the first time, the Fisheries Department is organizing seafood festival as part of the World Fisheries Day -2022. He said, this festival will be organized in large scale in the coming years for the benefit of the islanders and the tourists visiting Isles.

In his address, the Secretary IP&T appreciated the staff of Fisheries and IP&T Department for conducting the festival which is attracting large crowd.

He also praised the effort of Fisheries Department for organizing the festival in a grand way. More than 24 stalls of Fisheries related Departments/organizations

and private entrepreneurs are participating in the festival, he said. The Zilla Parishad Member, Bambooflat, Ms. Mariyam Bibi and President, AATO, Shri M. Vinod also addressed the gathering.

Soon after the inauguration, the dignitaries visited the stalls put up by Hotels & Restaurants/ Aquarists/ Sport Fishing Associations/ Fishing Associations/ Aquaculture club/ Women SHGs/ Fisheries Institutes like Fishery Survey of India, ICAR-CIARI, NIOT, CSIR-CSMCRI, Coast Guard etc.

The stalls of fresh seafood cuisines/delicates of different varieties fishes and shellfishes, other fish value added products, Aquarium fishes, Display & Models on various aspects of Fisheries and Aquaculture attracted a large number of people. The singers of BRW Music Wing entertained the assemblage with patriotic and melodious film songs.

Farmers from J&K and north-eastern states get 4 lakhs lavender plants, training of its cultivation

BHADERWAH, NOV 21 /--/ To further expand 'purple revolution', CSIR-IIIM on Monday distributed four lakh plants of lavender among 200 farmers of Jammu and Kashmir and 15 others who came here from north-eastern states. Farmers of Ramban, Udhampur, Reasi and Doda districts and those from Meghalaya and Nagaland came here to attend an awareness-cum-training programme at Bhaderwah campus of Jammu University. Senior scientists of CSIR-IIIM Jammu along with a team of lavender growers led by Touqeer Jagban explained the nuances of lavender farming and motivated the participants to switch from traditional agricultural practices to growing of aromatic plants for better future. "The distribution of lavender plants is primarily aimed at catalysing rural empowerment through cultivation, processing, value addition and marketing of aromatic plants (for north-eastern region and J&K farmers) under CSIR Aroma Mission Phase 2," said V P Rahul, senior scientist at CSIR-IIIM Jammu. Referring to the lavender cultivation in the region, Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Doda,

Dhanantar Singh Kotwal said lavender is an avenue of employment generation and will help the farmers in doubling their income.

The visiting farmers were upbeat about the lavender cultivation and expressed their gratitude to the ministry of science and technology for giving them the opportunity to be a part of the 'purple revolution' in India. Bhaderwah is considered as the birthplace of the 'purple revolution' as over 1,000 farmers switched from traditional farming practices to lavender cultivation. "Aromatherapy is the new big thing in the world and demand of essential oils especially that of lavender is ever increasing. The 'purple revolution' will surely help the farmers of the north-eastern region in a big way," said RP Bansal, consultant, Aroma Mission, Meghalaya government. Nodal scientist, Aroma Mission, Sumeet Gairola and other experts, including Qazi Parvez and Shakir Sultan, explained the techniques to grow the aromatic lavender crops for better yield and also how to take care of the plants during drought or rainy season. (PTI)

IFFI 2022: Anurag Thakur felicitates 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow', inaugurates Film Bazaar

PANAJI, NOV 21 /--/ Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting on Monday honoured 75 young creative talents participating in various fields of filmmaking at a ceremony here on the second day of the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

The youngsters were selected as part of the '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow', an initiative started by the IFFI last year to mark the 75 years of India's Independence.

Nearly 1,000 entries were received from across the country for the second

edition. "It was last year that we embarked on this journey, led by the vision of PM Narendra Modi to engage, encourage and explore the potential of our youth by providing them a platform at the IFFI.

"This is the second edition of 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow and we have already made a community of 150 strong individuals connected through their shared love for cinema, creativity and culture," Thakur said at the felicitation ceremony.

The '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' have been chosen based on their excellence in different areas of filmmaking, namely direction, acting, cinematography, editing, scriptwriting, playback singing, music composition, costume and makeup, art design and animation, visual effects (VFX), augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR). The grand jury for the initiative includes Prasoon Joshi, Resul Pookutty, R Balki, Rickey Kej, Mala Dey Banthia, Gautami Tadimalla, Ballu Saluja, Munjal Shroff, Narendra Rahurikar and Ravi K Chandran. The young film professionals were discovered across 19 states, including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

The youngest candidates are 18-year-olds -- Nitish Verma from Haryana and Toufique Mandal from Maharashtra. Both have been selected for their talent in music composition. (PTI)

The youngest candidates are 18-year-olds -- Nitish Verma from Haryana and Toufique Mandal from Maharashtra. Both have been selected for their talent in music composition. (PTI)

AFFIDAVIT

I, SMTI K.C. MARRIAMMA JOHN, W/o. Shri G. John, R/o. Rangat, under Rangat Tehsil, in the District of North and Middle Andaman, do hereby solemnly declare as under:-

1. That my marriage was solemnized with Shri G. JOHN, S/o Y. George R/o Kollam Dist. Kerala and since then we are living together as a husband and wife.

2. That before marriage, I was known as "K.C. MARRIAMMA".

3. That after my marriage with Shri G. JOHN, I have adopted my husband's Surname and am known as Smti. K.C. MARRIAMMA JOHN.

4. I intend to correct the name in Service Book and in all the records my name is K.C. MARRIAMMA JOHN.

5. That henceforth, I shall be known as Smti. "K.C. MARRIAMMA JOHN" instead of "K.C. MARRIAMMA" for all purposes.

6. K.C. MARRIAMMA JOHN and K.C. MARRIAMMA is identical and the same person.

The sole purpose of executing this, affidavit is to effect change in my Surname.

The all above statements and declarations are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DEPONENT



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ENGAGEMENT OF LEGAL CONSULTANT

The Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (Central), delhi intends to engage a Law Firm to provide advice on legal matters pertaining primarily to Direct Tax Laws. Besides, other Direct Tax matters which are related to Indirect Tax Laws, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, Companies Act, 2013, Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, Laws & regulation relating to Banking, SEBI Act, 1992 and competition Act, 2002 etc. For a detailed Request for Proposal document, interested parties may visit website.

<https://office.incometaxindia.gov.in/delhi/Lists/Tenders/Attachments/1292/RFP-Final-18.11.2022 PDF>



CBC-15432/11/0001/2223



राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
Ahmedabad



ADMISSIONS 2023-24

The National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad (and its extension campuses Gandhinagar, and Bengaluru) is an Institution of National Importance by the NID Act of 2014 and is a statutory institute under the DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

Bachelor of Design
(B.Des. — 4 years)
Offered at NID Ahmedabad, NID Andhra Pradesh, NID Haryana, NID Madhya Pradesh, and NID Assam

Master of Design
(M.Des. — 2.5 years)
Offered at NID Ahmedabad (and its extension campuses at Gandhinagar, and Bengaluru)

NID Andhra Pradesh, NID Haryana, NID Madhya Pradesh, and NID Assam are autonomous Institutions of National Importance under the DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India established through the NID (Amendment) Act, 2019.

Last date for submitting online applications for B.Des & M.Des.

Friday, December 16, 2022

CBC-05216/12/00052223

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
SERIOUS FRAUD INVESTIGATION OFFICE
REGIONAL OFFICE: HYDERABAD
Survey No. 127/1, 4th Floor, Corporate, Bhawan, Tattiannaram Village, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad-500068



In the investigation of Heera Group of Companies
Public notice dated 14.11.2022 to the investors of Heera Group
Extension of last date for submission of claims upto 30.1.2022

Honourable Supreme Court vide Orders dated 28.10.2021 passed in WP (Crl.) No.31/2020 read with Criminal Appeal Nos.761-762/2021, inter alia, ordered Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) to issue a public advertisement seeking to file claims of Investors of Heera Group Companies. That, in pursuant to above orders, Serious Fraud Investigation office vide Public notice hosted on SFIO website on 05.11.2021 and Public Notice printed in all leading newspapers in English, Hindi and other vernacular languages on 09.11.2021 and 10.11.2021 across the country, invited attention of interested investors of Heera Group of Companies who want their money back, to file their claims, in the following format, along the copies of documents duly notarized and accompanied by an affidavit given below, by 20.11.2021 positively.

Honourable Supreme Court vide Orders dated 10.11.2022 passed in the matter, is pleased to extend the due date for receiving the claims of Investors of Heera Group by SFIO, upto 30.11.2022, and where-after it will be presumed that the claims have been abandoned/do not exist.

In view of above, **attention of interested investors of Heera Group who want their money back and have not vet filed their claims with SFIO** with reference to Public Notice dated 05.11.2021/09.11.2021/10.11.2021, to file their claims in the format, along with copies of documents duly notarized and accompanied by an affidavit given below. It may be noted that the incomplete claims and claims not furnished as per format will be liable to be ignored and not considered.

In terms of Hon'ble Supreme Court Orders dated 10.11.2022, **the last date for receiving claims in SFIO is 30.11.2022 and the claims received after 30.11.2022 will not be entertained.**

The investor claimants whose names are figuring in the deficiency lists as hosted by SFIO on the website on 22.03.2022 and 22.07.2022, are advised to submit necessary documentation referring to Claim Sr.No. in the list, duly notarized for rectification of deficiencies.

The investors who have already submitted their claims and the investors who have submitted necessary documentation for rectification of deficiencies, need not to submit again.

AFFIDAVIT TOWARDS PROOF OF INVESTMENTS MADE & PROFITS/RETURNS RECEIVED IN/FROM HEERA GROUP OF COMPANIES

I,..... Wife/Husband/Son/Daughter of..... Belonging to..... (religion) aged about..... Years, resident of D. No..... do solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That I have invested a total of Rs..... In Heera Group of Companies as per details given below:-

IBG NO.	Name and Address for correspondence	Aadhar No.	PAN	Investment details (Scheme wise)			Name of the Bank, Account No. from which investments made	Cheque No. /RTGS/ NEFT No. with date	Unit Purchase Receipt No/ Membership Certificate No. and date	Any other information
				Scheme	Date	Amount				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)		

2. That, I have received a total of Rs..... from Heera Group of Companies as per details given below:-

IBG NO.	Profits/Returns received details			Name of the Bank, Account No. in which profits/ returns received	RTGS/ NEFT No. with date	Amounts received from Company	Balance to be Received.	Any other information
	Scheme	Date	Amount					
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)

3. That, I have not received any profits/returns.

I affirm that the above information is just and true and nothing stated is false.

I am enclosing herewith the copies of the following documents duly accompanying with this affidavit:

1. Aadhar Card
2. Bank Pass book showing the investments made;
3. Bank Pass book showing the returns received from the company;
4. PAN Card ;
5. Copies of Receipts/Unit Purchase Receipts and Membership Certificates by the Company towards investments made.
6. Mobile No.
7. E-mail:

Solemnly affirmed at on date of..... 2022.

Before me:

Signature / Name/ Address/ Seal of Commissioner of Oath of any Advocate Or Notary Public

Deponent's Signature

Name: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Note:

The duly Motorized affidavit and documents should be sent by Speed Post/Registered Post addressed to **SERIOUS FRAUD INVESTIGATION OFFICE, REGIONAL OFFICE, SURVEY NO.127/1, 4th FLOOR, CORPORATE BHAAVAN, TATTIANNARAM VILLAGE, BANDLAGUDA, HYDERABAD-500068 (TELANGANA),**



Sd/- SFIO
As per orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court
Date: 14.11.2022

PLEASE NOTE THAT LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS: 30.11.2022.

CBC-07102/11/0039/2223

SC terms Morbi bridge collapse as an ‘enormous’ tragedy

Apex court asks Gujarat HC to periodically monitor probe

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 /--/ Terming as an "enormous tragedy" the Morbi bridge collapse that claimed 141 lives, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the Gujarat High Court to periodically monitor the probe and other aspects including rehabilitation and award of "dignified" compensation to the victims.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Hima Kohli also turned down the submissions that a Commission of Inquiry be appointed to ensure that incidents like the Morbi collapse do not happen again. "Sometimes, the Commission would just put the issue to the back burner. Sometimes, it is good for the judges to take charge of the proceedings. We would have done it ourselves but now the High Court Chief Justice is dealing with it," it said. "It is an enormous tragedy and this will require a weekly monitoring to see award of contract, credentials of party awarded the contract, attribution of responsibility for those guilty. The High Court has taken charge else we would have issued notice," the bench orally observed during a hearing. The bench also said it would request the High Court to hold periodical hearings. The apex court refused to entertain the pleas including a PIL seeking an independent probe into the incident, saying the division bench headed by the Gujarat High Court Chief Justice has already taken a suo motu (on its own) note of the tragedy and has passed several orders. It, however, permitted the PIL petitioner, Vishal Tiwari and another litigant Chavada Dilipbhai, who lost his brother and the sister-in-law in the incident, to move the high court with their pleas seeking an independent probe and award of dignified compensation to those who lost their family members. The apex court also said the petitioners may approach it later. "As many as 141 persons including 47 children are reported to have perished in the Morbi bridge collapse. Several aspects of the matter would require obtaining



periodical responses from the officials of the state and Nagarpalika' in order that the court is apprised of the antecedent facts leading up to the collapse of the bridge as well as the subsequent

developments bearing on relief and rehabilitation and compensation," it said. The bench, in its order, said the High Court would "undoubtedly" ensure that a "proper regulatory mechanism" is put in place so that such incidents do not recur. "Since the division bench presided over by the Gujarat High Court Chief Justice has already entertained the suo motu proceedings, we are of the view that it would be appropriate that the conduct of the proceedings continue to remain with that division bench of the High Court." The bench also said that in addition, the High Court would also give its "time and attention" on other aspects of the bridge collapse relating to affixing responsibility, making arrests and award of dignified compensation to the victims and their family members. (PTI)

No action against 'real culprits' as they are linked to BJP: Rahul

RAJKOT, NOV 21 /--/ Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday alleged no action was taken against the "real culprits" behind the Morbi bridge collapse tragedy, which killed 135 people, because they share a "good relationship" with the ruling BJP in Gujarat. Addressing an election rally in Rajkot, his second in the day, he said while watchmen (posted at the accident site) were arrested and jailed, no action was taken against the real culprits. "When journalists asked me what I think about the Morbi tragedy... I said around 150 people died and this is not a political issue and so I would say nothing about this. But the question arises today as to why no action was taken against those who were behind this

(tragedy), why no FIR (has been filed against them)?" he asked. "Will nothing happen to them because they share a good relationship with the BJP? They arrested chowkidars (watchmen) and put them behind bars, but no action has been taken against the real culprits," the Congress MP alleged. Rahul said he is feeling sad the Bharat Jodo Yatra of the Congress is not passing through Gujarat, where Assembly polls will be held in two phases on December 1 and 5. Targeting the BJP government, Rahul said its policies are creating "two Indias" - one of the billionaires who can do whatever they dream of, and the other of the poor who are struggling to live amid inflation and joblessness. (PTI)



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing an election rally, in Surat on Monday

Those dethroned taking out yatra to get back to power: PM's dig at Rahul

SURENDRANAGAR, NOV 21 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday took a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, saying those who have been thrown out of power are taking out foot march to get back to power.

Addressing a gathering in Surendranagar town of poll-bound Gujarat, Modi also said instead of talking about development during elections, the Opposition Congress is saying it will show him his "aukat" (status). "Now, the Congress does not talk about development during elections. Instead, Congress leaders are saying they will show Modi his aukat. Just look at their arrogance. They, indeed, belong to a royal family, while I am merely a servant having no aukat," he said. "In the past, the Congress had used words like 'neech aadmi', 'maut ka saudagar' and 'naali ka keeda' for me. I urge you to talk about development instead of playing this game of 'aukat'," the PM said, adding that he swallows such insults because his focus is to make India a developed nation.

Elections to the 182-member Gujarat Assembly will be held in two phases on December 1 and 5. Modi said people who were dethroned long back were taking out yatra to get back the power. "Some people are doing foot march to get back to power. They are also taking along those who had stalled the Narmada project for 40 years through

litigation and kept Gujarat thirsty for 40 years. In this election, the people of Gujarat will punish those who are doing this padyatra. People will also punish those who were against the Narmada project", he said without taking any names. Modi was referring to Narmada Bachao Andolan spearhead Medha Patkar joining the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra recently.

The Prime Minister said there was a time when people of this region were suffering from acute water shortage. "At that time, I had vowed to improve this situation. I had said that Surendranagar district will be the biggest beneficiary of the Narmada project. And today, I stand validated because this region is getting that benefit," Modi said. In another jibe on Rahul, the Prime Minister said leaders who are doing padyatra do not know the difference between groundnut and cottonseed crops. Without taking names, he further said some people abuse Gujarat even after eating the "salt" manufactured in the state. Modi said though Gujarat produces 80 per cent of the country's salt, the previous Congress governments never paid attention to the issues of salt pan workers, known as 'agariyas'. The people of Surendranagar district had "made a mistake" of giving some seats to the Congress in 2017, he said, adding that the opposition MLAs did nothing good for their constituencies. (PTI)

Strong earthquake topples houses in Java; 56 dead



People injured in the earthquake receiving medical treatment at the parking lot of a hospital in Cianjur, West Java

CIANJUR, NOV 21 /--/ A strong, shallow earthquake toppled buildings and collapsed walls on Indonesia's densely populated main island of Java on Monday, killing at least 56 and injuring hundreds as people rushed into the streets, some covered in blood and white debris. Emergency workers treated the injured on stretchers and blankets outside main hospitals, on terraces and in parking lots. Many included children, some of whom were given oxygen masks, IV lines and were being resuscitated. "I fainted. It was very strong," said Hasan, a construction worker who is being treated at the Cianjur Regional Hospital. "I saw my friends running to escape from the building. But I was too late to get out and was hit by the wall."

Residents, some crying with children in their arms, fled damaged homes after the magnitude 5.6 quake shook the Cianjur region in West Java province in late afternoon, at a depth of 10 km (6.2 miles). It also caused panic in the greater Jakarta area, where high-rises swayed and some were evacuated. Rescue teams and civilians in Cianjur were looking for others who may have been buried in the debris of collapsed brick houses. The quake was powerful enough to bring down walls, chunks of concrete and roof tiles, some of which landed inside bedrooms. Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency recorded at least 25 aftershocks. (AP)

PFI has organised structure in Gulf countries for mobilising funds: ED

NEW DELHI, NOV 21 /--/ The Popular Front of India (PFI), banned recently by the government for alleged terrorist links and spreading communal hatred, has a "well-structured and organised" presence in the Gulf countries for raising and mobilising funds, the ED said Monday after a local court took cognisance of its latest charge sheet filed against three PFI office bearers. The federal probe agency has filed the prosecution complaint or charge sheet last week before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Patiala House. The dossier was filed (on November 19) to press money laundering charges and begin trial against Perwez Ahmad, Mohammad Ilias and Abdul Muqueet who were arrested by it on September 22 following nation-wide raids against the PFI the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Enforcement Directorate (ED) and various state police units. More than 100 persons liked to PFI were arrested by these agencies and many more were detained. At present, the three are under judicial custody in Tihar Jail.

A week after this action, the Centre banned the PFI for five years under the stringent anti-terror law, Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), accusing the Islamic outfit of having "links" with global terror groups such as the ISIS and trying to spread communal hatred in the country. Its associated entities-Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imams Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation, National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala -- were also placed on the list of outlawed

organisations. The ED, in a statement, said Ahmad was the president of PFI Delhi unit and he "supervised the fund raising activities of PFI and managed its public relations." "Md. Ilias, the general secretary of Delhi PFI, was active in mobilisation of funds for PFI and related organisations in the Delhi-NCR region. He also contested Delhi assembly elections of 2020 from Karawal Nagar as an Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) candidate." "Both Perwez Ahmad and Md. Ilias were arrested by Delhi Police in the case related to North East Delhi riots of February, 2020," the ED said. Abdul Muqueet, it said, was the office secretary of Delhi PFI and was also "actively" involved in the fund raising activities of PFI and in the preparation of "bogus" cash donation slips, the ED said. "PFI generated proceeds of crime, both in India and abroad, by way of criminal conspiracy (an offence under section 120B of IPC), in active collusion with its associated individuals and entities as a part of a larger conspiracy to raise funds for its unlawful and anti-national activities, prejudicial to the unity, integrity and security of the state. "Proceeds of crime mobilised and remitted in the form of cash have been deposited in PFI's bank accounts by falsely projecting them as cash donations from its sympathisers/ members," the agency said. Such cash has also been deposited by PFI leaders in the bank accounts of individuals and immediately thereafter equivalent amounts of funds have been transferred from their bank accounts to PFI's bank accounts so as to project them as legitimate, it alleged. (PTI)

Probe into Mangaluru explosion expands across 2 more southern states over possible local links

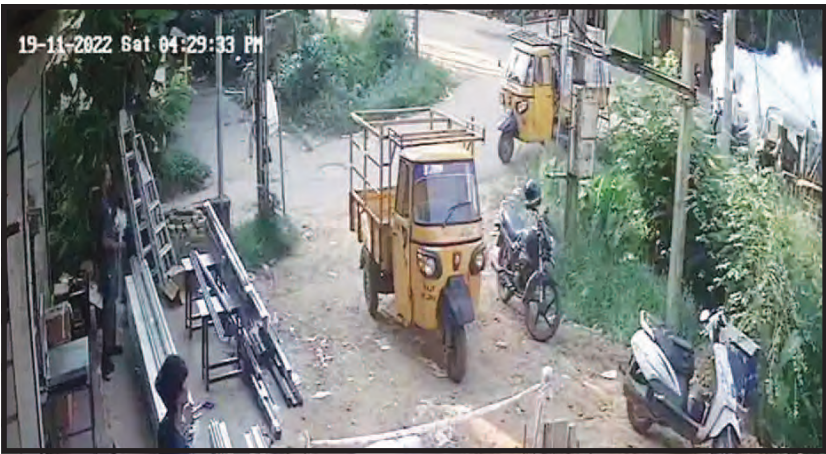
MANGALURU / COIMBATORE / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 21 /--/ The probe into the November 19 explosion in Karnataka's coastal city of Mangaluru is expanding across two more southern states, as the "global terrorist organisation-inspired" key suspect behind the blast is said to have visited Tamil Nadu and Kerala and police teams are looking into possible local accomplices and links to the Thiruthalli native.

Mohammed Shariq, hailing from Thiruthahalli in Shivamogga district in Karnataka, was travelling in an autorickshaw with a pressure cooker fitted with detonator, wires and batteries, when it exploded on the outskirts of Mangaluru on Saturday. Karnataka police described it as an act of terror aimed at creating serious damage. Shariq had suffered burn injuries and is currently being treated in a city hospital and unable to speak. "His handler was Abdul Mateen Taha from Suddaguntepalya (in Bengaluru) on whom the National Investigation Agency has announced a reward of Rs five lakh," Karnataka ADGP (Law and Order) Alok Kumar said on Monday. Shariq was "influenced and inspired" by a (terrorist) organisation with global presence, Kumar added. "...Our priority is to see that he survives, we have to take him to a stage where we can question him," Kumar said. "We found matchbox, sulphur, phosphorus, batteries, circuit and nut and bolts from the

house," he said referring to the rented accommodation of the accused in Mysuru. Mohan Kumar, the owner of the house, was not aware of these activities, the ADGP added. Taha was the "main handler". He along with Khwaja and Mohammed Pasha from Tamil Nadu were booked under the provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act at Suddaguntepalya in Bengaluru in 2020. In

Coimbatore, which witnessed the blast last month, was part of a larger criminal conspiracy, they said. Surendran, now being questioned by police, had stayed in the same dormitory with Shariq, who had befriended him to get the Aadhaar card. According to the National Investigation Agency, Coimbatore based Jamesha Mubeen, after taking an oath of allegiance to the ISIS, was planning to carry

out attacks. Mubeen died on October 23 after a car he travelled exploded in front of a temple in Coimbatore, a western city in Tamil Nadu. The vehicle had explosives and gas cylinders. Police sources said the current probe, among other aspects, is to find out if Shariq was in touch with Mubeen. Authorities of a Coimbatore school, where Surendran worked a few years ago, are also likely to be inquired soon. Further, a 22-year old man, who is a native of Assam was reportedly questioned by police for having spoken to Shariq over phone. The young man, for a couple of years, has been working at a hotel in Kanyakumari district. Police have intensified vigil across inter-State borders and at all places, where people congregate in large numbers, and all vehicles entering Tamil Nadu are being thoroughly checked. Meanwhile, in Kerala, a team of Karnataka police officials probing the Mangaluru blast reached Ernakulam to inquire into Shariq's Aluva link. Police sources said the intelligence wing of the state police is also probing the Aluva connection of the accused. (PTI)



CCTV footage of the site where the blast occurred on Saturday

neighbouring Tamil Nadu, police have launched a probe to ascertain whether Shariq has any accomplices in the state, with Coimbatore recently witnessing a deadly explosion where the victim, also the alleged perpetrator was planning to carry out suicide attacks. It is now clear that Shariq had bought a SIM card for a mobile phone using the Aadhaar card of a native of Ooty, Surendran, police sources said. Investigations are on to check whether Shariq's stay in September in

Germany offers Poland Patriot missiles to defend airspace

WARSHAW, NOV 21/--/Germany has offered Eurofighters and Patriot defence systems to Poland to help it defend its airspace, Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht told German newspapers in comments published on Monday. "We have to position ourselves in the alliance even better in terms of air defence," and that that goes particularly for Poland, Slovakia and the Baltic countries, she told the Rheinische Post and General-Anzeiger newspapers. Lambrecht said Germany is present with these air defence weapons in Slovakia already and wants to extend that through 2023 or even beyond.

Polish Defence Minister Mariusz Blaszczak said he received Germany's offer of additional Patriot missiles "with satisfaction" and will have them deployed close to the border with Ukraine.

He tweeted that during a phone conversation on Monday with the German side, he will suggest the location for the Patriot missile reinforcement. Poland already has a deployment of US Patriot missiles. On Tuesday, two Poles were killed when a missile hit a grain depot in the village of Przewodow, just six kilometres from the border with Ukraine, which came

under heavy Russian missile barrage that day. Western officials say it appeared that a Ukrainian air defence missile went astray and landed in Poland. While acknowledging that Russia did not fire the missile, NATO, the United States and



Poland say they believe the ultimate blame lies with Russia which invaded Ukraine and started the onslaught. Germany's offer of weapons for Poland's defence testifies to the good relations and trust the neighbouring nations have built up, having overcome their dramatic history that included the invasion by Nazi German troops and brutal occupation of Poland during World War II. German troops have been present on Polish soil in recent times as part of NATO exercises. (AP)

Iran says new missile attack on Iraq meant to protect border

ERBIL (IRAQ), NOV 21/--/Iran said Monday that its latest strikes on Kurdish opposition bases in northern Iraq were necessary to protect the country's borders, while Kurdish officials condemned the missile and drone attacks as unprovoked aggression. Iran's strike late Sunday killed a member of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, said Mohammed Nazif Qaderi, a senior official in the Kurdish Iranian group exiled in Iraq. The group said Iranian surface-to-surface missiles and drones hit its bases and adjacent refugee camps in Koya and Jejnikan. The group also asserted that the strikes had hit a hospital in Koya. The Iranian strikes come in the wake of a visit to Baghdad last week by Iran's Quds Force commander Esmail Ghaani. During the visit, Ghaani threatened Iraq with a ground military operation in the country's north if the Iraqi army does not fortify the countries' shared border against Kurdish opposition groups, Iraqi and Kurdish officials said.

Some Kurdish groups have been engaged in a low-intensity conflict with Tehran since the 1979 Iranian Islamic Revolution, with many members seeking political exile in neighbouring Iraq where they have established bases. Iran alleges that these groups are inciting anti-government protests in Iran and smuggling weapons into the country, which Kurdish groups have denied. Iran has not provided evidence to back up the claims.

On Monday, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani told reporters that Iran had acted to "protect its borders and security of its citizens based on its legal rights." He alleged that the government in Baghdad and the Erbil-based administration of Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region had

failed to implement purported commitments to prevent threats against Iran from Iraqi areas. Kanaani said that in the past month, Iranian and Iraqi officials had discussed the issue in Tehran and Baghdad. He said Iran had demanded that Iraqi Kurdistan should not be a "location for exporting weapons" to Iran by Iraqi-based the "separatist" groups. "Unfortunately the expectations by Iran have not been realised so far," said Kananni. The government of the autonomous Kurdish region of Iraq condemned the strikes as a "gross infringement of international law and neighbourly relations". Qaderi told The Associated Press the Kurdish opposition groups in Iraq support the protests in Iran, which he described as a reaction to "the policies of this regime" he said oppresses its people. He denied that his group has sent fighters or weapons to Iran.

He said that his group had moved troops away from the border to avoid giving Iran an "excuse" for further attacks. He called on the international community to prevent further aggression by Iran. Iran has periodically launched airstrikes against the Kurdish groups' bases in Iraq in the past. The US condemned the latest Iranian strikes. Gen Michael E Kurilla, who heads US Central Command, said in a statement: "Such indiscriminate and illegal attacks place civilians at risk, violate Iraqi sovereignty, and jeopardise the hard-fought security and stability of Iraq and the Middle East." Sunday's Iranian strikes in northern Iraq come a day after Turkey launched deadly airstrikes over northern regions of Syria and Iraq, targeting Kurdish groups that Ankara holds responsible for last week's bomb attack in Istanbul. (AP)

Aid sought for Moldova, hit hard by war in next-door Ukraine

PARIS, NOV 21/--/Diplomats are drumming up money and other support on Monday for Europe's poorest country, Moldova, which is suffering massive blackouts, heavy refugee flows and potential security threats from the war in neighbouring Ukraine.

Monday's international aid conference in Paris is aimed at "concrete and immediate assistance" for the land-locked former Soviet republic, according to the French Foreign Ministry.

Two previous conferences for Moldova this year raised hundreds of millions of euros, but as the war drags on, its needs are growing.

"This international support is all the more important as Moldova is currently facing an unprecedented energy crisis which, with the approach of winter, poses a risk of a humanitarian crisis for the Moldovan population," the ministry said.

Broad blackouts temporarily hit more than a half-dozen Moldovan cities last week as the Russian military pounded infrastructure targets across Ukraine. Moldova's Soviet-era energy systems remain interconnected Ukraine, which is why the Russian missile barrage triggered the automatic shutdown

of a supply line. Earlier this month, the European Union pledged 250 million euros (nearly USD 260 million) to help Moldova after Russia halved its natural gas supply.

Moldova's energy crisis worsened when Transnistria a Moscow-backed separatist region of Moldova with a key power plant also cut electricity to other parts of the country.

Sharply rising energy costs and skyrocketing inflation are set to put a huge strain on consumers in the country of about 2.6 million people as the cold season begins to grip. Moldova relied heavily on Russian

energy before the war, and has increasingly been looking to forge closer ties with the West. It became a candidate for EU membership in June, along with Ukraine.

"Moldova has good friends, together with whom we will manage to overcome the dramatic costs of the war on the economy and the energy sector," Nicu Popescu, Moldova's Foreign Minister, wrote online on Sunday.

"Together, we will bring Moldova into the European Union." Moldova's pro-Western president, Maia Sandu, is meeting French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday. (AP)

Ukraine urges civilians to leave liberated areas for winter

KYIV, NOV 21/--/Ukrainian authorities have started evacuating civilians from the recently-liberated areas of the Kherson region and the neighbouring province of Mykolaiv, fearing that damage to the infrastructure is too severe for people to endure the upcoming winter, officials said on Monday.

Residents of the two southern regions, regularly shelled in the past months by Russian forces, have been advised to move to safer areas in the central and western parts of the country, said Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk.

The government will provide "transportation, accommodation, medical care," she said. The evacuations come just over a week after Ukraine retook the city of Kherson and areas around it. The liberation of the area marked a major battlefield gain, while the evacuations now highlight the difficulties the country is facing following heavy Russian shelling of its power infrastructure as winter weather sets in.

Russia has been pounding Ukraine's power grid and other infrastructure from the air, causing widespread blackouts and leaving millions of Ukrainians without heat, power or water as frigid cold and snow blankets the capital, Kyiv, and other cities. In 15 Ukrainian regions, four-hour or

longer power outages were expected Monday, according to Volodymyr Kudrytsky, the head of Ukraine's state grid operator, Ukrenergo.

More than 40 per cent of the country's energy facilities were damaged by Russian missile strikes in recent weeks.

On Sunday, powerful explosions from shelling shook Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, the site of Europe's largest nuclear power plant. The IAEA, the global nuclear watchdog, called for "urgent measures to help prevent a nuclear accident" in the Russian-occupied facility.

Kyiv and Moscow blamed each other for the shelling that came after weeks of relative calm in the area that has been the site of fighting between Russian and Ukrainian forces since Russia invaded on February 24.

The fighting has raised the spectre of a nuclear catastrophe ever since Russian troops occupied the plant Europe's largest during the early days of the war.

In fighting elsewhere, at least four civilians were killed and eight more were wounded in Ukraine over the past 24 hours, deputy head of the country's presidential office Kyrylo Tymoshenko said Monday.

A Russian missile strike in the northeast Kharkiv region on Sunday night killed one person and left two more wounded, according to

Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov. The strike hit a residential building in the Shevchenkove village, Syniehubov said, killing a 38-year-old woman.

One person was wounded overnight in the Dnipropetrovsk region, where Russian forces shelled the city of Nikopol and areas around it, Gov. Valentyn Reznichenko said.

In the eastern Donetsk region, which is partially controlled by Moscow, Russian forces shelled 14 towns and villages, the region's Ukrainian Governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

Heavy fighting was ongoing in the region near the city Bakhmut, where a school was damaged by shelling. In Makiivka, which is under Russian control, an oil depot was hit with "an explosive object" and caught fire, local Moscow-installed authorities said.

In the neighbouring Luhansk region, most of which is under Russian control, the Ukrainian army is advancing towards the key cities of Kreminna and Svatove, where the Russians have set up a line of defence, according to Luhansk's Ukrainian Governor Serhiy Haidai.

"There are successes and the Ukrainian army is moving very slowly, but it will be much more difficult for Russians to defend themselves after Svatove and Kreminna (are retaken)," Haidai told Ukrainian television. (AP)

Japan nuclear watchdog considering extending reactor life

TOKYO, NOV 21/--/Japanese nuclear regulators are considering revising a safety evaluation system to allow aging reactors to operate beyond the current 60-year limit, but the move is aimed at preventing safety lapses and is not motivated by government efforts to increase use of nuclear power, an official said on Monday. The Nuclear Regulation Authority Commission, at the request of the Economy and Industry Ministry, has drafted a plan to scrap the 60-year limit and replace it with a system of potential extensions granted every 10 years after 30 years of operation. That would be a major change from the current 40-year limit with a possible one-time extension of up to 20 years, a rule that was adopted under stricter safety standards set after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster. The draft plan still has to be formally approved. The move has prompted mixed reactions from the public. Nuclear Regulation Authority Commissioner Shinsuke Yamanaka denied criticism that the watchdog may have yielded to government pressure to prolong the operational lifespan of reactors. "Our judgment in our safety inspections is not affected, no matter what the government policy may be," Yamanaka said. "We have no intention of making any compromise in our strict safety checks."

Yamanaka stressed that his agency had not initiated the change and was responding to the government's request in order to ensure safety. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said in August that Japan needs to consider all options in its energy mix, including nuclear, to bolster its "green transformation" to curb emissions of greenhouse gases and secure a stable energy supply. Japan has pledged to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

Anti-nuclear sentiment and safety concerns rose sharply in Japan after the Fukushima disaster, but the government has been pushing for a return to nuclear power amid worries of energy shortages following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and a global push to reduce greenhouse gases. Japan has faced criticism for saying it will phase out fossil fuel use by 2050 without giving a clear timeline.

While maintaining a 20-22 per cent target for nuclear energy as part of its energy mix for 2030, Japan's government previously insisted it was not considering building new nuclear plants or replacing aged reactors, apparently to avoid triggering criticism from a still wary public. Kishida, in a major shift toward a greater use of nuclear energy, asked a government panel to decide by the end of this year on a proposal for development and construction of "new innovative reactors," such as small modular nuclear reactors, while also asking nuclear officials and experts to consider extending the operational lifespan of aging reactors. (AP)

US pushes defence ties with Indonesia as China strengthens

JAKARTA, NOV 21/--/US Defence Secretary Lloyd J. Austin met his Indonesian counterpart on Monday to push stronger defence ties amid growing Chinese naval activity in the Indo-Pacific region. Austin, at a joint news conference after meeting with Indonesian Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto, said they discussed ways to deepen the two countries' partnership, including through expanding interoperability and increasing investments in defence education. "The United States is proud to partner with you as we work together to advance our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific," Austin said.

But Subianto stressed Indonesia's neutral stance. "I like to emphasise that Indonesia always takes the position of trying to maintain the best relationships with all nations, especially all the major powers," Subianto said. Austin arrived in Jakarta late Sunday from a visit to Canada's Halifax city where he spoke about US efforts to build a more resilient security architecture with allies and partners across the Indo-Pacific and Europe at the Halifax International Security Forum. His visit to Indonesia comes less than a week after leaders of the Group of 20 economies met on Indonesia's resort island of Bali. In a declaration, most strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and warned that the conflict is making an already delicate world economy worse. "We are meeting as the world is grappling with assaults on the rules-based international order, especially Russia's unprovoked invasion against Ukraine," Austin said, "And it's especially vital now that more like-minded countries come together to uphold our shared principles, including the rule of law." He applauded Indonesia for its vote at the UN General Assembly earlier this year condemning Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

While Indonesia and China enjoy generally positive ties, Jakarta has expressed concern about Chinese encroachment on its exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea, which China claims virtually in its entirety. Subianto said Indonesia sees China as a friendly nation, and the two countries have ways to manage possible misunderstandings and differences of opinion in disputes over territorial waters. "We consider that we will be able to resolve them with dialogue," Subianto said, "However, we do emphasise that Indonesia will defend its sovereignty and we will defend our independence." China and four members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have overlapping claims to the South China Sea, home to vital shipping lanes, plentiful fish stocks and undersea mineral resources. China and ASEAN have made little headway in finalising a code of conduct to avoid conflicts in the area. (AP)

Process of appointment of next army chief to be completed by Nov 25: Pak defence minister

ISLAMABAD, NOV 21/--/Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Monday that the process of appointment of the next army chief has started and would be completed by November 25, with five or six top generals in the race to succeed incumbent General Qamar Javed Bajwa. "The process for appointment of the highest posts of army has started from today. By the grace of God, it will be completed soon, by fulfilling all constitutional requirements," Asif tweeted.

Under the Pakistan Army Act (PAA) 1952, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) should issue the 'discharge summary' of the incumbent Chief of Army Staff (COAS) to pave the way for the appointment of his successor. Gen. Bajwa, 61, is scheduled to retire on November 29 after a three-year extension. He has ruled out seeking another extension. Separately, in an informal talk with reporters in Islamabad, the defence minister said that a formal recommendation having the names of five or six top three-star generals would be sent by the defence ministry to the Prime Minister's Office. The minister also said that there was no deadlock over the appointment of the army chief. "There is no deadlock. Once the summary is received, then a discussion will be held," he said.

He said the prime minister would take the army leadership into confidence, following which a decision would be taken. "I hope the process of appointment will be completed by Nov 25," he said.

Though the discussion about the new appointment is focused on the army chief, another key appointment of the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) will also be made at the same time. Hence two lieutenant generals will be promoted as four-star generals. he CJCS is the highest authority in the hierarchy of the armed forces but the key powers including mobilisation of troops, appointments and transfers lie with the Chief of Army Staff which makes the person holding the post as the most powerful in the military. With these powers comes the political clout, making the army chief as the most powerful in the Pakistani system.

The powerful Army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 75-plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy. The Prime Minister after receiving the names of senior most generals would pick one each for the CJCS and COAS and send the recommended names to the president who would appoint them as per laws of the country.

The recommendation of the prime minister is binding on the president but the latter can delay the appointment for some time. Some media reports showed that the president can hold the

summary for appointment for 25 days. However, the government official rejected the reports that the president could delay the appointment.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Law and Justice Irfan Qadir told Dawn newspaper that President Arif Alvi could not hold the decision as under Article 243 of the Constitution the



Khawaja Asif

appointment of chief of the army staff was solely a function of the federal government and not the president. "This article clarifies that command and control of the army rests with the federal government and it has further been defined in articles 90 and 91 of the Constitution," he added.

"[The] president cannot delay the summary and has to sign it at once," he said.

The incumbent General Bajwa would retire on November 29 and the new chief should be appointed before that date for smooth transfer of power. There

has been extraordinary interest in the appointment of his successor as many believe ousted prime minister Imran Khan's long march is linked to the change of command in the Army. He has asked his supporters to gather in Rawalpindi on November 26, two days before Gen Bajwa hands over the baton to the new Army chief. A senior government official dismissed speculation on Sunday that there has been any civil-military deadlock over the key appointment.

As per the seniority list, Lt General Asim Munir, Lt General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Lt General Azhar Abbas, Lt General Numan Mahmud and Lt General Faiz Hameed are in contention for the job.

The debate over the appointment of the new chief has intensified since the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the military, confirmed last week that General Bajwa would doff off his uniform on November 29.

The debate is also linked to the current political stalemate stemming from Khan's long march demanding early elections.

Political observers are of the view that one of the objectives of Khan's long march is to influence the Army chief's appointment even though Khan has denied such claims. Prime Minister



England trounce Iran 6-2

TODAY'S MATCH
GROUP C
Argentina vs Saudi Arabia - 3:30 PM IST
GROUP D
Denmark vs Tunisia - 6:30 PM IST
GROUP C
Mexico vs Poland - 9:30 PM IST
GROUP D
France vs Australia - 12:30 AM IST



Jude Bellingham (front, L) of England celebrates with teammate Mason Mount after scoring during the Group B match between England and Iran at the 2022 FIFA World Cup at Khalifa International Stadium in Doha,

DOHA, NOV 21/--/Harry Kane's England football team will take on Iran in a politically-charged FIFA World Cup 2022 Group B clash at the Khalifa International Stadium in Qatar on Monday (November 21). We are just away from kick-off in this politically-charged contest. England and their fans will be hoping to win the World Cup title for the first time after 1966, nearly 50 years back after finishing runners-up in UEFA Euro Championships to champions Italy. Kane, who won the Golden Boot for scoring six goals as England reached the semifinals in the FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia, has currently scored 51 goals from 75 appearances for England. The Tottenham Hotspur striker now needs just two goals to match Rooney's 53 international goals and many are expecting him to equal or surpass that mark against Iran. "He is a goal-scorer. If England goes far in this tournament, it is going to be because of Harry Kane. I hope he scores those goals because England needs them if they have to win. I hope he does, but I do not think it will be tomorrow (Monday)," said Rooney on the VISA Match Centre show on Sports 18. The match will be held in the shadow of UK-Iran politics and England team will take the knee with Kane wearing the 'One Love' armband. England have knelt before games since 2020, initially in solidarity with protests over George Floyd's death at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer and then in support of equality. In second match of the day on Monday, Sadio Mane-less Senegal will face Virgil van Dijk's Netherlands in a Group A clash. The Dutch claim to be serious contenders for the World Cup title this year and will face early examination of that claim when they face African champions Senegal.

Williamson to miss third T20 against India for medical appointment

NAPIER, NOV 21 /--/ New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson will miss the third and final T20 against India to attend a pre-arrange medical appointment. Mark Chapman has been named as Williamson's replacement in the squad. Senior pacer Tim Southee will lead the side in his absence. Williamson will rejoin the squad on Wednesday when the ODI squad assembles in Auckland ahead of the series opener at Eden Park on Friday. New Zealand head coach Gary Stead said the medical appointment had nothing to do with Williamson's recurring elbow issue. "Kane's been trying to get this booked in for a while now, but unfortunately it hasn't been able to fit into our schedule," Stead said in a statement issued by New Zealand Cricket. "The health and well-being of our players and staff is paramount, and we look forward to seeing him in Auckland." India lead the T20I series 1-0. Williamson had made 61 off 52 balls in a losing cause on Sunday. Stead said Chapman was excited to be back after featuring in the recent T20 World Cup and Tri Series in Christchurch. (PTI)

Time running out for Lionel Messi but are stars aligning?



Lionel Messi trains ahead of Argentina first match in FIFA World Cup.

DOHA, NOV 21 /--/ Spain coach Luis Enrique said earlier this week it would be "unfair" if Argentina great Lionel Messi were never to win the World Cup. But the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner is running out of time and opportunities. Alongside Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, the Qatar extravaganza will likely be the fifth and last World Cup for one of the two outstanding players of their generation -- believed by many to be the two greatest footballers of all time. Unlike previous contenders for the title of greatest of all time -- Brazil's Pele and Diego Maradona of Argentina -- at least one, and maybe both, will never lift football's greatest prize. Yet in the case of Messi, this may well be his best chance yet to win that elusive prize. He cut a distraught figure in 2014 after Argentina succumbed 1-0 to Germany in the final in Brazil, even briefly announcing his international retirement in 2016. He changed his mind and last year led Argentina to their first major title in 28 years, defeating hosts Brazil in the Copa America final by the same scoreline and in the same Maracana stadium where they had floundered seven years earlier. Argentina head into this tournament on the back of a 36-match unbeaten run as one of the clear favourites. Their group does not appear, on paper at least, the most taxing. They begin against Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, followed by clashes with Mexico and Poland. "Argentina are one of the favourites for the whole World Cup," said Poland forward Robert Lewandowski earlier this week. "They have not lost for 30-odd games, they're very dangerous opponents for everyone." As the new darling of the Camp Nou in Barcelona, Lewandowski has been able this season to see first hand the legacy left behind by Messi in

Catalonia. "He is a Barcelona legend. You see it all over the place being at the club," the Pole said. "He is Argentina's leader, one of the top players. We know who we're going to play against, it's a huge challenge." Lewnadowski will likely be among the last players ever to play a World Cup match against Messi, along with the unfancied but confident Saudis. Midfielder Abdulallah Al-Malki insists he will not be overawed by the occasion. "He's a legend and it's a dream for any player to play against him, but we represent Saudi Arabia and we fear no-one," he said. Messi's predecessor as Argentina icon, the late Maradona secured his footballing immortality by inspiring the country to their second world title in 1986. Messi would desperately love to add World Cup glory to all his other accolades that include four Champions League crowns and 10 La Liga titles. And he's not alone. "If Spain don't win the World Cup, I would like Argentina to win it because of Messi," Enrique, who coached Messi at Barcelona for three years, said on Twitch earlier this week. "It would be unfair for Messi to retire without winning a World Cup." There is a feeling that despite the recent retirements of attacking talents such as Sergio Aguero and Gonzalo Higuain, Argentina have a better balance in the squad than in previous years. As well as Messi, fellow veteran Angel Di Maria and Lautaro Martinez provide thrust and trickery in attack. There is an industrious midfield including Rodrigo De Paul, Leandro Paredes and Alexis Mac Allister, and combative defenders in the mould of Cristian Romero and Manchester United revelation Lisandro Martinez, with the safe hands of Emiliano Martinez guarding the net. It really is now or never for Messi but there is a growing feeling in Argentina that this will be the international swansong a nation and a legend have long dreamt of. (AFP)

GAME NOTES

Denmark in Qatar to win FIFA World Cup: Coach Kasper Hjulmand

DOHA, NOV 21 /--/ Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said Monday that his team have come to Qatar to win the World Cup as they prepare for their Group D opener against Tunisia. The Danes reached the semi-finals of the European Championship last year despite losing their opening game after talisman Christian Eriksen collapsed on the pitch with a cardiac arrest. They come into the tournament on the back of a strong qualifying campaign and two Nations League wins over group rivals France. "Our dream is to win something. So when you go into a tournament this group of players has the quality to win, and I mean to win everything," said Hjulmand ahead of Tuesday's clash at Education City Stadium. The Danes will likely be tussling for first place with world champions France, as the runners-up will almost certainly be playing Argentina in the second round. And Hjulmand, whose team also face Australia in the group stage, was bullish about his team's chances with Eriksen firmly back in the fold and in top form. "Are we favourites? No... but we can beat everyone on the day and we have a very strong self-confidence," added Hjulmand. "We have a very good group of players working together and the best way of winning everything is to dream big." (AFP)

2.95 million tickets sold so far in Qatar

Dubai, Nov 21 /--/ Nearly three million World Cup tickets have been sold, FIFA said Sunday, as the governing body's president revealed the tournament had helped push revenues over the past four years to a record \$7.5 billion. A FIFA spokesman told AFP that 2.95 million tickets had been sold up to Sunday's opening day. The start of the World Cup has led to a surge of interest in the 64 matches over 29 days despite negative publicity over Qatar's hosting. Queues have built up outside the FIFA ticket centre in Doha and fans report long waits to get onto the official online ticket platform. Qatar has already overtaken Russia 2018, when just over 2.4 million tickets were sold. The spokesman said Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Mexico, Britain, United Arab Emirates, Argentina, France, India, and Brazil were the top markets. FIFA president Gianni Infantino told a conference earlier that the world body's four-year revenues were estimated to hit \$7.5 billion by the end of the year. Revenues are more than \$1 billion higher than predicted four years ago. Infantino told the 211 member associations that the "amazing figures" came "in spite of Covid, in spite of different crises around the world". Infantino is set to be re-elected unopposed at a congress in March after no rivals came forward in time to force an election. (AFP)

European teams say won't wear 'OneLove' World Cup armband

DOHA, NOV 21 /--/ England, Germany and five other European teams at the World Cup on Monday abandoned plans to wear a rainbow-themed armband in support of LGBTQ rights, citing the threat of disciplinary action from FIFA. "FIFA has been very clear that it will impose sporting sanctions if our captains wear the armbands on the field of play," they said in a joint statement. Under FIFA rules, players wearing kit that is not authorised by football's world governing body could be shown a yellow card. If that player was then shown a second yellow card, they would be sent off. The "OneLove" armband due to be worn by the likes of England captain Harry Kane and Germany counterpart Manuel Neuer is designed as part of a campaign to promote inclusivity. The armbands had widely been viewed as a protest against laws in host nation Qatar, where homosexuality is illegal. (AFP)

AL KHOR, NOV 21 /--/ Thousands of empty seats told the sad story as Qatar's long-awaited World Cup debut ended in a bad case of stage fright on Sunday. Long before the final whistle at the spectacular Bedouin tent-inspired Al Bayt Stadium, the host nation's fans among the 67,372 crowd had started heading for the exits. The exodus began soon after Ecuador striker Enner Valencia headed his second goal shortly after the half-hour mark against the outclassed World Cup hosts. As the second half wore on, swathes of unfilled seats could be seen throughout the arena as an evening that began with joyous celebrations and heady optimism ended with a whimper. The downbeat finale was in stark contrast to the mood in the hours before kick-off at the stadium in Al Khor, 50 kilometres (31 miles) north of Qatar's capital Doha. Thousands of people arrived at the vast Lusail train station where the subway line built especially for this tournament at a cost of \$36 billion ends and spectators boarded a fleet of buses for the final leg of their journey. The security forces appeared tense, aware that the eyes of the world are on this Gulf state, which many critics say should never have been awarded the World Cup. Once the spectators

arrived at the spectacular venue, camels and horses lined the road to the turnstiles. Carlos Alvear, an Ecuadorian who lives in Ecuador, said: "It's really special to be here. It's the first World Cup in the Middle East, it's historic and Ecuador is here for the opening match. "To be honest, it's all a bit bizarre. It's pretty quiet, even if there are more Ecuadorians than I thought there would be. But all these buildings look pretty empty." For a Qatari supporter who gave his name only as Abdallah, it was an exciting moment. "We have been waiting for this moment for 12 years," he said. "We have every confidence for this festival... We trust in our team. We have ambition but are realistic." He was confident of victory against the South Americans and predicted his team would be runners-up in their group and go through to the next round -- where England could await. "Today we will win, but we will be second behind the Netherlands. Then against England, we will win," he said with a smile. Danny, a supporter from the English city of Norwich, said he planned to "jump on the bandwagon today" and support Qatar. His friend who gave his name only as Abdul, from Sheffield in northern England, had brought a Qatari flag and was wearing a red top under his England shirt in case Qatar scored. (AFP)

