

Where roads become a distant dream



ASHIM

RANGAT, NOV 11/--/ Sanctioned and approved in March 2004 at an estimated cost of Rs 29.44 lakh, construction of a 1-km village road at Kaushalyanagar village in Middle Andaman is yet to be taken up leading to immense inconvenience to the villagers. According to reports, in the year 1998-99, the Kaushalyanagar Panchayat proposed for the construction of this rural road in the Gram Sabha meeting. Since then the residents have been running from pillar to post to get the 1-km stretch from ATR to Shridam Bawali's house at Ward No.-1 Kaushalyanagar, Rangat constructed, but of no avail.

In 2003-04, the Panchayat had undertaken

the earthwork and had constructed six nos of 1x1 and one 2x2 size culverts in the proposed road, but till date it has not undertaken laying of the blacktop. As a result, villagers of this area, school going children, old disabled persons face a huge problem in commuting along the road. Residents also fear that during night, particularly the rainy

"During incessant rain, this stretch of road becomes muddy, slippery and totally unusable. About 16 families reside at this area and the issue of road construction has been raised in every Annual Gram Sabha meeting, but except false promises the road remained elusive. Now finding no other option, the villagers had also written a letter to

Even eighteen years after sanction of village road at Kaushalyanagar, for villagers this road is still a mirage

season, the risk of snake bites also looms large. People have to carry elderly persons in a makeshift stretcher to hospital during an emergency.

the Prime Minister of India pleading for necessary directions to the UT administration for taking up construction of this long pending road," said one resident.

Free coaching classes organized by PBGKR concludes

PORT BLAIR, NOV 11/--/ After the declaration of vacancy notice by the UT administration, Smti. Sajida Banu, Pradhan, GP Mannarghat and PRI members, along with the noble workers from Port Blair Guru Ki Rasoi had arranged free competitive coaching classes at Mannarghat



Panchayat. Many unemployed youth of Mannarghat village attended these classes to perform well in the upcoming competitive exams. The classes started from 8th August at GP Mannarghat conference hall and ended on 11th November.

Mr. Mandeep Grewal, President, PBGKR wished the aspirants appearing for the exams on 20th best of luck and also assured that more free coaching classes will be conducted for the youths in the months ahead. Mr. Grewal also thanked Smt Sajida Banu, Pradhan, Mannarghat for taking up such initiatives.

3-months free tailoring course

KARTIK

RANGAT, NOV 11/--/ A three-months free tailoring course was organized by the Gram Panchayat, Bakultala at Bakultala Community hall for women self-empowerment. On the occasion, the Pradhan, GB Bakultala, Mr. Narayan Model welcomed the chief



guest and others. Miss Sita Majhi, Pramukh Rangat, Zilla Parishad Member and PRI members of Bakultala were present. More than 70 women enrolled their names for the three months course.

MP seeks repair of dialysis machines of CHC Rangat

PORT BLAIR, NOV 11/--/ The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary for repairing the Dialysis machines of CHC Rangat as soon as possible so that the dialysis patients may get their dialysis done in Rangat region, without facing huge difficulties in travelling.

In a letter, Mr. Sharma mentioned that the dialysis machines of CHC Rangat are out of



order for which nearly 18 dialysis patients are facing huge difficulties. He added that all these

patients have to travel all the way to Mayabunder for Dialysis weekly twice or thrice for their dialysis, which is a painful task, considering the condition of Andaman Trunk Road (NH4).

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Pradhan threatens no 'Gram Sabha', if dept heads skip such meetings

ASHIM

BAKULTALA, NOV 11/--/ The Gram Sabha meeting of GP Bakultala was held on Friday at the Bakultala Panchayat Bhawan. Villagers of various remote regions of Bakultala Panchayat attended the

Bakultala, Mr. Narayan Mondal while chairing the Gram Sabha threatened that if the local heads of department did not turn up to attend the next Gram Sabha, from next time no Gram Sabha meeting will be called.

It has been observed

knowing that such Gram Sabha meetings are mandatory for them to attend where important issues of the villages are discussed and decision taken to address such issues. The Gram Sabha is the only platform for the villagers to place their



meeting in order to put forth their issues and demands before the Gram Sabha. But to the dismay of the villagers as well as the PRI members, heads of local departments did not turn up to attend the Gram Sabha meeting. Some departments deputed their clerical level staff having no mandate to present the department point of views in the meeting. The Pradhan, GP

that local heads of the department are not attending the Gram Sabha meeting.

This has become a common trend in rural areas of the islands despite advance notice to the departments about the vital meetings. In most of the Gram Sabha meetings, heads of government departments generally skip the meeting despite

issues and demands pertaining to their region.

Even Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi once said that Gram Sabha has the same importance in the rural villages as Lok Sabha holds for the Nation. It seems for the local heads of the department in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have little relevance.

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From conflicts to climate crisis, Mahatma Gandhi's ideas have answers to today's challenges: PM

DINDIGUL, NOV 11 ---/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi have answers for modern day challenges, including climate crisis, and asserted his government was inspired by Gandhi to work towards its self-reliance goal of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
In his address at the 36th convocation of the Gandhigram Rural Institute here, the Prime Minister said "Gandhian values are becoming very relevant".

"Whether it is about ending conflicts or the climate crisis, Mahatma Gandhi's ideas have the answers to many of today's challenges. As students of the Gandhian way of life, you have a great opportunity to make a big impact," he said. "The best tributes to Mahatma Gandhi is to work on ideas close to his heart," Modi added.
The Mahatma saw khadi as a "tool of self-governance" in villages and inspired by him, the Centre was working

towards the country's 'Atmarnibharta', the Prime Minister pointed out. "Khadi had been neglected for a long time. But through the call of 'from khadi for ration to khadi for fashion', it has become very popular," and has shown a 300 per cent increase in sales over the last eight years, he said. "Even global fashion brands were taking to khadi because it is an eco-friendly material," he added.
Mahatma Gandhi

wanted villages to progress, and at the same time preferred the values of rural life to be conserved. "Our vision is 'Atma gaon ki, suvidha shaher ki,' (soul of the village, facilities of the city)," he said. Reiterating the slogan in Tamil, he said, 'Gramathin aanma, nagarathin vasathi'. Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi and Chief Minister M K Stalin among others participated in the convocation. (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the unveiling ceremony of the 108ft bronze statue of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, in Bengaluru on Friday

BJP, AAP field several turncoats in Gujarat polls, Congress says loyalists its 'first choice'

AHMEDABAD, NOV 11 ---/ The ruling BJP and the AAP have rewarded several leaders, who quit rival political parties and joined them, by offering tickets to them to contest the upcoming Assembly polls in Gujarat, while the Congress has preferred to field party loyalists, including 21 sitting MLAs.
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), opposition Congress and the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have so far declared candidates for 160, 89 and 174 seats, respectively, for the election to the 182-member Assembly to be held in two phases next month. As per the BJP's list of 160 candidates it released on Thursday, out of 20 MLAs who resigned from the Congress after winning the 2017 Assembly elections, the ruling party has fielded nine. It has also given a ticket to former Congress working president Hardik Patel. However, the BJP is yet to decide the fate of former Congress MLAs Alpesh Thakor and Bhavesh Katara as it has so far not named candidates for the seats they represented. Not just those MLAs who resigned as Congress legislators in the last five years, but also those who had resigned before 2017 have found a place in the BJP's list. Some of these former MLAs are Raghavji Patel (Jamnagar Rural) and Balwantsinh Rajput (Sidhpur).
Rajput had resigned in July 2017 ahead of the Rajya Sabha election and went on to contest the polls on BJP ticket. Patel was expelled from the Congress for voting against the party mandate in the Rajya Sabha election. He was defeated in the 2017 Assembly election, but won the byelection in 2019 after the then sitting Congress MLA from Jamnagar rural seat Vallabh Dharaviya resigned and joined the BJP. No leader from rival political parties who joined the Congress in the recent past has figured in the list of 89 candidates released by grand old party so far. Congress's state party chief Jagdish Thakor said that the party workers will be the first choice. "Our first choice is our workers. Those workers who have strengthened the Congress to challenge the BJP despite being victimised by the ruling party will be the first choice. If any leader from other party joins the Congress then they will not be given the ticket, irrespective of how big the leader is," he told reporters.
Thakor added that there was nothing surprising in former Congress leaders being fielded by the BJP in the 2022 polls. "We have formed our strategy keeping this in mind. Not a single Congress turncoat is going to win. Even the BJP's own workers will not let them win," he said. The list of 174 candidates declared by the AAP shows that it has also fielded several candidates who quit Congress, BJP and Bharatiya Tribal Party (BTP) to join it. AAP has fielded the former Congress spokesperson Kailash Gadhvi from the Mandvi seat. It has also fielded former BJP president of Surat PVS Sharma from Surat district's Majura seat. Former Congress leader and the party's candidate in the 2017 Assembly election Bharatsinh Vakhala has also been given AAP's ticket from Devgad Baria.
The party has also fielded former BTP president of Narmada district Chaitar Vasava from Dediapada. Former BTP leader Prful Vasava who unsuccessfully contested on Nandod seat in 2017 joined AAP and has been fielded by the party from the same seat for the 2022 election. On Friday, two-term BJP MLA from Matar seat Kesarsinh Vaghela also joined AAP and it is yet to be seen whether he gets ticket to contest from AAP. Vaghela was denied a ticket by the BJP. Some of the former BJP leaders who have joined the Congress in the run up to the election are former BJP MP from Panchmahal and several-term MLA Parbatsinh Chauhan, former BJP MLA from Dabhoi seat Balkrishna Patel and Bayad MLA Mahendrasinh Vaghela, who is son of former Gujarat chief minister Shankersinh Vaghela, among others. (PTI)

India looks to strengthen ties with US with greater vigour: Nirmala Sitharaman

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 -/- India and the US will look forward to strengthening bilateral ties with greater vigour, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Friday.
Addressing the media jointly with US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen at the start of the Ninth Indo-US Financial Partnership, Sitharaman said that bilateral talks will impart greater vigour to the long-standing relationship with the US. India, Sitharaman said, "Deeply values its relationship with the United States as a trusted partner. We share a traditionally strong bilateral relationship underpinned with shared values, convergence of interests on wide ranging issues and vibrant people-to-people contact." The substantial and multi-faceted cooperation through the economic and Financial Partnership Forum remains a key cornerstone of the bilateral engagements, the finance minister added. "Our meeting will lend greater vigour to our economic relationship,

strengthen business-to-business links, and facilitate coordinated policy stance to address the pressing global economic challenges," she said.
The 9th meeting of the Forum is being held against the backdrop of India preparing to assume the G20 presidency. "We will continue to rely on close cooperation with the US to

"Looking ahead, we're also eager to discuss our shared priorities as India assumes the presidency of the G20 in the coming weeks. "We also hope that the mutual understanding we build will help us work together to advance our shared goals, including mitigating the existential risk of climate change, evolving multilateral institutions,

be discussed at the G-20, which is going to be presided over by India. G-20 is a grouping of the developed and developing nations and India will be assuming its presidency on December 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Indonesian city of Bali from November 14 to 16 to attend the G-20 summit, the ministry of external affairs announced on Thursday.
On the sidelines of the summit, Modi will hold bilateral meetings with some of his counterparts. The summit is likely to be attended by US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, among others. At the summit, the world leaders are expected to deliberate on the Ukraine conflict, its implications on food and energy security and other pressing global issues such as climate change. Modi is attending the summit at the invitation of Indonesian President Joko Widodo. Indonesia is the current chair of G-20. (PTI)



address the global economic challenges in a more coordinated manner and in strengthening multilateralism," Sitharaman said. US Treasury Secretary Yellen in her remarks said that the India-US collaboration would not only promote economic growth and stability, but it can also be instrumental to supporting economic prosperity across the Indo-Pacific region.

and addressing the debt burden faced by many developing countries," Yellen said.
She further said that the US is committed to strengthening the bilateral economic relationship with India and deepening the level of cooperation and collaboration. Yellen said that issues concerning climate change and increased debt burden of the developing nations will

Karnataka Police SI recruitment 'scam': ED searches premises of jailed IPS officer, others

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 -/- The ED on Friday said it has searched the premises of jailed IPS officer Amrit Paul, some government officials and private persons in connection with a money laundering probe linked to the police sub-inspector recruitment "scam" in Karnataka in 2021.
The federal investigative agency said the operation, undertaken on Thursday at 11 premises in Bengaluru and Patiala in Punjab, led to the "discovery and seizure of various incriminating records and electronic gadgets." The residential premises of Paul were also

covered, it said. The alleged scam pertains to the Karnataka Police recruitment cell conducting an examination last year for filling up 545 vacancies of sub-inspectors in the state police department. "After the results were out, there were allegations of cheating, corrupt practices in the said examination, due to which the Karnataka government ordered an investigation into the matter," the Enforcement Directorate said.
The probe was taken over by the CID wing of the Bengaluru Police which became the basis for the ED complaint that was

registered under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Various FIRs were filed by the police against candidates, middlemen and police officials in Bengaluru and Kalaburagi. The police later conducted searches at various premises and arrested Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Paul and more than 100 people, including aspirants who allegedly paid money to get selected, in this case, Paul was the head of the police recruitment cell, as its additional director general (recruitment), when the alleged irregularities took place. "During CID

investigation, it was observed that there was tampering of OMR sheets in the strongroom of the recruitment cell at CID headquarters, Carlton House, Bengaluru. "Police officers, in-charge of the strong room of recruitment cell, switched off the CCTV cameras and two armed head constables entered the strong room and tampered with the OMR sheet. The police officials collected money from candidates for facilitating their selection using illegal means," the agency said. The police sub-inspector recruitment drive started in October 2021 to fill 545 posts and 54,041 people wrote the exam. (PTI)

Steady decline in Covid due to hybrid immunity but virus here to stay: Experts

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 ---/ Hybrid immunity has led to the steady decline of Covid in India but the virus is destined to stay long-term, becoming endemic rather than getting eliminated, say scientists as masks rapidly become a thing of yesterday and pandemic memories begin to fade.
Though Covid deaths have virtually ceased and case numbers are sliding, it would be a mistake to drop caution, they said, pointing to the impact of long Covid and the need to continue testing. According to immunologist Satyajit Rath, the future trajectory of the Covid pandemic depends to a large extent on two questions will new variants

with unexpected characteristics arise, and how long will vaccine or infection-triggered immune protection last. "While the outlook seems good, I think caution is advisable," Rath, professor emeritus at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, told PTI.
Earlier this week, on Tuesday, India recorded its lowest single-day rise of 625 fresh COVID-19 cases since April 9, 2020 and reported no death in a 24-hour span, the first time since March 2020. On Friday, the health ministry reported 842 new coronavirus infections and six fatalities, including five reconciled by Kerala and one in Rajasthan. It's a far

cry from the summer of 2021. The daily number of cases in the country peaked at 4,14,188 (over 4.1 lakh) on May 7, 2021. The following month, on June 10, 2021, the number of deaths peaked at 6,148. "It appears that the hybrid immunity that the

Indian population enjoys is substantially protective," said Gautam Menon, professor, Departments of Physics and Biology, Ashoka University, who has been tracking Covid numbers in India since the start of the pandemic

Epidemiologist Ramanan Laxminarayan agreed. He noted that Covid is waning due to a combination of vaccination and the fact that many people were already infected during 2020 and 2021.
"There seems to be sufficient cross-protection between vaccination, especially those who have received a booster, and the new strains so we should be protected for a while," Laxminarayan, director of the Washington-based One Health Trust, formerly known as the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy, told PTI. Many variants of concern have emerged for

SARS-CoV-2, with the latest Omicron strain mutating into multiple sub variants.
Going forward, the scientists said Covid will most certainly become endemic in the country and not disappear altogether. A disease is called endemic when it is always present in a population but it spreads at predictable rates that can be managed by communities. Menon added that Covid is destined to stay over the long term like influenza. "There's a precedent for this - another coronavirus causes cold-like symptoms and has been around for some decades now," he explained, referring to the influenza virus. (PTI)

PM unveils 108-foot bronze statue of Bengaluru founder 'Nadaprabhu' Kempegowda

BENGALURU, NOV 11 -/- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday unveiled the 108-feet tall statue of the city's founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, which is the "first and the tallest bronze statue of a founder of a city", as per the 'World Book of Records'.
Called the "Statue of Prosperity", it has been built to commemorate the contribution of Kempegowda towards the growth of Bengaluru. The statue weighing 218 tonnes (98 tonnes of bronze and 120 tonnes of steel) has been installed at the Kempegowda International Airport here. It has a sword weighing four tonnes. The project, besides the statue, has a heritage theme park in an area covering 23 acres dedicated to the 16th century chieftain, together costing about Rs 84 crore to the government. Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and several of his cabinet colleagues, Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji of Adichunchanagiri Math, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, BJP Parliamentary Board member B S Yediyurappa, former Chief Minister S M Krishna, BJP legislators, officials, among others were present at the event.

Kempegowda, a feudatory ruler under the erstwhile Vijayanagara Empire founded Bengaluru in 1537. He is revered, especially by the Vokkaliga community that is dominant in Old Mysuru and other parts of southern Karnataka.
Renowned sculptor and Padma Bhushan awardee Ram Vanji Sutar has designed the statue. Sutar had built the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat and the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Bengaluru's 'Vidhana Soudha'. As a precursor to the unveiling, 'Mruthike' (sacred mud) was collected from over 22,000 locations across the state, which was mixed symbolically with the mud beneath one of the four towers of the statue. Twenty-one special vehicles collected the sacred mud in villages, towns and cities during the last two weeks. With the installation of the statue ahead of the Assembly polls next year, a competition of sorts seems to have erupted between political parties to claim credit for the legacy of Kempegowda, aimed at garnering electoral support from the politically dominant Vokkaliga community.
Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah had earlier said the Congress government led by him was the one which had first planned to install the statue of Kempegowda at the airport. (PTI)

Aaditya takes part in Bharat Jodo Yatra, marches along with Rahul in Maharashtra's Hingoli

HINGOLI, NOV 11 -/- Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader and former Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray joined the Congress 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' at Kalamnuri in Hingoli, where the march arrived during the day from neighbouring Nanded district, and walked along Rahul Gandhi. Aaditya Thackeray was joined by party colleagues Ambadas Danve, who is the leader of the opposition in the state Legislative Council, and former MLA Sachin Ahir. They walked along Gandhi, who is leading the cross-country foot-march which has entered the 65th day.



Aaditya Thackeray

The Congress MP from Kerala and Aaditya Thackeray waved to people assembled along the route. Flowers were showered on the participants in Seni village in Nanded's Ardhapur taluka, with the march entering Hingoli district at Choramba Phata.
In Hingoli, a group of people who arrived to cheer the march, including a large number of women and children, even brought an elephant along. Among those who stood along the route and shouted slogans in support of the march and sought implementation of 'One Rank One Pension' (ORO) were 22 former servicemen. "We feel the Congress can fulfil this demand (OROP)," said former Army man Sahebrao Hone. Gandhi interacted with people along the route of the march. On Thursday, Nationalist Congress Party leaders Supriya Sule and Jitendra Awhad had taken part in the march. While NCP chief Sharad Pawar was invited to join the yatra, he could not participate due to ill health. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray has been also invited to take part in the march during its Maharashtra leg. (PTI)

Cleanliness drive by ASI at Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram



PORT BLAIR, NOV 11/--/The Anthropological Survey of India, Port Blair carried out a special cleanliness programme in collaboration with India Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, Port Blair on Friday.

Special cleanliness drive was carried out by clearing bushes and garbage from the premises of VanvasiKalyanAshram , Port Blair.

The ashram children took part in this cleanliness drive and a message was given to the children towards sensitizing

about cleanliness of the surroundings where they live.

To mark this occasion, a few fruit plants were planted in the premises of VanvasiKalyan Ashram by the dignitaries present there like Mr. Ramakrishnan, Assistant Director India Tourism, Dr. NilanjanKhatua, Head of Office, ASI. DrSumitabhaChakraborty, Mr. GITUYaikhom, Ms. SumanRavindran, Mr. MuthuPandi of ASI, DrVivekSahu, Assistant Professor, JNRM. The ashram children participated with great joy.

Rains pound Tamil Nadu, flight operations not affected

CHENNAI, NOV 11 /--/ Widespread rains, moderate to heavy, lashed several parts of Tamil Nadu on Friday and the India Meteorological Department said a well-marked low pressure area lay over Bay of Bengal.

Under its influence, rainfall is expected till November 13 and it could be heavy to very heavy in select regions of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, the IMD said. Almost all parts of Chennai, the neighbouring districts of Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Chengalpet, coastal regions falling under Villupuram, Cuddalore, the Cauvery Delta zone regions including Thanjavur district and southern Ramanathapuram as well experienced rainfall. Intermittent showers began on the night of Thursday and it intensified in several regions of the State, leading to waterlogging and disruption in vehicular movement like on the Avadi-Poonamallee stretch. Areas falling under districts including Mayiladuthurai, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Kancheepuram, Chennai and Tiruvallur witnessed heavy rains ranging between 7 and 11 CM. Other regions experienced moderate showers.

In as many as 23 districts including Chennai schools and colleges were closed and in 6 other districts including Dharmapuri and Sivagangaschools were shut. Neighbouring Puducherry recorded heavy rains since Thursday night. The territorial government too declared a holiday for all schools and colleges. K N Nehru, Tamil Nadu Minister for Municipal Administration following an inspection here said that all officials are on the spot monitoring the situation. Airport sources said flight operations were not affected. The arrival and departure of flights were 'on time,' they said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit the Gandhigram Rural Institute in southern Dindigul district on Friday afternoon.

Suburban train and state-run bus services were operated. Fishermen in Cuddalore towed their boats away from the shoreline to safer places using tractors. An IMD bulletin said a well-marked low pressure area "lies over southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of northeast Sri Lanka off Tamil Nadu coast with the associated cyclonic circulation extending up to upper tropospheric levels." It is very likely to move northwestwards towards the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coastline till November 12 morning. Wind speed is expected to be 40-45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph along southern Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu Puducherry and Sri Lankan coasts, the Gulf of Mannar and adjoining Comorin area. Tiruvallur district authorities said the Kannankottai Theruvoy Kandigai reservoir has reached its full level of 36.61 ft and the outflow stood at 130 cusecs. The release from Puzhal dam is increased to 500 cusecs increased from 100. Similarly, other reservoirs too have been witnessing copious inflows and Redhills has touched 82.97 per centage of its 3,300 mcf capacity. Water is released from reservoirs as per regulations. Police said the Puzhal-Soorappattu Vinayagapuram subway has been closed and traffic diversions have also been made in several localities due to showers and in view of storm water drain network improvement work. In waterlogged localities, authorities used heavy duty motors to pump out stagnant rain water. (PTI)

JNU asks its security branch to submit report on clashes between 2 groups of students on campus

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 /--/ After a scuffle broke out between two groups of students on the campus, the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) authorities have instructed the security branch to take necessary steps and submit a detailed report on the incident. The scuffle that broke out near the Narmada hostel on Thursday was a fallout of events that unfolded at a birthday party

a day before. Police have registered two separate FIRs in connection with the incident. According to police, two students were injured in the scuffle, while university sources claimed that only one student sustained injuries. In a statement issued on Thursday night, the JNU administration reiterated its resolve for zero tolerance towards any form of violence on the campus and

appealed to the students to desist from resorting to violence. "It has come to the notice of the university authorities that a scuffle between two groups of students broke out on campus due to personal animosity. JNU authority has taken a serious view of the matter and has instructed the Dean of Students and the security branch to take necessary steps and submit a detailed

report on the incident," the university said. Video clips purportedly of the incident were circulated on social media platforms, in which some students were seen running on the campus with sticks in their hands.

In one of the clips, students wearing masks were seen with sticks. One of them was wearing a JNU sweatshirt. Police said they will verify the authenticity of the videos. (PTI)

Seminar on “Role of Teachers in Nation Building” by JNRM

PORT BLAIR, NOV 11/--/ The Andaman College Teachers Association (ACTA), has organised a seminar on “Role of Teachers in Nation Building” on 10th November 2022, in the seminar room of JNRM. The chief guest, Mr. D. Bhanudas, All India General Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari has informed that patriotism to be inculcated in our action and be a living example through which students can imbibe the best qualities from the teachers for nation building. While describing the students teachers relationship, Mr. D. Bhanudas has cited the example of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda and the role of teachers like Ramakrishna Paramhansa in transforming Narendra to Vivekananda.

The nation which includes culture, knowledge, tradition and wisdom which must symbolise through our



action to make a great place to live with harmony. Dr. H. K. Sharma, Principal, JNRM spoke about the role of teachers in shaping the lives of students to serve the nation and also urged the faculty members to guide them in order to achieve their goals. Smt. Pearl Devdas, Associate

Professor & Head, Department of Geography spoke on the teaching learning process and the importance of teachers and their role for igniting the young minds.

Earlier, Mr. N. Balakrishnan, President, ACTA threw light on the activities of ACTA by

giving a brief introduction and action plan. Dr. K. Venkatesan, Secretary ACTA welcomed the gathering while Dr. Vivek Kumar Sahu, Treasurer, ACTA proposed vote of thanks. Dr. Kandimuthu, Assistant Professor of Economics moderated the entire programme.

Candidates list for admission in TGCE published online

PORT BLAIR, NOV 11/--/ The category-wise and subject-wise provisional list of candidates applied for admission to Two Years B.Ed. Degree Program For the session 2022-23 in Tagore Government College of Education, Port Blair has been published online on 11th November 2022 and is available at <http://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in> under “Announcements” for inspection and verification.

Claims/objections/submission of documents, if any including those candidates who have submitted incomplete application forms can be done in person or through email tagoremail12481@gmail.com up to 3:00 p.m. on 15th November 2022 (including Saturday and Sunday). No claims and objections will be attended thereafter.

After attending claims and objections, final merit list will be published on 16th November 2022 at 3:00 p.m. and will be available online at <http://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in> under “Announcements”. Counseling for admission to these courses will be held on 18th November 2022 from 9:30 a.m. onwards at Tagore Auditorium. The candidates who are provisionally selected for admission to these courses will have to submit all the original certificates along with a set of photostat copies and requisite amount of fees on the day of admission failing which they will not be considered for admission. Those who fail to attend the counselling session on the date and time mentioned above, will not be considered for admission to the course and the next eligible candidate in the merit list will be considered for admission. Regular classes for these courses will begin from 21st November 2022.

TV actor Siddhaanth Surryavanshi of “Kkusum” fame dies of heart attack at 46

MUMBAI, NOV 11 /--/ Popular TV actor Siddhaanth Surryavanshi, known for shows such as “Kkusum”, “Kasauti Zindagi Kay” and “Ziddi Dil Maane Na”, died on Friday after suffering a heart attack at a gym here. He was 46. The actor, known to be a fitness enthusiast, was taken to the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital at 12.30 pm where he was declared dead, a hospital insider said. “They tried to revive him. In all probability he suffered a heart attack while he was at the gym. This was told to the hospital by the family,” the insider told PTI. His death is the latest in a series of entertainment personalities, most in their 40s and in the prime of their lives, collapsing suddenly and dying shortly after. Some of them suffered heart attacks while working out in the gym. (PTI)

National Book Week from Nov 14 to 20

PORT BLAIR, NOV 11/--/ The National Book Week-2022 will be celebrated in the State Library, Port Blair from 14th to 20th November 2022. On this occasion, a Books Exhibition and various programmes are being organized by this Directorate in State Library, Port Blair during the weeklong celebration.

Smt. Veditha Reddy, Secretary (Education) will inaugurate the Book Exhibition on 14th November 2022 at 04.00 pm as chief guest and Mr. Aditya Kumar Jha, Director (Education) will be the guest of honour. The exhibition will be open for general public from 14th November to 20th November 2022.

3-months free tailoring course



KARTIK

RANGAT, NOV 11/--/ A three-months free tailoring course was organized by the Gram Panchayat, Bakultala at Bakultala Community hall for women self-empowerment. On the occasion, the Pradhan, GB Bakultala, Mr. Narayan Model welcomed the chief guest and others. Miss Sita Majhi, Pramukh Rangat, Zilla Parishad Member and PRI members of Bakultala were present. More than 70 women enrolled their names for the three months course.

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When I'm working on a problem, I never think about beauty. I think only how to solve the problem. But when I have finished, if the solution is not beautiful, I know it is wrong
R. Buckminster Fuller

COP27:Agriculture sector vs climate change

The ongoing global climate summit, COP27, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, is the first global climate summit to be held in Africa since 2016 and the first to have a strong focus on food and agriculture. The location and the focus are important. Africa today is at the epicenter of an escalating series of humanitarian crises primarily caused by the impact of climate change on food production. To put it very mildly, it is very unfortunate that agriculture and food are neglected in climate negotiations. A meagre three per cent of public funding for climate change is earmarked for agriculture and food, even though this sector is responsible for one-third of greenhouse gas emissions. It is often seen at every UN Climate Change Conference, the NGOs, scientists and even international institutions harp on the same criticism. In most debates, agriculture and food are pushed to the background, even though the sector represents one-third of man-made greenhouse gas emissions and agricultural producers are among the populations most directly affected by climate change. Both a victim of and contributor to climate change, the agricultural sector cannot be ignored if the Paris Agreement's objective of not exceeding +2°C compared to the pre-industrial era has to be met. But far from the attention given to the transport or energy sectors, food has so far only been addressed marginally at institutional discussions on climate change – on the sidelines or as a tangent to debates on other subjects, say experts. For the first time, a day will be dedicated to agriculture in the official COP schedule, on November 12, it will be preceded by a round table with high-level political representatives.

The war in Ukraine has highlighted the imbalances in global food systems and this year's agricultural harvests have also been affected by extreme drought in both the South and the North and by devastating floods in Pakistan and Nigeria. Unfortunately, climate negotiations have proven to be a missed opportunity to address those issues. But, this time there will be dedicated discussions on food and agriculture at the first official Food and Agriculture Pavilion hosted by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation, CGIAR and The Rockefeller Foundation at the climate conference. This comes at a crucial time. The unprecedented drought situation in Europe, the United States and Africa, the heatwave that impacted India's wheat crop and floods and droughts in Pakistan and China are all stark evidence of how food production is at risk from extreme weather events. Organisations representing over 350 million farmers and producers wrote an open letter to world leaders November 7. They warned that global food security is at risk unless governments boost adaptation finance for small-scale production and promote a shift to more diverse, low-input agriculture. Agriculture is, thus, a victim of climate change. But it is also responsible for more than a third of all greenhouse gas emissions. Experts blame the bulk of the emissions from the sector on industrial agriculture and highlight a dire need to make a shift to agroecology. That means working with nature and local communities to support food security, livelihoods, biodiversity and help to buffer temperature extremes and sequester carbon.

Economic partnership, not FTA, should be India's top priority

REFLEX ACTION

Nantoo Banerjee

fundamental freedoms, multilateralism and a rule-based international order. The bilateral trade between the two countries was limited to only \$17.5 billion in 2021-22. During the pandemic year of 2020-21, the two way trade was worth only \$13.2 billion. India's exports stood at \$10.5 billion in 2021-22, while imports were \$7 billion. By entering into an FTA, the two countries aim to take the trade to \$100 billion. This appears to be highly ambitious if not impossible to achieve in the current context unless the two countries work seriously to raise their manufacturing capacities sharply to complement each other's market demand instead of relying on the existing trade basket. Opportunities do exist. The emphasis on manufacturing will further expand them and help both the UK and India expand trade beyond their borders. The UK was once a global leader in manufacturing. But, the collapse of its colonial empire led to its downhill journey in manufacturing. Today, the UK's share of global manufacturing is only 1.8 percent, well below India's 3.1 percent.

A joint manufacturing programme will benefit both the countries and help the UK's new prime minister and Tory party leader Rishi Sunak keep his promise to revive his country's economy and generate more employment and income. India has already got a reasonably good industrial presence in the UK. According to Grant Thornton, around 850 Indian companies are operating in the UK, with combined revenues of over £41.2 billion. Together, they paid £461.8 million in corporation tax and employed 110,793 people. Technology and telecom sector companies dominate the list of fastest growing Indian outfits. Other important sectors are pharmaceuticals, chemicals, engineering and manufacturing. About 72

Indian companies showed at least 10 percent revenue growth in 2019. This exemplifies the contribution of Indian companies to the UK's economy.

The government's assessment of the existing FTAs and preferential trade pacts show that they are not quite favourable to India. Though India's bilateral trade with partner countries such as Japan, South Korea and those in the ASEAN region improved noticeably following the signing of new trade deals, it benefited India little in terms of exports. On the contrary, the trade deals substantially helped the foreign partners push their exports to India leading to "unfavourable gains" to India's trade partners, observed recently by NITI Aayog, the country's public policy think-tank.

This called for a more "fair and balanced" approach to new FTAs with complementary economies. As Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal himself felt, such agreements need to focus less on competition and more on collaboration. However, it may be easier said than done. For instance, India's local wine, beer and "foreign liquor" (IMFL) manufacturers are already worried that they may substantially lose their domestic market to competition from cheaper and popular global brands from the UK.

The governments of both the UK and India would probably appreciate that manufacturing is a critical component for many product-focused businesses around the world. It is deeply linked with the foreign trade of individual countries. Currently, India holds the fifth position among the world's top 10 manufacturing countries after China, the US, Japan and Germany. However, while China shares around 29 percent of the global manufacturing output, India's share is only a little over three percent. The share of the US is around 17 percent, Japan 7.5 percent, South Korea three percent, Italy around two percent, France 1.9 percent, the UK 1.8 percent and Indonesia 1.6 percent. It does not make much sense for India to go for FTAs with countries that will further stifle its manufacturing sector in the face of low-duty imports. (IPA)



Artisans prepare false ornaments for Kartick puja idols in Kumartuli on Friday--Arijit Ganguly

Mild weather prompts soaring international gas prices to reverse course

FOCUS

K Raveendran

Soaring international gas prices in recent weeks have caused much concern in consumer countries like India, but the latest trends indicate that power prices may be reversing course.

Although Indian gas prices, particularly in terms of supplies for vehicles as well as cooking, have remained moderated, thanks to government intervention, consumers in Europe and the US have been witnessing sharp price increases over the past two months. As of September, gas prices in the US surged by over 130 percent and those in Europe by more than 120 percent while spot prices in the Asian market surged by over 80 percent.

Very mild weather in Europe and the US has helped gas prices drop in most markets as the month of November set in. Prices fell in the range of 30 percent week-on-week in Germany, France and Italy, and all these countries have seen more than an 80 percent reduction in weekly average prices since the peak in late August, according to Rystad Energy estimates. This is good news for countries like India whose energy budgets go under strain with every price increase. To make things more cheerful, mild weather is expected to continue,

although temperatures could creep closer to the normal level for the year over the coming weeks. If that happens, the risk of prices climbing is very much there. But as of now, most conditions are in favour of continued decline.

Gas storage is close to full in Europe, liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports to Europe have been very strong and gas demand has been low, resulting in an oversupply of gas in the short term. Market participants do, however, know that this will not be the case long term, as extreme amounts of Russian gas volumes need to be replaced mostly by LNG, which needs to be sourced from a tight global market. Gas-for-power demand is also expected to increase going forward, as temperatures drop further.

Overall, European power prices have now fallen so much that they are comparable to the level seen last year for the majority of European countries. The UK has seen the largest decline compared to last year, with a massive 35.3 percent drop on October last year,

averaging \$135 per megawatt-hour (MWh) for the month. This is also the lowest monthly price for the country so far in 2022.

Italy also saw a decline compared to October last year, although by a more modest 2.5 percent. The country has benefitted from the sizeable decline in gas prices in October, due to its large dependence on natural gas for power generation, although it remained the highest-priced market of the largest five power-producing countries, as it has done in every month so far this year.

On the contrary, France and Germany both saw a modest increase compared to last year, partly caused by both having much lower prices than the UK and Italy in 2021, which is no longer the case. France also saw a yearly low in October, while in Germany's case it was the second-lowest price month so far this year, only behind February, a month with very strong renewables generation that brought prices down. But analysts warn that the current sustained lower prices may be

temporary as much depends on the weather and geopolitics – from sanctions against Russia to strikes on energy infrastructure in Ukraine – prices could soar and spike as soon as temperatures drop, or tensions escalate. On the supply side, Continental Europe and UK wind supply are expected to pick up, which could bring prices further down.

Overall, continental power prices are expected to stay in the same range as last week, with the risk of further declining, depending on whether we see a further decline in European gas prices, according to analysts.

Last week was another very turbulent week in the European gas market, with the Dutch Title Transfer Facility (TTF) gas spot contract turning negative for a short period on 24 October. The price did, however, quickly recover and closed at \$31 per MWh the same day, reflecting some of the extreme volatility still present in the gas market.

Power prices in the US showed significant declines by the last week of October, with the national weekly average day-ahead power price dropping from \$54.16 per MWh to \$48.47. Power demand in the US was also lower and guidance suggested continued declines in the days to come. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword												
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ACROSS						DOWN					
1	One who captures	5	Female deer	7	Well-founded	1	Piece of money	2	Gain	3	Sheeplike
8	Seemingly mocked by fate	12	Sunny	13	Frozen formation	4	Speed contest	5	Immersion	6	Lyric poem
10	Vigour	14	Male deer	15	Silent	11	Agreeable	12	Laundry item	13	Location
16	Knight's title	17	Destiny	18	Corded cloth	14	Take vengeance	15	Tendencies	16	Spoil
19	Enjoyment	20	Measure of length	21	Enjoyment	17	Rescued	18	Get on	19	Decorative plant
22	American inventor	23	Take vengeance	24	Measure of length	20	Rescued	21	Flightless bird	22	Female swan

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DISCLAIMER

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Record cash, liquor, freebies seized in poll-bound TV actor Siddhaanth Surryavanshi of "Kkusum"

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 /--/ Nearly 11 lakh litres of liquor, freebies worth Rs 65 crore and Rs 17.84 crore in cash meant to induce voters have been seized from poll-bound Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the Election Commission (EC) has said, describing it as a "record".

While polling will be held in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday, Gujarat will have voting on December 1 and 5. The counting of votes will be taken up on December 8.

The EC said the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has also reported "massive seizures" amounting to Rs 64 crore of toys and accessories that were being smuggled by

way of "mis-declaration and resorting to concealment in the import cargo" at the Mundra port. Two persons, including the mastermind, have been arrested in the case and further investigation is under progress, the poll watchdog said. It added that there has been a five-fold increase in seizures in Himachal Pradesh compared to the 2017 Assembly polls.

The poll panel said its comprehensive planning, led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, ahead of the elections has given encouraging results in terms of seizures. Gujarat witnessed seizures of Rs 71.88 crore in just a few

days after the election was announced, which surpassed the seizures made during the entire duration of the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct during the 2017 Assembly polls, which amounted to Rs 27.21 crore. Similarly, the seizures in Himachal Pradesh are also significant, amounting to Rs 50.28 crore as compared to Rs 9.03 crore five years ago, marking more than a five-fold increase, the EC said. Giving details, it said Rs 17.18 crore in cash, liquor worth Rs 17.5 crore, drugs worth Rs 1.2 crore and freebies worth Rs 41 lakh were seized in Himachal Pradesh till November 10.

Similarly, Rs 66 lakh in cash, liquor worth Rs 3.86 crore, drugs worth Rs 94 lakh and freebies worth Rs 64.56 crore were seized in Gujarat till Thursday. The poll panel pointed out that even during the recent bypolls in seven Assembly constituencies in Bihar, Odisha, Maharashtra, Telangana, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, significant seizures of Rs 9.35 crore were made. Record seizures were made in the "highly expenditure sensitive" Munugode Assembly constituency in Telangana, where cash amounting to Rs 6.6 crore, along with thousands of litres of liquor and Rs 1.78 crore worth precious metals, was seized. (PTI)

Round 3 of Mizoram-Assam border talks to be held in Guwahati on Nov 17: Official

AIZAWL, NOV 11 /--/ Mizoram and Assam will on November 17 hold the third round of talks to resolve the long-standing interstate border dispute, a senior home department official said on Friday. The talks were originally scheduled to be held on November 4, but were postponed owing to the visit of President Droupadi Murmu to Mizoram. Mizoram additional home secretary Lalhriatpuia told PTI that the border talks would be held in Guwahati on November 17, as proposed by the Assam government. A five-member Mizoram delegation, led by ministers Lalchamlana and Lalruatkim, will be visiting the neighbouring state for the talks, he said. Another home department official said that the Mizoram delegation will leave for Guwahati on November 16, and preparatory meetings will be held among officials on that day.

The actual border talks would take place on the next day, he said. Mizoram and Assam share a 164.6-km-long border. Skirmishes and clashes between border residents of the two states were reported on several occasions since March 2018, when functionaries of Mizoram's apex student body 'Mizo Zirlai Pawl' (MZP) attempted to construct a wooden shed at Zophai area in Kolasib district, contiguous to Assam's Hailakandi district. More than 60 people were injured in a clash between students of Mizoram and the Assam police. The dispute had taken an ugly turn in July last year when police forces of the two states exchanged fire at the interstate boundary, leading to the death of six personnel and a civilian from Assam. Starting August last year, the two states have held two rounds of talks and virtual meetings on five occasions. They have agreed to maintain peace along the boundary and resolve disputes through dialogues. Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma have also met twice in New Delhi in November last year and September this year to find an amicable solution to the vexed border dispute. (PTI)

Delhi air quality slips back to very-poor category

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 /--/ A layer of smog shrouded several parts of Delhi as the air quality deteriorated to the very-poor category on Friday after marginal improvement over the last few days. The 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 346 in comparison to 295 a day ago, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The AQU was very-poor in 35 out of 37 monitoring stations, including 382 in Jahangirpuri, 377 in Nehru Nagar and 372 each in NSIT Dwarka and Bawana. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very

poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The Commission for Air Quality Management said curbs under stage III of the graded response action plan (Grap) would continue in the National Capital Region as the air pollution in the region was showing an upward trend. All construction and demolition work, except for essential projects, is banned in the NCR under the third stage of the Grap. Brick kilns, hot mix plants and stone crushers are also not allowed to operate. "Wind conditions have not been very favourable and accordingly dispersion of air pollutants has not been very effective," it said in a statement. The metropolis recorded a minimum temperature of 14.6 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal. The maximum settled at 28.5 degrees, the Met office said. (PTI)

Money laundering case: Bombay HC asks Sanjay Raut to respond to ED plea against bail

MUMBAI, NOV 11 /--/ The Bombay High Court on Friday asked Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut to file an affidavit in reply to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) application seeking cancellation of bail granted to him in a money laundering case by a special court.

A single bench of Justice Bharati Dangre also permitted the ED to amend its application as the order of the special court that granted bail to Sanjay Raut was not available on Wednesday when the application was filed.

The matter will be next heard on November 25. Apart from Sanjay Raut, a prominent leader of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), the central agency has also challenged the bail granted to co-accused Pravin Raut, a businessman.

"The applications shall be amended by November 14. The respondents (Sanjay Raut and Pravin Raut) shall file their reply affidavits one week thereafter. The matter shall be heard on November 25," the court said.

Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, appearing for the ED, sought for the matter to be heard earlier on November 21. "The special court has made certain uncalled for remarks. We are very affected by that," Singh argued. Justice Dangre, however, said in every order some remarks are made that have their effect. "Nothing will

happen if it (the plea) is heard one or two days later," she said. Soon after the special court granted bail to Sanjay Raut and Pravin Raut on Wednesday, the anti-money laundering agency filed a petition in the HC seeking cancellation of their bail. The agency had sought the HC to grant an urgent interim stay on the bail order. Justice Dangre had on Wednesday, however, refused to stay the order without first hearing all parties concerned.

Sanjay Raut was granted bail by special PMLA judge M G Deshpande on Wednesday, over hundred days after he was arrested in the money laundering case related to redevelopment of Patra Chawl (a chawl is row of old tenements) in suburban Goregaon. He walked out of the Arthur Road prison in central Mumbai on Wednesday evening after completing all bail formalities. The special court, in its order, had termed the Rajya Sabha member's arrest as "illegal, without reason and a witch-hunt". The ED, in its application, said the special court order was bad in law and deserves to be set aside.

It claimed the special court has failed to appreciate the evidence submitted by the ED in the case against the accused persons. "The Special Court failed to appreciate that offence of money laundering is a grave economic offence which is committed by well-planned conspiracy and is as heinous, if not more than an act of murder or terrorism," the central agency said. (PTI)

AFFIDAVIT
I, TARA LIMBOO SPOUSE OF EX NK GANESH BAHADUR LIMBOO RESIDENT OF VILL: LOOKSAN TE, PO: CARRON, DT: JALPAIGURI HAVE CHANGE MY NAME FROM TARA LIMBOO TO TARA SUBBA LIMBOO VIDE AFFIDAVIT DT 03/11/2022 BEFORE MAL COURT.

AFFIDAVIT

I, S. Gayathre, daughter of Mr. L. Rajendran and w/o Mr. S. Sivaraman aged about 31 yrs and Resident of c-29, RMS House, Phongi Chaung, Port Blair South Andaman do hereby solemnly declare and state as follows:

1. That my name before marriage is R. Gayathre
2. That I got married on 04.09.2017 to Mr. S. Sivaraman at RK Mahal Thirupathur, Sivagangai Dist, Tamil Nadu.
3. That after marriage I have changed my name to S. Gayathre and all my records after my marriage have this name.
4. That R. Gayathre and S. Gayathre are the names of one and the same person and that is myself.
5. That my father's name in my passport is Rajendran and his name in my Driving License is L. Rajendran.
6. That all other records of my father's name is L. Rajendran
7. That my father's name Rajendran and L. Rajendran are the names of one and the same person.

The above statements/declaration are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Deponent

Himanta orders police to reopen closed cases of unnatural deaths in Assam

GUWAHATI, NOV 11 /--/ Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Friday said he has ordered the police to re-examine all cases of unnatural deaths taking place in the state in the last one year.

Sarma said the incident in Darrang district in which a magistrate, superintendent of police and government doctors were arrested for shielding an accused in the rape and murder of a minor girl in Darrang district exposed the complicities of the government officials and their nefarious nexus with the accused, who is an SSB personnel. "In the recently held conference of the superintendents of police, we have asked them to reopen and re-examine all the similar cases which are a year old. We instructed them to revisit the cases of unnatural deaths, which were closed by the court or police by terming them as suicides," he told a press conference here. Other types of unnatural deaths like accidents and murders will also be looked into.

"All such cases of the last one year will be revisited. From now on, the SP and the DIG concerned of the area will visit the crime scene and satisfy themselves with the probe. Unless they are satisfied, the case will not be closed," Sarma said. Asked how many cases will be reopened, the chief minister said the exact number will be known only after the reports from the districts. The last conference of all superintendents of police took place on October 9-10 in Golaghat district and was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Sarma said that while he has ordered revisiting of

one-year-old cases, a common man can seek re-examination of even 15-year-old cases. "If something had happened in the past and you were not satisfied with the probe, you can approach the police now too. Criminal cases do not have any timeframe". The Chief Minister said that the government is considering to bring in a "strong" standard operating procedure or amendments in existing laws regarding employment of domestic helps as cases of their torture and extreme brutality keep surfacing from time-to-time. "After this (Darrang) case, I discussed with the police if altogether a new law is needed. The officials advised me that our existing laws under the IPC and POCSO are sufficient. We only need a strong SOP to implement those," he added.

A Magistrate, an SP, an additional SP, an officer-in-charge of a police station and three government doctors have been arrested so far in connection with a case of the sexual assault, attempt to rape and murder of a 13-year-old domestic help in Darrang district in June this year.

"It is really unfortunate that all in the chain got compromised, besides the main accused who committed the crime. This is a sad development for the Assamese community because none of them are non-Assamese. We earlier used to blame non-Assamese

people for such acts," Sarma said. Terming the case and the follow-up developments as an "eye opener", he urged the people to be vigilant so that



such incidents do not recur in the future. The incident had created an outrage in the state and the chief minister had visited the girl's family on August 12 following their allegations that the police displayed extreme dereliction of duty in collecting evidence. They had also alleged that the Dhula police station in-charge had put pressure on them to not file a written complaint on the unnatural death.

This led to Sarma ordering the forming of a special investigation team by CID sleuths, which took charge of the case on August 17 and filed the detailed chargesheet on September 25 against the main accused, who is at present in judicial custody. The CID unearthed the illegal actions of the police, magistrate and doctors who conducted the first post mortem. (PTI)

Assam: After SP, magistrate held in sexual assault-murder case of minor; CM lauds CID

GUWAHATI, NOV 11 /--/ A magistrate was arrested on Friday for "compromising his responsibility" in a case of sexual assault and murder of a 13-year-old girl in Darrang district of Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The victim girl who was working as a domestic help was found hanging in the house of her employer in June. Besides the main accused who is a Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel, several other government employees the then superintendent of police, an additional SP, the officer in charge of the police station concerned and three doctors were already arrested in the case. Addressing a press conference here, the chief minister appreciated the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for conducting the investigation in a highly professional and scientific manner. "The magistrate was arrested today. The CID has already arrested the SP, Additional SP (of the district), the OC of Dhula police station and three doctors who had conducted the first post-mortem examination," he

said. Additional DGP (CID) A Y V Krishna said that the arrested government officials did not follow the norms and gave false reports to close the case as an incident of suicide. The CID, which formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe into the case, had on Thursday stated that Ashirvad Hazarika, the local Magistrate, was absconding. Sarma, who also holds the Home portfolio, said that this case was very significant in the history of Assam Police as a fresh probe was started as per his instruction more than a month after the victim's last rites were performed. "This is a rare case in which the body was exhumed and a second post-mortem examination was conducted. We were lucky that the victim was a Christian girl and her body was buried. The way the CID collected forensic and

scientific evidence, the entire probe gave a new dimension to the investigation process in Assam Police," he said. The Chief Minister lamented that the probe exposed a nexus involving the then SP, ASP, OC, magistrate and government doctors.

On Thursday, the suspended SP Raj Mohan Ray was arrested for allegedly taking Rs 2 lakh as a bribe to dilute the case, CID had said. Ray had received the money through the then Officer-in-Charge of Dhula police station Utpal Borah who was arrested by the CID on October 31. The rape and murder case led to outrage in the state. The chief minister visited the girl's family on August 12 following their allegations that the police displayed extreme dereliction of duty in collecting evidence. Additional DGP (CID) A Y V Krishna told reporters that a

AFFIDAVIT

I, RESHMA CINTURY, wife of Sujan Gazmere, resident of Upper Pagang Gumba gaon, Pailoyong Busty, P.S and Dist : Kalimpong do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I am the holder of Indian Passport bearing No. W6319068 issued by passport authority Kolkata. That my Husband's actual and correct name is SUJAN GAZMERE. Same has been recorded in Aadhaar Card of my husband and other relavents documents. That in my Passport and Aadhaar Card my husband's name has been mentioned as SUJAN GAZMER. That SUJAN GAZMERE and SUJAN GAZMER is one and the same person i.e my husband. Vide Affidavit dated 11/11/2022 before the Notary at Kalimpong


CHANGE OF NAME

I Chattra Darjee S/o Late Dal Bahadur Darjee R/o Chandrakol Near SIB office P.O. P.S & Dist Kalimpong do hereby declares that Pratikcha Pariyar is my daughter my name had been wrongly recorded as Chatra Dorjee instead of Chattra Darjee i.e Chattra Darjee & Chatra Dorjee is one and same identical person vide affidavit before the Notary at Kalimpong dt.09.11.2022.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIKLA SHARMA, W/O-JC No. 523555W Nb Sub. Pawan Kumar, Presently residing at Vill. Singwhin, P.O. Pathliar, Tehsil-Barsar, Dist. Hamirpur (HP), have chance my name from VIKLA SHARMA to VIKLA TEKRA in my husband Army record, vide affidavit No. 18AA 706819 dated 27/ 10/ 2022 before affidavit Executive Magistrate Govt. Of H.P.

AFFIDAVIT
I, MD. BABUJAN, S/O-Late Md. Manir, resident of Old Matigara Road, Siliguri Junction, Ward No.1,P.O & P.S -Pradhan Nagar, Siliguri, Dist- Darjeeling, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my Correct name is MD. BABUJAN & father's name MD. MANIR & Mother's name is KHAYRUL BEGUM. That my correct name MD. BABUJAN is written in my Pan Card, Voter Card, Aadhaar Card and Ration Card. That due to mistake my name has been written as BABUJAN MANSURI, S/O. MANIR MANSURI & Mother name as KHAIRUL BEGUM in my Identity card of 10th Class being Enrolment No. 22002942110, issued by the National Institute of Open Schooling. That due to mistake in my Mark Statement of Secondary School Examination Migration Certificate & Provisional Certificate being Roll No- 22002942110, old Roll No. 222942110 issued by the National Institute of Open Schooling my name is written as MD. BABUJAN MANSURI & Father's name as MD. MANIR MANSURI and Mother's Name as KHAIRUL BEGUM. That MD. BABUJAN, MD BABUJAN MANSURI and BABUJAN MANSURI is same and one identical person i.e. myself. That MD MANIR & MD. MANIR MANSURI & MANIR MANSURI was same and one identical person i.e. my deceased father and KHAYRUL BEGUM & KHAIRUL BEGUM is same and one identical person i.e. my mother. Vide affidavit In the Court of the Judicial Magistrate 4th Court at Siliguri on 30.09.2022.



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Adv. No.17/2022

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CBC-21265/12/0022/2223

Secretary, UGC


AFFIDAVIT

I, S. Sundari, daughter of Mr. Ramasamy Natarajan and w/o Mr. Ramaiah Sethuraman aged about 54 yrs and Resident of c-29, RMS House, Phongi Chaung, Port Blair South Andaman do hereby solemnly declare and state as follows:

1. That my father's name is Ramasamy Natarajan
2. That my father's name in passport is mentioned as Natarajan.
3. That my father's name in all other records is Ramasamy Natarajan.
4. That my father's name Natarajan and Ramasamy Natarajan are the names of one and the same person.

The above statements/declaration are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Deponent



Income Tax Department

Central Board of Direct Taxes

75


आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव


Revised Instruction for constitution and functioning of 'Local Committees to deal with Taxpayers' Grievances from High-Pitched Scrutiny Assessment'


CBDT has issued revised Instruction for Constitution and Functioning of Local Committees (LC) through F.No.225/101/2021-ITA-II, dated 23.04.2022 to deal with taxpayers' grievances arising out of high-pitched Scrutiny Assessment. The salient features are:


- LCs, comprising 3 members of Pr.CIT/CIT rank, have been constituted in each Pr. CCIT region, including the Pr. CCIT(Exemptions) and Pr. CCIT (International Taxation).
- Grievances, if any, relating to assessments completed under Faceless Assessment may be sent at e-mail id samadhan.faceless.assessment@incometax.gov.in. For non-faceless assessments, the same may be sent to the office of Pr. CCIT concerned, physically or through email.
- The grievances so received shall be forwarded to LC of the Pr. CCIT concerned, which shall acknowledge the same.
- After due examination, the LC shall submit a report, preferably within 2 months from the end of the month of receipt of grievance, treating the order as High-Pitched/Not High-Pitched, along with the reasons, to the Pr. CCIT concerned.
- The Instruction also provides for initiation of suitable administrative action against the officer concerned, in cases where assessments are found by the LC to be high-pitched or where there is non-observance of principles of natural justice, non-application of mind or gross negligence of Assessing Officer/Assessment Unit.


The complete Revised Instruction dated 23.04.2022 in F.No.225/101/2021-ITA-II is available at <https://incometaxindia.gov.in/Lists/Latest%20News/Attachments/518/Instruction-225-101-2021.pdf>


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CBC-15401110009/2223



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the flagging off ceremony of Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan Train, at KSR Railway Station, in Bengaluru on Friday

Govt believes in speed and scale, unlike previous regimes: Modi

BENGALURU, NOV 11 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said unlike previous regimes, his government believes speed as India's aspiration and scale as its strength.

Modi also stressed that along with physical infrastructure, social infrastructure of the country needs to be strengthened, for India's advancement. "Whether it is governance or developing a physical and digital infrastructure, India is working on a different level. The world is admiring the strides India has made in the digital payments system, was it thinkable eight years ago," he said. Addressing a mega public event here, he said, all these things including Made in India and 5G technology were beyond imagination before 2014.

"The reason for this is that the then governments had old thinking. Earlier governments believed speed is a luxury and scale a risk, but we changed the notion, we believe speed as India's aspiration and scale as India's strength," the Prime Minister added. He was addressing a public meeting after unveiling a 108-foot tall statue of Bengaluru founder 'Nadaprabhu' Kempegowda and inaugurating terminal 2 of the international airport near here. Speaking about the feeling of trust towards India for investment across the globe, the Prime Minister said, Karnataka is also reaping its benefits.

Amid Covid globally, during the last three years, Karnataka has attracted about Rs four lakh crore investment, and last year the state stood first in attracting FDIs, he said. Listing various achievements of Karnataka, including in IT, BT, defence manufacturing, space technology and electric vehicle manufacturing among others, he said, the State is progressing with the strength of "double engine..." Modi further said, in the whole world India is known for start-ups and Bengaluru has a huge role in strengthening this identity of the country.

"Start-up is not just a company, it is an emotion to do something new, to think differently. Start-up is a belief to resolve the challenges that are before the country. Bengaluru represents start-up spirit, which puts India in a separate league," he said. Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and several of his cabinet colleagues, Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji of

Adichunchanagiri Math, Union minister Pralhad Joshi, BJP Parliamentary Board member B S Yediyurappa, BJP legislators, officials, among others were present at the public event.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister paid floral tributes to the statues of saint poet Kanaka Dasa and Maharshi Valmiki at Vidhana Soudha premises. He also flagged off the Vande Bharat Express and Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan Train at KSR Railway Station here. Speaking about the 'Vande Bharat Express', which he flagged off here on Friday, he said, it is a symbol that India has now left the days of stagnation behind. "It is not just a train, but an identity of a new India, and a glimpse of how Indian trains will be during the 21st century," he said. Stating that in the next 8-10 years his government targets transformation of Indian railways, he further said, more than 400 Vande Bharat trains, Vistadome coaches, will become the new identity of Indian railways.

Dedicated freight corridors for goods trains will increase the pace of transportation and save time, he said, as he highlighted the modernisation of Railway stations across the country, including in the state. For a developed India, connectivity between cities is important, and it is the demand of time that air connectivity is expanded, Modi said, the country is the fastest growing market for air travel, and as the nation progresses the number of passengers are also increasing. Before 2014, the country had about 70 airports and their number has now doubled to more than 140, he said.

The Prime Minister said the effort will be to see to it that Bengaluru progress in the path that its founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda had imagined. He recalled Kempegowda's planning for development of settlement in Bengaluru with commerce, culture and convenience as its core, and said, its benefits are being reaped even today. "Petes (markets) he had planned is even today Bengaluru's commercial lifeline." Bengaluru is an "international city" and we have to make it prosperous with modern infrastructure, while preserving its heritage, he added. Earlier today, the Prime Minister unveiled the 108-foot tall statue of Kempegowda, which is the "first and the tallest bronze statue of a founder of a city", as per the 'World Book of Records'. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 /--/ The Supreme Court on Friday directed the premature release of six convicts, including Nalini Sriharan and R P Ravichandran, serving life term in the assassination case of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, noting that the Tamil Nadu government has recommended remission of their sentence.

Besides Nalini and Ravichandran, the four others to be released are Santhan, Murugan, Robert Payas and Jayakumar. The apex court also took into account that their conduct was satisfactory during incarceration and they have undertaken various studies. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and B V Nagarathna said the judgement of the apex court in the case of A G Perarivalan, one of the convicts in the case, is equally applicable in their matter. Invoking its extraordinary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the top court had on May 18 ordered the release of Perarivalan, who had served over 30 years in jail. Under Article 142, the top court may issue any verdict or order necessary to provide "complete justice".

"The court (SC) held that the Governor in matter of remission of an appellant convicted under section 302 was bound by advice of state cabinet. Undisputedly, in the present case the cabinet has resolved grant of remission to all the applicants. "We, therefore, find that the factors which weighed with this court while directing the release of A G Perarivalan are equally applicable to the present applicants. We direct that all the appellants are deemed to have served their sentence in relation to the crime. The applicants are thus directed to be released unless required in any other case," the bench said. The Tamil Nadu government had earlier favoured the premature release of Nalini and Ravichandran, saying its 2018 advice for remission of their life sentence is binding upon the governor.

In two separate affidavits, the state government had told the top court that in a cabinet meeting held on September 9, 2018, it had considered mercy petitions of seven convicts in the case and resolved to recommend the Governor for remission of their life sentences invoking the power granted under

Article 161 of the Constitution. Nalini and Ravichandran had moved the apex court seeking premature release. Both of them had challenged a June



17 order of the Madras High Court, which rejected their pleas for early release, and cited the apex court judgment ordering the release of co-convict

Perarivalan. Nalini, Santhan, Murugan, Perarivalan, Robert Payas, Jayakumar and Ravichandran were sentenced to life terms and spent over 23 years in jail. The state government had earlier said it is the competent authority to take a decision on the petition filed by Nalini and Ravichandran under Article 161 of the Constitution and the "decision of the state cabinet dated September 9, 2018 thereon is final and it can be exercised by governor of Tamil Nadu as per the aid and advice of the cabinet". Both Nalini and Ravichandran have been on ordinary leave (parole) from December 27, 2021 till date as sanctioned by the Tamil Nadu government under the Tamil Nadu Suspension of Sentence Rules, 1982 then

and there based on their request. Nalini has been incarcerated in special prison for women, Vellore for more than 30 years while Ravichandran is lodged in Madurai Central Prison and has undergone 29 years of actual imprisonment and 37 years of imprisonment, including remission.

The High Court had on June 17 rejected the petitions of Nalini and Ravichandran, to order their release without even the consent of the state's governor. Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu, at a poll rally. In its May 1999 order, the top court had upheld the death sentence of four convicts Perarivalan, Murugan, Santhan and Nalini. (PTI)

Decision totally unacceptable, completely erroneous: Cong

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 /--/ The Congress on Friday termed "totally unacceptable and completely erroneous" the Supreme Court order directing the premature release of six convicts serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, and said the apex court has not acted in consonance with the spirit of India on this issue. In a statement, Congress general secretary in-

charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the decision of the Supreme Court to free the remaining killers of the former prime minister is "totally unacceptable and completely erroneous". "The Congress party criticises it clearly and finds it wholly untenable. It is most unfortunate that the Supreme Court has not acted in consonance with the spirit of India on this issue," he said. (PTI)

Himachal goes to polls today

BJP eyes history, Cong hopes tradition of voting out incumbent will continue

SHIMLA, NOV 11 /--/ The ruling BJP is hoping for an encore on the back of its development agenda, while the opposition Congress is urging voters to go by the four-decade old tradition of voting out incumbents in Himachal Pradesh which goes to poll on Saturday.

More than 55 lakh voters in the hill state will decide the fate of 412 candidates, including chief minister Jai Ram Thakur, former CM Virbhadrha Singh's son Vikramaditya Singh and former BJP chief Satpal Singh Satti, in the elections in 68 constituencies across the state. For the ruling BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led the campaign from the front, wrapping up his canvassing with a personal appeal to voters of the state, where he said every vote cast for the BJP symbol "lotus" will enhance his strength. BJP president J P Nadda, Union home minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath and Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Smriti Irani and Anurag Thakur held a series of poll meetings apart from public outreach while the opposition Congress has principally banked on general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

For the Congress, which has been on a downhill electorally since the last two election cycles,

wresting Himachal Pradesh from the BJP is a matter of survival. The stakes are high for the grand old party which has installed a non-Gandhi Congress president after 24 years, with former chief Rahul Gandhi giving the campaign circuit a complete miss. The Congress has lost in nine states over two years, including West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Puducherry in 2021 and Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur this year. The Congress is banking on anti-incumbency and is raising issues of price rise, unemployment and old pension scheme in this election to woo the voters and bring about a change.

For the BJP, a Himachal win would come as a feather in the cap of Modi, who has coined the slogan of "pro-incumbency" in context of the party. It has also asked voters to change the "riwaaz" by re-electing BJP as the "double engine" regime in the state will continue to work for all round development. The state has a history of voting out the incumbent. BJP chief J P Nadda earlier told news agency PTI that the party had emerged as a trend-setting force with people choosing to re-elect its incumbent governments and preferring it over other parties, where the BJP is not in power. A victory in Himachal would also boost the BJP's chances in the nine

state elections due next year, including the all-important Hindi heartland states of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, and later in the 2024 general elections.

New entrant Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s campaign in Himachal remained highly muted with the contest principally shaping up as a direct one between the BJP and the Congress in line with past trends. On poll eve, both the BJP and the Congress claimed they were headed towards a majority and would form the government. Political observers, meanwhile, said the last minute swing through door-to-door campaigns allowed on Friday could also count in the end-game.

The BJP has consciously worked to woo the significant women voters of the state who have been outnumbering their male counterparts in all elections starting 1998. The party has also released a standalone manifesto for women in an attempt to woo them.

The BJP has promised implementation of Uniform Civil Code and eight lakh jobs in the state, while the restoration of the old pension scheme, 300 units of free power and a Rs 680-crore StartUp fund are among the promises made by the Congress. Chief minister Thakur is contesting from Seraj in

Mandi while former BJP chief Satti is trying his luck from Una. Urban development minister Suresh Bhardwaj is contesting from Kasumpti, Congress CLP leader Mukesh Agnihotri from Haroli, Vikramaditya Singh from Shimla Rural, former HPCC chief and Campaign Committee chief Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu from Nadaun and Congress Manifesto Committee chief Dhani Ram Shandil in Solan.

A total of 1,21,409 voters are above the age of 80, including 1,136 centenarians. Of the total voters, 28,54,945 are male and 27,37,845 female voters in the state, which saw a polling percentage of 75.57 per cent in the 2017 Assembly polls. This is up from 73.5 per cent polling in the 2012 Assembly polls.

There are only 24 women candidates in the fray this time, against 19 in 2017 and 34 in the 2012 Assembly polls. The voting is scheduled from 8 am to 5 pm and the Election Commission has set up a total of 7,884 polling stations, including three auxiliary polling stations in far flung areas. Of these, 789 are vulnerable booths and 397 critical ones.

The EC has also set up its highest booth in Tashigang, Kaza in Spiti area of Lahaul Spiti district at a height of 15,256 feet that would cater to 52 voters. (PTI)

India, US underline need for further deepening of bilateral ties

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 /--/ Amid global turmoil, India and the US on Friday underlined the need of further deepening of bilateral ties, saying it would yield significant economic benefits for both the countries.

Speaking at the US-India Businesses and Investment Opportunities event here, US treasury secretary Janet Yellen also said that India is an indispensable partner to the United States. "That's particularly true today. I believe that these urgent challenges are bringing India and the United States closer together than ever before. Our partnership is especially

crucial as India prepares to assume the G20 presidency. "Over the next year, we look forward to supporting India's presidency and making progress on our shared global priorities," she said.

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her address at the meeting, outlined the sum and substance of the promise of India's continued resilience, its ongoing growth story, and the multitude of opportunities that India offers in times to come. "Capitalising on the same, what I envisage and envision is a much deeper, broad-based, and mutually beneficial collaboration between the two countries," she said. Yellen too said: "Deepening our bilateral

ties will reap significant economic benefits for both of our nations. At a time of global turmoil, I also believe that it will bolster our countries' resilience and national security." She further said the meeting is taking place at a moment when there are significant challenges for the global economy. "The pandemic continues to exert a drag on economies across the globe. (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's brutal war has claimed countless Ukrainian lives and livelihoods; it has also exacerbated food and energy insecurity across the world. Climate change continues to devastate communities with greater severity and frequency," Sitharaman said.

Yellen also noted that the US is India's biggest trading partner and the bilateral trade has reached an all-time high of over USD 150 billion in 2021. Direct investment from India in the US supported over 70,000 jobs at the end of 2020, she said. A broad range of American companies -- from Whirlpool to Boeing to GE -- invest in India. And Indian technology firms like Infosys and Mindtree are critical to the day-to-day operations of many American corporations, Yellen added. Sitharaman said that the Indian technology industry in the US has played a significant role in expanding the talent pool outside of traditional tech hub states. This, she

added, has contributed to some of these states, such as North Carolina, becoming emergent tech hubs.

The Indian tech industry directly and by supporting the US client base supported close to 1.6 million jobs and contributed about USD 198 billion to the US economy. Sitharaman also invited investments from the US as she highlighted the opportunities available in India. "I invite and call upon you, the stalwarts from business and prominent thought leaders, to participate in, and contribute to this vision of shared prosperity of India and the US," she said. (PTI)



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen issuing the joint press statement after the 9th meeting of India-US Economic Financial Partnership in New Delhi on Friday

Debacle Decoded: Stubbornness in selections, archaic approach from top order

MELBOURNE, NOV 11 /--/ Old habits die hard, and the adage was truly reflected in the Indian team's outdated approach in the T20 World Cup.

A dated batting approach in powerplay by the biggest stars, failure to zero in on one of the two wicket-keepers, and head coach Rahul Dravid's aversion to taking risks contributed to India's failure to go all the way in the showpiece in Australia. Their campaign ended with a 10-wicket surrender against England in the semi-finals in Adelaide on Thursday. At the end of it all, Dravid's one-year report card doesn't paint a rosy picture and a meticulous planner like him will sit back and think hard about the tough calls he might need to take before the ODI World Cup in a year's time. If skipper Rohit Sharma and Dravid put hands on their chests, they would know that reaching the semi-finals is a good enough finish for a team with multiple soft underbellies. The worst feeling for any cricket aficionado or a die hard fan is how the Indian team promised so much but flattered to deceive on the big days.

There are multiple reasons for the sixth defeat in nine years in a knockout game of a global competition. The first will be the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja due to stress fracture on back and knee surgery, respectively. Bumrah's presence always meant that there is a cushion of two overs at

the death. Jadeja is a pure all-rounder who could be used as a floater in the batting order to bring a left-hander in the equation. But these are the uncontrollables for a team that often harps on "only controlling the controllables." They couldn't do that, either.

Here are some of the main reasons for the disaster that was waiting to happen.

1) The top three's safety-first powerplay approach. Coming to the much-debated approach of the top three, perhaps KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma and, to somewhat lesser extent Virat Kohli, would admit that they failed to change their game with certain sameness in their styles.

As Nasser Hussain wondered why India played "old-fashioned powerplay cricket", Dravid in one of his interactions had admitted that they indeed failed to display the fearlessness expected in tough conditions for batting. In the top three, only one batter can afford to be an anchor, and perhaps, bat deep while the other two will have to attack. But Rahul (128 runs, 120.75), Rohit (116 runs, strike rate 106.42) and even Kohli (136.40) has been conservative in their approach in the powerplays. Against South Africa on a pitch that offered pace, they managed 33/2 while in an earlier game against Pakistan, it was 31/3 at the MCG. Then, on a placid Adelaide Oval track, 38/1 was inexcusable. Among the 16



teams that played this edition of the T20 World Cup, India with a tournament average powerplay run rate of 6.02, lay at an abysmal 15th place. Only UAE had inferior rate at 4.71. The buck stops at the top three's inability to score at a breakneck pace. But in the lead-up to the tournament, Rohit did show in the UK and the West Indies a change in his style during the first six overs, and his strike rate had risen to high 140 range.

But his propensity to play the pull shot and getting out multiple times is an indicator that reflexes have slowed down. During some of the pre World T20 games, Rohit had Rishabh Pant for company who was going hammer and tongs and

Suryakumar Yadav also was tried at that position. Even Deepak Hooda with his fearless approach looked the part as an opener. Everything changed once Rahul got fit and there was an unbelievable desperation to see him succeed. Rohit also got defensive the moment Rahul joined him. In fact, Rohit and Kohli in a bcci.tv interaction discussed how they need to "protect Rahul and keep him in good mindscape".

In that interview, Kohli also mentioned that he has told coaches about his approach where he would require 10 balls to set up the game. A strike rate of 136 is decent but it's not going to win you tourneys. Allowing Liam Livingstone to bowl three

overs by taking singles couldn't be a thing in isolation. Rahul has good T20 numbers, but if his IPL performances are looked at, very few have come in crunch games and he always takes time to accelerate. He played two maiden overs in powerplay, which is just not done in this format.

2) Rishabh Pant versus Dinesh Karthik. Whether one likes it or not, Pant in white-ball cricket is at his best when he is opening the innings without a care in the world. He might not have got big runs but showed intent. The moment it became a middle-order slot, the semi-retired Karthik at 37, came into the picture. The role of a designated finisher, with a target

of 25 to 30 off 10 balls, is a good challenge on the sub-continental surfaces where he plays the IPL, but the moment the ball bounced a bit extra and jagged around, he was found wanting.

Then suddenly, a match before the semifinals the "Karthik experimentation" was done away with, and the team management sought the left-handed option in Pant. If Karthik was specifically prepared for the last four months for this tournament why did the team, citing tactical change, switched to Pant. His confidence in this whole merry-go-round took a serious beating. This was done only to accommodate Rahul at the top.

3) Not using Yuzvendra Chahal. Yuzvendra Chahal is India's top wicket-taker in T20s, but funnily enough, hasn't played a single T20 World Cup game as he was dropped in one edition and warmed the bench this time. Someone who can turn his leg-breaks and bowl a good googly, Chahal wasn't played against the English batting lineup, against whom he had good match ups. Instead, they preferred Axar Patel, who was disappointing. His wicket-to-wicket bowling on true surfaces with even bounce was cannon fodder for batters. Whether it was Iftikhar Ahmed or Alex Hales, he was being hit out of the park for fun. He played five games and couldn't complete his quota in most of them, going at

an economy of 8.62 runs per over.

The logic that he is a batting-order floater also didn't work as he seldom got a decent hit. That raises the question why would Chahal need a cushion of a lower batter (say Harshal Patel) in order to protect him. If the top five specialist batters aren't able to stack up the numbers, how could a bowler do that job. Adil Rashid's dominance was a case in point.

4) Dravid's decision making. Dravid has firmly entrenched himself in the position of the head coach in last one year but the time has come for him to dismantle the current template and set a new one. Batters such as Shubman Gill, Prithvi Shaw, Rahul Tripathi, Rajat Patidar have shown immense promise and need to be groomed with two years in hand for the next T20 World Cup. Similarly, dumping Avesh Khan for a few bad end overs in the Asia Cup seemed a bit contradictory. Rahul got umpteen games to succeed and all it took to reject Avesh was a couple of bad outings. Two bad Asia Cup matches and it was decided that Harshal Patel needed to be roped in post injury, and such was his plight that he wasn't considered for any of the games after replacing Avesh.

Dravid needs to make tough calls but in one year, he hasn't rocked the boat. Will he do that in the future? Watch out for this space. (PTI)

We can call them chokers, says Kapil after India's T20 World Cup exit

NEW DELHI, NOV 11 /--/ Legendary all-rounder Kapil Dev has labelled the current Indian team as "chokers" after its elimination from the T20



World Cup following a 10-wicket drubbing by England in the second semifinal in Adelaide. The heavy defeat on Thursday marked India's fifth knockout loss in the last six World Cups.

"I will not go into the details and slam them because these are the same players who have gotten us a lot of respect in the past but yes, we can call them chokers. That's okay. There is no denying it -- after coming so close, they choke," Kapil told ABP News. The 1983 World Cup-winning skipper, however, said fans should not be too critical of the team's performance in the semifinals.

"I agree, India played bad cricket, but we cannot be overly critical based on just one game.

"See, now that the match is over, it is unfair that we should come down this hard on the Indian team. Yes, they did not play well and criticism is justified. But as far as today's match, all we can say is that England read the pitch better and played better cricket. Kapil said the youngsters must come forward now and take the team to the top.

"I would say that the team needs to look ahead. It's time for the younger players to come forward and take charge." India last won an ICC tournament in 2013 when they beat England to claim the Champions Trophy. Since then, they have qualified for the knockout stages of the 2014 T20 World Cup (final), 2015 ODI World Cup (semifinal), 2016 T20 World Cup (semifinal), 2017 Champions Trophy (final), 2019 ODI World Cup (semifinal), 2021 World Test Championship Final, the 2022 T20 World Cup (semifinal), but lost all of them. England completely outplayed India by reaching the target of 169 in just 16 overs with opener Alex Hales and captain Jos Buttler slamming unbeaten half-centuries. (PTI)

What have India done since winning 50-over World Cup? asks Vaughan

LONDON, NOV 11 /--/ India has achieved absolutely "nothing" since winning the World Cup on home soil in 2011 and has been the most under-performing white-ball team in the history, former England skipper Michael Vaughan said on Friday. Vaughan blamed team's dated approach in white ball games for lack of performance following team's ouster from the T20 World Cup.

"India are the most under-performing white-ball team in history," Vaughan wrote in his column for 'The Telegraph'.

"Every player in the world who goes to the Indian Premier League says how it improves their game but what have India ever delivered?" "Since winning the 50 over World Cup on home soil in 2011 what have they done? Nothing. India are playing a white-ball game that is dated and have done for years."

Despite having the prodigiously talented Rishabh Pant in the squad, India opted to go with veteran Dinesh Karthik in the first four Super 12 matches. They include the dashing left-hander in the last group match against Zimbabwe and then the semifinal. But even in those two matches, Pant was under utilised as he came in to bat at No. 5 and No. 6 respectively with hardly any overs left. Vaughan said he is baffled by India's



approach in the shortest format.

"How they have not maximised someone like Rishabh Pant is incredible. In this era, put him up the top to launch it," he wrote.

"I'm just staggered by how they play T20 cricket for the talent they have. They have the players, but just do not have the right process in place. They have to go for it." In the absence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, the Indian bowlers cut a sorry figure while defending 169 against England as Alex Hales and Jos Buttler amassed 63 for 0 in the powerplay before achieving the target with four overs to spare.

"Why do they give the opposition bowlers the first five overs to bed in?", wrote Vaughan.

"They have a left-armer in Arshdeep Singh who swings it back into the right-handers. So what do they do defending 168? They put on Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowling outswing to give Jos Buttler and Alex Hales

width. "Where is the left-arm seamer swinging it in to Buttler and Hales in the first over? "Madness. Cramp them for room. Do not give them a chance to get off to a flyer in the first over and settle nerves." The 48-year-old also highlighted the lack of bowling options in the current Indian team and said the need of the hour is to have more batting all-rounders, a fact which spin legend Anil Kumble has also pointed out.

"How have they only got five bowling options when you think 10 or 15 years ago all of India's top six could bowl a little bit - Sachin Tendulkar, Suresh Raina, Virender Sehwag and even Sourav Ganguly? "None of the batsmen bowl so the captain has only got five options. Their (India) bowling options are too few, they do not bat deep enough and lack spin tricks." The team management's decision to not play leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal throughout the tournament also cost India dear.

Cleiton Silva haunts former club as East Bengal FC hand Bengaluru FC a third straight loss

BENGALURU, NOV 11 /--/ Cleiton Silva left his former fanbase in silence, scoring the only goal of the game as East Bengal FC handed Bengaluru FC their third straight 0-1 defeat of the season in the Hero Indian Super League (ISL) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, in Bengaluru, on Friday. The Blues failed to score in their third consecutive game as the Torch Bearers secured their first clean sheet of the season.

The Blues saw quite a few players recover from injuries during the extended break as Simon Grayson made three changes. Suresh Wangjam, Udanta Singh and Javier Hernandez started together for the first time this season. The Torch Bearers made just one change with Ankit Mukherjee replacing the suspended Sarthak Golui. No goals were scored in the opening 45 as the hosts finished the half without a single shot on target. In the first minute, Bruno Silva fired an effort from distance that flashed just wide of



East Bengal FC's Cleiton Augusto Oliveira Silva (10), celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal against Bengaluru FC

goal. Ten minutes later, Charis Kyriakou tried his luck from range, but his strike was collected comfortably by Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

Two minutes past the hour-mark, Roy Krishnaw was put clean through on goal with a sublime pass from

Hernandez. The Fijian entered the box but scuffed what would be Bengaluru FC's only substantial chance.

In the 69th minute, the deadlock was finally broken. Running towards his own goal on the left as the last man, Wangjam came

under pressure from Mahesh and miskicked his backpass towards the goalkeeper.

Mahesh pounded on the loose ball and was one-on-one with the keeper when he squared it for Silva, who calmly tapped the ball in against his former club. A minute away from 90, Chhetri flicked the ball towards Krishna who managed to get past the keeper but could not avoid Ivan Gonzalez's brilliant last-ditch tackle that took the ball away from him. Six minutes were added on but the Blues could not breach the visitors' defence. The season's second win for East Bengal FC saw them leapfrog Bengaluru FC in the Hero ISL table and move into eighth place. The Blues are now ninth in the table, level on four points with Jamshedpur FC.

For their next game, the Torch Bearers will return to the Salt Lake Stadium to face Odisha FC on November 18, Friday. The Blues will travel to the west coast to face Mumbai City FC next on November 17, Thursday. (Agency)

Dravid rested for NZ tour, Laxman to coach India

ADELAIDE, NOV 11 /--/ National Cricket Academy head VVS Laxman will be India's acting head coach for the upcoming tour of New Zealand as the Rahul Dravid-led coaching staff has been given a break post the team's exit from the T20 World Cup.

India is slated to play six white-ball games in New Zealand, including three T20Is and as many ODIs, starting November 18 in Wellington. While senior players like regular skipper Rohit Sharma, star batter Virat Kohli, opener KL Rahul and spinner Ravichandran Ashwin have been rested for the tour, the entire coaching staff has also been given a break after the T20 World Cup.

"The NCA team headed by Laxman with Hrishikesh Kanitkar (batting) and Sairaj Bahutule (bowling) will join the New Zealand-bound squad," a BCCI source told PTI. This will not be the first time Laxman will be in charge of the Indian team. The former cricketer previously coached India during the tours of Zimbabwe and Ireland and the recent ODI home series against South Africa. All-rounder Hardik Pandya will lead the side in the T20 series while veteran opener Shikhar Dhawan will captain the ODI side. Rohit will be back to lead the side in Bangladesh. Kohli and Ashwin will also return to the squad for the Bangladesh tour where



India will play three ODIs and two Tests, beginning December 4. India were unceremoniously knocked out of the T20 World Cup after England handed them a 10-wicket hammering in the semifinal in Adelaide on Thursday. The members

who are not part of the New Zealand leg have already started dispersing. While Kohli left from Adelaide, Rahul and Rohit are also expected to fly out soon.

A lot of squad members will also disperse from Sydney and Perth. (PTI)

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