

GBPH COPING UNSUCCESSFULLY WITH MEDICAL SPECIALISTS' SHORTAGE

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, JAN 3/--/A good chunk of the UT budget is consumed by the Health sector in the Islands, but the healthcare facilities here have been severely hit by



an acute shortage of doctors and medical specialists. The condition of health care-services in the islands is way worse than it used to be about 2-3 years ago. Though, as per official records, the Directorate of Health Services runs three District Hospitals, four Community Health Centres, Five Urban Health Centres, one AYUSH Hospital, 22 Primary Health

Centres and many Health Sub Centres in these islands, but on ground lack of medical specialists, acute shortage of doctors, staff nurse, Aaya, sanitary staff etc have been taking a toll with patients having to suffer on account of lack of medical specialists and technical staff. One will be surprised to know that in the last few years, as many as 14 doctors, most of them medical specialists engaged in the GB Pant Hospital, have voluntarily left their jobs to join the private sector. The reasons being many, firstly inordinate delays in payment of monthly salary to the doctors, secondly no job extension and above all extreme level of politics among various groups of doctors in the Health department. Presently, GB Pant Hospital has no Cardiologist, Orthopaedic, Neurologist, Radiologist, Psychologist and the likes. This is despite the fact that the number of patients suffering from related diseases or disorders has been on the rise, claimed sources. GB Pant hospital has almost all the latest equipment and machines, but the shocking part is most

of the time, these high end machines have been left unused for many reasons such as lack of technicians. On most occasions patients are told to get the test reports from private hospitals or clinics.

A Cath Lab has been developed in the GB Pant Hospital by spending about Rs 6 crore. But despite several pleas to provide adequate staff (16 to be specific) by the Cardiologist, only two trained staff nurses and three other staff were provided. Imagine how a Cardiologist can operate on critical surgeries without the needed staff. Doctors bid goodbye as soon as their contract period is over. At the same time, GB Pant Hospital has some doctors who have been given extension on repeated basis and are still working on extension. Medical specialists who are hired for a period of three years are also shown the doors immediately after their contract periods are over, just because to protect the monopoly of a few blue-eyed.

Another problem plaguing GB Pant Hospital is the bad condition of the Operation Theater. The roof of the OT has been leaking for the past two years and

In the past few years about 14 specialist doctors have left GB Pant Hospital voluntarily citing unfriendly reasons to join the private sector. This has resulted in acute shortage of doctors and medical specialists in the government hospital

despite complaints by the doctors, no repair work has been carried out. The OT is plagued by fungus and patients have complained that after critical operations they suffer from infection. Many patients have revisited the hospital complaining of septic wounds. The Union Health State Minister in her recent visit to GB Pant hospital has expressed satisfaction over the overall health delivery system in the islands. A detailed inspection by senior health officers into the existing health-care system will reveal the shortfall in the health-care delivery system in the islands. The health minister in the press meet also informed that initiatives will be taken on a faster mode to fill-up all vacant posts. Now it needs to be seen when the health authorities here will fulfill the promise of the union health minister.

MP sanctions Rs. 54 lakhs for development of playground at Stewartgunj GP



PORT BLAIR, JAN 3/--/The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has sanctioned Rs. 54 Lakhs for the development of a playground at Tankya Pahad under Stewartgunj Gram Panchayat, Ferrargunj Tehsil. The amount has been sanctioned to promote sports and cultural activities in the region so that youths of the region can continue to keep themselves busy in constructive activities.

100 years old woman presented with Islander Card



KARTIK

MAYABUNDER, JAN 3/--/The Deputy Commissioner, N&M Andaman on Tuesday presented Islander Identity card to a 100 year old woman Smti. Naw Pwamy, a resident of Lucknow village under Mayabunder Tehsil. The Assistant Commissioner, Mayabunder and Teshildar were also present on the occasion.

Encroachment evicted

KARTIK

MAYABUNDER, JAN 3/--/On the direction of the Deputy Commissioner, N&M Andaman, the field staff of Revenue department of Mayabunder conducted an eviction drive on 2nd January 2023 at Mayabunder village. ARCC bathroom constructed over govt land was demolished and an area of 50 sqm restored into government account.



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Constitution a living document, capable of incorporating changing hopes, aspirations of people: Prez

JAIPUR, JAN 3 /--/ Terming the Constitution as a living document, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said it was fully capable of incorporating the changing hopes and aspirations of people. "Our democracy is the largest and most vibrant democracy in the world. The Constitution is the basis of our great democracy," Murmu said while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Constitution Park at Raj Bhavan here. Referring to the 105 Constitutional amendments, she said, "In this way, our Constitution is a living document which is fully capable of containing the hopes and aspirations of the public changing with time." The makers created a comprehensive Constitution due to their sensitivity

towards each section of society and awareness of each level of democracy and each aspect of administration, she said. "Our visionary Constitution makers had clarity of thought about the rights of future generations to create systems according to their needs. That is why the provision for Constitutional amendments were included in the Constitution itself," the President said. Murmu said



women, on the strength of their struggle and ability, were continuously increasing their presence from Panchayat Bhavans to the Parliament and serving the society and the country. Apart from valour, Rajasthan's history was one of dignity and empowerment of women, she added. Murmu also expressed confidence that the Constitution Park would inspire the coming generations. "The main purpose of building this Constitution Park is to maintain awareness about the ideals of the Constitution. This is a very important objective, which is a big effort towards keeping the democracy of our country strong," the President added. Noting that the park was built in less than a year under the Smart City Mission,

Governor Kalraj Mishra said the Constitution was the best explanation of democracy and reflected the ideals of the nation. During his address, chief minister Ashok Gehlot also underlined the importance of awareness of the Constitution. After inaugurating the park by unveiling a plaque and cutting the ribbon, Murmu took a round of the venue and spoke to architect Anoop Bartaria. The park, built by the Jaipur Development Authority at an estimated cost of Rs 9 crore, showcases the Constitution's journey from its making to its implementation through sculptures and pictures on panelled glass, among others. Folk artistes, including acclaimed performer Gulabo Sapera, performed at the event. (PTI)



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra waving at supporters during the second leg of Bharat Jodo Yatra in New Delhi on Tuesday

Cong says PM Modi's New Year 'gift' cuts rations of 81 cr poor by 50 per cent

NEW DELHI, JAN 3 /--/ The Congress on Tuesday alleged that the Modi government has reduced the ration of the 81 crore poor people by 50 percent in the new year. The Opposition party said 81 crore Indians who were eligible for 10 kilograms of food grains will now get only five kilograms. "The year 2023 began with the depressing news that PM Modi's Cabinet has discontinued the Pradhan Mantri Garib Anna Kalyan Yojana (PMGKAY), which provided an additional 5 kgs of food grains to beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA)," said AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh. He said with this sudden reduction of rations by 50 percent, the Prime Minister has taken this "regressive" decision with no consultation with state governments nor any discussion in Parliament. The Centre had undertaken the distribution of free food grains for 28 months under PMGKAY in view of the Covid pandemic but the scheme ended in December. However, the Cabinet has decided that subsidised food grains distributed to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries under NFSA will be given free in 2023. Union minister Piyush Goyal has said 5 kg of food grains per person to Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries and 35 kg per household to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries (poorest of the poor) will be provided free of cost for the year 2023 and stressed that it showed the "sensitivity" of the Modi government. But Ramesh on Tuesday accused the Modi government of "falsely trumpeting" the free five kg of grains under the NFSA as a historic decision benefiting the poor. The main beneficiary, however, is the Modi government which will save over Rs. 1 lakh crore, and not ration card holders whose spending will increase," he said in a statement.

The Congress leader alleged that now a family of five is forced to spend around Rs 750 more every month, which is around Rs 9,000 more every year. The Congress leader also dubbed the Prime Minister as a "master of U-turn", alleging that he opposed schemes like MGNREGA and NFSA during UPA but now takes credit for them. The Modi government was forced to provide extra rations during the Covid-19 pandemic due to the deep economic distress, he said and claimed a similar situation is prevailing today. Every basic necessity is more expensive than it was at the time of the UPA government, incomes of the majority of Indians have not risen, and unemployment is at a record high, he claimed. Ramesh said the "Hunger Watch" survey finds that 80% of people report some form of food insecurity. India now ranks 107 of 121 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2022, he said. "The Modi government needs to be reminded that providing rations under NFSA is not a gift to the people of India, but their right, Ramesh said. "The Indian National Congress calls on the Modi government to use the Rs 1 lakh crore saved by discontinuing PMGKAY to strengthen the food security system in three ways. "First, nearly 10 crore people who should hold ration cards are excluded because of the inordinate delay in the 2021 Census. They must be included immediately," the former Union minister said. The Congress leader alleged that the Centre has failed to respond to the Supreme Court order that rations should be provided to all migrant workers even if they do not hold ration cards. "It must immediately comply," he stressed. "The NFSA provides Rs. 6,000 per child to women as maternity entitlements. However, the government illegally limits this to Rs.5,000 for the first child only. The Modi government must stop violating the NFSA immediately," the former Union minister said. "In 2013, CM Modi opposed the NFSA. From MGNREGA to the NFSA, CM Modi opposed pro-people UPA policies, but PM Modi takes credit for them. He truly is the U-Turn Ustad," Ramesh alleged. (PTI)

Kanjhawala: Delhi CM announces Rs 10 lakh compensation to victim's family AAP MLAs meet Delhi Police Chief, seek strict punishment for accused

NEW DELHI, JAN 3 /--/ Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh for the kin of the woman who was killed after being hit and dragged by a car here, and said the Delhi government will appoint the best lawyer to fight the case. The chief minister, who also spoke to the victim's mother, said the cost of her treatment will be fully taken care of by the government. The 20-year-old woman, killed in the early hours of New Year after her scooter was hit by a car, was dragged for 12 kilometres under the vehicle on the city's roads, according to the police. Five men who were allegedly in the car have been booked for culpable homicide among other sections. The woman was the sole breadwinner of the family and her mother suffers kidney-related ailment and requires dialysis.

The police have been charged with conducting a "shoddy investigation". "Spoke to the victim's mother. Will get justice for the daughter. Will field the biggest lawyer. Her mother remains ill. Will get her fully treated. Will give a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the victim's family. The government is with the victim's family. If there is any need in future also we will fulfil them," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi. The police



had on Monday said the victim's body was found naked on a roadside in outer Delhi's Kanjhawala area. Earlier in the day, a delegation of AAP MLAs met Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora and demanded the strictest punishment for those involved in the Kanjhawala accident. They also sought the dismissal of the district deputy commissioner of police for allegedly shielding the accused. The AAP delegation, led by MLAs Saurabh Bhardwaj and Atishi, submitted a memorandum to Arora in which they demanded the dismissal of deputy commissioner of police (outer district) Harendra K Singh for allegedly shielding the accused. They also demanded the dismissal of the police officers deployed on the route along which the woman was dragged. (PTI)

Karnataka bizman suicide case: Cong leaders seek arrest of BJP MLA, others named in FIR

BENGALURU, JAN 3 /--/ Congress leaders on Tuesday demanded the arrest of Karnataka BJP MLA Arvind Limbavali and five others named in the FIR in connection with the alleged suicide of a businessman, and urged the state government to ensure justice to his family. Siddaramaiah, who is Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly and Randeep Surjewala, who is Congress general secretary in-charge of the State, along with KPCC working president Ramalinga Reddy, met Pradeep's family at their residence here. Pradeep (47) was found dead in his car at Nettigere near here on Sunday. He had allegedly shot himself in the head inside his car. The deceased had purportedly left behind an eight-page death note that named Mahadevapura MLA Aravind Limbavali and five others, following which an FIR was registered by the police against them.

"This is an unfortunate incident linked to a financial deal, it should not have happened. Pradeep's wife Namita with sorrow said her husband should get justice and that he had invested Rs 1.5 crore into a financial deal, out of which there was no profit or even a paisa so far. The family wants that money back," the former Karnataka chief minister said. Speaking to newsmen after meeting the family, he said, as MLA of the locality, Arvind Limbavali is said to have tried to settle things. "Namita is not alleging anything, she is only saying that she wants justice and was not angry with anyone, but when the inference is drawn, six names are mentioned in the death note, which also includes the name of Limbavali. If his name is taken, he is in some way responsible for the death, or else why he would write," he added. Noting that the FIR has been

registered against Limbavali and five others, the Congress legislature party leader said police should immediately ensure the financial issue is settled and the family gets the money that was invested by Pradeep. "Also, immediately everyone should be arrested and action should be taken in accordance with law against those responsible for the death. Arrest should happen and criminal trial should follow, and police should ensure that the culprits are punished whether it is a MLA or anyone else. Mistake is a mistake, whoever it may be, they should be punished as per law," he said. Suggesting that if not arrested, he claimed evidence may be destroyed by the accused. "Family even alleged that the police took the mobile phone late at night. Police trying to link different angles to the case now is not correct," he said. (PTI)

Cinema hall owner can determine whether food from outside be permitted: SC

NEW DELHI, JAN 3 /--/ The Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday the owners of cinema halls are entitled to set the terms and conditions for sale of food and beverages and can determine whether outside food should be permitted within the theatre precincts. The apex court set aside a direction of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court which had in July 2018 directed multiplex and cinema hall

owners there not to prohibit moviegoers from carrying their own food articles and water inside the theatres. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha observed that cinema hall is a private property of the owner, who is entitled to have terms and conditions so long as they are not contrary to public interest, safety and welfare. "Viewers visit a cinema hall for the purpose of



entertainment. We are clearly of the view that the High Court transgressed the limits in the exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution by ordering and directing the state to ensure that there should be no prohibition on a moviegoer bringing eatables and beverages from outside within the precinct of a cinema hall," the bench said. The apex court was hearing a batch of pleas

challenging the direction given by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court. The bench said whether or not to see a movie is entirely the choice of the viewer and, if he or she seeks to enter a cinema hall, they have to abide by the terms and conditions subject to which the entry is granted. "...it is open to the theatre owner to determine as to whether food from outside the precinct of the hall should be permitted

within," it said, adding that it is evidently a matter of commercial decision of a theatre owner. The bench noted that during the course of the arguments before it, the counsel appearing for the appellants stated that due arrangements are made for the supply of hygienic drinking water to the moviegoers without levying any charge within the precinct of the cinema hall. (PTI)

Kerala health minister orders inspection of eateries after incidents of food poisoning

KOTTAYAM, JAN 3 /--/ In the wake of food poisoning incidents being reported in the state, Kerala health minister Veena George on Tuesday ordered 'widespread' inspections across all 14 districts and stringent action against outlets operating without licence or serving adulterated and unhygienic meals. The direction was given by the minister to the food safety department, a release issued by the health department said. George, according to the release, directed the Food Safety Department to inspect eateries across the state and to cancel licences of those in which adulterated or unhygienic food and unsanitary cooking conditions are found. Action was also ordered against those functioning without any licence or registration, the release said. "Serving adulterated or expired food is a criminal offence. The government will take strict action, including revocation of licence, against the same as it is a matter that seriously affects the people's health and lives," the minister said. She said that once a licence is revoked, it would be difficult to get it again later. The minister asked eateries as well as those who prepare and distribute food to make a conscious effort to ensure people's health and lives are not affected. The directions come after incidents of food poisoning were reported from Pathanamthitta and Kottayam districts in the state. In Pathanamthitta, over 100 people suffered from suspected food poisoning on January 1 after allegedly taking meals during a baptism function in a church near Keezhvaipur area of the district, police had said. Subsequently, George had ordered an enquiry into the incident and called for a report. In Kozhikode, around 21 people fell ill after allegedly consuming food from an eatery there in December last year, police said. Besides that, a woman - a nurse in Kottayam Medical College - died on Monday allegedly after consuming food from the same eatery. While her parents claimed before the media that it was a case of food poisoning and that she had eaten food from the same eatery as the 21 others, police said there was no material or evidence presently to confirm either allegation. Her parents also demanded strict action against those responsible for their daughter's death. Meanwhile, BJP Councillors of Kottayam Municipality raised the issue with the office of the civic body's chairperson. At the same time, workers of DYFI - the youth wing of CPM - vandalised the exteriors of the eatery in question, according to visuals shown on TV channels. In the wake of these incidents and related protests, George issued the latest directions which also include orders to food safety officers to ensure that every eatery and restaurant under their jurisdiction is registered and licenced and that proper and prompt action is taken on complaints made by consumers, the release said. (PTI)

Rahul 'perpetually confused', wants India to surrender before China: BJP

NEW DELHI, JAN 3 /--/ The BJP on Tuesday derided Rahul Gandhi for being "perpetually confused" and accused the Congress leader of wanting India to surrender before China following his recent remarks on the border tensions. India cannot be understood only by travelling across the country, one needs to understand Indianness, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said. "Discovery of India has been going on for four generations (of Gandhi's family)," Trivedi said in an apparent reference to Jawaharlal Nehru's 'Discovery of India'. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, the party spokesperson took a dig at Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra and said the Congress leader had become a victim of confusion during his travels. Referring to the former Congress president's remarks on the tensions along the border with China in his interview with actor Kamal Hasan, Trivedi said: "Rahul Gandhi has made his intention clear that India should surrender before China in the same way it used to happen during his party's government." The BJP leader added that the interview was an interaction between a "perpetually confused and tensed leader" and "confused film star". "But he has dispelled India's illusion... His statement on China is indicating that India should bow down to China," Trivedi added. He also asked if Rahul was making such comments because of "donations his party got from China or because of agreements between his party and the Communist Party of China". Trivedi claimed that the Congress leader was blinded by hatred for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and asked him to name four to five countries that were standing with China while the "world is standing with India". To further prove his point, the BJP spokesperson cited Chinese thinker Hu Shih and his observation that "India conquered and dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across her border". Calling India the only surviving civilisation of the ancient world, Trivedi condemned the Congress and a haul for "lowering the country's honour". (PTI)

Awareness prog on TB & NI-KSHAY Mitra (donor) under PM TB Mukht Bharat Avhiyan held



PORT BLAIR, JAN 3/--/ Under National TB Elimination programme (NTEP) the State TB Unit, Port Blair organized awareness programmes on TB & "Community Support to TB Patients" – NikshayMitra (Donor)" under PradhanMantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaanat Govt. Secondary. School Delanipur, Govt. Secondary. School Junglighat, Govt. Secondary. School South Point

and Govt. Secondary. School Dairy Farm with the objective to provide additional nutrition support to TB patient and augment community involvement to eliminate TB by 2025. Tapan Kumar Ray, IEC Officer, spoke in detail about the transmission, clinical manifestation, prevention and control of TB, TB/HIV Co-infection, the ill-effect of alcoholism and smoking particularly in relation to the

treatment of TB, He also informed about the incentives given to the patient during the treatment under NI-KshayPoshanYoajna and about NikshayMitra (Donor) under PradhanMantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan and requested the Teachers to come forward and become Ni-kshayMitra and make this Abhiyaan a success. Finally the gathering was urged to propagate the message in the community.

IGNOU 36th convocation registration opens

PORT BLAIR, JAN 3/--/The 36th Convocation of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), is likely to be held in the month of January/February, 2023. Those learners who have completed their programme of study in December- 2021 and June- 2022 Term-End Examination are eligible for award of original Certificate at this Convocation.

Eligible students are required to register themselves for obtaining the Degree/Diploma certificate and pay the requisite fee through online mode only by clicking the link: <https://onlineservices.ignou.ac.in/convocation/> or www.ignou.ac.in. The fee for obtaining the original degree/diploma certificate for Ph.D/ M.Phil/ Master Degree/

Bachelor Degree/ PG Diploma/ Diploma programmes is Rs. 600/- per certificate. For general query on the convocation, learners may contact the following number 011-29572224 and email: convocation@ignou.ac.in or contact IGNOU Regional Centre, Port Blair over Phone: 03192-242888, 03192-230111 or Email: reportblair@ignou.ac.in.

Awareness prog on TB & Community support to TB patients

PORT BLAIR, JAN 3/--/ Under National TB Elimination programme (NTEP) the State TB Unit, Port Blair organized awareness programmes on TB & Community Support to TB Patients – Ni-KshayMitra (Donor) under PradhanMantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan at Govt. Secondary. School Delanipur, Govt. Secondary. School Junglighat, Govt. Secondary. School, South Point and Govt. Secondary. School,

Dairy Farm with the objective to provide additional nutrition support to TB patient and augment community involvement to eliminate TB by 2025. Mr. Tapan Kumar Ray, IEC Officer, spoke about the transmission, clinical manifestation, prevention and control of TB, TB/HIV Co-infection, the ill-effect of alcoholism and smoking particularly in relation to the

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CPI (M) area committee demands steps to arrest price rise

PORT BLAIR, JAN 3/--/ The CPI (M) Port Blair Area Committee has expressed concern over the unchecked price rise of all the essential commodities in the islands. In a letter sent to the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration recently, Smt D. Hemlatha, Secretary, Port Blair Area Committee said that prices of all essential commodities are increasing day-by-day and there is no control over it from the side of the Administration. She said that prices of vegetables, fish, meat, milk, etc are hiked at the will and wish of the traders involved in it with the tacit support of the authorities. People especially those belonging to poorer strata of the society are unable to pull on the days due to this unchecked price rise. Civil Supplies Department has completely failed to arrest the spiraling prices. She informed the Chief Secretary that CPI (M) Port Blair Area Committee in its meeting held on 29th December, 2022 reviewed this situation and expressed concern over the spiraling prices and the failure on the part of the authorities to check the price rise in these islands. CPI (M) Port Blair Area Committee demanded immediate necessary action to control the prices of essential commodities which will be of immense relief to the islanders particularly poorer sections

of the society. Through another letter, D. Hemlatha, Secretary, CPI (M) Port Blair Area Committee has expressed concern over the delay in disbursing the Old Age Pension and Widow Pension to the beneficiaries. In a letter sent to the Secretary (SW), Secretary Area Committee of the Party stated that Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, etc are not being disbursed to the beneficiaries on time. There is reportedly undue delay in disbursement of these pensions by the Directorate of Social Welfare. The beneficiaries who are all poorer sections of the society are facing difficulties due to delay in disbursing their pension by the department. CPI (M) Area Secretary stated that there is undue delay in processing the applications for the widow pension and old age pension at various stages in the Social Welfare Department. CPI (M) Port Blair Area Secretary demanded to take necessary action to ensure that the old age pension and widow pension are disbursed to the beneficiaries concerned on time without any delay every month. Party requested the Secretary (SW) to issue necessary instructions to the officials concerned to process the applications received for grant of widow pension/old age pension, etc immediately on receipt of it.

MBA students urged to meet the Coordinator, Pondicherry University

PORT BLAIR JAN 3/--/ Graduate students interested in studying MBA (Business Administration) at Pondicherry University, Port Blair campus have been requested to meet the Coordinator, Department of Management, Pondicherry University Campus at Brookshabad on Jan. 4 & 5, 2023 from 10 am to 5 pm with all educational and other relevant documents for filling up the vacant seats through spot admission.

Condolence message

PORT BLAIR, JAN 3/--/ CPI (M) Andaman & Nicobar State Organising Committee mourn the sudden demise of Shri AK Shreejayan, a resident of Calicut, South Andaman today (3.1.2023) morning at GB Pant Hospital, Port Blair. He was 72 years. He left behind his wife and two children. CPI (M) conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved family members. His body will be taken for funeral from his house at Calicut at 10 a.m on 4th January, 2023.

MP mourns demise

PORT BLAIR, JAN 3/--/ The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has deeply mourned the sad demise of Mr. Sajid Sulaiman, R/o. Round Basthi, a well-known singer of these Islands, who passed away this morning at the ICU of G B Pant Hospital. He prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul and for enough strength for the members of the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

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Passengers can purchase seating class tickets in Sindhu

PORT BLAIR, JAN 3/--/The vessel Sindhu is scheduled to sail for Chennai on 4th January 2023 at 1600 Hrs from Haddo Wharf. Bunk Class tickets for the sailing have already been sold out. However, considering the demand from the public to travel to Chennai by ship, it is decided by this Directorate to issue seating class tickets to the passengers in the sailing. Therefore, passengers who are intending to avail the sailing of Sindhu on 04.01.2023 may purchase the seating class tickets from STARS ticketing Counters, Phoenix Bay on 04.01.2023 between 0900 Hrs to 1200 Hrs on First cum First Serve basis.

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NATION NEWS

Assam: 43pc of houses under PMAY-U completed, says minister

GUWAHATI, JAN 3/--Assam has completed construction of 65,469 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) out of the allotted 1.51 lakh units so far, a state minister said on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference here, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Ashok Singhal said the Centre has sanctioned 1.51 lakh houses for Assam since the beginning of the scheme. "We have completed 65,469 units in total and 32,003 houses of them were constructed during the last one year. Around 32,000 more units are at

different phases of completion," he added. A total of Rs 293.79 crore has been utilised during 2022-23 as direct benefit transfer for construction of the dwelling units, Singhal said. He said the government is planning to develop a satellite township at Jagiroad in Nagaon district on the land acquired from the defunct Nagaon Paper Mill of the Hindustan Paper Corp. "This will be a world-class Amrit-Guwahati Integrated City, spread across 1,000 acres. We have appointed Singapore-based consultant Surbana Jurong for preparing the master plan, which is

likely to be ready by March 31 this year," Singhal said. The minister, who also looks after the Irrigation Department, said all the districts of the state were instructed last year to prepare an irrigation master plan, which has been submitted by 28 districts and the remaining will do it within the next month. "Our target is to create irrigation facilities for 10 lakh tonnes of paddy across the state. So far, irrigation potential has been created in 7.86 lakh hectares, but many of these schemes are defunct now," he added. (PTI)

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right place but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment

Dorothy Neville

India is Nepal’s top inbound tourist market

India has emerged as Nepal's top inbound tourist market in 2022 as the key sector in the Himalayan nation is gradually witnessing recovery from the onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic. Of the total 614,148 foreign visitors from January to December last year, 209,105 were from India, followed by the US with 77,009 and the UK 44,781, according to data published by the Nepal Tourism Board (NTB). The highest number of tourists - 88,582 - entered Nepal in October while in November the tourist arrivals was 72,653, which was the second highest for the year 2022. Australia is in fourth place with 26,874 inbound visitors, while Bangladesh with 25,384 tourists ranked fifth in the list. The arrival of 614,148 tourists last year indicates a significant recovery in the Nepal tourism sector, says the country's tourism promotional body Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) CEO Dhananjay Regmi. In 2021, the country witnessed only 150,962 tourist footfall, while it was 230,085 in 2020, according to the data. The recovery of Nepal in 2022 was better than other SAARC nations and Southeast Asia and it would have been up to 80 per cent if the Chinese tourists had been able to visit. Due to strict policies put in place by the northern neighbour in a bid to control the possible spread of the COVID-19, a very few Chinese citizens visited Nepal last year. Of the total international visitors who entered Nepal last year, 40.06 per cent were from the SAARC countries. Likewise, 21.72 per cent of the total visitors were from European countries in 2022 while 14.13 per cent were from Americas. The tourists from Asia (other than SAARC countries) constituted 8.3 per cent of the total, 4.66 per cent from Oceania, 1.62 per cent from the Middle East and 9.51 per cent were from the countries listed as 'others'.

Before the pandemic hit the tourism industry, Nepal received 1.2 million tourists in 2019. The highest number of 88,582 tourists entered Nepal via air routes in October 2022. Of the total international visitors last year, 40.06 per cent were from the SAARC countries, the NTB data said. Tourism is one of the mainstays of the Nepalese economy. It is also a major source of foreign exchange and revenue. The tourism industry contributed about 6.7 per cent to Nepal's GDP. Possessing 8 of the 10 world's highest mountains, including Mount Everest, Nepal is a hotspot destination for mountaineers, rock climbers and people seeking adventures. The Hindu, Buddhist and other cultural heritage sites of Nepal, and around the year fair weather are also strong attractions.

After two years of stagnation because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the NTB has set a target to host at least 1 million visitors in 2023, largely by attracting visitors from Asia. It will focus on attracting more visitors from Southeast Asia and the Middle East this year by launching more promotional campaigns in these regions.

A big setback to Latin American Left

REFLEX ACTION

W. T. Whitney Jr.

with Castillo. Pressured by Cerrón, Castillo withdrew from Peru Libre in July 2022. Dina Boluarte, his vice president, had earlier been expelled from that party. She and Castillo were not communicating. Conflict between President Castillo and the Congress has revolved around provisions of Peru's 1993 constitution created under the auspices of the Fujimori dictatorship. That constitution authorizes removal of a president via congressional impeachment in a process known as "vacancy." It also states that, "The President has the power to dissolve Congress if the latter has censured or refused to give a vote of confidence to two cabinet ministers."

The U.S. government is heavily involved. Ambassador Lisa Kenna, an experienced CIA and State Department operative, met with Defense Minister Gustavo Bobbio Rosas on Dec. 6, the day before the Congress impeached and removed Castillo. Bobbio is a retired brigadier general. The next day, prior to resigning, Bobbio instructed Peru's armed forces to oppose Castillo's attempt to dissolve the Congress, which he characterized as a coup. That day, Ambassador Kenna tweeted: "The United States emphatically urges President Castillo to reverse his attempt to close the congress and allow the democratic institutions of Peru to function according to the constitution. We encourage the Peruvian public to remain calm."

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, on December 16, criticized the state of emergency in Peru. He denounced President Boluarte's meeting with U.S. ambassador, adding, "Force must not be used, the people must not be repressed, and freedoms must be guaranteed." In response, Peru's government on Dec. 21 moved to expel Mexico's ambassador in Lima. The U.S. military has a presence in Peru, as with other Latin American and Caribbean nations. U.S. personnel in 2017 participated in military exercises held jointly with Peru, Colombia, and

Brazil in the "triple borderland" in the Amazon region. The U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit Six has long carried out infectious disease studies in Lima and Iquitos. As of 2018, the U.S. Southern Command had built 15 Regional Emergency Operations Centers as part of its "Humanitarian Assistance Program."

Peru's military may not uniformly support the coup. Troops stationed in the "VRAEM" area (a Spanish acronym meaning Valley of the Apurimac, Ene, and Mantaro Rivers) on Dec. 18 declared that "The glorious Peruvian Army will not honour the state of emergency" and that they are "in rebellion against the usurper [President] Dina Arcelia Baluarte Zegarra." Their statement condemns "this exploitative, corrupt system endorsed by Peru's Political Constitution of 1993."

The highly-regarded Héctor Béjar, chancellor for the first 19 days of Castillo's presidency, has the last word. He notes that, "Castillo is a humble man, not a man of the left. He is an evangelical ... not a Marxist-Leninist, not a terrorist ... His behavior is inexplicable because he is a labor leader at the national level and led two very important teacher strikes. It's not that he had no experience."

Béjar is perhaps alluding to Castillo's unpreparedness in presuming to head a reform-minded progressive government, especially in comparison with similarly-motivated regional leaders of the past and present. In their own ways Presidents like Morales of Bolivia, Petro of Colombia, Chávez of Venezuela, Castro of Honduras, Allende of Chile, and Correa of Ecuador had prepared. They had nurtured popular support, recruited reliable political associates, already were leaders within a left-leaning political movement, or they developed one. Béjar declares that, "We have a dictatorship in Perú, a military and political dictatorship ... [and] we are in a revolutionary movement without revolutionaries."

It's true. Masses of working and marginalized people in Peru are themselves prepared, as indicated by their surprise vote for Castillo in 2021 and currently by their vigorous and ongoing resistance to the coup. Now as in the past, they are waiting for visionary and revolutionary leadership. (IPA)



A vendor displays fruits at a roadside stall at the vicinity of GPO in Kolkata on a foggy evening on Monday --Arijit Ganguly

Indian farmers began 2022 with hope but ending in big despair

Farmers in India began 2022 with great hope but are ending it with greater despair. The year started with peace after the year-long historical farmers' movement was called off in December 2021, but a year later December 2022 witnessed re-emergence of agitations of all hues of farmers' union including RSS-BJP affiliated Bharatiya Kisan Sangh. The year saw the unfulfilled promise of "doubling farmers' income by 2022" and also heard the lie of the Modi government in the Parliament of India in July that farmers income have more than doubled. Farmers are feeling cheated on promises, have started agitation again demanding remunerative prices for their produce in the midst of rising input cost, and decline in yield of both the summer Rabi crops and winter Kharif.

Let us recapture the background of the beginning of 2022 to understand the increased hope of farmers in India. They have been agitating since August 2020 when Modi government have got three farm bills passed in the Parliament of India seeking to bring corporate to farms. It was resisted tooth and nail, and "Dilli Chalo on November 26" call of the joint platform of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) turned into sit in protest in three borders of Delhi. The demand was to scrape the three farm laws.

It turned out to be historical movement of farmers in the country in which over 750 farmers had died. On November 19, 2021, on a televised address on the occasion of Guru Parb, PM Narendra Modi announced repeal of the three farm laws and by the end of the month it was actually repealed. SKM called off the agitation on December 11, 2021 on Modi government's assurances in writing to consider the farmers' demands. It had created great hope among the farmers in the beginning of the year 2022. However, the farmers felt cheated

since even a year after the promise, Modi government has been sitting over their demands which included legal guarantee on the MSP, which according to SKM, the government is not even ready to consider. Union government has rather offered government's committee to decide on it, but SKM has rejected the offer seeing government's unbending attitude on the issue. Their other demands include comprehensive loan waiver scheme, withdrawal of Electricity Amendment Bill 2022, comprehensive and effective crop insurance scheme, Rs5000 monthly pension to all marginal, small and medium farmers, withdrawal of false cases against agitating farmers and compensation to the families of those who lost their lives during agitation. From November 26, 2022, SKM has started the second leg of farmers agitation in continuance of the first phase that ended a year ago.

SKM had boycotted the high-powered expert panel constituted by the Supreme Court of India, since some of the members were known to have supported the government moves of farm sector reform. The committee released their findings on March 21, 2022 which said that 86 per cent of the farmers organization supported the farm laws.

However, the truth of the report has now questionable in the light of the agitation of farmers under the banner of RSS-BJP affiliated Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS). They organized Kisan Garjana Rally on December 19, 2022 in Delhi, and voiced their concern not only over the MSP, but has also demanded a rollback of GST on

agricultural goods to lower input costs for agriculture. BKS has also threatened the government to intensify their protest. "Government will face trouble if demands are not met in time," BKS has warned. BKS is also pushing the Centre to increase the financial support under PM-KISAN, and denial of permission to GM crops. It should be worth mentioning the Modi government has given permission for GM-Mustard against which the Supreme Court of India is hearing a case and has issued notices to all stakeholders including the Union Government.

All these are indicative of worsening the plight of farmers in the country. From the last week of November and in the entire month of December farmers have been seen agitating across the country, chiefly demanding remunerative price of their produce. Against the assurance given by PM Modi on February 28, 2016 for doubling of farmers income by 2022, farmers' conditions deteriorated. Actual income of farmers decreased between 2015-16 to 2018-19, a parliamentary standing committee report released in March 2022 revealed. Perhaps, it led to a farmer's suicides every two hours in 2021, as the National Crime Record Bureau data reveals.

In this grim situation the Union Budget 2022-23 has just escaped to mention the target of "doubling farmers' income by 2022". Another parliamentary standing committee report was released on December 20, 2022, which mentioned that the Union Government did not take any concrete step on it recommendation given

in March 2022 "except merely stating that the recommendation of the committee has been noted." It had recommended in its March report that government constitute a special team to figure out the reasons for falling farmers' income ... and take some course-corrective measures so that the "doubling of farmers income is not lost sight of." It should also be noted that in mid-year in July, the Union Government had told in Parliament that farmers' income had more than doubled, but did not provide any data, indicating it to be a lie.

Farmers income has clearly suffered in 2022, fist because of lower yield of Rabi crops due to heat wave conditions in March and April which led to wheat export ban in May. Thereafter, erratic weather conditions and floods also adversely impacted Kharif crops across the country. However, the advanced estimate of the Government has claimed a record foodgrain production in the country from 308.65 million tonnes in January 2022 to 315 million tonnes in December 2022, which if not exaggerated by the government, would prove to be the highest ever foodgrain production in the country.

The rise in prices of foodgrains and vegetables led to sharp increase in inflation due to steep hike in food inflation. Inflation remained well about tolerable limit of 6 per cent, and hovered around 7 per cent throughout the year. High costs have increased the agricultural input costs, while farmers are not getting corresponding high return. Large number of farmers are supplementing their incomes as labourers. Livestock has also suffered due to steep hike in fodder prices and lumpy skin disease and other ailments.

Modi government clearly needs to enhance support to farmers and farm sector in 2023, or else the farmers agitation that has already begun in December 2022, would roll over with greater intensity next year. (IPA)

FOCUS

Dr. Gyan Pathak

Conventional Crossword												
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ACROSS						DOWN					
1	Young horse	1	Uproar	2	Keen insight	2	Keen insight	3	Of advanced age	4	Of advanced age
3	Small bouquet	5	Short branch off railway track	5	Short branch off railway track	5	Short branch off railway track	6	Acceptance	6	Acceptance
7	Falsehood	9	Give up	9	Give up	9	Give up	10	Extremity	10	Extremity
8	Sky coloured	11	Shrewd	11	Shrewd	11	Shrewd	14	Wise counsellor	14	Wise counsellor
11	Says further	16	Standards of perfection	16	Standards of perfection	16	Standards of perfection	17	Seesaw	17	Seesaw
12	Repairs	19	No score	19	No score	19	No score	21	Mineral spring	21	Mineral spring
13	Correct	22	Monkey	22	Monkey	22	Monkey				
15	Tinge										
18	Transmit										
19	Poke gently										
20	Select group										
21	Main actor										
23	Smallest amount										
24	Mild explosion										
25	Region										
26	Consumer										

SUDOKU:3746								
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1	8			6	9	4		

Yesterday's Solution 3745								
5	6	4	7	9	8	2	3	1
7	1	8	6	2	3	5	9	4
2	3	9	1	4	5	7	6	8
4	9	5	8	3	6	1	2	7
8	2	1	4	7	9	3	5	6
6	7	3	2	5	1	8	4	9
3	8	6	5	1	4	9	7	2
9	4	7	3	8	2	6	1	5
1	5	2	9	6	7	4	8	3

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1754												
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A	O		V	I	S	A				Y		
N	O	B	L	E				T	I	R	E	
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F	U	N	D			I		M		I		
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Maharashtra: Employees of 3 state-owned power companies to go on 72-hour strike from today

MUMBAI, JAN 3 /--/ Unions of three state-owned power companies in Maharashtra have warned of a 72-hour strike from Wednesday to protest against privatisation of power companies, an official said on Tuesday. The strike has been called by Maharashtra Rajya Karmachari, Adhikari and Abhiyanta Sangharsh Samiti, an action committee of power company unions. "More than 30 unions of drivers, wiremen, engineers and other employees have come together to thwart the

attempt of privatisation in the state-owned power companies," Krushan Bhoir, general secretary of Maharashtra State Electricity Workers' Federation told PTI. The Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd (Mahavitaran), Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co Ltd (Mahapareshan) and Maharashtra State Electricity Generation Co Ltd (Mahanirmiti) are the state-owned power companies. Employees of these companies have been

staging agitations since the last two to three weeks, while on Monday, 15,000 employees had staged a demonstration outside the Thane collector office, he said. "Nearly 86,000 employees, officers and engineers of the three power companies, along with 42,000 contract employees and security guards will go on a 72-hour strike starting Wednesday to protest against privatisation," Bhoir said. One of the major demands of the protesting employees is that Adani Group's power subsidiary should

not be given a parallel distribution licence to make profit in Bhandup in eastern Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai, he said. In November last year, an Adani group company had sought licence for expanding its power distribution business into more areas of Mumbai. Adani Electricity Navi Mumbai Ltd, a subsidiary of Adani Transmission, had applied to the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) for a parallel licence for power distribution under the jurisdiction of Mahavitaran

in Bhandup, Mulund, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Talaja and Uran areas. "There are no financial demands in this agitation, but we want these power companies owned by people of the state to survive. These should not be sold to private capitalists who intend to only make profit," Bhoir said. In the strike notice given to the state government last month, the action committee has also warned of an indefinite strike from January 18, if the demands are not met, he added. (PTI)

Actor Gayathri Raguramm quits BJP, claims women not safe in TN unit

CHENNAI, JAN 3 /--/ Actor-politician Gayathri Raguramm, who was suspended from the BJP in November last year, announced on Tuesday that she is resigning from the party and claimed that women are not safe in the Tamil Nadu unit as "nobody cares about true karyakartas". She blamed state BJP chief K Annamalai for her decision to quit the party. A senior leader, however, rejected her claims and said she is not a loss to the party. The leader said they do not give much importance to her allegations. On November 23, Gayathri, president of another state and overseas Tamil development unit of the BJP, was suspended by Annamalai for six months over "engaging in activities that brought disrepute" to the party. "I have taken the decision with heavy heart to resign from TNBJP for not giving opportunity for an enquiry, equal rights & respect for women. Under Annamalai leadership women are not safe. I feel better to be trolled as an outsider," Gayathri tweeted tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, party national president J P Nadda and national general secretary B L Santhosh. "Nobody cares about true karyakartas, the only goal is to chase away true karyakartas by Annamalai. I wish the best for BJP," she said in another tweet. "Modi Ji you are special, you are

father of Nation, You will always be my vishwaguru & great leader. AmitShah ji you will always remain my chanakya guru," she said. Days before she was removed from the post and suspended from the party, BJP sports and skill development cell president Amar Prasad Reddy accused her of meeting a member of Chief Minister M K Stalin's family and angrily reacted "no space for betrayers in BJP." She, however, retorted saying it was her friend's birthday party and that she had no idea of who were invited. Announcing her suspension, Annamalai then ordered an inquiry on another functionary Trichy Suriya Siva for making derogatory remarks against party leader Daisy Saran. He had warned functionaries of talking to Youtube channels without the leadership's consent. In a series of tweets, Gayathri said she took the decision to resign because of Annamalai. "...Thanking all the karyakartas whom I worked with for 8 years whom I shared great love & respect with. It was a great journey," she said. Hurting others was not Hindu dharma, the choreographer said and claimed she could not continue under Annamalai's leadership. "Cannot expect social justice. Women stay safe don't trust that someone will save you. No one is going to come. You are on your own. Believe yourself. Never stay where you are not respected," she said. (PTI)

Gujarat HC asks Gujarat govt for action plan to prevent use of 'Chinese manja' for flying kites during Uttarayan

AHMEDABAD, JAN 3 /--/ The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday sought an action plan from the state government on its direction about steps to prevent the use of "Chinese manja" and strings coated with glass used for flying kites, as they are dangerous and cannot be allowed in public interest during the upcoming Uttarayan festival. Chinese strings and other synthetic strings coated with glass are used for flying kites during Uttarayan, which is celebrated on January 14. The use of sharp strings results in casualties among people and birds. Petitioner Siddharajsinh Chudasama, through his lawyer Bhunesh Rupra, said that the high court had on January 13, 2017 given interim directions to the government to take all possible steps to prevent "manufacture, storage and use of nylon threads (Chinese manza) and any other synthetic threads coated with glass for the purpose of kite flying". The court's directions were only on paper and were not being strictly implemented, the petitioner argued and cited an order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on similar lines. The government pleader informed the court that a circular was issued in 2016 and districts were told to implement it. "Come out with an action plan for the entire state so that something is done," the division bench of Chief Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice Ashutosh Shastri said. "Further such prohibition should be strictly enforced throughout the country to preserve the life of human beings, birds and animals. This is the direction issued by the Apex court. We want to know how they are implementing that," the court said. It called upon the state government to indicate what steps it has been taking to implement the order and posted the matter for further hearing on January 6. In its interim 2017 order, the court had observed that "the use of nylon threads, called Chinese thread or Chinese manza, and other synthetic threads coated with glass and other such other harmful substances in the kite flying is dangerous and the same are not to be allowed in public interest". The court in the order had also directed the state government to prevent manufacture, storage and use of Chinese strings and other synthetic strings coated with glass for kite flying. (PTI)

Pro-Pak slogan raised during protest outside school in Bhiwandi

THANE, JAN 3 /--/ A pro-Pakistan slogan was raised during a protest outside a school in Bhiwandi city in Thane district of Maharashtra, police said on Tuesday. Prima facie, a student of the school who joined the protest along with other people on Monday raised the slogan hailing Pakistan, a police officer said. He said police arrested 17 persons, including five women, for

staging the protest without permission under section 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code and the Maharashtra Police Act. Protesters alleged the school abruptly hiked fees and restricted some students from studies. (PTI)

Custodial death case: SC to hear on Jan 10 plea of Sanjiv Bhatt seeking to bring additional evidence

NEW DELHI, JAN 3 /--/ The Supreme Court Tuesday said it will consider on January 10 the petition filed by sacked Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt seeking to bring in additional evidence in an appeal filed by him in the Gujarat high court. Bhatt has filed an appeal in the high court challenging his conviction in a 1990 custodial death case. At the outset, a bench of Justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar asked senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, appearing for Bhat, if he was serious with regard to a plea seeking recusal of Justice Shah. Kamat submitted the idea was not to attach 'bias' to the Judge but apprehension of 'bias'. He said certain issues which are the subject matter of the Special Leave Petition had been decided by Justice Shah on an earlier occasion when he was a judge in the high court. Justice Shah then remarked, "Your objection is rejected. Merely some order has been passed in some discharge application, it has nothing to do with this controversy. Apprehension should have a reasonable

nexus. If you want, we can say many things to say... we will consider." Kamat said he can demonstrate apprehension of bias and sought to explain his contention. The top court said it will hear the matter on January 10. In August 2022, Bhatt had withdrawn his plea in the apex court seeking suspension of his life sentence in the 30-year-old custodial death case. The high court had earlier refused to suspend Bhatt's sentence and observed he had had scant respect for courts and deliberately tried to misuse the process of law. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in June 2019 in the case. The case relates to the custodial death of Prabhudas Vaishnani, who was among 133 people caught by Jamnagar police after a communal riot broke out following a bandh call in view of BJP leader L K Advani's Rath Yatra. Subsequently, his brother lodged an FIR accusing Bhatt, who was then posted as additional superintendent of police in Jamnagar, and six other policemen of killing his sibling by torturing him while he was in their custody. (PTI)

Chhattisgarh: Leopard kills woman, 3rd attack in same district in 1 month

KORBA, JAN 3 /--/ A 54-year-old woman was killed by a leopard in Chhattisgarh's Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur district on Tuesday, a forest official said. This was the third incident of leopard attack in less than a month in the district, he said. The latest incident took place at Singrauli village under

Janakpur forest range. A leopard attacked Umabai Baiga when she stepped out of her house to answer nature's call. After being alerted, forest personnel reached the spot and found her mutilated body in the nearby forest. An immediate relief of Rs 25,000 was given to the victim's kin while balance Rs 5.75 lakh will be

disbursed after the completion of formalities, the official said. An 80-year-old woman was killed in a leopard attack in the area on December 11 while an eight-year-old boy was injured in another incident on December 23 in the district. Cage traps have been installed to capture the animal, the official added. (PTI)

Delhi HC quashes FIR against dog owner for pet biting neighbour

NEW DELHI, JAN 3 /--/ Taking note of a settlement between the parties, the Delhi High Court has quashed an FIR registered against a dog owner after the pet bit his neighbour's daughter and he allegedly assaulted the victim and her family following an altercation over the issue. The court recorded the petitioner dog owner's undertaking that he will be "careful in nature regarding the maintenance of dogs", and observed no purpose would be served if the criminal proceedings are allowed to continue in spite of a compromise. The court, however, imposed a cost of Rs 20,000 on the petitioner and asked him to deposit the money in the Advocate Welfare Fund of the High Court of Delhi.

"The present case is that of a dispute between the neighbours. The complainant has stated that both parties have been residing adjacent to each other for the last about 20 years. She states that she has graciously forgiven the accused and parties are now having cordial relations. The petitioner/accused, in court, has undertaken that he will be careful in nature regarding the maintenance of dogs," said Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma in an order. "Accordingly, the case FIR No.69/2018 under Sections 289 (Negligent conduct with respect to animal)/323 (Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt) /337 (Causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others)/34 (Common intention) IPC registered

at Police Station Jagat Puri and all the proceedings emanating therefrom are quashed," the court ordered. It directed the petitioner to pay the cost of Rs 20,000 imposed on him within two weeks. The petitioner, while seeking the quashing of the FIR, informed the court that the an amicable settlement was reached with the intervention of well-wishers and it was agreed that both parties shall make harmony in the area and have no grievances against each other. The FIR was lodged on a statement of the mother of the girl who was allegedly bitten by the petitioner's dog. She said when she protested the incident; the petitioner assaulted her and other members of her family. (PTI)

Night curfew imposed along International Border in J&K's Samba

JAMMU, JAN 3 /--/ Authorities on Tuesday imposed night curfew on a kilometre-long stretch along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district to ensure better area domination by BSF troops, according to an official order. The step was taken in view of the threat of cross-border infiltration and smuggling of weapons through drones in the present foggy weather, it stated. The order issued by the district magistrate Anuradha Gupta banned the movement of civilians from 9 PM to 6 AM in area up to one kilometer from the International Border (IB) in Samba district. "No person or group of persons shall move in the area up to one kilometer

along the International Border in district Samba from 2100 hrs to 0600 hour during the night," the order stated. During a meeting of the district-level standing committee, authorities of the Border Security Force took up the issue of imposition of night curfew on a kilometre-long strip from IB from 9 pm to 6 am daily, enabling them to perform their duties more effectively, the order said. To ensure smooth functioning, better domination by BSF authorities and to preclude nefarious activities close to the border areas, the regulation in the movement of people has become imminent, particularly in the area from the International Border, it said. "It is felt by district administration, that it is expedient that the movement of people in

border areas is regulated so that there is better area domination by BSF in border area and nefarious designs of forces inimical to Indian security are subverted," DM said in the order. She said in case movement is necessary, the person or persons are required to produce their respective ID cards to BSF and police authorities. "Any person found violating the aforementioned order shall be dealt with in accordance with law. Since it is not possible to serve the order individually, it is being issued ex-parte", DM said. This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months from the date of its issuance, if not withdrawn or rescinded earlier. (PTI)

She never wished to be a judge, but this Indian-American woman now cherishes the job the most

KASARAGOD, DEC 3 /--/ When she migrated to the US years ago with her parents after discontinuing studies in a village school in Kerala, Juli A Mathew never wanted to be a lawyer or judge. Some legal issues, which her father had faced in his business years ago, had sowed in her mind the first seeds of thought about the need to study law. Mathew later served as an advocate for 15 long years in the US and created history by becoming the first Indian-American woman to be elected to a judge's bench there four years ago shattering the glass ceiling and defying odds. After taking oath as a Fort Bend County Judge in Texas in the US for the second consecutive time, she now feels that this is the best job she ever had and she likes this profession the most. A native of Thiruvalla in Pathanamthitta district, Mathew took oath as a judge of the county court in Texas from her husband's village house in this northernmost Kerala district via video conferencing on Monday. "It was my wish to swear-in from my husband's house this time. Otherwise my in-laws could not have been able to partake in the

ceremony. I am so happy that they and other family members could witness the oath-taking," she told PTI on Tuesday. Mathew said when she became the judge for the first time four years ago, her parents were there to witness the ceremony and bless her. "It was such a beautiful memory," the woman, in her mid-forties, said. She also recalled how her parents once tried to discourage her from pursuing legal studies as it was a "stressful" field. This time, her parents and elder daughter could not take part in the ceremony as they were away in the US. Earlier, Mathew, on Facebook, shared the video of her swearing-in before Judge Christian Becerra and the brief prayer meeting, held at the house verandah under the aegis of the local priest, which was attended by her husband, two younger daughters, in-laws and other family members. In one video, she could be seen taking the oath by raising her right hand and keeping the left one on the Bible which her husband was holding. A mother of three girls, Mathew said she could not visit Vennikulam, her home village in Thiruvalla due to her other engagements. She still remembers the day she left to the US with her parents

after discontinuing her studies in the fifth standard in a local English medium school there. Mathew has been a resident of Fort Bend in Texas for several years. When asked how she still maintains good fluency in Malayalam, Mathew said with a chuckle that she had almost forgotten the mother tongue at a point of time. Still, he successfully revived it through constant interactions with the community members. Her husband is a businessman in the US. "My family--husband and parents are my pillars of support. I do all the house chores alone including feeding my children. With the immense support of the family I am managing both personal and professional matters without fail," she added. The judge and family would leave for the US on January 5. Mathew was re-elected for a second term after defeating her Republican challenger Andrew Dornburg. She would continue to serve as presiding judge for a period of four years. She was voted the Administrative Judge for the County Courts by her peers and also heads the first Juvenile Intervention and Mental Health Court. (PTI)

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THE ECHO OF INDIA

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS


The Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj Institution, South Andaman Division-I on behalf of *Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Neil Kendra, Shaheed Dweep* invites online item rate tender (in CPWD form-8) from bonafide and experienced contractors of appropriate class of APWD, MES, ALHW & P&T for the below mentioned work.

1. NIT NO. EE/PRI/SAD-I/RR/2022-23/89 **Name of Work:** - Construction of Rural Road from Main Road to Dumping yard, Ramnagar under Neil Kendra Gram Panchayat Shaheed Dweep. **Estimated Cost Rs:** - 15, 81,637/- **Earnest Money Deposit:** - 31,633/- **Time of Completion:** - Six (06) Months, Tender Fee: - ₹ .500/- & last date & time of submission of bid: - 13/01/2023 (1500 hrs)

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in>.
Tender ID:- 2023_RDPRI_8728_1

Executive Engineer,
Panchayati Raj Institution,
South Andaman Division-I
Junglighat, Port Blair
South Andaman

9521/23



त्रिपुरा विश्वविद्यालय
TRIPURA UNIVERSITY

(केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय / A Central University), त्रिपुरा (प.)/ Tripura (W), पिन / PIN - 799022

No. E.TU/FIN/NT/2022 **NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS** Dated: 03/01/2023

Tripura University invite e-Tenders from the bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers/Dealers for the supply and installation of the following items: 1. Desktop Computer, Laptop, Normal printer, Automatic Duplex printer with Scanner. 2. Gel Documentation for the Department of Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics. The Details can be seen at Tripura University website: www.tripurauniv.ac.in. However, for submission of documents please visit <https://mhrd.univivizarde.com>. (NB: Hindi version is available at TU website) Sd/- (Pranay Pal), Assistant Registrar (Finance)

India ramping up border infrastructure, China warned against changing LAC

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, JAN 3 /--/ Delhi on Tuesday fired fresh salvo against China, with defence minister Rajnath Singh asserting that India had every capability to thwart challenges along the border to protect the territory of the country external affairs minister S Jaishankar accusing China of violating agreements with India on border issues and trying to “unilaterally change the LAC.”

India's stand assumed added significance as Rajnath Singh made his statement in Arunachal Pradesh, a state that China claims in entirety, calling it 'southern Tibet.' "The Indian Army has the capability to face any challenge along the border," and was ready to deal with any situation, he said during the inauguration of a Border Roads Organisation (BRO) bridge at Boleng in Arunachal Pradesh. Indian and Chinese troops had clashed along the Line of Actual Control in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9. The defence minister said the Centre had attached top priority in developing infrastructure to strengthen the border. "The new bridge will not only facilitate easy movement for locals, but also help in faster induction of troops, heavy equipment and mechanised vehicles to forward areas," he said.

The 100-metre Class-70' steel arch superstructure on the Aalo-Yingkiong road between West Siang and Upper Siang districts, is one of the 28 projects completed by the BRO at a cost of Rs 724.3 crore to bolster border infrastructure.

Singh also virtually inaugurated the 27 other projects of the BRO. Out of these, eight have been constructed in Ladakh, four in Jammu and Kashmir, five in Arunachal Pradesh, three each in Sikkim, Punjab and Uttarakhand and two in Rajasthan. Singh described the projects as a testament to the

concerted efforts of the government and the BRO towards the development of border areas in order to enhance the operational preparedness of the armed forces, and ensure socio-economic development of far-flung regions. "We do not believe in war, but if it is forced upon us, we will fight. We are ensuring that the nation is protected from all threats. Our armed forces are ready and it is heartening to see that the BRO is walking shoulder-to-shoulder with them," he said. Singh said that in 2021, BRO completed 102 infrastructure projects.

In 2022, along with these 28 projects, the organisation has dedicated a record 103 infrastructure projects to the nation, the defence minister added. "The BRO has also connected the farthest and most remote villages of the country like Huri Village in Arunachal Pradesh to the mainland. This connectivity has triggered reverse migration in these areas, where population increase is being witnessed with the commencement of basic amenities like schooling facilities and primary health care centres, electric supply and employment opportunities," Singh added. In Vienna, in an interview to Austria's national broadcaster ORF on Monday, Jaishankar said India had agreements with China not to mass force in the border areas. However, China did



not observe those agreements, "which is why we have the currently tense situation that we do", he said while responding to a question. "We had an agreement not to unilaterally change the Line of Control (LAC), which they (China) have tried to unilaterally do," he said. Denying China's claim that India did not observe the

agreements, Jaishankar said it was difficult for Beijing to say that as the "record is very clear. Today, there is a lot of transparency in satellite pictures. If we see who moved the forces to the border areas first, I think the record is very clear." (With PTI reports from Boleng in Arunachal Pradesh and Vienna)

Rahul, Priyanka share sibling love, affection as Yatra enters UP

GHAZIABAD, JAN 3 /--/ The brother-sister duo of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra shared some affectionate moments during the Bharat Jodo Yatra after it entered Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday. As Priyanka Vadra called her elder brother a "warrior" who was wearing the "shield of truth" and was not afraid of anyone, Rahul Gandhi affectionately hugged her and even kissed her on the cheek during the flag handing-over ceremony at the Loni border. They later walked hand in hand during the yatra in Uttar Pradesh, often waving to the ecstatic crowds who welcomed their leaders with enthusiasm. Rahul Gandhi also swung his arm around his sister while walking in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat while displaying the bonding between them, amid cheering crowds. A large number of people welcomed the two Gandhi siblings along the path in Uttar Pradesh, where the yatra will be till January 5 evening before entering Haryana. (PTI)



An affectionate moment of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at the start of UP leg of party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Ghaziabad

SC to hear on Jan 6 pleas on transfer of petitions seeking recognition of same-sex marriages

NEW DELHI, JAN 3 /--/ The Supreme Court will hear on January 6 the pleas seeking transfer to the apex court of the petitions pending before high courts for recognition of same-sex marriages. The petitions were mentioned on Tuesday for urgent listing before a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha. "We will take it up on January 6," the bench told the lawyer who mentioned the matter: On December 14 last year, the apex court had sought a response from the Centre to two pleas seeking transfer to the apex court of the petitions pending in the Delhi High Court for directions to recognise same-sex marriages. Prior to that, on November 25 last year, the apex court had sought the response of the central government to separate pleas by two gay couples seeking enforcement of their right to marry and a direction to the authorities to register their marriage under the Special Marriage Act. A bench headed by CJI Chandrachud, who was also part of the Constitution bench which in 2018 decriminalised consensual gay sex, had in

November last year issued notice to the Centre besides seeking the assistance of Attorney General for India R Venkataramani in dealing with the pleas. The apex court's five-judge Constitution bench, in a path-breaking unanimous judgement delivered on September 6, 2018, held consensual sex among adult homosexuals or heterosexuals in private space is not a crime while striking down a part of the British-era penal law which criminalised it on the ground that it violated the constitutional right to equality and dignity. The apex court had also taken note of the fact that various petitions on the same issue are pending before High Courts. The apex court had, in its 2018 judgement, held that Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code that criminalised consensual gay sex was "irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary". It had said the 158-year old law has become an "odious weapon" to harass the LGBT community by subjecting them to discrimination and unequal treatment. (PTI)

Focus on emerging sciences, convert knowledge to bring change in everyday life: PM

NAGPUR, JAN 3 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday outlined the vision for science for the next 25 years, urging researchers to make the country self-reliant and focus on converting their knowledge to bring about change in everyday life.

Inaugurating the 108th Indian Science Congress here, Modi also stressed on strengthening scientific processes, focussing on emerging areas such as quantum technologies, data sciences, development of new vaccines, stepping up efforts on surveillance for newer diseases, and encouraging youngsters to take up research. "Efforts of science can turn into great achievements only when they come

computing and emerge as world leaders in the upcoming field. "India is moving fast in the direction of quantum computers, chemistry, communication, sensors, cryptography and new materials," the Prime Minister said as he urged young researchers and scientists to gain expertise in the quantum field and become leaders.

Modi urged researchers to include subjects such as artificial intelligence, augmented reality and virtual reality in their list of priorities, and also come up with innovations in the field of semiconductors. "India is taking several initiatives in the field of semiconductors. New innovations will be required in the field of semiconductors. Should we not think in the



the out of the lab and reach the land, and their impact reaches from global to grassroots, when its ambit is from journal to zameen (land, everyday life) and when change is visible from research to real life," the Prime Minister said addressing the event virtually. The five-day Indian Science Congress was inaugurated at the Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University here in the presence of Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, Union ministers Nitin Gadkari and Jitendra Singh, chief minister Eknath Shinde and deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis. The Prime Minister also made a strong pitch for creating an institutional framework and a mentor-mentee (guru-shishya) system that could build upon the successes of talent hunts and hackathons to attract youngsters to science. He highlighted the opportunities for private companies and start ups by associating with research labs and academic institutions. He urged researchers to focus on quantum

people will lead to a surge in global advancement as well, he said. India is using scientific means for progress and its consequences are visible, he said, noting that India jumped to 40th place in the global innovation index from 81st position in 2015 in a list of 130 countries. "Today we are living in such an era when humanity is facing the threat of new diseases. We have to identify diseases well in time through Integrated Disease Surveillance and take measures to deal with them. Different ministries will have to work together to achieve this goal," he said. Modi also stressed on the need to promote research and development to prepare new vaccines. (PTI)

Unaccounted cash of Rs 60 lakh seized, 9 arrested in city

KOLKATA, JAN 3 /--/ Nine people were arrested in Kolkata for possessing unaccounted cash of around Rs 60 lakh, police said on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off about the presence of a huge sum of money meant for hawala transactions, the anti-rowdy section of the detective department of Kolkata Police conducted a

raid in Burrabazar area on Monday evening. The policemen first arrested one person and seized Rs 9 lakh from his possession. After interrogating him, eight other people were arrested from different parts of Burrabazar area and in all, cash of Rs 59,76,200 was seized, a senior officer said. They could not provide the

source of the money and were, hence, arrested, he said. An investigation is underway to ascertain the source of the money and where it was intended to be sent, the officer said. The Income Tax department has been informed about the matter and the arrested people are being interrogated, he added. (PTI)



construction of a nuclear power plant in Gorakhpur in Haryana. In 2017, the government has approved the building of 10 nuclear power plants of 700 mw each under the fleet mode to expand the contribution of atomic power in the country's energy mix. The NPCIL, which operates almost all nuclear power plants in the country, has formed joint ventures with National Thermal Power Corporation, Indian Oil Nuclear Energy and Nalco Power Company Limited for expansion of the nuclear power sector. India's current installed nuclear power capacity is 6780 MW and it plans to add 21 more atomic power generating units with a total installed capacity of 15,700 mw by 2031. (PTI)

Another Russian found dead in Odisha, 3rd in fortnight

PARADIP, JAN 3 /--/ Another Russian was found dead in Odisha on Tuesday, the third such incident in a fortnight, police said. The Russian, identified as Milyakov Sergey, was found dead in a ship anchored at Paradip Port in Jagatsinghpur district. The 51-year-old man was the chief engineer of the vessel, MB Aldnah, which was on its way to Mumbai from Chittagong Port in Bangladesh via Paradip. He was found dead in his ship chamber around 4.30 am. Police could not immediately ascertain the cause of the death. Paradip Port Trust chairman P L Haranand confirmed the death of the Russian engineer and said an investigation was underway. Two Russian tourists, including a lawmaker, were found dead under mysterious circumstances in Rayagada town in southern Odisha in the latter half of December. Pavel Antov (65), a lawmaker in Russia, died after allegedly falling from a hotel's third floor on December 24, while his friend Vladimir Bidenov (61) was found dead in his room on December 22. (PTI)

Noted Rabindra Sangeet exponent Sumitra Sen passes away

KOLKATA, JAN 3 /--/ Eminent Rabindra Sangeet exponent Sumitra Sen died at her residence here on Tuesday morning, family members said.

Sen, 89, was suffering from broncho-pneumonia and was hospitalised on December 21. She was brought home on Monday, where she breathed her last around 4.30 am. "Mother left us this morning," her daughter Srabani Sen said in a Facebook post. Both her daughters -- Srabani and Indrani -- are popular Rabindra Sangeet singers. "Following broncho pneumonia, her other organs got affected," Srabani later told newspersons. The renowned

singer had caught a cold in mid-December and her condition turned serious due to advancing age, she added. Indrani said her mother stopped speaking for the past couple of days, but could still recognise people till Monday evening.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee condoled the demise of Sen, saying her death is an irreparable loss for the music world. "I am deeply saddened by the sudden demise of Sumitra Sen, who had enthralled the audience for decades. I had a close relationship with her for a long time. The West Bengal government had awarded her 'Sangeet Mahasamman' in



Sumitra Sen
1933-2023

2012. "Her passing away is an irreparable loss to the music world. My sincere condolences to Sumitra di's daughters Indrani and Srabani, and her fans," Mamata said. Sen's memorable songs that regaled Rabindra Sangeet lovers for over four decades include 'Megh Bolechhe Jabo Jabo', 'Tomari Jharnatalar Nirjone', 'Sakhi Bhabona Kahare Bole' and 'Achhe Dukho Achhe Mrityu'. Sen stayed at an apartment on Ballygunge Circular Road in south Kolkata, which was thronged by a large number of singers, musicians and admirers following the news of her death. (PTI)

Could use harsher words...' Jaishankar on use of phrase 'epicentre of terrorism' for Pak

VIENNA, JAN 3 /--/ External affairs minister S Jaishankar has said that he could have used "much harsher words than epicentre" for Pakistan for its role in promoting cross-border terrorism as he underlined that the world needs to be concerned about terrorism.

Jaishankar, who has often described Pakistan as the "epicentre of terrorism", in an interview to Austria's national broadcaster ORF on Monday also criticised European nations for not condemning the (terrorism) practices that have been going on for multiple decades. "Because you are a diplomat, doesn't mean you are untruthful. I could use

much harsher words than epicentre. So believe me, considering what has been happening to us, I think epicentre is a very diplomatic word," he said while responding to a question on using the word "epicentre of terrorism" for Pakistan.

"This is a country which has attacked the Parliament of India some years ago, which attacked the city of Mumbai, which went after hotels and foreign tourists, which every day sends terrorists across the border....," Jaishankar said, referring to Pakistan. If the terrorist camps operate in broad daylight in cities, with recruitment and financing, can you really

tell me that the Pakistani state doesn't know what's going on? Especially if



S Jaishankar

they're being trained in military-level combat tactics?" Jaishankar said. "So, when we speak about

judgments and principles, why don't I hear sharp European condemnation of these practices which have been going on for multiple decades?" he asked in response to a question.

When asked if the world has to be concerned that someday there could be a war between India and Pakistan, the minister said, "I think the world needs to be concerned about terrorism." "I think the world has to be concerned that there is terrorism going on and the world often looks away. The world often feels it's not my problem because it's happening to some other country. I think the world needs to be concerned about how sincerely and strongly

it takes up the challenge of terrorists," he asserted. On Monday, addressing a joint press conference with his Austrian counterpart Alexander Schallenberg here, Jaishankar said the effects of terrorism cannot be contained within a region, especially so when they are "deeply connected to narcotics and illegal weapons trade and other forms of international crimes". "Since the epicentre (of terrorism) is located so close to India, naturally our experiences and insights are useful to others," the minister had said, without naming any country.

India has repeatedly said it desires normal

neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. India has said the onus is on Pakistan to create an environment free of terror and hostility. India has also told Pakistan that "talks and terror" cannot go together and has asked Islamabad to take demonstrable steps against terror groups responsible for launching various attacks on India. Jaishankar is in Austria on the second leg of his two-nation tour: This is the first EAM-level visit from India to Austria in the last 27 years, and it takes place against the backdrop of 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2023. (PTT)

Ukraine says Russia plans tactical shift using more drones

KYIV, JAN 3 /--/ Russia is preparing to step up its attacks on Ukraine using Iranian-made exploding drones, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as Moscow looks for ways to keep up the pressure on Kyiv after months of battlefield setbacks for the Kremlin's war strategy.

"We have information that Russia is planning a prolonged attack by Shaheds (exploding drones)," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address late Monday. He said the goal is to break Ukraine's resistance by "exhausting our people, (our) air defense, our energy," more than 10 months after Russia invaded its neighbor. Russian President Vladimir Putin is exploring how to shore up confidence in Moscow's flawed war effort, which in recent months has been dented by a Ukrainian counteroffensive backed by Western-supplied weapons. That has brought criticism in some Russian circles of the military's performance.

In the latest embarrassment for the Kremlin, Ukrainian forces fired rockets at a facility in the eastern Donetsk region where Russian soldiers were stationed, killing 63 of them. It was one of the deadliest attacks on the Kremlin's forces since the war began more than 10 months ago. Ukraine's Western-reinforced air defenses have made it difficult for Russian warplanes to carry out missile strikes. The Iranian-made exploding drones are a cheap weapon which also spreads fear among troops and civilians. The United States and its allies have sparred with Iran over Tehran's role in allegedly supplying Moscow with the drones.

The Institute for the Study of War said that Putin is looking to strengthen support for his strategy among key voices in Russia. "Russia's air and missile campaign against Ukraine is likely not generating the Kremlin's desired information effects among Russia's nationalists," the think tank said late Monday. "Such profound military failures will continue to complicate Putin's efforts to appease the Russian pro-war community and retain the dominant narrative in the domestic information space," it added. Zelenskyy warned that in the coming weeks, "the nights may be quite restless." He added that during the first two days of the new year, which were marked by relentless nighttime drone attacks on Ukrainian cities and energy infrastructure, the country's forces shot down more than 80 Iranian-made drones.

As well as hoping to wear down resistance to Russia's invasion, the long-range bombardments have targeted the power grid to leave civilians at the mercy of biting winter weather as power outages ripple across the country.

"Every downed drone, every downed missile, every day with electricity for our people and minimal shutdown schedules are exactly such victories," Zelenskyy said. In the latest fighting, a Russian missile strike overnight on the city of Druzhkivka in the partially occupied eastern Donetsk region wounded two people, the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, reported Tuesday. Officials said the attack ruined an ice hockey arena described as the largest hockey and figure skating school in Ukraine.

Overnight Russian shelling was also reported in the northeastern Kharkiv region and the southeastern Dnipropetrovsk region. In the recently retaken areas of the southern Kherson region, Russian shelling on Monday killed two people and wounded nine others, Kherson's Ukrainian governor, Yaroslav Yanushevich, said Tuesday. He said the Russian forces fired at the city of Kherson 32 times on Monday. (AP)



A float moves along Colorado Boulevard during the 134th Rose Parade in Pasadena, California, United States

South Korea: Talks with US on management of nukes underway

SEOUL, JAN 3 /--/ South Korea reconfirmed Tuesday that Seoul and Washington are discussing its involvement in U.S. nuclear asset management in the face of intensifying North Korean nuclear threats, after President Joe Biden denied that the allies were discussing joint nuclear exercises.

The purported difference came after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un entered the new year with a vow to mass-produce battlefield nuclear weapons targeting South Korea and introduce a more powerful intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking the mainland U.S. Some experts say Kim would eventually aim to use his enlarged weapons arsenal to wrest outside concessions like sanctions relief. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said in a newspaper interview published Monday that the two countries were pushing for a joint planning and training involving U.S. nuclear assets and that the United States responded positively about the idea. Asked by a reporter later at the White House about whether the two countries were discussing joint nuclear exercises, Biden replied, "No."

Yoon's top adviser for press affairs, Kim Eun-hye, issued a statement Tuesday saying that Seoul and Washington "are discussing an intel-sharing, a joint planning and subsequent joint execution plans over the management of U.S. nuclear assets in response to North

Korea's nuclear (threats)." Kim said Biden likely answered "no" because a reporter tersely asked him about a nuclear exercise without providing any background information. In the Chosun Ilbo interview, Yoon said that while the U.S. nuclear weapons belong to the U.S., planning, intel-sharing and exercises involving them must be jointly conducted with South Korea. He said he finds it difficult to assure his people of a security guarantee with the current levels of U.S. security commitment.

South Korea has no nuclear weapons and is under the protection of a U.S. "nuclear umbrella," which guarantees a devastating American response in the event of an attack on its ally. But some experts question the effectiveness of such a security commitment, saying the decision to use U.S. nuclear weapons lies with the U.S. president. Yoon's office didn't provide many details about his government's discussion with the United States. Some observers say South Korea is seeking to obtain a greater role on U.S. decision-making process on the deployment of its nuclear assets in times of tensions with North Korea. Kim Taewoo, a former head of Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification, said the reported South Korea-U.S. discussion likely "benchmarked a NATO-style nuclear-sharing arrangement" that allows NATO member states' warplanes to carry U.S. nuclear weapons. He said the

discussion still appears to be falling short of the NATO arrangement because possible nuclear exercises between the two countries would likely be South Korean air force aircraft escorting U.S. aircraft simulating nuclear strikes during joint drills. "North Korea would take this sensitively. (South Korea and the U.S.) are discussing this together. North Korea to take this sensitively because that can be a deterrent against North Korea," Kim Taewoo said.

He said South Korea and the United States are likely using unofficial channels to discuss the topic. That allows South Korea to claim it's discussing the issue with the U.S. at the same time it allows Washington to deny that, he said. Last year, North Korea performed a record number of weapon tests by launching a variety of ballistic missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland and its allies South Korea and Japan. In September, North Korea also adopted a new law authorizing the preemptive use of its bombs in a broad range of cases, including non-war scenarios. After their annual meeting in November, the defense chiefs of the United States and South Korea issued a joint statement reaffirming the U.S. commitment to providing extended deterrence to South Korea and deploying U.S. strategic assets in a timely and coordinated manner as necessary and identify new steps to reinforce deterrence against North Korean threats. (AP)

Philippines' Marcos Jr. heads to China amid sea disputes

MANILA, JAN 3 /--/ Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. flew to China on Tuesday for a three-day state visit, saying he looks forward to his meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping as they work to boost bilateral ties.

"As I leave for Beijing, I will be opening a new chapter in our comprehensive, strategic cooperation with China," he told officials and diplomats, including the Chinese ambassador, prior to boarding his flight from an air base in the capital. "I look forward to my meeting with President Xi as we work towards shifting the trajectory of our relations to a higher gear that would hopefully bring numerous prospects and abundant opportunities for peace and development to the peoples of both our countries," he added. Alluding to the two countries' territorial dispute in the South China Sea, he said he looks forward to discussing bilateral and regional political and security issues. "The issues between our two countries are problems that do not belong between two friends such as Philippines and China," he added. "We will seek to resolve those issues to mutual benefit of our two countries." China claims virtually the entire South China Sea and has ignored a 2016 ruling by a tribunal in The Hague that invalidated Beijing's claims to the waterway. The case was brought by the Philippines, which says China has since developed disputed reefs into artificial islands with airplane runways and other structures so they now resemble forward military bases.

Most recently, a Filipino military commander reported that the Chinese coast guard forcibly seized Chinese rocket debris that Filipino navy personnel had retrieved in the South China Sea last month. China denied the forcible seizure. Marcos said he would seek further clarification on his visit to Beijing. Accompanied by a big business delegation, Marcos said they will seek cooperation in various areas including agriculture, energy, infrastructure, trade and investments, and people-to-people exchanges. He said they expect to sign more than 10 key bilateral agreements during the visit. (AP)

Beijing threatens response to 'unacceptable' virus measures

BEIJING, JAN 3 /--/ Beijing blasted Covid-19 testing requirements imposed on passengers from China and threatened countermeasures against countries involved, which include the US and several European nations. "We believe that the entry restrictions adopted by some countries targeting China lack scientific basis, and some excessive practices are even more unacceptable," foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing Tuesday. "We are firmly opposed to attempts to manipulate the COVID measures for political purposes and will take countermeasures based on the principle of reciprocity," she said. Australia and Canada this week joined a growing list of countries requiring travellers from China to take a Covid-19 test prior to boarding their flight, as China battles a nationwide outbreak of the coronavirus after abruptly easing restrictions that were in place for much of the pandemic. Other countries including the US, UK, India, Japan and several European nations have announced tougher Covid-19 measures on Chinese travellers amid concerns over a lack of data on infections in China and fears of the possibility that new variants may spread.

China, which for most of the pandemic adopted a "zero-COVID" strategy that imposed harsh restrictions aimed at stamping out the virus, abruptly eased those measures in December. Chinese authorities previously said that from January 8, overseas travellers would no longer need to quarantine upon arriving in China, paving the way for Chinese residents to travel. (AP)

UK trains disrupted again as workers stage fresh strikes

LONDON, JAN 3 /--/ Commuters returning to work on Tuesday after the Christmas break were advised not to travel as tens of thousands of British rail workers stage a fresh round of strikes that will disrupt services all week.

Around half of the UK's railway lines are closed, and only one-fifth of services are running amid a long-running dispute over pay and working conditions. Members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union were striking Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, while drivers in the Aslef union will strike Thursday. Many places, including most of Scotland and Wales, have no train services. Transport Secretary Mark Harper urged union leaders to come to the negotiating table and said the government has offered a "very fair pay offer". But union boss Mick Lynch said officials have not put forward any fresh proposals and suggested the government was blocking an agreement. "What we keep hearing is the same stuff from the government across the sectors that they want to facilitate an agreement, but they don't actually do anything," Lynch told Sky News from a picket line at London's Euston train station.

Train companies and the government argue they need to change the way the rail network operates to control costs after the coronavirus pandemic reduced passenger traffic and changed commuting patterns. But rail workers, like others who work in the public sector, say wages have failed to keep pace with the skyrocketing cost of living. Inflation in the UK has soared to a 41-year high of 11.1 per cent, driven by sharply rising energy and food costs. Nurses, airport baggage handlers, ambulance and bus drivers and postal workers were among those who walked off their jobs in December to demand higher pay. (AP)

Lankan govt expresses concerns over intelligence agencies after drug lord flees to India

COLOMBO, JAN 3 /--/ The Sri Lankan government on Tuesday raised concerns over the country's intelligence network after notorious underworld gangster and drug lord Kanjipani Imran alias Mohammed Imran fled to India after his release on bail. Imran, wanted by the Sri Lankan authorities for various offences, including murders and criminal intimidation, was arrested in Dubai in 2019 and deported to the island nation. He was in judicial custody till a local court on December 20 last year granted him bail on payment of two sureties, each \$ million local currencies. The Sri Lankan police last week said Imran fled to Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu days after his release on bail. Speaking to reporters here, Cabinet spokesperson Bandula Gunawardena said Imran's fleeing to India has raised concerns on the working of the Sri Lankan intelligence agencies and they must be questioned on the issue. He said similar concerns over Sri Lanka's intelligence network were also raised after the Easter Sunday attack. The local intelligence was inactive even after being alerted by their Indian counterpart about the 2019 bombings carried out by ISIS-related terrorists. (PTT)

Cash-strapped Pak announces early closure of markets, wedding halls to save energy

ISLAMABAD, JAN 3 /--/ Cash-strapped Pakistan on Tuesday announced early closure of markets and wedding halls as part of a raft of measures under the energy conservation plan as the government struggled to revive the economy. Briefing the media after a meeting of the cabinet which approved the National Energy Conservation Plan to save energy and decrease dependence on imported oil, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said markets would close at 8.30pm while wedding halls would shut doors by 10.00pm respectively, which will "save us Rs 60 billion". Announcing more measures, he said that manufacturing of incandescent bulbs would be stopped from February 1 while production of inefficient fans would be stopped from July. He said these measures would help to save another Rs22 billion. The government would also make the use of conical geysers mandatory within a year, which by using less gas would save Rs 92 billion, and alternative use of street lights would save another Rs 4 billion. Asif said that all government buildings and offices would also reduce use of energy under the plan and a policy to work from home would also be completed in up to 10 days. "No lights were on in the cabinet meeting today. The meeting was held in full sunlight," he said, providing an example for the country to follow. Asif also said that the cabinet planned to conserve 30 per cent of the electricity used by government departments, which would save Rs62 billion.

In another step, Asif said that electric motorcycles would be introduced by the end of this year to help cut the import of fuel. "The plan to save energy is being enforced immediately and the cabinet will monitor it," he said. Climate change minister Sherry Rehman who accompanied the defence minister at the press conference said the plan would also help to tackle the climate change issue. "The world has been following this plan for a while and it is imperative for us to change our habits," she said and asked businesses to cooperate. The measures to save energy come a day after the National Security Committee agreed that the revival of the economy is essential for national security. (PTT)

Autopsies show Covid virus lingers in brain, other body parts for months: Study

WASHINGTON, JAN 3 /--/ The SARS-CoV-2 virus spreads throughout the body, including the brain, and lingers for almost eight months, shows an analysis of tissue samples from the autopsies of people who died due to Covid-19.

The researchers from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) tested samples from autopsies that were performed from April 2020 to March 2021. They conducted extensive

sampling of the nervous system, including the brain, in 11 of the patients. All of the patients died with Covid-19, and none were vaccinated. The blood plasma of 38 patients tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, three tested negative, and plasma was unavailable for the other three. Thirty per cent of the patients were female, and the median age was 62.5 years. Twenty-seven patients (61.4 per cent) had three or more

comorbidities. The median interval from symptom onset to death was 18.5 days. The study, published in the journal Nature, showed that SARS-CoV-2 primarily infected and damaged airway and lung tissue. However, the researchers also found viral RNA in 84 distinct body locations and bodily fluids, and in one case they isolated viral RNA 230 days after a patient's symptoms began. They detected SARS-CoV-2 RNA

and protein in the hypothalamus and cerebellum of one patient and in the spinal cord and basal ganglia of two other patients. However, the study found little damage to brain tissue, "despite substantial viral burden." The researchers also isolated viable SARS-CoV-2 virus from diverse tissues in and outside the respiratory tract, including the brain, heart, lymph nodes, gastrointestinal tract, adrenal gland, and

eye. They isolated virus from 25 of 55 specimens tested (45 per cent). "We demonstrated virus replication in multiple non-respiratory sites during the first two weeks following symptom onset," the authors of the study noted. Prior to this study, "the thinking in the field was that SARS-CoV-2 was predominantly a respiratory virus," senior study author Daniel Chertow from NIH added. (PTT)

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Brazil pays final respects to football giant Pele



SANTOS, JAN 3 /--/ An emotional Brazil began paying its final respects Monday to football legend Pele with a wake at the stadium where he first took the world's breath away with his dazzling skill. Throughout the day, thousands of fans and football dignitaries slowly filed through the Vila Belmiro, home to Pele's longtime club, Santos. More continued to join the queue as night fell, waiting their turn to walk past the body of "O Rei" (The King), lying at the center of the field. Pele's coffin was draped in the flags of Santos and Brazil and surrounded by white flowers, including bouquets from the likes of Real Madrid or current Brazil star Neymar, whose father was in attendance. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his wife also sent a wreath, local media reported. Lula's office announced earlier that he would attend the wake on Tuesday morning, less than 48 hours after

taking office, to "pay his respects and tribute," before a funeral procession and interment later in the day. Pele, a three-time World Cup winner widely considered the greatest footballer of all time, died Thursday at age 82 after a battle with cancer. FIFA president Gianni Infantino, who attended the wake with the heads of the South American and Brazilian football confederations, said the sport's governing body would ask all member countries to name a stadium in Pele's honour. "Pele is eternal. He's a global icon of football," he told journalists in Santos, a southeastern port city 75 kilometres from Sao Paulo. Carlos Mota and his 12-year-old son Bernardo had traveled more than 500 kilometres from Rio de Janeiro to pay tribute to their hero. "My whole childhood was influenced by what Pele did for Brazil, by his World Cup wins. He was a national idol," Mota, 59, told AFP. "I've always told my son, there are three indisputable facts: the ball is round, the grass is green and Pele is the greatest of all time." Bernardo clearly took the lesson to heart. "I never saw Pele play, but I've seen the videos. He's the greatest player who ever walked the

Earth," he said. Seventy-five-year-old retiree Vera Lucia, who had made the trip from Sao Paulo, was also braving the scorching sun to stand in line, which stretched to two kilometers in the early afternoon. "I'm just devastated," she said. "We always loved watching his matches as a family." Born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, Pele exploded onto the scene at age 15, when he made his professional debut with Santos. He went on to win the World Cup three times with Brazil, in 1958, 1962 and 1970 -- the only player in history to achieve the feat. Tributes have poured in from around the world since his death, with a Who's Who of current and former football greats hailing his genius for the "beautiful game." A stream of athletes, politicians, dignitaries and fans are expected in Santos for the wake, though turnout may be dented somewhat by the New Year's holiday weekend. Some 7,000 people had filed past the casket by mid-afternoon, according to Brazil's TV Globo. Pele's coffin was carried into the stadium by pallbearers dressed in black, led by his son Edinho. The late icon's widow, Marcia Cibeles Aoki, his third wife, whom he

married in 2016, cried before his open casket as she reached out to touch his head. She also placed a rosary in his coffin. Other tributes have come in from around Brazil, which held three days of national mourning. At the headquarters of the Brazilian Football Confederation in Rio, a giant poster with Pele's image bears the word "eternal." And Lula's inauguration Sunday began with a minute's silence in Pele's memory. Pele had been in fragile health, suffering from kidney problems and then colon cancer. But he remained active on social media, cheering on Brazil from his hospital bed in Sao Paulo during the World Cup in Qatar and consoling the pre-tournament favourites when they were eliminated in the quarter-finals, three weeks before his death. The wake will be followed by a funeral procession Tuesday through Santos, including past the house of Pele's mother, 100-year-old Celeste Arantes, who is still alive. The procession will end at Santos's Memorial Cemetery, where a Catholic funeral service will be held before Pele is interred in a special mausoleum. (AFP)

Bumrah added to India's ODI squad for SL series after NCA fitness clearance

MUMBAI, JAN 3 /--/ Star pacer Jasprit Bumrah was on Tuesday added to India's ODI squad for the three games against Sri Lanka after National Cricket Academy declared him fit for home series beginning January 10. Bumrah last played for India in September and had also missed the T20 World Cup in Australia due to a back injury. "The All-India Senior Selection Committee has included pacer Jasprit Bumrah in India's ODI squad for the upcoming Mastercard 3-match ODI series against Sri Lanka. "The pacer has undergone rehabilitation and has been declared fit by the National Cricket Academy (NCA). He will be joining the Team India ODI squad soon," said the BCCI in a statement. The first ODI will be played in Guwahati on January 10, second in Kolkata on January 12 and third in Trivandrum on January 15. With the focus on 50-over cricket in an ODI World Cup year, it is unlikely that Bumrah will feature in the shortest format till the ICC event at home in October-November. His IPL workload too would be monitored closely by the NCA, as well as other "targeted" India players for the ODI World Cup. "My problem with Bumrah, and I mentioned it to him when last time I saw him in England, is how long that body will hold up with that short run and the amount of effort he has to put into in his bowling, it is a human body. It is not a machine," Holding had said back in 2020. (PTI)



India's updated squad for Sri Lanka ODIs: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya (vc), Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Umran Malik, Arshdeep Singh.

Former BCCI president Sourav Ganguly set to join Delhi Capitals as Director of Cricket

NEW DELHI, JAN 3 /--/ Former BCCI president Sourav Ganguly will be returning to the IPL as Director of Cricket with the Delhi Capitals in the upcoming edition, sources close to the development said on Tuesday. The former India captain, who stepped down from the BCCI president's post in October, will also oversee all the cricket verticals of the franchise along with the ILT20 team Dubai Capitals and the SA T20 league side Pretoria Capitals. "Yes, Sourav will be back with Delhi Capitals from this year. The discussions and modalities are over. He has worked with the franchise, shares a good comfort level with owners and if he would have worked in IPL, it would have always been with DC," an IPL source tracking the developments told PTI on the condition of anonymity. It couldn't be confirmed whether Ganguly will have any minority stake in the franchise co-owned by GMR and JSW groups. Ganguly was the mentor of Delhi Capitals during his stint with the franchise in 2019. It is understood that Delhi Capitals' recent auction picks had both head coach Ricky Ponting and Ganguly's footprints. The IPL franchise owners, with their diversification, are now looking at global roles for all big

names who are associated with the respective franchises. "If you look at Gautam Gambhir with Lucknow Super Giants and Durban Super Giants and Mahela Jayawardena with MI Emirates and MI Cape Town along with Mumbai Indians, the roles are becoming diverse as in foreign leagues, you aren't often dealing with same set of players," the IPL source added. Ganguly and Ponting are two of the sharpest cricket brains but it will be interesting to see how the two collaborate in bringing about optimum performance from Delhi Capitals in the IPL. It will be a big challenge for both Ponting and Ganguly with regular skipper

Rishabh Pant all but out of IPL after his horrifying car accident last week. Pant the skipper is replaceable but Pant the batter-keeper remains one of the biggest game-changers despite his underwhelming T20 performance. In fact, Delhi Capitals had released Kona Bharat, who was picked at the last auction by Gujarat Titans. None of the top line Indian white-ball wicket-keepers are available, with Sanju Samson (Rajasthan Royals), Ishan Kishan (MI), Wriddhiman Saha (GT), Umpendra Yadav (SRH), KL Rahul (LSG) being already taken by one franchise or the other. As of now, the only other available skipper in the squad is Englishman Phil Salt. (PTI)

If you look at Gautam Gambhir with Lucknow Super Giants and Durban Super Giants and Mahela Jayawardena with MI Emirates and MI Cape Town along with Mumbai Indians, the roles are becoming diverse as in foreign leagues, you aren't often dealing with same set of players — IPL source



GAME NOTES

Team India to 162/5 in 20 over

NEW DELHI, JAN 3 /--/ Shivam Mavi provided Team India with their first breakthrough as he dismissed Pathum Nissanka for 1. Currently, Sri Lanka's score read at 12/1 in 2 overs. Earlier, Powerful hitting from Deepak Hooda (41*) and Axar Patel (31*) guided Team India to 162/5 in 20 overs against Sri Lanka, in the first T20 match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Tuesday. Apart from them, Ishan Kishan smashed 37 runs while skipper Hardik Pandya scored 29 runs. For Sri Lanka, Dilshan Madushanka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dhananjaya de Silva, Maheesh Theekshana, and Chamika Karunaratne scalped one wicket each.

Manika Batra reaches career high 35 in ITTF World rankings

NEW DELHI, JAN 3 /--/ Indian table tennis star Manika Batra on Tuesday gained three places to reach a career-high 35 in the ITTF world rankings. The 27-year-old had produced a special performance to win India's first ever medal at the Asian Cup in November. She had stunned world number five Hina Hayata of Japan and world number seven Chen Xingtong of China on way to securing a historic bronze in Bangkok. That effort fetched her 175 points in the rankings, contributing to her rise. She had also reached the semifinals of two WTT Contender events in Hungary and Slovenia. "The Asian Cup performance was surely among my best alongside the run at the 2018 Commonwealth Games. I enjoyed my game and was very confident," Manika told PTI. The Asian Cup medal came after she returned home empty handed from the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Four years earlier in Gold Coast, she had pocketed four medals, including two gold in an unprecedented run. (PTI)

Ronaldo's Al Nassr move underlines Portugal star's decline

LONDON, JAN 3 /--/ Unwanted by Europe's elite clubs, Cristiano Ronaldo's steep decline has been laid bare by a move to Saudi Arabian side Al Nassr that signals the end of his reign as one of football's most feared strikers. Ronaldo will be officially unveiled by Al Nassr on Tuesday after agreeing on a contract that runs until 2025 and is reportedly worth more than 200 million euros. But the riches and fanfare that await the 37-year-old in Saudi Arabia are at odds with his reduced status as a fallen star trading on past heroics. For Ronaldo to be forced to play out what will surely be the final chapter of his glittering career in the football backwater of Saudi Arabia is a damning indictment of his lacklustre form over the last 18 months. Ronaldo, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner, heads to the Gulf after a painful year that saw him relegated to the Portugal bench and cut adrift by Manchester United. His second spell with United imploded in November with his departure by mutual consent, shortly after he criticised boss Erik ten Hag and the club's hierarchy in an explosive television interview. As his relationship with United soured, Ronaldo was linked to a string of Champions League contenders including Chelsea, Bayern Munich and Napoli. A return to his first club Sporting Lisbon was also rumoured, while there was talk of a move to the MLS to join Inter Miami, part-owned by former United teammate David Beckham. But none of those deals came to fruition and when United

decided his diminishing contribution, coupled with his public displays of dissent, made him a pricey luxury they no longer needed, it was instructive to note the absence of a rush to sign the ageing icon. Coming at the same time as his acrimonious United exit, Ronaldo's failed quest to finally win the World Cup underlined his descent into the ranks of football's mere mortals. In a move that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago, Ronaldo was left out of the starting line-up for Portugal's last 16 thrashing of Switzerland. And when Portugal suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against Morocco in the quarter-finals, Ronaldo started on the bench, made little impact after his eventual introduction and was last seen trudging down the tunnel in tears after the final whistle. There was a sting in the World Cup tale for Ronaldo as it was his old sparring partner Lionel Messi who got his hands on the trophy for the first time instead. The sight of Messi lifting the World Cup after Argentina's final victory over France in Qatar will have pained Ronaldo given their long-standing rivalry. Few would question Ronaldo's right to be regarded as one of the all-time greats after winning five Champions League crowns and a combined seven domestic league titles with United, Juventus and Real Madrid. He is also the record goal-scorer in the Champions League and with the Portuguese national team, who won the 2016 European Championship -- Ronaldo lasted less than half an hour before going off injured in the final against France. . (AFP)



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