

Catch us, if you can

ROOPA LAL

PORT BLAIR, NOV 8/--/ The menace of the drug trade is growing at a breakneck speed, stoking fears among the citizens. Parents of school and college going children are worried about the manner in which their wards are approached by drug gangs.

One source involved in the trade says many white collar big businessmen of the islands are engaged in drug trade as this business has been fetching high profit for them. Drug trafficking relies heavily on legal trade to camouflage its activities and on individuals being able to distribute drugs to consumers. Drugs are being imported to the islands in bulk quantities in containers of private cargo ships. The drugs consignments are concealed in the body parts of vehicles and cars imported in the islands. While the Police is more focussed on drugs brought illegally by air cargo and individual air passengers, bulk of the drugs find its way to the islands concealed in new vehicles imported in the islands in private cargo

Drugs trade at its peak in A&N Islands, youngsters fall victim to the menace

container ships. A drug seller on condition of anonymity told EOI that once the drugs landed in the islands, small packets are made and handed over to young boys who sell these packets to the consumers, mainly school and college going students. Since drug business is a lucrative business and fetches good profit margin, a syndicate of drug dealers is actively engaged in the business.

Sources further said that drug dealers lure school & college dropout youngsters into drug sales and use them as carriers. They target this section of youngsters who are financially backward and coerce them into selling after making them addicts. Most youngsters fall prey to these traps out of

eagerness and earn money to buy the latest phones and motorbikes. Sale of drugs like Marijuana (Weed),

EOI, the Superintendent of Police (South Andaman), Mr. Kalaivanan said that the Police teams have been

islands through containers of private cargo vessels, the SP(SA) denied receiving any such information so far.



Methamphetamine (Meth), LSD, XTC, Heroin, Charas, Cocaine, snake wax, Tab and Injection are rampant in the islands, sources revealed. If sources are to be believed, the area near Tiranga Park, right under the nose of PS Aberdeen is the hub for sale and purchase of illegal drugs. Meanwhile, speaking to

conducting raids and confiscating drugs entering the Islands by air route. Police teams have also seized drugs flowing to the city from outer islands. Press releases regarding seizure of drugs and ganja are also issued in the print media on a time to time basis. On being asked about drugs finding its way to the

He assured action if information is given to the Police in this regard. "If anyone has any information of drug trade they can contact Toll Free Number 112/100. They can also contact area SHOs. The details of persons passing on information will be kept secret," he added. (Representational photo)

SRG extends helping hands

KARTIK

MAYABUNDER, NOV 8/--/ A 3-day free distribution of artificial limbs & other prosthetics assessment camp was organised by 'Chhoti Si Asha' NGO run by SRG group of companies. The camp was held at Dr. T Y Abid's Evolve Physiotherapy centre opposite ITF main gate. The main motive of the camp was not only to provide the prosthetics and other aids like KFO, HKFO etc, but to take the first step to build this infrastructure to make available such aids locally. People who want to have such materials can visit Dr. Abid's centre and get themselves assessed. Measurements and moulds will be made locally in that centre.

3-days artificial limbs distribution, other prosthetics assessment camp evokes good response

These measurements and moulds will be sent to Chennai and it will get manufactured and sent here for distribution. SRG group of companies will help procure the appliances to all those who are not able to afford the cost. Two technicians from Saadhnadevi Enterprises of Chennai were invited for this camp. The technicians have taken all the measurements and moulds with them



and will be sending the finished products to the NGO for distribution by the end of November 2022. A total of 45 differently abled persons attended the camp from far places of islands in order to get benefits. SRG Traders was who voluntarily came forward to help the needy



MP takes up crucial issues of Little Andaman with CS

PORT BLAIR, NOV 8/--/ The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has highlighted some of the crucial issues of Little Andaman with the Chief Secretary. Issues raised by Mr. Sharma are to accord availability of sea sand, opening of stone quarry and mooram quarry, re-opening and functioning of red oil palm plantation and one clerk in Hutbay Tehsil, re-

installation of hand-sawing machine and up-gradation of PHC to CHC.

In a letter, Mr Sharma requested him to take up these issues on priority with the concerned authorities and to find an immediate redressal by Issuing instructions to carry out appropriate developmental works for the upliftment of the people of Little Andaman.

MONDAL JEWELLERS

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Cong leader defends his 'word Hindu is Persian' statement, rules out apology

BELAGAVI, NOV 8 /--/ Unfazed over the widespread criticism for his remarks on the origin and the meaning of the word 'Hindu,' Karnataka Congress Working President Satish Jarkiholi on Tuesday said he was only referring to what has been written and published.

Jarkiholi received backlash for his comments that the word 'Hindu' derived from Persian and had a 'dirty' meaning, with his own party pulling him up for his remarks. On Tuesday, defending himself and ruling out any apology, the former Minister said he wants a debate on the issue and if proved wrong, would resign as a legislator. "What I have said, 90 percent of people have probably not heard it completely. Just because there is a reference to the word Hindu and as I have said that it has a very dirty meaning, it has been interpreted however they want; there is nothing new in this, and such things have happened many times in the past," Jarkiholi said.

Speaking to reporters here, he reiterated that the word Hindu comes from Persian and there is evidence for it, and said that it has a 'dirty' meaning, referring to a dictionary published in 1963. "What I have said is not my own, and I have said that let there be a debate, that's my intention, but people interpret it however they want, I can't do much about it. I'm ready for discussion with evidence...if someone proves me wrong, I will resign as MLA," he added. Questioning as to why he should apologise, the Yamanakamardi legislator said whatever he has said are not his statements but those that had been written and published. "In fact, those pointing fingers at me should have seen and rectified it. I have done what they should have done, they should be thankful to me," he said

adding that he is being unnecessarily targeted by a system including "Manuwadis".

Jarkiholi while speaking at Nippani in Belagavi district during an event organised by 'Manav Bandhutva Vedithe' on Sunday claimed that the word 'Hindu' is Persian and has a very dirty meaning. He also had said that a word and a religion from elsewhere is being forcefully imposed on people here, and demanded that there should be a proper debate in this regard. Reacting to this, AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala on Monday had said the statement attributed to Satish Jarkiholi is 'deeply unfortunate' and deserves to be rejected.

"We condemn it unequivocally....Hinduism is a way of life and a civilisational reality. Congress built our nation to respect every religion, belief and faith. This is the essence of India," he said in a tweet.

To a question on Congress too, condemning his statement, Jarkiholi said party leaders should have reacted naturally, without having seen what he has actually said. "Surjewala has condemned it, I have no objections to it, he is a higher authority than me," he said in response to a question, adding that the AICC General Secretary even spoke to him and sought clarification. "There is no question of apologising, let the Chief Minister form a committee to find the truth in what I have said, if proved wrong, will resign, no apology," he added. Congress Legislature Party Leader Siaddarmaiah, not willing to say much, said, "Our national General Secretary Surjewala has reacted, that's my stand." State Congress President D K Shivakumar, rejecting Jarkiholi's statement and calling it his personal, said he will seek clarification. (PTI)



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, on the occasion of the 553rd birth anniversary of the first Sikh Guru Sri Guru Nanak Dev, at DAV College Ground in Lucknow

Logo, website of India's G20 presidency to reflect its overarching priorities

NEW DELHI, OCT 8 /--/ India's upcoming presidency of the G20 grouping is a matter of pride and a great opportunity for the country in its 75th year of Independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Modi made the remarks after unveiling the logo, theme and website of India's G20 presidency during an online event. India will assume the presidency of the powerful grouping from the current chair Indonesia on December 1. The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. In his remarks, Modi delved into India's development journey and said all governments and people contributed in their own way to taking India forward after Independence. He also said that India can show the world that the scope of conflict can come to an end when democracy becomes a culture.

The prime minister also said that development and the environment (Pragati and Prakriti) can walk together while emphasising sustainable development. "It is a matter of pride for all Indians; it will bring greater glory for all Indians," Modi said on India's upcoming presidency of G20. The logo, theme and website of India's G20 presidency reflected the country's "message and overarching priorities" to the world. The G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU).

The G20 summit is taking place on November 15 and 16 in Bali and Modi is set to be among the top leaders attending it. The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation representing around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world's population. India is currently part of the G20 Troika (current, previous and incoming G20 presidencies) comprising Indonesia, Italy and India. (PTI)

Demonetisation deliberate move by 'PayPM' to help 2-3 billionaire friends monopolize economy: Rahul

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 /--/ Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over demonetisation, saying it was a deliberate move by "PayPM" to ensure two-three of his billionaire friends monopolize India's economy.

The Congress has often used 'PayCM' and 'PayPM' jibe at the BJP to allege corruption under its rule at the Centre and in states. It is a play on the digital payment platform PayTM. Gandhi's attack came on the sixth anniversary of demonetisation. It was on this day in 2016 that Prime Minister Modi had announced the decision to withdraw Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denomination notes with the ultimate aim of reducing corruption and black money in the economy. "Demonetisation was a deliberate move by 'PayPM' to



ensure 2-3 of his billionaire friends monopolise India's economy by finishing small & medium businesses," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

The Congress on Tuesday alleged that demonetisation was independent India's "greatest organised loot" and demanded a white paper from the Modi government on the move. "On this day in 2016, the Modi govt arbitrarily demonetised Rs 500 & 1000 notes. The government failed in its objective to make India a digital, cashless economy as the currency with public stands at a new high of 30.88 lakh crores as of 21 October almost 72% higher than 6 years ago," the Congress said in a tweet from its official Twitter handle. (PTI)

Cong making false promises, people won't be misled: Jai Ram Thakur

KINNAUR, NOV 8 /--/ Chief minister Jai Ram Thakur on Tuesday said the Congress is making false promises but people won't be misled this time and bring back the Bharatiya Janata Party to power.

While addressing a poll rally here, Thakur said the Congress may be banking on Himachal's convention but people have made up their minds to break from tradition this time and bring back the BJP to accelerate development. The state, which goes to the polls on Saturday, has a history of alternating between the Congress and the BJP in every assembly election since 1982. "In Uttarakhand too, the Congress used to say that as per convention, they will come to power. But what happened there? In Haryana too, the same thing used to happen, but BJP came to power there for the second consecutive term," he said. The chief minister said people in Himachal will bring back the BJP to further strengthen the hands of the



Jai Ram Thakur

grand Lord Ram temple should be built in Ayodhya, today it is being built there. Thakur said having strong and decisive leadership at the Centre has helped the nation. "Earlier, when Pakistan used to cast an evil eye, nothing used to happen but when the Narendra Modi government came to power, they were told to desist from their ill-intentions. It was because of strong leadership,

air strike and surgical strikes were carried out," he said. Thakur dubbed the Congress as a sinking ship and said everyone saw earlier this year the severe drubbing the grand old party received in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

The party which ruled the country for a long period has now been rejected by people because they looted this country. I can make this claim that Congress will remain out of power in this country for the next 50 years, the CM said.

He further said that a time will come when future generations will one day ask when was the Congress in power and when they ruled the country. "Elections are being held in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat and their leader is currently undertaking Bharat Jodo Yatra. What more is left to connect, Article 370 has been scrapped now, Thakur said. "...After the poll results, HP Congress leaders will also go on a yatra," he said. (PTI)

BJP receives biodatas of 15,000 probable candidates for MCD polls

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 /--/ Selecting candidates for the upcoming civic body elections is proving to be a difficult task for the BJP's Delhi unit, which has been inundated by recommendations and biodatas of over 15,000 probables, party leaders said on Tuesday.

The 250-ward Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) goes to polls on December 4 while counting will take place on December 7. Teams of observers collected feedback about probables from local BJP leaders during a two-day process. Each team, comprising two central and Delhi unit members, visited each of the 14 districts on Monday and Tuesday to collect the names

of probables with good reputations and high winnability factor; the leaders said. Present and former MLAs of Delhi's 70 Assembly constituencies, presidents and general secretaries of 270 mandals (roughly as per ward boundaries) and 250 wards recommended the names of three probables each, said a senior leader of the BJP's Delhi unit associated with the shortlisting process.

Party leaders and workers aspiring to contest the elections are also submitting their biodatas in large numbers at the BJP's Delhi unit office and to senior functionaries. "We have so far received over 15,000 applications through these channels and the number

Kejriwal says he is 'janta ka laadla', BJP troubled by love people showering on him

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 /--/ Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said he was "the darling of the people" and alleged that the BJP was troubled by the love he was getting.

Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party have come in for fierce criticism ahead of elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Gujarat Assembly with BJP leaders calling it "the most corrupt party".

"Before Punjab (Assembly) elections, PM (Narendra Modi) said Kejriwal is a terrorist. Home Minister (Amit Shah) set up an inquiry. What happened to it? Now, before the Gujarat and the MCD polls, they are saying Kejriwal is corrupt. If Kejriwal is a terrorist or is corrupt, arrest him, no?" Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi. "Kejriwal is neither a terrorist nor corrupt. Kejriwal is 'janta ka laadla' (darling of the people). The BJP has a problem with him." The 250-ward Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) goes to polls on December 4 while counting will take place on December 7.

The BJP, which has governed the civic bodies in Delhi since 2007, is pitted against a resurgent Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress. In the 2017 civic body polls, the BJP had won 181 of the 270 wards. No polling could be held on two seats due to the death of candidates. The Aam Aadmi Party had won 48 awards, while the Congress managed to win 27. Earlier this year, the Centre unified the city's three municipal corporations under the MCD and reduced the total number of wards to 250 from 272. (PTI)

Construction of Ram Temple has crossed halfway mark, will be complete by Dec 2023: Adityanath

PALAMPUR, NOV 8 /--/ Construction work of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya has crossed the halfway mark and it will be completed by the end of 2023, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath said on Tuesday. Adityanath said a resolution for the construction of the temple was first passed by the BJP in Palampur as he campaigned for party candidate Trilok Kapoor in the constituency ahead of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections. "Today, I am delighted to inform you from this place that the construction work of the Ram temple in Ayodhya has crossed the halfway mark and by the end of 2023, a grand temple will be constructed after a wait of more than 500 years," Adityanath said addressing a rally in Palampur. He attributed the construction of the temple, "a historic work" to the decisive and strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The chief minister also campaigned for Lokendra Kumar, the BJP candidate from Anni constituency.

Addressing a rally there, he said India's graph on the global stage is rising and today, no problem in the world can be resolved without its involvement. India has become the world's fifth largest economy surpassing Great Britain, he said. "It was India that gave free ration to crores of poor people across the country during the pandemic while the BJP workers provided them help. Where was brother-sister duo of the Congress then," he said at the rally referring to Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. "Congress is only restricted to one family and concerned about them while for Narendra Modi and the BJP, the people of India are their family," he said. Hailing Himachal Pradesh as the "land of brave hearts" as several youngsters from the state are in the armed forces, Adityanath said, "You all would be happy to know that today our enemies cannot dare to look at us." (PTI)

Congress Seva Dal functionary dies during Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra

NANDED, NOV 8 /--/ A Congress Seva Dal functionary died after collapsing during the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra's Nanded district on Tuesday, a senior official said. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the foot march, expressed grief over the death of Seva Dal general secretary Krishna Kumar Pandey. He said Pandey held the national flag till the very last moment. "His dedication towards the country will keep inspiring up," Gandhi said, while extending condolences to Pandey's family. While walking with senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and others, Pandey felt shortness of breath and uneasiness, a senior district official said. Pandey was taken in an ambulance to Shankar Nagar primary health facility where doctors declared him dead, the official said, adding the deceased was a resident of Nagpur. The body was later taken to Naygaon rural hospital for postmortem, he added. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said Pandey was holding the tricolour and walking with him and party veteran Digvijaya Singh. "After a few minutes, as is the practice, he handed the flag to a colleague and moved back. Thereafter he collapsed and was taken in an ambulance to a hospital where most sadly he was declared dead," Ramesh tweeted. "He was a staunch Congressman and used to take on the RSS in Nagpur. (PTI)

16 Indian sailors detained in Equatorial Guinea: Kerala CM seeks PM's intervention

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 8 /--/ As the families of 16 Indian sailors including three from Kerala, detained in Equatorial Guinea, hoped the Indian government will ensure their speedy release, Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene in the matter. In a letter to the Prime Minister, Vijayan requested him to direct Indian diplomatic missions in the countries concerned -- Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria -- "to proactively intervene and facilitate the immediate release of the Norwegian vessel -- MT Heroic Idun -- and its crew who have been detained since August 12. In his letter, the CM contended that the vessel was arrested by an Equatorial Guinea naval ship in international waters on August 12 and as per reports, a total of 26 crew, including 16 Indians, are being held as hostages. "Among the 16 seafarers, three are from Kerala. The vessel has been held unlawfully...", he added. Vijayan also claimed that even though the vessel did not engage in any unlawful activities, the shipping company was ready to pay the fine to facilitate the early release of the seafarers. "After negotiation with the Nigerian authorities, the shipping company paid the required fine on September 28. Unfortunately, the crew and

ship are still held in Equatorial Guinea under arrest till date," he said in his letter. He further said that the "unforeseen delay" in the sailors' release would affect the mental and physical health of the crew and further stay in the port, which is considered unsafe, "would also put their lives in danger." "I request your good self to direct the diplomatic missions in the countries concerned to proactively intervene and facilitate the immediate release of the vessel and its crew members," Vijayan said in his letter. The communication comes in the wake of videos and photos sent by the detained Kerala sailors to their families widely circulating on social media as well as

news channels. One of the videos is by Vijith Nair, the brother of Vismaya who committed suicide in June last year due to dowry harassment -- an incident which led to widespread debate in the state regarding this practice.

Vijith, in the video, has said that 15 crew members, including him, have been locked in a jail at Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea, surrounded by security personnel after they were taken from their vessel on the pretext of being accommodated in a hotel. The visuals show the sailors lying on the floor in one room and Vijith saying that soon his phone would run out of battery and that the mobile might even be confiscated. He is seen

requesting everyone to share the video so that it reaches the authorities concerned. Earlier in the day, another sailor from Kerala -- Chief Officer Sanu Jose -- spoke to a TV channel via video call during which he said that he was taken to an Equatorial Guinea warship, but then the Equatorial Guinean government decided not to hand over the Norwegian vessel and crew to Nigeria and he was taken back to his ship. He also said that 15 crew members, including Vijith and another sailor from Kerala -- Milton, were not in the ship when he returned and he was informed that they have been taken to the shore. Jose also said that arrest and detention of the vessel and

crew was all done unofficially and there were no official records of the same. Everything was being done at gunpoint and by intimidating us, he claimed and at the same time also said that no one was physically abused by their captors. "I want to return home. I want to see my kids. I have two small kids," he said during the video call. His wife told a TV channel that it was a relief that the sailors were not handed over to Nigeria and she hoped the Indian government would intervene to ensure their speedy release. She said that she has not received any information or communication from the Indian government. (PTI)

Charge sheet filed in 40 UAPA cases within 90 days: Delhi Police to Delhi HC

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 /--/ The Delhi Police has informed the high court here that out of 83 cases registered by it under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) since 2005, charge sheets were filed in 40 cases within 90 days, while an extension was sought in 20 cases. The data was submitted on the direction of the Delhi High Court which was hearing a plea by a UAPA accused challenging a trial court order extending the 90-day deadline granted to the Delhi Police in the case against him. The police said though a total of 98 cases were lodged under the anti-terror law, 15 of them were transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Justices Mukta Gupta and

Anish Dayal had in October asked the police to place on record the number of cases under the UAPA where it filed the charge sheet within the stipulated 90 days period. The high court had also asked the police to disclose the details of instances where a charge sheet was filed after seeking an extension of the 90-day deadline. Section 43 D (2) of the anti-terror law grants 90 days to the investigating agency to complete its probe and file the charge sheet. It, however, states if it is not possible to complete the investigation within that period, the court concerned may extend the deadline up to 180 days. Of the 83 cases, the police said, 40 cases have been decided and 29

are pending trial while 14 others are pending investigation. The police, in its status report, said that in 40 cases, charge sheets were filed within the stipulated 90-day period, while the extension of time was sought in 20 cases. Out of the 14 cases where an investigation is pending, no arrest has been made in 12 cases. In two cases, arrests have been made but the initial 90 days are not completed. The petitioner has contended the test for granting an extension is that of impossibility of completion of investigation within ninety days, which is materially different from inability or the mere fact of non-completion of examination of call records

or other related investigation. He said the trial court did not assess the report of the public prosecutor on the threshold of impossibility and the investigation seemed to not have progressed since the police and judicial remand was allowed earlier this year. The higher threshold of 'impossibility' has been inserted for good reasons since the UAPA being a special Act already grants an extraordinarily long period of 90 days for pre-charge detention of the accused, which is an exception in criminal justice jurisprudence. "Thus any further extension of the period of detention without charge has to be assessed on a higher threshold, the plea said. (PTI)

J&K Police SI recruitment scam: CBI conducts searches at 7 locations

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 /--/ The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at seven locations in Jammu, Pathankot, Rewari and Karnal in connection with the police sub-inspector recruitment scam in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The searches were conducted at the premises of arrested mastermind Yatin Yadav and CRPF constable Surender Singh among others, they said. The CBI had taken over investigation into the case on August 3 on a reference from the Jammu and Kashmir government. The case pertains to the leak of question paper for the examination through which 1,200 posts of sub-inspectors were to be filled by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB), they said. The agency has arrested 13 persons so far in connection with the case, they said.

A Rewari resident, Yatin Yadav, had allegedly leaked the question paper with the help of an employee of the printing press in Okhla. Yadav allegedly used illicit services of touts based in Jammu and Kashmir, including constables of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), for luring candidates who were charged anything between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 30 lakh approximately for the paper, they said.

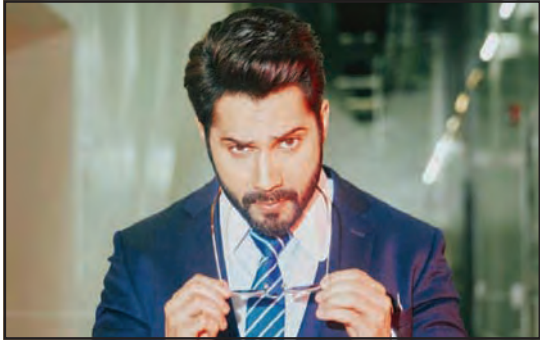
The candidates were allegedly taken to Karnal in Haryana in vehicles provided by CRPF constable Surender Singh and a question paper was provided to them at a hotel there, the CBI said.

The leaked question paper was also allegedly provided to the candidates in Jammu. (PTI)

Varun Dhawan gives update on vestibular hypofunction diagnosis: I'm doing much better

MUMBAI, NOV 8 /--/Days after opening up about his vestibular hypofunction diagnosis, Bollywood star Varun Dhawan said he has made certain lifestyle changes and is doing much better. At a conversation session last week, the 35-year-old actor had revealed his condition that affects the inner ear's control over the balance of the body. In a Twitter post on Monday night, Dhawan said he was touched by the love and concern his well-wishers showered on him in the past few days. "Hey guys I know I had recently given an interview where I spoke about my health not being a 100 per cent. The amount of concern and love that has followed has left me humbled and actually very energised to get back to 100 per cent," the actor tweeted. "To everyone who has been concerned I would like to share I am doing much

better with the help of yoga, swimming, physio and a change in lifestyle. Getting sun is the most



important. Above all the blessings of Bhagwan (god)," he added. During the session at the India Today Mumbai Conclave 2022, Dhawan had said that he was pushing himself hard to cope with the condition. "Recently, I just shut down. I didn't know what had happened to

me. I had this thing called vestibular hypofunction, basically your balance goes off. But I just pushed myself so hard. "We are just running in this race, nobody is asking why. I think there is a greater purpose we are all here. I am trying to find mine, and hopefully, people will find theirs," the actor had said. On the work front, Dhawan will next be seen in horror comedy "Bhediya", scheduled for release on November 25. Directed by Amar Kaushik of "Street" fame, "Bhediya" follows Bhaskar (Varun), who transforms into a werewolf on every full moon night after he is bitten by a mythical wolf. Also starring Kriti Sanon, Deepak Dobriyal and Abhishek Banerjee, the horror-comedy is produced by Dinesh Vijan. It is presented by Jio Studios and Vijan's Maddock Films. (PTI)

Vishal for issuance of Inter-Island ship tickets through CSCs

PORT BLAIR, NOV 8 /--/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, BJP's National Executive Member has demanded for restarting issuance of ship tickets of Inter-Island as well as mainland sectors through Common Services Centers throughout A & N Islands in a letter addressed to Chief Secretary, A&N Administration.

In his letter, Mr. Jolly wrote that a public welfare service was initiated previously by the A & N Administration for issuance of ship tickets through Common Services Centers (CSC) of the Islands and these services, people from every Islands and every corner were conveniently purchasing the ship tickets for both sectors, without

stepping into the limited ticket counters set up by Directorate of Shipping Services.



Further, he mentioned that these Common Services Centers were reportedly delivering all services digitally and in a transparent manner. But during the pandemic of COVID-19, these services were stopped temporarily. Further he added that the pandemic is over and most of the PRE-COVID services have been restored in complete shape. Now, considering the fact that these services were commonly benefiting the public at large he requested to restore these beneficial welfare services at the earliest for the convenience of all Islanders.

Summary revision for Parliamentary electoral roll to commence from today

PORT BLAIR, NOV 8 /--/ The Election Commission of India has ordered Special Summary Revision of Electoral Roll - 2023, with reference to 01.01.2023 as the age qualifying date. The Summary Revision for Parliamentary Electoral Roll will commence from 9th November 2022, with the publication of Draft Electoral Roll - 2023.

Claims & Objections, if any, should either be presented with concerned Designated Officers/Booth Level Officers at all designed polling stations or sent by post to the Electoral Registration Officer, A&N Islands Parliamentary Constituency or concerned Assistant Electoral Registration Officer or through "Voter helpline App" a mobile app, websites at the given link <https://www.nvsp.in> or <https://voterportal.eci.gov.in> so as to reach not later than

08.12.2022. List of claims & objections filed by the citizen will be published on the CEO's website - www.ceoandaman.nic.in. Already enrolled electors may link their Aadhaar Number in electoral roll by applying through Form 6B. Correction of entries in elector details, or change of address, or request for issue of Voter ID Card can be made through Form-8.

The electoral roll shall be finally published on 5th January' 2023. All the electors who have shifted their residence are requested to apply in Form-8 from their current residential address where ordinarily residing for enrolling their name in current address. Form-8 can also be used for change of photograph in the Electoral Roll.

Electors are requested to come forward for updating their mobile

number in the Electoral Roll through Form-8. Also, we expect family members and other electors of a locality to fill Form -7 for those who have migrated to the mainland or expired but their name still exists in the Electoral Roll. Such information is very crucial for purification of the Electoral Roll.

In addition to the qualifying date of 01.01.2023, an eligible Citizen, who is going to attain the age of eighteen years on any of the subsequent qualifying dates in the year 2023, that is to say, the 1st April, 2023, the 1st July, 2023, or the 1st October, 2023, may also file his or her claim for inclusion of his or her name in the Electoral Roll, in Form-6, in advance, and the same shall be considered and decided in the respective quarter of the year with reference to the respective qualifying date.

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35th National Under-13 Chess championship

PORT BLAIR, NOV 8 /--/ The MPL 35th National Under-13 Boys & Girls Chess Championship-2022 will be held from 10th to 18th December 2022 in Puducherry. Each Affiliated State Association is entitled to send two entries each from Boys & Girls for the Championship. The players who are born on or after 1.1.2009 are eligible to participate in the Championship. Interested chess players who wish to participate in the upcoming National Under-13 Chess Championship 2022 may submit their entries on or before 18th November 2022 through Whatsapp@ 9434293379 or email@anchessassociation@gmail.com v i s i t www.anchessassociation.com. As per the entries, Andaman Nicobar chess association (ANCA) will conduct a Selection Trial on Sunday the 20th November 2022 to select players from Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the National under-13. For more details, please contact B Neelaiah, General Secretary Andaman Nicobar Chess Association @ 9434293379 or 9679593366.

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Life is like playing a violin in public and learning the instrument as one goes on
Samuel Butler

Promises aplenty in poll-bound Himachal Pradesh

Come elections, political parties vie with each other in wooing voters, even if it means promising the moon. This time too it's no different in poll-bound Himachal Pradesh. While announcing various sops to lure the electorate, the BJP and the Congress are raking up issues related to women. Religion too forms the core of the poll manifestos of the two parties as they prepare for the battle of ballots on November 12. Considering the fact that women account for nearly half (49 per cent) of the population of the hill state, the principal rivals have gone out of the way to impress them this time. The thrust of parties on women is rooted in the fact that the women voters in Himachal Pradesh have been outnumbering men in all elections since 1998. Also, out of 55,74,793 voters, 28,46,201 are men and 27,28,555 women. While the Congress has unveiled the "Har Ghar Lakshmi, Nari Samman Nidhi" promising Rs.1,500 per month to adult women besides 300 units of free power which too would potentially ease the living of women, the BJP launched a dedicated manifesto for the female voters calling the document "Stree Sankalp Patra". The BJP manifesto for women promises bicycles for schoolgoers, scooties for college students and enhanced 'shagun', which includes monetary assistance, for the marriage of girls from BPL families. "Stree Shakti Sankalp" also ambitiously offers 33 per cent reservation to women in government jobs and educational institutions. A corpus fund of Rs 500 crores for interest-free loans to women entrepreneurs will be set up for homestays and financial support for the marriage of girls belonging to below-poverty-line families will be raised from Rs 31,000 to Rs 51,000 under the ongoing "Mukhmantri Shagun Yojna". Another thrust area of the manifestos of both parties is religion with the BJP promising a "Him Teerath" circuit to link major temples and Shakti Peeths by launching 45 special busses from New Delhi, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Meerut and Mathura.

The Congress has for the first time included a stand-alone segment in its manifesto on "Devsthan and TirthYatras" (Temples and Pilgrimages). The segment promised to pay for a free pilgrimage of all elderly (accompanied by one attendant) to a shrine of choice; doubling the annual contribution to state-supported temples and double emoluments to temple priests. The BJP also promised to implement the Uniform Civil Code and survey Waqf properties to end alleged illegalities therein. Making a religion-centric pledge in its poll manifesto, the Congress promised to develop tourism circuits to strengthen religious tourism and a special budget for the restoration and modernisation of temples. The BJP manifesto seeks to woo the segment with several promises ranging from three free LPG cylinders to women of poor households, enrolment of all women over 30 years from poor families under the Atal Pension Scheme and two hostels per district. It promised Rs 2,500 monthly scholarship for 50,000 meritorious female students of government schools during the course of graduation, among many pledges. The pro-women push of the BJP comes close on the heels of the party's historic win in Uttar Pradesh, where the silent women voters were seen as a decisive factor behind the party's re-election, a first for any incumbent government in 37 years. The BJP clocked a lead of 16 per cent among women voters over its rival SP-led alliance in UP.

Seeking to take the wind out of the BJP's sails, the Congress has hit out at the ruling BJP over its Himachal Pradesh poll manifesto, terming it a "cut-copy-paste" of their five-year-old promises and in parts borrowed from the grand old party's 2022 election document.

Morbi bridge collapse: Questions Gujarat govt needs to answer

REFLEX ACTION

Prabir Purkayastha

The Morbi pedestrian suspension bridge over the Machchhu River collapsed on October 30, leading to the confirmed death of 141 persons and injuries to more than 100. In this column, I will not repeat what is widely known regarding one of the worst bridge disasters in India. The question that needs to be raised is whose responsibility is such a bridge in India and whether the authorities carried out their responsibilities. This is more than simply filing police cases against lower-level staff in the company, Oreva, a manufacturer of electronic clocks, CFL bulbs and e-bikes.

Oreva had been given the contract for the bridge renovation though they had no experience in any structural work. Yes, Oreva is responsible for taking on work for which they had no knowledge or expertise. But why was such work involving public safety given at all to a company with no previous experience? What was the role of the Morbi Municipal authorities who seemed to have handed out a contract to the Oreva group without any attempt to draw up a specification of what needed to be done; or any procedure to verify that the work had been done safely.

This leads to the questions: who is responsible for bridges over rivers in India and what was the role of the state government, in this case, the Gujarat government. The Gujarat state has statutory authority over the river Machchhu. It is, therefore, responsible for verifying the safety of any structure over the river. What did the Gujarat government do, which has been advertising the Morbi suspension bridge as a major tourist attraction and an engineering marvel? Let us first examine the contract between the Morbi Municipal Corporation and the company. The Morbi municipality did not issue any public tender for the repairs to a bridge that was 140 years old. Nor were any specifications issued or any prequalifications made for the renovation work, all standard practices for any public works. In this case, this is even more important considering the age of the bridge and the obvious safety issues with any suspension bridge, let alone a bridge of this age.

The agreement between Oreva and the Morbi Municipal authorities also had a clause that stated that no government authority would have any jurisdiction over the bridge for fifteen years, handing over the bridge

completely to the company. Was this issued without taking explicit permission from the Gujarat state government? The state government has jurisdiction over any structure over a river (unless it is an inter-state river). Did the Gujarat government allow Morbi Municipality to issue such a waiver, or was it issued without taking their consent? Considering the Gujarat government viewed the Morbi Bridge as an "engineering marvel", was the district magistrate and the PWD completely oblivious to the safety of the suspension bridge?

The municipal authorities have also claimed that Oreva opened the bridge without a fitness certificate. Again, the contract should have mentioned the need for a fitness certificate and what constitutes fitness for the bridge to be opened to public, including the safety requirements that needed to be met. Again, there is nothing in the contract. None of these failures of the Morbi Municipality absolves Oreva. As per Indian law and the Supreme Court's verdict on the oleum gas leak case in Delhi, Oreva has legal responsibility for the safety of the people that they had permitted on the bridge by issuing tickets. Nor does the failure of Oreva absolve the Morbi Municipal authorities as the ultimate owners of the bridge, irrespective of their contract with Oreva. Why is engineering of a suspension bridge more challenging? Any suspension bridge transfers the load of the entire structure on to the two sets of cables running on top from which the walkway hangs supported by a set of cables.

The load of the entire structure is, therefore, on the two sets of cables running over the bridge, which transfers this load to the two sets of towers on each side of the bridge. Unlike a bridge supported on a set of piers/supports, the bridge behaves as one structure and if it collapses, it will collapse as a whole. Further, such hanging structures also face problems of vibrations due to wind that can lead to the collapse of a bridge. This was witnessed in the famous

Tacoma Narrows Bridge collapse in 1940. Finally, a bridge of this kind is as strong as its weakest member; in this case, the supporting cables. Since these cables were more than a century old, there was a need to evaluate the state of such cables: their rusting and ageing due to repeated stress. Again, there is nothing in the contract regarding the state of the cables and their replacement if needed. Finally, there was the major safety requirement: given the bridge's age, should it be open to the public at all, or if open, what should be the maximum number permitted on the bridge? Again, complete silence in the contract. From what little we have learned, Oreva replaced the "deck" of the bridge. Again, replacing the bridge's deck without considering the possible change in the weight of the hanging structure is a serious oversight. All of these items should have been on the radar of the municipal authorities and the state government. After all, the Morbi Hanging Bridge was advertised as an engineering marvel and a major tourist attraction in Gujarat. So what did the Gujarat government do regarding a safety audit of such a structure?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had no hesitation in holding Mamata Banerjee responsible for the Vivekananda Flyover collapse in 2016, calling it an "act of fraud". This time, he had no such statements on the culpability of the state government. The obvious difference is, of course, that in the 2016 elections Mamata and the Trinamool Congress were responsible for the bridge collapse. This time with the BJP running the state government and facing state elections within a month, the state government is being absolved of all responsibilities. Referring the matter to the court and having a court led investigation should not deter the state and the central government authorities to perform their investigations and give us answers to the questions raised regarding the safety of the Morbi Suspension Bridge.

By ducking the issue of who is responsible for the safety of a suspension bridge in the state, the Gujarat government is putting its electoral needs above the needs of the safety of the people. There are serious questions that need to be answered regarding the safety of such structures. If we do not learn from our mistakes in Morbi, we will be condemned to repeat them. Considering that there are many more suspension bridges in the country, let us not repeat the mistakes of Morbi and wait for more disasters. (IPA)



A book seller sets up his makeshift book stall at the footpath of Esplanade Row East in Kolkata on Tuesday --Arijit Ganguly

BJP has no reason to gloat over Bihar results

Winning the Gopalganj seat in the latest assembly by poll in Bihar is purely a consolation gift for the BJP. In Gopalganj, BJP's candidate Kusum Devi won by a slender margin of 1794 votes, defeating RJD's Mohan Prasad Gupta. Kusum Devi received 70,053 votes and Mohan Prasad Gupta received 68,259 votes.

An attempt is being made by the media to set the narrative that the first electoral test for the Nitish Kumar's 'Mahagathbandhan' government, formed barely three months ago after Nitish parted ways with the BJP does not enjoy the trust of the people. Gopalganj has been BJP's pocket borough since 2005. The BJP had won the seat in 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020 with comfortable margins. The margin had been over 36,000 in 2020. Subhas Singh had won the seat. He had got around 78000 votes.

The votes polled by the BJP candidate who incidentally is the wife of deceased Subhas Singh even could not get the 8000 thousand votes margin which were bagged by her husband in 2020 assembly polls. This fall in the BJP vote is also significant for the reason that in 2020 election the then Mahagathbandhan candidate, a nominee of the Congress, had polled 36460 votes. In that election too Sadhu Yadav's candidate seeking election as BSP nominee had got 41500.

Obviously the performance of the BJP in this election indicates that the party actually has lost ground to the rejuvenated Grand Alliance under the leadership of

Nitish. Kumar While Mahagathbandhan candidate secured 68259 votes, Sadhu's wife got 12000 votes,

The RJD fielded Mohan Gupta, while Indira Yadav, wife of LaluYadav's brother-in-law Sadhu Yadav, contested as BahujanSamaj Party (BSP) candidate. The decline in margin of victory has been quite distressing for the BJP. Though the state president of the BJP hailed the victory as significant, it cannot be denied that BJP candidate scraped through with a margin of 1,794 votes.

BJP could retain Gopalganj only because the AIMIM put up Abdul Salam, who bagged over 12,000 votes. Another factor was that Lalu's estranged brother-in-law Sadhu Yadav fielded his wife Indira Yadav as a Bahujan Samaj Party candidate. She polled around 9,000 votes. These votes were precisely anti BJP in nature. While the AIMIM managed to cut into the RJD's Muslim support base, Sadhu's wife lured a section of the Yadavs and a section of Dalits. A significant chunk of these 21,000 votes were supposed to go to RJD. The AIMIM and BSP candidates cut the Muslim and Yadav votes that traditionally go to the RJD in Bihar.

The most distressing development that

has surfaced in the wake of this by election is shifting away of a section of the Muslim votes, from RJD to AIMIM. It is certain that the shift would not have major impact on the Muslim-Yadav axis evolved by Lalu Yadav, but the schism would undoubtedly shake the confidence of the Muslims. The prime reason for the split in the Muslims owes to the fact that Tejashvi Yadav did not take wife of gangster Shahabuddin into confidence before fielding Gupta as the RJD candidate. Gopalganj has substantial Muslim population and close aides of Shahabuddin claim that they are devoted to him. After his death, the Muslims treat his wife as their leader. Obviously Tejashvi not consulting her and outing Gupta as the RJD candidate has hurt them.

The supporters of Shahabuddin had strongly lobbied for Muslim face as the RJD candidate. But past experiences had made Tejashvi tread cautiously. With a RJD Muslim candidate in the fray, the Hindu voters used to polarise in favour of BJP. The area having strong network of RSS has always been prone to communal clashes. Often the goons of Shahabuddin would have bloody clashes with the Hindu gangsters. Though Shahabuddin operated from Siwan his home town, Gopalganj is in

the close vicinity virtually the next door neighbour. Tejashvi had put a number of prominent Muslim faces in the war, but they could not counter the influence of Shahabuddin and his wife.

The fact is lotus did not bloom in Bihar. The Bihar BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal claimed: "Our seat remained with us while the RJD retained its seat. Politics in Bihar is now polarised between the BJP and the RJD." He is not correct in his valuation. The BJP would now focus on the Kudhani Assembly bypoll in December. The seat was held by the RJD.

If Gopalganj witnessed an orthodox political action, Mokameh by election saw the fight between muscle power. Both the BJP and the RJD had fielded the wives of local musclemen in the bypolls. BJP nominee Sonam Devi was up against RJD's Neelam Devi, whose husband Anant Singh's disqualification has necessitated the by-election. Anant Singh won the seat twice on JD(U) tickets and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has appealed to voters to support him . Singh's wife Neelam Devi, defeated her BJP rival by a margin of more than 16,000 votes. She polled 79,744 votes, while BJP's Sonam Devi got 63,003.

Interestingly Ram Vilas Paswan's brother Pashupati Paras, a union minister and his party's acting president Surajbhan Singh, a former Mokama MLA had campaigned for BJP candidate. Even Ram Vilas's son who is not on talking terms with his uncle Paras also campaigned intensively for the saffron party. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword												
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ACROSS						DOWN					
1	Deeply engrossed	1	Attacker	2	Drive forwards	3	Fish	4	Play on words	5	Precious stone
6	Spirit	7	Purplish brown	8	Tree	9	Heaven	10	Apple drink	11	Insane
9	Golf club	12	First woman	13	Frighten from	14	Acting parts	15	Speech sound	16	Rudder bar
10	Musical note	17	Wrath	18	Of the kidneys	19	Insurgents	20	Poet's Ireland	21	Become firm
11	Heaven	22	Worth	23	Colour	24	Dash	25	Qualified	26	Encountered
12	Frighten from	27	Drink	28	Does wrong	29	Narrow beam				

SUDOKU:3690												
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Yesterday's Solution 3689												
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Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1698												
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M		A		R				D		E		L

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Charge sheet filed in 40 UAPA cases within 90 days: Delhi Police to Delhi HC



NEW DELHI, NOV 8 --/ The Delhi Police has informed the high court here that out of 83 cases registered by it under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) since 2005, charge sheets were filed in 40 cases within 90 days, while an extension was sought in 20 cases.

The data was submitted on the direction of the Delhi High Court which was hearing a plea by a UAPA accused challenging a trial court order extending the 90-day deadline granted to the Delhi Police in the case against him. The police said though a total of 98 cases were lodged under the anti-terror law, 15 of them were transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Justices Mukta Gupta and Anish Dayal had in October asked the police to place on record the number of cases

under the UAPA where it filed the charge sheet within the stipulated 90 days period. The high court had also asked the police to disclose the details of instances where a charge sheet was filed after seeking an extension of the 90-day deadline. Section 43 D (2) of the anti-terror law grants 90 days to the investigating agency to complete its probe and file the charge sheet. It, however, states if it is not possible to complete the investigation within that period, the court concerned may extend the deadline up to 180 days. Of the 83 cases, the police said, 40 cases have been decided and 29 are pending trial while 14 others are pending investigation. The police, in its status report, said that in 40 cases, charge sheets were filed within the stipulated 90-day period, while the ex-

tension of time was sought in 20 cases. Out of the 14 cases where an investigation is pending, no arrest has been made in 12 cases. In two cases, arrests have been made but the initial 90 days are not completed.

The petitioner has contended the test for granting an extension is that of impossibility of completion of investigation within ninety days, which is materially different from inability or the mere fact of non-completion of examination of call records or other related investigation. He said the trial court did not assess the report of the public prosecutor on the threshold of impossibility and the investigation seemed to not have progressed since the police and judicial remand was allowed earlier this year. The higher threshold of 'impossibility' has been inserted for good reasons since the UAPA being a special Act already grants an extraordinarily long period of 90 days for pre-charge detention of the accused, which is an exception in criminal justice jurisprudence. "Thus any further extension of the period of detention without charge has to be assessed on a higher threshold, the plea said. (PTI)

J&K Police SI recruitment scam: CBI conducts searches at 7 locations

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 --/The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at seven locations in Jammu, Pathankot, Rewari and Karnal in connection with the police sub-inspector recruitment scam in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The searches were conducted at the premises of arrested mastermind Yatin Yadav and CRPF constable Surrender Singh among others, they said. The CBI had taken over investigation into the case on August 3 on a reference from the Jammu and Kashmir government. The case pertains to the leak of question paper for the examination through which 1,200 posts of sub-inspectors were to be filled by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB), they said. The agency has arrested 13 persons so far in connec-

tion with the case, they said.

A Rewari resident, Yatin Yadav, had allegedly leaked the question paper with the help of an employee of the printing press in Okhla. Yadav allegedly used illicit services of touts based in Jammu and Kashmir, including constables of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), for luring candidates who were charged anything between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 30 lakh approximately for the paper, they said. The candidates were allegedly taken to Karnal in Haryana in vehicles provided by CRPF constable Surrender Singh and a question paper was provided to them at a hotel there, the CBI said. The leaked question paper was also allegedly provided to the candidates in Jammu. (PTI)

Kerala journalists hold protest march to Raj Bhavan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 8 --/Hundreds of journalists under the aegis of the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) on Tuesday marched to Raj Bhavan here in protest against Governor Arif Mohammed Khan who had humiliated two journalists and ousted them from his press conference.

The protest march, which began from Kanakakunnu in the city and culminated ahead of the main gate of the Raj Bhavan, was inaugurated by Leader of Opposition and senior Congress leader V D Satheesan. Former State Finance Minister and Left leader T M Thomas Isaac, CITU leader Anathalavattom Anandan, Left leader and MP John Brittas were among others who participated in the protest march. An agitated Kerala Governor had on Monday bluntly told journalists representing Kairali News and MediaOne television channels to "get out" of

a press conference here and asserted that he would not talk to them. The KUWJ said it "decies all attempts on part of Kerala Raj Bhavan to interfere in the free and independent functioning of journalists and the selective denial of journalistic access."

In a letter addressed to the Governor, KUWJ asked Khan to "rethink" prejudices against some media houses and ensure that the right to practice freedom of profession is enjoyed by all journalists.

"The Kerala Union of Working Journalists is deeply concerned about the intolerance that Raj Bhavan harbours against some media houses. We strongly condemn the incidents at Ernakulam Guest house as well as the Delhi Kerala House where journalists were ousted by the Governor," the letter said. KUWJ said it was unfortunate that despite occupying a highly respectable Constitutional position, Khan displayed

blatant intolerance towards the media, and repeatedly insulted the Kairali and Media One channels' journalists who were merely discharging their official duties. Addressing the journalists, Satheesan said the Governor's move was anti-democratic and cannot be accepted in a democratic country. While the ruling CPI(M) and the main opposition Congress termed his behaviour "fascist," the KUWJ demanded that he rectify his "mistake" and express regret for his "undemocratic" action.

Khan, who is at loggerheads with the Marxist party-led government over several issues, told the journalists to "get out." He blamed Kairali for its party affiliation and the other channel for campaigning against him. Kairali News is a CPI(M) managed channel and MediaOne is backed by a Muslim organisation. KUWJ also held protests at Thrissur and Kozhikode. (PTI)

Varun Dhawan gives update on vestibular hypofunction diagnosis: I'm doing much better

MUMBAI, NOV 8 --/Days after opening up about his vestibular hypofunction diagnosis, Bollywood star Varun Dhawan said he has made certain lifestyle changes and is doing much better.

At a conversation session last week, the 35-year-old actor had revealed his condition that affects the inner ear's control over the balance of the body. In a Twitter post on Monday night, Dhawan said he was touched by the love and concern his well-wishers showered on him in the past few days. "Hey guys I know I had recently given an interview where I spoke about my health not being a



Varun Dhawan

100 per cent. The amount of concern and love that has followed has left me humbled and actually very energised to get back to 100 per cent," the actor tweeted. "To everyone who has been concerned I would like to share I am do-

ing much better with the help of yoga, swimming, physio and a change in lifestyle. Getting sun is the most important. Above all the blessings of Bhagwan (god)," he added.

During the session at the India Today Mumbai Conclave 2022, Dhawan had said that he was pushing himself hard to cope with the condition. "Recently, I just shut down. I didn't know what had happened to me. I had this thing called vestibular hypofunction, basically your balance goes off. But I just pushed myself so hard. We are just running in this race, nobody is asking why. I think there is a greater



Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences (I/C), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel Dr. Jitendra Singh convening the first-ever Joint Society Meeting of Autonomous Bodies (IITM, INCOIS, NCESS, NCPOR, NIOT) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), in New Delhi

Ranthambhore musical festival to be organised only after permission: NGT

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 --/The National Green Tribunal has directed that the proposed musical festival near the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan to be held only with the requisite permission and according to the conditions stipulated by a joint committee.

A bench comprising chairperson Justice A K Goel said that no approval from the wildlife department was shown to the tribunal and the argument that all approvals were taken remained a tall claim. The bench also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member A Senthil Vel said the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve in Sawai Madhopur district was an ecosensitive zone and activities in its vi-

cinity had to be regulated to ensure that there was no harm to the wildlife. On due consideration, we find it difficult to accept that all approvals for the event have been taken, the bench said. It is difficult to accept that such events have no relevance for the protection of wildlife and no evaluation has been undertaken by any statutory regulator or even by the project proponent (event manager, Canvas Talent Pvt Ltd, Mumbai) that the event will have no adverse impact on the wildlife, the bench added.

The bench further said that it appeared difficult to rule out the possibility of disturbing the wildlife and ecosystem by the event being organised within 10 km of the reserve and as there

was no express permission, an informed decision by a statutory regulator was necessary. Accordingly, we direct that the event may be held only if so permitted and subject to such conditions as laid down by a joint committee of National Wildlife Board, Government of India and Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan after due consideration of its impact on the wildlife and the eco-system, the green panel said. It said that the decision be taken expeditiously, preferably within one week and the National Board for Wildlife in coordination with other authorities concerned, including the National Tiger Conservation Authority, could issue appropriate guidelines with regard to such events in the vicinity

of other national parks in the country, preferably within one month. If any such guidelines have been issued, the same may be updated with further inputs, if any and compliance may be ensured by the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Sawai Madhopur, the NGT said.

The NGT initiated suo motu proceedings in the matter to consider the impact of the proposed musical festival near the tiger reserve at Ranthambhore. The Ranthambhore Festival was being organised since 2017 at a hotel, around five km from the Ranthambhore National Park, to promote the art and culture of the region, the application filed by the project proponent said. (PTI)

IMD may soon get additional sets of weather observations through AMDAR

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 --/The India Meteorological Department (IMD) may soon get additional sets of weather observations through AMDAR that can help improve forecast accuracy, particularly when early warning systems are proving to be important in view of increasing instances of extreme weather events.

The AMDAR or the Aircraft Meteorological Data Relay is available for every flight landing or take-off from an airport with the aircraft sensor recording their temperature, wind speed, direction, barometric pressure, water vapour and transmitting the data to the ground stations. These reports, available with meteorological departments worldwide, contribute up to 10 per cent in the impact of the numerical prediction model and play a key role in reducing errors in 24-hour forecasts.

The other sources of information for the prediction models include the atmospheric data gathered from weather balloons, sea surface temperatures from buoys anchored in the high seas and weather stations across the country. "Nearly 20-30 per cent of the received aircraft observations are assimilated

into the numerical weather prediction models," a senior weather scientist told PTI. Officials said the issue of the missing link in weather observations was flagged at the level of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), which set in motion a series of actions to make available the crucial data to the weather office.

A senior official said it was mandatory for airlines worldwide to transmit the AMDAR data for meteorological use, but the same was not available to the IMD for various reasons. On July 1, the Noida-based National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, which houses the super-computers of the weather office, received over 18,000 AMDAR reports from around the world, but just 55 from the region over India. Following the PMO's intervention, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has now placed orders from the trans-receivers at various airports to relay the AMDAR reports over India to the weather office.

Similarly, the domestic carriers also send very few Aircraft Reports (AIREP), which are automated reports of in-flight weather conditions such as wind and temperature, to the weather office. (PTI)

EX-IPS officer Vanzara launches 'Hindutva'-based political party ahead of Gujarat polls

AHMEDABAD, NOV 8 --/ Former IPS officer DG Vanzara on Tuesday launched a political party based on "Hindutva" ideology which will contest the next month's Assembly elections in Gujarat.

Vanzara, a former "encounter specialist", was acquitted in the alleged fake encounter case of Sohrauddin Shaikh and Tulsiram Prajapati and discharged in the Ishrat Jahan alleged fake encounter case. He said the people of Gujarat will have an alternative in the newly-floated "Praja Vijay Party" (PVP) as Congress and AAP cannot be "alternatives" to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state. The PVP will contest all 182 seats in the two-phase polls scheduled on December 1 and 5, but it is not clear whether Vanzara will enter the poll fray. "People of Gujarat do not easily accept a non-Hindutva party."

Only a Hindutva party can provide an alternative to the BJP. Today, I want the people of the state and the country to know that 'Praja Vijay Party' is a Hindutva party," Vanzara told a press conference. He said had Congress been an alternative, there would not have been a single-party (BJP) rule in the state for the last 27 years. "Even the Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP) cannot become an option for people in Gujarat who want an alternative to the BJP," Vanzara said.

When asked whether he decided to float a new party because he was denied a ticket by the BJP, Vanzara said the question was of ideology. "I am not someone who will stand in a queue for a party ticket," he added. General Secretary of the PVP, Samatsinh Chauhan, said the newly-launched party has joined the fray with a distinct identity as a Hindutva party. "Hindutva (of) BJP has no vision beyond 'Rajsa' (power). Praja Vijay Paksha' has entered the fray with a new political and spiritual vision," he said, adding that priority will be given to women and youth who want to contest polls.

Vanzara was last year discharged by a CBI court in 2004 alleged fake encounters of Mumbra resident Ishrat Jahan and three others near Ahmedabad by Gujarat police officers in a joint operation with officials of the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

He was acquitted in 2017 in the 2005 alleged fake encounters of Sohrauddin Shaikh and Tulsiram Prajapati after spending nearly eight years behind bars before being released on bail in 2015. (PTI)

Leh: 2 day training on DigiLab concludes

LEH, NOV 8 --/With an aim to ensure effective usage of the digital learning scheme, headmasters and teachers of 27 schools in the district completed a two-day training on DigiLab solution and its operation, officials said. The Ladakh administration launched a pilot project for digital learning in schools in the region. Under this pilot, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) has set up DigiLab in government schools of Leh district, covering all constituencies, they said. So far, DigiLab has been set up in around 200 government schools in Ladakh. The two-day training on the DigiLab solution and its operation was supported by Ladakh's education department and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and implemented by a foundation working to improve access and quality of education in the remotest villages of the Indian Himalayan region. The DigiLab aids the teacher's traditional face-to-face delivery through highly visual and interactive content and provides an individualised learning platform for each student. Tsering Anchuk, deputy chairman of LAHDC (Leh) applauded the teachers on the region's improvement in the performance grading index and stressed that the effective implementation of the DigiLabs in schools will further help improve Ladakh's grading.

The DigiLab is a solution created by 17000 FT Foundation specifically for Ladakh, which brings the power of digital technology to improve learning, even in areas that are remote, inaccessible and truly off-grid. The project assumes neither the presence of uninterrupted electricity, mobile connectivity nor existing infrastructure, and brings together all required components in an offline, but a connected system. It delivers customised and personalised content through a local internet to students, while also enabling the teachers and administrators to assess and monitor performance periodically through a last-mile connectivity app. (PTI)

Mumbai Police register FIR against comedian Vir Das, Netflix on charges of copyright infringement

MUMBAI, NOV 8 --/The Mumbai Police have registered an FIR against stand-up comedian Vir Das, two other persons and online streaming platform Netflix on charges of copyright rules violation following a complaint by a producer, an official said on Tuesday.

Noted theatre producer Ashvin Gidwani in his police complaint said that in October 2010, his company signed a contract with Das to produce a show. In January 2020, when Gidwani saw a promo of a new show of Das on Netflix, the producer realised that some content had allegedly been copied from the previous show (of 2010) with a few changes, the official from Cuffe Parade police station said. Based on Gidwani's complaint, a case was registered on November 4 against Das, two other persons and Netflix service under relevant provisions of the Copyright Act, the official said. No arrest has been made so far, he said, adding that an investigation is on into the case.

On Monday, right-wing group 'Hindu Janajagruti Samiti' approached the police in Bengaluru, seeking cancellation of a show by Das, alleging that it will hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus and show India in bad light to the world. Last year also, police complaints were filed against Das over one of his videos, following which the comedian had issued a statement saying his comments were not intended to insult the country. (PTI)

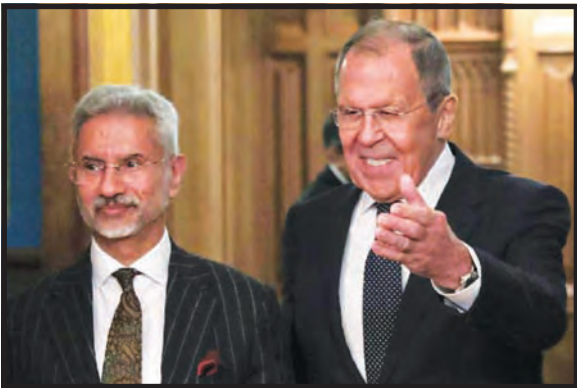
India, Russia resolve to expand economic engagement

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 /--/ India on Tuesday vowed to expand its economic engagement with "time-tested" partner Russia including procurement of crude oil even as external affairs minister (EAM) S Jaishankar reiterated New Delhi's call for resolving the Ukraine conflict through dialogue and diplomacy in his wide-ranging talks with Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, Jaishankar referred to the "exceptionally steady" Indo-Russian relationship for decades and that the objective is to fashion a contemporary, balanced, mutually beneficial, sustainable and long-term engagement between the two sides. At a press conference later, the EAM said the talks covered practical cooperation in areas of trade, investments, energy and commodities as well as sensitive domains like defence, space and nuclear energy. In his remarks, Lavrov described the talks as "fruitful" and welcomed "positive dynamics" in bilateral trade while expressing confidence in achieving the target of an annual trade volume of USD 30 billion soon. On the Ukraine conflict, Jaishankar referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to Russian President Vladimir Putin during a meeting with Putin in the Uzbek city of

Samarkand in September that "today's era is not of war" and that the Ukraine conflict was a dominant feature in the talks. "As Prime Minister Modi conveyed to President Putin in Samarkand in September, this is not an era of war. The global economy is simply too inter-dependent for a significant conflict anywhere, not to have major consequences elsewhere," Jaishankar said. "We are seeing growing concerns on energy and food security emanate from the conflict that is coming on top of severe stresses created by two years of Covid. The Global South, especially, is feeling this pain very acutely," he said. "India, therefore, strongly advocates a return to dialogue and diplomacy. We are clearly on the side of peace, respect for international law and support for the UN Charter," Jaishankar noted. The Union minister also held comprehensive talks with Russian Deputy Prime and minister of trade and industry Denis Manturov which was held under the framework of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation. At the joint media briefing with Lavrov, Jaishankar said India will be as helpful as it can be

pertaining to issues like food grains and fertilizer shipments are concerned, or any other problem. "Indeed, I would say that for any initiative that de-risks the global economy and stabilises the global order at this stage;



EAM S Jaishankar with Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, in Moscow

India will be supportive," he noted. Asked about Western pressure on India 'on import of crude oil from Russia, Jaishankar said New Delhi's fundamental obligation is to ensure that Indian consumers have the best possible

access on the most advantageous terms to international markets. "The fact that I am here today with a delegation to review our cooperation, to see how we can take it forward, to create a long-term sustainable basis, I think, says most of all," he said. "For us, Russia has been a steady and time-tested partner, and as I said, any objective evaluation of our relationship over many decades would confirm that it has actually served both our countries very, very well," he said. "So if it has served my country very, very well for many decades, I think you can see the obvious interest and commitment I would have in keeping that relationship strong and steady," the minister noted. As regards the oil supply issue, Jaishankar said there is stress on the energy markets which has been created by a combination of factors. "But as today the world's third-largest consumer of oil and gas, a consumer where the levels of income are not very high, it is our fundamental obligation to ensure that the Indian consumer has the best possible access on the most advantageous terms to international markets," he said. "In that respect, quite honestly, we have seen that the India-Russia relationship has worked to our

advantage. So if it works to my advantage I would like to keep that going," he said. The EAM said India and Russia have grappled with ways to expand bilateral trade and introduce more factors of long-term stability and growth. "Some of these discussions are now yielding results, accelerated by the stresses that the global economy is currently experiencing, including as a result of the Ukraine conflict. Minister Lavrov and I have noted the significant growth in our bilateral trade this year and focused on how to make it more sustainable," he said.

At the same time, Jaishankar voiced concerns over trade imbalance and said he raised with the Russian side how to address the "impediments" that stand in the way of greater Indian exports to Russia. "We reviewed the progress of our space and nuclear programs. It is also essential that our time-tested defence relationship continues to perform smoothly," he said. "Notably, our energy and fertilizer cooperation has been strengthening and our achievements of the last few years have become a foundation to do more. Foreign minister Lavrov of course has spoken about some of these issues in his remarks," he added. Jaishankar said the talks also focused on terrorism and climate change challenges. (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeting veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani with a bunch of roses on his birthday in New Delhi

PM Modi and French Prez to address 25th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit

BENGALURU, NOV 8 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, will address the 25th edition of Asia's largest Tech Event 'Bengaluru Tech Summit' (BTS), during its inaugural here on November 16. The flagship event organised by the department of electronics, IT, Bt, S&T, Government of Karnataka along with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) will be held physically from November 16 to 18 at the iconic Bangalore Palace here.

According to E V Ramana Reddy, additional chief secretary, department of electronics, IT, Bt and S&T, Government of Karnataka, it will be a recorded address by both Modi and Macron. Among the dignitaries attending the event are: Omar Bin Sultan Al Olama, minister of state for artificial intelligence, digital economy and remote work applications, UAE; Tim Watts, assistant minister for foreign affairs, Australia; Petri Honkonen, minister of

science and culture of Finland, and Martin Schroeter, Chairman & CEO, Kyndryl, USA. As part of the landmark 25th year celebrations, BTS 2022 will witness the unveiling of the Silver Jubilee Commemoration Plaque of Bengaluru Tech Summit 2022 by chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, along with the felicitation of 35 companies from ITE and Biotech who have completed 25-plus years of service in Bengaluru. The event will also witness the coming together of global tech leaders, Indian corporates and startups from IT, Deep tech and Biotech, showcasing disruptive technologies, forging partnerships and alliances. Speaking to reporters, Karnataka minister for electronics, information technology, biotechnology, science and technology, C N Ashwath Narayan said, the aspiration is to scale-up to the level of Davos in Switzerland, which hosts World Economic Forum, in the years to come. (PTI)

KOLKATA, NOV 8 /--/ Trinamool Congress Tuesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his recent remarks on CAA and said it is a hoax aimed at creating a communal narrative ahead of the Gujarat assembly and Lok Sabha polls.

TMC iterated that it will never allow the implementation of the Act in West Bengal. TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said: "The BJP tries to come up with new tricks every time elections come up". Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday said by giving citizenship in Gujarat to persecuted Sikh families from abroad it has been underlined that no matter where the Sikhs may be, India is their home. As a tribute to the sacrifices made by the people of

Punjab, The Partition Horrors Remembrance Day has been started on August 14, Ghosh said.

"We have also tried to create a way to give citizenship to the Hindu and Sikh families affected by the Partition by bringing in the CAA," he said. Ghosh said those who had come to India from Pakistan and erstwhile East Pakistan have already got their citizenship. "This issue of CAA is a complete hoax aimed at befooling the people. Every time there is an election, BJP brings up this issue to create a communal narrative. This has become an old trick. "As Gujarat election is now knocking at the door, BJP is again trying to flare up the issue. It should now stop using such lies to create narratives," Ghosh, who is

also the TMC state general secretary, said.

The Centre recently decided to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians who left Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan and settled in two districts of Gujarat under the Citizenship Act, 1955. "What citizenship is BJP talking about? Those who have come to India post-partition, are they not citizens of the country? Will BJP now decide who is a citizen and who is not? The TMC will never allow implementation of CAA in West Bengal," he said.

Reacting to Ghosh's remark, state BJP general secretary Agnimitra Paul said the party is known to keep its promise and CAA won't be an exception. "BJP

always keeps its promise. The CAA too will be implemented in West Bengal," she said. The promise of implementing the controversial CAA had been a major poll plank of the BJP in the last Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. The saffron party's leaders consider it a plausible factor that led to the rise of the party in Bengal and had helped it to bag all five Matua-dominated Lok Sabha seats in 2019, besides at least 29 assembly seats in 2021. Matuas, who make up for a large chunk of the state's Scheduled Caste population, had been migrating to West Bengal from Bangladesh since the 1950s ostensibly due to religious persecution. The Act came into being in 2019 but the rule is yet to be framed. (PTI)

Education not a business to earn profit: SC

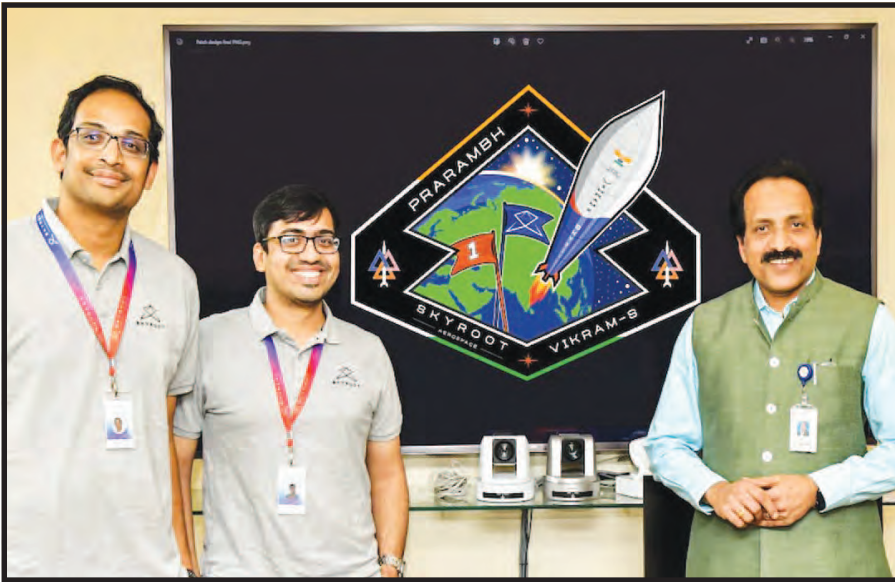
NEW DELHI, NOV 8 /--/ Education is not a business to earn profit and tuition fees shall always be affordable, the Supreme Court has said while upholding the Andhra Pradesh High Court order quashing the state government's decision to enhance the tuition fee in medical colleges to Rs24 lakh per annum. A bench of Justices M R Shah and Sudhanshu Dhulia imposed a cost of Rs 5 lakh on the petitioner, Narayana Medical College, and Andhra Pradesh to be deposited with the court registry within a period of six weeks. "To enhance the fee to Rs 24 lakh per annum i.e., seven times more than the fee fixed earlier was not justifiable at all. Education is not the business to earn profit. The tuition fee shall always be affordable," the bench said. The apex court's observation came while dismissing a plea filed by the college against an order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court which set aside the government's decision to enhance the tuition fee of MBBS students. The High Court had held that considering the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Admission and Fee Regulatory Committee (for Professional Courses offered in Private Un-Aided Professional Institutions) Rules, 2006, the fee cannot be enhanced/fixed without the recommendations/report of the committee. The Supreme Court said several factors such as the location of the professional institution, nature of the professional course, cost of available infrastructure are required to be considered by the Admission and Fee Regulatory Committee while determining or reviewing the tuition fees. (PTI)

Country's first privately developed rocket to be launched next week

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 /--/ India's first privately developed rocket Vikram-S -- is set for a launch in a sub-orbital mission with three payloads between November 12 and 16, Hyderabad-based space startup Skyroot Aerospace announced on Tuesday.

The maiden mission of Skyroot Aerospace, named 'Prarambh' (the beginning), will carry two Indian and one foreign customer payloads and is set for launch from Indian Space Research Organisation's launchpad at Sriharikota. "A launch window between November 12 and 16 has been notified by authorities, the final date being confirmed based on weather conditions," Skyroot Aerospace CEO and co-founder Pawan Kumar Chandana said. "We have two Indian and one foreign payloads," Chandana told PTI, refusing to divulge more details. Spacekidz, a Chennai-

based aerospace startup, will fly 'Fun-Sat', a 2.5 kg payload developed by students from India, the US, Singapore and Indonesia on the sub-orbital flight on board Vikram-S. "We want the children to learn about conducting experiments in space. It is a simple payload developed by grandparents with their grandchildren," Srimathy Kesan, CEO of Spacekidz, told PTI. On Monday, ISRO Chairman S Somanath unveiled the mission patch for the Skyroot Aerospace launch. With this mission, Skyroot is set to become the first private space company in India to launch a rocket into space, heralding a new era for the space sector which was opened up in 2020 to facilitate private sector participation. "The Vikram-S rocket is a single-stage sub-orbital launch vehicle which would carry three customer payloads and help test and validate the majority of



Skyroot Aerospace CEO and co-founder Pawan Kumar Chandana (M) with ISRO Chairman S Somanath (R) and COO of Skyroot Aerospace, Naga Bharath Daka (L)

the technologies in the Vikram series of space launch vehicles," Naga Bharath Daka, Chief Operating Officer of Skyroot Aerospace, said in a statement. Chandana said Skyroot could build and get the Vikram-S rocket mission-ready in such a short time only because of the invaluable support from ISRO and IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre). Skyroot's launch vehicles are named 'Vikram' as a tribute to the founder of the Indian space programme and renowned scientist Vikram Sarabhai. Based in Hyderabad, Skyroot was the first startup to sign a memorandum of understanding with ISRO for launching its rockets. It aims to disrupt entry barriers to cost-efficient satellite launch services and space-flight by advancing its mission to make spaceflights affordable, reliable and regular for all, the statement said. (PTI)

Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal demands 'impartial' probe into Imran Khan assassination attempt case

ISLAMABAD, NOV 8/--/Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday condemned the assassination attempt on former premier Imran Khan, and demanded a "free, fair and impartial" probe in the case to "bring the facts forward". Khan, 70, suffered bullet injuries in the right leg on November 3 when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others in the Wazirabad area of Punjab province, where he was leading a protest march against the Shehbaz Sharif government.

"I was hit by 4 bullets," Khan said in his address to the nation from a hospital in Lahore on November 4, a day after he was shot during a rally in Punjab province. Pakistan's Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah has repeatedly questioned the nature of Khan's injuries. "I'd like to utter my condemnation [] absolutely there needs to be free and fair investigation. An attack on the former prime minister or anyone needs to be probed in an impartial manner," Bilawal said in an interview to CNN, adding that the investigation should be conducted in a proper manner to "bring the facts forward".

Meanwhile, Fawad Chaudhry, a former federal minister and a senior leader in Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party praised Bilawal for giving a "mature statement" on the former cricketer-turned-politician.

"Who can feel the pain of terrorism more than Bilawal," he said, referring to the assassination of his mother and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto during an election rally in 2007. Chaudhry also urged the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman to release the detained PTI workers in Sindh "who were also just demanding a free and fair probe" into the attack on Khan.

Police in Pakistan's Punjab province on Tuesday registered an FIR in the assassination attempt on the PTI chief, days after the incident, and named the assailant Naveed Mohammad Basheer, as the prime accused in the case. The move comes after the Supreme Court on Monday ordered the provincial government to file an FIR in the assassination bid on Khan within 24 hours.

However, it does not mention the names of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and a senior Pakistan Army official Major General Faisal Naseer, three people who Khan had accused of hatching a plot to assassinate him.

Meanwhile, a notification has been issued by anti-terror court chief Khurram Khan, stating that a three-member special prosecution team has been formed to investigate the case of the assassination of the ousted premier, according to the Express Tribune newspaper.

The panel "will give [a] line of inquiry to the investigating officer/ JIT (joint investigation team), provide guidance for collection of proper admissible evidence and conduct the remand of the accused before the anti-terrorism court," the notification stated.

Khan underwent surgery for the gunshot wounds at the Shaukat Khanum Hospital owned by his charitable organisation.

He was discharged from the hospital on Sunday and moved to his private residence in the city, hospital officials said.

His march to the federal capital, demanding fresh elections, was suspended after the shooting last week.

Senior PTI leader Faisal Javed Khan said the march will resume on November 10 from Wazirabad, the same spot where the assassination attempt took place.

Khan, ousted from power in a parliamentary vote of no confidence in April, says he will not join it while he recovers from his injuries. The federal government has rejected Khan's demand for fresh elections, which are due only after August next year. The political turmoil in Pakistan comes as it reels from the economic crisis and the effects of devastating floods. (PTI)



Indians make up largest foreign-born residents in England and Wales: Census

LONDON, NOV 8/--/Nearly one in six people living in England and Wales last year were born outside the country and Indians constituted the largest chunk at 1.5 per cent of residents, according to latest statistics based on the country's 2021 census data.

The UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) found that India remained the most common country of birth outside of the UK last year at 920,000 people, followed by Poland at 743,000 people or 1.2 per cent of residents and Pakistan at 624,000 (1 per cent).

"One in six usual residents of England and Wales were born outside the UK, an increase of 2.5 million since 2011, from 7.5 million (13.4 per cent) to 10 million (16.8 per cent)," the ONS

said in a release. "India remained the most common country of birth outside the UK in 2021," it said.

The top three countries of birth outside the UK for England and Wales remain unchanged as India, Poland and Pakistan since the last census 10 years ago, with the numbers rising across all categories India from 694,000, Poland from 579,000 and Pakistan from 482,000 in 2011.

The census data also shows that Polish (760,000, 1.3 per cent), Romanian (550,000, 0.9 per cent) and Indian (369,000, 0.6 per cent) were the three most common non-UK passports held by residents in England and Wales in 2021.

London remained the region with both the largest proportion of people born outside the UK

and the largest proportion of people with non-UK passports.

In 2021, more than four in 10 (40.6 per cent) usual residents in London were non-UK born, and more than one in five (23.3 per cent) had a non-UK passport.

This is a marginal increase since 2011, when 36.7 per cent of London residents were non-UK born and 21.0 per cent had a non-UK passport.

The number of people who listed Romania as their country of birth grew by 576 per cent since the previous census, from 80,000 in 2011 to 539,000 in 2021 marking the highest out of any country, driven by working restrictions for Romanian citizens being lifted in 2014.

"The census paints a picture of how the make-up of the

population has changed in the past decade. That decade, of course, saw us leave the EU as well as live with the pandemic," said Jon Wroth-Smith, Census Deputy Director.

"While these events may have had an impact on people's decisions or ability to migrate or travel at a given time, the census tells us about the change over the whole decade who was living here in March 2021, compared with March 2011. We can see Romanians have been a big driver in this change, while there have also been increases due to migration from India, Pakistan and Poland, as well as southern European countries such as Italy," he said.

"We can also see that migration in the year prior to the

census was lower in 2021 than it was in 2011. This is likely, in large part, due to the various travel restrictions in place during the coronavirus pandemic," he added.

The United States and Jamaica fell out of the top 10 non-UK countries of birth in 2021. Italy entered the table in sixth place behind Romania (fourth) and Ireland (fifth), and ahead of Bangladesh (seventh), Nigeria (eighth), Germany (ninth) and South Africa (10th).

Those born in the European Union (EU) made up 3.6 million (36.4 per cent of all non-UK-born residents) of the population, an increase from 2.5 million in 2011.

The data does not cover the United Kingdom's devolved regions of Scotland and Northern Ireland. (PTI)

Petition filed in Lahore HC for release of accused held for attacking Imran Khan



LAHORE, NOV 8/--/Arguing that he was "illegally detained", a petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court seeking release of the assailant who has been named in the FIR as the prime accused in the assassination attempt on former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Punjab Police on Tuesday registered an FIR in the assassination bid on Khan and named Naveed Mohammad Basheer, who was taken into custody, as the prime accused in the case. Police said they nabbed Basheer from the crime scene after confessed to his crime. In a confessional video, Basheer said he attacked Khan because he was "misleading the public".

According to a Express Tribune newspaper report on Tuesday, the Registrar Office of the provincial top court sent a file to Lahore High Court Chief Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti on Monday seeking release of Basheer from "illegal detention".

The petitioner's counsel urged the court to release "illegally detained" Basheer on immediate basis, arguing that he has nothing to do with the case.

The petitioner said Basheer has been kept in "illegal detention" due to rifts between politicians and the powerful corridors.

However, the LHC's Registrar Office raised an objection to the petitioner that the

person who filed the plea is neither an affected person nor belonged to the family of the affected person.

The FIR was registered after the Supreme Court on Monday ordered the Punjab government to file a First Information Report in the assassination bid on Khan within 24 hours.

However, it does not mention the names of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and a senior Pakistan Army official Major General Faisal Naseer, three people who Khan had accused of hatching a plot to assassinate him.

Khan, 70, suffered bullet injuries in the right leg on Thursday last when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him and others in the Wazirabad area of Punjab province, where he was leading a protest march against the Shehbaz Sharif government.

During the interrogation, Basheer admitted to opening fire on the container of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief. Basheer told the investigators that he did it because he was frustrated as Khan was misleading the nation and had also uttered blasphemous words.

However, the police believe that Basheer was a drug addict and his statements regarding the incident were "doubtful", the report said. (PTI)

Zelenskyy: Talks with Russia possible on Ukraine's terms

KYIV, NOV 8/--/Ukraine's president has hinted at the possibility of peace talks with Russia, a shift from his earlier refusal to negotiate with President Vladimir Putin that came on the eve of crucial elections in the United States. Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged the international community late Monday to "force Russia into real peace talks" and listed his usual conditions for dialogue: the return of all of Ukraine's occupied lands, compensation for damage caused by the war and the prosecution of war crimes.

That is a change in rhetoric at least from a man who signed a decree in late September stating "the impossibility of holding talks" with Putin. But since his preconditions appear to be non-starters for Moscow, it's hard to see how that would advance any talks.

Western weapons and aid have been key to Ukraine's ability to fight off Russia's invasion, which some initially expected would more easily roll through the country. But US midterm elections Tuesday will define the amount and the shape of Washington's future political and financial support for Ukraine. If Republicans win control of Congress, it could

become more difficult for President Joe Biden's administration to push forward large packages of military and other aid for Ukraine. Russia and Ukraine held several rounds of talks



in Belarus and Turkey early on in the war, which is now nearing its nine-month mark. The talks stalled after the last meeting of the delegations in Istanbul in March yielded no results.

Zelenskyy said Monday that Kyiv has "repeatedly proposed (talks) and to which we always received crazy Russian responses with new terrorist attacks, shelling or blackmail". But he has more recently refused to negotiate with Putin - itself a change in tactic after he repeatedly called for a personal meeting with the

Russian leader. The Kremlin brushed off any such meeting.

Zelenskyy listed conditions for the dialogue to begin, including the "restoration of (Ukraine's) territorial integrity... compensation for all war damage, punishment for every war criminal and guarantees that it will not happen again". Russia, meanwhile, resumed calls for talks after Ukraine's successful counteroffensive in the east and the south of the country began in September, but Ukraine has been rejecting the possibility ever since.

Russia's deputy foreign minister, Andrei Rudenko, stressed on Tuesday that Moscow is not setting any conditions for the resumption of talks with Ukraine and accused Kyiv of lacking "good will".

"This is their choice, we have always declared our readiness for such negotiations," Rudenko said. Ukraine's presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak insisted in a tweet Monday that "Ukraine has never refused to negotiate," but first, Russia needs to withdraw its troops from the country. "Is Putin ready? Obviously not," Podolyak wrote. (AP)

Dogs gifted by Kim Jong Un at centre of South Korean row

SEOUL, NOV 8/--/A pair of dogs gifted by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in 2018 are now marred in a South Korean political row, with the country's former president blaming his conservative successor for a lack of financial support as he gave the animals up.

Moon Jae-in, a liberal who left office in May, received the two white "Pungsan" hunting dogs a breed known to be indigenous to North Korea from Kim following their peace summit in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang in September 2018.

The dogs are officially considered state property, but Moon took the pair and one of their seven offspring home after he left office.

The move was made possible by a change of law in March that allowed presidential gifts to be managed outside of the Presidential Archives if they were animals or plants.

But Moon's office on Monday said he decided he could no longer raise the three dogs because the current government of President Yoon Suk Yeol was refusing to cover the costs for the animals' food and veterinary care.

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety said that the dogs were returned to the government on Tuesday and that the parent dogs originally sent from Kim were being examined at a veterinary hospital in the city of Daegu.

In its statement released on Facebook, Moon's office accused Yoon's office of "inexplicably" blocking the ministry's proposal to provide government funds for the animal's care.

The ministry confirmed it had drafted a budget plan to provide a monthly 2.5 million won (1,810) in subsidies, including 500,000 won (360) for the dogs' food and veterinary care and 2 million (1,450) for hiring workers to look after them.

But the ministry said the plans were put on hold for months because of unspecified "opposing opinions" from within the ministry and the Ministry of Government Legislation. "It seems that the

presidential office, unlike the Presidential Archives and the Interior and Safety Ministry, has a negative view about entrusting the care of the Pungsan dogs to former President Moon," Moon's office said.

If that's the case, Yoon's government should be "cool" about ending that entrustment, Moon's office said.

"There would be disappointment and regrets as they were companion animals (Moon) grew attached to, but there would be no way to reject the termination of entrustment," it said.

Yoon's office shifted the blame to Moon, saying it never prevented him from keeping the animals and that the discussions about providing financial support were still ongoing.

"It was entirely the decision of former President Moon Jae-in to return the Pungsan dogs to the Presidential Archives" instead of waiting out a legislative amendment to secure the subsidies, Yoon's office said.

Moon and Yoon's spat over the dogs sparked criticism online, with users lamenting that the animals were being treated only as properties.

Staking his single presidential term on inter-Korean rapprochement, Moon met Kim three times in 2018 and lobbied hard to help set up Kim's meetings with former U.S. President Donald Trump.

But the diplomacy never recovered from the collapse of the second Kim-Trump meeting in 2019 in Vietnam, where the Americans rejected North Korea's demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for dismantling an aging nuclear facility, which would have amounted to a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

Kim has since vowed to bolster his nuclear deterrent to counter "gangster-like" U.S. pressure and sped up his weapons development despite limited resources and pandemic-related difficulties.

The North has fired dozens of missiles this year, using the distraction created by Russia's war on Ukraine to increase arms development and ramp up pressure on the United States and its regional allies. (AP)

India-made drug shown to treat heart damage caused by Covid protein : Study

WASHINGTON, NOV 8/--/A drug developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) may reverse the heart damage caused by a protein in the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a study conducted in fruit flies and mice has found. Researchers from the University of Maryland identified how a specific protein in SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19, damages heart tissue. They then used the drug, called 2DG, to reverse the toxic effects of that protein on the heart.

Developed by Dr Reddy's Laboratories in collaboration with DRDO, 2DG is an oral drug. The SARS-CoV-2 virus depends upon glycolysis or breakdown of glucose for energy. The drug hinders the process of glycolysis and prevents the growth of the virus.

People infected with COVID-19 are at a significantly higher risk for developing inflammation of the heart muscle, abnormal heart rhythms, blood clots, stroke, heart attacks, and heart failure for at least a year after infection, compared to those who have not been infected with the virus, said the study.

The scientists, who are from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, US, then used a drug to reverse the toxic effects of the

SARS-CoV-2 virus protein on the heart. "Our research shows that individual SARS-CoV-2 proteins can each do major damage to specific tissues in the body similar to what has been found for other viruses like HIV and Zika," said senior author Zhe Han.

Their findings, based on research with fruit flies and mouse heart cells, were published in Nature Communications Biology.

Although scientists around the world rapidly developed vaccines and medications to lessen the severity of COVID-19 disease, the study said that these therapies did not protect the heart or other organs from the damage that could be done by even a mild infection.

"To treat patients in the long run, we must first understand the mechanism behind what is causing the disease. By identifying these processes of injury in each tissue, we can test drugs to see whether any can reverse this damage; those drugs that show promise can then be further tested in clinical research studies," Han said.

Last year, Han and his team identified the most toxic SARS-CoV-2 proteins in studies using fruit flies and human cells. They found a drug 'selinexor' reduced the toxicity of one of these proteins,

but not the other one, known as Nsp6, according to the study. In their latest study, they found that Nsp6, turned out to be the most toxic SARS-CoV-2 protein in the fly heart.

Next, the study said, they found that the Nsp6 protein hijacked the fruit fly's cells in its heart to turn on the glycolysis process, which enables cells to burn the sugar glucose for energy. Typically, heart cells use fatty acids as an energy source, but switch over to sugar metabolism during heart failure as these cells try to repair the damaged tissue.

The researchers also found the Nsp6 protein did added damage by disrupting the cell's powerhouse, called the mitochondria, which produces energy from sugar metabolism, according to the study.

The team then blocked sugar metabolism in fruit flies and mouse heart cells using the drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2DG). They found that the drug reduced the heart and mitochondria damage caused by the Nsp6 viral protein, the study said.

"We know that some viruses hijack the infected animal's cell machinery to change its metabolism to steal the cell's energy source, so we suspect SARS-

GAME NOTES

Indian captain Rohit Sharma sustains forearm injury at nets

ADELAIDE, NOV 8 /--/ The Indian team on Tuesday morning suffered a massive scare as captain Rohit Sharma sustained a powerful blow on his forearm during an optional session ahead of India's T20 World Cup semi-final against England on Thursday. Rohit was taking customary throwdowns from S Raghu at the Indian net session when a short ball hit his right forearm and he was instantly in deep pain, leaving the nets immediately. Rohit tried a short arm pull and throwdowns being hurled at 150 plus speed from 18 yards climbed on him and he missed the shot by a split second. He left the session and after that a big ice pack was tied to his right arm but he looked desolate and in considerable pain even while watching the training from a distance sitting on the ice box. (PTI)

Lakshya Sen reaches career-best sixth in BWF rankings

NEW DELHI, NOV 8 /--/ Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen on Tuesday jumped two spots to achieve a career-best sixth in the latest BWF World Rankings. The 21-year-old from Almora, who has been in sensational form this season, has 76,424 points from 25 tournaments. Newly-crowned French Open champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also climbed one spot to return to their career best ranking of seven in men's doubles. The Indian duo won two BWF world tour titles -- India Open super 500 and French Open super 750, claimed gold at Birmingham Games besides securing a first-ever bronze at World Championships. They also played a pivotal role in India winning the Thomas Cup. Women's doubles pair of Treena Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand and mixed doubles pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto also moved up to achieve their career-high rankings of 23 and 28 respectively. (PTI)

Three-member committee to probe Gunathilaka incident

COLOMBO, NOV 8 /--/ A three-member panel will probe the alleged sexual assault by Sri Lankan batter Danushka Gunathilaka during the T20 World Cup in Australia, the country's cricket board said on Tuesday. The probe panel comprising retired High Court judge Justice Sisira Ratnayake, attorney Niroshana Perera and attorney Asela Rekawa will also investigate various other alleged incidents involving the reigning Asia Cup winners during their stay in Australia, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) stated. "Upon submission of the said report by the panel, the Executive Committee of Sri Lanka Cricket will take stern disciplinary action against the players and or officials if proved guilty of any wrongdoing or negligence when carrying out official duties," SLC said. The panel will seek an immediate explanation from the team manager pertaining to Gunathilaka's conduct and other incidents, it added. There are also reports of "a fight involving another player in a Brisbane casino". . (PTI)

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Rohit Sharma receives medical attention after being hit on the forearm during a practice session, Adelaide

Hopefully we can shut Surya, Kohli has earned right to be never written off: Stokes

'We are facing a very strong Indian team'

ADELAIDE, NOV 8 /--/ England all-rounder Ben Stokes is hopeful that his bowling attack can contain the rampaging Suryakumar Yadav in the T20 World Cup semi-final against India even though his shots have forced him to scratch his head in awe.

He was also lavish in his praise for Indian legend Virat Kohli, who he thinks has "earned the right to be never written off". England's top all-rounder is cautiously optimistic about his team's chances in the big semi-final on Thursday. "Suryakumar obviously came in and set the world alight. He is a fantastic player and plays some shots where you sort of just scratching the head sometimes. "He is in great form, but hopefully, we can try and shut him down and not allow him to get on one of his rampages," Stokes, who has been impressive with the ball, told reporters in an interaction organised by the England & Wales Cricket Board. Talking about Kohli, with whom Stokes has shared a healthy rivalry over the years, the Durham man was at his wits

end that a player of that stature could be written off so easily after a downward spiral. "I think with Virat he could have four unbelievable years like he had, and then have a not so loud couple of months and then for some reason plays like that and gets written off, we have got no idea why. I think he has earned the right to never be written off." As far as Kohli is concerned, his numbers speak for itself, said Stokes. "You don't produce the numbers and produce the innings that he (Kohli) does in all three formats and it's fine. We as players and people who play against him a lot, we never take anything he has done in the game before into the game we have got here," said Stokes. Stokes admitted that England have reached the semi-finals without "playing their best cricket" so far but on a big day, against a good Indian team, that wouldn't be the case. "I think the way we have managed to get through not playing our best cricket so far and now we find ourselves here. So obviously it's exciting.

"But we know we need to get this game done on Thursday, against a very strong Indian team which no one will ever take lightly," Stokes put things as they are. "This is because of the team they are and the players that they have in their squad. But we like to focus more on our squad and not think too much about them." In fact, he also didn't want to read too much into opposition skipper Rohit Sharma's lean run with the bat. "The likes of Rohit, they are world-class players. You can't take (assume) anything from what he has performed in the previous game because you have seen him do it many a time (in big games). "He is one of the best to play the game, especially in this format. We won't be taking him lightly at all." When asked if spin will play a big role in Adelaide under floodlights, Stokes was non-committal. "I am pretty sure it will but how big a role, I don't know.". Stokes, the England Test captain, feels that Jos Buttler is doing a fabulous job as the country's white-ball skipper. "He (Buttler) has gone really well. Even when he wasn't in charge of the team he was the leader within the group. And now he is in charge you can see. I think everyone who is in the team obviously follows him." (PTI)



SYDNEY, NOV 8 /--/ Formidable New Zealand appear strong on paper, but they have to defy history when they clash with an unpredictable and upbeat Pakistan in the first T20 World Cup semifinal in Sydney on Wednesday. Unlike Pakistan's roller-coaster and miraculous journey into the last-four, the Kiwis had a straightforward passage into the knockout stage as they finished on top of Group 1 following wins over reigning champions Australia, Sri Lanka and Ireland in a group of 'death'. Babar Azam and his team mates, who had lost two key Super 12 clashes against India and Zimbabwe up front, were probably thinking of their departure plans when the Netherlands favoured them by eliminating South Africa on a dramatic Sunday. All Pakistan had to do was to beat Bangladesh in the second match of the day to make a dream semi-final. It's giving a sense of 'deja vu' as Pakistan had clashed against New Zealand in the

1992 World Cup semi-final, coming from nowhere, and went on to win the match and later trophy. Pakistan also have history backing them as New Zealand have lost all their previous World Cup semifinals to them in ODI (1992, 1999) and T20 (2007) formats. New Zealand's propensity to falter at the big stage of a white-ball tournament is also a no secret. They have consistently reached the semis in the last four World Cups but never managed to last the distance. The Black Caps have lost three World Cup finals in seven years (2015, 2019 in ODI and 2021 in T20). Under conditions better suited to them, Williamson will look to strike early against the Pakistani batting lineup which has not been in its elements. Skipper Babar is still struggling while Mohammad Rizwan is also far from his ominous best. They were in panic mode even while chasing a modest 128 against Bangladesh. Kiwi pace duo of Trent Boult and Tim Southee will

be back at the same venue where they rattled Australia and Sri Lanka top-order en route easy wins as they would look for a strong start. Incidentally, Pakistan too have their strong point in their bowling and the key would be to seize the battle with the bat. Daryl Mitchell looked in full flow on his return from a finger injury. He along with skipper their man-in-form Glenn Phillips would look to shoulder the responsibility in the middle. Phillips has been a revelation for the Black Caps having scored a century and a half-century both coming in last three matches.

After a quiet start, skipper Williamson has got some runs under his belt in the last two matches as he would look to steer his side to yet another final. Pakistan on the other hand would be desperate to prove that their journey to the semis is not a fluke. Luck apart, it's Pakistan's bowling, superbly spearheaded by Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf, that has been the instrumental in their success. Making a return from an injury layoff, Shaheen has hit the straps, especially in the last outing when he returned with a career-best four-wicket haul to stall Bangladesh progress. With a fair knowledge of the conditions, Rauf has been their 'silent assassin', going about his job meticulously. (PTI)

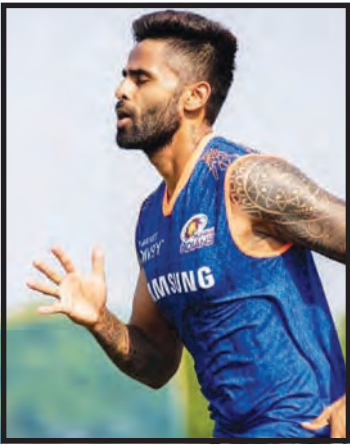
Squads :
New Zealand: Kane Williamson (Captain), Martin Gupthill, Finn Allen (wk), Glenn Phillips, Mark Chapman, Michael Bracewell, Mitchell Santner, Adam Milne, Ish Sodhi, Lockie Ferguson, Tim Southee, Devon Conway, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Trent Boult.
Pakistan: Babar Azam (Captain), Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Khushdil Shah, Shan Masood, Mohammad Haris, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Afridi.

Match starts:
1.30PM IST.

'He is from different planet': Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis in awe of Suryakumar Yadav's fearless batting

SYDNEY, NOV 8 /--/ After some great action in the group stages, which included upset losses for some of the top teams, the T20 World Cup now gets ready for the semi-final action. New Zealand play Pakistan in the first semi-final on Wednesday, while India face England the next day. Barring a loss to South Africa, the Indian team was unbeaten in the other Group 2 games which included wins against Pakistan and Bangladesh. A lot of India's top form was due to Suryakumar Yadav firing on all cylinders. In the last four games, he has scored three half-centuries. With a tally of 225 runs in five games, he is the third-highest run-getter in the T20 World Cup. On top of that, his strike-rate is an astounding 193.96. His range of shots has impressed all, including Pakistan pace great Wasim Akram. "Mujhe toh lag raha ye kisi aur planet se aaya hai

(I think he is from some other planet). He is totally different from anybody else. The amount of runs he has scored. I mean he is the only batter to score 1000 runs T20I in 2022. He's just a treat to watch and not just against Zimbabwe, against the top bowling attacks in the world," Akram said during a discussion on A Sports. "He is such a fearless batter along with his talent. Darna nahi hai, gend lag bhi jaaye.. matlab maja aata hai aise ladke ko khelta dekh kar (He is so fearless that he is not even worried about getting hit on the body. I love watching him play." Waqar Younis, who was present during the discussion, added: "Bowler jaaye toh jaaye kahaan (Where should the bowler bowled at him)." Suryakumar is currently the No. 1 T20I batter according to ICC rankings, and Team India would hope him to continue his red-hot form in the knockouts too.



Qadir, Chanderpaul, Edwards in ICC Hall of Fame

DUBAI, NOV 8 /--/ Pakistan iconic spinner Abdul Qadir, West Indies batting legend Shivnarine Chanderpaul and England's multiple-time Women's World Cup winning captain Charlotte Edwards have become the latest additions to the ICC Hall of Fame.

The trio were inducted following a voting process that included the existing Hall of Famers, media representatives plus senior executives from FICA and the ICC, the world cricket body said on Tuesday.

"It is a very big honour for the family to hear of this news, we see it as a huge achievement, and one that my father would be very proud of if he was still with us today," said Usman Qadir, son of Abdul and current Pakistan international.

A pioneer in wrist-spin techniques which is still relevant, Qadir, who died three years ago, played 67 Tests and 104

ODIs and took 236 and 132 wickets respectively in his 13-year career span.

Following his retirement, he mentored fellow countrymen Mushtaq Ahmed,

record of seven half-centuries in consecutive Test innings. "I would like to enjoy the moment with family, friends and most importantly the West Indies cricket fans and

fans around the world who passionately supported me throughout my career," said the veteran of 164 Tests and 268 ODIs. In a career spanning two decades, Edwards won the Women's World Cup in 2009 and the T20 World Cup the same year. "I loved every minute of my international career and I'm absolutely delighted to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame," Edwards, who retired in 2016 as the leading female run-scorer in both ODIs and T20Is, said. All three of the new inductees will be honoured in a special presentation ceremony ahead of New Zealand and Pakistan semifinals in the T20 World Cup at Sydney. (PTI)



Danish Kaneria and Shahid Afridi, as well as Australia's Shane Warne and South Africa's Imran Tahir. Eighth on the list of all time Test runs, Chanderpaul holds the