

## ANI gears up to host 74th Republic Day ceremony at Marina Park today



ROOPALALL

PORT BLAIR, JAN 25/-/ The Andaman & Nicobar Islands is all set to celebrate '74th Republic Day-2023' in a befitting manner on January 26. The Republic Day is celebrated with grandeur every year with a ceremonious parade. As per official release, after 30 years, the main Republic Day function this year will be held at Marina Park road stretch on 26th January 2023. As per the minute to minute programme chalked out for the Republic Day-2023, Admiral DK Joshi (Retd), Lt Governor, A&N Islands & Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency, will unfurl the National Tricolor at 8.35am followed by fly past by MI-17 helicopter carrying National Flag. Thereafter, there will be presentation of medals, gallantry awards & distribution of Commendation Certificates by the Lt Governor. Soon after the

*The Republic Day is celebrated with grandeur every year with a ceremonious parade. The main Republic Day function this year will be held at Marina Park road stretch on 26th January 2023, after many years.*

presentation of awards, Lt Governor will address the Islanders. Before arriving at the main function, the Lt Governor will visit National Memorial Cellular Jail and place a wreath at the 'Martyr's Column' there. The main attraction of the Republic Day is the march past in which the contingents of Defence Forces, Police, NCC, School (Boys & Girls) will participate. Cultural programmes by school children will add grandeur to the Republic Day function at Marina Park road which will conclude with the National Anthem. The people of the islands are happy that the Republic Day ceremony is held at Marina Park road after a long gap. It was during the tenure of former Lt Governor, Mr. Vakkam Purushothaman, the venue of the Republic Day parade was shifted from Marina Park to Netaji Stadium. In the afternoon, 'At Home' will be held at Raj Niwas for special invitees.



*Kuldeep Rai Sharma*  
Member of Parliament, A & N Islands



*On the auspicious occasion of 74th Republic Day of India, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the Islanders.*

## MAKRUZZ

A Decade of Preferrying Excellence

PORT BLAIR	HAVELOCK	NEIL ISLAND
LARGEST FLEET Gracious Hospitality	UNMATCHED SPEED Plush Interiors	SEAMLESS CONNECTIVITY Largest Network Footprint

To begin your excellent Andaman sojourn log on to

WWW.MAKRUZZ.COM

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook

**75<sup>TH</sup> AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV**  
**HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY**  
**TCI SEAWAYS**  
(A Division of Transport Corporation of India Ltd)

**A leading Coastal Shipping Company and providing the service from West coast to East coast including Andaman & Nicobar Islands thru our following six containers vessels.**

**m v TCI PRABHU**  
**m v TCI SURYA**  
**m v TCI LAKSHMI**  
**m v TCI ARJUN**  
**m v TCI EXPRESS**  
**m v TCI ANAND**

**Under Domestic Service TCI Seaways does Coastal Shipping, Agency Service and International Services Break Bulk, Project Cargo and Containerized Business.**

**Administrative office**  
**TCI SEAWAYS**  
(A Division of TCI Ltd)  
**No: 92, Gee Gee Crystal, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Dr. Radhakrishna Salai, Mylapore Chennai- 600004**  
**Ph: 044-28117581 / 82 / 83**

**BRANCH OFFICES**

**TCI SEAWAYS**  
(A Division of TCI Ltd)  
**No: 199 TCI House, M G Road, Junglighat, Port Blair-744103**  
**Ph: 03192-232169 / 245143**

**TCI SEAWAYS**  
(A Division of TCI Ltd)  
**Golden Arcade NO 216, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Sector 8, Oslo Road, Gandhidham Kutch, Gujarat – 370201**

**TCI SEAWAYS**  
(A Division of TCI Ltd)  
**Room no 5-9, 5-10, Door no 42/1686/G10**  
**C11 & C12, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Empire Building Near High Court, Ernakulam – 682018**

**TCI SEAWAYS**  
(A Division of TCI Ltd)  
**No: 133/18, SM Puram 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Tuticorin - 628003**

**TCI SEAWAYS (A Division of TCI Ltd)**  
**ABCO Trade Centre**  
**Door no: 3-28/44 (5), 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Survey no 41/2C1 & 41/2C2, NH 66**



# Prez urges people to consider voting as their contribution to nation building

**NEW DELHI, JAN 25** /--/ As the Election Commission aims to ensure 75 per cent voter turnout in future elections, President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday urged people to consider voting as their contribution to nation building.

Murmu said people must vote with the spirit of "nation paramount". Addressing an event to mark the 13th National Voters' Day, she said it is a great achievement of India's election process and democracy that the active participation of women in the democratic process is continuously increasing. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the number of women voters was slightly higher than that of men. The President noted that for

the first time in the history of Indian Parliament, the total number of women MPs in both the Houses together have reached the 115 mark. From gram panchayats to Parliament, women are contributing significantly. Their participation and numbers should increase further, she said.

According to the President, social revolution has been possible in the country during the past seven decades through the election process. It is a great success of our democracy that the common voter living in remote areas feels that he or she has a major role in deciding who would and how they would govern the country or the state, Murmu said. She handed over the Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) to five

youths who recently became voters. During the event, the President presented the national



awards for the year 2022. National awards for the best electoral practices will be presented to state and

different spheres such as IT initiatives, security management, election management, accessible

election, electoral roll and contribution in the field of voter awareness and outreach.

National awards will also be given to important stakeholders like government departments, and media organisations for their valuable contribution towards voters' awareness. A first copy of the ECI publication, "Electing the First Citizen- An Illustrated Chronicle of India's Presidential Elections", will be presented to the president by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar. The book, a first-of-its-kind publication, gives glimpses into the historic journey of presidential elections in the country. It throws light on the nuances of the presidential electoral system and associated

constitutional provisions through the timelines of the past 16 Presidential elections.

A song -- "Main Bharat Hoon- Hum Bharat Ke Matdata Hain" -- produced by the Election Commission in association with Subhash Ghai Foundation, will also be screened. The song brings forth the power of vote and celebrates the spirit of inclusive, accessible, ethical, participative and festive elections in the largest and most vibrant democracy of the world.

Since 2011, National Voters' Day has been celebrated on January 25 every year to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission in 1950, a day before India became a republic. (PTI)

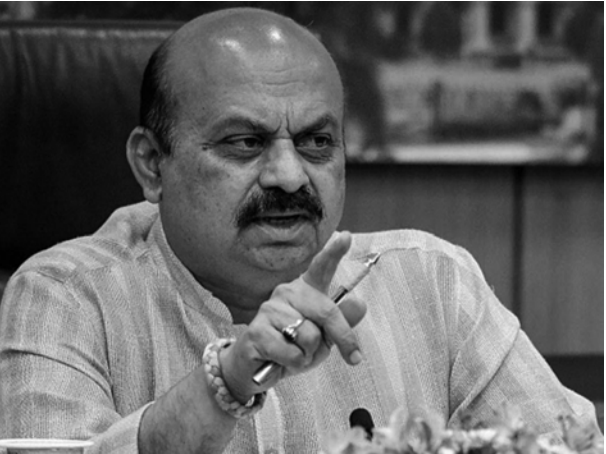
## Cong gave birth to 'illegal things and corruption' in country: Karnataka CM

**BENGALURU, JAN 25** /--/ Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said the Congress is the one that gave birth to "illegal things and corruption" in the country, as he hit out at the opposition party's police complaint against him and BJP leaders calling it "laughable and ignoble".

Alleging that Congress legislators were caught "red handed" in Kunigal in Tumakuru district recently distributing pressure cookers to voters and were fined by the Commercial Tax department, Bommai called it "pressure cooker party". The Congress today lodged a complaint with the police against BJP national president J P Nadda, state president Nalin Kumar Kateel, Bommai and MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi levelling allegations of offering bribes to woo voters in the ensuing Assembly polls in the State.

The complaint comes following an alleged announcement of Rs 6,000 per vote in the Assembly elections due in May by Gokak BJP MLA Jarkiholi. "This is an example of how low the Congress has reached. Those who made a statement will give a clarification for what they said. Congress party itself has announced that it will provide Rs 2,000 for every woman-led household, 200 units of free power, they are making announcements every day," Bommai said. Speaking to newsmen here, the chief minister said, if the same yardsticks are applied, the Congress too is guilty of alluring voters.

"Their (Congress) legislators, four to five of them, distributing cookers to voters with their photos on it have



Basavaraja Bommai

been found with evidence in Kunigal. Commercial Tax officials have seized them and have fined four of them," he said. "With so much within they have stopped to such a low to create confusion among the people to do their politics". State Congress president D K Shivakumar, legislature party leader Siddaramaiah, who are signatories of the complaint, have requested the police to register a case and conduct an inquiry. Stating that the Congress has a guarantee that they will lose in the elections, so they are indulging in lodging complaint and other tactics, Bommai said, "police will look into it and let legal process follow, we are ready to face it." "If they give such complaints, hundred complaints can be filed against them (Congress), this is low level politics. Ultimately people will decide, it is the people's court," he said, adding that Congress is the one that gave birth to illegal things and corruption.

Further noting that Commercial Tax department officials have seized the cookers in Kunigal that were being distributed by four Congress legislators and fined them as there were no bills, the Chief Minister said, "such things have happened in other places too, we will get complete information on them and certainly get it investigated." Later speaking to reporters in Hirekerur, Bommai termed Congress' complaint based on Jarkiholi's statement as laughable and ignoble, and said, recently the Supreme Court has also said that if any individual makes a statement it cannot be attributed to his organisation or the government.

"For political reasons as they are guaranteed about their loss in the election, Congress is making false and politically motivated allegations to misguide the people. They will continue to make such attempts. People are aware of it. Everything will happen in accordance with law," he said.

Pointing at cooker distribution by Congress MLAs, he called the grand old party a "pressure cooker party", and said: "they have love for pressure cooker, even if a bomb was placed inside it, they will say that there was nothing (directing to Shivakumar's statement on Mangaluru cooker blast case).

Reacting to Shivakumar calling him "Brashtacharada Pitamaha" (father of corruption), the chief minister said: "the first corruption scandal in this country was from Congress. Congress began corruption in this country and corruption is its integral part". "What should I say about Shivakumar, he is probably the cleanest person in politics," Bommai said sarcastically." (PTI)

## AK Antony's son resigns from all Cong posts following uproar over tweet against BBC documentary

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ NEW DELHI, JAN 25** /--/ Veteran Congress leader and former defence minister A K Antony's son, Anil, on Wednesday resigned from all his posts in the party following "intolerant calls" and "abuses" over his tweet against the controversial BBC documentary -- 'India: The Modi Question' -- on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

While announcing his resignation from the posts in KPCC Digital Media and AICC Social Media and Digital Communications Cell, Anil Antony said he has not given up the primary membership of the party as he would like to remain as a Congressman for now. "At this moment, politics is not my priority. I am a computer professional who has worked in various cyber digital segments for a long time and want to continue with that. I think that will be appropriate at this point of time for the party and my interests," Anil told PTI in New Delhi. On being asked about the reasons for quitting from the various party positions, Anil said he had joined Congress in 2017 when the Gujarat elections were being held and from 2019 onwards was working for the party following a request by

Shashi Tharoor and his support. But since then, there have been several incidents of planted stories and cyber bullying against him, Anil said. Back then, he had ignored it, despite knowing that it came from a certain section of the Congress, but what happened in the last 24 hours -- after his tweet -- was "shocking", the former Union minister's son added. "If this is the culture that has been created in the party, then I do not think I will be able to work in such an environment," Anil said, and added, that this was the reason why he decided to resign. Regarding his tweet, which led to "intolerant calls" to retract the same and the "wall of hate/abuses" on Facebook against him, Anil clarified that he only intended to caution people against believing what was said in the documentary in the larger interest of national security. The Congressman claimed that what he had meant was that he has a lot of political disagreements with the BJP, but when it comes to the core interest of the nation, its sovereignty, "there we should not play politics as it is like playing with fire". Expressing his view on BBC, he said: "This is the same set

of people that were behind the main people who are the mastermind of the Iraq war where thousands of people died because of bad decisions." "When somebody like that is creating a documentary and coming here, any concerned citizen of the country will say you have to be cautious about it and that is exactly what I said," Anil contended. He further claimed that his tweet was not against any core belief or viewpoint of Congress, but some found it offensive and in the last 24 hours he has been getting hundreds of hate messages and mails, angry Whatsapp messages and calls threatening him to withdraw his tweet. With these kind of people, who are intolerant and full of hatred, surrounding Rahul Gandhi as his supporters, "I feel bad for him and for the party because this is a joke", Anil said. He said he has the deepest admiration for what Rahul Gandhi is trying to accomplish with his Bharat Jodo Yatra, but he feels bad for the former Congress chief as some of the people around him are "tearing down" what he was trying to build. "They are trying to do exactly the opposite of what Rahul Gandhi is doing," he claimed. (PTI)

## SC refuses to entertain plea for setting up Himachal HC bench at Dharamshala

**NEW DELHI, JAN 25** /--/ The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to entertain a plea of an advocates' body seeking setting up of a circuit bench of the Himachal Pradesh High Court in Dharamshala.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala, however, permitted the Kangra District Bar Association to take up the issue with the chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court for providing video-conferencing facilities to save lawyers and litigants the hassles of travelling all the way to Shimla for attending the court proceedings.

The apex court said it cannot direct the high court to set up a bench at Dharamshala. The advocates' body argued against a concentration of all the circuit benches of the high court in a few areas. If travelling is an issue, then video conferencing facilities may be sought, the bench said.

"The decision has been taken to set up additional courts to facilitate the convenience of litigants. Moreover, a direction for establishment of a bench for High Court cannot be entertained in an Article 32 (writ jurisdiction of the apex court) petition. Therefore, we find no merit in the petition. The petition is dismissed," the order said.

During the hearing, the CJI lauded the efforts undertaken by Himachal Pradesh HC Chief Justice S Muralidhar for establishing video conferencing facilities in every district of the state. "He (Justice Muralidhar) has decentralised the system and now there are benches in each district of the state. So, any district lawyer can appear through video conferencing in the High Court," the CJI said. (PTI)

## Public broadcasters of India, Egypt ink MoU for sharing TV, radio programmes

**NEW DELHI, JAN 25** /--/ The public broadcasters of India and Egypt on Wednesday inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate sharing of content, co-production and training of officials in latest technologies. The MoU was signed by Union information and broadcasting minister Anurag Singh Thakur and Egyptian foreign minister Sameh Hassan Shoukry in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who will be the chief guest at the Republic Day Parade. Under the MoU, Prasar Bharati, the public broadcaster of India, and the National Media Authority (NMA) of Egypt agreed to exchange programmes for television and radio. "The MoU is a general statement of intent, the specifics on content sharing will get worked out at a later date mutually," Prasar Bharati chief executive officer Gaurav Dwivedi said when asked about programmes that India would share with Egypt as part of the pact. "The MoU is part of the efforts by Prasar Bharati to expand the reach of DD India Channel to showcase the country's progress through programmes focussed on economy, technology, social development and also the rich cultural heritage," an official statement said.

It said that both the broadcasters will exchange their programmes of different genres like sports, news, culture, entertainment for telecast on their respective radio and television platforms. "The MoU which will be valid for three years will also facilitate co-productions and training of the officials of both the broadcasters in the latest technologies," the statement said. Prasar Bharati has 39 MoUs with foreign broadcasters for cooperation and collaboration in the field of broadcasting that provide for exchange of programmes in the field of culture, education, science, entertainment, sports, news. (PTI)

## ED arrests TMC spokesperson Saket Gokhale in PMLA case

**NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD, JAN 25** /--/ The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday arrested Trinamool Congress (TMC) spokesperson Saket Gokhale in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in a crowdfunding initiative in Gujarat, official sources said. Gokhale was taken into custody under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in Ahmedabad where he is lodged in judicial custody in a Gujarat Police case. He will be produced by the federal agency before a local Ahmedabad court seeking his remand, the sources said. The state police arrested Gokhale from Delhi in December last year in a case of alleged misuse of money he had collected through crowdfunding. The Gujarat High Court had on Monday refused regular bail to Gokhale in this case as it asked him to approach the court only after a charge sheet is filed.

The TMC leader had approached the High Court after a sessions court and a magistrate's court in Ahmedabad denied him bail recently following his arrest and expiry of remand. Gokhale has been in judicial custody since January 5 and lodged at a jail in Ahmedabad. He was arrested by the Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Branch from Delhi on December 30, 2022, in this case. The police FIR was registered on a complaint filed by an Ahmedabad resident who claimed to have donated Rs 500 to Gokhale through online mode. According to police, the case was not just about Rs 500 as Gokhale allegedly collected over Rs 70 lakh from more than 1,700 people through 'our democracy' platform and used that money for personal use. "There was no element of forgery in funds collected by Gokhale through an online platform which is used by even political parties. He is innocent and made a scapegoat. He is a full-time activist sustaining on donations received through crowdfunding. As soon as he joined TMC, he stopped accepting funds to prove his bonafide," Gokhale's lawyer had told the court. In December, the Gujarat Police arrested him twice for allegedly spreading fake news regarding the cost incurred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Morbi town following a bridge collapse tragedy. (PTI)

## Guvs, LGs obstructing elected governments' work: Kejriwal

**NEW DELHI, JAN 25** /--/ Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday alleged that several states in the country are being harassed by Centre-appointed governors and LGs, who have been doing it by obstructing the elected government's work, even as he wondered whether a "dark shadow" was being cast over democracy. "On the 74th Republic day, we need to ponder how to save democracy from these Laa Sahibs (governors/LGs)," Kejriwal said at a Republic Day function here organised by the Delhi government. The AAP supremo also referred to alleged "tussle" of the Centre with the judiciary, state governments, as well as farmers and traders, and called for an end to such fights so that India could become the "number one" country in the world. "These days, they are fighting with the



judiciary. What is the need to fight with judges? They are also fighting with the state governments, farmers and traders. If we work together and learn from each other, then nothing can stop India from becoming number one country in the world," the Delhi chief minister said. Citing his recent visit to Telangana, Kejriwal said that the government there has decided to provide free eye check up and follow up treatment to 4 crore people in the state.

"We will also do it in Delhi. There is no problem in the country whose solution has not been found in some states. The state governments need to learn from one another for finding solutions to the problems," he said. The AAP chief also urged the Centre to exempt food items from GST saying it will provide much needed relief to the people in the country. He said that 99 per cent traders in the country wanted to pay taxes, and called for the simplification of the entire GST regime. Remembering sacrifices of the freedom fighters, Kejriwal said: "State governments are being harassed these days. It was not for this that our freedom fighters made sacrifices. Is there a dark shadow looming over democracy in the country?" Governments elected by the people are supreme and no one is above them, he asserted, as he registered his objection to instances where vice chancellors appointed by the state government were allegedly rejected by governors. Highlighting the achievements of Delhi under the rule of AAP government, Kejriwal claimed that the city has left behind London, New York, Washington, Singapore in many fields including number of doctors, electric vehicles, per capita forest area, and education. (PTI)



All New Collection  
3XL-5XL  
SIZES

## Shyam N Shyam

Wish You A Very Happy Pongal

**BEST PRICES**

Partywear Kurtis  
Sharara-Gharara  
Palazzo-sets  
Nayra Cut  
Kids Wear  
Mens Wear

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!  
2023**

ABERDEEN BAZAR | PORT BLAIR

**YESHUVA**  
TRAINING ACADEMY Pvt. Ltd

NEAR MUBARAK MALL, JUNGLEHAT, PORT BLAIR. 744 103  
Ph. No. 9476092535; 9933274252; 9476060793

Admission Starts For Following Skill Courses Offered by NDA Govt. of India  
& All India Paramedical Council

S.No	COURSE NAME	DURATION	QUALIFI
1.	AIRPORT MANAGEMENT	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
2.	AIR & SEA CARGO MANAGEMENT	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
3.	AIRHOSTESS TRAINING	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
4.	CABIN CREW MANAGEMENT	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
5.	PRE - PRIMARY EDUCATION	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
6.	PRIMARY EDUCATION	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
7.	X - RAY TECHNOLOGY	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
8.	SANITARY INSPECTOR	1YEAR	10 <sup>TH</sup> / 12 <sup>TH</sup>
9.	MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN	2YEARS	12 <sup>TH</sup>
10.	OPERATION THEATER ASSISTANT	2YEARS	12 <sup>TH</sup>
11.	AIRFARE & TICKETING	6MONTHS	10 <sup>TH</sup>
12.	AIRPORT GROUND STAFF TRAINING	6MONTHS	10 <sup>TH</sup>

➤ **ADMISSION GOING ON JAUNARY - 2023 BATCH.**

➤ **ADMISSION FORM SUBMISSION LAST DATE 31/01/2023.**

➤ **FOR INTER ISLAND STUDENTS ONLINE CLASSES ALSO AVAILABLE**

## INDIAN NAVY

Salutes Winners of  
**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**  
on the occasion of  
**REPUBLIC DAY 2023**

**PARAM VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL**

V Adm Ravindra Bhartruhari Pandit, AVSM  
V Adm Biswajit Dasgupta, AVSM, YSM, VSM  
V Adm Makarand Aravind Hampiholi, AVSM, NM

**ATI VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL**

V Adm Deepak Kapoor  
V Adm Adhir Arora, NM  
R Adm Arvindan Katteri Puliakode, VSM  
R Adm Sanjay Sadhu, NM

R Adm Sameer Saxena, NM  
R Adm Dhiren Vig, VSM (Retd)  
Surg R Adm CS Naidu, VSM (Retd)

**NAO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)**

Cdr Nishant Singh (Posthumous)

**BAR TO NAO SENA MEDAL (DEVOTION TO DUTY)**

Lt Cdr Shashank Tewari, NM (Posthumous)  
Hariom Shokeen MCPO II (GW), NM (Posthumous)

**NAO SENA MEDAL (DEVOTION TO DUTY)**

Surg R Adm Shankar Narayan, VSM  
Cmde Pankaj Sharma  
Cmde Anish MJ Nair  
Cmde Shantanu Jha  
Cmde V Ganapathy  
Cmde Iftekhar Alam

Capt Saurabh Thakur  
Capt B Vasu Dheeraj  
Lt Cdr Rajanikant Yadav (Posthumous)  
Lt Cdr Yogesh Tiwari (Posthumous)  
Lt Cdr Anant Kukreti (Posthumous)

**VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL**

R Adm S Gantayet  
Cmde Kari Murlidhar  
Cmde Hemant Padbidri  
Cmde Veerappa B Bellary  
Cmde Neeraj Uday  
Cmde Naduvil Pisharom Pradeep  
Cmde Mukul Madhav Surange  
Cmde Prashant Dattatraya Shidhaye

Cmde Manav Sehgal  
Capt Partha Umakant Bhatt  
Capt Kartik Murthy  
Capt Samuel M Abraham  
Capt Gorav Malhotra  
Capt Gaurav Mehta  
Capt (TS) Sunil Dutt Dogra  
Mahavir Prasad, MCPO I (UW)

WWW indiansnavy.nic.in @IndiansnavyMedia @indiansnavy Indian Navy Indian Navy

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER UPTO 31.01.2023

Cooperative Bank Introduces

# DHAN AMRIT UTSAV

DEPOSIT SCHEME - 2023

Enjoy this festive season with Highest Rate of Interest

## 600 DAYS TENURE

GENERAL PUBLIC

7.60%

MAHILA

7.85%

SENIOR CITIZEN

8.10%

Visit your nearest branch today and avail the limited period offer

## ANDAMAN & NICOBAR STATE COOPERATIVE BANK LTD.

98, Maulana Azad Road, Port Blair - 744 101, A & N Islands



The great thing about television is that if something important happens anywhere in the world, day or night, you can always change the channel

From "Taxi"

## Rising prices, food insecurity add to pangs of hunger

The latest report of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and certain other United Nations agencies says that food insecurity rises with higher prices and worsening poverty. As a result of this, growing numbers of people in Asia lack enough to eat. Nearly a half-billion people -- more than eight in 10 of them in South Asia -- were undernourished in 2021 and more than 1 billion faced moderate to severe food insecurity. For the world, prevalence of food insecurity rose to more than 29 per cent in 2021 from 21 per cent in 2014. The COVID-19 pandemic was a huge setback, causing mass job losses and disruptions, and the war in Ukraine has pushed up prices for food, energy and fertiliser, putting an adequate diet out of the reach of many millions. The report is the fifth annual stocktaking on food insecurity and hunger by UN agencies including the FAO, UNICEF, World Health Organisation and World Food Programme.

Over those years, progress toward alleviating hunger and malnutrition has stalled and then backslid as growing numbers of people lost the wherewithal to get enough to eat. The prevalence of undernourishment as measured by the UN agencies was 9.1 per cent in 2021, better than the 14.3 per cent in 2000 but up slightly from 2020. Such figures show that the slowdown in the fight against hunger continues. The report also highlights the growing food insecurity faced by people who have moved to cities, where they have less easy access to affordable food. Reforming our agrifood systems to produce nutritious food and ensure equitable access to healthy diets is critical.

The FAO's Food Price Index has risen in the past several years, hitting a record in March 2022. It fell back as commodity prices declined somewhat later in the year but is still 28 per cent above the 2020 level. The Asia-Pacific region imports nearly USD 2 trillion of food a year. Rising prices for basics like rice, wheat and oil hit the poor the hardest. It's part of what the UN agencies call the "5F" crisis of not enough food, feed, fertiliser, fuel and financing. The conflict in Ukraine has dealt a heavy blow in many countries that depended on the region for wheat, edible oils and fertilisers. Nearly 2 billion people, accounting for almost 45 per cent of people living in Asia, cannot afford healthy diets, contributing to problems with anemia and obesity as well as hunger. Poverty already had risen by 2.6 per cent between 2015-2018, according to World Bank data. An increase in poverty and in undernourishment would go together as unhealthy diets and inadequate food are also compromising future health and productivity, as they cause children to suffer from stunting or wasting and make them more susceptible to illness. The report says nearly a quarter of children in the Asia-Pacific are affected by stunting, or small height for their ages.

# Kerala BJP putting a premium on inefficiency

## REFLEX ACTION

P. Sreekumaran

Nemom in Thiruvananthapuram district. In the 2021 assembly poll, the party lost its lone seat, Nemom in the assembly. Expectations were high in the wake of the pathetic performance in 2021, that there would be a change of guard in the State. Nothing of the sort happened. In the meantime, the BJP's relations with its only major ally, the BDJS also came under severe strain. One of the reasons for the BJP's poor show in 2021 was the resentment in the BDJS over the shabby treatment the BJP leadership meted out to it. While the party suffered vote erosion in as many as 90 constituencies, it increased the share only in Palakkad, Attingal, Chattanur and Alampuzha. Heads should have rolled. But the Surendran team survived and has now managed to get another lease of life!

The BJP has also altered its strategy by deciding to concentrate on all the 20 Lok Sabha constituencies in the State. This is a radical departure from its past tactic of focusing on only its strongholds like Palakkad, Thrissur, Attingal, Kasaragod and Thiruvananthapuram. The change in strategy is unlikely to benefit the party. The reason is simple: Nothing has happened in the state to warrant a massive shift in favour of the BJP. The time-tested tactic of religious polarization which fetched rich rewards for the BJP in states like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, has proved to be a counterfeit coin in Kerala's strongly secular soil.

In a development that bodes ill for the party in Kerala, the decision to retain the Surendran team for the Lok Sabha poll battle has created resentment in the state unity. The dissidents, led by former BJP state boss P K Krishna Das have not made secret of their displeasure over the central leaderships' decision to persist with the team that dismally failed in the past. Their hopes that there would be an attempt to ensure unity in the party have been dashed to the ground.



Sculptors giving final touches to Goddess Saraswati idols in Kumartuli on Wednesday--Arijit Ganguly

# Law Minister fighting RSS battle against independent Judiciary

The compulsion to protect the image and personal interest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is so domineering that his ministerial colleagues can go to the extent of retreating from their avowed ideological line and embrace their sworn enemies. The Law minister Kiren Rijiju who till a couple of days back left no occasion to decry and debase the Supreme Court, only on Sunday eulogized its illustrious status by asserting that Supreme Court was above any organisation.

Rijiju for last six months has been acting like the vanguard of Modi government and RSS to demolish and shred the prestige and image of the Supreme Court made this remark only for the simple reason that that last year it had upheld the clearance given to Modi by a special investigation team in Gujarat riot conspiracy case. Three days back the BBC released a documentary in UK which referred to Modi's role as chief minister in the Gujarat pogrom of 2002 in which around 2000 Muslims were killed by the rioters.

Just after release of the clip, Modi government denounced it, but the assertion of the former British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw in an interview with a web portal that the British government conducted an investigation of its own because many citizens of Gujarati Muslim origin were worried about their loved ones in India and "were making representations" to that effect to the then Tony Blair government, put Modi literally in a vulnerable situation and had to block clips of the documentary. No doubt a big number of people were

reluctant to believe the government explanation and even shared the information contained in the documentary. This has in fact enraged Rijiju and he was forced to tweet; "Some people in India have still not moved away from the colonial influence. They consider BBC to be above India's highest court and pull down the country's prestige and image to any extent to please their ideological masters". Rijiju had to take the help of clean chit by the apex court to get rid of the BBC documentary allegations.

Before using the statement of Justice Sodhi, the government had also mentioned the observation of the retired former Supreme Court Justice Ruma Pal. She had some reservation about the functioning of Supreme Court. Even on Sunday, the day Rijijueulogised Supreme Court, he had said "the majority of the people had 'saneviews' similar to the one expressed by a retired High Court judge, who said the Supreme Court had 'hijacked' the Constitution by deciding to appoint judges by itself".

Rijiju is reluctant to accept the views of the collegium, having at least three judges, but he is too eager to use the statement of the retired judge. Through his tirade against judiciary he has succeeded in giving the impression to the "common people" of the country that he is a well versed person. Naturally one expects that he would agree to the

fact that Sodhi is one of the judges amongst thousands of retired judges. If Rijiju can accept the suggestion of a lone 'sane' then why is not willing to agree to the suggestions of other judges. Are they according to him are not 'sane'??

The way the Modi government has been refusing to approve the names forwarded to it for being appointed as judges either at the Supreme Court or High Courts makes it clear that it intends to enter into confrontation with it just ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha election. Consistent harping on the issue by Rijiju underlines that they are going to make it a big issue just ahead of the election.

Last week, the Supreme Court collegium had for the second time reiterated the names of two advocates for appointment as judges of the Calcutta High Court "expeditiously", saying it was not open for the government to repeatedly send back the same proposal.

It deserves appreciation for refusing to bow down. The three-member collegium, which makes recommendations for High Court appointments, has reiterated its decision to elevate lawyers Saurabh Kirpal to the Delhi High Court, R. John Sathyan to the Madras High Court and Somasekhar Sundaresan to the Bombay High Court. Government's argument has been most ridiculous.

While it has objected to one of the candidate's sexual orientation, about another his political loyalty has been questioned. In fact the collegium has pointed out, neither the sexual orientation of Mr. Kirpal nor the airing of political views by the other advocate will impinge on their suitability or integrity. The other candidate had made some comments on Modi. The Modi government has taken it seriously and does not intend to appoint a person as judge who is opposed to him.

A question is making round the legal circle; what does the law minister's suggestion mean? Rijiju simply desires for a subservient judiciary too willing to prostrate before the office of the prime minister. But Rijiju ought to not forget that Modi government one day eventually has to bow out of office making space for the new incumbent. The new government may use the subservient judiciary against the BJP leaders who are in power now. It is not that these leaders are pure and pious. Almost all, from top to bottom, have cases against them. In case the new government decided to take revenge, then that backdrop the country will not have an independent judiciary to deliver the right and correct judgement.

Instead of curtailing the rights of the judiciary and forcing it to follow Modi government's diktat, Rijiju must adopt a democratic and pragmatic approach keeping an eye on the future. He must also keep in mind that saffronisation of the judiciary is only possible in the situation when the nation becomes a Hindu Rashtra, which does not appear to be a possibility in near future. (IPA)

Despite proddings of the central leaders, the state BJP has failed to take the rebels into confidence and work as a united team. The results of this negative tactics are there for all to see. The Krishnadas group has, reports say, moved the 'high command' in protest against the move to retain the Surendran team. Senior leaders like general secretaries M T Ramesh and AN Radhakrishnan are said to be a sullen mood. Surendran has also antagonized and marginalized the only strong woman leader and the party's firebrand, Sobha Surendran. Such is the hostility against Sobha, who is the vice-president of the BJP in Kerala, that she was not included in the core committee, the party's highest decision-making body in the state. This being the murky backdrop, the central leaders' hopes of winning at least 5 seats from the state are unlikely to be realized. It is not as if the BJP lacks good leaders. The party has in its ranks leaders who have a clean image like Kummanam Rajasekharan, a former BJP state chief, and superstar Suresh Gopi. The latter is very close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. If the BJP seriously wants to ensure a better performance then a leader like Suresh Gopi should be made the party's state boss. True, Suresh lost the last Lok Sabha election from Thrissur. But he was able to increase the party's vote share in a big way. He is one of the few leaders whose appeal goes beyond the BJP's core Hindu constituency.

Last but not least, unless the BJP changes its strategy and reinvent itself, its prospects in Kerala in the 2024 parliamentary polls are bleak indeed. The party's determined efforts to woo the Christian voters has not produced the desired results. Even if it manages to secure a slice of the Christian vote, the party is not likely to emerge stronger in the State. For that to happen, the BJP has to build bridges of understanding with the Muslims in the State. The BJP leadership has shown no signs of intending to do anything of that sort. Demonisation of the Muslim community, which has been the party's staple food, won't do in a state like Kerala where the secular ethos which is deeply embedded in Keralites' psyche. Hate politics won't work in secular Kerala. The earlier the BJP realizes this, the better for the party. (IPA)

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

ACROSS				DOWN			
1	Bludgeon	1	Desert plant				
3	Nothing	2	Impassive				
7	Perfect score	3	Greek letter				
8	Unwelcome task	5	Amend				
11	Rescue	6	United				
12	Within the law	9	Replenishes				
13	Employing	10	Incite				
15	Direction	11	Arm covering				
18	Flank	14	Silly self-conscious				
19	Riverside	16	smile				
20	embankment	17	Reluctant				
21	Work into a fabric	17	Tantalising puzzle				
21	Monkeys	19	Convict				
23	Microbes	21	Liable				
24	Laundry item	22	Self				
25	Easy pace						
26	Expensive						

SUDOKU:3767												
				6	7		2					
		5					1			3		
1			3		9						7	
3					1							
				5	9	6						
				8							9	
6			7		8						2	
9		1					8					
	3		9	2								

Yesterday's Solution3766												
2	9	6	1	4	7	5	8	3				
3	4	7	8	5	6	1	2	9				
5	1	8	3	9	2	7	6	4				
8	3	4	7	6	1	2	9	5				
1	5	2	9	8	3	6	4	7				
6	7	9	4	2	5	8	3	1				
7	6	3	2	1	9	4	5	8				
4	2	1	5	3	8	9	7	6				
9	8	5	6	7	4	3	1	2				

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution1775												
S	O	N	I	C			G	I	G			
P		O			O	M	E	N		A		
O	D	I	U	M			L	A	W	S		
T		S	E				U	T	A	H		
S	P	E	L	T			D		V			
	O		A				D	E	F	E	R	
A	R	I	D			U		A		E		
C	E	D	E			N	E	R	V	E		
H		O	N	C	E		C		L			
E	E	L				S	E	E	P	S		

## DISCLAIMER

The views in the articles published here are absolutely the views of the author and The Echo of India does not stand liable for them.



GREETINGS

On this day let us make a promise to strive for justice, freedom and equal rights for every Indian and for peace and unity among all who are fortunate enough to live in this glorious nation.

I Wish all Islanders and visiting tourists a very Happy Republic Day!

I wish you a very Happy Republic Day 2023! Let us spend some time today in reflection of the true heroes of India who sacrificed their lives to give us freedom.

Sd/-  
**M.Vinod**  
**President**  
**Andaman Association Of Tour Operators**  
**IAITE-(Andaman Chapter)**

GREETINGS

On the occasion of Saraswati Puja, I extend my warm greetings to the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. On this special day, I extend my special greetings to the student community, as we all know that Goddess Saraswati is the embodiment of knowledge, music, art, and speech.

As we all know, education is the backbone of any society and it is the students who are the future of our nation. The blessings of Goddess Saraswati will help the students to excel in their studies and achieve great heights in their chosen fields.

I also urge the students to take this opportunity to rededicate themselves to their studies and to strive for excellence in their academic pursuits. Let us all pledge to make the most of this auspicious occasion to gain knowledge and wisdom and to become responsible citizens of our great country.

Once again, I extend my warm greetings to all the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the occasion of Saraswati Puja.

**Kuldeep Rai Sharma,**  
**Member of Parliament,**  
**Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

GREETINGS

I extend my warm Greetings to the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the occasion of the 74th Republic Day.

On this special day, let us all come together to celebrate the spirit of unity, freedom, and democracy that our great nation embodies.

On this day, in 1950, our country became a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic and this is the time to commit ourselves to live upto the ideals enshrined in our constitution and put combined efforts to take our country to the path of everlasting progress and prosperity.

I extend my warm wishes to everyone for a prosperous and peaceful year ahead.

**Jai Hind.**  
**Kuldeep Rai Sharma,**  
**Member of Parliament,**  
**Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**

GREETINGS

On the auspicious occasion of the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, I convey my heartiest greeting and best wishes to all the residents of A&N Islands.

On this day, in 1950, our nation was established as the largest democratic republic and 'We, the people of India' gave to ourselves the Constitution that is an inspired document of our collective vision. The diversity and vibrancy of our democracy is acclaimed world-wide. It is this spirit of unity and of being one nation, which is celebrated every year as Republic Day. It is also an occasion to remember the martyrs who made supreme sacrifice in service to the nation. Today, let us once again vow to dedicate ourselves to live upto the ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity enshrined in our Constitution.

I appeal to all Islanders to celebrate the occasion while adhering to COVID appropriate behavior.

On this occasion, I wish for lasting joy and happiness in the life of all Islanders and that our Islands continue to progress on the path of peace and prosperity.

Sd/-  
**(Admiral D K Joshi)**  
PVSM, AVSM, VSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)  
Lt. Governor, A & N Islands  
&  
Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency

Asian Waterbird Census by Andaman Avians Club



**PORT BLAIR, JAN 25/--/** The Andaman Avians Club conducted the Asian Waterbird Census 7th time in a row since 2017. Andaman is an important area with a lot of diversity in the birds. Being in route of the Eurasian Australian flyway migratory route the island is privileged to host many migratory birds mostly belonging to the wetland ecosystem. The Asian Water Bird Census (AWBC) is an international event conducted across the globe by the Wetland International and by BNHS in India. This is one the largest citizen science initiative with the goal to support the conservation and management of wetlands and waterbirds worldwide.

The Andaman Aviansclub for the first time attempted to census the complete stretch of A & N Islands in one go. The census was conducted in locations at North Andaman, Middle Andaman, various wetlands in South Andaman, Teresa, Kamorta and Great Nicobar Islands by the club members and volunteers. A total of 50 people came together for this coordinated event. During the census some rare wetland sightings in Andaman were also recorded like the Ruddy Shelduck, Garganey, Black Winged Stilt, big flocks of Andaman Teal. Mr. Arun Singh, President, Andaman Avians Club expresses it's gratitude to all the team leaders, Mr.Shubash from Diglipur and Mr. Suresh from Havelock for their coordination and volunteers from Geography Dept of JNRM in the successful conduction of the census.

MoU inked between SBI and A&N Police for PSP



**PORT BLAIR, JAN 25/--/** The Andaman and Nicobar Police has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Bank of India for a special Police Salary Package (PSP) on Wednesday to provide better banking services and additional facilities for the police personnel of Andaman and Nicobar Police. The Police Salary Package (PSP) is a package designed for the personnel of Andaman and Nicobar Police. Hitherto, the salary accounts of personnel in SBI were on individual basis and thus were bereft of the privileges that the other State Police Forces and CAPF enjoyed. By entering into the MOU with SBI, Andaman and Nicobar Police has secured several advantages and benefits for its personnel and their families.

Under this scheme, some of the benefits offered include Personal Accidental Insurance cover (Rs 40 lakhs to Rs 1 crore), Permanent Total and Partial Disability Cover of Rs. 40 lakhs, SBI Rishtey Family Saving Account with benefits for upto 04 family members etc. The package also offers preferential rates of interest on various loans offered by SBI as well as waiver of annual charges, processing fees etc. Further, in case of death of the A&N Police personnel, the family of the deceased will be provided with free add-on covers such as expenses on Air Ambulance, cost of child education, marriage of girl child etc. Several of these benefits will continue even after the superannuation of the employee.

**'Pathaan' adds 300 shows over unprecedented demand: Taran Adarsh**

**MUMBAI, JAN 25 /--/** Shah Rukh Khan-starrer "Pathaan", which released with much fanfare on Wednesday, has added 300 more screens due to high demand, according to trade analyst Taran Adarsh. In a post on based industry expert said exhibitors decided to increase the spy thriller right "unprecedented" of the film. **'PATHAAN' SHOWS SCREEN COUNT ALL-TIME HIGHEST [HINDI]** #Pathaan has taken #BO by storm 300 shows increased by exhibitors right after first show (sic)" Adarsh wrote on Twitter Wednesday. The addition of 300 shows now takes the total screen count of the Siddharth Anand directorial to over 8,000 screens across the globe, making "Pathaan" one of the widest Hindi releases of all time. "Total screen count now is 8,000 screens \*worldwide\* #India: 5,500 screens, #Overseas: 2,500 screens," the trade expert further said in his post. (PTI)



The annual sports of Anganwadicentre located behind the community hall Mithakhari was held on Wednesday. The annual sports was organized by SmtNazreen, Anganwadi Worker in which children and their parents participated. Mr. Mod Safiq, Pradhan, GP Mithakhari was the chief guest in the closing function and distributed prizes to the participants.

3 officers of ANP get Police Medals for meritorious service



**PORT BLAIR, JAN 25/--/** Three officers of A&N Police have been conferred prestigious 'Police Medal for Meritorious Service' for their illustrious and unblemished service on the occasion of 74th Republic Day, 2023. The awards were announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the eve of the Republic Day, 2023.

**SH. AJAY KRISHAN SHARMA, IPS**  
Sh. Ajay Krishan Sharma is an IPS Officer of 2008 Batch. Presently, he is holding the post of Dy. Inspector General of Police (HQ). He has served in various capacity in Delhi Police, Intelligence Bureau and Himachal Police. As DIGP (HQ), his innovative ideashas brought reforms in official work. In recognition of his hard work and dedication towards duties, he has been conferred the 'Police Medal for Meritorious Service'.

**SH. S. SASI KUMAR, ASI**  
Shri S. Sasi Kumar Joined A&N Police in the year of 1988 as a Police Constable. He has shown laudable performance in all fields and he has detected /solved various criminal cases in his service career. He has been awarded with several Commendation Certificates and cash rewards for his commendable devotion and dedication towards his duties. In appreciation of his good work and dedication rendered throughout his service career he has been awarded with Police Medal for meritorious service.

**SH. AJEET KR. PAL, PC/549**  
Sh. Ajeet Kr. Pal joined A&N Police in 2000. He has participated in various Successful Anti-Poaching operations and apprehended several Myanmarese. He also performed guard duty in various LOPs situated at remote Islands. In his 22 years of service, he has always shown extraordinary dedication, sincerity and integrity in every task entrusted to him. In recognition of his hard work and dedication towards duties, he has been conferred the 'Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

Sh. Neeraj Thakur, IPS, DGP, A&N Islands complimented all the awardees for the distinctions conferred on them and bringing honour to A&N Police. He wished them success for their future career.



Mr Vinayak, IAS Probationer visited GP Mithakhari to inspect the beautification work of the pond construction under AmritSarovar project. He inspected the ponds in Muslim Basti, AlbisTikery and Ranchi Basti in this region. The Pradhan, GP Mithakhari, Mr. Mod Safique urged him to immediately take up the work.

DDK to telecast live RD function from Delhi, Port Blair

**PORT BLAIR, JAN 25/--/** The 74th Republic Day Parade 2023 from Kartavya Path will be telecast LIVE from 9.00 a.m to 12.15 p.m or till the end on 26.01.2023 on DD National. 74th Republic Day celebration coverage at Marina Park road will be telecast on Doordarshan Kendra Port Blair from 1700 hrs to 1830 hrs on 26.01.2023.

Power cuts

**PORT BLAIR, JAN 25/--/** Power supply will remain suspended at Lillypur, Haddo area on 27.01.2023 (Friday) from 0830 Hrs. to 1200 Hrs. in connection with construction of transformer pedestal at Lillypur, Haddo, Port Blair.

Public auction of seized vehicles

**MAYABUNDER, JAN 25/-/-/** The vehicles seized in connection with the various road accidents/other cases registered at Police Station Rangat are kept lying for disposal in the premises of Police Station for a long time. The details of unclaimed seized vehicles are available at the notice board of PS Rangat.

The Police department is going to dispose of the unclaimed seized vehicles by way of public auction at the premises of Police Station Rangat. The participants/interested persons can inspect the unclaimed seized vehicle at PS Rangat and register their names with SHO PS Rangat by paying Rs.5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) as security deposit.

The last date for submission of EMD is on 08/02/2023 at 1500 hrs. and the Public Auction is scheduled to be held on 10/02/2023 (Friday) at 1130 hrs at Police Station Rangat.

Illumination of ships on Jan 26th & 29th 2023

**PORT BLAIR, JAN 25/--/** As part of the Republic Day celebrations in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, ships/vessels of Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, and DSS will be illuminated on 26 Jan 23 (Republic Day) and 29 Jan 23 (Beating Retreat) from 1800h to 2200h at anchorage off the Marine flag post sea front. At 1800h on both days, the ships would fire colourful flares and switch on the contour illumination lights.

Now book your classified ads in  
**The Echo of India**

Print your Adverts  
Call: 9606060606  
Email: info@echoindia.com

Office Phone No: 03192 273334, 273335  
Email ID: info@echoindia.com

GK INDANE SERVICES				
Address : Near Van Stand, Junglighat, Port Blair - 744 101				
Contact: 9434272336 / 7695008500				
AREA WISE SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF FEB - 2023				
S.NO	DATE	DAY	AREA	SUB AREA
1	1-2-2023	WEDNESDAY	NEW PAHARGAON	SHIV MANDIR, COMMUNITY HALL
2	2-2-2023	THURSDAY		DOG SQUAD, SATELLITE COLONY
3	3-2-2023	FRIDAY	AUSTINABAD	LOCAL BASTI, MARI AMMA TEMPLE
4	4-2-2023	SATURDAY		UMAT PUBLIC SCHOOL, HARBOUR COLONY
5	6-2-2023	MONDAY	BRICHGUNJ	ATTACHAKI, WATER TANK
6	7-2-2023	TUESDAY		QUARRY LINE
7	8-2-2023	WEDNESDAY	PROTHRAPUR	VINAYAKA COLONY
8	9-2-2023	THURSDAY		VIVEKANANDA COLONY, BURMA JAIL
9	10-2-2023	FRIDAY	CHIDYATAPU	BEODNABAD, BURMANALLAH
10	11-2-2023	SATURDAY		KODIYAGHAT, CHIDYATAPPU
11	13-2-2023	MONDAY	CALICUT	KAMRAJ NAGAR, PUMPHOUSE,
12	14-2-2023	TUESDAY		AYANAR TEMPLE, MACCA PAHAD
13	15-2-2023	WEDNESDAY	MAHAVEER NAGAR	EMMANUEL COLONY
14	16-2-2023	THURSDAY		NEPALI BASTI, TELUGU BASTI
15	17-2-2023	FRIDAY	BROOKSHABAD	VAYUI VIHAR
16	18-2-2023	SATURDAY	BATHU BASTI	NEAR GALAXY HOTEL
17	20-2-2023	MONDAY		JAPAN NALLAH, CHITAMBARAM COLONY
18	21-2-2023	TUESDAY	PATHERGUDDA	ANNIDCO ROAD, 4 NO
19	22-2-2023	WEDNESDAY		SUNNY DIESEL, NK COLONY
20	23-2-2023	THURSDAY	BIRDLINE	MAIN ROAD, NEPALI BASTI
21	24-2-2023	FRIDAY		SUPARI BAGICHA



# REPUBLIC DAY 2023

## A SMALL TRIBUTE

### Struggle for freedom and the great Azad Hind Fouj (INA)

DR. GOPAL SENAPATI

One of the greatest and significant freedom battles of World War II was fought on the North East India. The battle of Imphal deserves special mention in the army annals probably as a new epoch of world history. The north east battles are of even extremely deeper significances with regard to historical development of the country's movement of independence. The Azad Hind Fouj (INA) joined the battle of Imphal mainly to set aflame a country wide armed revolution for the overthrow of foreign rulers. Japan and Germany had great contributions in the battle of Independence. It was in Germany (April 41 – Feb' 43) that India association gave Subhas Bose the title 'Netaji' and a resolution was also passed to make 'Jana Gana Mono' as national anthem of free India, even though on 27th October, 1926, in a large gathering, Rabindranath recited the poem 'Jana Gana Mono' in Budapest, the capital of Hungary. Before reciting, the organizers announced that this is the national song of India. As soon as the poet started reciting the poem, all the dignitaries and attending public showed their honour by way of standing till the end of the recitation. The song was also greatly appreciated in United Nations at New York where it was first played in an orchestral arrangement later. On 4th July, 1943 Rash Behari Bose handed over the entire administrative set up of Azad Hind Fouj to Netaji including his own army. Netaji desired that the first blow of attack for the independence of India should be struck by Azad Hind Fouj and they should be the first to step on the liberated soil of Manipur and not the Japanese. To guard against Japanese and any kind of occupation in India, an agreement was made that after operation in Manipur only Azad Hind Fouj will go forward inside India and Japan will stop any advance of the Japanese army. The naval battle of Wake Island, a stepping stone for attack on Hawaii had

proved disastrous 'resulting destruction of major part of Japanese air force. The Japanese army was finding it difficult to stop the American Navy, moving further towards their western pacific possession. They observed that they lost their great air superiority. And it was that stage The Azad Hind Fouj, 1st Division was called up hurriedly. This Division of INA was not supposed to take part in offensive operation in Imphal and Kohima at that time. It was only when Japanese plan failed, the INA Division was hurriedly thrown into the battle. The INA 1st Division lightly armed and were not supposed to attack British Defense position. This task was required to be entrusted to regular army which possessed heavier weapons viz, tanks and other sophisticated equipment.

The Subhas brigade of Azad Hind Fouj had to march over three thousand miles on foot to reach the forward base Kohima defeating British army in different places and thereby creating great surprise to British General (Azad Hind Fouj and Netaji, Shah Nawaz Khan). The 2nd Gandhi Regiment marches for over hundred miles and the 3rd Regiment, under Lt Col. Gulzara Singh marched from Yeu to Mintha covering a distance of more than 250 miles. The INA Soldiers were not having warm cloth or even required boot covering for the foot in case of large number of soldiers and others were having worn-out shoes only. There were large number of casualties through diseases and heavy air attack by British air force during their long march. There were no transports. They were full of spirit and joy and all they seemed to carry were large cotton bags filled with rice and salt containing 20 days ration, slung over their left shoulder and a fully packed haversack on their back having a total weight of more than 45 kgs. They carried their own rifles and ammunitions. They crossed several miles covered with deep forest where there were no road communication. Falling to carry more than 45 kgs of weight for long, INA had to

leave there heavy machine guns and mortars behind as per direction. Getting an assurance that they are heavy machine gun etc will be carried out by a different Japanese troop later and will be handed over to INA on their base point but INA failed to receive any such guns or mortars at any stage. NA felt that if Palal Air

Base of British army could be occupied, approach to Imphal will be easy. There was tight security in Palal airport more than 1000 British army having sophisticated arms in hand were engaged to guard the airport. There were heavy fencing surrounding the air field but by creating utter surprise to British army only

three hundred INA soldiers under major Pritom Singh, crossing over 40 miles hilly track on foot. Hastened to the Palal front through Kabow Valley and attacked the airbase chanting there battle cry 'CHOLO DELHI' and along with destruction of large number of British Soldiers, they destroyed a dozens of fighter aircrafts on the ground. and Shahnawaz against Lushai Brigade (Mizo army).

## HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

Let us join hands to protect our nations from all the social evils that are plaguing it.

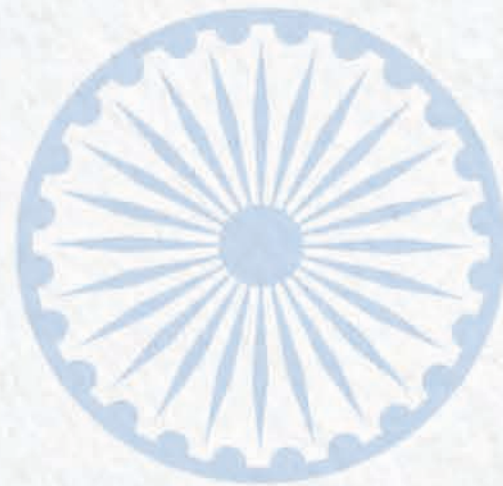
**192 GARACHARMA MAIN ROAD, PORT BLAIR, SOUTH ANDAMAN - 744105**

X-RAY USG CT 2D-ECHO ECG EEG TMT NCS PHYSIOTHERAPY LABORATORY

FOR APPOINTMENTS :

**03192-252052/03192-252522/9531807777**

74<sup>th</sup>  
Republic Day



75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

G20  
भारत 2023 INDIA  
एकता कृतमम्बु  
ONE EARTH - ONE FAMILY - ONE FUTURE

# Republic Day

## Greetings To All Fellow Citizens

### Jai Hind

“ We can empower the society and country only by walking on the path of duty. If there is dedication and seriousness towards one's duties, then even a single person can change the future of the whole society. ”

- Narendra Modi



Live telecast of Republic Day celebrations from Kartavya Path from 9:00 a.m. onwards on Doordarshan network

#### GREETINGS



On the occasion of 74th Republic Day celebrations, I wish all the people of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands a very happy Republic Day - 2023. This is a day, we all should remember our freedom heroes who sacrificed their lives for the cause of the motherland.

May this Republic Day bring peace, prosperity and good health to all the Islanders.

**Mr N Peddi Raju**  
State President  
Andaman & Nicobar Vidhyut Shramik Sangh  
&  
All India Executive Committee Member Akhil  
Bharatiya Vidyut Mazdoor Maha Sangh



SUBHASHIS MITTRA

On August 15, 2022, while addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on India's 76th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked about the 'PanchPraan' for the coming 25 years (AmritKaal). Elaborating on the second Praan, he said, "In no part of our existence, not even in the deepest corners of our mind or habits should there be any ounce of slavery. It should be nipped there itself. We have to liberate ourselves from the slavery mind set which is visible in innumerable things within and around us. This is our second Praan Shakti."

The history of modern India is deeply entangled with two centuries of British colonialism, and decades after Independence, our nation has continued to carry its colonial baggage in various forms, some conspicuous, and some subtle. Over the past few years, the Government has slowly been steering India away from these vestiges of British rule, and a number of steps have been taken across several domains to firmly mark the identity of New India, truly freeing it from its colonial past.

Rajpath Renamed Kartavya Path

In line with his resolve for New India in AmritKaal to 'remove any trace of



colonial mindset', Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Kartavya Path' in New Delhi on September 08, 2022. This change in nomenclature symbolises a shift from erstwhile Rajpath being an icon of power to the Kartavya Path being an example of public ownership and empowerment.

Statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Installed at India Gate

A huge statue of the national hero and

freedom fighter, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, has been installed near India Gate, replacing the statue of King George V which stood there. "At the time of slavery, there was a statue



of the representative of the British Raj. Today the country has also brought to life a modern, strong India by establishing the statue of Netaji at the same place," said the Prime Minister, at the unveiling of the statue. The granite statue was installed in the same place where a hologram statue of Netaji had been unveiled earlier this year on Parakram Diwas (January 23) by the PM.

New Naval Ensign marking a departure from the colonial past



Resonant to the ongoing national endeavour to move away from colonial past, need was felt to transition to a new naval ensign that drew inspiration from our own rich cultural heritage. The previous ensign carried the Saint George's Cross and was a successor to the pre-Independence ensign which had the red Cross on a white background with the Union Jack of the United Kingdom on the top left corner. The new ensign comprises two main constituents - the National

Flag in the upper left canton, and a Navy Blue - Gold octagon at the centre of the fly side (away from the staff). The Prime Minister dedicated the Ensign to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, who built a strong navy to secure the maritime borders, thus symbolizing the indigenous might of India.

Tunes with Indian fervour at the "Beating the Retreat" Ceremony

During Republic Day celebrations of 2022, a number of new tunes were added to the 'Beating the Retreat' ceremony to celebrate



'Azadika Amrit Mahotsav'. These include 'Kerala', 'Hind ki Sena' and 'Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon'. The event drew to a close with the ever-popular tune of 'Sare Jahan se Acha'. Indian musical instruments such as sitar, santoor, and tabla have also been added to the music ensemble. The retreat has thus been infused with an Indian flavour and patriotic fervour, to enable greater connect with the citizens.

Construction of National War Memorial (NWM) and merger of flames of Amar Jawan Jyoti and NWM

Constructed by the British to commemorate soldiers who lost their lives fighting for the British in World War I, the India Gate (earlier known as the All India War Memorial) is a symbol of India's colonial past. To mark India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 War, the Amar Jawan Jyoti was subsequently added at the above location as an ad-hoc arrangement, as the country did not have another memorial for Indian soldiers killed in



Wars. The National War Memorial, as a symbol of Independent India, was inaugurated and dedicated to the Nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 25, 2019. It houses the names of all Indian martyrs from all the wars, including 1971 and wars before and after it. The NWM is thus a memorial for all soldiers who have either laid down their lives or will do so in the future in the service of independent India. Since its inauguration, all homage and remembrance ceremonies are being conducted only at the NWM, including those on National Days. In the presence of a National War Memorial, it was therefore considered appropriate to shift the eternal flame to this new location as it is an appropriate tribute to have the flame stand in honour of all brave hearts.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands Renamed

On December 30, 2018, marking the 75th anniversary of the hoisting of Tricolour on Indian soil by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Ross Island would be renamed Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep; Neil Island would be known as Shaheed Dweep; and Havelock Island would be renamed as Swaraj Dweep. These islands had been named after the British rulers even in independent India. The Government erased these signs of slavery by giving them Indian names and Indian identity.

Railway Budget merged with annual Union Budget:

In yet another departure from British era practices, the Government

merged the Rail Budget with the Union Budget from budget year 2017-18. The Railway Finances had been separated from General Finances in 1924 following the recommendations of the Acworth Committee (1920-21).

Revival of literary works banned during British rule:

During India's struggle for Independence, many revolutionary pieces of literature were banned by the British Government, as these were considered 'dangerous' to the 'security' of their rule in India. This body of literature aimed at arousing patriotic feelings in the minds of the people and invoking them to rise up to free India. As part of the Azadika Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, the Government has identified poems, writings and publications that the British Raj banned and put them together as a catalogue published by the National Archives of India. These unique collections, representing the feelings, aspirations and resolves of our freedom fighters, are available in various Indian languages.

Other Initiatives taken to Remove Colonial Vestiges:

\*\*The Government has renamed certain key roads whose original names were iconic to the British era.

\*The Race Course Road in Lutyens' Delhi was renamed to Lok Kalyan Marg in 2016. Prime Minister's famous residential address 7, Race Course Road thus became 7, Lok Kalyan Marg.

\*\*In 2017, Dalhousie Road was renamed Dara Shikoh Road.

\*In 2019, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman broke away from a long-standing colonial era practice

when she opted for the traditional Indian 'Bahi Khata' rather than the briefcase while presenting the Union Budget. The time and date of the presentation of the Indian Budget, which was following the times of the British Parliament for so many decades, have also been changed.

\*The youth of the country are being liberated from the compulsion of learning in foreign language through the National Education Policy, which lays stress on education in the mother tongue.

\*In the last eight years, the Government has repealed more than 1,50 archaic laws, most of which were remnants of the colonial British era. "In this Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal, new laws should be made by abolishing the laws which have been going on from the time of slavery," Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted.

India has entered a decisive phase, and is marching ahead rapidly towards a future marked by confidence and Aatmanirbharta. Freeing the country from the shackles of its colonial past will further secure the foundation of its sovereign identity as envisioned by the Constitution, and propel the nation forward with greater vigour as it charts new courses in the global arena.

# Our freedom movement and Rabindranath



KOUSHIK DAS

Rabindranath Tagore was not just a poet but someone ahead of his time. At the time of independence India did not have a national anthem. The song 'Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata', composed in 1911 by Tagore was renamed as 'Jan Gan Man.' It was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India as the national anthem on January 24, 1950.

Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore used it exactly for that reason to protest against the decision of the British Indian government to divide the then Bengal. Tagore, possibly the greatest Bengali personality in the modern era, transgressed religious and cultural divides with the help of rakhi and engineered a movement that pushed the British administration to the backfoot and left them completely dumbfounded. The British officials stated that the huge size of the region made the task of effective management very arduous, and that is why the region was neglected. So, they decided to carve up the Bengal Presidency into separate regions. The Congress, during the months before the partition was to be effected, petitioned that the division should be done based on language, but Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of

India, thought otherwise. The decision was announced on July 19, 1905, by Lord Curzon, and was implemented on October 16, 1905. A new region with the majority Muslim population was created, with the capital at Dhaka, and it created communal tension in the society. Following Jallianwala Bagh massacre (13th April 1919) Rabindranath Tagore surrendered his title of Knighthood. Tagore viewed the British as a symptom of overall sickness of the social disease of the public.

Rabindranath Tagore got Knighthood from King George-V in 1915. Later in 1919, he renounced knighthood for the inhuman act of British in Jallianwala Bagh. Due to same reason Gandhi returned the Kaiser-i-Hind Gold medal given to him by British government for his work during Boer war. Many people are aware that Tagore wrote 2 national anthems. "Jana Gana Mana" for India and "Amar Sonar Bangla" for Bangladesh. What many people don't know is that he also inspired the Sri Lankan national anthem "Sri Lanka Matha". Some even hold a view that Tagore composed the anthem in its entirety. Tagore had a great bond with Mahatma Gandhi. He referred to him as the "Mahatma" by 1915 and Gandhi also addressed Tagore as "Gurudev". While highly supportive of each other, they had public differences on fundamental political

and social issues. They were unsparing in debate, captured often in the pages of publications like Modern India and Harijan. Rabindranath expressed his vision of swaraj in a famous song which roughly translated goes as, "We are all kings in the kingdom of our king". If everyone was sovereign, there was no necessity for a king. Gandhi approximated to the same idea through his vision of "enlightened anarchy". We do not know when Mohandas K. Gandhi first heard Rabindranath Tagore's song "Jibanojakhonosukaayeja" (1910). But we do know, on the testimony of his secretary and alter ego, Mahadev Desai, that it was one of Gandhi's "favourite songs". Its opening lines reproduced above, as translated by the poet, may well be the reason why it was so. Gandhi had a way of capturing songs, making them part of his mind's music repertoire, so that quite a few songs have come to be known as being 'one of his favourite songs'. Tagore's "Eklachalo re" (1905) has, of course, come to be even more closely associated with Gandhi than "Jibanojakhono". Indistinguishable from his 'lonely pilgrimage' in riot-engulfed East Bengal in 1946, "Eklachalo" has become twin to another extraordinary work of art from Bengal — Nandalal Bose's black and white linocut of the "Dandi Gandhi" (April 12, 1930).

## From fledgling republic to presidency of G-20: India's long journey of 73 years

NIRMALYA BANERJEE

From a fledgling republic newly independent from the yoke of a colonial rule to the presidency of the G 20 group of nations, India has travelled a long distance between 1950 and 2023. Seventy-three years down the line, India is among the fastest growing nations in the world; overcoming the setback of two years for the pandemic which many other nations have failed to do. In 2022-23, India's gross domestic product grew at seven percent, as against three percent in case of China in the same year. The world can no longer ignore the presence of India. Already the largest democracy in the world, India is now set to emerge as the most populated nation too; overtaking China in terms of population size.

From the immediate neighbourhood to the region, and now the influence of India has spread across the globe. India has always played a leading role in its immediate neighborhood in south Asia; and now more so as a member of South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation. As a member of Association of South East Asian Nations, India has played an important role in the economic and social life in south-east Asia. As a responsible member of the four-nation Quadrilateral Alliance, India is now taking a leading role in ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific; the other members of the alliance being Japan, Australia and the USA. Even the growing might of India's blue water navy has been recognized by the most powerful nations in the world; as evident by the Malabar Exercises in which the U.S. and the Indian navies have been participating since 1992. Now with Japan

and Australia joining the annual naval exercise, the four-member alliance has emerged as a powerful grouping whose interests other countries can ignore only at their own peril. Being the champion of the non-alignment movement since Independence, India has always played an important role in the other end of the global spectrum as well. International groupings like BRICS, of which the other members are Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which, too, have China and Russia as members, have found it prudent to have India on board. Founded in 1999, G20 has been billed as the premium forum for international economic cooperation. Its members, from the USA, the U.K. and the European Union at one end to Russia and China at the other, represent around 85 percent of the global GDP, over 75 percent of the global trade and about two-thirds of the world population. India's presidency of G20 has special significance for this premium forum as India will play an important role in finding pragmatic solutions to global problems as issues in the spirit of democracy and multilateralism, values to which it is deeply committed.

Significantly, India has assumed the presidency of G20 when the twin dangers of pandemic and climate change are threatening the very existence of mankind. Arresting climate change will be a key priority of the G20 nations during India's tenure as the president of the grouping. The focus of India's efforts in the coming months will be climate finance and technology, as well as a just transition to clean energy for the developing nations across the world.







*Assuring commitment... ensuring development*

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH