

# REVERBERATION

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**A weekly echoing the mood of the people, comes to you on every Monday**

## **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Events Week Celebration in A&N Islands Mega event to be organized on January 23 at Port Blair where Netaji hoisted the Tri-colour on 30.12.1943 for the first time on the Indian soil**

***Hon'ble Prime Minister to virtually inaugurate a model of the proposed Memorial at NSCB Island in the honour of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose & name 21 Islands of A&N in the name of PVC awardees on January 23***

Port Blair, Jan.20

India has a rich and glorious history, which is replete with stories of unprecedented bravery, valour, sacrifices and victories of our heroes. One of such great sons of Mother India was Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose whose contributions to the independence movement has inspired generations of Indians and inculcated a sense of pride amongst the countrymen. The Ministry of Home Affairs under the guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Events

*contd. page-5*



## **Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah arrives to a rousing welcome at Port Blair**



Port Blair, Jan. 22

The Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival at Veer Savarkar International Airport. He was received and welcomed by Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency along

with Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Keshav Chandra, Director General of Police, Andaman & Nicobar Police, Shri Neeraj Thakur, other senior Officers of Andaman & Nicobar Administration and public representatives. Hon'ble Home Minister is scheduled to grace the events of naming of 21 Islands after ParamVir Chakra Awardees, unveiling of model

of National Memorial of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at NSCB Dweep through virtual mode by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation will be the chief guest of the mega culmination event of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Events Week celebration to be held at the historic Netaji Stadium on January 23 at 5 pm

## **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Events Week Celebration Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) display on Jan. 22 & 23 at Marina Park**



Port Blair, Jan. 20

During the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Events Week Celebration, an array of activities will be organized in A&N Islands. In the spirit of Jan Bhagidari, the programmes have been designed to promote large scale public involvement in all the events, so that the citi-

zens can take inspiration from our national heroes and carry forward the great ideals that they stood for.

To add color to the mega event at Port Blair, the Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team will exhibit the air show in the skies of Marina Park. The aim of the

*contd. page-5*





## EDITORIAL

## No wriggle room for Govt after fresh SC reiterations

*One interesting fallout from the Centre's intransigence on the issue of judges appointing judges was the Supreme Court collegium issuing detailed explanations on fresh reiterations of five candidates for the judgeship in high courts. Its total demolition of the government's reservations that cited inputs from intelligence agencies about them was unprecedented. This was also the first time the collegium was coaxed into putting its reasoning in the public domain in over three years. The rare gust of transparency contrasted against the SC collegium's otherwise opaque recommendations, as the court generally puts up bland lists of the chosen ones for promotion, transfer, or both on its website. The other aspect that stood out was its emphasis on competence, merit and integrity while refusing to read meaning into the sharp social media posts they might have made against the government of the day. That the candidates had no overt affiliation with any political party or any other biases were factors. But as it pointed out, all citizens have the right to free speech and expression.*

*On a different note, the parents of three of the five candidates are retired judges—Saurabh Kirpal's dad is former Chief Justice of India B N Kirpal; Amitesh Banerjee is the son of former SC judge U C Banerjee; and Sakya Sen's dad is Shyamal Sen, retired Allahabad High Court Chief Justice. A lazy inference would be of nepotism, but the collegium was impressed by their core competencies in the Bar and inferred they would enrich the bench. The BJP's antipathy for Justice Banerjee is known, as a probe commission headed by him ruled out any conspiracy angle in the Sabarmati Express blaze that killed 58 kar sevaks in Godhra in 2002. Lalu Yadav appointed the panel during his tenure as railways minister in UPA-I. As for Sakya Sen, this was his third reiteration, drawing an angry comment from the collegium that it was not open to the law department to send back a reiterated file for fresh consideration repeatedly.*

*Saurabh Kirpal's reiteration made the biggest headlines because if appointed, he would be India's first openly gay judge of a high court. The collegium gave him credit for being open about his sexual orientation and dismissed objections about his partner being a Swiss national. After these reiterations, the government has no room to stall. It must quickly announce the appointments and uphold the majesty of the judiciary.*

## Firing by Coast Guard at Brichgunj on Jan. 25

Port Blair, Jan.20

Firing will be carried out by Coast Guard at Chinte Long Range, Brichgunj on Jan. 25 from 9.30 am to 5 pm. All concerned have been informed that to keep themselves and livestock away from the firing range during above mentioned date and time, a press release from Coast Guard said.

## Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on visit to Isles

*Visits National Memorial Cellular Jail and pays homage to Martyrs*

Port Blair, Jan.20

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment headed by its Chairperson, Smt. Rama Devi arrived here on a two day visit to these Islands today. The other members of the Committee are Smt. Sangeeta Azad, Smt. Pramila Bisoyi, Shri Thomas Chazhikadan, Ranjeeta Koli, Shri Akshaibar Lal, Shri Y. Devendrappa, Smt. Sumitra Balmik, Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas, Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha, Smt. Mamata Mohanta, Shri Narayan Koragappa and Shri Ramji.

On arrival, the Committee members along with Chairperson visited National Memorial Cellular Jail and paid homage to Martyrs. They also visited Anthropological Museum. The itin-



erary of the Committee for January 21 includes informal interactions with officials of NMDCF along with officials of Social Welfare Department of A&N Administration and with the officials of Health & Family Welfare Department & ANIIMS

along with the Tribal Welfare Department & NSTFDC at Swaraj Dweep.

On completion of visit, the Committee is scheduled to return to mainland on January 22, 2023, a communication from Protocol Deptt. received here said.

## HEADQUARTERS ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR COMMAND ANDAMAN NICOBAR COMMAND CELEBRATES ARMED FORCES VETERANS' DAY

Port Blair, Jan 20:

The Armed Forces Veterans' Day is celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> January every year. On this day in 1953, the First Indian Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army Field Marshal KM Cariappa, who led the Indian Forces to victory in the 1947 war, formally retired from the service. The Veterans' Day is being commemorated since 2017 and is dedicated to the esteemed veterans of the country.

As a mark of respect to the selfless duty of the ex-servicemen towards the Nation and expressing solidarity towards Next of Kin of the bravehearts, the seventh Armed Forces Veterans' Day was celebrated in the Andaman and Nicobar Command on 20 Jan 23. Lt Gen Ajai Singh, AVSM, Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He interacted with all the veterans and acknowledged their contribution in preserving the Nation's sovereignty and extended his gratitude for the sacrifices made by them in service to the Nation, and the powering on of our service ethos and professional issues with their value addition.

A number of activities were conducted to felicitate the veterans. Towards this, an ECHS queries camp was set up to re-



solve any health related issues of the veterans. 'One stop Help Desks' of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force were also set up at the venue to aid speedy resolution of any issues. Representatives of ECHS and Rajya Sainik Board took active part in the event. Lectures and presentations were undertaken to increase awareness on various policies and initiatives in order

to keep them abreast with the latest policies in vogue.

The veterans appreciated the formal connect with their brethren in arms whilst refreshing and cherishing memories of their uniformed service. Proactive measures taken towards redressal of issues on the spot were well appreciated by the Veterans.

## Movement of inland tourist vessels operating from Aberdeen Jetty diverted to Junglighat Jetty in view of Republic Day celebration

Port Blair, Jan. 20

As part of Republic Day celebration 2023, the Naval Ships will be anchored near Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island (NSCB Island). Therefore, the services/movement of inland tourist vessels operating from

Aberdeen jetty to various tourist spots have been diverted to Junglighat jetty instead of operating from Aberdeen jetty on 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, a press release from Directorate of Tourism said.



## 'Is India breaking? Rahul creating hatred, tarnishing India's image': Rajnath Singh



PTI, BHOPAL: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday accused Congress leader Rahul Singh of creating hatred among people in order to regain power, and alleged that he was tarnishing India's image on international platforms.

Addressing a programme organised by the Madhya Pradesh government to provide land rights of residential plots to the poor in the Singrauli district of the state located around 650 km from here, Singh asked Gandhi not to play with India's "prestige and pride".

The minister also said that in the recent clash with the Chinese troops, Indian soldiers did a "charismatic job" and displayed bravery, and slammed the Congress for questioning the valour of the country's jawans.

"Is India breaking? The country already got divided in 1947. Pakistan was created, though the leaders at that time were not in favour. These days, Rahul Gandhi is going around saying in his Bharat Jodo Yatra that there is hatred everywhere in India," he said.

"Rahulji, what has happened to you? You want to regain power by creating hatred. Power cannot be achieved by creating hatred, it can be achieved only by earning the public's trust and love. I want to ask him who is creating hatred in India? Is Modiji creat-

ing hatred in the whole country? Is (MP Chief Minister) Shivraj Singh (Chouhan) doing the work of creating hatred in Madhya Pradesh? Are these leaders creating hatred among people? Where did he see it," he asked the gathering.

The minister also accused the Congress of trying to defame India and tarnish its image by saying that only hatred prevails in India, although the country has earned great respect in the world now. India is the only country that considers all the people of the world as its family. India is being maligned that there is only hatred in India, he alleged.

India has never discriminated on the basis of caste, creed or religion as those born on Indian soil are brothers as all have sacrificed their lives for the country's independence, he added.

"I humbly want to say to Rahulji, don't spoil the image of India in the world by talking about hatred. You are creating hate by talking about it. You create hatred towards Modi and BJP by going to the people. The whole world is getting the image that there is only hatred in India," he said.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's remark that he is out to sell love in the market of hatred, Singh asked the gathering, "Have you also got some love from him? Now, what does he

know about love?" He said that Rahul Gandhi and Congress members should keep in mind that politics should not be done just to form the government and it should be done for society and the country.

"Rahulji, don't play with India's prestige and pride. India is moving forward, if you can cooperate then do it, if you can't, then sit silently, don't try to defame India in the international arena," he said.

Singh also said that Congress leaders can defame the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), but they dared to question the bravery and valour of the country's army and soldiers who risked their lives to protect the country.

"Being the country's defence minister, I don't want to speak openly. But I wanted to make it clear that whatever war has happened this time, be it between India-China, the bravery that our army soldiers have exhibited, if I discuss it in front of anyone, then everyone will boast, they have done a charismatic job," Singh said.

Last month, Rahul Gandhi alleged that China was preparing for war and the Indian government was sleeping over it and trying to ignore the threat.

He had also alleged that China had taken away 2,000 square kilometres of Indian territory, killed 20 Indian soldiers and was "thrashing our jawans in Arunachal Pradesh".

Singh said that India's economy has made a place among the top five economies in the country during the past eight years. Earlier, Rajnath Singh and MP CM Chouhan distributed free plots under CM Land Rights Scheme to over 25,000 beneficiaries besides disbursing the benefits of Rs 135 crore to 6.78 lakh farmers under the CM Kisan Kalyan Yojana.

## India will become model of global science, technology, innovation in 2047: CSIR DG



Kalaiselvi noted this is a critically, historically and scientifically important era wherein Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also said that in the 'Amrit Kaal' "we have escalated ourselves in science, technology and innovation."

The government of India has already identified that women

in science can really do wonders and women have also started reaching various heights, Kalaiselvi said, adding that is why she got identified as a woman scientist.

"Therefore, I am not here as Kalaiselvi, but as the recognition given to women in science," she said.

Kalaiselvi, who is also secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, said when the country starts celebrating not only science and research but also women in science when it is trying to give women additional support through a number of projects, "I think days are not far when India should be among the top three nations (in the field of science)."

She said the CSIR was coming up with dedicated programmes for women. On women's participation in the IISF, Kalaiselvi said the participation of women is very unique everywhere and here as well.

The CSIR DG said she is thrilled to see the next generation, both males and females, coming forward in the field of science and it is no wonder that males are taking up the job farther.

"But nowadays, girls are also coming forward and they have started sharing the responsibility not only in terms of the family but also in science and technology, in the nation's development, in maintaining and making sustainable growth, and development of India's tradition and culture through science and technology," she said.

Asked about the new innovations being showcased at the IISF, she said the participants are exhibiting what they have done and they have been told to make the CSIR community understand the critical

PTI, BHOPAL: India will become the model of global science, technology and innovation in 2047 and will be among the top three countries in the field in 2030, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Director General Dr Nallathamby Kalaiselvi has said.

Talking to PTI, she also denied that young scientist awards have been discontinued and said people will see definitely see multi-dimensional growth in the science sector in the coming days.

Kalaiselvi, the first woman director general of CSIR, established by the government in 1942, was in Bhopal to participate in the 8th India International Science Festival (IISF)-2022 which began on Saturday.

The theme of the four-day event is 'Marching towards Amrit Kaal with Science Technology and Innovation'.

"In 2030, India will be one among the top three nations, in 2047, the country will become the model of global STI (science, technology and innovation). In 2070, the entire globe will accept that India is a ruling power (in science). Because this will become a reality in 2070, this is my strongest belief as a scientific researcher," Kalaiselvi said.

Asked about media reports claiming that CSIR has stopped giving young scientists awards and prizes, Kalaiselvi said, "Nothing has been stopped, young scientist-related programmes are happening everywhere, at every level, even the students are called young scientist students, so everywhere science, researches and researchers are getting celebrated."

"If you feel that something looks like getting stopped, I think you will definitely see multi-dimensional growth in the coming days," she added.

On women's role in science,

contd. page-5

## Sound & Light Show in Hindi at National Memorial Cellular Jail after up-gradation to resume from January 22

Port Blair, Jan. 20

The Sound & Light Show in Hindi at National Memorial Cel-

lular Jail after up-gradation will resume from January 22, 2023 onwards for general public/tour-

ists. The scheduled timing of the show is as mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Show	Nos. of days	1 <sup>st</sup> show	2 <sup>nd</sup> show	3 <sup>rd</sup> show
			Timing	Timing	Timing
1.	Hindi Version	All 7 days	5.30 pm to 6.15 pm	6.30 pm to 7.15 pm	7.30 pm to 8.15 pm

Meanwhile, the English show will resume after up-gradation.

The timing of the show is subject to change according to sun-

set, a press release from Directorate of Tourism said.



## Counselling for allotment of vacant seats of B.Sc (Agriculture) & B.Sc (Horticulture) courses reserved at mainland institution to be held on Jan. 24

Port Blair, Jan. 20

Candidates who have applied for allotment of various Professional/Technical/Non-Technical courses reserved at mainland institutions for the academic session 2022-23 have been informed that the counselling for the vacant seats in B.Sc (Agriculture) - 2 seats and B.Sc (Horticulture) - 5 seats will be held on Jan.24, 2023 at 3.30 pm in the Conference Hall of Secretariat, Port Blair.

All the interested candidates whose names have appeared in the merit list of above courses have been directed to

appear in person with all educational qualification certificates/testimonials in original along with 5 passport size photographs and 2 permanency certificates for sureties and other documents in support of their category for counseling on the date, time and venue as specified above. If the seats still remain un-utilized from the respective category, the same may be allotted from Category-V as per merit.

It is further brought to the notice that if the seats still remain vacant, the same will be allotted to the fresh eligible candidates who will be present in

the counselling as per their merit. Therefore, fresh eligible candidates those who are interested for allotment of the above seats are also requested to be present on the above date of counselling alongwith all testimonials in original.

No subsequent claim will be entertained or considered from any candidate, irrespective of his merit, if he/she fails to appear in person or does not produce necessary certificates in original at the time of counselling/selection, a press release from Deputy Secretary (Hr. Edn), A&M Administration said.

## Restriction on carrying items in public functions



Port Blair, Jan. 20

The Hon'ble Union Home and Minister of Cooperation is scheduled to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands and will be attending public functions. From security point of view, the invitees/general public have been advised not to carry items such as Garland, Bouquet, Power Bank, Battery operated

Toys, Coins, Pagers, Cameras, Binocular, Cigarette, Lighters, Match Box, Hand bags, Umbrella, Water Bottle, Packets, Briefcase, Transmitter, Tiffin Box, Glass items, Sharp objects like Screw Driver etc. at the places of function which is to be attended by the VVIP, a press release from SP (Security) said.

## MP brings the issue of shortage of desks and benches to the knowledge of Hon'ble Lt. Governor

Port Blair, Jan 21:

The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to direct the Education Department to procure a sufficient

number of desks and benches for all the government run schools of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

During a recent meeting the Member of Parliament mentioned that during his visit to many schools of Andaman and

Nicobar Islands he has observed that there is severe shortage of desks and benches for students.

Because of this, he said that the students are facing a lot of difficulties in many schools.

## Disaster Management Trainings conducted for Community Volunteers of North & Middle Andaman



Mayabunder, Jan. 21

The Govt. of India has approved 'Up-scaling AapdaMitra Scheme', which will be implementing by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), MHA, New Delhi in partnership with states/UTs and State Disaster Management Authorities. The scheme focuses on training of 100000 community volunteers in 350 highly vulnerable districts prone to flood, landslide, cyclone and earthquakes.

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration is implementing

Up-scaling of AapdaMitra Scheme of NDMA in 3 districts of Andaman & Nicobar Island targeting to train 300 community volunteers under the scheme. The scheme aims to provide community volunteers with the basic skills they will require for responding to their communities immediate needs during and in the aftermath of a disaster. These trained volunteers can assist in saving lives using the basic techniques of disaster response, coordination and management.

The Directorate of Disaster

Management in coordination with District Administration (N&MA), Indian Coast Guard (AN) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conducted twelve days long training program for community volunteers of North & Middle Andaman District at Rangat and Mayabunder from 9th January, 2023 to 21st January, 2023 and imparted Disaster Management Trainings to the community Volunteers of North & Middle Andaman.

## LOST

I lost my School Transfer Certificate issued by GSS Model School in between Haddo to Dhavantri, Finder may please Contact.

Beena Begum,  
Contact no. 9476092616.



General Anil Chauhan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Chief of Defence Staff on visit to A&N Islands to participate in virtual unveiling of naming of 21 Islands after Param Vir Chakra Awardees at Port Blair, called on Admiral D K Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency at Raj Niwas.

## AIR Port Blair to broadcast live 'Parakram Diwas' Programmes

Port Blair, Jan. 22

All India Radio (AIR) Port Blair will broadcast live coverage of 'Parakram Diwas' programme to be held at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Technology. The cultural programme to be held as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Events Week Celebration at Netaji Stadium to be attended by Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation as Chief Guest will also be broadcast live. The live

commentary from DBRAIT will begin at 1055 hrs and from Netaji Stadium at 1645 hrs on 23rd January, 2023. The commentator from Netaji Stadium are Shri Zakir Hussain, Shri Dinesh Kumar Singh and Dr. Shrabani Mallick.

Listeners can tune into MW 684 KHz or download 'news on air' app from Google Play Store and tune into PC AIR Port Blair to listen to these Live Commentaries.

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## France want to be partner in building national base for defence industries in India: French envoy Lenain



PTI, PANAJI: French Ambassador Emmanuel Lenain has said his country wants to be a partner in the process of building a national industrial base for defence industries in India.

Talking to reporters on Saturday on board French aircraft carrier Charles De Gaulle which took part in the Indo-French naval exercise 'Varuna' off the Goa coast, Lenain said the two countries can co-produce lot of equipment for the defence and space sectors.

France is committed to making available the best technologies to Indian forces without restrictions, he said. Lenain said France has

really understood the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India).

"We understand that also because we are a highly independent country and we have been through that process also. We want to be a partner in the process to build a national industrial base for defence industries in India," he said.

When India is looking to diversify its suppliers, France is a great option, the envoy said. Lenain said his country is committed to making available the best technologies to Indian forces without restrictions.

"France will not only support for make in India, but also come forward to co-develop and co-produce equipment," he said.

Asked about relations between the two countries, Lenain said "The bilateral ties between India and France are exceptionally good and trustworthy".

"We are of the same values. The best way to assert our strategic autonomy is by cooperating together. The two countries can co-produce lot of equipment for the defence and space sectors," Lenain said.

The Indo-French naval exercise that began here on January 16 culminated on Friday.

A French Navy official earlier said this joint preparation for air-sea warfare exemplifies the outstanding Indo-French naval cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, with ships, frigates and helicopters as well as a French command and replenishment ship carrying out numerous training sessions of increasing intensity, the official informed.

The aim of the joint exercise was to prepare the crews of the two countries to face a variety of challenges together, mobilising their anti-surface, anti-submarine and anti-aircraft assets, as well as shared control of the air-sea environment and ship control, the official said.

## Fishermen advised not to venture into S/ A Sea on Jan. 25 & 26 in view of windy weather

Port Blair, Jan. 22

As per Metrological Department weather report, due to squally weather over south Andaman sea, wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph likely prevail over South Andaman Sea on 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into South Andaman

sea on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.

For further enquiries / information contact helpline of State Emergency Operation Centre at Helpline No.1070 & District Emergency Operation Centre at Helpline No. 1077. For any emergency/assistance at sea, call Coast Guard SAR Agency at Toll Free number 1554.

## Mega event..... from page-1

Week from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2023, to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence & Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 126<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate a model of the proposed Memorial dedicated in honour of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to be set up at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, A&N Islands on January 23 at 11 am. Thereafter, Hon'ble Prime Minister will also announce the naming of 21 Islands of Andaman and Nicobar in the name of Param Veer Chakra Awardees. This event will be live screened in a function to be held in the Auditorium of DBRAIT, Port Blair. The Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah will grace the function to be held at DBRAIT, Port Blair.

As a part of the celebrations, the mega event at Port Blair also includes a cultural programme at the historic Netaji Stadium on January 23 at 5 pm. Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah will be the chief guest on the occasion. Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands & Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency will also grace the occasion. The evening will be followed by performance by renowned singer, Sukhwinder Singh with his troupe. The other highlights of the evening include presentation of a dance ballet on the life of Netaji choreographed by eminent Choreographer Ms. Tanusree Shankar and various other dance performances.

## Uphaar cinema fire tragedy: 26 years on, victims' families still knocking in vain on doors of justice



ANS, NEW DELHI: The legal route taken by Neelam and Shekhar Krishnamoorthy and the families of the other Uphaar cinema fire tragedy victims is full of twists and turns. It has been 26 years and the search for justice still continues.

The Krishnamoorthys' home is quiet with the photo frames of their two children, who perished in the fire, hanging on the wall. Unnati and Ujjwal seem to be looking for justice. It is their parents' hard work and courage that has kept them going to seek what they want from India's judicial system. They are determined to fight on until their last breath.

Neither they nor their kids knew that a movie on a Friday evening will turn Neelam and Shekhar's lives upside down. In a span of a few hours, a family of a cheerful four was reduced to two members.

Twenty six years ago a fire broke out in Green Park's Uphaar cinema at New Delhi while the film "Border" was being screened.

In June 1983, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Licensing, had suspended the cinema's license for four days due to structural and fire safety deviations.

The Green Park Theatre & Associated (P) Ltd. (which ran Uphaar cinema), obtained a stay order from the Delhi High Court.

On account of the stay order, only temporary permits were issued to the cinema and the theatre owners — Sushil and Gopal Ansal — kept on obtaining temporary permits from the Licensing Authority for periods of two months each, for 14 years till June 13, 1997, the day the fire broke in Uphaar.

At 4.55 p.m., a swirling mass of thick smoke engulfed the balcony section of the hall. In the absence of fire exits and ushers to help the patrons, the people seated on the balcony found themselves trapped. By 7 p.m., 59 people from 28 families had died. This included Unnati (17) and Ujjwal (13).

For the victims' families, who were devastated at losing their loved ones, the Krishnamoorthys formed AVUT (Association of the Victims of Uphaar Tragedy) on June 30, 1997, barely 17 days after the tragedy struck. Starting off as a nine-family association, it is a 28-family powerful registered society now.

The investigation into the fire incident which began with the Delhi Police's crime branch conducting the probe, on July 24, 1997, was transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

On November 15, the CBI filed a chargesheet against 16 accused persons including appellants Sushil Ansal, Gopal Ansal and HS Panwar.

In an order dated July 31, 2000, that is three years later, the Delhi High Court directed the trial court to frame charges by October 16, in the petition filed by AVUT for the main case.

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## Surya Kiran..... from page-1



aerobatic display is to showcase the professionalism and skill of the Indian Air Force pilots as well as to instill a sense of patriotism in the youth of the country. The SKAT display will be held on January 22 from 3:45 pm to 4:15 pm at Marina Park and on January 23 from 4 pm to 4:30 pm at the Netaji Stadium.

Surya Kiran is an aerobatics demonstration team of the Indian Air Force formed in 1996. The team enthralled spectators in India and abroad till winding down in 2011. In 2015 the team was resurrected on Hawk MK 132 and has steadily built up to four to six to nine aircrafts formation and has reclaimed its position as one of the best nine aircraft display teams in the

world, and the only 9 aircraft team in Asia. The display season from September to March will see the team perform as many as 35-40 displays, which will comprise an impressive repertoire of graceful 9ac composite formations followed by the heart stopping synchro maneuvering. The team takes immense pride in showcasing the highest standards and traditions of the IAF and the nation. Teamwork, professionalism and confidence in each other's abilities are the hallmark of the team members. Suryakiran, strives to be the best aerobatic team in world, living upto the squadron motto — "Always The Best".



## Australian Open: Sania Mirza suffers defeat in second round of women's doubles



ANI, MELBOURNE: India tennis ace Sania Mirza's women's doubles career at the Grand Slam came to a disappointing end after she suffered a Round 2 defeat in the ongoing Australian Open 2023 on Sunday.

Sania and her women's doubles partner Anna Danilina lost to the unseeded duo of Anhelina Kalinina and Alison Van Uytvanck. Playing at Court 7, Mirza and Danilina lost by a margin of 4-6, 6-4, 2-6 at Melbourne Park.

Given that Mirza, a six-time Major champion, will retire after the Dubai Open next month, this was her final appearance in a women's doubles Grand

Slam match.

Earlier in the day, the all-French duo of Jeremy Chardy and Fabrice Martin defeated the event's alternates, N Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan in a straight set 6-4, 6-4.

In the opening set of the match, Mirza-Danilina nearly had an ideal start as they contested the Van Uytvanck serve. Five break points were available during the 11-minute match, but none were converted since the Belgian was able to hold serve.

Earlier, Sania Mirza and Anna Danilina overpowered the Hungarian-American team of Dalma Galfi and Bernarda Pera

to advance to the second round of women's doubles.

On the other hand, the Indian ace mixed doubles pair of Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna breezed into the second round at the Australian Open 2023 at Melbourne Park on Saturday. The semi-finalists from Rio 2016 Saina Mirza and Rohan Bopanna defeated Australian wild card entry Jaimee Fourlis and Luke Saville 7-5, 6-3 in an hour and 14 minutes.

The Indian pair suffered an early setback in the match, having been broken in the fourth game. After a prompt retort, Mirza and Bopanna took six of the next eight games to capture the opening set. As they gained momentum, Mirza and Bopanna maintained their hold on the second set and defeated Jaimee Fourlis and Luke Saville in the seventh and ninth games to win the set and the match.

Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi won the Australian Open mixed doubles championship in 2009.

## Uphaar cinema..... from page 5

The court framed charges against all the 16 accused under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including 304 (culpable homicide), 304 A (causing death by negligent act) and 337 (hurt), on February 27, 2001.

Later in April, Sushil Ansal filed a revision petition against the order framing charges. On April, 4, 2002, the HC asked the trial court to wrap up the case by 15 December.

"The trial court shall also take expeditious steps to complete the trial as far as practicable by 15th of December 2002," the court said, adding that the "trial court shall hold trial of sessions case for 10 days in a month from May except June 2002".

On 27 January, 2003, the Ansals' plea seeking re-possession of the theatre was rejected on the ground that the place of incident is to be preserved to appreciate evidence.

From September 4, 2004 to August 20, 2007, the court recorded the statements of the accused, recorded testimonies of defence witnesses, the Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Mamta Sehgal inspected the theatre, the accused started advancing final arguments and senior advocate Harish Salve appeared for the CBI to advance final arguments.

The AVUT on May 18, 2007, approached the High Court seeking conclusion of the trial within a time frame. On October 22, 2007, the court fixed November 20 as the date of verdict. On the date of verdict, the court convicted all the 12 accused, including Sushil and Gopal Ansal, in the main case and sentenced them to two years imprisonment. By that time, four accused had died.

One and a half months later, the High Court granted bail to the Ansal brothers and two other accused.

However, in the same year on September 11, the Ansals were sent to Tihar Jail after the Supreme Court (SC) cancelled their bail.

On December 19, 2008, the High Court upheld the trial court's order convicting the Ansal brothers but reduced their sentence from two years to one year.

In 2009, the SC issued notice on a petition filed by AVUT for enhancement of the sen-

tence and alteration of charges. The CBI too filed an appeal seeking enhancement.

Later in April, 2013, the SC reserved its order on the appeals of the Ansals, the CBI and AVUT.

In a twist, on March 5, 2014, the judges differed on the sentence. One judge awarded one year, another sentenced the Ansals to the term already undergone. The matter was referred to a three-judge bench.

A year and four months later, in August 2015, the SC allowed the Ansals to walk free after paying a fine of Rs 30 crore each (Rs 60 crore in total).

The amount by way of a demand draft was to be paid to the Chief Secretary of the Delhi Government for setting up a new trauma centre, which is now called AIIMS Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre.

Moreover, HS Panwar was awarded a two year sentence subject to the condition that if he pays Rs 10 lakh for the Trauma Centre, then the sentence will stand reduced to the period already undergone.

In 2017, in the review petition filed by AVUT and the CBI, the SC asked Gopal to undergo the remaining one-year jail term while his elder brother Sushil was given relief from incarceration, in view of age-related complications keeping in mind the prison term already served by him. However, the fine of Rs 30 crore each for the Trauma Centre was maintained as directed by the SC in its judgement dated August 19, 2015.

On February 20, 2020, the SC dismissed a curative petition filed by AVUT. On November 8, 2021, a Delhi court awarded seven-year jail terms to the Ansals in the tampering with evidence case and imposed a fine of Rs two crore twenty five lakhs on each. The rest were fined Rs 3 lakh each.

Last year on 18 July, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Patiala House courts, upheld the order of conviction under Sections 409, 201 and 120B of the IPC passed by the trial court against the Ansals, Dinesh Chandra Sharma (Ahlmad, who was charged with tampering of a document) and P. P. Batra except Anoop Singh as he was acquitted of all charges.

## Kunlavut, An Seyoung emerge champions at India Open



PTI, NEW DELHI: Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn and Korea's An Seyoung emerged champions at the India Open after stunning wins over two-time world champions Viktor Axelsen and Akane Yamaguchi in their men's and women's singles finals, respectively, here on Sunday.

Kunlavut beat Olympic champion Axelsen of Denmark 22-20,

10-21, 21-12 in 64 minutes to claim his maiden Super 750 tournament title, while An saw off world No.1 Yamaguchi 15-21 21-16 21-12 in the women's singles summit showdown.

World No.11 Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang came out as the winners in men's doubles after seeing off star Malaysian third seeds Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik 14-

21, 21-19, 21-18 in the final for their second World Tour title following the triumph at Japan Open last year.

The other two doubles matches didn't happen following two withdrawals, both featuring Chinese pairs, on the final day of the tournament due to ill health.

Wang Yi Lyu, who was due to play the mixed doubles final with Huang Dong Ping, and Chen Qing Chen, who was to feature in the women's doubles final with Jia Yi Fan, reported sick.

They were suffering from diarrhoea and withdrew from their respective matches.

Japan's Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino won the mixed doubles title, while Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida, also from Japan, claimed the women's doubles crown.

## Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff start filming for 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'

PTI, MUMBAI:

Superstar Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff have started shooting for their upcoming action entertainer "Bade Miyan Chote Miyan", backed by Pooja Entertainment. The film, to be directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, features Prithviraj Sukumaran as the antagonist. Kumar, Shroff and producers Vashu Bhagnani and Jackky Bhagnani announced the commencement of the film's shoot on

Instagram. "A film I've been most eager to start #BadeMiyanChoteMiyan. Adding to my adrenaline rush is my Chote @tigerjackieshroff," Kumar wrote. "And the journey of one of the biggest action spectacles begins today," posted Shroff. Vashu Bhagnani said he is elated to return with his "Bade Miyan Chote Miyan" franchise after 25 years.

"It was special then and it is even more special now with two

exceptional superstars leading the title," he posted alongside the team's photograph. The original "Bade Miyan Chote Miyan", starring Amitabh Bachchan and Govinda, was released in 1998. David Dhawan directed the comedy-drama backed by Pooja Entertainment. Jackky Bhagnani said the upcoming movie is their "biggest and most ambitious project".