

## HEALTHCARE SYSTEM JINXED IN ANI HRS stage protest seeking efficient health services



ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, JAN 11/--/ In order to press for various demands concerning the effective health care delivery system in the Health department, the Hindu Rastra Shakti (HRS) on Wednesday staged a massive protest in front of National Memorial Cellular Jail. On the occasion, speakers of HRS spoke about the various shortfalls in the health-care delivery system in the islands and wanted that these shortfalls need to be fixed on priority so that the citizens of the islands can be provided efficient health care treatments in the islands, particularly GB Pant Hospital. Notable issues raised on the occasion include complete revival and implementation

of ANISHI scheme by maintaining the benefits of Ayushman Bharat Scheme. Specialist Doctors & Senior-most Doctors should be strictly directed to ensure their respective presence On Calls while on emergencies/casualties. They should not under any circumstances manage emergent situations through Interns. Appointment of Specialist doctors for every prominent disease by which a large number of Islanders are usually found suffering/affected. Daily rounds of specialists for in-patient Ward duties for more than two rounds should be stopped and Specialists should be more engaged for OPD services and on serious patient's requirements. (Contd. on page-6)



The Chief Secretary, Mr. Keshav Chandra, met the Senior officials and other staff of Secretariat at A&N Secretariat premises on Tuesday. While extending New Year greetings to the entire Secretariat family and also wishing them progress and prosperity, the Chief Secretary urged everyone to work with dedication for the development and the betterment of the Islanders

### GREETINGS

My greetings to all the youths of Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the occasion of National Youth Day.

As we all know National Youth Day (NYD) is held every year on 12th January to observe the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, it is a day of great inspiration for every Indian youth. Even today everyone considers Swami Vivekananda as a true Global Youth Icon. His emphasis on building a New India has been a source of inspiration for our youths. This is the reason why millions of people are still following the teachings of Swami Vivekananda in every sector of life. Through his teachings, he wanted to imbibe the young minds with the power to recognize internal strengths and have an optimistic outlook on life. Once again, on National Youth Day, I urge all youths of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to devote themselves for the development of our Islands and also for building a strong nation. I also urge all youths to take good care of their own health and help needy and poor people whenever they get an opportunity.

On this day I also urge all youths to stay away from drugs and other social evils and contribute their time in teaching unprivileged people following the motive of each one teach one, which will not only increase the overall literacy rate of these islands but also will enlighten our own society with knowledge and wisdom.

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

## MEDIA TEAM MEETS CHIEF SECRETARY

### Directions given to Secretary (IP&T) to resolve two vital issues of media within 5-6 days

PORT BLAIR, JAN 11/--/The Chief Secretary, A&N Islands, Mr. Keshav Chandra on Wednesday said that media is part of the administrative setup and various departments of the administration should work in tandem with the media for proper dissemination of various developmental activities carried out by the different departments working under UT administration. He said this while interacting with a media team at his chamber today. The media team comprising of Mr. K Ganeshan, Chief Editor, The Andaman Express and Mr. Vijay Kumar Roy, Editor-in-Chief, The Echo of India met Mr. Keshav Chandra and apprised him about issues concerning the local media here.

The media team raised two vital issues in front of the Chief Secretary. Firstly reallocation of media room in the Directorate of IP&T to media persons. The media room was allotted to the local media persons during the tenure of former Lt Governor, Mr. IP Gupta. However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, this room was taken back by IP&T for office use. The second issue was enhancing the subscription



of IP&T enlisted newspapers to 50 copies each. Before the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, IP&T used to subscribe to about 50 copies of local newspapers. But during the pandemic and as part of austerity measures, the subscription of local newspapers by IP&T were restricted to 11 copies each. After hearing both the issues, the Chief Secretary on the spot directed the Secretary, IP&T to resolve both the issues of the media within 5-6 days. On being asked about his experience and vision for the Islands, the Chief Secretary lauded the peace loving people of the islands, living in perfect peace and harmony. These Islands represent mini-India in a true sense, Mr. Chandra said. About his vision for the development of the islands, a dynamic Chief Secretary said that he wanted to bring a lot of economic prosperity to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. In achieving the goal, he sees the enormous potential in the fisheries sector which tapped in the right earnest can bring a lot of development and prosperity for the people of the islands.

## MONDAL JEWELLERS

916 BIS HALL MARK GOLD ORNAMENTS

NEW COLLECTIONS ARRIVAL FOR PONGAL

**CELL: 9434281991, PH: 234778**

48 Shastri Road, Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair-744101  
12/370 R.P. Road, Near Jama Masjid, Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair

## TEXTILE LAXMI NEERAJ TEXTILE

Happy Pongal

Exclusive Pongal Sale is live Today!

Visit your nearest showroom  
**Aberdeen Bazaar | Bathu Basti**

## Natural River Sand

Now Available For Construction Of Your New Projects

A&N Seaways & Project Pvt. Ltd.,

Pristine Quality    Affordable Price    Accurate Quantity

18 HSKP Building, Gurudwara Line, Port Blair, Andaman, India - 744 101  
**Contact: +91 86910 78775, +91 96795 93111**

## YESHUVA TRAINING ACADEMY Pvt. Ltd

NEAR MUBARAK MALL, JUNGLGHAT, 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 JANUARY - 2023 BATCH.**  
➤ **ADMISSION FORM SUBMISSION LAST DATE 16/01/2023.**  
➤ **FOR INTER ISLAND STUDENTS ONLINE CLASSES ALSO AVAILABLE**



## TN Guv's 'guest' recorded Assembly proceedings, matter referred to Committee of Privileges

It is the Governor's duty to read out govt prepared address: Speaker

CHENNAI, JAN 11 /--/ In the Assembly, ruling DMK legislator T R B Rajaa on Wednesday raised a question involving breach of privilege as a 'guest' of Governor R N Ravi recorded Assembly proceedings using his mobile phone in contravention of House rules.

Speaker M Appavu referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges for its consideration. Following the question hour, Rajaa said on January 9 a 'guest' of Governor Ravi recorded from the visitor's gallery, House proceedings using his mobile phone. That day, Ravi was in the Assembly to make his customary address of the year to the House. Rajaa said mobile phones are not allowed inside the House and recording proceedings went against rules. After noticing it, the ruling party MLA said he took up the matter with Assembly authorities. The legislator said he has provided a notice on the matter as it involved breach of privilege of the House. Rajaa urged Speaker Appavu to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges. Accepting it, Appavu said he was referring it to the Privileges panel for its consideration.

The Assembly Speaker on Wednesday said that the onus of responsibility in respect of the content of Governor's address is on the chief minister and his council of ministers and the duty of the Governor is only to read out the prepared text. Giving his ruling on MLAs-belonging to parties including the Congress, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi and the Left-raising slogans during Governor R N Ravi's customary address to the House on January 9, Appavu said the microphone on

such occasions is provided only to the Governor and no one else. The Governor has a right to address the House and no hindrance shall be caused. Citing relevant rules, he said members shall comply with it. On that day, the Legislators aired their views and there was no 'dharna' or any untoward incidents.

The Speaker said slogan shouting should have been, however, avoided and in future they must steer clear of it. Appavu recalled past instances (1998 and 2011) witnessed in the House when Governors of the day were present. During the previous AIADMK regime (1991-96), rules were relaxed and critical remarks were made against the then Governor M Channa Reddy. However, when (late DMK patriarch) M Karunanidhi returned as Chief Minister (1996-2001) rules were amended to ensure that there was no discussion or remarks vis-a-vis the Governor, President and Judges.

On Governor Ravi's customary address, the Speaker said there were irregularities in respect of the text he read out as there were exclusions from the government prepared address. Also, Ravi made inclusions on his own.

Though this led to an abnormal situation, chief minister Stalin deftly handled it and piloted a resolution which shone light on the rights and role of a Governor and upheld the dignity of the House. Appavu lauded Stalin for bringing the resolution and getting it passed. As regards the content of Governor's address, the onus of responsibility, is on the chief minister and his council of ministers and the duty of the Governor is only to read out the text, he said. (PTI)

## NIA sleuths probing into terror case quiz Ex-minister Kimmane Rathnakar

BENGALURU, JAN 11 /--/ Sleuths of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), probing into the Shivamogga Islamic State conspiracy case, on Wednesday questioned former minister Kimmane Rathnakar pertaining to the Congress office building at Thirthahalli in Shivamogga district that was taken on rent. Rathnakar, a former Thirthahalli MLA, said the sleuths reached the Congress office and asked him how the party took the building on rent from its owner Hashim. "They (NIA) asked me when I took the (Congress) office building on rent. I told them that we took it on rent in 2015 by paying Rs 10 lakh to

Hashim. We paid Rs 1,000 a month till December," the Congress leader said in a video message. "We also told them that the day he (Hashim) refunds Rs 10 lakh, the building will be vacated. Our relation with Hashim is just of an owner and a tenant. Party is not connected with him," Rathnakar said. The former minister charged the BJP with spreading false information on NIA's visit to Congress office. Six accused had been arrested in the case, which is closely linked to Mohammed Shariq, recently arrested after a cooker bomb he was carrying exploded in an autorickshaw in Mangaluru. Shariq hails from Thirthahalli. The

Shivamogga terror module had allegedly carried out a trial blast on the banks of Tunga river last year. The module was busted after a mob went on a rampage on August 15 last in protest against some Hindu right wing members placing a portrait of Hindutva ideologue Savarkar at a public space in Shivamogga city, and stabbed a man. After the arrest, they were questioned and their mobile phones checked. Then, it was found that they were inspired by the IS and wanted to reportedly carry out large-scale destruction in Karnataka and other parts of the country, NIA sources said. (PTI)



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan planting a Mango tree in front of the park of the Government Secretariat, in Thiruvananthapuram

## Lakhimpur Kheri violence: May take at least 5 years to conclude trial in normal course, sessions judge tells SC

NEW DELHI, JAN 11 /--/ It might take at least five years in the normal course to conclude the trial in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, a sessions judge conducting the trial in the case in which Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son is one of the accused, informed the Supreme Court on Wednesday. In a report submitted to the apex court, the additional sessions judge said there are 208 witnesses, 171 documents and 27 forensic science laboratory (FSL) reports in the case. The apex court had last month asked the sessions court how much time in normal course was it likely to take to conclude the trial, without compromising with the schedule of other pending or prioritised matters. "The report says it will take at least five years. It says there are 208 witnesses, 171

documents and 27 FSL reports," said a bench of Justices Surya Kant and V Ramasubramanian while referring to the report received from the trial court judge. "He (sessions judge) says in normal course, it may take five years," observed the bench, which is hearing a plea by Ashish Mishra seeking bail in the case of mowing down of protesting farmers in October 2021 in Lakhimpur Kheri. During the hearing, the bench asked the counsel appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government to confirm whether the four accused in a separate case lodged over the killing of three occupants of the SUV, which allegedly mowed down four farmers in the incident, are still in custody. At the outset, advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the complainant in the case of the killing of farmers,

requested the bench to post the hearing for some other day, saying senior advocate Dushyant Dave who is leading him in the matter is unwell. The bench inquired from the state's counsel about the status of the separate case lodged over the killing of three occupants of the SUV, which allegedly mowed down farmers. The counsel said charges have been framed against the accused in that matter. "We just want to know if there are accused in that case who have been arrested?" the bench asked. The state's counsel said four accused were arrested in the case. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Ashish Mishra, told the bench that the trial judge has sent a report to the apex court. When the bench said as per the report of the additional sessions judge, it may take at least five

years in the normal course to conclude the trial, Bhushan said material witnesses can be examined first. "The problem is the report says when the case was fixed for examination of prosecution witnesses, one of the material witnesses was to be examined but he got fever and was unwell on that day... These practical difficulties may arise," the bench pointed out. It said if the trial in the case is asked to be speeded up, it will have to be done at the cost of all other cases pending in that court. Bhushan said day-to-day trial is needed in this case being probed by a special investigation team. When he alleged that some witnesses were attacked and beaten up, Rohatgi shot back, saying, "This is completely false." The bench observed that ultimately, the larger interest and

larger issue will have to be kept in mind and fixation of time sometimes can create serious prejudice to the prosecution's case. Bhushan, while arguing that the accused in the case of mowing down of farmers are influential, suggested the apex court can ask the trial court to hold day-to-day trial and examine material witnesses first. The bench posted the matter for further hearing on January 19. On October 3, 2021, eight people were killed in Tikunia in Lakhimpur Kheri district during violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against the then Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area. Four farmers were mowed down by an SUV in which Ashish Mishra was seated, according to the Uttar Pradesh Police FIR. (PTI)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', at Fatehgarh Sahib

the other, one caste against the other, one language against the other and they have spoiled the atmosphere of the country," he alleged. Therefore, we thought that the country needs to show another path, which is of love, unity and brotherhood, this is why we started this Yatra, the Congress leader said. Rahul said the Yatra has received an overwhelming public response and it got better as it crossed from one state to the other. "There is a reason for this -- the hatred, fear and violence being spread by the BJP people, it is not the country's way and not its history. This country is of brotherhood, unity and respect. And this is why, this Yatra is successful," he said. During the yatra, ahul said he learnt a lot as he spoke to farmers, small shopkeepers, labourers and unemployed youth. Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, Haryana Congress chief Bhupinder Singh Hooda, former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, among others, accompanied Rahul in the Yatra. The Gandhi scion earlier paid obeisance at Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib before the start of the Punjab leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. He sported a turban and wore a half-sleeved T-shirt to the place of worship. (PTI)

## Naqvi hails Bhagwat's remarks on Muslims, says spirit of partnership leads to path of growth

NEW DELHI, JAN 11 /--/ Former Union minority affairs minister and senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Wednesday hailed RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks on Muslims and said the spirit of partnership and not the battle to dominate leads to the path of development.

Naqvi's assertion came after Bhagwat said Muslims have nothing to fear in India, but they must abandon their "boisterous rhetoric of supremacy". In an interview to Organiser and Panchjanya, Bhagwat said: "The simple truth is this, Hindusthan should remain Hindusthan. There is no harm to the Muslims living today in Bharat... Islam has nothing to fear. But at the same time, Muslims must abandon their boisterous rhetoric of supremacy." "We are of an exalted race; we once ruled over this land, and shall rule it again; only our path is right, rest everyone is wrong; we are different, therefore we will



Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Mohan Bhagwat

continue to be so; we cannot live together; they (Muslims) must abandon this narrative. In fact, all those who live here whether a Hindu or a communist must give up this logic," the RSS chief said. Speaking with journalists here on Bhagwat's remarks, Naqvi said: "The spirit of participation and not

the battle to dominate leads to the path of development and trust. The result of this is that out of every 10 Muslims in the world, one is living in India. His social, economic and educational rights are completely secure and strong." "But the problem is not of common Muslims, it is of the 'contractors' vying for

Muslim votes. These people do not want Muslims to be a part of inclusive development and society," he said in an apparent swipe at the Opposition. But today the environment has changed and because of this there has been a "lockout" on the shops of contractors vying for Muslim votes, he said.

In his remarks, Bhagwat had said the new-found aggression among Hindus the world over was due to an awakening in the society that has been at war for over 1,000 years. "You see, Hindu society has been at war for over 1,000 years - this fight has been going on against foreign aggressions, foreign influences and foreign conspiracies. Sangh has offered its support to this cause, so have others. There are many who have spoken about it. And it is because of all these that the Hindu society has awakened. It is but natural for those at war to be aggressive," Bhagwat had said. (PTI)

## BJP using Guvs as 'karyakartas', alleges Cong chief Kharage

NEW DELHI, JAN 11 /--/ Amid a tussle between the DMK-led government and Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage on Wednesday accused the BJP of using governors as 'karyakartas' (party workers) and said that the "brazen overstepping of the Constitution" by a few of them recently has sullied federal structure of Indian polity.

Ravi had a face-off with the state government in the Assembly where chief minister M K Stalin, also president of the ruling DMK, piloted a resolution against the Governor's deviation from his customary address to the house. Following the face-off, the governor staged an unprecedented walkout from the assembly. "BJP's deliberate design to denigrate the Constitutional office of Governors by using them as 'karyakartas', in states ruled by the opposition is an assault on Democracy. Brazen overstepping of the Constitution by a few Governors recently has sullied the federal structure of our polity," Kharage said in a tweet.

"Governors have to function within the framework of the Constitution and cannot insult the Legislature of which they are a part of. But they are being manipulated by their Delhi masters to create social and political unrest in states ruled by parties other than BJP which is dangerous," the Congress president alleged. (PTI)

## India about 'brotherhood' and 'unity', that's why Bharat Jodo Yatra is successful: Rahul

FATEHGARH SAHIB, JAN 11 /--/ Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday accused the BJP of spreading fear and hatred in the country, even as he asserted that India stood for "brotherhood, unity and respect" and that is why his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' was "successful".

Rahul was addressing people at Sirhind here before beginning Punjab leg of the Yatra. "An atmosphere of hatred has been spread in the country. The BJP and RSS people are dividing the country, putting one religion against



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', at Fatehgarh Sahib

the other, one caste against the other, one language against the other and they have spoiled the atmosphere of the country," he alleged. Therefore, we thought that the country needs to show another path, which is of love, unity and brotherhood, this is why we started this Yatra, the Congress leader said. Rahul said the Yatra has received an overwhelming public response and it got better as it crossed from one state to the other. "There is a reason for this -- the hatred, fear and violence being spread by the BJP people, it is not the country's way and not its history. This country is of brotherhood, unity and respect. And this is why, this Yatra is successful," he said. During the yatra, ahul said he learnt a lot as he spoke to farmers, small shopkeepers, labourers and unemployed youth. Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, Haryana Congress chief Bhupinder Singh Hooda, former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, among others, accompanied Rahul in the Yatra. The Gandhi scion earlier paid obeisance at Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib before the start of the Punjab leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. He sported a turban and wore a half-sleeved T-shirt to the place of worship. (PTI)



# Habitual burglar caught, recovered gold jewellery handed over to owners



**PORT BLAIR, JAN 11/--/On 12th September 2022, a burglary was registered at PS Bambooflat against an unknown person on the complaint of Mr. Abdul Aziz, Rtd. Assistant Secretary, R/o Kadakachang for theft of gold ornaments worth Rs. 14 lakhs approximately from his house. Working professionally, on 12th December 2022, accused person T. Papa Rao @ Raja, S/o Shri T. ChanderRao, 34 Yrs, R/o Ferrargunj was arrested and gold ornaments weighing around 172 gms were recovered.**

Further, the accused was also found involved in a Burglary case registered at PS Humfrygunj on 29/10/2022 regarding theft of 03 gold finger rings, 02 pairs gold earrings, 02

pairs of silver anklet, two ATM cards and Rs. 5000/- cash from the house of Mr. S Arul, R/o Sippighat. The accused person was arrested by PS Humfrygunj staff within 24 hours and the stolen articles i.e. 02 gold rings weighing 6.56 grams and 01 pair silver anklet weighing 64.61 grams and cash Rs.582/- were recovered from the house of the accused at Ferrargunj. Later, the accused person was sent to judicial custody.

Subsequently, the release order for the stolen gold articles was obtained from the Hon'ble court of CJM, Port Blair and today the stolen articles were handed over by the Superintendent of Police, South Andaman District, Mr. Kalaivanan R,

SDPO Bambooflat, Mr. Arshdeep Singh Panwar, SHO BambooflatInsp, Mr. K. Abdul Nasir& SHO Humfrygunj, Mr. SI Gaurav Banerjee to its owners Mr. K. Abdul Aziz, Rtd. Assistant Secretary, R/o Kadakachang and Mr. S Arul, S/o Late T. Sondiyago, (60) yrs, DRM in SippighatPanchayat, R/o Sippighat near GMS Sippighat. The owners expressed their gratitude and appreciated the efforts of police in nabbing the accused and recovering the gold.

The general public is requested to share information pertaining to any crime or other illegal activities to police at 112, 03192-232100 & 03192-233077. The identity of the informant will be kept secret.

# New therapies, not tobacco ban, key to combating lung cancer: Nobel laureate

**NEW DELHI, JAN 11 /--/The key to combating lung cancer is the development of novel immunotherapies and diagnostic techniques and not a complete ban on tobacco that is impossible to enforce, says American Nobel laureate Harold Varmus.**

Varmus won the 1989 Nobel Prize in Medicine - along with American immunologist Michael Bishop -- for the discovery of gene mutations that can lead to the transformation of a normal cell into a tumour cell and result in cancer. Dwelling at length on lung cancer, the leading cause of death due to cancer globally as well as in India, Varmus said, "Trying to prohibit tobacco or to ban tobacco entirely is a mistake because we know that you can't enforce complete prohibition. That is the kind of thing that leads to various forms of crime and it doesn't work."

"I don't think bans work very well. But I do think that not just in India and every country, including the US, where we still have 18 per cent of our population smoking, we have people using nicotine vapes instead of cigarettes. All these are risk factors for cancer," the scientist told PTI in an interview at Ashoka University in Sonapat, Haryana. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare in India has recommended in its latest report that the government ban the sale of loose cigarettes. "The focus should be on novel therapies and diagnostic techniques and not on complete prohibition," the 83-year-old said when asked if tobacco ban is the answer to combat the deadly disease.

Noting that there were limited therapies available for lung cancer 20 years ago, Varmus said he is "optimistic" about developments in the field of cancer research. "Broadly speaking, in addition to the preventive advice, which is mainly about smoking, that's the biggest with respect to lung cancer. But the second thing is early diagnosis and there are new ways to make diagnoses of lung cancer earlier. Third thing is the development of new kinds of therapies."

Varmus, who is currently the Lewis Thomas University Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and a senior associate at the New York Genome Center, said there are two major types when it comes to diagnostics. "The first one I'm particularly knowledgeable about because it involves work that I and my colleagues

have done over the years, It is to identify the genetic changes that have occurred in an individual's lungs over that person's lifetime, that are the causative agents of the disease," he explained. "And we now have drugs that work in a very precise fashion to reverse the effects of those mutations. These so-called targeted drugs have had a very measurable benefit on the lifespan of somebody who's diagnosed with cancer. These are not curative but they're highly beneficial."

The scientist also highlighted the role of genetics in cancer diagnosis, saying the chances of different cancers arising vary if a person comes from a certain ancestry. "We can use modern genetics, genome tools to try to understand the amount of risk that's conferred by your ancestry and make people more alert to certain kinds of cancers and seek attention if they have symptoms of those cancers," Varmus said. "Early diagnostic procedures, when they're available, reduce the risk factors which may be exposure to certain environmental factors," the scientist said. Varmus is in India at the invitation of the Indian Academy of Sciences to give a series of lectures that were scheduled to be held in 2020 but could not due to the pandemic. He will be travelling over the next two weeks to Pune, Odisha and Bangalore to deliver lectures about the nature of science and about the kinds of work that he has done over the course of his career.

Varmus, who has previously been the director of the US National Cancer Institute, also emphasised the role of new immunotherapies -- that are based on changes in the immune system -- in lung cancer research.

"We now know that a certain percentage of patients with certain kinds of lung cancer -- this is not for everybody -- but for many people the use of agents that affect the immune system can prolong life to a degree we don't really fully understand," he added. Every patient, he said, will not respond to these drugs, but some have a temporary reduction in their cancer.

According to the World Health Organization, cancer accounted for nearly 10 million deaths in the world in 2020, with lung cancer accounting for 2.21 million cases. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) notes that the number of lung cancer cases in India is expected to rise more than sevenfold by 2025. (PTI)

# 36 Govt quarters allotted

**PORT BLAIR, JAN 11/--/The Housing & Estate Section, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Secretariat has allotted around 36 Nos. Govt. Accommodations (Type-I, Type-II & Type-III) vide Order Nos. 3338, 3339 and 3340 dated 22nd December, 2022 respectively under General category through the Automated Allotment of Government Accommodation Application (computerized system). All applicants who have got quarter allotted through the above Application may send their complaints/ grievances, if any related to allotment of Govt. accommodations by e-mail to secyplg.and@gmail.com within seven days of the publication.**

# AIT exam from Feb 6

**PORT BLAIR, JAN 11/--/The schedule of All India Trade Test (AITT) for supplementary candidates has been received from Directorate General of Training (DGT), New Delhi for Trade Practical & Engineering Drawing subjects of annual pattern (2018 to 2021) and semester pattern (2014 to 2017), under the Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) for various Engineering and Non-engineering trades. The exam will be held from Feb. 6, 2023 onwards at Government Industrial Training Institute, Dollygunj, Government Vocational Training Institute, Bakultala and Government Industrial Training Institute, Arong.**

The schedule has been displayed in the notice board of the respective Institutions. The concerned trainees can contact the Academic Cell of the respective ITIs for any further information and clarification.

# Awareness prog on social issues by DIET, Humane Touch



**PORT BLAIR, JAN 11/--/A day-long workshop on awareness programme on social Issues was organised by DIET, along with Humane Touch for the trainees of DIET at DIET auditorium on 10th January 2023.**

Dr. MiteshBehari, a well-known Psychiatrist of the Island was the chief guest and spoke on the topic 'Social evil and Mental health'. In his address, he gave more stress on mental health as it is essential and that those living with mental health issues are deserving of care,

understanding, compassion, and pathways to hope, healing, recovery, and fulfillment. Dr. Mohd. Shafique of PHC, Garacharma was the guest of honour on this occasion. Mr. Ashwini, Yoga instructor, PHC Garacharma while addressing the students highlighted the importance of yoga in helping to improve our mental and physical health in various ways. Yoga strengthens parts of the brain that play a key role in memory, attention, awareness, thought, and language.

Mr. P MujibRehman, Executive Member, HumaneTouch spoke on

moral values and ethics. While speaking on this occasion, he asked students to bring morality and spirituality in their life which will keep them away from social evils.

The members of Humane Touch screened a documentary 'Mind Matters' which highlights the importance of mental health in our Islands. The students also gave their feedback regarding the workshop. Dr. AK Chaurasia welcomed the dignitaries. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. GovindRaju.

# SA Police confiscates 158 pieces of Padauk worth Rs 3 Lakhs

**PORT BLAIR, JAN 11/--/Bambooflat Police busted an illegal timber smuggling racket and detained two persons engaged in the illegal smuggling. On 10th January 2023, an information was received that one person namely Hussain, R/o Azad Nagar is gathering large amounts of illegal padauk timber. Upon this, a raiding team composed of SI TejeshwarRao, HCs R.K. Rathore, Ashok Roy, SanjitSurin and PC Molina were constituted by the SHO Bambooflat K. Abdul Nasir. The team acted swiftly and conducted raids in the premises of Hussain, R/o Azad Nagar, Stwertgunj. During the search, 158 pieces of Padauk (worth Rs. 3 Lakh) which were being smuggled illegally, were recovered.**

Subsequently, M. Hussain, S/o Late M Ummer, 42 yrs, R/o Azad Nagar and Ismail Mondal, S/o MusharaffHussain, 38 yrs, R/o Model Village were detained U/s 52 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and the illegal timber were seized. Later on, the detained persons alongwith timber were handed over to Range Officer, Mannarghat Range after observing all codal formalities for further necessary action. The entire operation was conducted under the supervision of SDPO Bambooflat Mr. Arshdeep Singh Panwar. The general public is requested to share information pertaining to any crime or other illegal activities to police at 112, 03192-232100 & 03192-233077. The identity of the informant will be kept secret.

# Sindhu to arrive on 13th Jan

**PORT BLAIR, JAN 11/-/The vessel Sindhu sailed from Chennai is expected to arrive at Port Blair on 13th Jan 2023 at 0600 Hrs. She has 189 passengers on board. On arrival the vessel will be berthed at Haddo Wharf and Passengers will be disembarked immediately.**

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

ABERDEEN BAZAR | PORT BLAIR

## Time to sparkle

# PRE-BRIDAL PACKAGE

## @5000/-

**For Free Pick & Drop**  
**Call- 9531837777 / 7695040077**

No.36, MA Road  
Phoenix Bay, Land Mark Hotel, Haywizz  
Port Blair-744102  
Visit us : looksnaturals@gmail.com



*Content thyself to be obscurely good. When vice prevails, and impious men bear sway, the post of honor is a private station*  
**Joseph Addison**

### Stop distressing scenes, Govt tells TV channels

The I & B Ministry's latest advisory to TV channels against telecast of distressing and disturbing footages has not come a day too soon. In the recent months, there have been umpteen instances of telecast of such sickening scenes -- the television news coverage of cricketer Rishabh Pant's road accident in Uttarakhand being among the latest. The detailed advisory was issued after several instances of lack of discretion by television channels were noticed by the Ministry while reporting incidents of accidents, deaths, and violence including that against women, children and elderly in manners which grossly compromises on "good taste and decency". The Ministry said that television channels have shown dead bodies of individuals and images/ videos of injured persons with blood splattered around, people, including women, children and elderly being beaten mercilessly in close shots, continuous cries and shrieks of a child being beaten by a teacher shown repeatedly over several minutes, including encircling the actions thereby making it even more ghastly, without taking the precaution of blurring the images or showing them from long shots. It has further highlighted that the manner of reporting such incidents is distasteful and distressing for the audience. The advisory highlighted the impact such reporting has on various audience. It stated that such reports can also have an adverse psychological impact on the children. There is also a crucial issue of invasion of privacy which could be potentially maligning and defamatory, the advisory underlined.

Television, being a platform usually watched by families in households with people from all cohorts – old aged, middle aged, small children, etc., and with various socio-economic backgrounds, there should be a certain sense of responsibility and discipline among the broadcasters, as enshrined in the Programme Code and the Advertising Code. The Ministry observed that in most cases, the videos are taken from social media and broadcast without editorial discretion and modifications to ensure compliance and consistency with the Programme Code. Citing a dozen examples of such broadcast content in the past few months, the Ministry said distressing images and videos of a cricketer injured in an accident, were shown without blurring, a reference to cricketer Pant, who suffered injuries on the head, along with a ligament injury on his right ankle when the Mercedes Coupe he was himself driving crashed into a road divider near Roorkee and caught fire on December 30. Pant, police said, lost control after he apparently dozed off at the wheel. The disturbing footage of a man dragging the dead body of a victim and also focusing on the face of the victim with blood splattered around, was another example.

Raising concern over such telecast and in view of larger public interest involved and having regard to the nature of audience of television channels including elderly, women and children, the Ministry strongly advised all private television channels to attune their systems and practices of reporting incidents of crime, accidents and violence, including death in conformity with the Programme Code.

# Legitimacy based on technicality leaves important issues unanswered

## REFLEX ACTION

K Raveendran

cent in counterfeit notes detected in the denomination of Rs 100, while there was a noticeable increase of 154.3 per cent in counterfeit notes detected in the denomination of Rs 50 in one year alone.

The big question that remains unanswered is who takes the responsibility for the huge human as well as economic cost, which is real as opposed to the academic interest of whether the Modi government had acted with due consideration of the consequences. If status quo cannot be restored, as reasoned by the court for not raising any challenge to the decision. Prime Minister Modi, who stunned the nation with his bolt from the blue announcement has not claimed any responsibility. In fact, he has never referred to demonetisation ever since it became clear that it was a blunder of Himalayan proportions.

The bench has taken cover under 'restraint' on the part of the court in dealing with administrative actions. "There has to be great restraint in matters of economic policy. Court cannot supplant the wisdom of executive with its wisdom," the bench pointed out while stating that the decision-making process cannot be faulted merely because the proposal emanated from the central government. This is a potentially dangerous position to take and runs counter to the stand taken by court in the past in effective interventions in forcing the government to act in dealing with the human tragedy in the long march back home by migrant labourers and the covid

vaccination programme. These interventions were based on the court's conviction that its wisdom must prevail when the government shows a lack of it.

But in the course of the hearing, the bench had made many references to the social and economic hardships and distress faced by the common people as a result of the controversial policy decision. The Centre has justified these hardships as part of the nation-building activity, but nation-building cannot be through trial and error, especially when there are safeguards against such impulsive administrative decisions. It is these safeguards that were sidestepped by Modi's dramatic announcement.

Justice Nagarathna in her dissent held that demonetisation of currency notes was a serious matter and it could not be done by the Centre by merely issuing a gazette notification. She even declared it unlawful on legal grounds and was not quite impressed by the objectives, which any way remained unrealised. She pointed out that the RBI merely approved the government's decision without applying its independent mind and cited the desire by the Centre as justification for the approval.

While the judgment refers to parliament and the supremacy of people in terms of the rights of the executive to issue administrative decisions, the court's stand of a strict no-go into the domain of economic policies is not in conformity with the Supreme Court's recent assertion of its authority for judicial review of executive decisions, although the context was different. With regards to the controversy about Collegium and the appointment of judges, the court had clearly stated that while the legislature had the power to make laws, the judiciary's power for review was not at all contestable. (IPA)



Accommodation for Gangasagar pilgrims at a transit camp in Kolkata--Arijit Ganguly

# Turkey walks a fine line to challenge China

## FOCUS

James M Dorsey

An official visit to Xinjiang to assess the fate of Turkic Muslims in the troubled north-western Chinese Province is a risky proposition by any definition. Even so, it would be worth the risk if China and Turkey could agree on the terms of a visit. The problem is that the terms constitute a zero-sum game.

China wins if it controls the programme of a visiting Turkish delegation as it does with whoever else is granted access to a region where in recent years, more than one million Turkic Muslims were reportedly incarcerated in re-education camps dubbed vocational schools.

"Why would we be a tool of Chinese propaganda?" Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu snapped at a recent news conference when asked about a visit to Xinjiang by Turkey's ambassador in Beijing, Abdulkadir EminOnen. "It's been five years since (Chinese President) Xi (Jinping) proposed this. Why have you been preventing this delegation from visiting for five years? Why don't you cooperate?" Cavusoglu said.

The foreign minister conceded that "Turkish-Chinese ties have suffered over Beijing being disturbed by our attitude on the Turkic Uyghurs issue," including a Turkish refusal to extradite to China Uighurs resident in the country. China and Turkey started discussing a Turkish visit in 2019. However, the talks were put on ice when China effectively closed to shield the nation from the Covid-19 pandemic. In an indication of the importance, both countries attribute to a possible visit, discussion of the terms restarted within weeks of China's recent lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. By controlling Onen's program, China is seeking to

ensure that he walks away from his visit praising the Chinese administration of Xinjiang. Coming from Turkey, endorsement of China's effort to Sinicise Islam and turn Uyghur identity into a folk tale would have particular significance.

Turkey has long fashioned itself as the hub of a Turkic world that stretches from the Turkish Diaspora in Western Europe through the Balkans across the Caucasus and Central Asia into Xinjiang and a defender of threatened Muslim communities. Moreover, Turkey is home to the largest Uighur exile community. The blue flag of East Turkistan, as Uighurs describe Xinjiang, is banned in China but flies in shop windows and restaurants in Istanbul neighbourhoods heavily populated by the ethnic group. Cavusoglu's rare public challenge of China could prove a first test for China's newly appointed foreign minister, Qin Gang. China has yet to respond to Cavusoglu. A former ministry spokesperson, a deputy director-general of its information department, and most recently, ambassador to the United States, Qin made his name as a pioneer of China's wolf warrior diplomacy involving confrontational and coercive responses to criticism of the People's Republic.

Positioning Turkey as unwilling to walk on a Chinese leash, Cavusoglu is brandishing the nationalist credentials of his ruling Justice and Development or AK Party (AKP) and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in advance of a critical

election later this year. With Uighurs on their minds, more than half of Turks polled in multiple surveys over the past two decades express critical and/or negative attitudes towards China. In one of the latest polls, a survey conducted by the Center for Turkish Studies at Istanbul's Kadir Has University concluded that only 27 percent view China positively.

Meral Akser, the leader of the nationalist Iyi or Good Party, one of the opposition parties aligned against the AKP, and Ankara's mayor Mansur Yavas, viewed as one of Erdogan's potentially most serious challengers, got significant traction on social media for commemorating the 1990 Baren Township Massacre during an armed clash between Uighur militants and Chinese security forces. Twenty-three people are believed to have died in the fighting. Erdogan is seeking a third term as president in an election scheduled for June 18, the centennial of the founding of the Turkish republic on the ruins of the Ottoman empire. Concerned that he could face the most serious challenge to date to his power, Erdogan uses every trick in the book to ensure that the election goes his way. Recent polls suggest that the AKP could win less than 30 per cent of the vote. Challenging China on the Uighurs follows sabre rattling in Syria, where Mr. Erdogan again wants to intervene to subdue Syrian Kurds. At the same time, Turkey is engaging under Russian auspices with the regime of President Bashar al-Assad in a bid to open a

pathway for the return of up to four million Syrian refugees in Turkey. Anti-migrant sentiment is a major topic in the election campaign.

Cavusoglu's refusal to "be a tool of Chinese propaganda" jars with the past acceptance by Turkey's state-owned news agency, Anadolu Agency, and journalists working for other pro-government media, of Chinese paid and tightly controlled tours of Xinjiang designed to counter allegations of abuse against Turkic Muslims. Even so, a recent report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace noted that in the absence of much Turkish-language content in Chinese media that target foreign audiences, China "is now assertively developing new strategies to engage with local actors in Turkey."

The strategy emphasises China's economic and commercial ties to Turkey at a time when the country is struggling with an inflation rate that peaked at about 80 per cent in 2022 but dropped last month to 64.7 per cent. It's a strategy that may work. Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, slated to build Turkey's 5G network, has four times more Turkish followers on Twitter than the Chinese embassy in Ankara. Now and then, Turkey reasserts itself as a rare Muslim nation willing to tackle China publicly on the Uighurs. But, by and large, Turkey shines by mainly remaining silent. In the final analysis, domestic politics, rather than principled concern, determines if and when Turkey takes on China. This year, elections are the driver. As a result, Uighur exiles fear that their utility is temporary and that they ultimately could be sacrificed on the altar of Turkish-Chinese economic relations. (IPA)

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

ACROSS						DOWN					
1	Oppose	5	Become firm	7	Tribal symbol	1	Fissure	2	Resting	3	Condition
8	Disturbance	10	Young bear	12	Toddlers	4	Throw	5	Not sweet	6	Flightless bird
13	Anger	14	Agreement	16	Purplish brown	9	Innmost part	11	Sporting item	14	Separate
17	Make lace	18	Saucy	20	Female swan	15	Garb	16	Mild explosion	17	Time in grammar
23	Tempt	24	Domesticates	25	Opening	18	Rind	19	Curve	21	Estimated time of arrival
26	Traditional story					22	Short sleep				

SUDOKU:3754												
3	6				2				4			
		9		6					7	2		
	7											
	8	7	4	3								
			1		6							
				5	8	1	9					
							6					
2	3			1		7						
9			3						2	1		

Yesterday's Solution 3753												
8	3	2	4	9	1	6	5	7				
6	4	1	5	7	8	2	3	9				
7	5	9	3	2	6	4	1	8				
5	7	8	1	4	2	3	9	6				
3	2	4	6	5	9	7	8	1				
1	9	6	8	3	7	5	4	2				
2	6	3	9	1	5	8	7	4				
4	1	7	2	8	3	9	6	5				
9	8	5	7	6	4	1	2	3				

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1762												
S	I	A	M			S	A	F	E			
W		J	I	G		E	P	E	E			
E	L	A	N			R	E	P	E	L		
D		R	U	S	E		A					
E			S	E	C		L	O	T			
N	A	P		R	U	M						
		R		G	R	I	P					
P	R	O	B	E		N	O	U	N			
E	A	S	E		A	I	R					
A	G	E	D			M	E	S	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.



## Punjab: PCS officers withdraw mass casual leave protest

CHANDIGARH, JAN 11 /--/Punjab Civil Services officers Wednesday decided to withdraw their call for mass casual leave following a meeting with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's additional chief secretary.

A Venuprasad, the additional chief secretary to the chief minister, said PCS officers will join their duties immediately. Venuprasad said the meeting with the representatives of the PCS Officers' association was held in a congenial atmosphere. The president of the PCS Officers' association Rajat Oberoi also said they would withdraw their call for mass casual leave. Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Mann had warned PCS officers, who had gone on mass casual leave, to join duties by 2 pm or else face suspension. The tough stand of the chief minister came after services at administrative offices in the state were hit as Punjab Civil Services officers went on five-day mass casual leave beginning Monday against the arrest of PCS officer Narinder Singh Dhaliwal in Ludhiana by the state vigilance bureau.

Dhaliwal, who was posted as regional transport authority in Ludhiana, was arrested by the vigilance bureau on Friday for allegedly taking bribes from transporters for sparing them challans for offending vehicles, the bureau had said. However, the Punjab Civil Services officers' association had claimed, "The PCS officer has been arrested illegally, wrongfully and arbitrarily and without due procedure." (PTI)

## ED conducts searches in money laundering case against Maharashtra NCP legislator Mushrif

MUMBAI, JAN 11 /--/The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted searches at multiple premises in Maharashtra as part of a money laundering investigation against NCP MLA Hasan Mushrif and others, officials said.

The raids are understood to be linked to a probe related to alleged irregularities in the operations of some sugar mills based in the state that are linked to Mushrif. Premises located in Mumbai, Pune and Kolhapur are being covered by the ED officials since around 6:30 am, they said. Mushrif, 68, is a Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLA from Kagal constituency in Kolhapur.

He is also the vice president of the political party, headed by former chief minister and Union minister Sharad Pawar, in Maharashtra. Mushrif posted an Instagram video message asking his supporters not to obstruct the action that he said are being carried out at the premises of his relatives,

## Biju Patnaik's Dakota aircraft to reach Odisha soon

BHUBANESWAR, JAN 11 /--/The Dakota aircraft used by Biju Patnaik, which had been lying in a dilapidated condition for decades at the airport in Kolkata, is likely to reach here on January 16, officials said.

The former chief minister had used this plane to rescue the then prime minister of Indonesia Sutan Sjahrir in 1947, historian Anil Dhiri said. A technical team will start dismantling the aircraft at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCB) Airport in Kolkata on Wednesday and it will be transported to Odisha by road.

The plane will be positioned at a designated place at the international airport here named after Biju Patnaik, the father of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already allotted 1.1 acres of land where the Dakota plane will be displayed for public viewing. Officials at Odisha's commerce and transport department said that a four-member team has

## Odisha: 32 arrested for fishing in prohibited sea zone

KENDRAPARA, JAN 11 /--/Odisha's forest personnel arrested 32 fishermen for trespassing into the prohibited Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary, out-of-bounds for fishermen, an official said on Wednesday.

Fishing along the entire Odisha coast is banned from November to May every year in view of the Olive Ridley turtle nesting at Gahirmatha.

Two fishing vessels with over 10 quintals of fish, fishing nets and GPS devices were seized by the patrolling unit, an official said. The arrested fishermen are residents of villages in Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore and Jagatsinghpur districts, he said. They were arrested under sections of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1982. Prohibition on sea fishing remains enforced in the marine sanctuary area throughout the year, and along the Odisha coast from November to May every year in view of the annual mass nesting of the endangered Olive Ridley turtles at Gahirmatha. (PTI)

## RRR" frenzy back on social media after Golden Globe win for track 'Naatu Naatu'

NEW DELHI, JAN 11 /--/"RRR" surged back as a top social media trend on Wednesday with at least 180,000 posts on Twitter, many on Instagram and on Facebook too after its song "Naatu Naatu" won the Golden Globe for 'best original song-motion picture'.

"Naatu Naatu", which translates to bucolic in Telugu and demonstrates the spirit of fun in country music in over 4.35 breathless minutes of song and dance, bested stars such as Taylor Swift, Rihanna and Lady Gaga to emerge winner. It's the first Golden Globe for an Indian production. Thousands of social media users took to Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to share posts about the movie and its Telugu song, which already has over 111 million viewers on YouTube. Filmed on Ram Charan and Jr NTR, the track has over one million likes on YouTube and not one dislike. Its Hindi version 'Nacho Nacho' is an even bigger rage with over 217 million views. The track has 2.2 million likes and again, no dislikes. Choreographed by Prem Rakshith, the song has legions of followers still trying to master its steps. On Wednesday, the frenzy returned with many users posting their videos on Instagram, making yet another attempt to ace the song's shookey step. The song has been shortlisted for the best original song, along with 14 others, in the Oscars. Many also shared videos of the film's composer MM Keeravaani accepting the award for best original song. Others found a video of Rihanna congratulating the "RRR" team on their win as she crossed their table. She was a fellow nominee in the best original song category for her "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" track "Lift Me Up". The win for the Telugu song has set the tone for the film's Hollywood award season run that will culminate with the Oscars in March. "RRR" had also been nominated in the 'best picture-non English' category and lost out to Argentina's historical drama "Argentina, 1985". It has received five nominations for Critics Choice Awards -- Best Picture, Best Director, Best Foreign Language Film, Best Song for "Naatu Naatu", and Best Visual Effects. The movie has also made it to the BAFTA longest in the 'film not in English language' category. "RRR" follows a pre-Independence fictional story woven around two real-life Indian revolutionaries- Alluri Sitarama Raju and Komaram Bheem- in the 1920s. The film stars Ram Charan, Jr NTR, Alia Bhatt and Ajay Devgn in key roles. (PTI)

## DCW to honour family of Delhi police ASI killed by mobile phone snatcher

NEW DELHI, JAN 11 /--/The Delhi Commission for Women will honour the family of assistant sub-inspector of police Shambhu Dayal, who died days after being stabbed by a mobile phone snatcher, at its International Women's Day awards ceremony in March.

On January 4, a woman resident of a shanty in Mayapuri phase one complained to police that a person snatched her husband's mobile phone and also threatened them. ASI Dayal reached the area and apprehended the accused. However, the accused attacked Dayal with a knife and stabbed him several times, the panel said.

"The Delhi Commission for Women salutes the bravery of ASI Shambhu Dayal and stands with his family in this tough time. The commission shall be honouring the bravery

of Late Shambhu Dayal on the occasion of its Annual International Women's Day Award Ceremony in March," the panel said.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also announced an ex gratia of Rs one crore for the family of the deceased policeman. DCW chief Swati Maliwal, in a tweet in Hindi, said, "Displaying a great deal of bravery, Delhi Police ASI Shambhu Dayal was martyred while trying to control the accused. He kept fighting till his last breath. It could be seen that at least 50 people were standing there but no one came to his aid. We salute him."

This year, DCW will honour his family." Along with the tweet, she also posted a video of Dayal being stabbed by the accused on a crowded street. (PTI)

## State initiative to promote small time, independent publishers of Bengali literature

KOLKATA, JAN 11 /--/To promote the cause of independent, small time and content rich publishers, West Bengal government is organising a little magazine fair and literary meet from Wednesday.

The five-day fair is being held at Rabindra Sadan-Nandan complex, the literary fair will be attended by 550 poet-writer-essayists, West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu told a press meet here on Tuesday evening.

An estimated 350 small time magazine-periodical publishers from different parts of the state will introduce their works for the discerning readers, Basu, who is the Chairman of Bangla Academy, said.

Over 100 writers and over 400 poets will take part in literature

discourse on issues like films from books, the situation in little magazine world, and read out from popular stories by young-seasoned celebrated writers which were published in little magazines in various editions.

There will be 13 Memorial Awards instituted in the names of stalwarts which will include Shakti Chattopadhyay, Smarak Samman, Somen Chanda Smarak Samman. There will also be Little Magazine Smarak Samman.

A commemorative issue on the bicentennial year of poet Michael Madhusudan Dutta, the creator of eponymous Meghnadbad Kavya will be launched in the little magazine fair and an exhibition on his life and works.

Little magazines are an

unique integral part of the literary world in Bengal where small time independent publishers bring out editions having rich content.

Eminent poets like Sunil Gangopadhyay, Shakti Chattopadhyay were all actively associated with little magazines.

Late thespian Soumitra Chatterjee had been associated with the little magazine 'Ekshan' which had the cover illustration done by maestro Satyajit Ray. Till date hundreds of little magazines are being brought out across the state introducing many talented poets and writers.

Poet Bandyopadhyay is also a product of little magazine at the initial stage of his career before being noticed by a leading publication. (PTI)

## Gangster killed in encounter in Agra months after escaping police custody

AGRA, JAN 11 /--/A gangster carrying a reward of Rs 50,000 on his head was killed in an encounter with the Agra Police on Wednesday morning, months after he fled from the police custody while being taken to the district court here, officials said.

Police claimed Vinay Shrotiya was killed when police fired in self-defence. He was declared dead by the doctors at Sarojani Naidu Medical College (SN Medical College). "In the early hours of Wednesday at about 3 am-4 am, a gangster carrying a reward of Rs 50,000 on his head was passing through Akbara Road in a village under the limits of the Sikandra Police Station in Agra. He was going on a motorbike along with his associate when a Sikandra Police team and the STF, Agra, encircled him," he said. "The gangster opened fire on the police which retaliated in self-defence."

## Gujarat: Bootleggers and police exchange fire; None hurt

DAHOD, JAN 11 /--/A gang of bootleggers and a police team chasing them fired shots in the air in Dahod district of Gujarat, an official said on Wednesday.

Nobody was injured in the incident. The gang also tried to run over the police personnel using a vehicle on Tuesday night near Sagtala village in Devgadhi Baria taluka near the Gujarat-Madhya Pradesh border, he said. "While the gang fled from the spot following an exchange of 4 to 5 rounds in the air from both sides, a State Monitoring Cell (SMC) team managed to stop one of the vehicles used by bootleggers to run over the policemen," said Assistant Superintendent of Police, Dahod district, Jagdish Bangarva. He said the SMC team was keeping a watch at a village under the Sagtala police station on Tuesday night to nab bootleggers. "When the team asked a suspected vehicle to stop, its occupants opened fire on police. They fired nearly two-three rounds in the air. SMC officials retaliated by firing some rounds in the air. No one was injured in the firing," said Bangarva.

According to sources, the liquor mafia was involved in smuggling alcohol into 'dry' Gujarat from Madhya Pradesh. While the gang fled, police seized one of their cars

## Arunachal cabinet nod for action plan to unlock hydropower potential

ITANAGAR, JAN 11 /--/The Arunachal Pradesh cabinet has finalised an action plan to unlock the state's hydropower potential to strengthen the country's energy sector, an official statement said on Wednesday.

During the first cabinet meeting of the year, chaired by Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday, the council of ministers decided that some important stalled projects, which were being executed by independent power producers (IPPs), will now be handed over to central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) for development.

"An action plan has been prepared to commence work on 13 priority projects with a total capacity of 12,343 MW. This would lead to an investment of Rs 1.5 lakh crore. It would provide revenue of Rs 2,000 crore to the state and around Rs 350 crore per year for local area development," the official statement said.

The cabinet also observed that Arunachal Pradesh, through its hydropower generation capability, would contribute significantly to India's commitment to increase non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW, it said. "Hydropower is a major source of renewable energy, and if harnessed, it would bring in all-round socio-economic development through massive investment in infrastructure," the statement said.

The cabinet also decided to handover over five terminated power projects to two CPSUs - Naying (1000 MW) and Hironag (500 MW) to NEEPCO and Emini (500 MW), Amulin (420 MW) and Minundon (400 MW) to the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (SJVN) for development.

The state will see "an investment of Rs 40,000 crore in the next five to seven years" through these projects which would generate green power of 2,880 MW, the statement said.

These projects would also provide revenue of around Rs 500 crore per year and Rs 100 crore for local area development, it said.

The cabinet also approved an "indicative procedure for transferring the stalled hydropower projects from the IPPs to CPSUs in order to unlock the potential," it said. (PTI)

## Arunachal Governor praises soldiers for guarding LAC with dedication

ITANAGAR, JAN 11 /--/Arunachal Pradesh Governor Brig Dr B D Mishra (Retd) has praised the soldiers for guarding the frontiers along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with elan and dedication. The governor who is currently on tour to Upper Siang district of the state, while interacting with Indian armed forces at Tuting near the LAC

### NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

No.e-TENDER/DB/NACD/MB/2022-23/34, dated 09/01/2023.  
NACD/MB/2022-23/58

The Executive Engineer, North Andaman Construction Division, APWD, Mayabunder on behalf of President of India invites online Item Rate tenders from manufacturers / authorized dealers having working experience in similar nature of works in APWD, MES, BSNL, Railway, CPWD and State Govt.'s Department subject to the condition that they have experience on executing the relevant magnitude of work as per CPWD Works Manual and with other Govt. of India Organization in these Islands and do not have any adverse remarks for the following works:-

1) NIT No.72/EE/NACD/2022-23, Tender ID: 2023\_APWD\_8847\_1  
Name of work:- Supplying, installation, testing and commissioning of 01 No. 15 KVA air cooled Generator Set at Police Station Billyground.

Estimate Cost- ₹ 6,97,079/-, Earnest Money- ₹ 13,942/- & Time of completion – 60 (sixty) days.

2) NIT No.77/EE/NACD/2022-23, Tender ID: 2023\_APWD\_8849\_1  
Name of work:- Supplying, installation, testing and commissioning of 62.5 KVA liquid cooled Diesel Generator Set with AMF Panel including laying of UG Cables from Panel room to old block at PHC, Billyground.

Estimate Cost- ₹ 13,51,686/-, Earnest Money- ₹ 27,034/- & Time of completion – 03 (three) months.

The tender should be filled online upto 3.00 pm on or before 24/01/2023. The tender will be opened on 25/01/2023 at 10.30 am in presence of tenderers or their representative if any.

The Tender forms and others details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer  
NACD, APWD, Mayabunder.

9558/23





Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interacting with pilgrims at the transit camp at Babu Ghat — Photo: Arijit Ganguly

## Joshimath: Renewed efforts by admin to persuade locals to allow demolition; clamour for compensation grows

**JOSHIMATH/DEHRADUN, JAN 11** /--/ Renewed efforts were made by the administration on Wednesday to persuade hoteliers and locals refusing to allow the demolition of two precariously standing hotels in subsidence-hit Joshimath in Uttarakhand. A fresh round of talks was held between secretary to the chief minister, Meenakshi Sundaram and the protesters who have been demanding compensation on the lines of Badrinath before the demolition exercise is undertaken. Hotels 'Malari Inn' and 'Mount View' are leaning towards each other dangerously, posing a threat to the human settlements around the structures. The Uttarakhand government had directed the razing of unstable structures on Monday, starting with these two buildings. Talking to reporters, the senior official clarified that only two hotels in Joshimath have to be dismantled and not the houses demarcated as unfit for living. "I want to clarify one thing. Only two hotels are to be dismantled. Demolition, though being used widely, is not the precise word in this context. Houses in the danger zone are not going to be demolished.



The red cross marks put on them is only to have them vacated," Sundaram, who is also the nodal officer for the land subsidence-hit town, said. He, however, did not give a definite timeline on the beginning of the demolition exercise, but said his interaction with the protesting locals was positive and the matter will be resolved soon. The chief secretary also announced that Rs 1.5 lakh is being given as interim assistance to the affected families. Out of this amount, Rs 50,000 is being provided in advance for house shifting and Rs 1 lakh for disaster relief which will be adjusted later, he said. Those who want to shift to a rented accommodation will be given Rs 4,000 per month for six months, the bureaucrat said. Earlier, Sundaram held a meeting with the stakeholders and the locals and assured them that adequate compensation according to market rates will be given. "The market rate will be decided after taking suggestions of the stakeholders in the public interest. The interests of the local people will be taken care of," he said. Meanwhile, the clamour for compensation grew as agitated locals continued to sit on dharnas and refused to allow the authorities to go ahead with the demolition. (PTI)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Start up ecosystem improving in Bengal: NASSCOM

**KOLKATA, JAN 11** /--/ The startup ecosystem in eastern India, particularly West Bengal is improving, NASSCOM (East) chairman Sanjoy Chatterjee said here on Wednesday. NASSCOM, the premier trade body of IT and ITeS sector, has so far incubated 221 start ups in the region so far, he told a press conference here. It set up the warehouse for mentoring the largest start up ecosystem in the eastern part of the country seven years ago. Out of the 221 incubated start ups, 79 were funded, including 49 with the second series. These start ups included both technology and non-tech ones in the MSME and large enterprises space. "The start up ecosystem in the east, particularly West Bengal, is improving. A large number of IT and ITeS firms are going to start operations from the city," Chatterjeesaid. (PTI)

### Bankura: 2 killed in separate incidents of elephant attack

**BANKURA, JAN 11** /--/ Two persons were killed in separate elephant attack incidents in West Bengal's Bankura district, a senior police officer said on Wednesday. An elderly woman was killed by a wild elephant in Jharla village of the district in the early hours of Wednesday, the officer said. In another elephant attack case, a 45-year-old man was killed in Sangrampur village on Tuesday night, he said. The chief conservator of forest (CCF) Central Circle, S Kulandivel held a meeting with Superintendent of Police, Vaibhav Tiwari, DFO North, Bankura and other senior civil, forest and police officials to discuss ways and means to tackle the elephant attack cases. (PTI)

## Vice-Prez slams 'one-upmanship' from judicial platforms, says cannot have 'Ostrich-like' stance

**JAIPUR, JAN 11** /--/ Virtually censuring the judiciary, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday said "one-upmanship and public posturing" from judicial platforms is not good and these institutions must know how to conduct themselves, while pointing to the apex court's remarks on the issue of the collegium system.

Dhankar, who is the Rajya Sabha chairman, again criticised the NJAC Act scrapping in 2015 and also questioned the landmark 1973 Kesavananda Bharati case verdict, saying it set a wrong precedent and that he disagrees with the Supreme Court ruling that Parliament can amend the Constitution but not its basic structure. As presiding officers of Legislatures, "we cannot have an Ostrich-like stance" on judiciary-legislature relations. Parliamentary sovereignty cannot be permitted to be diluted or compromised by the executive or the judiciary, he said in his strongest remarks yet against alleged judicial interference in the working of Parliament. "If any organisation strikes down a law by Parliament, then it is not good for the democracy. And it would be difficult to say we are a democratic nation," he said addressing the 83rd All India Presiding Officers Conference here. Speaking in the same vein, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said the judiciary is expected to follow the principle of separation of powers as defined in the Constitution. "Legislatures in our country have always respected the powers of the judiciary. The judiciary is also expected to follow the principle of separation and balance of powers conferred by the Constitution," Birla said. The Vice-President, who has criticised in the House and outside the striking down of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act by the apex court, said it was "a scenario perhaps

unparalleled in the democratic history of the world". "The executive is ordained to be in compliance with the constitutional prescription emanating from Parliament. It was obligated to adhere to the NJAC. Judicial verdict cannot run it down," he said. Dhankhar's statement comes in



the backdrop of a raging debate on the issue of appointment to the higher judiciary with the government questioning the current Collegium system and the Supreme Court defending it. Referring to a bench of the Supreme Court asking the Attorney General to pass on the message to constitutional authorities to refrain from making statements on the collegium system, Dhankhar said, "I declined to entertain the Attorney General on this point. I cannot be a party to emasculate the powers of the legislature." "Today this one-upmanship and public posturing from judicial platforms are not good. These institutions must know how to conduct themselves," he said. Observing that comments made on the Supreme Court collegium by the government functionaries are "not well taken", a bench headed by Justice S K Kaul had on December 8 asked Attorney

General R Venkataramani to advise the government about it. A day earlier, Dhankhar had, in his maiden speech in the House, slammed the judiciary for scrapping the NJAC Act, describing it as an instance of "severe compromise of parliamentary sovereignty", and said the government's three organs should respect the "Laxman Rekha". Addressing presiding officers on Wednesday, the Vice-President asserted that parliamentary sovereignty and autonomy are quintessential for the survival of democracy and cannot be permitted to be compromised by the executive or judiciary. "Basic of any basic structure has to be the supremacy of mandate of people. "In 1973, a wrong precedent (galat parampara) started. In the Kesavananda Bharati case, the Supreme Court gave the idea of basic structure saying that Parliament can amend the Constitution but not its basic structure. "With due respect to the judiciary, I cannot subscribe to this," Dhankhar, who has been a Supreme Court lawyer, said describing himself as a soldier of the judiciary and a student of law. Dhankhar further asked: "Can parliament be allowed that its verdict will be subject to any authority." The executive has to follow laws and the judiciary cannot intervene in lawmaking, Dhankhar added. "If any institution on any basis strikes down the law passed by parliament, then it will not be good for democracy and it will be difficult to say we are a democratic nation," the Rajya Sabha Chairman said. Dhankhar said no institution can wield power or authority to neutralise the mandate of people. He told the presiding officers at the conference that Parliament and Legislatures must protect the sovereignty of the people. (PTI)

## Cong chief invites 21 like-minded parties to join concluding function

**NEW DELHI, JAN 11** /--/ Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has invited leaders of 21 like-minded parties to join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar on January 30, saying their presence would strengthen the yatra's message of truth, compassion and non-violence. In a letter to the presidents of the parties, Kharge said from the beginning of the yatra, the Congress has sought the participation of every like-minded party and on the invitation of Rahul Gandhi, MPs of several political parties have joined it at different stages. "I now invite you to personally join the concluding function of the Bharat Jodo Yatra to be held in Srinagar on January 30 at noon. The function is dedicated to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, who lost his life on this day in his tireless struggle against the ideology of hatred and violence," Kharge wrote. "At this event, we will commit ourselves to fighting hatred and violence, to spread the message of truth, compassion and non-violence, and to defend the constitutional values of liberty, equality, fraternity and justice for all. At this time of crisis for our country, where public attention is systematically diverted from people's issues, the yatra has emerged as a powerful voice. I hope you will participate and further strengthen its message," he said. The yatra, which started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7, will conclude in Srinagar on January 30, with Rahul Gandhi hoisting the national flag there. The Congress president said: "Today, India faces an economic, social and political crisis. At this time, when the Opposition's voice is being suppressed in the Parliament and the media, the Yatra is connecting directly with lakhs of people." "We have discussed the grave issues affecting our nation inflation, unemployment, social divisions, weakening of democratic institutions and the threat on our borders. All sections of society have also participated and shared their problems youth, women and elderly, farmers, labourers, small businessmen and industrialists; Dalits, Adivasis, and linguistic and religious minorities; activists, artists and spiritual leaders. This direct conversation with the people has been a major achievement of the Yatra," Kharge also said. (PTI)



## TMC launches mass outreach campaign

**KOLKATA, JAN 11** /--/ Months ahead of the crucial panchayat polls, the Trinamool Congress on Wednesday launched its new mass outreach campaign, 'Didir Suraksha Kavach' (Didi's Protective Shield) to check and ensure that people get benefits from the pro-people projects of the state government. The first phase of the campaign 'Anchale Ek Din/Nagare Ek Din' (One day in the area) started on Wednesday, where state-level party leadership will spend a day each at all gram panchayats and urban local bodies across the state. "The programme started this morning. Till now, 44-gram

panchayats have been covered so far. The figures will go up by the evening," a senior party leader said. Under the 'Didir Suraksha Kavach' initiative, around 3.5 lakh volunteers of the ruling Trinamool Congress will reach out to approximately 10 crore people of the state in 60 days starting January 11. "These visits will be spread over 45 days starting from January 11. During this period, the leaders will visit places of cultural importance, have community lunches with local influencers, and interact with locals, panchayat and municipality representatives. They will conduct rallies in the area,"

a senior TMC leader had said. The campaign's next phase involves over 3.5 lakh booth workers or 'Didir Doots' (Messengers of Didi), who will take 'Didir Suraksha Kavach' to nearly two crore households across the state. Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee herself announced on January 2 the launch of the campaign. The campaign has been designed to cover six core sectors essential for the care and sustenance of human life and ensure that all the state residents can avail of benefits from the listed 15 welfare schemes of the state. Panchayat polls are due in April-May this year. (PTI)

## Govt decides to do away with VIP Haj quota

**NEW DELHI, JAN 11** /--/ The Union government has decided to do away with the discretionary Haj quota that was available with people in top constitutional posts and the minority affairs ministry, Union minister Smriti Irani said on Wednesday while asserting that the step has been taken as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to end 'VIP culture'.

Minority affairs minister Irani hit out at the Congress-led UPA government, saying the discretionary quota was introduced during its period. "A decision has been taken (to end discretionary quota in Haj). Prime Minister Modi had put forward his resolve to end VIP culture on the very first day of his term. VIP culture was put in place with respect to Haj during the UPA rule under which there was a special quota allocated to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Haj Committee and all those in top

constitutional posts," she told TV9 Bharatvarsh here. "The President, Vice-President, me (have all dedicated it to the people). The Haj Committee was urged to end this quota and all the Haj committees in various states supported this. This VIP culture has been ended in the Haj process," Irani said. According to the minister, when it was started in 2012, there were around 5,000 seats under this special quota and if one knew someone in the government, one would be given a special category seat. "The government has ended that... The PM believed that if we have to do away with VIP culture completely then if there is any such special categorisation in any department, it should be ended," Irani said. The Union minister also said an exhaustive Haj policy reflecting the PM's resolves and one that will take care of the poor's needs would be announced in the future. (PTI)

## 'RRR' wins Golden Globe award for track, PM congratulates team



**NEW DELHI, JAN 11** /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated the "RRR" team after its hit track "Naatu Naatu" won a Golden Globe award and said the prestigious honour had made every Indian proud. The song from the blockbuster film bagged the 'best original song-motion picture' trophy. It is the first Indian production to win a Golden Globe. "A very special accomplishment! Compliments to @mmkeeravaani, Prem Rakshith, Kaala Bhairava, Chandrabose, @Rahulsipligunj. I also congratulate @ssrajamouli, @tarak9999, @AlwaysRamCharan and the entire team of @RRRMovie. This prestigious honour has made every Indian very proud," the Prime Minister tweeted. Replying to the PM's post, film's director SS Rajamouli said: "We are honoured Sir Thank you very much." Composed by veteran music director MM Keeravaani, "Naatu Naatu" has been a rage ever since the release of the Ram Charan and Jr NTR-fronted "RRR" last March. Keeravaani said it was a proud moment for the team to be felicitated by the Prime Minister after the Golden Globe win. "Thank You very much sir. Feeling very proud receiving your wishes along with the award !!" the music director wrote on the microblogging site. In his response, Ram Charan said: "Thanks a lot Modi Ji ! Honored." "Thank you Sir. Honoured," added Jr NTR. "Naatu Naatu" is also on the Oscar shortlist along with 14 other songs. (PTI)

## HEALTHCARE SYSTEM...

From page-1  
If the entire G.B. Pant Hospital was taken over by the ANIMS officially, then the entire process of procurement & maintenance should be handled by them and if the same is done partly by authorities of G.B. Pant and partly by ANIMS, then due to lack of proper coordination and also due to irresponsible attitude of both sides, the patients are ultimate sufferers. Issues like patients should be given sufficient medicines from the counter at a time, as prescribed by the Doctors, in order to avoid daily rush/crowd. Free treatment & medicines only for Islanders and others must be charged. Faculties in ANIMS shall be appointed for a minimum of 3-years period and anyone tendering resignation immediately after joining or not joining after appointment must not be permitted to participate in any future selection process. Senior Doctors/ Specialists shall be given charge of all important departments while interns and new Doctors shall support them under their wing. Need to set a timeline for procurement from GEM Portal and also streamline its process. Inter-Island medical infrastructure should be strengthened and more specialists

and Doctors should be strictly posted in order to reduce the burden of G.B. Pant Hospital. Other issues like the patient's welfare should be given top priority. Maintaining cleanliness and proper hygiene must be given top priority by a separate team, sincerely and dedicatedly. (Dogs & Cats are usually found inside the Wards. Kitchen, Toilets and near the Operation Theatres). Water supply must be kept regular and adequate round the clock. Streamline the process of referring the patients by a single window system. The patient's attendant should not run here and there for completing the paper works. A separate and dedicated Public Relation Office should be opened and a responsible team of officers/staff must be deputed in order to help the poor and illiterate patients. Humane behavior is expected from each and every officer & staff and they must ensure the same. In case of any harassment, strict action must be taken. Security services must be continuously & promptly ensured. Regular filling up of vacant posts of all categories must be ensured. CCTV cameras should be in operational mode.



## Biden 'surprised' govt records found at old office

WASHINGTON, JAN 11 /--/ President Joe Biden said Tuesday he was surprised when informed that government records were found by his attorneys at his former office space in Washington. He was asked about the issue after the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee requested that the US intelligence conduct a "damage assessment" of potentially classified documents.

Speaking to reporters in Mexico City, Biden said his attorneys "did what they should have done" when they immediately called the National Archives about the discovery at the offices of the Penn Biden Center. He kept an office there after he left the vice presidency in 2017 until shortly before he launched his presidential campaign in 2019. The White House confirmed that the Department of Justice was reviewing "a small number of documents with classified markings" found at the office. "I was briefed about this discovery and surprised to learn that there are any government records that were taken there to that office," Biden said in his first comments since news of the November 2, 2022, document discovery emerged Monday. He added that "I don't know what's in the documents" and that his lawyers had suggested he not ask.

Earlier Tuesday, Rep. Mike Turner sent the request to Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines, saying that Biden's retention of the documents put him in "potential violation of laws protecting national security, including the Espionage Act and Presidential Records Act." Irrespective of a federal review, the revelation that Biden potentially mishandled classified or presidential records could prove to be a political headache for the president, who called former President Donald Trump's decision to keep hundreds of such records at his private club in Florida "irresponsible." "Those entrusted with access to classified information have a duty and an obligation to protect it," said Turner in a letter to Haines. "This issue demands a full and thorough review."

On Tuesday, Rep. James Comer, the new GOP chairman of the House Oversight Committee, sent the White House Counsel's office a letter requesting copies of the documents found at the Biden office, communications about the discovery, and a list of those who may have had access to the office where they were found. The White

House didn't immediately respond to the request. Haines agreed in September to conduct a "risk assessment" rather than a "damage assessment" of the Trump case. There are significant differences between the Trump and Biden situations, including the gravity of an ongoing grand jury investigation into the Mar-a-Lago matter. The intelligence risk assessment into the Trump documents is to examine the seized records for classification as well as "the potential risk to national security that would result from the disclosure of the relevant documents." Sen. Mark Warner, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, called for a briefing on the documents.

"Our system of classification exists in order to protect our most important national security secrets, and we expect to be briefed on what happened both at Mar-a-Lago and at the Biden office as part of our constitutional oversight obligations," he said. "From what we know so far, the latter is about finding documents with markings, and turning them over, which is certainly different from a months-long effort to retain material actively being sought by the government. But again, that's why we need to be briefed."

Special counsel to the president Richard Sauber said Monday that after Biden's attorneys found the records, they notified the National Archives and Records Administration which took custody of the documents the next day. "Since that discovery, the President's personal attorneys have cooperated with the Archives and the Department of Justice in a process to ensure that any Obama-Biden Administration records are appropriately in the possession of the Archives," Sauber said. A person who is familiar with the matter but not authorized to discuss it publicly said Attorney General Merrick Garland asked U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois John Lausch to review the matter after the Archives referred the issue to the department. Lausch is one of the few U.S. attorneys to be held over from Trump's administration.

Trump weighed in Monday on his social media site, asking, "When is the FBI going to raid the many homes of Joe Biden, perhaps even the White House?" Republicans have just taken control of the House of Representatives and are promising to launch widespread investigations of Biden's administration. (AP)

## Report says UK, US supplied arms, killed civilians, in Yemen

CAIRO, JAN 11 /--/ Weapons supplied by the United Kingdom and the United States and used by a Saudi-led coalition fighting in war-torn Yemen killed at least 87 civilians and wounded 136 others in just over a year, a new report said Wednesday.

The report by the Oxfam charity found that the Saudi-led coalition used weapons supplied solely by the UK and the US in hundreds of attacks on civilians in Yemen between January 2021 to the end of February 2022. Britain is the second-biggest supplier of weapons to Saudi Arabia, after the US. Yemen's war began when the Iranian-backed Houthis seized the country's capital in September 2014 and forced the internationally recognised government into exile. A Saudi-led coalition armed with US weaponry and intelligence entered the war on the side of Yemen's exiled government in March 2015. Oxfam's report comes ahead of a legal challenge by the Campaign Against Arms Trade, or CAAT, against the UK government on supplying weapons used in Yemen's war. The charity

says it provides witness in support of CAAT's challenge.

Responding to an inquiry by The Associated Press, a spokesperson for UK's Department for International Trade said they operate "one of the most robust and transparent export control regimes in the world." "We consider all our export applications thoroughly against a strict risk assessment framework and keep all licenses under careful and continual review as standard," the spokesperson said. The court battle is years old. The Court of Appeal in London ruled in 2019 that the UK government acted unlawfully in selling weapons to Saudi Arabia that were used in the Yemen war. The court however didn't order a halt to the exports to the Gulf monarchy. Oxfam's report portrayed a grim picture. Martin Butcher, Oxfam's Policy Advisor on Arms and Conflict and author of the report, said they analysed 700 attacks on civilians in Yemen's war during the 14-month period, with the Saudi-led coalition, using

weapons supplied by the UK and the US, was responsible for a quarter of all attacks. "It's just so relentless," Butcher told The Associated Press in an interview. "People just find it so hard to escape the violence and the killing."

The report said airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition during the 14-month period killed at least 87 civilians and wounded 136 others. The charity counted at least 19 attacks by the coalition on health facilities and ambulances. It said 293 airstrikes forced people to flee their homes. Overall, the conflict has killed more than 150,000 people have been killed, including over 14,500 civilians, according to The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, and created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Butcher called the UK government to "immediately stop selling arms to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen," and promote a permanent cease-fire and negotiations for a long-term settlement through its position as a member of the UN Security Council. (AP)

## UK's Princess Anne visits British peacekeepers on Cyprus

NICOSIA, JAN 11 /--/ Britain's Princess Anne cast aside the controversy surrounding her nephew Prince Harry and carried on with her royal duties on Wednesday by visiting British soldiers serving with a United Nations peacekeeping force on ethnically divided Cyprus.

The princess, who is King Charles III's sister and the only daughter of the late Queen Elizabeth II, plans to meet with members of the Royal Logistic Corps, the army unit of which she serves as colonel-in-chief, to recognise their service to one of the UN's longest-serving peacekeeping forces. The peacekeepers invited Anne to visit and planned to lead her on a tour of a section of the UN-controlled buffer zone that separates the island nation's breakaway Turkish Cypriot north from the internationally recognised Greek Cypriot south. The princess will also lay a wreath at a cemetery in



the buffer zone where many Commonwealth soldiers who died in conflicts including both world wars are buried. The visit came the day after Prince Harry's ghostwritten memoir "Spare" went on sale around the world. The book exposes bitter divides inside the House of Windsor.

Harry, who spent a decade in the British army, claims his relatives were unwelcoming to his wife, Meghan, and accuses members of the royal family, including his stepmother Camilla, of leaking stories to the media to burnish their own reputations.

Buckingham Palace has not commented on any of the allegations, though royal allies have pushed back, largely anonymously. Earlier on Wednesday, Anne met with Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades. They discussed climate change-related issues, the energy crisis spurred by Russia's war in Ukraine and efforts to

## Cardinal Pell, whose convictions

## were overturned, dies at 81

ROME, JAN 11 /--/ Cardinal George Pell, a onetime financial adviser to Pope Francis who spent 404 days in solitary confinement in his native Australia on child sex abuse charges before his convictions were unanimously overturned, died Tuesday in Rome. He was 81.

Pell suffered fatal heart complications following hip surgery, said Archbishop Peter Comensoli, Pell's successor as archbishop of Melbourne. Pell had been in Rome to attend the funeral last week of Pope Benedict XVI. "This news comes as a great shock to all of us," Sydney Catholic Archbishop Anthony Fisher said in a statement on Facebook. "Please pray for the repose of the soul of Cardinal Pell, for comfort and consolation for his family and for all of those who loved him and are grieving him at this time." Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said plans were under way to hold a service at the Vatican and to bring Pell's body back to Australia. "For many people, particularly of the Catholic faith, this will be a difficult day and I express my condolences to all those who are mourning today," Albanese said. Journalist Lucie Morris-Marr, who wrote the book "Fallen" about Pell's trial, said on Twitter that Pell's death "will be terribly triggering for many Australians impacted by Catholic child sexual abuse and not just those involved in his trial."

Pell, the former archbishop of Melbourne and Sydney, became the third-highest ranked official in the Vatican after Pope Francis tapped him in 2014 to reform the Vatican's notoriously opaque finances as the Holy See's first-ever finance czar. He spent three years as prefect of the newly created Secretariat for the Economy, where he tried to impose international budgeting, accounting and transparency standards. But Pell returned to Australia in 2017 in an attempt to clear his name of child sex charges dating from his time as archbishop.

A Victoria state County Court jury initially convicted him of molesting two 13-year-old choirboys at St. Patrick's Cathedral in the latest

1990s shortly after he had become archbishop of Melbourne. Pell served 404 days in solitary confinement before the full-bench of the High Court unanimously overturned his convictions in 2020. During his time in prison, Pell kept a diary



documenting everything from his prayers and Scripture readings to his conversations with visiting chaplains and the prison guards. The journal turned into a triptych, "Prison Journal," the proceeds of which went to pay his substantial legal bills. In the diary, Pell reflected on the nature of suffering, Pope Francis' papacy and the humiliations of solitary confinement as he battled to clear his name for a crime he insists he never committed.

Pell and his supporters believe he was scapegoated for all the crimes of the Australian Catholic Church's botched response to clergy sexual abuse. Victims and critics say he epitomized everything wrong with how the church has dealt with the problem. "Looking back, I was probably excessively optimistic that I'd get bail," Pell said in a 2021 interview at his home in Rome, crediting his "glass half-full" attitude to his Christian faith. Even after he was acquitted, Pell's reputation remained tarnished by the scandal. Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse found that he knew of clergy molesting children in the 1970s and did not take adequate action to address it.

Pell later said in a statement he was

"surprised" by the commission's findings. "These views are not supported by evidence," Pell's statement said. With his rather brusque, no-nonsense Australian sensibilities, Pell clashed frequently with the Vatican's Italian old guard during the three years he worked to get a handle on the Vatican's assets and spending. He was vindicated when Vatican prosecutors put 10 people, including his onetime nemesis, on trial in 2021 for a host of alleged financial crimes. After Pell returned to Rome following his release from prison, he had a well-publicized private audience with Francis. "He acknowledged what I was trying to do," Pell said of the pope during a 2020 interview. "And, you know, I think it's been sadly vindicated by revelations and developments." Francis said as much in a recent interview with Italy's Mediaset broadcaster,

crediting Pell with having set the Vatican on the path of financial transparency and lamenting that he was forced to abandon the effort to face the "calumny" of the abuse charges back home. "It was Pell who laid out how we could go forward. He's a great man and we owe him so much," Francis said last month.

Pell was born on June 8, 1941, the eldest of three children to a heavyweight champion boxer and publican also named George Pell, an Anglican. His mother Margaret Lillian (nee Burke) was from an Irish Catholic family. He grew up in the Victorian regional town of Ballarat. At 193 centimeters (6 foot, 4 inches) tall, he was a talented Australian Rules Footballer. He was offered a professional football contract to play for Richmond but opted for a seminary instead. After his convictions were overturned, Pell divided his time between Sydney and Rome, where he took part in the typical life of a retired cardinal, attending Vatican events and liturgical feasts and otherwise keeping up with news of the church. "I've become very Italian," Pell told a visitor during a lull of the coronavirus pandemic, which he spent in Rome. A requiem Mass would be celebrated in Rome, but Pell was expected to be buried in Sydney. (AP)

## Greece's former king to be buried as a private citizen

ATHENS, JAN 11 /--/ Constantine, the former and last king of Greece, will be buried as a private citizen in Tatoi, the former summer residence of Greece's royals and where his parents and ancestors are buried, the government said on Wednesday. A controversial figure in Greek history, Constantine died in hospital late on Tuesday night at the age of 82. Greece's monarchy was definitively abolished in a referendum in 1974, and Constantine spent decades in exile before settling in his home country once more in his waning years. Decisions on his funeral were announced by the office of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who chaired a Wednesday morning ministerial meeting to discuss the details. The date and location of the funeral service were not immediately determined and will be decided on in collaboration with the former king's family, the prime minister's office said. The government will be represented at the funeral by the culture minister, while "all protocol procedures will be followed for dignitaries abroad who will attend the funeral", the announcement said.

Few people in Greece have any nostalgia for the former royal family, but other European royals, many of whom are related to Constantine, are likely to attend his funeral. His older sister is Sophia, wife of former King Juan Carlos I of Spain, while the Greek-born Prince Philip, the late husband of Britain's late Queen Elizabeth II, was an uncle. Constantine was one of the godparents of Prince William, the heir to the British throne. The family, which had ruled Greece from 1863 apart from a 12-year republican interlude during 1922-1935, was descended from Prince Christian, later Christian IX of Denmark, of the House of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg branch of the Danish ruling family. Constantine's wife, Anne-Marie, is the younger sister of Denmark's Queen Margrethe. In a statement, the royal palace in Copenhagen said it was "with great sadness" that the queen had learned of Constantine's death. "The royal family's thoughts are currently with H.M. Queen Anne-Marie and the entire Greek family,"

the Danish palace said. An Olympic sailing gold medalist, Constantine was hugely popular when he acceded to the throne in 1964 at the age of 23, but much of that support rapidly waned with his active involvement in the machinations that brought down the elected government of Prime Minister George Papandreu. The episode involving the defection from the ruling party of several lawmakers destabilized the constitutional order and led to a military coup in 1967. Constantine eventually clashed with the military rulers and was forced into exile.

When the dictatorship collapsed in July 1974, Constantine was eager to return to Greece but was advised against it by veteran politician Constantine Karamanlis, who returned from exile to head a civilian government. After his triumphal win in November elections, Karamanlis called for a plebiscite on the monarchy. Constantine was not allowed in the country to campaign, but the result was unambiguous and widely accepted: 69.2 per cent voted in favour of a republic. To his final days, Constantine, while accepting that Greece was now a republic, continued to style himself King of Greece and his children as princes and princesses even though Greece no longer recognized titles of nobility. For most of his years in exile he lived in London and was said to be especially close to his second cousin, Charles, now King Charles III. "The eventful course of former King Constantine marked and was marked by turbulent times in the country's modern history," Mitsotakis said in a statement. "By words that were however healed by the choices, the free conscience and the maturity of our people. But also by his own discretion, it is true, stance throughout the post-dictatorship years." Constantine's death marked the "formal epilogue of a chapter that had definitively closed with the 1974 referendum", Mitsotakis said, extending his condolences to the former king's family. History, he said, "will judge the Constantine of public life fairly and strictly. Because the person Constantine is already accompanied by sadness and respect in the face of the loss of life itself." (AP)

## Hundreds of flights across US grounded after technical failure at FAA

WASHINGTON, JAN 11 /--/ Hundreds of flights across the US were grounded on Wednesday morning following a technical failure in the system of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The extent of the delays was not immediately known. But the FAA said it is working to restore it as soon as possible. "The FAA is working to restore its Notice to Air Missions System. We

are performing final validation checks and reloading the system now. Operations across the National Airspace System are affected," FAA said. The outage comes as a result of the failure of the Notice to Air Missions system, which alerts pilots and other personnel about airborne issues and other delays at airports across the country. "The FAA is still working to fully restore the Notice to

Air Missions system following an outage. While some functions are beginning to come back on line, National Airspace System operations remain limited," the FAA said in another update of the evolving situation.

While the FAA has not enforced a grounding of aircraft due to the technical failure, most airlines have chosen to ground their own aircraft. (PTT)



India eyeing another big win with Rohit, Virat in full flow

KOLKATA, JAN 11 /--/ Buoyed by the form of its top three batters, a clinical India will look to take an unassailable 2-0 lead when they face Sri Lanka in the second ODI here on Thursday. Having ended his century drought for nearly three years in a T20I against Afghanistan in the Asia Cup in September, Virat Kohli has not looked back since then especially in the white ball format and brought up his 73rd International century in their 67-run win in Guwahati on Tuesday.

He looked in supreme control in the first ODI in Guwahati on Tuesday and made Sri Lanka pay the price for two dropped chances to slam a back-to-back ODI hundreds that formed the backbone of India's massive 373 for seven. It was like the Kohli of the old as he looked uncluttered and no Sri Lankan bowler troubled him. Returning from an injury, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma too allayed any concerns whatsoever of being short on match-fitness as he took on the Lankan attack in a 67-ball 83 to set the foundation for a mammoth total. He seemed to be in his zone before coming to his favourite venue Eden Gardens. The last time the two teams met in an ODI here, Rohit struck that world record 264 eight years back. Now here in his favourite venue as the Indian skipper, Rohit would be definitely keen to get to a big score. That an ODI century is also eluding him since a long time -- his last ODI hundred came against Australia in January 2020 would also be an added motivation. Add young opener Shubman Gill's splendid ODI run to Indian top three and Indian top-order looks sorted and would once again look to dominate the pedestrian Lankan attack. Having got unflinching support from his skipper, Gill was back as opener in the ODI format at the expense of left-handed



keeper-batter Ishan Kishan, a selection that copped a lot of criticism in Guwahati. But Gill silenced all that debate with yet another aesthetic knock of 70 off just 60 balls as he continued his fine form from last year during which he has averaged 70-plus from 12 innings. With Shreyas Iyer also coming back from a dream ODI run last year and occupying the no 4 spot with his flair for tackling spin and rotating strike in the middle overs, the only spot that may open up in the batting order is that of KL Rahul. Rahul, who also doubles up as a wicketkeeper, has been in wretched form of late but may get a longer run especially in the series to prolong Kishan's wait.



Mohammed Siraj continued to raise his stakes and looked terrific with the new ball in an opening spell of 5-1-15-2, laced with 25 dot balls on a flat deck at Barsapara Stadium. On Eden's fast deck, Siraj will relish the challenge bowling with old warhorse Mohammed Shami as it remains to be seen whether the team think tank opts for an extra seamer. Umran Malik played the role of the enforcer in the middle overs till Dasun Shanaka took on him en route to a fine century. The young pace gun is a work in progress and would look to improve with every match. Skipper Dasun Shanaka has been the only silver-lining for Sri Lanka in a lopsided contest in Guwahati. From being

179/7, the premier Lankan all-rounder gave the visitors some hope with a valiant 108 not out as he would look to continue his fine form. Taking full advantage of the dew, Shanaka took Indian bowling to cleaners but they would need a collective effort from their batters to give India any fight. With opener Pathum Nissanka also in good form, the Lankans would look to put up a strong show with the batting. But the biggest letdown for the Sri Lankans was their fielding as they dropped Kohli twice. They would also hope for an improved show from their bowlers especially in the powerplay where they gave a lot of width to Indian batters. It also remains to be seen whether Sri Lanka will get the services of left-arm seamer Dilshan Madushanka who made his debut in Guwahati. He hurt his right shoulder while fielding and coach Chris Silverwood said they are awaiting the X-ray to make sure everything is okay. (PTI)

**Teams (from) India: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya (vc), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umran Malik and Arshdeep Singh.**  
**Sri Lanka: Dasun Shanaka (c), Kusal Mendis (vc), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Wanindu Hasaranga, Ashen Bandara, Maheesh Theekshana, Chamika Karunaratne, Dilshan Madushanka, Kasun Rajitha, Nuwanidu Fernando (ODIs), Dunith Wellalage, Pramod Madushan, Lahiru Kumara.**  
**MATCH STARTS: 1.30PM IST.**

PCB chief 'wants to discuss' Asia Cup hosting issue if Jay Shah attends ILT20 opener in Dubai

KARACHI/NEW DELHI, JAN 11 /--/ Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Najam Sethi intends to have a chat with Jay Shah regarding his country's Asia Cup hosting rights if the BCCI secretary decides to attend the opening ceremony of the International League T20 on Thursday. "Najam will be using this opportunity to work on relations with the ACC members and ensure that the Asia Cup is held as scheduled in Pakistan in September this year. Basically, Najam is also going as he has been conveyed that there is strong possibility of BCCI boss Jay Shah also being in attendance," a PCB source told PTI



the two-year itinerary, which the PCB chief alleged was not discussed with his board. The ACC had strongly come out in its president's defence as they released a press statement that clarified that PCB didn't get back with its preferred recommendation after The Emirates Cricket Board has invited the head of all big cricket boards and Sethi will be in attendance during the opening day where he wants to speak to his other ACC colleagues in order to garner support for Pakistan retaining its hosting rights for the ODI Asia Cup in September. "Sethi believes that there is a need for the PCB to have better relations with the ACC members whose support is necessary if the Asia Cup is to be held in Pakistan. "Having been a former ACC chairman, Najam will be giving out assurances to all members that Pakistan is completely safe and secure to host the regional event and all teams including India must send their teams," he said. The PCB source said there was a feeling in the board that former chairman Ramiz had gone overboard with his threats to the ACC and BCCI and the PCB needed to first ensure it is able to host the Asia Cup and the 2025 Champions Trophy. "If Shah does come to Dubai, it will also allow Sethi to meet him in person or other BCCI officials on the sidelines and discuss the issue of India sending its team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup." The source said Sethi would also drop in at the ICC headquarters and meet top officials to discuss the hosting of the 2025 Champions Trophy in Pakistan as well as the World Cup being held in India this year. Sethi's decision to accept the ECB invitation is significant as the PCB had a bitter fall out with the former during Ramiz's tenure after the former chairman had publicly discouraged Pakistani players from participating in the league. (PTI)

on conditions of anonymity. However, there is no confirmation on part of BCCI whether its top boss or any of the other office-bearers will attend the opening ceremony. Also, the other big question remains, even if Shah attends the event in his capacity as ACC president and BCCI secretary, would he like to entertain the PCB chairman for an informal chat on the sidelines? Shah, in his capacity as ACC chairman, had stated last year that Asia Cup will be shifted out of Pakistan and the erstwhile PCB chief Ramiz Raja had then issued a counter-threat that his country will pull out of World Cup in India. Recently, Sethi made a sarcastic dig at Shah after the ACC chairman had released

Join our Team

**WE'RE AVAILABLE**

**FOR printing Job**

**For Newspaper (Daily/Weekly/Fortnightly/Monthly)**

**please contact**

**ECHO PRINTING PRESS**

**KOLKATA**  
81, Nilgunj Road, Kolkata-700 109, Cell: 98307 64546/98301 34580

**GUWAHATI**  
Gorchuk, Near Katabari Maszid, Guwahati- 781 035  
Cell: 94350 44633/98307 64546

**SILIGURI**  
Jaduvita, P.O.: Champasari, PS:Pradhan Nagar, Siliguri-734 003  
Cell: 98307 64546/98301 34580

**PORT BLAIR**  
Dollygunj, Port Blair- 744 103, Cell: 99332 260853.

League Cup: Manchester United, Newcastle ease into semi-finals

MANCHESTER, JAN 11 /--/ Marcus Rashford came off the bench to score twice as Manchester United beat Charlton 3-0 to reach the League Cup semi-finals on Tuesday, while Newcastle saw off Leicester 2-0. A youthful United side featured eight changes as Erik ten Hag had one eye on Saturday's derby against Manchester City at Old Trafford. One of those retained in the starting line-up from Friday's 3-1 win over Everton, Antony, made the breakthrough with a sumptuous strike on 21 minutes. Charlton were roared on by a travelling support of 9,000 and the third-tier side kept the tie alive despite Ten Hag introducing Casemiro, Rashford and Christian Eriksen off the bench for the final half hour. Rashford finally made the game safe for the hosts in the 90th minute, scoring for the eighth straight game at Old

Trafford. The England international then took his tally for the season to 15 with a thumping finish from Casemiro's pass deep into stoppage time. "We had to be in that semi final and we did the job," said Ten Hag. "I think we had to finish this off early on but in the end the objective was to get through so compliments to the team." Newcastle are into the semi-finals of the League Cup for the first time since 1976 as Eddie Howe's men moved one step closer to ending a 54-year wait for silverware on Tyneside. "It would mean everything to win a trophy but we just need to focus on the next game," said Newcastle right-back Kieran Trippier. "The supporters here are brilliant. They follow us in numbers and it's always a great atmosphere at home. We want to make them proud by giving everything on the pitch." (AFP)



FIFA boss Gianni Infantino questioned by Swiss special prosecutors

GENEVA, JAN 11 /--/ FIFA President Gianni Infantino met with special prosecutors in Switzerland on Tuesday as part of their criminal investigation into his undisclosed meetings with the country's attorney general during a wider probe of soccer officials. Criminal proceedings against Infantino were recommended in 2020 by a previous special prosecutor — who was later removed from the case by a Swiss federal court — for possible incitements to commit abuse of public office and breach of official secrecy. The case potentially implicating Infantino is now moving forward in his home country, weeks after he oversaw the World Cup in Qatar and about two months before he is due to be re-elected unopposed by FIFA member federations. Special prosecutor Hans Maurer confirmed in an email to The Associated Press that "a confrontation hearing was held in the proceedings," conducted by himself and a second prosecutor, Ulrich Weder. "However, I do not comment on the time, scope and purpose of this hearing," Maurer wrote. The two prosecutors were elected at the Swiss parliament in December 2021 to continue an investigation relating to three undocumented meetings held in 2016 and 2017 involving Infantino and then-attorney general Michael Lauber. The meetings started soon after Infantino was elected FIFA president in the fallout from American and Swiss investigations of suspected corruption in international soccer that forced his predecessor Sepp Blatter out of office. After the meetings were revealed by media reports starting in 2018, both Lauber and Infantino said the meetings were routine but claimed not to recall details or to have taken notes. Lauber was ousted from his job after being found to have misled and obstructed a federal office overseeing prosecutors, which had sought more information about the meetings. FIFA declined to comment Tuesday on the questioning of its president. Soccer's world body has previously said "both FIFA and the FIFA president are fully available to cooperate with the authorities, whether that concerns meetings that the FIFA president had with the former Attorney General of Switzerland, or anything else." (AP)



I was in denial about my vulnerability, frustration was creeping in: In-form Kohli recalls prolonged lean patch

GUWAHATI, JAN 11 /--/ A remarkably eloquent Virat Kohli admitted being in complete denial about his "vulnerabilities" and "frustrations" during his poor run of form, which in turn also made him "cranky" and "snappy" with his family and friends. Kohli smashed his 45th ODI hundred, a 87-ball 113, to guide India to a 67-run win over Sri Lanka in the opening game here on Tuesday. The 34-year-old batter had scored an identical 113 against Bangladesh in his final ODI of 2022 and has now 73 international hundreds with the last three coming in a space of four months after a near three year lull. "In my case, in denial, frustration was creeping in. I was very cranky, very snappy in my space. It was not fair on (wife) Anushka (Sharma), my closed ones, its not fair on the people who support you. So I had to take responsibility and kind of put things in perspective," Kohli told teammate Suryakumar Yadav in an interview for bcci.tv. Kohli reiterated the need to be away from his primary passion in order to rekindle it and feel hungry once again. "I was far off from my cricket. My attachments, my desire, had totally taken over. That's when I realised that I can't be away from who I am. I have to be true to myself. Even when I am vulnerable, I am not playing well, I am the worst player around, I have to accept it. I can't be in denial," Kohli admitted his frailties. In fact, he had a word of advice for Surya, who is in the form of his life as far as T20Is are concerned. "Sometimes what happens, you (Surya) will also experience it as you play more and more now, people look at you differently. When Surya goes out to play, people will say that Surya will do it. To keep up with it is an intense process," he told his junior colleague about the weight of expectations that he has carried for more than a decade now. One only realises the downside when form deserts a player, said Kohli. "When

your cricket is going well, all these things flow well but whenever there is a slight dip, in my case, frustration started creeping in because I wanted to play in a certain way but my cricket was not allowing me to play like before." Kohli said that he would like to build on his good form having started the new year with a hundred. "I am just happy... in the last two years I didn't have such a start," Kohli said. "It was the first match of the year and I got a century, so hopefully, I can build on this because it is also a World Cup year and there is a big Test series coming against Australia. "When you score runs in any match, it gives you confidence. I am happy I was able to almost bat through the



innings, to give the team 20-30 extra runs with dew coming in. I am just happy and excited to play." Kohli stressed on the need to get away and comeback refreshed, an approach that has helped him get rejuvenated. Kohli continued his magnificent run in the T20 World Cup in Australia, scoring 205 runs to be named the ICC Men's Player of the 'Month for October'. He then smashed his 44th ODI hundred in December last year. "When I returned relaxed in Asia Cup, I started enjoying training again, which is how I have always played cricket," he said. So I would say that if you feel even a bit of desperation then take two steps back, rather pushing more and more because it will only go away from you." (PTI)

GAME NOTES

Pant to miss IPL after car crash: Ganguly

NEW DELHI, JAN 11 /--/ India's Rishabh Pant will miss the cash-rich Indian Premier League because of his injuries in a road accident last month, former national cricket board chief Sourav Ganguly has confirmed. The India star suffered multiple injuries when he crashed his Mercedes SUV north of New Delhi before dawn on December 30. The car burst into flames and he was rescued by a bus driver and conductor. Pant is captain of the Delhi Capitals side in the annual two-month tournament, which is due to begin in late March or April with some of the biggest international stars of the game. "Rishabh Pant will not be available for the IPL," Ganguly, who is due to join Delhi Capitals as director of cricket, was quoted as saying by broadcaster Sports Today. "It will be a great IPL (for the team), we will do well but Rishabh Pant's injury will affect the Delhi Capitals," Ganguly said on Tuesday. After the accident, the 25-year-old was rushed to hospital and admitted for a few days before being airlifted to Mumbai for further treatment and surgery. (AFP)



Current Indian hockey team is way more matured than teams of past: Hassan Sardar

NEW DELHI, JAN 11 /--/ He used to be a resident threat to Indian hockey teams of late '70s and early '80s but Hassan Sardar, Pakistan's master centre forward of yesteryears is amazed to see the maturity shown by the national team from the neighbouring nation in recent years. In his opinion Australia, Belgium and Netherlands are other strong contenders apart from India. The FIH Men's Hockey World Cup gets underway in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from Friday. India is pitted in group D along with England, Spain and Wales. Olympic gold medallist Sardar, who mesmerized the Indian hockey loving public with 11 goals during the 1982 World Cup in Mumbai, feels that there is not much difference between Harmanpreet Singh led team and other top nations. "I had said before the Tokyo Olympics that this Indian team is capable of winning medals at the highest level. They won bronze but there is hardly any major difference in top 4 teams in world hockey now," Sardar told PTI Bhasha in an exclusive interview from Pakistan. (PTI)

SL head coach hopeful about Shanaka's IPL contract

GUWAHATI, JAN 11 /--/ Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka's unbeaten 88-ball 108 will put him in the "IPL marketplace" again, feels their head coach Chris Silverwood. Chasing a mammoth 374, Sri Lanka were staring at a big loss after being reduced to 179 for 7 but Shanaka, batting at No 6, gave them a faint hope with his counter-attacking knock as they managed 306 for 8 to settle for a 67-run loss here on Tuesday. "I think he (Shanaka) has done himself a world of good," Silverwood said at the post-match media interaction here. Shanaka, who had a base price of Rs 50 lakh, went unsold at the IPL 2023 auction held in Kochi last month. "He has put himself in the marketplace now. I am sure the (IPL) franchises will be looking at him and seeing how dynamic a cricketer he is. He is a great striker of the ball, so hopefully, he will get an opportunity" This was Shanaka's second ODI century as he carried on his form from the T20I series where he was their top run-getter with 124 runs at a strike rate of 187.87. (PTI)