

## A USEFUL SYSTEM RESTORED DC, N&M Andaman resumes video-conferencing facilities for settlement of land sub-division cases



**KARTIK**

**MAYABUNDER, OCT 25/--/** The Deputy Commissioner's Office of North & Middle Andaman has resumed hearings of land sub-division cases through video conferencing facilities. After residents of this region raised their issues and problems related to land, the Deputy Commissioner, North & Middle Andaman started this facility to resolve all the land related matters of the people of this region. Residents of Diglipur and Rangat could be connected to the Deputy Commissioner through video-conferencing facilities from the Office of AC' at Diglipur and Rangat.

This was however stopped sometime back.

In a meeting recently Dr Satyendra Singh Dursawat, Deputy Commissioner, N&M Andaman

restarted the facility.

The process of land related matters was hampered in this region due to some administrative reasons. However, on people's complaint, the Deputy Commissioner, N&M Andaman directed the Assistant Commissioners of Diglipur, Mayabunder and Rangat Tehsils to speed up solving pending issues regarding the land related cases of the people.

Speaking to EOI, the Deputy Commissioner said as many as 65 sub-division cases of this region were taken up for settlement.

Travelling from remote and far places in this region to Mayabunder for land related matters is difficult due to the bad condition of roads in this region. Video conferencing facilities will greatly help the residents to present their cases before the Deputy Commissioner.

Accordingly, the Deputy

Commissioner has decided that he will hear the sub-division cases of this region every Wednesday and Friday which is likely to speed up the settlement of these cases.

Advance notices will be served to the applicants and cases will be settled within 2 to 3 hearings, he said.

Last week, about 6 cases were heard by the Deputy Commissioner of which five applicants were from Diglipur and one applicant from Mayabunder region.

Now, the applicants can connect with the Deputy Commissioner at the time of hearing of sub-division cases from the Assistant Commissioner's office located at Diglipur and Rangat.

Arrangements are made that people who are at Port Blair and cannot be present physically in the DC Office, Mayabunder can also be connected from the DC office at Port Blair.

## MP greets islanders

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 25/--/** The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has greeted the Islanders on the occasion of Bhai Photo and Bhai Dooj.

He said that this festival not only strengthens the bond of brotherhood but also plays a significant role in creating a cordial atmosphere in the society.

"Let us celebrate the sacred and unbreakable bond between a brother and sister on Bhai Photo and Bhai Dooj. Bhai Photo and Bhai Dooj symbolise the love and affection between brothers and sisters", the MP said.

## Sailing of MV Swaraj Dweep

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 25/--/** Due to adverse weather conditions the vessel MV Swaraj Dweep which could not sail from Chennai to Port Blair on 23rd October 2022, will now sail for Port Blair on 28th October 2022, at 1600 from Chennai Port. Passengers who are holding their tickets of MV Swaraj Dweep for 23rd Oct. sailing are advised to avail the sailing with the same ticket.

## Camp to distribute artificial limbs, other prosthesis assessment

**KARTIK**

**MAYABUNDER, OCT 25/--/** Chhotti Si Asha, a NGO committed to help and uplift the life of the underprivileged, physically challenged people, will organize a two-day camp on 28th and 30 October 2022, at Dr. T.Y. ABID's (PT) Evolve Sports and Physiotherapy Centre, near ITF ground to distribute free of cost artificial limbs and other prosthesis assessment.

## 'Miya' museum in PMAY allotted house sealed in Assam

**GOALPARA, OCT 25 /--/** The 'Miya Museum', set up in a house allotted under PMAY, in Assam's Goalpara district was sealed and its owner was taken into custody on Tuesday a district official said.

The museum was opened to the public on Sunday. The president of the Mia Assam Miya Parishad, Mohor Ali set up the museum on the premises of the house allotted to him under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana. A team of government officers sealed the museum at Dapkabhita under Lakhur

police station and put up a notice that it has been done on the orders of the deputy commissioner. The opening of the Museum in a house allotted under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana led to a controversy with senior BJP leaders demanding its immediate closure. BJP Minority Morcha member Abdur Rahim Gibran had filed a complaint against the setting up of the museum in the house.

Some agricultural implements and fishing equipment, hand towels and checked 'lungis' (sarongs worn by men)

are on display as Ali claimed that these are the identity of the 'Miya' community. In Assam, the word 'Miya' refers to Bengali-speaking migrants whose origin can be traced to Bangladesh. Ali along with his two minor sons sat on a dharna outside the house demanding the immediate reopening of the museum. "We are displaying objects with which the community identifies itself so that people from other communities can realise that the Miyas are not any different from them", Ali said. (PTI)

## Guwahati beautification gets top priority

**GUWAHATI, OCT 25 /--/** The Assam government is giving priority to the beautification of Guwahati city as it is a crucial link between India and South East Asia, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said here on Tuesday. Sarma visited the site of the old Deputy Commissioner's office at Panbazar and inspected the ongoing work on the proposed Brahmaputra riverfront beautification project. "We've prioritised beautification of the historic city of Guwahati, which isn't only the Gateway to N-E but also a crucial link between India & SE Asia," Sarma tweeted. The Chief Minister also directed officials and the construction firm to ensure the timely completion of the project without compromising on quality. He was accompanied by Urban Development minister Ashok Singhal and other senior officials. The project is being implemented by Guwahati Smart City Development Limited at an estimated cost of Rs 370 crore. The riverfront is located on the south bank of the Brahmaputra river and is part of Guwahati's core business district. The six km stretch is located between Raj Bhavan (Kharghuli Hill) and Kamakhya Temple (Nilachal Hill). (PTI)

## Centre, Assam govt trying to find sustainable solution to state's erosion problem: Sonowal

**DIBRUGARH, OCT 25 /--/** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday said the Centre, along with Assam government, is trying to find a pragmatic and sustainable solution to the state's flood and erosion problems. Sonowal, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said this during his visit to several erosion affected areas of his home district Dibrugarh in Assam. He made enquiries with the common people about the losses incurred due to the erosion, especially by Brahmaputra and Dibru rivers. The minister visited Pukhurijaan, Baliyaan, Bindhakota, Bornamghorstholi, Gereki Nepali and other affected areas, an official statement said. "To find a pragmatic and sustainable solution to Assam's flood and erosion woes, the Union and state governments are working together under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

The minister said the government is giving special emphasis on creating a scientific solution to prevent erosion in the

state. He said erosion resistant embankment between Gujjaan and Maaijan in Dibrugarh is being worked out to prevent any future occurrence of erosion in the area. "We believe that this project will bring in much required relief to the people residing on the banks of rivers, especially in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts. I am confident that the financial assistance of Rs 110 crore provided by the Modi government to tackle the flood and erosion problems of Dinjaan, Pukhurijaan, Gujjaan and other adjoining areas, will bring in much required relief to the people," he said. The minister discussed about corrective steps being taken in view of the reported loss of livestock and farm stock in these areas.

The former Assam Chief Minister was accompanied by Chabua MLA Ponakan Baruah, chairman of the Assam Tourism Development Corporation Rituparna Baruah, and vice-chairman of the Assam State Housing Board Subhash Dutta, among others, the statement said. (PTI)

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# Mallikarjun Kharge to formally take over as Congress prez today

**NEW DELHI, OCT 25** /--/ Hectic preparations were underway at the Congress headquarters for Wednesday's ceremony where party president Sonia Gandhi will hand over the baton to her successor, Mallikarjun Kharge, the first non-Gandhi to head the outfit in 24 years. Kharge defeated Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor in a direct contest for the top post in the grand old party after the Gandhis opted out of the race.

Security personnel and workers made last-minute arrangements on the AICC headquarters lawns where a tent was being put up and in the Congress president's

office room. Chairman of the central election authority of the Congress Madhusudan Mistry will formally hand over the election certificate to Kharge at the function, which will also see the presence of outgoing chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Kharge, 80, takes charge of the party at a time when it faces a tough challenge from a formidable BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has ousted the Congress from many states. For Kharge, who has served as a leader of the opposition in the Karnataka Assembly, leader of Congress in Lok Sabha and later leader of the opposition in Rajya



Mallikarjun Kharge

historic low, electorally. With the Congress now remaining in power in only two states - Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh - on its own

and in partnership as a junior partner in Jharkhand, Kharge's first challenge is to bring the party to power in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, which go to polls in the next few weeks. Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh are on November 12 but the dates for Gujarat are yet to be announced. Later in 2023, Kharge will face the onerous task of leading the Congress in nine assembly elections that are due including in his home state of Karnataka where he was an MLA for nine terms.

Kharge's election also comes at a time the party is reeling under internal rumblings and high-profile exits after a series of

electoral debacles and has been reduced to a shadow of its former formidable self. Beginning his career as chief of the Gulbarga city council, Kharge has also served as a state minister and a Lok Sabha MP from Gulbarga (2009 and 2014). The old warhorse is well known for not losing an election barring the 2019 Lok Sabha poll from Gulbarga. It was after that loss that Sonia Gandhi brought Kharge to the Rajya Sabha and in February 2021 made him the leader of the opposition. Kharge also faces the challenge of restoring the Congress' primacy in the opposition space, implementing radical reforms the party

pledged at the mid-May Chintan Shivir in Udaipur and maintaining his independence in the face of insinuations that he is a candidate of the Gandhi and would seek their approval in all decisions.

The last non-Gandhi Congress president was Sitaram Kesri, who was unceremoniously removed in 1998 just after two years into his five-year term. A leader with more than 50 years of experience in politics, Kharge is also the second All India Congress Committee (AICC) president from Karnataka after S Nijalingappa and also the second Dalit leader after Jagjivan Ram to hold the post. (PTI)

## Bharat Jodo Yatra achieving desired objectives, has covered 1/3rd distance: Cong

**NEW DELHI, OCT 25** /--/ The Congress on Tuesday said the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which has completed one-third of the 3,570-km route, has achieved its desired purpose with people raising their voice against the issues of price rise, unemployment and divisiveness. AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the yatra has so far covered four states and a total of 18 districts and will cover another eight in Telangana in the next 11 days, after which it will move towards central India. It will resume after the Diwali break on Thursday from Mehboobnagar in Telangana.

He also said the Congress will launch state-specific marches -- a 2,400-km yatra in Odisha starting October 31 from Bhubaneswar, a 850-km yatra in Assam, and one in West Bengal starting December 28. Ramesh said after Telangana, the yatra will enter Nanded in Maharashtra. The yatra will be in Maharashtra for about 16 days and thereafter cover Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. "After 48 days journey, 4 states, 18 districts, 4 public rallies, 35 street meetings and 4 press conferences, I can say that the desired purpose and objectives with which Bharat Jodo Yatra was started is being achieved," Ramesh told reporters. He said 50 different organisations of the youth, women, trade unions, social workers, civil society organisations have met Rahul Gandhi during the yatra and discussed different issues. The issues related to farmers have been raised everywhere and their plight is being highlighted, besides discussion on unemployment, he said, adding the third issue raised is of inflation, especially GST on essential commodities.

Ramesh also claimed that around 50 organisations have walked with Rahul Gandhi during the yatra and have spent time with him. Gandhi has addressed four press conferences in these 48 days - one each in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Gandhi has so far addressed four huge rallies - in Kanyakumari, Thrissur, Bellary and Raichur, besides 35 street meetings, public meetings, small public meetings, in evenings. "So one-third of the Bharat Jodo Yatra has been completed and the speed with which we are going, I hope that by February 20 we will reach Kashmir. It may be possible to reach even before that, but the speed with which we are going, we can say that the Bharat Jodo Yatra will be complete anytime between February 20 and 25," he said.

Ramesh said the enthusiasm of people is worth seeing and the yatra has received an overwhelming response so far. He said the Congress organisation at the block, district and state levels has remained united and the party's cadre at the grassroots has been mobilised and are now preparing for the yatra in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. Responding to a question, he said he was hopeful that the leaders of the Maga Vikas Aghadi coalition in Maharashtra would join the yatra in the state. Ramesh said any organisation or political party which believes in the objectives of the Bharat Jodo Yatra is welcome to join it and that in the last 48 days, many such persons and organisations have joined it. (PTI)

## Delhi civic body poll: Delhi BJP forms 12 election-related panels

**NEW DELHI, OCT 25** /--/ Gearing up for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi election, which is likely to be held in December, the BJP's city unit on Tuesday formed 12 poll-related committees. The committees will be associated with election management, manifesto, campaigning, media and procurement of advertisement material, among others. Senior leaders and office bearers will be among members of these poll panels. The election management committee will be headed by Jammu and Kashmir BJP leader Ashish Sood. Delhi BJP vice presidents Virendra Sachdeva and Rajan Tiwari, Anita Arya, Vishakha Sailani and Atif Rashid will be its members.

This panel will coordinate and monitor the functioning of the other committees. Former Delhi BJP president Satish Upadhyay will be the convener of the manifesto committee. Leader of Opposition in the Delhi assembly Ramvir Singh Badhuri, former Delhi BJP president Vijender Gupta, MLA Abhay Verma, Raghav Awasthi and Rekha Gupta will be its members. The social media and campaign committee's convener will be BJP national spokesperson Shahzad Poonawala. Punit Agarwal, Rohit Upadhyay, Khemchandra Sharma, Puja Tiwari, Nikhat Abbas, Apurva Singh and Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga will be members of the committee.

Committees have also been formed for the election call centre and the election office, legal and election commission related matters, campaign material and advertisement material procurement. In 2017, the BJP had swept the civic body poll bagging 181 wards in the erstwhile south, north and east Delhi municipal corporations. The Centre unified the three municipal corporations this year into the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, reducing the number of wards from 272 to 250. The BJP that has been in power in the civic bodies for over two decades is pitted against the Aam Aadmi Party, which has been aggressively trying to upstage in the coming polls. In the 2017 polls, the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP was second with its tally of 48 wards while the Congress had won 30 wards. (PTI)

## Firecracker ban flouted, AAP govt should accept it has 'failed' to curb pollution: BJP

**NEW DELHI, OCT 25** /--/ BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga shared on social media several videos of people defying the firecracker ban on Diwali to take a dig at the AAP government, while his party said the Arvind Kejriwal dispensation should accept that it has "failed" to curb pollution.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana claimed that the air quality index (AQI) was in the "hazardous" category on the day of the festival and on Tuesday. According to forecasting agencies, the air quality in Delhi on the morning after Diwali was recorded in the "very poor" category but the situation was relatively better than previous years due to favourable meteorological conditions which diluted the effect of firecrackers and stubble burning. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. Using the hashtag 'DhuanHuaKejriwal', Bagga, among several

videos, shared on Twitter clips of a boy and some other people bursting firecrackers.

In the run up to Diwali, BJP leaders had targeted the Delhi government over the complete ban on firecrackers, dubbing the Arvind Kejriwal-led dispensation "anti-Hindu". Questioning Kejriwal on the results of the firecracker ban, Khurana claimed that even last year the AQI was in the "severe" category just like this time. The Delhi government had in September announced a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1, 2023, including on Diwali, a practice it has been following for the last two years. "What did you get out of cracker ban on Diwali? Last year, the AQI was 444 on the next day after Diwali and today it is 425. It was in hazardous category the and is today as well. You should accept that you have failed to stop pollution in Delhi," Khurana said in a tweet in Hindi. According to

the agencies, the city is set to record its best air quality for the day after Diwali since 2015 on Tuesday.

Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday claimed that incidents of bursting of firecrackers on Diwali in the national capital dropped by 30 per cent this year as compared to last year and the city recorded its best air quality for the day after the festival in five years. He claimed that the AQI stood at 323 on Tuesday as compared to 462 last year. The capital's AQI stood at 310 at 11 pm on Monday. It increased to 326 by 6 am on Tuesday, remained stable till 9 am and started decreasing thereafter, according to the agencies.

Delhi had recorded an AQI of 382 on Diwali last year, 414 in 2020, 337 in 2019, 319 in 2017, and 431 in 2016, according to Central Pollution Control Board data. It recorded a 24-hour average AQI of 312 at 4 pm on Monday -- the second best for Diwali day in seven years. Before this, the city recorded an AQI of 281 on Diwali in 2018. (PTI).



Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai during the inauguration of 'Kitturu Utsav-2022' in Belagavi

## Previous govts plundered Punjab of its resources, trying to undo damage: CM Mann

**LUDHIANA, OCT 25** /--/ Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday claimed that previous government "mercilessly plundered" the state's resources and his regime is trying to undo the damage. "The Aam Aadmi Party government will overhaul the entire system in the state to ensure its progress and prosperity of people," said Mann addressing a gathering at a state-level function to mark Vishwakarma Day here. Earlier, governments had "mercilessly plundered" the wealth of the state, causing it an irreparable damage, he said. Now, with the blessings of Lord Vishwakarma, he is

trying to repair the damage done to the state by ensuring its complete revamp, claimed Mann. Exhorting workers and craftsmen to make concerted efforts for strengthening the infrastructure of the state and the nation, the CM said it will be a real and befitting tribute to Lord Vishwakarma. The CM said his government strives to make the youth of Punjab job providers instead of job seekers, stressing that Punjabis are blessed with qualities of entrepreneurship and leadership that helped them carved a niche for themselves across the globe. The CM also lamented

that divisive forces are trying to create a wedge between people on the lines



Bhagwant Mann

of caste, religion and language in the country. This is not in the interest of the nation, for which

communal harmony, brotherhood and fraternity must be strengthened, said Mann. He also bemoaned an irreparable damage being caused to federal structure of the country by those at helms of affairs at the Centre by "usurping" the rights of the states. This is against the basic spirit of democracy and cannot be tolerated at any cost, said Mann.

Citing an example of the Mughal Gardens in the Rashtrapati Bhawan, which has a variety of flowers, Mann said democracy with diverse ideas is always a successful one. In the same manner, Mann said opposition and treasury

## SC to hear on Oct 31 plea seeking direction to publish draft legislations on govt websites

**NEW DELHI, OCT 25** /--/ The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on October 31 a plea seeking directions to the Centre and the states to publish draft legislations prominently on government websites and in the public domain at least 60 days before they are introduced in Parliament and state assemblies.

According to the cause list of October 31 uploaded on the apex court website, the petition is slated to come up for hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice U U Lalit and Justices S R Bhat and Bela M Trivedi. The plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay has also sought a direction to the Centre to ensure that all the draft and final legislations are put in the public domain in all regional languages.

It said any draft legislation, except those related to national security, must be published on government websites at least 60 days before they are introduced in Parliament or state legislature. "In today's democratic process, with the advent of advanced media and technology, it is no longer appropriate for governments, both Central and State, to suddenly pass laws overnight with scarcely any legislative debate and no wider consultation at all, said the plea, filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey.

The plea said at least as far as central laws are concerned, the proposed legislations should be translated into regional languages and published on website at least 60 days prior to their introduction in Parliament so that citizens have a full understanding of them. "The injury caused to the public is large because the existing law-making process is not only undemocratic but also unconstitutional. Secretaries of the respective departments draft the bill and cabinet approves it without wider public discussion and feedback. It is only after the Parliament/Assembly debate that the public is made aware of it," it submitted. The plea said many a times, the government makes new laws even when amending the existing law would suffice. It not only "exhausts" the public resources but also is a "complete waste" of legislature's time, the petition claimed, adding that the law-making process needs drastic reforms. It said a rigorous public debate on a law for two months would force the Executive to analyse every aspect. (PTI)

## SKM gives call for 'Raj Bhavan marches' across India on Nov 26 to mark 2nd anniversary of farmers' stir

**NEW DELHI, OCT 25** /--/ The Samtyukta Kisan Morcha Tuesday gave a call for 'Raj Bhavan marches' across the country on November 26 to mark the second anniversary of the farmers' agitation against the now-repealed three farm laws.

In a statement, the Samtyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of several farm unions, said that it will hold a meeting in Delhi on November 14 to give the final form to the Raj Bhavan marches and to finalise the memorandum to be submitted to the governors across the country. The call to organise countrywide marches to Raj Bhavan was given in an online meeting of the SKM coordination committee and the drafting committee. The meeting was attended by farmer leaders Hannan Mollah, Darshan Pal, Yudhvir Singh, Medha Patkar, Rajaram Singh, Atul Kumar Anjan, Satyavan, Ashok Dhawale, Avik Saha, Sukhdev Singh, Raminder Singh, Vikas Shishir and Dr Sunilam.

"In the meeting, it was decided that large marches of farmers to the Raj Bhavans will be held on November 26 to mark two years of the historic SKM-led farmers' struggle," the SKM statement said. Farmer leaders said that preparations for the Raj Bhavan marches are underway in different states and preparatory meetings are being held. They condemned the changes being made by the Central government in the rules of the Forest Conservation Act. They also decided to extend solidarity with tribal organisations who are fighting for their rights, on the occasion of martyr Birsa Munda's birth anniversary on November 15.

Thousands of farmers, mostly from Punjab and Haryana laid siege at Delhi borders in November 2020 demanding that the Centre withdraw the three farm laws enacted earlier that year. The Narendra Modi government withdrew the farm laws in November 2021. The protesting farmers had refused to clear the protest sites as they demanded the withdrawal of cases against farmers, legal guarantee on MSP and compensation to kin of farmers who died during the protest, among others. The Centre on December 9 last year had agreed to consider their other pending demands and after that SKM announced to suspend their over a-year-long agitation. (PTI)

benches in democracy are important and views of everyone should be taken into consideration. "As Lord Vishwakarma created the entire universe by joining brick by brick so now the time has come when we must build our nation by strengthening the basic social fabric of the country," he said. Seeking to strike an emotional chord with the city of Ludhiana, the CM described it as his "karma bhoomi" whereas Satauj village in Sangrur his "janma Bhoomi". He said he has been fortunate enough to have got the opportunity to serve Punjab and its people. He said the promotion of skill training

across the state is the need of the hour. He urged industrialists to make a solemn pledge of making whole-hearted efforts for promoting skill trainings as it will be a real tribute to Lord Vishwakarma. While allaying fears of a global recession, he said wherever Punjabis are working, this economic slowdown will never come. He said Punjabis are hardworking and are blessed with tremendous unbounded energy and enormous capabilities to excel in every field. With these traits, Punjabis work very hard and ensure that no slowdown comes in any field, he added. (PTI)



## Cleanliness drive at Burmanallah



PORT BLAIR, OCT 25/--/ The Yuva Bharat SamajSeva Charitable Trust organized a cleanliness drive in collaboration with Gram Panchayat, Beodnabad, Naval NCC Cadets of JNRM College, and Shree SitaRamanjaneya Youth Club, Junglighat (SSRYC) on 23rd October 2022 at Burmanallah beach. 40 bags of garbage consisting of solid

waste, polythene bags, plastic bottles, glass bottles, and food wrappers were collected and handed over to Gram Panchayat, Beodnabad for proper disposal. The cleanliness drive was graced by Mr. V. Kumar, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Beodnabad and Mr. K. Biju, Panchayat Secretary, Gram Panchayat, Beodnabad.

## 'YuvaUtsav' by NYK, Carnic



PORT BLAIR, OCT 25/--/ The Nehru Yuva Kendra, Car Nicobar In collaboration with District Administration organized day-long YuvaUtsav (Youth Festival) on 24th October 2022, at CWC ground and District Library, Car Nicobar in which more than 300 youths from various villages of Car Nicobar participated. The YuvaUtsav was organized with the objective to celebrate the 'AzadiKaAmritMahotsav' in the spirit of Yuva Shakti and to spread the ideals and values of India's Freedom Struggle during the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence. On the

occasion the events such as Young Artist Contest - Painting, Young Writers Contest - Poetry, Mobile Photography Contest, Declamation Contest, District Youth Convention - "India @2047 YuvaSamvad, District Cultural Festival - Group Events. In the inaugural function, Mr. AnandVerdhan Mishra, Assistant Commissioner (HQ), Car Nicobar was the chief guest. Mr. H.Nathaniel, Education Officer, Car Nicobar, Mr. Choudhary, Training Incharge, ITI, Arong, Mr. Ahmed Ali, Secretary, NAA etc. were also present. The YuvaUtsav was

inaugurated by lighting the lamp by the chief guest and other guests. Earlier, Mr. AlphonseToppo, Deputy Director (OSD), NYK, Car Nicobar welcomed the chief guest and others and briefed about the YuvaUtsav and its events. The chief guest also addressed the youths and urged the youths to engage themselves in nation building activities and he also highlighted India @2047. In the cultural programme, Mr. Mickel Raj, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Nicobar District was the chief guest. The chief guest and other guests also distributed certificates among winners for each event.

## MP felicitates Social workers with certificate of commendation



PORT BLAIR, OCT 25/--/ The Ministry of Youth affairs & Sports, GoI in partnership with Nehru Yuva Kendra, Port Blair has organised a grand ceremony on 22nd October 2022. On the occasion, a number of NGO's, educational institutions, social activists and professionals from different backgrounds were awarded Certificate of Commendation for their extraordinary feat. Mr. KuldeepRai Sharma, Member of Parliament graced

the occasion, along with Smt. PramilaKumari, AdhyakshaZillaParishad, South Andaman. Among the many recipient of this prestigious award, Mr. P. Abdul Basheer of NaiManzil (NGO) was also awarded the certificate of commendation for his contribution in the field of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, Water Harvesting & Conservation and especially for promoting culture & sports for the rural youth of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He is currently serving as the Pradhan of Gram PanchayatKanyapuram and is still actively involved in issues related with the society. On receiving this award, he expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Youth & Sports and Nehru Yuva Kendra, Port Blair for considering his contribution in his chosen field.

## ANCA to conduct Open Chess Selection Championship-2022

PORT BLAIR, OCT 25/--/ The Championship will serve as selection tournament for the upcoming MPL 59th Senior National Chess Championship-2022 scheduled to be held from 22nd December 2022 to 3rd January 2023at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Near ITO, New Delhi. (Brochure attached)

The best four players will be selected for the MPL 59th Senior National Chess Championship-2022. Players from North & Middle Andaman and Nicobar District will be provided free accommodation at Port Blair and their travelling expenses will be borne by ANCA. All Such entries should come through the respective District Chess Associations.

AICF Registration for the Year 2022-23 is compulsory. Interested players may register their names along with an entry fee of Rs. 400/- on or before 7th November 2022 at the office of the Andaman Nicobar Chess Association, Dairy Farm, Near Bikers Hub between 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. For Registration and further details please contact G Sudha Office Executive ANCA @ 9933217055 and K Tamma, Office Assistant ANCA @ 9679529548or email @ anchessassociation@gmail.com or visit: www.anchessassociation.com.

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There are two motives for reading a book: one, that you enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it

Bertrand Russell

## Unprecedented rise: Xi makes clean sweep

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has begun his unprecedented third five-year term, but he has nothing new to offer, only continuity with tighter political control at home and more assertive policies abroad in the name of nationalism. As many as four Xi allies were appointed to the Politburo Standing Committee (PBSC). With two other allies continuing on the PBSC, this marks an unprecedented clean sweep of all seven positions on the all-powerful body, a first in Chinese Communist Party politics where power in the past was shared between different party factions, an arrangement shattered by Xi, who is 69 and may remain at the helm for the next decade at the very least. But Xi's rise also coincides with several challenges for China.

The Chinese economy is slowing down while Chinese society is aging rapidly. This is putting immense pressure on the Chinese working class and undermining the old social contract where the party delivered high growth in exchange for absolute authority. Xi has tried to bring in a new social contract framed by the rhetoric of rejuvenating the Chinese nation where the party leads the PRC to new heights. But this is simply papering over cracks such as the large government debt to GDP ratio, which hit 71.5% last year. Plus, despite filing a record number of patents in recent years, it remains to be seen if China can become an innovation-tech powerhouse and reorient its economy in a closed political system. China's economic growth picked up in the latest quarter but still was among the weakest in decades as the ruling Communist Party tries to reverse a slump while enforcing anti-virus controls and a crackdown on debt in its vast real estate industry. The world's second-largest economy grew by 3.9% over a year earlier in the three months ending in September, up from the previous quarter's 0.4%, official data showed.

After Xi awarded himself another term as leader of the ruling Communist Party, the world faces the prospect of more tension with China over trade, security and human rights. This because Xi has tightened control at home and is trying to use China's economic heft to increase its influence abroad. Washington accused Beijing this month of trying to undermine U.S. alliances, global security and economic rules. Activists say Xi's government wants to deflect criticism of abuses by changing the U.N.'s definition of human rights. The US-China strategic rivalry will continue to build over the years with flashpoints such as Taiwan remaining hot. This also means there will be no respite in the India-China border standoff with Xi making it clear that there will be no compromise on Beijing-claimed territories. As Xi promises to build a world class military to back his expansive geopolitical ambitions, and wants to seize claimed territories in China's periphery, Delhi will have to work harder and a lot faster to blunt the challenge from Xi's China to India's interests.

# Rising USD could be bad news for import happy Indian economy

## REFLEX ACTION

Nantoo Banerjee

departments. The imports of pearls have been three to ten times the average annual value of global pearl production. "The imports of pearls in India being much higher than the global production of pearls is indicative of trade mis-invoicing and round-tripping of funds which have been flagged as critical concerns in respect of the gems and jewellery sector," CAG has said. Major countries to mine rough diamonds are Russia, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Angola, Tanzania, Australia and Canada. "The irregular trends in imports and exports to countries such as UAE and Hong Kong have a probable risk of suspicious business transactions and tax evasion that need to be examined in coordination with regulating departments," said CAG, raising concern over suspected round tripping of black money.

Interestingly, even the Switzerland-based World Gold Council, which has constantly supported India's gold import, is concerned about falling INR and rising US\$. The council's regional CEO (India) P.R. Somasundaram cautioned that the Indian government is watching the INR-US\$ exchange rate and may act against gold imports if INR continues to depreciate against US\$. However, there is little sign as yet from the Indian government to restrict gold import in the face of fast rising US\$ and depleting foreign exchange reserves with the Reserve Bank of India. The council estimated that India's demand for gold will be between 800-850 tonne in 2022 — 80 percent of it for gold jewellery and the balance in the form of gold coins. Last year, India's demand for gold was about 797 tonne.

Another major area of import is consumer electronics and semiconductors. India must investigate growing deficits in the electronics trade, which hit an all-time record of \$56 billion in 2021-22. Electronics have remained a major contributor to the country's overall merchandise

trade deficit, after oil & petroleum products. While electronics exports surged 41 percent last fiscal from previous year's \$15 billion, imports jumped 35 percent to \$70.8 billion, according to the commerce ministry. Earlier, the trade deficit in the electronics field had hit a record of \$47 billion in FY19. The electronics trade deficit may increase to well over \$60 billion, this year. It may be time to restrict electronics imports wherever possible and step up domestic production while seriously trying to ensure a speedy success of the country's new semiconductor policy.

Since the beginning of the year, the global oil price has narrowed to \$90 per barrel from its peak at \$120 per barrel. Paradoxically, the western trade and payment sanctions on Russia, resulting in price cut on crude oil export by Russia, has come as a big relief to India, the world's third largest oil importer. Recently, India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India's crude oil shipments from Russia have jumped to between 12 percent and 13 percent of imports from all sources since February from about two percent earlier. But for the Russian oil import windfall, the exchange rate of INR vis-à-vis US\$ would have taken a much bigger hit. India's foreign exchange reserves declined to \$553.1 billion in the week ended September 2, their lowest since October 2020 and down by \$8 billion from the previous week. Forex reserves further declined by \$4.9 billion to \$537.52 billion at the end of the week ended September 23 for a ninth consecutive week. Global rating agencies, including IMF, have cut their forecasts for India's economic growth for 2022-23 to below seven percent.

India's rising trade deficit and continuing hot money outflow from the secondary market, courtesy foreign portfolio investors, are weakening RBI's forex reserves and INR's exchange value. While the government and RBI can do little to bring FPIs back in the midst of the global financial turmoil, it can certainly contain avoidable imports such as gold, precious metals, cheap electronics and other luxury products for consumption of the rich. It may be time to focus on the much neglected 'Make-in-India' initiative while expanding bilateral Rupee trade and currency swap to arrest the fall of INR and stabilise the economy. (IPA)



Unsold demon figurines lay on roadside to be stored for use next year--Arijit Ganguly

# Delhi govt's education and health clinics model shines

There is always a debate in India whether South is doing better than North. In the early years after independence North was doing better and South which always had better administration was lagging behind economically. One of the reasons for South to do better in subsequent years was the politicians in south worked much more for the common good of the society than north Indian politicians. Politicians everywhere do give more emphasis on self-promotion and making money for themselves and parties but the difference in south is that they do contribute much more to improving the society.

Two things that stand out in Southern states are emphasis on education and health right from independence, which helped in skilling people better and preparing them to be aspirational, which meant eager to strive for self-improvement. The opening up of the economy gave them more opportunities. Because of better educational system, South was able to cash-in better than North in leap-frogging. The health and social parameters clearly speak for itself to highlight the widening gap between north and south. The national family health survey 2019-21 clearly points out that south has done much better as compared to rest of India.

Statistics show that India's crude birth rate has been falling continuously. The national average had dropped to 17.1 per 1000 in 2019-21 from 23.1 in 2005-06. The reason being that southern states have contributed a lot in this respect. The birth rate was less than 15 in Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and 15.3

in Telangana. In northern states particularly Bihar, Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh it ranged between 20.5 to 25.9. In child mortality, the national average was 41.9 per cent. Uttar Pradesh had 59.8 per cent followed by Bihar, 56.4 per cent and Chhattisgarh, 50.4 per cent. But in case of south it was much less. Kerala, it is as low as 5.2 per cent and below 30 per cent in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana. Doctor's assistance at the time of delivery by women, is also highest in south. The average is 84 per cent. It was less than 50 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Nagaland.

East Asian economies did well with the advent of globalisation mainly because of the fact that the state had prepared its population better by concentrating more on education and health in post war period. This enabled them to take-off as the World economy opened up because the population was better skilled through better education. Also, poverty was drastically reduced through better health and social infrastructure.

Likewise, when the Indian economy was opened up in 1991, the south benefitted more in economic development as it had better education and health indices. South may not have produced an Ambani or Adani, but 1991 reforms enabled south to

produce a lot of new generation entrepreneurs like Narayanamurthy, GMR, GVK, TVS and so on. There were several start-ups and many excelled in new wave industries like IT. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana dominate in IT. This had also ensured there is no crony capitalism. One of the reasons for poor economic status of Pakistan is because the entire wealth is concentrated in the hands of top one per cent of the population. Also, the education and health status of the majority of the population is pathetic. There is a lesson here.

There is certainly a lesson to the north India to learn from South. Investment in education and health may not yield immediate economic benefit but over a couple of decades, this will help in leapfrogging in economic development. When universal mid-day meal scheme was introduced in the early 1980s in Tamil Nadu by then Chief Minister M G Ramachandran, there was a widespread criticism all over the country saying it will ruin the state's economy. But he was determined to promote it on a sustained basis and this paid off.

A couple of decades later virtually all children go to school in Tamil Nadu and drop out is drastically reduced and children have become healthy and well-

nourished. This is a major contributing factor today to push economic development in the state. Today the entire country has adopted the noon-meal scheme, though its implementation is still tardy in some of the northern states. Even World bodies have acknowledged the benefit of noon meal scheme of Tamil Nadu, which experimented on a pilot basis first in the 1950s when Kamaraj was the Chief Minister.

The Delhi model of government school education and Mohalla clinic is worth emulating by other states in the north. Such models and experiments needed to become nation-wide to gear the economy to become developed. Raising issues like language in education is a futile exercise and a diversionary tactics. China found itself to be in a disadvantageous position in the IT sector because of not knowing English by Chinese population. In the 1990s the Chinese authorities decided to make English a compulsory language right from class one in schools. Today all children passing out from schools know English in China. In case of India, the union government wants to lose an advantage the country has. English comes naturally to Indian population and hence Indian engineers, doctors and IT professionals are sought after world over.

But the union government wants go in reverse gear by taking such regressive steps, which do no good to the youth of the country but only some cheap political mileage at the cost of the economic well-being of the people. India, particularly north Indian politicians, should look ahead than going backwards. (IPA)

## FOCUS

K R Sudhaman

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

ACROSS					DOWN				
1	Pleasure trip	1	Shy		2	United			
5	Smelting waste	2	Speak		3	Fish eggs			
8	Chant	4	Thought out		6	Prophetic sign			
9	Limiting mark	5	Prophet		7	Power of rejecting			
10	First woman	6	Sundry		12	Muslim leader			
12	Wrongdoer	7	Male honeybee		14	Formal ceremonies			
13	Mournful songs	8	Rawhide		17	Set of garments			
15	Seller	9	Animation		21	Floor covering			
18	Went by	10							
20	Flightless bird	11							
21	Harbour town	12							
23	Handsome	13							
	thoroughfare	14							
24	Whole sum	15							
25	Laundry items	16							

SUDOKU : 3676								
						7		4
		5		2		1	6	
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5			7		4			6
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	5	7		9		2		
2		3						

Yesterday's Solution 3675								
8	6	5	1	3	9	7	2	4
2	9	1	5	4	7	6	3	8
4	3	7	2	6	8	1	9	5
3	1	4	7	2	5	8	6	9
5	2	9	8	1	6	3	4	7
6	7	8	4	9	3	2	5	1
1	8	3	9	5	2	4	7	6
7	5	6	3	8	4	9	1	2
9	4	2	6	7	1	5	8	3

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1684								
S	T	R	A	P			A	
T	I	E		R	E	A	C	T
I	N	A	N	E		S	T	I
F	R	O	C	K	S		N	
L	E	R	I	N		E	T	A
E	N	D		S	E	E	N	B
A		J	E	E	R	S		A
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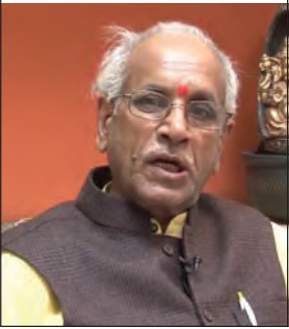
# 50 per cent of construction work of Ram temple complete

## Shrine to open to devotees in Jan 2024: Champat Rai

**AYODHYA, OCT 25 /--/** The grand Ram temple in Ayodhya will be opened to devotees in January 2024 after the installation of idols of the deity, said a key member of the trust set up to oversee its construction.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra on Tuesday said 50 per cent of the construction work of the temple has been completed and the overall progress is satisfactory.

"The temple will be opened to devotees in January 2024 after the installation of idols of Ram Lalla in the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine on the festival of Makar Sankranti," trust general secretary Champat Rai told PTI. He said the ground floor of the temple will be ready by December next year and around January



Champat Rai

14, 2024, idols of Lord Ram will be installed. "An estimated Rs 1,800 crore will be spent on building the Ram temple," Rai said, adding that space will be made for idols of prominent Hindu seers. A group of journalists were on Tuesday taken to the elevated place from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Sunday

inspected the construction work of the temple. The prime minister had performed the bhoomi puja for the construction of the temple on August 5, 2020.

A Supreme Court verdict of November 9, 2019 had paved the way for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. According to the plan, temples of Valmiki, Kewat, Shabari, Jatayu, Sita, Vighneshwar (Ganesh) and Sheshavatar (Lakshman) will also be constructed within a 70-acre area in the vicinity of the Ram temple. A rectangular, two-storeyed 'Parikrama' road is also being constructed, enclosing a total of eight acres of land including the area of the temple and its courtyard. In its eastern part, there will be an

entrance made of sandstone. White marble from the Makrana hills in Rajasthan will be used inside the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. Modi's visit to Ayodhya on October 23 was the first after he laid the foundation stone two years back.

After offering prayers to Ram Lalla at the makeshift temple, the prime minister had reviewed the progress of the construction work. The opening of the temple for devotees in the beginning of 2024 is seen as politically important too as the Lok Sabha elections are scheduled for later that year. The BJP has been highlighting the Ayodhya issue for long and the opening of the temple for the devotees is expected to generate enthusiasm among Hindus. (PTI)

## Time limit for bursting firecrackers not followed in parts of Mumbai: Awaaz Foundation

**MUMBAI, OCT 25 /--/** Firecrackers were burst beyond the 10 pm deadline at many places in Mumbai on the occasion of Diwali, the Awaaz Foundation said on Tuesday.

The maximum noise level during Diwali celebration in the metropolis this year was 109.1 decibels, comparted to 105.5 decibels in 2020 and 112.3 decibels in 2019, the city-based NGO's founder Sumaira Abdulali said in a release.

The noise continued beyond 11.45 pm this time although there was heavy police presence, she claimed. At Marine Drive in south Mumbai and Shivaji Park in Dadar, where a number of

people congregated within the park, the bursting of firecrackers continued beyond midnight without any visible police presence, she said. "I received numerous complaints from citizens at Juhu, Bandra, Worli, some of whom also tweeted the police," Abdulali said. Firecrackers are permitted to be burst till 10 pm under the noise rules and court orders, the release said.

Though no crackers containing toxic chemicals are permitted as per the Supreme Court orders, their presence was detected in a separate test and heavy smoke filled the air at sites where crackers were burst on Diwali night, Abdulali said. (PTI)

## Shivamogga tense after trio attacks man; police deployed

**SHIVAMOGGA, OCT 25 /--/** An alleged attack on a 25-year old man by three unknown assailants here forced deployment of a police posse. Prakash was attacked on Monday allegedly by the three who came on a bike, the police said. The assailants were said to have thrown stones at him and allegedly shouted slogans and passed comments allegedly against RSS and Hindutva activists, the police said. Prakash suffered minor injuries in the attack, and is in hospital, safe, said the police. They added that they are investigating and examining the CCTV footage to identify the assailants. The victim said he was attacked while returning home from a bus-station, and that he does not know why he was attacked,

for he claimed he had no enmity nor was associated with any organisation.

"Two men started hitting me with their hands, then stones and other things, and kicked me, they used some derogatory words against RSS and activists, while one was on the bike... I fell to the ground, they still attacked me, but somehow I got up, they hit me in my face and then on my head which led to bleeding. I somehow ran towards my home nearby, but they came chasing and attacked me with stones. As soon as my mother opened the door, I ran in," he told reporters. The attackers were not locals, he said, adding that he had attended an event related to Hindutva ideology. Savarkar recently Senior police officials said they visited the area and

deployed the posse to see to it that no untoward incident takes place. Shivamogga SP G K Mithun Kumar said there is no need to panic, situation is under control, officials and staff have been deployed, checkpoints erected and there have also been patrols. "The guilty will be punished... the CCTV visuals are being looked into. We have some suspensions, but can't reveal as the investigation is on," he said. Amid reports that the assailants, while leaving the spot, allegedly threatened the family members of Harsha, a Hindu activist, who was murdered earlier this year, police promised them and locals security. The city witnessed several incidents of communal flare-up following Harsha's murder. (PTI)

## BJP changes Kullu Sadar candidate on last day for filing of nominations

**SHIMLA, OCT 25 /--/** The BJP changed its Kullu Sadar candidate on the last day for the filing of nominations for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls after his son submitted papers as an independent against the party choice in the state's Banjar seat.

Narottam Thakur, a retired teacher, filed his papers as the BJP candidate in place of Maheshwar Singh, a party leader said. Till 1 pm, it was not clear who will file papers for the seat. Maheshwar Singh was dropped by the party after his son Hiteshwar filed his

nomination as an independent candidate from the Banjar seat against the party's official candidate, the leader said. Maheshwar Singh had earlier filed his papers on October 21 after he was declared the BJP candidate from Kullu Sadar but did not receive the official letter confirming it. After the cancellation of his ticket, Maheshwar Singh called a meeting of his supporters in Bhuntar to chalk out future strategy. Meanwhile, another BJP leader from Kullu Sadar, Ram Singh, also filed his nomination as an

independent candidate. He held the position of the state vice president of the BJP.

Over 346 candidates filed their nomination papers on Tuesday for the assembly polls scheduled to be held on November 12, a state election department spokesperson said. Eighty-one candidates filed their papers in Mandi district, followed by 72 in Kangra, 34 in Chamba, 35 in Sirmour, 29 in Shimla, 26 in Hamirpur, 23 each in Solan and Bilaspur, 19 in Kullu, three in Kinnaur and one in Lahaul-Spiti. The data of candidates who filed their papers in Una district

is being compiled, the spokesperson said. With this, the number of candidates who have filed their nomination for the 68 assembly seats in the state has crossed 600.

The notification for the state elections was issued on October 17 and the last date for the filing of nominations was October 25. Scrutiny of papers will be held on October 27 and the last date for the withdrawal of papers is October 29. Voting is scheduled to take place on November 12 while counting will take place on December 8. (PTI)

## District level mega youth festival by NYK Port Blair



**PORT BLAIR, OCT 25 /--/** The District level youth festival was organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Port Blair under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India at Dr. BR Ambedkar Auditorium, PBMC. A mega event with expanded macro-outreach was organized by integrating 6 youth centric programs of NYKS Annual Action Plan under this program umbrella program- YuvaUtsav are Young Artists Camp- Painting 2. Young Writers Camp- Poem 3. Photography Workshop 4. Declamation Contest 5. Cultural Festival- Group events 6. Youth Convention

As part of YuvaUtsav, in the components young artist painting and mobile photography, Declamation contest and poetry contest was held at Maharashtra Mandal. In the occasion ShriNareshChanderLal, Padma Shree Awardee and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Brand Ambassador, Andaman and Nicobar was the Chief Guest, he shared his experience with the youth on both the subjects and how to make a career in the field. In this competitions Sh. PranabHalder (DIET), sh. B. Vasudevan, (ANCOL) and HariJ.Dinesh (Model SSS,) Port Blair secured first, second and third position respectively.

The winners of the Mobile Photography Competition are G. Jayakrishna, (JNRM), Ayush Kumar Dubey, (DIET) and AmitMeenj (K.V-1) secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd Positions respectively.

Other competitions in Young writing poetry and Declamation competition ShriAlok Kumar Chaturvedi, Principal, KendriyaVidyalaya No.1 was the chief guest. Sh. AnishBarwa(ANCOL)Miss AnushreeMandal (Khalsa Public School) and Miss S. priya (Model SSS,) got first, second and third position. In competitions photography, painting and poetry @30 selected youths, in a total 90 youths from different colleges schools and youth clubs were participated and winners are awarded cash prizes @1000/- @750/- and @500/- respectively.

In Declamation Contest, A total of 11 youths selected from all school colleges participated and Sh. NittiyaVerghese (Law College) Miss Mehak (Khalsa Public School) and Miss Phoolmala (DIET) got first, second and third place. winners are awarded cash prizes @5000/- @2000/- and @1000/- respectively. These four competitions were organized in the auditorium of Maharashtra Mandal, Port Blair.

Another component of YuvaUtsab- YuvaSamvad- INDIA @ 2047 was organized in collaboration with PBMC at Dr. BR Ambedkar Auditorium, Port Blair and on this occasion Smt. Sumitha R. IAS, Secretary, PBMC was the chief guest. She lit the lamp and inaugurated the program. More than 100 youths participated in this program. she made the youth aware about the central role of youth in the concept and implementation of youth oriented development and what is the attitude of youth on various social and contemporary issues of development at present and how youth can play their role in the process of development and empowerment in future also. The youth also asked their own questions on various issues of the country and invited four resource persons Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Associate Professor, JNRM, Dr. BGS Bhagel, Associate Professor, JNRM, ShriShashiBhushan Prasad, Associate Professor, Law College, Smt. Jochibed Vincent, ANCOL, In Youth Conference, Various topics in "India @ 2047". 1. Goal of Development, 2) National unity and solidarity, 3) Removal of any trace of colonial mindset, 4) Sense of duty among citizens, and 5) Taking pride in our heritage and legacy. The Resource persons answered all questions also. Four best performers were also awarded in this program. Miss PoojaCheetri, Sh. MohdFardeen Yusuf of law college, Miss Shamrimshamshed of DIET College and Miss J. Faizia, KV No-1 @ Rs. 1500/- each.

The closing and final program of the youth

festival, District Cultural Festival was also organized in PBMC Auditorium, on this occasion ShriKuldeepRai Sharma, Hon'ble Member Parliament, Andaman and Nicobar Islands was the chief guest while Smt. P r a m i l a K u m a r i, AdhakshyaZillaParishad South Andaman was the special guest on this occasion. The event inaugurated with lit traditional lamp by Chief Guest and Spl guest. Welcomed song presented by the singers Sitesh Orchestra group lead by ShriArvindPatil Apart from this other guest Shri P. Abdul Basheer, Gram PanchayatPradhan , Kanyapuram, Dr. SarabjitKaur Jagpal, Principal Khalsa Public School, Dr. Jai Kumar, Principal, ANCOL, Smt. Bhavani, Vice Principal Mohan Pura, Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Associate Professor, JNRM, Dr. BGS Bhagel, Associate Professor , ShriShashiBhushanPrasad, Associate Professor, Law College, Smt.Jochibed Vincent, ANCOL, Shri GorakhNathPatil, Principal, Maharashtra Mandal, ShriArvindPatil, Secretary, Maharashtra Mandal were also present and witnessed the program. Total 14 teams of different Colleges, schools and youth Clubs were participated in which total 120 youth were presents and performed. The winners are DIET College Team, JNRM Team and Law College Team secured first, second and third place respectively and cash prize @5000/-, 2500/- and 1250/- awarded.

The chief guest spoke on the occasion that the fabric of unity in India has always been woven in the threads of diversity. He urged the youth to understand and appreciate this art and cultural aspects of our country and to present their black in the best possible way in tying the bonds of brotherhood with each other's cultures.

While Special Guest Smti P r a m i l a K u m a r i Adhakshya Zilla Parishad spoke that all the great civilizations of the world have developed through the expression of culture in

their respective art forms. The performing arts- whether it is dance, music, theatre, martial, ritualistic or other traditional arts, reflect the unique identity and heritage of human civilization. The story of our past- The values of our development and the memories of our ancestors are preserved through these cultural expressions in the local communities. Youth, the culture of our country has to be carried forward from generation to generation. Indian culture is our heritage

On the occasion, two best youths were also honored with appreciation certificates and mementos for their excellent work with Nehru Yuva Kendra, who have always been contributing voluntarily service for the last decade- Dr. SunitaPatil and Mr. P. Abdul Basheer, President, NaiManzil (NGO). They will be role models for the new generation to volunteer in social work. In addition, 10 other volunteers who extended their support to make the event a grand success were also honored by presenting mementos.

The program was presided over by Mr. KundanLal, Deputy Director (OSD) of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and he welcomed all the guests of competitions and briefing the purpose of Nehru Yuva Kendra and the theme of the program was to develop one of the five resolutions of the Honorable Prime Minister. India's goal was based on The purpose of the program, while on the one hand, to know the views of the local public representatives, to provide a proper platform to the youth to display their talent and to listen to the voice of the youth through youth dialogue. Giving details of the program in detail, ShriGopalCh.Biswas, of Nehru Yuva Kendra said that similar youth festivals are being organized across the country in 623 districts of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, in which total 6 competitions are held for young artist, painting, youth Writing Poetry, Mobile Photography, speech competition and cultural programs were organized in which more than 300 participants participated and majority of the people enjoyed the programmes.

At the same time, to create awareness among the youth on various burning topics of the society like Catch the Rain, Water Conservation Campaign, Cleanliness, Self-reliant India, Vocal for Local, Healthy, Positive Lifestyle, Feet Idea, BetiBachaoBetiPadhao and the Developed India in 2047 etc. Experts were invited to cover the topic , There should be communication of awareness, but leadership ability can also be developed in them. The guests motivated the youth to come and participate in social activities and get information about the schemes being run by the Prime Minister. By connecting the youth present with the mainstream of the country, the chief guest and speakers inspired them for national construction. The Chief Guest and Special honored all the winners with cash prizes, medals, trophies and certificates.

The program was cordinated by Dr. SunitaPatil and Mr. Gopal Ch. Biswas, Nehru Yuva Kendra Port Blair, he also proposed vote of thanks to all the guests, institution, judges, participants, others and with singing of national song by the team of Sitesh Orchestra and students of ANCOL College.



Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences (I/C), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing the media about the progress of week 3 of Special Campaign 2.0 on Suachhata, at his residence, in New Delhi

## Around 59100 students secure admission in DU colleges in first round of seat allocation

**NEW DELHI, OCT 25 /--/** Around 59,100 candidates have paid fees and secured admission in various undergraduate programmes in the Delhi University's first round of seat allocation, Registrar Vikas Gupta said on Tuesday.

Tuesday was the last day for the payment of fees by those who accepted the college and course allotted to them. "Of the 72,800 students who accepted the college and course, around 59,100 have sealed their admission by paying fees," Gupta said. Gupta said the vacant seats will be displayed on Wednesday.

Thereafter, the university will open a two-day window from Wednesday allowing those who gained admission in undergraduate courses to upgrade to their higher 'programme+college combination' preference. "It is important to note that a candidate who gets upgraded will have to 'Accept' the upgraded seat

and complete the admission procedures on the upgraded allocated seats within the stipulated time-frame," Gupta said in a statement.

Based on the availability of seats, the university will declare the second round of the Central Seat Allocation System (CSAS Round-II) on October 30, he said. "For the second round of allocations, the candidates should accept the allocated seat from 10:00 AM Monday, October 31, to 04:59 PM Tuesday, November 1," he added.

The varsity has advised students to keep checking the admission website of the University of Delhi regularly for all updates related to admission. According to the detailed schedule issued by the varsity early this month, colleges will verify and approve the online application from October 31 to November 2. The last date for online payment of admission fees by the candidates is November 3.

For the third round, the vacant list will be displayed on November 4. During the third round, the university will give a chance for mid-entry and a window to re-order higher preferences from November 5 to 7. According to the schedule, the third allocation list will be announced on November 10. The candidates will have to accept the allocated seat by November 13. The college will verify and approve the online applications from November 11 to November 14 (PTI)

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Maidul Halder (old name) S/O Abdul Mannan Halder Presently residing at Vill & P.O.- Multi, P.S.- Mograghat, Dist- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 743610, West Bengal, INDIA I have changed my name to (shall henceforth be known as) Moidul Halder (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before Notary public at Kolkata on 18/10/2022.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Aisha Ali (old name) D/O Late Sk Rabiul Haque, W/O Sowkat Ali Presently residing at 1/H/3, Rajab Ali Lane, P.O.- Khiddeepore, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, INDIA have changed my name to (shall henceforth be known as) Raisha Ali (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before Notary public at Kolkata on 18/10/2022.



# With Rishi UK moves from Truss to Trust

Britain's 1st Indian-origin PM promises to 'fix mistakes', meets King Charles III

**LONDON, OCT 25** --/ Rishi Sunak on Tuesday took charge as Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister with a promise to fix recent "mistakes" after an audience with King Charles III, a day after he was elected the new leader of the Conservative Party in a historic leadership run.

The 42-year-old investment banker-turned politician is the youngest British Prime Minister in 210 years. He is also Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister. In his first address at the doorstep of 10 Downing Street in London, the new Prime Minister said that he takes over at a time when the UK is facing a "profound economic crisis" as it deals with the aftermath of Covid and the Russia-Ukraine conflict and asserted that he is "not daunted by the high office he has accepted and hopes to live up to its demands. "Some mistakes were made; not borne of ill-will or bad intentions but mistakes nonetheless and I have been elected as leader of my party and your Prime Minister in part to fix them," said Sunak, the second Prime Minister in as many months and the third this year. "I will unite our country not with words but with action. I will work day in and day out to deliver for you," he said.

Sunak warned of "difficult decisions to come" and pointed to his record as Chancellor of exchequer during the pandemic to promise that he will bring that "same compassion to the challenges ahead. "I stand here before you ready to lead our country into the

future, to put your needs above politics, to reach out and build a government that represents the very best traditions of my party. Together we can achieve incredible things. We will create a future worthy of the sacrifices so many have made and fill tomorrow and every day thereafter with hope," he said.

On a somewhat defiant note to address the Opposition clamour for a general election, he stressed that the mandate the Conservative Party won in the 2019 general election is not the sole property of one person with reference to former Prime Minister Boris Johnson but "a mandate that belongs to and unites all of us". "Congratulations to @RishiSunak on this historic day, this is the moment for every Conservative to give our new PM their full and wholehearted support." Johnson tweeted. Earlier in the day, outgoing Prime Minister Liz Truss chaired her final Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street before making her way to Buckingham Palace to formally tender her resignation to the 73-year-old monarch. Sunak then arrived at the palace for his meeting with the King, who then invited him to form a government as the UK's 57th Prime Minister and the third in just seven weeks.

"The King received in Audience The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP today and requested him to form a new Administration. Mr Sunak accepted His Majesty's offer and kissed hands upon his appointment as Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury, the palace statement said. As the former Chancellor made his first Prime Ministerial address on the steps of 10 Downing Street, he was not joined by his wife Akshata Murty and daughters Krishna and Anoushka as was expected. Sunak then went in for meetings with officials at 10 Downing Street to start finalising his Cabinet, starting with the key roles of Chancellor, foreign secretary and home secretary.

Sunak describes himself as a proud Hindu. His victory on Diwali has resonated among the Indian



Rishi Sunak (R) with king Charles III at Buckingham Palace

diaspora groups across the UK, who have hailed it as a historic moment in British social history. Rishi Sunak becoming the first British Indian Prime Minister is an historic moment. This simply would not have been possible even a decade or two ago, said Sunder Katwala, director of British Future think-tank. "But we should not underestimate this important social change. When Sunak was born in Southampton in 1980, there had been no Asian or black MPs at all in the post-war era. There were still no black or Asian Conservative MPs when he graduated from university in 2001. That Rishi Sunak is set to be Prime Minister during the coronation of King Charles III next spring tells an important story about our society, where we have come from and where we are going in the future," he said. The Archbishop of Canterbury urged Britons to pray for Rishi Sunak as he enters No. 10 Downing Street at a turbulent time.

"At a time of great difficulty and uncertainty for this country, please join me in praying for Rishi Sunak as he takes on the responsibilities of leadership," Justin Welby wrote on Twitter. "May he, and all leaders of all parties, work across divides to bring unity and offer stability for those who need it most," he said. Sunak's victory in the Tory leadership race came at the end of a dramatic few days in Westminster since Liz Truss resigned last Thursday in the wake of a disastrous tax-cutting mini-budget and several policy U-turns. Former Prime Minister Johnson ruling himself out from the contest over the weekend and Leader of the Commons Penny Mordaunt conceding defeat just moments before the shortlisting deadline on Monday paved the way for a remarkable political comeback for Sunak having lost the Tory membership vote to Truss just last month. (PTI)

Britain. He took over from Liz Truss just 49 days after she defeated him in the last leadership race and while he admitted mistakes were made, he praised his predecessor's "restlessness" and "noble aim" to improve economic growth in the UK. Sunak, whose parents retired doctor Yashvir and pharmacist Usha Sunak are of Indian descent, tracing their migration route from Kenya to the UK in the 1960s. The Southampton-born Prime Minister is married to Infosys co-founder Narayan Murthy's daughter Akshata Murthy and the couple have two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka.

Sunak's grandparents originated from British India but their birthplace Gujranwala lies in modern day Pakistan's Punjab province. As the third premier in the space of just seven weeks after Johnson's partygate exit and Liz Truss' mini-budget fiasco, the road ahead is anything but smooth for the new leader, who faces the uphill task of fixing the "profound economic crisis" facing the UK and uniting a deeply divided Conservative Party. Sunak will be moving into 10 Downing Street at a time when Britain is facing a triple whammy of slowing growth, high inflation triggered by spiralling energy prices in the wake of the Ukraine war and a budget shortfall that has eroded its financial credibility internationally. He will have no option but to raise tax rates and make spending cuts that will be unpopular and may have unforeseen political consequences. (PTI)

## Rishi's elevation may usher in new chapter in India-UK ties

**LONDON, OCT 25** --/ India's bilateral relations with the UK may well be poised to see greater two-way exchanges as Rishi Sunak was installed as Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister on Tuesday, scripting an impressive political comeback in British politics.

Sunak's vision for India-UK bilateral ties has gone beyond the opportunity for the UK to sell things in India, wanting Britain to also "learn from India". "The UK doesn't have a monopoly on opportunity. There's an enormous amount of opportunity in India, we also want to make sure that if this living bridge is going to be a real thing, we have got to make it easier for people in the UK to go to India, to study at world class institutions to go work in all these amazing start-ups, Sunak said recently when he was Chancellor. "I want to make sure that it's easy for our students to also travel to India and learn, that it's also easy for our companies and Indian companies to work together because it's not just a one-way relationship, it's a two-way relationship, and that's the type of change I want to bring to that relationship, the former investment banker-turned-politician had said, while outlining his vision for India-UK ties.

In his first address as Prime Minister, he pledged to approach the country's problems with "compassion" and "to place economic stability and confidence at the heart of this government's agenda". Sunak's historic milestone as the country's first non-white Prime Minister is being widely celebrated as a sign of the diversity of modern-day

WhatsApp services resume after outage; Meta-owned platform says issue fixed

**NEW DELHI, OCT 25** --/ WhatsApp services were back on after the popular messaging app faced a major global outage that prevented users from sending or receiving text and video messages for almost two hours.

Meta, which owns the popular messaging app, said it has fixed the glitch, and the service was back. The unexplained outage prevented users from the UK to India from sending or receiving messages. Outage detection website DownDetector confirmed that WhatsApp was not working for many users across multiple regions. WhatsApp App Web, the app's web version, used by many on their desktops and laptops, was also hit by the outage. "We know people had trouble sending messages on WhatsApp today. We've fixed the issue and apologise for any inconvenience," a Meta company spokesperson said.

According to DownDetector, WhatsApp faced problems since 3:17 AM EDT (12:47 pm). Users in Asia, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Europe experienced the issue while sending and receiving texts and videos on WhatsApp. This was WhatsApp's first major outage since the October 5 snag that took down WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook together, affecting millions of users for several hours before services were restored. Tuesday's outage happened ahead of a partial solar eclipse that was to begin at 2.28 pm. The two events are, however, not linked.

Amid an extended period of festivities in India comprising Diwali and Bhai Dooj, users began experiencing and reporting disruption of services on the popular messaging platform on Tuesday.

Meta did not say what led to the outage. The outage meant that messages were no longer transmitted to the server and users could not send messages to group or one-on-one chats. When the outage was reported, Meta said it was trying to fix the problem. "We're aware that some people are currently having trouble sending messages and we're working to restore WhatsApp for everyone as quickly as possible," it said. At one point during the outage on Tuesday, over 29,000 reports were flagged by users on DownDetector. DownDetector's heatmap was showing WhatsApp users in major cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata, were impacted by the snag. (PTI)

## Cyclone Sitrang spares India, hits Bangladesh

**KOLKATA, OCT 25** --/ Cyclone Sitrang crossed the Bangladesh coast near Barisal after skirting the West Bengal coast, the IMD said on Tuesday.

The weather in the southern West Bengal districts is likely to improve from forenoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The system, which moved towards Bangladesh from north Bay of Bengal at a speed of 56 kmph caused moderate to heavy rain and squally weather in West Bengal's coastal districts of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur, dampening festive spirits on Deepavali and Kali Puja. Sitrang made landfall between Tinkona island and Sandwip near Barisal in Bangladesh between 9.30 pm and 11.30 pm on Monday with a sustained wind speed of 80 to 90 kmph gusting to 100 kmph, the Regional Met Centre in Kolkata said.

The Bangladeshi media reported that the cyclone caused heavy rain in southeastern parts of the neighbouring country. It is very likely to weaken into a depression and then into a low pressure by Tuesday evening, the IMD said. The weather office warned of squally wind with speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph along and off West Bengal coast on Tuesday morning, which will decrease gradually to 30 to 40 kmph gusting to 50 kmph by forenoon. (PTI)

## Mamata keeps a tab on cyclone as she performs Kali Puja at her residence

**KOLKATA, OCT 25** --/ Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday night performed Kali Puja at her residence in Bhabanipur area of the city, as hundreds of people gathered outside to catch a glimpse of the rituals. Mamata also kept a tab on cyclone Sitrang which lead to rains in several parts of the state almost throughout the day.

The chief minister also prepared the bhog' (food offering to the goddess) and played host to scores of guests, which



included VVIPs, cabinet colleagues, politicians, journalists and the general public. Clad in her trademark cotton saree, the chief minister greeted visitors with folded hands and requested everyone to have the bhog'. The Kali Puja at her residence has been performed for the last four decades. "I extend my heartfelt greetings on the pious day of Kali Puja and Deepavali. May Maa Kali give us all the strength to fight the forces of evil. I pray that the festival of lights expels darkness from all our lives to usher in joy and happiness," she had tweeted earlier in the day.

In the evening, the chief minister urged the people of the state to stay indoors in case there is heavy rainfall and storm as a result of Cyclone Sitrang.

She also requested the people who were evacuated from the coastal areas to safe shelters to cooperate with the state administration and not return home until the threat of the Cyclone is over.

"I will request those who have been evacuated to safe shelters not to return home until the threat is over as you cannot predict anything about natural calamities. Things may take sudden turns anytime. This is mainly for those from the critical areas of Sunderbans and Sagar Island," she said.

West Bengal Governor La Ganesan paid a visit to Banerjee's residence and offered his prayers to Goddess Kali. Intermittent showers since morning forced people to remain indoors as most Kolkata streets wore a deserted look on a festive evening which would normally have attracted tens of thousands to visit marquees with idols of Goddess Kali. (PTI)

## Partial solar eclipse enthralled stargazers Yogi witnesses celestial phenomenon, many temples remain shut

**NEW DELHI, OCT 25** --/ A partial solar eclipse on Tuesday evening enthralled stargazers, who pointed their telescopes towards the sun to watch the celestial tango, while the faithful bathed in lakes and rivers at pilgrimage sites to mark the occasion. Astronomical telescopes at Hanle in Ladakh, Naintal in Uttarakhand and several amateur and professional astronomers watched the eclipse that began at 4:17 p.m as the moon started covering the solar disc. A solar eclipse occurs on a new moon day when the moon comes in between the earth and the sun and when all the three objects are aligned.

A partial solar eclipse will occur when the lunar disk covers the solar disk partially.

Astronomy clubs set up public viewing of the eclipse at several locations across the country and even distributed special eyewear to watch the eclipse. In Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath witnessed the eclipse at the Veer Bahadur Singh planetarium with a telescope and special

glasses.

The partial solar eclipse was observed in several parts of the country with Srinagar witnessing the maximum obscuration of the solar disc at 55 per cent. In Delhi 43 per cent of the solar disc was covered by the shadow of the moon, Jammu (52 per cent),

Bengaluru (9.9 per cent), Kochi (5.1 per cent). Students from the High School at Hanle in Ladakh had gathered at the Indian Astronomical Observatory located in the region to watch the eclipse, while the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research had thrown open their lawns for

public viewing of the celestial phenomenon. Since the eclipse began in the evening, the ending of the celestial phenomenon was not visible as it took place after sunset.

The Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational

Sciences, Naintal and Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune had set up live streams on YouTube from the sites of their telescopes to view the eclipse.

Thousands of devotees in various parts of the country took a holy dip in rivers and lakes. In Haridwar, devotees gathered to offer prayers at Har Ki Pauri ghat on the banks of Ganga. In Haryana, people thronged the Brahma Sarovar, Sannihit Sarovar, Jyotisar Tirtha, Pehowa Tirtha and other sites of the Kurukshetra, the land of Mahabharata.

According to Hindu beliefs, a bath in the holy tanks at Kurukshetra during a solar eclipse is considered auspicious. Many important temples remained closed. In Telangana, Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Yadagirigutta, Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy temple in Vemulawada, Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Dharmapuri and Sri Gnana Saraswathi Devi temple in Basar are among those remain closed. (PTI)



UP CM Yogi Adityanath watches the partial solar eclipse through a telescope at Veer Bahadur Singh Planetarium in Gorakhpur on Tuesday



## ‘Ground-breaking milestone and significant moment’: World leaders on Sunak becoming UK PM

LONDON/ WASHINGTON, OCT 25/--/ Several world leaders, including US President Joe Biden and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, have lauded Rishi Sunak becoming the UK's new Prime Minister as a "ground-breaking milestone" and hoped for better bilateral relations amidst a turbulent world. Sunak, 42, on Monday, won the race to lead the Conservative Party and became Britain's first prime minister of Indian-origin on Tuesday. Sunak will be the third UK prime minister this year and will replace Liz Truss, who served as Britain's shortest-serving prime minister for just 45 days.

We've got the news that Rishi Sunak is now the prime minister, Biden said in remarks made during a Diwali celebration at the White House on Monday. "It's pretty astounding, a groundbreaking milestone and it matters, the US President said.

Biden is yet to formally congratulate Sunak until he has met King Charles and been asked to form a government, as protocol dictates. The Kremlin on Tuesday said that Russia sees no reason to expect relations with the UK to improve under Sunak. Russia does not see any preconditions, grounds, or hope for building more constructive relations with Great Britain in the foreseeable future, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, commenting on the appointment of Sunak as the UK's new prime minister.

No, at present, we do not see any preconditions, grounds or hopes for some positive shifts in the foreseeable future, the Russian presidential spokesman was quoted as saying by the official TASS news agency. Peskov said this while commenting on the prospects of warmer relations between the two countries with the appointment of the UK's new prime minister. Russia-UK relations have soured even further since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. The UK responded with several rounds of sanctions, and it is one of the main backers of President Volodymyr Zelensky. The UK has also provided substantial military support to Ukraine, the report added.

Ukraine's President Zelenskyy tweeted his congratulations to Sunak. "I wish you to successfully overcome all the challenges facing British society and the whole world today. I'm ready to continue strengthening the Ukraine-UK strategic partnership

together!" he said. China's leadership has said that it wants to "advance ties with the UK" under Sunak, Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin was quoted as saying by the BBC. "We hope that we can work with the UK side on the basis of mutual respect and win-win co-operation and advance China-UK relations along the right track," he said. Sunak has favoured closer ties with China than his predecessor and was criticised by Truss for pursuing a trading relationship when chancellor, the report added.

Australia's treasurer, Jim Chalmers, called Sunak a great friend of Australia and lauded the significance of Britain having its first prime minister of Asian descent, The Canberra Times newspaper reported.

I don't think it's insignificant that a country like the United Kingdom has its first prime minister of colour, he said on Tuesday. European leaders couched their well-wishes with statements on the need for a stable and predictable neighbour. The European Council president, Charles Michel, tweeted his congratulations on Monday night, emphasising that Brussels and London faced shared challenges. Working together is the only way to face common challenges... and bringing stability is key to overcoming them, he wrote.

The president of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, said the EU legislature was committed to having a strong and constructive relationship with the UK. At a time of enormous challenges, Europe needs political and economic stability. Our core interests remain the same, she said.

New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson says the new British leader is a "good friend" of his country, the NZ Herald reported.

He hoped the Tory leader would help seal a free trade agreement with his country. Clearly, the UK is facing some very significant economic issues at the moment, he's said that himself. Inflation up over 10 per cent, the energy crisis, the war in Ukraine, so it's going to be a very tough time for him, he said.

"So, we wish Rishi Sunak well. I personally look forward to working with whoever he names as chancellor of the exchequer." Irish Prime Minister Miche l Martin said he looked forward to working with Sunak, "on the important issues we face on these islands and globally". (PTI)

## 'New dawn' for UK, 'Death of Democracy' Britain's new PM Sunak witnesses both bricks and bouquets

LONDON, OCT 25/--/ Indian-origin Rishi Sunak on Tuesday witnessed both bricks and bouquets from the UK media as he scripted history by becoming the first person of colour to become the Prime Minister of Britain, which in the past had colonised most of the world, with some news outlets acknowledging his leadership as the "new dawn" for the country, while others questioning the validity of his victory. Sunak was leading the front page of every major newspaper in the UK. Unite or die Sunak's warning to Tory MPs, read The Guardian banner headline under a picture of the 42-year-old Conservative Party leader receiving a hero's welcome at the party's head office in London. Noting that Sunak "will become the third Conservative prime minister in under two months and the fifth in six years", the report said, He will also make history as the first Hindu to lead the country. Echoing similar sentiment, The Mail headline read, A new dawn for Britain with the sub-head: "Rishi Sunak becomes our youngest modern PM -

and first with an Asian heritage. Striking a similar ebullient note, The Sun said, The force is with you, Rishi with the main image showing him holding a lightsaber. However, not all media outlets were happy with Sunak being the UK's new Prime Minister. In a scathing attack on Sunak, The Mirror in its banner headline asked Our new (unelected) PM that Who voted for you? Describing him as twice as rich as the King", its main story said he will now "preside over brutal public spending cuts. With the headline Death of democracy", Scotland's Daily Record was even more critical of Sunak. Meanwhile, The Financial Times focussed on the economic challenges that lie ahead for Sunak, a former investment banker-turned politician. The markets look forward to dullness dividend' in the wake of Truss turbulence, it said, quoting Tory MPs that they hope Sunak will reassure markets and help hold down borrowing costs.

The Times highlighted Sunak's warning to Tories that Failure to heal rifts would finish [the] party. The

Telegraph said, PM aims to bring warring factions together for one shot' at ending economic crisis. Sunak lost the race for prime ministership to fellow Conservative leader Liz Truss on September 5. Truss stepped down last Thursday after 45 days in office following a rebellion in her Cabinet over her economic policies. Sunak, whose parents -- retired doctor Yashvir and pharmacist Usha Sunak -- are of Indian descent and had migrated from Kenya to the UK in the 1960s, is married to Infosys co-founder Narayan Murthy's daughter Akshata Murthy. They have two daughters. Sunak was born in Southampton. His grandparents originated from British India but their birthplace Gujranwala lies in modern day Pakistan's Punjab province. As the third premier in the space of just seven weeks after Boris Johnson's partygate exit and Truss' mini-budget fiasco, the road ahead is anything but smooth for the new leader, who faces the uphill task of rescuing an economy in turmoil and uniting a deeply divided Conservative Party. (PTI)

# Eighteen killed as cyclonic storm lashes Bangladesh



DHAKA, OCT 25/--/At least 18 people, including three children, were killed in different parts of Bangladesh as the cyclonic storm Sitrang lashed the country, leaving a trail of destruction, officials said on Tuesday. Sitrang completed its landfall and weakened to a tropical depression over

Bangladesh in the early hours of Tuesday, The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.

As many as 18 deaths caused due to the cyclonic storm were reported from different parts of Bangladesh since Monday night, it quoted officials as saying.

Three members of a family died after a tree

## Israeli troops raid gunmen's hideout; 5 Palestinians killed

NABLUS (WEST BANK), OCT 25/--/Israeli forces raided a stronghold of an armed group in the occupied West Bank's second-largest city, blowing up a bomb lab and engaging in a firefight, the military said on Tuesday. Five Palestinians were killed and 20 were wounded, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. The overnight raid in the old city, or kasbah, of Nablus, was one of the deadliest in the West Bank in 2022 and comes at a time of escalating tensions.

Television footage showed flames and smoke rising in the night sky over Nablus. The army said it used shoulder-launched missiles. Local residents reported a large explosion that rocked the old city and surrounding neighbourhoods. The target of the raid was a group of Palestinian gunmen calling themselves the Lions' Den. The group was responsible for the recent fatal shooting of an Israeli soldier and several attempted attacks, the army said. The five men killed in the raid were in their 20s and 30s, the Health Ministry said. Several of the wounded were in serious condition, the ministry said.

Israel's caretaker prime minister, Yair Lapid, confirmed that Wadie Houh, a leader of the Lion's Den group, was killed in a shootout with Israeli troops overnight. In remarks at a conference, he said the operation was an accurate and deadly strike at the heart of terror infrastructure trying to carry out attacks. Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip staged a general strike in protest of Tuesday's killings. Stores remained shuttered throughout the day in Nablus, Ramallah, Gaza City and other Palestinian cities. Elsewhere in the West Bank, the army said troops fired at a suspect who threw an explosive at them during an arrest raid near the village of Nebi Saleh. The Palestinian Health Ministry reported the death of 19-year-old Qusai al-Tamimi.

Ongoing Israeli arrest raids in the West Bank pose a serious challenge to the Palestinian self-rule government, which administrators just over one-third of the territory. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas relies on security cooperation with Israel, particularly against his Islamic militant rivals, to remain in power.

At the same time, this cooperation is deeply unpopular among Palestinians who chafe against Israel's open-ended occupation, now in its 56th year. Younger Palestinians are particularly disillusioned. Small bands of gunmen have formed in some areas, first in the Jenin refugee camp, a stronghold of militants, and now in Nablus. These groups challenge the Palestinian Authority and carry out attacks against Israeli targets. In Tuesday's raid, Israeli forces blew up a bomb lab in an apartment in Nablus, the military said.

The statement said a number of militants were targeted and noted that Palestinians were reporting casualties. From the wording of the statement it was not immediately clear if some of those killed and wounded were hit in an initial ambush rather than a subsequent firefight. Abbas' spokesman, Nabil Abu Rdeneh, issued a statement in which he described the ongoing Israeli raids as a war crime.

More than 125 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli-Palestinian fighting in the West Bank and east Jerusalem this year. The fighting has surged since a series of Palestinian attacks killed 19 people in Israel in the spring. The Israeli army says most of the Palestinians killed have been militants. But stone-throwing youths protesting the incursions and others not involved in confrontations have also been killed. (AP)

## German president visits Kyiv as West mulls rebuilding plan

KYIV, OCT 25/--/Germany's president arrived in Kyiv on Tuesday for his first visit to Ukraine since the start of Russia's invasion, as Western countries mulled a massive plan for Ukrainian rebuilding when the war eventually ends. President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said after arriving that it was important to me in this phase of air attacks with drones, cruise missiles and rockets to send a signal of solidarity to Ukrainians. Eight months of pummelling by the Kremlin's forces has ruined homes, public buildings and the power grid. The World Bank estimates the damage to Ukraine so far at 350 billion euros (USD 345 billion).

The German president, whose position is largely ceremonial, made it to Ukraine on his third try. In April, he was planning to visit the country with his Polish and Baltic counterparts, but said his presence apparently wasn't wanted in Kyiv. Steinmeier has been criticised in Ukraine for allegedly cozying up to Russia during his time as Germany's foreign minister.

Last week, a planned trip was put off because of security concerns. Steinmeier's visit came as Ukrainians are bracing for less electric power this winter following a sustained Russian barrage on their infrastructure in recent weeks. Citizens in the southern city of Mykolaiv lined up for water and essential supplies on Tuesday as Ukrainian forces advanced on the nearby Russian-occupied city of Kherson.

In Berlin, meanwhile, European Union leaders brought together experts to start work on a new Marshall Plan for the future rebuilding of Ukraine a reference to the US-sponsored plan that helped revive Western European economies after World War II. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the meeting aims to discuss how to ensure and how to sustain the financing of the recovery, reconstruction and modernisation of Ukraine for years and decades to come.

Scholz, who co-hosted the meeting with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, said he's looking for nothing less than creating a new Marshall Plan for the 21st century a generational task that must begin now.

Even so, one of Moscow's allies on Tuesday urged Russia to step up the pace and scale of Ukraine's destruction.

Ramzan Kadyrov, the regional leader of Chechnya who has sent troops from the region to fight in Ukraine, urged Moscow to wipe off the map entire cities in retaliation for Ukrainian shelling of Russia's territory.

Authorities in Russia's Kursk and Belgorod regions that border Ukraine have repeatedly reported Ukrainian shelling that damaged infrastructure and residential buildings.

Our response has been too weak, Kadyrov said in a statement posted on his messaging app channel. If a shell flies into our region, entire cities must be wiped off the face of the Earth so that they don't ever think that they can fire in our direction.

Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, sought to ease public fears over Russia's use of Iranian drones to strike the country's infrastructure, claiming increasing success in shooting them down. Ukraine's forces have shot down

fell on their house in Comilla, while four people died at Bhola district after being crushed under trees and from drowning, the report said.

One death each was reported from Narail and Barguna sub-districts. The body of a child was recovered from Chittagong district. A mother and her two-year-old son died after a boat sank during the storm in Jamuna River in Sirajganj district.

One man died after the railing of a multi-story building collapsed and fell on him in Dhaka, while two women died after a tree fell on them in Gopalganj district. The body of a worker, who went missing during the storm in Patuakhali, has been recovered. A mother and her minor daughter died when a tree fell on their house in Munshiganj district, the report said.

State Minister for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Enamur Rahman at a press briefing in Dhaka on Tuesday said about 10,000 houses across Bangladesh were damaged by the cyclone. Besides, 6,000 hectares of agricultural land and 1,000 shrimp farms were also damaged, he said.

We have been able to provide shelter to one million people in 6,925 cyclone shelters. The cyclone weakened quickly after hitting the coastal districts at 10 pm (Monday), Enamur said. (PTI)

more than two-thirds of the approximately 330 Shahed drones that Russia has fired through Saturday, the head of Ukraine's intelligence service, Kyrylo Budanov, said on Monday.

Budanov said Russia's military had ordered about 1,700 drones of different



types and is rolling out a second batch of about 300 Shaheds. Although Russia and Iran deny that the Iranian-built drones have been used, the distinctive triangle-shaped Shahed-136s have rained down on civilians in Kyiv and elsewhere.

Britain's Ministry of Defence said Russia was likely to use a large number of drones to try to penetrate the increasingly effective Ukrainian air defences to substitute for Russian-made long-range precision weapons which are becoming increasingly scarce. Russia's artillery ammunition is running low, the British report said on Tuesday.

The Institute for the Study of War, in Washington, added that the slower tempo of Russian air, missile, and drone strikes possibly reflects decreasing missile and drone stockpiles and the strikes' limited effectiveness of accomplishing Russian strategic military goals.

Kyiv also says it needs more war materiel. We need more weaponry, we need more ammunition to win this war, Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal told reporters in Berlin. He added: We need tanks from our partners, from all of our partners; we need heavy armoured vehicles, we need additional artillery units, howitzers.

Despite the reduced attacks, at least seven civilians were killed and another three wounded in the latest Russian shelling of the eastern Donetsk region, Ukraine's presidential office said on Tuesday.

The attacks came as the Russians pressed their offensive on the strategically placed towns of Bakhmut and Avdiivka and also shelled other areas in the Donetsk region, which is part of Ukraine's industrial heartland of Donbas.

Ukrainian guerrillas reportedly staged several explosions in a Russian-held southern city.

A car bomb exploded on Tuesday near an office building that houses the headquarters of the Federal Security Service, Russia's top security agency, and a local television company, according to Ivan Fedorov, the mayor of the city of Melitopol.

The city's Moscow-appointed administration in Melitopol said five people were injured by the explosion. Melitopol is in the Zaporizhzhia region, part of which was captured by the Russian military early in the invasion. It was illegally annexed by Russia last month along with three other regions of Ukraine. (AP)

## Ukraine nuclear agency thickens plot over alleged dirty bomb

KYIV, OCT 25/--/Ukraine's nuclear energy operator said on Tuesday that Russian forces were performing secret work at Europe's largest nuclear power plant, activity that could shed light on Russia's claims that Kyiv's forces are preparing a provocation involving a radioactive device. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu made an unsubstantiated allegation that Ukraine was preparing to launch a so-called dirty bomb.

Shoigu made the charge in calls to his British, French, Turkish and US counterparts over the weekend. Britain, France, and the United States rejected it out of hand as transparently false. Ukraine also dismissed Moscow's claim as an attempt to distract attention from

the Kremlin's own alleged plans to detonate a dirty bomb, which uses explosives to scatter radioactive waste in an effort to sow terror.

Energatom, the Ukrainian state enterprise that operates the country's four nuclear power plants, said Russian forces have carried out secret construction work over the last week at the occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine. Russian officers controlling the area won't give access to Ukrainian staff running the plant or monitors from the UN's atomic energy watchdog that would allow them to see what they are doing, Energatom said in a statement issued on Tuesday.

Energatom said it assumes ... (the Russians) are preparing a terrorist act using nuclear materials

and radioactive waste stored at (the plant). It said there were 174 containers at the plant's dry spent fuel storage facility, each of them containing 24 assemblies of spent nuclear fuel. Destruction of these containers as a result of explosion will lead to a radiation accident and radiation contamination of several hundred square kilometres (miles) of the adjacent territory, the company said.

It called on the International Atomic Energy Agency to assess what was going on. The Kremlin has insisted that its warning of a purported Ukrainian plan to use a dirty bomb radioactive device should be taken seriously and criticized the Western nations for shrugging it off. The dismissal of Moscow's warning is unacceptable

in view of the seriousness of the danger that we have talked about, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

Speaking during a conference call with reporters, Peskov added: We again emphasise the grave danger posed by the plans hatched by the Ukrainians. The White House on Monday again underscored that the Russian allegations were false. It's just not true. We know it's not true, John Kirby, a spokesman for the National Security Council, said.

In the past, the Russians have, on occasion, blamed others for things that they were planning to do. Dirty bombs don't have the devastating destruction of a nuclear explosion but could expose broad areas to radioactive contamination. (AP)



# One player won’t win you World Cup: Madan Lal

NEW DELHI, OCT 25 /--/ As the euphoria around Virat Kohli-orchestrated Indian win over Pakistan is still settling, the 1983 World Cup-winning member Madan Lal says the 'Men in Blue' must not rely on the heroics of just one or two players if they are to lift the T20 World Cup trophy. Kohli was at his imperious best against a decent Pakistan attack as he single-handedly piloted India to memorable four-wicket win at the iconic MCG on Sunday. His 53-ball unbeaten 82 is being celebrated as one of the greatest T20 knocks. Former India coach Madan Lal feels India's openers need to provide a solid start and it's too early to say if the momentum is with India after just one victory since "in T20 cricket you never know."

"Virat Kohli's innings was amazing. I have never seen an innings like that but Virat Kohli is not going to win you every match. It's such a big tournament. It can't be won by one person," Lal told PTI in an interview.

"Australian pitches are suited to Kohli's game. He runs the ones, twos, and three and uses the big grounds to his advantage. In between, he scores the boundaries. He has become mentally tougher.

"Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul have to pull up their socks. Everybody needs to ensure that they are performing and trying their best all the time. And in every game, there will be different heroes," the 71-year-old added. The former all-rounder said what India accomplished deserves an applause but there is no



scope for complacency in such a high-stake tournament.

"India's task is yet to be completed. The journey has just begun. Even teams like the Netherlands are not weak teams. In T20, it's anybody's game.

"If you win the tournament then only you can say the mission is complete and as an Indian team we have done the job," he said. Lal, like many experts, advocated that the final XI has to be dictated by conditions and not by the reputations of the players.

"India must choose their playing XI according to the opponents they play. They should play their pacers and spinners accordingly. The same set of playing XI may not work," he said. However, Lal was sure that Rishabh Pant must feature in the playing XI. Team India's designated finisher Dinesh Karthik took the field against Pakistan. The two keeper-batters have been jostling for place for some time now.

"Pant should always play. He is a match-winner. Even if he plays five games, he is going to win you two games. So that is good enough. You should give

him a chance to play five-six matches and you will see the difference," he said. India have a relatively easy opponent in the Netherlands in Sydney on Thursday but will have to be at their best against South Africa in Perth on Sunday. Many feel that India will be favourite to top the Group 2, on their way to the semifinals, but Lal was guarded in his answer.

"I don't know whether India will go as favourites against South Africa. You have to go match by match. The wicket will come into play. What sort of combination India plays, will also be a factor. It all depends on the playing conditions against South Africa."

Lal, though, strongly believes that India will figure in the knockout stage of the event.

"In T20 cricket there are no clear favorites. South Africa is a dark horse. Australia at home is formidable. Sri Lanka is also doing well. England and New Zealand have also done very well. But definitely, India is in the top four brackets along with Australia, South Africa, and England." (PTI)

# Pakistan greats wonder if Shaheen Afridi was rushed into action

KARACHI, OCT 25 /--/ The Pakistan Cricket Board and its medical panel is facing numerous questions on whether premier fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi has recovered enough from a knee injury to be match fit for the ongoing T20 World Cup.

Former fast bowling greats, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, former captain Misbah-ul-Haq and Lahore Qalanders head coach Aaqib Javed all felt that Shaheen looked short of match fitness and practice while playing against India on Sunday in Melbourne.

This was not the Shaheen that we know. His rhythm was not there and it begs the question, has he been picked in the side too early and is he match fit now for such a big tournament?" Waqar questioned. Shaheen, who suffered a knee injury while fielding in the first Test against Sri Lanka at Galle in



mid-July, went into the crucial match against India on Sunday after bowling just 6 overs in two warm up games in Brisbane. Pakistan's former captain and head coach said when the team was in New Zealand for the tri-series before the World Cup, he had spoken to Babar Azam, Saqlain Mushtaq and the team doctor about Shaheen's fitness.

I asked them about his progress and reminded them no matter how much he bowled in the nets but playing in a World Cup match was a totally different situation, said

Waqar. I asked them if his rehab was going well then why not try out him in the tri-series instead of waiting for the World Cup. Akram also agreed and said that Shaheen looked short on match practice against India. He didn't appear to have that zip in his bowling. That is understandable because any fast bowler returning from a knee injury is concerned at first about going flat out. Let's see how quickly he gains full match fitness, he said. Aaqib, who has worked closely with Shaheen at the Lahore Qalanders franchise, said there was no doubt that Shaheen was not his usual self against India.

He looked anxious and reluctant to really bend his back and that is natural when you are making a comeback from a knee injury. I just wonder whether he has been rushed back into competitive cricket early, the former Test bowler said. (PTI)

# Stoinis smashes record fifty in Australia’s seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka

PERTH, OCT 25 /--/ Marcus Stoinis destroyed the Sri Lankan attack en route to scoring the fastest fifty by an Australian as the hosts got their T20 World Cup campaign back on track with a seven-wicket victory here on Tuesday.

Charith Asalanka's 38 not out off 25 balls helped Sri Lanka put up a fighting 157 for six after Australia put them in. Sri Lanka fought hard before they were blown away by the brute force of Stoinis who remained on 59 off 18 balls as Australia romped home in 16.3 overs. The all-rounder raced to a record half-century in 17 balls. His memorable knock included half a dozen sixes and four boundaries. Despite losing fast bowler Binura Fernando to injury in the first over, Sri Lanka kept themselves in the game for a major part of Australia's chase. The dangerous David Warner perished cheaply and skipper Aaron Finch was unable to break the shackles, increasing the pressure on the hosts. Finch struggled to 24 off his first 35 balls and ended up with 31 off 42 balls. Mitchell Marsh scored a run-a-ball 17



before Glenn Maxwell came up with a couple of sixes and fours in his 12-ball 23 to release some pressure. During his short stay, Maxwell suffered a nasty blow on the right side of helmet grill while trying to pull a rising delivery from Lahiru Kumara. The all-rounder fell attempting another big hit but substitute Ashen Bandara

took a brilliant catch very close to the deep midwicket boundary to leave Sri Lanka at 89 for three in the 13th over. While Finch struggled at the other end, Stoinis came in and produced a barrage of sixes and fours to effectively shut the door on Sri Lanka.

Stoinis, and the rest of the batters, targeted star Sri Lanka spinner Wanindu

# Exhausted Hardik gets recovery break, focus on KL Rahul at nets

SYDNEY, OCT 25 /--/ KL Rahul's lack of footwork against quality pace attack was monitored by the eagle-eyed Indian coaching staff during the team's net session on Monday while exhausted Hardik Pandya was given a recovery break ahead of the T20 World Cup match against the Netherlands.

Since the next match is against the Netherlands on Thursday, India can afford to rest Pandya, if need be, and may try out Deepak Hooda, who can bat at any position and also bowl fast off-breaks inside the powerplay overs. But, there are no conclusive indications that Pandya may miss a World Cup match even if it's against a weaker side like the Netherlands. The entire bowling unit (save R Ashwin), along with all-rounder Pandya, were given complete rest. With no training on the eve of the game, the fast bowlers will return fresh for the next game. In case of Pandya, his workload in the previous game -- against Pakistan -- was maximum and he did suffer from cramps towards the end

of the Indian run chase. The reason (of Pandya's cramps) is believed to be the overall dimensions of the MCG ground where a lot of drives don't travel to the boundary and while batters need to sprint for that extra run, fielders are covering extra yards in the deep. Not to forget, Hardik bowled four overs at an average speed of close to 140 clicks since Axar Patel flopped badly. There is no other player who is more important than Pandya when it comes to the balance of the side and the team management does keep him wrapped in cotton wool, knowing that he is the team's x-factor in big games. While leaving the mixed zone, Pandya was asked if his cramps were serious.

"No, I don't think so. It might be because I have never run so many twos in a T20 International," he had replied. India might have won one of the most thrilling as well as emotionally exhausting T20I games in World Cup history against Pakistan but there was no let-up in intensity as Virat Kohli, Rohit



Sharma, KL Rahul, Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant, Deepak Hooda were all back at the SCG nets for a solid two-hour session. The biggest

complaint against Rahul is that he never scores big when the occasion demands. He has failed against Pakistan in three of the last four games even as he had some sizzling knocks in bilateral series games against Australia and South Africa.

The bowlers have now decoded that an "imaginary fourth off-stump" line to Rahul at a good pace can yield result. At the start of the innings, a delivery on the channel or with a hint of inward movement off the track catches him off guard as he has either been played or adjudged leg before. In fact, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur and Harshal Patel were continuously told to bowl outside the off-stump. Rahul didn't look too comfortable on one occasion as he was forced to close the face of his bat. Had it been a match situation, it would have kept the point fielder interested.

When Yuzvendra Chahal bowled, Rahul tried to rock back and pull a few towards mid wicket against the turn. (PTI)

# To hell with spirit of game: Hardik on ‘Mankading’

DUBAI, OCT 25 /--/ "To hell with the spirit of the game, we need to stop making a fuss about this." Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya is very clear in his head how the run out of the batter, backing up far at the non-striker's end should be perceived. Once considered unfair play, although legal, in the gentleman's game, the ICC has now termed these kind of dismissals as 'run out'. Since October 1, it no longer sits in the 'unfair play' section of its rule book. However, the debate continues if such dismissals are against the 'spirit of game'.

"Personally, I have no problem with it (running out for backing up far at the non-striker's end), said Pandya, who played a key role in India's dramatic four-wicket win over arch-rivals Pakistan in their T20 World Cup opening match.

"If I am walking out (of the crease) and someone runs me out, that is my mistake. He (bowler who runs him out) is using the rule to his advantage, that is fine, that's not a big deal," he said in an ICC Review Podcast, recorded before the T20 World Cup. The issue became a hot topic of discussion when Deepti Sharmaranout Charlie Dean at the non-striker's end for leaving her crease too early and handed India a historic 3-0 clean sweep in women's ODI series in England, last month. Such run-outs are known as Mankading, harking back to the first such dismissal crafted by Vinoo Mankad when he ran out Bill Brown at the non-strikers end in this fashion twice in the 1947-48 Test



series against Australia.

"We need to stop making a fuss about this (running out at non-striker's end). It is a rule as simple as that. To hell with the spirit of the game," Pandya said. He also said match-ups between particular opposing players do not work in the shortest format.

"Match-ups, honestly, they are over-rated. I don't mind saying that. In Test and ODI cricket, it might work but I don't believe it in T20 cricket. I am never worried about match-ups.

"For me match-ups do not work. Where I bat and the situations I get into, I don't generally get the option of match-ups. It's more of people who are batting at top-3 or top-4 who kind of get the chance to see

all the bowlers bowling.

"For me specially, it is just the situation. There are times when a bowler whom I want to take on is bowling but if the situation does not demand I don't take the risk because it is going to harm my team. I am never okay with that." Asked about his cricketing ambitions, Pandya said: "Something I have been focussing since I made a comeback on being the best version of myself, get the best out of me. I am running towards I won't say greatness but running towards excellence.

"If I want to achieve something, it's excellence. At the end of my career, if I sit down and if I have achieved excellence in one point in time, that will be okay." (PTI)

# GAMES NOTES

## Sindhu back in top 5, Prannoy moves to 12th in latest BWF rankings

NEW DELHI, OCT 25 /--/ Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and Thomas Cup winner HS Prannoy gained a spot each to reach the 5th and 12th positions in women's and men's singles world rankings released on Tuesday. Sindhu, who has not played any tournament since winning gold in the Commonwealth Games in August due to an ankle injury, possesses 87218 points from 26 tournaments. This is after three years that Sindhu, a former world no. 2, has regained her place in the top 5. The former world champion from Hyderabad resumed her training on Monday after recovering from the injury. In the men's singles, Prannoy continued his ascendancy after a pre-quarterfinal finish at the Denmark Open Super 750. The 30-year-old, who is ranked number one in the Race to Guangzhou ranking, has 64,330 points from 26 tournaments. CWG champion Lakshya Sen and CWG bronze medallist Kidambi Srikanth are static at number 8 and 11. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who also claimed a maiden gold in Birmingham, too held on to their number 8 rankings in the men's doubles. The pairing of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila jumped two places to grab the 19th spot. Women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand and mixed doubles pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto achieved a new career-high ranking of 27 and 29 respectively. However, women's doubles combination of Ashwini Ponappa and N Sikki Reddy dropped to 24th, while two-time CWG gold medallist Saina Nehwal slipped a place to 33rd in the women's singles rankings. (PTI)

## FIFA World Cup 2022: Qatar emir slams ‘unprecedented’ campaign against hosts

DOHA, OCT 25 /--/ Qatar has been hit by an "unprecedented campaign" of criticism over preparations for the football World Cup, its ruler Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani said Tuesday.

"Since we won the honour of hosting the World Cup, Qatar has been subjected to an unprecedented campaign that no host country has ever faced," the emir said in a speech. FIFA awarded the World Cup to Qatar in 2010 and it has since spent tens of billions of dollars on preparations. But the energy-rich Gulf state has faced constant scrutiny over its treatment of foreign workers as well as LGBTQ and women's rights.

"We initially dealt with the matter in good faith, and even considered that some criticism was positive and useful, helping us to develop aspects of ours that need to be developed," the emir told Qatar's legislative council.

"But it soon became clear to us that the campaign continues, expands and includes fabrication and double standards, until it reached an amount of ferocity that made many question, unfortunately, about the real reasons and motives behind this campaign," he said. FIFA president Gianni Infantino has said the Qatar World Cup, the first in an Arab nation, will be the "best ever". (AFP)

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