

## MARKET MAYHEM

### Junglighat Sunday market proves to be a nightmare for residents



KARTIK

PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/The weekly Sunday market at Junglighat School has become a nuisance for residents. Vendors set up their stalls at the market in the morning and continue to operate till evening. A large number of residents of the city and nearby villages visit the market

to purchase vegetables and other goods at cheaper rates. On every Sunday, hundreds of vendors occupy the entire stretch from Junglighat School to Durga pandal and beyond and the entire road stretch is blocked by hawkers and shoppers as well. While the roads remain blocked for the entire day, motorists residing in the nearby locality are stuck as they

cannot use the road because of the crowds. Besides, cleanliness goes for a toss in the area as the entire area gets littered and safaiwalas of PBMCC have to clean the road the next day.

Since there is no public toilet, the vendors are seen easing themselves out in the open. This has proved to be a serious health hazard. Since there is a rush among the hawkers to occupy space to set up their stall, most of the hawkers start occupying space from Saturday night onwards. Some of these hawkers also respond to nature's call near the seashore area making mockery of the Swachh Bharat Mission of the government.

Most of these vendors are unregistered and one can witness Sunday chaos in the market. Residents feel that the best way to end this nightmare is that these hawkers should be asked to shift the market to the Sunlight School playground. Since the playground has a huge space it can accommodate hundreds of hawkers and the people can park their vehicles at roadside with supervision of traffic Police.

## MP inaugurates 'Little Andaman'

### A new kids & pet accessories showroom at Junglighat



PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/ Little Andaman, a new kids & pet accessories showroom opened its doors for the first time on 17th June. The event started at 9.00 am. The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma cut the ribbon marking the inauguration of the new showroom, located near Annai Agency, Junglighat, Port Blair, South Andaman. Little Andaman is exclusively for kids & pets and offers accessories & clothes for children ages 0-8, and all pet accessories & food. Little Andaman is committed to creating perfect accessories & clothing that meets the needs of children's daily lifestyles. The brand offers high quality, functional gear for toddlers and kids upto 8 years at affordable prices. Its main focus is on producing new and modern styles that make children comfortable and safe." said David Moses, Director of Yireh Marketing. David Moses, Director of Yireh Marketing said that Little Andaman is looking forward to becoming a member of the local community and building a reputation for excellence among local parents as well as the pet lovers and international visitors on holiday in the city. The new showroom located near Annai Agency, Junglighat, Port Blair will remain open from 10.00 am until 8.00 pm on Monday to Saturday, people can get navigation through Google maps.

## Isles' boy Anooshil Chakrabarty awarded Best Debut Actor



PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/- Islands first genuine Bollywood Actor, who has acted in many big banner Hindi films, Mr. Anooshil Chakrabarty has been awarded with the best debut actor at the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke & Lifestyle Award-2022. The award ceremony was inaugurated by Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India, Mr. Ramdas Athawale on 15th Oct 2022, at the 5 star Orchid Hotel, Mumbai.



## Nischintapur bridge repaired

KURMA RAO

MAYABUNDER, OCT 17/--/The Nischintapur wooden bridge, Kalighat Panchayat in Diglipur in North & Middle Andaman which collapsed

recently and was closed for commuters have been repaired. The District administration, N&M Andaman in association with Forest and Panchayat, repaired the bridge within four days.

## MP urges Agriculture Minister for Copra procurement under PSS

PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Union Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to direct National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) to procure Copra from Andaman and Nicobar Islands under Price Support Scheme. In a letter addressed to the Union Minister, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Mr Sharma mentioned that a large number of farmers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including the majority of brothers and sisters of Nicobari Tribal Community and

farmers of Great Nicobar (Campbell Bay) depend on Copra farming for their livelihood. He added that due to delay in procurement of these Copra under Price Support Scheme of Government of India, presently Copra farmers of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, especially Copra producers of entire Nicobar District are being exploited by middlemen, who are procuring Copra from them at very cheap price. As with time, Copra loses weight and it causes further loss to the Copra farmers, the Member of Parliament requested the Minister for an early action in this regard.



## Jitendra Narain, ex-CS suspended

PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/ The Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India on Monday suspended Mr. Jitendra Narain, former Chief Secretary and senior IAS Officer who is accused in a alleged rape charges by a women in Port Blair. In an official statement, the MHA said that it received a report on October 16 2022, from the Andaman & Nicobar Police regarding the alleged "sexual assault" of a lady by the Narain, the then Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and others.

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# Bonding in grief: Yadav clan comes together to immerse Mulayam's ashes in Haridwar

**SAIFAI, OCT 17** /--/The Yadav family and Samajwadi Party workers on Monday travelled to Haridwar to immerse in Ganga the ashes of party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, who had died on October 10 in a Gurugram hospital.

SP President Akhilesh Yadav, Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party chief and his uncle, Shivpal Singh Yadav, Akhilesh's wife Dimple Yadav, Aparna Yadav, the younger daughter-in-law of Mulayam Singh, and other family members flew from

Saifai airstrip to Jollygrant airport in Dehradun for their forward journey to Haridwar. The 82-year-old SP founder had died in Gurugram's Medanta Hospital after remaining in ICU on lifesaving drugs for close to a week. The Yadav clan came together to pay last tributes to the departed leader who was also a former defence minister of the country. The veteran socialist leader had been cremated with full state honours last Tuesday, near the place where his first wife Malti Devi was cremated in Saifai, his

native village, in Etawah district.

His son Akhilesh Yadav had lit the funeral pyre in the village's mela ground, where people lined up to see a glimpse of the grand leader, who had led Uttar Pradesh government four times as chief minister of the state. According to the pictures shared on the Samajwadi Party's official Twitter handle, Akhilesh Yadav, Dimple Yadav, and Shivpal Singh Yadav were seen sitting together in the aircraft during their journey to Dehradun. Shivpal Singh, who had

joined hands with Akhilesh in the recent Assembly election and won the Jaswant Nagar seat on an SP ticket, had fallen out with his nephew after the polls.

Their bickering has been talked about frequently in political circles.

But since the party patron's death, the uncle-nephew duo has been seen standing together on different occasions despite a breach in their relationship. Former MP Dharmendra Yadav, party national general secretary Ram Gopal Yadav, and other

family members also were present on the occasion. Akhilesh's children also joined the family in the ritual and were seen standing by their parents in the ritual on the Ganga ghat in Haridwar.

Earlier in the day, Mulayam Singh's brother Abhay Ram Singh, Shivpal Yadav's son and state president of Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party, Aditya Yadav, former MP Tej Pratap Singh, and a family priest arrived at the Saifai airstrip in a convoy of cars. According to Acharya Radha Mohan Mishra from

Mathura-Vrindavan, who recited the Garuda Purana' in Saifai during rituals after the death, the immersion of the ashes in the holy river was done as per Vedic rituals. The Garuda Katha' is being recited since last Wednesday in the presence of family members in Saifai. Mishra said that Garuda Path' will continue till October 21 and will be concluded with a yagya for the peace of the departed.

The party also shared video and pictures showing Akhilesh Yadav sitting in a car with the urn containing the ashes. (PTI)

## Rajasthan Guv meets with Indian ambassadors to 5 countries

**JAIPUR, OCT 17** /--/ Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra on Monday discussed export and investment opportunities with Indian ambassadors to five countries at the Raj Bhawan here.

Ambassadors Rajesh Vaishnav (Morocco), Sanjay Rana (Bulgaria), Prashant Agarwal (Namibia), Krishna Dan Deval (Armenia) and Vishnu Kumar Sharma (South Sudan) met with Mishra, an official statement said.

It said Mishra enquired about export possibilities for Rajasthan abroad.

The governor said there was a need to work on exporting Rajasthan's products more and motivating people to invest in tourism, gems and jewellery industries in the state, according to the statement.

The ambassadors informed the governor that there was immense potential in foreign countries for Rajasthan's products, it said.

It is necessary that people living abroad are encouraged to invest in Rajasthan, Mishra added. (PTI)

## Oppn parties announce protests on issue of inclusion of non-local voters in J&K

**JAMMU, OCT 17** /--/A committee formed by opposition parties against the inclusion of non-locals in the electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday decided to hold protests to mobilise public support on the issue.

The panel, which included all the five constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) and several other political parties like the Congress and the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) met her for the first time since it was constituted on October 8.

After discussions, we have decided to go to the people and inform them about the dangers posed by the inclusion of non-locals as voters in J&K. "Our protests on the roads will be peaceful and in accordance with our constitutional rights, senior National Conference leader and MP Hasnain Masoodi told reporters after the meeting at the residence of PAGD chairperson and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah here.

Flanked by members of the committee including former minister Lal Singh of DSSP, Awami National Conference president Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, and former MP Sheikh Abdul Rehman, Masoodi said the final decision to start the public outreach programme will be taken after consultation with senior leaders.

We will put forth the panel's view before the senior leadership and they will take a final call on the timing of the start of the campaign, he said, adding this will be done very soon. One of the leaders attending the meeting said all members of the panel were present except former minister and DSS president Gulchain Singh Charak due to a "death in his family". However, three more representatives of different religious and social groups attended the meeting after they were included in the panel, he said. Masoodi said all the participants are against giving voting rights to non-locals as it will be tantamount to the disenfranchisement of the local voters. Responding to a question about the mode of the public outreach programme, he said We will be on the roads as per our rights given by the Constitution.... We will get the people together as we are all united on this issue. The National Conference leader criticised the now-revoked order of the Deputy Commissioner of Jammu authorising tehsildars (revenue officials) to issue certificates of residence to those residing in the winter capital for more than one year to facilitate their entry in the ongoing special summary revision of electoral rolls.

The order of the DC Jammu has reportedly been withdrawn but where is its replacement? The senior leaders are of the view that the government is deliberately keeping the people uninformed while carrying out the exercise, he said. He alleged deliberate attempts are being made to divide the people of the two regions Kashmir and Jammu and simultaneously both are the "targets of disempowerment".

Masoodi cautioned the government against any move to include non-locals in the voter list and said only the state subjects (of J&K) have the right to vote in the assembly elections in accordance with our own J&K representation of Peoples Act 1957. The case related to the abrogation of Article 370 is before the Supreme Court which has yet to decide on the issue.

"The government instead of making any changes should conduct the elections in accordance with the 1957 Act till the final decision of the apex court, he said. PAGD, an amalgam of five political parties- National Conference, PDP, CPI(M), CPM and Awami National Conference is campaigning for the restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir within the Indian Constitution. Hardening its stand on the issue of inclusion of non-locals as voters in Jammu and Kashmir despite clarification by the administration, PAGD had held two meetings - the first in Srinagar on August 22 and the second in Jammu on September 10. The issue surfaced when the then chief electoral officer Hirdesh Kumar in August said Jammu and Kashmir is likely to get around 25 lakh additional voters, including outsiders, after the special summary revision of electoral rolls being held for the first time after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Following an outcry, the Union Territory administration later clarified that this revision of electoral rolls will cover existing residents of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the increase in numbers will be of the voters who have attained the age of 18 years as of October 1, 2022, or earlier: (PTI)



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the 2nd convocation of Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar

# Gap between internal and external security reducing: Defence Minister, refers to 'hybrid' war

**GANDHINAGAR, OCT 17** /--/Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said the gap between internal and external security is reducing sharply in the last two decades.

He also said the independent media, judiciary, NGOs and dynamic democracy can be misused to destroy the security of a nation.

Addressing the second convocation of the Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) at Lavad village in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district, Singh said "the lines between the internal and external security almost disappear in a hybrid war". He stressed the need for state agencies to work in an integrated manner as security challenges like terrorism, cyber warfare, human trafficking, money laundering, drug abuse etc are internally connected though they appear separate. With the changing times, there has been a tremendous change in security dimensions, he said. "We generally see security from two aspects - internal and external. But in the last two decades, it has been seen that the gap between internal and external security is reducing," Singh said.

The defence minister

said social media, NGOs, the judiciary and the democracy of a country can be misused by forces working to destroy its security.

"An independent social media can be used to carry out systematic propaganda. Freedom of social media is not bad, media should be free, but if media is free it can be misused...Attempts are made to establish and propagate dangerous and controversial things in the name of freedom of expression," he said. "If NGOs have freedom, efforts are made to use NGOs in such a way that the entire system of the country is paralysed. If the judiciary has freedom, efforts are made to use it to stop or slow down the works of development using the legal system. If a country has a dynamic democracy, then an effort is made to infiltrate political parties to attack its unity and security," Singh said.

He said that these are not mere imaginations, but words of strategists detailed in security documents of some countries.

Singh gave the example of some media reports which said that 50 per cent of tweets in connection with the case of violence at Koregaon-Bhima (in Maharashtra's Pune district

in 2018) originated from Pakistan.

It becomes difficult to determine when the definitions of terrorism and insurgency/extremism overlap and their objectives become one, he said. "Terrorism is coming up with massive challenges in every dimension of the system and not just at the level of bombs and guns. I would like to discuss hybrid war here.

In a hybrid war, the line between internal and external security almost vanishes," he said while addressing the graduating students of the RRU. "Information warfare" is about the possibility of fake news and hate content being spread in society through Facebook and Whatsapp, Singh said. "Outwardly it appears like some serious discussions are being held in a seminar, but it is not the truth. Internally, there is a possibility of spreading deceptive and wrong facts that can fill any society with hate and violence," the defence minister said.

He said anti-social elements are "so fast and advanced" that even police agencies are deceived, and they cannot make out what is going in front of them. "We have to remain alert of new security challenges...As new technologies develop,

so are their dangers. We must understand this truth," he said.

Singh said the example of Russia banning Meta, the parent company of Facebook, by calling it a "terrorist organisation" shows how the meaning of war has changed. He also stressed the importance of "coexistence" and said India "neither annexed nor subjugated" but motivated other countries. Even if India becomes a developed country and highly knowledgeable, it cannot be secured until we emerge from the "slave mentality," the defence minister said.

"We should rid ourselves of slave mentality. For that, we need to know the facts of the history of our security," he said and cited examples of how India strongly resisted and defeated invaders in ancient times.

Singh said India used to be a prosperous and secure country in ancient times. "We are told that if we were so prosperous and secure then how we were subjugated by external powers? We were among the most ancient civilisations, but I can say with confidence that we are the only living civilisation....It can only be possible when our 'raksha kavach' (security cover) is very strong," he added. (PTI)

## Kerala Guv's remarks anti-Constitutional, Prez should intervene: CPI(M)

**NEW DELHI, OCT 17** /--/President Droupadi Murmu should intervene to prevent Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan from making "anti-Constitutional and anti-democratic" remarks, the CPI(M) said on Monday.

Amid an ongoing tussle between the ruling LDF in Kerala and the Raj Bhavan over various issues, including appointments to universities, Governor Khan issued a stern warning that statements by any Left minister that lower the dignity of his office would invite action, including "withdrawal of pleasure". According to legal and Constitutional expert PDT Achari, withdrawal of pleasure means sacking of a minister or a chief minister by a governor. But the constitutional power has its limitations as a minister can be sacked only on the advise of a chief minister, and a governor can only use the power on the advise of the chief minister, he said. On Khan's remarks, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said, "This amounts to saying that the governor can dismiss a minister by withdrawing his pleasure."

By making such a statement, Khan has only "exposed his political bias and hostility" towards the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government, it said.

Such dictatorial powers are not vested with the governor by the Constitution, the Left party said in a statement. "The President of India should intervene to prevent the Kerala governor from making such anti-Constitutional and anti-democratic statements," it said. The CPI(M) alleged that Khan has been acting in a manner that does not behove the Constitutional post that he holds. Khan and the ruling Left front in Kerala have been at loggerheads for some time over the signing of certain controversial legislations such as the Lok Ayukta and University Laws Amendment Bills passed by the state assembly, and appointments to universities in the state. (PTI)

## Rahul Gandhi should stop Bharat Jodo Yatra, focus on poll-bound Himachal Pradesh & Gujarat: Cong MP Francisco Sardinha

**PANAJI, OCT 17** /--/Congress MP and former Goa chief minister Francisco Sardinha on Monday said Rahul Gandhi should stop the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra and concentrate on the poll-bound states of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat.

He claimed that Congress is the "only party" which can defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra is scheduled to cover a distance of 3,570 km in 150 days. It started on September 7 from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu and will conclude in Jammu and Kashmir: Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the yatra, has so far covered four states - Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The Bharat Jodo Yatra is very important for the Congress. We want the party to grow at the grassroot level. He (Rahul Gandhi) has done a fantastic job, but now I want Rahulji to stop immediately and go to Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat where there are elections, Sardinha told reporters in Panaji during polling for the All India Congress Committee (AICC) president's post.

The Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections will be held in a single phase on November 12 and the results will be declared on December 8.

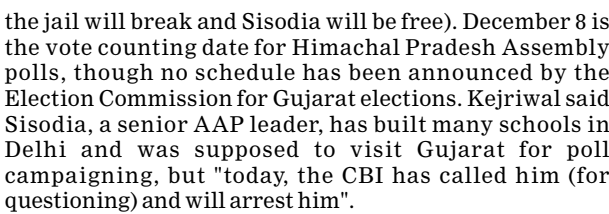
The Election Commission has not yet announced the poll schedule for Gujarat, Sardinha said Rahul Gandhi needs to awaken the people of these two states so that they vote for the Congress, he said.

The "only party" which can pose a challenge to the BJP and defeat it is the Indian National Congress, the Lok Sabha member from South Goa said. Commenting on the polls underway on Monday for the new AICC chief, Sardinha said Shashi Tharoor should have withdrawn from the poll race, to pave the way for Congress veteran Mallikarjun Kharge to get elected unopposed. "Ninety nine per cent of the Congressmen from Goa will vote for Mallikarjun Kharge," he said. (PTI)

## BJP wants to stop Sisodia from campaigning in Gujarat: Kejriwal

**UNJHA, OCT 17** /--/Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday claimed the BJP-led government at the Centre plans to keep his deputy Manish Sisodia in jail till the declaration of Gujarat Assembly poll results as it does not want him to campaign in the state.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday started questioning Delhi deputy chief minister Sisodia in connection with alleged irregularities in implementation of the 2021-22 Delhi excise policy. Assembly polls in the western state, being ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the past 27 years, are likely to be held in the next two months. The AAP has been positioning itself as the main political challenger of the BJP in the state. Addressing a rally in Unjha in Mehsana district, Kejriwal said when his party comes to power on December 8, "jail ke taale tootenge, Manish Sisodia chhootenge" (the locks of



the jail will break and Sisodia will be free). December 8 is the vote counting date for Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls, though no schedule has been announced by the Election Commission for Gujarat elections. Kejriwal said Sisodia, a senior AAP leader, has built many schools in Delhi and was supposed to visit Gujarat for poll campaigning, but "today, the CBI has called him (for questioning) and will arrest him".

"They will keep him (Sisodia) behind bars till December 8. They do not want him to campaign here. But when the AAP comes to power in Gujarat on December 8, 'jail ke taale tootenge, Manish Sisodia chhootenge'," said the AAP leader, repeating his newly-coined slogan three times.

Kejriwal, on the second day of his two-day visit to the state, asked voters to give his party at least 150 seats in the 182-member Gujarat Assembly as a simple majority would allow the BJP to wean away some of the MLAs to bring down the government. The AAP convener was accompanied by party colleague and Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann. The Delhi CM reiterated promises of withdrawing cases against those involved in agitations, free electricity up to 300 units and financial assistance of Rs 1,000 to each woman if the AAP comes to power in Gujarat. (PTI)



# DIGITAL INDIA INITIATIVE

## SBI distributes QR Codes to traders, auto, jeep drivers at Mithakhari



PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/ As part of the Digital India Initiative, QR Code were distributed to Traders, Jeep & Auto Rickshaw Operators by State Bank of India, Port Blair at a function held at the Forest Recreational Hall, Muslim Basti, Mithakhari on Sunday. During the programme, CGM, SBI distributed QR Codes to all Jeep Drivers, Auto Drivers and Traders.

The SBI team also visited the proposed SBI branch at Muslimbasti near Tushnabad Junction. The SBI

officers also informed about the banking related benefits the villagers in this region will get after opening of the SBI branch. Mr Mohd Safiq Pradhan GP Mithakhari on behalf of the people of the village have expressed gratitude to the SBI team for visiting their village and also for opening a SBI Branch at this place.

Mr. PremAnupSinha, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India Kolkata Circle, Mr.Sujay Kr. Yadav, General Manager State Bank of India

Kolkata Circle, Mr. Prabhas Bose, Deputy General Manager, State Bank of India Kolkata Circle, Mr. Suman Bakshi, Regional Manager State Bank of India A&N Islands, Mr. MohdSafiq, Pradhan GP Mithakhari, Mr. P. A Sharfuddin, ZillaParishad Member, Mithakhari, Mr. T Mohammed Rafique, Panchayat Samiti Member Mithakhari, PRI's of GP Mithakhari, Mr. C. Mohd Arif, President ANJDWU and villagers of Mithakhari were present on the occasion.



Admiral D.K. Joshi (Retd.), Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency participated in the virtual release of 12th installment of financial benefit to the beneficiaries under PM Kisan Saman Nidhi Scheme by Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India & inauguration of two-day Agri Startup Conclave and 600 District Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samrudhi Kendra outlets. —PIX: IP&T

### Sailing of MV Swaraj Dweep

PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/ MV Swaraj Dweep will sail for Port Blair to Chennai on 18th October 2022 at 1600 hrs. Excess baggage will be loaded from 1400 Hrs to 1600 Hrs on 17.10.2022 i.e. one day prior to sailing of the vessel. Embarkation of passengers will commence from 1400 Hrs to 1500 Hrs on 18.10.2022.



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### MV Kalighat to sail at 1400 hrs today

PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/ Due to Administrative reasons the scheduled departure time of the vessel MV Kalighat for Campbell Bay via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teresa, Katchal & Nancowry (all

ports) on 18TH October .2022 at 1000 Hrs from Haddo Wharf has been revised. Now the vessel will sail for Campbell Bay via all ports on the same day at 1400 Hrs instead of 1000 Hrs from Haddo Wharf.



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**Ellen DeGeneres**

## Ukraine war: 4 mn children driven into poverty

The economic fallout due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has pushed four million children into poverty in eastern Europe and Central Asia. "Children are bearing the heaviest burden of the economic crisis caused by the war in Ukraine," UNICEF said. The conflict "and rising inflation have driven an additional four million children across eastern Europe and Central Asia into poverty, a 19 percent increase since 2021", the UNICEF said after analysing data from 22 countries to come to this conclusion that Russian and Ukrainian children have been most affected since Moscow's attack on its neighbour in February. Children are bearing the heaviest burden of the economic crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. While children make up 25 per cent of the population, they account for nearly 40 per cent of the additional 10.4 million people experiencing poverty this year. "Russia accounts for nearly three-quarters of the total increase in the number of children living in poverty due to the Ukraine war and a cost-of-living crisis across the region, with an additional 2.8 million children now living in households below the poverty line," the UNICEF found.

"Ukraine is home to half a million additional children living in poverty, the second largest share," the UNICEF noted. Romania followed closely behind, with a further 110,000 children in poverty. "Children all over the region are being swept up in this war's terrible wake," said UNICEF regional director for Europe and Central Asia, Afshan Khan. "If we don't support these children and families now, the steep rise in child poverty will almost certainly result in lost lives, lost learning, and lost futures." Learning losses could be equivalent to an additional 1,17,000 children dropping out of school this year alone, the study notes.

The agency explained that the poorer the family is, the greater the proportion of its income it needs to spend on food and fuel. This leaves less for children's healthcare and education. They are also "more at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse". The UNICEF said that this could translate into additional 4,500 children dying before their first birthdays. On the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, UNICEF had warned that the ripple effects of the increase in child poverty could result in a steep rise in school dropouts and infant mortality. The UNICEF has recently partnered with the EU Commission and several EU countries to pilot the EU Child Guarantee initiative to mitigate the impact of poverty on children and provide them with opportunities to thrive in adulthood. With more children and families now being pushed into poverty, a robust response is warranted across the region.

# Citizens Committee blames Centre for failing to quell NE Delhi riots

## REFLEX ACTION

Satyaki Chakraborty

A Citizens Committee comprising former Supreme Court and High Court judges and a former Home Secretary of the Union Government have authored a report raising serious questions about the role of the news media, social media, Bharatiya Janata Party ('BJP') and Hindu nationalist leaders, the Delhi police, and both the Union Government as well as the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, in either fomenting the North East Delhi riots of February 2020, or not doing enough to quell them.

The report, titled Uncertain Justice: A Citizens Committee Report on the North East Delhi Violence 2020, has been authored by Justice Madan B. Lokur, former Supreme Court judge; Justice A.P. Shah, former Chief Justice of the Madras and Delhi High Courts and former Chairman, Law Commission of India; Justice R.S. Sodhi, former Delhi High Court judge; Justice Anjana Prakash, former Patna High Court judge; and G.K. Pillai, retired Indian Administrative Service officer and former Home Secretary of the Union Government. Justice Lokur chaired the committee. The report examines different facets of the violence in Delhi: the context of and build-up to the riots, the state's response through the entire episode, the polarisation created by sections of the electronic and social media, the legal strength of the Delhi police's investigation into the violence, and the larger implications of the way the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act ('UAPA') was used.

The report sets out the context of the months preceding the riots. The Muslim community was dealing with insecurity due to the potential combined effect of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act ('CAA'), 2019 and the proposed National Register of Citizens, and several members of the community had joined nationwide anti-CAA protests. BJP leaders, in the party's election campaign for the Delhi Assembly elections in early 2020, continuously painted the anti-CAA protestors as traitors, and encouraged violence against them. The report closely examines the days leading to the riots and concludes that hateful content purveyed in the area on February 22 and 23 by certain BJP leaders and Hindu nationalists "was

designed to incite, exhort and provoke actions of violence and ... acted as an immediate trigger to the break-out."

It suggests that the violence started between the pro-CAA and anti-CAA camps, but eventually descended into a communal clash between Hindus and Muslims, as Muslim homes, businesses, places of worship were especially targeted, leading to the death of 40 Muslims, apart from 13 Hindus. The report castigates the State's response to the violence, characterising all stages of the violence "by a frightening undermining of democratic values."

It criticises the Delhi Police for failing to reign in hate speech by political leaders in the run up to the riots, and states that the police allegedly assisted mobs and attacked Muslim civilians, indicating police complicity in the violence. It calls for a court-monitored independent investigation into the police failures. It also calls the role of the Union Home Affairs Ministry "wholly inadequate", and demands a serious examination of its failure to respond to the violence. It claims that the Ministry did not avail of any effective steps to respond to the spread of violence, and didn't increase police deployment on the days of the riots. It holds that a "comprehensive, independent review of the body of known intelligence, total police and other security force strength, and sequence of deployment across affected areas during the days of violence, is urgently required."

It also censures the Delhi government for doing little to mediate between the two communities in conflict in the days leading up to the violence, or calm the situation. It also holds it guilty of not providing timely and adequate relief and compensation to the victims of the violence. The report analysed a chargesheet filed by the police alleging "that there was a pre-planned conspiracy to instigate the violence

which involved terrorist acts" and in which the UAPA was invoked, and finds that it lacks credibility. It also finds that the legal threshold for alleging crimes or terrorism is not met, and casts doubt on the claims made in the chargesheet. It comes down on the police's investigation in other cases registered under the India Penal Code, for "bearing the taint of tutoring and fabrication", and describes most of the witness statements as 'unreliable'. It calls the entire direction of the investigation 'skewed', and submits that "only an impartial and rigorous investigation can shed light on the truth, ensure accountability, and do justice to the victims of the violence."

It also criticises the misuse of the UAPA by the police in order to incongruously target anti-CAA protestors for allegedly committing crimes against Muslims, and calls for a comprehensive review of the UAPA. The report states that the committee's examination of the violence led it to "discern broader implications impacting constitutional values and the health of democracy in India. The microcosm of an engineered anti-Muslim narrative leading to the violence signals the growing fusion of hate messaging in public discourse with the actual incidence of violence. There seems to be a deafening lack of institutional will to act against hateful content."

It refers to the effective and balanced regulation of broadcasting and social media as an urgent challenge. It further reflects that "capacity for empathetic thought and action to enable harmonious interactions, and most importantly, imagination to resolve conflict are essential attributes for a plural society to last in the long run. ... The only way forward is for the state to act towards justice harboured in the conjoined practice of fraternity, equality and freedom."

It concludes by demanding the setting up of a Commission of Inquiry to probe the riots; it also points out "that the terms of reference and the choice of the Chairperson for the proposed Commission of Inquiry assure the affected communities of its independent and effective functioning." (IPA)



A lady vendor sells earthen lamps and other puja items ahead of the upcoming festival of lights, Diwali, in north Kolkata--Arijit Ganguly

## CPI has to take key role in building broader unity against ruling BJP

The Communist Party of India (CPI) is holding its 24th Party Congress at Vijayawada on October 14 to 18 this year at a crucial time of the country in terms of both politics and economy. There has been a decisive shift in the political direction of India towards farright in the last four years since the last Party Congress of CPI in 2018. The delegates at the Vijayawada congress will have to discuss in depth the latest political and economic developments in the country and chart out the steps to build broadest possible unity of the secular forces against the ruling BJP.

The BJP since its victory in the last Lok Sabha elections in 2019 has been working for the polarisation of the Indian nation on the religious lines and in the last three years since the Lok Sabha polls, the process has been further accentuated by weakening the secular fabric of the country and endangering the institutions guaranteed by the Constitution. The ruling BJP in association with the Sangh Parivar has mobilised all its resources to win the coming Lok Sabha elections scheduled in April/ May 2024. If the BJP alliance wins in 2024 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi gets his third term, the RSS will go ahead to implement its programme of making India a Hindu Rashtira by 2025, the centenary year of the founding of the RSS. The CPI, according to its draft political resolution to be discussed at the 24th Congress, is clear about the role of the Left in defending the fundamental interests and the people and

that can be done by bringing together like minded political parties and groups together through agreement on a broad agenda to fight the ruling BJP. The draft resolution has called for a threefold task - to strengthen the CPI, to consolidate the unity of the left forces and broadening the alliance of the progressive forces to remove BJP-RSS from power.

The CPI, it seems has a clear perception about the need of bringing together all forces who are agreed to fight the BJP-RSS agenda. The broad allies should include the Congress, Trinamool Congress, RJD, DMK, NCP and all others who have been fighting as a part of the opposition against the BJP regime. The Congress has to be an integral part of the opposition strategy to unseat the BJP from power in the coming Lok Sabha elections. The CPI delegates should remember that the next Lok Sabha elections should be treated as a do or die battle for the democratic and secular forces in India against the divisive forces led by the BJP and no sectarianism should be encouraged in choosing allies. Defeating the BJP is the primary task and that has to be kept in mind at every step by the opposition parties. Differences at the state level should not act

as a hindrance against uniting at the national level among the anti- BJP political parties.

The CPI has talked of increasing its strength to a substantial extent in the coming years. This is of immediate importance for fighting the BJP and the Narendra Modi government. Only a strengthened Left can take a leading position in navigating the course of opposition unity to the correct direction. In the recent years, the CPI strength has significantly declined. In Lok Sabha, the CPI has only two seats- that too as a part of the DMK led front in Tamil Nadu. On its own, the CPI has not won any seat in 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Similarly, the CPI(M) also won three seats out of which two were from Tamil Nadu as a part of the alliance. Only one seat was won by the CPI(M) from Kerala in 2019 Lok Sabha elections on the basis of its own strength. However in the 2021 state assembly elections in Kerala, the Left Democratic Front including the CPI(M) and the CPI did extremely well and expectations are that the two communist parties will be able to improve their strength in the coming Lok Sabha polls. Presently, the CPI has good organization in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and

Andhra Pradesh. The party has to expand its organization in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Bihar was once a big base of the CPI, but it lost that in the last decade. In the last assembly polls, the CPI got only two seats while the CPI(ML) liberation got 12 seats. The CPI has to take advantage of the newly formed Mahagathbandhan in Bihar and bring back its eroded base. Similar efforts should be made in other states where the CPI had good bases once.

The CPI draft has rightly said that the party should target specific constituencies in the states with some base rather than contesting in a large number of seats by spending resources unnecessarily. The electoral battle has to be preceded by continuous actions by the party workers in voicing the demands of the masses. The CPI should start yatras in different states to connect with the masses. This is crucial for the rejuvenation of the party. The five day congress ends on October 18 with the election of a new national council and the central executive committee. It is expected that the present general secretary D. Raja will be elected as the general secretary again. The new party leadership must be representative of more youth, women and Dalits. The nation needs the Left and the CPI has been consistently taking a principled position on the issue of broader unity of democratic forces against the BJP. The need for a stronger CPI is of paramount importance for the Indian nation. (IPA)

## FOCUS

Nitya Chakraborty

Conventional Crossword												
1		2	3	4		5		6				
		7										
8	9				10		11					
			12			13						
14		15			16			17				
18				19		20						
		21			22							
23				24			25			26		
						27						
28					29							

ACROSS						DOWN					
1	Disengage	5	Bow-shaped form	7	Mature	1	Failure (Coll)	2	Dark-coloured viscid product	3	Stir violently
8	Mock	11	Poor actor	12	Tantalse	4	Yield	5	Stick	6	Bring about by force
14	Long detailed story	16	Concise	18	Single entities	9	Dash	10	Consume	13	Keep apart
20	Prison room	21	Himalayan kingdom	23	Farm animal	14	Flexible	15	Tawny colour	17	Blackthorn
24	Charm	27	Lyric poem	28	Do wrong	19	Mineral spring	22	Frenzied	25	Hawaiian garland
29	Flocks of geese in flight					26	Australian state (abb)				

## SUDOKU:3669

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7	6	2		3				
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## Yesterday's Solution 3668

5	2	6	9	4	3	1	7	8
3	9	7	1	2	8	5	4	6
4	8	1	5	6	7	2	9	3
9	1	4	2	3	5	8	6	7
2	6	3	7	8	9	4	1	5
8	7	5	4	1	6	9	3	2
6	5	9	8	7	4	3	2	1
7	4	2	3	5	1	6	8	9
1	3	8	6	9	2	7	5	4

## Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1677

P	E	E	P	S		C	E	D	E
L		M	E	T	E	O	R		N
A	Z	U	R	E		V	O	I	D
C			T	W	E	E			D
I	M	P				N	E	S	T
D	E	A	L	T			D	O	E
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## DISCLAIMER

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## Civic Chief inaugurates renovated community hall



**PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/**The Chairperson, Port Blair Municipal Council Smti. U.Kavitha inaugurated the renovated Community Hall at Ward No-1 (Haddo) on Monday. The Senior Vice Chairperson and Councillors of various wards and officials of the Council were present during the occasion. At the outset, the Councillor Ward No-1, Mr. S. ShahulHameed welcomed the gathering.

The Civic Chief stated that the Community hall was in a dilapidated

condition and the same has been renovated which was a long pending demand of the local populace of the area. She further stated that the Port Blair Municipal Council is working round the clock to provide state of art civic amenities and services to its citizens and many new ventures are in pipeline in this regard. Mr. S. ShahulHameed, Ward Councillor in his address appealed the residents of the ward to take use of the facilities and also keep it neat and clean while utilizing the same.

## Volleyball tournament in memory of Martyr Dilip Kumar



KARTIK

**MAYABUNDER, OCT 17/--/** As part of remembrance of Martyr's Defence Personnel Dilip Kumar, a resident of Shivapuram in N&M Andaman, a Volleyball tournament was organised by the Gram Panchayat Shivapuram and Betapur youths at Forest ground at Betapur. The Assistant Commissioner,

Rangat, Mr. Aditya Kumar Asthana was the chief guest in the opening event. The Pradhan GP Shivapuram and Nimbutala Panchayat, Samiti member, Smti. Shanta Kumari and Ward members were also present on the ground. The RRO team was the winner of the event. Cash prizes and trophies were presented to the winners and other participants.

## Terrorist hideout busted in J&'s Poonch, arms, ammo seized

**JAMMU, OCT 17 /--/**Security forces on Monday busted a terrorist hideout in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, and seized arms and ammunition from it, officials said.

The hideout was uncovered during a joint search operation by police and security personnel at Sangla village in the Surankote area of the border district, they

said. The officials said a pistol, four hand grenades, four Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) cartridges; a wireless set, 16 improvised explosive device (IED) batteries and three AK magazines with rounds were seized from the hideout. The operation was carried out acting on specific information, they said, adding that no one was arrested. (PTI)

## Encroachment eviction drives at its peak at ShaheedDweep



**PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/** During the visit of the Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman to ShaheedDweep, the people of the area reported about the encroachment of Govt. land. Based on the complaints, DC (SA) ensuring zero tolerance towards encroachment immediately issued strict direction to Revenue officials to remove the encroachment and accordingly, the Revenue field functionaries carried out an encroachment eviction drive at Shaheed

Dweep under Port Blair Tehsil on Sunday. Fresh encroachment committed in the shape of temporary structure near the natural bridge at Lakshmanpur village in Shaheed Dweep were removed and an area of 0.06 ha has been restored into the Govt. Khata. Similarly, the District Administration of South Andaman ensuring zero tolerance towards encroachment on Govt. land has carried out encroachment eviction drive at Little Andaman

Tehsil yesterday.Fresh encroachment committed in the shape of plantation and fencing were removed at Hutbay village and an area of 0.60 ha has been restored into the Govt.Khata. Meanwhile, the general public has been once again cautioned to refrain from encroaching Govt. land. In case of any enquiries or information regarding such illegal activities and encroachment, they can communicate with the District Control Room at phone nos. 03192-240127/ 1077.

## Mobile App namely 'Mera Ration' launched

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/**The Government of India launched a landmark scheme 'One Nation One Ration Card' (ONORC) to facilitate migrants meeting their requirement of foodgrains at a very affordable rate. This scheme was implemented by the Central Government in a war footing manner in the wake of pandemic COVID-19 to avoid struggle of the socio-economically weaker migrant labourers to meet both ends of their livelihoods. This UT Administration has taken relentless efforts, leaving no stone unturned to implement this scheme within the established time frame by the Central Government and made functional with effect from February 2021.

For effective implementation of this scheme, the Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs has launched Toll Free Number 18003454445, 230337 (via Mobile) & number 14445,(via Landline) to address all the queries/ grievances and to provide information related to entitlement of foodgrains under NFSA during working hours from 8.45 am to 5 pm. In addition to this, the Government of India has launched a mobile App namely 'Mera Ration' to facilitate the ONORC related services among beneficiaries of the NFSA, particularly migrant beneficiaries, Fair Price Shops and other stakeholders. The App can be downloaded through Play Store App for the registration of migrant beneficiaries, checking of foodgrains entitlement as well as previous six months transactions along with status of Aadhaar seeding.

## Agridept offers benefits under RKVY-RAFTAAR

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/** The Directorate of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme RKVY-RAFTAAR under which one project namely 'Creation of Marketing Infrastructure' is undertaken for post-harvest marketing support to farmers. Under the project, back ended subsidy is provided for purchase of Truck of 1.5-2.0 MT capacity for transportation of agricultural produce by the Farmers/ Farm Women/ST Farmers. Registered FPG/ SHG/ FPO/ NGO/ CPC or CPS are also eligible to avail the benefit of the scheme. The subsidy under the scheme is 50% limited to Rs 2.50 lakhs per truck.

To avail the benefit of the scheme, eligible Farmers/ Farm Women/ST Farmers, registered FPG/SHG/ FPO / NGO/ CPC or CPS can contact the Zonal Officer of their area and apply in the prescribed format along with requisite documents.

## DU admission 2022: Extra-curricular activities quota admission trials to begin today

**NEW DELHI, OCT 17 /--/**The Delhi University will begin performance trials for admissions through the extra-curricular activities quota (ECA) from Tuesday, the varsity's officials said.

This time, admission through the ECA supernumerary quota for the academic year 2022-23 is being done in 14 categories, with the highest number of registrations, 1748, from the National Cadet Corps (NCC) category, an official said. "The trials for the ECA admissions 2022-23 will begin from Tuesday, 18th October, 2022, to Thursday, 27th October, 2022," the official said. For seat allocation under the ECA, a combined score of the Common University Entrance Test (UG) - 2022 and performance tests, trials and certificates will be considered.

For an ECA score of 75 marks for 12 categories, except NCC and the National Service Scheme (NSS), 60 marks will be awarded on the basis of physical trials and 15 marks on the basis of the submitted certificates. The trials will be conducted for creative writing, yoga and digital media on October 19 and 20, fine arts on October 19 and 21, music (instrument) on October 19, music on October 18, quiz on October 25 and divinity on October 19.

For dance, trials are scheduled on October 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26 and 27, debate on October 19, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 26, music (vocal) on October 19, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 26, and theatre on October 21, 22, 25 and 26.

The Delhi University officials said that there will be no physical trials for admission for the NCC and the NSS categories. The ECA score for the NSS and the NCC will be awarded on the basis of certificates.

The official said that if there is any clash of dates for candidates appearing for more than one ECA category, no request for a change of date will be considered for those categories where only a single date for trial is mentioned. Candidates can apply for a maximum of three categories. However, admission will be offered through only one.

"For other categories, the candidate may request with the suggestion of some other suitable dates only from among the dates available for the trials of the given ECA category or sub-category for a change of date," the varsity said.

The official said that candidates have to report half an hour before the trial time slot for attendance and counter-signing the marks awarded based on certificate evaluation.

"Since these are in-person trials, the given time slots may sometimes vary due to unavoidable circumstances. The candidates are, therefore, advised to make suitable arrangements for food, water, any medicine, etc for a longer than stipulated time period," the official said. (PTI)

## 353 drug smugglers, suppliers nabbed in last 7 days in Punjab: Police

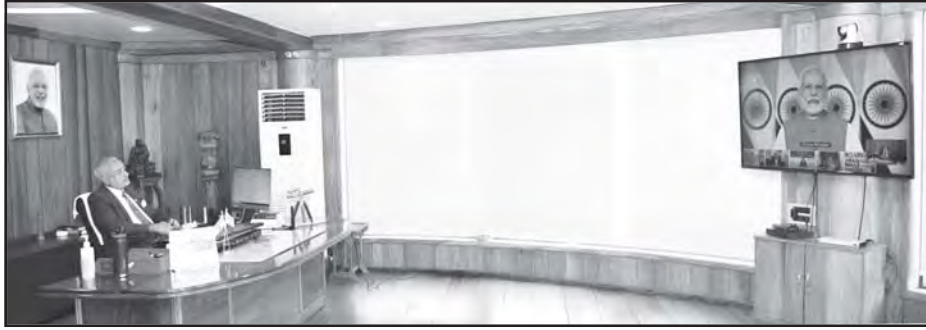
**Chandigarh, Oct 17 /--/** The Punjab Police on Monday said 353 drug smugglers and suppliers have been arrested in a week as part of an ongoing anti-narcotics drive in the state.

Inspector General of Police (Headquarters) Sukhchain Singh Gill said 273 FIRs have been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act during this time period.

He said the police seized 11.56 kg heroin, 13.51 kg opium, 900 gram ganja, eight quintals of poppy husk, and 88,014 tablets, capsules, injections, and vials of pharma opioids, besides Rs 20 lakh cash after carrying out cordon-and-search operations.

In a statement here, Gill said 11 proclaimed offenders in the drug cases have been arrested in the last seven days.

Extensive anti-drug drives are being carried out by the Punjab Police to combat the menace of drugs, Gill said. (PTI)



**Admiral D K Joshi (Retd.), Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Vice-Chairman, Islands Development Agency participated in virtual launch of Digital Banking Units by Prime Minister of India, Mr. iNarendraModi dedicating 75 DBUs located in 75 Districts across Nation, including SBI, Mohanpura at Port Blair in A&N Islands to commemorate the 75 years of Independence.**

## Voluntary blood donation camp at JNRM

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/** Andaman & Nicobar AIDS Control Society (ANACS) coordinated the Voluntary Blood Donation camp which was organized by Lions Club, Port Blair in collaboration with the Department of Home Science, JNRM College on 15th October 2022 at JNRM College, in connection with the birth anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India. A total of 34 units of blood were donated by voluntary donors.

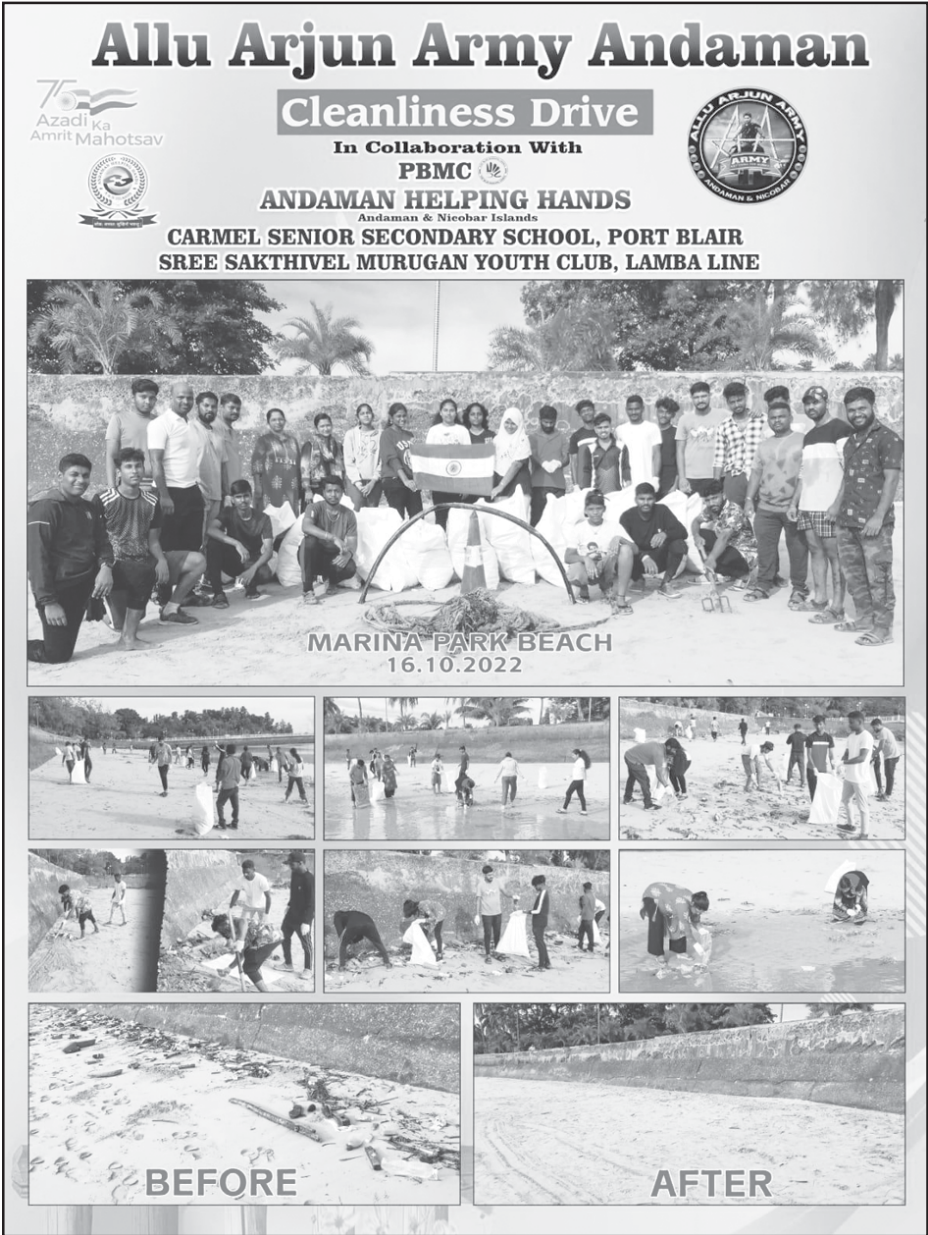
The blood donation was facilitated by Dr. N. R. Kodhandram, Deputy Director (Blood Safety)/ Chief Medical Officer (NMSG). The donors were examined for their eligibility to donate blood and briefed the donors on various aspects and importance of blood donation. Mr. B V Karunakaran, Secretary, Lions Club of Port Blair to organized the camp and made arrangements for conducting the camp successfully. The technical team from Blood Bank,

G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair and A & N AIDS Control Society ensured that the donated blood units were screened for the



blood transmissible diseases. They also examined the donors for eligibility. Donors' certificates were also distributed to the voluntary donors.

## Cleanliness drive by AAAA at Marina Park beach



**PORT BLAIR, OCT 17/--/** The AlluArjun Army Andaman (AAAA) on October 16th has conducted the SwachthaAbhiyan in collaboration with Andaman Helping Hands, A&N Islands (AHHANI) and Port Blair Municipal Council (PBMC) at Marina Park Beach.

During this drive, 32 volunteers participated and collected 14 bags of garbage from Marina Park Beach consisting

of all type of mixed garbage like plastics materials, Alcoholic bottles (Two bags containing about 207 bottles), Tetra packs, Water bottles, wastage shoes, sandals, plastic bags followed by waste plastic rope etc. The cleanliness drive was graced by Smti. RekhaSudhakar and Smti.Bharti both teachers from Carmel Sr. Sec. School, Port Blair and Dr. Muruganandam, Scientist D', RMRCBP, ICMR, Port Blair:

## Delhi records 635 dengue cases in first 12 days of Oct

**New Delhi, Oct 17 /--/**The number of dengue cases in Delhi has seen a spike with 635 new infections being reported in the first 12 days of October taking the total tally to 1,572 so far this year, a civic body report said on Monday.

Of the total 1,572 cases recorded this year, as many as 693 were reported in September alone. The city had logged 937 cases of dengue this year till September-end, and 635 fresh cases were reported in the first 12 days of October, taking the tally of the

vector-borne disease in the city to 1,572, according to the report released by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Monday. It is also the highest number

of dengue cases logged during the January 1-October 12 period since 2017, when the corresponding figure was 2,884, the report stated.(PTI)

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Details are available at Bank's website: [www.pnb.co.in](http://www.pnb.co.in) also may be obtained from Garacharma Branch or from Circle Office, Kolkata West during office hours. The complete offer should reach the undersigned on or before 17.11.2022 by 5.00 P.M. through registered post/Speed Post only.

Place: Kolkata  
Date: 18.10.2022

Circle Head



Mamata bats for Sourav, urges PM to allow him to contest ICC polls

KOLKATA, OCT 17 /--/ Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said she was shocked that former India captain Sourav Ganguly was deprived of a second term as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president. Mamata, while talking to reporters at the Kolkata airport before leaving for a trip to the northern part of the state, also said she would urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene so that Ganguly is allowed to contest the elections for International Cricket Council (ICC) chief. The issue of ICC chairmanship will be up for discussion when the BCCI holds its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday in Mumbai, where Roger Binny, a member of the 1983 World Cup winning team, will replace Ganguly as the new Board President. Sourav Ganguly is not only the pride of Bengal but also of the entire nation. He has led the cricket team and BCCI with the utmost dedication and responsibility. He has proved himself to be an able administrator and I am shocked by his removal from the BCCI president's post, Mamata said. The Supreme Court had given a three-year extension to both BCCI president Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah, son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Trinamool Congress supremo said. But for reasons not yet known, Jay Shah is still continuing as the BCCI secretary while Sourav Ganguly has been removed from the position. Our grievance is why Sourav Ganguly was let go from BCCI. We want to know on whose order it was done. We believe that there was injustice done to Ganguly, she said. Every country that plays cricket knows about him, and it is a matter of shame that he was ousted from BCCI unceremoniously," Mamata said. Mamata requested the Centre to consider this matter in the light of future of sports in the country. Sourav is not affiliated with any political party. My request to the Centre is that this matter should not be treated politically or vindictively. I, once again, request the government to not act vindictively and take the decision on the basis of betterment of cricket and sports," Mamata said. The TMC had also accused the BJP of trying to humiliate the former Indian skipper as it failed to induct him into the party. Ganguly, at one time, was rumoured to be the man BJP wanted to rope in for a leadership role in the party's West Bengal unit, as it was looking for a face to counter Mamata's charisma. (PTI)

## Congress members choose between Kharge and Tharoor for party chief

Was waiting for a long time for this day, says Sonia

NEW DELHI, OCT 17 /--/ Congress members queued up across the country on Monday to elect their first non-Gandhi president in 24 years, choosing between



senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor in an exercise aimed at putting the party on the path to revival. "I have been waiting for a long time for this day," Congress president Sonia Gandhi told reporters after voting at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters here. Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra came together at the AICC headquarters and cast their vote. When asked by reporters about the polls, the Congress president said: "I have been waiting for a long time for this day." Later, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh also cast his ballot in the polls at the party headquarters where the 68th polling booth for the AICC presidential poll has been set up. Veteran Congress leader P Chidambaram was the first to cast his vote at the AICC headquarters here.

Several senior leaders such as general secretary Jairam Ramesh, Ambika Soni, Ajay Maken and Vivek Tankha, among others, cast their vote at the party headquarters. Over 9,000 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates from the electoral college to pick the party chief in a secret ballot. The results will be declared on October 19. Voting in the much discussed elections began at 10 am at the AICC headquarters and at polling booths in PCC offices across the country. Satisfied

with Congress' presidential poll process. Elections are free, fair, transparent, said Madhusudan Mistry, the central election authority chairperson. Voting is going on smoothly. There are no complaints so far on polling from anywhere, Mistry told PTI. While Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, voted in Delhi, Rahul Gandhi, who is on the Bharat Jodo Yatra, did so at a meeting room container converted into a polling booth at the yatra campsite in Ballari in Karnataka. Kharge, 80, a Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka tipped to win the election because of his proximity to the Gandhis, cast his ballot at the Karnataka Congress office in Bengaluru. His electoral rival, the party's 66-year-old Thiruvananthapuram MP Tharoor, who has pitched himself as the candidate of change, voted in the Kerala capital. Kharge said in Bengaluru that Tharoor called him up and wished him good luck and he wished him the same. The two, he said on Twitter, were contesting internal polls on a friendly note to strengthen the Congress to build a stronger and better nation for the future generations. In Thiruvananthapuram, Tharoor said he is confident of victory even though the odds were stacked against him as leaders and establishment were with the other candidate. "India needs a strong Congress. I did not contest for my political future, but for that of the Congress and India. I am here as a viable alternative. I am standing for change. A change in how the party functions," he said. "Spoke to Mallikarjun Kharge this morning to wish him well and to reaffirm my respect for him and our shared devotion to the success of Congress," Tharoor added in a tweet, noting that the Congress' revival had begun. Earlier in the morning he said: "Some people play safe in order not to lose. But if you just play safe, you will definitely lose", using the hashtag "#ThinkTomorrowThinkTharoor". Electors



Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi casts her vote for the party's Presidential election at AICC headquarters, in New Delhi

in the Congress presidential polls have been asked to put a tick mark against their candidate in the ballot paper after Tharoor's team took up with the party's top poll body the issue of its earlier directive that voters write "1" to reflect their preference. This, the team said, may lead to confusion. As the election process continued, the Gandhis dominated the discourse in many places. Senior leader Ambika Soni told reporters after voting that the Gandhi family cannot be ignored and the party workers' attachment with them would remain. "The Gandhi family will continue to play a very important role. Sonia Gandhi will be demitting her office after the new president is elected but there is no doubt that she has been our leader and will continue to be our leader. We will look towards her for inspiration and guidance from time to time," added Congress general secretary Mukul Wasnik said. Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot, once a frontrunner for the post said in Jaipur that his relationship with the Gandhi family will be the "same for life", even after October 19. Attacking the BJP, Congress spokesperson Ajay Kumar said

the party's elections marked a historical moment. "None of us know how J P Nadda got selected, two-and-a-half people decided - one Modi, one Shah and a half RSS. So such a party commenting on polls is a joke," he said. Uttar Pradesh MLA Virendra Chaudhary echoed him. "The atmosphere at the party office is that of a festival. I can say that if democracy is alive (in any political party), it is the Congress," the Congress' MLA from Pharenda told PTI in Lucknow. In Chennai, where the Sathyamurthy Bhavan was converted into a polling camp, TNCC president K S Alagiri, who was one of the early voters, said the elections were being held in a democratic manner. His party colleague Karti Chidambaram backed Tharoor, saying people were looking for someone who has a fresh perspective. The political journeys of the two dramatis personae in the Congress presidential election have been disparate. Kharge is a grassroots politician and a hardcore loyalist of the Gandhi family while Tharoor, articulate, a social media pioneer and often outspoken, joined the Congress only in 2009 after a long stint at the United Nations. (PTI)

UN Secy Gen's 3-day India tour begins today

NEW DELHI, OCT 17 /--/ UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will be on a three-day visit to India starting Tuesday, during which he will pay tributes to the victims of the 26/11 terror attacks at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Mumbai, besides holding talks with his Indian interlocutors.

It will be the first visit of Guterres to India since his second term in office commenced in January. He had earlier visited the country in October 2018 during his first term at the top office. The UN Secretary General will join Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an event relating to the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) in Gujarat's Kevadiya on October 20. His visit to the country comes more than a week before the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee holds two-day deliberations in India. "Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, will be on an official visit to India from October 18-20," the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said. It said Guterres will commence his visit to India by paying tributes to the victims of the 26/11 terror attacks at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Mumbai. He will also deliver a public address at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai on the subject - "India @75: UN-India Partnership: Strengthening South-South Cooperation." The Taj Mahal Palace hotel was one of the targets of the horrific 26/11 terror attacks nearly 14 years ago. The MEA said external affairs minister S Jaishankar would hold bilateral discussions with Guterres on issues of global concern, steps to deepen India's engagement with the UN, including through the country's upcoming presidency of the G20. It said Guterres will attend the launch of the Mission LiFE booklet, logo and tagline in Kevadiya on October 20. The concept of LiFE was introduced by Modi during the COP26 at Glasgow in November last year. The Prime Minister had then urged the global community of individuals and institutions to drive LiFE as an international mass movement towards "mindful and deliberate utilisation, instead of mindless and destructive consumption" to protect and preserve the environment. "Mission LiFE will be India's signature initiative at the United Nations and other international platforms for showcasing climate action and early achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals," the MEA said. "Its central idea reflects India's ethos of respect for mother nature and aims at piloting a focused programme that will mobilise one billion (100 crore) Indians to become pro-planet people (3P), who would practise simple environment and climate-friendly behaviour and actions in their daily lives to promote a shared commitment to protect our planet," it added. In Kevadiya, Guterres is expected to pay floral tributes at the Statue of Unity, the MEA said, adding that he will also visit the country's first solar-powered village in Modhera (Gujarat) and other development projects in the area. The UN secretary general will also visit the Sun temple in Modhera, before departing for his onward destination, according to the MEA. (PTI)

### CM meets kin of 6 flash flood victims in Jalpaiguri, promises assistance

JALPAIGURI, OCT 17 /--/ Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday met the family members of six out of the eight people who died after being swept away in a flash flood in Mal River here during Durga idol immersion on October 5, and assured them of all possible assistance. Shortly after reaching Malbazar, Mamata visited the residence of one of the deceased, where relatives of the other five victims had also gathered. The chief minister, besides checking on the family members, also sought to know from them if any lapse on the part of the local administration had led to the tragedy. Later, talking to reporters, she said: "Today I met the family members of six people who were killed in the flash flood in Mal River earlier this month. I am grateful to the locals who saved the lives of several people. I would like to thank them. Around 450 people were rescued from the river," Banerjee, who is on a four-day trip to north Bengal, stated. The chief minister asked chief secretary H K Dwivedi, who is accompanying her on the tour, to extend all possible assistance to the relatives as and when required. The state government has paid a compensation of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the eight deceased. (PTI)



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with the kin of one of Malbazar immersion tragedy victims, at Malbazar — Photo Shyamal Maitra

### Justice DY Chandrachud appointed next CJI, to take oath on Nov 9

NEW DELHI, OCT 17 /--/ Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court, was on Monday appointed the 50th Chief Justice of India and he will take oath on November 9. Union law minister Kiren Rijiju announced the appointment of Justice Chandrachud, who will serve as the CJI for two years. Justice Chandrachud, who is the son of the longest serving CJI YV Chandrachud, succeeds Justice U U Lalit. His father was the head of the Indian judiciary from February 22, 1978 to July 11, 1985. The incumbent CJI demits office on November 8 on attaining the age of 65 after a brief tenure of 74 days. Justice Chandrachud, who sees dissent as the "safety valve of democracy", was part of several Constitution benches and landmark verdicts of the top court including on matters relating to the Ayodhya land dispute and right to privacy. "In exercise of the power conferred by the Constitution of India, Hon'ble President appoints Dr. Justice DY Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court as the Chief Justice of India with effect from 9th November, 22," minister Rijiju tweeted quoting the

notification. Justice Chandrachud, who was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 13, 2016, will demit office on November 10, 2024. Principal secretary to the Prime Minister P K Mishra and top officials of the department of justice in the law ministry personally handed over the warrant of appointment signed by the president to Justice Chandrachud this afternoon following which a formal notification announcing his appointment as the next CJI was issued, sources said. "Extending my best wishes to Justice DY Chandrachud for the formal oath taking ceremony on November 9", Rijiju said in another tweet. CJI Lalit had on October 11 recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Chandrachud as his successor. The CJI-designate was part of the benches that delivered path-breaking judgements on decriminalising same-sex relations after it partially struck down Section 377 of the IPC, validity of the Aadhaar scheme and Sabarimala issue. Recently, a bench headed by him expanded the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act and the corresponding rules to include unmarried women for

abortion between 20-24 weeks of pregnancy. The Justice Chandrachud-led bench had also passed several directions to assuage the miseries faced by people during the Covid-19 crisis, terming the brutal second wave of the pandemic last year as a "national crisis". Recently, Justice Chandrachud was among the two judges of the apex court Collegium which had objected to the method of "circulation" adopted for eliciting the views of its members on the appointment of judges to the apex court. On September 30, 2022, a bench headed by Justice Chandrachud sat till 9:10 pm, around five hours beyond the regular working hours of the apex court, to hear 75 cases to clear the board before the onset of the Dussehra vacation. In a landmark verdict delivered in February 2020, a bench headed by Justice Chandrachud had directed that women officers in the Army be granted permanent commission and command postings, rejecting the Centre's stand of their physiological limitations as being based on "sex stereotypes" and "gender discrimination against women". (PTI)



Justice DY Chandrachud



## Waves of suicide drones strike Ukraine's capital, 3 killed

**KYIV, OCT 17/--**Waves of explosive-laden suicide drones struck Ukraine's capital on Monday, setting buildings ablaze and tearing a hole in one while sending people scurrying for shelter or attempting to shoot down the kamikazes. The concentrated use of drones was the second barrage in as many weeks after months where air attacks had become become a rarity in central Kyiv. The assault sowed terror and frayed nerves as blasts echoed across the city. Energy facilities were struck, and one drone slammed into a residential building, killing three people, authorities said. The attack drones appeared to include Iranian-made Shaheds. Intense, sustained bursts of gunfire rang out as they buzzed overhead, apparently soldiers trying to shoot them down. Others headed for shelter, nervously scanning the skies. But Ukraine has become grimly accustomed to attacks nearly eight months into the Russian invasion and city life resumed as rescuers picked through the debris.

Previous Russian airstrikes on Kyiv were mostly with missiles. Mayor Vitali Klitschko said Monday's barrage came in successive waves of 28 drones in what many fear could become a more common mode of attack as Russia seeks to avoid depleting its stockpiles of long-range precision missiles. Five drones plunged into Kyiv itself, said Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. In the Kyiv region, at least 13 were shot down, all of them flying in from the south, said a spokesman for the Ukrainian Air Force, Yuriy Ihnat. One strike appeared to target the city's heating network, hitting an operations centre. Another slammed into a four-story residential building, ripping a large hole in it and collapsing at least three apartments on top of each other. Three bodies were recovered from the rubble, including those of a woman who was 6-months pregnant and her husband, said Klitschko. The other person killed there was an older woman. An Associated Press photographer who was out shooting morning scenes of Kyiv caught one of the drones on camera, its triangle-shaped wing and pointed warhead clearly visible against the blue sky.

The whole night, and the whole morning, the enemy terrorises the civilian population," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a social media post. Kamikaze drones and missiles are attacking all of Ukraine. The enemy can attack our cities, but it won't be able to break us," he wrote. Andrii Yermak, head of the Ukrainian president's office, said in a social media post that Shahed drones were among those used in the strike. Zelenskyy, citing Ukrainian intelligence services, has previously alleged that Russia has ordered 2,400 of the Shahed drones from Iran. Russia has rebranded them as Geran-2 drones meaning geranium in Russian. A photo of debris from one of Monday's strikes, posted by Klitschko, showed the word Geran-2 marked on a mangled tail-fin. Iran has previously denied providing Russia with weapons, although its Revolutionary Guard chief has boasted about providing arms to the world's top powers, without elaborating. The drones pack an explosive charge and can linger over targets before nosediving into them. Their blasts jolted people awake early Monday morning. They included Snizhana Kutrakova, 42, who lives close to where one of the drones came down. I'm full of rage, she said. Full of rage and hate.

Iranian-made drones have been repeatedly used by Russia elsewhere in Ukraine in recent weeks against urban centres and infrastructure, including power stations. They are comparatively cheap, costing in the region of USD 20,000. Their use in swarms presents a challenge to Ukrainian air defences, said Ihnat, the Air Force spokesman. Western nations have promised to bolster Ukrainian air defences with systems that can shoot down drones but much of that weaponry has yet to arrive and, in some cases, may be months away. The challenges are serious because the air defence forces and means are the same as they were at the beginning of the war," Ihnat said. Some air defence weaponry supplied by Western nations can only be used during daylight hours when targets are visible, he added.

After months during which strikes in central Kyiv were rare, early morning strikes last week put Kyiv as well as the rest of the country back on edge. Russian President Vladimir Putin said those strikes were in retaliation for the bombing of a bridge connecting the Crimean peninsula with the Russian mainland. Putin blames Ukraine for masterminding the blast, which suspended traffic over the bridge and curtailed Moscow's ability to supply Russian troops in the occupied regions of southern Ukraine.

The strike on Kyiv comes as fighting has intensified in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in recent days, as well as the continued Ukrainian counteroffensive in the south near Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. Zelenskyy said in his Sunday evening address that there was heavy fighting around the cities of Bakhmut and Soledar in the Donetsk region. (AP)

## Imran Khan stuns PML-N-led ruling coalition in bypolls; wins 6 National Assembly seats

**ISLAMABAD, OCT 17/--**The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party led by former prime minister Imran Khan on Monday swept the crucial by-elections, winning six out of eight National Assembly seats and two out of three provincial assembly seats in Punjab, in another jolt to the Shehbaz Sharif government. The main contest was between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Eight seats of the National Assembly (NA) and three of the Punjab provincial assembly fell vacant after the PTI lawmakers resigned following the toppling of Khan's government in April. Khan, who contested seven National Assembly seats in the crucial by-elections held on Sunday, emerged victorious in six constituencies, building forward momentum in his drive to push the six-month-old PML-N-led government into announcing an early general election.

The 70-year-old cricketer-turned-politician was defeated on a seat in Karachi by a candidate

of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which managed to clinch two National Assembly seats NA-157 Multan and NA-237 Karachi which were bagged by the PTI in the 2018 general elections. In Multan, former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gillani's son Ali Musa Gillani defeated Meher Bano, daughter of former foreign minister and PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi. This was the only NA seat where Khan did not contest the by-poll.

The Multan contest was keenly watched as it showcased the influential Gilani and Qureshi families of the city fighting for a key seat. Apart from winning six NA seats, the PTI also won two Punjab assembly seats to further strengthen the position of its supported chief minister Chaudhry Pervez Elahi. PTI Secretary General Asad Umar said that the results of the election was another chance for the



of the day, which was seen by many as the litmus test for parties ahead of next year's general elections.

A total of 101 candidates from different political parties and independents took part in the vote: 52 in Punjab, 33 in Sindh and 16 in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. In July, Khan's party had won 15

out of 20 seats in the crucial Punjab assembly by-polls while PML-N secured victory on four seats. An independent candidate also won. Apparently, the PML-N led by Prime Minister Sharif is

paying the price of failing to control the raging inflation but PTI has also suffered as it lost three seats out of 11 that its lawmakers had vacated.

It is said that PTI's reversal of fortunes would have been even more drastic had Khan not opted to contest on seven seats. It not only faces a threat of revival of PML-N in Punjab but also that of a resurgent PPP in Karachi. The Awami National Party (ANP) controlled by Bacha Khan's descendants also fared better in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and reduced the margins of Khan's victory. The province is controlled by PTI and the revival of ANP may pose a threat to Khan in general elections. Khan will

use his victory to press for early elections, which had been his main demand since his removal from office, but he may not succeed to get snap polls as the coalition government is still strong enough to resist the pressure.

Around 4.472 million voters are registered in these constituencies. In Punjab, 1,434 polling stations have been established, 979 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 340 in Sindh. There were sporadic incidents of violence at various places but overall the polling process remained smooth and peaceful. Strict security measures were taken by the authorities to maintain peace and apart from police and paramilitary Rangers and Frontier Corps, regular troops were also deployed at sensitive polling stations. Since his removal from office through a no-confidence vote, Khan has been campaigning for snap polls and regularly holding rallies. It helped him to win 15 out of 20 seats of the Punjab assembly in July when by-elections were held. (PTI)

## China party says nearly 5 million members probed for graft

**BEIJING, OCT 17/--**China's ruling Communist Party says it has probed almost 5 million members for possible corruption over the last decade, with formal criminal cases brought against 553.

Whether that will curb an widening economic slowdown and restore faith in the authoritarian system remains unclear.

The party has 96 million members and has long run its own internal system of keeping cadres in line through a mix of offering privileges and threatening severe punishment for taking bribes, selling offices or otherwise abusing their authority.

At a new briefing Monday on the sidelines of the party's national congress held every five years, deputy secretary of the party's Committee for Discipline and Inspection Xiao Pei said 207,000 party officials in total had been handed some form of punishment in the 10 years since party leader Xi Jinping took power.

Now seeking a third term as head of the party, government and military, Xi has made fighting corruption a signature of his administration.

Xiao said figures show most of those caught up by anti-graft investigators had been long-term offenders and just 11% of those punished had committed their first offense in the past five years.

The spread of graft has been resolutely contained," Xiao said, adding that directed policies and high pressure" had persuaded 80,000 party members to voluntarily admit to violating over the past five years.

One of Xi's key policies, the anti-corruption campaign has been largely popular with the public and conveniently enabled him to sideline potential rivals.

A former justice minister and a former deputy public security

minister received suspended death sentences last month after being convicted on various charges of bribe-taking and other abuses of office. Chinese courts are beholden to the party and have a near-100% conviction rate. After being investigated internally and expelled from the party, even high government and military officials can expect lengthy prison terms, although sentences of death have become somewhat rarer in high-profile cases.

Xi, 69, reaffirmed the party's total control of Chinese politics, economy and society in a speech Sunday at the opening session of the party congress.

The next five years will be crucial, Xi said in a televised speech to some 2,000 delegates in the cavernous Great Hall of the People. He repeatedly invoked his slogan of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, which includes reviving the party's role as economic and social leader in a throwback to what Xi regards as a golden age after it took power in 1949.

The congress will install leaders for the next five years. Xi is expected to break with tradition and award himself a third five-year term as general secretary and promote allies who share his ideals.

Xi has his own experience with the capriciousness of party justice.

His father, Xi Zhongxun, was a former vice premier and guerrilla commander in the civil war that brought Mao Zedong's communists to power in 1949.

Just years later, the senior Xi was placed under detention as Mao turned on his former comrades and Xi Jinping was driven from his home during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, which banished intellectuals to the countryside and subjected many to public humiliation and brutal beatings in the name of

class struggle. Xi later attended Beijing's prestigious Tsinghua University and rose steadily through the bureaucracy in the provinces, rising to party secretary the top position in China's biggest city and financial hub of Shanghai in 2007, after his predecessor fell in a corruption scandal.

Xi has taken control of economic and military matters and had his name enshrined in the party constitution alongside Mao by adding a reference to his ideology.

Xi Jinping Thought" emphasises reviving the party's mission as China's political, economic, social and cultural leader and its central role in achieving the goal of national rejuvenation, the restoration of the country to a position of prominence in the world.

Xi has pushed a more assertive foreign policy and swept aside concerns over an economy that has been hard-hit by pandemic-era restrictions and a government crackdown on spiralling real estate debt.

The economy appears set to grow by only about half of the official target of 5.5% this year, while unemployment is rising among recent college graduates to levels not seen before.

Despite the drag on the economy, the government has stuck with the policy known as zero-COVID," which mandates lockdowns, travel restrictions and near-daily testing. The approach earlier was seen as a success as COVID-19 ravaged other parts of the world.

While dissatisfaction simmers, particularly as life returns to normal in other parts of the world, most people don't dare to speak out and Xi has indicated no upcoming changes on health policy and other major issues. (AP)

## Swedish Parliament elects conservative prime minister

**STOCKHOLM, OCT 17/--**The Swedish parliament on Monday elected Ulf Kristersson the conservative Moderate Party leader as prime minister at the head of a coalition that is being supported by a once radical far-right party. Kristersson, 59, was elected by 176-173 votes. His government is expected to be presented Tuesday. His three-party coalition does not have a majority, but in Sweden, prime ministers can govern as long as there is no parliamentary majority against them.

After a month of talks with the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats, Kristersson presented an agreement that gave them an unprecedented position of influence in Swedish politics. They took over 20% of the vote at the Sept 11 election. Kristersson's centre-right coalition government comprises his party and the Liberals and the Christian Democrats, but he has said it will remain in close collaboration with the Sweden Democrats. He depends on the support of the Sweden Democrats to secure a majority in Parliament, putting the party in a position to influence government policy from the sidelines even without Cabinet seats. The Sweden Democrats were founded in the 1980s by far-right extremists. They toned down their rhetoric and expelled openly racist members under Jimmie Akesson, who took over the party in 2005.

Akesson, who doesn't consider his party far-right, said he would have preferred Cabinet seats for the Sweden Democrats, but he supported the deal that would give his party influence over government policy, including on immigration and criminal justice.

Since the elections, the populist party has landed the chairmanships of four parliamentary committees and with it, the ability to wield more influence in mainstream Swedish politics.

Kristersson will be replacing Magdalena Andersson, who heads Sweden's largest party, the Social Democrats, which now are in opposition. He backs Sweden's historic bid to join NATO following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. The centre-left opposition heavily criticized the new governing coalition, with Lena Hallgren of the Social Democrats, calling it "a strange construction. Many said it represented a paradigm shift in Sweden and would damage its image in the world as an egalitarian and tolerant nation. Nooshi Dadgostar, the leader of the former communist Left Party, said her parents who fled from Iran could never have imagined that Sweden would embark on an authoritarian path. What is happening now in Sweden is frightening, she told Parliament. (AP)

## Diwali-Dussehra festival celebration attracts over 10,000 in Houston

**HOUSTON, OCT 17/--**A massive Diwali-Dussehra celebration festival showcasing the best of Indian culture, heritage, and values in an unparalleled manner has attracted a record-breaking crowd of more than 10,000 persons from all walks of life and ethnicities here in Texas.

The 11th Grand International Diwali-Dussehra Festival, depicting the "victory of good over evil", at Constellation Field in Sugar Land, a Greater Houston suburb, was attended by several dignitaries, including US congressmen, judges, mayors, and commissioners on Saturday.

Organised by the Shri Sita Ram Foundation (SSRF), a non-profit organisation, the epic celebration from 2012 onwards has grown tremendously over the years and continues to attract more attendees across Texas and other states every year. The foundation finds innovative and unique ways to share Indian vedic culture and values.

Last year it initiated efforts to highlight Diwali's message of "Good Over Evil" by involving consul generals of 15 countries in the Dussehra parade.

This year, Texas Governor Greg Abbott sent in a video message, with Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner being the Grand Marshal along with consul generals of several countries joining for the Dussehra parade. The

football stadium was brilliantly transformed and decorated with millions of dazzling multi-coloured lights, lit-up main entrance gates, and colourful silk-draped vendor booths.

The ceilings and walls of the concourse and field were decorated with traditional banners, flags, hangings, and pictures of several deities.

The vendor booths did brisk business in selling traditional Diwali items, including Diwali diyas, jewellery, fashion clothing, and toys.

A food bazaar served vegetarian food from every part of India.

This festival had special attractions for children like henna booths, face painting, balloons, moonwalks, merry-go-rounds, a petting zoo, horse buggy rides, clowns, etc.

Performances like folk dances, martial arts of India, and kids in costumes of the characters from the scriptures were presented on a two-tiered 60 ft. by 40 ft. stage, with professionally installed stage lights, special effects, and huge LED screens adding a wow factor for the audience.

A 24-foot-tall figure of lord Hanuman and a 35-foot-tall figure of Lord Ram was installed next to the stage. A play in English depicting the life of lord Rama and his final battle to overcome evil kept the audience glued



to their seats till the end, earning a standing ovation.

Arun Verma, president of SSRF, said: India is a country of festivals and Diwali being the biggest of all festivals, we try to introduce, educate, promote and showcase the rich vibrant culture and moral value to the Indian diaspora and all Americans, while celebrating the Victory of Good over Evil' and Universal Brotherhood'." "We bring the best of the best and do it on

a grand scale. You name it, and we have it over here."

The festival is open to anybody" as it also includes aspects of American culture, according to Verma.

"Our belief is that the entire world is one big family and we need to treat everybody like a brother and a sister. To demonstrate that, we have invited every one of them," he said.

Looking at the overwhelming response this year and the record

crowd, we may have to take this festival to an even bigger location than this football field with the capacity of 10,000 spectators as we had to stop people from entering after it crossed the maximum capacity due to city restraints, he told PTI.

The Sugar Land festival, which Verma said is the biggest of its kind in Texas, combines the two Hindu holidays of Diwali and Dussehra.

The festival featured a unique multi-coloured magnificent parade with 40 floats by local temples and community organisations representing scenes, stories, and characters from Indian scriptures.

Mayor Turner, who was the Grand Marshal, lead the parade alongside the Consul General of India in Houston, Aseem Mahajan, the Consulate General of France in Houston, Valerie Baraba, Indian American Fort Bend County Judge, K P George, as well as several representatives of the Texas Congressmen and other official dignitaries. The parade included representatives of the nearly 100 consul generals in Houston who represent several foreign countries.

Valerie Baraban said in a tweet that she was thrilled to participate in the Grand 11th International Diwali-Dussehra festival alongside Mayor Sylvester Turner, CG Mahajan, and other members of the consular corps.

India is one of France's major partners in the Indo-Pacific region .

This year's festival also celebrated the 75th anniversary of India's independence Amrit Mahotsav.

Fifteen major freedom fighters such as Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhash Chander Bose were honoured by carrying 75 Indian flags during the parade. The entire Houston Consular Corp. joined the celebrations in the true spirit of Vasudeva Kuntumbkam, thus treating the entire world as a big family. This was depicted in the parade by 100 volunteers carrying 100 national flags of the entire Houston Consular Corp," Verma said.

As November elections are around the corner, a few political candidates like Beto O'Rourke, who is running for Texas Governor position, found the stage to greet Indian Americans.

Wishing everyone Diwali, he said, adding that we celebrate this festival of lights to push out darkness and celebrate the triumph of good over evil", with each of us having a chance to "make sure we are heard in this great democracy. The Ravan Dahan, the burning of a 25-foot-tall effigy of Ravan, Kumbhakaran, and Meghnath, was held amongst the loud sound of crackers and spectacular fireworks to celebrate the occasion of the "Victory of Good Over Evil". (PTI)



BCCI  
AGM

Binny to be elected 36th  
BCCI president but questions  
remain on ICC chairmanship

MUMBAI, OCT 17 /--/ The issue of ICC chairmanship will be up for discussion when the BCCI holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM), where former India cricketer Roger Binny will replace Sourav Ganguly as the new Board President here on Tuesday. The election of the next set of office-bearers will be a mere formality as all are set to be elected unopposed. However, the member will deliberate if BCCI should field a candidate for the ICC chair or support incumbent Greg Barclay for a second term.

The last date for filing the nominations for the ICC top job is October 20. The ICC Board will meet from November 11-13 in Melbourne. The much-debated exit of Ganguly from the BCCI has already garnered attention not just in sporting but in political arena too and it will be interesting to see if the former skipper is considered for the top job. The other names doing the rounds include Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and former BCCI president N Srinivasan. Srinivasan is eligible to contest but it remains to be seen if BCCI wants him to throw his hat in the ring, considering his age. He is 78. Thakur is expected to be busy during the ICC Board meet as Himachal Pradesh is going to polls in a single phase on November

12. Binny will replace Ganguly as the BCCI chief with the latter set to return to his home state association CAB as the president for a second



term. The other BCCI office bearers, who will be elected unanimously include secretary Jay Shah, Ashish Shelar (treasurer), Rajeev Shukla (vice-president) and Devajit Saikia (joint secretary). Outgoing treasurer Arun Dhumal will be the new IPL chairman. "It is almost certain that Jay will be India's representative at ICC Board meeting. But members need to decide if we want someone to become the ICC chairman or let Greg

Barclay of New Zealand complete his second and final term," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity. As per the agenda of the 91st AGM, there will be induction of two representatives of Indian Cricketers' Association on the BCCI Apex Council to replace Anshuman Gaikwad and Shantha Rangaswamy. However they will only be elected at ICA election from Oct 27-29. Current ICA president Ashok Malhotra and former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar are contesting to be the associations male representative on the BCCI Apex Council. Dhumal will chair the newly formed IPL governing council after the BCCI AGM on Tuesday. The date of the IPL auction will be decided while there will also be a discussion on the inaugural WIPL, which the Board plans to conduct before the IPL in March. Five teams will be part of the league

initially but how they will be sold could be decided on Tuesday. The BCCI could sell the teams city wise based on zones or to big cities with a solid fan base. There will also be a discussion on the tax liability for the ODI World Cup in India next year. India could lose up to Rs 955 crore if the central government doesn't exempt the tax surcharge on ICC for hosting the event in India. (PTI)

Shami sizzles in four-wicket over as  
India edge out Australia in warm-up

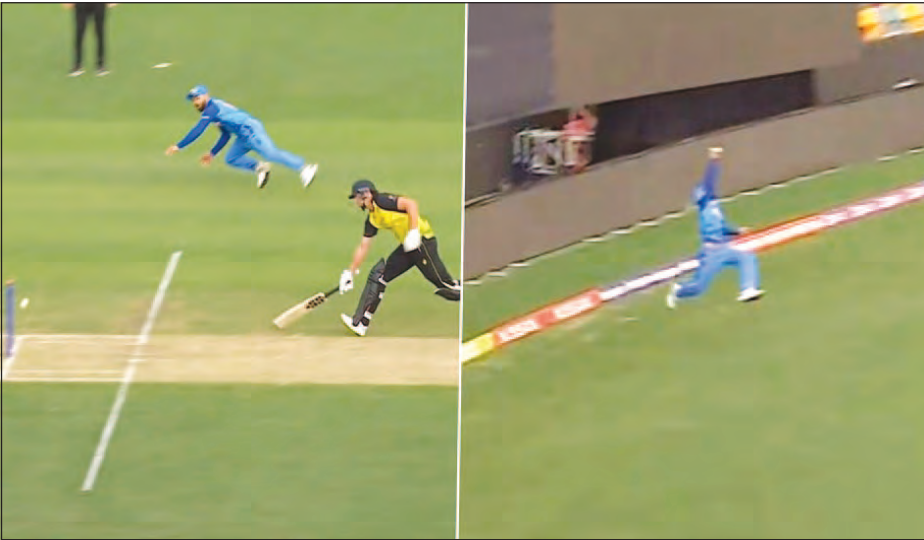


BRISBANE, OCT 17 /--/ Mohammad Shami put the concerns over his fitness to rest with a sensational 20th over as India pulled off a six-run win over Australia in their first warm-up fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Monday.

K L Rahul (57 off 33) and Suryakumar Yadav (50 off 33) smashed entertaining half-centuries to power India to 186 for seven after Australia opted to bowl at the Gabba. Needing 16 runs off the last 12 balls with six wickets in hand, Australia were on course for a comfortable win before Shami, Harshal Patel and Virat Kohli the fielder scripted a turnaround for India. Shami, who last played a competitive game in July and landed here after suffering a long bout of COVID-19, turned up to bowl the last over of the game and made a decisive impact on the game. He landed yorker after yorker and ended up with three wickets in the over besides a run out. Shami was drafted into the squad as a replacement for the injured Jasprit Bumrah. In the penultimate over, under-fire Harshal Patel delivered after being hammered early on, as he conceded only five runs in an over that also included a brilliant run out off a Kohli direct hit. The star India batter had also plucked a stunning one-handed catch out of thin air at the boundary line to dismiss Pat Cummins. However, concerns over India's bowling remains ahead of their tournament opener against Pakistan on October 23. "There is room for improvement, but I want more consistency from the bowlers. You need to keep things simple and hit the deck hard. Overall a good game for us, they had a decent partnership and that put us under

pressure," said skipper Rohit Sharma. On Shami's match-winning effort, he said: "He is coming back after a long time, so we wanted to give him an over. Wanted to give him a challenge and let him bowl the final over, and you saw what he did." Earlier, the Indian batters enjoyed the pace and bounce of the wicket, especially Rahul who scored the bulk of the runs in the powerplay, taking his team to 69 for no loss. Rohit (15 off 14) was a mere spectator at the other end as Rahul came up with one classy hit after another. During a 78-run stand between the openers, Rohit hardly got to bat and could open his account only in the fifth over. Rahul, whose strike rate has been questioned in the past, looked like he was back to his best after coming back from an injury lay off. His innings comprised delightful cover drivers off the pacers while his standout shots were the two sixes off Cummins, one was a crisp pull while the other was a whip off a good length ball, which sailed over deep midwicket. Barring Hardik Pandya (2), who was outdone by a slower ball from Kane Richardson, all the Indian batters got to spend some valuable time in the middle. The bigger boundaries in Australia are already making an impact with Kohli (19 off 13), Dinesh Karthik (20 off 14), Rohit and Rahul getting caught in the deep. Karthik walked across the stumps to dispatch Kane Richardson over deep mid-wicket but was caught by Glenn Maxwell just inside the boundary ropes. It would have been a six at a ground in India. Kohli was bounced out by Mitchell Starc to be caught at fine leg while Rohit's slog sweep landed in the safe hands of Maxwell. (PTI)

Virat Kohli takes one-handed Blinder at long-on to  
dismiss Pat Cummins in warm-up match vs Australia



BRISBANE, OCT 17 /--/ Virat Kohli Takes One-Handed Blinder At Long-On To Dismiss Pat Cummins In Warm-Up Match vs Australia And with Australia needing 11 runs off the final over, Virat Kohli came up with another brilliant effort at long-on, and he took a one-handed blinder to send Pat Cummins back to the hut. NDTV Sports Desk Updated: October 17, 2022 01:20 PM IST Read Time: 2 min Virat Kohli might have been dismissed for just 19 runs against Australia in Team India's warm-up fixture on Monday but the former India skipper changed the complexion of the game through his brilliant fielding in the dying minutes of the game. First, he showed great agility in the field, and

he brought about the run-out of Tim David in the penultimate over of the T20 World Cup warm-up match. And with Australia needing 11 runs off the final over, Virat Kohli came up with another brilliant effort at long-on, and he took a one-handed blinder to send Pat Cummins back to the hut. It was a low full-toss bowled by Mohammed Shami and Cummins drilled it down the ground powerfully. The ball was looking set to go over the boundary ropes but Kohli timed his jump to perfection at long-on, leapt with his right hand and clinged onto a one-handed blinder. Such was the brilliance of the catch, that even Australian players, sitting in the dug-out, applauded Kohli.

GAME NOTES

India and Saudi Arabia to compete for  
2027 AFC Asian Cup hosting rights

NEW DELHI, OCT 17 /--/ India and Saudi Arabia will compete for the hosting rights of the 2027 Asian Cup as three other interested nations have withdrawn their bids, the AFC announced on Monday. If India wins the bid, it will be the first time the country will host the continental showpiece event. Saudi Arabia have won the continental title three times but never hosted the tournament. Iran withdrew their bid a few days back while Uzbekistan had pulled out of the race in December 2020. Since Qatar, the third interested nation, were confirmed as the host association for next year's AFC Asian Cup, they withdrew the bid for the 2027 edition. "The AFC Executive Committee deliberated upon the bidding proposals for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 and shortlisted the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) as the final two bidders," an AFC statement said. (PTI)

Mbappé denies he wants to leave  
PSG during transfer window

PARIS, OCT 17 /--/ PSG forward Kylian Mbappé has denied reports that he wants to leave the French league club during the January transfer window. A series of articles published in France and Spain said that Mbappé is frustrated in Paris and is looking for a way out. The World Cup winner said he was stunned by the rumors when they surfaced last week ahead of a Champions League game. "I'm very happy. I have never asked to leave in January," Mbappé told reporters at the Parc des Princes stadium after PSG defeated Marseille 1-0 on Sunday. "Some people might think I was involved in this, but I was not at all. I was as shocked as anyone else. I just wanted to say that it's completely untrue." Mbappé had been close to joining Real Madrid on a free transfer this summer but finally agreed to stay at PSG for two more years with an option for an extra season. Mbappé joined PSG from Monaco in 2017 when he was still a teenager. (AP)

Indian boxing: Irish great Bernard Dunne  
named High Performance Director

NEW DELHI, OCT 17 /--/ Irish boxing legend Bernard Dunne, who has produced Olympic and world champions, was on Monday named the High Performance Director for Indian boxing. A renowned name in the world of boxing, Dunne will be joining the Indian team following a successful five-year stint with Irish Athletic Boxing Association, serving in the same position. The 42-year-old, who has won the WBA World Championship (2009) and the European Championship (2007), will take over the position which was left vacant after Santiago Nieva's departure. "India has huge boxing talent and its boxers have been performing exceedingly well," said Dunn. "It will be a great opportunity for me to work with them and contribute to their success. I'm very excited to join the team and take the standards of Indian boxing to a new high altogether," he added. (PTI)

Scotland pull off a giant-killing  
act, shock two-time champs WI



Invited to bat, Scotland put on a challenging 160 for five on the back of opener George Munsey's sparkling unbeaten 66 off 53 balls, which was studded with nine fours

HOBART, OCT 17 /--/ Scotland dished out a perfect all-round display to stun two-time champions West Indies by 42 runs in a rain-interrupted Group B fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Monday. Invited to bat, Scotland put on a challenging 160 for five on the back of opener George Munsey's sparkling unbeaten 66 off 53 balls, which was studded with nine fours. The Scots then defended the total in style as West Indies, the most successful side in the T20 World Cup, looked a shadow of their past and folded for 118 in 18.3 overs.

West Indies now must win their next match against Zimbabwe on Wednesday to remain in contention for the Super 12 stage. The Richie Berrington-led side, on the other hand, need a win against European rivals Ireland to qualify for the Super 12 stage.

"We haven't had as many T20 games as we would have liked but have played a lot of 50-overs cricket. It was about transferring those skills to the short form," Berrington said. Hailing their spinners effort, he added: "They have done it for us in key moments. Watt started off well and always picks up the key wickets. Leask bowled his fours over well on the trot, too." Disappointed at the loss, Windies skipper Nicholas Pooran said: "We have to work hard and win two games. We have to take accountability and responsibility." A 20-minute rain stoppage also aided Scotland's cause as the conditions become slower at the at Bellerive Oval. Left-arm spinner Mark

Watt opened the bowling and returned with match-winning figures of 4-0-12-3, while off-spinner Michael Leask also bowled a tidy 2/15 from his full quota of overs. Chasing a target of 161 on slow conditions proved to be a tall task for the Pooran-led side that did not have much depth and missed the big-hitting Shimron Hetmyer in the middle. Opener Kyle Mayers gave the Windies a perfect start -- 20 off 13 balls with three fours and one six. But a superb running catch by Scotland's batting star Munsey at deep midwicket brought an end to the fiery start inside the third over.

The other Windies opener Brandon King (17 off 15 balls) also perished inside the power-play exposing the Windies batting depth early on. Skipper Pooran then fell to off-spinner Leask's guile as the Windies looked in real trouble at 69/5 at the midway stage before all-rounder Jason Holder provided some late sparks (38; 33b, 4x4, 1x6) which proved insufficient. Earlier, opener Munsey gave Scotland a brisk start in the power-play when they raced to 54 runs without losing a wicket. But a 20-minute rain stoppage unsettled their rhythm as the Windies returned to reduce them to 86/3 inside 12 overs. However, Munsey held the fort to unleash his fury at the death and finish on a high as they scored 38 runs from the last four overs. On Sunday, Namibia pulled off the first giant killing act in the tournament, shocking former champions Sri Lanka by 55 runs. (PTI)

16-year-old Indian GM Gukesh stuns Carlsen



Chennai, Oct 17 /--/ Teenaged Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh stunned Magnus Carlsen in the ninth round of the preliminary phase of Aimchess Rapid online chess tournament, becoming the youngest to beat the world champion. The 16-year-old from Chennai beat the world No.1 with white pieces early on Monday to move up to third position behind Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda (25 points) and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan, 23 points) with 21 points after the

12th round. Gukesh's 29-move dismantling of the world champion comes a day after his 19-year-old compatriot Arjun Erigaisi had posted a maiden win over the world champion. "Gukesh just became the youngest player to ever beat Magnus after he became WC! Hats off to the 16-Year-Old Indian superstar," Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, of which the Aimchess Rapid event is a part of, said on its Twitter feed.

Gukesh is 16 years 4 months 20 days and the previous record before his

win was R Praggnanandhaa's 39-move victory over Carlsen in the Airthings Masters in February. Pragg was 16 years 6 months and 10 days old when he defeated the world No.1. The Indian was quoted as saying after the momentous win: "Beating Magnus is always special, but I was not very proud of that game." "As a professional, I am happy with the way I played the game. The win surely plays a vital role in boosting my confidence and I look forward to further games," Gukesh

told PTI. Terming it an important win, the Chennai player said playing Carlsen was always an interesting challenge, and that he looked forward to playing against him in the near future. "It is definitely an important win. Playing with Carlsen is always an interesting challenge and I look forward to playing with him again in the near future," he added. Asked if there was any special preparation for the match against Carlsen, the Indian GM said, "I had a discussion with my coach,

Vishnu Prasanna about the playing styles of all the players in the event. We made a brief plan about what to play against each participant as per their playing style." Subsequently, Gukesh suffered a setback in round 10 when he lost to Duda but bounced back superbly to beat Mamedyarova and Eric Hansen in the next two rounds. Erigaisi has as many points (21) as Gukesh and is in fourth as the race for the spot in the knockout phase gets closer. (PTI)