

NEW IDENTITY ON THE CARDS

Photography and issuance of Smart Islander Identity Card resumed in N&N Andaman

KARTIK

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ Good news for people of North & Middle Andaman as photography and issuance of Smart Islander Identity Card to all eligible residents has been resumed in all the three Tehsils of North & Middle Andaman District. Due to halting of the process, many Islanders of North & Middle Andaman, Little Andaman and other outer islands were facing difficulties in making smart Islander cards replacing the old paper Islander cards. Many residents of outer islands have still not availed the benefit of Smart Islander Identity Card scheme. The Islanders card is a very essential document for the

residents of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, particularly students of these islands who proceed to various colleges in mainland for higher studies. It may be recalled that in the year

2016, the UT administration launched the process of issuance of Smart Card based Islander Identity Card for Islanders, with the aim to replace the paper islander card with smart islander

card. Photography camps were held at ITF ground and other places for this process. But due to Covid-19 outbreak, the process of issuance of smart islander cards was totally halted.

During the lockdown and subsequent restrictions imposed on people's movement, for almost the past two years, residents of outer islands could not visit Port Blair to make a Smart Islander Card. Even after ease in lockdown, owing to lack of adequate sailing of vessels, people from outer islands would not travel to Port Blair to make a Smart Islander Card by spending huge amounts of money. But with the situation becoming normal, the process of issuing smart islander identity cards in the South Andaman region has resumed, but in North & Middle Andaman and other places, issuance of Smart Islander Identity Cards is yet to commence.



Mr. Anoo Shil Chakrabarty, Islands boy and Bollywood Actor receiving best debut actor award at the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke & Lifestyle Award-2022, ceremony held at 5 star Orchid Hotel, Mumbai, on 15th October 2022.

MP seeks operation of daily ferry between PB-Long Island

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary to operate a daily direct ferry between Port Blair and Long Island to promote tourism in Long Island and generate employment. In a letter, Mr. Sharma mentioned that post pandemic, Tourism is slowly picking up in the Islands and tourist footfall is increasing. He added that for further promotion of Tourism and opening of more options for visiting tourists this is necessary to make Long Island easily accessible for visiting tourists and local residents



on a daily basis. He pointed out that Long Island has a population of nearly 2000 people and after the closure of the Kitply Industry a large number of people left the Island and the Island economy suffered a major setback. Since then several

attempts were made to promote tourism in the Island but due to difficulty in reaching the Island, most of the tourists stayed away from Long Island and tourism could not flourish in the Island.

To promote Tourism in Long Island in a big way, the Member of Parliament requested the Chief Secretary to start direct daily ferry service from Port Blair to Long Island. He said that the ferry can remain standby for the entire day at Long Island and in the evening tourists can return back to Port Blair in the same Ferry. He mentioned that if a daily ferry is started

for Long Island the tourist footfall will increase and soon hotels and other accommodations will open up in Long Island, which will give a massive boost to Long Island economy and generate hundreds of jobs for local residents of Long Island and other Islanders.

Secondly, as Long Island had a long history of boat building in the past, the Member of Parliament also requested the Chief Secretary to explore the possibilities of re-starting local boat building at Long Island, which will again generate a good number of employment for residents of Long Island.

Fire guts 9 shops at Aerial Bay at Diglipur

ROOPA LALL



PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/A wooden building was completely gutted in fire in Aerial Bay at Diglipur. According to sources, at about 12.00 noon, fire broke out in a wooden building housing about nine shops which were completely gutted. The fire was so intensive that the entire wooden structure was completely gutted. While few shops were open at the time of the fire accident, most of the shops were closed. Fire service personnel reached on the spot and put the fire blaze under control. Meanwhile, locals blame Fire department personnel for arriving very late on the spot.

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Open PMO branch in Gujarat: Gehlot takes dig at Modi's visits to state

AHMEDABAD, OCT 18 -- / A "camp office" of the PMO should be set up in Gujarat in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's frequent visits to the state ahead of the Assembly elections, senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot said on Tuesday.

He also took a swipe at Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal, saying he was like "Modi's brother" in terms of body language and style of speaking. Speaking at a press conference here, the Rajasthan chief minister also questioned the source of the funds the AAP is spending on campaigning in Gujarat. Both Modi and Delhi chief minister Kejriwal has been visiting Gujarat frequently ahead of Assembly elections, while Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been conspicuous by his absence.

"The prime minister started visiting Gujarat the very next day after winning the Uttar Pradesh elections. Work is suffering in Delhi. He should open a camp office of the PMO in Gujarat so that

work continues smoothly," said Gehlot, the Congress senior observer for Gujarat elections. "A prime minister is a very busy person. Why should he visit his state so often? His name is enough. Is it a small thing that the leader from this state is prime minister? (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah is also camping here," he added. Modi and Shah's programmes are funded by the government even though the BJP does not lack resources, the Congress leader further said. "The country is concerned about the way the Constitution is being bulldozed, democracy is in danger.

The way money is being spent on the programmes of the prime minister and union home minister... They are misusing government machinery to win elections," Gehlot alleged. Terming electoral bonds a "big scam" and one of the reasons democracies is in danger, he asked how could there be a level-playing field if "all the money goes to one party and

the other party does not have money."

The Congress is fighting elections "with limited resources," he said.

About Kejriwal, the Congress leader said he was like "Modi's brother" and "no less than Modi in the way he speaks, his body language." He talks about making India number one. You have become so arrogant after winning Punjab that you will make the country number one on that basis? He talks about giving free electricity by hiring people in large numbers. Don't know where the money (for campaigning) comes from," Gehlot said.

Asserting that Congress was the only national party, he said the BJP may have won elections in north India but it was Congress which kept democracy alive. "Had democracy not been alive, how would Modi have become prime minister?" he asked.

K Kailashnatha, chief principal secretary to chief minister Bhupendra Patel,

had become the "de facto chief minister of Gujarat," Gehlot alleged, advising Patel to show some courage as "the chief minister is like the prime minister in a state." The Congress will give tickets to only those whose integrity is not suspect and who do not quit the party after winning, Gehlot said, adding that the first list of candidates would likely be released after Diwali.

"People quit the party after winning the election. Can there be bigger opportunism? (Party leaders) Raghu Sharma and Jagdish Thakor are working on this (list of candidates)," he said.

Prime Minister Modi was only repeating the promises made in the past during the campaign and the BJP's 'Gaurav Yatra' was a "flop," Gehlot claimed. "People want a change and there will be a change.... Our campaign has started. We are fighting elections with limited resources, they are misusing money, so they should be worried," he said. (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurating the 90th General Assembly of Interpol in New Delhi

BJP should ask Modi to undergo lie detector test and say if CBI, ED independent: AAP

NEW DELHI, OCT 18 -- / The BJP should ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi to undergo a lie detector test and say the CBI and the ED are neutral agencies and have nothing to do with his party, the AAP said on Tuesday.

The reaction of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) came after BJP leader Kapil Mishra dared Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to subject himself to a lie detector test over his claim that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) tried to put pressure on him to quit his party and join the saffron outfit. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader also said Sisodia's allegation was a "shameless" attempt to "influence" the agency's probe into the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. "The BJP should ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi to undergo a lie detector and narco-analysis test and say the CBI and the ED are autonomous and neutral agencies and have nothing to do with the BJP and the Centre," AAP's chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj told a press conference here. He said the central probe agencies' autonomy and independence is the "biggest lie" in the country and demanded that the prime minister also "reveal the truth" about the CBI and the ED during his address at the 90th Interpol General Assembly.

Bharadwaj alleged that Modi is ahead of all other leaders in the country when it comes to telling lies with great ease. "The prime minister should undergo a lie detector and narco-analysis test and say that his friend was not among those whose loans worth Rs 10 lakh crore were waived," he said, asking, "Will he do that?" After more than nine hours of questioning by the CBI on Monday, Sisodia claimed that he was asked to quit the AAP and join the BJP. "Pressure was put on me to quit the AAP. (PTI)

Bilkis case: Former Karnataka CM seeks Shah's resignation for freeing convicts

BENGALURU, OCT 18 -- / Former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah demanded Union home minister Amit Shah's resignation, saying his office ordered release of the convicts in the Bilkis Bano case.

In a series of tweets, the Congress stalwart came down heavily on the BJP, particularly Amit Shah. @HMOIndia's order to release the convicts in Bilkis Bano case exposes the cruel mindset of @BJP4India leaders. They have brought shame to the entire country by granting pardon to these inhuman cultures. @AmitShah should resign & apologise to the entire nation, Siddaramaiah tweeted. He said it was unfortunate that the BJP wanted to use a sensitive issue for their political agenda.

The release of those inhuman rapists & murderers is to polarise electorate ahead of Gujarat elections. For BJP, elections become more important than the concerns of women of this country, the Congress leader tweeted.

The Congress leader

wondered where the women MPs, including finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and the Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shobha Karandlaje, were when this decision was taken.



Siddaramaiah

If they can't stand up even for women's cause, they are unfit to continue in their positions. Can they sleep peacefully knowing that rapists were released by their party for political reasons, he tweeted.

The entire nation has seen the beautiful bond of @narendramodi & his mother. But why could @narendramodi not see the

pain of the mother who lost her infant & unborn child. India will not forgive this inhuman decision of @BJP4India govt to grant pardon, Siddaramaiah added in the tweet. All the 11 convicts sentenced to life imprisonment in the 2002 post-Godhra Bilkis Bano gang-rape case on August 16 walked out of the Godhra sub-jail after the Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy.

A Special CBI Court in Mumbai on January 21, 2008, sentenced the 11 on the charge of gang-rape and murder of seven members of Bilkis Bano's family.

Their conviction was later upheld by the Bombay High Court. The convicts had served more than 15 years in jail after which one of them approached the Supreme Court with a plea for premature release.

The Supreme Court today said the Gujarat government's reply to pleas challenging the remission granted to the 11 is bulky wherein a series of judgments have been quoted but factual statements missing. (PTI)

Kashmiri pandits concerned over targeted killings, propose fact-finding delegation to Valley

JAMMU, OCT 18 -- / Several Kashmiri migrant pandit organisations on Tuesday expressed concern over the unabated targeted killings by terrorists in the Valley and proposed a fact-finding delegation to assess the ground situation.

Panun Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Vichar Manch, Roots in Kashmir, Youth 4 Panun Kashmir and Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD) representatives met and discussed the situation in the valley in the aftermath of the continued attacks on minority community members, including pandits, a statement issued here by the parties said.

The joint meeting took place in the aftermath of the killing of two migrant labourers and a Kashmiri pandit in two separate attacks in Shopian district of south Kashmir since Saturday. "All the organisations in the meeting endorsed several demands including creation of a 'geo-political' foothold to facilitate rehabilitation of pandits in their homeland and enactment of genocide prevention bill along with setting up of special investigation teams to assist in investigating crimes of genocide," the statement said.

The parties also called for the constitution of a tribunal to look into cases related to the pandit community and relocation of Prime Minister Package employees outside the valley in order to avoid further target killings in Kashmir. "It was also agreed to send a fact-finding committee to the valley to assess the ground situation, for community deliberation on the future course of action," the statement said.

It said the latest killings of two migrant labourers and a Kashmiri pandit a few days back in Shopian is "another setback to the return of the aborigines of Kashmir". "The internally-displaced Hindus of Kashmir are caught up between the forces that continue to perpetrate genocide on them and the forces of denial of genocide. The neutering of Article 370 and abrogation of Article 35A along with the reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories has dismantled the legal edifice of a Muslim state on the territory of secular India," the statement said. (PTI)

'I feel ashamed as an Indian', says Kerala Gov on killings of pandits in Kashmir

BULANDSHAHR, OCT 18 -- / There cannot be a more heinous crime than the killing of innocents and as an Indian he feels ashamed, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan said on Tuesday, reacting to the targeted killings of Kashmiri pandits by militants in the Valley. Khan was here to unveil the statue of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar at Bangar village. "There can be no greater crime than a murder, the killing of an innocent. I feel ashamed as an Indian," he said when asked about the killings of pandits in Kashmir. "If a single person from my country has to leave his home and become a refugee, no amount of shame will suffice it," he said. Khan said it was reassuring that the administration in Jammu and Kashmir is trying its best to prevent the targeting of the community. To a question about the statement of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah on the killings, he said he will not comment on any political subject keeping in view the dignity of his post. After the killing of Kashmiri pandit Puran Krishan Bhat by militants in Shopian district on Saturday, Abdullah had told the media that "this is not going to stop, it will continue till justice is done".

The Kerala Governor also said everyone knows that B R Ambedkar framed the Constitution, but there is not enough discussion on the fact that the situation of women in the country changed because of the laws brought by him. To a question on the alleged worsening condition of women in the country, he said, "It is not what it should be, but calling it worse will not be right." Awareness among women has increased. Earlier, a girl of 12-13 years could not step out of home but in the last few years, girls from villages travel seven kilometers on bicycle to get education, Khan said. (PTI)



Arif Mohammad Khan

Rajasthan Cong crisis: BJP wants Speaker CP Joshi to accept resignations of Gehlot loyalists

JAIPUR, OCT 18 -- / The Opposition BJP in Rajasthan on Tuesday requested Speaker CP Joshi to accept the resignations of Congress MLAs and ministers which they had submitted last month over their party high command's probable move to make Sachin Pilot the chief minister. A delegation led by Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria handed over a representation to the speaker at his residence, a move Congress leaders described as "drama". If the

resignations are not accepted, Kataria said, the Congress MLAs should withdraw them and apologise to the people. According to the BJP leader, 91 Congress MLAs, including ministers, had submitted their resignations to the speaker on September 25 after they boycotted the legislature party meeting and held a parallel meeting at Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal's residence. Kataria said three weeks have passed since then, and the resignation letters are

under the Speaker's consideration. "The BJP Legislature Party requests you to accept the resignation letters of the MLAs given voluntarily or the MLAs should appear in front of you and withdraw their resignation and apologise publicly to the people of the state," he said in the letter. BJP state president Satish Poonia, Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore and party whip Jageshwar Garg were part of the delegation. Reacting to this, state cabinet

minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas said BJP leaders meeting the speaker was nothing less than a drama. "Neither Vasundhara Rajewas seen in four years nor other leaders of the BJP. It has failed to play its role of opposition in the last four years. Now, they are doing drama by meeting the Assembly Speaker," Khachariyawas told reporters. He claimed the BJP was divided into two factions and both groups were busy showing their activeness in the state. (PTI)

Kenyan woman with stage IV cancer gets new lease of life in Delhi hospital

NEW DELHI, OCT 18 -- / A 57-year-old Kenyan woman diagnosed with stage IV endometrial cancer received a new lease of life after undergoing "low dose" immunotherapy and chemotherapy at a leading hospital here, doctors said on Tuesday.

So far, in the medical literature world over, such an excellent response to low-dose immunotherapy and chemotherapy has not been described in an endometrial cancer case, they claimed. Apollo hospital in a statement said, "The patient had been suffering from endometrial cancer for the past year and

was operated on in her native country Kenya in November 2021." "However, after the surgery, the disease spread to other organs and the patient developed additional complications involving extensive disease in the abdomen and pelvis, fluid in both lungs, liver metastasis, a non-healing surgical wound in the abdomen, and clots in her legs," it said. With her condition deteriorating and disease taking a toll on her overall health, as a first step, she was given chemotherapy, it said. "Endometrial cancer is the cancer of the inner lining of the uterus. Often it is

diagnosed at an early stage due to frequent abnormal vaginal bleeding, but in few cases, it can reach stage IV without being diagnosed, said Dr Shuaib Zaidi, senior consultant, and surgical oncologist at the hospital here.

"In most cases of stage IV endometrial cancer, cancer can spread too far to be removed with surgery, and so need chemotherapy and immunotherapy for treatment," he said.

On admission at Apollo hospital, the patient was very weak and fatigued due to multiple health complications. She was admitted on January 20 this

year for initial management of disease, but with her condition deteriorating due to a large volume of disease, she was advised chemotherapy with immunotherapy, doctors said.

She underwent a "successful treatment of her stage IV endometrial cancer" with chemotherapy and immunotherapy at Apollo hospital here, it said. Dr. Ajay Gupta, senior consultant, medical oncology, at the hospital said, "She needed chemotherapy to combat the widespread disease process. Considering her poor general condition, we

started her on weekly chemotherapy. Post two months of therapy, she showed reasonable physical improvement and the disease process had stabilised. There was a danger that this "high-risk disease might progress when the chemotherapy was stopped," doctors said. Gupta claimed the woman has recovered well and is now back in her country with a recommendation to continue immunotherapy there.

"She is now without any symptoms and leading a normal, healthy active lifestyle," he said. (PTI)

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"She is now without any symptoms and leading a normal, healthy active lifestyle," he said. (PTI)

Besides, the ruling BJP won three gram panchayats in Sindhudurg, the home district of School Education Minister Deepak Kesarkar who is also a member of the Shinde group, while the fourth one was bagged by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena faction, sources said on Tuesday. The results of the elections held on Sunday for 1,079 gram panchayats were declared on Monday. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday claimed to have won a maximum of 397 seats and said along with the CM Shinde-led 'Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena', the joint rally has reached 478. But, in Ratnagiri, the native place of state Industries Minister Samant, people in three gram panchayats - Shirgaon, Phansop and Pomendi Budruk - voted in favour of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and its allies.

In Raigad's Kaleej-Kharavali village, the native place of Shinde faction's chief whip Gogawale, the panel backed by him won 10 seats while the Thackeray camp along with the NCP bagged 11 seats and came to power. (PTI)

Sailing of MV Dering cancelled

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ The passengers/general public are being informed that due to adverse weather conditions the scheduled sailing programme of the vessel MV Dering for Diglipur via Mayabunder on 19.10.2022 at 1900 hrs from Port Blair and her return voyage from Diglipur to Port Blair via Mayabunder on 20.10.2022 at 1230 hrs has been cancelled. Passengers those who have purchased their tickets for the above sailings are hereby informed to cancel their tickets and get full refund from STARS Ticketing Counters. Inconvenience caused to the passengers is regretted.

Bairagi condoles demise

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ Mr. Ajoy Bairagi, State President, Bharatiya Janata Party, A & N Islands, along with all Office bearers of BJP, Andaman and Nicobar Islands has condoled the demise of Janab M.A. Mujtaba (Mustafa Sir), Retired Principal, Boys School, Residence of Aberdeen Bazaar on 18/10/22 at GB Pant Hospital. The Leaders pray to the almighty god to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Vishal condoles demise

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member BJP & Former State President BJP - A & N Islands has deeply mourned the sad demise of F Joseph, Ex- Quarry Operator, (Aged 66 yrs.) R/o Prothrapur F/o Dr. J Arokia Raj yesterday on 17.10.2022. In his message Shri Jolly prayed to the Almighty to give peace to his eternal soul departed for heavenly abode and give strength to his bereaved family member to bear this irreparable loss.

Vishal condoles demise of MA Mujtaba

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member BJP & Former State President BJP - A & N Islands has condoled the demise of M. A. Mujtaba (Mustafa Master) Retired Principal, resident of Aberdeen Bazaar who passed away at G.B. Pant Hospital early this morning. In his message Shri Jolly prayed to the Almighty to give peace to his eternal soul departed for heavenly abode and give strength to his bereaved family member to bear this irreparable loss.

MP condoles demise of MA Mujtaba

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Member of Parliament has deeply mourned the sad demise of senior citizen M.A. Mujtaba (Mustafa Sir), Retired Principal of Boys Senior Secondary School on 18th October 2022, at GB Pant Hospital in the wee hours. Respected M.A. Mujtaba was a prominent author and historian of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and his teaching and writings will always remain with us. With the demise of respected M.A. Mujtaba, Andaman and Nicobar Islands have lost a son of the soil, who had dedicated his life for these Islands, the Member of Parliament mentioned in his condolence message.

CPI(M) condole demise

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ The Andaman & Nicobar State Organizing Committee of CPI (M) has condoled the sudden demise of Mr. MA Mujtaba, retired Principal of the Education Department on Tuesday at Port Blair. He was 83 years old. The CPI (M) conveyed its deepest condolences to the members of late MA Mujtaba.

Secretary, Director (Health) inspects medical facilities PHC Billiground

MAYABUNDER, OCT 18/--/ As part of the North & Middle Andaman tour, Mr. Arjun Sharma, Secretary (Health) and Director of



Health visited PHC Billiground on Monday. The visit by the senior health officers was undertaken on the direction of the Chief Secretary who during his recent visit of this region assured the residents of the region to resolve their health issues raised by the PRI members and local residents. The senior officers inspected Wards, Lab and other

units of PHC Billiground and interacted with the health officials and patients. The Chief Medical officer, Dr. Ajit Kumar put forth various issues, including requirements of the PHC. Issues like shortage of ANMs, renovation of Wards, including toilets, residential accommodation of staff, Ambulance facilities and other infrastructure facilities were raised by the PRI members. The Secretary (Health) assured to initiate necessary measures to resolve these issues to ensure quality health-care services of the residents of this region. Earlier, the senior health officers visited PHC Rangat, Health Sub-Centre at Shivapuram and Dharmapur and PHCs at Kadamtala and Baratang. They inspected the health-care facilities in all these health centres and interacted with the PRI members and the local people.

—KARTIK

Awareness prog on PMMSY, RKVY schemes



PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ An awareness programme on 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)' schemes implemented by the department was conducted in the Panchayat Bhawan of Gram Panchayat Mithakhari by the Directorate of Fisheries on Monday. Mr. Mohd Safiq, Pradhan GP Mithakhari and Mr. Farooque, Asst. Fisheries Officer, Smti. Prema Kujur, Up-Sarpanch, Smti. Salina Abha Minj, PRI

Member, Smti. Khadeeja, PRI Member and fisherfolk of the area were present on the occasion. During the programme, officials of the Fisheries Dept. informed the fishermen community about various schemes implemented by the department for the benefits of the fishermen community. Mr. Mohd Safiq expressed his gratitude to the officials of Directorate of Fisheries for conducting the awareness camp for the benefits of the fishermen of this region.

Advisory to general public & tourists

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ The weather forecast bulletin received from Meteorological Department indicates Low pressure formation in next 48 Hours over SE/East Central Bay of Bengal and subsequently depression formation by 22nd October. Hence keeping in view the safety of passenger and vessels, the sailing of DSS vessels may get suspended/

cancelled in all sectors including Harbour Ferry at short notice. Therefore, the passengers and tourists are hereby advised to plan their journey suitably to avoid any inconvenience. However, passengers can also get update/status of the vessels from the Information Counter at Phoenix Bay by using the Number 03192- 245555/232714 & TOLL FREE NUMBER 18003452714.

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Producers, Importers & Brand Owners, Plastic Waste Processors asked to register through the Centralized EPR Portal

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) regime under Plastic Waste Management Rules, refers to responsibility of Producers, Importers and Brand-owners, including producers and manufacturers of compostable plastics to ensure processing of their plastic packaging waste through recycling, re-use or end of life disposal (such as co-processing/ Waste-to-energy/Plastic to oil/roadmaking/industrial-composting). In order to streamline implementation process of EPR, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in its fourth Amendment to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, dated February 16, 2022, notified 'Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility for Plastic Packaging' in the Schedule II of the Rules. Accordingly, the Centralized EPR Portal has been developed to register PIBOs who are operating in more than two States with CPCB and those operating in one or two States/UTs shall be registered with the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs). Plastic Waste Processors shall also have to register with the concerned SPCB/PCC in accordance with the provisions of the Section 13(3) of the Plastic Waste Management

Rules, 2016 on this centralized portal. The EPR Portal for Plastic Packaging provides provision for registration of PIBOs/ PWPS in accordance with the notified EPR Guidelines. All the Producers, Importers and Brand Owners (PIBOs) and Plastic Waste Processors (PWPs) are hereby directed to register through the Centralized EPR Portal developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Action, as deemed fit under Environment Protection Act, 1986 including levying of Environmental Compensation as per the Guidelines shall be taken against the defaulter. A meeting will be convened under the Chairmanship of Secretary(S&T) A&N Administration in Mini Conference Hall of Secretariat on 20-10-2022 at 03:30 pm to discuss various issues regarding registration of (PIBOs) and Plastic Waste Processors (PWPs) in Centralized EPR Portal. All PIBOs & PWPs (including those who were previously registered in A&N EPR portal (<https://anepr.andaman.gov.in/>)) are hereby requested to attend the Meeting. Definitions as per Guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility and Link of EPR portal are as under—Producer means person engaged in manufacture or import of carry bags or multilayered

packaging or plastic sheets or like, and includes industries or individuals using plastic sheets or like or covers made of plastic sheets or multilayered packaging for packaging or wrapping the commodity; —Importer means a person who imports plastic packaging product or products with plastic packaging or carry bags or multilayered packaging or plastic sheets or like; —"Brand Owner" means a person or company who sells any commodity under a registered brand label or trade mark; —Plastic Waste Processors means recyclers and entities engaged in using plastic waste for energy (waste to energy), and converting it to oil (waste to oil), industrial composting. The link to register in the Centralized EPR portal is provided below: <https://eprplastic.cpcb.gov.in/> Further, the SOP for registration of PIBOs and PWPs can be downloaded respectively with the links provided below: https://eprplastic.cpcb.gov.in/plastic/downloads/SOP%20PIBOS_0001.pdf https://eprplastic.cpcb.gov.in/plastic/downloads/SOP%20PWP_0001.pdf

One seat each in all UG & PG prog reserved in University of Calicut

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ All concerned candidates have been informed that the Assistant Registrar, Directorate of Admissions, University of Calicut has informed that the University of Calicut has reserved one seat each in all UG & PG programmes, additional created and reserved over and above the sanctioned strength in the affiliated Arts and Science Colleges under this University, but within the Statutory maximum limit for the native students of the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the academic session 2022-23. The closing date for admission for Under Graduate and Post Graduate programmes in the affiliated colleges under

University is Oct. 28, 2022. The candidates who are interested for admission in UG & PG Programmes in the University of Calicut have been asked to go through the website of the University (<https://www.uoc.ac.in/>) for details of the courses offered in UG and PG programmes. Interested and eligible candidates seeking admission in UG & PG Programmes in the University of Calicut have been requested to submit the application to the Development-IV Section, Secretariat by Oct. 21, 2022 upto 5 pm, so that the same can be forwarded to the University of Calicut for consideration of the admission against the seats reserved for the students of A&N Islands.

Hello FM new timing

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ The AIR VB FM Port Blair will henceforth broadcast film songs based on the live listeners request programme 'HELLO FM' on every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 pm to 7 pm on 100.9 MHz. It was earlier broadcast from 7.15 pm to 8 pm on these days. Listeners can call on phone number 232540 or 232541 during this period to listen to their favourite Hindi songs.

May This Diwali Bring Prosperity & Happiness to ALL

916 BIS HALL MARK GOLD ORNAMENTS

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MD (OB & GYN), DNB., Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist Laparoscopic (Minimally Invasive), Robotic Surgeon & Fertility Specialist Apollo Hospitals Chennai

Date: Saturday, 29th October 2022

Time: 11.00 to 6.00 pm

Venue: APOLLO CLINIC

192 Garacharma Main Road, South Andaman Port Blair - 744105

X- Ray, USG, CT,2D- ECHO,ECG, EEG, TMT, NCS , PHYSIOTHERAPY, & LABORATORY

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CMYK

The significant problems we have cannot be solved at the same level of thinking with which we created them
Albert Einstein

India scores very poorly in global hunger index

It is sad that India has slipped six places in the global hunger index report that was released recently and is now ranked 107 out of 121 countries in the world. In other words, India is now on a par with several countries from sub-Saharan Africa. From South Asia, it is only ahead of Afghanistan -- a country that India has been helping with food grain supplies in the wake of an ongoing famine there. This means, India is behind neighbours Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. But, the response to the government has been typical -- something which has now come to become a norm -- accuse the rating or indexing agency of trying to defame India with dubious methodology -- while simultaneously claiming that India has one of the largest food procurement and distribution systems in the world and that food is often distributed free even to the poorest. While the government might be right to claim it is distributing the most food in the world and has a robust system to ensure that the food is distributed all across the country, it is missing the entire point of the hunger index.

The hunger index measures outcomes -- that is it surveys the nutritional parameters across the population across the country, especially checking for child nutrition and parameters like child stunting and child wasting -- that is caused due to malnutrition, while also measuring for undernourishment in the general population before arriving at the final index. India clearly scores very poorly on these parameters -- even if that may not be readily visible -- and should be a cause of concern. The government, however, has taken all the wrong lessons from the index rather than examining the shortfalls in the programme -- the quality of the grain being distributed, their nutritional value, whether those undernourished belong to any oppressed castes or sections of society or any other shortfalls in distribution that may arise.

Close to 20 per cent of children in India below the age of five suffer from the most visible and life-threatening form of malnutrition -- wasting, or "low weight-for-height". About 35 per cent of such children are not as tall as they should be. These sobering factoids could have served as inputs for government programmes such as Poshan 2.0 and the Mid-Day Meal scheme. It is well known that rice and wheat -- both of which make up the bulk of the commodities -- are distributed under the public distribution system, the PM GaribKalyan Anna Yojana Scheme and other schemes of the central and state governments. However, neither of the two grains is particularly nutritious and does not in any way help meet the human body's daily balanced diet requirements. While they might help the recipients get two square meals a day, those two meals are not particularly nutritious especially if it is all that the families that receive them are eating. However -- like last year -- the Ministry of Women and Child Development not only dismissed the GHI but also questioned the intent of its authors. An official statement has described the report as part of a "consistent effort" to "taint India's image". It is time for India to shore up efforts to address malnutrition instead of contesting the Global Hunger Index.

Employment market vulnerabilities for poor exacerbate REFLEX ACTION

Dr. Gyan Pathak

benchmark country -- to assess how demand for digital skills increased over the last five years. Close the 75 per cent of all employers surveyed in these five countries reported increased demand for all digital skills, from basic to advanced. Both basic and applied digital skills have become near-universal requirement for employment. Above 70 per cent of all surveyed employers reported that basic and applied digital skills are now a workplace essential.

Evidence of rising demand was higher in Bangladesh and India, followed by the US. These three countries also reported the highest demand for advanced digital skills relative to demand for basic skills. The number among the last 10 hires required to possess digital skills in India are: Basic digital skills 8, applied digital skills 5, Software and hardware skills 6, and advanced digital skills 4. The analysis of the data shows that the people who can fill digital jobs are in greater demand in developing market; while more advanced economies have a stronger emphasis on business and management personnel who oversee digital jobs. India, Indonesia, and Malaysia have more digital jobs than do Australia or Singapore, where there is more demand for corporate management. India and the Philippines show strong demand for information technology business support roles reflecting their competitive advantage in business process outsourcing. The report says that the fields of study tend to align with national competitive advantage. In India, 8 of the top 10 degrees awarded are in computer science, a result driven by the country's strength in information and communication technology. Australia and Singapore have larger share of education backgrounds in business, management, corporate and legal skills, and liberal arts. The fastest growing job categories reflect nation strengths across countries. Hiring in online content and social media is rising quickly in Indonesia

and the Philippines, while Malaysia posts faster growth in digital business support roles such as in human resources and business development, and India in digital roles in software and system development. Top jobs in demand in India as per their rank are -- software engineer, sales manager, system engineer, business development manager, human resource executive, business analyst, business development executive, graphic designer, professor, and project manager.

When analyzed from a growth rate perspective, in India, roles in workplace safety and compliance with standards are increasing, which indicate its commercial trend. The fastest growing ten top jobs rankwise are -- business technology analyst, academic advisor, drug safety associate, transaction risk investigator, information technology analyst, production specialist, talent acquisition executive, data engineer, product analyst and JavaScript developer. The top ten digital skills in demand in India rankwise are -- SQL, JavaScript, Java, HTML, C programming language, MySQL, Cascading Style sheets, C++, Python programming language and jQuery. The tech hub of India and Singapore require a mix of skill, reflecting a range of expertise that includes building tech infrastructure and enterprise systems, such as C++ and AI. In India, 8 of top 10 fields are technical or in computer science, reflecting the country's strong comparative advantage in information and communication technology and its reputation as a global leader in training and exporting tech talent. Top ten fields of study rankwise in demand as per the job perspective in India are -- Computer science; Computational science; Electrical, electronics and communication engineering; Information Technology; Computer engineering; Electrical and electronics engineering; General business and commerce; Physical sciences; and Mathematics. It is clear that the labour market is India in under digital transition, which is changing too fast to cope with the change creating imbalance. In this backdrop, the report says, informed policies and actions are needed to amplify benefits of digitalization and mitigate harm. (IPA)



Two potters busy in making earthen lamps to be used in Diwali, the festival of lights--Arijit Ganguly

Imran Khan on backfoot over leaked audio tapes

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman and the erstwhile Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan's threat to move the court over the recent audio leaks questioning how and who did leak them suggests that that the PTI chief seems to be on the lookout for an escape from the accusation through a juridical route. The statement he made on Monday is a sequel to a steady stream of audio recording that were allegedly candid conversations never meant to be heard by the public, of government figures in the Prime Minister's Office.

Over a fortnight back, the audio leaks unveiled that Imran Khan was allegedly heard talking about horse-trading and branding his opponents as "traitors". The first audio leak -- second of two in a day -- allegedly featuring PTI chairman Imran Khan telling party leaders Asad Umar and Shireen Mazari that the use of the controversial cipher created "fertile ground" for his Mir Jafar and Mir Sadiq narrative surfaced. The second leak alleges that Khan was heard saying that whatever the party had done on the cipher should have been done days earlier. Khan can then was heard saying that response to the "letter" had exceeded party expectations the world over. Mazari can be heard interjecting that China had even released a statement "condemning American meddling" in internal affairs of Pakistan. The PTI

supremo is visibly on the back foot and is yet to state in plain words that the audio tapes are fabricated. His rebuttal efforts are feeble. "I ask them [neutrals] that the audio leaks of the Prime Minister Office [...] if the security of the Prime Minister Office has been breached [...] this means that our enemies have our sensitive information. "I am using the iPhone 14 Plus, here are 5 reasons why it is the iPhone to get in 2022

The iPhone 14 Plus costs Rs 50,000 less than the iPhone 14 Pro Max thus offering a solid alternative for big-screen iPhone lovers. The Opposition leader stated that he and his party are for a judicial scrutiny on the authenticity of the leaks, to be followed by a joint investigation team to probe if an intel agency did the bugging and indentifying the persons who leaked the 'mostly edited and doctored audio.' For the PTI leadership, the matter is critical as sensitive security issues 'are and have been illegally recorded and subsequently hacked, implying that the confidentiality of Pakistan's national security has been exposed globally.'

"This reflects his frantic effort to get out of the imbroglia by resorting to juridical acrobatics. "The great Test Captain whom we were proud about for

playing with a straight bat is disappointingus', stated a dissident PTI leader. The term 'neutrals' that he mentioned is in use exclusively by the military establishment. This means Khan blamed the Prime Minister's office for the leaks.

The PTI boss has been duped by President Dr Arif Alvi who in an interview said while he was not averse to a probe into how the PTI government was ousted but rejected the concept of 'an American conspiracy' behind it. Dr Alvi was a senior PTI leader before taking over as the President of Pakistan.. This expression of dissent demolishes Khan's anti-US narrative based on a "cipher." But Dr Alvi added that "The letter [foreign cipher]" was sent to the Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and investigation should be made on this point.

It may be recalled that Imran Khan claimed on March 27 this year at a public gathering before his ouster that his government had been threatened by the US and the opposition got into the conspiracy thereafter. But the US government officially rejected the allegations. True, anti-US sentiments create response from the masses and Khan and his party would not let it die

down till the next elections. After all, Pakistan and US have a historically "love and hate" relationship that made peaks and troughs in the Pak-US diplomacy, causing trust and distrust even to an extent that at times its impact was felt on the political arena.

When Pakistan's first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan decided to visit the US, and as many believed gave preference to the US over the USSR, the subsequent events led to in the ban on left-wing politics in Pakistan, particularly the new-born Communist Party of Pakistan. The US Embassy in Islamabad nurtured a policy of discouraging communists' activities globally. This includes funding of anti-communist activities. Left-leaning political activists, mostly inside the Pakistan People's Parties, banter Imran's anti-US tantrums as sham and showbiz. "After all, he was a pet of President Zia-ul-Haq, Pakistan's most hated military dictator," said a Lahore-based academic.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif ridiculed Imran Khan saying that the PTI chairman was so desperate to get power in the centre that he was even ready to touch the feet of those whom he called neutrals. "At a time when there is complete chaos in KP and law and order situation is deteriorating, Imran is claiming that he should be returned to power" speaking during a session of the National Assembly, the lower house of Pakistan's law-makers. (IPA)

FOCUS

Sankar Ray

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						

ACROSS						DOWN					
1	Weaving machine	1	Inferior			1	Prayer				
6	Floor covering	2	Silent			3	Silent				
7	Circle of light	3	Silent			4	Sweet potato				
9	Slight parody	5	Put on			5	Brave man				
10	Citrus fruit	6	Cut off			7	Sound reasoning				
11	Self	7	Sound reasoning			10	Permit				
12	Subject of discourse	10	Permit			13	Street urchin				
14	Scope	13	Street urchin			15	Procession				
17	Top card	15	Procession			16	Join firmly				
20	Traffic light	16	Join firmly			18	Strong wind				
23	Clock faces	18	Strong wind			19	Printers' measures				
25	Valley (poet)	19	Printers' measures			22	Wicked				
26	Single occasion	22	Wicked			23	Female rabbit				
27	Help	23	Female rabbit			24	Perform				
28	Fasting period	24	Perform								

SUDOKU:3670												
		4	6	7								
					5	1		3				
		5		8			1					
		7									6	
6		8					5				9	
9								2				
		3			6		8					
	1		3	2								
					4	7	1					

Yesterday's Solution 3669												
3	8	4	5	1	9	6	2	7				
7	6	2	8	3	4	9	1	5				
1	5	9	6	7	2	4	8	3				
8	2	7	9	4	3	1	5	6				
6	4	3	1	5	8	7	9	2				
9	1	5	7	2	6	3	4	8				
4	7	6	2	9	5	8	3	1				
5	3	1	4	8	7	2	6	9				
2	9	8	3	6	1	5	7	4				

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1678												
D	E	T	A	C	H			A	R	C		
U		A	G	E				D		O		
D	E	R	I	D	E			H	A	M		
	L		T	E	A	S	E		P			
S	A	G	A		T	E	R	S	E			
U	N	I	T	S		C	E	L	L			
P		N	E	P	A	L		O				
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L		E			O	D	E		A			
E	R	R			S	K	E	I	N	S		

DISCLAIMER

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

Merit list of candidates for admission to various Undergraduate Courses in JNRM in CCAP website

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ The category-wise final merit list of candidates who have applied for admission to various Undergraduate Courses in JNRM, Port Blair for the Academic Session 2022-23 has been uploaded duly attending all the claims and objections in the Common College Admission Portal (CCAP) website (<https://collegeadmission.andaman.gov.in>).

The counseling for admission to these

courses shall be held in JNRM, Port Blair as per the following schedule. No separate information will be given for counseling. Candidates selected for admission during counseling session shall be given admission on the same day. Candidates have been advised to attend counseling as per the all category final merit list with their serial number/session-wise/ subject-wise as mentioned below:

S.No.	Date of Counselling	Course	No. of seats	Session		Designated place in JNRM
				Forenoon 09:00 AM to 01:00 PM	Afternoon 02:00 PM to 05:00 PM	
1.	26/10/2022 (Wednesday)	BPES	56	S.No. 1 – 156	----	BPES Dept.
		B.Sc. Geography	100	S.No. 1 – 600	S.No. 601 – 1503	Lecture Gallery
		B.Sc. Chemistry	56	S.No. 1 – 400	S.No. 401 – 637	Old Lib Hall
2.	27/10/2022 (Thursday)	B.Sc. Physics	56	S.No. 1 – 419	----	Lecture Gallery
		B.Sc. Botany	56	S.No. 1 – 400	S.No. 401 – 615	Botany Dept.
		B.A English	100	S.No. 1 – 600	S.No. 601 – 2079	Auditorium
3.	28/10/2022 (Friday)	BBA (Tourism)	34	S.No. 1 – 400	S.No. 401 – 1284	Lecture Gallery
		B.Sc. Maths	56	S.No. 1 – 369	----	Old Lib Hall
		B.A Economics	100	S.No. 1 – 600	S.No. 601 – 1085	Auditorium
4.	29/10/2022 (Saturday)	B.Sc. Zoology	56	S.No. 1 – 400	S.No. 401 – 676	Zoology Dept.
		B.Sc. Home Sc.	56	S.No. 1 – 270	----	Old Lib Hall
		B.A Political Sc.	100	S.No. 1 – 600	S.No. 601 – 1582	Lecture Gallery
5.	31/10/2022 (Monday)	B.A History	100	S.No. 1 – 600	S.No. 601 – 1174	Auditorium
		B.A Bengali	90	S.No. 1 – 308	----	Old Lib Hall
		B.A Hindi	100	S.No. 1 – 400	S.No. 401 – 704	Lecture Gallery
6.	01/11/2022 (Tuesday)	B.A Tamil	34	S.No. 1 – 32	----	Tamil Dept.
		B.Com	90	S.No. 1 – 323	----	Lecture Gallery
		BCA	56	S.No. 1 – 380	----	Old Lib H

The candidates who have applied online for admission to above said courses have been asked to be present by 8.30 AM on their respective day of counselling in the places designated at JNRM. They should bring documents in original for verification and one set of photostat copies (to be submitted during admission) viz. XII Marks Statement and Pass Certificate (Original will be detained in JNRM); School Leaving Certificate (Transfer Certificate) (Original will be detained in JNRM); X Pass certificate for verification of date of birth; Category Certificate (ST, OBC, PH, ward of central Govt. Servants/ Ex-Servicemen & EWS); Aadhaar/ Aadhaar Enrolment Slip and one Passport size photo of candidate.

Certificates downloaded through Digilockerare valid during counseling

Panel recommends action on Collector, police officials in Thoothukudi firing incident

CHENNAI, OCT 18 /--/ The commission of inquiry into the Thoothukudi police firing resulting in 13 deaths and injuries to 100 persons in May 2018, suggested action against the then district Collector, police officers and deputy tahsildars for their acts of commission and omission besides enhanced compensation to the kin of victims. The Commission suggested requisite departmental action against

the then-district collector Venkatesh for his style of functioning reminiscent of abdication of his responsibility. "The conclusion then becomes irresistible that there had been excess on the part of the police. The totality of the facts and circumstances would not suggest that the police had been acting in the exercise of the right of private defence. As a matter of fact, it is not even the version of police," Justice

Aruna Jagadeesan commission of enquiry report, tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday said. The police officials jointly and severely accountable are IG Shailesh Kumar Yadav, DIG Kapil Kumar C Karatkar and SP P Mahendran and 17 officials; the report said and suggested departmental action and other actions known to law against three special executive magistrates/ deputy tahsildars. (PTI)



पेंशन निधि विनियामक एवं विकास प्राधिकरण
PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

VACANCY NOTICE

RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - 2022
(on direct recruitment or deputation basis or contract)

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA/Authority), is a statutory regulatory body in the financial sector established vide PFRDA Act (23 of 2013) and set up under Government of India.

2. Applications are invited from Indian citizens for filling up one (1) post of **Executive Director** on **direct recruitment or contract or deputation basis** in PFRDA.

3. The detailed notification with complete details like age criteria, qualification and experience, scale of pay, mode of selection and application form etc. is available on PFRDA's website at www.pfrda.org.in under 'careers' section and also on the website of National Career Service at www.ncs.gov.in.

4. Any Corrigendums/ Addendums/ Notices (if any) relating to this vacancy notice shall be issued only on the website of PFRDA.

5. The last date for receipt of applications is **14.11.2022 (Monday)**.

Please visit our website www.pfrda.org.in for complete information and schemes regulated and administered by PFRDA or scan the QR code



THE GENERAL MANAGER
(Admin & HR)
Advt. No. 03/2022

cbc 15102/12/0014/2223

Eye screening camp at Chatham Saw mill

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness & Visual Impairment, an Eye Screening Camp was conducted at Chatham Saw Mill on Monday by an eye team headed by Dr. Kapil G. Shahare,



Ophthalmologist, G. B. Pant Hospital as part of the observance of World Sight Day 2022.

The eye team examined all the eye cases with special focus on cataract among 50 years or above, Glaucoma and Diabetic Retinopathy. Altogether 101 eye cases were examined, of which 12 cataract cases (11 cataract cases from above 50 years), 3 glaucoma, 3 diabetic retinopathy, 14 refractive error cases were detected and given spot treatment. All needy eye patients have been referred to G.B. Pant Hospital for further investigation and further treatment.

Earlier, Dr. Kapil sensitized the staff and workers in details about management of eye disease like cataract, glaucoma, refractive error, dry eye, diabetic retinopathy and age related macular degeneration.

The camp was facilitated by the officials of State NCD Cell, NPCDCS and Department of Community Medicine, ANIIMS. The team screened around 101 persons for diabetes and hypertension who were advised for proper diet and lifestyle changes. Some patients were diagnosed and referred to G. B Pant for specialized treatment.

Rabies deaths in Kerala not due to ineffective vaccines: Central team to health ministry

NEW DELHI, OCT 18 /--/Rabies deaths in Kerala were not due to vaccines being ineffective, a central team which visited the state to probe the cases has said in its report to the Union health ministry, according to official sources.

Meanwhile, testing at Kasauli is also complete and states that the vaccines are effective, the sources said. The report stated that the majority of deaths were preventable and could be attributed due to low awareness in the general community about do's and don't in the event of animal bites, the sources said. There has been a delay in seeking time and appropriate animal bite management in the cases examined which might be attributed to not recognising the importance of timely and full rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.

Intensive information education and communication activities are required for all target audiences about the do's and don'ts for animal bites management, the committee has recommended, they said. Deaths are also attributed to proper wound washing facilities at animal bite management facilities even at the tertiary care level and limited availability of ARV/ARS at the peripheral health facilities as only 30 per cent of PHC and UHC were having ARV available and 3.5 per cent of all facilities were having ARS.

"None of the deaths could be attributed to vaccine/RIG quality, the report said," an official source said. (PTI)

AFFIDAVIT

I, PRATIK JUSSAL, S/o Shri Mohit Kumar, R/o Nayabasthi, Bambooflat village under Ferrargunj Tehsil, South Andaman District do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:

1. That I am permanent resident of these Islands and residing at above mentioned address.

2. That in my Birth Certificate and Educational Certificate my father's name is recorded as MOHIT KUMAR JUSSAL but in my Aadhaar Card, Bank Pass Book, Electoral Identity Card and his all Identity cards records/documents his name is recorded as MOHIT KUMAR.

3. That the names MOHIT KUMAR JUSSAL and MOHIT KUMAR belong to same person and it belongs to my father.

4. That I am swearing this affidavit to declare that the aforesaid names belong to same person and it belongs to my father, hence which are applicable for all official purposes.

The above said statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DEPONENT

AFFIDAVIT

I, P. SIVA KUMAR, S/o Shri P. Priya Swamy, R/o Bathubasti, Ward No.19 under Port Blair Tehsil, South Andaman District do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:

1. That in my School Certificates and Graduation Certificates, my father's name has been recorded as P.PRIYA SWAMY and my mother's name also been recorded as P. PARIYAKKA.

2. That in my Birth Certificate, Aadhaar Card, PAN Card & Islander Card my father's name is recorded as P.PERIYA SWAMY and my mother's name recorded as P.PERIYAKKA.

3. That the names P.PERIYA SWAMY, P.PRIYA SWAMY and P.PERIYAKKA, P.PARIYAKKA belongs to same person and belongs to my father and my mother.

4. That I am swearing this affidavit for declare that the aforesaid names belong to my father and my mother, hence which are applicable for all official purposes.

That the above said statements are true and correct to the best off my knowledge and belief.

Place: Port Blair

Date: 14/07/2021

DEPONENT

ASNVMs to go on agitation in front of APWD office today

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ The General Body meeting of the ASNVMs was held at Port Blair on 15th October 2022. Hundreds

in the APWD is also yet to be considered by the authorities. The meeting also observed that the APWD workers are not being paid



of workers from various Divisions of APWD at Port Blair attended the meeting which was presided over by Mr. B. Chandrachoodan, President of the Union.

The meeting discussed the pending demands of the workers. The pending demand of 1/30th of pay plus DA to all Daily Rated Mazdoors as per the Govt. of India's order of 1988 is yet to be considered favourably by the Administration despite favourable orders of the High Court and Supreme Court. The demand of the Union to regularise the services of the daily rated workers against the vacant posts available

the bonus as per the orders of the Govt. of India. The meeting after a detailed discussion decided to resort to agitation as intimated to the department earlier on the above demands. The meeting further decided to stage mass dharna in front of the office of the Chief Engineer, APWD from 19th October, 2022 onwards till the demands are achieved. Mr. R. Surendran Pillai, President, CITU, Mr. D. Ayyappan, Vice President, CITU State Committee also addressed the meeting. Mr. SP Kalairajan, General Secretary, ASNVMs proposed vote of thanks.

APWD installs two water tanks at Afra Bay & Macachua in Great Nicobar

PORT BLAIR, OCT 18/--/ Towards ensuring continued access to adequate quantity of potable water in extreme dry season to remote areas of Afra Bay and Macachua in Great Nicobar Island, APWD has successfully completed 2 tanks of capacity 10.66 lakh litres each. Every year,



during summer, the tribal inhabitants residing in permanent shelters at Afra Bay and Macachuafaces acute scarcity of water due to drying up of wells/available spring sources there. Both these places are accessible only through mechanized boats or engine dinghy by sea. Due to which, every year, potable water had to be transported from Campbell Bay to Afra Bay and Macachua by boat or engine dingy during extreme peak summer for consumption of the residents.

To meet the demand, sufficiently large water storage tanks were proposed for construction by making use of prefabricated GI tank with liner for storing 10.66 lakh litres water in each tank. Despite several unforeseen hurdles in the wake of COVID pandemic, construction of the tanks has been successfully completed and commissioned by APWD. The augmented water storage will benefit 150 population of Afra Bay and 175 residents of Macachua.

With the completion of this project, 10.66 lakh litres water can be stored in each tank during rainy season when it is available abundantly in the local water sources. This stored water can be utilized for consumption by the native tribal inhabitants during peak summer without having to face any hardship.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Ms. Pritha Kanrar (Aadhaar No. 5105 0628 0321, D/o Shri Prasanta Kanrar by religion Hindu, permanent Resident of Kali Nagar, Hut Bay, Little Andaman under Gram Panchayat Netaji Nagar, Little Andaman, South Andaman District in the Union Territory of A&N Islands do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely declare the followings:

1. That my actual name is Pritha Kanrar, D/o Shri Prasanta Kanrar and I born on 27th November, 2000 at Kali Nagar, Hut Bay in Gram Panchayat Netaji Nagar under Little Andaman Tehsil, South Andaman District.

2. That in the School Certificate i.e. Grade Sheet cum Certificate of Performance bearing Registration No.M615/40005/0034 dated 28.05.2016 issued by the Controller of Examination, Central Board of Secondary Education, Delhi has in avertedly recorded my father's name as Prasanta and mother's name as Iva in place of Shri Prasanta Kanrar and Smti Iva Kanrar.

3. That similarly in the Mark Statement Sl.No.SSCCE/2018/0595238 dated 07.08.2018 issued by the Controller of Examination, Central Board of Secondary Education, my father's and mother's name have been in avertedly recorded same as mentioned at para No.2 above.

4. That in my Islander Identity Card No.10637302855703 issued on 23.05.2018 and Aadhaar No.5105 0628 0321, my father's and mother's name have been correctly figured as "PRASANTA KANRAR AND IVA KANRAR".

5. That my father Shri Prasanta and Prasanta Kanrar as recorded in my Central Board of Secondary Education Certificates / Mark Statement is same and one identical person.

6. That my mother Smti Iva and Iva Kanrar as recorded in my Central Board of Secondary Education Certificate/Mark Statement is same and one identical person.

7. That by affirming this affidavit, I want to add the surname of my father and mother as "KANRAR" in my International Passport to be obtained from the concerned office/authority.

8. That the contents of the aforesaid paras from 01 to 07 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Solemnly affirmed this affidavit on this 17th day of October, 2022.

DEPONENT

Urgent Requirement

Btech EEE or Mech.

Mob.
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IV470A (old) W638A(New),
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GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/11/2022 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

ANDAMAN , BABULANE PORTBLAIR, 129170700049869, 9882, 9887, 9895, 9896, 9902, 9911, 9936, 9946, 9955, 9956, 9960, 9961, 129170700050045, 0063, 0067, 0107, 0137, 0172, 0180, 0233, 0240, 0241, 0246, 0252, 0286, 0308, 0356, 0358, 0368, 2488, 2507, 2511, 2520, 2526, 2562, 2566, 2573, 2596, 2606, 2618, 2622, 2674, 2727, 2731, 2734, 2736, 2762, 2769, 2776, 2794, 2798, 2802, 2835, 2841, 2852, 2892, 2895, 3562, 3713, 3734, 3754, 3756, 3758, 3759, 3779, 3797, 3816, 3829, 3870, 3913, 3923, 3925, 3932, 3948, 3953, 3966, 3967, 3974, 3975, 3976, 4013, 4015, 4016, 4039, 4044, 4045, 4058, 4059, 4063, 4064, 4068, 4074, 4078, 4079, 4085, 4089, 4102, 4108, 4113, 4116, 4118, 4152, 4156, 12917070009746, 9766, 9811, 9846, 12917070010207, 0362, 0365, 0424, 0425, 0426, 0433, 0437, 0440, 0442, 0607, 0652, 0691, 0701, 0715, 0725, BAMBOO FLAT ANDAMAN, 129280700024823, 5677, 5693, 5695, 5713, 5735, 5736, 5737, 5743, 5747, 5763, 5778, 5781, 5782, 5803, 5808, 5809, 5821, 5825, 5837, 5846, 5863, 5865, 5886, 5902, 5920, 5927, 5929, 5934, 5935, 5939, 5941, 5952, JANGLIGHTH PORTBLAIR, 131420700035536, 5564, 5600, 5608, 5615, 5620, 5636, 5639, 5670, 5716, 5719, 5733, 5743, 5769, 5795, 5809, 5818, 5825, 5829, 5834, 5838, 5850, 5869, 5876, 7499, 7507, 7519, 7634, 7547, 7553, 7554, 7559, 7561, 7603, 7669, 7682, 7683, 7688, 7689, 7714, 7720, 7736, 7740, 7760, 7772, 7806, 7808, 8364, 8410, 8411, 8418, 8427, 8439, 8445, 8571, 8478, 8480, 8486, 8500, 8543, 8554, 8556, 8557, 8563, 8572, 8580, 8581, 8588, 8590, 8595, 8598, 8603, 8618, 8626, 8634, 8644, 8649, 8650, 8658, 8662, 8663, 8664, 8669, 8670, 8675, 8676, 8677, 8679, 8687, 8688, 8707, 8708, 8710, 8711, 8735, 8747, 8749, 8752, 8753, 8779, 131420730006072, 6114, 6302, 6321, 6322, 6326, 6332, 131420780000010, OLD PAHARGOAN, 131400700028709, 8750, 131400700030329, 0376, 0447, 0608, 1386, 1398, 1420, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1444, 1448, 1487, 1491, 1501, 1503, 1540, 1545, 1564, 1565, 1570, 1572, 1582, 1610, 1614, 1629, 1663, 1669, 1314400730001666, 1667, 1673, 1704, 1717, 1718, PATHAR GADDA JUNCTION, 131390700037941, 7980, 7988, 7989, 8024, 8081, 8082, 8083, 8125, 8131, 8136, 8142, 8175, 8176, 8191, 8200, 8218, 8221, 8222, 8261, 8262, 8263, 8364, 8383, 8409, 13139070004105, 0107, 0113, 0139, 0142, 0147, 0210, 0295, 0344, 0446, 0350, 0355, 1038, 1050, 1112, 1117, 1141, 1160, 1188, 1202, 1219, 1243, 1285, 1295, 1301, 1316, 1322, 1323, 1329, 1332, 1333, 1335, 1347, 1357, 1370, 1399, 1406, 1413, 131390730002807, 2808, 2815, 2841, 2869, 3075,

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of Cash on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 8714603282.

Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd

Govt gets more time to frame CAA rules

NEW DELHI, OCT 18 /--/ The Union home ministry has been granted yet another extension by the Parliamentary Committees on Subordinate Legislation in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha to frame the rules of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, sources said on Tuesday.

While the permission has been granted from the Rajya Sabha till December 31, 2022, the Lok Sabha has granted the time till January 9, 2023. This is the seventh extension given to the home ministry to frame the rules under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). The Modi government wants to grant Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- who had come to India till December 31, 2014. The CAA was passed by the Parliament on December 11, 2019, and the presidential nod was received the next day. Subsequently, it was notified by the home ministry. However, the



law is yet to be implemented as rules under the CAA are yet to be framed. Rules under a law have to be framed for its implementation.

According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, the rules for any legislation should have been framed within six months of presidential assent or seek extension from the Committees on Subordinate Legislation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. In January 2020, the home ministry notified that the Act would come into force from January 10, 2020, but it later requested the p a r l i a m e n t a r y committees in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha to give it some more time to implement rules as the country was going through its worst ever health crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic. (PTI)



Security personnel and locals during search and rescue operation after a chopper carrying pilgrims crashed at Garud Chatti near Kedarnath shrine on Tuesday

7 dead as chopper ferrying Kedarnath pilgrims crashes

Prez, PM condole loss of lives

RUDRAPRAYAG, OCT 18 /--/ A helicopter ferrying pilgrims from Kedarnath temple to Guptkashi here crashed into a hill due to poor visibility on Tuesday, killing all six pilgrims and the pilot on the spot.

The chopper -- Bell 407 (VT-RPN) and operated by Aryan Aviation -- burst into flames at around 11.45 am at Dev Darshini in Garud Chatti, Rudraprayag District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh said. Teams from the National Disaster Response Force, disaster response forces of Uttarakhand and Delhi, and police brought the bodies to the Kedarnath helipad. The Rudraprayag disaster management office identified the victims as Poorva Ramanuj (26), Kriti Brar (30)

and Urvi Brar (25) from Gujarat, and Sujata (56), Prem Kumar and Kala (60) from Tamil Nadu. Pilot Anil Singh (57) hailed from Maharashtra, it said. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia condoled the loss of lives. "The news of the death of many pilgrims, including the pilot, in the helicopter crash near Kedarnath Dham is very sad. My deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones," Murmu tweeted in Hindi. "Anguished by the helicopter crash in Uttarakhand. In this tragic hour, my thoughts are with the bereaved families," Modi was quoted as saying in a tweet by his office. Scindia wrote: "Deeply saddened by

the loss of lives in the tragic crash. My heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased. May God give them the strength to bear this loss." In another tweet, he said the civil aviation ministry was constantly monitoring the situation. "The helicopter crash in Kedarnath is extremely unfortunate. We are in touch with the state government to ascertain the magnitude of the loss, and are constantly monitoring the situation," he said. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, too, expressed grief and ordered a detailed inquiry into the crash. In August 2019, three people were killed in a private helicopter crash. The chopper was carrying relief material to the victims of severe floods and cloudburst in Uttarkashi. (PTI)

We do not believe in hierarchical world order: Rajnath

GANDHINAGAR, OCT 18 /--/ Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said India does not believe in a "hierarchical world order" where a few countries are considered superior to others. India was steadfast in its commitment to provide support in all arenas to African countries, he said, speaking at the India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD-2022) here. A 'Gandhinagar Declaration' to enhance cooperation in the fields of training and military exercises was adopted at the end of the event, organised on the sidelines of Defence Expo 2020. India does not believe in a hierarchical world order where a few countries are considered superior to others, Singh said, addressing the representatives of more than 50 countries including 19 defence ministers.

India's international relations are guided by the essence of human equality and dignity which is a part of its ancient ethos. We do not believe in making or becoming a client or satellite

state, and so when we partner with any nation, it is on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect, Singh said. "India is steadfast in its commitment to provide support in all arenas to African countries, for fulfilling their aspirations for peace and stability in the region," he added. India's partnership with Africa was centered on the ten guiding principles articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the parliament of Uganda in 2018, he said. African priorities are our priorities. We appreciate the efforts made by African countries towards building a common African peace and security architecture, the defence minister said. He was happy that the India-Africa Defence Dialogue was "institutionalized" as a forum after the first India Africa Defence Ministers Conclave held in Lucknow in 2020, Singh further said. India also remains committed to support the African countries' efforts to deal with the "challenges of conflict,

terrorism and violent extremism, Singh said. We have created a robust public and private defence industry. A defence manufacturing ecosystem has been created in India which has the advantage of abundant technical manpower. Our defence industry can work with you to fulfil your defence requirements, he said. India and African countries were also "important stakeholders" in ensuring a safe and secure maritime environment, especially in the Indian Ocean Region, he added. Over the years, India has "contributed immensely" to the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa and is amongst the top three countries contributing troops for UN peacekeeping, the Union minister noted. I am sure that you also share our belief that the global world order deserves to be democratised further. The world's multilateral forums should be reflective of the change in global realities, Singh said. The Gandhinagar Declaration

was adopted as an outcome document of IADD 2022, a defence ministry release said. It proposes to enhance cooperation in the field of training in all areas of mutual interest by increasing trainings slots and deputation of training teams, empowerment and capability building of the defence forces of Africa, participation in exercises and humanitarian assistance during natural disasters, it said. India offered fellowship for experts from African countries through Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, the release added. Representatives of more than 50 African countries, including 19 defence ministers, seven chiefs of defence staff, service chiefs and eight permanent secretaries participated in the dialogue. Singh and minister of state for defence Ajay Bhatt also met visiting African ministers on the sidelines of the event and discussed defence and bilateral relations, the release said. (PTI)

PM calls international community to 'eliminate safe havens' for terrorists

Urges Interpol to speed up Red Corner Notices against fugitives

NEW DELHI, OCT 18 /--/ Calling the global community to work faster to "eliminate safe havens" for terrorists, criminals and the corrupt, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said when the "forces of good cooperate, the forces of crime cannot operate". Inaugurating the 90th General Assembly of Interpol, the Prime Minister warned about the harmful globalised threats that the world faces -- terrorism, corruption, drug trafficking, poaching and organised crime. "The pace of change of these dangers is faster than earlier. When threats are global, the response cannot be just local! It is high time that the world comes together to defeat these threats," Modi said. The Prime Minister released a commemorative postage stamp and a Rs 100 coin to mark the 90th General Assembly. He was welcomed at the venue by Home Minister Amit Shah, Interpol President Ahmed Naser Al Raisi and Secretary General Jurgen Stock.

Prime Minister Modi was introduced to the Executive Committee by the Interpol president. In his address to the gathering of 195 member countries of Interpol which included a delegation of Pakistan led by its Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Director General Mohsin Butt, the Prime Minister said India has been combating trans-national terrorism for several decades. "Long before the world woke up to it, we knew the price of safety and security. Thousands of our people made the ultimate sacrifice in this fight," he said. Modi said a safe and secure world is a shared responsibility of the global community. "When the forces of good cooperate, the forces of crime cannot operate," he said. The Prime Minister said there can be no safe havens for the corrupt, terrorists, drug cartels, poaching gangs or organised crime. "Such crimes against people in one place are crimes against everyone, crimes against humanity. Further, these not only harm our present but also impact our future generations. Police and law enforcement agencies need to devise procedures and protocols to increase cooperation. Interpol can help by speeding up Red Corner Notices for fugitive offenders," he said. India has 780 active Red



Notices as of now, of which 205 are related to criminals wanted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). In his 14-minute speech, the Prime Minister said terrorism is not limited to physical space and has spread its presence through online radicalization and cyber threats. "At the click of a button, an attack can be executed or systems can be brought to their knees. Each nation is working on strategies against them. But what we do within our borders is no longer enough. There is a need to further develop international strategies. "Establishment of early detection and warning systems, protecting transportation services, security for communication infrastructure, security for critical infrastructure, technical and technological assistance, intelligence exchange, many of these things need to be taken to a new level," he said. The Prime Minister said corruption and financial crimes have harmed the welfare of the citizens of many countries. "The corrupt find a way to park the proceeds of crime in different parts of the world. This money belongs to the citizens of the country from which they have been taken. Often, this has been taken from some of the poorest people in the

world," he said. "From illegal drugs that destroy young lives to human trafficking, from weakening democracies to the sale of illegal arms, this dirty money funds many destructive enterprises. Yes, there are diverse legal and procedural frameworks to deal with them. However, there is a need for the global community to work even faster to eliminate safe havens," the Prime Minister said. Underlining India's forces for global causes, the prime minister said from climate targets to Covid-19 vaccines, India has shown willingness to take the lead in any kind of crisis. "And now, at a time when nations and societies are becoming inward-looking, India calls for more, not less, international cooperation. Global cooperation for local welfare is our call," he said. The proposal in this regard was conveyed by Union home minister Amit Shah to Interpol Secretary General Jurgen Stock during his visit to India in 2019. The proposal was put to vote in the last General Assembly which was accepted with an overwhelming majority. (PTI)

Global Hunger Index exaggerates measure of hunger, has multiple problems, say HealthMin sources

NEW DELHI, OCT 18 /--/ The Global Hunger Index (GHI) exaggerates the measure of hunger, lacks statistical vigour and has problems on multiple counts, Union health ministry sources said Tuesday after India stood 107th out of 121 in this year's rankings.

It does not really measure hunger, they said while asserting that the report "deliberately ignores the tremendous efforts made by the government to ensure food security for the population, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic". Three out of the four indicators used are related to the health of children and cannot be representative of the entire population, sources said. They said that according to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) the indicators of undernourishment, stunting, wasting and child mortality do not measure hunger per se as these are not the manifestations of hunger alone. Many of the measures that are used to evolve an index that measures hunger are probably contextual, the ministry sources said. Claiming that the Global Hunger Index was erroneous and suffers from serious methodological issues, an official said: "It exaggerates the measure of hunger, lacks statistical vigour, has a problem of multiple counts, and gives higher representation to under-five children." The fourth indicator, the



'Estimate of Proportion of Undernourished Population' for India is 16.3 per cent. For a country of the size of India, the data has been collected from a minuscule sample of 3,000 and is statistically wrong, lacks validity, biased, and unethical, sources in the ministry said. "Also, the framing of questions was inappropriate and negative. For example, respondents were asked: During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources you were worried you would not have enough food to eat? You ate less than you thought you should?" Inclusion of such questions signifies that the agencies had pre-formed biases and did not search for facts based on relevant information about the delivery of nutritional support and assurance of food security by the Government," an official source said. The other three indicators relate primarily to children such as stunting, wasting and under-five mortality. These indicators are the outcomes of complex interactions of factors such as drinking water, sanitation, genetics, environment and utilisation of food intake

apart from hunger. Interpreting 'hunger' based on health indicators of children is neither scientific nor rational, the sources said. Even then their estimates are wrong as National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) has shown improvement in stunting and wasting and a significant reduction in U5MR, they said. According to NFHS India has shown improvement in child nutrition indicators as stunting (height-for-age) among children under 5 years has declined from 38.4 per cent (NFHS 4 - 2015-16) to 35.5 per cent (NFHS 5 - 2019-21). Wasting (weight-for-height) among children under 5 years has declined from 21.0 (NFHS 4) to 19.3 percent (NFHS-5). Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age) declined from 35.8 (NFHS 4) to 32.1 per cent (NFHS-5) and U5MR to 109 (1990) to 42 in 2021. In the Global Hunger Index, 2022, India ranked 107 out of 121 countries, much behind its South Asia neighbours, with the child wasting rate at 19.3 percent, the highest in the world. With a score of 29.1, the level of hunger in India has been labelled "serious". The ministry of women and child development on October 15 rejected the findings, alleging it is an effort to taint the country's image and the index suffers from serious methodological issues and is an "erroneous measure" of hunger. The Opposition leaders said the government must take responsibility for its "failure". (PTI)

Mamata offers jobs to brave hearts who saved people from drowning in Malbazar

MALBAZAR, OCT 18 /--/ Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday handed over job offer letters, cheques of Rs one lakh and certificates of appreciation to seven men who risked their lives to save people from drowning in Jalpaiguri district recently.

However, two of them did not accept the jobs offered stating that they would continue with their current profession. These seven men saved several people from drowning during a flash flood in the Mal river here during the immersion of idols of Goddess Durga on October 5. Out of the seven people, six were given offers of civic volunteer jobs while one, who has been a driver, was given the opportunity to work in a similar position as



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee cuddling a child belonging to one of the families that lost their members during the recent flash flood in Malbazar — Photo: EOI

per his request. The seven are Soumen Chowdhury, Mohammed Manik, Manoj Munda, Dara Singh, Biswajit Biswas, Deepak Bodka and Amiya Mahato.

A total of 450 people were saved that day in a combined effort by locals, the state administration and the disaster management groups. At the programme, the chief minister also interacted with the family members of the eight people who died in the flash flood during the immersion on Vijaya Dashami. The state government has given Rs two lakh as compensation to the next of kin of each of the eight people who died. Mamata also handed over offer letters to 53 people of the neighbouring Alipurduar district, who are associated with folk arts. (PTI)

Xi swears by Marxism to make China first modern socialist country as he heads for rare 3rd term

BELJING, OCT 18/--/Poised for record third five-year term and perhaps for life, Chinese President Xi Jinping's high-voltage Marxist rhetoric on Sunday with a vow to make China a modern socialist country has raised hackles at home and abroad that the Communist giant, which for decades relegated the ideology to the background, could be taking the turn to the extreme left. "From this day forward, the central task of the Communist Party of China (CPC) will be to lead the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in a concerted effort to realise the Second Centenary Goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernisation," Xi said in his marathon speech at the key Congress of the party on Sunday.

"Only by taking root in the rich historical and cultural soil of the country and the nation the truth of Marxism flourish here," he told the over 2,300 delegates of the week-long 20th Congress, which is due to confirm his unprecedented 3rd five-year term to make him the only leader after the party founder Mao Zedong to continue in power after 10-year term. Xi, 69, who came to power in 2012, has raised the ideological bar of the CPC, which

earlier relegated the ideology to the backseat for the last three decades. China emerged as the second largest economy after the US during this period riding on the success of opening up and economic reforms initiated by Deng Xiaoping, ending Mao's disastrous tryst with extreme Marxist-Leninist communist ideology. Deng, who succeeded Mao after his death in 1976, ended the founder's ideological obsession and advocated a new theory of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics under which CPC remained all but a Communist party by name. In the following years, it practised a policy of reform and opening up advocated by Deng attracting massive foreign investments to revive the country, which went bankrupt under Mao. Deng, who is widely regarded as the father of China's economic rise, dismissed the importance of Marxist ideology bluntly at a CPC conference in 1981 with a cryptic remark "let's dispense with the theory", which became a buzzword for the party leaders. His successors Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao followed his lead, rapidly expanding the role of the market in the Chinese domestic economy and embracing a foreign policy that maximized China's participation in a global economic order led by the United States. "Xi has

brought that era of pragmatic, non-ideological governance to a crashing halt," Australia's former prime minister Kevin Rudd, who is widely regarded as



the foremost expert on China, wrote recently in the Foreign Affairs journal. "In its place, he has developed a new form of Marxist nationalism that now shapes the presentation and substance of China's politics, economy, and foreign policy," he said.

"Xi has pushed politics to the Leninist left, economics to the Marxist left, and foreign policy to the nationalist right," Rudd said. Xi has "reasserted the influence and control the CPC exerts over all domains of public policy and private life, reinvigorated state-owned enterprises, and placed new restrictions on the private sector", Rudd said in his write-up ahead of the CPC Congress. Meanwhile, Xi has

"stoked nationalism by pursuing an increasingly assertive foreign policy, turbocharged by a Marxist-inspired belief that history is irreversibly on China's side. In short, Xi's rise has meant nothing less than the return of Ideological Man, he said.

Cai Xia, who worked as a professor for 15 years at CCP's Central Party School in Beijing, said Xi, a devoted student of Mao, is eager to leave his mark on history. The Central Party School which was headed by Xi himself when he was the Vice President taught ideological subjects to the CCP cadre at various levels. "And because previous reforms failed to place real checks and balances on the party leader, Xi has succeeded. Now, as under Mao, China is a one-man show," Cai, who migrated to the US after her retirement and turned a dissident, wrote in the Foreign Affairs journal. "One part of Xi's plot to consolidate power was to solve what he characterised as an ideological crisis. The Internet, he said, was an existential threat to the CCP, having caused the party to lose control of people's minds" and cracked down on bloggers and online activists, censored dissent and strengthened China's "great firewall" to restrict access to foreign websites, she said. "The effect was to strangle a nascent civil society and

eliminate public opinion as a check on Xi," she said. Chinese political experts on the other hand said Xi's "theoretical innovation" of the CPC has global significance as it offers countries around the world a new growth model. Shen Yi, a professor at the School of International Relations and Public Affairs of Fudan University, told China's state-run Global Times that "the concept of Chinese modernisation was raised for the first time as one of the most important conclusions the CPC made from its past experiences." Shen said that as there is no ready-made development path or mode for China to directly copy or imitate, China has finally concluded a Chinese path to modernisation after more than a hundred years of exploration and construction since the Revolution of 1911, providing a completely new alternative. It also provides a third choice for all developing countries in the world which are searching for or struggling with their development modes with the wish to both realise rapid self-development and maintain sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, he said.

In his speech on Sunday, Xi underscored the unique features of Chinese modernisation, which, he said, is the socialist modernisation pursued under the leadership of the CPC. It

contains elements that are common to the modernisation processes of all countries, but it is more characterised by features that are unique to the Chinese context, Shen said.

In his speech, Xi said that the next five years will be crucial for ensuring that the efforts to build a modern socialist country in all respects get off to a good start. "Building a modern socialist country in all respects is a great and arduous endeavour. Our future is bright, but we still have a long way to go. We must therefore be more mindful of potential dangers, be prepared to deal with the worst-case scenario, and be ready to withstand high winds, choppy waters and even dangerous storms," Xi said.

Zhang Xixian, a professor at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee in Beijing, said "the potential risks that could bring 'dangerous storms' would come from the risk of war over Taiwan in the backdrop of increasing US support for Taiwanese independence forces. China claims Taiwan is part of it and opposes any country supporting the Taiwanese government. Chinese modernisation will be successful together with other nations' modernisation, and it will create chances for other countries to realize their modernisation and development, Zhang said. (PTI)

Ex-British fighter pilots lured by Chinese military for training PLA personnel, MoD says taking 'decisive action' to stop it

LONDON, OCT 18/--/The UK government said on Tuesday that it is taking "decisive steps" to stop lucrative Chinese recruitment schemes attempting to headhunt serving and former British military pilots to train the People's Liberation Army personnel in China.

According to reports, around 30 former UK military pilots are thought to have gone to train members of China's Army and an intelligence alert is being issued to warn Royal Air Force (RAF) and other Armed Forces personnel against such recruitment drives. While the recruitment does not breach current UK laws, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the new National Security Bill would create additional tools to tackle such security challenges.

We are taking decisive steps to stop Chinese recruitment schemes attempting to headhunt serving and former UK Armed Forces pilots to train People's Liberation Army personnel in the People's Republic of China, an MoD spokesperson said.

All serving and former personnel are already subject to the Official

Secrets Act, and we are reviewing the use of confidentiality contracts and non-disclosure agreements across Defence, while the new National Security Bill will create additional tools to tackle contemporary security challenges - including this one, the spokesperson said.

Armed Forces Minister James Heapey told 'Sky News' that the recruitment of UK pilots to train Chinese counterparts had been a concern within the MoD "for a number of years".

"Don't go and train foreign air forces without checking with the MOD whether they are a foreign air force we want to see you train - would be a good rule," he said.

The retired British pilots are being used to help understand the way in which Western planes and pilots operate, information which could be vital in the event of any conflict, such as over Taiwan, the BBC reported.

"It is a lucrative package that is being offered to people. Money is a strong motivator," it quoted a Western official as saying, with some pay packages thought to be as much as USD

270,000.

The UK first became aware of a small number of cases of former military pilots being recruited in 2019, which were dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed attempts down, when travel to China was almost impossible but the attempts have now increased, leading to an alert.

"We've seen it ramp up significantly. It is an ongoing issue," the official said in a briefing.

The pilots have experience on fast jets and helicopters and come from across the military and not just the RAF. They have flown Typhoons, Jaguars, Harriers and Tornados. F-35 pilots are not thought to be involved although China is thought to be interested in them. Some of the pilots are in their late 50s and left the military some time ago.

Pilots of other western allied nations have also been reportedly targeted. Officials said they are being recruited through intermediary headhunters and cited a particular flying academy based in South Africa as being involved. (PTI)

Corruption, race baiting and cronyism will not work: Sri Lanka's Booker Prize winner Karunatilaka

COLOMBO, OCT 18/--/Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka, whose supernatural satire set amid the island nation's brutal civil war won the Booker Prize, has expressed hope that his crisis-hit country will soon learn from its stories and understand that the ideas of corruption, race baiting and cronyism have not worked and will never work. Karunatilaka's novel The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida' is about a photographer who wakes up dead, with a week to ask his friends to find his photos and expose the brutality of war. Karunatilaka, 47, became only the second Sri Lankan born to win the prestigious GBP 50,000 literary prize at a ceremony in London on Monday night, after Michael Ondaatje who won for The English Patient' in 1992. Karunatilaka, who was born in Galle in 1975 and grew up in Colombo, said he decided in 2009 to write a ghost story where the dead could offer their perspective after the end of the Sri Lankan civil war, when there was a raging debate over how many civilians died and whose fault it was. Karunatilaka said as he accepted his prize, I wrote this book for you. This is a win at a time when the country has lost so much. But let's accept this victory and go on to win the T20 World

Cup and My hope is that in the not too distant future Sri Lanka will understand that these ideas of corruption and race baiting and cronyism have not worked and will



never work, were much hailed in the social media platforms. His remarks came after the unprecedented economic and political turmoil Sri Lanka witnessed that led to the change of the government headed by the Rajapaksa family in July. I hope it's in print in 10 years if it is. I hope it's written in a Sri Lanka that learns from its stories, and that Seven Moons will be in the fantasy section of the bookshop, next to the dragons, the unicorns and will not be mistaken for realism or political satire," he was

quoted as saying by Colombo Gazette.

The prestigious 50,000 prize, for a single work of fiction published in the UK in English, also gives the other five writers on the shortlist 2,500 each. The award winning book is a revised version of an earlier publication by Karunatilaka Chats with the dead'. President Ranil Wickremesinghe and the main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa both issued messages of congratulations to Karunatilaka while social media became inundated with messages from Sri Lankans, who are overjoyed amidst the worst economic crisis that has hit the country. Karunatilaka and this year's other shortlisted authors, NoViolet Bulawayo, Percival Everett, Claire Keegan and Elizabeth Strout, were all in attendance at the Roundhouse in London, with Alan Garner attending virtually. Karunatilaka's GBP 50,000 prize money and newly designed trophy were presented to him by last year's winner Damon Galgut, along with a designer-bound edition of his book and the GBP 2,500 given to each shortlisted author. As the winner, the Sri Lankan author can expect instant international recognition and a dramatic increase in global sales. (PTI)

Worry grows for Iran woman athlete who climbed without hijab

SEOUL, OCT 18/--/An Iranian female competitive climber left South Korea on Tuesday after competing at an event in which she climbed without her nation's mandatory headscarf covering, authorities said.

Farsi-language media outside of Iran warned she may have been forced to leave early by Iranian officials and could face arrest back home, which Tehran quickly denied. The decision by Elnaz Rekabi, a multiple medalist in competitions, to forgo the headscarf, or hijab, came as protests sparked by the Sept. 16 death in custody of a 22-year-old woman have entered a fifth week.

Mahsa Amini was detained by the country's morality police over her clothing. The demonstrations, drawing school-age children, oil workers and others to the street in over 100 cities, represent the most-serious challenge to Iran's theocracy since the mass protests surrounding its disputed 2009 presidential election.

A later Instagram post on an account attributed to Rekabi described her not wearing a hijab as unintentional," though it wasn't immediately clear whether she wrote the post or what condition she was in at the time.

The Iranian government routinely pressures activists at home and abroad, often airing what rights group describe as coerced confessions on state television.

Rekabi left Seoul on a Tuesday morning flight, the Iranian Embassy in South Korea said.

The BBC's Persian service, which has extensive contacts within Iran despite being banned from operating there, quoted an unnamed informed source who

described Iranian officials as seizing both Rekabi's mobile phone and passport. BBC Persian also said she initially had been scheduled to return on Wednesday, but her flight apparently had been moved up unexpectedly. IranWire, another website focusing on the country founded by Iranian-Canadian journalist Maziar Bahari who once was detained by Iran, alleged that Rekabi would be immediately transferred to Tehran's notorious Evin Prison after arriving in the country. Evin Prison was the site of a massive fire this weekend that killed at least eight prisoners.

In a tweet, the Iranian Embassy in Seoul denied all the fake, false news and disinformation regarding Rekabi's departure on Tuesday.

But instead of posting a photo of her from the Seoul competition, it posted an image of her wearing a headscarf at a previous competition in Moscow, where she took a bronze medal. Calls to the Iranian Embassy in Seoul rang unanswered Tuesday. Rekabi didn't put on a hijab during Sunday's final at the International Federation of Sport Climbing's Asia Championship, according to the Seoul-based Korea Alpine Federation, the organisers of the event. Federation officials said Rekabi wore a hijab during her initial appearances at the one-week climbing event. She wore just a black headband when competing Sunday, her dark hair pulled back in a ponytail; she had a white jersey with Iran's flag as a logo on it.

The later Instagram post, written in the first person, offered an apology on Rekabi's behalf.

The post blamed a sudden call for her to climb the wall in the competition although footage of

the competition showed Rekabi relaxed as she approached and after she competed. It also sought to describe her travel back to Iran on Tuesday as being on schedule.

Rekabi was on Iran's 11-member delegation, comprised of eight athletes and three coaches, to the event, according to the federation.

Federation officials said they were not initially aware of Rekabi competing without the hijab but looked into the case after receiving inquiries about her. They said the event doesn't have any rules on requiring female athletes wearing or not wearing headscarves.

However, Iranian women competing abroad under the Iranian flag always wear the hijab. Our understanding is that she is returning to Iran, and we will continue to monitor the situation as it develops on her arrival, the International Federation of Sport Climbing, which oversaw the event, said in a statement. It is important to stress that athletes' safety is paramount for us and we support any efforts to keep a valued member of our community safe in this situation. The federation said it had been in touch with both Rekabi and Iranian officials, but declined to elaborate on the substance of those calls when reached by The Associated Press. The federation also declined to discuss the Instagram post attributed to Rekabi and the claims in it. Later Tuesday, South Korea's Foreign Ministry acknowledged that the Iranian athlete and her team had left the country, without elaborating. Rekabi, 33, has finished on the podium three times in the Asian Championships, taking one silver and two bronze medals for her efforts. So far, human

rights groups estimate that over 200 people have been killed in the protests and the violent security force crackdown that followed. Iran has not offered a death toll in weeks. Demonstrations have been seen in over 100 cities, according to the group Human Rights Activists in Iran. Thousands are believed to have been arrested.

gathering information about the demonstrations remains difficult, however. Internet access has been disrupted for weeks by the Iranian government. Meanwhile, authorities have detained at least 40 journalists, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Iranian officials, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has repeatedly alleged the country's foreign enemies are behind the ongoing demonstrations, rather than Iranians angered by Amini's death and the country's other woes. Iranians have seen their life savings evaporate; the country's currency, the rial, plummeted and Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers has been reduced to tatters. In a statement Tuesday, the office of the United Nations high commissioner for human rights called for the immediate release of all those arbitrarily detained in the protests. It also criticised the unabated violent response by security forces that has seen even children reportedly arrested and killed. The continued unnecessary and disproportionate use of force against protesters must stop," the statement said. "Arresting people solely for exercising their rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression constitutes an arbitrary deprivation of liberty" (AP)

Missiles, exploding drones again hit Ukraine's power, water

KYIV, OCT 18/--/Airstrikes cut power and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians on Tuesday, part of what the country's president called an expanding Russian campaign to drive the nation into the cold and dark and make peace talks impossible. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said nearly one-third of Ukraine's power stations have been destroyed in the past week, causing massive blackouts across the country. No space left for negotiations with Putin's regime, he tweeted.

Depriving people of water, electricity and heating as winter begins to bite and the broadening use of so-called suicide drones that nosedive into targets have opened a new phase in Russian President Vladimir Putin's war: The aerial bombardments appear aimed at wearing down the notable resilience Ukrainians have shown in the nearly eight months since Russia invaded. Even far from front lines, basic utilities are no longer certainties, with daily strikes reaching far into the country and damaging key facilities, sometimes faster than they can be repaired. The latest city to lose power and water entirely was Zhytomyr, home to military bases, industries, leafy boulevards and about 250,000 people, some 140 kilometers west of Kyiv. The city's hospitals switched to backup power after the double missile strike Tuesday on an energy facility, and other settlements in the area also lost electricity, city and regional officials said.

In Kyiv, the capital, missile strikes damaged two power facilities and killed two people, city authorities said. The attack left 50,000 people without power, the facilities' operator said. Missiles also severely damaged an energy facility in the south-central city of Dnipro. Russia is also mixing up its modes of attack. Suicide drones set ablaze an infrastructure facility in the partly Russian-occupied southern Zaporizhzhia region, the regional governor said. Air-defense S-300 missiles, which Russia has been repurposing as ground-attack weapons

as its stocks are being depleted, were used to strike the southern city of Mykolaiv. The body of a man was found in the debris of a building, the region's governor said. In the eastern city of Kharkiv, eight rockets fired from across the nearby border with Russia hit an industrial area, the regional governor said.

Waves of the explosives-laden suicide drones also struck Kyiv on Monday, hitting energy facilities and setting ablaze and partly collapsing buildings. One drone slammed into a residential building, killing four people. Ukraine says Russia is getting thousands of drones from Iran. The Iranian-made Shahed drones that hit targets in Kyiv have also been widely used elsewhere in recent weeks. An Associated Press photographer caught one of the Iranian drones on camera Monday, its triangle-shaped wing and pointed warhead clearly visible, though the Kremlin refused to confirm their use. In the past week alone, more than 100 self-destructing Iranian-made drones have slammed into power plants, sewage treatment plants, residential buildings, bridges and other targets in urban areas, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said. In a televised address on Monday night, Zelenskyy said Russia is using the drones because it is losing ground in the war. Russia doesn't have any chance on the battlefield, and it tries to compensate for its military defeats with terror, he said. Why this terror? To put pressure on us, on Europe, on the entire world.

In other developments: Ukraine's nuclear energy operator said Russian forces have detained two more senior employees at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Energoatom said their whereabouts are unknown. Also unknown are the whereabouts of another executive who was detained earlier in October.

In Russia, the death toll from the crash Monday of a Russian warplane climbed to at least 13. (AP)

Binny elected BCCI president, takes over from Sourav

Arun Dhumal appointed IPL chairman



MUMBAI, OCT 18 /--/ World Cup winner Roger Binny was on Tuesday elected as the 36th president of the BCCI, taking over from Sourav Ganguly to run the world's richest cricket board.

Binny, 67, was elected unopposed at its AGM (Annual general Meeting) here alongside Jay Shah, who was re-elected as the secretary for a second successive term. The other office bearers who were elected unopposed included treasurer Ashish Shelar, vice-president Rajeev Shukla and joint secretary Devjit Saikia. Binny, who played 27 Tests and 72 ODIs for India, takes charge ahead of the ODI World Cup in India next year.

However, there was no discussion on the chairmanship of International Cricket Council (ICC). The next ICC chairman will be elected during the board meeting in Melbourne next month. "As far as India's representative to the ICC is concerned, it will be decided by the office-bearers. There was no discussion on the ICC chairmanship. Only matters on the agenda were discussed," a state unit official who attended the AGM told PTI. It is unlikely that the BCCI will nominate



Outgoing BCCI chief Sourav Ganguly (C) Jay Shah and Rajeev at Annual General Meeting in Mumbai

its own candidate for the ICC chairman's position, with the October 20 nomination deadline approaching. Outgoing treasurer Arun Dhumal was elected in the IPL governing council alongside Avishek Dalmiya. Dhumal has become the new IPL chairman, replacing Brijesh Patel. "The members of the General Body appreciated the efforts of the outgoing office bearers, IPL Governing Council Chairman and

members, and Councillors for the work undertaken in their term," said the BCCI in a statement. MKJ Majumdar was elected in the BCCI Apex Council as the representative of the General Body. The General Body also approved the inaugural Women's IPL which will consist of five teams and will be held in March. "How the teams will be sold and how the tournament will be conducted will be decided by the GC shortly," said a source. (PTI)

Mandhana, Deepti attain career-best T20 rankings

DUBAI, OCT 18 /--/ India opener Smriti Mandhana and off-spinning all-rounder Deepti Sharma have moved up a place each to attain career-best second spot in the batters and bowlers' charts of the latest ICC women's T20I player rankings. Both Mandhana and Deepti have moved to within striking distance of the top spot for batters and bowlers, respectively, after the latest weekly update. Mandhana, who has been a top-ranked batter in ODIs, moved up after scoring an unbeaten 51 off 25 balls, which guided her team to an eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the final of the Asia Cup in Sylhet, Bangladesh recently. Mandhana is on 730 rating points, 13 points separating her from top-ranked Beth Mooney of Australia. Deepti rose after conceding only seven runs off four overs in the final, following a haul of three for seven against Thailand in an earlier match of the tournament. Deepti, who finished as the joint-highest wicket-taker in the Asia Cup with 13 scalps, has reached 742 rating points, 14 less than England spinner Sophie Ecclestone. Deepti also found a place in the all-rounders' list at the third position with 370 rating points, behind West Indies' Hayley Matthews (377) and New Zealand's Sophie Devine (390). Fast bowler Renuka Singh, who was named Player of the Match in the final for her 3/5 haul, has moved up five places to a career-best third position while Sneha Rana is also at a career-best 10th position after gaining five slots. (PTI)

Cummins replaces Finch as Australia's new ODI captain

MELBOURNE, OCT 18 /--/ Pace spearhead Pat Cummins was on Tuesday named as Australia's new ODI captain following Aaron Finch's retirement from the format last month. The Cricket Australia (CA) confirmed that Cummins, 29, will lead Australia in next year's ODI World Cup in India. Cummins beat the likes of Steve Smith, Glenn Maxwell, Mitchell Marsh and Alex Carey to be appointed as Australia's 27th ODI skipper. Cummins will become the first fast bowler to lead Australia's men's team in white-ball cricket. CA, though, are yet to announce a vice-captain for the ODI side. "Pat (Cummins) has done an excellent job since taking on the captaincy of the Test side and we look forward to him leading the one-day team to the 2023 World Cup in India," said Australia's chief selector George Bailey. David Warner was not considered for the job as his lifetime leadership ban still remains with Cricket Australia contemplating a change in its code of conduct. The 29-year-old Cummins is already in charge of Australia's Test side after he was appointed to that role last year. Finch will continue to lead the T20 team. Australia's next ODI assignment is against against England next month -- a three match series. (PTI)

Roma wins at Sampdoria where ex-club president escorted out

MILAN, OCT 18 /--/ Roma moved into Serie A's top four on Monday with a 1-0 win at Sampdoria which left their hosts rooted to the bottom of the league.

Lorenzo Pellegrini's ninth-minute penalty ensured Roma leapfrogged local rivals Lazio into fourth place, four points behind league leaders and Sunday's opponents Napoli. Jose Mourinho's side earned a hard-fought win at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris without the injured Paulo Dybala, who will potentially be out of action for Roma until January. "It's a very important result for us, because we showed character, intelligence and heart," Mourinho told DAZN. Samp's seventh defeat of their 10 league fixtures was the first for coach Dejan Stankovic after replacing the sacked Marco Giampaolo earlier this month. Former midfielder Stankovic, who resigned from the Red Star Belgrade job after they failed to qualify for the Champions League group stage, won the competition as a player with Mourinho at Inter. "I'm also very happy to know that a club I like very much is being managed by someone who is like a little brother to me. I hope that we play here next season," added Mourinho. Stankovic's team did little to merit anything from Monday's match, which left them three points from safety. (AFP)

India will play Asia Cup at neutral venue: BCCI secretary Jay Shah

BCCI's cash reserves grew by approx Rs 6000 crore in last 3 years

MUMBAI, OCT 18 /--/ BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Tuesday made it clear that India will play Asia Cup next year at a neutral venue. The 2023 edition, which will be played in the 50 over format ahead of the ODI World Cup in India, has been allotted to Pakistan. "We have decided to play at a neutral venue," Shah was quoted as saying by multiple cricket websites after the conclusion of BCCI AGM. The Asia Cup being held at neutral venues is not unprecedented. Shah also happens to be the Asian Cricket Council president, after the BCCI's Annual General Meeting (AGM) here. He was re-elected as secretary for a second term. The 2022 Asia Cup was held in the UAE last month after hosts Sri Lanka expressed their inability to host the event

amid the economic crisis back home. India and Pakistan only play each other in Asia Cup and global events due to political tensions



between the two countries. Both teams played twice in the Asia Cup last month and are set to clash in Melbourne on October 23 in the T20 World Cup. At the AGM, outgoing treasurer and new IPL chairman Arun Dhumal informed the

state units that the BCCI's treasury grew from Rs 3648 crore to Rs 9629 crore in the last three years. The Ganguly-led regime had taken charge in 2019 after the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators' 33-month tenure. "When the current team took over the reins of the BCCI in 2019, the BCCI's coffers had funds of Rs 3648 crore. We are handing over an organisation that sits over a treasury that has Rs 9629 crore of funds which is roughly thrice of what we got at the time of our taking over from COA," said Dhumal in his speech. "The disbursement to the state associations has seen a jump of nearly five times, from Rs 680 crore in the COA time to Rs 3295 crore now," he added. (PTI)

Batters who can go ballistic this T20 World Cup

NEW DELHI, OCT 18 /--/ One will need long levers to clear the long boundaries in Australia but trust these five men to make a telling impact with the bat at the T20 World Cup. All five are in different stages of their career and with their performance over the last 12 months, they have already shown what they are capable of doing over the next couple of weeks. Suryakumar Yadav (India) : After making his belated India debut in March 2021, the 32-year-old Suryakumar has established himself as the team's number one batter in the shortest format. The batter has all the shots in the book (besides inventing some of his own) and has an enviable record already, having made nine fifties and a hundred in 34 T20 Internationals at a staggering strike rate of 176.81. India will be hoping his sensational run continues in the ICC showpiece and he provides the team the extra 15-20 run cushion that it might need to cover up for a not so inspiring bowling lineup. The fearless batter himself would be fired to perform on the big stage having not done justice to his rare skills in the previous edition 12 months ago. His confidence must be sky high going into the tournament, having smashed three fifties in his last four T20 Internationals. David Miller (South Africa) : The 33-year-old has taken a while to realise the full potential of his power game but he has been South Africa's standout player over the last 12 months. The southpaw seems to have taken his game to the next level and that was first evident in the IPL earlier this year when he enjoyed his best ever season with 481 runs at an average of 68.71 for eventual winners

Gujarat Titans. He has carried that form into international cricket and in the recent series in India, he produced a memorable 106-run knock off 47 balls, albeit in a losing cause. If he continues to finish games like he has of late, it will go a long way in South Africa's bid for their maiden title. Mohammad Nawaz (Pakistan) : This Pakistani all-rounder has not only kept things tight with his left-arm spin since the Asia Cup last month, he has also made a couple of match-winning contributions with the bat. Skipper Babar Azam has been using him as a surprise package in the middle-order and Nawaz has not disappointed. His 25-ball 42 took the game away from India in the Asia Cup before he lifted the team out of a precarious situation to come up with a 22-ball 38 at number four to win the tri-series final against New Zealand last week. His contributions with the ball can't be ignored as well. In 48 T20s, he has taken 44 wickets with an impressive economy rate of 7.38. Tim David (Australia) : The Singapore-born David is the quintessential T20 nomad who broke into the Australian team after displaying his six-hitting prowess in leagues around the world. The 6ft 5in batter who has never played first class cricket, fetched a handsome Rs 8.25 crore contract from Mumbai Indians ahead of IPL 2022, indicating how much his stock has risen in the last one year. If Australia are to defend their World Cup title at home, David will be expected to finish games alongside Matthew Wade. In his debut series for Australia last month, David smashed a 27-ball 54 against India in Hyderabad. (PTI)

Ballon d'Or 2022: Karim Benzema wins maiden Golden Ball; Alexia Putellas lifts second successive women's title

PARIS, OCT 18 /--/ Karim Benzema won the men's Ballon d'Or for the first time on Monday after a brilliant season with Real Madrid capped by the Champions League and Spanish league titles. Spanish player Alexia Putellas won the women's trophy for the second straight year following another standout season with Barcelona. Benzema had his best season ever at Madrid, being the top scorer in both leagues. He scored 44 times with Madrid, including 15 in Europe's top competition, and equaled Raúl González as the club's second-highest scorer behind Cristiano Ronaldo. Benzema, at 34, became the oldest winner since the first recipient in 1956, Stanley Matthews. "Age is just a number for me," he said. "People play until their later years now and I still have this burning desire. It is this drive that has kept me going and never allowed me to let up." Benzema won ahead of Sadio Mané and Manchester City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne. Mané played for Liverpool last season and joined Bayern Munich in the summer. "I'm really proud, it's a lot of work and a kid's dream come true," Benzema said. Benzema succeeded Lionel Messi, who won the award for a record-extending seventh time last year but was not among the nominees this time after his first season with Paris Saint-Germain.

For the first time this year, the Ballon d'Or was based on achievements from the past season. It had previously been awarded based on performances throughout calendar years.

Awarded by France Football magazine, the Ballon d'Or has been given out to men for 66 years. The women's trophy was created in 2018, and both were canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic. Benzema became the fifth Frenchman to win it after Raymond Kopa, Michel Platini, Jean-Pierre Papin and Zinedine Zidane, who was crowned in 1998, the year France won its first World Cup. Benzema was not part of the France squad that triumphed at the 2018 World Cup in Russia but, barraging

injury, will compete at the tournament in Qatar next month. After nearly six years out following his involvement in a sex tape scandal, Benzema was recalled by France coach Didier Deschamps last year ahead of the European Championship and has played regularly since. "There were much more difficult moments for me, when I was not selected (with France) and I did not give up," Benzema said after Zidane, his former coach at Madrid, handed him the trophy. "I am really proud of my career. This is the Golden Ball of the people." Leading an attack that also included Vinicius Júnior and Rodrygo, Benzema played a crucial role last season to drive

Madrid to a record-extending 14th European title, and his fifth since he joined from Lyon in 2009. The Frenchman was the tournament's top scorer and found the net when it really mattered, with 10 of his goals in the knockout stages. Putellas scored 42 goals and delivered 22 assists last season. She became the first player to win the award twice. With Barcelona, she won the Spanish League and reached the Champions League final. She has been sidelined since July after injuring her left knee and undergoing surgery on the eve of the Women's European Championship. Putellas beat out fellow forwards Beth Mead of Arsenal and England and Sam Kerr of Chelsea and Australia for the award at the ceremony in Paris. A panel of international journalists chose the winners. In other awards, the Kopa Trophy for the best under-21 player went to 18-year-old Barcelona midfielder Gavi, while Robert Lewandowski won the Gerd Müller award for the best striker of the year. The Lev Yashin award for best goalkeeper went to Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois. Ballon d'Or organizers added a humanitarian prize named after the late Brazil midfielder Socrates. The trophy went to Mané for his charity work in Senegal including building a hospital and school donations. (AP)



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