

## FODDER FOR THOUGHT

Stark starvations stare at livestock, poultry birds in farms run AH&VS as the department fails to procure enough feed for the past one year

KARTIK

**MAYABUNDER, OCT 9/-** / The livestock and poultry farms run by the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services department, across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are running out of feed as this year the department has not yet gone for annual feed procurement due to official apathy. Though the department has been procuring feeds on a limited quantity, it has yet to start the process for the annual feed procurement. The Animal Husbandry department every year procures tons of feed for supplying the same to various livestock and poultry farms, spread across the islands.

Due to lack of feed procurement, most of the

feed godowns managed by the department are empty without sufficient feed stocks. As a result of non-procurement of feed, the department is not able to adequately provide feeds to the existing livestock and poultry birds leading to these animals not getting sufficient nutrient feed. The In-Charges of these government run farms are finding it difficult to keep the livestock and poultry birds alive.

According to sources, cattle and poultry birds are provided with locally available fodder like coconuts etc. which is insufficient and non-nutrient. Supply of nutrient feeds to the animals and poultry birds is an important component for the growth and good health of the animals. Despite the



department being well aware of the glaring situation and suffering of cattle and poultry birds, the top brass of the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services department have been ignoring the issue for long. The department has adopted a similar approach

towards the only Liquid Nitrogen plant at Dollygunj. Due to non-functioning and non-production of Liquid nitrogen, the department has halted the Artificial insemination procedure for over many months which have become a concern for the farmers. The official

apathy of the top boss of the department is causing huge loss to the local farmers.

The primary objective of establishment of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services department is to promote and facilitate the cattle and poultry farming activities among the local farmers. But with the department adopting such an insensitive approach towards the local farmers, this sector is staring at a bleak future.

Meanwhile, when contacted and enquired about the reasons for the department unable to go for annual feed procurement for the past one year, the Director of AH&VS told EOI that he can provide details on the issue after visiting the office in one or two days' time.

## MP inaugurates training on 'Tailoring' at Shaheed Dweep

KARTIK

**SHAHEED DWEEP, OCT 9/-** / A training programme on 'Tailoring' under skill development training for Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) was organized by the Andaman & Nicobar State Cooperative Bank Ltd, Port Blair at Shaheed Dweep on Saturday. Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Member of Parliament was the chief guest and inaugurated the training programme. The objective for organizing the training programme on Tailoring was to make the women of this region self-reliant which will generate income for them once the training programme is completed.

Speaking on the occasion, the Member of Parliament said that the



training programme will benefit the women as after the completion of the training programme they will be able to take up tailoring as a profession which will help them earn a livelihood for their family. During his visit, the Member of Parliament also met PRI members and Congress

party workers. A meeting was also held to discuss various developmental issues and non-availability of funds to PRIs.

**More Local News on Page 3**

## AC, Diglipur visits Ramnagar village, heard issues & problems of villagers

KURMA RAO

**DIGLIPUR, OCT 9/-** / Mr. Anuj Kumar Bharti, Assistant Commissioner, Diglipur visited Ramnagar Panchayat Ramnagar and interacted with the PRIs and the villagers. During his surprise visit, the Assistant Commissioner interacted with the general public and the PRIs.

He heard their issues and problems and assured the villagers of resolving their issues and problems at the earliest. The Assistant Commissioner also walked up to 2 km on the roads to review the poor condition of



PMGSY-II roads.

While interacting with the PRIs, he was informed about various burning issues of the region such as

shortage of teachers in Schools due to recent transfers of some teachers, allotment of revenue land for construction of water

tank at Philmon Kona Ward No-1, chopping of dangerous trees on revenue land etc.

Mr Mitun Das, Pradhan, along with the PRI members appreciated the AC, Diglipur for visiting their areas and said that such field visits by senior officers to know the issues and problems of the villagers will also motivate the PRIs to work hard for the development of their villages.



## After DC's intervention, LPG truck rushes to Karmatang-9



KARTIK

**MAYABUNDER, OCT 9/-** / Acting on a news report published by this newspaper recently, Dr. Satyendra Singh Dursawat, Deputy

Commissioner, North & Middle Andaman directed Mr. Vaibhav Rikhari, Assistant Commissioner, Mayabunder to take up the issue of non-supply of LPG refills to the

residents of Karmatang-9 under Rampur Gram Panchayat in Maybaunder region with the CCS Ltd- LPG

### EOI IMPACT

distributor in this region. Accordingly, after the issue was taken up by the Assistant Commissioner, a LPG truck was immediately dispatched to Karmatang-9, providing the much needed relief to the local residents of this area.



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# BJP's journey from 2 to 303 seats will start reversing from 2024: RJD

**NEW DELHI, OCT 9** /--/ The RJD on Sunday said the Opposition has started to come together in several parts of the country and the BJP's journey from two to 303 seats will start reversing from 2024 as a collective alternative would trump the "self-centred" politics of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule.

The assertion was made by the party after a meeting of its national executive that was attended by the top brass including RJD chief Lalu Prasad and Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav. However, RJD's Bihar unit chief Jagdanand Singh, who is said to be upset with the party ever since his son Sudhakar Singh was forced to resign from the Nitish Kumar government, skipped the meeting, fuelling talk of changes in the party organisation in the state. Sudhakar Singh

attended the meeting but did not answer queries as to why his father had stayed away. Asked about Jagdanand Singh's absence, senior party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha said he has close ties with the party's top leadership and his absence on Sunday cannot undermine the fact of his constant presence over the years. "He (Singh) may not have come due to certain reasons. I can give it to you in writing that he was with us, is with us, and will remain with us," Jha told reporters at a press conference after the meeting. The meeting also saw an upset Tej Pratap Yadav, a minister in the Bihar government and Lalu Prasad's elder son, who left the meeting in a huff and accused party leader Shyam Rajak of abusing and mistreating his staff. The meeting, which was addressed by Lalu Prasad, Tejashwi Yadav and senior

party leader Sharad Yadav, saw three resolutions being moved and discussed. "Three important resolutions were put forward -- a political resolution which is crucial as it comes at a time when the country is being taken in an abyss of darkness, on foreign policy, and on the economic situation of the country," Jha said. He said the thrust of the speeches by Lalu Prasad, Tejashwi Yadav and Sharad Yadav was that the country's situation is very serious with unemployment at its highest in five decades. "The government has no blueprint. If you talk of unemployment, they talk of bulldozers and hijab. Where there should be a willingness to strengthen communal harmony, there they (BJP) are doing Hindu-Muslim. The country in its 75th year needs a new direction," Jha said. "They (the three leaders) pointed

out that the change in Bihar is not an ordinary one. We have come together putting aside differences and egos. Now, this has to be replicated in the whole country. The opposition will sit together, there will be talks and a progressive document will be prepared against unemployment, and inflation and in support of communal harmony so that in the 75th year of independence our heritage is not destroyed," he said.

Jha said the change that is needed has begun in Bihar and Opposition parties are sitting together in different parts of the country. "When we sit together, a better alternative will emerge and it would not be an 'atmamugdh (self-centred)' person. We have seen the results of self-centred politics in the last eight years which have destroyed all things dear to us," the senior RJD leader said. (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed on his arrival at Ahmedabad airport on Sunday

## Rahul Gandhi will be seen in new avatar after Bharat Jodo Yatra: Digvijaya Singh

**TURUVUKERE (K'TAKA), OCT 9** /--/ Rahul Gandhi has become a symbol of "Bharat jodo" (unite India) and will be seen in a new avatar post the Congress' pan-India march, senior party leader Digvijaya Singh on Sunday said.

Singh, who has been a part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra since it started from Kanyakumari, told PTI in an interview that the march has definitely impacted the Congress positively as it is for the first time after many years that the grand old party is being discussed in remote areas, villages and people are very impressed that Rahul Gandhi is walking all the way. The yatra will help strengthen the party, he said while noting that the commitment to ideology and leadership is missing in the Congress at present. Rahul Gandhi is spearheading the yatra that began from Kanyakumari and will end in Jammu and Kashmir. A host of Congress leaders will walk 3,500 km during the march. "In this country, if anyone does 'tyag' (sacrifice), he is always revered. Sonia Gandhi did

'tyag' of the prime minister's post. And here, Rahul Gandhi is walking, sweating in the heat, standing in the rain, fighting all kinds of fake news and defamation. He has become a symbol of Bharat jodo," the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister said.



Digvijaya Singh

Asked which way has the Yatra helped Rahul, Singh said, "Well, you shall see him now in his new avatar."

He said he has known Rahul for a long time and once he decides to do something, nothing can stop him from achieving that. "The day he decides, no one will be able to stop him," he said on Rahul's political journey

forward. "Frankly, I have always seen him as a very highly committed and ideologically committed person with a highly inquisitive mind. He would not let you go until he has his answers. And, he is a prolific leader and very spiritual too," the veteran Congress leader said. Singh, who has dropped out of the race for the post of Congress president and became proposer for party veteran Mallikarjun Kharge, noted that the Congress is "extremely poor" as an organisation as compared to the BJP organisation, which is a cadre-based party.

The Congress is part of a mass movement and new leaders emerge out of past movements. "Obviously, new leadership will emerge from the party," he said, adding those who are taking part in the march have left their homes and showing their commitment. Elections for the Congress president's post will take place on October 17 and results will be announced on October 19. The Congress veteran also dwelled on the weaknesses of the party and

efforts to overcome them. What is missing in this party is the commitment to ideology and leadership, he rued, adding the party is also giving confused signals. "One of the major weaknesses of the Congress party is that it works in silos. There is no horizontal integration of all Congressmen at the cutting edge, which is the grassroots at the ground level. We have attempted this in this yatra. This is the format that we are preparing," he said.

Talking about the yatra, he said they have appointed coordinators for every state and district and the party's frontal bodies and cells are also doing so, which will help strengthen the organisation structure at the grassroots level. He said party leaders have been assigned identifiable tasks to fill in and visit many households and provide feedback. The biggest achievement of the yatra is that the media is looking at us now, he said, adding Congress workers are out of their home, in the streets and on the roads now. (PTI)

## Nadda likely to get extension as BJP looks for continuity till next Lok Sabha polls

**NEW DELHI, OCT 9** /--/ BJP president J P Nadda is likely to continue at the helm at least till the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as the party top brass believes that a sense of organisational continuity will help it in a string of key assembly polls in the coming months before the general election. Nadda's three-year term will end in January next year, and the BJP parliamentary board, its apex body, is expected to endorse an extension for him before that, sources said. With organisational polls in BJP state units yet to start, it is obvious that he will continue at the helm, they noted. The party rules stipulate that organisational polls should be over in at least half of its state units before the election of its national president. His predecessor Amit Shah also got an extension as the party wanted him to continue during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. It was only after the parliamentary elections were over that the organisational polls began and Nadda was elected unopposed with Shah joining the Union Cabinet during Narendra Modi's second stint as the prime minister. A Modi confidant who also shares warm ties with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leadership, he is seen to have maintained the organisational momentum and dynamism that the BJP was infused with under his predecessor. The low-key and affable personality of the Himachal Pradesh leader (61) is seen as an asset in terms of the BJP's organisational functioning and coordination that requires navigating a fresh set of challenges every now and then, with the state poll cycle always on the move, party sources said. With the prime minister keenly invested in the BJP's organisational functioning and Shah also playing a critical role, especially in some of the more politically crucial states, Nadda is credited for driving the coordination and implementing strategies for its expansion, they added. The BJP has notched up several important poll successes with Nadda at the helm, including retaining power in states like Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and putting up an impressive show in Bihar. The big loss in West Bengal last year was, however, a low, while it has emerged as a strong force in Telangana. (PTI)

## Uddhav-led Sena gives 3 choices for poll symbol - trident, rising sun or burning torch

**MUMBAI, OCT 9** /--/ The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction has submitted to the Election Commission its three options of a trident, rising sun or mashaal (burning torch) for its poll symbol, sources said on Sunday. The Election Commission had on Saturday barred the Shiv Sena factions led by former chief minister Thackeray and present Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde from using the party name and its election symbol 'bow & arrow' in the Andheri East Assembly bypoll scheduled on November 3.

In an interim order over claims by the rival factions for control of the organisation, the commission asked them to suggest by Monday three different name choices and also as many free symbols for allocation to their respective groups. A source from the Thackeray faction said, The Sena has submitted three options as an alternative before the Election Commission - a trident, rising sun or a burning torch, also known as mashaal in Marathi and Hindi languages. "The Thackeray camp has also given some options for its official name in polls, the source said without elaborating. The EC's interim order on Saturday came on the Shinde faction's request seeking it be allocated the symbol as the Andheri East assembly bypoll is approaching. The rival factions had approached the Election Commission after the split in the Shiv Sena ranks in June this year, with both sides claiming to be the 'real Shiv Sena'. (PTI)

**MUMBAI, OCT 9** /--/ Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said the Shiv Sena faction led by chief minister Eknath Shinde will "succeed" when the Election Commission of India takes a final decision on proprietary over the party name and election symbol.

Speaking to reporters here, Fadnavis said he was not surprised at the Election Commission's interim decision on Saturday barring the Shiv Sena factions led by Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde from using the party name and its election symbol 'bow and arrow' in the bypoll to Andheri East Assembly seat in Mumbai scheduled on November 3. The ECI has taken the decision as per its laid down

procedure, the senior BJP leader said. "I think when the ECI takes the final decision on the claims made by chief minister Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray on proprietary over the Shiv Sena name and symbol, CM Shinde will succeed," he added. Maharashtra minister Deepak Kesarkar said, "We have the majority as maximum MLAs and MPs are with the camp led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Still, the ECI has frozen the symbol, but we will continue our battle." "We have not even filed our affidavit before the ECI, because the majority has been with us. We may file it tomorrow," he said.

He also hit out at the Thackeray camp, saying they were ready with alternate symbols when the

ECI froze the original party symbol. "It seems they (Thackeray camp) have no affection for the bow and arrow symbol, he said. The



Devendra Fadnavis

Thackeray faction deliberately wasted time during the previous ECI hearings. If they truly wanted to protect the party symbol, they could have easily submitted documents earlier, the

education minister further claimed. Kesarkar also said that nearly 4,600 fake affidavits, "submitted by the 'Thackeray camp', have been found by police. "If they are indulging in these practices on such a large scale, it means their intentions are not clean," he claimed.

The Mumbai Police official on Sunday said they have registered an FIR against unidentified persons on charges of cheating and forgery after recovering more than 4,500 affidavits being prepared in support of the Thackeray-led Sena faction. Kesarkar also claimed that Thackeray ignored the advice of Shinde and other hardcore workers to go to the masses and help widen the party base. "He (Thackeray) remained at home. (PTI)

## Many BJP cadres in Gujarat secretly support AAP and want to see their party's defeat, claims Kejriwal

**DHARAMPUR, OCT 9** /--/ Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday claimed that many leaders and workers of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat secretly support his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and want to see the defeat of their own party in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Targeting the BJP over the posters that surfaced in several Gujarat cities on Saturday in which he was termed as "anti-Hindu", the AAP's national convener said those behind the posters were "demons and descendants of Kans". "Many BJP leaders and

workers meet me and secretly ask me to do something to defeat the ruling party. I would like to tell all the BJP workers and leaders who want to defeat their party to work secretly for AAP," he said at a rally in tribal-dominated Valsad district in Gujarat, where Assembly polls are slated to be held in the next couple of months. "We have to break 27 years of their (BJP's) arrogance. I know you have your businesses, if you join us they will damage your business. You stay there, but secretly work to defeat it. Congress workers need not fear, you can leave your party and join AAP. Forget

your party," Kejriwal said. He called upon the voters to support AAP in the upcoming election in order to "wipe out the demons". Everyone should get united for a new Gujarat. Do not care about the party, work for Gujarat, work for the country, he said, and claimed that AAP will usher in a "new storm, new politics, new party, new faces, new ideas, and new dawn".

The Delhi CM also slammed the BJP workers, saying, "They go around and whisper that 'While Kejriwal is good, he will not win in Gujarat this time, but next time'. If anyone tells

you so, then know that he is from the BJP. Tell him that not next time, but (Kejriwal



will win this time)." On the banners calling him "anti-Hindu", he alleged, "Those

who insult god are called 'rakshas' (demons). Those who insult gods are called 'Kans ki aulaad' (descendants of Kans). What would demons do in ancient times? They would enter any village, indulge in hooliganism, tease and rape women." Calling himself a devotee of Lord Hanuman, Kejriwal said he was born on the day of Janmashtami and Krishna was his nickname at home. "And Lord Krishna has blessed me and sent me with a special task to finish off these descendants of Kans. Public is god. I need you support. Will you support me to complete the work of

god, to finish the demons?" he asked.

"We have to wipe out these demons for the peace of the public. We have to finish those corrupt goons, those who insult gods. Inflation has made life impossible. Price of everything rises while the salary does not," he said. Kejriwal promised that if AAP comes to power in Gujarat, it would provide clean administration and eliminate corruption. He also reminded people of his party's promises including providing free electricity, 15 lakh jobs, unemployment allowance, in Gujarat. (PTI)

## Contest with Tharoor is for betterment of country and Congress: Mallikarjun Kharge

**SRINAGAR, OCT 9** /--/ Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said his contest with Shashi Tharoor for the post of party president was aimed at putting forth their viewpoints for the betterment of the country and the party. Kharge said this during an interaction with party delegates at Congress office here, where he sought their support for the AICC presidential election. This is an internal election. It is like two brothers at home, who are not fighting, but placing their points of view and trying to persuade each other, he said. The Congress party veteran said the election campaign was not about what a particular candidate will do if he becomes the president of the party, but what they can do together. My belief is... What I will do is not the question. The question is what we both will do together for the country and for the party, this is important. Let us not talk about whether I will do this or that, or talk about someone else. How will you (party workers) and me together make the party stronger, save the country's constitution and its democracy, that is the question. "Today, the country's atmosphere is deteriorating and we have to make it stronger by peace and unity. That is why Bharat Jodo yatra is on, he said. Kharge, 80, said he would implement the Udaipur declaration of the party if he gets elected. If I get an opportunity, then I will try to fully implement the Udaipur declaration, because you have made the declaration after deliberations and placed a few things before the party, the country. I will try to take that forward and will take you along. It is important to take everyone along. I will take everyone's advice and find solutions to the problems by discussing with PCCs and others. It is collective leadership, he added. Appealing to the delegates to support his candidature, the former leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha said there was no pressure on anyone and whoever was supporting him, was doing so happily. He also said Rahul Gandhi was the only option if the party has to become stronger and powerful. When I met Madam (Sonia) Gandhi, I told her if the party has to become stronger and powerful, then there is no option other than Rahul Gandhi because he fights on the roads, in the Parliament, and now he has vowed to walk 3500 km and he has walked three states.

It is his commitment. He is walking on the roads and not taking decisions in an AC chamber. Thousands and lakhs of people are joining. This Bharat Jodo yatra is about uniting the thinking of the people of the country and not about dividing them, he said. Responding to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's charge that the Congress only talks about dividing the country, Kharge said if the country is prospering today, it is because of the Congress party. (PTI)



Bluff of Neutrality

BHOPINDER SINGH

There is a counterpart mapping in democracies that typically warrants domain-defined politicians to engage with each other, whereas functional professionals in the governments like the Chief of Army Staff restrict their engagements to their respective equivalences and functional realm. Not so in the Pakistani narrative where Pakistani Army Chiefs have traditionally hobnobbed far and wide across the political spectrum ~ just as any visiting Head of State to Pakistan must drop into the 'Army House' in Rawalpindi, in an ode to the reality of burly Pakistani Generals holding the essential reins.

The official Pakistani warrant-of-precedence that ranks the Pakistani Chief of Army Staff at Article 6 (In India, it is under Article 12), well below even the Pakistani Deputy Speaker to the National Assembly or Ambassador-at-Large, is basically a farce as the real power has always stemmed from the Rawalpindi General Headquarters.

The Pakistani military has unilaterally decided when it wants to usurp power officially (1958-71, 1977-88 and 1999- 2008) or when it decides to 'select' a civilian government to maintain the charade of democracy. The Pakistani military chiefs have also arrogated to themselves the right to define the length of their tenures with extensions, and the current Chief of the Pakistan Army, General Qamar Bajwa, is no different after having given himself a three-year extension in 2019!

More importantly, Gen Bajwa had led the 'selection' of the Imran Khan government in 2018 and all other political leaders had cried foul and called it a 'Deep State Selection'.

Speaking from the safety of distance in London, Nawaz Sharif had openly said, "Gen Bajwa, you will have to answer for record rigging in the 2018 elections". However, the Pakistani Army soon got tired of Imran Khan's vainglorious grandstanding that almost sought to diminish the Pakistani Military ~ this was trigger enough for Gen Bajwa to do a U-turn and manipulate the ouster of his one-time protege, Imran Khan, in 2022.

This time it was Imran Khan who was left huffing and puffing his angst at the ostensible 'neutrality' of the Pakistani Army, as he above all would know better having enjoyed their initial favour in 2018. In a curious case of Pakistani normalcy, Imran Khan was found ranting against 'neutrals' (a term that he used sarcastically for the Pakistani military) and that, 'history will blame them for what they did to the country'!

As his six-year tenure as the Chief of the Pakistan Army for Gen Bajwa finally comes to an end in November 2022, his trip to the United States of America at this late juncture of his extended term did raise eyebrows. Many posited a further extension while some speculated about a postretirement occupation (one of his predecessors, Gen Raheel Sharif has continued to head the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition in Riyadh for over five years).

Counterintuitively, the evacuation of American troops from neighbouring Afghanistan has not weakened the relationship between Washington DC and Islamabad and it has ironically become more robust. Irritants like the decidedly anti-US politician i.e., Imran Khan (who did point to the infamous 'foreign conspiracy' at the Americans) and overambitious Generals like the former ISI

boss, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (who made a cavalier appearance with the Afghan Taliban at Kabul, after the US troops had withdrawn), have been cut to size.

Signs of renewed engagement within the US-Pak security space are quietly obvious with the targeted strikes of high-profile targets in Kabul. Even though the Pakistani DG ISPR denied the 'use of Pakistani soil' in the role of killing dreaded terrorist, Ayman Al Zawahiri (with a suggested allusion to Kyrgyzstan) ~ the fact that Bishkek didn't accept the same makes analysts suspicious of the more probable likelihood, that is the Pakistani hand.

Too many 'coincidental' changes in the Pakistani 'establishment' that work towards the advantage of the US have taken place in recent times, and that points to the relevance of the US acquiescence, at all levels. As is the norm, during his recent visit to Washington DC, Gen Bajwa met up with Lloyd James Austin, US Secretary of Defence, Jacob Jeremiah Sullivan, National Security Adviser and Wendy Ruth Sherman, Deputy Secretary of State and expanded volubly on economics, diplomacy, the floods situation and, as officially mandated, on the security situation. His extracurricular expansions included statements like, 'There could be no diplomacy either without a strong economy'!

The US has tactically not restrained the Pakistani Army Chief from going beyond the syllabus, in the full knowledge that the institution of the Pakistani military or 'establishment' remains the Real McCoy in Pakistan, everything and everyone else is dispensable. In a uniquely Pakistani drama that convinces no one, Gen Bajwa also reassured the gathering in the US that the Pakistani Armed

Forces had distanced themselves from politics and wanted to remain so.

However, it was the reconfirmation of his explicit pledge to leave office in November that was most telling in terms of the outcome of his visit (without the usual entourage of other senior military officials). General Bajwa would have managed some quid pro quo from the equally desperate Americans, even if it weren't to be an extension as that would look optically very questionable and de-legitimising.

The Americans have had a history of unhinged and amoral 'deals' with the Pakistani Army to retain their own leverage in the restive region ~ even if it doesn't come packaged and announced with officialese. Gen Bajwa too would have an acute sense of timing to strike parleys with the Americans, which he did. The confirmation of stepping down could well be part of the script as Gen Bajwa has carefully placed his most probable successor, Lt Gen Nadeem Ahmed Anjum, the current Director General of ISI, as part of a comfortable exit strategy.

Importantly, Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum had replaced the pro-Imran Khan Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, after much wrangling and mudslinging with the then Prime Minister. So, all is well with the Pakistani 'establishment' and the Pakistani Army which notoriously is said 'to have a state (as opposed to a 'State that has an Army') is here to stay infinitely, irrespective of a General Bajwa or no Bajwa post-November 2022.

(The writer of this article Lt Gen(Retd) is the former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar and Puducherry. The views expressed is his own)

WILDLIFE WEEK CELEBRATION CONCLUDES



**PORT BLAIR, OCT 9/--/** The valedictory function of the 68th Wildlife Week celebrations-2022, by the Department of Environment & Forests, A&N Administration was held at the TGCE Auditorium on Saturday. The Chief Secretary, Mr. Keshav Chandra was the chief guest on the occasion. The Zilla Parishad Adhyaksha, South Andaman, Smt. Pramila Kumari, the DGP A&N Islands, Mr. Neeraj Thakur, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Ms. Nandini Paliwal, Chairperson, PBMC, Smt. Kavitha Udhay Kumar and senior Officers of A&N Administration were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary stated that A&N Islands is known for its amazing wildlife diversity. The endemic species found here cannot be seen anywhere else in the World and it's an amazing opportunity for all of us to enjoy what nature has bestowed upon us, said the Chief Secretary. Mentioning that there are so many varieties of birds in A&N Islands, he urged the people to show interest in wildlife as well as in plant, tree, butterfly and crab species which are endemic to the Islands. Wildlife Week is a celebration of our rich wildlife diversity as well as the celebration of nature's

also urged the Forest Department to conduct bird watching for people so that they can appreciate the different species of birds in Isles.

The Chief Secretary also congratulated the Forest Department for conducting various activities as part of Wildlife Week celebration in different parts of the Islands and also for their commitment towards conserving and preserving the fragile eco-system of A&N Islands striking a balance.

The Chief Secretary alongwith other senior Officers also distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions organized by the Forest Department during the Wildlife Week celebration.

In his address, the PCCF, ANI & PCCF(WL), Dr. R.S.C. Jayaraj, IFS said that National Wildlife Week is celebrated from 2nd to 8th of October every year in India

which aims at protecting and preserving India's flora and fauna. Wildlife Week was conceptualized in 1952 with a long-term goal to safeguard the lives of the endangered and threatened species of animals, he added. The PCCF also informed about the sensitization efforts being carried out by the Department among citizens to avoid human-crocodile conflict.

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP, A&N Islands, Mr. iNeeraj Thakur congratulated the Forest Department for celebrating Wildlife Week in a befitting manner. Police Department is also committed towards wildlife conservation and takes action against illegal

Vishal greets Islanders

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 9/--/** Mr. Vishal Jolly National Executive Member of BJP & Former State BJP President has extended his warm greetings and best wishes on the auspicious occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, the birth of Prophet Muhammad to all the islanders, especially the Muslim brothers and sisters.

May this Milad-un-Nabi festival bring peace and prosperity in everyone's life; said Mr. Jolly.

Earlier, welcoming the chief guest and others present on the occasion, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr. S. Senthil Kumar, IFS stated that Wildlife Week is a unique concept of India which appreciates nature & wildlife. He also gave details of the activities carried out during the week to educate people regarding the fragile ecosystem and the need for its conservation and preservation.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Ms. Deep Shikha.

GREETINGS

On the auspicious occasion of 'Milad-un-Nabi', I extend my warm wishes and heartiest greetings to all the people of A&N Islands.

This festival of 'Eid-E-Milad' is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad. His teachings inspire us to follow the values of peace, compassion, tolerance, love and service to the humanity. Let us all live with mutual peace and harmony by following the values of the holy Prophet Hazrat Mohammad.

I appeal to all the Islanders to celebrate this festival while adhering to COVID appropriate behavior.

On this occasion, I sincerely wish that this festival brings peace, harmony and compassion in the lives of all Islanders and our Islands continue to progress on the path of development.

Sd/-  
(Admiral D K Joshi)  
PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)  
Lt. Governor, A&N Islands  
&  
Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency

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CONDOLENCE

With profound grief we inform of the sad demise of Smt. Shanthamma on 09-Oct-2022. The funeral would be held at our residence in Thiruvalla, Kerala at 12PM on 10-Oct-2022.

In grief: A.K. Sreedharan (Husband), Sanjay (son), Seena (daughter) Veena (daughter in law) All family members and Jaya Medical Stores.Haddo



*Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps*  
**David Lloyd George**

## Outrage over Mahsa Amini's death

Last month, Iran's “morality police” killed MahsaAmini, a 22-year-old girl, who had traveled with her brother from Saqqez, a city in the west of Iran, to Tehran, the capital. At first she was arrested for “violating the hijab law.” Her brother pleaded with the police that “we are foreigners here. We do not know what we should do. Please!” Regardless, the police arrested Mahsa and suggested her brother go to the morality police station to find out what to do next. Her brother arrived there just in time to see the ambulance carrying Mahsa to the hospital. The police said she suddenly went into heart failure at the station, but the eyewitnesses claimed she was beaten and her head hit the side of a police car. Despite all these narratives and the medical evidence, the police, like always, denied their cruelty and announced other reasons for her death. Sadly, Mahsa died after two days in a coma due to cerebral hemorrhage and stroke.

The compulsory hijab has been practised in Iran for 44 years now, a law that violates not only women’s rights but human rights as well. Then, the philosophy behind the “morality police” is to walk on the streets and compel women to wear headscarves and more modest clothing in public, and if they do not, they will be arrested, taken to the police station, threatened and forced to sign a commitment that they are not going repeat this villainous act. As these forces have become more and more strict over the past few years, women’s protests have increased. Their demands are for liberation and justice. Mahsa, however, was not even a protester. She had just come to Tehran for a short trip when she was killed. In one sentence, an innocent 22-year-old girl was killed by police forces simply because of her gender, because of being a woman. Mahsa’s murder has shocked not only Iranians, but the entire world.

Iran appears caught in a time warp, fighting the battles of yesteryear. The US is no friend, but Joe Biden genuinely wants a nuclear deal. The Gulf Arabs are making peace with Israel. Rifts that defined the Middle East for generations are closing. Today’s challenges are global. Iran could shed its pariah status and become a great nation again – if only its people, and especially its cruelly oppressed women, were set free.

# Polarised Brazil poised for run off on Oct 30

## REFLEX ACTION

Satyaki Chakraborty

Brazil, the largest populated country in Latin America, failed to elect its next President in the national elections held on October 2 as the front runner in opinion polls LuizInacio Lula da Silva, the left-wing former president got 48.4 per cent of the votes polled-slightly less than the required 50 per cent. The right-wing opponent, the current president JairBolsonaro got 43.2 per cent much more than anticipated by the political analysts.

Da Silva, popularly known as Lula, went into election day as the frontrunner, with recent opinion polls giving him a commanding lead and even a first-round victory. The strength of Bolsonaro's support and the much tighter result dashed expectations of a quick resolution to the deep polarisation in the world's fourth-largest democracy. The results showed that the right-wing candidate was able to mobilise a good section of centrists in his favour at the last days of the poll. Apart from Simon Tibet with 4.3 per cent, the other candidates shared the remaining 4.2 per cent The battle royale is now limited to Lula and Bolsonaro in the runoff and all efforts will be focused on bringing the major share of the 8.4 per cent votes which were received by the other candidates. Some of these votes belong to the far-right groups, so the Left workers of the PT have to work harder in the next four weeks to add another 1.6 per cent from these voters apart from retaining its 48.4 per cent. The task is tough but achievable.

Bolsonaro had questioned polls that showed him losing to Lula in the first round, saying they did not capture enthusiasm he saw on the campaign trail. The former army captain had also attacked the integrity of Brazil's electronic voting system without evidence and suggested he might not concede if he lost. But the voting figures showed that the polling was fair, and this was confirmed by many international observers who were present during the polling. But still, Bolsonaro supporters are saying that they would not accept defeat and during the remaining days before running off, they are expected to campaign that a Lula victory will lead to bloodbath creating apprehensions

among the peace-loving middle-class Brazilians who voted for Lula. Lula, who is seeking a comeback after leading Brazil from 2003 to 2010, said he was running for president “to get the country back to normal” after four years under Bolsonaro. “We don't want more hate, more discord. We want a country at peace,” the 76-year-old said. “This country needs to recover the right to be happy.”Decked out in Lula stickers, Adriana Schneider was voting at a primary school in Rio de Janeiro. The university professor, 48, said Bolsonaro's administration had been “catastrophic” for investment in culture, arts, science and education. “We're living under a barbaric government,” she said.

Brazil became further tense in advance of the upcoming run off vote, as experts have raised concerns over election-related violence should Bolsonaro refuse to accept defeat. The former army captain in recent months has repeatedly taken aim at leading Supreme Court justices and alleged – without providing any evidence – that Brazil's electronic voting system is vulnerable to widespread fraud. Legal experts have rejected that allegation, while the president's critics have accused him of sowing doubt in the run-up to the election in order to dispute the results, as was done by former US President Donald Trump, whom Bolsonaro has emulated.

The Brazilian president is a big admirer of Trump. He supported what Trump did on January 6, 2021in Capitol Hill to undo the 2020 elections verdict by the American people. Even now, Trump is telling that the 2020 verdict was stolen by the Democrats. What Trump said after the elections results were out, Bolsonaro is repeating the same as the campaign in polarized Brazil is heating up leading to



Kolkata Police personnel display acrobatic skills at the Durga Puja Carnival held at Red Road on Saturday --Arijit Ganguly

## Rahul Gandhi getting massive response in Karnataka during Yatra

Before Bharat JodoYatra of Rahul Gandhi entered Karnataka on September 30 and is getting massive response. The disinformation unit of the BJP had tried to create the impression across the country ably assisted by the mainstream media, especially the TV news channels, that the Yatra had lost its velocity and thrust and would not have any impact on the people of Karnataka which has a BJP government and would have elections to the assembly early 2023.

But this innuendo failed to have any impact on the people of Karnataka and it would not be hyperbole to say that the Yatra which was like a storm in Kerala has attained the character of hurricane in Karnataka. Even the close aides of Rahul and senior state Congress leaders are amazed at the peoples' response. No doubt the state Congress leaders had worked hard to ensure a better participation, but they did not expect this nature of massive response.

One development that ought to be paid serious attention is the attempt of Rahul Gandhi to change the contour of the politics. In the AzadiKa Amrita Mahotsva year in New India of NarendraModi, it is interesting to underline that the polity of the country is witnessing emergence of a new type of moral politics which emphasises on upholding moral values and adhering to the moral ethics in the politics. This is quite apparent from the politics being propounded by Rahul through his Yatra. This is different than the real politics being pursued by the BJP of NarendraModi and other political parties. His political concept has virtually posed a serious threat to the existing political intrigues. His thrust

on moral politics was evident during his Yatra. Though the bickering between the Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot at one stage threatened the very existence of the Congress government in Rajasthan, he was unperturbed and continued with his Yatra. He did not come back to Delhi to mediate between the two leaders. In real politics terms Congress losing the power in Rajasthan would have been a major jolt to it. While walking in Karnataka in the last four days, his thrust was on corruption acquiring the character of institution and Sanghparivar, especially the Bajrang Dal, Ram Sena and VHP dividing the people of the state on communal line. For quite some time the people of Karnataka, Kannadigas, have been feeling frustrated and dejected of the politics of hatred and communal polarisation being practiced by the RSS and BJP leaders. Since the common people are scared of opposing these guys for fear of being thrashed, the rally has provided them with the much precious opportunity to ventilate their aggrieved feelings.

Practicing politics of morality is really an arduous exercise. Before grabbing the power in Delhi under the leadership of NarendraModi the BJP projected itself as the party with a difference having strong conviction for moral values and politics, But they soon divorced the values and

ethics. Modi became the Maharaja of the empire of New India. It is really an irony that the BJP even did not present the façade of being a neo liberal and consummate party. The politics of the party hit the nadir of moral degradation.

The corrupt politicians who called the shots during the Congress rule were welcomed by Modi with an open arm. It would not be an exaggeration to say that structure and basic character of BJP underwent a fundamental change. A new Congress has emerged on the political horizon of the country. This transformation has not come as surprise. Every political party swears by probity and morality before coming into power. But once in office all such ideas and phrases lost their relevance and ethics.

It is not that the Kannadigas are naïve not to understand of the implication of transformation of the BJP and its annulment with the politics of morality. Their frustration to the prevailing political situation in the state got its manifestation in their massive participation in the rally. Some experts vouch that Yatra did not receive this nature of welcome even in Kerala. The people here appreciate his remarks while paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary that it is convenient for those in power to

appropriate the legacy of the Father of the Nation, it is difficult to walk in his footsteps. Already people, especially of the rural Karnataka have been talking of his untired walkathon. He has been walking continuously for last 27 days. People also applaud his thought; "Just as Gandhiji fought the British Raj, we ... (have) embarked on a battle with the very ideology that killed Gandhi. This ideology has delivered inequality, divisiveness and the erosion of our hard-won freedoms in the past eight years. Against this politics of himsa (violence) and 'asatya' (lies), the Bharat JodoYatra will spread the message of Ahimsa and 'swaraj' from Kanyakumari to Kashmir".

His words; "It might be convenient for those in power to appropriate Gandhiji's legacy, but it is much more difficult to walk in his footsteps," has caught the imagination of the local people. People are heard chanting this slogan. The 21-day yatra will touch Chamaraajanagar, Mysuru,Mandya, Tumakuru, Chitradurga, Ballari and Raichur districts. From Raichur the march will enter Telangana. Before exiting the state via Raichur, a massive public rally has been planned in Ballari on October 19.

According to Congress leaders, 15,000 to 20,000 supporters are marching with Rahul daily. What has been interesting to note that people of the state have been reminiscing the Mahatma's march who at 60 had walked from Sabarnmati to Dandi, 385 kilometres or so to register his protest against the salt tax. In 1946, an even older Gandhi walked through riot-torn Noakhali, barefoot, for harmony. They try to find out a similarity between the two walks. (IPA)

the D Day. The far-right leader, who rode into office in 2019 on a wave of populist anger after Lula was jailed and his successor was impeached as part of a corruption investigation, has said he views just three possibilities for his future: “prison, being killed or victory.” If needed, Bolsonaro said, he and his supporters would go to war. Bolsonaro is a former army officer, and he favours military dictatorships. So, the political observers in Brazil are worried at the future of Brazil after the elections.

The incumbent President's popularity has dipped substantially following the Senate committee approving a 1,300-page report calling for President JairBolsonaro's indictment for nine crimes relating to his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic — including crimes against humanity — but it is unlikely he will face formal charges. But the allegations have isolated him from many other conservative groups who are committed against the leftwing policies of the Workers Party leader and the left coalition candidate Lula. Bolsonaro, a pro-gun nationalist, has faced growing public discontent about his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and push to encourage mining in the Amazon, while high inflation and soaring fuel prices are continuing unchecked. Earlier in May, a group of 80 jurists and legal researchers appealed to the United Nations Special Rapporteur to visit Brazil and report on the government's attacks on the Supreme Court and the Superior Electoral Court that oversees elections.

Lula has sought to widen his political coalition ahead of the October polls, naming centrist Geraldo Alckmin as his running mate. The first-round results show the consolidation of right-wing votes in favour of Bolsonaro. He will make efforts to bring in other far right voters in his favour on polling day on October 30. The right has got a big boost as their presidential candidate did much better in the first round compared to all projections. For the Left of Brazil, the runoff battle is a do or die one. The entire Latin American Left is looking and praying for the success of Lula in October 30 run off. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword

1	2	3			4	5		6
7					8			
9			10	11		12		
13					14			
			15				16	17
18				19		20		
			21				22	23
24		25			26			
		27					28	
29					30			

ACROSS

1 Passenger vessel  
7 Singer  
8 Tool  
9 Gap  
12 Timber-dressing tool  
13 Long angry speeches  
15 Play on words  
16 Eyelid affliction  
18 Insect  
19 Vehicle  
21 Regain health  
24 Musical instrument  
26 Tantalise  
27 Pale  
28 Nothing  
29 Vend  
30 Poetry in general

DOWN

1 Quick  
2 Breathe out  
3 Bring up  
4 Prejudice  
5 Say further  
6 Out of sorts  
10 Headwear  
11 Bring out  
14 Make into a statute  
17 Essay on a theme  
18 Footwear  
20 Fish eggs  
21 Actua  
22 Weathercock  
23 Put trust in  
25 Night bird

SUDOKU:3661

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

Yesterday's Solution3660

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution1669

F	I	S	T		B	R	A	S	S
U	M	P	I	R	E		C	U	E
S	P	A	N		G	R	E	E	N
S		S	T	A	G	E			S
		M		M	A	P	S		E
R		S	E	E	R		L		
U			E	N	S	U	E		B
S	C	A	L	D		S	E	T	A
T	A	P		E	L	E	V	E	N
S	P	E	E	D		R	E	N	D

**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.



Selection trials of Chess players from isles held

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 9/-/-** For selecting chess players for the 35thNational Under-11 Boys & Girls Chess Championship-2022, scheduled to be held from 29th October 2022 to 6th November 2022, in Gurugram, Haryana, the Andaman Nicobar Chess Association (ANCA) conducted a selection trials on Sunday at ANCA office-cum-chess centre at Dairy Farm in which the following chess players of Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been selected as per their final standings of the selection trials that held in round-robin format(Each contestant plays with every other participant)

The details of the selected players are as below:

Sl. No.	Name of Participant	Position	School Attached
(Boys)			
01	J S Virat	First	VKV Lambaline
02	M Tanish	Second	VKV Lambaline
(Girls)			
03	Parnita	First	Carmel Sr. Sec. School Port Blair
04	Kavya Raj	Second	VKV Lambaline

These players will be participating in the upcoming 35th National Under-11 Boys & GirlsChess Championship 2022 at H S V Global School, Sector-46, Gurugram, Haryana, Further they have been directed to attend a two-weeks chess coaching camp which will be held from 11thOctober to 22nd October 2022, between 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm at ANCA Chess centre, Dairy Farm. For more details one may contact General Secretary, Andaman Nicobar Chess Association (ANCA) @ 9434293379.

Wild pigs released in Jarawa reserved areas



**PORT BLAIR, OCT 9/-/-** As part of the ongoing 68th Wildlife Week celebrations, the Department of Environment and Forests in association with the Tribal Welfare Department released 8 (3 males and 5 females) of Andaman Wild pigs (Sus scrofa

andamensis ) into the reserve forest inside Jarawa Tribal Reserve Area on Saturday. Andaman Wild pig is an endangered endemic species found in Andaman Islands. The initiative is a part of the conservation efforts of the Forest department by naturally

breeding the endangered endemic swine found in the Andaman Islands and releasing them into their natural habitat. Further, the aim of this re-stocking programme is to enhance natural food resources for the Jarawa tribe and restore depleting food bases in the reserve areas.

Mr. Nikhil Kumar, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (TW) graced the occasion as the chief guest. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Chief Wildlife Warden, Mr. R S C Jayaraj, Dr. S Senthil Kumar, the Chief Conservator of Forest (Wild Life), Mr. Ankit Yadav, Secretary (TW), along with other officers of Forest and Tribal Welfare Department were present during this programme.

The Commissioner-cum-Secretary (TW) expressed his happiness on the initiative of the Forest Department for this conservation effort while s i m u l t a n e o u s l y augmenting the food resources for the PVTGs.

CG conducts awareness prog among fishermen

KARTIK

**MAYABUNDER, OCT 9/-/-** In order to generate awareness among the fishermen community on the use of safety equipments at sea, an awareness programme was organised by the staff of Indian Coast Guard ship ArunaAsaf Ali on Sunday. During the programme, awareness were generated among fishermen on the use of life jackets, fire extinguishers, visual distress signal, sound producing devices and navigation lights etc. Mr. S. U. MaheswaraRoa, Member Governing Body, National Fisheries Development Board & President & Secretary of Fishermen Welfare Association where also present on the occasion.



GREETINGS

I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, especially to our Muslim brothers and sisters on this auspicious occasion of Milad-un-Nabi, the birthday of Prophet Muhammad.

Milad-un-Nabi is an occasion for reaffirming the message of peace, brotherhood, mutual respect, cooperation and welfare for the entire mankind which will be relevant for ages.

Let the teachings of Prophet Mohammed encourage and inspire all of us to be righteous in our thoughts and deeds.

Kuldeep Rai Sharma  
Member of Parliament  
Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Uddhav Thackeray faction calls EC order on Shiv Sena symbol and name 'injustice'

**MUMBAI, OCT 9 /-/-** The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena on Saturday termed the Election Commission's order barring both the Thackeray and Eknath Shinde factions from using the party name and election symbol in the coming Andheri East Assembly bypoll as "injustice".

The group led by Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde, on the other hand, termed the EC order appropriate. The poll body should have holistically taken a decision rather than passing an interim decision for the bypoll, said Ambadas Danve, Leader of the Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Council, a Thackeray loyalist. "This is injustice," he told PTI. Shiv Sena leader and former minister

Aaditya Thackeray on Saturday lashed out at the rebel Sena leaders after the EC order. "Khokewale" traitors committed this shameless and vile act of freezing the name Shiv Sena and symbol", he tweeted, adding that the people of Maharashtra would not tolerate it. "We will fight and win.

We are on the side of the truth. Satyamev Jayate!" he said in the Marathi tweet. On his Instagram page, Aaditya posted Harivansh



Rai Bachchan's famous poem "Agnipath.

Aaditya and other leaders of the Uddhav Thackeray faction have been accusing the rebels led by CM Shinde of committing treachery for the lure of 'khoke' or boxes of cash.

The November 3 bypoll to the Andheri East constituency in suburban Mumbai is the first electoral test for the Thackeray group after the split in the party in June this year, leading to the fall of the Uddhav Thackeray-led government. Interestingly, the upcoming contest is between the Thackeray-led faction and BJP.

The Shinde group is not contesting. The EC asked both groups to suggest by Monday three name choices for their groups, and also as many free symbols. (PTI)

Two tigers from Ranthambore reserve to be shifted to Mukundra, Sariska

**JAIPUR, OCT 9 /-/-** Translocation of two tigers from Rajasthan's Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to the Mukundra and the Sariska reserves has been cleared by the technical committee of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, an official said here.

The state forest department official said the big cats will be shifted after one more sanction from the Centre. "NTCA's technical committee has cleared a proposal of the state forest department to translocate one tiger to Sariska and another to Mukundra," Seduram Yadav, Field Director of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, told PTI. He said in the next phase, two tigresses will be shifted, and a proposal for the same has already been sent. Field director of Mukundra Tiger Reserve S P Singh said preparations for translocation of a male tiger from Ranthambore are in place, and after another sanction is received, the

translocation will be done within a few days. After this, there is another proposal to shift one tigress to Mukundra, which has an area of 792 square kilometres.

In the last few years, the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve has seen a growth in its big cat population and the space for tigers is shrinking. At the same time, the number of tigers in other tiger reserves has to be increased. Apart from Ranthambore, Rajasthan has three more tiger reserves in Sariska, Mukundra and newly notified Ramgarh Vishdhari.

Ranthambore, spread over 1,334 sq km in Sawai Madhopur district, has 78 big cats 32 female and 26 male. Rests are sub-adults and cubs. Since Ranthambore is rich in habitat and prey base, the number of tigers is higher there, another official said. In the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar, the number of tigers is 27 nine male, 11 female and seven cubs. The

Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve (Kota) has one tigress, and the Ramgarh Vishdhari (Bundi) has one tiger and one tigress. The RTR field director said the dispersal of adult tigers is increasing, particularly those who do not have a territory, which is nearly a dozen, and most of such big cats are in the periphery area.

Shrinking areas increase the possibility of territorial fights as well as human-animal conflicts. "The population of tigers is rising in Ranthambore and they need space. This is one of the reasons behind relocation of big cats from there," another official of the forest department said. Over a dozen tigers in Ranthambore (aged between 3-5 years) are under special monitoring as they do not have their own territories and are moving in the periphery. The department is monitoring their movement and has accordingly placed camera traps. (PTI)

India has nano demographic window to achieve developed country status: Fin secy

**CHENNAI, OCT 9 /-/-** India has a nano demographic window to achieve developed country status, and if it misses, it may not reach there, Union finance secretary T V Somanathan said on Saturday.

The country has to grow at a rate of 8-8.5 per cent to reach developed country status, he said at an event here. "In the first decade of this century, China grew at approximately 9.5 per cent per annum and similar growth rates were witnessed in countries like South Korea and Taiwan" Somanathan said. The finance secretary made the comments while delivering the G Ramachandran Endowment Lecture on 'Development in Changing Times, the role

of government efficiency' at the Madras School of Economics here. "The other thing which we often hear and it is an important point that a lot of people make is that we have nano demographic window in which to achieve developed country status, and if we don't catch this window or if we do not use this window, we may never get there," he said.

"There are two widely held views about India in the next two quarters of the century, we have to grow at 8-8.5 per cent to get there (developed country status) and if we miss this quarter of a century with demographic dividend, we may be doomed to mediocrity forever," Somanathan cautioned. (PTI)

AIMPLB moves SC opposing pleas challenging validity of Places of Worship Act of 1991

**NEW DELHI, OCT 9 /-/-** The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has moved the Supreme Court opposing a batch of petitions challenging the validity of certain provisions of a 1991 law that prohibit the filing of a lawsuit to reclaim a place of worship or seek a change in its character from what prevailed on August 15, 1947. In its impleadment application, the AIMPLB told the top court that the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 is a "progressive legislation" in line with the secular values of Indian polity and promotes harmony, public tranquillity and peace amongst the different sections of the people. A bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit is scheduled to hear on October 11 a batch of petitions questioning the validity of certain provisions of the 1991 law. The Muslim body in its application filed through advocate MR Shamsbad contended that the Act does not violate any cultural rights of any section of the people and is based on the fundamental features of the Constitution which are unamendable. Therefore, any attempt to repeal the said Act or to amend the

same annihilating the basic aims and objects or principles on which the said Act is based would be "unconstitutional and thus void", the AIMPLB contended. The impleadment application filed in the matter of 'Vishwa Bhadra Purjari Purohit Mahasangh' and others claimed that hearing the petitions challenging the validity of the law will only create problems on the ground and alleged that the litigants have a "political agenda". It added that "the Act is conceived to promote harmony amongst the different sections of the people and prevent the breach of public order and promote public tranquility

and peace. "The Act, therefore, does not violate any cultural rights of any section of the people. The Act envisages peaceful co-existence and thereby promotes the diversity of cultures in our country. The Act achieves the objective of promoting syncretic culture (Ganga-Jamuna Tehzeeb) which is the basic ethos of Indian culture". The AIMPLB claims that there are innumerable instances in history where the Jains and Buddhist places of worship have been converted to Hindu temples as well as Muslim places of worship have been converted to Gurudwaras and Hindu places of worship have been converted to mosques.(PTI)

Pune institute's online courses on Indian heritage aim to make knowledge available without 'narrative attached'

**PUNE, OCT 9 /-/-** A Pune-based institute is offering online courses on India's rich heritage and knowledge system with an aim to provide authentic information to people without any narrative attached to it, say its senior officials.

Topics like religion, literature, philosophy, governance and policy-making, astronomy, mathematics, sciences, medicine, art, architecture, history and culture are covered as part of the courses offered by the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI) through its online learning platform 'Bharat Vidya', they say. When these topics are taught in schools and colleges, only the given syllabus is taught and a large part of the topic remains unexplored. So the

idea is to provide expertise and resources to educational institutes, Chinmay Bhandari, coordinator, Digital Initiatives, told PTI. Currently, the platform offers six courses: Ved Vidya, Darshanas, Digital Sanskrit Learning, Introduction to Mahabharata, Kalidas and Bhasha, and Fundamentals of Archaeology. The spoken Sanskrit course is free while others are available on a subscription basis. The online learning platform is getting a good response as people from different walks of life are enrolling themselves in its courses, officials said.vbThe premier institute, set up in 1917 for Indology and Asian studies, is home to more than 28,000 manuscripts and 1.53 lakh rare books and is a favourite haunt of

academicians and researchers.

In 2004, activists of the Sambhaji Brigade had ransacked the institute for allegedly sharing content with an American author who made some objectionable remarks about Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in his book. The institute launched its online learning platform recently to take this treasure trove of knowledge to people across the country and globe. The platform offers free as well as with-subscription resources and courses on India's rich civilisational heritage and Indian knowledge system, said Bhupal Patwardhan, the Executive Chairman of BORI. Bhandari said that BORI has been working on the digitisation of

manuscripts and books for the last few years. "In 2019, we started our digital library, and to complement it we thought of creating a parallel learning platform where people with diverse interests can explore the resources available with the institute and interact with each other. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic intervened around the same time," he said. During the pandemic, the institute started online courses, starting with a course on Indian heritage which received good response.

But many of the subscribers lived outside India and were working professionals, which gave rise to issues related to different time zones or paucity of time, Bhandari said.

"We figured out that people needed permanent

access to the material. Putting the course content on YouTube was not practical, so to resolve these issues we undertook a dedicated project on online learning program offering short-term courses," he said. Thus the online portal www.bharatvidya.in came into being, Bhandari said. Within a few days of the launch of the platform, more than 600 people opened accounts and more than 100 enrolled for these courses. Among the subscribers, Bhandari said, the largest demographic was persons between 25 and 40 years old, mostly working professionals, trainers, coaches, engineers, professors and doctors. "In short, Bharat Vidya online project is receiving good responses from people from diverse fields," he said. (PTI)

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**Trinamool Congress MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay and his MLA wife Nayna Bandyopadhyay offering prayers to Goddess Lakshmi on the occasion of Laxmi Puja at their residence in Kolkata on Sunday**

People of Gujarat made me win polls without looking at my caste: PM Modi

**MODHERA, OCT 9/--/In the run-up to the Assembly elections in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the people of the state have blessed him for the last two decades and voted for him irrespective of his caste.**

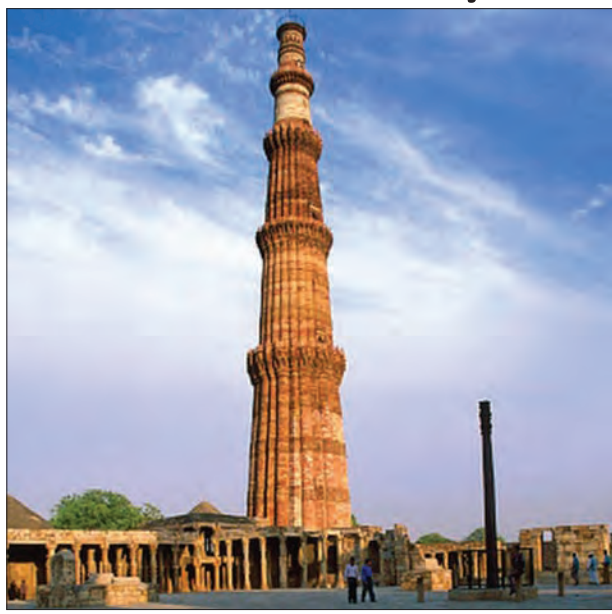
**The prime minister arrived in Gujarat on a three-day visit, where he declared Modhera in Mehsana district as the country's first 24x7 solar-powered village. Addressing a rally here, Modi said, "People of Gujarat have blessed me for the last two decades without looking at my caste, without looking at my political background."**

**Before becoming the prime minister, Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat between 2001 and 2014. Assembly elections in Gujarat are slated to be held soon. The elections are crucial for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which aims to retain power in PM Modi's home state, while the Congress hopes for a win after remaining out of power for 27 years in the state. During his visit, Modi will launch various projects worth more than Rs 14,600 crore. (PTI)**

## Eighty-eight scholars to bring out report on Indian civilisation and history of 12,000 years

**NEW DELHI, OCT 9/--/ Eighty-eight national and international scholars have come together to bring out a report on the civilisation and history of India in the last 12,000 years.**

**The launch of the report by the group, led by cultural activist and literary critic Ganesh Devy, was announced at the India International Centre here on Sunday. With 100 sections on a vast spectrum of subjects, including genetics, archeology, anthropology, linguistics and philosophy, the report aims to present a "scientific view of history" as opposed to the Centre's similar project started in 2020. In September 2020, the government had set up a committee to study "the origin and evolution of Indian culture dating back to around 12,000 years ago". The government committee had come under fire at the time for not having any south Indian, Northeast Indian, members of religious minorities, Dalits and women. The genesis of the collective report, Devy said, lies in "the contestation between the scientific view of history and the ideologically charged attempts to distort and twist history of South Asia unfolding before us in recent years".**



**The Qutub Minar is a soaring 12th-Century, five-storey tower, rising up to 73m (240ft)**

**"It is designed to provide a comprehensive picture of the population movements, emergence of social and political organisations, development of philosophies and metaphysics, the diversity of languages and expression, major social movements, impact of colonialism on Indian ideas and culture, the long freedom struggle and the making of India since Independence," Devy said. The report covers a large**

**temporal span, beginning with the arrival of the Homo sapiens and ending with the onset of the third millennium in the year 2000. The event was attended by several eminent personalities, including poet and cultural critic Ashok Vajpayee, historian Narayani Gupta, political scientist Zoya Hasan, social theorist and critic Ashis Nandy, and CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury. "This work is of tremendous significance to**

**actually bring together the reality that we are different, we are a combination of various histories, various civilisations. India, as I have always seen, is a living crucible of civilisational advance, of confluences that have continued to come to the country, influence each other and develop our civilisation further," Yechury said. He also noted that "the battle of visions for India" is still continuing that started a century ago with the birth of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).**

**"Three visions developed in the freedom struggle, what is happening right now is the continuation of that battle of these visions. The mainstream vision was of the Congress... India cannot be anything but a secular democratic republic," he said. He added that the Left reasoned that the country has to move towards economic independence and move towards socialism. "And the third vision was completely contradictory to these visions that India's character must be defined on the basis of the religious affiliation of its people. Thus, was born the notion of the Hindu Rashtra and an Islamic state, leading to the two nation theory," he explained. (PTI)**

**TUMKUR, OCT 9/--/ Holding banners against "rising" unemployment and communal divide in society, a group of youths met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday and joined him in the Bharat Jodo Yatra which, the party said, seeks to highlight their issues.**

**On the 32nd day of the yatra that started on September 7, Gandhi said some political parties were trying to spread hatred in the country by misleading youngsters. The former Congress president, who was accompanied by senior leader Siddaramaiah and Karnataka PCC president D K Shivakumar, interacted with many people, including children, women and a local singer, during his 20-km yatra on Sunday. He**

**appealed to the youth to join the yatra to spread the message of peace and brotherhood and unite India. Sharing a picture of his interaction, Gandhi said these youths are saying that there is no room for hate in our beloved India.**

**"Why are the people of the country raising their voices against hatred? You all know it," he said. The former Congress chief said a few years ago, the country did not have such an atmosphere as exists today.**

**"Earlier there was brotherhood, but today it is not like this. And this is a big reason for the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra,' he said in a Facebook post in Hindi. Noting that the youth are the future of our country, he said, "They don't want hate,**



**they want love, they want employment so that they can make the future of themselves, their family and country."**

**"Some political parties are misleading these youth, keeping them unemployed, for doing their hate politics," he said.**

**"We have to save the**

**youth from going astray, create a better tomorrow for them, organise good education and employment," he said. Gandhi said the Bharat Jodo Yatra is getting great support from the youth. "They are openly talking to me and I am listening to them. Our youth are so**

**talented. Throwing them in the fire of hatred will destroy the future of the country." Gandhi said people of every religion and every caste are walking together in the yatra, hand in hand, without asking each other's names. If someone is left behind, people stop for him, if someone falls, people support him and pick him up, he noted.**

**"The beauty of this journey is its unity and integrity. Our India was like this before and we have to make that beautiful India again.**

**"We are all moving forward with the message of peace and people are continuing to join us. Come, let's raise the voice of these youth and unite India together," Gandhi said. (PTI)**

## BCI backs SC judge Chandrachud over alleged complaint of misuse of office ahead of imminent elevation as CJI

**NEW DELHI, OCT 9/--/ The Bar Council of India has said the country and the Bar have complete faith in Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud, in line to become the next Chief Justice of India, following a complaint of alleged misuse of office against him, and condemned the "deliberate attempt to malign Indian judiciary".**

**The apex statutory body of lawyers assailed R K Pathan, who claims to be the chief of the so-called 'Supreme Court and High Court Litigant Association', for lodging a complaint with the President of India and others against Chandrachud, the senior-most Judge of the Supreme Court, widely tipped to be the 50th CJI when incumbent UU Lalit retires on November 8. It said, "Bar Council of India has strongly deprecated the modus of some people with vested interests for their unsuccessful attempt to tarnish the image of the Supreme Court and/or its Judges. Such a growing tendency is really a matter of serious concern for the country and it has to be checked anyhow."**

**The BCI statement said, "A post and letter of R K Pathan is being made viral by a few people (in which, we know that 2-3 Advocates of Mumbai are also there) deliberately on the eve of Justice Chandrachud's elevation as the Chief Justice of India." The Bar Council of India, through its chairman Manan Kumar Mishra, said it has thoroughly examined the contents of the 165-page letter and found it nothing**



**Justice DY Chandrachud**

**but a "scurrilous and malicious attempt" to interfere with the functioning of the Judiciary and administration of Justice.**

**"The country and the Indian Bar has complete faith in Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice DY Chandrachud is an asset for the world's Judiciary and is known for his knowledge, honesty and integrity; but, surprisingly even such popular Judges are being attacked," it said. The BCI said, surprisingly, no details of R K Pathan have been furnished in the complaint, and there is no address or nature of body he claims to represent.**

**"Bar Council of India has been informed by some senior members of Supreme Court and Bombay High Court Bar that it is the same R K Pathan (Rashid Khan Pathan) whom in April, 2020, in a Suo-Moto Contempt Petition, the Supreme Court found guilty of contempt for filing false, and baseless complaints against a Judge of Supreme court (now retired), the apex body of the Bar said. It said the Supreme Court had observed the complaints**

**were scandalous. The Bar Council of India has been informed that along with Pathan two other advocates were also held guilty of contempt for conniving with him, and all three were sentenced to three months simple imprisonment by the Supreme Court in the contempt case of 2019.**

**"As per the information given by some senior members and office-bearers of State Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, this is not the only instance; even earlier, Rashid Khan Pathan had made scurrilous and scandalous allegations against a sitting Judge of the Bombay High Court.**

**"A show cause notice was issued by the Bombay High Court, observing that the statements made were an attempt to scandalize the court and a calculated attempt to interfere with the administration of justice. It appears that the present complaint is a continuation by the same person in his attempts to malign our Judiciary", the BCI statement said. It said the State Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa and the Bar Council of India will investigate the nefarious conduct of a handful of advocates of Mumbai and appropriate action will follow so no one dares to commit such mischief in future.**

**"This act of Pathan is nothing, but a deliberate attempt to malign our Indian Judiciary in the eyes of the world. Indian Bar cannot tolerate any such nonsense act of anybody. The timing of the complaint clearly exposes the malicious purpose behind this fake and bogus complaint", it added. (PTI)**

## Temple priest caught roaming in burqa in Kerala

**KOZHIOKODE, OCT 9/--/A temple priest, moving around suspiciously in Koyilandy near here, wearing a burqa was caught by the public and handed over to the police. Jishnu Namboothiri (28) was caught by auto drivers at Koyilandy junction on October 7, police said on Sunday.**

**"They found him wandering in a burqa and handed him over to the police.**

**However, there was no complaint against him for committing any crime. So, we let him go after his relatives reached the police station," they said. The man, who is working as a priest at a temple near Meppayur here, told the police that he was wearing burqa as he had chicken pox.**

**A burqa is a loose garment covering the whole body from head to toe, worn by Muslim women.**

**The police said they could not find any traces of chicken pox on preliminary examination. They verified his name, address, and other details and let him off. (PTI)**



**Children holding placard during the campaign against use of durg in front of Thiruvananthapuram corporation office on Sunday**



## Ukraine: Russian strikes kill 17 following bridge attack

**ZAPORIZHZHIA, OCT 9** /--/ A Russian missile barrage that crumbled apartment buildings and houses in Ukraine's city of Zaporizhzhia killed at least 17 people and wounded dozens, Ukrainian officials said on Sunday as Moscow strained to enforce its takeover of illegally annexed territory.

The blasts that collapsed at least one high-rise residential building and blew out the windows of others came from six missiles launched in Russian-occupied areas of the Zaporizhzhia region, the Ukrainian air force said. The region is one of four Russia claimed as its own this month, but the regional capital remains under Ukrainian control. The multiple strikes came after an explosion on Saturday caused the partial collapse of a bridge linking the Crimean Peninsula with Russia. The Kerch Bridge attack damaged an important supply route for the Kremlin's faltering war effort in Ukraine and a towering symbol of Russia's power in the region. Stunned residents watched from behind police tape as emergency crews tried to reach the upper floors of a building that took a direct hit. The attack collapsed several floors, leaving a smoldering chasm at least 40-feet wide where apartments had stood. Several hours later, the top floors caved in as well.

In an adjacent apartment building, the barrage blew windows and doors out of their frames in a radius of hundreds of feet. At least 20 private homes and 50 apartment buildings in all were damaged, and at least 40 people were hospitalised, city council Secretary Anatoliy Kurtev said. Zaporizhzhia resident Mucola Markovich, 76, said he and his wife hid under a blanket when they heard incoming rockets and booms from blasts. There was one explosion, then another one, he said. Then, in a flash, their fourth-floor apartment was gone, Markovich said, holding back tears. When it will be rebuilt, I don't know, he said. "I am left without an apartment at the end of my life. Russian officials did not immediately comment on the strikes. Following Russian President Vladimir Putin's annexation of the Zaporizhzhia region last week, Russia has repeatedly bombarded the city of the same name.

At least 19 people died in Russian missile strikes on apartment buildings in the city on Thursday. Again, Zaporizhzhia. Again, merciless attacks on civilians, targeting residential buildings, in the middle of the night, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote in a Telegram post. Absolute meanness. Absolute evil. From the one who gave this order, to everyone who carried out this order: they will answer. They must. Before the law and the people, he added. Tetyana Lazunko, 73, and her husband, Oleksii, took shelter in the hallway of their top floor apartment after first hearing air raid sirens and then an explosion that shook the building and sent their possessions flying.

Lazunko wept inconsolably as the couple surveyed the damage to their home since 1974, wondering why an area with no military infrastructure in sight was targeted. Why are they bombing us. Why? she said. While Russia targeted Zaporizhzhia before Saturday's explosion on the Crimea bridge, the attack on the 12-mile-long span was a significant blow to Moscow.

Russia annexed Crimea in March 2014 following a hastily called local vote, a move that drew US and European Union sanctions. Putin personally opened the USD 3.7 million Kerch Bridge in May 2018 by driving a truck across it in a symbol of Moscow's claims on Crimea. The bridge, the longest one in Europe, is vital to sustaining Russia's military operations in southern Ukraine. The Crimean Peninsula is a popular destination for Russian tourists and home to a Russian naval base. A Russian tourist association estimated that 50,000 tourists were in Crimea on Saturday. Putin signed a decree late Saturday tightening security for the bridge and for energy infrastructure between Crimea and Russia, and put Russia's federal security service, the FSB, in charge of the effort. Some Russian lawmakers called for Putin to declare a counterterrorism operation, rather than the term special military operation that has downplayed the scope of fighting to ordinary Russians.

Hours after the explosion, Russia's Defence Ministry announced that the air force chief, Gen Sergei Surovikin, would now command all Russian troops in Ukraine. Surovikin, who this summer was placed in charge of troops in southern Ukraine, had led Russian forces in Syria and was accused of overseeing a bombardment that destroyed much of Aleppo. No one has claimed responsibility for damaging the bridge. Zelenskyy, in a video address, indirectly acknowledged the bridge attack but did not address its cause. Today was not a bad day and mostly sunny on our state's territory, he said. Unfortunately, it was cloudy in Crimea. Although it was also warm. (AP)

# Jaishankar inaugurates new Indian High Commission Chancery in Wellington

## Interacts with Indian community

**WELLINGTON, OCT 9** /--/ External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Sunday inaugurated the new Indian High Commission Chancery in Wellington and said that playing with each other's strengths is a more sensible way of growing the important relationship between India and New Zealand.

Jaishankar, who is here on his first visit to New Zealand as the External Affairs Minister, also said that the relationship between both countries is "due for an update", and "due for refresh".

"Inaugurated the new Indian High Commission Chancery in Wellington today. Three Ministerial visits in a short span of time reflect our shared desire to grow India-New Zealand ties and

make them fit for purpose," Jaishankar tweeted on Sunday. The relationship between India and New Zealand "draws strength from the vision and commitment of our Prime Ministers @narendramodi and @jacindaardern," he tweeted. While addressing members of the Indian community, he addressed the possibilities for increased cooperation in various sectors like business, digital and agriculture sectors.

"The more sensible way of growing our relationship is really to play with each other's strengths. We must find ways for doing more business because, at the end of the day, business is good for any relationship. For once if there is a strong business foundation to a

business relationship, that relationship is truly strong and steady," he said.

"Possibilities abound in business, digital, agriculture, education, skills, traditional medicine and maritimeseconomy domains. Stronger cooperation will ensure peace, prosperity and progress of our common region," he tweeted. "In recent years our Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Jacinda

established a relationship, meeting from time to time often on the sidelines of the events... It does make a difference when the leaders of the highest level meet and also makes a difference when Foreign Ministers get along very well," he said while addressing the gathering during the inauguration of the new Chancery. "We sincerely believe that India and New Zealand relationship is due for an update, is due for a



Narendra Modi

and New Zealand

relationship is due for an update, is due for a

refresh...", he said. "There are so many challenges, so many possibilities which are important for countries like India and New Zealand to think openly with an engaging approach to help ourselves and help the world."

"So, I was pleased that I had an opportunity to send that message out that India is open for business, that we would like to see more of New Zealand, and there are areas where you have experiences, best practices and capabilities that make a big difference. And if those in some way be deployed in India, can be deployed through your own initiatives, partnerships with Indians and joint ventures it would be something that we would value and you will benefit from," he added. (PTI)

## Palestinian gunman kills woman Israeli soldier in Jerusalem

**JERUSALEM, OCT 9** /--/ A Palestinian opened fire on an Israeli military checkpoint in east Jerusalem on Saturday night, killing a female Israeli soldier and wounding three other people, Israeli authorities said. The attack came hours after a pair of Palestinian teenagers were killed during an Israeli military raid in the occupied West Bank. It was the latest bloodshed in the deadliest round of fighting in the area in seven years. It also came less than 24 hours before Israel was to begin celebrating the weeklong Sukkot holiday, a time when tens of thousands of Jews visit the holy city. Saturday night's shooting occurred at a checkpoint near the Shuafat refugee camp in east Jerusalem. Police said the assailant got out of a car and opened fire, seriously wounding the female soldier and a security guard before running into the camp. The army announced early Sunday that the woman, who was 19, had died. Police said two members of the paramilitary border police unit were lightly wounded by shrapnel. Police said they were searching for the attacker, with special forces and a helicopter involved in the search. Police said early Sunday that they arrested one person on suspicion of involvement in the attack, but were continuing the manhunt.

Our hearts tonight are with the wounded and their families, said Prime Minister Yair Lapid. Terrorism will not defeat us. We are also strong on this difficult evening. Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed the area in a move that is not recognized internationally. It considers the entire city, including east Jerusalem, home to the city's most important holy sites, to be its capital. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state. Israel already has been carrying out daily arrest raids in the occupied West Bank since a series of deadly Palestinian attacks inside Israel.



Most of the military activity has been focused in the Palestinian cities of Jenin and Nablus in the northern West Bank.

Earlier Saturday, the Israeli military shot and killed two Palestinian teens during an arrest raid in the Jenin refugee camp, the site of repeated clashes between Israeli forces and local gunmen and residents. The camp is known as a stronghold of Palestinian militants. Palestinian officials said soldiers entered the camp early Saturday and surrounded a house. In videos circulated on social media, exchanges of fire could be heard. The Palestinian Health Ministry reported two dead and 11 wounded, three of them critically. The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the dead as Mahmoud al-Sous, 18, and Ahmad Daraghme, 16. The Israeli military said it had arrested a 25-year-old operative from the Islamic Jihad militant group who has previously been imprisoned by Israel. It said the man had recently been involved in shooting attacks on Israeli soldiers. It said soldiers opened fire during the raid when dozens of Palestinians hurled explosives and shot at them. Just before noontime, the Israeli forces withdrew from the area. The killing occurred a day after two Palestinian teenagers, ages 14 and 17, were killed by Israeli fire in separate incidents elsewhere in the occupied West Bank. Rights groups accuse Israeli forces of using excessive force in their dealings with the Palestinians, without being held accountable. The Israeli military says it opens fire only in life-threatening situations. Israel says it is forced to take action because Palestinian security forces, who coordinate with the military in a tense alliance against Islamic militants, is unable or unwilling to crack down. Palestinian security forces say the military raids have undermined their credibility and public support, especially in the absence of any political process. The last round of substantive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks ended in 2009. (AP)

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## Singapore to lift Covid-19 restrictions for all from next week

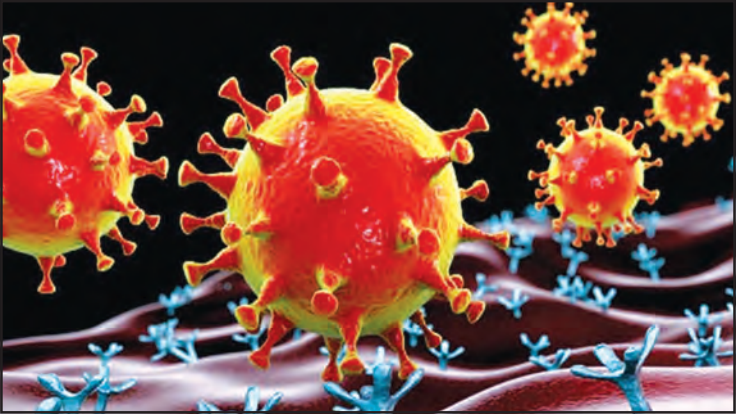
**SINGAPORE, OCT 9** /--/ Singapore is set to lift the Covid-19 restrictions on non-vaccinated individuals from Monday but it is ready to step up such measures when necessary to lower infection rates and protect the unvaccinated, Health Minister Ong Ye Kung said on Sunday.

With vaccination-differentiated measures (VDS) to be fully lifted on Monday, the minister noted that while such restrictions aimed at protecting the unvaccinated in crowded areas, had pushed many to get vaccinated, it is better to step them down given that they are now not as extensive. "Today VDS is very light and in restaurants is pretty much an honesty system with random sporadic enforcement, Ong said while talking to the media at a club event. "It's not that VDS doesn't work. In its current form, which is light, I think it doesn't work as well. So, we might as well step it down with the understanding that we can step up to an appropriate level when we really need it." In a statement, the Ministry of Health on Friday announced that VDS will no longer be required for events with more than 500 participants, nightlife establishments where there is dancing, and dining at food and beverage establishments, including hawker centres.

When asked if there was any concern that the easing would result in those above 50 not getting their fourth booster shot, Ong said he does not think that it is in their consideration given that VDS is currently not extensive, and he appealed to those in that age bracket to stay up to date with their Covid-19 vaccination. "When you are fully vaccinated and up to date,

your chances of being infected and leading to a very bad outcome is much lower, much lower. Do it to protect yourself and don't listen too much to the rumours circulating outside," Ong was quoted as saying by The Straits Times newspaper. Ong said the government has been transparent about the reactions caused by vaccines, with the Health Sciences Authority publishing the severe adverse reaction incidents every three months.

He added that such cases mostly recover by



themselves and that while there are risks to every type of vaccination, this has to be weighed against the cost of remaining unvaccinated. "Come December, we don't know what kind of variant will come up or what kind of variant will arrive in Singapore. If it's something dangerous, we don't want to be caught off guard, the minister said. "So now, while we have the time and the space, get ourselves properly vaccinated with the bivalent vaccines. It is the best protection for us

for whatever may come in December," Ong said. The health ministry has said that it will replace the original Moderna/Spikevax vaccine with the updated bivalent version from October 17, and this will be for all adults aged 18 and above.

In a Facebook post on Sunday, Ong said clinical studies show that the bivalent version has the same safety profile as the original Moderna/Spikevax. Serious adverse events (SAE) have been reported in about six in 100,000 vaccinations of the original formulation, and all have recovered or are recovering, he assured. HSA has also reported a declining rate of SAEs with further shots (i.e. even fewer have adverse reactions after taking boosters compared to taking primary series), he said. In the post, Ong clarified that while being infected with Covid-19 is considered a shot for the purposes of achieving minimum protection, it is not considered as a substitute for a shot to keep up to date with vaccinations. Meanwhile, Singapore reported 6,888 new Covid-19 infections on Tuesday, a jump from the 2,587 new local cases the day before. There is usually a spike in the number of cases on Tuesdays, due to people socialising over the weekend, with the media reports attributing to the increase coming days after the return of the F1 Grand Prix race that attracted more than 300,000 people last Friday to Sunday. The race was not held in the last two years during the Covid-19 pandemic. Singapore's total Covid-19 cases as of Thursday were 936,270 and 1,625 related deaths since the disease broke here. (PTI)

## US Sikh family murder suspect terrorised, robbed another family 17 years ago

**SAN FRANCISCO, OCT 9** /--/ The man involved in the kidnapping and killing of the Indian-origin Sikh family in California, including an eight-month-old baby girl, was previously also jailed for robbery after he held a family he had then worked for at gunpoint and terrorised them 17 years ago.

Jesus Salgado, who was arrested on Thursday on the suspicion of kidnapping and killing the Sikh family of four, 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri, her 27-year-old mother Jasleen Kaur, her 36-year-old father Jasdeep Singh, and her 39-year-old uncle Amandeep Singh, was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2007 and was released in 2015 and discharged from parole three years later, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. He also has a conviction for possession of a controlled substance, the department said. Nearly two decades ago, Salgado worked for a family, which also owned a trucking company, but was fired in 2004 because the family suspected him of stealing money, members of the family told the Los Angeles Times. Kathy and her daughter Katrina when first saw surveillance images of Salgado, they did not immediately recognise him. Salgado, now 48, had aged significantly, and Kathy and Katrina weren't sure he was the man who robbed them at gunpoint in their dark garage 17 years ago. They noticed the methods in the two crimes seemed eerily similar: terrorise a family on their property at gunpoint and force them to follow orders under the threat of death.

On the night of December 19, 2005, he showed up at their home wearing a mask and held a gun to the father's head and bounded his hands with duct tape, recalled

his daughter Katrina, who was 16 years old at the time. Salgado rounded up the family, as well as a friend of Katrina's who was visiting, and took them to the garage, where the family kept a safe with cash and jewelry, she and her mother, Kathy, said. After robbing them, even taking Kathy's wedding ring, Salgado then led the family to the pool in the backyard and made them jump in as he escaped, Kathy and Katrina recalled. He was caught just a few days later after the family reported him to police.

Salgado was convicted in early 2007 of home invasion robbery with a gun, attempted false imprisonment and witness intimidation, Merced County prosecutors said. He served nearly 10 years in prison before getting paroled in 2015. Video surveillance this week showed that, as with Kathy and Katrina's family, the suspect in Monday's kidnapping held the Singh family at gunpoint, binding the men's arms but not Japanners Kurtas. On Tuesday morning, Merced County sheriff's detectives learned that a bank card belonging to one of the victims was used at a bank ATM in the nearby town of Atwater.

After reviewing surveillance video from the bank, investigators believed the person making the transaction resembled a man photographed by security cameras at the site of the kidnapping, authorities said. Salgado was identified as a person of interest in the investigation and prior to law enforcement involvement attempted to take his own life, the Sheriff's Office said in a statement. He was taken to a hospital in critical condition.

Salgado was jailed on suspicion of kidnapping and murder on Thursday, after being released from the hospital. (PTI)



# Iyer, Kishan set up series levelling win for India

RANCHI, OCT 9 /--/ Shreyas Iyer struck a sublime century while Ishan Kishan displayed his brute force against a formidable South African attack to set up a series levelling seven-wicket win for India in the second ODI here on Sunday.

Mohammed Siraj led an inexperienced Indian bowling lineup brilliantly to restrict South Africa to 278/7 after the visitors opted to bat. Iyer made his second ODI hundred (113 not out off 111) and shared a match winning 161-run stand with Kishan (93 off 84) to ensure a comfortable win in 45.5 overs for a second string Indian team. The 24-year-old Kishan looked a transformed batter and showed different layers of his batting by switching to beast mode after a responsible start. The lefthander smashed seven sixes and four boundaries in his career-best knock from 84 balls, while Iyer played the perfect foil. The designated vice-captain of the series, Iyer, has been in top form in ODIs, having slammed one century and four fifties in his last six innings. Locked one-all after two matches, both teams will play the series decider in Delhi on Tuesday. At India's optional nets ahead of the game, Ishan had made his intentions clear when he clobbered a loose ball with brute force, ramming into the grill of the MS Dhoni pavillion. On match day, the stage was just perfect for the diminutive batter to boss at his homeground. India needed 231 from 41.1 overs when a classy-looking Shubman Gill (28; 26b) perished to a gravity-defying low catch by Rabada on his follow through.

Kishan came in and was at his vigilant best. He ran hard for singles and overcame a hostile bowling spell from Nortje when he was clocking 145-plus clicks on a slow Ranchi wicket. The lefthander however did not panic as he reached 29 off 46 balls. South Africa then started operating with spinners with stand-in skipper Maharaj looking to dismiss Kishan for a second successive time. But Kishan took the attack on the left-arm spinner and smashed



Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan added 161 runs for the third wicket

him for three sixes including two in four balls. The only blip in his innings was when he mistimed one to Rabada but this time he dropped a sitter. In the next delivery, Kishan took a blow on his elbow that seemingly unsettled him before he fell agonisingly short of a maiden century. Earlier, Aiden Markram (79 off 89 balls) and Reeza Hendricks (74 off 76) looked in control of the proceedings in the middle overs. But Siraj triggered the collapse and also took a stunning forward running catch to dismiss a dangerous looking Heinrich Klaasen (30).

He mixed up the slower ones intelligently, bowled with a tight line and length and did not even give the in-form David Miller (35 not out) a chance to put him away. He conceded only three runs in the 50th over to end with figures 10-1-38-3. From being 169/3, which came courtesy a 129 run-a-ball partnership by Hendricks and Markram, South Africa lost three quick wickets with some clever field placements and bowling rotation by India skipper Shikhar Dhawan. Even the in-form Miller struggled to get going at the death and Siraj came out on

top as they scored just 57 runs from the last 10 overs with the loss of two wickets. Debutant Shabaz Ahmed jumped in joy after bagging his maiden international wicket as he trapped Janneman Malan in front of the stumps. It seemed a perfect start for India with the visitors' score reading 40/2 after 10 overs which had just seven boundaries on a dull and dry JSCA wicket. But what followed was a composed and calculative approach by the middle-order duo of Markram and Hendricks who were happy to bide time, play out dot balls and forge a partnership. From 20th over onwards, they stepped it up, picking odd boundaries every over and in no time they reached their respective fifties -- Hendricks in 58 balls, and Markram in 64 balls.

Hendricks smashed Kuldeep over wide long-on in the 27th over as they started to make their intentions clear. But thankfully for India, Hendricks got out to a loose short-pitched delivery from Siraj. It opened the gates for India and with some smart captaincy by Dhawan they managed to sneak in three wickets for 46 runs including that of a dangerous-looking Klaasen. (PTI)

# India head coach Dennerby says team ready for FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

BHUBANESWAR, OCT 9 / --/ India are clearly one of the underdogs of the FIFA women's U-17 World Cup beginning on Tuesday, but head coach Thomas Dennerby on Sunday said that the hosts have nothing to lose and they are ready for the age-group showpiece. India begin their campaign against USA at the Kalinga Stadium here on Tuesday and Dennerby said it is time the team shows that it can compete against the best in the world.

"It's not only about the result now. It's about the performance to show that Indian girls can play football. But of course, inside the group, we have our own goals, and we are ready to fight for them," Dennerby said.

"Against the USA, Brazil or Morocco, we are determined to earn points and score goals. And we're going to show to the Indian fans that we have a good team."

India play Morocco and Brazil on October 14 and 17 in their other group matches. The top two teams



in each of the four groups will qualify for the quarterfinals.

"We want to dish out a good performance. So, they can feel that India really can challenge the best teams in the world. And it's good for the younger girls to have role models to look up to."

"And hopefully, some of these girls, in a couple of years from now, can take the next step to the senior team and so on--you can keep on having them as role models for many years. Young girls

should know they can have a successful career in football." The Swede said his team had good preparations ahead of the tournament with exposure tours in Italy, Norway and Spain.

"I hope we are ready now," the coach said. Asked if he is under pressure to deliver the goods, Dennerby said, "Of course, all coaches are under pressure when it comes to World Cups or other big tournaments. Because everybody expects you to have a successful

team and so on.

"I think sometimes you put more pressure on yourself - but I have gone through this before. So, I don't get stressed. Whatever happens, you have to stay cool, you have to follow your plan."

"Don't change anything, even if you lose the first game--stay by your plan, don't panic and start changing everything. These are things you learn from being in this business for many years. And, of course,

I would be lying, if I start saying that there is no pressure." Talking about the strengths and weaknesses of his team, he said, "We are going to this tournament with a really good fitness level now. All these things, training, running sessions and all that have helped a lot and we can see that we have a good fitness level."

"The girls have learned about positioning, where to go when we lose the ball and where to go when we win the ball back and how to open up the game and start playing and quickly come back when we lose the ball again. All these tactical details and positioning have become really good. I hope it's going to be difficult to score against us." Asked if the girls are nervous, he said, "I hope they are a little bit nervous. Being nervous is a part of concentration. It's a part of preparations for the game for the body to prepare."

"When the referee blows the whistle, you have to forget about all that. It's only you and the ball and the teammates and opponents." (PTI)

# Experimental India to face plucky Thailand in Women's Asia Cup

SYLHET, OCT 9 /--/ With a semifinal berth already sealed, India will look to continue experimenting with their playing XI when they take on a plucky Thailand in the Women's Asia Cup here on Monday.

India have fielded a different playing XI in all their matches in the tournament so far in order to give the fringe players time in the middle ahead of the T20 World Cup next year. The batting order has also been continuously rejigged with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur dropping down to number seven against Pakistan. And while the move didn't work as the new-look middle order crumbled under pressure, the team has continued to give game time to its fringe players. However, after an underwhelming display that led to their first loss in six years to arch-rivals Pakistan, the 'Women in Blue' came back strongly in all three departments to thrash defending champions and host Bangladesh. India are performing as a cohesive unit, the bowling department has been consistent all throughout the tournament while the batters have also played their part. The biggest positive will be the flamboyant Shafali Verma's return to form. The young opener struck a much-needed fifty in the previous match which would have done wonders to her confidence.

Smriti Mandhana too got some runs under her belt as the tournament enters the business end. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur was rested in the last match due to a niggle and it remains to be seen if she makes a comeback for the team's last group game. Jemimah Rodrigues, who is returning from injury, is having a stellar tournament and is the leading run scorer. Deepti Sharma has shone



with both bat and ball. The spin all-rounder is the leading wicket-taker alongside Rumana Ahmed of Bangladesh and Thailand's T Putthawong. All three have eight scalps each.

Richa Ghosh has made a strong case for her inclusion in the T20 squad and the young wicketkeeper will look to continue in the same vein. Thailand, on the other hand, are on a roll, having won their last three games, including a surprise win against Pakistan. They are currently fourth in the table with six points. They would be eager to make the final push for that last semifinal spot. They have hosts Bangladesh right on their tails with four points and a game in hand. India, who lead the table with eight points, will be wary of the Thai team which is capable of springing a surprise. Last time these two sides met, India

registered a comfortable win at the Asia Cup in 2018. (PTI)

## Teams (From)

**India:** Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Sabineni Meghana, Richa Ghosh (wk), Sneha Rana, Dayalan Hemalatha, Meghna Singh, Renuka Thakur, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Radha Yadav and KP Navgire.

**Thailand:** Naruemon Chaiwai (c), Nattaya Boochatham, Natthakan Chantham, Sunida Chaturongrattana, Onnicha Kamchomphu, Suwanan Khiaoto, Nannapat Koncharoenkai, Suleeporn Laomi, Bantida Leephatthana, Phannita Maya, Nanthita Boonsukham, Thipatcha Putthawong, Chanida Sutthiruang, Aphisara Suwanchonrathi and Sorannarin Tippoch.

Match starts 1PM IST.

# New-look Chennaiyin set to kickstart ISL campaign against ATK Mohun Bagan



KOLKATA, OCT 9 /--/ Two-time former champions Chennaiyin FC will look to go out all guns blazing and start the new season on a winning note when they take on ATK Mohun Bagan in their opening match of the Indian Super League here on Monday.

The Marina Machans come into the ISL following a good run in the Durand Cup, finishing as a quarterfinalist. With a complete overhaul of their foreign contingent and a reinforced Indian contingent, the team will look to improve on their Durand Cup campaign and carry forward the momentum into the new season.

"I like offensive football; I like to score goals. And that is what we want to implement in the game. You must be very prepared and attentive to understand and capitalise on the mistakes of your opponent. You have to use it to your advantage," Head coach Thomas Brdaric said in a release. This year's ISL also marks the return of the fans to the stadiums with the league returning to its traditional home and

away format after two seasons inside a bio-secure bubble. German midfielder Julius Duker said, "We have a very nice mix of youth and experienced players and this will be very interesting this season. We have worked really hard and now want to go out and show the fans that we are good enough to play against these teams."

Brdaric's men spent most of their pre-season in Kolkata, exploiting the conditions. Although this will help the team adapt quickly, the head coach is aware of the challenges clubs like ATK Mohun Bagan can pose at their home. Besides Duker, Marina Machans' foreign line-up consists of defenders Vafa Hakhamaneshi and Fallou Diagne, midfielder Nasser El Khayat, and Sliskovic and Kwame Karikari upfront in the attack.

The team is all geared up and will look to secure its first ISL win against last season's semi-finalists ATK Mohun Bagan. The Mariners have won two of their four meetings with Chennaiyin with two games ending in draws. (PTI)

# Kalinga Stadium spruced up with world-class amenities for Fifa U-17 Women's World Cup

BHUBANESWAR, OCT 9 / --/ Refurbished seats, new pitches and world-class facilities -- the stage is set for Fifa U-17 Women's World Cup at Kalinga stadium of Bhubaneswar.

The stadium will host five Group A matches, in which four countries--India, the US, Morocco and Brazil -- will be playing each other, and one Group B match between Nigeria and Chile. The event will kick off at the venue from Tuesday with an opening ceremony and two matches. Odisha Sports Secretary Vineel Krishna said the administration had taken up many projects to upgrade and renovate the stadium, including the entire stand, for the tournament, which will go on till October 30. It is yet another feather in the cap for Odisha and also the Kalinga complex, which will also be one of the two venues in the state where Men's FIH Hockey World Cup will be held next year.

"A main pitch and four practice grounds with natural grass have been set up as per the standards of the world football governing body Fifa. We've also constructed two football training centres," Krishna told PTI. He said that the seats have been replaced with new chairs, but the



seating capacity is the same as earlier -- around 12,000. The lighting system has been fully done anew. The Bermuda grass of the field has been imported, according to the sports secretary.

"New functional areas have been created. VIP boxes and dugouts have also been upgraded. A lot of the renovation has been done in phases over the last two-three years, he said, estimating that the overall cost could be around Rs 90 crore. Six games are expected to be used for different categories of spectators. The beautification, wall painting and cleaning of the surroundings were taken up as part of the

refurbishment, Krishna added. The multipurpose venue, built in 1978, has facilities for athletics, football, hockey, basketball, tennis, table tennis, volleyball, climbing and swimming. The stadium has hosted several tournaments and is also the home venue for Odisha FC of Indian Super League.

The Fifa tournament was supposed to be held in India in 2020, but got postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The hosting rights for the 2022 edition were retained by the country on the basis of a decision of the global federation. Sixteen teams will fight for the top honours and 32 matches will be

played across three venues Bhubaneswar, Navi Mumbai and Goa. The final will be played at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appealed to everyone to watch the sporting extravaganza.

"The magnificent #KalingaStadium is all set to host the #FIFA U-17 #WomensWorldCup. Appeal everyone to come in large numbers and witness the sporting extravaganza," he tweeted on Sunday. Patnaik had on Friday expressed hope that the teams would be able to prepare well for the matches, given the top facilities made available at the stadium.

"Mesmerised seeing the beautiful Capital Football Arena in Bhubaneswar where our football stars will practice during the FIFA U-17 Womens World Cup. I am sure the world class facilities at the training centre will help the players prepare well for the mega event," Patnaik tweeted.

"Training sites at the Odisha Football Academy in Bhubaneswar are ready for (the) FIFA U-17 Womens World Cup."

I am sure the participating teams will love the world-class amenities here. Wish the teams all the best," he added. (PTI)



IPL would ignore Stephen Fleming. With cricket, we always exchange our good wishes to everybody even if we want our own team to win." Wright coached the Indian cricket team from 2000 to 2005, becoming the country's first foreign coach. He also coached New Zealand from 2010 to 2012. Under his guidance, India reached the 2003 ODI World Cup final, jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya. Wright was also the head coach of Mumbai Indians in the IPL in 2013 and guided the franchise to the title. He has subsequently worked with the most successful IPL side for seven years. After retirement, Fleming played for Chennai Super Kings in 2008 before becoming the team's player-cum-coach the next year. Under Fleming's charge in the first six years, CSK claimed two IPL titles and finished runners-up twice, besides winning a Champions League T20 crown. He returned to coach the side again in 2018, after the franchise served a two-year suspension.

He guided CSK to the IPL crown again in 2018 and 2021 and is regarded as the most successful coaches in the lucrative T20 tournament. (PTI)