

## N&M Andaman residents pitch for operation of ships to Kolkata via Mayabunder jetty

ROOPA LALL/KARTIK

**MAYABUNDER, SEPT 30** --/ Residents and traders of North & Middle Andaman have pitched for operation of ships to Kolkata via Mayabunder jetty here. They say non-berthing of mainland bound vessels at Mayabunder jetty during Port Blair-Kolkata voyage caused major transportation problems for the Bengali-speaking people living in this region and also led to massive financial losses by the business community.

The North & Middle Andaman region has a sizeable number of Bengali-speaking people who prefer to avail of Kolkata-bound ships from Mayabunder, for visiting their families and friends in West Bengal, to board the ship at Port Blair. Besides, the business community engaged in various trades and commerce in this region are more inclined to get goods and commodities from Kolkata which, they say, are much cheaper compared to bringing those items from other parts of the country.

People living in Diglipur, Mayabunder, Billiground and Rangat in the North & Middle Andaman region complain that though several ships have been operated in the Chennai and Vizag sectors during the past six months, the Shipping department has not operated even a single vessel to Kolkata sector via

Mayabunder.

According to some shopkeepers, their business has been impacted badly due to non-operation of passenger ships for the Kolkata sector. They say that it is easier for them to bring goods and materials from Kolkata as these can land directly at their doorsteps at Mayabunder jetty



instead of procuring the merchandise routed through Port Blair. This not only pushes up the cost, but also delays the availability of materials in this remote region due to consumption of extra transportation time from Port Blair.

Besides, freight charges for importing cargo materials in private cargo vessels is much higher than importing cargo in the DSS operated vessels. Private cargo vessels from Kolkata to Mayabunder charge Rs 5,600 per cubic metre for cargo packages whereas in the DSS operated ship, the charge is only Rs 2,000 per cubic metre.

Speaking to EOI, Deputy Director, Directorate of Shipping Services said that Kolkata-bound ships are not

routed through Mayabunder due to lack of sufficient passengers from this region. Mainland-bound vessels are operated for the people of the islands, but the administration suffered great loss if even 50 per cent of the passengers are not availing the voyage. On September 21, 2022, a scheduled voyage of MV Swaraj Dweep had to be cancelled because only 95 passengers had purchased tickets. It is very difficult to operate the mainland bound vessel in such conditions, he said. The administration has to suffer further loss as more and more islanders prefer air travel.

Meanwhile, EOI Mayabunder Correspondent Kartik adds that it is easy for many residents in this region to avail of Kolkata-bound ship from Mayabunder jetty instead of boarding at Port Blair. Moreover, ships from Kolkata to Port Blair can unload the cargo at Mayabunder jetty which will reduce the cost of goods and materials. What is needed is installing a scanner to check cargo packages as done in Haddo port. A dog squad can be deployed at Mayabunder for ensuring security and sniffing out contraband substances. With some minor adjustments, the Shipping department and Port Management Board can provide a lot of benefits to the local people and business community of North & Middle Andaman, some residents said.

## Revamped children's traffic park thrown open for kids

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30** --/ As part of Road Safety measures, the revamped Children's Traffic Park situated near Marina Park was re-opened on Friday by 04 family members, who lost their son/husbands/brother in road accidents and suffering the pain of losing their loved ones.

Sr. Police officers of A&N Police, including Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain, IGP (L&O) were present during the re-opening.

At the outset, Mr. Kalaivanan R, Superintendent of Police (Traffic) welcomed the special guests and addressed the gathering about the history and functioning of Children's Traffic Park. After the outbreak of Covid-19, the park was closed in March 2020, and due to lack of maintenance during this period, it suffered damages. Now the park has been given a facelift and is renovated to make it more children friendly. New traffic signal lights, road signs, information hoardings and speakers playing Road Safety Messages etc. have been installed across the park. In the facelift, the other departments namely DBRAIT, APWD & PBMC have also contributed on their part. This park is being operated and

maintained by the Traffic Unit of A&N Police.

The families of road accident victim appreciated the step of reopening the Children's Traffic Park to create awareness among the children right from an early age that will help in preventing road accidents in their later stage

of life. They further added that awareness on road safety among the general public will help in preventing the tragedy that had taken place with them.

'Road safety is life safety', highlighted the importance of traffic rules, Sh. Jain, IGP / L & O emphasised that road accidents are man made disaster, which is totally preventable provided we obey

and follow traffic rules. 'Driving under drunken condition', 'overspeeding', 'driving without helmet/ or seat belt', 'lack of attention/distracted while driving' such as using mobile etc. are prominent causes behind road accidents.

A&N Police invites the general public to avail this facility so that the children can enjoy and learn various Road Safety measures. The park will remain open every day between 4.00 PM to 8.00 PM and facility is free of cost.



RationRasheed urges for providing medical assistance to

students at homes

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30** --/ Mr. MP Abdul Rasheed, Director, Rasheed Foundation in a letter to the Chief Secretary has urged for constituting a expert medical team and extending medical treatment to those students of Model School who have also complaint about medical issues after the death of a Class 8th student. The sudden death of the Class 8th student of Model student in GB Pant Hospital has led to depression and mental agony among the other students who were also admitted in the GB Pant Hospital for treatment on September 16, 2022. Since the parents of these students are fearful to visit GB Pant Hospital for medical examinations and treatment, Mr. Rasheed suggested providing all possible health-care assistance to all other students at their home itself through an expert medical team, till such time, these students overcome the suffering.

## Opposition leaders of different political parties condemn use of Police force against DBRAIT students

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30** --/ State leaders of various political parties, after holding a meeting at Shaheed Bhavan, Anarkali, Port Blair on Thursday evening, observed with grave concern that force was used by the Police on unarmed and peacefully agitating students of DBRAIT at Dairy Farm junction on 28th September, 2022. The brutal police action on the students which led to sustaining injury to several students and other health issues was violation of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution of India to assemble peacefully and without arms and freedom of speech and expression. The leaders have demanded that a judicial inquiry may be ordered into the issue in order to fix responsibility on the erring officials who ordered and carried out the inhuman attack on the college students.

They have noted with



concern that the students are aggrieved over the non-renewal/withdrawal of the affiliation by the Pondicherry University over the non-fulfillment of the shortcomings pointed out by the University. Instead of fulfilling the

*Calls for intervention of central government to resolve the issues*

conditions put forward by the University for restoration of affiliation, the central government and A & N Administration moved Hon'ble High Court against the Pondicherry University. The State leaders of different Political parties believe that the issue can be resolved if the central government intervenes in the matter and takes appropriate steps.

Expressing their support to DBRAIT students who are on agitation during the last few weeks, these leaders called upon the central government to intervene in the issue and take all necessary steps to resolve the issues.



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# Kharge, a Gandhi family loyalist poised to be 2nd Congress prez from Karnataka

**BENGALURU, SEPT 30** --/ Popularly known as "Solilada Saradara" (a leader without defeat) in his home-State of Karnataka Mapanna Mallikarjun Kharge, who on Friday filed nomination for the Congress' presidential polls, is a hardcore loyalist of the Gandhi family. If elected, he will be the second AICC president from Karnataka after S Nijalingappa, and also a Dalit leader to hold the post after Jagjivan Ram. A leader with more than 50 years of experience in politics, 80-year-old Kharge, who was elected MLA for nine times in a row, has seen a steady rise in his career graph from humble beginnings as a union leader in his home-district of Gulbarga, now Kalaburagi. In 1969, he joined the Indian National Congress and went on to become president of the Gulbarga City Congress Committee. That Kharge

was unconquerable at the hustings was mirrored until 2014 Lok Sabha polls in which he bucked the Narendra Modi wave that swept Karnataka, particularly Hyderabad-Karnataka region, and had won from Gulbarga with a margin of over 74,000 votes. He has won from Gurmitkal Assembly constituency nine times in a row before he plunged into the Lok Sabha poll arena in 2009 and has been a two-time MP from Gulbarga parliamentary segment. However, in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls the veteran leader was defeated by BJP's Umesh Jadhav in Gulbarga by a margin of 95,452 votes. That was the first electoral loss in Kharge's political life spanning several decades. A hardcore Congressman loyal to the Gandhi family, Kharge has played multiple roles in different ministries that

have enriched his experience as an administrator. He has also served as the Leader of the Opposition in Karnataka Assembly and at the central-



Mallikarjun Kharge

level as also in the party where he had served as KPCC chief during the 2008 Assembly polls. Kharge, who was leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019, could not become the Leader of Opposition as the grand old

party could not get the post as its numbers were less than the mandated 10 per cent of the total number of seats in the Lower House. He has served as Union Cabinet Minister- Labour and Employment, also Railways and Social Justice and Empowerment in the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government. He had also held various portfolios in successive Congress governments that governed the State and was also president of Karnataka Congress and Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly. In June 2020, he was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka, and is currently the 17th Leader of the Opposition in Upper House of Parliament succeeding Ghulam Nabi Azad in February last year. He was several times seen as a top contender for the chief minister post in

Karnataka, but could never occupy the post. "Why do you keep saying Dalit again and again? Don't say that. I'm a Congressman," Kharge has said several times in the past, whenever the Dalit CM topic cropped up with him as the contender. Sober by temperament and nature, Kharge has never landed in any major political trouble spot or controversy. Born in a poor family at Varavatti in Bidar district, he did his schooling and BA as well as Law in Gulbarga. He was into legal practice for some time before plunging into politics. He is a follower of Buddhism and is the founder-chairman of Siddharth Vihar Trust that has built the Buddha Vihar complex in Gulbarga. Married Radhabai on 13 May 1968 and they have two daughters and three sons. One son Priyank Kharge is an MLA and a former minister. (PTI)

## SC refuses to entertain plea seeking display of Preamble at public places, govt offices

**NEW DELHI, SEPT 30** --/ The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking directions to the Centre, States and Union Territories to display the Preamble to the Constitution in local languages at public places and in government offices to enhance the spirit of fraternity, saying it is for the government to do.

The apex court said there is something which has to be left to the government on how to go about it. "Some people are really enterprising. Get elected and do this. This is not the place for it," a bench of Justices SK Kaul and AS Oka told the advocate representing the Maharashtra-based petitioner. "If we get into it....where preamble will be displayed, where Constitution will be displayed.

It is not our job," the bench observed. It told the lawyer appearing for petitioner, Z A N Ahmad Peerzade, that either the petition be withdrawn or the court will dismiss it. The counsel said he would withdraw the petition. The plea, filed through advocate M R Shamshad, had sought direction to the authorities to display the contents of the Preamble at public places and government offices in languages understood by the local citizens to enhance the spirit of fraternity and ideas of liberty, equality and secularism.

"Why not display the Constitution all over the country?" the court asked wryly, adding "This is for the government to do." The plea said in the recent times, there has been a rise in violence that has spread to various parts of the country. It claimed the level of intolerance amongst the masses has increased manifold and the "youth of the country appear to be unaware of the commitment on which our constitutional foundation has been laid down." It said the petitioner had approached the authorities in the states and Union Territories with a representation earlier but no steps were taken. "The petitioner has been a witness to the rise of communal violence cases, hate crimes and hate speeches in various parts of our country. It is increasing within the territorial boundaries of India and the petitioner is deeply concerned with the erosion of the social fabric that has held this diverse nation together," the plea said. (PTI)



Newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chouhan calling on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi

## BJP wants to rule entire country, weakening all political parties using 'moneypower': Tikait

**BAHRAICH, SEPT 30** --/ Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Friday alleged that the BJP was weakening all political parties using money power so that it can rule the country all alone.

He also accused the election officials of tampering with the results in more than 100 Assembly seats during the Uttar Pradesh polls held earlier this year, saying the machinery worked at the behest of the saffron party. Tikait, who was en route to Shravasti, interacted with the media after stopping his convoy in front of the collectorate here. They (BJP) want to dismantle the entire opposition so that only one party gets to rule the country. They will weaken all political parties using money power, he said in response to a question from reporters during an informal chat. When asked about the Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra' headed by Rahul

Gandhi, Tikait said it was the right move to unite the country but it should have been carried out earlier. The entire opposition should come out onto the streets. Or else, in the coming days, all movements and political



Rakesh Tikait

parties will be banned and closed down, Tikait said. Accusing the ruling party in the state of winning the elections through dishonest means, he said the opposition candidates who were winning by around 30,000 votes in each of the over 100 Assembly

constituencies were made to lose. Responding to the government's ban on the Popular Front of India, he said curbs on any organisation that does wrong are justified but added that the government should not do so just to discriminate against any community. Tikait, who was at the forefront of the agitation against the Centre's three contention farm laws, said the farmers will launch a movement across the country demanding a law on Minimum Support Price for crops and also to check loot of the land to corporates such as Adani. Only farmers can save the country. Farmers' organisations will continue to work towards this cause, he added. Tikait also warned Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath of protests if the state government did not fulfill the promise of making timely payments to sugarcane cultivators. (PTI)

## Mumbai would be transformed in 90 days under Swachha Maharashtra campaign: CM Shinde

**MUMBAI, SEPT 30** --/ Mumbai would undergo a transformation in 90 days under the new urban renewal plan unveiled by the state government, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said here on Friday. He was speaking after the launch of the Swachha Maharashtra Abhiyan (Urban) 2.0 here. Cleanliness in cities should become a mass movement, Shinde said, adding that sanitation workers are the brand ambassadors of the new campaign. His government has prepared an ambitious plan for Mumbai's transformation under which 450 roads will be concretised and the health infrastructure in the city will be strengthened, the chief ministersaid. Speaking on the occasion, deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said cities are centres of growth which generate employment. (PTI)

# Cong attack on minister Fauja Singh Sarari rocks Punjab Assembly again

**CHANDIGARH, SEPT 30** --/ The Punjab Assembly witnessed noisy scenes for a second straight day Friday as Congress MLAs again sought the dismissal and arrest of Cabinet minister Fauja Singh Sarari over an audio clip in which he was purportedly discussing ways to "trap" some contractors to "extort" money from them.

They also sought a reply from chief minister Bhagwant Mann, but Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan pulled the Congress legislators up as they entered the Well of the House and raised slogans against the AAP government. Amid the uproar, three bills -- the Punjab State Vigilance Commission (Repeal) Bill, 2022; the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulations) Amendment Bill, 2022; and the Punjab Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2022 -- were passed in the House. As soon as the chief minister arrived in the House on the third day of the assembly session, Congress MLAs, led by Leader of Opposition (LoP) Partap Singh Bajwa, rose from their seats and demanded a statement from Mann on the alleged clip. The protesting MLAs trooped into the Well of the House, shouted slogans against the government and sought Sarari's dismissal and arrest. The Punjab Assembly on Thursday too had witnessed a ruckus over the Sarari issue.

Earlier this month, an audio clip of a purported conversation between Sarari and his former close aide allegedly discussing ways to "trap" some food grain transport contractors through officials "to extort money" from them surfaced. After the CM tabled the Punjab State Vigilance Commission (Repeal) Bill, 2022, Speaker Sandhwan

asked the protesting legislators to go back to their seats and discuss the Bill. But they stuck to the demand. CM Mann slammed them for "wasting" the time of the House by disrupting proceedings. Mann criticised the Congress MLAs for calling the Speaker 'nakli' (fake), saying these legislators had worked with 'nakli' chief minister Amarinder Singh, also calling him a "BJP man". Mann also took a jibe at the BJP, asking Congress leaders to join the saffron party in holding parallel sessions outside the Vidhan Sabha.

The AAP MLAs also rose from their seats and urged the Speaker to take action against the Congress MLAs. Ministers Aman Arora and Kuldeep Dhaliwal strongly condemned the MLAs for stalling the proceedings. Dhaliwal dared Congress MLAs to face CM Mann in the House and speak on Punjab issues, while Arora said they have got nothing to discuss and are "doing a drama" in the House. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, who tabled the Punjab GST (Amendment) Bill, 2022, hit out at the previous Congress government for "not making any effort" to increase tax revenue.

He said the AAP government was making efforts to raise revenue collections and plug leakages. The speaker's plea to the Congress legislators not to disrupt proceedings of the House went unheeded. He said Rs 70-80 lakh is spent every day on running the session but some members of the Opposition wasted two days of the House. The Speaker said he was pained at the conduct of the Congress MLAs and added that important issues of the state could have been discussed in the House had they not

disrupted the proceedings. Earlier during the Zero Hour, Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira alleged he was not being allowed to speak, leading to an exchange of words between him and the Speaker. Khaira rushed to the Well of the House to register his protest as the Speaker told him nobody could dictate the Chair. During the Zero Hour, Congress leader and LoP Partap Bajwa asked the government when will it dismiss and arrest Sarari. He also raised the issues of crop damage because of rain, "non-payment" of incentive for direct seeding of rice, and high sand and gravel rates affecting the construction industry.

Bajwa also alleged Opposition members were blacked out during the live telecast of the Vidhan Sabha. AAP MLA Kulwant Singh Pandori sought a resolution demanding early elections to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, while Congress MLA Sandeep Jakhar questioned the government for "not yet releasing" Rs 32 crore to Fazilka district to compensate for the losses due to the 2020 floods.

Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring raised the issue of non-payment of salaries to Anganwadi workers in the state. Amid the din, Punjab Revenue Minister Bram Shanker Jimpal informed the House that a special 'girdwari' to assess the crop loss because of the recent rains was ordered on September 28. He was replying to a calling attention notice of Congress leaders Partap Singh Bajwa, Raj Kumar Chhabwal and Vikramjit Singh Chaudhary to draw the attention towards the demand of farmers for compensation for crops damaged by rain. (PTI)

## Gandhi family stressed they aren't backing anyone 'directly or indirectly' in Cong prez poll race: Tharoor

**NEW DELHI, SEPT 30** --/ Congress presidential poll candidate Shashi Tharoor on Friday said he is aware of his underdog tag and talk of an 'official candidate' in some quarters but he has been assured by the Gandhi family repeatedly that they are "neither directly nor indirectly" backing anyone.

Tharoor, who filed his nomination papers for the top post at the AICC headquarters here, also said it is apparent that not everything about the electoral process has been ideal, but added that there is no point seeking perfection now as if one wants to play the match, one has to "bat on the available pitch". The Thiruvananthapuram MP, however, asserted that he remains convinced of the party's commitment towards ensuring that these elections take place in a free and fair manner. In an exclusive interview with PTI, Tharoor said he believes that a fresh leader, who has not been "jaded by being entrenched within the current system for too long", could energise the party and also appeal to more voters than the Congress managed to during the last few elections. The 66-year-old leader also said he hopes

that the Gandhi family will recognise that they are and remain the foundational pillar of the Congress, "our moral conscience and ultimate guiding spirit".

They cannot and must not withdraw from that role, whatever the formal designations they choose to retain, Tharoor said. "To my mind, though the party presidential election is an



Shashi Tharoor

internal exercise, it also represents an opportunity to ignite widespread public interest in the Congress and to galvanise its party workers," he said. He said that when, following the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Rahul Gandhi offered to resign as the party president to take accountability for the stinging defeat, he was one of the many who tried to

talk him out of it. "At the end of the day, he stuck to his decision and we must respect that. That said, the longer the Congress waits to get its act together, the greater the risk of a steady erosion of our traditional vote bank and their gravitation towards our political competitors," the former Union minister said.

"Which is why I have long been an outspoken advocate for free and transparent elections within the party, including for the post of President -- because a leader elected by the party workers will have a great advantage in addressing organisational challenges, as well as the process of rebuilding that is required to internally strengthen the rank and file of the party," Tharoor said.

He argued that such a president would have extra legitimacy in reaching out to the public for support. In any case, "business as usual" will not lead us anywhere, he added. Tharoor said whosoever is elected must develop and implement a roadmap that will allow the party to find a way to appeal beyond the 19 per cent of the electorate that voted for the party in both 2014 and 2019. (PTI)

# Several PFI members travelled to ISIS strongholds to join jihad: Officials

**NEW DELHI, SEPT 30** --/ Popular Front of India (PFI) members, who joined the dreaded terror organisation ISIS, always took a long circuitous route to avoid the security dragnet before arriving in conflict theatres like Syria to take part in jihad, officials said.

The PFI was banned by the government on Tuesday for five years for allegedly having "links" with global terror organisations like the ISIS and trying to spread communal hatred in the country. According to documents prepared by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), there were a few cases of youths getting killed or arrested at foreign

soil and later being deported back to India. In 2017, Kerala Police received information that some Muslim youths had migrated to Syria and some were planning to join hands with ISIS in its jihad and most of the accused in the case were members of the PFI. Hamza, a Gulf returnee, was the alleged mastermind behind recruiting Kerala youths to ISIS.

To execute his plans, Hamza befriended suitable PFI supporters who already harboured anti-national or anti-establishment sentiments, officials said.

The divisional president of the PFI, Md Sameer alias Abu Safvan,

allegedly hatched and conveyed the plan to exit India and enter Syria after taking refuge in different countries to finally join ISIS in Syria.

In the process, the accused went to Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Turkey and waited for final call to join jihad in Syria, the officials said. Later, Abdul Manaf alias Abu Fathima and, Mohammed Sameer alias Abu Safvan, both PFI leaders, were killed in Syria while participating in jihad.

As investigation progressed, five persons including the mastermind were apprehended by the Kerala Police before joining

the ISIS, they said. The Kerala Police filed a charge sheet against 17 accused for supporting the ISIS or Daesh. Hamza, the alleged mastermind in the case was a "hardcore Salafi follower" who used to preach in support of the ISIS and Taliban. After declaration of Islamic Caliphate in Iraq and Syria, Hamza convinced Mohammed Sameer and Abdul Manaf, both PFI members, about the need to perform 'hijra' from the land of 'infidels', the officials said. Sameer indoctrinated ISIS ideology to other PFI cadres like Shajahan VK, who was accused in another terror case, and Mohammed

Shajil. Mohammed Sameer moved to Saudi Arabia along with the family on December 12, 2015 on the pretext of performing 'Umrah'. Before infiltrating to Syria, he directed other PFI associates to leave India where criminal cases were already pending against them.

Later, Sameer was reportedly killed in Syria. Meanwhile Abdul Manaf alias Abu Fathima, an aggressive leader of PFI, joined ISIS in Syria after crossing Turkish borders. Manaf was also killed while waging war in Syria. Mohammed Shajil and Shajahan VK also motivated their close

associates in PFI to join ISIS. They travelled to Malaysia, UAE, Iran to reach Turkey and waited for directions from their handlers to join ISIS.

But only Mohammed Shajil and family were able to cross over to Syria. Shajahan VK and his family were apprehended by Turkish authorities and deported to India. After remaining underground for a while, Shajahan VK tried to get hold of a fake Indian passport to join ISIS again. In his second attempt, with the help of one Midlal alias Abu Misab, who was also recruiting youth to ISIS, Shajahan VK managed to convince Abdul Khayoom

and Abdul Razak to join ISIS, the officials said. Among the trio, only Abdul Khayoom, who was reportedly killed in Syria, was able to sneak into Syria. Shajahan and Abdul Razak were deported back to India. On arrival they were arrested by Indian authorities in New Delhi.

Further, Hamza convinced one Manauf Rehman to Join ISIS. But later he was apprehended at Mangalore airport while trying to flee India. Subsequently Hamaza was apprehended and evidences gathered from him substantiated their plans to join ISIS, officials said. (PTI)



## 153rd birth anniversary celebration of Mahatma Gandhi

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30/--/ The 153rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation will be celebrated across the country on 02nd October 2022. To mark the occasion, an event will be held at Gandhi Park on October 2nd 2022. As per the programme chalked out by the administration, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (RD) will park at Gandhi park at 8.15 and offer floral tributes. A two minutes silence will be observed.

To mark the occasion, all the Govt. Departments, Institutions, Autonomous bodies, Corporation, Panchayat Pradhans, Voluntary organizations and villagers are requested to create community assets by Shramdaan and conduct a special drive for cleanliness in the month under the Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign. Further the General Public is requested to refrain from slaughtering of animals, killing of birds, fish catching and consuming liquor on this auspicious day. The 2nd October, 2022 will be observed as a "Dry Day" in homage to the Father of the Nation.

### CIARIEWA bids farewell to Technical Officer

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30/--/ Central Island Agricultural Research Institute Employees Welfare Association (CIARIEWA) of ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair on Friday organized a farewell function to bid farewell to Mr. Derrick, Technical Officer of this Institute. He has served for more than 37 years in the Institute and retired on 30th September 2022, on attaining the age of superannuation. Dr. Eaknath B.



Chakurkar, Director and Patron, CIARIEWA while delivering his presidential address, expressed his happiness over the conduct of the farewell programme by the team and placed on record the yeoman service provided by Mr. Derrick, Technical Officer in the field of Animal Science for the betterment of the Institute. Dr. K. Saravanan, Joint Secretary, CIARIEWA welcomed the gathering and the farewell function was coordinated by Dr. S.K. Zamir Ahmed, General Secretary, CIARIEWA.

## Field Day on "Fodder cultivation at Regional Station Minicoy, Lakshadweep

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30/--/ Regional Station, Minicoy of ICAR-CIARI Port Blair, conducted field day on fodder cultivation under coconut plantation for the tribal farmers of Minicoy on 29th September 2022. Speaking on the



inaugural occasion, the chief guest Dr. Shrikant R. Tapdiya, Deputy Collector of Minicoy expressed his happiness on the technology namely CO 5 fodder cultivation to enhance income of livestock farmer. A total of 12 participants from 5 villages i.e. Rammedu, Funhilol, Boduathiri, Aloodi, and South Bandaram attended the field day in which they were exposed to fodder (CO 5 variety) cultivation under coconut plantation at the institute farm. The scientific team Dr. Gladston Y. and Dr. Ajina S. M. interacted with the farmers and impressed upon the POP for fodder cultivation under coconut plantation, different methods of fodder production and importance of balanced nutrition for livestock. Shri. Shareefuddeen Hassan, Senior Technical Assistant and Shri. Arif M.I., Senior Technician, Coordinators of the programme informed about the technical know-how and do how to the participants in 'Mahl' (the local language).

On the occasion, total of 1200 cuttings @ 100 each of Hybrid Napier (CO 5) were provided to the farmers for growing in their field by the Deputy Collector, Minicoy. Dr. Gladston Y. Convener and Co-Convener Mrs. Ajina S.M., Coordinator, Shri. Shareefuddeen Hassan & Shri. Arif M.I., Dr. S.K. Zamir Ahmed, Nodal Officer, Lakshadweep coordinated the overall conduct of programme under the Chairmanship of Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair.

## WHRPC seeks inquiry on DBRAIT issue

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30/--/ DBRAIT has affiliated with Pondicherry University. Upon an affiliation, a college or institute has to follow and fulfill the certain conditions presented by the affiliating University. Although, it is a serious negligence by A&N Administration to not follow the conditions laid by the University for any reason. Despite this, the Pondicherry University had done its best to provide sufficient time to the DBRAIT but not fulfilled. Hence, the University was forced to initiate action from their side. The DBRAIT Students genuine protest for safeguarding their future is justified and last week administration took interim steps to resolve the issue presently. Upon the assurance by A&N Administration, DBRAIT Students withdrew their protest. It is a question, that despite the withdrawal of the protest by DBRAIT Students, who provoked them to protest by Chakkajam? Was there any rumour that the Administration was betraying them? It is a fact that the matter will consume little time to resolve a permanent solution. WHRPC demand for inquiry to get answers to these questions?

## Exhibition & Online essay competition to celebrate PM's 72nd birthday

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30/--/ On the occasion of Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi's 72nd birthday, the State Bharatiya Janata Party is observing 'Seva Pakhwada' for 15 days in honour of the Prime Minister of India. The BJP has chalked out a series of programmes and initiatives across the country as part of Seva Pakhwada from September 17 to October 2, ending with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. To mark the celebration, the State BJP is organizing an exhibition based on Modi's Life & Achievements" at Andaman Club, Port Blair from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on 01st October 2022. Based on the exhibition an online essay competition is also scheduled upto 12 noon on 1st October 2022. The competition will be in groups for Class 9-12 (Group 1) and College students (Group 2) and judged in respective groups only. The winner will be awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 02 consolation prizes in each group. The online entries are welcome upto 12 Noon on 1st October 2022 on the theme "Modi Ji's Life & Achievements" in English / Hindi (with word limit of 1500 words for schools and 2000 words for colleges). The essay should be sent by email to sevapakhwada@gmail.com

# Empowerment of women key for overall development of the country: SP, N&M Andaman

MAYABUNDER, SEPT 30/--/ A mass awareness programme on 'Women Rights and Women Empowerment' was organized by N&MA District Police on Friday at Panchayat Community Hall of Kishori Nagar village with the school students of Govt. Senior Secondary School Kishori Nagar & Secondary School Parangara, PRI members, Anganwadi workers and helpers, Auxiliary Nurse and Midwives from PHC, Kishori Nagar, general public and mothers of adolescent girls. Mr. Uttam Kirtania, Learned Additional Public Prosecutor, Mayabunder, Mr. Keshab Ch. Mondal, Learned Special Public Prosecutor (POCSO), Mayabunder, Dr. Priyanka Iqbal, Medical Officer (Ayush), Dr. RP Hospital, Mayabunder was present to cover legal and medical points of view. Mr. Manasvi Vashistha, SDPO, Diglipur, Mr. Chandra Prakash Meena, Dy.SP (DHQ), Mr. R.P. Pandey, Deputy Education Officer, Diglipur and Smti. Rita Dhali, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Kishori Nagar also joined to make the programme successful.

The Ld. Special Public Prosecutor (POCSO) highlighted on the topic of POCSO Act especially the safeguards of victims, Ld. Additional Public Prosecutor gave



special tips on "how to reduce domestic violence upon women and it's remedial as well as consequences in the society" at large and Dr. Priyanka Iqbal gave a special counselling to mothers and their daughters on the issues of adolescence. The School students in association with teachers presented a "Nukkad Natak" on the theme of Domestic Violence and POCSO. The Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Kishori Nagar expressed her gratitude to District Police for organizing such awareness programme in a remote locality and

highlighted the benefits of this awareness program organized by the senior officer of the district.

On behalf of the Director General of Police, A&N Islands, the Superintendent of Police N&MA District presented the Commendation Certificate to the fishermen namely Mr. Badal Roy and Mr. Thakur Roy, R/o Kishori Nagar who voluntarily came forward and joined the anti-poaching operation of district police which led to successful apprehension of 6 Myanmarese poachers from Budha Gope area.

For their courage, hard work and challenging efforts, the DGP A&N Island rewarded them with a cash reward of Rs.5000/- each.

In the concluding session of the programme, Ms. Geetanjali Khandelwal, Superintendent of Police (D), Mayabunder interacted with students and women and also addressed the gathering and reminded about women rights and how to redress their grievances. She also expressed her deep concern regarding the problems being faced by the women especially residing in the remote areas of this District. She especially focused on women/girl child education & good & thoughtful upbringings of young girls & boys who will build tomorrow's society. SP District N&MA also informed the gathering about a new initiative of district police to resolve family dispute/ issues i.e. "SULAH SAMEETI" being made operational in each Police Station from 09.00 a.m to 05.00 p.m. Sulah Sameeti will work directly under the close monitoring of SP madam. The sole purpose of this initiative is to resolve small families issues which result in broken homes in the long term. It is a sincere effort to save as many marriages/homes as possible.

## Rashtriya Poshan Maah celebration at Diglipur

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30/--/ Together with rest of the country, the 5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah was launched by ICDS Project (Rural), Diglipur, North Andaman on 30 September 2022, as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Women & Child Development to improve nutritional status among children, pregnant women & lactating mothers. During the entire month activities like Mahila & Swastha, Bacha & Shiksha, Poshan Bhi-Padai Bhi, Gender sensitive, Water Conservation & Management & Traditional food for Women & Child, Poshan Vatika, Yoga and Ayush for nutrition was held. On the occasion of closing ceremony of 5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah, a poshan rally was flagged off by Mr. M Rajendra Kumar, Block Development Officer, Diglipur, North Andaman and subsequently, which was organized by the functionaries of ICDS Project (Rural) Diglipur viz. Anganwadi workers, community resource persons (CRPs) & community people from Administrative building, Diglipur towards Subhasgram Bazaar to sensitize the local people about different themes of Poshan Abhiyaan provided by MoWCD. After the rally, an awareness programme has been organized by ICDS Project (Rural) Diglipur for grass root level workers/ CRPs on the themes. The programme was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Mr. H.M. Sidharaju, CHCD Diglipur and delivered a speech on "Mahila & Swasth". Apart from this, a Junior Engineer from APWD, Smti. Shakeela Jalal Diglipur attended the programme and delivered valuable inputs on water conservation & management. The programme ended with the vote of thanks proposed by T. Kumaraswamy, Block Coordinator, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Diglipur.

## Hindi Pakhwada by TGCE

PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30/--/ Tagore Government College of Education, Port Blair observed Hindi Pakhwada from 14th September to 28th September 2022. It began with a brief inaugural function on 14th September by lighting the lamp in the seminar gallery by the Principal, staff and trainees.

On this occasion, the Principal in his inaugural address emphasized the significance of the official language Hindi and its acceptance by the Indian Constitution as an official language of India written in Devanagiri script.

He also mentioned the role of Kannaialal Maniklal Munshi and Aiyangar while accepting Hindi by the Indian Constitution as an official language. He stressed the use of Hindi in all official correspondence and requested the Hindi Department to conduct more programmes to promote the use of Hindi and declared various competitions during the pakhwada.

On this occasion, Dr. R.K. Tiwari, Associate Professor & Nodal Officer (Hindi), TGCE, stated that while Hindi is being used widely as mother tongue, official language, national language, contact language, and public language etc., it still faces challenges as an official language and we need to awaken our willpower to remove these challenges. He also presented some books in Hindi and photographs of some litterateurs to the Principal, TGCE for the use of the college library.

Several competitions like essay writing, self-composed poem, quiz, debate, self-composed comedy poem, news reading, etc., were held during the pakhwada. The winners were declared during the concluding function held on 28/09/2022.

**APOLLO HOSPITALS CHENNAI**  
**ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC**  
Consultation pain in Shoulder, Spine, Knee & Hip Joints, Osteoarthritis, Frozen & Stiffness of Shoulder, Spondylitis, Rheumatoid Arthritis Fractures, Ligament problems, Tennis Elbow & Requiring opinion for Chronic Shoulder Problems, Knee & Hip Replacement etc  
**Dr. VIJAY KISHORE KONDRÉDDY**  
DNB (Ortho), D.Ortho, M.Ch (Ortho), FIA (Germany), FIAS (Australia)  
Consultant - Orthopaedic Surgeon  
**GASTROENTEROLOGY CLINIC**  
Consultation for patients suffering from Upper Abdominal Pain & discomfort, Blood Vomiting, Fatty Liver, Hepatitis B & C Virus, Liver Cancer, Liver Cirrhosis, Gall Stone, Pancreas Cancer, Pancreas Complaints, Jaundice with itching and requiring liver Transplantation  
**Dr. NIVAS VENKATACHALAPATHI**  
MBBS, MS (General Surgery), MRCS (England)  
DNB (Surgical Gastroenterology)  
Fellowship in Liver Transplant and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery  
Consultant Liver Transplant Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgeon  
**NEURO CLINIC**  
Consultation for Seizures, Brain Tumours, Cerebral Stroke, Back Pain, Neck Pain, Facial Pain, Stiff Back & other Neurological problems can benefit  
**Dr. M. BALAMURUGAN**  
DNB (Neurosurgery), FNS (Japan), FNS (Aust), FAANS (USA)  
Senior Consultant Neurosurgeon  
**PAEDIATRIC CLINIC**  
Consultation for children under 18 years of age for Allergy, Asthma and developmental issues like Autism, Speech delay, ADHD etc can benefit  
**Dr JAYA KUMAR REDDY**  
MD (Paediatrics)  
Senior Consultant Paediatrician & Neonatologist  
Apollo Children's Hospitals, Chennai  
Date: Saturday, 8th October 2022  
Time: 11.00 am to 6.00 pm  
Venue: **APOLLO CLINIC**  
192 Garacharma Main Road,  
South Andaman Port Blair - 744105  
X-Ray, USG, CT,2D- ECHO, ECG, EEG, TMT, NCS, PHYSIOTHERAPY & LABORATORY  
For appointments:  
**03192252522 / 03192252052 / 9531807777**

## PBMC bids farewell to five employees



PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30/--/ The Port Blair Municipal Council bid farewell to five employees of the Council, who superannuated from government service. At a simple function Smti. U. Kavitha Chairperson, PBMC handed over all the retirement benefits including GPF, gratuity and other monetary benefits to the retiring employees. In her address, Chairperson, Port Blair Municipal Council recalled the valuable services rendered by them to the Council and wished them happy and healthy post retired life.

Mementoes were also presented to the employees. Senior Vice Chairperson Shri. Aziz-Ur-Rahman and section in charges / officials of the section concerned were also present during the function. The employees who retired are viz. Shri. A.Sohan, HVD SP Gr-I Mechanic, Shri. G. Someshwar Rao, Lineman, Shri. Rudra Bahadur, Watchman, Smti. Kondamma, Sanitary Mazdoor & Shri. Mahaveer, Sr. Sanitary Supervisor. Officials/ staff and elected representatives of the Council were also present on the occasion.

**Shyam N Shyam**  
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**NAYRA-CUT**  
**STRAIGHT PANT SETS**  
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**CROP-TOP LEHENGAS**  
Special Plus Size Collection. Sizes Upto 3XL -5XL  
**Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair**

**May This Durga Puja & Diwali Bring Prosperity & Happiness to ALL**  
**916 BIS HALL MARK GOLD ORNAMENTS**

**NEW COLLECTIONS ARRIVAL**  
**DURGA PUJA & DIWALI**

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



People who learn to control inner experience will be able to determine the quality of their lives, which is as close as any of us can come to being happy

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

## Bulgarian polls eclipsed by Ukraine war

In less than two years, Bulgarians will go to the polls for the fourth time in a general election overshadowed this time by the war in Ukraine, rising energy costs and galloping inflation. Pollsters expect that voters' fatigue and disillusionment with the political system will result in low turnout and a fragmented parliament where populist and pro-Russia groups could increase their representation. The early election comes after a coalition led by pro-Western Prime Minister KirilPetkov lost a no-confidence vote in June. He claimed that Moscow used hybrid war tactics to bring down his government after it refused to pay gas bills in rubles and ordered the expulsion of 70 Russian diplomatic staff from Bulgaria. The latest opinion polls suggest that up to seven parties could pass the 4 per cent threshold to enter parliament in a contested vote on Sunday.

Despite a decrease in support for the GERB party of ex-Prime Minister Boyko Borissov in previous elections, it is tipped now to finish first. Analysts explain that the shift is likely because of voters' reluctance to accept change in times of crises and a preference to choose a party they are familiar with. The war in Ukraine has a strong influence on this election. While at previous polls the division was for and against the model of governance of the last 10 years personified by GERB and Boyko Borissov, the main issues now are stabilisation, keeping prices low and dealing with the consequences of the war. The main division in the country now is between East and West on the political map, rather than between status quo and change. Still, the predicted percentage won't be enough for Borissov's party to form a one-party government, and the chances for a GERB-led coalition are slim as it is blamed for corruption by almost all other opponents. A recent Gallup International survey ranked GERB first with 25.9 per cent, followed by its main rival - Petkov's "We Continue the Change" party with 19.2 per cent. Borissov, however, sounds positive that GERB would score a convincing victory. His main rival, KirilPetkov, is also confident that Sunday's vote will yield positive results for his party. I certainly expect us to be the first political power. The goal is to have a majority in the next parliament together with the other two parties - Democratic Bulgaria and the Socialist Party. Deep conflicts between the main parties make it almost impossible to form a viable coalition government, which would prolong the political impasse and add more economic woes in the poorest European Union member country.

The war in Ukraine was among the main topics in the campaign and calls by the leader of the pro-Russia party Vazrazhdane, KostadinKostadinov, for full neutrality of Bulgaria in this war are attracting many voters as latest opinion polls predict that the group would gain 11.3 per cent of the votes, up from 4.9 per cent at the previous election.

# Political situation hotting up for Lok Sabha elections in 2024

## REFLEX ACTION

Kalyani Shankar

Political parties in India have begun advance planning for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from now on. The ruling NDA and the Opposition parties have been vying each other in their preparations. They are making and remaking strategies according to the political climate. The stage is set for the next general elections in 2024.

On a parallel basis, regional parties might threaten the BJP. The ruling BJP plans a hat trick for Prime Minister Narendra Modi while the Opposition is trying to unseat him. BJP is talking of a 350 plus target in 2024 while Nitish Kumar and Mamata are confident of defeating the BJP convincingly in the Lok Sabha polls by uniting all opposition parties. The Opposition dreams of unity but has a decisive disadvantage as it is still searching for a challenger to Modi. This lack of a prime ministerial candidate may hurt the Opposition—and this question of Modi versus who the BJP will play up.

With Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, Nitish Kumar in Bihar, K Chandrasekhar Rao, MK Stalin in the south, and Arvind Kejriwal in the north, the BJP has formidable contests from different regions. There are more than 200 seats in the opposition strongholds. Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat vote later this year, and next year six key states — Karnataka, Tripura, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh — go to the polls. The BJP is yet to conquer the southern states (129 seats). While AamAdmi Party chief Kejriwal takes on the PM on the corruption issue, others plan to corner the BJP on price rise and unemployment. Secondly, right or wrong, the BJP is clear about its ideology, has a compelling narrative and poll preparedness, active cadres, and huge finances to fight the

poll. Modi has the government machinery and welfare schemes and works to show while the regional satraps are pretty strong in their states. Modi has not only kept his flock together but, despite criticism, has also broken other parties and lured them into BJP. More importantly, he has fulfilled the core agenda of the Sangh Parivar, like Ram mandir, removal of Article 370 in Kashmir, and Triple talaq. He is likely to take up the issue of a uniform civil code soon. All these will keep his committed voters intact.

However, the recent Parliamentary Board revamps and J.D. (U) exit in Bihar last month have triggered some unrest within the BJP. Still, leaders bank on BJP's ability to make course corrections. The BJP also needs to get more allies. The party has begun aggressive preparations for the general elections. It held a meeting recently in Delhi to draw a blueprint for strengthening its position in 144 Lok Sabha weak constituencies. The party also proposes to focus on the 70 Lok Sabha seats it never won.

On the other hand, the Opposition is not coherent and is a mixture of different ideologies. They all must adopt a give-and-take posture. While regional leaders have performed well in their respective states, they must work out a common minimum programme acceptable to all partners. Deve Gowda, Lalu Yadav, Nitish Kumar,

Akhilesh Yadav and Om Prakash Chautala may collaborate to unite the former Janata constituents. With the Congress, they could consolidate across multi-party states such as Haryana, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. That's nearly 200 Lok Sabha seats. Rahul Gandhi's current Bharat Jodo Yatra might help the Congress if it clicks.

The Samajwadi Party, a solid regional party in the U.P., focuses on strengthening its organisational structure. Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has already declared that he was not planning to go for a coalition with Congress or the BSP but continue with the smaller parties like Rashtriya Lok Dal. On the other hand, U.P. chief minister Yogi Adityanath has targeted 75 seats for the BJP, which has 80 Lok Sabha seats.

The BSP has launched a massive membership drive with a target of making 75000 members from each assembly segment as the first step. BSP chief Mayawati has been facing defeat after defeat in the past decade but has a solid Dalit vote bank still. Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has warned his MLAs to perform or perish. He has also launched a door-to-door visit of his legislators. Telangana chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao also plans to launch a national party, seeking a national role. Modi will have ten years of anti-incumbency behind him, but BJP depends on Modi's magic. But there are many questions, like will Modi perform a hat trick? Will the Opposition unite? Will Rahul emerge as a successful challenger? Whom will the first-time voters prefer? In politics, one week is said to be long. We have 18 months to go before the 2024 polls. Nearer the elections, the picture will become clearer. Till then, the political pundits are whistling in the dark. (IPA)



Garba revellers performing Garba on the occasion of the Navratri festival, in Surat

## Nitish Kumar playing a catalytic role

## FOCUS

Nitya Chakraborty

The joint opposition rally held at Fatehabad in Haryana on Sunday organized the INLD leader Om Prakash Chautala on the occasion of the birth anniversary of his father Devi Lal has made a good success in facilitating the unity of the anti-BJP political parties to take on the Narendra Modi Government in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

There are three positive pointers from this rally for the opposition. First, Nitish Kumar who was the main attraction at the rally announced that Congress must be the part of the anti-BJP coalition, though the Congress was not invited by the host at the rally. There was no opposition to this politically important statement of the Bihar Chief Minister from those who had reservations about joining the Congress in any coalition, INLD included.

Secondly, Akali Dal Leader Sukhbir Singh Badal made the cardinal point that the NDA was gone. The three main constituents of the NDA, JD(U), Shiv Sena and Akali Dal were in the rally and that meant while the anti-BJP opposition was growing in strength, the NDA was left with BJP alone. Though the Shinde-led Shiv Sena had cast its lot with BJP by splitting the Uddhav-led party, still the trend indicated the isolation of the BJP from the original partners of NDA in the last few years. Third significant thing is the message of the Odisha chief Minister and the BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik sending best wishes for the birth day of Devi Lal despite

knowing that it was a political rally to unite the opposition parties against the BJP. Naveen has been fighting both the BJP and the Congress in his state but he is monitoring the developments and he will decide his position after the outcome of the Lok Sabha elections. He is also getting the signal that there is a possibility of BJP losing in the 2024 polls. BJD supremo will take his final position if there is a hung Parliament.

As of now, Nitish Kumar is the fittest opposition leader to carry on follow up discussions with the other non-BJP political parties. Nitish is most secure now in Bihar as the BJP, his main opposition finds itself isolated.

Nitish is cool headed unlike TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and he has that acceptability talk across all parties including the BJD, YSRCP and AAP. Already Nitish talked to the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during his last Delhi visit. He is a pragmatist and he knows the minimum possible basis of forging unity of the opposition parties to take on the BJP. The state polls are taking place in Himachal and Gujarat by yearend. In Gujarat, the Rajasthan Chief Minister

Ashok Gehlot is the state observer and he is supposed to monitor the developments on daily basis. But he is contesting for the post of Congress President and he will be busy till October 19. He will not have any time to give for Gujarat during this period. The Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra. There are no reports that he will campaign in Gujarat during this Yatra period.

It is no coincidence that the BJP high command under Home Minister Amit Shah recently discussed the plan of action for 2024 Lok Sabha polls and identified 144 seats for special focus which they lost in 2019 elections. They worked out the strategy on how to retrieve many of these losing seats. BJP is in a backfoot because it has lost most of its powerful allies in the Hindi-speaking heartland. Especially, the loss of JD(U) and the SAD has given a big jolt to the saffrons electorally. BJP's strategy is to keep the losses from its existing 303 seats at minimum and make up this loss from the gains from last year's losing seats. But this BJP strategy can be ably challenged by the opposition parties if they move with a flexible electoral strategy from state to state ensuring maximum

mobilisation of anti-BJP votes in favour of the strongest opposition candidates in that state.

For opposition it will be wise for it to ensure that the strongest opposition party in each state, will be the decider of the nature of alliance in that state to take on the BJP. As of now, there are no problems in Bihar and Tamil Nadu. The opposition fronts are model front taking most of the anti-BJP parties. Such fronts cannot be repeated in other states. The Congress is the major opposition party in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Himachal and Gujarat and it will have the main responsibility to fight BJP in these states. If the Congress feels it necessary to have alliance with smaller anti-BJP parties, its decision will be final.

This flexible electoral strategy can help in minimising the differences before the polls. The prime objective is to bring maximum number of non-BJP political parties in the anti-BJP camp after the Lok Sabha polls. The Prime Ministerial candidate can be decided in the post poll scenario if there is a hung Parliament, on the basis of the strength of the respective political parties and the maximum acceptability of the proposed candidate by the participating parties. The entire process will need flexibility and visionary approach. Certainly eighth time Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kuma and Sharad Pawar are suited to lead negotiations in the post-election process. (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	

ACROSS

1 Gone by  
5 Corrodes  
8 Narcotic  
9 English county  
10 Fragmentary bit  
12 Shrink back  
13 Staggered  
15 Seller  
18 Elevated  
20 Consumed  
21 Target  
23 Show clearly  
24 Pays attention  
25 Require

DOWN

1 Card game  
2 Monkey  
3 Burn superficially  
4 Make lace  
5 Sloped backwards  
6 Hindu garment  
7 Wise man  
11 Singer  
12 Venerated  
14 Way out  
16 Male honeybee  
17 Governed  
18 Scourge  
19 Festivity  
21 Spirit  
22 Top card

SUDOKU : 3656

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

Yesterday's Solution 3655

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

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1664

L	A	P	S	E		E
A	I	L		N	E	A
G	R	E	A	T		L
G		A	R	I	S	E
E		S	E	C	T	S
D	O	E		E	R	I
R		A	D	O	R	E
H	A	R	P		K	E
	L	I	T	H	E	Z
		M			S	T

**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.



REVISED SEVA SUCHNAYEIN

All the sailings are subject to weather conditions

INTER ISLAND SECTOR:

· MV Kalighat will sail for Campbell Bay via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal & Nancowry on 04.10.2022 (Tue) at 1000 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 07.10.2022 (Fri) 1200 Hrs from Campbell Bay via same route. Passenger Tickets for onward journey will be issued to the general public from 01.10.2022 (Sat) onwards at STARS Ticketing Counter, Phoenix Bay.

· MV Campbell Bay will sail for Campbell Bay via Nancowry on 08.10.2022 (Sat) at 1000 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 10.10.2022 (Mon) at 0900 Hrs from Campbell Bay via Nancowry. Passenger Tickets for onward journey will be issued to the general public from 06.10.2022 (Thu) onwards at STARS Ticketing Counter, Phoenix Bay.

**NOTE:** Passengers travelling to Southern Group of Islands are required to get verified/endorsed their tickets from Covid Testing/Verification Centers before boarding the vessel. Passenger will be not allowed to board the vessel in absence of verification/ or Negative RTPCR Test Report provided from the RTPCR testing Centre, Port Blair.

LITTLE ANDAMAN:

· Campbell Bay will sail for Little Andaman on 02.10.2022 (Sun) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.

· Campbell Bay will sail for Little Andaman on 04.10.2022 (Tue) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.

· Sindhu will sail for Little Andaman on 06.10.2022 (Thu) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.

\*\*\*\*Passenger tickets for the above sailing (i.e. for 2nd, 4th & 6th October, 2022) will be issued to the general public from 30.09.2022 onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters.

· Sindhu will sail for Little Andaman on 08.10.2022 (Sat) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.

· Sindhu will sail for Little Andaman on 11.10.2022 (Tue) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.

· MV Campbell Bay will sail for Little Andaman on 14.10.2022 (Fri) at 0900 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 2100 Hrs from Little Andaman.

\*\*\*\*Passenger tickets for the above sailing (i.e. for 8th, 11th & 14th October, 2022) will be issued to the general public from 06.10.2022 onwards at STARS Ticketing Counters.

DIGLIPUR & MAYABUNDER:

· MV Kalighat will sail for Diglipur via Mayabunder on 01.10.2022 (Sat) at 2100 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 02.10.2022 (Sun) at 1400 Hrs from Diglipur via Mayabunder.

FORESHORE SECTOR:

Note: Passenger tickets for the Foreshore Sector vessels will be issued to the general public at STARS Ticketing Counters two days prior to her scheduled departure date.

01.10.2022 (SAT)

SHAHEED DWEEP & SWARAJ DWEEP

· MV Dering will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 01.10.2022 (Sat) at 0700 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1500 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

· MV Bambooka will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 01.10.2022 (Sat) at 0630 Hrs. from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.

· MV Bambooka will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 01.10.2022 (Sat) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.

· MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 01.10.2022 (Sat) at 1300 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep Jetty and will sail back to Shaheed Dweep on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

· MV Kamorta will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 01.10.2022 (Sat) at 1300 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1500 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep. (It is an additional ferry service between Shaheed Dweep & Port Blair in connection with Durga Puja Celebration and will be available from 1st to 7th October, 2022 only) Passenger tickets for the sailing of MV Kamorta will be issued to the general public on 01.10.2022 from 0900 Hrs at STARS Counters.

· MV Baratang will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 01.10.2022 (Sat) at 1700 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will now sail back to Port Blair on 02.10.2022 (Sun) at 0600 Hrs instead of 0500 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

02.10.2022 (SUN)

SHAHEED DWEEP & SWARAJ DWEEP

· MV Dering will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 02.10.2022 (Sun) at 0700 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1500 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

· MV Chouldari will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 02.10.2022 (Sun) at 0630 Hrs. from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.

· MV Bambooka will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 02.10.2022 (Sun) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.

· MV Bambooka will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 02.10.2022 (Sun) at 1300 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep Jetty and will sail back to Shaheed Dweep on the same day at 1430 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

· MV Kamorta will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 02.10.2022 (Sun) at 1300 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1500 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep. (Additional Service) Passenger tickets for the sailing of MV Kamorta will be issued to the general public on 01.10.2022 from 0900 Hrs at STARS Counters.

· MV Chouldari will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 02.10.2022 (Sun) at 1700 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will now sail back to Port Blair on 03.10.2022 (Mon) at 0600 Hrs instead of 0500 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

03.10.2022 (MON)

SHAHEED DWEEP & SWARAJ DWEEP

· MV Dering will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 03.10.2022 (Mon) at 0700 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1500 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep.

· MV Bambooka will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 03.10.2022 (Mon) at 0630 Hrs. from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 0845 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.

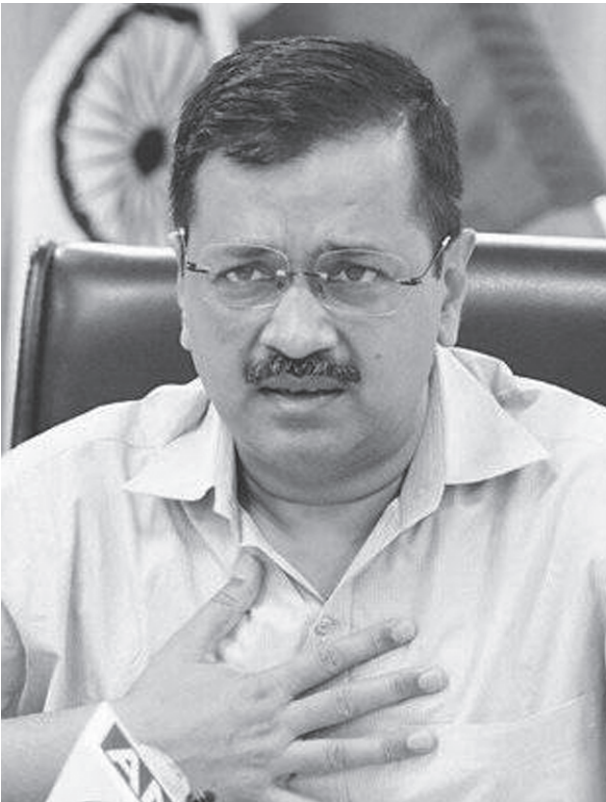
· MV Bambooka will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 03.10.2022 (Mon) at 1100 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1600 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep.

Delhi pollution: Kejriwal unveils winter action plan, urges cooperation among NCR neighbours

**NEW DELHI, SEPT 30** --/ Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced a 15-point Winter Action Plan while calling for a coordinated effort with neighbouring states and the Centre to curb air pollution in the national capital.

Kejriwal announced that teams would be set up to check garbage burning, dust and vehicular emission to curb air pollution in the national capital. The chief minister said certain steps by the government, including the introduction of an electric vehicle policy in 2020, 24-hour electricity supply, closure of thermal power plants, curbs on dust pollution and induction of electric and CNG buses had reduced pollution levels. "There has been a significant improvement in air pollution of Delhi in 2021-22 as compared to 2017-18 as per the central government's National Clean Air Program (NCAP) report. The PM10 level has reduced by 18.6 per cent in the past four years," he said during a digital briefing. He added that the city government received significant help from the Centre, which built peripheral express highways to ensure that a large number of trucks no longer needed to enter Delhi to travel further. Stressing on the need for a coordinated effort between states, he said the city government would work with the Centre, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) and other states to check the pollution problem. "I request all the neighbouring states to ensure that all those vehicles which enter Delhi are either CNG or electric vehicles. They can also stop industrial units from using fuel, which causes pollution, and direct them to use PNG (piped natural gas)," he said.

Kejriwal said the states could order brick factories to implement zig-zag techniques in manufacturing, prohibit diesel generators and added that "at least the NCR should



have 24 hour supply of electricity". Announcing the Winter Action Plan, he said the government would spray bio decomposer for free to tackle stubble, while the coverage area would be increased to 5,000 acres this year from 4,000 acres. The government's anti-dust campaign will begin from October 6 with 586 teams regularly inspecting construction sites to ensure compliance. The government has already announced a ban on production, storage, distribution and purchase of firecrackers and 210 teams have been formed for surveillance. "Construction sites above 500 square metres need to mandatorily register themselves on the government's Construction and Demolition (C&D) portal. It will be mandatory for construction sites above 5,000 sq mtrs to have anti-smog guns with 233 smog guns to be installed across Delhi," he said.

Sharing further details of the plan, Kejriwal said the government would deploy 80 road sweeping and 521 water sprinkling machines to curb pollution emerging from roads while 150 mobile anti-smog guns

would go around the capital. "Delhi has 203 busy roads with heavy traffic and we have prepared alternative routes to divert traffic from such roads. We have formed 611 teams to penalise open-burning of garbage," he shared. The government has formed 380 teams to ensure stricter inspection of Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates of diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years. "Although all the registered industrial units have switched to PNG, if there is any industrial unit which is using other pollution-causing fuels, they will be under the radar of 33 specialised teams which will ensure that they only use PNG," he added. Throwing light on the research carried out by the government, he said that a real-time source apportionment study was carried out in collaboration with IIT-Kanpur to know the amount of pollution and its source at any given point of time. "Samples of air can be taken to identify the source of pollution, if it is from vehicles, stubble burning, or industry. We have established a super site on Rouse Avenue for this

purpose and deployed several mobile vans equipped with various instruments.

We are expecting to receive the data from October 20. There will not only be source apportionment but source forecasting as well," he added. Urging people to come forward and become a Paryavaran Mitra, he said that over 3,500 volunteers have already registered for it. "They will raise awareness among people of Delhi regarding environment protection. You can give a miss call on 8448441758 to become a Paryavaran Mitra," he added.

The government is also creating an E-waste Park for pollution-causing electronic waste. "The size of the park is 20 acres and it will be located in Holambi Kalan. Once inaugurated, we will collect all the e-waste of Delhi to be taken to this park and processed scientifically," he said. He said the government had a target of planting 42 lakh saplings to increase the green cover of Delhi. "We have already planted 33 lakh saplings in the first phase and we will plant the remaining nine lakh saplings in the second phase, which starts on October 15. The government is creating a green war room for even more efficient monitoring and it will be operational from October 3," he said. The green room will comprise nine scientific experts as members to analyse data and develop future course of action, he said. Talking about the Green Delhi app launched two years ago, he said they had so far received 53 lakh complaints on it and resolved over 90 per cent of them. (PTI)

Film Heritage Foundation announces Amitabh Bachchan film festival to mark cine icon's 80th birthday

**MUMBAI, SEPT 30** --/ Film Heritage Foundation on Friday announced a film festival to celebrate Amitabh Bachchan's 80th birthday, as a part of which movies featuring the megastar will be screened in 17 cities across the country.

The not-for-profit organisation, founded by filmmaker and archivist Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, has curated a collection of 11 blockbuster films such as Don , Kaala Patthar , and Kaalia , in partnership with leading multiplex chain PVR Cinemas. The four-day event, titled 'Bachchan Back To The Beginning', will open on October 8 and close on October 11, the star's birthday. The gala will cover 172 showcases and 30 screens across 22 cinema halls all over India. Bachchan said he never thought he would see a day that all these films from his early career would be back on the big screen.

"It is a remarkable initiative of the Film Heritage Foundation and PVR to showcase not just my work, but the work of my

Advance booking of ship tickets from Stars Ticketing Counter begins

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 30** --/ In order to facilitate the commuters of Southern Group of Islands, Directorate of Shipping Services will commence the advance booking of passenger tickets at STARS Ticketing Counter. Henceforth, passengers can purchase their tickets in advance from STARS Ticketing Counter, Phoenix Bay for the forthcoming ship schedules to Southern Group of Islands.

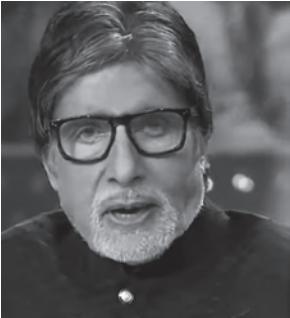
The date and time of issue of tickets for the particular sailing will be intimated to the passengers through "SevaSuchnayein". Further, passengers should be suitably vaccinated and get verified/endorsed their tickets from Covid Testing/Verification Centers before boarding the vessel. Similarly, passengers not fully vaccinated has to undergo RTPCR Test. Passengers will not be allowed to board the vessel in absence of a verified certificate or Negative RTPCR Test Report provided by the RTPCR Testing Centre, Port Blair.

Maharashtra: Pune police bust call centre of instant loan apps, 18 held

**PUNE, SEPT 30** --/ The Pune police have busted a call centre dealing with instant loan apps that offered small loans in Bengaluru and arrested 18 people involved in issuing threats and harassing defaulters, an official said on Friday.

The cyber police station in Pune has received more than 4,700 cases from 2020 to 2022, in which people complained of abuse and harassment by loan apps, Police Commissioner Amitabh Gupta said. According to the police, applications offering small instant loans (Rs 500 to Rs 7,000) are available on app stores on mobile phones. "These apps seek access to the camera, photos, contacts and storage on mobile phones. The apps levy huge interests, processing charges and resort to harassment and threaten defaulters," Gupta said. The constant harassment and threats have resulted in several suicides and murders across the country and one such incident of suicide was reported in Pune, he said. "While investigating a case, we formed a team under deputy commissioner of police (Cyber) Bhagyashri Navtane and assistant commissioner of police (Cyber) Vijay Palsule to trace these online fraudsters and tracked down seven people, in whose accounts the defaulters were forced to deposit money," the official said.

The seven accused were arrested from different locations such as Solapur, Pune, Bengaluru, and Kerala, he said. "The probe revealed that bank accounts were opened in the name of labourers, and defaulters were instructed to deposit the money in them. Similarly, SIM cards were procured in the names of labourers and calls were from these phone numbers to threaten defaulters," Gupta said. During investigations, the police found a call centre operating out of Bengaluru, where raids were conducted recently and 11 people were apprehended, he said. "We have seized the data of more than 1 lakh customers from the accused at the call centre," the official said, adding that Rs 70 lakh have been seized from the accounts in which defaulters deposited money. (PTI)



directors, fellow actors and technicians of the time who made these films possible. "It brings back an era that is gone, but not forgotten. This is why saying India's film heritage is so important. I hope that this is just the beginning of many festivals that will celebrate landmark films of Indian cinema back on the big screen," the 79-year-old actor said in a statement.

According to the press release issued by Film Heritage Foundation, audiences across cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Surat, Baroda, Raipur, Kanpur, Kolhapur, Indore,

and Bachchan's hometown Prayagraj will get to see some of superstar's landmark films in cinema halls. Other titles to be screened as part of the festival are Kabhie Kabhie , Amar Akbar Anthony , Namak Halaal, Abhimaan , Dewar , Mili , Satte Pe Satta , and Chupke Chupke . Dungarpur, director of Film Heritage Foundation, said the festival aims to provide audiences with a cinematic experience of Bachchan's movies. Growing up, I was the biggest Amitabh Bachchan fan. I am so glad that the Film Heritage Foundation is paying tribute to Mr Bachchan on his 80th birthday with the first-of-its-kind country-wide four-day festival. "It has been a mammoth task putting together the best of his early films that launched him as a superstar and to showcase these films so that audiences across the country can enjoy the films the way they were originally screened on the big screen," added Dungarpur. (PTI)

EC to honour centenarian voters in MP on International Day of Older People today

**BHOPAL, SEPT 30** --/ The Election Commission (EC) will honour voters aged 100 and above on the occasion of International Day of Older People in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, a senior official said on Friday.

There are 4,168 voters above the age of 100 in the state, including 3,040 women and 1,128 men, Madhya Pradesh chief electoral officer (CEO) Anupam Rajan said. Among them, 862 live in urban areas, while 3,306 reside in rural parts, he said. "The EC will honour voters who have taken part in voting since the first general election held in the country and have completed or crossed 100 years of age on the occasion of the International Day of Older People," Rajan told PTI. Chief election

commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anoop Chandra Pandey will participate in the programme virtually and interact with the centenarians at 11.30 am, he said. The programme will be organised in all the district headquarters of the state, he said. The United Nations general assembly voted on December 14, 1990 to establish October 1 as the International Day of Older People.

Dhannaji, a 118-year-old resident of Salna Colony in Ujjain district's Tarana Vidhan Sabha seat's, is the oldest man, while the oldest woman is 111-year-old Kunwri Bai of Pansemal town in Barwani district, he said. The maximum number of 325 centenarians live in

Sehore district, followed by Ujjain with 296, Dewas 217, Rewa 189 and Rajgarh 173, the CEO said. The programme will be simultaneously held at 41 NIC centers and 1,911 other places, including 475 in urban and 1,436 rural areas of the state, he said. Centenarian voters will be given a citation issued by the CEC, shawl and shreephal (coconut) by officials at these centers or at homes of those are unable to attend the function because of old age, the official said. A committee has been constituted in each district under the chairmanship of block level officers (BLO). The other members of the panel are a revenue official, a local teacher, panchayat secretary, anganwadi worker and employment assistant, he added. (PTI)

Veteran star Asha Parekh receives Dada Saheb Phalke award

**NEW DELHI, SEPT 30** --/ Veteran actor Asha Parekh was on Friday honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke award, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema. Parekh, 79, was presented the award by President Droupadi Murmu during the 68th National Film Awards ceremony, held at Vigyan Bhawan here. The veteran said she is grateful to receive the prestigious award a day before her 80th birthday. "It is a huge honour to have received the Dada Saheb Phalke award. It makes me very grateful that the recognition comes to me just one day before my 80th birthday. "This is the best honour I could get from the Government of India. I would like to thank the jury

for the recognition that they have bestowed upon me, my long journey and fulfilling the journey in the film industry," said Parekh, who is the recipient of the award for the year 2020. Describing the Indian film industry as the "best place" to be in, the actor said she continues to be attached to the movies in her own small way even after 60 years. "Our film industry is the best place to be in. And I would like to suggest to the youngsters who are in this industry to have perseverance, determination, discipline, and to be grounded, and I congratulate all the awardees tonight," she added. The five-member Dada Saheb Phalke Award committee -- comprising Asha Bhosle,

Hema Malini, Poonam Dhillon, Udit Narayan, and TS Nagabharana -- selected Parekh for the honour. Parekh, whose stardom was at par with male contemporaries Rajesh Khanna, Rajendra Kumar and Manoj Kumar in the 1960s-1970s, started her acting career at the age of 10 with the 1952 film "Aasmaan". In a career spanning over five decades, she starred in over 95 films that include titles such as "Dil Deke Dekho", "Kati Patang", "Teesri Manzil", "Baharon Ke Sapne", "Pyar Ka Mausam", and "Caravan". She made foray into films as a child artist with 1952's "Aasmaan" and went on to star in Bimal Roy's "Baap Beti" two years later. Parekh

made her debut as a leading lady in Nasir Hussain's 1959 movie "Dil Deke Dekho", opposite Shammii Kapoor. A director and producer as well, Parekh had helmed the acclaimed TV drama "Kora Kagaz" that aired in the late 1990s. The screen legend was also the first female chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). She served from 1998-2001. The actor came out with her autobiography, "The Hit Girl", co-written by film critic Khalid Mohamed, in 2017. She was also honoured with the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award of the country, in 1992. Last year, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019 was conferred on Rajinikanth. (PTI)

ADVT.NO. 2/2022	
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA (RECRUITMENT BRANCH, LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT)	
Applications are invited from all eligible non-official Indian citizens and retired employee(s) of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats, Central/ State Government(s), State Legislature Secretariats, Autonomous bodies, Central/State Public Sector Undertaking(s), Supreme Court of India/ High Courts and local bodies for <b>empangment of Consultant Interpreters for Regional Languages on contractual basis</b> in Lok Sabha Secretariat.	
Empanelment of Consultant Interpreter(s) for 21 Regional Languages	Number of Consultant Interpreters to be empanelled
ASSAMESE / BENGALI / BODO / DOGRI / GUJARATI / KANNADA / KASHMIRI / KONKANI / MAITHILI / MALAYALAM / MANIPURI / MARATHI / NEPALI / ODIA / PUNJABI / SANSKRIT / SANTHALI / SINDHI / TAMIL/ TELUGU /URDU	5 (five) [for each Regional Language]
The last date of receipt of application is 31.10.2022. For further details and prescribed application form, please visit: <a href="http://www.loksabha.nic.in">http://www.loksabha.nic.in</a> under the link <b>Recruitment &gt;&gt; Advertisements &amp; Notices</b> . Please visit the above website from time to time for any further information.	
CBC-31201/1 / 1/0003/2223	



## Yatra only way of expression as all other fora shut for Oppn: Rahul

GUNDLUPET, SEPT 30 /--/ Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday claimed that the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' was the only option left with the party to reach out to the masses as all other fora for expression are shut.

Rahul's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' entered Karnataka



here in Chamarajanagar district from Gudalur in Tamil Nadu. "There are various institutions in democracy. There's media and Parliament too but all these have been shut for the opposition and media doesn't listen to us. There's total government control. Our mics are muted in Parliament, Assemblies are not allowed to function and opposition is harassed. In this situation, the only option left with us is 'Bharat Jodo Yata,' Rahul said at a public meeting here. He said no force in the country can stop this yatra because this is 'India's March'.

"This is India's March and a march to hear India's voice, which no one can suppress," the former Congress president added. Rahul said in the next 21 days during which the Yatra would cover 511 km passing through various districts the "pain of Karnataka" will be heard. "In the next 20 to 25 days, you will accompany me and you will hear the pain of Karnataka. You will hear about prevailing corruption, unemployment and price rise (in Karnataka)," he said. According to the Congress leader, the objective of the march is to "save" the Indian Constitution, and "to stand up against the BJP and RSS' ideology of hatred and violence". "This march is to save the Constitution. This tri-colour is meaningless without the Constitution," he told the crowd.

Rahul said the Yatra also encompasses people's struggle against price rise, unemployment, atrocities against farmers and the privatisation of public sector units. "The objective of this Yatra is not to give speeches but to hear you," he added. (PTI)

## At least 19 killed in Kabul suicide attack

KABUL, SEPT 30 /--/ A suicide bomber struck an education centre in a Shiite area of the Afghan capital on Friday, killing 19 people and wounding 27, including teenagers who were taking practice entry exams for university, a Taliban spokesman said. The morning explosion at the centre took place in Kabul's Dashti Barchi neighbourhood, an area populated mostly by ethnic Hazaras, who belong to Afghanistan's minority Shiite community. The Islamic State group has carried out repeated, horrific attacks on schools, hospitals and mosques in Dashti Barchi and other Shiite areas in recent years. Around 300 recent high school graduates, boys and girls, had come to the Kaaj Higher Educational Center at 6:30 a.m. to take practice exams, said one survivor, 19-year-old Shafi Akbary. The facility helps students prepare and study for the entrance exams, among other activities. About an hour into the session, the blast went off. (AP)

# Population control: All problems cannot get resolved by approaching us directly, says SC

NEW DELHI, SEPT 30 /--/ Society will always have some disputes needing resolution but every problem cannot be resolved by approaching the apex court directly, the Supreme Court said on Friday while expressing disinclination to continue hearing a PIL on population control.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justice J B Pardiwala was also reluctant to issue notices to all the states, assought by petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay, on the plea which sought directions to the Centre and states to take steps, including enforcing a two-child norm, to control the country's rising population. "You have filed the petition. The notice was issued and their (government) attention has been invited. They have applied their mind to the problem and now it is for them to take a policy decision. Our job is over. Therefore, we will close the petition now," the bench said.

The observation came when Upadhyay, a lawyer, said since population comes under the concurrent list of the Constitution state governments can also make laws to control it. He then sought issuance of notices to all the states on the issue.

"We will not issue notices like this unless we are satisfied," the CJ said, adding as to how the court can issue a writ to the states on the issue of population control.

"A society will always have some kind of disputes and those disputes need resolution and so it is not as if there will be a zero problem society. There will always be certain problems but every problem cannot be solved through Article 32 (under which pleas including PILs are directly filed in the SC)," the bench said.

The bench initially said it will close the petition but later adjourned the hearing to October 11. Earlier, on January 10, 2020, the apex

## Stage set for contest between Kharge and Tharoor for Cong president post

### Jharkhand's K N Tripathi also in fray

NEW DELHI, SEPT 30 /--/ The stage was set on Friday for a contest between Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor for the Congress president's post with the Dalit leader from Karnataka emerging as the clear favourite.

The third candidate in the fray, K N Tripathi, a former minister in Jharkhand, is considered a lightweight for the contest. Kharge, Tharoor and Tripathi filed nominations on the last day which saw the AICC headquarters come back to life after long, with workers swarming the complex. The 80-year-old Kharge, flanked by top Congress leaders, filed 14 sets of nomination papers with the proposers including Ashok Gehlot, Digvijaya Singh, A K Antony, Ambika Soni, Mukul Wasnik and members from the G-23 ginger group comprising Anand Sharma, Bhopinder Hooda, Prithviraj Chavan and Manish Tewari.

Tharoor, who was also part of the G-23 group, filed five sets of nomination papers, while former Jharkhand minister Tripathi filed a single set of poll papers with Madhusudan Mistry, the chairman of the Congress's Central Election Authority.

A majority of G-23 leaders put their weight behind Kharge by becoming his proposers instead of Tharoor, who was a prominent member of the grouping. Among MPs too, a number of Congress leaders signed Kharge's papers, while Tharoor's backers were limited to a few including Karti Chidambaram, Mohammed Javadi and Pradyut Bordoloi.

Kharge with an experience of over 50 years in electoral politics appeared to be a clear favourite for the Congress presidential election as a galaxy of leaders were present by his side when

he filed his nomination papers at the AICC headquarters here. "I was encouraged by all leaders, party workers and delegates from key states to contest the elections. I thank those who were present by my side at the time of filing the nomination papers," Kharge told reporters here.

No one from the Gandhi family was present at the AICC headquarters



Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge filing nomination form for the President of Congress Party in New Delhi on Friday

when the leaders filed their nominations for the election and Mistry said that the Gandhi family has remained neutral in this contest. "I have always been fighting this battle and I am keen to fight more to uphold the ideals of the Congress party with which I have been associated since my childhood," Kharge said. Tharoor, 66, described his electoral opponent Kharge as the 'Bhishma Pitamah' of the party.

"It is a privilege to serve the only party in India with an open democratic process to choose its leader," Tharoor said after filing his nomination papers. "It is a friendly contest that is going to happen. We are not enemies or rivals. No disrespect to him but I will represent my ideas," the Lok Sabha member from Thiruvananthapuram told reporters.

Tharoor said those wanting change

in the party should vote for him and described Kharge as a "candidate of continuity" and "status quo", virtually implying that the Karnataka leader was the choice of the present dispensation. In a tweet, Tharoor said he spoke to Kharge to wish him the best in the upcoming election. "He recalled when I first met him in Bangalore during my UN days, when he was Home Minister. We worked well together in the Lok Sabha & he was gracious as ever in wishing me luck," he said. While Tripathi said he was contesting for the top post in a democratic manner, party insiders say the battle is between loyalty and experience of Kharge versus the intellectual prowess of Tharoor, who is from the upper-caste Nair community in Kerala.

Friday was the last day for filing nomination papers and after scrutiny on Saturday, the last date for withdrawal is October 8. Over 9,100 delegates are eligible to cast their votes in the October 17 election, which will take place in case there are more than one candidate in the fray. The result will be announced on October 19. Rising from the grassroots, Kharge will be the first non-Gandhi president of the grand old party in almost a quarter of a century and the first Dalit to occupy the top post in 51 years. Jagjivan Ram was the last Dalit to be the Congress president in 1971. As the nomination process concluded, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said: "As of now, it is a contest between two multi-dimensional personalities. The last date for withdrawal is still not over, we don't know whether there will be an election on October 17 or not."

"All I can say is the election will be free, fair and transparent," Ramesh said in Gundlupet in Karnataka while taking part in the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra. (PTI)

## Seeking recognition of Sarna religion, tribals threaten stir in 5 states from Nov 30

KOLKATA, SEPT 30 /--/ Thousands of tribals from Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam and different parts of West Bengal congregated in Kolkata on Friday, demanding recognition of the Sarna religion by the Centre. The tribals, who demonstrated under the banner of Adivasi Sengel Abhiyan (ASA), threatened to intensify their stir from November 30 if the Centre does not hold talks with

them or fails to give reasons for denying the recognition.

"Tribals who worship the nature are neither Hindus, nor Muslims nor Christians. Their population is more than Jains and Buddhists, but their choice of religion is not recognised," ASA president Salkhan Murmu, a former BJP MP from Odisha, told PTI.

"If the Centre fails to meet our demand by

November 20, there will be 'chakka jam' in five states on November 30," he said. The protest will affect 50 districts and 250 blocks in these five states, he claimed.

Murmu said they would not go for the protest if the rights of the tribals under Article 25 of Constitution are ensured. Leaders of several tribal organisations from the Jungle Mahal region of West Bengal also took part in the

demonstration at Rani Rashmoni Avenue in the heart of Kolkata. Their rally affected the traffic in the city, which is already in the festive mood ahead of Durga Puja.

The demonstrators entered the city from Howrah, across the Hooghly river, creating congestion in large parts of central Kolkata amid the rush on the last working day before the Durga Puja holidays, police said. (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelling from Gandhinagar to Mumbai by Vande Bharat Express train, on Friday

## PM to launch 5G services in the country today

NEW DELHI, SEPT 30 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Saturday launch the 5G telephony services, ushering in an era of ultra high-speed internet on mobile phones.

According to an official release, 5G will be launched by the Prime Minister in select cities on Saturday and it will progressively cover the entire country over the next couple of years. The cumulative economic impact of 5G on India is estimated to reach USD 450 billion by 2035. Capable of supporting ultra-high-speed internet, the fifth generation or 5G service is expected to unleash new economic opportunities and societal benefits, serving as a transformational force for Indian society. The three major telecom operators of the country will demonstrate one use case each in front of the Prime Minister to show the potential of 5G technology in India.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio will connect a teacher from a school in Mumbai with students in three different locations in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Odisha. This, according to official sources, will demonstrate how 5G will facilitate education by bringing teachers closer to students, obviating the physical distance between them.

It will demonstrate the power of Augmented Reality (AR) on screen and how that is being used to teach children across the country, remotely, without the need of an AR device. In the Airtel demo, a girl from Uttar Pradesh will witness a lively and immersive education experience to learn about the solar system with the help of virtual reality and augmented reality. The girl will share her experience of learning with the Prime Minister by appearing on the dias through a hologram.

The Vodafone Idea test case will demonstrate the safety of workers in an under-construction tunnel of Delhi Metro through the creation of a 'digital twin' of the tunnel on the dias. The digital twin will help give safety alerts to workers in real-time from a remote location. Modi will take a live demo from the dias to monitor the work in real-time through utilising VR and artificial intelligence. "Prime Minister, Narendra Modi will launch 5G services in India on October 1, 2022, and also inaugurate the 6th Edition of India Mobile Congress 2022 to be held from October 1-4, 2022, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi," the release added. The various use cases that will be demonstrated in front of the Prime Minister in the exhibition include precision drone-based farming; high-security routers and AI-based cyber threat detection platforms; automated guided vehicles; smart ambulances; augmented reality/virtual reality /mix reality in education and skill development; sewage monitoring system; smart-agri programme and health diagnostics, among others. 5G offers speed multiple times faster than 4G, supports lag-free connectivity, and can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real-time. It will help in providing seamless coverage, high data rate, low latency, and highly reliable communications. Also, it will increase energy efficiency, spectrum efficiency and network efficiency.

5G technology will help in connecting billions of Internet of Things devices, allow higher quality video services with mobility at high speed, delivery of critical services such as telesurgery and autonomous cars, among others.

It will help in real-time monitoring of disasters, precision agriculture, minimising the role of humans in dangerous industrial operations such as in deep mines, offshore activities etc. Unlike existing mobile communication networks, 5G networks will allow tailoring of requirements for each of these different use cases within the same network. (PTI)



introduction of certain steps, including the two-child norm, to control the country's rising population.

A bench comprising the then Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant had issued notices to the Centre

legislature to enact laws and not the court.

It said the High Court "failed to appreciate that the right to clean air, the right to drinking water, the right to health, the right to peaceful sleep, the right to shelter, the right to livelihood and the

right to education guaranteed under Articles 21 and 21A of the Constitution could not be secured to all citizens without controlling the population explosion". "The High Court failed to appreciate that after a detailed discussion, debate and feedback, Entry 20-A was inserted in List III of the 7th Schedule through the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution in 1976, which permits the Centre and the states to enact a law on population control and family planning," the plea filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey said.

It also said the high court did not take note of the fact that after a comprehensive discussion, the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, one of the most eminent judicial commissions headed by former Chief Justice of India Justice M N Venkatachaliah, on March 31, 2002 recommended to insert Article 47A into the Constitution to control

population explosion. (PTI)

The plea in the High Court had claimed the population of India had "marched ahead" of China, as about 20 per cent of Indians did not have Aadhaar cards and therefore were not accounted for, and there were also crores of Rohingya and Bangladeshi living illegally in the country. It claimed the "population explosion is also the root cause of corruption", apart from being a contributory factor behind heinous crimes like rape and domestic violence.

It also held population explosion responsible for pollution and the dearth of resources and jobs. The petitioner argued that without population control campaigns such as "Clean India" and "Save the Girl Child" will not succeed. He said by the time the government provides housing to the over two crore homeless people, the number of such individuals would have risen to 10 crore. (PTI)



## President Xi pays tributes to martyrs ahead of China's National Day

BEIJING, SEPT 30/--/Chinese President Xi Jinping and leaders of the ruling Communist Party of China on Friday paid tributes to millions of martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the country's liberation struggle ahead of the



National Day on October 1. Xi and other leaders of the Communist Party of China (CPC), including Li Keqiang, the second-in-command, attended a ceremony in Tiananmen Square here to present flower baskets to the fallen national heroes. On September 30, 1949, the First Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference voted to build the Monument to the People's Heroes in Tiananmen Square to commemorate those who lost their lives fighting for national causes. Martyrs' Day is observed a day ahead of China's National Day on Saturday.

The formal proclamation of the establishment of the People's Republic of China was made on October 1, 1949, which is celebrated as National Day every year. China will be formally shut down for a week from Saturday to celebrate the National Day holidays. On Friday, nine huge flower baskets were placed in front of the Monument to the People's Heroes.

Xi and other leaders walked up to the foot of the monument, where he straightened the ribbons on the baskets, before leading other senior officials in a walk around the monument to pay their tributes. From 1921 to 1949, there were more than 3.7 million martyrs in the revolutionary ranks led by the CPC, state-run Global Times reported. The other martyrs included nearly 400 party members, who have sacrificed their lives to fight the COVID-19 outbreak and over 1,800 CPC members, who died during the poverty alleviation campaign, the report said.

The martyrs' ceremony was launched by Xi when he took over the party's leadership in 2012. This year's National Day will be celebrated ahead of the key once-in-a-five-year Congress of the CPC, which will be held on October 16. During the Congress, Xi, 69, is widely expected to get endorsed for an unprecedented third term or perhaps for life-long tenure in power. Until now all his predecessors with the exception of party founder Mao Zedong retired after 10-year tenures. Xi, who was bestowed with the title of "Core Leader", like Mao is expected to continue in power heading the party, the military and the Presidency. (PTI)

## Pakistan's Prime Minister's House 'debugged' to prevent further audio leak

ISLAMABAD, SEPT 30/--/A top panel constituted to probe the embarrassing audio leaks from the Pakistan Prime Minister's House has finished combing and debugging the sprawling premises on Friday, officials said. The issue of audio leaks hit social media last week, when a taped conversation between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his principal secretary Tauqeer Shah sent social media into meltdown. Another audio of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's conversion with PTI leaders was leaked on Friday.

In the recent leaked audio, three PTI leaders including Asad Umer, Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Azam Khan could be heard talking about the American cypher with Khan, the party's Chairman. On Wednesday an audio clip featuring Khan talking about the alleged conspiracy to topple his government was leaked. The combing of the premises nestled in the foothills of the Margalla here was conducted days after the National Security Committee approved the formation of a high-powered committee to probe the embarrassing audio leaks from the Prime Minister's Office that triggered demands for Prime Minister Sharif's resignation. "They have conducted a thorough inspection of the building, and the team was also monitoring mobile phone data and laptops of employees and officers of the PM House and Office," the Dawn newspaper reported.

The Pakistan government on Thursday said it was taking necessary steps, including changing some standard operating procedures (SOPs) to secure the Prime Minister's House, under which no staff and officers were allowed to take their mobile phone inside the premises. "The phones are collected at the entrance and returned after office hours," the report said. Prime Minister Sharif on Tuesday called the controversial audio leaks a serious security lapse' and said a high-powered inquiry committee would probe into the fiasco. Meanwhile, a cyber security department is being formed at the PM House to be headed by a director general. Waiters and low-ranked staff were under strict watch and their access to Sharif has been restricted. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Thursday that state institutions had conducted an exercise to secure the PMO's security, and confirmed some SOP of the PM House's security had been changed. (PTI)

## Inflation hits record 10 per cent in 19 EU countries using euro

FRANKFURT, SEPT 30/--/Inflation in the European countries using the euro currency has broken into double digits as prices for electricity and natural gas soar, signalling a looming winter recession for one of the globe's major economies as higher prices undermine consumers' spending power. Consumer prices in the 19-country eurozone rose a record 10 per cent in September from a year earlier, up from an annual 9.1 per cent in August, EU statistics agency Eurostat reported on Friday. Only a year ago, inflation was as low as 3.4 per cent. Price increases were beyond what market analysts had expected and are at their highest level since record-keeping for the euro started in 1997. Energy prices were the main culprit, rising 40.8 per cent over a year ago. Food, alcohol and tobacco prices jumped 11.8 per cent. "I'm already looking a lot more for special offers," said Myriam Maierhofer, a 64-year-old trainer and coach for staff development, who was shopping on Thursday at a weekly outdoor market in Cologne, Germany. "I don't throw

away so much so quickly, so I've become more economical with food. And this morning, I also turned down the heating in the rooms again." Inflation has been fuelled by steady cutbacks in supplies of natural gas from Russia and bottlenecks in getting supplies of raw materials and parts as the global economy bounces back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Russian cutbacks have sent gas prices soaring to the point where energy-intensive businesses such as fertilizer and steel say they can no longer make some products at a profit. Meanwhile, high prices for utility bills, food and fuel are leaving consumers with less money to spend on other things. That is the main reason economists are predicting a recession, or a severe and long-lasting downturn in economic activity, for the end of this year and the first months of next year. The European Central Bank is raising interest rates to combat inflation by keeping higher prices from being baked into people's expectations for wages and prices, it but can't by itself lower energy prices. Friday's inflation

reading was likely to be a matter of "grave concern" for the ECB, said Jessica Hinds, senior Europe economist at Capital Economics.

She said the central bank's rate-setting council was likely to raise its benchmark rates by an outsized three-quarters of a percentage point at its next meeting October 27.

Higher interest rates make it more expensive for people and businesses to borrow, invest and spend, dampening demand for goods and thus restraining inflation. Inflation is far above the ECB's goal of 2 per cent considered best for the economy. European officials call the natural gas cutbacks from Russia energy blackmail aimed at pressuring and dividing European governments over Western sanctions and their support for Ukraine. Russia blames technical problems. The rising gas prices that have resulted mean higher heating bills and higher electricity costs because natural gas is used to generate power, heat homes and run factories.

European Union energy ministers on Friday adopted a windfall levy on profits by fossil

fuel companies and other measures to ease the energy crisis, while individual countries also have allocated hundreds of billions to provide relief to households and businesses. With consumer prices in Germany rising by 10.9 per cent, hitting double digits for the first time in decades, the government announced plans to spend up to 200 billion euros (USD 195 billion) to help with surging gas bills in Europe's largest single economy.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Thursday that the government was reactivating an economic stabilising fund previously used during the global financial crisis and the coronavirus pandemic. Christian Schrader, 35, who was shopping at the market in Cologne, was less worried about food prices but said that "you start to think about which rooms need to be heated in the flat and try to explain to the children that we only play in one room." A bigger worry was "the social dimension," he said. "Inflation has often been a driver for social division, for extreme tendencies, for populism. This dimension worries me more." (AP)

KABUL, SEPT 30/--/A suicide bomber struck an education centre in a Shiite area of the Afghan capital on Friday, killing 19 people and wounding 27, including teenagers who were taking practice entry exams for university, a Taliban spokesman said.

The morning explosion at the centre took place in Kabul's Dashti Barchi neighbourhood, an area populated mostly by ethnic Hazaras, who belong to Afghanistan's minority Shiite community. The Islamic State group has carried out repeated, horrific attacks on schools, hospitals and mosques in Dashti Barchi and other Shiite areas in recent years.

Around 300 recent high school graduates, boys and girls, had come to the Kaaj Higher Educational Center at 6:30 a.m. to take practice exams, said one survivor, 19-year-old Shafi Akbary. The facility helps students prepare and study for the entrance exams, among other activities. About an hour into the

session, the blast went off. "First, we heard the sounds of a few gunshots at the main gate. Everyone was worried and tried to run to a different direction," said Akbary, speaking to The Associated Press over the phone. "Soon after that, a huge explosion occurred inside the center."

Akbary, who was unharmed, said he saw dozens of bodies and wounded people scattered around him. "I was so afraid and couldn't even move myself to help them. Later, other people ran inside and took us out," he added. Akhbary said he has attended classes at the center the past six months

Khalid Zadran, the Taliban-appointed spokesman of the Kabul police who gave the casualty toll, said students were among the victims of the blast, but he did not specify how many. He said education centers in the area will need to ask the Taliban for additional security when they host events with big gatherings like Friday's exam prep. Police have arrested a suspect who may have links to the attack, Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Nafi Takor said later. He was unable to provide any updates on the casualties.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. But the Islamic State group, the chief rival of the Taliban, has been waging a campaign of violence that has intensified since the Taliban took power in 2021. Afghanistan's Hazaras, who are mostly Shiite Muslims, have been a frequent target of the violence. In Dashti Barchi, IS carried out a 2020 attack on a maternity hospital that killed 24 people, including newborn babies and mothers, and an attack on a school in 2021 that killed more than 90, mostly schoolgirls. The neighborhood sees frequent bombings of minibuses and, earlier this year, a school and another education center were hit near simultaneously, killing six. Amnesty International's South Asia campaigner, Samira Hamidi, said Friday's attack showed the "utter failure of the Taliban, as de-facto authorities, to protect the people of Afghanistan."

She said the Taliban have taken few measures to protect the public, especially Shiites and

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She said the Taliban have taken few measures to protect the public, especially Shiites and

Hazaras "Instead, their actions of omission and commission have only further aggravated the risk to the lives of the people of Afghanistan especially those belonging to ethnic and minority communities," she said.

The U.S. charg d'affaires for Afghanistan, Karen Decker, condemned Friday's attack in a tweet.

"Targeting a room full of students taking exams is shameful; all students should be able to pursue an education in peace & without fear," she said. "We hope for a swift recovery for the victims & we grieve with the families of the deceased." The United Nations children's agency UNICEF said it was appalled by Friday's horrific attack. "Children and adolescents are not, and must never be, the target of violence," it said in a tweet.

Since seizing power, the Taliban have banned most girls beyond the sixth grade from attending school. But female high school graduates from previous years can go to university. (AP)

## Russia's Putin opens signing event to annex parts of Ukraine

KYIV, SEPT 30/--/Russian President Vladimir Putin opened a Kremlin ceremony Friday to start the process of absorbing parts of Ukraine into Russia by saying he would sign laws to annex them despite international condemnation and protect the newly incorporated regions using "all available means." The annexation ceremony in the Kremlin's opulent white-and-gold St. George's Hall was organised for Putin and the heads of the four regions of Ukraine to sign treaties for the areas to join Russia, in a sharp escalation of the seven-month conflict. At the beginning of the event, Putin urged Ukraine to sit down for talks but warned that Moscow would not give up the newly incorporated regions. The ceremony comes three days after the completion of Kremlin-orchestrated "referendums" on joining Russia that were dismissed by Kyiv and the West as a bare-faced land grab, held at gunpoint and based on lies. The separatist Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine have been backed by Moscow since declaring independence in 2014, weeks after the annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. The southern Kherson region and part of the neighboring Zaporizhzhia were captured by Russia soon after Putin sent troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24. Both houses of the Kremlin-controlled Russian parliament will meet next week to rubber-stamp the treaties for the regions to join Russia, sending them to Putin for his approval. Putin and his lieutenants have bluntly warned Ukraine against pressing an offensive to reclaim the regions, saying Russia would view it as an act of aggression against its sovereign territory and wouldn't hesitate to use "all means available" in retaliation, a reference to Russia's nuclear arsenal. The Kremlin-organised votes in Ukraine and the nuclear warning are an attempt by Putin to avoid more defeats in Ukraine that could threaten his 22-year rule. Russia controls most of the Luhansk and Kherson regions, about 60% of the Donetsk region and a large chunk of the Zaporizhzhia region where it took control of Europe's largest nuclear power plant.

Asked about Russia's plans, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that at the very least Moscow aims to "liberate" the entire Donetsk region. As it prepared to celebrate the incorporation of the occupied Ukrainian regions, the Kremlin was on the verge of another stinging battlefield loss, with reports of the imminent Ukrainian encirclement of the eastern city of Lyman. Retaking it could open the path for Ukraine to push deep into one of the regions Russia is absorbing, a move widely condemned as illegal that opens a dangerous new phase of the seven-month war. Russia on Friday also pounded Ukrainian cities with missiles, rockets and suicide drones, with one strike reported to have killed 25 people. The salvos together amounted to the heaviest barrage that Russia has unleashed for weeks. They followed analysts' warnings that Putin was likely to dip more heavily into his dwindling stocks of precision weapons and step up attacks as part of a strategy to escalate the war to an extent that would shatter Western support for Ukraine.

The Kremlin preceded its scheduled annexation ceremonies Friday with another warning to Ukraine that it shouldn't fight to take back the four regions. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow would view a Ukrainian attack on the taken territory as an act of aggression against Russia itself. The annexations are Russia's attempt to set its gains in stone, at least on paper, and scare Ukraine and its Western backers with the prospect of an increasingly escalatory conflict unless they

back down - which they show no signs of doing. The Kremlin paved the way for the land-grabs with "referendums," sometimes at gunpoint, that Ukraine and Western powers universally dismissed as rigged shams. "It looks quite pathetic. Ukrainians are doing something, taking steps in the real material world, while the Kremlin is building some kind of a virtual reality, incapable of responding in the real world," former Kremlin speechwriter turned political analyst Abbas Gallyamov said.

"People understand that the politics is now on the battlefield," he added. "What's important is who advances and who retreats. In that sense, the Kremlin cannot offer anything 'omforting to the Russians." A Ukrainian counter-offensive has deprived Moscow of mastery on the military fields of battle. Its hold of the Luhansk region appears increasingly shaky, as Ukrainian forces make inroads there, with the pincer assault on Lyman. Ukraine also still has a large foothold in the neighboring Donetsk region. Luhansk and Donetsk - wracked by fighting since separatists there declared independence in 2014 - form the wider Donbas region of eastern Ukraine that Putin has long vowed, but so far failed, to make completely Russian. Peskov said that both Donetsk and Luhansk will be incorporated Friday into Russia in their entirety. All of Kherson and parts of Zaporizhzhia, two other regions being prepared for annexation, were newly occupied in the invasion's opening phase. It's unclear whether the Kremlin will declare all, or just part, of that occupied territory as Russia's. Peskov wouldn't say in a call Friday with reporters. In the Zaporizhzhia region's capital, anti-aircraft missiles that Russia has repurposed as ground-attack weapons rained down Friday on people who were waiting in cars to cross into Russian-occupied territory so they could bring family members back across front lines, the deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said.

The general prosecutor's office said 25 people were killed and 50 wounded. The strike left deep impact craters and sent shrapnel tearing through the humanitarian convoy's lined-up vehicles, killing their passengers. Nearby buildings were demolished. Trash bags, blankets and, for one victim, a blood-soaked towel, were used to cover bodies. Russian-installed officials in Zaporizhzhia blamed Ukrainian forces for the strike, but provided no evidence. Russian strikes were also reported in the city of Dnipro. The regional governor, Valentyn Reznichenko, said at least one person was killed and five others were wounded. Ukraine's air force said the southern cities of Mykolaiv and Odesa were also targeted with Iranian-supplied suicide drones that Russia has increasingly deployed in recent weeks, seemingly to avoid losing more pilots who don't have control of Ukraine's skies. Putin was expected to give a major speech at the ceremony to fold Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia into Russia. The Kremlin planned for the region's pro-Moscow administrators to sign annexation treaties in the ornate St. George's Hall of the palace in Moscow that is Putin's seat of power. Putin also issued decrees recognizing the supposed independence of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, steps he previously took in ebruary for Luhansk and Donetsk and earlier for Crimea, seized from Ukraine in 2014. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, meanwhile, called an emergency meeting of his National Security and Defense Council and denounced the latest Russian strikes. (AP)



Mohd Siraj replaces injured Bumrah for remainder of T20I series against SA



Indian cricketer during a practice session ahead of the 2nd match of the T20 cricket series between India and South Africa, at Barsapara Cricket Stadium In Guwahati on Friday

NEW DELHI, SEPT 30 /--/ Mohammed Siraj on Friday replaced injured pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah for India's remaining two T20 International matches against the visiting South African team. Bumrah was on Thursday ruled out of the upcoming T20 World Cup due to a back stress fracture.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee named Mohd. Siraj as replacement for injured Jasprit Bumrah for the remainder of the T20I series against South Africa," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in the statement on Friday.

"Bumrah has sustained a back injury and is currently under the supervision of the BCCI Medical Team." The 28-year-old Siraj, a right-arm pacer, has so far played in five T20Is and picked up five wickets from

them. His last T20I match was against Sri Lanka at Dharamsala in February this year. India lead the three-match T20I series against South Africa 1-0 after a comprehensive eight-wicket win in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. The second and third matches will be played in Guwahati (October 2) and Indore (October 4).

**Indian squad for South Africa T20Is:** Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), R Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Umesh Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Shahbaz Ahmed, Mohd Siraj. (PTI)

Favourites India look to carry ODI momentum into Asia Cup T20

S Y L H E T (BANGLADESH), SEPT 30 /--/ An in-form India would look to carry forward the momentum of a historic ODI series sweep in England while trying to put behind the "Mankading" controversy as they open their women's Asia Cup T20 campaign against Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

The Indian women haven't had a lot of success of late in the T20 format but at the continental level, Harmanpreet Kaur's team will start as clear favourites. Barring their only blemish in the last edition of the tournament, India have won all the Asia Cup titles since the event's inception in 2004 (4 titles in ODI format and 2 in T20 version). The Asia Cup was transformed from ODI to T20 format in 2012 and India have won twice, while losing to hosts Bangladesh in the last edition in 2018. And, India would look to assert their continental dominance in the tournament, which returns after a hiatus of four years.

The 2020 edition of the event in Bangladesh was first postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic before being cancelled altogether. After claiming a historic silver medal at the



B i r m i n g h a m Commonwealth Games, where women's cricket made its debut in T20 format, India suffered a 1-2 away defeat against England earlier this month. But the Harmanpreet-led side made a fantastic turnaround in the ODIs, clean sweeping England 3-0 to record a historic series victory, which marked a glorious end to Indian bowling legend Jhulan Goswami's international career.

The Indian series win, however, reignited an intense debate over the spirit of the game after all-rounder Deepti Sharma ran

out Charlie Dean during the series-clinching third ODI as the English batter backed up at the non-striker's end. The Indian team would be desperate to move on from the incident and focus on the Asia Cup. On the team's front, Harmanpreet has been in imperious form. Smriti Mandhana too is in good touch but Shafali Verma, Sabbhineni Meghana and Dayalan Hemalatha need their bats do the talking. Jemimah Rodrigues' return to the side after missing the tour of England due to a hand injury, augurs well for India. Wicket-keeper Richa

Ghosh, who made a comeback in England after being dropped from the Commonwealth Games, is also in the mix. India's seam bowling attack will be led by Renuka Singh, while Radha Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Deepti will be in charge of the spin department. Sri Lanka, on the other hand, will be heavily relying on skipper Chamari Athapaththu to deliver the goods with the bat in the absence young Vishmi Gunaratne, who is out due to a back stress fracture. The island nation's middle-order will revolve around Hasini Perera and

H a r s h i t h a Samarawickrama, while the bowling attack will heavily depend on spinners Inoka Ranaweera and Oshadi Ranasinghe.

The tournament involves seven teams -- India, Pakistan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, UAE and hosts Bangladesh. All sides will play each other in a round-robin format -- a total of six matches each -- with the top four qualifying for semi-finals. (PTI)

**The Teams (from)**

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

**Sri Lanka:** Chamari Atapattu (c), Nilakshi de Silva, Kavisha Dilhari, Achini Kulasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Harshitha Madhavi, Madushika Meththananda, Hasini Perera, Oshadi Ranasinghe, Inoka Ranaweera, Anushka Sanjeevani (wk), Kaushani Nuthyangana, Malsha Shehani, Rashmi Silva, Tharika Sewwandi.

**Match starts at 1 PM.**

India didn't miss 1950 World Cup for playing barefoot; it was careless attitude of AIFF officials

NEW DELHI, SEPT 30 /--/ The lackadaisical attitude of the erstwhile All India Football Federation (AIFF) brass was the sole reason for India missing a chance to play the 1950 FIFA World Cup, according to a new book on the history of the national football team.

The new book 'Box to Box: 75 years of the Indian football team', edited by noted football journalist Jaydeep Basu and young journalist Sayan Mukherjee, is a collection of essays and interviews from prominent players of yesteryears as well some of the best football writers in the country. It traces the journey of the national team since independence, how it became the champions of Asia during its 'golden period', and how it faded from the 1970s onwards. The book, which hit the stands this month, is a treasure-trove of facts, interesting anecdotes, cultural roots of football, untold and forgotten stories, and first-person interviews of some of the finest stars of the game like Tulsidas Balamram, Sudhir Karmakar, and Bhaichung Bhutia. In the essay titled 'The Blunder of the Century', Basu debunked several theories about India not sending a team to the 1950 World Cup after the national team qualified for it following the withdrawals of Burma (now Myanmar) and the Philippines.

"...there was no specific reason behind the move



except the lackadaisical attitude of AIFF officials. There was no question of FIFA objecting to Indians playing barefoot — it's a fancy theory generated much later," Basu, considered an authority on Indian football, wrote.

"Raising money from making such a long trip was of course a headache. But the problem was solved as three state associations came to the AIFF's rescue. FIFA too promised to help. A camp was also organised for a short period in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

"But what finally resulted in the trip failing through was the indecisiveness of the AIFF brass. They dilly-dallied things till the last moment, held a series of meetings, but still could not reach a decision. At the last moment, when the World Cup was only a couple of weeks away, they took refuge behind lame excuses to cancel the trip." The

decision not to send the national team was hardly criticised as the World Cup was yet to reach its pinnacle of glory then. The Olympic Games were more prestigious than the World Cup at that time.

AIFF was then under the helm of president Moin-ul-Haq and general secretary M Dutta Ray. Seven or eight players of the Indian team that lost 1-2 to France in the 1948 London Olympics played barefooted but the book revealed that all of them had spike boots in their travel bag and it was their choice not to wear them. Many players in those days prefer to play with only

a heavy taping on their feet, instead of wearing boots. The romance of barefooted football eulogised by "we play football and you play boot-ball" comment by captain Talimeren Ao continued till 1954 when most nations had already switched to boots long before. It needed a 1-10 humiliation at the hands of then Yugoslavia in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, the biggest margin defeat till now, to hasten the switch from barefoot to boots. Interestingly, the book also claimed that the Pakistani hockey team supported the Indian football players who were at the receiving end of the nasty treatment from the Indonesians during the final match of the 1962 Jakarta Asian Games against South Korea.

"India played under constant jeering from the crowd. They were booed every time they touched the ball and abused whenever they started a move. The rest of the Indian (Asian Games) contingent had already left Jakarta a day before and there was hardly anyone in the stands to support India, except from an unexpected quarter in one corner.

It wasn't part of plan but was very much within rules: Harmanpreet on controversial run out

SYLHET, SEPT 30 /--/ Running out England batter Charlie Dean while she was backing up was not part of India's plans during the recent ODI series but was very much within the rules of the game, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said on Friday.

Deepti Sharma had effected that controversial

run out of Dean to complete India's 3-0 whitewash of England last week.

The mode of dismissal is currently listed in the 'Unfair Play' section of the laws but is set to be moved to the 'Run Out' section from October 1 when an update in the ICC Playing Conditions comes into effect. Upon her arrival in India, Deepti said

she had warned Dean multiple times before she took the bails off. England captain Heather Knight, who sat out of the series due to injury, accused Deepti of lying. Speaking ahead of Women's Asia Cup, Harmanpreet said it is time to move on while backing Deepti's act.

"We were noting these

things from last couple of games. She was taking long strikes and undue advantage, it was Deepti's awareness (that she took the bails off)," Harmanpreet said.

"It was not part of the plan but everyone was there to win the game. Whenever you are on the ground, you want to win at any cost. (PTI)

Women referees at Qatar World Cup a 'strong sign', says selected match official Stephanie Frappart

CLAIREFONTAINE-EN-YVELINES (FRANCE), SEPT 30 /--/ The presence of three female referees at the World Cup in Qatar will send "a strong sign", said one of those women selected on Thursday.

"It's a strong sign from FIFA and the authorities to have women referees in that country. I'm not a feminist spokesperson, but if this can make things happen..." said trailblazing referee Stephanie Frappart. The 38-year-old French is one of 36 referees selected for the November 20-December 18 tournament being staged in the conservative Gulf state. Rwandan Salima Mukansanga and Yoshimi Yamashita of Japan are the other two women officials to be chosen.

Asked about the choice of energy-rich Qatar to host the World Cup despite it being regularly criticised

over human rights and the place of women in its society, Frappart acknowledged that "sport often plays a role".

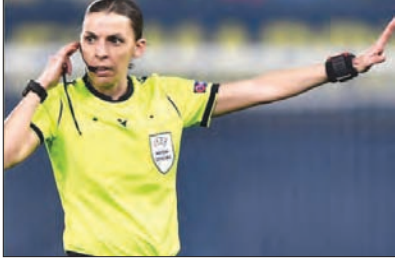
"I am not the decision-maker of the host of the World Cup. The authorities have made their choice," she said during a press briefing at the French national football centre.

"You are always aware when you are a woman in the country. I was there three to four weeks ago and I was well received." Frappart has set numerous landmarks in her career — she was the first female referee to officiate the men's UEFA Super Cup (August 2019), in the Champions League (December 2020) and in the French Cup final (May 2022).

The population of Qatar is 80-percent expatriate but a policy of 'Qatarisation' has included allowing

women wide access to higher education and the job market.

Nevertheless, under the region's common guardianship system, women remain tied to a male guardian, usually their father, brother, grandfather, uncle, or husband. They need his authorisation to make a number of decisions such as getting married, studying or travelling abroad and taking up certain jobs. (AFP)



Raj High Court extends stay on RCA election till further orders

JAIPUR, SEPT 30 /--/ Rajasthan High Court on Friday extended the stay on holding fresh election to the Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) till further orders.

The RCA election in which Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav was in the fray for the post of president was scheduled to be held on Friday. Justice Mahendra Goyal also issued notice to the RCA's Election Officer Ramlubhaya, Principal Secretary Sports of Rajasthan Government and Registrar cooperative to file their replies within a week. The matter has now been placed for hearing on October 11. On Thursday, the court had brushed aside the contentions of RCA and stayed the election. A petition was filed by District Cricket Associations (DCAs) of Dausa, Nagaur, Sriganganagar and Alwar districts. It was alleged in the writ petition that the RCA election officer Lubhaya is a retired IAS officer who is not an "independent" person. The counsel appearing for the DCAs argued that Lubhaya was in active engagement of the state of Rajasthan and was working under the chief minister whose son Vaibhav Gehlot is not only outgoing president of RCA but is also contesting for the same post again. It was alleged that in March this year, Lubhaya was appointed chairman of a high-powered committee for delimitation of the districts in Rajasthan for a period of six months and subsequently as election officer on September 8 this month. Later the state government extended his term in the committee up to 2023 only on September 13 to "influence" the elections of RCA. The petition alleged that the election officer is not a "fair and independent" person, as contemplated by the Supreme Court while approving Justice (retd) Lodha Committee report in 2016 in the matter of BCCI. (PTI)

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