

PROTECTING FOREST WEALTH IN REMOTE TILLANGCHONG

Foresters suffer 'inhuman habitation' as camp office cries for attention

KARTIK

MAYABUNDER, DEC 6/--/ They are posted in some of the remotest corners of the Islands. Hundreds of kilometers away from homes, they have been tasked to protect the vast forest wealth from poachers, but surprisingly, these staffs of the Forest department are performing their duties in a terrible condition. The dilapidated condition of the Forest Camp in Tillangchong is a befitting example that the department, after posting their staff in such isolated places, remains immune to their woes.

The Tillangchong Island under the Nancowry group of islands became the home for about two labourers and one Forest Guard for about one month. The Forest department on a rotational basis has been deputed staff to perform patrolling duties during their one-month posting to



such hostile conditions. While staff of departments like Police Marine Force and IRBs posted in Tillangchong are well taken care of, it is the Forest department which hardly cares about the working and living conditions of their staff. Posted in such remote and isolated places to ensure protection of the forest wealth from poachers, the dilapidated condition of the Forest Camp speaks volumes of the official

apathy.

Each department has their camp office so that staff deputed in this remote island can stay comfortably in their camp office and perform their duties, but the camp office building of the Forest department cries for attention from the authorities. According to sources, the Forest Camp office was constructed many years ago but till date no repair and renovation work have been carried out due to

which the roof has been torn out. During the rainy season, it becomes impossible for the staff to perform duties in this camp office due to the leaking roof. The wooden wall of the structure has fallen on the ground. During incessant rain, the staff has to take shelter in the camp office of other departments to protect themselves from rain.

Braving extreme conditions, Forest staff and IRB jawans ensure security

of the post at Tillangchong Island. Presently, armed police, radio operators, Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) guard the post round the clock braving near inhabitable conditions. Agencies in the local

During the rainy season, it becomes impossible for the staff to perform duties in the camp office due to the 'porous' roof.

government provide all the necessary logistics and necessary support; but a little extra care is what the men in uniform have been longing for over the years. Tillangchong Island is also home to one of the highly endangered Nicobar Megapode.

EOI had earlier reported about how a major tragedy was averted when a PMF boat carrying personnel deputed to guard the strategic 'Look Out Post' at Tillangchong Island capsized. The tall sea waves overturned the rubber boat of the Police Marine Force (PMF) meters before the coast. Fortunately, all the personnel on board swam to safety.

MP seeks one year posting of government employees in Nicobar District

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/--/ The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma called on the Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands on Monday and raised several issues. Notable among other issues, includes reducing the duration of posting for all government servants, irrespective of the departments he/she is working to only one year for the entire Nicobar District.

He mentioned that during his visits to different far-flung Islands, he has been approached by hundreds of government servants, who are suffering heavily due to lack of a clear, transparent and uniform transfer policy in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

He added that one of the biggest problems faced by government servants of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is posting in remote islands of Nicobar District.

Mr. Sharma pointed out that hard working government servants of these Islands are always willing to serve

Islanders in every corner of these Islands but due to lack of proper transportation, medical, telecommunication facilities and government quarters often



government servants feel helpless and fear such hard posting. He said that many government servants have genuine health issues and many others find it difficult to manage the education of their children in case of long posting in Nicobar District.

He mentioned that in a nutshell uncertainty over years of posting in Nicobar District has become a major psychological barrier for many. To deal with this problem, the Member of Parliament suggested that the duration of posting for all government servants,

irrespective of any department, be reduced to only one year for the entire Nicobar District.

He said that if transfer is made for one year in Nicobar District, no government servant will ever fear to report to their place of work, they will happily proceed and join their duty in no time. The Member of Parliament added that if the duration of posting is reduced to only one year all government servants will complete the tenure in remote Islands, without any fear and this will surely help Administration in smoothly and efficiently running the system.

He mentioned that this will not only increase the efficiency of the Administration but also immensely benefit people of Nicobar District as all government servants will report to duty in Nicobar District on time and serve people better. He pointed out that the one year posting policy has already been adopted by A&N Police for a long time, which has yielded encouraging results and has kept the police jawan high in spirit.

Telehealth OPD for patients at C/Bay

Top Gynaecologist from New Delhi provides free consultancy, assistance

SUBRATA

CAMPBELL BAY, DEC 6/--/ Specialist telemedicine OPD have been started at PHC Campbell Bay wherein senior doctors from New Delhi are providing free assistance with the help of the administration. This time Senior Consultant Gynaecology & Robotic Surgery, Dr. Pakhee Aggarwal provided his services to about 20 women patients from Campbell Bay, Govind Nagar and Laxmi Nagar. Most of the cases were examined by the doctor at PHC Campbell Bay and accordingly the case history was briefed to Dr. Pakhee who was providing his services online. A review OPD of Gynaecology will be organised after two weeks.

Smt Savita (name changed), one of



the patient told EOI that such services are of great benefit to the patients like her as patients of this region are getting treatment from specialist doctors from mainland. Earlier, the patients from this region

had to visit mainland by spending a hefty amount from our own pockets, but now with the Assistant Commissioner, Campbell Bay bring the telemedicine facilities at our door steps, patients of this region are being benefitting from the expertise knowledge of experienced and top doctors of the country. Dr. Nitin Shakya, Assistant Commissioner / SDM Campbell Bay told that we are organising telemedicine on regular basis and next OPD will be of skin and child related diseases. The administration is also planning to rotate specialist doctors to far flung areas so that expert opinion is provided to such patients.



YESHUVA

TRAINING ACADEMY Pvt. Ltd

NEAR MUBRAK MALL, JUNGLGHAT, PORT BLAIR. 744 103

Ph. No. 9476092535; 9933274252; 9476060793



Admission Starts For Following Skill Courses Offered by NDA Govt. of India & All India Paramedical Council

S.No	COURSE NAME	DURATION	QUALIFI
1.	AIRPORT MANAGEMENT	1YEAR	10 TH /12 TH
2.	AIR & SEA CARGO MANAGEMENT	1YEAR	10 TH /12 TH
3.	AIRHOSTESS TRAINING	1YEAR	10 TH /12 TH
4.	CABIN CREW MANAGEMENT	1YEAR	10 TH /12 TH
5.	PRE - PRIMARY EDUCATION	1YEAR	10 TH /12 TH
6.	PRIMARY EDUCATION	1YEAR	10 TH /12 TH
7.	X - RAY TECHNOLOGY	1YEAR	10 TH /12 TH
8.	SANITARY INSPECTOR	1YEAR	10 TH /12 TH
9.	MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN	2YEARS	12 TH
10.	OPERATION THEATER ASSISTANT	2YEARS	12 TH
11.	AIRFARE & TICKETING	6MONTHS	10 TH
12.	AIRPORT GROUND STAFF TRAINING	6MONTHS	10 TH

➤ **ADMISSION GOING ON JAUNARY - 2023 BATCH.**

➤ **ADMISSION FORM SUBMISSION LAST DATE 28/12/2022.**

➤ **FOR INTER ISLAND STUDENTS ONLINE CLASSES ALSO AVAILABLE**



GET EXPERT OPINION ON ALL PAEDIATRIC PROBLEMS REQUIRING SURGERY



MIOT Hospitals Outreach Clinic, the gateway to world-class healthcare, is flying in a **Senior Paediatric Surgery Specialist** from MIOT International (Chennai) to spearhead the Paediatric Surgery Consultation Clinic at Port Blair. Paediatric surgeons from MIOT have the expertise to offer end-to-end treatment for the entire spectrum of paediatric disorders requiring surgery.

Symptoms and Disorders:

• Birth defects of the lip / palate / bones / kidney / intestine • Feeding problem post-injury, acid ingestion, etc. • Unusual swelling in body • Cancer • Urinary opening defect • Lung infection • Kidney stones • Neurological issues

**Paediatric Surgery Consultation Clinic
@ MIOT Hospitals Outreach Clinic, Port Blair
9th & 10th December 2022**

Visiting Paediatric Specialist:

Dr. M. Ragavan MBBS, MS, MCh, MRCS (UK)
Paediatric Surgeon

Consultation Fee: Rs.800/-

*Prior appointment mandatory. Please bring previous medical records, if any. The clinic is also open to those considering getting a second opinion.

For appointments*:

+91 89009 85211, 89009 85212, 98417 27002 03192 295383

MIOT Hospitals Outreach Clinic: Ward No. 4, Near Dignabad School, Aberdeen Village Post, Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair - 744 101, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Tel: 0319 2295 383 | Email: mhoc-portblair@miotinternational.com | www.miotinternational.com

Maharashtra-Karnataka border row: Pawar says situation worrisome, time to take a stand

MUMBAI, DEC 6 /--/ Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday termed the situation in the border areas of Maharashtra and Karnataka as "worrisome", and said time has come to take a stand after seeing what is happening there. Maharashtra ministers Chandrakant Patil and Shambhuraj Desai, appointed for coordinating the state's border dispute with Karnataka, were earlier scheduled to meet activists of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti at Belagavi in the southern state on Tuesday and hold talks with them on the decades-old border issue. Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai

on Monday said he will ask his Maharashtra counterpart Eknath Shinde not to send his cabinet colleagues to Belagavi as



Sharad Pawar

their visit may disrupt the law and order situation in the border district. Asserting the border dispute with Maharashtra is settled, the CM said he has already instructed the

officials concerned regarding the measures to be taken in case the ministers go ahead with the visit, and that the government will not hesitate to take any legal action. Talking to reporters on Tuesday, Pawar claimed that since the last few weeks, conscious attempts were being made by the Karnataka CM to take the situation in a different direction. "Time has come to take a stand after seeing what is happening in border areas. The situation there is worrisome," said former Union minister Pawar, whose party was part of the previous Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha

Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra. Last week, Chandrakant Patil said there was a demand from the Madhyavarti Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti, an organisation fighting for the merger of Belagavi and some other border areas with Maharashtra, to hold discussions with the volunteers on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue. Maharashtra, since its inception in 1960, has been entangled in a dispute with Karnataka over the status of Belagavi district and 80 other Marathi speaking villages, which are in the control of the southern state. The dispute is pending before the Supreme Court. (PTI)



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh coming out after a meeting with floor leaders of all political parties on upcoming Winter Session of Parliament House in New Delhi

MESSAGE

The Armed Forces Flag Day is observed every year in the memory of our valiant soldiers who laid down their lives for the Nation. The Day has been commemorated every year since 1949 to mark the solidarity of the Nation with our soldiers. The Nation owes a huge debt of gratitude to them for their contribution during internal as well as external threats of insurgency and terrorism. This is an occasion for the citizens of the country to recognize and pay tribute to our Armed forces for their supreme sacrifices. It is also a befitting occasion to express our gratitude to the valiant combatants by way of generous contributions towards "The Armed Forces Flag Day Fund."

This year also "The Armed Forces Flag Day Fund" is being observed throughout the country on 7th December 2022 and our Islands will also be observing the same. To mark this day, Flag Day stickers and token flags are distributed through Rajya Sainik Board, Port Blair in return for generous voluntary donations and support for "The Armed Forces Flag Day Fund".

On the solemn occasion of the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, I urge every citizen of our Islands to voluntarily contribute towards the noble cause and to express solidarity with our Armed Forces Personnel and their families.

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

Sailing of MV Bharat Seema postponed

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6 /--/ Due to adverse weather conditions, the scheduled sailing programme of the vessel MV Bharat Seema to Nancowry via all ports on 8th December 2022 from Port Blair has been postponed. Now, the vessel will sail for Nancowry via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa & Katchal on 9th December 2022 (Fri) at 0700 Hrs from Haddo Wharf and will sail for Port Blair on 12.12.2022 (Mon) at 0500Hrs from Nancowry via same route. Inconvenience caused to the passengers is regretted.

Passengers can also get update/status from the Information Counter at Phoenix Bay by using the Number 03192 - 245555/232714 & TOLL FREE NUMBER 18003452714 & Vizag Counter Number 0891 - 2565584/2562661/2569404.

Police crackdown: N&M Police recovers 800 litres of lahan, bhatti articles

MAYABUNDER, DEC 6 /--/ The N&M Andaman Police has been conducting intensive jungle search and combing operations to crack down on manufacturing of illicit liquor. Adding to the spree of crackdown on illicit liquor manufacturing in the district, Police team headed by SI Sushanto Debnat, I/c OP Betapurand, ASI Muchray Munda, along with Police/IRBn officials conducted jungle search at Gobindapur and Prafullo Nagar area. During jungle search, the team recovered bhatti articles in different locations and destroyed more than 800 ltrs of Lahan and bhatti articles on the spot. The recovery has been done mainly from forest areas of Gobindopur and Prafullo Nagar area in PS Billiground.

Local residents have highly appreciated the pro-active efforts of the Police. In this fight against illicit liquor, bootleggers & drug abuse public have been asked to share information pertaining to any crime /illegal activities to police over phone No.100, 112 & 03192-273344. The identity of the informers will be kept secret and will also be suitably rewarded.

Lakhimpur Kheri violence: Charges framed against Ashish Mishra, 12 others for murder, criminal conspiracy

LAKHIMPUR KHERI, DEC 6 /--/ A court here on Tuesday framed charges against Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish and 12 others for murder, criminal conspiracy and related offences in the case of mowing down of protesting farmers in October 2021 in Lakhimpur Kheri, paving the way for the start of the trial.

Additional District Judge Sunil Kumar Verma has now fixed the next

hearing on December 16, District Government Counsel (Criminal) Arvind Tripathi told PTI. Tripathi said that 13 accused, including Ashish Mishra, have been charged under IPC sections 147 and 148 related to rioting, 149 (unlawful assembly), 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 427 (mischief) and 120B (punishment for

criminal conspiracy), and section 177 of Motor Vehicle Act. Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra, is the main accused in the case.

The other 12 accused are Ankit Das, Nandan Singh Bisht, Latif Kale, Satyam alias Satya Prakash Tripathi, Shekhar Bharti, Sumit Jaiswal, Ashish Pandey, Lavkush Rana, Shishu Pal, Ullas Kumar alias Mohit Trivedi, Rinku

Rana and Dharmendra Banjara. All of them are in jail. The 14th accused, Virendra Shukla, who is out on bail, has been charged under section 201 of IPC which is related to causing the disappearance of evidence of an offence or giving false information to screen the offender. The primary object of framing of charge is to tell the accused person precisely about what the prosecution intends to prove against

him. Charges under various sections of the Arms Act were also framed against Ashish Mishra, Ankit Das, Nandan Singh Bisht, Satyam alias Satya Prakash Tripathi, Latif Kale and Sumit Jaiswal, Tripathi said.

On October 3, 2021, eight people were killed in Tikunia in Lakhimpur Kheri during violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against Uttar Pradesh deputy chief

minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area. Four farmers were mowed down by an SUV, in which Ashish Mishra was seated, according to the Uttar Pradesh Police FIR. Following the incident, the driver and two BJP workers were allegedly lynched by angry farmers. A journalist also died in the violence. The 14 accused will be tried in the case related to the death of four farmers and the journalist. (PTI)

Mass stickering prog to mark National Pollution Control Day

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6 /--/ On the occasion of 'National Pollution Control Day', Andaman and Nicobar Pollution Control Committee (ANPCC), Department of Science and Technology, A & N Administration organized a mass stickering programme with a message 'Walk More; Drive



Smart' to reduce the air pollution caused due to the emission from vehicles. To mark the occasion, stickers were pasted on the spot on various types of vehicles at Petrol Pump, Lamba Line to create awareness among general public on harmful effects of pollution and also to promote e-vehicles in A&N Islands with the motive to make a paradigm shift from using fossil fuel to green energy.

CRC Brookshabad observed International Day for persons with disabilities

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6 /--/ Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Brookshabad observed 'International Day for Persons with Disabilities' on Dec. 2 with the theme 'Transformative Solutions for Inclusive Development: the role of innovation fuelling an accessible and equitable world'. The programme was chaired by the Member of Parliament, A&N Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma. The Adhyaksha, Zilla Parishad, South Andaman, Smti Pramila Kumari was the special guest.

On the occasion, children with special needs presented a cultural programme along with the students of ANCOL, JNRM and Pondicherry University, Brookshabad campus. The MP and Adhyaksha presented prizes to the winners of various competitions held as part of the observance. They also congratulated the staff of CRC for their excellent support and dedicated services towards divyangjans.

Earlier, Smt. Sumithamol, Resident Nodal Officer in her welcome address expressed gratitude to the Member of Parliament for providing a 32 seater bus for CRC which will solve the transportation difficulties faced by divyangjans.



Car rally, prize distribution mark Rotrary Public Image week

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6 /--/ Rotary Public Image week was celebrated by Rotary Club of Port Blair & Rotary Club of Next Gen. To mark the occasion, a car rally was organized by the club on 4th December 2022, starting from Netaji Stadium to Pranab Kanya Sangh via Bathubasthi. Later, a prize distribution ceremony was held at the hall of Pranab Kanya Sangh for the winners of the painting



competition on the topic "World Peace" and essay competition on the topic "My responsibility towards the Society "Mr. Hari Kallikat, Secretary (Tourism) was the chief guest and Swami Suddhananda from Chinmaya Mission was the guest of honor for the occasion.

At the outset Rtn B. Dinesh Kumar President Rotary Club of Port Blair welcomed the guest and explained the importance of making Rotary known to the islanders.

Mr. Hari Kallikat and Swami Suddhananda distributed prizes to the winners of the painting competition and essay competition. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Rtn Amar Gupta. Rtn Rajesh Anand Zonal Secretary Rotary Club Dist 3291 was also present at the event.

Cleanliness drive by Ration Rasheed Foundation, Power of Unity group at Chatham seashores



PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/- / As part of his commitment towards Swachh Bharat Mission, Mr. M.P. Abdul Rasheed, Director, Ration Rasheed Foundation with the support of Power of Unity group organized one of its kind beach cleaning drive, along the shores of Chatham area in the early hours of Sunday. Accompanying Mr. Rasheed were a group of more than 30-35 housewives, their kids and 10 young girls of Haddo area. Mr. Someshwar Rao, Municipal Councilor, Ward No.-2 also joined the initiative of Rashid Foundation. Ms. Jyoti Chatwal, Station House Officer, Chatham, A&N Police with her team of Police Personnel also participated in the drive, along with the volunteers and collected more than 50 bags of unwanted waste along the shores.

Speaking on the occasion, Mrs. Rasheed thanked each & everyone who actively participated for this cause and generated awareness about the impact of such waste accumulated near seashores, especially single use plastic to aquatic life. Ms. Jyoti Chatwal praised Ration Rasheed Foundation and Power of Unity for their initiatives for the good of the society. She encouraged the volunteers and distributed gifts to tiny kids as a source of encouragement.

Traffic diversion on airport route

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/- / Taking note of the hardship faced by commuters in moving from Dairy Farm junction to airport entry gate due to heavy traffic congestion, especially by vehicles entering and exiting from the airport, the Traffic Police has implemented traffic diversion on this route. To ease out the traffic congestion, the Traffic Police has decided diversion of vehicles on a pilot basis from airport entry/exit gate from 9th December 2022 (Friday).

Vehicles intending to approach VSI Airport from School Line shall not take 'right turn' at the airport entry gate instead they shall proceed towards Dairy Farm Junction & then after taking 'U' turn will proceed towards airport entry gate.

Vehicles taking exit from VSI Airport shall not take 'right turn' from airport exit gate i.e. towards Dairy Farm instead they shall take left turn & proceed towards Anjali Driving School, Lamba Line and take 'U' turn to approach Dairy Farm junction.

Mini Buses/Buses & heavy goods vehicles taking exit from VSI Airport shall take left turn & take 'U' turn from INS Utkrosh Gate, Lamba Line to proceed towards Dairy Farm.

A&N Traffic Police is striving to provide safer & smoother vehicular arrangements for the road users. Hence, all the general public has been advised to cooperate with the Traffic Police to successfully implement these directions.

Vishal apprises Nitin Gadkari about poor NH-4 road construction

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/- / Mr. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Member of BJP and Member of Home Ministry Advisory Committee, GoI has written a letter to Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Mr. Nitin Gadkari regarding the extremely pathetic condition of NH-4 in North & Middle Andaman District.

Mr. Vishal Jolly in his letter said that the unprecedented infrastructural development has taken place throughout our country under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India. The National Highways & the Bridges that are being constructed are of international standards and the same are playing crucial roles in building a #NewIndia.

Likewise, the people of



these Islands were also happy and satisfied with the manner in which the construction of National Highway-4 started and completed at the South Andaman region. The Azad Hind Fauj Setu (Bridge) at Kadamtala is also a marvelous work that has been helping the people of North & Middle Andaman District immensely; he added.

Further, he mentioned that the people residing at North & Middle Andaman

are suffering enormously due to the extremely pathetic condition of the NH-4 in that region. The economic development and the transport system have collapsed due to the pitiable condition of NH-4. The construction of NH-4 was awarded to National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) in the year 2016 and even after elapse of almost 6 years, the work is yet to be completed. It will not be incorrect to say that there is hardly any road like structure at all in many of the stretches between Kadamtala, Bakultala, Rangat to Diglipur.

Mr. Jolly also mentioned that the yardstick, method and quality of work adopted by NHIDCL in South Andaman District

Contd. Page 5

DC(N&MA) inaugurates CSP of SBI at Tugapur



KURMA RAO

MAYABUNDER, DEC 6/- / The SBI's Customer Service Point (CSP) was inaugurated by the Deputy Com-

missioner, N&M Andaman at Lal Tikrey, Tugapur in Mayabunder. Officers and staff of SBI, residents of Pahalgao Panchayat were present on the occasion. The

inauguration of CSP of SBI will help SBI customers in executing banking transactions like withdrawal, deposit, transfer and many other banking activities..

Shyam N Shyam

Festive Season & Wedding Collection

NOW AVAILABLE IN STORE

UNMATCHED STYLES UNLIMITED CHOICES

Ladies Wear • Kids Wear • Mens Wear

Sampat Lodge Building
Aberdeen Bazar, Port Blair

TEXTILE LAXMI NEERAJ TEXTILE

A Complete Family Showroom

Fresh Collection for YOUR FAMILY

ABERDEEN BAZAR | BATHU BASTHI

APOLLO HOSPITALS CHENNAI

GASTROENTEROLOGY CLINIC

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

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 can benefit.

Date : Saturday, 10th December 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

SET SAIL ON THE AGNIPATH BECOME AN AGNIVEER

JOIN INDIAN NAVY

Indian Navy invites online applications from unmarried male and unmarried female candidates (who fulfil eligibility conditions as laid down by the Government of India) for Agniveer 01/2023 (May 23) Batch

Entry	Educational Qualification	Vacancies	Born Between (Both Date Inclusive)
AGNIVEER (Senior Secondary Recruit)	Qualified in 10+2 examination with Maths & Physics and at least one of these subjects:- Chemistry/ Biology/ Computer Science from the Boards of School Education recognised by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India	1400 (including a maximum of 280 female)	01 May 2002 to 31 Oct 2005
AGNIVEER (Matric Recruit)	Passed Matriculation Examination from the Boards of School Education recognised by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India	100 (including a maximum of 20 female)	

Online application window is open from 08 Dec 22 to 17 Dec 22

For eligibility criteria and details for the batch, visit www.joinindiannavy.gov.in and Employment News dated 03 Dec 22.

For queries contact Help Desk : Email - sailor@navy.gov.in, Telephone - 011 21410669

Scan this QR Code to apply online

CBC10701/130011/2223

Festival Sale

Free 32" Smart TV
OFFER Valid on Limited Stock

CLIMBER

Preeta Cars India Pvt Ltd | Renault Port Blair
Phoenix Bay, South Andaman-744102 | email : gecsalespb@gmail.com
Contact Us: 9564783849 | 9564783856

Your whole life people tell you to do what you love. But if you gotta do something else to pay the bills, you don't automatically have to be miserable

Jeph Jacques

Close watch on Chinese ships

The Indian Navy is keeping a close watch on Chinese ships in region. This has been revealed by none else than Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar at the annual Navy Day press conference. Indeed there are a lot of Chinese ships present in the region. There are four to six People's Liberation Army (PLA) navy ships at any time. There are a large number of Chinese fishing vessels along with their research vessels. A close tab has to be kept on them. This is because it is an important region where a large amount of trade and energy flows. There are around 60 extra-regional vessels. The Indian Navy tracks these vessels and ensures that they don't do anything inimical to our interests. Moreover, the navy chief's remarks assume significance in the light of recent events like the Russia-Ukraine war that have shown us that we cannot remain dependent on others for our security.

The government has given us very clear guidelines towards Aatmnirbhar Bharat. The commissioning of INS Vikrant is a "landmark" event and is considered "a torch-bearer of atmanirbharta". INS Vikrant - India's first indigenous aircraft carrier - was commissioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kochi. It signifies persistent efforts of generations of naval leadership, designers, planners, shipyard workers, industry, and other supporting agencies and personnel. There are very few countries that have the capability to make an aircraft carrier and India now forms one of the elite or select band. It inspires self-confidence among us & it's a shining symbol of our indigenous capability. It has contributed to enhancing the stature of the nation in the world. "I'm sure Vikrant will proudly fly the Tiranga across the wide reaches of Indo-Pacific in years to come," the Navy Chief said.

The CDS Gen Anil Chauhan has laid stress on increasing integration, and we have been working on developing theatre commands and integration. The navy chief described the Agniveer scheme as a landmark achievement and said 3,000 Agniveers have joined the Indian Navy, of whom 341 are women. From next year, women officers will be inducted across all branches and won't just be limited to seven or eight as is the case currently. They'll be deployed on ships, airbases, aircraft. They will be trained for everything the way a normal sailor is trained. There is going to be no difference in training.

The Indian Navy is looking at being a gender-neutral force where the capability of the individual will be the only criterion. President Droupadi Murmu, who is the supreme commander of the armed forces, has said the Indian Navy has a huge responsibility of ensuring an umbrella of security for the country's national maritime interests. She rightly said that India is inherently a maritime nation, with sea on three sides and mountains on the fourth. It is but natural that the oceans will play a vital role in India's growth and prosperity. Navy Day is celebrated every year on December 4 to mark the Indian Navy's valiant role in the 1971 India-Pakistan war, including the bombing of Karachi harbour.

Indian economy has resilience despite global recessionary trends

REFLEX ACTION

Anjan Roy

price level could make it much more difficult for the policy makers to keep a positive framework. The Reserve Bank, for example, would be forced to raise interest rates. At the same time, the contraction of the manufacturing sector output, as revealed in the latest data by 4.3%, is a sign of the continuing failure of the country in a major economic activity. This remains the sore point for the policy makers and Indian industry.

The government, and the prime minister personally, have been harping on developing the manufacturing sector in the country. This has two aspects. One, for meeting the domestic requirements of the country, we are dependent on imports. Look at the imports into the country, we see a lot of goods coming in which should ordinarily be possible to manufacture within. Manufacturing sector remains a laggard for years. At the same time, we have seen remarkable turnaround of that in select areas. Indian automobile industry was almost infantile producing only some indifferent cars at huge prices, mostly requiring servicing and repair.

Today, we have a plethora of them of international class, and even exporting these to the developed countries. The output has risen several fold and it is in a position to fight global competition. Tata Motors, which was never taken seriously as a competitor to global makers, now fights with the best, among many others. The failure of the

manufacturing sector is also pairs with several other shortcomings. How can we really become a major exporter if we are not able to produce cost-effectively even for the internal market. Japan had grown initially by pursuing a policy of exports. So did South Korea, which is even today, a major manufacturing success. The Chinese model demonstrates what successes in the manufacturing industry could do to an economy. About forty years back, China and India were not much different in their economic performance and structure. However, Chinese growth in manufacturing and its dominance in such exports created what China is today.

It is admittedly difficult, almost impossible to replicate the Chinese experience in India, which has a different political setting. The most difficult hassle for developing the manufacturing industry in India remains the question of loan for industry. This is a political issue and needs to be handled politically. If manufacturing remains the typical failure, the continuing success and resilience of the services sector is a sign of hope. Almost despite the government, Indian services sector have grown and and even now is demonstrating it is regaining its pace. This time around, the services sector has shown healthy growth. This decor has to growth at least by a double digit figure if India is to maintain fairly decent growth rate of over 8%.

The services sector growth had also demonstrated the competitiveness of Indian service industry. ITES, which is the stellar success story, developed without any government help as such, rather because the government refrained from fiddling with it. Now, of course, there are attempts to meddle with it sometimes. The figures also revealed that the economy is sorely dependent on private consumption which sets the overall tone. (IPA)



A group of tourists wait for Shikara ride in the world famous Dal lake in Srinagar on Tuesday

New Data Protection Bill will be a boon to Indian big business

The new avatar of the Indian Data Protection Bill 2022 is not simply the rebirth of the earlier 2019 one. The objective of the earlier Data Protection Bill 2019 was to give a legal framework for the Supreme Court's Puttuswamy judgement of privacy as a fundamental right. The 2022 Bill has a different purpose. This version proclaims the citizen's right to privacy but allows the government to override this right at its will. The other objective of the new Bill is to enable big business—Indian and foreign—to use our data for their benefit. In other words, the intent of the Bill is the opposite of what it claims: it is not to protect privacy but create the architecture of a surveillance state and build surveillance capitalism.

I am not going to argue that the 2019 Bill was perfect. It was not. The Joint Parliamentary Committee also suggested 92 amendments to the Bill. But it had gone through extensive review, both publicly and in the parliament. After a series of discussions—public and in the Joint Parliamentary Committee—was suddenly withdrawn, and a new Bill was released without any explanation. The explanation can be seen when we examine the clauses that have been dropped and the direction of the new Bill.

Let us look at the big picture first. To protect the citizen's privacy as a right, we need to define what that right is and under what conditions the state can invade this right. For example, the right to life or liberty of a citizen can be taken away by the state if he/she commits a heinous crime as judged by an independent judiciary. As we saw during the 1975 emergency, allowing the government to exercise this right without any judicial review led to the worst

excess of the emergency. The need for a privacy law, therefore, needs at least two basic elements. One is to define under what conditions can this fundamental right be curtailed. Or, as Puttuswamy judgement said that any such curtailment must meet the triple test of necessity, have reasonable reasons for such an invasion, and should be proportionate to the need. The other element is that to protect this right, there is a need for a relatively independent regulatory body. On both these counts, this version of the Bill is overwhelmingly tilted in favour of the government and against the citizen.

Justice (retired) B N Srikrishna of the Supreme Court proposed a draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill in 2018. In a recent interview with The Hindu, he says that the proposed 2022 Bill allows a coach and a horse to be driven through the right of privacy of the citizens. According to him, the 2022 Bill has completely abandoned the Puttuswamy judgment's triple test of necessity, reasonability, and proportionateness for any curtailment of the right to privacy. Overall, the 2022 Bill is shorter, containing only 30 sections compared to the 98 of the 2019 version. But even while it is shorter, out of 30 clauses in the Bill, 18 have riders that "the government may prescribe" and are meaningless as they stand. The Bill also empowers the government to exempt its agencies from Bill's provisions through a simple

notification on national security grounds. This is in addition to the government agencies' existing power of intercepting our communications—either telephone or data—by virtue of the IT Act.

The 2022 Bill starts, as does the older version, defining a data principal and a data fiduciary. For the purpose of this article, I will focus on the citizen as the data principal; it is their data that will be my focus here. The data fiduciary is the one who parts with her data while using an application or an activity on a platform. In most cases, it is a company or an agency of the state. It is the citizens' data that the companies or government agencies use for their purpose. In the case of companies such as Google and Facebook, it is for displaying ads to their users. Or acting as data brokers selling data to other companies and entities. No other Data Protection Bill that I know of lays down duties on the citizen. This one does. It specifies that the data principal, or the citizen, has a legal obligation to provide correct data. This means that no person can use pseudonyms while availing of any data services. The reason why pseudonyms are used quite often is identifying a person by gender or religion may expose them to certain dangers. Women on various websites get trolled in order to silence them or drive them out of digital spaces. Or if they have a non-binary sexual orientation, people may not want to disclose their real

identities on certain websites. Disallowing pseudonyms may help state agencies and Big Data companies but can cause serious harm to different minorities. This Bill attempts both. It has virtually exempted the State from any requirements regarding the privacy of the citizens. Second, it has lowered the duties of the Big Data companies towards its users. It has also done away with the localisation of data, under which the data of Indian citizens would be held in India and subject to Indian laws. By weakening data localisation provisions, it is helping foreign capital, contrary to its nationalist claims. Data localisation was the major objection to the earlier Privacy Bill of companies like Visa, Google, and Facebook.

A considerable part of this Bill is to allow Big Data companies to use our data. The concept of a data fiduciary is to obfuscate that companies defined as fiduciaries are not storing data on our behalf but for their profits. They want to use our data in order to sell us to advertisers. They use our data to sell us goods continuously and get a major share of the profits of such sales. Google and Facebook are the biggest recipients of advertising revenue today.

Data also allows a whole range of software tools to be improved and optimised. For example, the success of artificial intelligence tools depends on the amount and variety of data that it consumes. And, of course, government agencies want more data to monitor and "orient" the citizens to their preferred mode of thinking. This is apart from the role that big money plays today in elections. That is why the phrase 'surveillance capitalism' describes the close marriage between the surveillance State and big capital. This is the core of the 2022 Privacy Bill. (IPA)

FOCUS

Prabir Purkayastha

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

ACROSS						DOWN					
1	Operatic airs	4	Maximum	7	Eastern temple	1	Takes as one's own	2	Summit	3	Hindu garment
10	Impression left by blow	11	Banishment	12	Sailor (Coll)	4	Mannequin	5	Lyric poem	6	Footwear item
17	Wrongdoings	19	Drink	20	Articles	9	Decorative plant	13	Aviators	15	Comfort
23	Prophetic sign	25	Handle in action	26	Lace hole	16	Make less sensitive	18	Tendon	21	Female sheep
27	Had knowledge	28	Saloon car			22	Small arachnid	24	Optic		

SUDOKU:3718								
	1	7				2	4	
								9
6	3		1				2	4
				3				
5	4				9		3	8
1	9	4	6					
2								
	5	3				6	9	

Yesterday's Solution 3717								
9	6	2	1	8	5	7	4	3
5	4	8	9	3	7	1	2	6
7	1	3	4	2	6	5	9	8
6	2	9	7	5	1	3	8	4
3	8	7	6	4	2	9	5	1
4	5	1	8	9	3	2	6	7
1	7	5	2	6	8	4	3	9
8	3	4	5	1	9	6	7	2
2	9	6	3	7	4	8	1	5

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1726												
T	A	L	E		I	M	A	G	E			
A	C	U	M	E	N		V			V		
M	E	N	U		V			I	R	E		
P		G		F	E	N	D	E	R			
S	W	E	D	E	N			L				
	E			S	T	R	A	Y	S			
C	A	R	A	T	S		G		P			
E	R	A		I		H	I	D	E			
D		N		V	I	O	L	I	N			
E	A	G	L	E		T	E	N	D			

DISCLAIMER

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

LG launches mobile app 'My Swaraj Dweep'

*App to contain informations related to Tourism

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/--/ The Andaman & Nicobar Islands, famous for its beautiful coastlines, water sports activities, pristine beaches and hordes of natural beauty spots attracts a large number of tourists both domestic and international to the Islands. To promote Andaman tourism in the global arena, efforts are being made by the A&N Administration to provide the best services at par with international standards. The era of technology driven world, has indeed made things easier for people. In line with this, the Tourism Department of A&N Administration has been striving towards digital promotion of its tourism destinations, keeping in mind the needs and wants of tourists visiting the Islands.

As part of its effort towards digital promotion of its Tourism destinations, the Department has come up with a tech driven idea to facilitate tourists with information at fingertip by devising a mobile app titled 'My Swaraj Dweep'. The Mobile App was formally launched by the Lt. Governor, A&N Islands.



lands & Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency, Admiral DK Joshi (Retd.) with the click of the remote button at a brief function held in the conference hall of Raj Niwas here this morning. The Lt. Governor congratulated the Tourism Department for devising the Mobile App for the benefit of the Tourists as well as the Islanders. The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (IP&T), Shri Nikhil Kumar, IAS, Secretary (IP&T), Shri Hari Kallikkat,

IAS and Senior Officers of A&N Administration were present during the Mobile App launch function. Giving a brief introduction about the App, the Secretary (IP&T), Shri Hari Kallikkat said the Tourism Department's mobile application on Swaraj Dweep titled 'My Swaraj Dweep' has been devised with the guidance and constant support of the Chief Secretary and the Commissioner-cum-Secretary IP&T. This Mobile App will guide tourists on various aspects, such as how to reach Swaraj Dweep, tourist circuit, interesting tourism spots, where to stay, how to book, live locations, plethora of water sports activities to choose at Swaraj Dweep, which has become a most sought after Tourist destination all over the World, he said.

Apart from this, information such as Dos and Don'ts, important phone numbers etc. have also been included in this App. The QR code of the App will be made available to all tourism stakeholders to ensure maximum reach, especially amongst tourists. People can download the app by visiting the website <https://www.andamantourism.gov.in/MySwarajDweep.apk>. For wide publicity and easy access of the app by tourists, standees and banners will be placed at different locations. This app which has been exclusively launched for tourists will redress their grievances and offer several tourism-related facilities in the Islands. Further, steps will also be initiated to develop a mobile application for entire Andaman Tourism in the coming days.



Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Mumbai, Mr. Damian Jan Irzyk on official visit to A&N Islands called on Admiral DK Joshi (Retd.), Lt Governor of A&N Islands at Raj Niwas on Tuesday. He held discussion on avenues of furthering interaction/cooperation and investment opportunities.

World Soil Day celebrated befittingly



PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/--/ The Department of Agriculture in association with Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) celebrated 'World Soil Day, 2022' on the theme 'Soils: Where Food Begins' at Namunagar Gram Panchayat on Monday. Mr. Y. Yenketeswar, Pradhan, Namunagar Gram Panchayat was the chief guest on the occasion while Mr. Mohammed Safiq, Pradhan, Mithakhari Gram Panchayat was the guest of honour. PRIs members and villagers of Namunagar attended the programme.

In his address, the Pradhan Namunagar motivated the farmers to save the soil and avail the benefits of various schemes implementing by the Agriculture Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ramesh Kumar, Joint Director (Agri), HQ Department of Agriculture highlighted the history, importance of 'World Soil Day' and its value and benefits for preserving healthy ecosystem. Mr. C. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Director (Soil), HQ briefed about the Soil Health Card and the methodology adopted for collecting Soil Samples from farmer's field for analysis purposes to determine the Soil fertility status while Shri Navashakti, Agriculture Officer, South Andaman briefed about the challenges in soil management and its significance in food production. Smt. Tanuja Begum, Agriculture Officer (Soil) threw light on Soil Conservation schemes implemented by the Agriculture Department. The Pradhan, Mithakhari while addressing the gathering expressed his gratitude to the Department for organizing such programme and delivering valuable information about the cropping techniques and importance of Soil management. During the programme, Soil Health Cards were distributed to the farmers by the Pradhan, Namunagar and Joint Director (Agri), HQ. A feedback and interaction session with the farmers was also held. Altogether 50 farmers along with Departmental Officers/ Officials and ATMA staff of Ferrargunj Block participated in the programme.



Admiral DK Joshi (Retd.), Lt Governor of A&N Islands reviewed the series of steps taken by the UT Administration for filling-up of vacant posts in A&N Islands at Raj Niwas on Tuesday. He directed to ensure the focus on accomplishing the target of recruitment by September 2023.

Selection trial for selecting paddlers

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/--/ A selection trial for selecting paddlers for participation in the 33rd Junior & Sub-Junior National Canoe Championship to be held at Bhopal, (MP) from Dec.18 to 21 will be organized by Andaman & Nicobar Kayaking & Canoeing Association at Water Sports Complex, Sippighat on Dec.10, 2022 at 6 am. Interested Island peddlers may confirm their entries for the selection trial to the Coach (Canoeing) at Sports Authority of India (SAI) Port Blair latest by Dec.9, 2022.

CNS awards unit citation to air squadron-318 on Navy Day



PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/--/ The Indian Naval Air Squadron 318, christened as 'Hawks', was commissioned on 08 Mar 1984 as a frontline Maritime Air Squadron at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Beginning with the Islander aircraft having limited reconnaissance capability, the squadron graduated to a more potent 'Dornier' aircraft in Dec 1999. Over the years, the squadron has transformed into a formidable frontline MR Squadron equipped with state of the art surveillance radar and electronic suite.

The Squadron undertakes maritime operational missions in the ANC (AOR) covering the strategic 'Six degree Channel' and the Malacca Straits, keeping a sharp vigil over the shipping traffic and surveillance over the EEZ shared with neighbouring nations of Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. The Squadron has been executing its role in a professional manner contributing immensely to maintenance of Maritime Security. The squadron has been pivotal in monitoring the activities of Multi National Forces (MNF) and Extra Regional Forces (ERF) in the region having successfully undertaken multi-

tude of missions ranging from Maritime Reconnaissance, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Surveillance, Information Warfare (IW)/ELINT Operations, Search and Shadow operations, SLOC (Sea Lines of Communication) monitoring, Fleet Support, Search and Rescue, Casualty Evacuation, Co-ordinated Patrols with foreign navies and Communication Duties.

For their exceptional service, professionalism and dedication towards duty, the squadron was awarded Unit Citation by the Chief of Naval Staff on the occasion of Navy Day 22.

ICAR-CIARI-KVK observed Agricultural Education Day

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/--/ ICAR-Krish Vigyan Kendra, Port Blair observed Agricultural Education Day at Don Bosco School, Lalpahar, South Andaman on 3rd December, 2022. A total of 40 students attended the programme. Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Principal Scientist & Head, KVK made a detailed deliberation on the various aspects of agricultural education and the importance of observation of "Agricultural Education Day" on 3rd December every year. Principal Fr. Deva Anbu was the chief guest of the occasion and he stressed upon the students to pursue a career in the field of agricultural sciences.

The career progress of eminent Agricultural Scientists and their contribution in building nation was discussed by the resource persons from KVK, South Andaman. The concepts of nutritional security and natural farming was discussed by Dr. B. K. Nanda, S.M.S. (Agricultural Engineering), Mr. Thanmai Paul, Farm Manager and other teachers of the school. The programme was conducted under active guidance of Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair.

Selection trial for selecting paddlers

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/--/ A selection trial for selecting paddlers for participation in the 33rd Junior & Sub-Junior National Canoe Championship to be held at Bhopal, (MP) from Dec.18 to 21 will be organized by Andaman & Nicobar Kayaking & Canoeing Association at Water Sports Complex, Sippighat on Dec.10, 2022 at 6 am. Interested Island peddlers may confirm their entries for the selection trial to the Coach (Canoeing) at Sports Authority of India (SAI) Port Blair latest by Dec.9, 2022.

the first prize followed by second prize to Dr. S. Radhakrishnan District Institute of Education and Training, third prize to JNRM and consolation prize to TGCE.

In the painting competition for 9th and 10th standard students, Ms. Akshita Rajee Varghese of St. Mary's school won the first prize followed by second prize to Ms. Aynul Hayat of NCS, third prize to Ms. Raha Begum of GGSSS and consolation prize to Ms. Suhanakhatun of GGSSS and Ms. Surabhi Agrawal of NCS. In 11th and 12th standard category, Mr. Animesh Uraw of Kamraj English Medium School won the first prize followed by second prize to Ms. Shreya Lal of VKV, third prize to Ms. Swati Kerketta of GGSSS, Garacharma and consolation prize to Ms. R.S. Dharshini of VKK and Ms. C. Shifana Banu of GGSSS, Port Mout. In the quiz competition, the team of GGSSS, Port Mout won the first prize followed by second prize to St. Mary's school, third prize to Kamraj English Medium School and consolation prize to MGIS. In the concept paper competition, Ms.

Ansia Meenaz of KV-1 won the first prize followed by second prize to Ms. Vridhi Nair of NCS, third prize to Ms. Md. Mumtaz of GBSSS and consolation prize to Mr. Sreeram of GSSS, Bathubasti.

In the photography competition held among the staff to catch the pride of CIARI, Shri Shareefuddeen Hassan Karangothi, T-4 won the first prize in the Technology category followed by second prize to Dr. A.A. Waman, Scientist, third prize to Shri J. Praveenraj, Scientist and consolation prize to Dr. I. Jaisankar, Senior Scientist and Shri Suresh, Project Staff. In the scenery category, Shri Amit Roy, YP won the first prize followed by second prize to Shri Shareefuddeen Hassan Karangothi, T-4, third prize to Dr. I. Jaisankar, Senior Scientist and Dr. A.A. Waman, Scientist; and consolation prize to Dr. J. Praveenraj, Scientist and Shri Suresh, Project Staff.

The function was coordinated by Smt. Asma Bibi, T-3 and concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Shri D. Karunakaran, Scientist and Organizing Secretary.

CPI(M) seeks filling-up of teachers' posts

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/--/ The CPI(M) has reiterated its demand for filling-up of all vacant posts of teachers and Heads of Schools under the Education Department. In a letter sent to the Lt. Governor, Mr. D. Ayyappan, Secretary, CPI (M) A & N State Organising Committee while referring to his earlier letter of 30th June, 2022, also addressed to the Lt. Governor, said that that despite lapse of more than 5 months, there seems to be no positive action on the part of the A & N Administration to fill-up the vacancies of teachers and Heads of Schools under the Directorate of Education. The schools in these islands have reopened after summer vacation on 1st July, 2022, but sufficient teachers are yet to be posted to the schools. Mr. Ayyappan stated that during his visit to North and Middle Andamans for the last few months, people have informed him that there is shortage of teachers in almost all the schools. Studies of students have been adversely affected, particularly in subjects like Maths, Science, etc.



not have Headmaster/ Vice Principal.

Mr. Ayyappan again informed that nearly one thousand teaching and non-teaching posts are lying vacant in the Education Department. No effective step has been taken to recruit teachers against the direct recruitment quota and also to promote the existing eligible teachers against the promotion posts. It is regrettable that at a time when thousands of qualified local youths are waiting to get a job in the Education Department as teachers for the last several years, the Administration has kept about one thousand posts vacant which is nothing but a challenge to the educated local youths, he said. Mr. Ayyappan requested the Lt. Governor to take effective steps to fill up all the vacant teaching and non-teaching posts in the Education Department to improve the quality of education and also to provide jobs to educated youths and promotion to the eligible departmental teachers.

Awareness prog by KVK to mark World Soil Day



PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/--/ ICAR-KVK, N&M Andaman (CIARI) organized an awareness programme on "World Soil Day 2022" at Government Secondary School, Govindpur. The theme of world soil day 2022 "Soil: Where food begins" aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the growing challenges in soil management, increasing soil awareness and encouraging students to improve soil health. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Sanjay Biswas, Head, Govt. Secondary School, Govindpur in presence of School teachers. In his inaugural speech, Mr. Sanjay Biswas expressed the need of soil conservation measures for enhancing crop productivity in this region. Er. Manoj Kumar, SMS (Agril. Engineering) briefed about the World soil day and its theme and urged the students to adopt scientific methods of soil conservation methods for better crop productivity on a sustainable basis. A total of 53 students and four teaching staff participated in the world soil day programme. The world soil day programme was organized by Er. Manoj Kumar, SMS (Agril. Engg.), ICAR-KVK, Nimbudera under the supervision & guidance of Dr. Ramakrishna, Pr. Scientist & Head and Dr. E. B. Chakurkar, Director, CIARI, Port Blair.

Vishal apprises Nitin Gadkari about poor NH-4 road construction

From page 3

was completely different from the works that are being done at North & Middle Andaman District. It has been informed that due to non-availability of the good quarry products, the previously constructed road materials were rolled over for the new construction and they say that the same was done after obtaining necessary approval.

He also wrote that the road construction in that region is difficult considering the fact that around 09 months we have the rainy season, yet, the truth is that the concerned contractors have miserably failed in their management and performance of work.

Mr. Jolly requested the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways to take a serious note of the facts as contemplated herein above and take all needful steps to make sure that the construction work of NH-4 gets completed at the earliest by strictly maintaining the standards of National Highways, in the interest of people of A & N Islands.

PORT BLAIR, DEC 6/--/ On 5th December, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair has concluded its fortnightly programme of Agricultural Education Day, in commemoration of the birth anniversary of Mr. Rajendra Prasad, first President of India, along with the celebration of World Soil Day.



At the outset, Dr. S.K. Zamir Ahmed, Principal Scientist and Nodal Officer of the Programme welcomed the school and college students who have participated and won prizes in various competitions held since 15th November and their teachers. Dr. T.P. Swarnam, Head, Division of Natural Resource Management gave a lecture on the theme "Soil: Where Food Begins" and read out the World Soil Day Message of Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Dr. R. Jaya Kumaravaradan, Scientist and Organizing Secretary of the Programme read out the Message of Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) and presented a brief report on the overall events held namely debate, painting, quiz, concept paper and photo competitions; Scientist-Student interaction and Seminar Lecture, wherein 1,459 students from 18 schools and 6 colleges across South Andaman district participated. He further informed that a similar programme was conducted by Dr. Y. Gladston and Dr. S.M. Ajina, Scientists at the Regional Station, Minicoy, Lakshadweep wherein 239 students participated and Dr. Shrikant R. Tapdiya, Deputy Collector, Minicoy presided over the valedictory function to felicitate the winners.

Smt. Shareela Younis, Teacher of GGSSS, Garacharma and students Ms. Nandini Devi of GGSSS, Port Mout, Mr. Ayush Kumar Dubey of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan District Institute of Education and Training, Ms. K. Sathamma of Andaman Law College and Ms. Sneha Jayadar of St. Mary's School expressed their gratitude for imparting knowledge about the agriculture and allied sectors; and their career prospects.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director, CIARI applauded all the participants and winners of various competitions and thanked the Principals for their encouragement. While appreciating the benefit of such programmes, he urged the students to spread

the knowledge gained on the career opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors through participation in various events and interaction with the Scientists, to their parents, relatives and friends. The winners of the competitions were given certificates and prizes by Dr. Debasis Battacharya, Head, Division of Animal Science and Dr. B.A. Jerard, Head, Division of Horticulture and Forestry. In the debate competition, team GGSSS, Port Mout won the first prize followed by second prize to St. Mary's school, third prize to GMSSS and consolation prize to Saraswati Sishu Mandir. In the college category, team Andaman Law College won

the first prize followed by second prize to Dr. S. Radhakrishnan District Institute of Education and Training, third prize to JNRM and consolation prize to TGCE.

In the painting competition for 9th and 10th standard students, Ms. Akshita Rajee Varghese of St. Mary's school won the first prize followed by second prize to Ms. Aynul Hayat of NCS, third prize to Ms. Raha Begum of GGSSS and consolation prize to Ms. Suhanakhatun of GGSSS and Ms. Surabhi Agrawal of NCS. In 11th and 12th standard category, Mr. Animesh Uraw of Kamraj English Medium School won the first prize followed by second prize to Ms. Shreya Lal of VKV, third prize to Ms. Swati Kerketta of GGSSS, Garacharma and consolation prize to Ms. R.S. Dharshini of VKK and Ms. C. Shifana Banu of GGSSS, Port Mout. In the quiz competition, the team of GGSSS, Port Mout won the first prize followed by second prize to St. Mary's school, third prize to Kamraj English Medium School and consolation prize to MGIS. In the concept paper competition, Ms.

the first prize followed by second prize to Dr. S. Radhakrishnan District Institute of Education and Training, third prize to JNRM and consolation prize to TGCE.

In the painting competition for 9th and 10th standard students, Ms. Akshita Rajee Varghese of St. Mary's school won the first prize followed by second prize to Ms. Aynul Hayat of NCS, third prize to Ms. Raha Begum of GGSSS and consolation prize to Ms. Suhanakhatun of GGSSS and Ms. Surabhi Agrawal of NCS. In 11th and 12th standard category, Mr. Animesh Uraw of Kamraj English Medium School won the first prize followed by second prize to Ms. Shreya Lal of VKV, third prize to Ms. Swati Kerketta of GGSSS, Garacharma and consolation prize to Ms. R.S. Dharshini of VKK and Ms. C. Shifana Banu of GGSSS, Port Mout. In the quiz competition, the team of GGSSS, Port Mout won the first prize followed by second prize to St. Mary's school, third prize to Kamraj English Medium School and consolation prize to MGIS. In the concept paper competition, Ms.



विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
विद्या ऽ मृतमश्नुते, माता सरस्वती
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
बाह्य: नया रास्ता नई शिक्षा - नई उन्नति
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002
Phone : 011-23604333, 011-23604508



Adv. No.18/2022

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS (IUCAA), PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

UGC had invited online applications for the post of Director Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, Maharashtra in the pay level of Rs. 2,10,000/- (Fixed) per month with a special allowance of Rs. 11,250/-p.m. (plus usual allowances as applicable from time to time), which is equivalent to the Vice-Chancellor of the Central Universities for which the last date for filling up of online applications is 30.11.2022.

This is to inform that the last date has now been extended to 31.12.2022 for filling of online applications. Further details are available on the UGC website www.ugc.ac.in/ugbs.

CBC-21205/12/0025/2223 Secretary, UGC



Chief minister Mamata Banerjee visited the Brahma Temple in Pushkar today and offered her prayers

TMC spokesperson Saket Gokhale arrested over tweet on PM; BJP vindictive: Mamata

AHMEDANAD/KOLKATA, DEC 6/--/ The Gujarat Police on Tuesday arrested Trinamool Congress's national spokesperson Saket Gokhale over a tweet endorsing an alleged fake news item about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Morbi after a bridge collapse incident there, sparking outrage from the ruling party of West Bengal.

TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is visiting Rajasthan, condemned the BJP government's "vindictive attitude", asserting that Gokhale committed no mistake.

TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, considered number 2 in the party, described the arrest as a reaction of a "panic stricken" BJP.

Gokhale was detained at Jaipur in Rajasthan during the early hours by officials of the Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Cell, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Cyber Crime, Jitendra Yadav said.

"Based on a complaint we received from a citizen, an FIR has been lodged against Gokhale for spreading fake news about the PM's visit to Morbi," Yadav said.

Gokhale was later arrested and brought to Ahmedabad where a court remanded him to two days' police custody.

The FIR against him was registered under Indian Penal Code Sections 465, 469, 471 (all for forgery) and 501 (printing or engraving matter known to be defamatory), police said.

Citing the news clipping which he attached in his tweet, Gokhale said, "RTI reveals that Modi's visit to Morbi for a few hours cost Rs 30 crore....Just Modi's event management and PR costs more than the lives of 135 innocent people."

The ACP said, "When we contacted Gujarat Samachar, the management told us this news was never published and it was totally fake and created by someone to look

authentic. Thus, we have detained Gokhale for spreading fake news."

Mamata Banerjee told reporters at Jaipur airport: "It's a very bad, and sad (incident). Saket (Gokhale) is a bright man.

He is very popular on social media. He has made no mistake."

"I condemn this vindictive attitude. He (Saket) has been arrested because he tweeted against the Prime Minister. People also tweet against me... We are really feeling sorry about the situation," she said before heading for Pushkar.

The TMC will not bow down to such "acts of intimidation", said Abhishek Banerjee.

He tweeted: "Fearless, Gokhale stood against the ruling dispensation that trades lives for its own profit. In reaction, panic-stricken @BJP4India got our national spokesperson @SaketGokhale arrested by Gujarat police."

TMC Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien gave the sequence of events leading to Gokhale's detention and described the case filed with the Ahmedabad Cyber Cell as "cooked up".

"It's a very bad, and sad (incident). Saket (Gokhale) is a bright man. He is very popular on social media. He has made no mistake. I condemn this vindictive attitude. He (Saket) has been arrested because he tweeted against the Prime Minister. People also tweet against me... We are really feeling sorry about the situation."

—Mamata Banerjee at Jaipur

Saket took a 9 pm flight from New Delhi to Jaipur on Monday. When he landed, Gujarat Police was at the airport in Rajasthan waiting for him to pick him up. At 2 am on Tuesday, he called up his mother and told her that he was being taken to Ahmedabad, O'Brien said.

"The (Gujarat) police let him make that two-minute call and then confiscated his phone and all his belongings," the TMC MP tweeted. (PTI)

No reaction yet from Punjab govt on Goldy Brar's 'interview'; Oppn slams CM Mann for 'lie'

CHANDIGARH, DEC 6/--/ Opposition parties on Tuesday slammed Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for making a "false statement" on detention of gangster Goldy Brar in the US, a day after an audio interview, purported to be Brar, was posted online.

The BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal mounted their attack against Mann, a day after the audio interaction between a man claiming to be Brar and a journalist surfaced online.

Mann had on December 2 in Ahmedabad said that Brar had been detained by police in California and that he would "definitely be brought to India."

He will be in the custody of the Punjab Police "very soon," Mann had then told reporters.

"It is confirmed news that being the head of the state, I am stating that a big gangster who was sitting in Canada, Goldy Brar, has been detained in America," he had said. Belying the CM's statement, an interview, purportedly of the gangster, surfaced online Monday, in which he said that he was not under any detention, nor was he in the US.

According to his own claim, he gave the interview to a journalist on YouTube. The authenticity of the interview could not be

verified. Since its surfacing, neither the Punjab Police nor any official from the chief minister's office has reacted to the interview.

BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa accused Mann of lying that Brar had been detained, while the gangster was still "free."

"CM Mann made a false statement on Goldy Brar in the wake of the state (Gujarat) assembly polls," said Sirsa. "However, the truth has come out."

"The truth is out today that the AAP is a party of liars. The CM should seek apology from the people of this country for lying and playing dirty politics," Sirsa said. Shiromani Akali Dal

leader and former Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal too slammed CM Mann for "playing politics" over the issue.

Badal alleged that under the AAP regime, the gangsters had become a law unto themselves in Punjab and the state government was helpless before them.

She said gangsters were indulging in targeted killings and extortions, which has created a fear of psychosis among the people of the state.

"Instead of correcting this issue, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was playing politics by falsely asserting on the eve of the Gujarat elections that

dreaded gangster Goldy Brar had been detained in the United States," she said.

Goldy Brar has now "refuted" this claim with the interview, she added.

SAD spokesman Arshdeep Singh Kaler on Monday had asked CM Mann to make a statement on the matter since his claims on Brar's detention had been disproved with the "interview."

Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, was shot dead in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29. Brar is alleged to have orchestrated the killing from Canada, and is a key accused in the case. (PTI)

Border situation with China, 'misuse' of agencies, inflation to dominate Parliament session

NEW DELHI, DEC 6/--/ The border situation with China, the alleged misuse of government agencies, price rise and unemployment will dominate the proceedings of the winter session of Parliament starting Wednesday.

The results of the assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh are also likely to play out during the start of the session.

The session begins on December 7, a day before the results of the assembly polls are out. The opposition will seek to corner the government on several issues and a confrontation is likely on the demand for discussions on Chinese "incursions" at the border and alleged misuse of agencies.

Rahul Gandhi and several senior Congress leaders who are undertaking the Bharat Jodo Yatra are unlikely to attend the session.

Ahead of the session, leaders from more than 30 parties attended a meeting convened by the central government to discuss the legislative agenda and the issues likely to be taken up

during the session.

The meeting, chaired by Defence Minister and deputy leader of Lok Sabha Rajnath Singh, was to seek cooperation from all parties for the smooth functioning of Parliament.

Leader of House in Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi were also present.

During the meeting, Joshi spelt out the government's legislative agenda for the session and sought the opposition's cooperation for the passage of bills. He concluded the meeting saying he has taken note of all the issues raised by political parties and the discussions will be held as per the norms and procedures of Parliament.

Issues for discussion will be finalised in the business advisory committee meetings of both houses of Parliament, he said.

During the meeting, the Congress and the Trinamool Congress raised the issue of alleged misuse of investigating agencies, which was backed by the Aam Aadmi Party, Nationalist Congress Party and several other parties.

"There are so many issues before the country such as unemployment and price rise, and the government owes an answer to people," Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury told reporters after the meeting.

He alleged the government did not "properly" inform the opposition about the stand-off at the Sino-India border. "In the House, we will demand a discussion on it and also on the killings of Kashmiri Pandits," he added. Congress leader Naseer Hussain, who attended the meeting in the absence of chief whip of the party in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh, demanded discussions on the appointment of Election Commissioner in just one day and also on the quota for the economically weaker section (EWS).

TMC leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay said he and his party colleague and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien sought discussions on price rise, unemployment, alleged misuse of agencies and alleged economic blockade of states.

While the BJD demanded passage of the women's reservation bill, the Shiv Sena's Shinde faction sought a population control bill. BJD leader Sasmit Patra raised the demand in the all-party meeting chaired by Rajnath Singh. Several other political parties, including the TMC, Congress, NCP and the TRS, supported the demand. The demand for building a consensus on the women's reservation bill was also raised by JDU, DMK, SAD during the business advisory committee meeting of Lok Sabha. They demanded that an all-party meeting be convened for the purpose.

The demand was also raised in the BAC meeting by TMC leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Speaker Om Birla chaired the BAC for Lok Sabha while Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar chaired the BAC for the upper house which was attended by floor leaders.

AAP leader Sanjay Singh demanded a discussion on the Old

Pension Scheme (OPS) and a law ensuring the Minimum Support Price (MSP) on farm produce. The session will have 17 sittings over 23 days before it concludes on December 29. The government plans to bring 16 new bills during the session. In total, members of opposition parties have detailed around 16 issues for raising during the session.

These include national security and China border "incursions", recent cyber attack on AIIMS, "uncontrolled" inflation and price rise of essential commodities, persisting high level of unemployment, failure to provide legal sanctity to minimum support price (MSP), and a rethink on the EWS reservation after the Supreme Court verdict.

The recent conflict between the judiciary and the government, the falling rupee and declining GDP growth, alleged voter "theft" in Karnataka, continuing attacks on Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir are also likely to be sticking points between the opposition and the government. (PTI)

Gujarat registers 64.33% voter turnout in just-concluded Assembly polls, a drop of 4% compared to 2017

AHMEDABAD, DEC 6/--/Gujarat has registered a voter turnout of 64.33 per cent for the recently-concluded elections to 182 Assembly seats, a drop of more than 4 per cent compared to the turnout registered in the 2017 polls.

As per the latest data shared by the Election Commission on Tuesday, the voter turnout for the first phase of elections held on December 1 for 89 seats was 63.31 per cent and 65.30 per cent for the second phase of polling held on December 5 for 93 seats.

The average turnout for all the 182 seats spread across 33 districts was 64.33 per cent, a drop of 4.08 per cent in comparison to the 2017 Assembly polls when Gujarat had registered 68.41 per cent voting.

These figures were shared by the EC, a day after polling for the second phase concluded. Nearly 3.16 crore voters out of a total of 4.91 crore registered voters had turned up to exercise their franchise on December 1 and 5, it said.

These 3.16 crore voters included 1.69 crore males (66.74%), 1.46 crore females (61.75%) and 445 voters from the 'third gender' category out of 1,391.

Botad district in Saurashtra region registered the lowest voter turnout of 57.59

per cent whereas tribal-dominated Narmada district topped with 78.42 per cent. Some of the districts which registered a low turnout are - Amreli (57.60%), Ahmedabad (59.05 %), Porbandar (59.50 %), Junagadh (59.54 %) and Kutch (59.85 %).

Districts, where voters came out in good numbers, are - Tapi (77.04%), Banaskantha (72.49%), Sabarkantha (71.43%), Navsari (71.06%) and Morbi (69.95%), as per the Election Commission. A total of 1,621 candidates were in the fray for the elections to 182 seats in Gujarat where the BJP is seeking a seventh straight term while Congress is keen to improve its tally. The new-entrant Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is trying to make a debut in the state where bipolar contests are the hallmarks of elections. The results will be declared on December 8. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Patidar leader Hardik Patel, Alpesh Thakor, Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani, Isudan Gadhvi (AAP's CM candidate), Parshottam Solanki, a former BJP minister, Kunwarji Bavaliya, Kantilal Amrutya, who is called as Morbi "hero", Rivaba Jadeja (BJP), and Pareshe Dhanani (Congress) were among the prominent contestants. (PTI)

Beyond a boundary: MHA nod for visa to 34 Pak players, officials of blind cricket team

NEW DELHI, DEC 6/--/The Union home ministry has cleared the issuance of visa to 34 players and officials of the Pakistan blind cricket team for the World Cup in India, officials said.

After its nod, the external affairs ministry will issue the visas to the Pakistani players and officials so that they can travel to India for the ongoing tournament.

The home ministry has

given clearance for issuance of visa to 34 Pakistani players and officials to take part in the Blind Cricket World Cup, a ministry official said.

Earlier in the day, the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) in a statement had claimed that the team could not get clearance from the Indian external affairs ministry.

This unfortunate incident has left the Pakistan

blind cricket team in the lurch, the PBCC said.

India, Bangladesh, Australia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, South Africa and Pakistan are scheduled to play in tournament from December 5-17. Matches will be played in Faridabad, Delhi, Mumbai, Indore and Bengaluru where the final will be held. Pakistan had finished second in the last World Cup for the Blind. (PTI)



Students of Calcutta Medical College today gheraoed the Principal and other departmental heads to press for their various demands Photo: Subham Dutta

Pak's Election Commission moves to oust Imran Khan as chairman of PTI party

ISLAMABAD, DEC 6 /--/ Pakistan's Election Commission on Tuesday initiated the process to remove Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan from his post following his disqualification in the Toshakhana case.

A notice has been issued to the former prime minister and the case has been fixed for hearing on December 13, the Dawn newspaper reported, quoting a top ECP official. Khan, 70, is in the crosshairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he had received as the premier at a

discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana and selling them for profit. He was later disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) under Article 63 (i) (p) for making "false statements and incorrect declaration." According to the ECP records, the gifts were purchased from the Toshakhana -- the state depository established in 1974 -- for Rs 21.5 million on the basis of their assessed value, while they were valued at around Rs 108 million.

There have been

numerous allegations and counter-allegations between Pakistan's government and opposition since the news of the Toshakhana sale surfaced in the media.

According to Pakistani law, overseas presents need to be deposited in the Toshakhana or treasury for valuation before allowing a recipient to keep it. Officials in the government are required to report any gifts they receive, but they have a threshold below which they don't have to disclose the full value. Larger gifts are sent to

Toshakhana, although the recipient may be able to buy them back at a discount of up to 50 per cent. PTI officials said no law bars a convict from becoming an office-bearer of a political party. In 2018, however, a three-member bench of the Supreme Court, while hearing petitions against the Elections Act, ruled that a person disqualified under Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution could not head a political party. The ruling paved the way for Nawaz Sharif's ouster as the head of the PML-N following his disqualification by the

apex court under Article 62(1)(f).

Pakistan's ousted prime minister Khan on Monday approached the Lahore High Court (LHC) against the government's inquiry into the audio leaks related to the US cypher. The LHC Registrar's Office fixed the hearing of a petition of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman challenging a call-up notice by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in an inquiry into an audio leak regarding the US cypher controversy for Tuesday. The cypher controversy involves

alleged audio leaks featuring Khan trying to buy loyalties of lawmakers and also justifying his action before he was ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament in April. Khan alleged that a US-led conspiracy was targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China, and Afghanistan. The former cricketer-turned-politician, who came to power in 2018, is the only Pakistani Prime Minister to be ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament. (PTI)

Trump Organization trial deliberations continuing Tuesday

NEW YORK, DEC 6 /--/ Jurors in the Trump Organization's criminal tax fraud trial will continue deliberating for a second day on Tuesday as they weigh charges that former President Donald Trump's company helped executives dodge personal income taxes on perks such as Manhattan apartments and luxury cars. The jury deliberated for about four hours on Monday.

The deliberations follow a monthlong trial that featured testimony from seven witnesses, including longtime Trump Organization finance chief Allen Weisselberg and Senior Vice President and Controller Jeffrey McConney. An outside accountant who spent years preparing tax returns for Trump and the company also testified. About 40 minutes into deliberations, jurors sent a note asking the judge to reread the elements of one of the charges, conspiracy to defraud in the fourth degree. Judge Juan Manuel Merchan obliged. Weisselberg, who pleaded guilty to dodging taxes on USD 1.7 million in extras, testified that he and McConney conspired to hide extras from his income by deducting their cost from his pre-tax salary and issuing falsified W-2 forms. Prosecutors charged the Trump Organization in the form of two subsidiaries, Trump Corporation and Trump Payroll Corporation. Trump Corporation is charged with nine counts. Trump Payroll Corporation is charged with eight.

Jurors must decide if Weisselberg was a "high managerial agent" acting on the company's behalf, as prosecutors allege, or if he was acting in his own interest, as Trump Organization lawyers contend. They must also determine if he intended to benefit the company's bottom line, not just his own. Weisselberg testified against the company in exchange for a promised five-month jail sentence. Other executives were also accused of avoiding taxes on company perks, but no one else was charged. Trump Organization lawyers argue Weisselberg acted on his own, without Trump or the Trump family's knowledge. The company denies wrongdoing. Prosecutor Joshua Steinglass attempted to refute that claim during his closing argument last week, showing jurors a lease Trump signed for Weisselberg's company-paid apartment and a memo Trump initialed authorising a pay cut for another executive who got perks.

Trump is not charged. The Trump Organization case is the only trial to arise from the Manhattan district attorney's office's three-year investigation of Trump and his business practices. District Attorney Alvin Bragg has said that an investigation of Trump is "active and ongoing," and that no decision has been made on whether to charge him. No former president has ever been charged with a crime. On Monday, Bragg announced the hiring of Matthew Colangelo, a lawyer who led Trump-related investigations at the New York attorney general's office. As senior counsel, Colangelo will be in charge of the most sensitive and high-profile white-collar investigations conducted by the Manhattan district attorney's office, Bragg said. (AP)

North Korea fires artillery again over South's drills

SEOUL, DEC 6 /--/ North Korea on Tuesday fired a barrage of artillery rounds into waters near rival South Korea for the second consecutive day in a tit-for-tat for ongoing U.S.-South Korea live-fire drills in an inland border region.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected North Korea firing around 90 artillery rounds from the eastern coastal town of Kosong around 10 am and another 10 rounds from the nearby town of Kumkang around 6 pm. It said the shells landed in the northern side of a maritime buffer zone the Koreans established in 2018 to reduce border tensions. The South said it communicated verbal warnings to North Korea and urged it to abide by the military agreement. The South Korean assessments were slightly different from details announced by North Korea's military, which said it fired 82 shells from multiple rocket launchers. An unidentified spokesperson of the North Korean People's Army's General Staff said the firings were meant as a warning against "enemy side" artillery exercises in a region near the inter-Korean land border.

The spokesperson said South Korea was being hypocritical in criticising North Korea for breaching the 2018 agreement, saying the South's unspecified past actions in violation of the agreement must be "calculated first." "The (Korean People's Army) seriously warns the enemy side once again to stop at once the irritating military actions in the area close to the front," the spokesperson said. "Our military counteraction against the continued provocative actions of the enemies will be more offensive as the days go by." North Korea also on Monday fired around 130 artillery rounds into waters inside the maritime buffer zones with South Korea, while accusing the South of raising unnecessary tension in front-line areas.

The latest North Korean military action has worsened animosity between the rivals, whose relations have sharply declined amid a prolonged pause in nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang. The South Korean army had earlier issued a public notice about live-fire exercises involving multiple rocket launch systems and howitzers in two separate testing grounds in the Cheorwon region this week. South Korea's Defence Ministry on Tuesday confirmed that the exercises, which began on Monday and continue through Wednesday, are part of combined training with U.S. troops. The ministry said that the exercises did not run against the 2018 inter-Korean military agreement, because they are being conducted outside the ground buffer zone set within 5 kilometers of the military demarcation line separating the Koreans. "We sternly warn that North Korea will be solely responsible for any outcome produced by the North's unilateral and consistent violations" of the 2018 agreement, the ministry said in a statement.

North Korea's military said it ordered Monday's artillery fire after detecting dozens of South Korean projectiles flying southeast from the Cheorwon region. That was the first time North Korea has fired weapons into the maritime buffer zones since Nov. 3, when around 80 shells landed within North Korea's side of the zone off its eastern coast. North Korea has fired dozens of missiles as it increased its weapons demonstrations to a record pace this year, including multiple tests of an intercontinental ballistic missile system with a potential of reaching deep into the U.S. mainland, and an intermediate-range missile over Japan. (AP)

EU, Western Balkans to boost partnership amid Ukraine war

TIRANA, DEC 6 /--/ EU leaders and their Western Balkan counterparts gathered Tuesday for talks aimed at boosting their partnership as Russia's war in Ukraine threatens to reshape the geopolitical balance in the region.

The EU wants to use the one-day summit in Albania's capital to tell leaders from Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia that they have futures within the wealthy economic bloc and give them concrete signs, rather than just promises, that they will join one day. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, the EU's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, has been repeating that stepping up the bloc's engagement with the six nations is more crucial than ever to maintaining Europe's security. As Europe's relationship with Russia deteriorates further because of the war, tensions have also mounted in the Balkans and the EU wants to avoid other flashpoints close to its borders. "In the Western Balkans, several crises are looming, and partners feel the immediate damaging impact of Russia's aggression against Ukraine," Borrell said last month. "The shockwaves of this war are hitting the Western Balkans. To counter that, we are stepping up our engagement as the Western Balkans remain our geostrategic priority the closest and most important geostrategic priority."

According to a draft of the declaration to be adopted at the summit, the EU will repeat "its full and unequivocal commitment to the European Union membership perspective of the Western Balkans" and call for an acceleration of accession talks with the incumbents. In return, the EU expects full solidarity from its Western Balkans partners and wants them fully aligned with its foreign policies. That particular point has been problematic with Serbia, whose president, Aleksandar Vucic, claims he wants to take Serbia into the European Union but has cultivated ties with Russia. Although Serbia's representatives voted in favor of various U.N. resolutions condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Vucic has refused to explicitly condemn Moscow. His country has not joined Western sanctions against Russia over the war.

Although the progress of the six nations toward EU membership has stalled recently, there has been some progress over the past few months. This summer, the EU started membership negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia following years of delays. And Bosnia moved a small step closer on its path to joining the powerful economic bloc when the commission advised member countries in October to grant it candidate status despite continuing criticism of the way the nation is run. Kosovo has only started the first step, with the signing of a Stabilization and Association Agreement. It said it would apply for candidate status later this month. Among the concrete measures to be adopted in Tirana, a deal involving telecommunications operators that will bring down data roaming charges will be announced. Discussions will also focus on the negative effects for energy and food security from Russia's war in Ukraine.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has already announced financial support to help countries in the Western Balkans cope with shortages and higher prices. The EU last admitted a new member Croatia, which is also part of the Balkans in 2013. Before that, Bulgaria and Romania joined in 2007. With the withdrawal of the United Kingdom in 2021, the EU now has 27 member nations. (AP)

Pope tightens oversight of Vatican-linked foundations

VATICAN CITY, DEC 6 /--/ Pope Francis on Tuesday tightened control and oversight over Vatican-based foundations and associations in his latest effort to impose international standards of accounting and governance

The new law lays out strict governance, administrative and accounting regulations that put the foundations under the ultimate oversight of the Vatican's Secretariat for the Economy, with their books subject to review by the office of the



Pope Francis

on Vatican offices and affiliated entities. A new law aims to bring the Holy See into further compliance with recommendations from the Council of Europe's Moneyval committee, which in April flagged as problematic the lack of an overarching law governing the creation and administration of foundations registered in Vatican City. Such foundations draw donations from the faithful, but until recently they had little oversight or accountability.

auditor general. The same Moneyval report that flagged the foundation loophole highlighted as a case study the well-known scandal of the charitable foundation of the Vatican's Bambino Gesù pediatric hospital, which draws donations from around the world.

The Vatican's criminal court in 2017 convicted the hospital's former president of diverting some 500,000 in donations from the hospital foundation to renovate the apartment of the former

Vatican No. 2, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. Bertone was never charged, and the original charge of embezzlement was reduced to abuse of office after the president's lawyers argued that the money was intended as an investment to benefit the hospital because the apartment was going to be used for fundraising events. The Vatican has several foundations and associations that have Vatican City as their legal headquarters, including some Pope Francis created himself and dedicated to past popes and papal initiatives. Francis was elected as pope in 2013 with a mandate to clean up the Vatican's murky finances and to bring international standards of transparency and accountability to them. The reform effort has taken years and spawned a few scandals, including a current criminal trial over a past investment in a London property.

Recently, the Jesuit priest credited with helping bring order to the Holy See's budgeting as prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy, the Rev. Juan Antonio Guerrero Alves, announced his resignation for medical reasons. His deputy, the lay economist Maximino Caballero Ledo, was named to succeed him. (AP)

Lanka to resume flights from Jaffna to India next week: Aviation minister

COLOMBO, DEC 6 /--/ Sri Lanka will resume flights from the northern Jaffna peninsula to Chennai by next week, a senior minister has said, a move that will help the cash-strapped country's tourism sector and provide a fillip to its beleaguered economy.

The tourism sector is the main source of foreign exchange earnings for Sri Lanka. However, the onset of the pandemic in 2020 severely crippled the tourism sector and was one of the major reasons for Sri Lanka's economic travails.

The island nation's earnings from international tourist arrivals for November touched USD 107.5 million, with the cumulative tally in the first eleven months of the year notching up a whopping USD 1129.4 million, according to the Central

Bank of Sri Lanka. "The flights to India from Palaly will resume soon, most probably by December 12," Sri Lanka's Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva told Parliament on Monday.

Flights will be operational between Jaffna and Chennai, the minister said. "There are still some improvements to the runway that are needed," he added.

The present runway can only accommodate 75-seater flights. The airport was named the Jaffna international airport in October 2019. The first international flight to land there was from Chennai. The 2019 redevelopment of the airport was funded by both Sri Lanka and India. Earlier, India's Alliance, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Air India, operated three

weekly flights from Chennai to Palaly. However, after the government changed in Sri Lanka in November 2019, flight operations were halted. Sri Lanka is currently facing its worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948. There have been street protests in Sri Lanka against the government since early April due to its mishandling of the economic crisis.

In September, the IMF announced a USD 2.9 billion bailout package to help the country tide over its worst economic crisis. A crippling shortage of foreign reserves has led to long queues for fuel, cooking gas, and other essentials while power cuts and soaring food prices have heaped misery on the people. (PTI)

Taliban: Roadside bomb kills 6 people in north Afghan

ISLAMABAD, DEC 6 /--/ A roadside bomb went off near a bus with government employees during rush hour on Tuesday morning in northern Afghanistan, killing six people, a Taliban official said.

Mohammad Asif Waziri, the Taliban-appointed spokesman for the police chief in Balkh province, said the bombing in Mazar-e Sharif, the provincial capital, also wounded seven people. The bomb was placed inside a cart by the side of the road and detonated when a bus belonging to the Hiaratan gas and petroleum department was taking employees to work. Separately, at least six people were wounded when a bomb exploded at the money exchange market in the city of Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, according to Abdul Basir Zabuli, a Taliban-appointed spokesman for the provincial police chief. Zabuli said the bomb was planted near the market and that the wounded were in stable condition, according to a hospital report.

An investigation was underway, he added.

No one claimed responsibility for the bombings in Balkh or Jalalabad, but the regional affiliate of the Islamic State group known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province and a rival of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban has increased its attacks since Taliban takeover in 2021. Images posted on social media from the scene in Balkh show a damaged bus and another vehicle, along with several carts and fruit stalls lying scattered by the roadside following the explosion. The bus was later towed away. (AP)

UN summit: Don't repeat mistakes on nature, scientists warn

MOMBASA, DEC 6 /--/ Scientists around the world are warning governments who will be gathering in Montreal this week for the United Nations biodiversity summit to not repeat past mistakes and are urging officials to "avoid trade-offs" between people and conservation needs in a report Monday.

The study published in the One Earth Journal found that even though there has been an increase in investment in conservation over the last three decades governments "have not succeeded in bending the curve on biodiversity decline." The

conference known as COP15, which begins Tuesday, hopes to set the goals for the world for the next decade to help conserve the planet's biodiversity and stem the loss of nature. So far the world has failed to meet goals set at previous meetings. The scientists proposed six areas for action for delegates working toward what's known as the global biodiversity framework. They include greater involvement of local communities and addressing both direct causes of nature decline such as the destruction of land and habitats as well as

indirect causes such as climate change. In the report scientists repeatedly called for officials to be "nature and people positive" in their approach, highlighting the need for solutions that are realistic and have support from local communities in order to best protect nature.

Instead of conserving areas by making them inaccessible to local people, the scientists said greater inclusion of communities and particularly Indigenous groups will be vital in curbing even more biodiversity loss. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions which fuel climate change

that leads to the loss of land and species also needs to be addressed, the scientists said. "No amount of conservation or restoration actions may be effective in stopping biodiversity loss if the accelerating drivers of decline continue and intensify, as has been the case to date, especially in wealthier countries and among elites, who often express commitment to conservation action," said David Obura, who is one of the report authors. The growing demands of rich nations, in particular "excess consumption and unsustainable trade and investments" also need to be

halted if groups are to be protected, co-author Diana Liverman said. "Consumption footprints in richer countries consistently drive biodiversity loss in poorer countries," she added.

Outside experts' views of how the summit can be a success were in line with the report's findings. "The Montreal COP needs to send that signal that the global economy is transitioning to be nature positive," said The Nature Conservancy's Linda Kreuger who wasn't part of the report. "Much of the conversation in Montreal is likely to revolve around money and

specifically how much of it wealthier countries are willing to make available to support the conservation efforts of emerging economies." Indigenous rights groups led by Survival International and Amnesty International agreed that local communities were central to protecting local biodiversity. "Indigenous peoples are the best guardians of the natural world and an essential part of human diversity," said Fiore Longo of Survival International. "The best way to protect biodiversity is to respect the land rights of Indigenous peoples." (AP)



Neymar scores on return as Brazil brush aside South Korea to reach quarter-finals

Croatia can't win 'without drama', says Luka Modric

DOHA, DEC 6 /--/ Croatia captain Luka Modric said his team "can't do it without a drama" after they reached the World Cup quarter-finals following a penalty shootout win against Japan on Monday. Mario Pasalic struck the winning spot-kick after Dominik Livakovic saved three penalties. Earlier, Ivan Perisic had pulled Croatia level in the 55th minute of normal time following Daizen Maeda's opener for Japan just before the break. But no side could find a winner either in 90 minutes or in extra-time as it finished 1-1.

"It seems that we can't do it without a drama," Modric, whose team were beaten finalists in 2018, said. "We are more than happy to reach the quarter-finals."

"It was a very difficult game against a very tough team."

The match in Qatar continues a pattern for Croatia. Seven of their past eight knockout games at major tournaments have gone to extra time, the only exception being their final defeat by France in Russia four years ago. Modric said Croatia had not played at their top level but had found a way to win.

"We showed character when we came back from the deficit... Livi (Livakovic) performed a miracle today. A very tough, exhausting match."

Coach Zlatko Dalic said reaching the last eight was a "major result".

"Don't ever underestimate a Croatian," he said. "Whenever this happens, one regrets it. We are going all the way."

This will likely be the last chance to win the World Cup for a talented but ageing generation of Croatian players.

"We showed that we are of the level necessary to go far. We have finished third (in 1998) and second and now we are in the quarters," Dalic said.

"We have earned the right to hope for great results... we won't give up, we will keep fighting to achieve our World Cup dream."

Dalic's team will next face either Brazil, seeking their sixth world crown, or South Korea and he is convinced his team can prevail regardless of who wins that match later on Monday.

"If I could choose I would choose South Korea, but if it's Brazil then never mind. Let's give our best and play our hearts out for the win," Dalic added.

"The players don't give up, they reflect the spirit of the Croatian people. We have been through so much pain... the whole of Croatia looks to them." (AFP)

DOHA, DEC 6 /--/ Neymar returned from injury to help inspire Brazil to a 4-1 victory over South Korea on Monday as the favourites cruised through to the quarter-finals of the World Cup.

The world's most expensive player had sat out his team's last two matches with a sprained ankle suffered in their first game in Qatar, a 2-0 win over Serbia. But he came back for this last-16 tie as Tite's team clicked into gear and delivered an ominous message to their rivals, at least before easing off in the second half. Vinicius Junior opened the scoring inside seven minutes before Neymar added another from the penalty spot to move to 76 goals for his country, leaving him just one away from equalling Pele's all-time record tally. Richarlison's brilliant goal made it 3-0 and Lucas Paqueta added another before half-time to leave South Korea shellshocked. Paik Seung-ho pulled one back but by then Brazil were thinking about Friday's quarter-final clash with 2018 runners-up Croatia. The five-time World Cup

winners had not scored four goals in a knockout game at the tournament since 1998. Here they played at times with the joy associated with the Brazilian national team, the players coming together to celebrate each goal by showing off their dance moves and their coach even joining in. If they finished playing within themselves, their first-half display was superb and a fitting tribute to the great Pele.

The Brazilian legend had said he would watch the game from the Sao Paulo hospital to where he was admitted last week amid ongoing treatment for colon cancer, and supporters in Doha's Stadium 974 unfurled a banner with a get well soon message to him. All of it was a chastening experience for Son Heung-min and South Korea, who have still never won a World Cup knockout match outside their own country. Tite made 10 changes to the Brazil team after rotating his squad for the 1-0 loss to Cameroon which came after qualification for the last 16 had been secured. Danilo also returned from injury at left-back, while Eder Militao was the only player to keep his place and shifted across to right-back. With Alisson Becker back in goal and Thiago Silva and Marquinhos playing too, this



Brazil players celebrate scoring against South Korea

was Brazil's first-choice defence but their forwards quickly put the tie to bed. The opener came from their first shot on target in

the seventh minute as Raphinha burst away from Kim Jin-su on the right and his ball across goal came to the feet of Vinicius who

coolly picked his spot. They then won a penalty as Richarlison was caught by Jung Woo-young and Neymar duly

beat Kim Seung-gyu — his last six goals for Brazil have now all come from the spot. Alisson was then called into action to tip over a vicious long-range effort from Hwang Hee-chan, but Brazil then scored their third in style just before the half-hour mark. Richarlison juggled the ball on his head three times just outside the area before laying it off to Marquinhos and then continuing into the box to get on the end of Silva's pass which he slotted home for his third goal at this World Cup. Paqueta then got their fourth nine minutes before the break with a first-time finish as he connected with a Vinicius ball held up from the byline. They could have added more in the second half had they not taken their foot off the pedal, although Raphinha was denied on more than one occasion by the goalkeeper. Korea though deserve credit for keeping going and they were rewarded inside the final quarter-hour as substitute Paik brought down a headed clearance and sent in a ferocious shot from 25 metres that brushed off Silva to beat Alisson.

The Brazil goalkeeper was then taken off for the final 10 minutes to be replaced by Weverton, while Neymar was also withdrawn with Tite's mind on Croatia. (AFP)

Pele watches Brazil FIFA World Cup match from hospital

SAO PAULO, DEC 6 /--/ With fans worldwide on edge over his health, ailing 82-year-old football legend Pele said Monday he was cheering for the Brazilian national team from hospital as they stormed to a spot in the World Cup quarter-finals. Considered by many the greatest footballer of all time, Pele was hospitalised in Sao Paulo last Tuesday amid treatment for colon cancer, just as Brazil wage their campaign to win a record-extending sixth World Cup in Qatar. In a message on Instagram as the "Selecao" prepared for their 4-1 romp over South Korea in the round of 16, Pele said he was watching.

"I'll be rooting for each one of you," Pele, the only player to win three World Cups (1958, 1962 and 1970), told the team.

"The King" posted a faded color picture of himself as a baby-faced 17-year-old in Stockholm, Sweden, on his way to dazzling the planet with his extraordinary talent in Brazil's maiden World Cup championship run. Eight years earlier, seeing his footballer father cry when Brazil lost the 1950 World Cup final at home to Uruguay, Pele had promised to win the trophy one day.

"In 1958, in Sweden, I was walking through the streets thinking about fulfilling the promise I made to my father," Pele wrote.

"I know that many of the national team made similar promises and are also looking for their first World Cup. I want to inspire you, my friends... We are on this journey together. Good luck



Brazil players hold a banner dedicated to their football legend Pele at the end of their round of 16 match against South Korea at Stadium 974

to our Brazil!"

Neymar and team did him proud, scoring a cascade of goals that evoked the "beautiful game" Pele embodied. After the match, the team returned to the field carrying a banner marked "Pele!", with a picture of him celebrating Brazil's 1970 World Cup win. Fans in the stadium could also be seen holding up pictures and messages in Pele's honor.

"It's hard to talk about what Pele is going through, but I wish him all the best," Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar said after the match — in which he converted a penalty, taking him to within one goal of Pele's all-time Brazil scoring record.

"I hope he'll get well as soon as possible, and that we at least brought him some comfort with the win and the banner we

dedicated to him."

Real Madrid winger Vinicius Junior, who scored Brazil's opening goal, also sent "a big hug to Pele."

"This win is for him," he said. "I hope we'll be champions for him."

Pele — whose real name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento — has been in fragile health in recent years. Operated for a colon tumor in September 2021, he has been in chemotherapy ever since. But doctors said he now needed a "reevaluation" of his treatments. They said he also had a respiratory infection, which they were treating with antibiotics. Pele's daughter Kely Arantes Nascimento said Sunday the new illness was the result of a Covid-19 infection Pele, who is fully vaccinated, contracted three weeks ago. She

told Brazilian TV network Globo Pele's family and doctors are confident his life is not in immediate danger.

"When he gets better, he'll come home," she said. Worried fans have been keeping vigil outside the hospital, praying for Pele's recovery.

Tributes have also poured in from around the world, including in Qatar, where World Cup organizers lit up buildings with the message "Get well soon" and deployed dozens of drones to draw a Brazil jersey in the night sky over Doha with Pele's iconic number 10 on it. Current stars such as France striker Kylian Mbappe and England captain Harry Kane have also sent messages of support.

"Pray for the King," Mbappe wrote on Twitter. (AFP)

Morocco through to quarterfinals after 3-0 penalty shootout win against Spain

DOHA, DEC 6 /--/ Morocco qualified for the FIFA World Cup quarterfinals after beating Spain 3-0 in penalty shootout in the Round of 16 match at the Education City stadium in Qatar.

Walid Regragui's side will either face Portugal or Switzerland, who will lock horns in another Round of 16 match, in the quarterfinal. Yassine Bounou saved two of three Spain penalties in the shootout while Morocco gained upper hand after Abdelhamid Sabiri, Hakim Ziyech and Achraf Hakimi found the back of the net. Additionally, Morocco became the first African nation to win a penalty shootout in World Cups while Spain now holds the worst shootout record, losing four out of five. Spain's biggest chance came in the dying minutes of the extra-time when Pablo Sarabia, who tried to convert a volley, rattled the post after he received a long ball inside the box. Earlier in the game, Spain squandered another chance in the fifth minute of injury time when Dani Olmo's well placed cross found Nico Williams on the right wing. The Athletic Bilbao player dished out a shot that was kept out by Bounou's excellent save.



Morocco players throw Yassine Bounou in the air as they celebrate qualifying for the quarter finals after beating Spain at Education City Stadium on Tuesday

Big guns face heat as India meet Bangladesh in must-win 2nd ODI

MIRPUR, DEC 6 /--/ Trying to pick up pieces after a demoralising defeat, India's decorated top-order will be desperate to change the narrative and give a better account of itself against slow bowling in the do-or-die second ODI against Bangladesh here on Wednesday.

Having failed to take the last wicket when Bangladesh needed more than 50 runs, Indian bowlers could not deliver but there is no denying the fact that a star-studded batting line-up needs to show more responsibility. The last time India played a bilateral series in Bangladesh was back in 2015 when under Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the team lost the three-match

series 1-2 and the only win came in the dead third rubber. History could repeat itself at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium if spinners Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz can once again keep the Indian batters under wraps between overs 11-40.

That was the real period of struggle for all Indian batters, save KL Rahul (73 off 70 balls) who was the best player on show in the opening game. While there are still 10 months left for the ODI World Cup, it is not yet clear what exactly will be Indian team's approach. The talks around adopting a "fearless approach" has been going on for some time but its implementation has only been sporadic. At

times, adapting to conditions and reacting to situations has got more prominence. The track at Mirpur wasn't exactly a batting beauty but it also didn't warrant a score of 186.

The erstwhile selection committee's decision to rest both Shubman Gill and Sanju Samson for this series has been equally baffling. The logic given by the former chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma was that due to a short turnaround from New Zealand, they have picked a fresh bunch of players for the series. Gill wasn't a part of T20 World Cup and also didn't play the T20 series in New Zealand (he was part of the squad though) and



hence leaving him out was baffling. One of the problems with the Indian top order players is that they are accelerating the run-rate but at the same

time consuming way more dot deliveries than they should.

In the match against Bangladesh, dot balls worth more than 25 overs were

consumed even as they batted for less than 42 overs. If the eight overs that they couldn't bat is taken into account, the team missed out on scoring off almost 200 balls. In modern-day cricket, when England is changing the rules of engagement across formats in every sense, the Indian team is taking one step forward and four backwards. The idea of handing the gloves to KL Rahul wasn't about increasing flexibility in the team but to ensure that both Rahul and Dhawan could be fitted in the same playing XI, going into the World Cup. Samson, one of the most flamboyant players, wasn't even picked for this series and Ishan Kishan,

who scored a 93 in his last ODI series, despite being a specialist keeper-batter was benched. Rajat Patidar and Rahul Tripathi in the brief period they have been picked in the Indian team have been travellers and it is still not clear how the team management plans to test these youngsters before pruning the list to may be 18-20. The tough calls haven't yet been taken by coach Rahul Dravid and captain Rohit Sharma and it doesn't look like it will be taken any time soon. (PTI)

Teams India: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain and wk), Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Shabbaz Ahmed, Axar

Patel, Deepak Chahar, Mohammed Shiraj, Kuldeep Sen, Shardul Thakur, Umran Malik, Washington Sundar, Rahul Tripathi, Rajat Patidar.

Bangladesh: Litton Kumer Das, Anamul Haque Bijoy, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Afif Hossain, Yasir All Chowdhury, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Ebadot Hossain Chowdhury, Nasum Ahmed, Mahmud Ullah, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Quazi Nurul Hasan Sohan, Shoriful Islam.

Match starts: 11:30 am IST.