

## ICDS OBJECTIVES DEFEATED

### Parents bewail non-supply of meals to Anganwadi centres past 3-months

KARTIK

MAYABUNDER, NOV 19/--/ Non-supply of meals to Anganwadi Centres in North & Middle Andaman has become an impediment in achieving the objectives of the Integrated Child Development



Services (ICDS) scheme of the Government of India. Sources claim that owing to delay in the tendering process through GEM portal, supply of meals to children of the anganwadi centres in this

region have been stopped for the past three months, depriving nutritional food to children. It may be recalled that after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the administration had taken a conscious decision to distribute raw ration articles as per the entitled scale at the door steps of beneficiaries of the ICDS scheme through Anganwadi workers. Groceries were delivered at the doorsteps of residents across these islands. After supplying raw ration items to the children, from the month of June onwards cooked meals were provided to the children. However, after the month of August till date i.e September, October & November months, cooked

meals are not served to the children. An official of the Social Welfare Department, on conditions of anonymity, said that delay in the GEM tendering process is the reason for non-supply of

meals to children of the Anganwadi Centres. The issue will be resolved soon and meals will be served to the Anganwadi Centres, the official said.

Meanwhile, parents of the children say that they are more happy if meals are served to the children in the anganwadi centres as most children show their reluctance to eat meals at homes while they enjoy eating food with their friends in the anganwadi centres. At least the department can resume supply of milk & egg to the children. If the tendering process is taking time, the department can resume supply of raw ration items to the children as done during the pandemic period. Launched on 2nd October, 1975, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is one of the flagship programmes of the Government of India and represents one of the world's largest and unique programmes for early childhood care and development. It is the foremost symbol of a country's commitment to its children and nursing mothers, as a response to the challenge of

providing pre-school non-formal education on one hand and breaking the vicious cycle of malnutrition, morbidity, reduced learning capacity and mortality on the other. The beneficiaries under the Scheme are children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The objectives of the scheme include to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years, lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child; reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout; to achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education. The ICDS Scheme offers a package of six services, viz. Supplementary Nutrition, Pre-school non-formal education, Nutrition & health education, Immunization, Health check-up and Referral services.

### Villagers, PRIs threatens 'Chakka Jam' at Bakultala over poor roads

ASHIM

BAKULTALA, NOV 19/--/ The PRI members, auto & jeep drivers, school students and the general public will join hands to stage protest and resort to 'Chakka Jam' at the Bakultala junction from 7.00 am in the morning on 27th November 2022, if their demand for urgent repair of NH-4 roads from Bakultala to DFO Bungalow Rangat is not taken up on priority basis. Pradhan, GP Bakultala in a letter to the Project Manager, NHIDCL and private contractor has demanded for the repair of this stretch of road which is in a bad shape. The PRIs and local residents of these areas have on many occasions pleaded with the concerned authorities for repair of this stretch of roads as due to poor condition of the roads, motorists as well as locals have to face untold problems. People with critical health issues suffer the most as they have to travel on this road. Public transport buses, auto and jeep drivers refuse to ply their vehicles on this road as they complain that their vehicles suffer damages while operating on these roads.

### MP seeks early sanction of pending subsidy cases under MSME scheme

PORT BLAIR, NOV 19/--/ The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Shri. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Administration to sanction pending subsidy cases under MSME capital subsidy scheme.

In a letter, Mr Sharma mentioned that the subsidy under Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) capital subsidy scheme promulgated by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration on 25th October 2017 to support the unemployed youth and other jobless youngsters to establish their own business. He pointed out that in order to avail the MSME scheme many unemployed youth of these islands had taken loans from various banks of the Islands and started their own enterprises. Most of them have invested in the tourism industry. He mentioned that in the year 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the entire nation,

including Andaman & Nicobar Islands which lasted for nearly 2 years and the running business of all these unemployed youth were shut down for most of these 2 years. Mr. Sharma added that apart from this, since March 2022, the maintenance of the airfield of Port Blair airport was started which lasted for 3 months and is now restarting to continue till March 2023 end. As a result of this, the tourism industry and the associated youths have been under severe financial distress due to dent in business and those unemployed youths who have taken loans are unable to even pay their EMIS, he added. He further pointed out that consequently, the interest of such loans has increased manifold, which has now become a severe financial burden on their shoulders. "The subsidy applied under the MSME scheme by the

business youngsters has been lying pending in the Directorate of Industries for over 2 years and is under examination. Moreover, it is learnt that the last subsidy was sanctioned several years ago and thereafter no subsidy has been granted to eligible firms," he mentioned. Mr. Sharma added that now a few of the cases who had applied for subsidy under the aforesaid scheme have been cleared by the Sub-committee constituted by the administration and forwarded to the Scrutiny committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Industries). Therefore, he requested the Chief Secretary to grant subsidy to all the pending applications on priority and the entitled subsidy as per rules at the earliest so that the loan taken by the applicants can be refunded to the maximum extent.



### CG conducts training for combating oil pollution at sea



PORT BLAIR, NOV. 19/--/ The Coast Guard component of Andaman and Nicobar Command conducted an IMO Level-I course for the various stakeholders responsible for Pollution Response Operations from 14-18 Nov 2022, at Port Blair. The course was conducted in line with the guidelines of OPRC Convention 1992 to which India is a signatory.

Any oil spill in the seas around the A&N islands will have severe environmental effect on the marine ecosystem and adversely affect the dependent economic / tourism activities. Accordingly, the IMO level courses are structured and conducted to provide effective training to all stakeholders for coordinated and synergized response operations against

any oil spills at sea. The training course was attended by around 26 participants, including officials from the Department of Environment & Forests, Port Management Board (PMB) and Police Marine Force (PMF). The course curriculum provided the participants an insight into the various facts of pollution response in terms of awareness, preparedness,

response, legal regulations and practical exposure on handling of pollution response equipment.

Certificates of successful completion of the training course were also presented to all the participants.

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# PM stresses on preserving legacy of Tamil, removing linguistic differences

**VARANASI, NOV 19** /--/ It is the responsibility of 130 crore Indians to preserve the legacy of Tamil and ignoring it will be a great disservice to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday as he stressed on "removing linguistic differences and establishing emotional unity". In his inaugural speech at the Kashi Tamil Sangamam here, the prime minister lamented that despite having one of the world's oldest living languages, Tamil, "we lack in honouring it fully". "This is the responsibility of 130 crore Indians to preserve the legacy of Tamil and enrich it. "If we ignore Tamil we do a great disservice to the nation and if we keep Tamil confined in restrictions, we will do great harm to it. We have to remember to remove linguistic differences and establish emotional unity,"

Modi said. He hailed Kashi and Tamil Nadu as timeless centres of culture (sanskriti) and civilisation (sabhayata). Both regions are also the centres of the world's oldest languages like Sanskrit and Tamil, the prime minister noted. "In our country, there is an importance of 'sangams' (confluences). From the confluence of rivers and streams to ideas-ideology, knowledge-science and societies-cultures, we have celebrated all the confluences," he said. The Kashi-Tamil Sangamam is a celebration of India's diversity and uniqueness. It is special on its own and is unparalleled, he said. While cultural capital Kashi has encapsulated entire India, "our Tamil Nadu and the Tamil culture represent the pride in India's ancient legacy. "If in Kashi there is Baba Vishwanath, then in

Tamil Nadu there is the blessing of Lord Rameshwaram. Both Kashi and Tamil Nadu are 'Shivmay' (drenched in the devotion of Lord Shiv) and 'Shaktimay' (drenched in the devotion of Goddess Shakti)," he said at the event



in his Lok Sabha constituency. There is a Dakshin Kashi in Tamil Nadu too, the prime minister noted. He said Kashi-Kanchi have an important place

among the 'Sapta Puris', the seven pilgrimage centres that, according to Hindu beliefs, lead to salvation. The Sapta Puris are - Ayodhya, Mathura, Maya (Mayapuri or Haridwar), Kashi (Varanasi), Kanchi (Kanchipuram), Avantika (Ujjain) and Dwaravati (Dwaraka). Highlighting contributions made by scholars from the South, Modi said, "In my experience, from Ramanujacharya and Shankaracharya to Rajaji and Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan (who was the former Vice-Chancellor of BHU), without understanding the philosophy of India as per the scholars of the South, we cannot know India." The prime minister said that a country with a rich heritage should be proud of its legacy. "This Sangam is also as pious as that of Ganga and Yamuna."

The prime minister said that the Sangamam is a matter of experiencing more than words and expressed the hope that the people of Kashi will leave no stone unturned in providing memorable hospitality. Modi expressed the wish that such events are organised in Tamil Nadu and other southern states so that youngsters from other parts of the country visit and absorb the culture there. The gains of this Sangamam need to be taken forward through research and this seed should become a giant tree, he said, as he concluded his speech. "We have to strengthen this tradition and heritage, which dates back thousands of years. This was to become the unity-thread of the country. But, unfortunately, not much effort was made for this. "Today the Kashi Tamil Sangamam will

become a platform for this resolution. It will remind us of our duties, and also give the energy to strengthen national unity," he said. The prime minister greeted the audience in Tamil, and a Tamil translation of his Hindi speech was also done on this occasion as a large number of people in the audience were from Tamil Nadu. "India is that country, which for the thousand of years through the belief 'sam wo manansi jaantaam' (let your minds be one in agreement), has, by knowing each other's mind and by giving respect, experienced a natural cultural unity," he said. The prime minister congratulated the Ministry of Education and Uttar Pradesh government and thanked central universities like IIT, Madras and BHU for extending their support to the programme. (PTI)

# Dr Ambedkar was India's 'first male feminist', says Tharoor

**PANAJI, NOV 19** /--/ Dr B R Ambedkar was India's first male feminist, who propagated such ideas decades back that could be considered as progressive even for the current generation of politicians, Congress leader and writer Shashi Tharoor said here on Saturday. He was speaking during an interaction programme at the ongoing Goa Heritage Festival. "He (Ambedkar) was probably India's first male feminist. Way back in 1920, 30s, 40s he made speeches, including in front of a female audience, which today would be considered as progressive for a male politician," the Congress MP said while speaking about his latest book "Ambedkar: A Life". "He (Ambedkar) urged women not to allow themselves to be forced into marriage. He urged women to delay marriage, delay



Shashi Tharoor

childbirth. He urged them to stand up to their husbands as equals," The Thiruvananthapuram MP said. Ambedkar as a legislator fought for women workers and labourers, he said, adding, "It was a remarkable feminist thinking of this man 80-90 years ago. " "There is a tendency to see Ambedkar as a Dalit leader. He was the principal Dalit leader of the country. From his early 20s, he was an influential voice and became more and more influential," he said. Ambedkar was an extraordinary constitutionalist, being the chairman of the drafting committee. It was he who presented and defended every single one of the provisions of the Constitution, Tharoor said Responding to a question on India's image globally, Tharoor said that in 1975, the country's image in America was awful. "It was considered a poor country and people's idea about India was about fakirs sleeping on nail-bed or snake-charmers doing road tricks. From there, the transformation has been astonishing. By the turn of the millennium, you have Indian software revolution and suddenly started imagining Indians as computer gigs," he said. Tharoor said that the 'Y2K' phenomenon was a turning point for the Indian computer professionals. "There was a fear that all the computers would crash... Suddenly we had a demand for Indians doing codes to overcome that problem and that's when India's software revolution really took off," he said. According to him, the other thing that happened in the western world was about the consciousness of Indian expatriates as not just computer people, but engineers and doctors. "Indians, from being beggars and snake-charmers, were now software engineers," he said. (PTI)

# Congress promises to control pollution, double MCD's income in manifesto

**NEW DELHI, NOV 19** /--/ Controlling pollution, doubling the income of municipalities and clearing all three landfill sites in Delhi are among the top priorities of the Congress for the upcoming MCD elections in its manifesto released on Saturday. Bringing down the level of air and water pollution is the party's top-most priority, followed by "restoring communal harmony" in the union territory and doubling the income of municipalities to meet their responsibilities. "We will regularise existing Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) employees, fill the vacant posts and generate more employment. As per the National Green Tribunal (NGT) direction, unprocessed wastes 'Kude ka Qutub minar' at three landfill sites will be removed. We will also focus on sustainable solid waste management to maximise recycling and minimise 'waste for landfills,' the manifesto said. The Delhi Congress has also promised a drainage master plan for the civic body in sync with other public authorities to eliminate drain water. "We will also improve the quality of civic amenities, especially for the bastis of scheduled castes and minorities, JJ Clusters and unauthorised colonies. Some other priorities are zero corruption in the MCD and citizens' participation through RWAs/NGOs," the manifesto read. The manifesto also said the Delhi Congress will focus on maximising women's participation in MCD governance and decision-making. (PTI)

# ED files chargesheet against PFI, 3 members before Delhi court

**NEW DELHI, NOV 19** /--/ The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday filed a charge sheet against the banned Popular Front of India and its three members in a money laundering case related to alleged terrorism-related activities. The document is likely to be taken up for hearing before special judge Shailender Malik on November 21. Besides the PFI, the charge sheet named Perwez Ahmed, Mohd Ilias and Abdul Muqet as accused. "Fresh complaint (ED's equivalent to a charge sheet) has been filed. It be checked and registered. Put up for consideration before the concerned court on November 21, 2022," duty judge Devender Kumar Jangala said. According to the charge sheet filed by ED's Special Public Prosecutor N K Matta, accused Ahmed was the president of the Delhi unit of PFI while Mohd Ilias was its general secretary and Abdul Muqet was office secretary. The accused were arrested on September 22 in the case related to the alleged laundering of Rs 120 crore over the years. The PFI was banned by the Centre in late September over its alleged links with terror activities. The ED filed the case based on an FIR lodged by the NIA for alleged terrorism-related activities punishable under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). In the investigation carried out till now, it was found that the accused and other members associated with the said organisation have indulged in collecting funds by way of donation, hawala, banking channels, etc. which was being used for unlawful activities and commission of scheduled offences, the ED claimed in the final report. Bogus cash donations and bank transfers were also found, the charge sheet, filed through Advocate Mohd Faizan Khan, said. It alleged that transfer of funds was done even from abroad to India through a clandestine channel under a conspiracy hatched by office bearers of PFI over the years. The report claimed that searches were conducted at the premises of all three accused persons after registration of ECIR in this case on September 22 and five mobile phones were seized. The charge sheet includes the statement of the accused and witnesses recorded during the investigation. (PTI)

# Mehrauli killing: Accused Poonawala likely to undergo narco analysis on Monday

**NEW DELHI, NOV 19** /--/ Narco analysis on Aaftab Amin Poonawala, who is accused of killing his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, will be conducted at Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital here in Rohini here, most likely on Monday. As Poonawala's five-day police custody ends on Tuesday, the Delhi Police is running against time to get the test conducted. However, Poonawala can be subjected to narco analysis only after he is deemed fit for it in the pre-narco tests which will be conducted to ascertain his mental well-being. "We have not received any formal request from the police to conduct the test yet. But if the custody remand ends on Tuesday, we will comply with the court's order and take up the matter. However, no date has been fixed yet," a source in the hospital said. "The FSL team will also be involved in the narco test. However, this will be done only after a medical officer gives his nod that the person is physically, mentally, emotionally and psychologically fit. Moreover, these tests take time. "In this case, we are not aware if the accused has any medical condition or any psychological disorder. All these factors will have to be kept in mind before subjecting him to the tests. Only then can we move ahead with narco analysis," another source said. In case Poonawala comes across as a "disturbed" person during these initial tests, the narco analysis cannot be carried out, the source added. Poonawala allegedly strangled Walkar, 27, on May 18 and sawed her body into 35 pieces which he kept in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence in South Delhi's Mehrauli before dumping them across the city over several days past midnight. Narco analysis, also known as truth serum, involves intravenous administration of a drug (such as sodium pentothal, scopolamine and sodium amytal) that causes the person undergoing it to enter into various stages of anaesthesia. In the hypnotic stage, the person becomes less inhibited and is more likely to divulge information, which would usually not be revealed in the conscious state. The investigating agencies use this test after other evidences do not provide a clear picture of the case. The Delhi Police had earlier said it sought Poonawala's narco analysis test as his responses during interrogation were "deceptive" in nature. The Supreme Court has ruled that narco analysis, brain mapping and polygraph tests cannot be conducted on any person without his or her consent. Also, statements made during this test are not admissible as primary evidence in the court, except under certain circumstances when the bench thinks that the facts and nature of the case permit it. Meanwhile, an undated CCTV footage is being circulated on social media in which a man, suspected to be Poonawala, is seen walking on a street with a backpack and a packet in his hand. The footage seems to be of early hours of the day as there is darkness and does not show any other person. (PTI)



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi resumes Bharat Jodo Yatra from Buldhana, in Maharashtra

# Leaked Tihar videos: Sisodia says AAP leader Jain undergoing physiotherapy for spine injury

**NEW DELHI, NOV 19** /--/ Delhi Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday backed his cabinet colleague Satyendar Jain after purported videos of him getting a massage inside the Tihar jail surfaced online, saying he was undergoing physiotherapy for a spinal injury suffered from a fall in the prison. The senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader also accused the BJP of making a mockery of Jain's treatment and hatching a conspiracy to keep him in jail in a "frivolous" case. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had arrested Jain and two others on May 30 in a money laundering case based on a 2017 Central Bureau of Investigation FIR under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The minister has been accused of having laundered money through four companies allegedly linked to him. "You (BJP) are doing all this because you are about to lose the elections. You have sensed defeat in the Gujarat and the MCD elections. You want to win the elections by making a mockery of Satyendar Jain's ailment. Nothing can be more indecent than this," Sisodia said and asserted that the AAP will emerge victorious in the polls. While the two-phase assembly elections in Gujarat are slated for December 1 and 5, the polls to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will be held on December 4. Purported videos of 58-year-old Jain lying on a bed and getting a foot massage in the Tihar jail here have gone viral on social media. In the clip, the AAP leader can be seen reading some documents and a man in a white T-shirt massaging his legs. There are



Manish Sisodia

also videos that show he is getting his head and back massaged. The videos have intensified the war of words between the BJP and the AAP ahead of the polls in Gujarat and the national capital. Latching onto the videos, the BJP questioned AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's "silence" on the

matter. "The AAP has become the 'Spa and Massage Party'," BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said citing the videos and challenged Kejriwal to explain Jain's conduct in jail. Addressing a press conference, Sisodia lashed out at the BJP accusing it of keeping Jain in prison in a "frivolous" case for the past six months by hatching a conspiracy against him. "As if that was not enough that today BJP has stooped so low by wrongfully leaking the CCTV video of a person who is suffering from an ailment and receiving the necessary treatment. They are framing fancy stories around it to mock his ailment," the AAP leaders said. "I do not think that there could have been any other party in the country's history which would have come down to a level where they would make fun of someone's ailment in such a gross and vile manner," Sisodia said. Accusing the BJP of doing "cheap politics", he shared Jain's medical history and the reason he was advised physiotherapy. He also showed documents that detailed the precautions Jain was advised following a surgery. "During his time in prison, he fell and his spine got injured. His L5-S1 vertebrae or L5-S1 disk got damaged. (PTI)

# Extreme weather events to rise manifold in India due to climate change: IIT-G

**NEW DELHI, NOV 19** /--/ The frequency of extreme weather events such as floods and heatwaves is projected to rise manifold in India in the future due to climate change, according to a study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar. The research team studied the period from 1951 to 2020 to quantify India's risk of sequential extremes -- heatwaves in the summer and extreme rainfall in the following summer monsoon season over the same regions. One of the examples of sequential extremes is the heatwave and flood in Pakistan this year that affected millions of people. Similar extremes occur in India with large implications for agricultural production, public health, and infrastructure, the researchers said. The study, published in the One Earth journal on Friday, found that the risk will increase significantly under the warming climate and variability in the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) -- a recurring climate pattern involving changes in the temperature of waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. "The frequency of sequential extremes is projected to rise manifold in the future due to climate change," Vimal Mishra, Professor, Civil Engineering and Earth Sciences, IIT Gandhinagar in Gujarat, told PTI. "The fraction of the total

population and urban area exposed to sequential extremes will increase rapidly if the global mean temperature rises above 1.5 degrees Celsius from the pre-industrial level," Mishra said. The researchers noted that climate mitigation and reduction in vulnerability could help in reducing the risk. The study highlighted that mega-heatwaves occurred during the summer of 1995 and 1998, with 20 per cent and 8 per cent of the country being affected by sequential extremes. The area affected by the sequential extremes is significantly higher during the positive phase (El Nino) than the negative phase, the researchers said. Going forward, the study found that the fraction of the

total population and urban area exposed to sequential extremes will increase rapidly if the global mean temperature rises above 1.5 degrees Celsius from the pre-industrial level. The heatwave duration is projected to increase from, on average, 3 days in the current climate (1981-2010) to 11 days by the end of the 21st century (2071-2100) under lowest emission scenario, the researchers said. However, the duration of heatwaves is projected to rise to 33 days by the end of the century under the highest emission scenario, they said. The study found that the fraction of the population of India exposed to sequential extremes will rise considerably with an

increase in global mean temperature above the pre-industrial level. For instance, median population exposure increases from 27 per cent at 1.5 degrees Celsius to 36 per cent and 45 per cent at 3 and 4 degrees Celsius global warming levels, respectively, it said. The researchers noted that a considerable reduction in vulnerability by improving socioeconomic livelihood and infrastructure will be needed to maintain the same risk (at 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming level) at higher global warming levels. "Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka have higher projected risk of sequential extremes than the other states," Mishra said. "The risk



# South India's Governance Crisis: Will BJP's Governor Vs Govt Anti-Opp Plot Work?

**BHOPINDER SINGH**

Pendekanti Venkatasubbaiah is a forgotten name in Indian politics – like the lesser-known victor in the Battle of Waterloo i.e., Duke of Wellington, P Venkatasubbaiah was the controversial Governor of Karnataka in the landmark S.R. Bommai vs. Union of India case that besets the Centre-State relationship.

Ironically, it is P Venkatasubbaiah's own vivisectioned state of Telangana (from the erstwhile joint state of Andhra Pradesh) and the neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala that are experiencing extreme 'Southern Discomfort' with the gubernatorial appointees and their purported partisanship.

The much-banded quest for an opposition-mukt India could have led to this unprecedented dissonance in the Centre-State relationship and fronting the same on behalf of the ruling dispensation in the relatively 'Un-mukt' (opposition-ruled) region of the South States, are the

appointed Governors. It would be naïve to say that this is a new trend. It can be safely said that no government since independence would have had the magnanimity of appointing any gubernatorial appointee who had differed with them, overtly. Equally, it would be untrue to say that almost all of them had demonstrated obsequiousness or blatant partisanship. Some did, many didn't. The same could be said of almost all other Constitutional (read, apolitical offices) like the President or other governmental institutions like the Bureaucracy, Armed Forces etc.

To understand the historical distrust between the Centre and the opposition-ruled state or UT, important to understand the infamous Damocles Sword of Article 356. This constitutional provision empowers the Governor or Lt Governor to potentially dissolve the State or UT assembly (and bring it under 'Governor's Rule' or central oversight) on account of its perceived inability to conduct business as per the

Constitutional requirements.

This is clearly a subjective realm, hence susceptible to misuse, should a small-spirited dispensation want to assert itself over opposition-ruled state. Even the doyen of Indian democracy—Jawaharlal Nehru could not escape the temptation of starting this trend with the dismissal of the Nambodiripad Government of Kerala in 1959. Post the Indira Gandhi era, the invocation of Article 356 lessened substantially and the 90's and thereafter, with the likes of Narsimha Rao, Deve Gowda, Inder Gujral, Atal Behari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh did usher in a semblance of relative large-heartedness and accommodation in Indian politics, irrespective of their partisan persuasions.

However, the last eight years have seen a resurgence of stridency, intolerance and disempowerment of various constitutional institutions, that harks back to the Indira Gandhi era – even if Article 356 is not the foremost signature means, of the said

assertion. The usually reserved and traditionally restraint address of the Raj Bhawan/Niwas had started earning the sobriquet of 'Old Age Home' for supposedly rehabilitating old war horses who had been put out to pastures, figuratively!

Not anymore, as the gloves are off in the 'new normal' of Indian politics. The level and language of accusations and the accompanying discourse hits a new low almost every day, and the retort from the Raj Bhawan/Niwas is as shrill, inelegant, and undignified as it comes from the politicians.

One of the most public and ugly spats between a gubernatorial appointee and the Chief Minister of a state did not result in the powers-that-be (read, dispensation of day) insist on traditional sobriety or reminding the 'Conscience Keeper of the State' to be above the level of professional politicians, but willy-nilly encouraged

him to match the vitriol, step-by-step soon, the said Gubernatorial appointee was rewarded with an ascendancy to the second highest office of the land!

This is not to suggest that the elected governments in the South have conducted themselves with perceptibly higher standards than the gubernatorial

outpouring – but then, offices like those of the President or Governors usually behaved themselves to be above petty comments, partisanship, and small-spiritedness, that is playing out today. It is an equal match-for-match battle – the gubernatorial retorts are mired in unbelievably personalised, acerbic, and political overtones. Despite all the tumult of coalition politics and the intrigues that it naturally generates, the fact that Presidents like KR Narayanan or APJ Abdul Kalam were both appointed



## ANTCC observes 105th birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi



PORT BLAIR, NOV 19/--/ The Andaman Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee has observed the 105th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna late Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India on 19th Nov 2022, at Gandhi Bhavan, Port Blair. ANTCC President, Mr. Rangalal Halder, along with ANTCC Chairman- Campaign Committee, Mr. G. Bhasker garlanded the portrait of Indira Gandhi followed by a floral tribute by all Congress Senior leaders, Seva Dal, Mahila Co-ordinator, Frontal Organization, PBMC councilors, Chairman-Adivasi Congress and General Public attended the function.

## Swaraj Dweep to arrive today

PORT BLAIR, NOV 19/--/ M V SwarajDweep is expected to arrive at Port Blair on Nov.20, 2022 at 0600 hrs from Chennai. She has on board a total passenger of 146 adults+03 infants, 20 Containers and cargo of 229.00 MT. On arrival, the vessel will be berthed at Haddo Wharf and passengers will be disembarked immediately.

## Firing practice

PORT BLAIR, NOV 19/--/ Firing practice will be carried out by CG Dornier on Nov. 22 & 23 from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm. All concerned have been warned to keep themselves and their fishing boats away from the firing range during the above mentioned date & time.

## Civic Chief, team inspects parks developed under Smart City project



PORT BLAIR, NOV 19/--/The Chairperson (PBMC), Smti. Kavitha Udhaya Kumar, along with Secretary (PBMC), Smti. Smitha R inspected the parks being developed under Smart City project, alongside the coastal stretch from Science Centre to Corbyn's Cove on Saturday. After taking stock of the present status of the project, the Chairperson instructed the team to complete the projects in all respects, including lighting, installation of benches by mid-December. Once these are completed, the public spaces will be opened by the end of December.

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Grenville Kleiser

## Spl focus on air connectivity in NE

The inauguration of the Donyi Polo airport in Arunachal Pradesh in not just another ribbon cutting ceremony. The NDA government at the Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has the credit of building seven airports in the northeast region since it came to power in 2014. This is against nine airports built between 1947-2014. Arunachal Pradesh's first greenfield airport, Donyi Polo, in Itanagar will have eight check-in counters and can accommodate 200 passengers during peak hours. There was no airport in Arunachal Pradesh, the country's easternmost state. The closest facility is at Lilabari airport, 80 km away in Assam's North Lakhimpur district. Arunachal Pradesh had to previously manage with just advanced landing grounds at certain places, including in Pasighat, the oldest town in the state in East Siang district, and Tezu in Lohit district. The naming of the airport reflects the reverence of the indigenous people of Arunachal for the sun (Donyi) and the moon (Polo). Its foundation stone was laid by Modi in February, 2019, drawing flak from the BJP's opponents that it was an election gimmick. But the project was completed within a short span of time despite the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, giving PM Modi an opportunity to hit back at his political rivals saying 'today when there are no elections due, we are launching this airport. This airport is a slap on their face'.

This rapid development of airports in the region has been possible due to the special emphasis of the prime minister on enhancing connectivity in the northeast. Airports in the five northeastern states of Mizoram, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have seen flights take off for the first time in 75 years. Aircraft operation in the region has witnessed an increase by 113 per cent since 2014, from 852 per week in 2014 to 1,817 per week in 2022. Prime Minister Modi, who also dedicated to the nation the 600 MW Kameng hydropower project, developed at a cost of over Rs 8,450 crore in West Kameng district, rightly said connectivity and energy infrastructure will herald a new dawn of development in the far flung region. Seven airports were built in the northeast in the last eight years, the PM pointed out, adding that the region gets top priority, be it tourism or trade, telecom or textiles.

Ude Deshka Aam Naagrik (let the common citizen of the country fly), known by its acronym UDAN, is a regional airport development programme of the Government of India and part of the Regional Connectivity Scheme of upgrading under-serviced air routes. Launched in October 2016 by the Union Civil Aviation Ministry, its goal is to make air travel affordable and improve economic development in India. Through the UDAN scheme, a diverse range of stakeholders have benefited. Passengers have received the benefits of air connectivity, airlines have received concessions for operating regional routes, unserved and underserved regions have also been benefited in terms of economic development through direct or indirect benefits of air connectivity. A win-win situation for all.

# Hemant Soren the new aspirational symbol of adivasis in Jharkhand

## REFLEX ACTION

Arun Srivastava

Offence is the best strategy for Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren to foil the mischievous designs of the Narendra Modi government, the BJP and the powerful caucus of the Dikus, the non tribals, who have been desperate to grab the land of the adivasis on the plea of industrial development and their empowerment. Hemant has come to realise that prostrating before Narendra Modi would diminish not only his social stature but more significantly of his father, the Guru of Adivasis of Jharkhand, Shibu Soren. The adivasis have a long and memorable struggles against the rulers, either it was the British or Indian power brokers. These two have virtually turned the tribals paupers. Though Jharkhand was created as the homeland of the adivasis, the Dikus (non tribals) continue to lord over them.

The Jharkhand Assembly, in a special session on Friday, approving two key bills — one that makes 1932 the cut-off year for defining locals and the other that raises reservation in vacant government posts and services to 77 per cent from 60 per cent—is a significant move of Chief Minister Hemant. While he had frustrated the move of the Modi government to implement CAA in Jharkhand, he has made the adivasis to rally behind him as his protectors and take up cudgels against any move to destabilise him. This is also a warning to the Modi government and his pet Enforcement Directorate not to humiliate him and implicate him in false and fabricated cases. The ED has already arrested at least three close aides of Hemant. There is a lingering apprehension that he too may be arrested any day in the mining case.

Towns in Jharkhand have sizeable population of Muslims. Till some years back the towns of Jharkhand used too witness bloody clashes between the tribal goons and Muslim musclemen. They used to have a major say in the political and economic affairs of the state. In recent times the equation has changed. The Muslims have come closer to Soren and his JMM. At the initiative of the state BJP the Modi government had planned to weaken the Muslim support. This could be done only by implementing the CAA. Most of the Muslims have been living in Jharkhand

for decades. Obviously they will benefit from the bill that was adopted by the Assembly on November 12. The Jharkhand Definition of Local Persons and for Extending the Consequential, Social, Cultural and Other Benefits to Such Local Persons Bill, 2022, grants locals “certain rights, benefits, and preferential treatment” over their land; in the local development of rivers, lakes, fisheries; in traditional and cultural and commercial enterprises; in access to agricultural loans; in maintenance and protection of land records; for social security; in employment; and trade and commerce. Those whose ancestors' names are mentioned in the land survey papers of 1932 or earlier will be considered domicile of Jharkhand.

The Soren government also increased reservations for members of the Other Backward Classes from 14% to 27%. With the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party trying to mount pressure on Soren's three-party coalition government, this decision is being seen by political analysts as an attempt by the chief minister to boost the popularity of his Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and put his rivals in on the backfoot. In 2002, when Jharkhand's first chief minister, Babulal Marandi of the BJP, had tried to pass the domicile policy with 1932 as the cut-off year, clashes broke out between indigenous people and others, claiming the lives of six people. The policy proved to be expensive for Marandi. He lost his chair.

BJP is now focusing on tribal votes and they will not want to go against the decision taken by the Soren government. The BJP leaders know it well that they cannot aspire to get elected only on the strength of the non tribals. Soren's move has also provided security cover to his government. Only recent the BJP had tried to implement

“operation lotus” and force him to quit. But tye design failed. Now the BJP and Modi government have changed their strategy. They are now using the government machinery. Modi government has been ruthlessly using the Election Commission to unseat him. The BJP has been pressing for him to resign as the EC had sent a letter to the governor recommending that Soren be disqualifies an MLA. The recommendation was based on a complaint by the BJP, alleging that Soren had allotted a mining lease to himself. Soren holds the mining portfolio in Jharkhand

Soren has been resorting to all political tactics to foil the moves of Modi government. His moving a confidence vote on September 5, which he eventually won was part of his tactics to frustrate Modi's move. BJP sources reveal that some senior BJP leaders have sought the permission of their top leaders, Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, to move the court against the land bill. They hold that the government should have done a complete study of this proposal instead of showing such haste. According to them the bill would not stand judicial scrutiny. However it is widely felt the bill will not only have impact on jobs but also on the social and cultural lives of the state's people. It will also strengthen tribal-indigenous people's financial security. Gram sabhas which were turned redundant during the BJP government will be in the changed situation empowered to take a call in case a person was landless or his name was not recorded in the 1932 land survey, based on the culture, local customs and tradition, among others. This insertion is seen as a means to target forest-dwelling tribals, most of whom do not have their names in any land records.

It is worth mentioning that bills were passed amid the Enforcement Directorate's summons to Hemant in the illegal mining case. Soren had alleged that he was being targeted out of political compulsions by the Bjp and the Modi government. Nevertheless the future of the Jharkhand politics depends on the actions which ED contemplates to take on November 17 interrogation of Hemant. If the ED persists to harass Soren and arrest him, there is little doubt the state will witness a serious upsurge against Modi government. (IPA)



# Volatile regulatory landscape is a matter of concern

Global investment banker Morgan Stanley may have predicted the current decade as India's following economic slowdown in China. But, the Indian economy is not growing as fast as it should. Large foreign direct investments (FDI) seem to be fighting shy of India's highly price sensitive economy.

The complexities of an uncertain and volatile regulatory landscape continue to be an issue. Potentially, India could become a factory to the world. However, the government is not doing enough with regard to the ease of doing business. Land acquisition with clear titles to build large manufacturing ventures continues to pose a problem. The costs of energy and transportation are high. In many states, contractors need to deal with local political mafiosos. Although FDI in manufacturing has lately increased, the world's fastest growing large economy is yet to attract many large multi-billion-dollar investment offers from big transnational corporations to make the country a global manufacturing hub. The global investment banker's report appears to be somewhat over-optimistic about India's immediate economic future.

Morgan Stanley's latest message to CEOs and CIOs estimates that 'The New India' will drive a fifth of global growth through the end of this decade. Supporting these factors are: 1) Our (Morgan Stanley's) multipolar world thesis and India's rise in the world economy, 2) India's commitment to the Paris Accord (reducing emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030 from its 2005 levels), 3) major investments in terms of both dollars and institutional infrastructure to leverage India's biometric identity system, Aadhaar, and 4) government policies targeted at lifting the

share of profits in GDP, with a concomitant positive effect on investment. Consumer discretionary spending is gaining share in total consumption, as per-capita GDP has crossed the important US\$2,000 mark. India's income pyramid offers a unique breadth of consumption, in our view, with the top ....The pandemic only enhanced India's attractiveness as the office to the world.

New developments – such as the trends outlined in Morgan Stanley's multipolar world thesis, along with government incentives – are allowing India to gain traction as a factory to the world as well. Investment in services and manufacturing will come from foreign direct investment and a large increase in private domestic investment.... India's per-capita energy consumption is likely to rise 60 percent, on our estimates, to about 1450 Watts per day in the coming decade, with two-thirds of the incremental supply coming from renewable sources.

We believe this will 1) positively impact India's terms of trade, 2) entail about three-quarters of a trillion dollars in energy capex, 3) eventually reduce headline inflation volatility as the imported energy share of GDP declines, 4) lower fertiliser subsidies, 5) improve living conditions, and 6) create new demand for solutions such as electric vehicles, cold-storage chains, and green hydrogen-powered trucks and buses. It may not be wrong to note that Morgan

Stanley's optimism on India's economic growth is not quite in keeping with the reports and observations of international agencies such as the World Bank, UNCTAD and Trading Economics global macro models.

The global investment banker seems to have also gone wrong on India's GDP calculations and forecast. According to the World Bank, India's GDP in 2021 was worth US\$ 3.173 trillion. Interestingly, the Trading Economics global micro models and analysts projected India's GDP to “trend around 3000.00 USD Billion in 2023 and 3450.00 USD Billion in 2024.” There are also variations in the forecast of India's GDP growth. While the IMF has cut India's 2022-23 growth forecast to 6.8 percent, UNCTAD, a top UN agency, said India's economic growth will decline to 5.7 percent in 2022, citing higher financing cost and weaker public expenditures. It expects the GDP growth rate to fall further to 4.7 percent in 2023. UNCTAD's annual report said the world economy is expected to grow 2.6 percent in 2022. In fact, it may be too early to celebrate India's economic success through the decade.

In its biannual report on South Asia, the World Bank said: "Private investment growth is likely to be dampened by heightened uncertainty and higher financing costs." India's Reserve Bank too has lately cut the economic growth projection for the current fiscal to seven

percent from 7.2 percent estimated earlier because of extended geopolitical tensions and aggressive monetary policy tightening globally. Morgan Stanley is clearly above all others in projecting India's economic growth prospects and national income arithmetics. Currently, India's economy is grappling with persistently high levels of inflation and unemployment. The inflation rate has been running above the top of RBI's tolerance band since the beginning of the year and is set to do so for the rest of 2022. The rising imports and falling exchange value of Rupee are bound to raise the trade deficit during the year.

However, the most positive aspect is that Indian economy is unlikely to face a demand recession any time soon even though the US and Euro Zone are headed towards recession. The Indian economy is not so coupled with the global economy. And, notably, domestic inflation has not contracted the consumer demand — from automobiles, housing to wage goods. On the contrary, rising vehicle prices and high petrol and diesel costs have little impact on auto demand in India. The country is expected to be the world's third-largest automotive market in terms of volume by 2030. Presently, the automobile industry contributes 7.1 percent of India's GDP and 49 percent of its manufacturing GDP. The EV market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 49 percent between 2022-2030 and is expected to hit 10 million-unit annual sales by 2030. The economy has a strong appetite for large investments in manufacturing and physical infrastructure.

The government at the Centre and states need to work hard to induce large foreign direct investors to take advantage of the situation to grow together. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword												
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ACROSS						DOWN					
1	Precious stone	1	Acrimonious	2	Do wrong	2	Do wrong	3	Sanity	4	Salad item
6	Anger	3	Sanity	5	Present	5	Present	8	Make brown	9	Source of light
7	Praise highly	4	Salad item	6	Mineral spring	11	Is able	14	Set apart	16	Governing body
10	Region	13	Glossy fabric	15	Responsibility	14	Set apart	16	Governing body	17	Church period
12	Absent	15	Responsibility	16	Mineral spring	17	Church period	19	Consumer	21	Plunder
13	Glossy fabric	17	Church period	19	Consumer	21	Plunder	22	Cow's call	24	Fish eggs
15	Responsibility	21	Plunder	22	Cow's call	24	Fish eggs	26	Wrongdoing		
16	Mineral spring	24	Fish eggs	26	Wrongdoing						
18	Cricket score										
20	Innerness part										
22	Gourd										
23	Nothing										
25	Degrade										
27	Henhouse										
28	Metal										
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Yesterday's Solution 3700												
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Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1709												
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O	F	T	E	N		D	A	R	E			
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## Few seats vacant at DIET, Garacharma

PORT BLAIR, NOV 19/--/ Few seats under various categories are lying vacant at DIET, Garacharma. To fill up the vacant seats, final counseling of eligible candidates for admission to two-year D.El.Ed. Course at Dr. S. R. DIET, Garacharma for the session 2022-23 will be held on Nov. 25, 2022 (Science & Humanities) at 9 am in the auditorium of DIET on the basis of final merit list as per schedule given below.

Sl. No.	Category	Vacant Seats (Science)	As per Final Merit list (Science)	Vacant Seats (Humanities)	As per Final merit list (Humanities)
1	I (Tribal)	Nil	Nil	01	Cat. V Sl. No- 58 to 655
2	III a (Pre-42)	01`	Cat-III a Sl. No- 13 to 87	Nil	Nil
3	IV (10 Years Continuous Edn.)	01	Cat- IV Sl. No- 43 to 165	01	Cat- IV Sl. No- 19 to 316
4	V (General)	01	Cat- V Sl. No- 127 to 323	Nil	Nil
Total		03		02	

Further, if any seat remains vacant after final counseling in Cat I to IVas specified above, it shall be allotted from the final merit list of Cat-V (General) of the respective stream on the same day, as such all the eligible candidates of Cat V (General) have been requested to be present on the day of final counseling.

Candidates selected for admission to this course during counseling session shall be given admission on the same day. The selected candidates should deposit the admission fees (Rs.2080/- for hostellers & Rs. 980/- for day scholars), copies of certificates along with original certificates, two passport size photographs and other documents may be submitted on the day of admission, failing which, admission will not be considered.

Those who fail to attend the counseling session in time will not be considered for admission to the course and next eligible candidate in the merit list shall be considered for admission.For clarifications if any, contact over phone numbers: 9434275511, 9933204507.

## Counseling for allotment of vacant seats of degree level Engineering, Architecture & Pharmacy courses

PORT BLAIR, NOV 19/--/ All concerned candidates have been informed that the Spot Round Counseling of CSABNEUT-2022 for allotment of vacant seats of degree level Engineering, Architecture and Pharmacy courses reserved at mainland institutions is scheduled to be held on 29TH November 2022 at 10.00 am onwards in the auditorium of Tagore Govt. College of Education, Port Blair.

The spot round allotment will be made to candidates as per JEE Main Rank-2022 and category-wise vacant seats for Engineering and Architecture seats at the time of counseling. The details of eligibility requirement and academic qualifications for allotment of degree level Engineering, Architecture and Pharmacy courses may be seen in the CSAB NEUT-2022 Information Brochure.

Hence, all eligible and interested candidates have been requested to submit the documents to the Development-IV Section (Higher Education Section), Secretariat, Port Blair by 25.11.2022 upto 5 pm viz. Photo ID proof; Admit Card of JEE (Main)- 2022 (For Engg./Arch. candidates); Score Card of JEE (Main)-2022issued by NTA (For Engg./Arch. candidates); Class X (High School) Board Certificate as proof of date of birth; Certificate and Marks sheet of qualifying examination; Category Certificate (Local Certificate/Service Certificate); Duration/Bonafide Certificate issued by the respective school; Certificate for Persons with Disabilities (PwD), if

applicable (Annexure-III of CSAB NEUT-2021Information Brochure). The certificate should be issued from a duly constituted Medical Board. The certificate should stand valid up to December 31, 2022. Certificate not issued by a medical board &/or getting expired before 31.12.2022 shall not be accepted and proof of place of examination center in case of final qualifying examination is from the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) formerly known as National Open School (NOS).

The eligible interested candidates are required to bring all educational qualification certificates/testimonials and other documents in support of their category in original alongwith one-self attested copy as prescribed by the CSAB NEUT-2022 in their Information Brochure for spot round counseling on the date time and venue as specified above. In addition, the candidates are also requested to bring two passport size photographs identical to the one pasted on the JEE (Main)-2022 application form. Further, the aspiring students have been advised to ensure that he/she fulfils the State Eligibility Criteria during Spot Round Counseling. Further details in this regard can be obtained from the CSAB website <https://csab.nic.in>. In case, if a candidate is denied admission by the respective State/Institute, it will be solely responsible of the candidate, neither the A&N Administration nor the Govt. of India, Ministry of Education or CSAB NEUT-2022 would be responsible.

## Pope heads to immigrant father's hometown for birthday party

PORTACOMARO, NOV 19 --/ Pope Francis returns to his father's birthplace in northern Italy on Saturday for the first time since ascending the papacy to celebrate the 90th birthday of a second cousin who long knew him as simply "Giorgio." The visit to Francis' ancestral homeland to renew ties with family touches on keystones of Francis' papacy, including the importance of honoring the elderly and the human toll of migration. Francis' private visit Saturday will be followed by public one Sunday to celebrate Mass for the local faithful, where he could well reflect on his family's own experience migrating to Argentina. The pope's father, Mario Jose Francisco Bergoglio, and his paternal grandparents arrived in Buenos Aires on January 25, 1929 to reach other relatives at the tail end of a mass decades-long emigration from Italy that the pope has honoured with two recent saints: St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini and St. Artedime Zatti. The future pope, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, was born nearly eight years later in Buenos Aires, after the elder Bergoglio met and married Regina Maria Sivori, whose family was also of Italian immigrant stock, hailing from the Liguria region. Francis grew up speaking the Piedmont dialect of his paternal grandmother Rosa, who cared for him most days. The elder Bergoglio was born in the town of Portacomaro, 10 kilometers (six miles) east of Asti, an agricultural town that lost population not only to emigration



abroad but also to nearby Turin as it became an industrial center. Today, the town has 2,000 residents, but it numbered more than 2,700 a century ago, and dropped as low as 1,680 in the 1980s.

The pope's family emigrated after the peak, which saw 14 million Italians leave from 1876 to 1915 -- a movement that made Italy the biggest voluntary diaspora in the world, according to Lauren Braun-Strumfels, an associate professor of history at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Often citing his own family story, Francis has made the welcoming and integration of migrants a hallmark of his papacy, often facing criticism as Europe in general, and Italy in particular, are consumed with the debate over how to manage today's migrations.

The pope has recognised the historic significance of the emigrant experience with the recent canonizations of St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, an Italian bishop who founded an order to help Italian emigrants at the end of the 19th century, and Artemide Zatti, an Italian who emigrated to Argentina in the same period and dedicated his work to helping the sick. He again used the occasion to denounce Europe's indifference toward migrants risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea for a better life. Francis is to have lunch in the home of a cousin, Carla Rabezzana, who has told local media that she and the pope kept up their connections over the years. (AP)

# North Korea's Kim boasts new ICBM as US flies bombers

SEOUL, NOV 19 --/ North Korean leader Kim Jong Un boasted that a recently tested intercontinental ballistic missile is another "reliable and maximum-capacity" weapon to contain US military threats, state media reported on Saturday.

The United States responded to the North's weapons launch by flying supersonic bombers in a show of force. The North's Korean Central News Agency said Kim oversaw the launch of the Hwasong-17 missile, a day after its neighbours said they had detected the launch of an ICBM that showed a potential to reach anywhere in the United States.

KCNA said Kim observed the launch with his wife Ri Sol Ju and their "beloved daughter" as well as senior officials. State media photos showed Kim walking hand-in-hand with his daughter, who was clad in a white coat, together watching a huge missile loaded on a launch truck. It's the first time for North Korea to publish the photo of

Kim's daughter. Observers say Kim observing a weapons launch with his family suggests that he is emboldened by his advancing nuclear program. Friday's launch was part of the North's ongoing barrage of missile tests that are seen as an attempt to expand its arsenal and boost its leverage in future diplomacy.

Some foreign experts said the Hwasong-17 missile is still under development but is the North's longest-range ballistic weapon designed to carry multiple nuclear warheads to defeat US missile defence systems. KCNA said the missile fired from Pyongyang International Airport travelled up to a maximum altitude of about 6,040 kilometres and flew

a distance of about 1,000 kilometres before it landed on the preset area in international waters off the country's east coast. "The test-fire clearly proved the



reliability of the new major strategic weapon system to be representative of (North Korea's) strategic forces and its powerful combat performance as the strongest strategic weapon in the world," KCNA said. "Kim Jong Un solemnly declared that if the enemies continue to pose threats to (North Korea), frequently introducing nuclear strike means, our party and government will resolutely react to nukes with nuclear weapons and to total confrontation with all-out confrontation," KCNA

said. Kim's statement suggests North Korea will continue its testing activities as the United States is pushing to bolster its security commitment to its allies South Korea and Japan. There are concerns that North Korea could soon conduct its first nuclear test in five years.

US B-1B bombers took part in separate joint exercises on Saturday with South Korean and Japanese warplanes in response to the North Korean ICBM launch. South Korean and Japanese officials said their respective drills with the US bombers reaffirmed their combined defence postures. North Korea is sensitive to the deployment of US B-1B bombers because they're capable of carrying a huge payload of conventional weapons.

Earlier this month, the US sent B-1B bombers streaking over South Korea as part of exercises, in the bombers' first such flyover in five years. (AP)

## Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls

PORT BLAIR, NOV 19/--/ The general public and Political Parties have been informed that the Election Commission of India, New Delhi has announced the schedule for Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls w.r.t. 01.01.2023 as the qualifying date. As part of this, special campaign will be held on Nov. 26 & 27, 2022& Dec. 3 & 4, 2022. The last date for disposal of claims and objections pertaining to Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls is Dec. 26 and final publication of electoral roll will be on Jan. 5, 2023. If, with reference to the above said qualifying date, there be any claim for the inclusion of a name in the roll or any objection to the inclusion of name or any objection to particulars in any entry, it should be lodged on or before the 08.12.2022 (Thursday) in Form 6, 6A, 7 & 8 as may be appropriate.

Every such claims & objections should either be presented with concerned Designated Officers/Booth Level Officers at all designated polling stations or send by post to the Electoral Registration Officer, A&N Islands Parliamentary Constituency or concerned Assistant Electoral Registration Officer or through "Voter helpline App", online website : <https://voterportal.eci.gov.in> or <https://www.nvsp.in> and <https://www.ceoandaman.nic.in/election/> or call Toll Free No.1950 so as to reach not later than the aforesaid date.

## Admission to Post Graduate courses at JNRM

PORT BLAIR, NOV 19/--/The admission to various Post Graduate courses will be held as per the given schedule. Provisional merit list will be displayed on 23rd November, 2022. Claims & Objection, if any upto 25th November, 2022. Final merit list will be displayed on 28th November, 2022 and counseling shall be held on 29th November, 2022. The merit list shall be displayed in the respective inter-disciplinary Departments of JNRM and claims and objections, if any, shall also be submitted in the respective departments. Candidates may attend the counseling at respective inter-disciplinary Departments by 9 am. They should bring the documents in original for verification and one set of photostat copies (to be submitted during admission) viz. Student Grade Cards/Consolidated Student Grade Cards in respect of Graduation (Original will be detained in JNRM); Migration Certificate (only for the candidates other than Pondicherry University) (Original will be detained in JNRM); School Leaving Certificate (Transfer Certificate) (Original will be detained in JNRM); X Pass certificate for verification of date of birth; Category Certificate (ST, OBC, PH, ward of central Govt. Servants/ Ex-Servicemen & EWS); Aadhaar/ Aadhaar Enrolment Slip and one passport size photograph. Those who fail to attend the counselling session on specified date and time will not be considered for admission to the respective course and the next eligible candidate from the merit list will be considered for admission.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) TRIBUNAL, CHAMBER NO. 15, GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK 'A', DELHI HIGH COURT, NEW DELHI-110503
RE: Notification bearing No. S.O.4559(E) dated 27 <sup>th</sup> September, 2022, published in the Official Gazette on 28 <sup>th</sup> September, 2022 declaring the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala as "unlawful association" in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (3) of Section-3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention), 1967 read with Notification No. S.O. 4758(E) dated 06th October, 2022
<b>Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts</b> WHEREAS the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (3) of Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") has declared Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts vide Notification No. S.O.4559 (E) dated 27 <sup>th</sup> September, 2022 [published in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary Part II, Section 3 (iii)]. AND WHEREAS by Gazette Notification No. S.O.4758(E) dated 06 <sup>th</sup> October, 2022 [published in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary Part II, Section 3 (iii)], in exercise of powers under sub-section (1) of Section 5 read with subsection (1) of Section 4 of the Act, the Central Government has constituted a Tribunal comprising Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma, Judge of the High Court of Delhi, for adjudicating as to whether there is sufficient cause for declaring Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala as "Unlawful Association" as required by sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the said Act. NOW THEREFORE, a notice is hereby given under sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Act and you are hereby called upon to show cause, within 30 days from the date of service of notice, as to why your Associations, declared as unlawful, be not adjudicated to be so and why an order confirming such declaration be not made under Section 4(3) of the Act. The objections/reply affidavits, if any, may be filed/delivered, before the next date of hearing of the Tribunal, to the undersigned at his office in Chamber No. 15, Ground Floor, 'A' Block, Delhi High Court, Sher Shah Road, New Delhi-110503. In case the objections/reply and the documents are in regional language, true English Translation thereof be also attached. You may appear through a duly authorized person before the Tribunal on 08.12.2022 at 4:00 pm in Court Room No. 24 Ground Floor, 'A' Block, Delhi High Court, Sher Shah Road, New Delhi-110503 for further proceedings. Given under my hand and the seal of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi this the 31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2022. (Reetesh Singh) Registrar
DP/9403/2022 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal

## 13 local cultural associations released Rs 25000 each for 2022-23

PORT BLAIR, NOV 19/--/ Under the provisions contained in 'Andaman & Nicobar Islands Rules for Grant-in-aid to Local Cultural organizations, applications were invited from interested local cultural organizations of A&N Islands for financial assistance in the form of grant in aid published on 18.06.2022, to promote activities pertaining to Art & Culture, National Integration, Communal Harmony, Brotherhood etc. The Cultural Organizations were asked to submit their applications with the relevant details and supporting documents. In response to this, 13 cultural Organizations from South Andaman District have submitted their applications.

The applications of Cultural Associations have been scrutinized by the Scrutiny Committee constituted dated 26th February 2015 based on provisions of 'Andaman and Nicobar Islands Rules for Grant in Aid to Local Cultural Organizations' and the supporting documents which include Audited Statement, Annual Report, Utilization Certificate etc. for the previous grant. The Committee after examining the details of activities undertaken by the cultural associations recommended for release of GIA @ Rs.25000/- each to the following 13 Local Cultural Associations for the year 2022-23.

Sl. No.	Name of the Cultural Organization and their Address
1	Sarmistha Music Centre Group, Junglighat, Port Blair.
2	Baaulmon, Shadipur, Port Blair.
3	M.J.Music Academy, Loknath Colony, Dollygunj , Port Blair
4	Andaman Sangeet Academy, Dairy Farm, Port Blair.
5	Friends Cultural Group, Pahargaon, Port Blair.
6	AdityaNatya Academy, Middle Point, Port Blair.
7	Jhankar Dance Group, Chouldhari, South Andaman
8	Avinash Social and Cultural Society, Aberdeen Village, Port Blair.
9	Young Brothers Club, Dairy Farm , Port Blair.
10	Nrityalpana Dance Academy, Prem Nagar, Port Blair.
11	Anandodhara, Phoenix bay, Port Blair
12	Sur Saptak A Sangeet Academy, South Point, Port Blair.
13	Kasheesh, RGT Road, Port Blair.

In this connection, the Directorate of Art & Culture has invited claims, objections or suggestions if any against the said list within a period of 7 days from the date of publication which may be sent to the Director (Art & Culture), Cellular Jail Complex, Atlanta Point, Port Blair. The list of Cultural Organizations shall be finalized after consideration of the objections and suggestions, if any.

## John Kerry tests positive for Covid as UN climate talks slow

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, NOV 19 --/ US Climate Envoy John Kerry has tested positive for Covid-19 at the UN climate talks in Egypt, a spokeswoman said late Friday night, the latest setback for what appeared to be stalled negotiations that were already going into overtime.

"He is fully vaccinated and boosted and experiencing mild symptoms. He is working with his negotiations team and foreign counterparts by phone to ensure a successful outcome of COP27," spokeswoman Whitney Smith wrote in a statement late Friday. Kerry's illness was sure to add to worries about the negotiations, which were scheduled to end Friday but were continuing with no clear end in sight. A former US senator and secretary of state, Kerry has deep relationships with leaders around the world and carries a lot of weight in international talks. Negotiations, at least those in public, hit a lull Friday afternoon into the evening, as press conferences and plenaries were postponed or cancelled. Diplomats said they hoped for late night progress as they changed airlines reservations for talks going into extended

overtime in Egypt. Delegates said there was some headway being made, especially on the most difficult sticking point. That is the issue of loss and



damage, which is the idea of some kind of compensation -- a dedicated fund or something less formal -- from rich nations to help out poor nations already hit hard by extreme climate events worsened by decades of burning of fossil fuels by developed nations. "I think we are in for a bit of a long haul," World Resources Institute international climate director David Waskow said. "Loss and damage sits at the centre in terms of what needs to be done to get this over the finish line."

After being a tad isolated in not favouring a dedicated loss and damage fund, there is talk of the United States working on

yet another proposal with the European Union, which produced a surprise offer on Thursday, Waskow said. He also noted that one issue is the surprising unity of poorer nations, often called G-77 and China, on the issue, insisting on a fund being established at this summit. "We are very busy and they are making some progress and they have gotten some clarity on all positions," Molwyn Joseph, who spoke on behalf of small island states, told The Associated Press. "There is the possibility that we could get an outcome, but also it could fall over at the last minute," said New Zealand's Climate Change Minister James Shaw. "And I think if that happened, it would be a real shame because this is as close (on loss and damage) as we have ever been before."

Nakeeyat Dramani Sam of Ghana chided delegates at this year's UN climate talks, saying they would act faster to rein in global warming if they were her age. "It is an emergency," she told negotiators, holding a sign that read "Payment Overdue".

"If all of you were to be young people like me, wouldn't you have already agreed to do what is needed to save our planet?" (AP)





Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurating Arunachal Pradesh's first greenfield airport, named Donyi Polo Airport, in Itanagar. Union Minister and Arunachal MP Kiren Rijju (L) and state's CM Pema Khandu (4th from Left) are also seen — Photo : PIB

## GREEN SHOOTS OF HOPE IN NORTH-EAST

### PM inaugurates Donyi Polo Airport and hydro power station in Arunachal

AVISHEK SENGUPTA

**GUWAHATI, NOV 19 /--/** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated Donyi Polo Airport, Arunachal Pradesh' first greenfield airport, built over a sprawling 4100 sq m area at Holangi, about 25 km from its capital city Itanagar.

Modi, who kicked off Saturday's hectic three state visit beginning with Aarunachal Pradesh followed by visit in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, also inaugurated 600-MW Kameng Hydro-Power Project completed at a cost of Rs 8,450 crore. "A new dawn of development for the Northeast! Launching connectivity and energy infrastructure projects in Arunachal Pradesh," PM Modi had tweeted later the same day. With Donyi Polo, named after age-old indigenous reference to Sun (Donyi) and Moon (Polo) -- third operational airport in Arunachal Pradesh after Tezu about 363 km and Pasighat, about 263 km from Itanagar and the first in the state capital -- all the eight state capitals in North-East

**From 1947 to 2014, only 9 airports were built in the North-East region. In a short span of the last eight years, 7 airports have been built. This rapid development of airports in the region reflects the special emphasis on enhancing connectivity to this region. The number of flights connecting North-East India has doubled**

— Prime Minister Narendra Modi

India have been connected through airways. The region now has 16 airports. The nearest to Itanagar is Lilabari airport in Lakhimpur district of neighbouring Assam, about 80 km away. Locals present during the inauguration lauded the launch of the airport and said that it will be especially beneficial for taking ailing people outside the state for better treatment. The airport has a 2,300 metre-long runway and its terminal

a modern building, promotes energy efficiency, renewable energy and recycling of resources. The terminal has been constructed approximately at a cost of Rs 955 crore and has a peak handling capacity of 200 passengers per hour. The Prime Minister Modi, accused of politicising development drew flak from Opposition back in 2019, ahead of Lok Sabha elections, when he laid the foundation stone for this airport today said the airport's completion in such short notice is a "tight slap" to those who criticised him. "Those who had criticised me, said that laying foundation stone for this airport ahead of Lok Sabha elections was a political gimmick, its speedy completion is a tight slap on their faces," said Modi who had visited the venue early on Saturday morning beginning his hectic three state visit. "From 1947 to 2014, only nine airports were built in the North-East region. In a short span of the last eight years, seven airports have been built. This rapid development of airports in the region reflects the special emphasis

on enhancing connectivity to this region. The number of flights connecting North-East India has doubled," Modi claimed. According to Airport Authority of India (AAI), flights from Mumbai and Kolkata will operate daily barring Wednesday. Besides IndiGo, Akasha and Flybig airlines have also expressed interest in starting flight services from Donyi Polo airport. Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu, who was also present during the event, thanked Modi for both the projects. According to government claims, the Kameng Hydroelectric project is set to generate 3352 Mega Units of electricity annually of which, 398 Mega Unit, worth about Rs 200 crore in terms of revenue will be provided free to the state and will generate about Rs 8000 crore of revenue in its project time. "This project assumes significance as we are determined to go green and make Arunachal Pradesh a role model in sustainable and eco-friendly growth," Khandu said.

## Shah for launching strict economic crackdown on 'terror haven' nations

**NEW DELHI, NOV 19 /--/** In a veiled attack on Pakistan, Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday said strict economic crackdown should be launched against "terror haven" countries whose governments have made terrorism their state policy. Addressing the closing session of the 3rd 'No Money For Terror' conference here, he also highlighted six priority issues, including eliminating the use of illegal channels, cash couriers and 'hawala' by terror networks. "Some countries, their governments, and their agencies have made 'terrorism' their state policy. In these terror havens, it is necessary to shackle their unrestrained activities along with a strict economic crackdown. All the countries of the world will have to make up their minds on this, rising above their geopolitical interests," Shah said at the conference being attended by 450 delegates from over 75 nations and international organisations. The home minister said it is being observed that some countries repeatedly support terrorists and those who

building of counter-terror and financial intelligence agencies of all countries. Shah said across all stages of terror financing, such as fund-raising, fund movement, layering through other crimes, and finally, usage for terrorist activities, have to be cracked down at each stage. Each stage requires a "specific but collective approach" on a global scale. All countries must implement the standards, and recommendations set by the Financial Action Task Force, FATF, not just on paper, but in spirit, he said. The home minister said every country will have to identify and act against organisations pushing youths towards radicalisation and take stringent action against them. "The strategy of 'Trace, Target, and Terminate' to be adopted from low-level economic offenses to more organised economic crimes, he said.

Describing terrorism as the biggest enemy of democracy, human rights, economic progress and world peace, he said terrorism cannot be allowed to succeed, reminding everyone that it has taken such



a formidable form that its effects are visible at every level. "No country or organisation can successfully combat terrorism, alone. The international community must continue to fight shoulder-to-shoulder against this increasingly complex and borderless threat," he said. Shah said nations cannot think of a fear-free society, a fear-free world without an effective, long-term, concerted fight against all forms of terrorism. "The citizens of our nations have entrusted a bigger responsibility of their protection to the leadership, and it is our

duty to live up to this responsibility," he said. The home minister also said that over the past two decades, the United Nations Security Council has developed a framework to deal with this threat, with the main objective of creating a "counter-terrorism sanctions regime".

Shah said this system established by the United Nations has successfully curbed to some extent, the actions of countries that make terrorism a state-funded enterprise, but it has to be further strengthened, made more rigorous, and transparent. The home minister said the first commitment should be the cooperation with transparency and all countries and organisations must pledge complete transparency in sharing intelligence in a better and more effective manner. He said that everyone should fight this war against terrorism and terrorist groups, in every geographical space, in every virtual space. (PTI)

## At a glance

### Winter Session of Parliament from Dec 7-29

**NEW DELHI, NOV 19 /--/** The Winter Session of Parliament will begin on December 7 and conclude on December 29, with sources saying it is likely to be held in the old building as the new one is still under construction. In separate notifications, secretariats of both LoK Sabha and Rajya Sabha notified the dates. The session is likely to be held in the old parliament building as the construction of the new building may stretch till the end of the year, the sources said. "Subject to exigencies of government business, the session is likely to conclude on Thursday December 29 2022," similar notifications issued by both the Houses said. (PTI)

### Mamata dials new Bengal Gov Bose, exchanges pleasantries

**KOLKATA, NOV 19 /--/** Chief minister Mamata Banerjee called up CV Ananda Bose, the newly appointed governor of the state, and exchanged pleasantries with him, a senior official in the secretariat said on Saturday. Mamata telephoned Bose on Friday evening and spoke with him for around 10 minutes and they exchanged pleasantries during the conversation, the official told news agency PTI. Bose, a retired IAS officer, is yet to assume office as the new governor of West Bengal. He replaced Manipur



Governor La Ganesan, who had been holding the additional charge of West Bengal since July after his predecessor Jagdeep Dhankhar was nominated as the Vice-Presidential candidate by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Incidentally, the state government and Dhankhar were at loggerheads over several issues, including the law and order situation, since he assumed office in July 2019. (PTI)

## Political parties can't consider election symbols as exclusive property: Delhi HC

**NEW DELHI, NOV 19 /--/** The Delhi High Court has held that political parties cannot consider election symbols as their "exclusive property" and the right to use a symbol can be lost if a party's performance is dismal. The High Court's observation came while dismissing an appeal by Samata Party challenging a single judge's order which had rejected its plea against allotment of 'flaming torch' election symbol to the Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena. The appellant party claimed that the 'flaming torch' symbol belonged to it and that it had contested

**"...the parties concerned cannot consider the symbol as its exclusive property. 'The Election Symbols (Reservation And Allotment) Order, 1968 makes it very clear that the right to use the symbol can be lost with the dismal performance of the party"**

— Delhi HC bench

the elections on it. A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad also referred to a previous verdict of the Supreme Court in Subramanian Swamy vs. Election Commission of India case and said the judgment further stated that a symbol is not a tangible thing nor does it generate any wealth. "It is only the insignia which is associated with the particular political party so as to help the millions of illiterate voters to properly exercise their right to franchise in favour of the candidate of their choice belonging to a particular party. The parties concerned cannot consider the symbol as its exclusive property. The Election Symbols (Reservation And Allotment) Order, 1968 makes it very clear that the right to use the symbol can be lost with the dismal performance of the party," the bench said in its order. It said even though Samata Party members were permitted to use the flaming torch symbol, the symbol has become a free symbol with the party having been de-recognised in 2004 and it was within the domain of the Election Commission to allot the same to any other party. "No fault can be

found with the communication-cum-order dated October 10, 2022 issued by the Election Commission of India allotting the symbol of 'flaming torch' to 'Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray)' and the Order dated October 19, 2022, passed by the single judge....," it said. The bench said a reserved symbol is the one which is reserved for a recognised political party for exclusive allotment to contesting candidates fielded by that party and Samata Party was de-recognised as a state party in 2004. Earlier in October, the single judge had dismissed the petition saying that in the

absence of any right demonstrable before the court, the petitioner cannot seek a mandamus for quashing the EC's order and that the party has not demonstrated any right over the symbol. It had noted that the party was de-recognised in 2004. The petitioner, in its appeal, said that the single judge had dismissed its plea on the very first date of hearing without issuing notice to the EC, Shiv Sena and Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde. The petitioner has assailed the October 10 order of EC on the grounds that 'flaming torch' was a "reserved" symbol and could not have been given to Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) without first issuing a notification that it had been made a "free" symbol. In its plea, the petitioner stated it was formed in 1994 by George Fernandes and Nitish Kumar as an "offshoot of the Janata Dal" and was given the 'flaming torch' symbol by the EC. The Election Commission had defended the allotment and said there was no requirement under the law to issue any notification, as claimed by the petitioner, before passing the allotment order. (PTI)

## BJP chief calls Cong 'anti-Gujarat' after Medha Patkar joins 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Maharashtra

**AHMEDABAD, NOV 19 /--/** Bharatiya Janata Party president JP Nadda on Saturday termed Congress "anti-Gujarat" after Narmada Bachao Andolan activist Medha Patkar joined Rahul Gandhi-led 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Maharashtra, drawing a sharp reaction from the Grand Old Party which alleged the BJP is devoid of issues to set up a narrative in the poll-bound state. Nadda, who is campaigning in Gujarat, also said Patkar is "anti-Narmada, anti-Gujarat and anti-Saurashtra" who tried to stall the construction of the Narmada dam and opposed the use of water for the people of Saurashtra. "If such people join Rahul Gandhi, it reflects his mentality," he told newsmen. Reacting to Nadda's remarks, Congress leader Raghu Sharma on Saturday said since the BJP is devoid of issues for the next month's Assembly elections, it was raising the issue of Medha Patkar, a prominent Narmada Bacha



Andolan leader, joining the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. The official handle of 'Bharat Jodo' on Friday tweeted a photo of Patkar with Gandhi along with a caption, "When you do something for the society, people involved in social welfare themselves join you... Social activist Medha Patkar participated in 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. Patkar had led a protest for the tribals displaced by the Narmada dam project in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. "Patkar is 'anti-Narmada, anti-Gujarat and anti-Saurashtra' who tried to stall the construction of the Narmada dam and opposed the use of water for the people of Saurashtra. If such people join Rahul Gandhi, it reflects his mentality. The Congress is also anti-Gujarat. There is no doubt about that," the BJP chief told reporters. Hitting back at BJP, Sharma said how can you stop anyone from joining the Congress party's Yatra. "If someone wants to walk together, how can you stop him or her?

BJP is devoid of issues (for elections). It should talk about inflation, hatred, employment, and economy --- the issues on which the Yatra has been taken out," Sharma told reporters in Rajkot. "What has Medha Patkar got to do with Gujarat elections? The BJP is worried as it is devoid of better issues to form a poll narrative and that is why it brings Patkar into the picture," he alleged. Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel on Friday tweeted, "Congress and Rahul Gandhi have time and again shown their animosity towards Gujarat and Gujaratis. By giving Medha Patkar a central place in his Yatra, Rahul Gandhi shows that he stands with those elements who denied water to Gujaratis for decades. Gujarat will not tolerate this". CM Patel had in August alleged that "urban Naxals" had opposed the Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada river to deprive the state and arid Kutch region of water and development. (PTI)



National flags are seen on Lusail Boulevard in Doha, Qatar ahead of the opening ceremony of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022





# Qatar faces acid test in Ecuador opener after 12 years of spending

## Spain replace injured Jose Gaya with Barcelona's Alejandro Balde

DOHA, NOV 19 /--/ Spain dropped injured left-back Jose Gaya from their World Cup squad on Friday, with teenager Alejandro Balde replacing him. The Valencia defender sprained his ankle in training on Wednesday and coach Luis Enrique had said he would make a decision on the situation on Friday, after the team arrived in Doha.

"The full-back leaves Qatar with the love, respect and recognition of his team-mates and the RFEF (Spanish FA)," said the RFEF in a statement. "The RFEF's message for Gaya is filled with affection, he had won his place in the Spain squad at the World Cup after four years playing for the national team at the top level." Gaya, 27, has enjoyed a strong start to the season with Valencia and was set to play at his first World Cup. Nineteen-year-old Barcelona full-back Balde has burst into the limelight this season at Camp Nou with impressive performances on both the left and the right of defence. Spain beat Jordan 3-1 in a friendly on Thursday with Aymeric Laporte starting at left-back, while Barcelona defender Jordi Alba, expected to be first choice during the tournament, featured as a substitute. La Roja open their campaign against Costa Rica on November 23, before facing Germany and Japan. (AFP)

## 2nd T20I: India face Bhuvneshwar dilemma while praying for game time

MOUNT MAUNGANUL, NOV 19 /--/ Bhuvneshwar Kumar faces an arduous challenge of remaining relevant in shortest format as a young Indian team, seeking some game time, is expected to face tough resistance from New Zealand in the second T20 International here on Sunday.

The series-opener in Wellington was abandoned due to inclement weather and the Indian players must be itching to get onto the park which, inarguably, has the most scenic backdrop. Ironically, the region where the ground is located is known as 'Bay of Plenty' and Indian cricket at this point has plenty to ponder as far as its approach in T20 format is concerned. While the Sky Stadium was shorter in terms of dimensions, the Indian team will have to make adjustments as the 'Bay Oval' ground has bigger side boundaries and is an open ground unlike Wellington. On this tour, the presence of a near 33 year-old Bhuvneshwar is one such dilemma that the team management might have to handle. There are some probing questions and quicker the answers are sought, better it would be for Indian cricket.

Is Bhuvneshwar going to be around for the T20 World Cup in 2024 with a sharp decline in his pace? Does he have enough time to work around his issues as he is not potent enough on good batting tracks? Not many T20Is are lined-up next year and he is largely becoming a single-format player, so where does it leave him? At this moment, all the answers seem to be in negative and hence a question arises whether playing the senior-most pacer would be akin to taking away an opportunity from a youngster to get into the groove. It is a double-edged

DOHA, NOV 19 /--/ Qatar will finally get their home World Cup underway on Sunday, 12 years after the nation's successful bid put into motion wide-ranging preparations which cost billions of dollars.

It is widely accepted the Gulf state has spent \$200 billion on hosting football's biggest event and Qatar will get its first glimpse at the final product at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor when the hosts take on Ecuador. Organisers say that 2.9 million of the 3.1 million tickets have been sold and they will be expecting a 60,000 sell-out on Sunday. The home team's players have

also been preparing tirelessly, spending months outside Qatar in isolated training camps, in an attempt to reach the knockout phase on their World Cup debut.

"Our situation is different (compared to other teams) and we have to work with what we've got," coach Felix Sanchez told a press conference on the eve of the tournament.

"It's true it's a massive sacrifice, many time away from our families and abroad and this shows the commitment of the players to compete and it all starts tomorrow."

The Group A match, which was moved forward from Monday to allow Qatar to play in the opening game, will be an acid test for the hosts both on and off the pitch. FIFA and the tournament organisers will



be hoping the kick-off can help put several controversies in the shade. Qatar has faced criticism over its human rights record and the environmental fallout from holding the event. FIFA president



Gianni Infantino had called on World Cup teams to "focus on football" in a letter earlier this month and accused critics in Western countries of "hypocrisy" on Saturday. Qatar will be wary of following the dozen

years of work and spending with the embarrassment of becoming only the second host country to crash out in the first round.

To avoid joining South Africa in that exclusive club, Sanchez's men have

been tasked with getting out of a group also containing European giants the Netherlands and African champions Senegal. A win against the less-fancied Ecuador would make those next two matches appear less daunting.

"On paper, they (Qatar's three opponents) should get the three points, but we of course are here to show our people that we can be a competitive team," said Sanchez.

"We'll bring our 'A' game and play our football, and try to bring joy..."

"We know that it will be a great challenge for us but we're very eager to play this match and are very happy to be here."

Qatar have improved on the pitch since winning the World Cup bid, beating Japan in the 2019 Asian Cup final and finishing third in

the Arab Cup last year. Results have slipped in recent months, though, with a 1-1 draw against Jamaica and 3-0 defeat by Croatia's Under-23 team particularly disappointing. Ecuador will be no pushovers after coming through the notoriously difficult South American qualifying.

"We think we have the same chance as Qatar for this opening match," said Ecuador's Brighton midfielder Moises Caicedo.

"We know how Qatar play, they're strong, they're powerful. I know this will be a very difficult game tomorrow."

After the tumultuous build-up, capped by Friday's surprise U-turn on the sale of beer in stadiums, Qatar's players will be aiming to take the limelight and ease the scrutiny on off-field issues. (AFP)

## Gianni Infantino accuses Qatar World Cup critics of 'hypocrisy'

DOHA, NOV 19 /--/ FIFA president Gianni Infantino hit back at criticism of Qatar's human rights record on Saturday, blasting the "hypocrisy" of Western critics on the eve of the World Cup kick-off. Infantino, speaking at his opening press conference of the tournament in Doha, also expressed support for the LGBTQ community and migrant workers.

"This moral lesson-giving — one-sided — is just hypocrisy," said the Swiss.

"I don't want to give you any lessons of life, but what is going on here is profoundly, profoundly unjust." He added: "For what we Europeans have been doing for the last 3,000 years we should apologise for the next 3,000 years before starting giving moral lessons to people." The build-up to the tournament in the Gulf state has been dominated by concerns over Qatar's treatment of migrant workers, women and the LGBTQ community. Infantino expressed his support for those communities.

"Today I feel Qatari, today I feel Arab, today I feel African, today I feel gay, today I feel disabled, today I feel a migrant worker," he said. Qatar officials say their country has been the target of "racism" and "double standards". They point to the reforms on working conditions and safety that have been hailed as groundbreaking in the Gulf region. The World Cup kicks off on Sunday when host nation Qatar take on Ecuador in the opening match. He also said World Cup fans can survive for three hours a day without beer after sales were banned around stadiums.

"I think personally if for three hours a day you cannot drink a beer,



you will survive," he told his opening press conference in Doha. "The same applies in France, Spain, Scotland." World Cup chiefs on Friday banned beer sales around stadiums in Qatar in a stunning U-turn, just 48 hours before Sunday's kickoff. Alcohol is largely prohibited in the Islamic nation but the organisers sparked fury from fans with their dramatic late decision. Football's world governing body FIFA said beer would not be sold to fans around any of the eight World Cup stadiums following discussions with the hosts. It said beer sales would be focused on fan zones and licensed venues, "removing sales points of beer from Qatar's FIFA World Cup 2022 stadium perimeters".

It gave no reason for the surprise decision but media reports said there had been an intervention by Qatar's ruling family. (AFP)

## Messi, Neymar and Mbappe : PSG trio set for rivalry in Qatar

DOHA, NOV 19 /--/ There is a thread that connects the three leading favourites to win the World Cup starting in Qatar on Sunday.

Brazil, Argentina and holders France have been cited as the main contenders for good reason, not least because of the identity of their star players. Lionel Messi captains an Argentina team on a 36-game unbeaten run, Neymar leads a formidable Brazil side and France's hopes of retaining the trophy will depend to a large extent on Kylian Mbappe. The trio of Messi, Neymar and Mbappe have been united at Paris Saint-Germain by the wealth of the French club's Qatari owners. Their relationship has dominated headlines in France this season, and their performances have been outstanding. Qatar created shockwaves in December 2010 when it won the right to host this year's World Cup. A little over six months later, Qatar Sports Investments bought PSG. Fast forward a decade and they have been transformed from an ailing club into a major force. Mbappe and Neymar became the two most expensive signings in football history when they moved to PSG in 2017. Messi joined them in Paris last year following his departure from Barcelona.

They are one of the favourites to win this season's Champions League, with Messi, Mbappe and Neymar having scored 46 goals between them in PSG's 22 games so far. The World Cup has been cited as a reason for their superb form, in



particular in the case of Messi and Neymar. At 35, Messi knows he is unlikely to get another chance to win it.

"It's my last World Cup, surely," he told ESPN Argentina recently. A brief walk along Doha's Corniche or in the nearby Souq Waqif marketplace is enough to gauge Messi's popularity in Doha. Supporters, often from Qatar's large South Asian population, sport Argentina shirts with Messi's name and number on the back as they sample the atmosphere on the eve of the tournament. Some waited outside Argentina's base into the early hours of Thursday, hoping for a glimpse of Messi as Lionel Scaloni's squad arrived in Doha.

"Messi is the best. We like how Argentina are playing at the moment and with Messi they are the best," one fan, a 36-year-old finance worker called Shabi originally from the Indian state of Kerala, told AFP. Like Messi, Neymar is among the players whose images adorn the giant

buildings in downtown Doha. At 30, Neymar might have at least one more World Cup in him after this one, even if he has previously hinted that this could be his last. Injury ruined the 2014 World Cup for him before Brazil lost to Belgium in the quarter-finals in 2018. Since then injuries have hampered him in Paris. Until this season, when he has appeared fitter and sharper than ever.

"The World Cup is my greatest dream," Neymar told British newspaper The Daily Telegraph this week. "It has been since I understood what football was." In stark contrast to his two club colleagues, Mbappe has already won the World Cup and was still a teenager when he did so with France in 2018. It is he who represents the future, which is why PSG splashed huge sums to persuade him to sign a new deal at the end of last season rather than join Real Madrid. Le Parisien recently reported that Paris would be paying Mbappe 630 million euros (\$652m) before tax over

the duration of the three-year contract he signed in May. PSG dismissed that report as "sensationalist", but the figures mentioned highlight Mbappe's status.

"Kylian is an extraordinary player," his France teammate Lucas Hernandez said on Friday. "It is an honour to have him in our team." Mbappe's France ended the hopes of Messi's Argentina in the last 16 in 2018. There is a chance they could meet again at the same stage this time. A semi-final between Argentina and Neymar's Brazil is another possibility.

"We don't discuss it very much but sometimes we joke about crossing paths with each other in the final," Neymar told the Daily Telegraph. Whatever happens, only one of PSG's trio can leave Doha as a World Cup winner. Assuming the hosts don't go all the way, the French club's Qatari owners will be delighted to see any of them lifting the trophy at the Lusail Stadium on 18 December. (AFP)

## Write us off at your peril, warn confident Croatia

DOHA, NOV 19 /--/ Croatia say they thrive on being considered underdogs and warned on Saturday that they have what it takes to reach the World Cup final again. Led by inspirational captain Luka Modric, unfancied Croatia reached the final four years ago in Russia before losing 4-2 to France. Few are predicting an ageing squad will do as well in Qatar in the coming weeks — and that is just the way the players like it.

"We don't put any extra pressure on ourselves and we don't really care about these predictions," said striker Bruno Petkovic.

"We don't listen to that or read that. We just need to take it step by step, we have our own goal and we are focused on that. "At the end, we will see who was right in their predictions." Fellow forward Marko Livaja was similarly bullish, adding: "I think we have a really good chance to repeat something similar to what we did in Russia." Croatia begin their Qatar campaign on Wednesday against Morocco in a Group F, which also contains Canada and Belgium. Along with Brazil, Argentina, Spain, England, Germany and holders France, the Belgians are one of the sides expected to go far at this World Cup. Croatia still boast Real Madrid playmaker Modric and fellow veteran



Croatia's goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic (L) and Luka Modric take part in a training session ahead of the Qatar 2022 World Cup football tournament

Ivan Perisic, but some say they lack the firepower to mount a serious challenge in Qatar.

"I'm used in my career that I'm not very liked by most media so I don't really care about that," said Dinamo Zagreb's Petkovic, who has scored six times in 23 matches for his country.

"I'm focused on improving myself

and contributing to the success of the team," added the 28-year-old.

"I think we have excellent forwards. Maybe not all of us have a great international career or we're not internationally recognised.

"But we have a lot of quality and I don't think we need to be worried about our forwards." (AFP)



Acropolis presented the 4th Edition of “Chatpata”, the Street Food Festival

Acropolis Mall, one of the premium malls rolled for the fourth edition of the Street Food Festival, Chatpata. The festival continued till November 13. Foodies tingled their palates with tantalizingly tasty dishes every day. Food entrepreneurs like “Calcutta delicacies”, “Hot Lebanese”, “Buddy bites”, “Eagle bites”, “Nalin Chandra Das”, “PoushParbon”, “Roy pan stall”, “R.K Chaat Center” and “Turkisyano” participated in the street food festival and displayed their mouth-watering dishes to pamper the palates of people. Some of the signature items included Peyare Kebab and Gondhoraj fish kobiraji, Mutton kebab wrap and honey chicken wings from Hot Lebanese, and Chicken feast pizza and garlic prawn from the kitchen of Eagle Bites Pizza. Desserts like GurerJolVoraSandesh and ChocholateSandesh from Nalin Chandra Das & sons was there for people with sweet tooth. Turkisyano, with its inimitable style presented Turkey’s special ice cream. K Vijayan, GM, Acropolis said, “Acropolis Mall is popular to gourmands for its wide array of food festivals being organized every year. This year the festival garnered a multitude of foodies as people are exploring more events specially post pandemic that had forced them to stay at homes. At Acropolis we have been innovating and organizing varieties of festivals. The street food festival christened “Chatpata” has been a great success since its inception and this is the fourth year. We hope to satiate our guests with a plethora of choices.



Barbeque Nation launches “Hawaiian Seafood Festival”



Barbeque Nation has announced the launch of a three-week-long “Hawaiian Seafood Festival”. The exotic food festival started on November 12, 2022, and go on till November 30, 2022. This festival will be held across all of Barbeque Nation’s outlets in Mumbai, Udaipur, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bhubaneshwar, Bilaspur, Durgapur, Asansol, Guwahati, Kolkata, Patna, Raipur, Ranchi, Siliguri, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot, Surat and Jaipur. The buffet at Barbeque Nation offers over 16 different varieties of seafood, catering to the tastes of seafood lovers. SubhrajitSaha, Asst. Regional Manager, Barbeque Nation Hospitality Limited, said, “Our guests look forward to reasons to visit our restaurants. We are glad to kickstart this season with the Hawaiian Seafood Festival. With this vast spread of delicacies, we intend to infuse some refreshing flavors in our offerings this season. We look



forward to invoking the feeling of togetherness among our guests. We are quite confident our guests will enjoy the offerings along with their loved ones.” Relish a wide range of seafood delicacies like Shark Steak with Pineapple Mojjo, Golden Fried Calamari, Batter Fried Topse in Mustard Sauce, and many more that are specially curated for the festival. The specialized delectable menu has been curated by Barbeque Nation’s in-house chefs that include a range of seafood items like Shark, Tuna, Shrimp, Crab, Octopus, and many more.

Streaming now on ZEE5 - Raja Chanda’s ‘Savings Account’



ZEE5, India’s largest home-grown video streaming platform, just dropped Raja Chanda’s action thriller “Savings Account”. Headlined by the ace director of KelorKirti and BeshKorechiPremKorechi, the film stars AnkushHazra and Sayantika Banerjee in lead roles and is streaming exclusively on ZEE5. The backdrop of this film is a busy bank. On one fine morning, like any other day, usual works start at the bank. Suddenly a person enters the bank with a gun in his hand and takes control of everything creating panic. Soon police intervene and we see so many twists and turns in the story. AnkushHazra said, “I am excited for the World Premiere of Savings Account on ZEE5. It is the kind of movie that I enjoy watching i.e a fast-paced action thriller with a tight plot and great direction. So, I hope that the viewers enjoy it too as it has it all – cat and mouse chase, stylish car sequences, guns and action, drama and thrill”.



The Young Indians (YI), Kolkata Chapter celebrated Children’s Day  
Initiates dream project ‘Flight of Fantasy’

On the occasion of Children’s Day on 14th November’22, The Young Indians (YI), Kolkata Chapter, The Youth Wing of CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) initiated the ‘Flight of Fantasy’ project where they flew down 14 children from the 2 Kolkata based NGO’s Don BoscoAshalayam and MSS to Mumbai, India’s dream city. As a part of this initiative, team Young Indians is also committed to funding children’s education and supporting these institutions in varied ways. The objective behind this project was to reiterate the importance of believing in your dreams and providing an opportunity for these young children to encounter experiences of a lifetime.

The exhilarating journey for the children began with them boarding an aircraft for the very first time! This was followed by a city tour of Mumbai’s iconic spots such as Marine Drive and Gateway of India, amongst others. The icing on the cake was to meet, interact and learn from their favorite movie stars - Ajay Devgan, AnupamKher and SonuSood. AnupamKher inspired the children by saying, ‘Work hard and accomplish all of your goals. Failure is a situation, not a person. Never be afraid of failure because it is only an incident. A person who doesn’t give up can keep trying till they succeed. Believe in yourself, that’s when the magic happens.’ Actor Ajay Devgan lauded the efforts of the organization. He said ‘I feel honored to


support team Young Indian’s, Kolkata Chapter in this excellent endeavor. Education has the power to transform lives and Team YI has done a commendable job by advocating this.’ VaibhavSoni, Chair, Young Indians (YI), Kolkata Chapter said, ‘With YI’s project ‘flight of fantasy’ we seek to empower children from less privileged communities and inculcate in them the thought that dreams can come true if one works hard and believes in them. This project was extremely close to out hearts as an organization and the biggest payoff was the smile on the childrens’ faces when they took the first flight of their lives and experienced a whole new world with their favorite movie stars.’

South City International School hosted Fun Fiesta Carnival 2022


Established in 2009, South City International School has always aimed to create a harmonious and stimulating environment in which each pupil is encouraged to develop maximally his or her intellectual ability and academic performance potential; creative energy; enterprising spirits; physical skills; notions of justice, equity and public morality; affiliation to his or her cultural roots and heritage; open-mindedness, international and multi-cultural perspective, and a spirit of empathy for the less fortunate, with readiness to work constructively for social good. The educational institution hosted an event-Fun Fiesta Carnival 2022 recently for children from multiple schools across the city along with their own. Several prestigious schools across the co-participated with full fervour. The purpose of this carnival was to improve critical growth in an overall development by instilling self-esteem, social integration, creative and problem solving abilities, leadership qualities, cognitive and language skills, and so on for pre-schoolers. The event included some fun activities with the children while engaging in exciting activities (Toy Rides, Craft Workshop for the children to display their creative talents, Non-Flame Cooking, Tattoo Making, Whishing Tree, Candy Floss, Story Telling, Photo Booth, Disney Characters to interact with and so much more). The event was graced by renowned actress Koneenica Banerjee as the Chief Guest. 14 principals from different schools were invited at the event. Ravi Todi, one of the directors at South City International School, was also present to encourage all children and lend his support. MrTodi commented at the event, “Walt Disney had once said: Every child is born blessed with an imagination. But, like a muscle grows flabby with disuse, the imagination of a child pales in later years if he ceases




to exercise it.” “A child learns best when they are hands on and receive and absorb information in an innovative manner ; in an environment where they can apply what they have learnt in a practical platform or understand it with ease without having too much trouble comprehending everything taught” – said the Founding Principal of the school John Bagul, at the event. The chief guest of the event, Koneenica Banerjee said, “We have lots of things to learn from kids. Thank you for teaching us daily how to live life at its best. May the child in you continue to live forever and ever. Don’t let the child in you get lost in the hectic life. Celebrate it.”



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