

## High Level Committee formed to resolve DBRAIT issues

### Students told to approach this Committee with their issues, concerns

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--** The Chief Secretary and team of senior officers had a detailed discussion with a large delegation of stakeholders comprising of students of DBRAIT, leaders of various Political Parties, PRI members, representatives of important NGOs and Civil Society Organizations regarding various issues raised by students of DBRAIT. Chief Secretary emphasized that the academic future and interests of the students are paramount in the Administration's consideration and reiterated the resolve and commitment of the ANA to take all steps to secure the same.

It was noted that for the past few months, the students of DBRAIT have been protesting on various long-pending issues related to Pondicherry University, which is their affiliating university like non-recognition of Diploma courses of MSBTE by Pondicherry University, non-extension of affiliation by University, non-conduct of exams for Lateral Entry students for last 2 years by the university etc. However, the ANA has been fully in support of the students' cause and is taking all measures with fullest vigour and force to ensure that

genuine interests of the students' are not affected due to any unilateral actions by any authority, especially PU.

Chief Secretary informed the gathering that many vexatious issues of PU with DBRAIT, which had remained unresolved for the past 3 years, were resolved after the consistent interventions, untiring endeavour and vigorous efforts of the ANA with all stakeholders including Pondicherry University, Ministry of Education, GOI and relevant judicial forums. In this context, it was explained that the ANA has successfully resolved the following nagging issues, to the satisfaction of the affected student community at Port Blair -

- 1) Conduct of university examination for all students of DBRAIT.
- 2) Issuance of Timetable for exams of Lateral entry students (batch 2020-21 and 2021-22, including pending papers since 2 years).
- 3) Re-issuance of timetable for exams of Lateral Entry students in a staggered manner. (batch 2020-21 and 2021-22 including pending papers since 2 years).

*Cont. to Page -3*

## MP bats for workers employed in industrial establishment at DSS Dockyard

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--** / Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma, Member of Parliament and President, INTUC (AN) and Marine Works Employees' Union (MWEU), along with office bearers of MWEU and some contractual workers of Government Dockyard of Directorate of Shipping Services met the Chief Secretary on 27st September 2022, to put forth grievances of the workers employed in the industrial establishment of the Government Dockyard of Directorate of Shipping Services, A&N Administration.

The major issue discussed was to provide enhanced wages i.e. 1/30th of the basic pay plus Dearness Allowance to the contractual employees of the Directorate of Shipping Services and posting of Assistant Labour Welfare Officer (ALWC) at Government Dockyard.

Mr. Shri Sharma informed the Chief Secretary that, there are around 150 contractual workers engaged by the Directorate for over 12 to 15 years or even more who are entrusted with the nature of similar to that being performed by the regular employees but are paid monthly emolument calculated on the basis of minimum wages with service conditions remaining same as that of Daily Rated Mazdoors.

Inviting reference to the Government of India Office Memorandum no.49014/1/2017-Estt. (C) pf dated 04.09.2019, the Member of Parliament said that as the

nature of work entrusted to the casual workers and regular employees is the same, the casual workers need to be paid wages at the rate of 1/30th of the pay at the minimum of the relevant pay scale plus dearness allowance for work of 8 hours a day.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that, the Directorate of Employment & Training, A&N

Administration vide its Office Memorandum 289 dated 22.09.2017 as an welfare measure adopted policy to enhance the wages of all such Daily Rated Mazdoors working in various departments, organisations and autonomous bodies of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration as on 01.09.2017 at the rate of 1/30th of the Pay plus Dearness Allowance engaged against an existing vacancy of duly sanctioned post. Even though these contractual workers were engaged much prior to 01.09.2017 against the duly sanctioned posts, they were not considered for enhancement of their monthly wages because of the nomenclature of their engagement being 'short

term contract'.

Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma further informed the Chief Secretary that in addition to these long serving 150 odd contractual workers, the Directorate of Shipping Services has engaged around 45 industrial workers such as welders, fitters etc. who are continually being engaged on contract against the vacancy of relevant sanctioned posts and are paid monthly emolument of Rs.18,000/- which is the minimum basic pay of the Mazdoor or monthly wage of Rs.19470/- calculated taking into consideration the minimum daily wage for skilled workers. Since, these industrial workers such as welders, fitters, electricians, shipwrights, carpenters, tinsmith, mechanics, etc. who are ITI certificate holders having specialised skills in the relevant trade and are engaged on passing the trade test for the post and are entrusted with the nature of works similar to the regular employees, the Chief Secretary was requested to consider paying these industrial workers monthly pay at the minimum of relevant pay scale of post plus Dearness Allowance against which they are engaged.

The Chief Secretary assured the representatives of the Marine Works Employees' Union that the administration will look into the matter sympathetically to cause relief to the contractual employees of Directorate of Shipping Services as permissible under rules.

## DBRAIT protest mishandled, students to intensify agitation

**ROOPA LALL**

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--** / The DBRAIT students protest is slated to intensify further with various Political parties, auto, private bus, commercial vehicle associations and others lending their support to the students' agitation. The Police action on the agitating students of DBRAIT on Wednesday night by using water cannons and tear gas to disperse them has further exacerbated the situation.

Support has been pouring in for the agitating students from different Political parties and various associations at a meeting held at the Netaji Club, Port Blair. During the meeting, the last night Police action on the students to disperse the gathering in which some students sustained injuries were condemned and support extended to intensify the agitation till the goals are achieved.

The Joint Action Committee, consisting of 13 associations, involving all auto unions and supported by units of all commercial vehicles, has come out in support of the student agitation. The Joint Action Committee has written a letter to the Lt Governor, Chief Secretary condemning the brutality and inhuman acts done on DBRAIT students by the Administration. The Joint Action Committee in the letter has informed that they will be withdrawing auto and all commercial services on 30th September 2022 for

24 hours and gave 7-days time to the administration to fulfil the demands of DBRAIT students. They

condemning the Police action on the students and lending support to them. Our Mayabunder

of the Principal, Mr. Utpal Sharma. In the rally, workers and leaders of all political parties from this region were on the same page joining their hands to support the DBRAIT students.

"Using Police force to disperse the agitating students is really shameful and unacceptable. Instead of sacking the Principal, DBRAIT, Dr. Utpal Sharma and setting things in the right direction, the administration is found openly supporting the corrupt Principal who has always undermined the interest of the students for self-promotion", said speakers in the meeting.

Most of them have demanded immediate removal of DBRAIT Principal, revival of DBRAIT affiliation and written assurance to the

students who are appearing in the examinations that they will get a valid degree. Later, in the evening a

**The Joint Action Committee, consisting of 13 associations involving auto & private bus unions and supported by units of all commercial vehicles to withdraw services tomorrow to lend their support of students**

delegation on behalf of the students met the Chief Secretary and discussed the issue. After the meeting, it was told to the students that the Vice Chancellor of Pondicherry University will arrive at Port Blair soon and this issue will be taken up with him.



also demand a judiciary Inquiry, failing which they will withdraw auto and all commercial service from dated 6th October 2022, for indefinite period.

Meanwhile, rallies were taken out in various places in outer islands,

Correspondent adds that Harinagar villagers today organised a rally to support DBRAIT students. Citizens from Harinagar, Nimbudera and Swadeshnagar Panchayats gathered to support the demands of the DBRAIT students removal



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# PFI module had planned attacks on Jews visiting Tamil Nadu hill station, say NIA officials

**NEW DELHI, SEPT 29** /--/ The Popular Front of India (PFI) has been extensively using social media for recruiting youths for anti-national activities and one of the modules of the now-banned outfit even had prepared to attack foreigners, especially Jews visiting Vattakkanal, a hill station in Tamil Nadu, officials said.

According to an investigation carried out by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the module comprising about 15 youths and their associates from southern states, mostly PFI members or those attracted to the global terror group ISIS, had also conspired to attack high court judges, senior police officers and Muslims belonging to Ahmediya sect with the intention of committing terror acts within India. The module had allegedly entered into criminal conspiracy to wage a war against the government by collecting explosives and

other offensive materials to target important persons and places of public importance, the officials said. The module -- Ansarul-Khilafa Kerala -- was also indulged in a secret campaign of recruiting, motivating and radicalizing Muslim youths to join ISIS/ISIL, they said, adding the associates used various internet based platforms (both surface and deep web) for propagating ISIS ideology. Active surveillance mounted by the investigators found five suspects namely Manseel, Swalith Mohammed, Rashid Ali Safvan and Jasim NK, and they were arrested from Kannur district in Kerala on October 2, 2016 while they were holding a conspiracy meeting as part of their preparation to allegedly wage a war against the government.

Later, searches were conducted at the residence of the accused and materials, including digital devices and documents,

were seized. Custodial interrogation revealed that the accused had communicated with co-conspirator within and outside India over social media platforms like Facebook, Telegram, etc to allegedly wage a war against the government, the officials said. One of the accused, Swalith Mohammed, disclosed about the receipt of funds from his associates in the UAE for funding their activities. The accused had conspired and propagated ISIS ideology directly and through social media and recruiting members for anti-national activities. They had created various Telegram groups like 'The Gate', 'Bab Al Noor', 'Play Ground', etc, the officials said. Investigation has established that the accused had knowingly and intentionally conspired and conducted preparation to attack foreigners, especially Jews visiting Vattakkanal near

Kodaikanal, to attack prominent political leaders at Kozhikode, Kerala, and to attack a programme of Jamaat-e-Islami at Kochi, the officials said.

Vattakkanal is a small scenic hill station in Tamil Nadu's Dindigul district where every year hundreds of Israeli youths arrive for vacation after their compulsory military service in Israel. The NIA investigations have also found that one Shajahan, a Kerala resident, who was working on ISIS terror network in India, had earlier visited Turkey/Syria for allegedly carrying out terror activities and was deported from there. The NIA also found that Shajahan had joined the National Democratic Front, which was the earlier avatar of the PFI, and gradually got indoctrinated by its leaders. He came in contact with PFI leaders namely Haris, Shabeer, Manaf, Mustafa, Sadik, Shajil and others. He used to attend all

PFI meetings in 2008 where the discussions were made on atrocities committed on the Muslims by the "non-believers" in India and other parts of the world, the officials said, adding that particularly, Shameer, the then divisional president of the PFI's Valapattanam unit, indoctrinated Shajahan with the ISIS ideology. After the declaration of Caliphate by Abu BakarBagdadi of the ISIS, Shameer motivated Shajahan to go for 'hijra' as per Hadis and Quran for waging jihad. As directed by Shameer who was already in Syria, Shajahan along with his wife and two sons went to Malaysia in October 2016 enroute to his final destination Syria, the officials said. In Malaysia, Shajahan was met by one Rasheed and they moved to Iran from Malaysia. In Iran, Shajil and his family and Midlaj joined this group via Mangalore-Dubai-Iran, then further proceeded to Istanbul, Turkey, they said.

This group was joined by Abdul Manaf PP in Turkey. In February 2017, when Shajahan and Abdul Manaf PP along with their families attempted to cross over to Syria, law enforcement agencies of Turkey apprehended Shajahan and deported to India on February 10, 2017.

However, Abdul Manaf managed to cross the border. After his earlier failed attempt, Shajahan again planned to go to Syria for 'hijra' in March 2017. He acquired Indian passport on forged identity of Mohammed Ismail Mohideen with the help of one travel agent Mustafa, the officials said. This time Abdul Khayoom and Abdul Razak also planned to go to Syria with Shajahan for 'hijra'. Shajahan had reached Iran from Bangkok, they said. While Khayoom managed to cross over to Syria, Shajahan and Razak were apprehended again in Turkey and deported to India on July 1, 2017, the officials said. (PTI)

## Union finance minister asks Karnataka to do branding during G-20 meetings

**BENGALURU, SEPT 29** /--/ Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said most of the G-20 meetings next year will be held at several destinations across the country, including those in Karnataka, and called on the state to do its branding, and to identify its products, which can be showcased.

She also requested the Chambers of Commerce to work together with those industries, particularly small and medium, and those particularly working in handicrafts and traditional Karnataka products, so that they are showcased and the benefit of G-20 coming to the state is reaped fully. "Next year, India is going to hold the chair for G-20. The 20 countries and multilateral institutions which are invited to participate will be moving all over the country.



The Prime Minister has said G-20 meetings will happen not just in Delhi, most of them will happen outside of Delhi, and there are several destinations in Karnataka where the meetings will be held," Sitharaman said. She said, "I hope and earnestly wish, and I will certainly do my bit for Karnataka to do its branding, to identify those products, which can really be branded and showcased during the G-20 meetings. It will immediately attract the attention of the top leadership which will be moving across the country during the course of next year."

The Finance Minister, who is Member of Rajya Sabha from Karnataka was addressing the 105th Annual General Meeting of Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) here. Noting that next year is the "year of millets" and Karnataka is the lead producer of millets in the country, Sitharaman, while highlighting its processing said millet is now the "gold for wellbeing", all over the world there is a market for it. "All over the world there is a market for it. India is the largest producer and third largest exporter of millets, but value addition is what is going to be important," she said, while observing that there is a need for a lot of startups to look at innovative ways of doing it. (PTI)

# PFI must be held accountable for hartal violence

## Deposit Rs 5.2cr with govt: Kerala HC

**KOCHI, SEPT 29** /--/ The Kerala High Court on Thursday directed banned outfit PFI and its ex-state general secretary to deposit Rs 5.2 crores with the Home Department towards damages estimated by the KSRTC and the state government in connection with the hartal-related violence on September 23, saying they must be held accountable for it.

Expressing concern that the state administration "did virtually nothing to prevent the hartal organisers from going ahead with their illegal demonstrations and incidental road blockages" despite a 2019 HC order against it, the court said Abdul Sathar, ex-state general secretary of PFI, be made an accused in all the hartal-violence related cases. A bench of Justices A K Jayasankaran Nambiar and Mohammed Nias C P also directed that when considering bail pleas in those cases, magisterial and sessions courts should impose a condition which insists upon payment of the amount quantified towards damage/destruction of property by the accused for grant of any relief to them. "Citizens of the state cannot be made to live in fear solely because they do

not have the organized might of the persons or political parties at whose instance such violent acts are perpetrated," the court said. It further said that media reports revealed that the police force played only a passive role in dealing with the situation on September 23 till the court intervened on that date. "An effective compliance with our earlier order dated January 7, 2019 would have necessitated the state administration to ensure that no public procession, gathering or demonstration took place in the state if the same was in connection with a call for a flash hartal," the bench said. It also said that the Popular Front of India (PFI) and Sathar "cannot feign ignorance" of their constitutional obligations, especially when they claim to represent members of a pluralistic society.

It fixed them with the financial liability, saying that their action of inciting their supporters and goading them into violent acts on the hartal day "cannot be legally countenanced". "They must be held responsible and made accountable for their illegal actions," the bench said and directed them to deposit the amount within two weeks. On failure to deposit the amount

within the stipulated time, the state government shall take immediate steps under the Revenue Recovery Act to proceed against the assets/properties of PFI, the personal assets of its office bearers, including Sathar, for realisation of the Rs 5.2 crores, the court directed. "The amount so realized shall be purely provisional and shall be duly accounted for and held by the state government in a separate and dedicated account, for disbursement to those claimants who are identified by the Claims Commissioner as entitled to such amounts. "The respondents shall also be liable to such further amounts as are found to be payable to the claimants in the adjudication proceedings before the Claims Commissioner," the court said. It appointed P D Sarangadharan as the Claims Commissioner and directed the state government to ensure his office is fully functional within three weeks. With these directions, the bench listed the matter on October 17 for the state government to report the action taken in compliance of the directions.

The order came on a plea moved by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation

(KSRTC) through advocate Deepu Thankan seeking compensation of over Rs 5 crores from PFI and Sathar for damages to its buses and reduction in services during the hartal on September 23. During the hearing, the state government told the bench that strict and unbiased legal action was initiated in all instances of violations reported during the hartal. It also said that private vehicles and private establishments also suffered a loss to the tune of Rs.12,31,800, due to the wrath of the hartal sympathizers. "Almost all the accused in the incidents that took place on the day of PFI hartal were identified and many of them were already arrested and the remaining will be arrested soon. Till September 26, 417 FIRs were registered in connection with the incidents during the hartal, 1,992 persons were arrested and 687 preventive arrests were made," the state told the bench. KSRTC, in its plea, has contended that the hartal was called without any advance notice which was a violation of the high court's orders and that the violence on that day resulted in smashing of wind screens and damage to seats of 58 buses, injuries to 10 employees and one passenger. (PTI)

## BJP throttling democracy by not conducting assembly polls in J&K: Cong

**SRINAGAR, SEPT 29** /--/ Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Thursday accused the BJP of throttling democracy by not conducting the assembly elections in the union territory, saying it was a ploy of the ruling party at the Centre. On PFI ban, the JKPCC president Viqar Rasool said that outfit was not present in J-K and the AICC will respond to that. However, he sought a ban on the RSS as well. "RSS naturally is criminal organisation. They should ban it too and you should see their past record. Today, Mohan Bagwatji sometimes visits mosques, which is a pretence. They have a criminal history," he said. Rasool said the last assembly election in J-K took place in 2014 and it has now been almost nine years with the polls for the new assembly. "The elections are being deferred continuously. Timely elections are the beauty of democracy. If the elections are conducted on time in other states of the country, then why not in J-K?" JKPCC president told reporters here. (PTI)

## 2020 Delhi Riots: Court discharges 10 accused from the offence of destroying house by fire

**NEW DELHI, SEPT 29** /--/ A court here has discharged 10 accused from the offence of allegedly destroying house by fire in a case related to the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. The court, however, said that they will face charges for rioting. The court was hearing a case where the accused persons allegedly engaged in rioting and torched the complainant's vehicle parked on a road in the Maujpur area on the morning of February 25, 2020. Noting that the charge for the offence of mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy house was not made out as the complainant's vehicle was allegedly burnt on the public road, Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat transferred back the case only for the offence of rioting to the magisterial court concerned. (PTI)

## Armed forces must have mechanism for disciplinary proceedings against officers for adultery: SC

**NEW DELHI, SEPT 29** /--/ The Supreme Court on Thursday said that armed forces must have some kind of mechanism for disciplinary proceedings against their officers for adultery as "this is a conduct that can shake up the life of officers."

The top court said adultery creates "pain" in a family and it should not be treated in a lighter manner. "In uniformed services, discipline is of paramount importance. This is conduct that can shake up the life of officers. Everybody is ultimately dependent on the family as a unit of society. The integrity of society is based on the faithfulness of one spouse to another. "This (adultery) is going to shake the discipline in the armed forces. Armed forces must have some kind of assurance that they will take action. How can you cite Joseph Shine (judgement) and say it cannot be," said a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph.

It said the apex court 2018 judgement, which declared penal provision on adultery as unconstitutional, cannot be referred to halt disciplinary proceedings against guilty. "Adultery creates pain in a family. We have held so many sessions as judges in the high courts and seen so families are torn. We are telling you that do not treat this in a lighter manner. There was one incident where the mother, who committed adultery filed a habeas corpus plea seeking custody of her children. They (children) refused to talk to the mother. That's the kind of hate that happens," the bench observed.

The top court, on a plea filed by NRI Joseph Shine, in 2018 had struck down Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code, dealing with the offence of adultery while holding it unconstitutional. The observations by the bench, also comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy, and C T Ravikumar came after Additional Solicitor General Madhavi Divan, appearing for the Centre, submitted a plea seeking clarification of the 2018 judgement has been filed by her.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) had moved the apex court saying that the September 27, 2018 judgement striking down adultery as an offence could come in the way of armed forces personnel being convicted for adulterous acts. She told the bench that disciplinary actions were taken against certain army personnel for adultery, however, the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) quashed such proceedings in many cases, citing the Joseph Shine judgement. "We are seeking that striking down of section 497 will not come in the way of armed forces taking action against officers for unbecoming conduct," Divan said.

The ASG informed the apex court that disciplinary actions taken in the Army are gender neutral and even if a female officer is found to be indulging in adulterous activities, she will also face action for misconduct. The top court said there was nothing in the 2018 judgement which precludes the armed forces and it can challenge the individual orders of the AFT. The ASG sought time to go through the 2018 judgement in detail. The top court then posted the matter for hearing on December 6. (PTI)

## 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' posters found torn a day before its Karnataka entry

**BENGALURU, SEPT 29** /--/ Some posters put up to welcome leaders to the Congress 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' were found to be torn at Gundlupet in Chamarajanagar district on Thursday, a day before it is set to enter Karnataka.

Reacting sharply, the Congress said, "The 40% Commission Bommai Govt is already getting the jitters". The BJP's Bharat Todo Team of paid goons has been pressed into service to destruct, destroy and tear up posters, the Congress in charge of Karnataka Affairs, Randeep Singh Surjewala alleged. "They'll never be able to stop the war cry against Price Rise, Unemployment, Disparity & Divisiveness", he tweeted.

Congress state president D K Shivakumar alleged that a few posters were torn and burnt by the BJP. "Preparations are afoot to receive the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' but the BJP people have torn and burnt some banners. We will not be cowed down. We have faced enough of such things. They (BJP) should know this," Shivakumar told reporters in Chamarajanagar. He demanded that the police initiate action against those who tore the banners. "Let them (police) refuse to take action, then we will speak rest of the things," Shivakumar said.

The Congress lodged a police complaint in this connection in the police station concerned, sources close to the Congress state president said. Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said: "All know who is doing 'Bharat Jodo' and who's doing 'Thodo'. Addressing reporters in the district headquarters town of Haveri, Bommai said let Shivakumar comment on the incident, permission must be obtained for putting up posters.

The BJP need not tear the posters of any political party. Since people knew "everything," there was no need for him to say much about it, the chief minister said. Sources close to Shivakumar said the Congress leaders lodged a complaint at the police station concerned against those who tore and burnt the banners. (PTI)



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Congress leader K C Venugopal speaking to media after meeting party interim President Sonia Gandhi at 10 Janpath in New Delhi

# India is a rich country with poor population facing issues like starvation, unemployment: Gadkari

**NAGPUR, SEPT 29** /--/ Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said even as India has emerged as the world's fifth largest economy and although the country is rich, its population is poor, facing issues like starvation, unemployment, casteism, untouchability and inflation. The gap between the rich and the poor has widened in the country, which needs to be bridged, he said. He was addressing a programme

organised by Bharat Vikas Parishad, a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-inspired organisation. "We are the fastest-growing economy in the world and are the fifth largest economy. We are a rich nation with a poor population. Our country is rich, but the population is poor facing starvation, unemployment, poverty, inflation, casteism, untouchability and other factors that are not good for

the progress of the society," he said. "There is a need to establish social and economic equality in the society. The gap between these two sections of the society has widened. Economic disparity has also increased like social disparity," the Minister for Road Transport and Highways noted.

Gadkari emphasised the need to work in the fields of education, health and



Nitin Gadkari

services to bridge the rich-poor gap. "The purpose of the Bharat Vikas Parishad is very clear, but the biggest challenge before us is how to work in various sectors with social responsibility and social consciousness to bring about a change in the society. However, we are still very far from our objective and need to speed up our efforts to achieve it," he said. The minister called for working in a united way to develop 124

aspirational districts in the country. "These 124 aspirational districts in the country are lagging behind socially and in terms of education and health. The urban regions have witnessed a lot of development, but a huge population has migrated to cities due to lack of facilities and opportunities," he said while appealing to the Bharat Vikas Parishad to work on empowering rural areas. "Swami Vivekananda said

that the 21st century belongs to India, and therefore everyone should contribute in their own way towards the progress of the nation," he said.

Gadkari gave an example of his own initiatives being carried out in the tribal regions since the last 23 years, under which 1,200 Ekal Vidyalayas are being run in the Vidarbha, where 18,000 students are getting education. (PTI)



# Health Mela to mark POSHAN Maah



**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--/** As part of 'POSHAN Maah-2022', various programmes were organized in Schools and Anganwadi Centres under the jurisdiction of HWC Chouldari. Under this programme, Health Mela was conducted at Community Hall Chouldari on Sept. 24 in which the Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Chouldari, Smti.

TapasiSaha was the chief guest on the occasion. Smti. Noor Jahan, Health Educator welcomed the gathering while Smti. Vasanta, Health Education Officer & Shri Abdul Salam, Health Educator, spoke on the importance of health & nutrition in today's life. Apart from this, Ayurveda Camp was organized by Dr. Keerti, MO (Ayurveda), Dr. Asif Ahmed, MO (Homoeo) and Dr. RoshanAra Begum (Homoeo Pharmacist) and a Medical Camp was held during which health assessment, NCD screening, HIV screening, display of local fruits and vegetables, POSHAN recipes etc. were conducted besides Swatch Sagar and SurakshitSagar, cleanliness drive at Craikabad, Chouldari. The programme were successfully organized with the help of ANMs, MPHW, PHN, HE, Lab Technician, Interns of ANIIMS, Anganwadi Workers, ASHA Workers of concerned areas under the Supervision of Dr. Supria Roy, Medical Officer in-charge, HWC Chouldari.

## World Heart Day observed at GBPH

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--/** Alongwith the rest of the world, the World Heart Day 2022 was observed in A&N Islands on Thursday to raise awareness about the rising concerns of heart health and cardiovascular diseases. The theme for the observance was 'Use Heart For Every Heart'. Let's take this day as an opportunity for everyone to stop and consider how best to use the heart for humanity, for nature and for themselves.

As part of the observance, various screening camps and awareness programmes were conducted in all health institutions across the Island. A special NCD screening camp was organised at Govt. Saw Mill, Chatham in association with Doctors and Staff of Community Medicine Dept., ANIIMS, RBSK and H& WC Haddo. Dr. Omkar Singh, Nodal Officer (NPCDCS) highlighted the causes, risk factors and healthy behaviour to prevent heart diseases. More than 130 staff were screened, diagnosed and further referred to G.B Pant Hospital and AYUSH Hospital.

Meanwhile, World Heart Day was celebrated at Cath



Lab, GB Pant Hospital, Port Blair in a befitting manner in the presence of Addt. Medical Superintendent, Dr. ArpitaSaha as the chief guest. Dr. Srikant, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist highlighted the theme of the day 'Use Heart For Every Heart'. In addition, Dr. ArpitaSaha spoke about the importance of the day. This was followed by a health screening camp of health care workers conducted by Dr. Srikant. S alongwith the Cardiac team.

## Valedictory function of Hindi Fortnight by BSI



**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--/** The Botanical Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre organized Hindi fortnight-2022 from 14th to 29th September 2022. Various competitions, essay, speech, dictation etc. for Hindi & non-Hindi persons are being conducted to mark the celebration. Inaugurating the Valedictory function Joint Director & Head of Regional Centre, Dr. Lalji Singh emphasized upon the role of Hindi throughout the country and facilitated the winners of various competitions. Dr Singh appreciated all winners and participants. Scientists/Officers and staff of BSI actively participated in the programme.

The programme was moderated by Dr. PankajArvindDhole, Botanist & Mr. PrakashHoro, Junior Translation Officer delivered the vote of thanks.

## High Level Committee formed to resolve DBRAIT issues

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4) Clarification pertaining to authenticity of MSBTE (Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education) have been issued. MSBTE have re-confirmed the authenticity of the affiliation accorded to Diploma program of DBRAIT.

Further, the Administration has taken up matter with the Pondicherry University for speedy grant of affiliation to DBRAIT (Degree Program) for the year 2022-23. The ANA is also pursuing the PU to allow students, who could not appear for university exam in the past month due to fear of signing the Undertaking, to re-take the examinations. In addition, it was impressed upon the students and other

stakeholder representatives that the ANA will continue to pursue and seek resolution of any other issue or perceived grievance of the students with the relevant authorities, and remain open to all inputs and discussion.

The Chief Secretary also assured the students that ANA is committed to act in an impartial and stern manner on any complaint against any individual and the matter would be dealt under the framework of extant laws and rules. However, complaint against any individual cannot be used as a ruse/ stratagem to jeopardise the academic career and future of the students and students are requested not to fall prey to vested interests or rumour-mongers.

The students are advised that outstanding issues, if any, can only be resolved through dialogue with the Administration and appropriate authorities like PU, within the contours of the law and rules in force. Administration is keen to engage with all stakeholders, including students, and remain available at any time for early resolution of issues.

For this purpose, a High Level Committee of senior officers of A&N Administration under the chairmanship of Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Education) with Secretary Home, Secretary Education, DC South Andaman and Joint Secretary (Higher Education) as members has been constituted. During the

discussions held with various stakeholders, the Chief Secretary requested the students to approach the High level Committee with any issues, grievances and concerns relating to the larger academic interests and the High Level Committee will convene meeting with the student community/Stakeholders at short notice as per the urgency of the case. The student community is thus notified to submit their nominations for the Committee to Joint Secretary (Higher Education).

Further, students have been advised to refrain from any disruptive protest/ agitation. Yesterday's agitation by the students has caused huge public inconvenience to the noble

people of ANI. Many people have missed their flights, there have been obstacle/delays in ambulance movement in medical emergency, school children and public were stuck/ stranded in traffic for hours. This kind of unruly and disruptive activity brings disrepute and disgrace to the peace-loving and amiable people of ANI and dents its tourist-friendly image. The entire incident is being enquired into.

It is emphasised that dialogue and discussion is the only acceptable route for any resolution in a civilised, cultured and peaceful society like ours. ANA and its officers remain available and open to discussion on all issues, but in an amiable, dignified and peaceful manner and is committed to the resolution of all outstanding issues to secure the academic interests and future of students in ANI.

## C-19 status in ANI

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--/** Three COVID positive cases have been detected today in A&N Islands. Today, 12 flights with 2082 passengers arrived, out of which, 1841 passengers were vaccinated with both doses while the RT-PCR test was conducted on 217 passengers and the reports are awaited.

During RAT conducted on 49 passengers bound for North & Middle Andaman at Ferrargunj, no positive case has been detected. At Phoenix Bay Jetty, 50 passengers were tested with RAT, no positive case has been detected. RAT was conducted on 19 passengers at Mohanpura Bus Terminus and no positive case has been detected.

## Lime Stone Cave closed on Oct 2

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--/** The Lime Stone Cave at Baratang shall remain closed for the visitors for one day on Oct. 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

## Milan-un-Nabi on Oct 10

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--/** As no report of sighting of Moon has been reported from anywhere in these Islands, hence the A&N Hilal Committee in its meeting has decided that 'Milad-un-Nabi' will be observed in these Islands on Oct. 10.

## Film making workshop at NCS



**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--/** A heritage film making workshop was organised by INTACH, Andaman and Nicobar Chapter at Navy Children School on Thursday. Skills such as preparation and shooting,

camera angles and basic structuring of a shoot was imparted to the participants.

The children were shown presentations on tangible and intangible heritage of the islands and

motivated to make films on the culture, nature and other aspects of heritage in the islands. Ms. Samhita Veda Acharya, Convenor of INTACH Andaman & Nicobar Chapter was the resource person.

## Jansunwai-Administration at your doorstep at Gandhi Nagar



**SUBRATA**

**CAMPBELL BAY, SEPT 29/--/** A 'Jansunwai-PrashasanAapkeDwar' camp was held at the Community Hall, Gandhi Nagar on Thursday regarding the grievances of residents of Laxmi Nagar Panchayat Constituency. All the Head of Offices such as Forest, Agriculture, APWD, Transport, ALHW,

Veterinary, BDO, Police, Fire, Electricity and Education were present in the public meeting. Simultaneously, a revenue camp was also conducted and Mutation, Senior Citizen Certificate, EWS Certificate etc. were issued. The general public of the village raised many issues and the representative of the concerned department

redressed the grievances. Large number of residents attended the camp. The J a n s u n w a i - PrashasanAapkeDwar has been initiated by Dr. Nitin Shakya, Assistant Commissioner Campbell Bay. He informed that such camps will be organized in various villages to facilitate residents to settle their issues.

**APOLLO HOSPITALS**  
**CHENNAI**

**GASTROENTEROLOGY CLINIC**  
**Dr. NIVAS VENKATACHALAPATHI**  
MBBS, MS (General Surgery), MRCS (England) DNB (Surgical Gastroenterology)  
Fellowship in Liver Transplant and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery  
Consultant Liver Transplant Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgeon

**Patients suffering from Upper Abdominal Pain & discomfort, Blood Vomiting, Fatty Liver, Hepatitis B & C Virus, Liver Cancer, Liver Cirrhosis, Gall Stone, Pancreas Cancer, Pancreas Complaints, Jaundice with itching and requiring liver Transplantation can benefit.**

**Date: Saturday, 8th October 2022**  
**Time: 11.00 am to 6.00 pm**

**Venue: APOLLO CLINIC**  
**192 Garacharma Main Road, South Andaman Port Blair - 744105**  
X- Ray, USG, CT,2D- ECHO,ECG, EEG, TMT, NCS , PHYSIOTHERAPY, & LABORATORY

**For appointments:**  
**03192252522 / 03192252052 / 9531807777**

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**DURGA PUJA & DIWALI**

**MONDAL JEWELLERS**  
**CELL: 9434281991, PH: 234778**

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



How we remember what we remember and why we remember form the most personal map of our individuality

Christina Baldwin

## PMGKAY extension, a political move?

The government's decision to extend by three months its programme to provide free rations to the poor at a cost of Rs 44,762 crore could have been influenced by political considerations. The decision to ease pain from high inflation was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But, a fact that cannot be overlooked is that it comes ahead of the crucial assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. The opposition has already started wondering whether such "selfish announcements of freebies" will prevent the country from becoming self-reliant, increase the burden on honest tax payers and prevent investment in new technologies. For the record, the sixth extension of the pro-poor scheme comes at a time when food inflation is ruling at a high level. Consumer price index (CPI) based inflation in the food basket rose to 7.62 per cent in August 2022 against 6.69 per cent in the preceding month, as per the National Statistical Office (NSO) data. The retail inflation in the food segment was 3.11 per cent in August last year.

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana to provide 5 kg of wheat and rice free of cost to 80 crore poor every month will now run through December 31, 2022. The free quota is over and above the normal allocation under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which is 5 kg per person per month at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 2-3 per kg. The PMGKAY was started in April 2020 to help the poor whose livelihoods were shuttered by a nationwide lockdown aimed at containing the spread of the Coronavirus. The scheme has been extended multiple times and was to end this Friday. Under this scheme, 5 kg of food grain per person per month is provided free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the NFSA. The government has so far spent Rs 3.45 lakh crore on the PMGKAY scheme since its launch in April 2020. With the additional expenditure of about Rs 44,762 crore for the latest extension, the overall expenditure of the PMGKAY will be about Rs 3.91 lakh crore for all the phases. 122 lakh tonne (12.2 million tonne) of food grains will be given out free of cost in the three months from October 1.

The scheme has been extended amid concerns in some quarters about the government's buffer stocks of food grains, as erratic monsoon rains have led to fear of lower production of rice. Rice production is estimated to fall by 6 per cent to 104.99 million tonnes in the Kharif season this year. Wheat output had also dropped to 106.84 million tonnes in the 2021-22 crop year ended June from the record 109.59 million tonnes in the previous year due to heat waves early this year. The procurement of wheat fell by more than 50 per cent to 19 million tonnes in the 2022-23 marketing year (April-March), forcing the Centre to ban wheat exports. Earlier this month, the exports of broken rice were also banned and a 20 per cent export duty was slapped on non-basmati rice and non-par boiled rice.

# Nepal President's refusal to sign passed bill leads to political crisis

## REFLEX ACTION

Subhankar Gupta

provisions of the Constitution. The President is not allowed to stop the certification of any Bill passed by both the houses of federal parliament for the second time. Five top leaders of the political parties comprising the ruling centre-left alliance accused the President of trying to deprive many Nepalis of their right to citizenship by refusing to approve the bill. "The unconstitutional move of the president has seriously insulted and devalued the federal parliament elected by the people," they said in a joint statement. Balaram K. C., a retired judge of the Supreme Court described the refusal of the President to sign the amendment as a serious and grave violation of the constitution by a ceremonial head of state.

Taking a pot shot at CPN(UML) supremo, CPN (Maoist Center) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka Prachanda at Bharatpur Airport said that the controversy around the Citizenship Bill is motivated. "When KP Oli was the Prime Minister, the Citizenship Bill was introduced as an ordinance. Now when this bill is presented to the parliament, they are calling it anti-national. Nothing can be more dishonest and immoral than this," he quipped.

However, the credibility of once media-hyped underground Maoist leader of Nepal has been on the decline among the people of Nepal. The CPN (Maoist Center) boss visited India a few months back and called on the Bharatiya Janata Party president Jagat Prasad Nadda. And the two leaders in a joint communiqué stated that his party and the BJP had different ideologies but a common objective to uplift the poor section of society. He praised India for

buying power from Nepal and extending support to his country during the earthquake and the Covid pandemic. Several legal experts are of the opinion that the President should either resign as president or somebody should file a case against her in the Supreme Court. The President has pushed her into the crossfire of controversy by addressing the Global Security Initiative conference organised by the Communist Party of China. Nepal's ministry of foreign affairs took an exception to this reminding that the President Bhandari went beyond her jurisdiction by addressing the GSI conference against Nepal's foreign policy. This is a violation of the non-aligned foreign policy that Nepal has been following, the MoFA observed in a statement. When President Bhandari was requested to participate in the conference, the government advised her not to attend the event as it was linked to the Chinese security umbrella and would be detrimental to Nepal's foreign policy. But she ignored the advice.

Ms Bhandari erred on two counts. First is her lack of adherence to protocol which is mandatory for the head of state by refusing to sign the amendment bill as a custodian of the Constitution of Nepal. Second, she seems ill-advised to keep Chinese communist bureaucrats in good humour, maybe to remain in the good book of Oli. The CPN(UML) is opposed to India, especially due to its ideological opposition to the BJP-in-power 'a Fascist threat' to neighbouring states like Nepal, stated by a top leader of the party at a meeting of cadres.

The latest deadlock over President's behaviour is going to have its impact on the national elections by year end. The two communist parties refighting each other and that is giving a bad name to the communists in general. The left supports in Nepal are worried at the continuous disunity in the communist movement in the country. (IPA)



People shopping for fancy bags and other items in the New Market area in central Kolkata--Arijit Ganguly

# Iran has a history of women struggle for progressive reforms

The custodial death of Mahsa Amini, a young woman who was arrested by the morality police in Tehran, has sparked wide protests in Iran. Under the scanner are police who patrol public places to enforce the headscarf law and other Islamic laws. Conversations are also taking place on the situation of women in Islamic Republic.

Since the Islamic revolution in 1979, women have been required by law to wear a veil covering their head and neck and conceal their hair. Over the past two decades, however, more and more women in Tehran and other cities of Iran have been letting strands of their hairs outside their veil as a form of protest. More recently, some women have been sharing photos that show them taking off headscarves in opposition to hijab rules.

The struggle against compulsory headscarves made headlines in December 2017 when a young woman, Vida Movahed, waved her hijab on a stick at Tehran's Revolution Street. Then, on July 12, this year, -- the hijab and chastity day on the Islamic Republic's calendar -- another group of women took part in a national civil disobedience campaign against mandatory headgear. More and more women, many of whom have not experienced the 1979 revolution, have

been risking fines and even prison sentences for violating the hijab rules.

The Iranian Revolution, which ended with the victory of Islamists and the creation of the Islamic Republic, was marked by a noticeable presence of women. Thousands of young women joined Islamist and leftist politics groups. In his interviews with foreign journalists before returning to Iran Ayatollah Khomeini praised women for their involvement in the revolution.

Earlier, however, Khomeini had taken a firm stand against the Shah's "White Revolution" -- one of the axes of which was women's access to the Iranian public space. Since the beginning of the 20th century, especially during the Constitutional Revolution of 1906--1911, progressive Iranian women demanded access to schooling and the right to expression. Before the end of Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi's reign in 1978, thirty per cent of students in Iranian universities were women. Though many Iranian students were attracted by the revolutionary language of radical reform in 1979,

under influence of religious intellectuals such as Ali Shariati, the country's public space became a field of social political contradictions between sexes.

In March 1979, after the new Islamic law on veiling at workplaces came into force, massive demonstrations took place in the Capital and major cities of Iran. Thousands of men took to the streets shouting slogans such as: "We did not make the revolution to go backwards." The demonstrators were attacked and injured by Islamist storm-troopers. They were not supported by the secular opposition groups who advised them to remain calm, so as Along with the introduction of compulsory veiling, the Islamic Republic abolished the modernizing reforms in the field of civil liberties for women and families law introduced during the Pahlavi regime. The Shah era laws restricting the exercise of polygamy and raising the legal age of marriage to 18 were abolished.

After the death of Khomeini in 1989 and the end of the eight-year war with

Iraq, new ideological currents emerged among women who demanded reforms while supporting the Islamic regime. Reformist women stood firm against some of the ideological framework of the Islamic regime in the 1990s, but they were gradually overtaken in the first decade of the twenty-first century by a younger generation, the carriers of new demands.

The most significant action of this new generation of activists was the "One million signatures for the repeal of all discriminatory laws against women in Iran" campaign in 2006. From the Green Movement women against electoral frauds in 2009 to protest against acid attack on women's resistance movement in streets of Esfahan in 2014, women's resistance movement have caused social and political tremors in Iran.

In one of its recent reports on the country, Amnesty International noted that the Iranian authorities have not taken any initiatives to combat violence against woman and girls in private spheres or public sphere. Recent history shows us that Iranian women have been present at all major points in the country's destiny. They have contributed to the evolution of the Iranian public sphere while building a new future for their country. (IPA)

Conventional Crossword												
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ACROSS						DOWN					
1	Slight error	2	Decreased	3	Be ill	4	Melody	5	Delight	6	Approaches
7	Approaches	8	Temped	9	Period of time	10	Important	11	Drink	12	Asian country
13	Get up	14	Furniture item	15	Cult	16	Drop	17	Land measure	18	Female deer
19	Drop	20	Poet's Ireland	21	Cold symptom	22	Worship	23	Stringed instrument	24	Retains
25	Retains	26	Fruit seed	27	Limber	28	Sound made by bullet	29	Paces		

SUDOKU : 3655												
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Yesterday's Solution 3654												
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Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1663												
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### DISCLAIMER

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



## Voluntary blood donation camp at Minnie Bay



**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--**/ As a part of mega blood donation drive-2022, launched by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi which commenced from 17th September 2022 till 1st October 2022 at A & N Islands, the Andaman & Nicobar AIDS Control Society (ANACS) coordinated the Voluntary Blood Donation camp which was organized by Office of GE Minniebay, Opp. Coral Cove Hotel, Port Blair in coordination with G. B. Pant Hospital on Thursday. A total of 34 units of blood were donated by voluntary donors.

The blood donation was facilitated by Dr. N. R. Kodhandram, Deputy Director (Blood Safety)/ Chief

Medical Officer (NFSG). The donors were examined for their eligibility to donate blood and briefed the donors on various aspect and importance of blood donation.

Mr. BandiSreenihar, IDSE, EE, Garrison Engineer, MES, Minniebay, Port Blair organized the camp and made arrangements for conducting the camp successfully. The technical team from Blood Bank, G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair and A & N AIDS Control Society ensured that the donated blood units were screened for the blood transmissible diseases. They also examined the donors for eligibility. Donors' certificates were also distributed to the voluntary donors.

## Seminar-cum-exhibition on “Tribal Heroes in India’s Freedom Struggle” at JNRM

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--**/The Jawaharlal Nehru RajkeeyaMahavidyalaya (JNRM), in association with the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Govt. of India and AkhilBharatiyaVanvasiKalyan Ashram organised a seminar-cum-exhibition on “Tribal Heroes in India’s Freedom Struggle” on 28th September 2022.

During the inauguration, the chief guest Dr.E.B.Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair congratulated the organisers for making this programme which is the need of the hour. He has suggested bringing out e-book as miniature of the exhibition and to circulate among the people for creating more awareness about the unsung Tribal Heroes of freedom struggle.

The President of the seminar, Dr. Hemant Kumar Sharma, Principal, JNRM has motivated the students to become more aware by knowing the tribal leaders and their sacrifice in the freedom struggle. The special guest, Mr. AbhinavPrakash, APS to Chairperson, NCST, New Delhi has exhorted the students to become an ambassador for NCST. While addressing the gathering he has shared the NCST-

GRAMS, a platform to raise the issues and problems faced by the Tribal Communities across India. The Guest of Honour Dr. NilanjanKhatua, HoD, Anthropological Survey of India, Port Blair through powerpoint presentation underscored the contribution made by the tribal communities.

Ms.SampattiXalxo, State Joint Secretary, VanvasiKalyan Ashram, Port Blair thanked all the freedom fighters because of whom we are living in the free India today. She has also underscored the contributions made by tribal community people like Tantiya Mama, BheemaNayak, TilkaMajhi and KaaliBai. Mr. Ram Kumar Singh, PrantPracharPrasarPramukh, VanvasiKalyan Ashram described in detail about the pain taken by the communities in bringing freedom. Dr.A.Justin, former Head, Anthropological Survey of India mentioned freedom is a state of mind. He threw light on the role of different scholars from tribal communities for making India free from British rule. Ms.Jochibed Vincent, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of English, ANCOL has

described in detail on the sacrifices made by the tribal people and their role for making India free.

Dr.ManjuNair, Associate Professor and Convener has coordinated and moderated the entire programme Earlier Dr.Vivek Kumar Sahu, Assistant Professor and Convener welcomed the gathering and gave a brief note on the importance of this programme by highlighting the various tribes in Andaman and India. Dr.K.Venkatesan, Assistant Professor and Convener proposed vote of thanks. Dr.RashmiJanak and Ms.Shalini Resource Persons from Botany have served as Rapporteur. Altogether 250 participants participated in this programme. The dignitaries felicitated Ms. Techa, Great Andamanese Tribal student who has passed NEET Examination recently. Ms. Techa has also shared her experience. The dignitaries also released Vanbandhu Special Edition Journal themed on Contribution of Tribal Community in achieving Independence. A mini-cultural programme comprising the Tribal Dance of Nicobar Community and Ranchi Community presented by the students of JNRM.

## Ensemble films pushes you to do better: Hrithik Roshan on 'Vikram Vedha'

**MUMBAI, SEPT 29 --**/ As Hrithik Roshan awaits the release of his two-hero film Vikram Vedha , the superstar says working in a multi-starrer elevates his performance.

Before Vikram Vedha , in which Hrithik features alongside superstar Saif Ali Khan, he had shared screen space with other actors in films such as Mission Kashmir , "Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham...", Dhoom 2 , Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara and War. I love doing an ensemble. The more the merrier. Like I did in ZNMD', War' and now with Saif, it pushes you to do better because you see wonderful acting. Every time, I have done a two-hero or an ensemble film it has been way better and more fun for me, the 48-year-old actor said in a group interview. In Vikram Vedha', the Hindi version of Tamil hit of the same name, Hrithik essays the role of titular gangster Vedha, originally played by National Award winner Vijay Sethupathi in the 2017 film. The neo-noir action crime thriller, inspired by the Indian folk tale Vikram-Betaal, follows a tough police officer Vikram (Saif), who sets out to track down and arrest the tenacious gangster Vedha.

Hrithik, who reunites with Saif after the 2002 romantic-drama Na Tum Jaano Na Hum, said his co-star has maintained his originality over the years.

Saif has always been real. He has never tried to be someone he is not. When the rest of the actors were trying to be the hero, trying to have that swag, he was just being himself, he added. The actor said while working on "Vikram Vedha" he felt the need to be realistic in his approach. First time in 22 years of my career, I felt this pull to safeguard myself. I felt an instinctive pull that I have to be very real because I am opposite an actor, who is the most real performer, he added. "Vikram Vedha" is directed by Pushkar and Gayatri, who also helmed the original. Hrithik revealed "Kaabil", the 2017 romantic action thriller in which he played a visually impaired man out to avenge the death of his wife, was a turning point in his career. The difference between pre and post Kaabil' is that I was hiding a lot of myself before. I was afraid of all the shortcomings and failings that I could see as a human being. Post Kaabil' I have started being more of myself. "That habit (of not accepting) is cultivated in

your childhood when you are not able to express yourself fully. It is the unravelling of that, which is making me a better actor now, he added.

During the same time, the actor said he also hired an acting coach to polish his skills as he felt he was getting "repetitive" in his performance. I don't think I am a natural actor. I know the craft because of watching actors and being an assistant director to my father (Rakesh Roshan). Being born in the film industry, and surrounded by cinema, I know the DNA of a hero. I got myself help and I did better after that." The War star, who tasted success right from his debut film Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai, said he feels blessed with his filmography and will continue to push himself with every outing. I am full of gratitude that I got this chance. I feel proud of myself that I didn't waste the chance. I gave my very best at every opportunity, whether it was a success or a failure. I took all my demons on and did my best. This is what I will continue to do, Hrithik added. "Vikram Vedha" is set to open in theatres on Friday. The movie is produced by S Sashikanth and Bhushan Kumar. (PTT)

## PDS beneficiaries to get foodgrains for two months at one go

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--**/For the convenience of the PDS beneficiaries, foodgrains shall be distributed in advance for 2 months for October and November 2022 in one go in the entire UT in the month of October, 2022 itself. All the ration card holders/PDS beneficiaries have been informed that they can purchase the foodgrains as per their entitlement for 2 months in October, 2022 itself.

Further, all such beneficiaries have been advised to draw their entitled quota of foodgrains from the first week of October 2022 to 30th November 2022. However, the Ration Card holders who are not able to lift ration in the month of October, 2022 can also lift their foodgrains in the month of November, 2022.

## Transport dept to accept documents of outer Islands in respective STS offices

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--**/ It has been observed that the residents of area falling under jurisdiction of outlying Islands have to visit the Head Quarter situated at Port Blair for the works related to Transport Department such as Driving Licenses, it's renewal, registration of motor vehicles, fitness of vehicles, transfer of ownership etc leading to inconvenience, additional expenditure and waste of time for the citizens.

In order to resolve the issues by simplifying the procedure and to facilitate the citizen staying in outlying Islands, the Transport Department has taken an initiative to accept all the documents in complete shape from the applicants of outer Islands in the respective STS offices functioning in the islands. Officials of Transport Department have been directed to render all guidance to the general public in the processing of applications correctly.

The general public can seek guidance about the legal provisions and procedures related to Motor Vehicle Section/ Permit Section from the offices of Transport Department functioning in the Islands. General public has been advised to submit the documents related to the services rendered by Transport Department in the STS Offices and the outcome of service will be delivered by the local Transport Office to the applicant directly.

## CPI(M) condemns Police action on students

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--**/ The Communist Party of India (Marxist), Andaman & Nicobar State Organising Committee has condemned the Police action on the agitating students of DBRAIT on 28th Sept 2022 night at Port Blair. It is condemnable that the Police used force against the peacefully agitating students, used water cannons and tear gas to disperse the students. A few students sustained serious injuries during the police action.

It is shameful that instead of talking to the students, the police were used to suppress the agitation. CPI (M) calls upon the central government to desist from using police force against the peaceful agitation by students and intervene in the matter to resolve the demands of the students.

## 35th National U-11 Open Girls Chess Championship

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--**/ The MPL 35th National Under-11 Open & Girls Chess Championships-2022 will be organised All India Chess Federation supported by Sports Authority of India, Ministry of & Sports & Youth Affairs, Govt. of India from 29th October 2022, to 6th November 2022, in Gurugram, Haryana. Each affiliated State Association is entitled to send two entries each from Boys & Girls for the Championship. The players who are born on or after 1.1.2011 are eligible to participate in the Championship.

Interested chess players who wish to participate in the upcoming National Under-11 Chess Championship 2022 may submit their entries on or before 7th October 2022 through Whatsapp@ 9434293379 or email@anchessassociation@gmail.com or visit www.anchessassociation.com.s per the entries, Andaman Nicobar chess association (ANCA) will conduct a Selection Trial on Sunday the 9th October 2022 to select

players from Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the National under-11.

For more details, please contact B Neelaiah, General Secretary Andaman Nicobar Chess Association @ 9434293379 or 9679593366.

## Hindi Fortnight concluded at DDK



**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--**/ The closing ceremony of Hindi fortnight was held on Thursday at Doordarshan Kendra, Port Blair wherein the chief guest, Mr. T.N.Krishnamoorthi, Chief Engineer and

Administrator, ALHW and Smt.A.Chitra, Director (E) and Head of Office, DDK, Port Blair distributed medals, certificates and cash rewards to winners of various competitions held during the fortnight.

## Counselling for admission to course of GBM, School of Nursing

**PORT BLAIR, SEPT 29/--**/ The date of counselling for the admission to the course of GNM, School of Nursing, GBPH, Port Blair for the Academic Session 2022-2023 as per the final merit list published in the website and notice board of School of Nursing is scheduled to be held on Oct.12, 2022 at 9 am in the

Lecture Hall-I (Auditorium), GBPH, Port Blair. Preference will be given to Science Students (Vacant seats if any left after the preferred students of Science Stream shall be filled with students of Arts/Com students). The candidates who appear in the counselling session

should come along with the relevant Certificates/ Documents (original & copies) for verification. It is also informed that the candidates who fail to attend the counselling session on time will not be considered for admission to the course and the next eligible candidate from the Merit list will be considered for admission.

### NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, E & M Division, APWD, Prothrapur, Port Blair on behalf of the President of India invites Online item rate Tender (in form C.P.W.D-8) from those who having Experience in APWD and Non APWD Contractor irrespective of their Enlistment Subject to the condition that they having successfully completed the similar nature of work in terms of cost in any of the Government Department in A&N Islands and they should not have any Adverse remarks for the work mentioned below:-

DB-e-Tender/E&M/DIV/PP/PB/2022-23/1911,  
Dated. 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2022

- NIT No. 52/EE/E&M/22-23** Name of Work: "SITC of 01 No 50 HP Electric Motor with DSM 80/36 Hut Bay R.K. Pur area 19 KM in Lieu of "SITC of 01 No. 50 HP Electric Motor with DSM 100/36, Hut Bay R.K. Pur area 19 KM under E&M Sub Division No-III, APWD, Hut Bay, Little Andaman" Estimate Cost: ₹ 7,04,858/- EMD : ₹ 14,097/- Period of Completion: 120 (One Hundred Twenty) Days.

**TENDER ID: 2022 APWD 7397\_1]**

The e-tender from and other details can be downloaded from the website. The Last Date and Time of bid submission will be **17.10.2022 upto 09:30 hours**. Other details / information can be seen on website. "<https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in>."

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता  
Executive Engineer  
विद्युत एवं यांत्रिक मंडल, अ.लो.नि.वि, प्रात्रपुर, पोर्टब्लेयर  
E&M Division, APWD, Prothrapur, Port Blair  
**9082/22**

### NOTICE INVITING e- TENDER

No. DB/Tender Notice/ PBNB/2022-23/5499 Dated: 28/09/2022

The Executive Engineer, Port Blair North Division, APWD, Port Blair invites on behalf of the President of India, online Item Rate tender from experienced and eligible contractors having valid GST Registration and requisite experience of having successfully completed similar works(s) of relevant magnitude in civil works without any adverse remarks in any of the Govt. Organizations in Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the following work(s):

- NIT No. 64/EE/PBNB/2022-23, Name of work:** Repair and painting of Anti Corruption Unit Building at Deen Street under SD-I, PBNB, APWD, Port Blair., **Estimated Cost put to bid:** ₹ 12,77,234/-, **Earnest money:** ₹ 25,545/- **Period of Completion:** 03 (Three) months (**Tender ID: 2022\_APWD\_7475\_1**)

The last date of bid submission will be **11.10.2022 upto 1500 hours**.

The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in>

**9101/22**

### NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The **Executive Engineer, Panchayati Raj Institution, South Andaman Division-I** on behalf of **Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Ferrargunj** invites online item rate tender (in CPWD form-8) from bonafide and experienced contractors of appropriate class of APWD, MES, ALHW & P&T for the below mentioned work.

- NIT NO.** EE/PRI/SAD-I/RR/2022-23/41 **Name of Work:** - Renovation of Rural Road from Ranjit Biswas house to Guru Bahadur house at Ferrargunj-02 under Gram Panchayat Ferrargunj. **Estimated Cost Rs:-** 7,82,915/- **Earnest Money Deposit:-** 15,658/- **Time of Completion:** - Three (03) Months, Tender Fee: - :500/- & last date & time of submission of bid: - 07/10/2022 (1500 hrs)

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocure.andaman.gov.in>.

**Tender ID: - 2022\_RDPRI\_7447\_1**

9092/22

Executive Engineer,  
Panchayati Raj Institution,  
South Andaman Division-I  
Junglighat, Port Blair  
South Andaman



# Meaning of 'rape' must be understood as including marital rape, says SC

Apex court expands scope of MTP Act, brings unmarried women in ambit

**NEW DELHI, SEPT 29 /--/** In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday expanded the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act and the corresponding rules to include unmarried women for abortion between 20-24 weeks of pregnancy, saying limiting the provision to cover only married women will render it discriminatory and violative of Article 14.

The apex court held the meaning of the words "sexual assault" or "rape" under the rules of MTP Act, includes a husband's act of sexual assault or rape committed on his wife. "The meaning of rape must therefore be understood as including marital rape, solely for the purposes of the MTP Act and any rules and regulations framed thereunder," it said. The Supreme Court said the rights of reproductive autonomy, dignity, and privacy under Article 21 give an unmarried woman the right of choice on whether or not to bear a child, on a footing similar to a married woman. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, AS Bopanna and JB Pardiwala said the ambit of reproductive rights is not restricted to the right of women to have or not have children and also includes the constellation of freedoms and entitlements that enable a woman to decide freely on all matters relating to her sexual and reproductive health.

The apex court's verdict came on an appeal by a woman from the North-East challenging the Delhi High Court order denying her permission to abort her pregnancy from a consensual relationship after

her partner refused to marry and left her. It said the object of Section 3(2)(b) of the MTP Act read with Rule 3B is to provide for abortions between 20 and 24 weeks of pregnancy rendered unwanted due to a change in the material circumstances of women. "In view of the object, there is no rationale for excluding unmarried or single women (who face a change in their material circumstances) from the ambit of Rule 3B. A narrow interpretation of Rule 3B, limited only to married women, would render the provision discriminatory towards unmarried women and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution", the bench said.

It added that Article 14 requires the state to refrain from denying to any person equality before law or equal protection of laws, and prohibiting unmarried or single pregnant women (whose pregnancies are between 20 and 24 weeks) from accessing abortion while allowing married women to access them during the same period will fall foul of the spirit guiding Article 14. "The law should not decide the beneficiaries of a statute based on narrow patriarchal

principles about what constitutes "permissible sex", which create invidious classifications and excludes groups based on their personal circumstances. The rights of reproductive autonomy, dignity, and privacy under Article 21 give an unmarried woman the right of choice on whether or not to bear a child, on a similar footing of a married woman", the bench said. Justice Chandrachud, in a lengthy verdict of 75 pages, said the ordinary meaning of the word 'rape' is sexual intercourse with a person, without their consent or against their will, regardless of whether such forced intercourse occurs in the context of matrimony.

The apex court added that married women may also form part of the class of survivors of sexual assault or rape and a woman may become pregnant as a result of non-consensual sexual intercourse performed upon her by her husband. "We would be remiss in not recognising that intimate partner violence is a reality and can take the form of rape. The misconception that strangers are exclusively or almost exclusively responsible for sex- and gender-

based violence is a deeply regrettable one. Sex- and gender-based violence (in all its forms) within the context of the family has long formed a part of the lived experiences of scores of women", it said. The apex court said it is not inconceivable that married women become pregnant as a result of their husbands having "raped" them and the nature of sexual violence and the contours of consent do not undergo a transformation when one decides to marry.

"The institution of marriage does not influence the answer to the question of whether a woman has consented to sexual relations. If the woman is in an abusive relationship, she may face great difficulty in accessing medical resources or consulting doctors," it said. The bench said it is only by a legal fiction that Exception 2 to Section 375 of the IPC removes marital rape from the ambit of rape, as defined in Section 375. "Notwithstanding Exception 2 to Section 375 of the IPC, the meaning of the words "sexual assault" or "rape" in Rule 3B(a) includes a husband's act of sexual assault or rape committed on his wife. The meaning of rape must therefore be understood as including marital rape, solely for the purposes of the MTP Act and any rules and regulations framed thereunder...", it added.

The bench said since the challenge to Exception 2 to Section 375 (marital rape) of the IPC is pending consideration before a different Bench of this Court, it would leave the constitutional validity to be decided in that or any other appropriate proceeding. (PTI)



**"The meaning of rape must therefore be understood as including marital rape, solely for the purposes of the MTP Act and any rules and regulations framed thereunder"**  
**---SC bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, ASBopanna and JB Pardiwala**

# India plays important role as frontline state in fight against terrorism: Prez

**NEW DELHI, SEPT 29 /--/** President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said India's leadership in several fields has become unchallenged now and the country plays an important role as a frontline state in the fight against terrorism.

Addressing a group of officer trainees of the Indian Foreign Service (2021 batch), who had called on her at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, she said that India's strong position is based on its economic performance, among other factors. "While leading economies of the world are still trying to overcome the effects of the pandemic, India has stood up again and started to move on," the President said. As a result, India's economy is registering one of the fastest growth rates, Murmu said. "In fact, the global economic recovery, to an extent, rests on India".

The President said it is going to be all the more exciting for the officer trainees as they are beginning their career in the foreign service at a time when India has emerged on the world stage with new self-confidence.

The world, too, is looking at India with new admiration, Murmu said. "The recent years have witnessed new initiatives in our bilateral and multilateral relations. In several global forums, India has made decisive interventions. India's leadership in

several fields has become unchallenged now. India also plays an important role in developing the South and as a frontline state in the fight against terrorism," she said. The other reason for India's standing on the world stage is its ethos, the President said. According to her, the Indian Foreign Service offers the officers a unique opportunity to project India's proud civilisation, heritage and culture, together with its developmental aspirations to the rest of the world.

Referring to the changes taking place around the world, the President said that ongoing transformations on multiple fronts offer great opportunities as well as great challenges.

"New technologies give us hopes of better healthcare, for example, but they threaten existing business practices too. We can use technology to reach out to those on the margins. At the same time, technology also resets the security paradigm with new threats. As a nation, we have before us a chance to reset our choices," Murmu said. The President said amid this fast-changing world, with its opportunities and threats, the role of Indian Foreign Service officers becomes critical more so than ever before. Navigating through these difficult waters and ensuring the best for India and also for the world will test their intelligence, Murmu said. (PTI)



# PM declares 36th National Games open

**AHMEDABAD, SEPT 29 /--/** Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared open the 36th National Games here on Thursday.

Indian sportspersons could not perform well in the past due to nepotism and corruption but his government cleaned up the system, Modi said on this occasion. Speaking at a gala ceremony at the Narendra Modi Stadium in

Motera area here, he praised Indian athletes for winning medals in various international events such as the Olympics in the recent times.

"The country's sportsmen were capable in the past too. This movement of winning medals could have started earlier too. But, instead of professionalism, there was nepotism and corruption

in sports. We have cleaned up the system and pumped in new confidence among the youth," he said in his address to the cheering crowd. "Your victory in sports will pave the way for the country's success in other fields. The soft power of sports will significantly improve our country's image in the world," he said to the sportspersons. (PTI)



*Revellers taking selfie in front of a community Durga puja pandal, in the city on Thursday*

# Ashtami Pushpanjali now with Bengali verses

**KOLKATA, SEPT 29 /--/** The Durga Puja ritual of Pushpanjali on Maha Ashtami can now be conducted in Bengali with a scholar, linguist and a priest coming together to translate the verses from Sanskrit.

Sanskrit scholar Nrisingha Prasad Bhaduri, linguist Pabitra Sarkar, and K a l i p r a s a n n a Bhattacharya, a priest who has conducted Durga Puja rituals for at least 60 years, came together for the initiative as part of a campaign to promote Bengali. "The devotion lies in the heart and not in the language in which the shlokas are chanted. It is always better to offer the prayers in a language, which we know and understand, rather than saying it in Sanskrit with half of the meaning not understood by us," Bhaduri

told PTI. The rituals on Maha Ashtami - the second day of the four-day festival, including Pushpanjali and Sandhi Puja, are considered to be the most significant ones and are conducted in Sanskrit, also called 'Dev Bhasha' or the divine language. Even though Pushpanjali, or offering of flowers, is held on multiple days during the Durga Puja, the one on Maha Ashtami is most revered with thousands of people queuing up at pandals to take part in the ritual. The Bengali shlokas have been compiled in a book, which has been distributed among the puja committees of Kolkata. The Sanskrit verses are also there in the book if someone wants to check the accuracy of the translation, said Srimanta Choudhury who is the head of the campaign, initiated

by a group of Bengali techies living abroad. The Bengali verses can be downloaded from chantbangla.org in PDF or in an audio format, chanted by noted elocutionist Satinath Mukherjee, he said.

Around 250 Durga Puja committees in West Bengal will be conducting the rituals in Bengali this year, he added. Not only the community Pujas, but also the Pujas at several 'Bonedhi Bari' or traditional households will be conducted with these verses. Some residential complexes will also be using the Bengali sholkas, Mukherjee said. Among the notable community Pujas taking part in the initiative are SB Park Sarbajanin in Thakurpukur, Behala Club and Ajeyo Sanhati in Haridevpur. (PTI)

# Gehlot not to contest Cong Prez poll, says he has apologised to Sonia for Jaipur episode

■ Decision on Rajasthan CM in a day or two, says party ■ Digvijay likely to file nomination today

**NEW DELHI, SEPT 29 /--/** Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday announced that he will not contest the Congress presidential polls as he took moral responsibility for the political crisis in his state, and said the decision on whether he would remain chief minister would be taken by party chief Sonia Gandhi.

After meeting the party president at her 10 Janpath residence, Gehlot told reporters that he apologised to Gandhi for the developments on Sunday when MLAs supporting him defied the central observers and thwarted their move to hold a meeting of party legislators. Instead, they held a parallel meet to pitch for Gehlot's continuation or the guarantee that his bete noire Sachin Pilot does not replace him. Gehlot, a three-time state chief minister, described himself as a disciplined soldier of the party and expressed his sadness over the turn of events in the state. Asked if he will continue as chief minister, Gehlot said Gandhi will decide on the issue.

"In the last 50 years, I have worked as a loyal Congress soldier from the time of Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Narasimha Rao and Sonia ji, be it becoming a central minister or state unit chief, general secretary or CM for the third time, I cannot forget that. The events that happened (on Sunday) has shaken all of us. Only I know how hurt I am because a message went that I want to remain CM," Gehlot said. "I have apologised to Sonia ji because a simple resolution, which is our tradition and which we always pass, a situation emerged that it could not be passed. I, as a CLP leader, whatever the reasons, could not get the resolution passed," he said. He also said that in the aftermath of the events, he has decided that he will not fight the party president polls. Congress general secretary KC Venugopal later said the party president will decide on the Rajasthan chief minister's post within a day or two. Venugopal made the statement outside Gandhi's 10, Janpath residence here after a series of meetings to resolve the Rajasthan crisis. He also said it will be clear by tomorrow, the last day of filing nominations for the top post, who all will contest. Meanwhile, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, who is likely to file his nomination for the Congress president's post on Friday, met Shashi Tharoor, who said they agreed that theirs is "not a battle between rivals but a friendly contest" among colleagues. Singh met the party MP from Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday after collecting nomination papers for the polls.

"Received a visit from Digvijaya Singh this afternoon. I welcome his candidacy for the Presidency of our Party," Tharoor said in a tweet. "We both agreed that ours is not a battle between rivals but a friendly contest among colleagues. All we both want is that whoever prevails, @inCIndia will win!" he said. (PTI)



# Fall in country's foreign exchange reserves not worrying: Experts

**KOLKATA, SEPT 29 /--/** The decline in foreign exchange reserves of the country due to the depreciation of the rupee is not a worrying factor, and there is coverage for nine months of imports, experts said here on Thursday.

The country's forex kitty continued its southward journey, with the overall reserves declining by USD 5.219 billion to USD 545.652 billion for the week ended September 16, the Reserve Bank of India had said. The reserves, which have been dipping as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressure caused majorly by global developments, had declined by USD 2.23 billion to USD 550.87 billion in the previous week. State Bank of India Group chief economic adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh said: "India's foreign exchange reserves have gone down from USD 630 billion to USD 550 billion. But is not a cause for concern as there is coverage for nine months of imports."

However, Ghosh said the rupee should find some value. HDFC Bank chairman Atanu Chakrabarty said India is not decoupled as it imports a large amount of energy. He said the foreign exchange reserves are down by USD 80 billion due to the depreciation of the rupee vis-a-vis the

greenback. Ahead of the RBI monetary policy decision scheduled to come out on September 30, the rupee, however, consolidated in a narrow range and settled 13 paise higher at 81.80 against the US dollar on Thursday. The rupee on Wednesday plunged below the 82-mark for the first time in intraday trade before settling 40 paise down at 81.93 against the dollar. Chakrabarty, however, said the banking sector is in the pink with low NPAs and the capital expenditure cycle starting to pick up. The Indian economy at present is more formalised due to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax and digitalisation, he said, adding that there has been a push towards infrastructure development. He also mentioned that presence of a big middle class in India will drive consumption but cautioned on the high inflation which is higher than the RBI-designated band of four to six per cent. "So cut in interest rates may not be there in tomorrow's monetary policy committee (MPC) meet," he said. New Development Bank of BRIC countries former chief K V Kamath viewed that since the present high inflation is mainly on account of food, a cut in rates may not have the desired impact. (PTI)



*Security beefed up after the Udhampur blast in Jammu city on Thursday*



## Kremlin: 4 regions of Ukraine to be folded in Russia Friday

**RYIV, SEPT 29 /-/-** Russia confirmed on Thursday it will formally annex parts of Ukraine where occupied areas held Kremlin-orchestrated referendums on living under Moscow's rule that the Ukrainian government and the West denounced as illegal and rigged. Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend a ceremony on Friday in the Kremlin when four regions of Ukraine will be officially folded into Russia, spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. Peskov said the pro-Moscow administrators of the regions will sign treaties to join Russia during the ceremony at the Kremlin's St. George's Hall. The official annexation was widely expected following the votes that wrapped up on Tuesday in the areas under Russian occupation in Ukraine and after Moscow claimed residents overwhelmingly supported for their areas to formally become part of Russia.

The United States and its Western allies have sharply condemned the votes as sham and vowed never to recognise their results. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Thursday joined other Western officials in denouncing the votes. Under threats and sometimes even (at) gunpoint people are being taken out of their homes or workplaces to vote in glass ballot boxes, she said at a conference in Berlin. This is the opposite of free and fair elections, Baerbock said. And this is the opposite of peace. It's dictated peace. As long as this Russian diktat prevails in the occupied territories of Ukraine, no citizen is safe. No citizen is free. Armed troops had gone door-to-door with election officials to collect ballots in five days of voting. The suspiciously high margins in favor were characterized as a land grab by an increasingly cornered Russian leadership after embarrassing military losses in Ukraine. Moscow-installed administrations in the four regions of southern and eastern Ukraine claimed Tuesday night that 93% of the ballots cast in the Zaporizhzhia region supported annexation, as did 87% in the Kherson region, 98% in the Luhansk region and 99% in Donetsk.

Ukraine too has dismissed the referendums as illegitimate, saying it has every right to retake the territories, a position that has won support from Washington. The Kremlin has been unmoved by the criticism. After a counteroffensive by Ukraine this month dealt Moscow's forces heavy battlefield setbacks, Russia said it would call up 300,000 reservists to join the fight. It also warned it could resort to nuclear weapons. Also on Thursday, Ukrainian authorities said Russian shelling has killed at least eight civilians, including a child, and wounded scores of others. A 12-year-old girl has been pulled out of rubble after an attack on Dnipro, officials said.

The rescuers have taken her from under the rubble, she was asleep when the Russian missile hit, said local administrator Valentyn Reznichenko. Reports of new shelling came as Russia appeared to continue to lose ground around a key northeastern city of Lyman while it struggles to press on with chaotic mobilization of troops and prevent the fighting-age men from leaving the country, according to a Washington-based think-tank and the British intelligence reports. The Institute for the Study of War, citing Russian reports, said Ukrainian forces have taken more villages around Lyman, a city some 160 kilometers (100 miles) southeast of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. The report said Ukrainian forces may soon encircle Lyman entirely, in what would be a major blow to Moscow's war effort. The collapse of the Lyman pocket will likely be highly consequential to the Russian grouping in northern Donetsk and western Luhansk oblasts and may allow Ukrainian troops to threaten Russian positions along the western Luhansk region, the institute said. The British military intelligence report claimed the number of Russian military-age men fleeing the country likely exceeds the number of forces Moscow used to initially invade Ukraine in February. (AP)

# Pakistan's former PM Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam acquitted in corruption case

**ISLAMABAD, SEPT 29** --/ In a big legal victory for the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, its vice president Maryam Nawaz was on Thursday acquitted by a high court in a corruption case. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) accepted her appeal and that of her husband Muhammad Safdar who had challenged their convictions by an anti-corruption court in the Avenfield property case in July 2018. A two-judge bench comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani hearing their appeals said the opinion of the investigating officer could not be considered as evidence. The joint investigation team did not present any facts, it just collected information, Justice Kayani observed. At the conclusion of the case, the bench held that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the prosecutor in the case, failed to establish the charges of corruption. The Thursday's verdict has paved way for Maryam to be eligible to contest elections. Lawyer Mirza MoizBaig said: A person who has been convicted of a crime involving corruption or moral turpitude is disqualified from contesting elections unless a period of five years has lapsed since their release. "While the Supreme Court has, in the case of Samiullah Baloch, held that a disqualification under Article 62(1)(f) continues for life, a disqualification under Article 63(1)(g) isn't incurable, he explained.

Maryam Nawaz, unlike her father, was never declared to fall short of the requirements enshrined under Article 62(1)(f). To the contrary, the only bar to her contesting elections was her conviction in the Avenfield - properties in London -- reference. With the conviction being overturned by the Islamabad High Court, Maryam Nawaz's candidature for an election to the Parliament will no longer trigger Article 63(1)(g)," he added.

Maryam in a brief chat with the media outside the court said they had been vindicated. As she talked to the media, she also spoke to her father Nawaz Sharif in London and also received another call from her uncle Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who congratulated her on her acquittal.

The Prime Minister later in his reaction to the verdict said the edifice of lies, slander and character assassination had come crumbling down. Maryam's acquittal in the Avenfield reference is a slap in the face of the so-called accountability system that was employed to target the Sharif family. My congratulations to Maryam beti (daughter) and Safdar, he tweeted.

While Maryam and her husband were convicted along with PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, the elder Sharif was handed down 10 years in jail, Maryam sentenced to seven years in prison, and her husband was sentenced to one year in prison. They had filed appeals against their conviction before the IHC in the second week of August 2018 and the court had on September 18 the same year suspended their sentences and released them on bail. The elder Sharif's appeal is still pending as has been living in London and failed to appear before the court despite being given several opportunities. Overturning the conviction of his daughter, however, opens a window for him to come back and get his bail processed with the hope to get relief. (PTI)

# Sri Lanka Parliamentary panel headed by PM Gunawardena sets up sub-committee to tackle economic crisis

**COLOMBO, SEPT 29** --/ Sri Lanka's Parliamentary panel headed by Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, has set up two special sub-committees on Thursday, including one to tackle the country's economic crisis. The decision was taken during the inaugural session of the National Council, under Speaker Mahinda YapaAbeywardena.

During the meeting, it was decided that the National Council would form two sub-committees related to national policies and economic stabilisation, the Parliament was informed. Last week, the National Council was established headed by Gunawardena and 32 members from various political parties to formulate a roadmap to tide over

Sri Lanka's economic crisis. While speaking at the inaugural session on Thursday, Gunawardena said he was happy to see the participation of members from both sides of the political spectrum, adding that the National Council would further strengthen the Parliament's functioning. On September 1, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that it will provide Sri Lanka with a loan of about USD 2.9 billion over a four-year period to help the island nation overcome the unprecedented

economic turmoil. The bailout package is expected to boost the country's credit ratings and the confidence of international



creditors and investors. Sri Lanka is facing the worst economic crisis since independence in

1948, which has led to an acute shortage of essential items like food, medicine, cooking gas and fuel across the country. The severe economic downturn, weak Sri Lanka revenues, rising health expenditure and energy needs led to a worsening of the fiscal situation.

While the decline in growth partly led to shrinking revenues, Sri Lanka had to increase spending to safeguard its population from a double-pronged health and energy crisis, primary balance, revenues and expenditures. In mid-April, Sri

Lanka declared its international debt default due to the forex crisis.

The country owes USD 51 billion in foreign debt, of which USD 28 billion must be paid by 2027. The country's economy is expected to contract by 8.7 per cent in 2022 and inflation recently exceeded 60 per cent. The impact has been disproportionately borne by the poor and vulnerable, the IMF noted.

Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million, plunged into a political crisis in July after former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country following a popular public uprising against his government for mismanaging the economy. (PTI)

## Suu Kyi convicted again, Australian economist gets 3 years

**BANGKOK, SEPT 29 /--** A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted former leader Aung San Suu Kyi in another criminal case Thursday and sentenced Australian economist Sean Turnell to three years in prison for violating Myanmar's official secrets act, a legal official said. Suu Kyi received a three-year sentence after being convicted with Turnell under the secrets law, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorised to release information about the case. Three members of her Cabinet were also found guilty, each receiving sentences of three years. Turnell was also convicted of violating immigration law, for which he was given a three-year sentence to be served concurrently with the term for violating the secrets law. The 20 months he has already spent in detention will be deducted from his sentence, leaving him less than a year and a half to serve. Turnell, 58, an associate professor in economics at Sydney's Macquarie University, had served as an adviser to Suu Kyi, who was detained in the capital Naypyitaw when her elected government was ousted by the army on Feb. 1, 2021. Family and friends expressed hope he will soon be freed and deported, as has occurred with other foreigners in Myanmar convicted of political offenses, though less serious ones. It's heart-breaking for me, our daughter, Sean's 85-year-old father, and the rest of our family to hear that my husband, Professor Sean Turnell, was convicted and sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment," wife Ha Vu, also an economist, said on her Facebook page.

"Sean has been one of Myanmar's greatest supporters for over 20 years and has worked tirelessly to strengthen Myanmar's economy." My husband has already been in a Myanmar prison for almost 2/3 of his sentence, she added. "Please consider the contributions that he has made to Myanmar, and deport him now!" Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong's office rejected the court's ruling and called for Turnell's immediate release. Decrying that he had been unjustly detained, her office said Australian diplomats were denied access to the court hearing for the verdict. We will continue to take every opportunity to advocate strongly for Professor Turnell until he has returned to his family in Australia, it said in a statement. Tim Harcourt, a longtime friend, said Turnell is "a great economist, nice bloke and a great human being. His main cause in life is to reduce poverty around the world and he'd developed particular expertise in Myanmar." Hopefully common sense and justice can prevail and Sean can return to his wife and family in Australia soon, said Harcourt, a professor at the University of Technology Sydney.

Turnell was arrested five days after the military takeover by security forces at a hotel in Yangon, the country's biggest city. He had arrived back in Myanmar from Australia less than a month before that to take up a new position as a special consultant to Suu Kyi. As director of the Myanmar Development Institute, he had already lived in Naypyitaw for several years. The day after the military's takeover, he posted on Twitter: "Safe for now but heartbroken for what all this means for the people of Myanmar. The bravest, kindest people I know. They deserve so much better."

The five co-defendants were charged on the basis of documents seized from Turnell. The exact details of their offense have not been made public, though state television said last year that Turnell had access to secret state financial information and had tried to flee the country. Turnell and Suu Kyi denied the allegations when they testified in their defense at the trial in August. Myanmar's colonial-era official secrets act criminalizes the possession, collection, recording, publishing, or sharing of state information that is directly or indirectly, useful to an enemy. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison. The trial, like the others involving Suu Kyi, was held in a purpose-built prison courtroom and was closed to the media and the public. Defense lawyers were barred by a gag order from revealing details of the proceedings. The multiple criminal cases brought against the 77-year-old Suu Kyi are widely seen as an effort to discredit her and to prevent her return to politics. She had already been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment after being convicted of illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies, violating coronavirus restrictions, sedition, election fraud and five corruption charges. Suu Kyi is still being tried on seven counts under the country's anti-corruption law, with each count punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine.

Defense lawyers are expected to file appeals in the secrets case in the coming days for Turnell, Suu Kyi and three former ministers: Soe Win and Kyaw Win, both former ministers for planning and finance, and Set Aung, a former deputy minister in the same ministry, the legal official said. Australia has repeatedly demanded Turnell's release. Last year, it suspended its defense cooperation with Myanmar and began redirecting humanitarian aid because of the military takeover and Turnell's ongoing detention. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, when he visited Myanmar in January this year, asked for Turnell's release in a meeting with the leader of ruling military council. Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing replied that he would consider it positively. (AP)

## BJP leader Subramanian Swamy meets Sri Lanka's Rajapaksa brothers

**COLOMBO, SEPT 29 /--/**  
Senior BIP leader Dr

Senior BSP leader Dr Subramanian Swamy on Thursday met Gotabaya Rajapaksa here, becoming the first foreign visitor to call on the ousted Sri Lankan president, following his return to Colombo after fleeing the country amidst unprecedented protests against his government's mishandling of the island nation's economy. Swamy, a close friend of the Rajapaksa family who is in Sri Lanka to attend a conference of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University on national security, also met with Gotabaya's brother Mahinda Rajapaksa on Wednesday evening and attended the Navratri pooja at his residence, sources said on Thursday. (PTI)

**NEW INDIA RETAILING & INVESTMENT LIMITED**  
**CIN: L15421WB1933PLC20370**

**Regd. Office :** 9/1, R N Mukherjee Road, 5th Floor, Kolkatta 700001  
**Tel. :** +91 33-2243 0497/0498, Fax: +91 33 22424 6369  
**E-mail:** newindia@nirlinssurgar.com, **Website :** www.nirlin.in

**NOTICE**  
**(for transfer of equity shares of the Company to the**  
**Investor Education and Protection Fund)**

This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016, as amended ("the Rules" / "IEPF Rules"), dealing with provisions for transfer of shares in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed by the shareholders for 7 (seven) consecutive years or more to the Demat account of the Investor Education and Protection Fund ("IEPF") Authority.

In compliance with the aforesaid Rules, the Company has already communicated to the concerned shareholders individually (at their registered address) whose shares are liable to be transferred to the Demat Account of IEPF Authority ("IEPF Demat Account") under the said Rules for taking appropriate action. The Company has also uploaded full data of such shareholders and shares due for transfer to IEPF Demat Account on its website www.nirlin.in under "IEPF & Unclaimed Dividend" in the Investor Section.

Shareholders may note that both the unclaimed dividend and corresponding shares transferred to IEPF Demat Account including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back from the IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules. You are requested to claim the unpaid dividend on or before 10th October, 2022 falling which the aforesaid shares will be transferred to the IEPF Authority on the appropriate date. Thereafter, no claim shall lie against the Company in respect of unclaimed dividend amount and shares so transferred pursuant to the said Rules.

For any queries on the above matter, shareholders are requested to contact: Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd. ("the Registrar and Transfer Agent") Mr. Kuntal Mustafa / Mr. Pradip Kumar Bhattacharya, Vaishno Chambers, 5th Floor, Flat 502 & 503, 6, Brabourne Road, Kolkata 700001, Email ID: iepf.shares@linkintime.co.in, Telephone No. : +91 33 40731698.

For New India Retailing & Investment Limited  
Sd/-  
Binaya Kumar Dash  
**Company Secretary**  
ACS 17982

Date: Kolkata  
Date: 08.07.2022

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# Bumrah ruled out of T20 World Cup due to back stress fracture

NEW DELHI, SEPT 29 /--/ India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was on Thursday ruled out of the T20 World Cup due to a back stress fracture, dealing a massive blow to team's chances at the ICC flagship event starting next month in Australia. A BCCI official told PTI that Bumrah will be forced out of action for six months due to the back injury.

"Bumrah is not going to play the T20 World Cup for sure. He has a serious back condition. It's a stress fracture and he could be out for a period of six months," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity. Stress fracture is a tiny crack in the bone, caused by overuse and is common in sports persons. When stress reaction (bone bruise) goes undetected for a considerable time, it develops into stress fracture. Almost 50 per cent of sports injuries are caused by stress fractures. Back stress fractures do not require surgery but a lot of time to heal. Rest is best solution to treat stress fractures. It is understood that either Deepak Chahar or Mohammed Shami could replace Bumrah in the main squad. Both were named as stand-by players for the prestigious tournament by the BCCI. Bumrah, who played the second and third T20 against Australia, had travelled with the team to Thiruvananthapuram for the series-opener against South Africa but left for Bengaluru to be at National Cricket Academy (NCA) for rehabilitation. The 28-year-old fast bowler is the second senior star player to be ruled out after Ravindra Jadeja, who is recovering from a knee surgery. The Indian team is already looking unsettled at the moment and Bumrah's injury has only compounded the woes for skipper Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid.

"Losing Bumrah and Jadeja will be huge for India. We didn't expect that things will pan out as they have. He was rested for the Asia Cup precisely to manage his workload management. Now it remains a question if he was even fit enough to play the Australia



series," the senior official said. Many senior players have been given adequate rest, keeping in mind their workload. What is more interesting is the fact that Bumrah has played only five Tests, five ODIs and as many T20Is in 2022 apart from IPL games for Mumbai Indians.

"That's not a lot of cricket, considering that he was rested for Asia Cup, West Indies tour and also some of the bilateral cricket played in India. That's a lot of rest.

"As of now he is at the NCA and the rehab will be a long and arduous one. Yes, World T20 is important but he is still young and India's biggest bowling asset. You can't take risk with him," the official said.

Bumrah, who has a slinging action, puts a lot of pressure on his back during loading. Former West Indies pace bowling great Michael Holding had assessed that Bumrah was always a candidate for back injuries. (PTI)

# Women's World Cup ticket sales to begin Oct. 6

NEW YORK, SEPT 29 /--/ Although the field is not quite set, tickets for the 2023 Women's World Cup co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand go on sale next month.

Ticket package sales begin on Oct. 6 and run through Oct. 12 for sponsor Visa cardholders, then Oct. 13-21 for others. The draw is set for Oct. 22 in New Zealand. Single match tickets will go on sale on Nov. 1 for next summer's tournament, which opens July 20. An expanded field of 32 teams will take part, including the two-time defending champion United States. Single match tickets start at about 13 U.S., with reduced prices for children. There will be 64 games across nine host cities and 10 stadiums. The final is scheduled for Aug. 20 at Stadium Australia in Sydney. UEFA qualification concludes next month. A 10-team intercontinental playoff for the final three spots in the tournament is scheduled in New Zealand in February. (AP)

# Touching 'SKY-line': Suryakumar is now India's highest run-scorer in T20Is in single calendar year

NEW DELHI, SEPT 29 /--/ Suryakumar Yadav's status as India's best T20I batter in recent times has been reaffirmed as he became the highest scorer in a single calendar year with 732 runs, surpassing Shikhar Dhawan's 689 back in 2018.

Suryakumar, who scored one of his finest T20I half-centuries against South Africa on a seaming track in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday, is only 24 runs short of completing 1000 runs in the format. His strike-rate in 2022 is a whopping 180.29, while his career strike-rate is a staggering 173.35 across 32 games.

He has already hit 57 sixes and 88 boundaries in his career so far. Coming onto bat at No. 4 position in the first T20I against South Africa with India being reduced to 17/2 in the seventh over, Suryakumar hit two sixes off his first three balls to give the innings a change in momentum after a slow start. He remained unbeaten on 50 off 33 balls as India scaled the target with more than three overs to spare and eight wickets in hand. With the two

sixes early in the innings, Suryakumar also went past Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan to record the most sixes in any calendar year in T20Is.

Rizwan held the record for his 42 sixes in 2021 with Martin Gupthill also smashing 41 sixes in the same year. Suryakumar has taken his tally of sixes to 45 in 2022 already, a record in all T20Is, with three more months to widen the gap with Rizwan. While Rizwan took 26 innings to hit 42 sixes, Suryakumar has broken the record batting five times fewer.

Suryakumar is up to second position in the latest MRF Tyres ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings with 801 rating points after his half-century in the third and final T20I against Australia in Hyderabad. (PTI)

Most T20 Runs 2022	
Suryakumar Yadav	732
Dipendra Singh Airee	626
Sabawoon Davizi	612
Mohd Rizwan	556
Nicholas Pooran	553



# Wicket was tricky, it was nice to play a game like that: Rohit

## Surya's attacking batting helped me take my time : Rahul

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT 29 /--/ Skipper Rohit Sharma said the Indian team got to "learn a lot" while chasing a meagre target on a "tricky track" in the series-opener against South Africa.

Suryakumar Yadav's unbeaten 50 off 33 balls got India over the line despite KL Rahul's struggles on a track where South Africa were left tottering at 9/5 at the start of the game on Wednesday.

"The wicket was tricky. You learn a lot playing such a game. You understand what the team needs to do in tough conditions. It was nice to play a game like that," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

"We knew the bowlers will get something seeing grass on the pitch, but we didn't expect help for the full 20 overs." Rohit admitted that the pitch was a bit damp and that kept South Africa in the hunt despite a paltry score of 106/8.

"It was damp. Both teams were in the contest and the team that played better won the game. We started well, got five wickets in quick time and that was the turning point. It was a perfect showcase of how to bowl when there is help for the pacers."

While Rahul scored a half-century (51) off 56 balls,



Suryakumar Yadav and KL Rahul settled Indian nerves with their partnership

Rohit said conditions need to be respected.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy. Got to respect the conditions. Lost two wickets and that partnership between KL and Surya got us home."

KL Rahul, whose scratchy batting got papery over by Suryakumar Yadav's regal half-century, said that his

partner's attacking intent allowed him to take his own time. It was because of Rahul's struggles that India scored only 17 runs in six Powerplay overs but Surya's imperious form didn't allow South Africa to make a comeback.

"Definitely, right up there (as the toughest pitch)," Rahul said when asked if it was the toughest

strip he has batted on in T20Is.

"We have played in some difficult conditions like this but I haven't got runs. So this was hard work." He was all praise for Surya's approach.

"It was unbelievable for Surya to come out there and play those shots. We have seen how balls were flying, nipping around, two-paced

and everything that can be hard for a batter that was the wicket today.

"And for Surya to come with that approach after the first ball that hit him, he just woke up and wanted to play his shots, be aggressive and take on the bowling. That helped me take my time and play one end." Rahul said that he expected the track to do a bit but not to the extent it did.

"Not that much. We did practice here yesterday and that was a humbling experience as well, we all came in prepared mentally as it was not going to be an easy wicket and I was ready to do the dirty work, ready to be challenged and get the job done for the team." Rahul also praised young Arshdeep Singh, whose three wickets in his first over set-up the game.

"He's (Arshdeep) growing with each game and with each outing he gets better, he is somebody who has a big heart and I have seen him in close quarters while playing in the IPL. This season what he did for his franchise was phenomenal and to be the number one death bowler in a team (Punjab Kings) which has Rabada speaks highly of him.

"We always want a left-arm seamer and it is great to have someone like Arshdeep," he said. (PTI)

# Focus is on adaptability ahead of T20 WC: Arshdeep

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT 29 /--/ Young India left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh said "adaptability" is the main focus of the team ahead of the T20 World Cup, starting next month in Australia. The T20 World Cup will be held in Australia from October 16 to November 13, and Arshdeep said the Indian bowlers are geared up for the tough challenge that awaits them.

"Adaptability is the big motive of our team. The main motive is adapting to the situations and demands of the team, whatever the situations and conditions are," said the 23-year-old pacer, who made a sensational comeback after a disappointing outing in the Asia Cup recently.

"When we go there (Australia) we will see how the conditions are. I'm looking forward to doing well." Arshdeep (3/32) and Deepak Chahar (2/24) broke South Africa's backbone to help India register an easy eight-wicket win over the Proteas in the low-scoring first T20I of the three-match series here on Wednesday night.

"We are trying to tick all the boxes in the practice sessions and trying to

execute all our plans on the field. Today (Wednesday) was really a good example of showing a good power play bowling and we are looking forward to do amazing things in the coming days," Arshdeep said at the post-match presentation. The left-arm pacer, a key arsenal in India's death bowling scheme of things for the ICC showpiece next month, missed the preceding three T20Is against Australia after he was sent to the NCA for conditioning.

"The purpose of the last 10 days was to get refreshed and come back stronger and fitter that will help me in my bowling. I feel really refreshed and looking forward to doing good things on the field," Arshdeep said after his exploits with the ball. Bowling with the new ball in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep came back with a bang, grabbing three wickets in five balls to reduce South Africa to 8 for 4 inside the second over. The visitors never recovered from Arshdeep's early blows to lose the opening match of the series, which is the last leg of preparation for both the



Arshdeep Singh clicks a selfie with a child

teams before heading to Australia. In the preceding T20 series against Australia, India had defeated the reigning world champions 2-1 after losing the first match. Arshdeep, who made his debut in the tour of England

in July this year, said he always strives to give his best on the field without bothering about selection.

"They told me you're 'in the plan' back end of the IPL, that I'm in the scene... I guess the main motive was

to keep doing well whatever opportunities I get, that's my job and I don't think much about the selection part," he said.

Arshdeep had a forgettable Asia Cup campaign in the UAE, where he struggled to get wickets in the power-play and also made headlines for dropping a sitter in their loss to Pakistan in the 'Super 4' stage. But with some assistance from the Greenfield track, he dismissed Quinton de Kock, Rilee Rossouw and David Miller in the second over to silence his critics.

"Getting the wickets early on was always a great feeling. The plan was really simple, the ball was swinging. I had to pitch it in the right places and it worked well. It was about hitting the right areas and making sure the line was good." He also credited his senior teammate Chahar for holding up the pressure from the other end.

"We practice in every type of situation, our job is to adapt to the situations and do well for the team. Today (Wednesday) it was more about the new ball and we worked really well as a pair, a lot of credit goes to DC bhai as well," he signed off. (PTI)

# GAME NOTES

## Modi declares National Games open; says nepotism, corruption plagued sports in country earlier

AHMEDABAD, SEPT 29 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared open the 36th National Games here on Thursday. Indian sportspersons could not perform well in the past due to nepotism and corruption but his government cleaned up the system, he said on this occasion. Speaking at a gala ceremony at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera area here, he praised Indian athletes for winning medals in various international events such as the Olympics in the recent times.

"The country's sportsmen were capable in the past too. This movement of winning medals could have started earlier too. But, instead of professionalism, there was nepotism and corruption in sports. We have cleaned up the system and pumped in new confidence among the youth," he said in his address to the cheering crowd.

"Your victory in sports will pave the way for the country's success in other fields. The soft power of sports will significantly improve our country's image in the world," he said to the sportspersons. (PTI)



## Former FIFA referee Sumanta Ghosh dies

KOLKATA, SEPT 29 /--/ Kolkata-based former FIFA referee Sumanta Ghosh, who officiated in pre-World Cup and pre-Olympic tournaments, died of prolonged illness at his residence here on Thursday. He was 70 and is survived by his wife and two sons.

"He was not keeping well for the past few days, and he breathed his last around 3 am this morning," a Bengal referee said. Born on April 10, 1952, Ghosh became a FIFA referee in 1990 and retired in 1997. He officiated in pre-World Cup and pre-Olympics tournaments, AFC Club Championships, SAFF Cup and the Jawaharlal Nehru Cup among others. After retirement, Ghosh continued to be associated with refereeing by becoming referees' instructor and AIFF Match Commissioner. It is really sad to hear that Sumanta-da is no more. He was a doyen of Indian refereeing and his invaluable contribution to the game will always remain with us. I share the grief with his family, All India Football Federation president Kalyan Chaubey said. Sumanta Ghosh was a top-class referee, a learned Instructor and Match Commissioner. The football fraternity will miss him. May his soul rest in peace, said AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran. (PTI)

## Serie A's first woman referee to make debut this weekend

MILAN, SEPT 29 /--/ Italy's Serie A is set to have its first match officiated by a woman after the country's referee association AIA confirmed on Wednesday that Maria Sole Ferrieri Caputi would take charge of a game this weekend. In July, Ferrieri Caputi was promoted to the top rung of Italian football's match officials and on Wednesday the football federation assigned her Sassuolo's home clash with Salernitana on Sunday afternoon.

"This isn't an old day, I'm pretty emotional," said AIA president Alfredo Trentalanga at a press conference in Rome.

"Maria Sole will make her Serie A debut on the basis of her merit... We don't hand out privileges, Maria Sole has earned this, and it's a success for the whole refereeing sector." Ferrieri Caputi refereed in the third-tier Serie C last season but she has already taken charge of a match featuring a Serie A side, when Cagliari played Cittadella in the Italian Cup in December. The 31-year-old also officiated the latter team's Serie B match with SPAL two months before. Women referees are becoming increasingly common in the men's game, with three selected for the upcoming men's World Cup in Qatar. Among that trio is Stephanie Frappart, the highest profile women's referee who has taken charge of men's matches in the Champions League, French Ligue 1 and World Cup qualifiers. (AP)