

REVERBERATION

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A weekly echoing the mood of the people, comes to you on every Monday

PM in Mann Ki Baat: Vaccine achievement shows India's capability



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lauded India's crossing the 100-crore vaccine doses milestone, and said that the achievement shows that the success of any scheme can be achieved with everyone's effort.

Speaking during his Mann Ki Baat radio programme, Modi said, "The success of our vaccine programme displays the capability of India... (and) manifests the might of our collective endeavour... Our health workers, through their tireless

efforts and resolve, set a new example... They established a new benchmark in service to humanity through innovation and sheer determination."

The PM interacted with Poonam Nautiyal, an ANM healthcare worker from Uttarakhand. He praised Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh for being two of the first states to achieve 100 per cent vaccination of the first dose, despite the difficult terrain.

Further, the Prime Minister said October 31—Sardar Patel's birth anniversary which is ob-

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No positive case detected during test conducted on incoming flight & inter-island bound passengers: Director (IP&T)

Port Blair, Oct. 24

The Director (IP&T), Shri Alok Kumar addressing a media briefing on COVID-19 held in the conference hall of IP&T stated that during the RT-PCR test conducted on 445 passengers who arrived here yesterday, no positive case has been detected. Today, 9 flights with 1530 passengers arrived, out of which, 1000 were vaccinated with both doses while RT-PCR test was

conducted on remaining 530 passengers and the reports are awaited. RAT was conducted on 232 passengers bound for North & Middle Andaman at Ferrargunj and no positive case has been detected.

Similarly, RAT test was conducted on altogether 21 passengers at Phoenix Bay Jetty bound for Shaheed Dweep and all were found negative. At Mohanpura Bus

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Chief Secretary launches digitalized mode of Social Security Pension schemes implemented by Administration through e-District Portal

Port Blair, Oct. 22

The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Jitendra Narain today launched the digitalized mode of the Social Security Pension schemes implemented by A&N Administration through e-District Portal at a simple function held today in the

chamber of the Chief Secretary at Secretariat. This facility has been initiated and completed with the support and guidance of Hon'ble Lt Governor, A&N Islands and Chief Secretary. With the launch of this facility, the Social Security Pensions Schemes viz. Old Age Pension, Widow Pension,

Destitute Allowance and allowance for Divyangjan provided by A&N Administration is now available on digital mode (online). The Secretary, Tribal Welfare, Shri S.K Jha, the Secretary, Social Welfare, Ms Veditha Reddy and the Director, Social Welfare, Shri

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Comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers 1227 unorganized workers in A&N Islands registered at e-SHRAM portal so far

Port Blair, Oct. 23

The Ministry of Labour & Employment, New Delhi has launched a registration module/ portal i.e. e-SHRAM for creation of a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) for all types of Unorganised

Workers such as Construction Workers, Migrant Workers, Domestic Workers, Agricultural Labourers, MGNREGA Workers, Gig Workers, Self-employed Workers, Street Vendors, Small Shopkeeper, ASHA Workers, Anganwadi Workers, Fishermen, Unorganised

Plantation Workers, Milkmen and similar other sub-group of Unorganised Workers. In A&N Islands, so far, 1227 unorganized workers have registered at e-Shram Portal which is the country's first National Database on Unorganized Workers, out of

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Applications invited from girl students for admission to Rashtriya Indian Military College

Port Blair, Oct. 23

The Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun has invited applications from girl students for entry to the college for the term July 2022. The written examination for the same will be conducted on Dec.18, 2021 at Tagore Govt. College of Education, Middle Point. At the time of Admission to RIMC (i.e., July 2022), the girl students should either be studying in Class VII or should have passed Class VII from any recognized school.

They should not be less than 11½ years in age but should not have attained the age of 13 years as on July

1, 2022 i.e., they should not be born earlier than July 2, 2009 and not later than Jan 1, 2011. The Prospectus-cum- Application Form and Booklet of Old Question Papers can be obtained from the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Garhi Cantt., Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Pin-248003 by making online payment of Rs. 600/- for General Candidates & Rs.555/- for SC/ST candidates on RIMC website www.rimc.gov.in.

Applications, in duplicate, on prescribed form accompanied by documents are to be attached with the application form viz. two passport size photographs, Domicile Certificate, Birth Certificate

(issued by Municipal Corporation/Gram Panchayat), SC/ST Certificate and a Certificate from the Principal of the School (in original) in which the student is studying with photograph attested stating date of birth and the class in which the candidate is studying. The filled in application form should be submitted to the Principal, Tagore Govt. College of Education, Port Blair by Nov. 15, 2021. The viva-voce test is to be conducted by the State Govt. for only those candidates who get qualified in the written examination. The date for test will be intimated later, a press release received here said.



EDITORIAL

The UAE, no cricketing superpower, has become an important and trusted address for the game

At the peak of the Gulf Boom in the '70s and '80s, the UAE was an oasis for millions of migrant labourers from the subcontinent. Now, the desert nation with neither a cricketing heritage nor a thriving fascination for the game, is home to its cricketing powerhouses. Whenever a crisis, natural or man-made, comes, they simply shift base to the welcoming "Gulf".

It has been Pakistan's home for 12 years, since the Lahore terror strikes on Sri Lanka's team bus in 2009; it could resume being their home, now that there is a new frisson of fear in travelling to Pakistan. It has housed the PSL, and the IPL too, in 2014 due to the general polls and in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic. From Saturday, it will host the T20 World Cup, embellishing its reputation as cricket's trusted Plan B.

Nearly half of those living in the Gulf states are of Pakistani, Indian or Bangladeshi origin, so the audience is there. So are the pitches, stadiums and facilities, most notably at Dubai's billion-dollar Sports City complex and Abu Dhabi's state-of-the-art cricket centre. The climate is favourable, with play possible for seven months of the year. The concrete theatres of sport might not wield the raw romance of the Sharjah Cups of the last century, but in today's cricketing world, they are indispensable. The UAE might not be a cricketing superpower, but the country is an important cricketing destination.

The T20 World Cup will be Virat Kohli's swan-song as T20 captain. Besides, India's quest for a title, since winning the inaugural edition, has been fraught with frustration. It will launch its campaign against Pakistan, who will seek to harness its experience playing in the Emirates. Then there is the West Indies, defending champion and T20 master, a ragged Australia, still hunting for its maiden title, an understated New Zealand, World Test champion, fearless England, the World 50-over champion, and South Africa under its first black captain. The stage is set, in cricket's home away from home.

Kerala wins award for city with most sustainable transport system



PTI: Kerala has won the award for the 'city with the most sustainable transport system', state Transport Minister Antony Raju said on Sunday.

The award, which will be presented on October 29 at Delhi, has been given in recognition of the projects implemented - like Kochi Metro, Water Metro and e-mobility - to enhance the transport facilities in the city of Kochi, the minister said.

The formation of the Kochi Open Mobility Network, which digitized and integrated various transport facilities, also helped to win the award.

The award would be presented in Delhi by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, Raju said.

The award is given in recognition of the transport facilities in various states and Union Territories of India.

China does not have any right in choosing next Dalai Lama: Head of Tawang monastery

PTI: China has no authority at all to get involved in choosing the next Dalai Lama, especially since the Chinese government does not believe in religion, and the succession is entirely a spiritual matter for the Tibetan people, the head of the Tawang monastery in Arunachal Pradesh has said.

Gyangbung Rinpoche, the Abbot of the nearly 350-year-old monastery near India's border with China, also said that it is important to counter Beijing's policy of expansionism and New Delhi must maintain a strict vigil over the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with the neighbouring country.

The head of the second largest monastery in the world after the Potala Palace in Tibet's Lhasa said only the current Dalai Lama and the Tibetan people have the right to decide about the succession of the Tibetan spiritual leader and China has no role to play in the matter.

"The Chinese government does not believe in religion. How can a government that does not believe in religion decide the next Dalai Lama. The succession plan is a matter of religion and faith; it is not a political issue," he told PTI in an interview.

"China does not have any right to even get involved in the process of choosing the next Dalai Lama. Only the current Dalai Lama and his followers have the right to decide on the issue," he said.

The comments by the Abbot of the monastery that is located in a region claimed by China came amid strain in ties between the two countries following the eastern Ladakh border standoff. India maintains that its state of Arunachal



Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of the country.

Rinpoche said the Tibetan people will never accept any decision on the issue by China and that Beijing's attempt to get involved is part of efforts to "capture" the Tibetan heritage and "hold control" over the Tibetan people.

"It will be difficult for China to win the hearts of the people of Tibet. China is tightly controlling Tibet. The authorities do not even allow people from outside to meet Tibetans. There are so many restrictions. It is important that countries like India support the Tibetans," he said.

The issue of a successor to the 14th Dalai Lama, who has been living in exile in Dharamshala in India since 1959, gained traction as he turned 86 in July. The Dalai Lama is believed to be a living Buddha who is reincarnated after his death.

China has been insisting that the selection of the next Dalai Lama has to be decided within Chinese territory and that it has to have a say in the matter.

Referring to China's aggressive posturing along the LAC, Rinpoche said though India believes in peace and prosperity, its approach in deal-

ing with such belligerence has to be based on the ground reality. "India believes in peace and prosperity. India does not like to fight or to have hatred against any country. India believes in living in peace with the countries which share a border with it," he said.

"India needs to maintain a strict vigil over the border. Though India believes in peace and prosperity, its approach has to be based on the ground reality. Regions like Tawang and Ladakh are part of India," he said.

The religious leader said it is important to counter China's policy of expansionism.

Beijing has in the past accused the Dalai Lama of indulging in "separatist" activities and trying to split Tibet and considers him as a divisive figure.

However, the Tibetan spiritual leader has insisted that he is not seeking independence but "genuine autonomy for all Tibetans living in the three traditional provinces of Tibet" under the "Middle-Way approach".

The Chinese government officials and the Dalai Lama or his representatives have not met in formal negotiations since 2010.

1227 unorganized workers..... from page 1

this, 627 of them have self-registered while 600 registered through Common Service Centres.

Any worker who is working in Unorganised Sector and aged between 16-59 is eligible to register on the e-SHRAM portal.

'Unorganised Worker' means a home-based worker, self-Benefits for Unorganised Workers registering on e-SHRAM portal: employed worker or a wage worker in the unorganised sector and it

also includes a worker in the organized Sector who is not a member of ESIC/EPFO/ Govt. Employees. An Unorganised worker shall be required to have their Aadhaar Number, Mobile Number and Bank Account Number along with IFFC Code while registering on the e-SHRAM portal.

The Common Service Centres (CSCs) will work as Principal Registering Agency and the registration on e-SHRAM portal is free. The Unorganised Workers will also

have facility of self-registration through the portal or mobile app which is freely downloadable from the Umang platform/google play store.

All unorganised workers of A&N Islands have been urged to get themselves registered on e-SHRAM portal immediately by visiting their nearest Common Service Centres or self-register by visiting e-SHRAM portal, a press release from Labour Commissioner & DET (I/c) said.

Process of sanctioning new China border battalions for ITBP in final stage: Nityanand Rai



PTI: The process to authorise new battalions for the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), guarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China, is in the last stage and the government is determined to provide transport and logistical support to all security forces, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said on Sunday.

Addressing the 60th Raising Day event of the mountain-warfare-trained ITBP, Mr. Rai said the government had last year sanctioned 47 new border posts and a dozen staging camps (operational bases for troops undertaking border patrol) to the force.

“Deliberations for providing new manpower and battalions for the ITBP are in the last stages,” Mr. Rai, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, said.

Officials said the force is expected to get a sanction of seven new battalions comprising about 8,000 personnel for its new border posts that will mainly come up in the Arunachal Pradesh sector of the LAC on India’s eastern flank.

The proposal for sanctioning new ITBP battalions and a sector headquarter in the northeast has been under the consideration of the Home Ministry for over two years now. But with the last year’s sanction of the new border outposts and staging camps, the proposal is expected to get approval soon, they said.

An ITBP battalion has a strength of just over 1,000 personnel.

At the rising day event, Mr. Rai lauded the ITBP for their bravery and for giving a “be-fitting reply” to their opponents during the clashes between Indian and Chinese forces in Ladakh during May-June last year.

He also decorated 20 ITBP officers and personnel as he pinned police medals for gallantry on their uniform for displaying bravery and courage during the clashes. These medals were announced by the Centre on Independence Day eve.

The Minister said the ‘Operation Snow Leopard’ conducted by the ITBP in Himalayan ranges gave a “big message that India will never compromise on its sovereignty and security.” The force proved it was “second to none” when it came to guarding the country, Mr. Rai said, adding, “It is a matter of pride that the ITBP won these many bravery medals in one instance for the first time in its history.” Mr. Rai said the country’s security forces have got “independence to operate and decide” under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The minister said the Modi government was working to plug all gaps along India’s international borders and trying to enhance the capabilities of the security forces and also equip them with better weapons and technology.

ITBP Director General Sanjay Arora also praised his troops for their gallant action during the clashes with the Chinese People’s Liberation Army last year in the Ladakh area.

He recounted the initiatives taken by the force to combat the coronavirus pandemic in the country by operating health facilities in the national capital region.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is in Jammu and Kashmir, greeted the personnel and their families through a Twitter message.

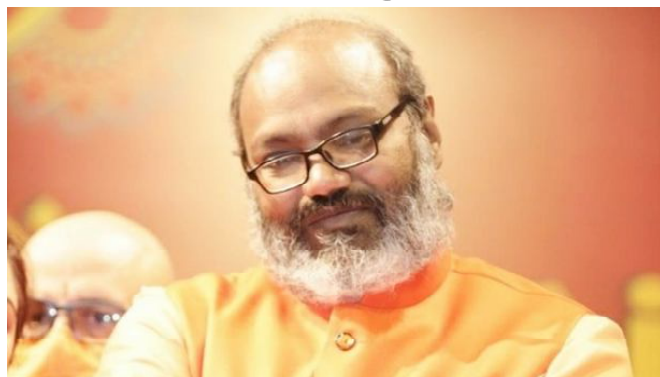
“ITBP is well known for protecting the motherland in the toughest of terrains and serving the nation during natural calamities. India is proud of ITBP’s valour and determination,” he said.

The about 90,000-personnel strong ITBP was raised on this day in 1962 in the aftermath of the Chinese aggression.

SSP Pawan Kumar told PTI that they initiated action keeping in mind his anti-social activities like manhandling, attempt to murder, use of derogatory language and obstructing police checking outside the temple.

Saraswati is becoming a danger for law and order of

Ghaziabad police move to slap Goonda Act on Yati Narsinghanand



PTI: The Ghaziabad police has initiated the process of slapping the Goonda Act on Dasna Devi temple head priest Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati, who was recently appointed the mahamandleshwar of influential Juna Akhara.

Police forwarded a file in this regard to the subdivisional magistrate for approval, after which it will be sent to the district police chief and the DM for a nod.

Saraswati had recently shared on his Facebook page his appointment as the mahamandleshwar of the Juna Akhara.

SSP Pawan Kumar told PTI that they initiated action keeping in mind his anti-social activities like manhandling, attempt to murder, use of derogatory language and obstructing police checking outside the temple.

Saraswati is becoming a danger for law and order of

the district, the officer said.

Known for his controversial remarks, Saraswati had earlier this month had charged that a minor Muslim boy had been sent to snoop on him and in the boy’s community, there are “trained killers” of his age.

In a video clip that surfaced on social media, Narsinghanand could be heard accusing the boy standing next to him of entering the temple premises to carry out a “recce”.

Earlier, he had also called former president APJ Abdul Kalam a “jihadi”, saying, “Any Muslim in the top echelons of the country cannot be pro-India.” He accused the late Kalam of “supplying the formula of the atom bomb to Pakistan as DRDO chief”.

He was also booked around two months ago for derogatory remarks against women.

China passes new land border law amid military standoff with India



PTI: Asserting that sovereignty and territorial integrity of China are “sacred and inviolable”, the country’s national legislature has adopted a new law on the protection and exploitation of the land border areas, which could have bearing on Beijing’s border dispute with India.

Members of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) approved the law at the closing meeting of a legislative session on Saturday, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The law, which becomes

operational from January 1 next year, stipulates that “the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People’s Republic of China are sacred and inviolable”, it said.

The state shall take measures to safeguard territorial integrity and land boundaries and guard against and combat any act that undermines territorial sovereignty and land boundaries, the report said.

The law also stipulates that the state shall take measures to strengthen border defence, support economic and social devel-

opment as well as opening-up in border areas, improve public services and infrastructure in such areas, encourage and support people’s life and work there, and promote coordination between border defence and social, economic development in border areas, it said.

The state shall, following the principle of equality, mutual trust and friendly consultation, handle land border-related affairs with neighbouring countries through negotiations to properly resolve disputes and longstanding border issues, it said.

India and Bhutan are the two countries with which China is yet to finalise the border agreements, while Beijing resolved the boundary disputes with 12 other neighbours.

Last week, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said

the developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh have “seriously disturbed” the peace and tranquillity in border areas, and this has obviously had an impact on the broader relationship too.

The foreign secretary, in his remarks at a seminar on “Leveraging China’s Economy” on Oct 21, also referred to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar’s remarks that the ability of India and China to work together will determine the Asian century.

“For this to materialise, peace and tranquillity in the border areas is a sine qua non. He (Jaishankar) has also clearly articulated that development of our ties can only be based on mutuality — mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests should guide this process,” Shringla said.

“We hope that the Chinese

side will work with us to bring a satisfactory resolution to the current issues so as to make progress on our bilateral relations keeping in view each other’s sensitivities, aspirations and interests,” the foreign secretary said.

While India-China border disputes cover 3,488-km along the Line of Actual Control, China-Bhutan dispute covers about 400 km.

The new land border law was adopted amid the continued standoff between Indian and Chinese militaries in eastern Ladakh.

On October 14, China and Bhutan signed an MOU firming up a three-step roadmap for expediting the boundary negotiations, which Beijing said will make a “meaningful contribution” to speed up the border talks and establishment of diplomatic ties.

Facebook dithered in curbing divisive user content in India



Facebook in India has been selective in curbing hate speech, misinformation and inflammatory posts, particularly anti-Muslim content, according to leaked documents obtained by The Associated Press, even as its own employees cast doubt over the company's motivations and interests.

From research as recent as March of this year to company memos that date back to 2019, the internal company documents on India highlights Facebook's constant struggles in quashing abusive content on its platforms in the world's biggest democracy and the company's largest growth market. Communal and religious tensions in India have a history of boiling over on social media and stoking violence.

The files show that Facebook has been aware of the problems for years, raising questions over whether it has done enough to address these issues. Many critics and digital experts say it has failed to do so, especially in cases where members of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, or the BJP, are involved.

Across the world, Facebook has become increasingly important in politics, and India is no different.

Modi has been credited for leveraging the platform to his party advantage during elections, and reporting from The Wall Street Journal last year cast doubt over whether Facebook was selectively enforcing its policies on hate speech to avoid blowback from the BJP. Both Modi and Facebook chairman and CEO Mark Zuckerberg have exuded bonhomie, memorialized by a 2015 image of the two hugging at the Facebook headquarters.

The leaked documents include a trove of internal company reports on hate speech and misinformation in India. In some cases, much of it was intensified by its own "recommended" feature and algorithms. But they also include

the company staffers' concerns over the mishandling of these issues and their discontent expressed about the viral "mal-content" on the platform.

According to the documents, Facebook saw India as of the most "at risk countries" in the world and identified both Hindi and Bengali languages as priorities for "automation on violating hostile speech." Yet, Facebook didn't have enough local language moderators or content-flagging in place to stop misinformation that at times led to real-world violence.

In a statement to the AP, Facebook said it has "invested significantly in technology to find hate speech in various languages, including Hindi and Bengali" which has resulted in "reduced the amount of hate speech that people see by half" in 2021.

"Hate speech against marginalized groups, including Muslims, is on the rise globally. So we are improving enforcement and are committed to updating our policies as hate speech evolves online," a company spokesperson said.

This AP story, along with others being published, is based on disclosures made to the Securities and Exchange Commission and provided to Congress in redacted form by former Facebook employee-turned-whistleblower Frances Haugen's legal counsel. The redacted versions were obtained by a consortium of news organizations, including the AP.

Back in February 2019 and ahead of a general election when concerns of misinformation were running high, a Facebook employee wanted to understand what a new user in the country saw on their news feed if all they did was follow pages and groups solely recommended by the platform's itself.

The employee created a test user account and kept it live for three weeks, a period during which an extraordinary event shook India — a militant attack in disputed Kashmir had killed over 40 Indian soldiers, bringing the country to near war with rival Pakistan.

In the note, titled "An Indian Test User's Descent into a Sea of Polarizing, Nationalistic Messages," the employee whose name is redacted said they were "shocked" by the content flooding the news feed which "has become a near con-

stant barrage of polarizing nationalist content, misinformation, and violence and gore."

Seemingly benign and innocuous groups recommended by Facebook quickly morphed into something else altogether, where hate speech, unverified rumors and viral content ran rampant.

The recommended groups were inundated with fake news, anti-Pakistan rhetoric and Islamophobic content. Much of the content was extremely graphic.

One included a man holding the bloodied head of another man covered in a Pakistani flag, with an Indian flag in the place of his head. Its "Popular Across Facebook" feature showed a slew of unverified content related to the retaliatory Indian strikes into Pakistan after the bombings, including an image of a napalm bomb from a video game clip debunked by one of Facebook's fact-check partners.

"Following this test user's News Feed, I've seen more images of dead people in the past three weeks than I've seen in my entire life total," the researcher wrote.

It sparked deep concerns over what such divisive content could lead to in the real world, where local news at the time were reporting on Kashmiris being attacked in the fallout.

"Should we as a company have an extra responsibility for preventing integrity harms that result from recommended content?" the researcher asked in their conclusion.

The memo, circulated with other employees, did not answer that question. But it did expose how the platform's own algorithms or default settings played a part in spurring such malcontent. The employee noted that there were clear "blind spots," particularly in "local language content." They said they hoped these findings would start conversations on how to avoid such "integrity harms," especially for those who "differ significantly" from the typical US user.

Even though the research was conducted during three weeks that weren't an average representation, they acknowledged that it did show how such "unmoderated" and problematic content "could totally take over" during "a major crisis event."

Uttarakhand: Bodies of 7 trekkers found; 12 dead, three still missing



Seven more bodies of members of two separate trekking teams hit by bad weather in Uttarakhand were recovered on Saturday. While 12 of the 21 trekkers are now confirmed dead, three remain missing.

Two of the dead whose bodies were found Saturday, from near the Lamkhaga Pass bordering Himachal Pradesh, were part of an 11-member team from West Bengal that had gone missing while on way to Chitkul from Harsil in Uttarkashi. The bodies of five of them had been found earlier. Two of the 11 remain missing, with rescue operations halted due to bad weather. Two are injured and in hospital.

The five others found dead Saturday were part of another trekking team, which was hit by an avalanche at Sunderdhunga glacier in Bageshwar district. The four porters-cum-guides who were part of this 10-member team had managed to make their way out. One of the team members remains missing.

Counting the trekkers found dead Saturday, the number of casualties in rain-related incidents since October 17 in the higher reaches of Uttarakhand, triggering landslides and avalanches, has now cross 75. Twenty-six people are injured.

SDRF Commandant Navneet Bhullar told The Sunday Express that they had deployed high-altitude teams, climbers and Army helicopters for the search and rescue operations, but were hamstrung due to bad weather and snowfall.

Bhullar said the trekkers who died in Uttarkashi had started their trek on October 14-15 from Harsil. "On October 19 we were informed by their tour organiser that the weather was worsening and the team was stuck at over 15,000 feet. We immediately responded, using two Advanced light Helicopters (ALH). Continuous operations have been on since."

The SDRF Commandant added that in Bageshwar, two rescues had been made successfully, with the third ongoing. "At Pindari glacier, 34 people were stranded, including six foreign nationals, and all were rescued. Fortunately they had just started their trek when hit by bad weather. They were just 11 km from the last habitation and found shelter. At Kafni glacier we rescued 19 locals who had climbed up to

take their goats for grazing and had got stuck."

At Sunderdhunga, Bhullar said, the 10-member team included five trekkers, a staff member and four porters-cum-guides from Khati village, where the trek started. "The four porter guides came back after bad weather hit and said there was an avalanche that had left four people dead while two were missing," Bhullar said.

Officials said they had received information regarding some locals also being stuck in Joling Kong in Pithoragarh, and SDRF teams would reach them by Saturday night.

West Bengal officials said Uttarakhand had identified five from the state who had died in the Uttarkashi incident as Tanmay Tiwari (30), Vikash Makal (33), Sourav Ghosh (34), Shuvayan Das (28) and Richard Mandol (31). Out of the six, four were from South 24 Parganas.

Of the two injured, one is Mithun Dari, from South 24 Parganas district. His elder brother Manoj Dari said Mithun was admitted at an Uttarkashi hospital. "On October 14 morning, the day he started the trek, he called me and said he would not be available on his phone for four-five days. On Friday morning I saw on the TV that his entire team was missing. Today morning, he called me."

Among those still missing is Sukhen Majhi, and the family said they had not got any word on Majhi's whereabouts.

Anthony Gayen, the brother-in-law of the deceased Vikash Makal, said: "We are in the dark on what exactly happened and if they are indeed dead because we have not get any information from the government. Everything we know is from the media. We request the West Bengal government to arrange to get their bodies home."

The family of Anita Rawat, 38, based in Hari Nagar in Delhi said she had left for the trek 10 days ago and was supposed to join a group of travellers from across the country. Anita's family originally hails from a village in Tehri, Uttarakhand, and she had always been a keen trekker, when not helping run the family sweet shop.

Deptt.of CS&CA organizing various competitions for school students

Port Blair, Oct. 24

As part of the celebration of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, the Department of Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, A&N Administration is organizing various competitions for the school students of this UT viz. online painting competition on Patriotic Theme - Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav open for all the students from Class IX to XII of all the schools of this UT; online Fancy Dress Competition on Patriotic Theme – Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav, wherein students from class I to V in category - I, VI to VIII in category –II & IX to XII in category - III of all the schools of this UT shall participate and online Poem Recitation Competition on Patriotic Theme - Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, wherein students from class I to V in category -I, VI to VIII in category -II & IX to XII in category -III of all the schools of this UT shall participate.

The 1st, 2nd& 3rd position winners of the above mentioned competitions shall be given cash prizes worth Rs.

3000/-, Rs. 2,000/- &Rs. 1,000/- respectively for each category. The entries from the students for the competitions shall be entertained only through the respective schools.

Further, all Schools of A&N Islands desirous of participating may submit three entries in each category details to be sent to Assistant Director (Op.), Directorate of CS&CA through Whatsapp No. 9476000005 latest by Oct.31, 2021, a press release from Directorate of CS&CA said.

Police Commemoration Day event: Online drawing/ painting competition to be organized for students

Port Blair, Oct. 23

As part of observance of ‘Police Flag Day and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas’ from Oct. 21 to 31, an online drawing/ painting competition on the theme ‘Role of Police during COVID-19’ will be organized on Oct.

28. The competition will be organized for school students of Class VI to VIII. Parents and teachers have been requested to encourage students to actively take part in this competition. The soft copies of the painting along with participant name, contact no.,

class and school name may be sent through email id: cybercell.anp@gov.in by Oct. 28, 2021 till 5 pm. For any clarification, one may contact Cyber Cell, CID on 03192-230668, a press release from SP (CID) said.

Comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers

1227 unorganized workers in A&N Islands registered at e-SHRAM portal so far

Port Blair, Oct. 23

The Ministry of Labour & Employment, New Delhi has launched a registration module/ portal i.e. e-SHRAM for creation of a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) for all types of Unorganised Workers such as Construction Workers, Migrant Workers, Domestic Workers, Agricultural Labourers, MGNREGA Workers, Gig Workers, Self-employed Workers, Street Vendors, Small Shopkeeper, ASHA Workers, Anganwadi Workers, Fishermen, Unorganised Plantation Workers, Milkmen and similar other sub-group of Unorganised Workers. In A&N Islands, so far, 1227 unorganized workers have registered at e-Shram Portal which is the country’s first National Database on Unorganized Workers, out

of this, 627 of them have self-registered while 600 registered through Common Service Centres.

Any worker who is working in Unorganised Sector and aged between 16-59 is eligible to register on the e- SHRAM portal. ‘Unorganised Worker’ means a home-based worker, self-Benefits for Unorganised Workers registering on e-SHRAM portal: employed worker or a wage worker in the unorganised sector and it also includes a worker in the organized Sector who is not a member of ESIC/EPFO/ Govt. Employees. An Unorganised worker shall be required to have their Aadhaar Number, Mobile Number and Bank Account Number along with IFFC Code while registering on the e-SHRAM portal.

The Common Service Centres (CSCs) will work as Principal Registering Agency and the registration on e-

SHRAM portal is free. The Unorganised Workers will also have facility of self-registration through the portal or mobile app which is freely downloadable from the Umang platform/google play store.

All unorganised workers of A&N Islands have been urged to get themselves registered on e-SHRAM portal immediately by visiting their nearest Common Service Centres or self-register by visiting e-SHRAM portal, a press release from Labour Commissioner & DET (I/c) said.



Chief Secretary.....

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Prateek Raj Yadav were also present on the occasion.

During the launch, the Chief Secretary directed that mass awareness programmes should be conducted through different platforms such as print, electronic and social media, to create awareness on this online facility among general public for its wider reach.

The online application of these Social Security Pension Schemes have been carried out after updating all the relevant data of the existing beneficiaries thereby putting in place a clear, transparent and accountable system. In order to provide the benefits to the eligible beneficiaries, the Department through its Anganwadi Services functionaries conducted a massive ground level survey for two months for verification of data of each beneficiary. While collecting the Life Certificates of each beneficiary, they collected all relevant details of all beneficiaries in a format for record.

Thereafter, the details of the beneficiaries were re-checked at Department Level. As per this survey, out of 27,280 beneficiaries who are getting social security pensions till May 2021, 4,031 beneficiaries could not furnish their verification details and life

certificates due to the reasons such as migration, shifted to mainland, non-traceable etc. Therefore, the payment to these 4,031 beneficiaries is kept on hold. Meanwhile, they have been provided an opportunity to submit authentic documents for their claim within 15 days, failing which, their names would be deleted from the list and will not be able to get the benefits and the recovery process will be initiated by the Social Welfare Department. This verification may lead to a saving of Rs.1 Crore approximately in a month.

This online facility in e-District portal will help beneficiary to apply for these schemes from home with internet facility or visiting Common Service Centres (CSCs) without visiting the offices as done in the case of manual applications. Beneficiaries need not visit Tehsildar Office and CDPO Office for signature on their application form in case of applying online. The application will be digitally processed to all concerned staff for its final processing. The beneficiaries can also opt for offline applications till further notice.

PM in Mann Ki Baat.....

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served as National Unity Day — will be marked by the government with three competitions run by the Culture Ministry for writing patriotic songs, for writing loris (lullabies) and to make rangolis. He said bike rallies in different states have already been taken out to mark the occasion — by the Gujarat Police from Lakhpat Fort in Kutch to the Statue of Unity, by the Tripura Police, and by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Recognising that Sunday was United Nations Day, Modi said that not only did India sign the UN Charter in 1945 — prior to independence — but that Indian women have played an important part in UN activities.

“India has always strove for world peace. We are proud of the fact that India has been a part of UN peace-keeping missions continuously since the 1950s. India is also playing a leading role in addressing issues related to poverty alleviation, climate change and workers,” he said.

The Prime Minister further spoke of India’s new drone policy and said that since the policy was introduced in August, many foreign and domestic investors have started investing in drone start-ups.

No positive case.....

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Terminus, test was conducted on 63 passengers and all were found negative. RAT was also conducted on 12 passengers commuting by boat.

The Director, ANIIMS, Dr. AK Mandal informed that one new COVID patient has been admitted while two patients admitted earlier have been

discharged. Presently, one patient is undergoing treatment at GB Pant Hospital and no patient is on oxygen/ventilator. The Deputy Director, GB Pant Hospital, Dr.Amitabha De informed that no COVID patients are there in COVID Care Centres.

We were outplayed by Pakistan, but we are not pressing panic button: Kohli



PTI: Indian captain Virat Kohli on Sunday had no qualms in admitting that his team was “outplayed” by Pakistan in the ICC T20 World Cup here but said his players are not the ones to press the panic button.

Pakistan produced a clinical effort to crush India by 10 wickets for their first win in a World Cup match in 13 attempts.

Chasing 152 for victory after putting India in, Pakistan completed the task in 17.5 overs, leaving the Indian team and its millions of fans stunned.

“We did not execute the things that we wanted to but credit is certainly due – they (Pakistan) outplayed us today,” Kohli said at the post-

match presentation ceremony.

India found themselves on the back-foot straightaway as they lost three wickets with just 31 runs on the board, thanks to Shaheen Shah Afridi’s menacing opening burst.

“When you lose three early wickets it’s very difficult to come back, especially when you know the dew is coming. They were very professional with the bat as well.

“Hitting through the line was not as easy in the first half as it seemed in the Pakistan innings, so when you know the conditions can change, you need 10-20 extra runs.

“But some quality bowling from Pakistan didn’t let us get off the blocks. We’re certainly not a team that presses the

panic button, it’s the start of the tournament, not the end,” Kohli said.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam stroked his way to unbeaten 68 while Mohammad Rizwan smashed 79 not out as Pakistan won it without much trouble.

Babar said his team executed the plans to perfection, evidence of which was manner in which they dominated and won the game.

“We executed our plans well and the early wickets were very helpful. Shaheen’s wickets gave us a lot of confidence and the spinners dominated as well. The plan with Rizwan is always to keep it simple,” Babar said.

“We tried to get deep in the crease and from about the 8th over the dew came in and the ball came on nicely. This is just the start, we have confidence to build on now. It will remain match by match for us.”

He said the pressure on his team wasn’t that much and they weren’t thinking of the record against India at all.

“I only wanted to back all our players who’ve been preparing well. When you play tournaments before a big World Cup, it helps and our players came in with a lot of confidence because of that.”

Kremlin Cup 2021: Aslan Karatsev, Anett Kontaveit triumph in contrasting styles



Moscow: Home hope Aslan Karatsev cruised past Marin Cilic to continue his excellent season by winning the Kremlin Cup final in Moscow on Sunday, while Estonian Anett Kontaveit took the women’s title.

Second seed Karatsev powered to a 6-2, 6-4 victory.

It was the Russian’s second ATP title of a breakthrough year which also saw him reach the Australian Open semi-finals as a qualifier.

“It is a dream come true,”

Karatsev said. “It is a tournament where I have played in qualifying at and now I am winning the tournament. Thank you for all of your support.”

The 28-year-old’s win also keeps alive his slim hopes of making the ATP Finals in Turin.

Cilic’s run to the final continued his recent return to form after winning his first title since 2018 in Stuttgart in June.

But the Croatian, the 2014 US Open champion, was no match for Karatsev who won the trophy without dropping a set.

Earlier on Sunday, Kontaveit staged a brilliant comeback to beat home hope Ekaterina Alexandrova in the women’s final, boosting her hopes of qualifying for the WTA Finals.

The ninth seed trailed by a set and a double-break, but rallied to win 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

It was Kontaveit’s third WTA title of the season and leaves her locked in a battle with Tunisian Ons Jabeur to reach the season-ending event in Guadalajara.

If the 25-year-old wins the title in Cluj next week and Jabeur fails to reach the semi-finals in Courmayeur, Kontaveit would snatch the last Finals place.

“To go 4-0 down (in the second set), she was really hitting the balls down the line, she was playing amazing tennis,” she said.

“I was just trying to stay in it as long as I could, and I never really gave up. I was just trying to fight for every point as much as I could. If I would have lost 6-4, 6-2 or whatever, I knew I tried everything.”

I can't make Vicky Donor 2, I will fail miserably: Shoojit Sircar

PTI: Filmmaker Shoojit Sircar on Sunday said following the success of his 2012 blockbuster Vicky Donor, he was offered an unimaginable sum to make its sequel, but he turned down the opportunity as he didn't believe he could make the film again.

The film, starring Ayushmann Khurrana and Yami Gautam in their big screen debut, chronicled the story of a sperm donor. Penned by Juhi Chaturvedi, the movie earned widespread acclaim and even won the National Film Award for best popular film providing wholesome entertainment.

During a virtual session of the India Film Project (IFP), Sircar said, "Post Vicky Donor, I was offered loads of money to make its sequel. I had never imagined that kind of money would be offered to me just to make a part two.

"They told me, 'Just do whatever but make it.' But if you ask me to make Vicky Donor again, I won't be able to. I don't think I am capable enough to make it again. I will fail miserably."

Vicky Donor was Sircar's third feature, after the 2005 war drama Yahaan and the unreleased Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Shoebite.

Post the film, Sircar went on to helm acclaimed titles in diverse genres like Madras Cafe, Piku, October, Gulabo Sitabo and his latest, Sardar Udham. The director said he approaches his films like a calling, gravitating to what he wants to make next without following any pattern.

"If you are listening to one particular song, for a few days you just want to listen to that song. That track becomes your life for that particular period. That's what cinema does to me. I work with one particular idea and it wraps me up. For me, it is all intuition and then

I jump into it," he added.

His latest film stars Vicky Kaushal in the titular role of the freedom fighter, who assassinated Michael O'Dwyer, the former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab in British India in 1940, to avenge the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Sicar, who is currently basking in the glorious reviews of the film which released on Amazon Prime Video recently, said the toughest part of the project was getting the cast right.

The makers had first cast Irrfan Khan for the biopic, but after the actor exited the project owing to his ill health, Kaushal was brought in. Khan passed away last year in April after a two year-long battle with a rare form of cancer.

"If you ask me what gave me sleepless nights? It was when what happened to Irrfan and I had to move on from the project to Vicky. That was a huge conflict, a challenge. Yes, Vicky and I had met, discussed it with him, we both had committed (to the project)â€

"So we took it step-by-step. He tried the costumes and I felt slightly assured. Then we called for prosthetics to see if he looked the part, and did some photoshoots? I could see that innocence, enthusiasm in him," the filmmaker said.

Kaushal said he was "realistic" about the opportunity and didn't look at it as him replacing Khan.

"Those shoes you cannot step into, not me, not any other actor in the world. Those are special shoes of its own league. Insecurities come when you are attempting to do that. But there was never an attempt. I had to just give my best with complete honesty," he added.

PRESS RELEASE



A delegation led by Shri. Vishal Jolly, National Executive Committee member BJP, Member of Home Ministry Advisory Committee, Govt. of India & Former State President BJP A&N Islands along with Shri. Nand Kishore Singh, Secretary, CCWS Ltd. and Shri. K. Ramdas, State General Secretary, BJP A&N Islands met Hon’ble Minister of State for Cooperation, Govt. of India, Shri. B. L. Verma Ji in New Delhi on 21.10.2021 and discussed various issues related to the betterment of Cooperative Societies in Andaman Nicobar Islands.