

Residents rue “dead” mortuary service at GBPH

Even departed souls forced to go through ordeal

ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ GB Pant Hospital is back in the news for all the wrong reasons again. Now reports have received that the mortuary unit of this hospital is non-functional for the past 20 days. As a result of non-functioning of the mortuary unit of GB Pant Hospital, the bodies of dead people cannot be kept at the mortuary unit of this hospital. The mortuary unit of this hospital has capacity



to keep about eight dead bodies in the freezers, but due to non-functional freezers, kin of the dead are compelled to keep the body in the mortuary without the freezers and have to rush to take the body before the decomposition starts. The hospital authorities are tightlipped and are not informing the relatives of the dead persons about non-functional freezers in the mortuary. They quickly dispose of the bodies.

Generally, the kin of the

GBPH back in news, albeit for wrong reasons

dead person keep the body in the mortuary unit for a night and take the body to their homes for cremation on the next day. But with non-functional morgue, the health authorities are fooling the kin of the dead by not disclosing the information about non-

functional morgue. People believing that the morgue is functional keeps the dead bodies in the mortuary. As most families take away the

bodies on the very next day, they don't have an idea on non-functional morgue at GB Pant Hospital. But the health authorities look for

excuses when asked to keep the unclaimed bodies.

A morgue staff on the condition of anonymity told EOI that bodies are

getting decayed due to non-functional freezers and air-conditioning system, but this fact is hidden from the kin of the dead.

MP seeks helipad in Billiground for urgent evacuation of critical patients of this region

PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ The Member of Parliament, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has demanded for construction

of a Helipad for people of Harinagar, Swadesh Nagar, Betapur and Nimbudera Panchayats for immediate evacuation of critical patients and other emergency needs. In a letter, Mr. Sharma said that during his recent visit to Middle Andaman a large number of residents of Billiground and nearby regions contacted him and pointed out that for nearly four Panchayats of nearby regions viz Harinagar, Swadesh Nagar, Betapur and Nimbudera Panchayats, there is an urgent need to construct a Helipad for emergency cases. He added that in case of any medical emergency, patients of these thickly populated

regions are presently evacuated either from Rangat or Mayabuder helipads, which not only kills precious time but also minimises the chances of survival of critical patients.

Mr. Sharma mentioned that Harinagar, Swadesh Nagar, Betapur and Nimbudera Panchayats are situated in cut off areas and hence construction of an Helipad will be immensely helpful in evacuating critical patients and also other emergency operations during any natural disaster. He pointed out that a piece of land has already been allotted for construction of a helipad in the region long back.

ACCI delegation discusses issues concerning isles' economic development with LG

PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ A delegation of the Andaman Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI) led by its President called on the Lt. Governor of A & N Islands on 25th November 2022, to discuss issues related to the economic development of the Islands. During the meeting, the Chamber expressed its disappointment on the Islands recently being in the news for all the wrong reasons and also conveyed to his Excellency the pain of the business community since March of 2020 and the fact that the economy, especially tourism, has not even reached 50 percent of pre-covid levels. They also expressed their anguish and concern that over the last year or so the business community had to face a lot of difficulties due to an atmosphere of fear which had been created and quite a few members had to face humiliation, coercion and vindictive actions. They further highlighted the serious infrastructure challenges people are facing specially in the area of ports, power, roads & smart city. The continuing policy of administration of not allowing any conversion of land which has put the development of new projects and enterprises at a total stand still was also pointed out. It was also mentioned about the fact that even the common people are not able to make houses for themselves as a result of this policy. That Lt. Governor gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and in response said that the bottom line of all the problems in the Islands was corruption, whether in power port or other infrastructure and steps have been taken to initiate enquiries in this regard. As far as conversion of land is concerned it is a complex matter but case to case decisions will be taken, especially if it involves projects connected with public utility. He also mentioned that the Govt. of India is serious about the development of the Islands and never in the history has almost one lakh crore has been earmarked for investment in the Islands.

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

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Prioritise regional languages in court activities, says Union Law Minister Riju

CHENNAI, DEC 2 /--/ Union Law and Justice minister Kiren Rijju on Friday batted for the use of regional languages in the curricular activities of the courts in the country and said he was opposed to "imposing" of one language. Rijju also said easy access to justice is the "call of the time". In his address at the 12th convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University (TNDALU), he also praised the Tamil language. "As you all know, our Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) has a commitment to take the country forward along with our culture and our language. I also have been emphasising on this -- that the Indian courts and the Indian legal system must have regional languages in

the curricular activities." "I have already spoken to the Chief Justice of India, senior judges of the Supreme Court and all the Chief Justices of the High Courts, that in the future we must give priority to the regional languages," he said. Rijju added "we all will be proud to see that 'Tamil language takes centre stage in the high court and all the district and subordinate courts," (in the future). Listing out the various pro-people measures initiated by his ministry, Rijju said that among others, it has identified oft-repeated words in legal documents and created a common code vocabulary by coining words from common roots which will be adaptable by all Indian languages. Efforts

are also being done to collect all the legal glossaries published in the regional languages, digitise them and make them

India is working closely with the ministry. Common people must be able to do whatever they want to do in their local language in the courts."



Kiren Rijju

available to the public. "We have also created an online platform for crowdsourcing of coining of legal terminology for Indian languages. Bar Council of

"Otherwise, I am opposed to imposing only one language for India. We must give priority to regional languages," he said. Hailing Tamil as a classical language,

he described it as "handsome" and said the common people of Tamil Nadu must be able to do whatever they want, however they want to practice -- the lawyers, the judges, the common people -- and that the common language must be Tamil. "In the age of technology, translation is not an issue. Instant translation can happen when the judge is delivering the judgement and the plaintiff, complainant should understand the legal language," the minister added. The Centre's digitisation efforts have resulted in courts across the country hearing 2.23 crore cases virtually since March 2020 till date and the apex court "is the world leader in virtual hearings," Rijju said. Various efforts were on to

ensure legal services for the common man for free, he added.

On the Centre's National Education Policy 2020, he said "it has a holistic vision of transforming the way the youth will be educated to make learning a part of personal development while also serving the needs of the society. "Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, also the Chancellor of the varsity, and state Minister S Regupathy among others participated. In his address, Ravi said the country has made rapid strides in various sectors, including renewable energy in the last eight years and stated India was no more being treated as a "third world country". A total of 5,176 students graduated on Friday. (PTI)

Karnataka CM dismisses charges of deleting minority votes from electoral roll

DHARWAD, DEC 2 /--/ Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday rubbished the charge that the names of people from minority communities are being deleted from the electoral roll in the state.

The Chief Minister said the Election Commission alone can add or delete names from the voters' list. "These are all lies. Already, the Election Commission has taken note of it. The deletion and addition is done by the Election Commission only," Bommai told reporters while adding that there are officers appointed by the EC for this purpose. He was responding to a query on the Congress party's allegations that the minority votes are being deleted from the electoral roll in the state. The Congress had claimed that a private trust was roped in for illegal survey of voters by posing as government officials. The party expressed its fear that the minority votes were deleted. Bommai said the state government wished to say only one thing that the Election Commission should immediately investigate through its officials at those places from where such complaints are heard.

According to him, illegality can happen by way of including a single voter at two places or the non-existence of voters at the location mentioned in the electoral roll. "The point here is that the voters should have the voting rights. Ensuring the voting rights of voters, and removing illegal voters is the job of the ECI," the Chief Minister explained. Regarding the assault on a youth for waving Kannada flag in Belagavi which is in the midst of a border row with neighbouring Maharashtra, Bommai said he has directed the Belagavi police commissioner to investigate the matter and present the facts related to the case.

In case any police personnel is involved in assaulting the youth, action will be taken against them, he added. Maharashtra has been demanding that Belagavi should be merged with it in view of substantial Marathi-speaking population there. (PTI)

Congress blaming EVMs indicates it has accepted defeat in Gujarat polls: Modi

AHMEDABAD, DEC 2 /--/ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Congress alleging tampering of Electronic Voting Machines is an indication that it has already accepted defeat in the Gujarat Assembly elections. Voting for 89 seats in the first phase of the Gujarat elections took place on Thursday. "The way Congress has started blaming EVMs after yesterday's voting in Kutch, Saurashtra and south Gujarat, it is evident the opposition party has conceded defeat and has accepted that the BJP will win the election. Alleging EVM tampering is an indication the Congress is on its way out," said Modi. He was speaking at an election rally in Patan town of north Gujarat where voting will be held along with remaining 92 seats on December 5. "The Congress knows only two things, abuse Modi ahead of polls to please the voters and then blame EVMs after voting. This proves the Congress has accepted defeat," the prime minister said.

He also slammed past Congress governments for "widening" the rift between the rich and the poor in the country and "looting" the funds meant for the welfare of the poor. "A former Congress PM used to say that out of Rs 1 sent by the Centre, only 15 paise reaches the poor," Modi said, referring to the late Rajiv Gandhi's famous quote. "In those days local bodies, state governments and the Centre were ruled by the Congress. The BJP was not in the picture. So which 'palm' was responsible for siphoning off 85 paise?" he said, in a dig at the Congress's poll symbol (hand). After he became prime minister, he plugged all such loopholes, Modi added. (PTI)

Assembly polls: Gujarat govt not filling up 5 lakh posts as most will go to Dalits, STs, OBCs: Kharage

BHILODA, DEC 2 /--/ Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage on Friday claimed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) dispensation in Gujarat was not filling up five lakh posts in government and semi-government departments and institutions because half of them will go to aspirants from Dalit, tribal and other backward caste communities. Kharage, addressing an election rally in the Scheduled Tribe (ST)-reserved Assembly constituency of Bhiloda in Aravalli district ahead of the second phase of polling on December 5, alleged the BJP-ruled state has seen a 17 per cent rise in cases of atrocities against Dalits and adivasis. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and local leaders talk about a "double engine" government, a term often used by the BJP to highlight benefits of having the same party in power at the Centre and states, and questioned why this "engine" failed, leading to Gujarat having three chief ministers in six years. The BJP has brought in an army of five party chief ministers, 40 central ministers and 150 ministers of neighbouring states to campaign against the Congress in Gujarat, where the first phase of polling covering 83 Assembly seats was held on December 1, Kharage maintained. "On one hand there is inflation and on the other hand unemployment. There is no job for the poor. All the jobs are either on daily wages or contract basis. Today, five lakh posts in government and semi-government institutions are



Mallikarjun Kharage

vacant (in Gujarat)," the Rajya Sabha MP said. The Congress president alleged the BJP government is deliberating avoiding filling up these posts. "Why don't you fill up the posts? Because if they fill these five lakh jobs, then adivasis, SCs (Scheduled Castes) and backwards (OBCs) will get 50 per cent of these jobs. This is why they do not want to fill them up," he said. "Was the Constitution framed for this purpose? Did we gain Independence to get our rights snatched? The BJP is working to take away what the Congress made available to people," said Kharage. The Congress leader said all pro-people and welfare-orientated laws were framed when his party was in power. "All these laws were framed by the Congress, you (the BJP) did not make any law. You snatch our land, forests and water, but the Congress party will not let you do this. We will fight to safeguard them," he said. He asked as to where BJP leaders were during the freedom struggle and when the Constitution was being framed, adding Congress leaders like former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi sacrificed their lives to keep the country united.

Kharage said the saffron outfit had a huge "washing machine" to "dry clean" corruption taints of a leader as soon as he joined the party. "The BJP is buying MPs and MLAs. Those who do not listen to them are being implicated in false cases of the Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax and others. If one does something wrong, he needs to be taught a lesson," he said. In several states, the BJP came to power by threatening members in the opposition and joining hands with graft-tainted people, Kharage alleged. "It means the BJP has a huge washing machine. It has a washing machine for dry cleaning corrupt persons," he said. On the Morbi bridge collapse, in which 135 people died on October 30, Kharage claimed BJP leaders did not shed a tear over the tragedy and only announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh for the deceased. "No development is happening, and they ask repeatedly what the Congress did in 70 years. You ruled (Gujarat) for 27 years, and even before that you ruled in the name of the Janata Party," the Congress leader said, questioning the BJP over its claim of growth in the state. The Congress president said the BJP was creating divisions among people in the name of religion, and maintained that when Prime Minister Modi is in Gujarat, he only talks about himself. The second phase of voting for 93 seats will be held on December 5, while the first round on December 1 covered 83 Assembly segments in the 182-member House. Poll results will be announced on December 8. (PTI)

People like Sibal who didn't abuse party after leaving could be taken back, not Scindia, Sarma: Ramesh

AGAR MALWA, DEC 2 /--/ Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday said people like Kapil Sibal who maintained a "dignified silence" after leaving the party could be allowed to return, but not the ones like Jyotiraditya Scindia or Himanta Biswa Sarma. Ramesh, who is the Congress's media head, also termed Union minister Scindia as a "24 carat traitor. Asked what would be the party's stand if any of the renegade leaders wished to return, Ramesh told PTI, "I think the people who have left the Congress should not be welcome back. "There are people who left and abused the party, so they



Jairam Ramesh

should not be taken back. But there are people who left the party with dignity and have been maintaining a dignified silence on the Congress party and its leadership," he said. Ramesh was speaking on the sidelines of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra which reached Agar Malwa in MP on Friday. "I can think of my former colleague and a very good friend Kapil Sibal who left the party for some reason, but he has maintained a very dignified silence on the Congress party, unlike Mr Scindia and Mr Himanta Biswa Sarma," Ramesh said. "So I think such leaders who have maintained a dignity could be welcome back, but those people who have left the party and kicked the party and its leadership should not be welcome back," he added.

When asked would Scindia have left the Congress if he had been offered the post of party president, Madhya Pradesh chief minister or a Rajya Sabha berth, Ramesh said, "Scindia is a 'gaddar' (traitor), true gaddar, real gaddar and 24 carat gaddar." Reacting to Ramesh's comments, Madhya Pradesh BJP secretary Rajneesh Agrawal said Scindia was a "24 carat patriot with strong cultural roots." Both Scindia and Sarma have "24 carat" commitment to their work and Ramesh's remarks were "uncultured" and "totally undemocratic," Agrawal added. Sarma left the Congress in 2015 blaming Rahul Gandhi's 'mismanagement' for the party's electoral debacle and joined the BJP. He went on to become a Union minister and later chief minister of Assam. Scindia quit the Grand Old Party in 2020 which resulted in the fall of the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh. He was later inducted in the Union cabinet and made civil aviation minister. (PTI)

Poonawala's polygraph, narco answers same: Sources

NEW DELHI, DEC 2 /--/ The answers that Aaftab Amin Poonawala, the accused in the Shraddha Walkar's murder, gave in his polygraph and narco-analysis tests, and during the police interrogation are the same, sources said on Friday. During the narco analysis, Poonawala told investigators that he also used a cleaver to cut Walkar's body into pieces and that he threw the saw somewhere in the bushes near his office in Gurgaon, the police sources said. Poonawala said he had thrown her head in the

forest areas of Mehrauli and disposed of her mobile phone in the sea in Mumbai. The confessions of Poonawala during his 14 days of police custody are similar to those in response to the questions asked during his polygraph and narco analysis test, according to sources. "He fully cooperated during both the tests. He gave the same responses to the questions that were asked by the police during interrogation. There was no change in statement during his polygraph and narco-analysis test," said a source.

He admitted to have killed his girlfriend and also confessed to have disposed of her body parts in different locations across the forest areas of Delhi, the source added. However, police are yet to find the skull of Walkar and are still hunting for the same along with other remaining parts of the body.

The post-narco analysis session of Poonawala was completed within two hours on Friday, officials said. A four-member team of the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and the investigating officer arrived

at the Tihar Jail in New Delhi for a 'post-test interview' with Poonawala. The interview in Central Jail No. 4 was expected to start from 10 am and go on till 3 pm, but it was delayed. The team reached the prison around 11.30 am and the entire session went on for about 1 hour and 40 minutes. After the session, Poonawala was informed about the replies he gave in his narco analysis test on Thursday. This arrangement was made as per a court order in view of the risks involved in his transportation, the officials

said. Poonawala's narco analysis test, which went on for more than two hours at a Rohini hospital, was completely successful.

Police sources said they were now sure that what Poonawala confessed during the interrogation and during the subsequent polygraph and narco analysis is the same. So, this avoids any kind of new twists in the ongoing investigation. The sources said that the DNA report of Walkar is expected by next week and since more than 13 bones had been recovered so far, only the quantum and

quality of specific bones would be matched by the doctor to ascertain and confirm the death of Walkar. "We have enough evidence to prove that he killed his live-in partner. However, we are still awaiting for the digital footprints and evidence which will play a vital role in view of investigation," said sources, adding that they have gathered more evidence in the case as the investigation was still in progress. However, police did not divulge further details as it may hamper their ongoing investigation. (PTI)

Workshop on "Climate Change in Sustainable Development for School Teachers" in JNRM

PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ The Department of Home Science, JNRM, in association with the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has organized a two-day capacity building workshop on "Climate Change in Sustainable Development for School Teachers" on 1st and 2nd December 2022.

During the inauguration, the chief guest, Ms. Veditha Reddy, Secretary (Education) appreciated the Department of Home Science for bringing the teachers from various schools for this workshop. Ms. Reddy said India is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. It has one of the highest densities of economic activity in the world, and very large numbers of poor people who rely on the natural resource base for their livelihoods, with a high dependence on rainfall. The conservation of water, electricity and other resources is important at family level and will give a community level change bringing transformation in the mindset of the people, she added. Ms. Reddy further highlighted that the teachers



are the master trainers to the students and must exhort the children to utilise the resources in an optimal way. The learning through this workshop on saving nature and environment will have the impact in the minds of the young generation through the teachers community for preserving the flora and fauna of these pristine islands, she opined. The guest of honour, Mr. H. Manoj, General Manager, NABARD informed that this workshop is conceptualised in such a way that the teachers can be the trainer to train the students for saving the

environment. He spoke on the rainfall pattern of the current year and also scenario of agriculture in the islands. There are two important ways through which we can tackle the climate change which is mitigation and adaptation. Shri. H. Manoj said the consequences of climate change on the social systems are expected to vary in different regions of the world on account of several regional and other local factors. Further, there are many uncertainties in disaggregating the effects of global warming on different

agro climatic regions due to still inadequate scientific understanding of the processes involved in climate change, he added. Dr. H. K. Sharma, Principal, JNRM spoke on the importance of tree plantation and its care through students at school and village level since the trees will give balance in nature. Further he said different modeling studies, adaptation strategies and technology systems would be required for mitigation. Dr. K. Venkatesan, HOD, Homescience and Convener of the programme spoke on the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) by outlining the existing and future policies and programs addressing climate mitigation and adaptation and welcomed the gathering. Earlier Smt. Nidhi Shekhawat, Assistant Professor proposed vote of thanks. Smt. Poonam Ajay Singh, Resource Person, Department of Home Science moderated the entire programme and Dr. Shilpa Kaushal, Resource Person Ms. PBhuvaneshwari, Resource Person served as Rapporteur.

Vishal for operating ship services for pilgrims

PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ Mr. Vishal Jolly, BJP's National Executive Member has requested the Chief Secretary for providing ship services from Port Blair to Chennai and back for pilgrimages. In his letter, Mr Jolly said that every year thousands of devotees of Lord Ayyappa and Om Shakti pilgrimages proceed to Sabarimala, Kerala and Om Shakti, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, after observing fasting and other religious rituals. Like every year, this year also they are scheduled to proceed from Andaman & Nicobar Islands to join the pilgrims at Sabarimala, Kerala and Chennai, Tamil Nadu respectively. Further, he mentioned that around 300 to 400 devotees usually prefer ships to visit these pilgrim places from these Islands and, hence Nalanda or Sindhu which has lesser passenger capacity of around 500 would be sufficient for them to travel to Chennai. If an arrangement is made to provide a ship service from Port Blair to Chennai on 04th January 2023 and for the return journey ship may be provided in the mid of January 2023. Further, he also mentioned that the arrangement of vessel to Chennai and return to Port Blair will immensely benefit the middle and lower middle-class devotees to perform pilgrimage at low-cost fare as the rate of flights are soaring high and requested the Chief Secretary that a voyage schedule of Nalanda or Sindhu in the larger interest of Sabarimala devotees.



MV Swarajdweep to arrive today
PORT BLAIR, NOV 2/--/ M.V. Swarajdweep is expected to arrive at Port Blair on 3rd December 2022 at 1200 Hrs from Vizag. She has on board 198 passengers. On arrival the vessel will be berthed at Haddo Wharf and Passengers will be disembarked immediately.

International rating for isles' chess player
PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ Adding yet another feather in her cap, R KashthuriBhai, a class VIII student of GDMS Port Blair becomes the first A & N Islands' chess player to have opened international Rating both in Standard and Rapid Formats of Chess game as per the latest International Ratings published by the World Chess Federation on 30th November 2022. She recently participated in back to back Rapid Tournaments at Bengaluru Or Hyderabad and following excellent performance, she managed to open International Rapid Rating. As per the latest ratings published on 30th Nov 2022, her Standard Format Rating is 1513 and Rapid Rating is 1563.

Selection trial
PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ Islands Tang Soo Do Association, Andaman & Nicobar Islands will organize a State level selection trial for upcoming National Championship at New Delhi from 4-6 January 2023. Interested players can submit their participation on 3rd & 4th December 2022, at Model School (DOJO). For more details, contact Master M.D.Selvam 9434264719 & R. Dinesh 7810090754.

GREETINGS

I extend my warm greetings to all Islanders with special needs on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. I wish a bright and happy future for the Divyang brothers and sisters, who are an integral part of mainstream society. To understand that disability is just a physical deficiency, social awareness is needed. International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated with an aim to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development. Let us work together to ensure that our Divyang brothers and sisters get the same economic and social status as other citizens.

Kuldeep Rai Sharma
Member of Parliament

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Lord Sri Veer Hanuman Jayanthi celebration
PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ Sri Veer Hanuman Temple Trust, Aberdeen Bazaar, Port Blair will celebrate Lord Sri Veer Hanuman Jayanthi on 23rd December 2022, starting with Sudersan Homam at 8.00 am, Abhisekh from 10.00 am to 11.30 am, followed by aarti and annadhanam/ bhog from 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm and at 5.00 pm. Lord Sri Veer Hanuman Utsava Moorty (idol) city procession will start from Temple premises and be routed via Bengali Club, Goal Ghar, Delanipur, Phoenix Bay and Aberdeen Bazaar to the temple. On 24th December 2022, Pushpanjali Puja will be performed in the temple premises at 5.00 pm followed by Aarthi at 6.00 pm.

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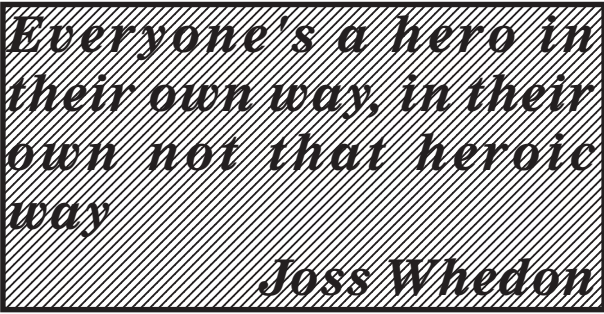
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India assumes G-20 Presidency, becomes rotating head of UNSC

India has formally assumed the Presidency of G-20 grouping for the period of one year. The Group of 20 is a premier forum comprising world’s advanced and developing economies, as well as the European Union, which meets every year to discuss global issues. India’s start of the presidency is marked by several people-centric activities. 100 monuments will be lit up across the country with the G-20 logo. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said India’s G-20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented and decisive. In an op-ed, published in several newspapers, the Prime Minister said India’s G-20 presidency will work to promote this universal sense of oneness and hence India’s theme is ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’. This is not just a slogan but it takes into account recent changes in human circumstances, which we have collectively failed to appreciate. During the Presidency, the focus will be laid on ensuring citizen participation in the events to be organised. A key element of country’s presidency will be taking the G-20 closer to the public and trying to make it a people’s Group. The G-20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world’s major developed and developing economies. It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU). Together, they account for over 80 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product, 75 per cent of international trade and two-thirds of the world population.

On the same day India donned the G-20 Presidency mantle, it also assumed the rotating Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of December, during which it will host signature events on countering terrorism and reformed multilateralism. India assumed the monthly rotating Presidency of the Security Council on December 1, the second time after August 2021 that it will preside over the Council during its two-year tenure as elected UNSC member. India’s 2021-22 term on the Council ends December 31. Countering terrorism and reformed multilateralism will be among the key priorities for India during its UNSC presidency that will culminate in the completion of its two-year tenure as non-permanent member of the 15-nation powerful body. India’s position on UNSC reform is early reform with comprehensive reform at its core. Comprehensive reform is not just an expansion in the permanent membership of the Security Council, but also in the non-permanent category, the question of the veto, the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council and an improvement in the working methods of the Security Council to make it more democratic and thereby more effective, for which Inter-Governmental Negotiations on UNSC reform will commence in January. India, Brazil, Germany and Japan - members of the G4 grouping - have been at the forefront of efforts calling for urgent reform of the Security Council, which has remained deeply divisive in dealing with current challenges. India has asserted that the Council, in its current form, does not reflect today’s geo-political realities and its credibility is at risk if nations like developing nations like India do not have a permanent seat at the world body’s top organ.

India must spend big on sports to build global reputation

REFLEX ACTION

Nantoo Banerjee

India may rank lowly at 104th position on the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) men’s table, dropped from 94th in 1996, its enthusiasm over the game is probably among the highest in the world. Over 300 million Indians, numbering close to the entire population of the United States, are watching on the electronic media the ongoing FIFA World Cup games in Qatar. All FIFA World Cup 2022 matches are telecast live on Sports18 and Sports18 HD TV channels in India. Viewers are also subscribing to the channels with their respective DTH providers. The live streaming is available on the Jio Cinema app and website for free. Jio Cinema is offering live streaming of matches, highlights and other FIFA World Cup 2022 content in five languages - English, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Bengali. The FIFA World Cup is bringing a huge business for these channels by way of advertising and subscription while making Qatar a household name in India.

Nearly 30,000 Indians are expected to visit Qatar to physically watch FIFA World Cup matches between November 20 and December 18. Two weeks ago, Indians were ranked eighth among ticket buyers. Four years ago, there were some 18,000 Indians in Russia to watch the previous FIFA World Cup 2018 matches. The number of Indians present to watch the matches in Russia was the third highest from non-competing countries after the US and China.

Tickets don’t come cheap. The hottest ticket of the FIFA World Cup 2022 tournament will be for the final at Lusail Stadium on December 18. A category IV ticket for the final costs \$205.69, while the cheapest ticket for a non-Qatar resident is \$603.36. Category I tickets cost a whopping \$1,604.39 each. Approximately three million tickets have been sold for the eight world cup venues in Qatar. FIFA anticipates that the event will collect a record amount of money, surpassing the roughly \$5.4 billion mopped up during the 2018 world cup hosted by Russia. Additionally, FIFA has sold around 240,000 hospitality packages.

Qatar, the world’s smallest country to host a FIFA world cup, has a land mass of only 11,571 sq km with a total population of 2.9 million of which 2.3 million are expatriates including 7.5 lakh Indians. It boasts the world’s highest per capita income of around US\$134,000. So far, Qatar is said to have spent \$229 billion to spruce up its infrastructure, build new stadiums, training sites, hotels and other facilities to organise the world cup tournament.

The amount is 25 percent more than the country’s GDP of approximately \$180 billion in 2022. The investment is expected to pay handsome dividends in the coming years. Global financial analysts have estimated that Qatar’s GDP will rise by 4.1 percent by the end of 2022 itself. The tournament would contribute about \$20 billion to the country’s economy. The most expensive world cup football ever may also bring some adverse impact on Qatar’s economy. Overspending on infrastructure and stadiums has led to some investors being in massive debt and left with constructions that serve little use after the world cup matches end.

Globally, sports entertainment is worth nearly a trillion dollars. The countries traditionally making large investments in sports are also reaping good returns in terms of money and reputation. They include the US, China, Russia, Brazil, Argentina, Germany, the UK, Spain, Italy, Australia, the Netherlands and France. India ranks nowhere in the league. The government and business spendings on sports development in India are practically negligible. The national sports budget for 2022-23 allocated an expenditure of only Rs.3,062.60 crore or equivalent of around \$380 million. Compare this with the individual income of some of the 2022 global football stars such as Lionel Messi (\$130 million), Cristiano Ronaldo (\$115 million) and Neymar (\$95 million). Basketball’s LeBron James earned around \$121 million. The global sports industry is estimated at over \$600 billion contributing around 0.5 percent of the world GDP. In some countries, it ranges to even up to five percent of their GDP. In India, the sports industry contributes only 0.1 percent of the GDP.

India’s poor spending on sports is best reflected on its performance in the Olympics. The country’s best ever Olympics performance was recorded in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, earning a total of only seven medals, including a gold, two silver and four bronze. In contrast, the US bagged 113 medals, China 88, Russia 71, the UK 65 and Japan 58. India held 48th position in the medals tally among participating nations. India had sent its largest-ever

contingent of 126 athletes to the 2020 Tokyo games. India will need substantial investment in sports to improve its global performance. Unfortunately, neither the government or private sector industry has the will to make such an investment considering the fact that it does not promise an immediate return.

Traditionally, public sector organisations such as Indian Railways and defence services have been major spenders on sports development. The private sector funding of sports is mostly linked with tax breaks and through the corporate social responsibility (CSR) scheme. The investment is rather minuscule compared to the overall CSR spending by industry. During FY21, Reliance Industries (Rs.49 crore), Kotak Mahindra Bank (Rs.16.88 crore), Tata Steel (Rs.15.99 crore) and IndusInd Bank (Rs.10.64 crore) were among the top spenders on sports. According to the National CSR Portal run by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, out of the Rs 24,864.11 crore spent on CSR in 2020-21, sports accounted for only Rs 240.9 crore.

Sports is the biggest image builder of a nation. And, globally, no game is as popular as football. This explains why Qatar, the world’s richest country, decided to spend such large sums to host the FIFA World Cup 2022. After building a billion-dollar air base in the mid-1990s, which it offered to the US, Qatar’s ruling Al Thani family runs Qatar Airways, adjudged as the world’s best airline for seven years in a row, and powerful international media network, Al Jazeera. It has been making large investments in globally popular sports to further enhance the country’s international reputation. Qatar Sports Investments purchased Paris Saint-Germain in 2011 and turned a rickety French football club into a European powerhouse. Various Qatari organisations have struck sponsorship deals with European clubs such as Barcelona (£30 million a year to sponsor its shirt), Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and A.S. Roma. Back home, the government spends prodigiously on a Qatari football league.

India has a lot to learn from Qatar’s hosting of the FIFA world cup as part of its global reputation building exercise. With the size of India’s economy showing an impressive growth — \$40-trillion GDP by 2047 as predicted last week by Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani — the country has to work hard to enhance its global reputation by gradually becoming a sporting superpower. India will need large government and private equity in sports to make it possible. (IPA)



India’s Oscar contender “Last Film Show” is a poignant human document

I saw last week in Netflix Writer Director Pan Nalin’s latest film “Last Film Show”, “Chhello Show” in Gujarati. The film has already been nominated by India as its Oscar contender for the 2023 Academy Awards Function scheduled in March. Only last week, Nalin’s film was named as the winner of the Asian World Film Festival in Los Angeles. The film has been in the festival circuit since June 2021 receiving wide appreciation in all the festivals. The producers have been able to organize its release in the USA market on December 2. Already, the film had a commercial release in India on October 14 this year.

The nomination of Palin’s film for Oscar as against the other contenders SS Rajamouli’s RRR, Vivek Agnihotri’s The Kashmir Files and Aayan Mukherjee’s Brahmarshtra led to some controversy but my view is that the decision was right taking into account the tenor of the subject, the intoxicating visuals and the moving performances of the actors. The pangs of transition in a distant village of Gujarat portrayed by the director is common in all the developing countries in the world undergoing the process of modernization. RRR is an excellent film with Rajamouli showing his perfect command over storytelling and technical brilliance, but “Last Film Show” belongs to the category of Satyajit Ray’s Pather Panchali, Aparajito, Abhijaan and also

Ritwik Ghatak’s “Ajantrik”.

Inspired by director Pan Nalin’s own childhood, the film follows the dreams and aspirations of a nine-year-old boy, Samay acted by Bhavin Rabari, in rural Gujarat. He is obsessed with watching movies on the big screen. He befriends the projection operator Fazal of the Galaxy cinema hall and immerses himself in that dream world. He just not enjoys the films but also dreams to make such films one day. Pan Nalin weaves the rural scenes in the first decade of this century with extraordinary texture. This village and its people remain contented and simple while the transition is taking place in the village and the surrounding areas disturbing in the process thievery nature of their living and livelihood.

The film takes us into the world of Samay a young boy from Chhalala village in Gujarat, who lives with his father (Dipen Raval), mother (Richa Meena) and younger sister. One day, his father takes the family to a movie called ‘Goddess Mahakali’. During that time, movies were still shot using old film cameras and played through a film projector. Samay learns all the

technicalities of that old world projection but the liberalization process of the country’s economy spreads to rural areas. The Galaxy hall is modernised replacing old projection system by digital. Samay sees in his own eye show the cans with the old reels are taken away like junkies signalling the arrival of a new era in the movie hall industry.

After seeing the film at one go, I remembered Satyajit Ray’s first two films of Apu trilogy, especially Aparajito as also Abhijaan. Samay like Apu is looking at wonder at the world that is opening up before them. Samay has differing experiences unlike Apu but his journey for a new world continues. Samay’s mother played by Richa Meena is that Indian mother like Sarbajaya of Aparajito who protects their children to the hilt but allows them to go out for a new world of knowledge and opportunities.

The last scene in Palin’s film when the parents, Fazal, the operator of the by gone age who has been by passed by the modernization process and the teacher of Samay’s school who always wanted to see his students to soar high by going out of the

village, though he himself is stuck, is superb. Richa Meena’s acting is stupendous and about Bhavin Rabari, it never seems acting. His every posture is so natural. So is the superb performance of the other mates of Samay. Palin has created many moments of human touch of the highest order with those young kids. Nalin has also focused on the caste considerations of the rural Gujaratis like Samay’s tea seller father juxtaposing this against the comment of the school teacher “There are only two castes-ones who speak English and the others who do not”. There is nothing loud, the pace of the village is quite slow even in 2010 excepting the gang of Samay and his friends who have got the taste of a new world.

“Last Film Show” is an ode to life as also to cinema. This cinema is the biggest art that technology has given to us. India produces largest number of films in the world. Indian films of both Bollywood and South have a big market in many countries of the world. India can use Films as one of its biggest soft power in its negotiations with the foreign countries. The Indian films will have varieties from fully entertaining to human documents projecting the reality. Pan Nalin despite his busy work as a film maker abroad, has brought a slice of real India to the film lovers globally. Whether the film finally gets award or not, “Last Film Show” is sure to make a good impression on the jury of the American Academy about the quality of the recent Indian films. (IPA)

FOCUS

Nitya Chakraborty

Conventional Crossword												
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25				26								

ACROSS						DOWN					
1	Golf club	5	Solemn promise	7	Well-founded	1	Needy	3	Jewelled coronets	5	Call up
8	Public speaker	10	Uncommon	12	Encountered	4	Vigour	6	Lyric poem	9	Ribbon
13	Monkey	14	Large town	16	Trick	11	Attempt	14	Slightly cold	15	Firmly fixed
17	Offspring	18	Blemish	20	Unruly crowd	16	Spirit	17	Be merciful to	18	Slender support
23	Natural gift	24	Falter	25	Permit	19	Agitate	21	Be indebted	22	Sporting item
26	Wise counsellor										

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Yesterday's Solution 3713												
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5	3	7	2	8	4	1	6	9				
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4	6	8	9	3	1	2	5	7				

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 1722												
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A		V	E	X			A	R	I	D		
C	L	A	N			S	P	I	N	E		
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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.

Ongoing health prog and activities in health sector of Nicobar District discussed



PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ The Mission Director, UTHM, A & N Administration, Dr. Anil Agarwal, along with Joint Mission Director, Dr. Suja Anthony during their two-day visit to Car Nicobar held a meeting with the Chairman Tribal Council and other Tribal Leaders in the presence of Deputy Commissioner(N),Assistant Commissioner (HQ), Medical Superintendent, BJR Hospital to discuss health care need of the Tribal Population in Nicobar District.

The Mission Director, NHM also visited BJR Hospital and held a meeting with the Doctors in the presence of Deputy Commissioner (Nicobars) and Assistant Commissioner (HQ). A PPT presentation was made by the Health

Department to apprise the Mission Director about ongoing health programmes and activities at Nicobar District. The Mission Director encouraged the Doctors and staff to continue the good work and also gave valuable suggestions for better patient care services.

The team also inspected the Health and Wellness Centre at Mus village, Car Nicobar. It was informed by Dr. Arun Pal Singh, Medical Officer, BJR Hospital, Car Nicobar that nearly 70 patients are awaiting cataract surgery due to non-availability of an Ophthalmic Surgeon at the District. In this regard, the Mission Director, NHM has requested the Director, ANIIMS to organize such surgeries at ANIIMS, Port Blair in a scheduled manner. The Deputy Commissioner,

(N) has agreed to facilitate necessary logistics at Car Nicobar while the Mission Director NHM in consultation with DHS has agreed to facilitate these patients at Port Blair.

The Mission Director, NHM has requested the Deputy Commissioner (N) to make available Specialists especially Gynecologists & Pediatrician at Campbell Bay PHC at least once or twice on monthly basis, so that patients in these remote areas are duly attended to.

The Mission Director NHM also laid emphasis on thorough screening of TB suspects & contacts to achieve the National target of elimination of TB before 2025. For this purpose, additional funds will be provided to the District under NTEP.

CPI(M) seeks posting of sufficient medical officers, para-medical staff in Mayabunder hospital

PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ The CPI (M) has demanded immediate posting of a sufficient number of medical officers including Specialist doctors and Nursing Staff to Dr.Rajendra Prasad District Hospital, Mayabunder. In a letter sent to the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Health), A & N Administration, Shri D. Ayyappan, Secretary, CPI (M) A & N State Organising Committee while referring to his recent visit to the said hospital during a tour to North Andaman, said that there is acute shortage of medical officers and Specialist doctors in the District Hospital. He further demanded that services of Medical Specialist, ENT and Ophthalmologist, etcare urgently required in the hospital. ShriAyyappan said that being a District Hospital, it is necessary that a sufficient number of doctors including specialist doctors and staff including nursing staff are posted in the hospital. This hospital caters to the needs of thousands of people from Baratang to Diglipur. CPI (M) Secretary noted that despite his administrative duty being the Head of Health Department in the North & Middle Andaman District, the Medical Superintendent is forced to attend the OPD patients due to shortage of doctors. He further said that a sufficient number of staff nurses is not available in the hospital and the existing nursing staffs are overburdened.

Workshop to mark 'World Antimicrobial Resistance' week

PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ Along with rest of the world, every year, the Directorate of Health Services, A&N Administration in association with ANIIMS observed 'World Antimicrobial Resistance' (AMR) Week from Nov.18 to 24, 2022 with the theme 'Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together'.

World Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Awareness Week (WAAW) is aimed to increase awareness on Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and to encourage best practice among the population, health workers and policy makers in order to overcome the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) presents a global public health threat. It is a dynamic phenomenon that occurs when bacteria, virus, fungi and parasites resist the effects of medicines, making common infection harder to treat, increasing the risk of diseases spread, severe illness

and death.

To mark the occasion, Health Department organized a weeklong awareness programmes for awareness of stakeholders followed by meeting with Private Pharmacist Association of A&N Islands, Poster/ Essay/Quiz competition conducted among the students of ANIIMS & Nursing School and planting of fruit trees by KAYAKALP Staff of G.B. Pant Hospital in the presence of Medical Superintendent and Matron. In continuation to World Antimicrobial Resistance awareness Week a workshop was organized involving Faculties of ANIIMS, Pharmacists and other stakeholders of the Health Department. During the workshop Mission Director (NHM), Director of Health Services, Director ANIIMS, Scientist of ICMR and Programme Officer (AYUSH) were present on the occasion. In this connection a memorandum of understanding was signed between National Communicable Disease Centre, New Delhi and ANIIMS, Port Blair on prevention of AMR for further action.

Workshop on 'Improvement & conservation of native poultry' at Tribal farming Community, Campbell Bay, Carnic



PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ The Division of Animal Science, ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair conducted series of workshop for five-days on Improvement and Conservation of Native Poultry at tribal farming community Chingen Village, Campbell Bay and Kinmai, Tapoiming, Malacca and Perka villages, Car Nicobar from 24-28, November 2022 under Scheduled Tribal Component in collaboration with DBT-Biotech Kisan Hub. Mr. Hilton, 1st Captain, Chingen Village, Campbell Bay and 1st Captains viz., Mr. Ireneus Benjamin, (Kinmai), Mr. Kishore, (Tapoiming), Mr. Micah (Malacca) and Mr. Paul David (Perka) Tribal Farming Community, Car Nicobar, along with 167 tribal farmers, including 90 women tribal farmers participated in the

programme. Dr. T.Sujatha, Sr. Scientist & Coordinator of the programme narrated about the importance of conservation of Native poultry through improvement in their production. She explained how the housing, balanced feed and feed additives and vaccination in rural poultry improves their overall performance by alleviating nutrients deficiency and in-turn has significant influence in one health programme of preventing animal diseases. This will significantly improve the nutritional security of tribal farming community through enhance of animal protein sources. Further, she motivated the participants to learn all the skills to prepare value added products to establish their own business. She encouraged

them that ICAR-CIARI is ready to support them in all possible ways to initiate product preparation in a team mode. He assured them for the technical guidance from scientists of CIARI. During the programme, inputs such as feed and water supplements and deworming, wire mesh and tarpaulin sheet were distributed to the tribal farmers in the presence of Village captains who advised the community to use the inputs judiciously and appreciated ICAR-CIARI for its efforts towards development of tribal farming community in livestock farming sector. The overall programme was executed under the chairmanship of Dr.Eaknath B.Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI and was facilitated by Dr.Jai Sunder, Pr.Scientist and Dr.D.Bhattacharya, Pr.Scientist as conveners of the programme.

Recreational, sports activities for children marks 'World Disability Day'



PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ As a part of 'World Disability Day celebrations 2022', CRC-A&N Islands organised Recreational and Sports activities for Children with Special Needs at CRC, Brookshabad. The main objective of this event was empowering CwSN by creating an inclusive

society. About 48 Divyangjans and parents participated. The Divyanjans were grouped according to their ability level and participated in outdoor and indoor sports activities. Smti.Sumithamol, Resident Nodal Officer inaugurated the event. The children with special needs

competed in 100mt Race, Shot Put, Relay Race, Ball throwing, Musical Chair, Balloon Race and Biscuit Biting, etc. During the event, the parents of CwSN and the special educators, professionals & other staff of CRC, A&N-Islands assisted and gave their full support to Divyanjans.

CRACKDOWN ON BOOTLEGGERS, DRUG PEDDLERS A&N Police registers 223 cases in Oct-Nov this year

PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ In fight against bootlegging, illicit liquor and drug abuse, Andaman and Nicobar Police has adopted a multi-pronged strategy coupled with zero tolerance against this menace. On the supply front, Police are cracking the whip against bootleggers and drug peddlers. On demand side, mass public awareness campaign is launched to spread awareness about ill-effects of alcohol/drug abuse.

Cracking down on bootlegging, as many as 223 cases under 32 Regulation III of 1876 were registered during the month of October-November, 2022 as compared to 85 cases in August and 118 cases in September, 2022. 893 bottles of liquor, 484 Kgs of Handia

and 102.7ltrs of illicit liquor were recovered from the possession of bootleggers. Apart from this, search and combing operations were carried out in the jungle in which as much as 2,390 litres of Lehan (fermented wash to prepare illicit liquor) was destroyed. During October-November, 2022, more than 71 Awareness programmes on "Alcohol/Drug Abuse" were conducted in Schools/Colleges, with Community leaders, PRI members and other stakeholders. The message of hazardous impact of alcohol/drug abuse on physical, mental, social and financial health is disseminated in a simple and entertaining manner with the help of Skit/Nukkad Natak enacted by Police Team. The A & N

Police is committed to take stern action against bootleggers, illicit liquor, drug peddlers and other illegal activities.

The public is requested to share information pertaining to any crime or other illegal activities to Police at 100,112 & 03192-233077. The identity of the informant will be kept secret.

Placement drive by MCC on Dec 6

PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ The Model Career Centre (Employment Exchange), Directorate of Employment, Port Blair will be conducting placement drive on Dec. 6 from 10.30am onwards in coordination with Munjoh Island Resort for the post of marketing executive for the aspiring youth in hospitably sector. Around 20 vacancies in marketing executive fields will be filled by the firm. All the job seekers looking to avail the opportunity have been requested to walk in for an interview along with the copy of the certificate on Dec.6 at Munjoh Island Resort at Sippighat.

For further information, one may contact Model Career Centre (Employment Exchange), Contact No.: 03192-232462, 9434272233.



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Manager(Sales)	1 - UR
Manager(Electrical)	1 - UR
Manager(Projects)	2 - UR
Dy. Manager(Mining)	2 - UR

For details and applying log in to website: www.irel.co.in.

CBC-48129/12/0065/2223

FINAL PRESS NOTICE

Whereas Shri. John Barla, Sanitary Mazdoor, S/o Agapit Barla, ward no. 13 have been unauthorizedly absenting himself from duty w.e.f 19/06/2017 without giving any intimation or taking prior permission and in this connection a Press Notice was issued vide no 1- 45/SS/Estt/1578 dated 16/08/2019.

Whereas a compliance report vide no SI-13/MC/94 dated 29/10/2021 received from the concerned Sanitary Inspector enclosing a copy of Reminder-I served to Shri John Barla, Sanitary Mazdoor. A Press Notice vide no 1-45/SS/Estt/MC/ 2046 dated 23/12/2021 was also released directing him to report duty within 07 days of publication of the notice but no response from the employee is received till date.

Shri John Barla, S/o Agapit Barla, Sanitary Mazdoor is once again directed to report for duty within 07 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, with valid reason along with documentary proof, if any, for his unauthorized absence from duty failing which action under Sub-rule(1) of Rule 5 of the CCS (Temporary service) Rules, 1965 will be taken against him.

Administrative Officer
Municipal Council

IGNOU assignment & projects submission date extended

PORT BLAIR, DEC 2/--/ The last date for submission of Assignments for TEE December- 2022 session of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been extended upto 15TH December, 2022. The students may submit assignments at their respective study centre and submit the on-line project/ dissertation/ internship/field work Journal reports by clicking the online link available at the first page of IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in .For more details, visit IGNOU website -www.ignou.ac.in or contact IGNOU Regional Centre, Port Blair over Phone: 03192-242888, 03192-230111 or Email: reportblair@ignou.ac.in.



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INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT

RECRUITMENT AGAINST SPORTS QUOTA (OPEN ADVERTISEMENT) FOR THE YEAR 2022-23
(Employment Notice No. RRC / 03 / Sports / 2022 dated 03.12.2022)

Closing Date & Time for receipt of Application : 02.01.2023 at 23.59 Hrs.

Online Applications are invited from eligible sportspersons, for recruitment to Posts in Level 2 to Level 5 in 7th CPC Pay Matrix in Southern Railway, against Sports Quota for the year 2022-23 (Open Advertisement), in the following Games / Events.

05 Posts in Level 4/5 of VII CPC Pay Matrix.			16 Posts in Level 2/3 of VII CPC Pay Matrix.		
Sports Discipline	Event / Position	Posts	Sports Discipline	Event / Position	Posts
Basketball (Men)	Pivot-1, Forward-1	2	Basketball (Men)	Pivot-1, Forward-1	2
Basketball (Women)	Pivot-1, Forward-1	2	Basketball (Women)	Pivot-1, Forward-1	2
Cricketer (Men)	Off Spinner (All Rounder)-1 Medium Fast Bowler (All Rounder) – 1	2	Cricketer (Men)	Off Spinner (All Rounder)-1 Medium Fast Bowler (All Rounder) – 1	2
Cricketer (Women)	Batsman-1, Left Arm Spinner-1	2	Cricketer (Women)	Batsman-1, Left Arm Spinner-1	2
Hockey (Men)	Goalkeeper-1, Midfielder-1, Defender-1	3	Hockey (Men)	Goalkeeper-1, Midfielder-1, Defender-1	3
Swimming (Men)	50M, 100M-Breast Stroke, 800M, 1500M Free Style, 50M, 100M, 200M Butterfly stroke	1	Swimming (Men)	50M, 100M-Breast Stroke, 800M, 1500M Free Style, 50M, 100M, 200M Butterfly stroke	1
Volleyball (Men)	Blocker-1, Attacker-1	2	Volleyball (Men)	Blocker-1, Attacker-1	2
Volleyball (Women)	Blocker-1, Allrounder-1	2	Volleyball (Women)	Blocker-1, Allrounder-1	2
Total 5			Total 16		

Note: (i) No post is exclusively reserved for any community such as OBC, SC & ST etc., (ii) The applications of the candidates should be submitted ONLINE only. (iii) Candidates applying for more than one Sports Discipline / Event should submit separate applications for the respective Sports Discipline / Event. Examination fee has to be paid separately for each Sports Discipline / Event.

AGE LIMIT: 18 to 25 Years as on 01.01.2023. For details regarding Age, Educational Qualification, Minimum Sports norms, eligibility criteria, method/mode of recruitment etc., the sports persons are advised to refer Employment News / Rozgar Samachar issued dated 03.12.2022-09.12.2022 or visit website: www.rcrcmas.in


HOW TO APPLY: Visit www.rcrcmas.in to apply ONLINE. Offline application is not permitted for applying against this notification. Payment of fee also to be done online while applying.

Instructions to candidates: 1. Candidates may visit Website www.rcrcmas.in for getting updates. 2. Eligible applicants should be in readiness to appear for trials at very short notice. 3. Recruitment will be based on achievements, educational qualification and performance in the trials.

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AACCC-UG/PG COUNSELLING NOTICE
for
All India Quota (AIQ) Seats under UG (BAMS/BSMS/BUMS/BHMS)
Courses and PG (MD/MS) Courses of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy (ASU&H)

✓ All the eligible candidates who qualified NEET (UG) 2022/AIAPGET-2022 examination and aspiring for admission in Under Graduate (BAMS/BSMS/BUMS/BHMS) courses and Post Graduate (MD/MS) courses are hereby informed that the AACCC UG/PG Counselling 2022 for allotment of AIQ-UG/PG seats of ASU&H-UG/PG courses to qualified eligible candidates will be held as per schedule which will be uploaded on AACCC website (www.aaccc.gov.in).

✓ AACCC, M/o Ayush shall conduct counselling for admission in AIQ seats of ASU&H-UG/PG courses under Government/Government Aided College/Institute, National Institutes, Central Universities and Deemed Universities.

✓ The counselling for admission to AIQ seats of UG & PG courses of Private Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy Institutes shall be conducted by the respective counselling authority of State/UT Government.

✓ For participation in AACCC UG/PG Counselling 2022, the candidates are required to register themselves at official website of AACCC (www.aaccc.gov.in).

-Kindly note that Non-Refundable registration fees and Refundable Security Deposit have to be paid by the candidates at the time of registration as per their category.

✓ For allotment of AIQ-UG&PG seats of ASU&H-UG/PG courses under Government/Government aided Institutes/Colleges, National Institutes, Central Universities, AACCC, M/o Ayush will conduct four rounds of counselling through online mode i.e., Round 1, round 2, Round 3/Mop-Up Round and Stray Vacancy Round.

✓ For Admission in 100% seats of all Deemed Universities both Government and Private, the AACCC, M/o Ayush will conduct three (3) rounds of counselling through online mode i.e., Round 1, Round 2, Round 3/Mop-Up Round. Further the seats that remain vacant after 3rd/Mop-Up Round of AACCC-UG/PG counselling will be reverted to the respective Deemed Universities to conduct Stray Vacancy Round at their own level for which AACCC, M/o Ayush will forward the list of eligible candidates, (only NEET (UG)-2022/ AIAPGET-2022 qualified and eligible candidate who registered in the AACCC-UG/PG portal are eligible for admission in UG/PG courses)

✓ The details regarding counselling schedule/scheme & FAQs/information bulletin and eligibility criterion for admission in UG (BAMS/BSMS/BUMS/BHMS) courses and PG (MD/MS) courses for the Academic Year 2022-23 are available at www.aaccc.gov.in Kindly stay in touch with the website for latest updates.

CBC-17219/1200072223

Pakistan's head of mission in Kabul survives as gunmen attack embassy

ISLAMABAD, DEC 2/--/he head of Pakistan's mission in Kabul survived an attack on Pakistan's embassy in Kabul on Friday, drawing immediate condemnation and a demand for a probe from Islamabad.

Pakistan's Chargé d'Affaires to Afghanistan Ubaidur Rehman Nizamani was targeted by unidentified gunmen while he was taking a walk in the embassy compound, but he was saved by the security guard deployed for his protection, sources told Geo News. A security guard was "critically injured" in the attack while protecting the mission head. The head of mission and other officials are being called back to Pakistan temporarily, the sources said. When the incident happened, there was no activity in the Pakistani Embassy due to weekly off. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

condemned the "dastardly assassination attempt" and demanded a probe. "I demand immediate investigation and action against the perpetrators of this heinous act," the prime minister tweeted. (PTI)

Pentagon debuts its new stealth bomber, the B-21 Raider

WASHINGTON, DEC 2/--/America's newest nuclear stealth bomber is making its public debut after years of secret development and as part of the Pentagon's answer to rising concerns over a future conflict with China. The B-21 Raider is the first new American bomber aircraft in more than 30 years. Almost every aspect of the programme is classified.

Ahead of its unveiling Friday at an Air Force facility in Palmdale, California, only artists' renderings of the warplane have been released. Those few images reveal that the Raider resembles the black nuclear stealth bomber it will eventually replace, the B-2 Spirit. The bomber is part of the Pentagon's efforts to modernise all three legs of its nuclear triad, which includes silo-launched nuclear ballistic missiles and submarine-launched warheads, as it shifts from the counterterrorism



campaigns of recent decades to meet China's rapid military modernisation. China is on track to have 1,500 nuclear weapons by 2035, and its gains in hypersonics, cyber warfare, space capabilities and other areas present "the most consequential and systemic challenge to US national security and the free and open international system," the Pentagon said this week in its annual China report. "We needed a new bomber for the 21st Century that would allow us to take on much more complicated threats, like the threats that we fear we would one day face from China, Russia," said Deborah Lee James, the Air Force secretary when the Raider contract was announced in 2015. (AP)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers prayers at the Ogadnath Temple, at Kankrej in Banaskantha district

Cong only believes in stalling, delaying and misleading, alleges PM; says those who looted poor now abusing him

AHMEDABAD, DEC 2/--/Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday alleged that the Congress only believed in 'atkana, latkana aur bhatkana' (stalling, delaying and misleading), and said those who looted poor people in the country were now abusing him for putting an end to corruption. He also alleged that the previous Congress governments never showed any interest in bringing the Narmada river water to the parched regions of Gujarat as the party was only interested in doing those works where there was scope to indulge in corruption. Modi was addressing a rally in Kankrej village of Banaskantha district, where voting for the second phase of Gujarat Assembly polls will be held on December 5. "Congress only believed in 'atkana', 'latkana' and 'bhatkana'. Elderly people from this region would tell you how Congress governments used to talk about bringing Narmada water in this parched region, but nothing was done on that front during their rule," he said. The prime minister accused the Congress of trying to stall the construction of the Sardar Sarovar dam and supporting those who delayed the project through litigations, a veiled reference to Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) activist Medha Patkar.

"Can people of Banaskantha forgive those who indulged in this sin of stopping water from coming here? Congress was responsible for keeping Banaskantha thirsty. They must be punished. I hope you will not forget this during polling," Modi said. "Congress never shows interest in those works where their leaders do not find any opportunity to make money. Since they used to get kickbacks in the relief work wherein people were given the task to dig pits during drought, Congress was not providing water. Because they knew that if water is supplied here, their illegal income will stop," he alleged. According to him, it was the BJP government which brought Narmada water into this parched region and promised that it will reach those areas too which were left behind. The PM said his government at the Centre had pumped in nearly Rs 1 lakh crore to finish as many as 99 water supply schemes which were abandoned across the country during Congress rule. Without taking names, Modi said those who "looted" poor citizens are now giving him 'gaalis' (abuses) for putting an end to corrupt practices, like cancelling nearly four crore fake ration cards. "Food grains meant for the poor were diverted somewhere else. If you rob poor people, Modi will take action. And when such people are caught, they start abusing me," he said. He claimed that he was confident of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) victory in Gujarat the way people took part in voting on December 1 under the first phase. Before addressing the rally, Modi visited Augarnath temple in Kankrej and offered prayers. (PTI)

Existing collegium system should not be derailed, don't want to comment on what former judges say: SC

NEW DELHI, DEC 2/--/The Supreme Court said on Friday the existing collegium system should not be derailed on the basis of statements of "some busybody", asserting the top court is one of the most transparent institutions. Amid divisions within the judiciary and its festering dispute with the government over the system under which existing judges appoint judges to constitutional courts, it said it does not want to comment on what a few former apex court judges, who were once members of the Supreme Court collegium, are now saying about the mechanism. A bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar said, "Nowadays, it has become a fashion to comment upon earlier decisions (of the collegium) made when they (former judges) were part of the collegium. We don't want to say anything on their comments." "Let the existing collegium system which is functioning not get derailed. Collegium does not work on the basis of some busybody. Let the collegium function according to its duties, we are one of the most transparent institutions," it said. The top court was hearing a petition by RTI activist Anjali Bhardwaj against the Delhi High Court order dismissing her plea seeking the agenda of the Supreme Court collegium's meeting held on December 12, 2018 when certain decisions were purportedly taken on the elevation of some judges to the apex

court. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for Bhardwaj, said former apex court judge Justice MB Lokur, who was part of the SC collegium in 2018, had said in public domain that the decisions taken at a collegium meeting on December 12 that year should have been uploaded on the top court's website. On December 12, 2018, the collegium headed by then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and comprising Justices Lokur, AK Sikri, SA Bobde and NV Ramana (all retired) had purportedly taken certain decisions with regard to appointment of judges in the top court and proposals for transfer of chief justices and judges of high courts but those resolutions were not uploaded on the SC web site.

Later, on January 10, 2019, the collegium, whose combination got changed due to the retirement of Justice Lokur, took another decision to recommend to the centre the elevation of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjiv Khanna and said the recommendations dated December 12, 2018 proposed earlier could not be finalised as it was decided to have a fresh look at them. At the January 10 meeting the collegium

decided to reconsider the earlier proposals in the light of additional material that became available. Bhushan, who narrated the sequence of the purported events, told

the bench that the petitioner is only seeking three specific documents related to the collegium meeting of December 12, 2018. "The question here is whether the decision of the collegium comes under the purview of the Right to Information Act. The subsequent meeting dated January 10, 2019 mentions about the decision taken on December 12, 2018," he said. At this point, the bench said the decisions taken in the 2018 meeting were "oral" and not written decisions. "Where it has been said that it was not a written decision but an oral decision?" asked Bhushan. He recalled, in another case regarding filling of the vacancies of Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners filed by petitioner Bhardwaj, this court has passed directions about the transparency required in the appointment process. "Are the people of the country not entitled to know what decisions have been taken in a particular



collegium meeting?" he asked, adding let the Supreme Court Public Information Officer say the December 12, 2018 decision was not a written decision. "Is the Supreme Court immune from RTI Act?" he asked, and asserted the Right to Information Act is a fundamental right. The top court said it will pass orders on the plea and reserved its verdict. On July 27, the Delhi High Court had dismissed Bhardwaj's appeal challenging a single judge's order rejecting a plea seeking the agenda of the Supreme Court collegium's meeting held on December 12, 2018, when certain decisions were purportedly taken on the elevation of judges to the apex court. It had said the order of the single judge, as well as the orders of the authorities refusing to direct disclosure, did not require any interference. Bhardwaj had challenged before the single judge the CIC's December 16, 2021 order by which her second appeal was dismissed, and sought a direction to the authorities to disclose the available information sought under the February 26, 2019 RTI application. Her petition said on January 23, 2019, Justice Madan B Lokur, who was a part of the collegium meeting and retired on December 30, 2018, had in an interview expressed his disappointment that the December 12, 2018 collegium resolution was not uploaded on the Supreme Court website. (PTI)



South Korea stunned Portugal with a late goal, as they defeated the Cristiano Ronaldo-led side 2-1 to enter the Round of 16 stage at FIFA World Cup on Friday

CPI(M) wants Paresh Rawal prosecuted for 'hate speech' at Gujarat rally

KOLKATA, DEC 2/--/CPI(M) leader Md Salim on Friday said he has lodged a police complaint here against Paresh Rawal, alleging that the veteran actor made utterances during a recent poll rally in Gujarat that tantamounted to hate speech against the Bengali community. Salim, in his complaint to Taratola Police Station, said he came across a video on various social media platforms featuring the actor giving a speech, which could promote feelings of hatred against Bengalis. The CPI(M) leader said he apprehended that people from Bengal residing in other parts of the country could get affected as a result of Rawal's

comments. "Such speech on public domain has been made to provoke riots and destroy harmony between Bengali community and other communities across the country, and cause public mischief," Salim claimed.

Salim said Rawal had made an unsavoury reference, linking gas cylinders with Bangladeshis, Rohingyas, Bengalis and fish, and sought prosecution of the actor under various sections of IPC, including Sections 153 (provocation with intent to cause riot), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 505 (statements intending public mischief). Earlier in the day, Rawal,

however, apologised for his comments. His apology came after a huge backlash from the Bengali community and some others on social media. "Of course the fish is not the issue as Gujaratis do cook and eat fish. But let me clarify by Bengali I meant illegal Bangladeshi N Rohingya. But still if I have hurt your feelings and sentiments I do apologise," the 67-year-old actor and former BJP MP wrote on Twitter. Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra didn't seem too impressed. "Actually Kemchho Slapstickman need not have apologised. The 2nd part of Cook Fish like Bengalis is 'Have Brains like Bengalis'. Most nobel laureates than any other Indian

state, buddy boy," she posted on Twitter. Rawal had taken up the subject of gas cylinder prices, an emotive poll issue, at a BJP rally in Valsad district on Tuesday. "Gas cylinders are expensive, but their price will come down.

People will get employment too. But what will happen if Rohingya migrants and Bangladeshis start living around you, like in Delhi? "What will you do with gas cylinders? Cook fish for the Bengalis?" Rawal had said. The first phase of the Gujarat assembly elections were held on Thursday and the second phase will take place on December 5. The votes will be counted on December 8. (PTI)

Twenty five years later, Bangladesh closer to peace in border region

DHAKA, DEC 2/--/A quarter century ago, Modhumala Chakma says it was impossible to leave her house in the evening and walk around the nearby hills because they were controlled by a tribal insurgent group seeking autonomy in southeastern Bangladesh. "It was a difficult time," says the 60-year-old farm worker from an ethnic minority in the Shuvolong area of Rangamati, one of three districts bordering India and Myanmar collectively called Chittagong Hill Tracts. "We lived in constant fear of being raped or killed." "Those bad days are gone," she says. Eleven ethnic groups live in the three districts, Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari.

About half the population is tribal people who mainly follow Theravada Buddhism and half is

Bengali who are mostly Muslim. Twenty-five years ago, the government and a tribal organisation signed the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord officially ending the insurgency. While Modhumala is enthusiastic about progress since then, she's uncertain whether the region has actually established peace. The government insists it has met most of the terms of the Dec. 2, 1997, treaty, but tribal groups and their supporters say it still needs to resolve critical issues including land disputes. The region covers one-tenth of Bangladesh's total territory and has a population of 1.6 million. The armed insurgency, led by a group called the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti, demanded autonomy and land rights for its people. The insurgency began in 1977, six years

after Bangladesh gained independence from Pakistan. "This part of Bangladesh was in a state of war, in a state of armed conflict for long. Since 1997 the region has changed in many ways," said Delwar Hossain, a professor of international relations at Dhaka University. "It is relatively stable, and it has brought about quality changes in many aspects." He says things are moving in the right direction, but it takes time to heal. Experts say land disputes remain a concern, and tribal groups allege that several past governments have violated the treaty by allowing non-indigenous Bengali people to move into the area, changing its character and taking away land from tribal groups. Violence and crime still mar the Chittagong Hill Tracts as authorities struggle to reach the

remotest areas where they say gangs are pushing for control and extorting money. Dipankar Talukdar, a four-time ruling Awami League party member of Parliament in Rangamati, said some groups are using the disputes as a distraction. "They need a cover to do the extortion," he said. "They talk about independence and ensuring rights and other things. But the original reason is to extort." He said security agencies have arrested members of a new group called the Kuki Chin National Front that has sheltered fundamentalist terrorists in remote jungles for training purposes. "The civil and military administration is working together to establish peace as a response to those people or groups that want to destabilise the region," said the top government official in Rangamati,

Mohammad Mizanur Rahman. "It's a continuous process." Since the accord was signed, the government has worked to develop infrastructure in the region. In 1997, the Chittagong Hill Tracts had 2,800 kilometers of roads, which has increased to about 8,000 kilometers. The number of hospitals and clinics has grown from 24 to 270, and the number of temples and churches from 1,663 to 2,820, the government says. "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated dozens of bridges in CHT last month. New roads are being constructed. Electricity is coming. All these are very good for us," said Abdu Salam, a farmer whose father moved to Rangamati decades ago. "Here we live peacefully now. I think the future will be much better." (AP)

Career diplomat Asad Majeed Khan appointed as Pak's new Foreign Secy

ISLAMABAD, DEC 2 /--/ Pakistan on Friday appointed career diplomat Asad Majeed Khan, whose name appeared in the Cipher Conspiracy' controversy, as its new foreign secretary, ending weeks of uncertainty over the key appointment. Majeed Khan is presently posted as Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, European Union and Luxembourg, the Foreign Office said in a tweet. "Dr Asad Majeed Khan, presently posted as Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, the European Union and Luxembourg, has been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary," it tweeted. Separately, the Establishment Division issued a notification on the appointment. The post fell vacant after the retirement of Sohail Mahmood in September this year, and instead of appointing a permanent foreign secretary, senior diplomat Jauhar Saleem was assigned the additional charge of the office of the foreign secretary till the position was formally filled. It was speculated at that time that Majeed Khan was the apparent choice but could not be brought in as the issue of cipher conspiracy was at the center of the raging political tension in the country. The alleged conspiracy was based on a cable sent by Majeed Khan from Washington, based on his meeting with senior State Department official Donald Lu about the political situation of Pakistan.

The cable landed in Pakistan when a no-confidence resolution had been moved against then-Prime Minister Imran Khan. About a week before the scheduled voting in the National Assembly, Imran Khan displayed a document at a rally of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party in Islamabad, that was based on the cipher and proof of a foreign conspiracy against his government. After he was toppled through the no-confidence vote, Imran Khan used the cipher as the alleged evidence of US interference to bring a regime change in Pakistan. In the wake of the ensuing bitter political tussle, Majeed Khan's name emerged several times, and at times negatively, casting a shadow on his role and career. So when the time came for the next foreign secretary, the government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had to delay it to let the dust settle. After the change of guard in the army and the issue of the cipher losing its steam, the government finally decided to appoint him to the key post. Majeed Khan has been serving as ambassador to Belgium since April this year. He was sent to Brussels from Washington after serving there as an ambassador for three years. He had also served in Washington as the deputy chief of mission for four years and spent six years in New York, including as a diplomat at Pakistan's UN Mission. (PTI)

Driver charged with killing Indian student in pickup truck-cycle collision in Toronto

TORONTO, DEC 2 /--/ Toronto police have arrested the driver of a pickup truck who was responsible for the death of a 20-year-old Indian national in Canada after the truck collided with the student's cycle on a pedestrian crosswalk last month. The 60-year-old driver was charged with callous driving and violating traffic rules, the Toronto Star newspaper reported on Thursday. The Indian student was identified as Kartik Saini. He hailed from Karnal, Haryana, and travelled to Canada in August 2021. He was a student at Sheridan college.

Saini was killed after he was hit and dragged by the pickup truck while crossing a road in midtown on November 23. Emergency services tried to free the cyclist and revive him, but he was pronounced dead at the scene. The Traffic Services investigators charged the man with careless driving causing death, unsafe turning, and proceeding contrary to a traffic sign, said a press release by Toronto police. The driver's name was not revealed as the police said they do not name the people charged under the Highway Traffic Act. He is scheduled to appear in court on February 16. A makeshift memorial has been set up at the crash site, the report said. (PTI)

Suella Braverman's reappointment as UK home secy a dangerous precedent: Parliamentary body

LONDON, DEC 2 /--/ The reappointment of Indian-origin Suella Braverman as the British home secretary by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak sets a "dangerous precedent" for how breaches of the ministerial code are dealt with, a cross-party parliamentary panel said in a report on Friday.

Braverman, 42, had resigned from the Cabinet of former prime minister Liz Truss, having breached the ministerial code by sending secure information from her private email. She was reappointed by Sunak on October 25, leading to growing calls for her resignation. The House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee said the situation was "unsatisfactory" and that there needed to be a more "robust" system of upholding standards in public life. "The reappointment of the home secretary sets a dangerous precedent," the Committee's report said. "The leaking of restricted material is worthy of significant sanction under the new graduated sanctions regime introduced in May, including resignation and a

significant period out of office. A subsequent change in prime minister should not wipe the slate clean and allow for a rehabilitation and a return to ministerial office in a shorter time frame. To allow this to take place does not inspire confidence in the integrity of the government nor offer much incentive to proper conduct in future," it said.

Braverman had resigned on October 19, days before her boss Liz Truss' own exit. She later told MPs that she made an "error of judgement... I took responsibility for it and I resigned". Sunak has previously defended his fellow Indian-origin politician's reappointment to his so-called "unity Cabinet" bringing together different wings of the governing Tory party, saying she had "accepted her mistake". However, the Commons

committee, which oversees parliamentary affairs, called on the government to toughen the system regulating standards and ethical conduct, especially in the wake of scandals such as 'Partygate' -- which involved Covid-19 law breaches at the heart of the government. "It is incumbent on the government to ensure a robust and effective system for upholding standards in public life, with proper sanctions for those who break the rules," Conservative Party MP William

Wragg, chair of the committee, said. "Our inquiry has found that although we have a sophisticated landscape of ethics watchdogs in the UK to safeguard standards in public life, they lack the power to enforce the rules. The prime minister is rightly the ultimate arbiter of the rules in our system. We urge him to show

JERUSALEM, DEC 2 /--/ India and Israel are "natural allies" who are united by a fundamental commitment to the democratic ideals upon which they were founded, Israeli President Isaac Herzog has said, as he made a rare appearance at an exhibition here featuring Indian deities and temple rituals.

Herzog attended a cultural event at the Israel Museum on Thursday evening to inaugurate the new exhibition titled 'Body of Faith: Sculpture from the National Museum of India.' He called the exhibition a byproduct of the growing friendship between the two countries. "India and Israel are natural allies, united by a fundamental commitment to the democratic ideals upon which both our nations were founded. Yet this evening transcends politics, commerce even diplomacy," he said. "This evening shines a light on our shared humanity while

paying tribute to the rich history and cultural legacy of the Indian people," Herzog, who made a rare appearance because of "his love for India", said. "This exhibition, literally 'spirit within matter' in Hebrew, is yet another byproduct of the growing friendship between the Indian and Israeli nations and a reflection of the deep resonance of arts and culture that our nations share," the Israeli President emphasised. The display features 14 exquisite large-scale Indian sculptures created between the fourth and thirteenth centuries, some on loan from the National Museum in New Delhi and some from the Israel Museum's collection, a

spokesperson for the Israel museum told PTI. The exhibition taking place in Jerusalem assumes a special significance given the Biblical references to Indian-origin spices and fragrances like Neradh oil, Ahaal aromatic wood and Cinnamon, which among others were considered essential for religious services during the Temple periods in Jerusalem. The six-month-long exhibition will also involve a series of academic talks and special lecture demonstrations by selected artists from India, adding to the academic affluence of the exhibits on display. Taking note of the unique first collaboration



Isaac Herzog

'We don't need to be told what to do on democracy':

India's permanent representative to the UN Amb Kamboj

UNITED NATIONS, DEC 2 /--/ India does not need to be told what to do on democracy, the country's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj has asserted.

India on Thursday assumed Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of December, during which it will host signature events on countering terrorism and reformed multilateralism. The Presidency will bring the curtains down on India's two-year tenure as elected non-permanent member of the powerful UN organ. Kamboj, India's first woman Permanent Representative to the UN, will sit in the President's seat at the horse-shoe table. On the first day of India's presidency, she addressed reporters in the UN headquarters on the monthly programme of work. Responding to a question on democracy and freedom of press in India,

she said "we don't need to be told what to do on democracy."

"India is perhaps the most ancient civilization in the world as all of you know. In India, democracy had roots going back to 2500 years, we were always a democracy. Coming down to very recent times, we have all the pillars of democracy that are intact - legislature, executive, judiciary and the fourth estate, the press. And a very vibrant social media. So the country is the world's largest democracy," she said. "Every five years we conduct the world's largest democratic exercise. Everyone is free to say as they wish and please and that is how our country functions. It's rapidly reforming, transforming and changing. And the trajectory has been very impressive. And I don't have to say this; you don't have to listen to me. Others are saying this," Kamboj said. (PTI)



Ruchira Kamboj

Official says over 10,000 Ukrainian troops killed in war

KYIV, DEC 2 /--/ A top adviser to Ukraine's president has cited military chiefs as saying 10,000 to 13,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in the country's nine-month struggle against Russia's invasion, a rare comment on such figures and far below estimates of Ukrainian casualties from Western leaders. Russian forces kept up rocket attacks on infrastructure and airstrikes against Ukrainian troop positions along the contact line, the Ukrainian general staff said Friday, adding that Moscow's military push has focused on a dozen towns including Bakhmut and Avdiivka key targets for Russia in the embattled east. Late Thursday, Mykhailo

Podolyak, a top adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, relayed new figures about Ukrainian soldiers killed in battle, while noting that the number of injured troops was higher and civilian casualty counts were "significant." "We have official figures from the general staff, we have official figures from the top command, and they amount to between 10,000 and 12,500-13,000 killed," Podolyak told Channel 24. The Ukrainian military has not confirmed such figures and it was a rare instance of a Ukrainian official providing such a count. The last dates back to late August, when the head of the armed forces said that nearly 9,000 military

personnel had been killed. In June, Podolyak said that up to 200 soldiers were dying each day, in some of the most intense fighting and bloodshed this year.

On Wednesday, Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Union's executive Commission, said 100,000 Ukrainian troops had been killed before her office corrected her comments calling them inaccurate and saying that the figure referred to both killed and injured. Last month, Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that as many as 40,000 Ukrainian civilians and "well over" 100,000 Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded in the war so far. (AP)

leadership and give legal status to all the ethics watchdogs," he said.

Wragg said such a legal backing would act as a "better deterrent" for those who may be tempted to act improperly and further safeguard the integrity of public life in the United Kingdom. The Committee also recommended that former ministers and civil servants who break the rules regulating the "revolving door" between government and private sector jobs should face legal action. Currently, former ministers are supposed to seek non-binding advice from the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (ACOBA). Reacting to the report, the opposition Labour Party said the government had no plan to restore standards in public life after "years of sleaze and scandal". "We have been clear that this government will have integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level and we are already taking action to improve the effectiveness of the business appointment rules," a UK Cabinet office spokesperson said, with reference to the report. (PTI)



Biden, Macron vow unity against Russia, discuss trade row

WASHINGTON, DEC 2 /--/ Presidents Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron vowed to maintain a united front against Russia on Thursday amid growing worries about waning support for Ukraine's war effort in the US and Europe. Biden also signalled he might be willing to tweak aspects of his signature climate legislation that have raised concerns with France and other European allies. Biden honoured Macron

countries' long alliance. But they acknowledged difficult moments lay ahead as Western unity shows some wear nine months into the war in Ukraine.

In Washington, Republicans are set to take control of the House, where GOP leader Kevin McCarthy has said his party's lawmakers will not write a "blank check" for Ukraine. Across the Atlantic, Macron's efforts to keep Europe united will be tested by the mounting costs of supporting Ukraine in the war and as Europe battles rising energy prices that threaten to derail the post-pandemic economic recovery. Macron stressed that the issue has ramifications far beyond Ukraine's borders. "What is at stake in Ukraine is not just very far from here, in a small country somewhere in Europe," he declared. "But it's about our values. And about our principles." "Our two nations are sisters in the fight for freedom," he said. Biden indicated he would be



Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron

with a grand state dinner Thursday evening the first of the US president's Covid-19 shadowed presidency for a foreign leader. But following up on Biden's upbeat comments might not go as smoothly as that fancy affair. Republicans who are about to take control of the House have shown less willingness than Biden to spend billions on Ukraine, and Democratic lawmakers said Thursday they were not about to jump back into the climate legislation. In fact, for all the positive statements, Macron's visit to Washington has been tempered by his criticism of Biden's Inflation Reduction Act and the challenges both leaders face amid the mounting costs of keeping military and economic aid flowing to Kyiv with no end in sight for the Russian invasion.

Despite the differences, Biden and Macron sought to underscore that the US-France alliance remains solid and that the West must hold steadfast against Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. "Today, we reaffirm that, as I said, we're going to stand together against this brutality," Biden said. "Putin thinks that he can crush the will of all those who oppose his imperial ambitions by attacking civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, choking off energy to Europe to drive up prices, exacerbating the food crisis. That's hurting very vulnerable people not just in Ukraine but around the world and he's not going to succeed." Both leaders at an outdoor welcoming ceremony paid tribute to their

willing to talk with Putin if the Russian leader demonstrated that he seriously wanted to end the invasion. But the U.S. president, as always, conditioned such talks on support by NATO allies. "I'm prepared to speak with Mr. Putin if in fact there is an interest in him deciding that he's looking for a way to end the war," Biden said. "He hasn't done that yet."

In addition to their talk of Ukraine what White House officials said was at the top of the agenda the two leaders discussed Macron's and other leaders' concerns about the recently enacted clean energy law. Macron has made clear that he and other European leaders are opposed to incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act that favor American-made climate technology, including electric vehicles. Biden acknowledged "glitches" in the legislation but said "there's tweaks we can make" to satisfy allies. "The United States makes no apology. And I make no apologies since I wrote it for the legislation we're talking about," Biden added. However, Macron said that while the Biden administration's efforts to curb climate change should be applauded, the subsidies would be an enormous setback for European companies. "We want to succeed together, not one against the other," Macron added. He said the US and France would "resynchronise" their clean energy efforts to ensure there's no "domino effect" that undermines clean energy projects in Europe. (AP)

UK Oppn Labour Party wins by-election in electoral blow to PM Rishi Sunak

LONDON, DEC 2 /--/ In a poll outcome perceived as the first electoral test of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's leadership, the Opposition Labour Party won an important by-election with an increased margin in a north-west England constituency on Friday.

Samantha Dixon retained the Chester seat for Labour with 17,309 votes, a 61 per cent share and nearly 11,000 more than her Conservative Party rival. While Labour was expected to win the seat vacated following the resignation of a scandal-hit incumbent, the bigger margin is being seen as a public vote against the governing Tories.

Labour leader Keir Starmer said the result showed people are "fed up"

with the Conservative government. It marks the worst result for the Conservatives in Chester since 1832, with candidate Liz Wardlaw getting 6,335 votes or 22.4 per cent. "People in Chester and across our country are really worried," said Dixon, dubbing her win as a "resounding mandate" for Labour.

"This is the cost of 12 years of Conservative government. The government, which has wreaked havoc with our economy, destroyed our public services and betrayed the people who put their trust in them at the last general election," she said.

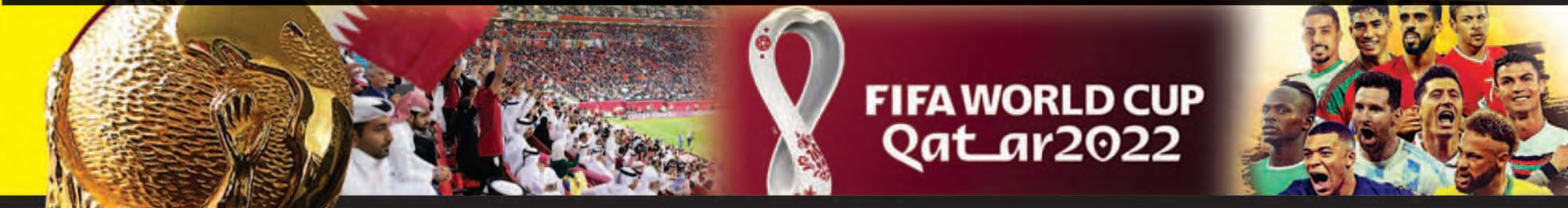
Thursday's by-election was the first to take place since Boris Johnson quit in

the wake of the partygate scandal and his successor Liz Truss resigned following market turbulence caused by her mini-Budget.

It is also the first by-election since a double defeat for the Conservatives in June, which saw the party lose Wakefield to Labour and Tiverton and Honiton to the Liberal Democrats.

The results will be a cause of some concern for Sunak, Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister who took over the Tory reins in October in the wake of a particularly tumultuous period for the party.

Tory MP for Warrington South Andy Carter was keen to downplay the result and pointed to the expected anti-incumbency factor in by-elections. (PTI)



JAPAN STUN SPAIN



TODAY'S MATCH
(Round of 16)
Netherlands vs
USA - 8.30 PM IST
Argentina
vs Australia -
12.30 AM IST

The ball appears to be over the line before Japan's Kaoru Mitoma crosses for team-mate Ao Tanaka to give them a 2-1 lead against Spain

Germany, Costa Rica eliminated

DOHA, DEC 2 /-/- Spain staggered through to the World Cup last 16 on Thursday despite a 2-1 defeat by Japan, who remarkably won Group E on a rollercoaster night which saw four-time champions Germany eliminated. Japan secured another incredible triumph after beating Germany in their opening game, with their progression from the "group of death" one of the greatest achievements in the country's footballing history. For a few heart-stopping minutes Spain were poised to head out when Costa Rica were leading in the other game, but the 2010 champions squeezed through after Germany did them a favour by coming back to beat Los Ticos. Spain and Germany ended on four points each, but La Roja progressed on goal difference. Alvaro Morata sent Spain ahead early on with a towering header, but Japan dramatically struck back at the start of the second half. Ritsu Doan and Ao Tanaka's goals saw them mount a sensational comeback, just as they did against Germany. Tanaka's goal was highly controversial after the officials relied on VAR to decide Kaoru Mitoma had kept the ball in play by a hair's breadth to set him up. Spain struggled to create chances against a staunch Japanese defence in the final stages, with the Asian side aware conceding another see them

eliminated. Japanese players collapsed at full-time in celebration, exhausted and delated, while the substitutes raced on to celebrate. Spain face Morocco in the last 16, while Japan play Croatia. Both sides made five changes, with Luis Enrique bringing in Morata to lead the line, and handing Alejandro Balde and Nico Williams their full debuts. Japan started with five at the back, hoping to keep Spain at bay, but pressed high in attack to try and capitalise on any mistakes. Spain are sometimes guilty of glaring defensive errors and Pau Torres exemplified that with a sloppy touch which led to Japan's first chance, fired into the side-netting by Junya Ito. Morata sent La Roja ahead in the 12th minute with a towering header from Cesar Azpilicueta's cross, rekindling the connection which occasionally worked at Chelsea after the striker's arrival in 2017. Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu replaced the ineffective Takefuso Kubo and Yuto Nagatomo at the break with Mitoma and Doan, and it paid instant dividends. Balde lost the ball under pressure and from the edge of the box winger Doan hammered past Unai Simon, who might have done more to keep it out. Three minutes later and Japan had turned the game on its head, Tanaka bundling home from on the goal line after Mitoma had miraculously kept the ball in play as he crossed it -- according to VAR. Spain were shellshocked and struggled to react, with Luis Enrique making a raft of substitutions to try and regain control. The coach, alone and perched on the edge of his technical area, was unaware that for a few moments his team faced elimination, when Costa Rica took the lead against Germany in the other game to go 2-1 ahead. (AFP)

Japan explodes with joy after shocking Spain

TOKYO, DEC 2 /-/- As the final whistle blew on Japan's shock victory over Spain, thrilled fans flooded onto Tokyo's Shibuya Scramble crossing to celebrate a win few had dared to dream of. "Japan, bravo! Japan, bravo!", they cheered after the 2-1 victory, singing the popular "Vamos Nippon" football chant and waving the country's flag. Dressed in their team's blue kit, some with hats against the morning cold, the revellers mingled with commuters in suits on their way to work. But the party atmosphere was unmistakable, with fans jumping up and down and rushing into the crossing, as police tried to corral the crowds with yellow caution tape. "I thought this game would be a bit tough," said 36-year-old Munehiro Hashimoto, dressed in a Japan jersey, with blue and silver tinsel around his shoulders. He had spared no effort with his outfit, topping it with a makeshift blue samurai helmet emblazoned with "must win" and "samurai spirit" on either side. "It started at four in the morning (in Japan), so I was watching it at home. Then they won, so I rushed out here. We did it!" Fans danced and cheered, high-fiving strangers and posing for photos taken by amused workers on their way to the office. Among those partying was a comedian who goes by the stage name Junya Nito and is known for his impersonation of Japan player Junya Ito. "It was really wonderful today," he told AFP, holding a World Cup trophy replica along with a group of fellow comedian footballer impersonators. "I wanted to see him (Ito) score. He's saving it for the finals!" "Japan are becoming really strong," he added. "We have many members now who are performing at the premier level. We see the quality (of the team) is improving, and now finally they proved it." (AFP)



Japan flew past us like they were aeroplanes, says Spain's Luis Enrique

DOHA, DEC 2 /-/- Spain coach Luis Enrique blamed five minutes of "total loss of control" for his team's shock 2-1 defeat by Japan on Thursday, which saw them qualify for the World Cup last 16 second from Group E. La Roja, among the favourites to win the tournament, would have been eliminated if Costa Rica had held on to beat Germany, although Los Ticos eventually fell to a 4-2 defeat. Alvaro Morata sent Spain in front early on but two strikes in four minutes from Japan at the start of the second half turned the game on its head. "(It was) five minutes of total lack of control, of panic, even," said Luis Enrique. "They scored two goals against us, and if they had needed to score two more, then they would have scored them too, I'm sure. "This is a World Cup and when a team like Japan does not have anything to lose, well, they decide to risk it all and flew past us like they were aeroplanes. "The situation was under control once Japan decided to recover their previous position on the pitch and shut up shop at the back." Ritsu Doan netted the equaliser for Japan in the 48th minute before Ao Tanaka bundled home an extremely controversial second. The ball appeared to go out of play before Kaoru Mitoma crossed the ball to him, but after a long VAR check, officials granted the goal. "I have seen a photo that must have been tampered with, it cannot be that this photo is real. It has to be manipulated," said Luis Enrique. "I felt that something fishy was

going on when the VAR took as much time as it did to decide... I have nothing to say. "Luckily the team only goes into collapse mode once every four years, otherwise I wouldn't be able to cope." Spain will face Morocco in the last 16 after the defeat and Luis Enrique believes his team did not deserve to finish as group winners. "Japan go through first and it's deserved because they beat Germany and Spain," said the coach. "The mourning and the pain, we'll go through that tonight, there's nothing to celebrate. "We have gone through second, yes, but this has to serve as a warning to be aware that this is going to happen. "If against Morocco we have the fortune to go in front, Morocco, will risk it all at full pelt again. "We have to show more strength in the moments when the opposition is pressing us." Luis Enrique was on the edge of his technical area during the game and did not realise there was a period of time where Spain were heading for elimination. With Costa Rica 2-1 up against Germany, Spain were temporarily in third place for a few minutes, before Kai Havertz levelled the game at 2-2. "We were going out?" asked Luis Enrique. "I did not know it because I was focused on my game, not speculating (on the other). "If I had found out, I would have had a heart attack." (AFP)

South Korea stun Portugal 2-1, secure last 16 spot

Uruguay were knocked out of the tournament despite winning 2-0 against Ghana

DOHA, DEC 2 /-/- South Korea beat Portugal 2-1 in a dramatic clash at the Education City Stadium on Friday. With the clock ticking down on South Korea's time in the tournament, striker Son Heung-min ran free after a Portugal corner in added time and slipped a pass to Hwang Hee-chan who fired past Diogo Costa to spark wild celebrations. Portugal, who made six changes, to their side from the last game found the net inside six minutes but could not convert their chances later on. However, they had already



advanced after two games and won the group. Both teams finished with four points and both had a goal difference of zero, but the Asian team scored four goals compared to Uruguay's two. When the Uruguay-Ghana game finished 2-0 and South Korea was sure of its second-place finish, the players on the field erupted in joy and squirted water in the air. Then they got in a line and sprinted toward their fans behind one of the goals at Education City Stadium before performing a dive in front of them.

'We deserved it': German fans reckon with early World Cup exit



BERLIN, DEC 2 /-/- In a quickly-emptying east Berlin bar, Eric Warncke is "disappointed" by Germany's shock exit from the World Cup, but says he already suspected it might happen. After a surprise 2-1 loss in the opening game to Japan, the team left themselves a hill to climb to make it through to the knockout round in Qatar. A tense 1-1 draw against Spain gave them hope of qualification, but the Spaniards' own defeat at the hands of the Japanese Thursday sealed the Germans' fate despite a turbulent 4-2 win over Costa Rica. "Nobody expected Japan to beat Spain, but in the end we were knocked out deservedly," Warncke, 27, says. To his mind, there are "too few characters, too few leaders" in Hansi Flick's squad compared with the previous sides. Germany used to pride

itself on being a "tournament team", which always had a chance of winning World Cups. "Individually they are all good players, but it's not a team," he says, lamenting the disappearance of Bastian Schweinsteiger and Lukas Podolski, who lifted the trophy in 2014. Like him, his friend Rico Wagner, 23, summed up the feeling: "Disappointed, but we also deserved it". After a rollercoaster game in which Germany first seemed to be going through, then did not and finally could not do enough despite a late push, the fans in the bar showed their frustration. Even before the TV commentator confirmed Japan's win and Germany's exit, crying "this is a debacle, this is a disaster," some fans grabbed their coats and headed for the door. (AFP)

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