

**WORLD 5**  
CONSTRUCTION BEGINS  
ON IRAN NUCLEAR PLANT

**MONEY 6**  
24TH TRANCHE OF ELECTORAL  
BONDS ON SALE FROM MON

**SPORT 7**  
SENEGAL COACH CISSE ILL AHEAD OF  
WORLD CUP GAME WITH ENGLAND

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# sunday pioneer

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## EC warns against urban voter apathy

Poll panel urges voters to come out in large numbers to exercise their franchise in the second phase of the Gujarat Assembly polls on Dec 5

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wary of the "urban apathy" that impacted the overall voter turnouts, be it in Shimla when Himachal Pradesh voted on November 12 or in Surat in the first phase of polling on December 1, the Election Commission (EC) on Saturday went public urging the voters of Gujarat to come out in large numbers during the second phase of polling for 93 seats on December 5, high-voltage campaigning for which ended on Saturday. As many as 833 candidates are in the fray across 93 constituencies for the December 5 polls. Votes will be counted on December 8. Prominent candidates in the second phase of the



Congress Party supporters during an election campaign rally ahead of the second phase Assembly elections, in Ahmedabad on Saturday. PTI

triangular contest involving the BJP, Congress and the AAP include Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel from Ghatlodia, Patidar leader Hardik Patel from

Viramgam and OBC leader Alpesh Thakor from Gandhinagar South. Both Hardik and Thakor are contesting on BJP ticket. **Contd on Page 2**

## DELHI DECIDES TODAY

Elections to 250 MCD wards to be held under tight security blanket

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The stage is all set for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls on Sunday with officials and security forces all geared up for the elections, seen as a three-way contest between the AAP, the BJP and the Congress.

Both the AAP and the BJP have exuded confidence that they will emerge victorious in the polls while the Congress is seeking to regain its lost turf.

Over 1.45 crore electors are eligible to exercise their franchise in the elections to the 250 wards of the MCD, in which 1,461 candidates are in the fray. Polling will be held from 8 AM to 5:30 PM and the votes will be counted on December 7. According to the State Election Commission (SEC),



Union Minister Anurag Thakur addressing a press conference ahead of MCD elections in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

around 40,000 police personnel, 20,000 Home Guards as well as 108 companies of paramilitary and State armed police forces have been deployed to ensure smooth conduct of the MCD polls. Besides, this is the first time that six drones are being used to ensure law and order in sensitive areas.

According to data shared by the SEC officials, the total number of voters in Delhi is

1,45,05,358. Of this, there are 78,93,418 males, 66,10,879 females and 1,061 transgender persons.

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Zone II Sagar Preet Hooda said survey of all the sensitive polls and booths had been done.

"Nearly 40,000 Delhi Police personnel, about 20,000 Home Guards and 108 companies of CAPF and SAP are to be deployed. We have a strong deployment of force in the sensitive poll booths. Area-wise specific plans have also been prepared," Hooda said.

"For election, we have got 108 coys (companies) of Central and State armed police forces," he said. Sixty-eight model polling stations and as many pink polling stations covering all 11 Assembly segments, have been established for quality experience of voters.

Sixty drones will be used in ensuring law and order in the sensitive zones of each district, which has been given four-five unmanned aerial vehicles each. **Continued on Page 2**

## China increasing forays in Indian Ocean: Navy chief

'Four to six Chinese warships in region at any given time'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Depicting the highly-sensitive scenario in the Indian Ocean Region, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar on Saturday said at any given time four to six Chinese warships are present in the region, indicating increasing forays by China. He, however, assured that the Indian Navy was keeping a close watch on the movement of these warships and would protect national interest.

While outlining the situation in the Indian Ocean Region and the Indo-Pacific, the Navy chief also said the Ukraine conflict has taught India to be self-reliant in Defence production. The nearly 10-month-old war has not impacted the Navy's procurements.

Giving a low down on the increasing Chinese visibility in the strategically important Indian Ocean, Admiral Kumar said there are a lot of Chinese ships in the region including



research vessels, warships and merchant ships. The Indian Navy is keeping a close watch, he said adding there are more than 60 other extra-regional forces also present in the 'vital region'.

Elaborating upon the importance of the Indian Ocean, Kumar said large amount of trade transits through the sea lanes of the region besides energy supply of several nations. The Indian Navy keeps track of the ships and will not allow vessels inimical to the country's interest, the Navy chief said.

Informing that Chinese fishing vessels operate all over the world including the Indian Ocean Region, Admiral Kumar said, "our job is to track them through robust surveillance and not allow them to fish in India's exclusive economic zone." **Continued on Page 2**



Survivor gas victims demonstrate against Union Carbide and Dow Chemicals on 38th anniversary of the gas disaster in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

## Teacher suspended for taking part in Bharat Jodo Yatra

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A school teacher was suspended for attending the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district, an official said on Saturday. Rajesh Kannoje, a teacher with a government primary school under the state's Tribal Affairs Department in Kanasya, was suspended on November 25 but the issue came to light after his suspension order surfaced on social media. "Kannoje

was suspended for violation of service conduct rules and attending a political rally.

He had sought leave citing important work but he posted photographs on social media after attending a political event," Assistant Commissioner NS Raghuvanshi of the Tribal Affairs Department said. As per the order, Kannoje violated service conduct rules by attending Bharat Jodo Yatra being taken out by a political party on November 24.

## Guj opposes in SC bail for Godhra train attack accused

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Gujarat Government has opposed in the Supreme Court the bail pleas of some convicts of the 2002 Godhra train burning case, saying they were not mere stone-pelters and their acts prevented people from escaping the burning coach. **Continued on Page 2**

## Misconceptions spread by Allopathy

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**B.P.**  
Despite regularly taking prescribed medicines for years, people suffering from B.P. are facing further complications like heart or brain stroke, kidney failure, irritability and insomnia etc.

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**Sugar**  
Despite taking allopathic medicine for years, people suffering from diabetes are ailing from weakening eyesight, increase in creatinine levels, neuropathy and reducing immunity.

With Integrated Treatment, Madhugrit, Basti, Madhunashini, Cucumber, Bitter Gourd, Tomato,

Amla along with Aloe Vera juice, Giloy Juice and a balanced diet, we have saved people from diabetes and its complications. Also, for the first time in the world, we have succeeded in completely curing type-1 diabetes to make patients completely non-diabetic.

**Thyroid**  
Patients are becoming overweight and underweight and suffering from dizziness and depression etc in spite of taking allopathic medicines.

We have freed people from thyroid and its complications by treating them with the Thyrogrit, coriander water and Kapalbhati, Ujjayi etc. pranayams and Yoga.

**Eye and Ear Diseases**  
Allopathy has no cure for vision impairment, glaucoma, macular degeneration etc. Yoga practice along with medicines like Eyegrit, Akshi Tarpan, Eargrit and Karnapurna etc. we have given people freedom from eye and ear diseases.

**Liver**  
Allopathy has no permanent cure for Fatty liver, Liver cirrhosis and Hepatitis (A, B, C & D).

On the other hand, we have cured people of fatty liver, liver cirrhosis, hepatitis and made their

digestive system completely healthy with regular Yoga practice such as Basti and medicines like Sarvakalp Kwath, Punarnava juice, Livogrit and Livamrit etc.

**Skin diseases**  
Dermatologists have no permanent cure for Leucoderma, Eczema, Psoriasis. Medicines used in such cases contain steroids and different types of chemicals which ultimately make the patient suffer from further complications.

Yoga, Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Panchakarma, Shatkarma, Godhan Arka + Neem Ghanvati and Panch Mahabhuta therapy as well as Kayakalp Vati, Dermagrit, Psorogrit, purify the body to give people permanent freedom from skin diseases.

**Arthritis**  
Allopathy has made people's life hell by giving pain killers, steroids and biological drugs for arthritis. These cause weakness of bones and digestive system. Also such medicines often result in inflicting the patients with diabetes and blindness etc.

Through Integrated Yoga Practice, Peedanil Gold with Peedanil pey, Orthogrit, Orthocare and therapies like Vatamokshan, Raktmokshan, Acupressure, Acupuncture, Leech Therapy,

Chiropractic, Medicinal Wrap, Vaitarna Basti and Nutrela Nutrition we have freed people from Arthritis, Cervical, Spondylitis etc. Vaat diseases.

**Asthma**  
In allopathy, there is no medicine for it. Inhalers and steroids used to treat such situations give temporary relief and patients lungs get affected for life.

We have successfully cured Asthma and lung fibrosis etc with Bhastrika, Kapalbhati, Anulom-Vilom Pranayams and Bhujangasana, Lungbasti etc. Yoga practices along with medicines such as Swasari Pravahi, Vati, Swasari Gold and Curcumin Gold etc. In fact we have permanently cured damaged lungs.

**Incurable disease**  
Allopathy has no authentic and permanent cure for diseases like heart blockage, SLE, MS, ANA, AVN, HLAB27, Auto Immune Disease, Infertility, UTI and Stress etc.

We have cured thousands of patients suffering from such chronic and life-threatening diseases. We have scientific evidence for this and anyone can visit our website [www.patanjaliwellness.com](http://www.patanjaliwellness.com) to see these.

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# Balance of development and environment is necessary: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOHAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that balance of development and environment is necessary. Destruction of nature in the name of development is not right. Today everywhere pollution is increasing in rivers. If we don't think about, the conditions of global warming will be created. He said that the state government would always be cooperative towards the citizens affected by the gas tragedy.

Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the tribute and all-religion prayer meeting at Barkatullah Bhawan Central Library, Bhopal on the 38th anniversary of Bhopal gas tragedy today. Chouhan said that every person has come on earth for a few days. It has also been said in all religions that

always do good deeds in life. We will have to bear the consequences of bad deeds. God is one, the paths are different. If you listen to each of the religious leaders together, you get a meaningful message. As long as a person is alive, he should do good deeds, fulfill his duties. Everyone has different responsibilities. Everyone should do their duty. Only then our life will be blessed.

Chouhan thanked the religious leaders that today they have given a meaningful message at the all-religion prayer meeting. When someone passes from the world due to some human error that is very tragic. The loss of life was due to the fault of Union Carbide, the error and negligence of those responsible for controlling it. Hundreds of innocent children and youths passed away. It has

been 38 years since this tragedy, but it is not possible to forget it. The Chief Minister said that we have to learn a lesson from Bhopal. Everyone responsible should fulfill his duty. Those who do not fulfill their responsibility should also be punished. Playing with nature is not right. It is not proper to kill living beings under any circumstances. Today natural agriculture is being talked about, which is done without using destructive chemicals and pesticides. Chief Minister Chouhan said that we do not utilize nature but exploit it. This is what creates the discrepancy. Chouhan said that it is necessary to save the environment. The Bhopal gas tragedy gives a message. While exploiting the nature, we should use as much as we can compensate.

Chouhan said that every-

one should save the environment collectively. To give a message to the general public, let us work to increase the amount of oxygen for our breaths. Efforts have been made to give this message by planting saplings daily. Think and act for the benefit of future generations by saving the earth. This earth is for everyone. This idea is going on all over the world. Now the earth is getting polluted. Let us save the earth and the rivers. Natural resources are getting poisoned. To stop this, balance is necessary in development and environment. Humans should stay within their limits, breaking the limits is fatal.

Chouhan said that the state government is standing with the people affected by the gas tragedy. On behalf of the people of the state, the Chief

Minister paid homage to the brothers and sisters who lost their lives in the tragedy and offered floral tributes. The CM said that I pray to God to give peace to the departed souls and give us wisdom so that no city becomes Bhopal. Let us all perform our civic duties.

Mayor of Bhopal Malti Rai, Ramesh Sharma "Guttu Bhaiya", public representatives, religious leaders, Additional Chief Secretary Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Relief and Rehabilitation Mohammad Suleman, Principal Secretary Smt. Karlin Khongwar Deshmukh, Bhopal Commissioner Mal Singh, Director Gas Relief were present along with officers-employees and citizens. Heads of various religions offered prayers and paid homage to the citizens who lost their lives in the gas tragedy.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan pays tributes to the gas victims of 1984's gas tragedy during an all-religion prayer meeting on 38th anniversary of the gas disaster in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

## BHEL CMD visits under-construction solar plant at Govindpura

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOHAL

Nalin Singhal, CMD, BHEL on Saturday visited the under-construction 5 MW capacity Solar plant at Govindpura, A-Sector, reviewing the work-in-progress of the solar plant with the officers. He then held discussion with the executives and supervisors in the factory. Speaking on the occasion, Singhal stressed on the use of advanced technology and smooth work ethic to ensure timely completion of work.

He said that, today, BHEL is getting orders from Indian Railways, apart from Nuclear and Thermal segments. The company is also getting a lot of opportunities under the Self-reliant India campaign, under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister. Praising the employees of BHEL and the work culture here, he said that BHEL has always set new milestones by facing challenges suc-



cessfully.

On this occasion, he answered various questions asked by the officers and supervisors while laying emphasis on the method & efforts to manufacture quality products through rational designs, thereby reducing material cost.

He appreciated the role of supervisors in production work in the factory and said that BHEL is like a family and BHEL

it is an important step towards environment protection not only for BHEL but Bhopal also. It is worth mentioning that this solar plant, spread over an area of 20 acres, will produce 79 lakh kilowatts of electricity annually and will save about Rs 5.5 crore. An expenditure of about Rs 22 crores is estimated in the construction of this plant, being manufactured by BHEL.

After the interaction session with the officers and supervisors, Vinay Nigam expressed his gratitude for the suggestions extended and said that all such suggestions which are in the interest of the company will be implemented immediately. Turnover and profit is in the interest of all the employees and it is the sole objective of all the employees of BHEL.

Earlier, Rakesh Singh, General Manager (Materials Management) welcomed the CMD on the occasion.

## CM plants saplings in Smart City Park

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Kadam, Kachnar and Sarika Indica along with social workers and representatives of organisations today in the Smart City Park. Members of Kushabhau Thackeray Foundation Senior Advocate Ashwin Kumar Upadhyay, Anshul Tiwari, Abhilash Thakur, Sambal Jha, Arpan Saxena and Suryakant Chaturvedi also planted saplings. The Foundation also organises intellectual discussions along with many works of social service.

Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Bhopal Ward 55 Corporator Archana Parmar also planted saplings. Saravathi Jitendra Parmar, Narayan Singh Parmar and Suraj Parmar were also present. Nikki Rai of Indore also planted a sapling on his birthday.

## Crime branch arrest two persons from Shujalpur for taking loans procuring fake documents

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOHAL

Crime branch arrested two accused including the mastermind who cheated by taking fake loans on plots and houses from finance companies, accused were arrested from Shujalpur who used to take fake loans from private finance companies on different plots and houses in collusion with the owners.

The accused were absconding from the year 2018 after taking loans of about Rs 18 lakh from different finance institutions.

In November 2021, a complaint was made by the complainant Amit Singh Cluster Manager Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited Bhopal that Geeta Singrole

and her husband Ghanshyam Sigrole of House No. 35 Purushottam Nagar (Naveen Nagar) Old Semra Swapnil School Bhopal and Allarakh Umar Parsala and his wife Rahima of House No.24 Putli Ghar cheated Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited Bhopal of Rs 675180 in the year 2018 on a 600 square feet house no. Plot No; 30 in village Arvaliya and loan of Rs 605494 was also availed on the same plot.

The finance company found that the details accused have provided are wrong and none of the EMI were paid.

It was found that all the accused along with Ujjwal Jain and Jyoti Singh who owned the plot and her

husband Raghuvver who have helped in availing loan also went absconding.

Later in the investigation it was found that they have also availed loans from different finance companies and banks. They took a total of Rs 18 lakh of loan.

During the investigation Ghanshyam Singraule and his accomplice Ujjwal Jain were arrested from Shujalpur and interrogated. The accused along with the owner of the land from the private finance companies used to carry out the crime by taking loans from different finance companies using forged documents.

Search for the absconding accused would be done as information would be obtained from the nabbed accused.



Survivor gas victims burn an effigy of Dow Chemicals on 38th anniversary of the gas disaster in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

## House of DJ operator burgled at Neelbad locality on Friday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOHAL

House of a DJ operator at Neelbad was targeted by miscreants and valuables over Rs 1.5 lakh were burgled on Friday; the family had gone to attend marriage and returned on Friday and found the house ransacked.

Ratibad police said that the victim Pankaj Joshi had gone to Lalghati with family to attend the marriage of his cousin. After the marriage on Friday afternoon they returned and found that the motorbike at the house was missing and the doors of the house were open.

The victim approached police and lodged a complaint, the victim in his complaint stated that he along with family had gone to attend a marriage of his cousin at Lalghati, they returned on Friday and found that the bike which was parked in the premises was not there and locks were found broken. He entered the house and found that gold and silver jewelry and Rs 84000 cash

**After the marriage on Friday afternoon they returned and found that the motorbike at the house was missing and the doors of the house were open**

were also burgled.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and have started further investigation.

Police suspect that the burglars were aware of the whereabouts of the family and committed the burglary when the family was away. The victim operates DJ and lives with his family in Neelbad. The CCTV footage would be investigated to check the miscreants involved in the burglary.

## Phoenix Malls opens Phoenix Citadel, Indore

Indore: The Phoenix Mills Limited (PML), India's leading retail mall developer and operator, announced the grand opening of Phoenix Citadel, the largest retail destination in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Phoenix Citadel has been developed PML under its first joint venture with Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments). PML is the pioneer of retail-led, mixed-use developments in India with an operational retail portfolio of over 80 lakh square feet (sq. ft.) of retail space across 10 malls in 7 gateway cities of India, with additional under construction portfolio of over 50 lakh sq. ft.

Spread over 19 acres of land and with a gross leasable area of 10 lakh sqft, Phoenix Citadel is a world-class and exceptional fashion and family entertainment destination. The mall is set to have a huge economic impact on MP, and is also set to be one of the largest employment generators. The mall is a complete destination and consumption hub offering an unparalleled experience to the customers. With a perfect blend of lifestyle and fashion brands, world class dining & bars and entertainment options of international stature, Phoenix Citadel is a perfect example of being an 'experience-driven destination'.

## MP State level sub junior rugby football competition being organized in Ratlam

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Madhya Pradesh state level sub junior rugby football competition is being organized in Ratlam. Among the hundreds of players from the different districts, eleven players from Gwalior district will also show their talent in the competition. The Gwalior team left for Ratlam yesterday night.

Talking to the media persons here, Keshav Pandey, President of the District Rugby Football Association of Gwalior told that there will be a state level competition from Sunday. He added that this competition is held to select the players for the National Sub-Junior Championship to be held in Punjab from December 21 to 25.

Pandey further said that along with Gwalior, districts like Mandsaur, Shajapur, Jhabua, Betul, Sehore, Khandwa, Indore, Jabalpur and Dewas will also be represented in the state level championship.

Giving details about the players from Gwalior, Pandey told that Manvendra Singh from Radiant School, Prince Gurjar, Yuvraj Parmar, Himanshu Gurjar and Bhagwan Singh from Kiddy's Corner

## SBI celebrates 'International Day of persons with disabilities'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOHAL

With an objective to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and honour their contribution in the aspect of life, the International Day of Persons With Disabilities (IDPD) was celebrated on Saturday, at the Local Head Office of State Bank of India, Bhopal Circle. Specially abled customers and staff members were felicitated and honoured in a programme held at SBI. The theme of this International Day of Persons With Disabilities (2022) is "transformative solutions for inclusive development, the role of innovation in promoting an accessible and equitable world".

The Chief General Manager of the Circle Binod Kumar Mishra and other Senior Officials of the SBI and employees participated in the



program organized on this occasion. On this occasion Shri. Binod Kumar Mishra said that every year on Saturday, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated all over the world. The purpose of this day is to support and uplift the self-esteem of persons with disabilities and to improve their lives. He added that disability is not a curse, rather it is the spirit of mov-

Hargovind Yadav of Education Department and nearly about 35 specially abled staff members of State Bank of India participated in this programme. Chief General Manager Binod Kumar Mishra and Circle Development Officer, Deepak Kumar Jha welcomed everyone and felicitated them.

The guests, customers and staff members were very happy to be felicitated in the programme and shared their views & thoughts. They thanked the State Bank of India for honouring them and holding such a beautiful programme for them.

All the Top Management officials and staff members of the Bank were present at the occasion. The program was successfully conducted by Anil Kumar Srivastava, Assistant General Manager and the team members of the PR&CSB Department.

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PNS ■ GWALIOR

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Talking to the media persons here, Keshav Pandey, President of the District Rugby Football Association of Gwalior told that there will be a state level competition from Sunday. He added that this competition is held to select the players for the National Sub-Junior Championship to be held in Punjab from December 21 to 25.

Pandey further said that along with Gwalior, districts like Mandsaur, Shajapur, Jhabua, Betul, Sehore, Khandwa, Indore, Jabalpur and Dewas will also be represented in the state level championship.

Giving details about the players from Gwalior, Pandey told that Manvendra Singh from Radiant School, Prince Gurjar, Yuvraj Parmar, Himanshu Gurjar and Bhagwan Singh from Kiddy's Corner

## SBI celebrates 'International Day of persons with disabilities'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOHAL

With an objective to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and honour their contribution in the aspect of life, the International Day of Persons With Disabilities (IDPD) was celebrated on Saturday, at the Local Head Office of State Bank of India, Bhopal Circle. Specially abled customers and staff members were felicitated and honoured in a programme held at SBI. The theme of this International Day of Persons With Disabilities (2022) is "transformative solutions for inclusive development, the role of innovation in promoting an accessible and equitable world".

The Chief General Manager of the Circle Binod Kumar Mishra and other Senior Officials of the SBI and employees participated in the



program organized on this occasion. On this occasion Shri. Binod Kumar Mishra said that every year on Saturday, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated all over the world. The purpose of this day is to support and uplift the self-esteem of persons with disabilities and to improve their lives. He added that disability is not a curse, rather it is the spirit of mov-

Hargovind Yadav of Education Department and nearly about 35 specially abled staff members of State Bank of India participated in this programme. Chief General Manager Binod Kumar Mishra and Circle Development Officer, Deepak Kumar Jha welcomed everyone and felicitated them.

The guests, customers and staff members were very happy to be felicitated in the programme and shared their views & thoughts. They thanked the State Bank of India for honouring them and holding such a beautiful programme for them.

All the Top Management officials and staff members of the Bank were present at the occasion. The program was successfully conducted by Anil Kumar Srivastava, Assistant General Manager and the team members of the PR&CSB Department.

## House of DJ operator burgled at Neelbad locality on Friday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOHAL

House of a DJ operator at Neelbad was targeted by miscreants and valuables over Rs 1.5 lakh were burgled on Friday; the family had gone to attend marriage and returned on Friday and found the house ransacked.

Ratibad police said that the victim Pankaj Joshi had gone to Lalghati with family to attend the marriage of his cousin. After the marriage on Friday afternoon they returned and found that the motorbike at the house was missing and the doors of the house were open.

The victim approached police and lodged a complaint, the victim in his complaint stated that he along with family had gone to attend a marriage of his cousin at Lalghati, they returned on Friday and found that the bike which was parked in the premises was not there and locks were found broken. He entered the house and found that gold and silver jewelry and Rs 84000 cash

**After the marriage on Friday afternoon they returned and found that the motorbike at the house was missing and the doors of the house were open**

were also burgled.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and have started further investigation.

Police suspect that the burglars were aware of the whereabouts of the family and committed the burglary when the family was away. The victim operates DJ and lives with his family in Neelbad. The CCTV footage would be investigated to check the miscreants involved in the burglary.

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All the Top Management officials and staff members of the Bank were present at the occasion. The program was successfully conducted

# CM inspects Dindori district, suspends 3 engineers of WRD

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan met villagers and farmers after a surprise inspection of Bilgaon Medium Irrigation Project in Shahpura development block of Dindori district on Saturday.

On finding of seepage in the dam during the inspection, the Chief Minister Suspended Executive Engineer of Water Resources Department BGS Sandia, Sub Engineer SK Chowdhary and SDO MK Rohtas. He said that a high level team would be sent from Bhopal for technical examination of the dam.

Chief Minister Chouhan also reached Government High School, Bilgaon, where he inquired about the educational system from the children.



The Chief Minister also asked many questions while being face to face with the students.

Where did the industrial revolution start, who made the steam engine, which crops grow in coarse grains, which crops are sown in

also inspected the tribal children's ashram Shala Barjhar located in Pipariya. Here he obtained information from the children about the facilities like beds, blankets, sweaters and food, etc., available in the ashram.

Also know about the educational system. Chief Minister Chouhan instructed to suspend Superintendent Mr. Kamlesh Golia for absenteeism and negligence in the ashram school.

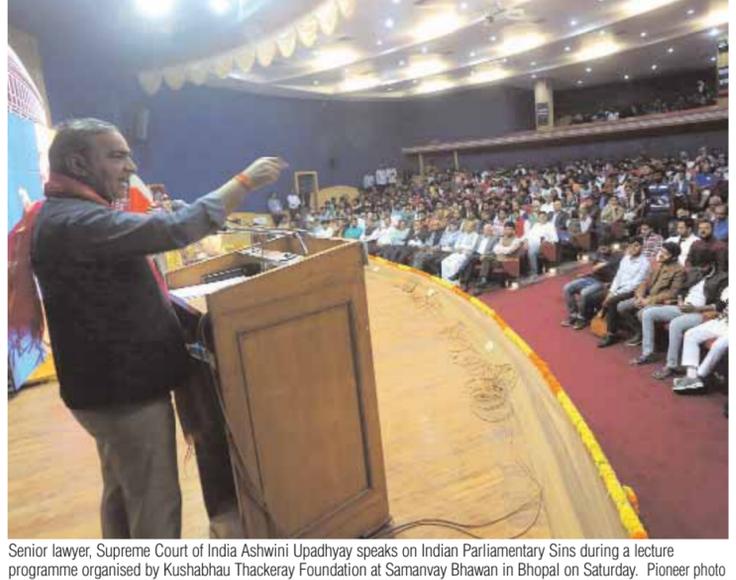
After surprise inspection, Chief Minister Chouhan discussed with the villagers. He said that the work of Nal Jal Yojana would be completed on time. Along with this, the electricity system will also be upgraded by solving the electricity problem in the rural areas. Chief Minister Chouhan instructed to organize camps every Monday and Tuesday to solve the local problems of the village.

Chief Minister Chouhan suspended Deputy Director Agriculture Ashwani Jharia with immediate effect on the complaint made by the farmers regarding seed distribution in Badjhar Pipariya, a nutritious village of Gram Panchayat Amthera.

Chief Minister Chouhan honoured the officers and employees doing good work in Dindori district by giving them bouquets at Shahpura helipad. He said do better works of public welfare. The state government will honour those who do good work at all times and officers and employees who show negligence and Carelessness will not be spared. Disciplinary action will be taken against them.



All India Congress (AICC) leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Agar Malwa district, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Pioneer photo



Senior lawyer, Supreme Court of India Ashwini Upadhyay speaks on Indian Parliamentary Sins during a lecture programme organised by Kushabhau Thackeray Foundation at Samanvay Bhawan in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

## A dozen children fall sick after consuming mid-day meal in govt school of Berasia block

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

About a dozen children reportedly fell ill after consuming the mid-day meal at a Bhainsoda government school in Berasia block of state capital; SDM suspended the group involved in providing mid-day meals.

The students were admitted to hospital after they reported illness and it was caused due to having a mid-day meal on Friday.

After the matter came to light, the SDM inspected the school on Saturday. At present, the cooking group has been suspended. From Monday the new group will cook. The police are also probing the matter.

On Thursday too, 20 children reported illness but no

**After the matter came to light, the SDM inspected the school on Saturday. At present, the cooking group has been suspended**

action was taken even after a complaint.

SDM Aditya Jain said that two children were admitted to the hospital. At the same time, teacher Rajni Thakur said that about 20 children reported illness after consuming the food.

The matter pertains to Government Primary School Bhainsoda, Berasia. It is said

that on Thursday afternoon the children had eaten the mid-day meal. After that, the health of about a dozen children deteriorated and they were admitted to the hospital.

After the matter came to light, the District Panchayat team inspected the hospital and the school on Saturday. It has been revealed that children are being served stale food.

According to a teacher, complaints have been made several times to Yogesh Saxena, the mid-day meal in-charge of Berasia, but no action was taken.

Berasia police station in-charge Girish Tripathi said that the investigation report has been received due to which there was no FIR in the matter. Further action will be taken only after the report comes.

## Anugoonj programme on December 04 and 05

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

School Education Department will organise cultural programme "Anugoonj" for the students of government schools in Madhya Pradesh on December 4 and 5, which is held every year under "Kala Se Samridha Shiksha" (education enriched with art). Minister of State for School Education (Independent Charge) Inder Singh Parmar will inaugurate on December 4. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be the chief guest in the concluding evening of this programme on December 5.

This fourth program of "Anugoonj" is being organised at Government Subhash School of Excellence, Bhopal,

in which more than 700 students of government schools of Madhya Pradesh will exhibit their art at the state level.

"Anugoonj" is an innovative programme of "art-enriched education" in the direction of the global education system STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) of School Education Department of Madhya Pradesh.

Now the programmes of Anugoonj are being conducted in other divisions also. Some attractive presentations of these divisions are also included in the state level programme of capital Bhopal.

On the first day, mime and ballet dance drama will be staged by the students along with theatrical presentations in the "Rangkar" programme.

## Chouhan in action mode: Surprise inspection of Mandla District Hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

How much money and equipment have been received from Bhopal in the Kayakalp Abhiyan, what was it used for. How many pathology tests are being done daily. How the dialysis machine is working, what the availability of medicines is and what is the arrangement of ambulance, how people get its benefits... Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today asked the hospital management such questions during a surprise inspection of Mandla District Hospital.

He reviewed the arrangement for patients admitted in the hospital and also inspected the pathology lab. During the inspection, Chief Minister Chouhan suspended Dr Kriparam Shakya, civil surgeon of the district hospital, with immediate effect.

The Chief Minister directed Collector Harshika Singh to improve the basic arrangements of the district hospital. The Chief Minister also checked the availability of medicines, arrangements of store room and records in the hospital. CM Shri Chouhan directed that a special team from Bhopal will visit Mandla to re-examine the arrangements of the district hospital. CM Chouhan also inspected different wards and arrangements of the district hospital. He also sought information from the health department officials about the installation of health and testing equipment sent from the state level to the district hospital.

Chief Minister Chouhan also inspected the Tribal Girls and Senior Girls Hostel. The CM applauded the arrange-



ments in the hostel by inspecting the cleanliness of the dining room, bedroom, toilet, drinking water, study room and campus. The Chief Minister honoured Hostel Superintendent Prabha Gumaste for the smooth operation of all the arrangements of the hostel and for doing good work.

Different forms of Chief Minister Chouhan were seen during his surprise visit to Mandla. On the one hand, he taught a lesson to the negligent officers on the spot.

On the other hand, he also honoured the hard working officers of the district administration. After inspection of the girls' hostels, Chief Minister Chouhan honoured the officials of the district administration by giving them bouquets. He greeted the officers for their devotion to duty and appreciated them for their diligence.

The Chief Minister also honoured Additional Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat SS Maravi, Executive Engineer PIU GP Patle and Senior Treasury Officer Akhilesh Neti. The Chief Minister congratulated while appreciating the works of SDM Bichhiya Sulekha Uike, Naib Tehsildar Bichhiya Sheetal Chandravanshi, ARCS Rajesh Uike, Deputy Inspector Naxal Branch Upendra Dubey.

## Purpose of education is to build life: Girish

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Speaker of Madhya Pradesh State Assembly Girish Gautam expressed his views on the subject of new education policy in the lecture series organized by Shri Arobindo Society Madhya Pradesh under Arvind Sarthshati celebrations in the capital on Saturday.

Gautam said that the purpose of education is to build life. The task of education is to build the future with the preservation of values.

Knowledge should be emotional, not linguistic. What is the situation today, why has our government felt the need to bring a new education policy. Because in the last few decades, neither did we change the form of education according to the need of the time, nor did we work to make it practical and employment-



oriented. The new education policy is a confluence of knowledge, skills, culture and practicality.

He said that when we are moving towards civilization from an uncivilized society, education starts with the effort to keep our culture, culture and tradition alive. The government has made the policy of education but new education is a different subject.

The new education policy of India, adequate place has been given to skills

## Marengo Asia Hospitals harvest eleven organs

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

New Delhi: Marengo Asia Healthcare network hospitals conducted an incredible number of a total of 11 organs retrieval and seven organ transplants within a span of 24 hours under one single roof. This is a feat not achieved by any other hospital in the country in such a short span of time. This establishes Marengo Asia hospitals not only as a fast-emerging preferred destination for organ transplants but also as fast emerging leaders in clinical excellence in the field of transplants.

Marengo CIMS Hospital and K K Patel Hospital, (Marengo Asia network hospital) were able to retrieve a heart, four kidneys, two livers and four eyes from two cadavers in the last 24 hours.

Among the organs transplanted at Marengo CIMS Hospital, the heart was transplanted in a 45-year-old, by a team of doctors led by Dr Dhiren Shah and Dr Dhaval Naik along with Dr Kishore Gupta, Dr Amit Chandan and Dr Nikunj Vyas.

The recipient of the liver was a 51-year-old, the surgery was conducted by the team led by Dr Abhideep Chaudhary along with Dr Vikas Patel one kidney went to a 31-year-old and another kidney to a 51-year-old. The kidneys were transplanted by a team of doctors led under the guidance of Dr Siddharth Mavani and Dr Mayur Patil.

## Female passenger falls from moving train, rescued by RPF and GPF

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A major accident was averted late Friday evening at Rani Kamalapati station after a lady passenger fell from a moving train she was rescued by on duty RPF and GRP after she got stuck between the train and the platform.

The incident of the woman falling from the train and being saved by the police personnel deployed was captured in CCTV.

According to the information, train number 12975 Mysore-Jaipur Express arrives at platform number 3 at Rani Kamalapati station at 5.40 pm on Friday. After a stoppage of about 2 minutes, when the train started to depart from the platform a woman tried to board off the train and got trapped between the train and the platform. RPF constable Inder Yadav and GRP constable Vikram, who were on duty, rushed and rescued the woman.

DRM Saurabh Bandopadhyay has appreciated this excellent work done by the on duty police personnel and has given best wishes to continue working with the same enthusiasm, dedication and alertness in future.

The woman had come to see off her relatives. She had gone inside the train but failed to alight off before the train was at the platform and she tried to alight off when the train started to move and tried to get down from the moving train and slipped after losing balance and fell and trapped between the platform and the train.

FORM - A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT	
(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)	
FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF B.P. BANSAL AGRITECH PRIVATE LIMITED	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1 Name of corporate debtor	B.P. Bansal Agritech Private Limited
2 Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	17-05-2012
3 Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	ROC-Gwalior
4 Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U0110102012PTC028452
5 Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Registered Office : 20B, Maharajpura Industrial Estate Pinto Park Gwalior Madhya Pradesh - 474020 India
6 Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	1st December, 2022 (Order received by Interim Resolution Professional on 2nd December, 2022)
7 Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	29th May, 2023
8 Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional.	Name : Keyur Jagdishbhai Shah Reg. No. : IBB/IPA-002/IP-N00244/2017-18/10729
9 Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Email ID : cs.keyurshah@gmail.com; keyur@keyurjshah.com; Address : 1007, Sun Avenue One, Bhudarpura, Ayojannagar, Manebgaon, Ahmedabad, Gujarat -380015
10 Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional.	Email : cirp.bbansal@gmail.com Address : 1007, Sun Avenue One, Bhudarpura, Ayojannagar, Manebgaon, Ahmedabad, Gujarat -380 015
11 Last date for submission of claims	15th December, 2022 (14 days from the Commencement of CIRP)
12 Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Not Applicable
13 Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Not Applicable
14 (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representative available at:	a) Web link: https://www.ibbi.gov.in/home/downloads b) Not applicable

Notice is hereby given that the Honble National Company Law Tribunal, Indore Bench has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of M/s. B.P. Bansal Agritech Private Limited on 1st December, 2022 vide Order TP 12 of 2019 (CP/IB) 10 of 2019 (Order received on 2nd December, 2022)

The creditors of B.P. Bansal Agritech Private Limited, are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 15th December, 2022 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means. A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No.13 to act as authorised representative of the class in Form CA - Not applicable

**Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.**

**IP Keyur Jagdishbhai Shah**  
Interim Resolution Professional of B.P. Bansal Agritech Private Limited  
IP Registration No: IBB/IPA-002/IP-N00244/2017-18/10729  
Date: 03/12/2022  
Place: Ahmedabad

## Mass marriage and introduction ceremony is a good initiative for the society : CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan virtually addressed the two-day introduction and mass marriage ceremony of Haihay Vanshiya Kshatriya Tamarkar Samaj in Satna district from Dindori.

He said that it is a good initiative of the society to reduce the expenses in marriage programmes by conducting introduction ceremony and subsequently mass marriage ceremony.

The Chief Minister said



that I am proud of Haihay Vanshiya Kshatriya Tamarkar Samaj. The issues of the society will be discussed after meeting the del-

egation members of the society in Bhopal. Along with this, every possible effort will be made for the betterment of the society. Chief Minister Chouhan also blessed the bride and groom present in the ceremony.

A large number of representatives of the society, including Minister of State for Panchayat and Rural Development Ramkhalavan Patel, MP Ganesh Singh, Mayor Yogesh Tamarkar, former District Panchayat President Gaganendra Singh, Pashupatendra Singh and Citizens were present.



Local residents visit and admire the variety of flowers during a Chrysanthemum flower show at Rose Garden in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Zonal Office : Bhopal Zone  
Tel.: 0755-2555169, Fax: 0755-2553779

**BANK OF INDIA**

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated mentioned below to the following borrowers/guarantors, calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notices.

The under mentioned borrowers/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned in respective columns. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of India, Shinde Ki Chhawani Branch, Gwalior for an amount herein below mentioned & interest thereon.

Name of Account / Borrower / Guarantor	Demand Notice Date Possession Date Amount outstanding as per Notice	Description of Property
Shinde Ki Chhawani Branch : Gwalior (M.P.) Phone : 0751-2373578		
Borrowers:	26-09-2022 29.11.2022	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no.83 Village Manpur survey no.451 Ward No. 06, Gwalior (M.P) PIN-474001 admeasuring total 1000 sq.ft having boundaries as under. Bounded: North : Plot No.82, South: Plot No.84, East : Property others, West : Common road
Mr. Rajesh Yadav	₹ 16,25,571.69/-	
Mr. Vinod Yadav	* Interest w.e.f. 01.04.2021 & other charges	
Date : 29-11-2022, Place : Gwalior		
		Authorised Officer, Bank of India

# ED seizes betel nuts worth ₹11.5 cr in raids

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has searched 17 premises across Mumbai and Nagpur under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, covering office and residential premises of various persons involved in smuggling of betel nuts of Indonesian origin.



The smuggling of the Indonesian origin betel nuts was being carried out mostly via the Indo-Myanmar Border.

The ED initiated investigation on the basis of a CBI FIR registered in Nagpur on March 5 last year under Indian Penal Code Sections relating cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy besides provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

As per the FIR, many Nagpur-based traders in connivance with various public servants, were indulging in smuggling of substandard Betel Nuts/Areca Nuts of Indonesian Origin and falsely claiming the same to be originating from member countries of South Asia Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA) and South Asia Free Trading Agreement (SAFTA) by using

Fake Certificates of Origin, and by using bogus and undervalued bills/invoices. This caused evasion of Customs Duty and loss to the Government. Further, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had also investigated the illegal smuggling of betel nuts and issued eight Show Cause Notices.

"ED investigation has revealed that there is a well organized syndicate of suppliers of Indonesian Betel Nut, Commission Agents, Logistic providers, Transporters, Hawala Operators and Buyers who were smuggling Indonesian Betel Nut into India via the Indo-Myanmar Border. Fabricated domestic invoices were made and transported

smuggled betel nuts to Nagpur and Gondia districts of Maharashtra," the agency said in a statement.

During ED searches, unaccounted Betel Nut of 289.57 MTs valued at roughly ₹11.5 crore has been seized under PMLA at Nagpur. The godown owner could not supply the KYC (Know Your Customer) of the Traders who deposited the Betel Nut, and failed to furnish any supporting documentation like Stock Register, Bills, Invoices, Quality Certificate and Transport documents among others.

The ED has seized Rs 16.5 lakh in cash and various incriminating documents and digital devices. Further investigation is going on, it added.

# NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EMPOWERMENT OF DIVYANGS Make edu more accessible to divyang kids: Prez

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Twenty-five-year-old Bijender Kahtana who is hearing impaired and holder of various awards in athletics, judo and basketball added yet another feather to his cap when on Saturday he along with 52 persons with varied type of disabilities was conferred with national awards by President Droupadi Murmu for their exemplary contribution in their respective fields.

Murmu, who presented the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for 2021 and 2022 here on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, underlined the importance of education as a key to the empowerment of every individual, including persons with disabilities.

"There should be maximum use of technology in order to remove language related barriers in education and to make education more accessible to children with disabilities," she said, adding that more than two per cent of India's population are persons with disabilities. "It is also our duty to ensure that they get a good education, stay safe in their homes and society, have the



President Droupadi Murmu confers the National Award for Individual Excellence 2022 — "Divyangatha Ke Sashaktikaran Ke Kshetra Mein Sarvshrestha Anusandhan/Navpravartan/Utpad Vikas" to Bhausahab Ashok Botre, in New Delhi, on Saturday PTI Photo

freedom to choose their career and have equal employment opportunities," she said. Pooja Ojha, who suffers from 80 per cent locomotor disability is a para-canoe sportsperson, having represented India in

Thailand, Hungary, Japan, and Canada was yet another sportsperson who was felicitated with the prestigious award. Similarly, Atul Jaiswal, 25, having 100 per cent hearing impairment since birth

was conferred with the award for his accomplishments in the field of sports while another national awardee, a wheelchair bound Goel, with locomotor disability has been raising issues related to the construction of ramps in government buildings in Lucknow. Beating all odds, Pramod Dhar Dubey, (37) having intellectual disability presently assists in providing therapy under the supervision of a therapist, in recognition of which he was awarded by the President.

49-year old Sompura Himanshu Jayantilal, visually-impaired since birth, was honoured with the national award for Individual Excellence 2021 under the category 'Shrestha Divyangian,' while the same award for similar category was taken away by Dr. Shubham

Ramnarayan Dhoot, suffering with blood disorder hemophilia for his outstanding work in Ayurveda stream.

He has developed the world's first Ayurvedic proprietary medicine named "Raktamrut" for blood disorders. Raktamrut helps in the treatment of hemophilia, leukemia, low hemoglobin due to an unknown factor and Raktapitta.

Similarly, Dr Vaibhav Bhandari, 33, who has muscular dystrophy (82 per cent) since birth was awarded in recognition of the social work done by him while Vaishnavi, suffering from locomotor disability of 72 per cent, was bestowed upon with the award for her outstanding work in empowerment of the sector and helping them develop skills.

# Cong slams Modi Govt over 'Chinese shelters in Depsang'

'When will status quo ante of April 2020 be restored'



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday questioned the Modi Government's "silence" over the reports that China has built shelters in the Depsang area in Ladakh and asked what steps were being taken by it to ensure status quo ante of April 2020.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his handshake with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit in Indonesia last month.

There was no immediate reaction from the government to the Congress' allegations.

While the Congress has been attacking the government over its handling of the border issues with China, officials have maintained that India has significantly

enhanced its border infrastructure in recent years with Centre giving a major boost to such efforts following eastern Ladakh standoff. "On November 15, Modi had met Xi Jinping, the Chinese head of state. He was not showing angry red eyes, he was in fact wearing a red shirt and I wonder what he talked about as he met Xi Jinping after the supreme sacrifice of 20 of our bravehearts," Shrinete said at an AICC press conference.

Citing media reports, she said that in the area of Depsang, China has built temperature-regulated "shelters" that help any army personnel to be stationed permanently. "Two hundred such shelters have been built by China in our territory 15-18 km inside the LAC (Line of Actual Control)," she alleged.

# Israel envoy gets hate mail 'Hitler great' after film row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after he slammed filmmaker Nadav Lapid for his remarks against the film 'The Kashmir Files', Israeli envoy to New Delhi Naor Gilon has received a hate mail calling Hitler "great" for the Holocaust. The Israeli filmmaker had called the film 'propaganda' and 'vulgar'. The Ambassador had asked him to apologise and be ashamed.

Sharing the hate mail on Saturday, the ambassador said Just wanted to share one of a few DMs I got in this direction. According to his profile, the guy has a PhD. Even though he doesn't deserve my protection, I decided to delete his identi-

fying information," the Israeli envoy tweeted while hiding the identity of the user in the message he shared.

The screenshot read: "Hitler was great when he burned down s\*\*\*\* like you. immediately and f\*\*\* off from India... Hitler was a great person."

In a follow-up tweet, Gilon thanked his well-wishers saying he was "touched" by the support he received. "I'm touched by your support. The mentioned DM is in no way reflective of the friendship we enjoy in India, including on social media.

"Just wanted this to be a reminder that anti-Semitism sentiments exist, we need to oppose it jointly and maintain

a civilized level of discussion," he wrote. The message came days after Gilon's reaction to Lapid's comments at the government-organised International Film Festival of India in Goa. He even apologised to India in an 'open letter' on Twitter.

Gilon had said Lapid abused the Indian invitation to him to chair the judges' panel in the "worst way".

Lapid had said 'The Kashmir Files' was a "propaganda movie" that had no place at a film festival. His remarks triggered a major controversy and a political slugfest in the country. Director of the film Vivek Agnihotri and actor Anupam Kher, who acted in the film, also slammed Lapid.

# Cong to raise EWS reservation, Chinese incursions in Winter Session of Parliament

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday decided to take on the BJP-led NDA Government on a range of issues including the latest Chinese incursions during the Winter Session of Parliament which begins on Wednesday.

Besides, the party during its parliamentary strategy group's meeting at former chief Sonia Gandhi's residence also decided to raise the issue of "weakening" of constitutional institutions in the country. Sonia is the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party.

It will also seek discussions on issues of EWS reservation, state of the economy and situation at the border during Parliament's winter session,

even as many of its leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, are unlikely to be present due to the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Briefing the media, AICC's chief spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said three big issues have emerged from the Congress' side for this short session of Parliament of 17 days.

"The tension between India and China for the last 22 months and there has been no discussion in Parliament on the issue. The Congress would want that the issue be discussed in Parliament," he said.

"The three issues are border situation, economic situation and weakening of constitutional institutions whose rights and independence are being snatched away. We would like to have a discussion on

these issues," Ramesh said. Besides Ramesh, Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Choudhury and senior leaders Chidambaram, K C Venugopal, Manish Tewari, Javed Ansari, K Suresh and Manickam Tagore were among those who attended the meeting.

The Congress will also raise the issue of high inflation and price rise, falling value of the rupee, falling exports and high Goods and Services Tax rates.

Ramesh said the Congress will talk to opposition leaders in the next two-three days and would like to have a joint strategy to ensure that discussions on these issues are held.

# India jumps to 48th place in ICAO aviation safety ranking: DGCA officials

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has jumped to the 48th position in the global aviation safety ranking by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), according to DGCA officials.



they added. Under its Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach, an ICAO

Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) was undertaken from November 9 to 16.

On Saturday, DGCA chief Arun Kumar told PTI that the regulator has worked tirelessly to upgrade India's safety ranking and the results are there. "Hopefully, we continue to remain vigilant and improve further".

The country's score in terms of effective implementation of key safety elements has improved to 85.49 per cent, the officials said.

# Man accused of rape after false promise of marriage granted bail

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has granted anticipatory bail to a man accused of engaging in physical relations with a woman on the false pretext of marrying her.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and M M Sundresh perused the assertions made by the informant in the First Information Report. "On consideration, we are inclined to grant the appellant the benefit of anticipatory bail with the direction that in the event of the appellant being arrested, he shall be released on bail by the



arresting officer on terms and conditions to be fixed by the trial court.

"In addition, the appellant shall comply with the mandate of Section 438(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973," the bench said. The top court also clarified that the grant of

anticipatory bail to the appellant would not be treated as expression of opinion on the merits of the case. The case pending before the Rajasthan High Court which dismissed his anticipatory bail plea.

Appearing for the accused, advocate Namit Saxena argued that sexual intercourse by a couple in a long romantic relationship will not amount to rape if the male partner chooses to exit after courtship. The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Mukesh Kumar Singh,

working on the post of Technician Grade 1 in Jaipur, against the order passed by the Rajasthan High Court which dismissed his anticipatory bail plea.

According to the appeal, Singh met the woman for the first time about 10 years ago when they came in contact with each other on account of work. In due course, Singh and the complainant remained in touch through messages and calls and also used to meet regularly, the appeal said.

On August 6, 2021, Singh's marriage was fixed by his parents. When the complainant

came to know about this, she allegedly started blackmailing, asking him to marry her and warned that she would lodge a rape case against him, the appeal said.

Later, the complainant lodged a case against Singh in October in Jaipur, it said. "The FIR is based on flimsy grounds alleging rape committed upon the complainant after 10 years of relationship with the petitioner." The FIR has admitted the said fact of romantic affair and has been filled with the sole intention to harass petitioner as he chose to not marry the complainant," the appeal said.

# Herbs effective in cure of upper respiratory tract infections: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Fifatrol, an ayurvedic formulation composed of time-tested herbs, is effective in treatment of upper respiratory tract infections (URTI), a contagious viral and bacterial infection, according to a study published in the International Research Journal of Ayurveda and Yoga.

A team of researchers had carried out the study on 203 patients with URTI in various health centres across the country. During the treatment, the health parameters of the patients, who were given Fifatrol twice a day, were checked on the first, fourth and seventh day.

As per the study, the patient's condition was found to be improved by 69.5 per cent and 90.36 per cent within the fourth and seventh days respectively. "Effectiveness was evaluated by examining the reduction in symptoms scores at day 4 and 7 respectively. This observational study has gathered evidence about the effective-

ness and safety of Fifatrol on the amelioration of the symptoms of URTI," said the authors.

The researchers also did not find any adverse impact of the formulations on the patients. The study also noted that Fifatrol has not only been found to be effective in treating URTI but also well accepted by the physicians of Ayurveda for the successful management of conditions like Flu and associated symptoms like fever, nasal congestion, running nose, etc.

In fact, Fifatrol as an immunity-boosting ayurvedic drug has found a mention as Covid-19 combating formulation in the 'Compendium of Indian Technologies for Combating Covid-19 (Tracing, Testing & Treating)' compiled by the state-run National Research Development Corporation last year. Dr Sanchit Sharma, Executive Director of AIMIL Pharma which is engaged in preparation and sale of Fifatrol said that normally, the ayurvedic medicines have been seen as

supplements to increase immunity. "However, the current Government has been taking several steps to boost the Ayurveda sector. There has been compelling evidence that medicinal herbs can be a first line of defense against infectious diseases," he said.

No wonder, being a rich combination of five vital classical formulations like Tribhuvan Kirti Rasa, Mrtnunjay Rasa and Sanjivani Vati with extracts from herbs like Guduchi, Daruharidra, Chirayata, Kutaki, Tulsi, Apamarga and Karanja, Fifatrol improves the immune system to fight against viruses and other infections, eases the associated symptoms and fastens the recovery, underlined the study. It also helps fast relief from nasal congestion, body ache, sore throat, and headache, it said.

The study on effectiveness of the Ayurveda formulation holds importance given that usually, to treat the infection which is common during winters, people resort directly to antibiotics.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and BJP MP Tejasvi Surya during the inauguration of the 'Gita Dana Yajna Mahotsava' on the occasion of Gita Jayanti, at ISKCON Rajadhiraja Govinda Temple in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI Photo

# At Shanghai vigil, bold shout for change preceded crackdown

AP ■ SHANGHAI

The mourners in Shanghai lit candles and placed flowers. Someone scrawled "Urumqi, 11.24, Rest in Peace" in red on cardboard — referring to the deadly apartment fire in China's western city of Urumqi that sparked anger over perceptions the country's strict COVID-19 measures played a role in the disaster.



Three grinding years of lockdowns under China's "zero-COVID" policy, along with Xi's erasure of civil liberties, made the country ripe for such an outburst in a way that nobody expected — not the authorities, the police or protesters themselves.

What started as a small vigil last weekend by fewer than a dozen people grew into a rowdy crowd of hundreds hours later. One woman defiantly shouted for Chinese leader Xi Jinping to resign, emboldening others. Then, before dawn, police swept in and broke up the gathering and prevented more from happening.

The Nov. 26 protest in Shanghai wasn't the first or the largest. But it was notable for the bold calls for change in China's leadership — the most public defiance of the ruling Communist Party in decades.

Nationalist bloggers swiftly blamed foreign "black hands," and the government vowed to crack down on "hostile forces." But the protest emerged spontaneously, according to 11 participants and witnesses interviewed by The Associated Press. It was the first political demonstration for nearly all of them, and they spoke on condition of not being fully identified for fear of police harassment.

The vigil on the evening of Saturday, Nov. 26, took place in Shanghai's French Concession, a trendy district filled with boutique Art Deco cafes, vintage shops and historic Tudor mansions. Among the first there were local artists and musicians, according to two friends of early participants.

One bustling boulevard is named after Urumqi — the city in the far-northwestern Xinjiang region where the Nov. 24 fire killed at least 10. Many criticized

government COVID-19 restrictions for preventing victims from fleeing, a charge the authorities denied.

Anger soon flared on Chinese social media. Millions of online posts blamed virus control barricades for delaying rescuers, and Urumqi residents hit the streets to protest their months-long lockdown.

Resistance to the policy had been building for weeks. In central Henan province, workers walked out of an iPhone factory when told they'd be locked in as part of virus controls. In cosmopolitan Guangzhou, residents brawled with police enforcing lockdowns.

Earlier that day, from Chengdu in the south to Harbin in the north, university students confined to campuses for

months lit candles, sprayed graffiti and took selfies while holding signs mourning the Urumqi dead.

Road signs on Shanghai's Urumqi Middle Road were surrounded by candles, signs and flowers. Dozens had gathered by 10:30 p.m., according to friends of participants.

Then patrons spilled out of a nearby bar after a World Cup match between South Korea and Uruguay, according to a friend of an early participant. Many joined the vigil, taking photos and sharing them online.

At 11:21 p.m., a popular Twitter account tracking dissent in China posted images of the vigils, drawing the attention of many who had been scrolling anguished posts on the Urumqi fire.

# Construction begins on Iran nuclear plant

AP ■ CAIRO

Iran on Saturday began construction on a new nuclear power plant in the country's southwest, Iranian state TV announced, amid tensions with the US over sweeping sanctions imposed after Washington pulled out of the Islamic Republic's nuclear deal with world powers.

The announcement also comes as Iran has been rocked by nationwide anti-government protests that began after the death of a young woman in police custody and have challenged the country's theocratic government.

The new 300-megawatt plant, known as Karoon, will take eight years to build and cost around USD 2 billion, the country's state television and radio agency reported. The plant will be located in Iran's oil-rich Khuzestan province, near its western border with Iraq, it said.

The construction site's inauguration ceremony was attended by Mohammed Eslami, head of Iran's civilian Atomic Energy Organisation, who first unveiled construction plans for Karoon in April.

Iran has one nuclear power plant at its southern port of Bushehr that went online in 2011 with help from Russia, but also several underground nuclear facilities.

The announcement of



Karoon's construction came less than two weeks after Iran announced it had begun producing enriched uranium at 60 per cent purity at the country's underground Fordo nuclear facility. The move is seen as a significant addition to the country's nuclear program.

Enrichment to 60 per cent purity is one short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent. Non-proliferation experts have warned in recent months that Iran now has enough 60 per cent-enriched uranium to reprocess into fuel for at least one nuclear bomb.

The move was condemned by Germany, France and Britain, the three Western European nations that remain in the Iran nuclear deal. Recent attempts to revive Iran's 2015 nuclear deal, which eased sanctions on Iran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program, have stalled.

Since September, Iran has

been roiled by nationwide protests that have come to mark one of the greatest challenges to its theocracy since the chaotic years after its 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The protests were sparked when Mahsa Amini, 22, died in custody on September 16, three days after her arrest by Iran's morality police for violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code for women.

Iran's government insists Amini was not mistreated, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating after she was detained.

In a statement issued by Iran's state-run IRNA news agency on Saturday, the country's national security council announced that some 200 people have been killed during the protests, the body's first official word on the casualties. Last week, Iranian Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh tallied the death toll at more than 300.

# FBI Director raises national security concerns about TikTok

AP ■ WASHINGTON

FBI Director Chris Wray is raising national security concerns about TikTok, warning Friday that control of the popular video sharing app is in the hands of a Chinese government "that doesn't share our values."

Wray said the FBI was concerned that the Chinese had the ability to control the app's recommendation algorithm, "which allows them to manipulate content, and if they want to, to use it for influence operations."

He also asserted that China could use the app to collect data on its users that could be used for traditional espionage operations.

"All of these things are in the hands of a government that doesn't share our values, and that has a mission that's very much at odds with what's in the best interests of the United States. That should concern us," Wray told an audience at the University of Michigan's Gerald R Ford School of Public Policy.

Those concerns are similar to ones he raised during congressional appearances last month when the issue came up. And they're being voiced during ongoing dialogue in Washington about the app.

# Blinken designates Pak, China as religious freedom violators

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States has designated 12 countries, including China, Pakistan and Myanmar, as "countries of particular concern" for the current status of religious freedom in these nations.

Announcing this on Friday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said around the world, governments and non-state actors harass, threaten, jail, and even kill individuals on account of their beliefs.

In some instances, they stifle individuals' freedom of religion or belief to exploit opportunities for political gain. These actions sow division, undermine economic security, and threaten political stability and peace. The US will not stand by in the face of these abuses.

"Today, I am announcing designations against Burma (Myanmar), the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, the DPRK, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as Countries of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom," he said.

Simultaneously, Blinken also placed Algeria, the Central African Republic, Comoros and Vietnam on the Special Watch List for engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom. The US also designated al-Shabab, Boko Haram, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Houthis, ISIS-Greater Sahara, ISIS-West Africa, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, the Taliban, and the Wagner Group based on its actions in the Central African Republic as "Entities of Particular Concern".

"Our announcement of these designations is in keeping with our values and interests to protect national security and to advance human rights around the globe. Countries that effectively safeguard this and other human rights are more peaceful, stable, prosperous and more reliable partners of the United States than those that do not," Blinken said.



Blinken said the US will continue to carefully monitor the status of freedom of religion or belief in every country around the world and advocate for

those facing religious persecution or discrimination. "We will also regularly engage countries about our concerns regarding limitations on freedom of religion or belief, regardless of whether those countries have been designated," he said.

The US, he said, welcomes the opportunity to meet with all governments to address laws and practices that do not meet international standards and commitments, and to outline concrete steps in a pathway to removal from these lists.

Meanwhile, ahead of the announcement of such an annual designation by the State Department, there were massive lobbying efforts by groups like Indian American Muslim Council and pressures from organizations like the US Commission for International Religious Freedom to designate India as a Country of Concern.

# Ukraine urges tougher Western squeeze on Russian oil prices



AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

The office of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called Saturday for a lower price cap on Russian oil than the one agreed to by Ukraine's Western supporters, while Russian authorities called the \$60-per-barrel cap harmful to free, stable markets.

Andriy Yermak, the head of Zelenskyy's office, wrote on social media that the price ceiling set by the European Union, Australia, Britain, Canada, Japan, and the United States on Friday didn't go far enough. The cap is set to take effect Monday, along with an EU embargo on Russian oil shipped by sea.

"It would be necessary to lower it to \$30 in order to destroy the enemy's economy faster," Yermak wrote on Telegram, staking out a position also favored by Poland — a leading critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine.

The Russian Embassy in Washington insisted that Russian oil "will continue to be in demand" and criticized the price limit as "reshaping the basic principles of the functioning of free markets." A post on the embassy's Telegram channel predicted the per-barrel cap would lead to "a widespread increase in uncertainty and higher costs for consumers of raw materials."

The price cap aims to put an economic squeeze on Russia and further crimp its ability to finance a war that has killed an untold number of civilians and fighters, driven millions of Ukrainians from their homes and weighed on the world economy for more than nine months.

The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported that since Friday Russia's forces had fired five missiles, carried out 27 airstrikes and launched 44 shelling attacks against Ukraine's military positions and civilian infrastructure. Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy head of the president's office, said the attacks killed one civilian and wounded four others in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region. According to the U.K. Defense Ministry, Russian forces "continue to invest a large element of their overall military effort and firepower" around the small Donetsk city of Bakhmut, which they have spent weeks trying to capture.

In southern Ukraine's Kherson province, whose capital city of the same name was liberated by Ukrainian forces three weeks ago following a Russian retreat, Gov. Yaroslav Yanushkevich said evacuations of civilians stuck in Russian-held territory across the Dnieper River would resume temporarily.

Russian forces pulled back to the river's eastern bank last month. Yanushkevich said a ban on crossing the waterway would be lifted during daylight hours for three days for Ukrainian citizens who "did not have time to leave the temporarily occupied territory." His announcement cited a "possible intensification of hostilities in this area."

Kherson is one of four regions that Putin illegally annexed in September and vowed to defend as Russian territory. From their new positions, Russian troops have regularly shelled Kherson city and nearby infrastructure in recent days, leaving many residents without power. Running water remained unavailable in much of the city.

The other regions annexed in violation of international law are Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia.

Ukrainian authorities also reported intense fighting in Luhansk and Russian shelling of northeastern Ukraine's Kharkiv region, which Russia's soldiers mostly withdrew from in September.

The mayor of the northeastern city of Kharkiv, said some 500 apartment buildings were damaged beyond repair, and nearly 220 schools and kindergartens were damaged or destroyed. He estimated the cost of the damage at \$9 billion.

# Canada to allow family members of Open Work Permit holders to take up jobs

PTI ■ TORONTO

In a major move that will benefit thousands of Indian professionals and other foreigners in Canada, the North American country will expand its work permit eligibility to the family members of Open Work Permit (OWP) holders from next year to address acute labour shortages. The OWP allows foreign nationals to work in Canada for any employer and any job.

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Sean Fraser on Friday announced that his department is extending work permits to family members of temporary foreign workers.

"Canada is expanding work permits for family members! Starting in 2023, spouses and children of a principal applicant will be eligible to work in Canada," Fraser tweeted.

"Expanding the eligibility for work permits to family members accompanying the principal applicant to Canada will help address labour shortages by assisting employers in finding the workers they need," he said in a press statement. Employers



across the country continue to identify a lack of workers as their biggest obstacle, Fraser said.

The new measure, he said, will help employers find the workers they need to fill their labour gaps by expanding work permits to family members at all skill levels, resulting in family members of over 200,000 foreign workers being able to work in

Canada. Prior to this announcement, spouses were only eligible for a work permit if the principal applicant was working in a high-skill occupation.

The new measure aims to improve the emotional well-being, physical health and financial stability of workers by keeping families together. As a result, it is expected that the worker will better integrate into their overall work environment and community, Fraser said.

Starting in January 2023, through a temporary two-year measure, Canada will expand eligibility to work in the country to spouses and working-age children through a phased approach for workers at all skill levels, the statement said.

"As a result of this new approach, it is estimated that family members of more than 200,000 foreign workers could begin working in Canada, offering a greater opportunity for both foreign workers seeking to work in Canada and for employers addressing their labour needs," it said.

The measure will be implemented in 3 phases to ensure its successful implementation.

# Snowden receives Russian passport, takes citizenship oath

AP ■ MOSCOW

Former US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden, who fled prosecution after revealing highly classified surveillance programmes, has received a Russian passport and taken the citizenship oath, Russian news agencies quoted his lawyer as saying Friday.

Lawyer Anatoly Kucherena was reported as saying that Snowden got the passport and took the oath on Thursday, about three months after Russian President Vladimir Putin granted him citizenship. The reports did not specify whether Snowden has



renounced his US citizenship. The United States revoked his passport in 2013, leading to Snowden being stranded in a Moscow airport for weeks after arriving from Hong Kong, aiming to reach Ecuador. Russia eventually granted

him permanent residency. He married American Lindsay Mills in 2017 and the couple has two children.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ned Price said Friday that the US was aware of reports Snowden had finalised his Russian citizenship but could not confirm them, and referred questions about his status to the Russian government. However, Price said the Biden administration would not be surprised if the reports were correct.

"Snowden has long signalled his allegiance to Russia, this step would only formalise that," Price told reporters.

# Israeli officer kills Palestinian after stabbing bid

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's paramilitary border police said an officer killed an alleged Palestinian assailant in the occupied West Bank on Friday after they wrestled over a weapon. Amateur video captured the moments the officer fired the fatal shots, and the Palestinian man dropped to the ground. The video, widely shared on social media, was a rare documentation of one of the increasingly common violent incidents involving Israeli security forces and Palestinians, including attackers.

# Govt to set up 4 task forces to boost telecom manufacturing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will come up with a methodology to check imports from neighbouring nations, which are non-compliant to trusted source rules of the telecom sector, Union Minister for communications and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

The Minister had a meeting with over 40 CEOs of telecom gear makers that have qualified for production linked incentive scheme and decided to set up 4-5 task forces to provide market support to them as well as streamline their business for value addition in the economy.

Telecom gear makers expressed concern around import of network gear from China, which is being routed through other neighbouring

countries.

When asked about concerns around such imports, the minister said, "This issue was discussed. Representatives from customs department, finance ministry and other ministries... Work will be done on it to devise how to check it in a methodical manner."

The minister said that the companies under telecom PLI are close to start export of their gears and India will become an exporting nation very soon.

"During the meeting, many new ideas came, for which we have set up 5-6 task forces. A task force has been set up for creating the component ecosystem. Another task force has been set up for developing 4-5 chips, then taking those chips from design to production. Third task force has been set up to develop highly skilled work-

ers, designers in the telecom sector," Vaishnaw said.

He said that the companies asked for support testing and certification, which is required for exporting products, for which another task force has been set up to optimise the use of test beds in IIT Madras, Telecom Engineering Centre.

"From my interaction, industry is confident that they are in good traction and India should become a technology exporter in the coming years in a very sure and certain way," Vaishnaw said.

The minister said a task force has been created to aggregate demand under various government departments like railways, power and defence, and channelise it to players who are manufacturing under the PLI scheme.

He said that telecom oper-

ators in the country are also supporting local manufacturers.

"There are demands in various departments. If those demands are organised and channelised and are given to units under the 'make in India' and PLI then it will be a significant boost for manufacturing," Vaishnaw said.

The Department of Telecom has selected 42 companies that have committed investment of Rs 4,115 crore. The government estimates that the scheme is expected to generate additional sales of Rs 2.45 lakh crore and create additional employment of more than 44,000 over the scheme period.

Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman asked PLI-shortlisted companies to invest in skill sets to develop talents,

which is also necessary for making world-class products.

Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) CEO Arvind Bali said the minister in the meeting asked companies to become market leaders and create world-class skill sets in the country for increased share in the global market.

During the meeting, industry players said that revenue generated out of PLI investment is committed to Rs 50,000 crore, and an investment of Rs 1 crore is creating about 15 new employment opportunities.

GX India CEO Paritosh Prajapati said the hand holding from the government will help in taking MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) to the next level.

"This support from the government has morally boost-

ed our investors to invest more in the Indian market for export to the European Union and set up India as a global electronics hub. We discussed the secured network having a product with Indian design and Indian software IPR. We have asked the government to incentivise people who have Indian IPR in design and software," Prajapati said.

Customer premise equipment maker Matrix Comsec Managing Director Ganesh Jivani said that he asked for relaxation of the investment threshold for domestic companies that already have excess manufacturing capacity and support to boost exports.

Netlink ICT, planning and development director Saiko Thomas said that Chinese companies are selling their products at city level, which



has got security repercussions.

Chinese products are entering into the Indian market through Bangladesh and some of them are coming directly. Many FTTH players in small cities are installing them. The last mile fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) players are estimated to account for 50 per cent market share in the seg-

ment. Government has assured us that they will work on it," Thomas said.

Electronics contract manufacturer Jabil finance manager Suhas Badnani said that all issues of the company have been addressed by the government and the company has also exceeded investment targets under the PLI scheme.

## Govt clears 24th tranche of electoral bonds; sale from Mon

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday approved issuance of the 24th tranche of electoral bonds that will open for sale on December 5.

The sale of bonds coincides with the second phase of the Gujarat assembly elections scheduled on December 5.

Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding.

State Bank of India (SBI), in the 24th phase of sale, has been authorised to issue and encash electoral bonds through 29 authorised branches from December 5-12, the finance ministry said in a statement.

The last phase of electoral bonds (23rd tranche) was open for subscription between November 9-15, 2022.

Usually, electoral bond tranches are open for sale between 1-10 of a designated



month. For instance, the 22nd tranche of bond sales took place from October 1-10, 2022 while 21st tranche was from July 1-10, 2022.

Sale of the first batch of electoral bonds happened from March 1-10, 2018.

The authorised SBI branches include those in Lucknow, Shimla, Dehradun, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Patna, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Bhopal, Raipur, and Mumbai.

SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds.

An electoral bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issuance. No payment would be made to any political party if the bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period, the statement said.

Electoral bonds can be purchased by Indian citizens or entities incorporated or established in the country.

Registered political parties that have secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in the last Lok Sabha or legislative assembly election are eligible to receive funding through electoral bonds.

## Godrej Properties buys 18.6 acre land in Mumbai to build luxury homes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Godrej Properties has bought an 18.6 acre land parcel at Kandivali, in Mumbai for around Rs 750 crore to develop a luxury housing project.

On Friday, Godrej Properties informed about the land transaction but did not disclose the total deal value.

Market sources and property consultants said the land deal was struck at around Rs 750 crore.

Godrej Properties, which is part of business conglomerate Godrej Group, is one of the leading real estate companies in the country.

The company has been aggressively buying land outrightly and also entering into joint development agreements (JDAs) with landowners to create future development pipelines.

As per the regulatory filing, Godrej Properties expects sales revenue of about Rs 7,000 crore from this upcoming 18.6-



acre project, which would have a developable potential of about 3.72 million square feet.

The project will comprise primarily premium residential apartments with supporting retail spaces.

Godrej Properties highlighted that this is the 8th project addition so far this financial year and "takes the cumulative expected booking value from projects added in FY'23 to approximately Rs 16,500 crore."

Godrej Properties had given a full-year guidance of adding projects with a booking value potential of Rs 15,000 crore. Mohit Malhotra, MD &

CEO, Godrej Properties, said this project will allow us to significantly increase our market share in Mumbai over the next several years.

The company focuses on four key markets -- Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and Pune, although it has a presence in Chennai, Kolkata, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh and Nagpur as well.

Godrej Properties has set a target of Rs 10,000 crore sales bookings for 2022-23, as against Rs 7,861 crore registered during the last fiscal year.

## CNRI calls for a framework of collaborative governance to resolve global crisis at UN meet

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India's leading non-governmental Organisation Confederation of NGOs of Rural India (CNRI) at a UN conference made a strong case for developing a global framework of collaborative governance to resolve the global crisis and promote green technologies. Speaking at Town Hall Meeting with the President of the General Assembly CsabaKorosi with Civil Society here, Secretary General of CNRI, Mr.Binod Anand said, it is essential to promote clean energy technologies and energy efficiency solutions. Mr.Anand emphasised that energy efficiency and net zero energy systems will contribute to an affordable, clean, and sustainable future for all.

"We need a framework that prevents harmful chemicals from entering the environment and moves nations and businesses towards effective, safe, and green alternatives," he said at the UN Conference. He said that in an era of collaborative governance, cooperation was the key to deal with issues of global significance. "The Global Challenges are transnational in nature and trans-

institutional in solution. They cannot be addressed by any government or institution acting alone. They require collaborative action among governments, international organizations, corporations, universities, NGOs, and creative individuals," he said.

On behalf of United Nations Department of Global Communications, Mr.Anand was selected to deliver statement on 'Solutions through science'. Mr.Anand also cited the example of India's leading cooperative organization, IFFCO and said it has created a revolution by use of Nanotechnology through a product NANO-UREA.

"It not only saves drudgery of farmers but at the same time eliminates NO2 and ammonia emissions. It has potential to help in meeting the UN Sustainable Goals and help in achieving the objectives of Paris Climate Agreement of limiting Global Warming," he informed the gathering. Mr.Anand also spoke at length about



the scientific and spiritual achievements of ancient India recalling the contributions of Indian seers to the world of science.

Describing India as the Land of Innovations, Discoveries, Spirituality and Wonders, Mr.Anand said, "The best of the scientific solution suggested through treatise Bhagavad Gita has been the universal science of the soul which talks about address all challenges through reconstruction and talks happiness is the end of all our actions."

"The science that compels us to embrace divinity and divine qualities. All other bodies of knowledge are subject to change, but this body of knowledge contained is timeless - eternal. Yogis through 'Chittashuddhi' (Eternal Purity) has taught us to achieve a deep meditative state, sense of eternity and happiness." The ancient Indian wisdom and scientific achievements, he added, has helped the world measure the Speed of Light, distance between Sun and earth about the source of the light of Moon, Gravity, and gravitation, about cen-

tripetal forces, telegraphy. Through Budhyan theories of Maths to Aryabhata we have learnt to go beyond all limitations, Brahmagupta theory of finding Zero, planetary positions, he added.

The Mathematical contributions gifted by the Ancient Rishis to the world include Zero, Algebra, Trigonometry, Decimal system and Quadratic formula, Fibonacci Numbers, Length, Weights, Geometry, Infinite Series, BinaryCode, Chakravala The Method Of Algorithm and Encoding, he added. "With 4 vedas, 18 Purana, Tantras and various writings of our ancestors we have explored the scientific solutions of all the current challenges the globe is facing today. Our ancestor Chanayaka had written volumes on what we study and practice today as Economics Diplomacy and in Foreign Policy. We have learnt to live with Nature through Acharya Sushruta, and Atomic Theory of Maharshi Kanad," Mr.Anand said. On behalf of United Nations Department of Global Communications, Mr.Anand was selected to deliver his statement on 'Solutions through science'.

## Bengaluru may see highest growth in office rent in Asia-Pacific region at 5-7% next year: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Office rentals in Bengaluru is expected to grow by 5-7 per cent — highest in the Asia-Pacific region — during the next year, according to Knight Frank India.

In its latest report on 'Asia-Pacific Outlook 2023', property consultant Knight Frank said that rent growth in the APAC region is expected to moderate in 2023 as corporate occupiers are looking to optimise overheads and generate savings.

"The steady performance of the Indian office markets seen in 2022 is expected to sustain in 2023," it said.

Bengaluru's prime office rental is expected to grow in the range of 5-7 per cent YoY (year-on-year) in 2023, highest amongst the 24 APAC cities tracked in the report.

Mumbai and New Delhi are the other Indian cities tracked in the report. New Delhi's prime office



rental is expected to grow in the range of 4-6 per cent YoY followed by Mumbai in the 3-5 per cent YoY in 2023.

The consultant attributed the expected growth in office rentals to a comparatively strong economic outlook, potentially increased outsourcing from the west due to cost constraints and rupee depreciation.

Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director at Knight Frank India, said, "While recessionary forces in the west weigh on the global

economy, the APAC region and India are expected to remain beacons of growth in an otherwise uninspiring economic backdrop."

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. that Mr. Jaginder Singh is claiming ownership of Property bearing No. A-7, area measuring 200 Sq. Yds., out of Khalsa No. 48/22, Situated in the area of Village Manikla, Colony known as Rashidpur Park P. & B Block, Nanjand, Delhi, heretofore referred to as said property, who acquired the said property on the basis of G.P.A. Agreement, and will dated 12.03.2003. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claiming owner want to sell the said property to Mr. Vishnu Kumar who is taking a Loan from Fullerton India Home Finance company Ltd. for purchase of the said property. If anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mr. Jaginder Singh in respect of the said property its sale /Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of dispute, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)  
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Waf Nagar, N. Delhi-15, Ph: 011-41122127-28, Email: kumar.associates@rediffmail.com

## Indian startup Kheyti wins Prince William's Earthshot Prize

PTI ■ LONDON

A Greenhouse-in-a-Box sustainable solution for small farmers devised by Telangana startup Kheyti has won the 1 million pounds Earthshot Prize, founded by Britain's Prince William and dubbed the 'Eco Oscars'.

Kheyti, one of the five winners at a gala green carpet awards ceremony in Boston on Friday night, won the prize in the Protect and Restore Nature category from hundreds of entries worldwide.

The pioneering solution for local smallholder farmers is designed to reduce costs, increase yields and protect livelihoods in a region on the frontlines of climate change.

"I believe that the Earthshot solutions you have seen this evening prove we can overcome our planet's greatest challenges, and by supporting and scaling them we can change our future," said William, the Prince of Wales.

"Alongside tonight's winners and finalists, and those to be discovered over the years to

come, it is my hope the Earthshot legacy will continue to grow, helping our communities and our planet to thrive," he said.

Kheyti Co-founder & CEO Kaushik Kappagantulu said he launched the concept to help some of India's nearly 100 million small-holder farmers, among the poorest people on the planet and the most impacted by climate change.

His Greenhouse-in-a-Box offers shelter from unpredictable elements and destructive pests and the startup also trains and supports farmers to ensure their greenhouse is as effective as possible.

Kappagantulu said, "We are honoured to be recognised by The Earthshot Prize this year. The world depends on its small-holder farmers and yet their lives are amongst the hardest on earth."

"Our Greenhouse-in-a-Box is empowering farmers in India today. The steps we have already taken at Kheyti are now building to change farmers' lives at scale."

The results of the project



have been described as "dramatic".

Plants in the greenhouse require 98 per cent less water than those outdoors and yields are seven-times higher.

Ninety per cent cheaper than a standard greenhouse, they are more than doubling farmers' incomes, helping them invest more in their farms and their children's education. Using less water and fewer pesticides, they are protecting the planet too.

Another Indian project, Founder and CEO Ankit Agarwal's Phool from Uttar Pradesh which converts flowers dispersed into the river Ganges into sustainable leather

called Fleather, was among this year's 15 finalists worldwide projects.

All 15 will receive tailored support from the Earthshot Prize Global Alliance - a network of world-leading philanthropies, NGOs, and private sector businesses around the world who will help scale their solutions.

The other winners of the 2022 prizes include: Mukuru Clean Stoves from Kenya in the Clean Our Air category for their processed biomass stoves; Notpla from the United Kingdom in the Build a Waste-free World category for their biodegradable plastic made out of seaweed; the Indigenous

Women of the Great Barrier Reef from Australia in the Revive Our Oceans category for ocean conservation; and 44.01 from Oman in the Fix Our Climate category for low-cost and safe alternative to traditional methods of storing carbon.

Inspired by US President John F. Kennedy's Moonshot challenge in the 1960s, which united millions of people around the goal of putting a person on the moon within a decade, the Earthshot Prize aims to discover and help scale innovative solutions that put the world firmly on a trajectory toward a stable climate by 2030.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Pramod Mittal has acquired the Entire Second Floor, without roof rights, Property bearing No. C-747, area measuring 516 Sq. Yds., Situated at New Friends Colony, New Delhi vide Sale Deed dated 21.02.2012, Doc. No. 2458 and Now, Mr. Pramod Mittal is mortgaging the above said property with Indusind Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhanwar Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Vertas North, Unit no.007, 3rd Floor, GD-IT, Tower-1, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066701727/9818228638 (M).

**PUSH TO NOTICE**  
To be known to all that Ms. Lalita Rani Mehndiratta W/o Late Shri Lok Nath, Court. 97119-73586, Email: nmamta1981@gmail.com, R/o Flat No. 66/B, Block-R, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095, has applied for the conversion of original document. The documents like original allotment/ Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Plan, etc. No. 12255 (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066701727/9818228638 (M).

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that I, Shri Rishi Sarin S/o Davi Sarin R/o 17/195, Chilli Int Road, Pahlaj Bazar, Agra Fort, Kiraoli, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282003 owner of DDA Plot No. 6, Block EFGH, Local Shopping Centre, Masjid Moh, DELHI has applied for conversion of the aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application no. LD25758/CLC/ON/06112022 dated 23.11.2022 in DDA. That the original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, Lease Deed, C Form, D Form and Occupancy Certificate of the above property have been lost. A FIR dated 23.11.2022 bearing LR No. 1019557/2022 against this effect has been lodged at Crime Branch Delhi. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address/ phone No. 7042477033 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CL) or Director (CL), A-Block, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that I, Shri Jagjit Singh S/o Bara Singh R/o H-38 G S Apartments Sector-13 Rohini Delhi owner of DDA Plot No. 41 Transport Centre, Roshak Road Delhi has applied for conversion of the aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application no. LD25562/CLC/ON/1412022 dated 14.11.2022 in DDA. That the original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, Lease Deed, C Form, D Form and Occupancy Certificate of the above property have been lost. A FIR Dated 03.12.2022 bearing LR No. 1043053/2022 against this effect has been lodged at Crime Branch Delhi. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9558843421 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CL) or Director (CL), A-Block, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-23.

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer, Trans. Line Maint. Division-8, JKPTCL Bemina, Srinagar-190010**  
e-mail: tlm8jktcl@gmail.com

**EXTENSION NOTICE-IV**

To invoke better response, the last date for submission of e-bids in respect of e-NIT No. TLM8-8/TS/17 of 2022 dated: 30-09-2022 for "Augmentation / Reinforcing of Existing 220kV D/C New Wapnon-Mir Bazar Transmission Line with HTLS Conductor, In District Anantnag & Kulgam of Kashmir Valley" is hereby extended with revised critical dates as under.

1. Last Date of submission of Hard Copy of Bid	08-12-2022(15:00 Hrs)
2. E-bids submission end date and time	09-12-2022(15:00 Hrs)
3. Online techno commercial e-bid opening date and time	10-12-2022(16:00 Hrs)

All other terms and conditions of e-NIT will remain same.

No. TLM8-VIII/TS/3269-72  
Date:-01/12/2022  
DIPK-NB-5344/22

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
TLM8-8, JKPTCL, Srinagar

# Netherlands eliminates US in R16

**AP ■ AL RAYYAN**  
 Memphis Depay and Daley Blind scored in the first half and Denzel Dumfries added a late goal as the Netherlands eliminated the United States from the World Cup with a 3-1 victory Saturday that advanced the Dutch to the quarterfinals.

Second-half substitute Haji Wright cut the U.S. deficit to 2-1 in the 76th minute when Christian Pulisic's cross hit his trailing foot and popped over goalkeeper Andries Noppert and into the net. But Dumfries, who assisted on the first two goals, scored on a volley in the 81st.

Runners-up in 1974, 1978 and 2010, the Oranje extended their unbeaten streak to 19 games and face Argentina or Australia on Friday.

It was a disappointing end for a rebuilt U.S. Team hoping to advance past the round of 16 for the first time since 2002. Using the second-youngest squad in the tournament, the Americans achieved the bare minimum to consider the World Cup a success, beating Iran in their group-stage finale to reach the knock-out round.

But just like in 2010 against



Ghana and 2014 against Belgium, the United States were eliminated in the round of 16. The Americans are winless in 12 games against European opponents at the World Cup since 2002, losing six, and are 1-7 during the tournament's knockout rounds. Pulisic, playing four days after getting hurt during his game-winning goal against Iran,

# Neymar expected to train again with Brazil at World Cup



**AP ■ DOHA, QATAR**

Neymar is expected to train with Brazil again while left back Alex Telles and forward Gabriel Jesus have been ruled out for the remainder of the World Cup after getting injured in the match against Cameroon.

Neymar was expected to practice with the ball for the first time since injuring his right ankle in the team's opener against Serbia.

Brazil doctors said they will reevaluate the injury after the training session and decide whether Neymar will be available for Monday's match against South Korea in the round of 16.

Neymar looked fine as he accompanied his teammates at Lusail Stadium on Friday. He walked without a limp and briefly played with the ball without any visible issues. He could be seen jogging across the field on his way to the locker room after the match was over.

Neymar, seeking his first major title with Brazil, was forced out of the 2014 World Cup after hurting his back in the

# ENGLAND BONDS OVER CARDS AHEAD OF SENEGAL CLASH

**AP ■ DOHA**  
 For a nation that has frequently flattered to deceive at soccer's major tournaments, a card game that relies on the art of deception is strengthening the bond among England's players ahead of their match against Senegal in the World Cup round of 16. Werewolf, a game of role-play and deduction, has become a popular pastime for the squad between games.

"It's about being the best liar," said midfielder Declan Rice.

"The villagers have got to sniff out the wolves and the wolves have got to lie and tell everyone why they are not a wolf. There is a lot of teamwork, ganging up."

Whatever England is doing at its base in Qatar, it's working so far. It plays Senegal on Sunday after topping Group B and tying Spain as leading scorers in the tournament so far with nine goals.



No other team picked up more than the seven points England recorded on its way to the knockout round and it is only one of three still undefeated. Yet the message from coach Gareth Southgate and captain Harry Kane this week has been about maintaining focus and standards. Belgium and Germany were high-profile departures from the group stage, while defending

the success that you want or don't live up to the expectation of a nation or where they see themselves," said defender John Stones.

"We don't ever want to fall into that category. I think that is great motivation for us as a reminder — you never want to take anything for granted or who you are playing against."

England may be considered a major soccer nation, but its only tournament success came when it hosted and won the World Cup in 1966.

The years since have been pitted with disappointment and underachievement.

There has been an upturn under Southgate, who led the team to the semi-finals of the World Cup in Russia in 2018 and to the final of last year's European Championship, which it lost on penalties to Italy.

The bond he has developed among the players is seen as a key factor in England's improvement.

# Senegal coach Aliou Cisse ill ahead of game with England



**AP ■ DOHA**

Senegal coach Aliou Cisse was unable to attend a news conference a day before his team's World Cup game against England because of illness.

Cisse, who has been ill and has a temperature, also missed team training on Friday. But he is planning to be on the sideline Sunday when Senegal takes on England in the round of 16 at Al Bayt Stadium.

"He's been sick for a couple of days now and he let us take charge of training yesterday

# Brazil fans at World Cup game remember soccer great Pelé



**AP ■ LUSAIL, QATAR**

Fans in Qatar displayed a banner with the image of Pelé holding a soccer ball behind one of the goals at Lusail Stadium. They also opened a large flag with an image of the Brazil great and the words: "Pelé. Get well soon."

# Cameroon first African team to beat Brazil at World Cup



**AP ■ LUSAIL, QATAR**

Cameroon coach Rigobert Song came full circle on a memorable and bittersweet night for African soccer.

Jerome Ngom Mbekeli, the only member of Cameroon's team who plays for a Cameroonian club, made an inspiring run and cross to set up Vincent Aboubakar's header and stoppage-time winner in a 1-0 victory to make the Indomitable Lions the first African nation to beat Brazil at a World Cup.

Despite the victory on Friday, Cameroon finished third in its group and was eliminated.

The 24-year-old Ngom Mbekeli was Cameroon's final substitution, coming on four minutes from time. Song credited his own former coach, Henri Michel, for giving him an opportunity in 1994 when he played for local club Tonnerre Yaoundé as he was making his World Cup debut.

"You need to trust youth," Song said through a translator. "Henri Michel gave me an opportunity. He saw the potential in me. Now I'm the coach and I see potential in my young players."

"I knew (Ngom Mbekeli) was a good, quality player. He just needed an opportunity to

# Suarez a World Cup great for Uruguay, 'Devil' for others



**AP ■ DOHA**

The day before what was likely his last World Cup game, Luis Suarez walked into the room, sat down and placed himself squarely in the spotlight — again.

Then a Ghanaian journalist let it all out: Ghana wants to "retire you," he said to the Uruguay forward. You are "the devil himself." You need to apologize to my country for what you did. Quite the reaction to a soccer player, even if his deliberate handball more than a decade ago is still one of the most contentious moments in World Cup history.

Uruguay's 2-0 win over Ghana on Friday, which still

# Camel pageant among World Cup's sideline attractions



**AP ■ ASH-SHANIYA, QATAR**

Like all good pageant contestants, Nazaa'a displayed not only dazzling beauty but also poise and grace.

She batted her eyelashes and flashed a toothy smile for the television cameras at the Mzayen World Cup, a pageant held in the Qatari desert about 15 miles (25 kilometers) away from Doha and soccer's World Cup.

Nazaa'a, mind you, is a camel. Think Westminster Dog Show crossed with the Miss America Pageant, except for, well, camels.

Nazaa'a is a majestic light-haired creature that overcame several preliminary rounds and hundreds of other camels to win the pageant at Qatar Camel Mzayen Club on Friday.

The event, which was designed to bring cultural aware-

ness to World Cup visitors, was sponsored by the Ministry of Sports and Youth, in conjunction with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, the local World Cup organizing committee.

Nazaa'a was one of 15 camels who competed for the crown, parading by fans while wearing bejeweled collars and draped with strings of gemstones.

"I thought our camel was better than Ronaldo and Messi," joked Jassim al Kuwari, part of the family that owns Nazaa'a.

These events are held regularly throughout the Middle East, where the people have connected with camels for generations.

"This is our culture. This is from long time ago, from our fathers and grandfathers," Al Kuwari said. "Today is a competition, a beauty competition.

show that. Hopefully his performance can motivate other local players."

Goalkeeper Devis Epassy — thrust into action after usual starter Andre Onana was sent home for disciplinary reasons after a dispute with Song before Cameroon's previous game — earned player of the match honors for a series of difficult saves.

"No one knew me — even in Cameroon — until I started playing for the national team a year ago," Epassy said through a translator. "We can be proud of what we've done tonight. We showed that we can also be a top team."

Both Epassy and Aboubakar play for clubs in Saudi Arabia.

With eight goals in seven games, the 22-year-old Aboubakar was the top scorer at the African Cup of Nations in January.

Song and Samuel Eto'o, Cameroon's soccer federation president, are instilling a strict discipline policy modeled after the European clubs that they once played for — Song as a reliable defender and Eto'o as a standout striker.

"That's where we let ourselves down in the past," Song said. "Perhaps we didn't do everything right, so we're focusing on discipline.

Make no mistake, this a serious contest: A doctor is on staff to make sure the animals don't use fillers or Botox to make them more beautiful. Last December dozens of camels were disqualified from the King Abdulaziz Camel Festival in Saudi Arabia for cosmetic enhancements.

Then there's the money: The winner, runner-up and third place camels all receive trophies. Nazaa'a's owners earned 200,000 Qatari riyals (\$55,000). The camel that produces the most milk wins 15,000 riyal.

"I have been with camels and their contests since I was a child," camel owner Hamad al Greissi said. "Camels were there before planes and cars. They were called the ships of the desert. After modern vehicles, the camels became less popular, but they still hold a big place in our culture."



नरेन्द्र मोदी  
प्रधानमंत्री

# क्रांतिसूर्य जननायक टंट्या भील बलिदान दिवस कार्यक्रम



मुख्य अतिथि  
मंगुभाई पटेल  
राज्यपाल, मध्यप्रदेश

अध्यक्षता  
शिवराज सिंह चौहान  
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश



4 दिसम्बर, 2022 | अपराह्न 1:30 बजे | नेहरू स्टेडियम, इंदौर

टंट्या भील मंदिर में पूजन, प्रतिमा पर  
माल्यार्पण एवं वृक्षारोपण  
अपराह्न 12:30 बजे, पातालपानी

टंट्या भील प्रतिमा का  
अनावरण  
अपराह्न 1:00 बजे, भंवरकुआं, इंदौर

Meditation is a great way to keep my body well-centered while juggling shooting schedules and recording sessions  
— Ariana Grande



# REVDI CULTURE IS HERE TO STAY

Despite so much debate and discussion of the revadi culture in the recent past, all political parties have gone all out of the way to offer sops to woo voters in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh assembly polls, writes DIPAK UPRETI

Childhood stories like that of 'Kabuliwala' remind one of the street hawkers announcing their arrival and selling goodies like 'budia ke baal', peanuts, 'channa', 'gazak', and also ubiquitous sweet, 'revdis'. The last selling item has recently taken a political colour with no less a person than Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself giving a condescending look at the humble "revdis" and decrying what he called "revdi culture" of freebies spawned by certain political parties and more specifically by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of Arvind Kejriwal ruling Delhi and Punjab and currently making a high-pitch foray in PM's home state Gujarat.

'Revdis' themselves are popular sweat meat available even as 'prasad'. But now all political parties are showcasing 'Revdis' in their poll campaigns to distract the voters from their political rivals to their own decorative election campaign carts.

The 'freebies' or 'revdis', though, seen in the larger context, could also include tax cuts for corporate sectors, waiving off of Non-performing assets, and also sanctioning projects and schemes in the poll-bound states by the ruling parties.

They have been in vogue for long but received currency of late in the political dialogue which is increasingly turning bitter unlike the 'revdis', which have always been a good 'time pass' sweets for an average Indian to be taken without much fuss ...!

The debate raised is that freebies are a waste of tax payers' money which should be invested in such a way that it institutionalizes benefits and that too on a 'permanent basis' and is unlike offering a free laptop, cycle or a monthly allowance without any accountability to available finances or the budget.

In a welfare state, free health, education, and a minimum subsistence allowance to poor should not be viewed as 'freebies' but be welcomed as a step towards positive discrimination.

For example, the 'Janashadi kendras', under Central Scheme, offering allopathic medicines at less than half the market prices go a long way in relieving the pain of economically backward and middle class who are already facing the mercenary grind of an insurance-based healthcare system.

A free or highly subsidized health and education system catering to the economically poor section should be an obligation of the state and must not be considered 'bad

economics' and part of the "Ravadj culture" as has been made out by some of the advocates of 'globalization'.

The poll-time 'revdis' are, however, polished goods whose shine go away, once elections are over and at a time never delivered or fulfilled.

In circulation on the eve of poll season, all political parties rigorously decorate their 'election face' with goods and items which could fetch them easy and enough votes to win. And like willy hawkers, political leaders announce them in their manifestos as if these could be the vehicles of transformation in a developing country like ours.

Despite the Prime Minister's disapproval of freebies, BJP's Gujarat manifesto is full of revdis and has also drawn sharp criticism from the Congress and AAP, for its "striking commonalities" with the sops, guarantees or 'revdis' promised by them.

The BJP manifesto titled "Agresar Gujarat Sankalp Patra 2022" pledges to provide free education to girls from kindergarten to post-graduation. This promise mirrors the Congress manifesto released on November 12.

The AAP too has promised free education to all children. At a rally at Mahidarpura in Surat's diamond market, the AAP candidate from Varachha, Alpesh Kathiriya, charged that the BJP manifesto was a "xerox copy" of the AAP guarantees.

Targeting the BJP, Gujarat AAP president Gopal Italia makes taunts, "When we announce our guarantees, the BJP calculates cost and tells us where will you get the money from."

The BJP manifesto promises to provide free medical treatment by doubling the cap of 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Aryogya Yojana' to ₹10 lakh from the existing ₹5 lakh.

The Congress has also promised a ₹10 lakh free medical health cover to all citizens.

While the BJP has promised two free LPG cylinders annually for women under the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana', Congress has pledged subsidized cylinders at ₹500 per unit.

Gujarat Congress spokesman Manish Doshi says, "The Congress manifesto announced well in advance forced the BJP to focus on education and health. Their promises follow ours."

"In 2012, when we announced the 'Ghar nu Ghar' scheme (promising houses to voters) the BJP promised to build 50 lakh houses," he says.

'Revdis' distributed by political parties, in the game of winning elections, are more or

“ON THE EVE OF POLL SEASON, ALL POLITICAL PARTIES RIGOROUSLY DECORATE THEIR 'ELECTION FACE' WITH GOODS AND ITEMS WHICH COULD FETCH THEM EASY AND ENOUGH VOTES TO WIN. AND LIKE WILLY HAWKERS, POLITICAL LEADERS ANNOUNCE THEM IN THEIR MANIFESTOS AS IF THESE COULD BE THE VEHICLES OF TRANSFORMATION IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY LIKE OURS”

less the same except for their packaging and carry bags..!

Congress has pledged to write off farmers' debt up to ₹3 lakh each in the state, while the figure promised in this regard by the AAP is ₹2 lakh. Both Congress and the AAP have promised electricity to farmers during the daytime for irrigation purposes.

In its manifesto, BJP promises to host Olympic Games in the state by 2036 and provide 20 lakh jobs in the next five years.

As part of their poll pledges, both the Congress and the AAP have promised 300 units of free electricity for people, which the BJP has not done.

Giving an example of the first Solar-powered village in Modhera in Gujarat Prime Minister sought to counter rivals by claiming that it is time to "sell electricity" instead of receiving it free.

As against the BJP's promised 20 lakh new jobs in the next five years, Congress and the AAP have promised to fill 10 lakh vacancies in the state government's departments and PSUs.

Congress also pledged to regularise contractual government employees.

Both the Congress and the AAP have also promised to provide ₹3000 unemployment allowance to jobless youth and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme which the Congress has also promised in Himachal Pradesh that voted on November 12.

The party has also promised an unemployment allowance of ₹3,000 per month, ₹2,000 pension to 'divyangs', widows, senior citizens, and needy women, and waiver of loans of up to ₹3 lakh of all fishermen.

The AAP has also promised free water to farmers, ₹3,000 unemployment allowance, and a waiver of electricity bills.

All three parties have promised assistance for cows and livestock and sought to milk cows for votes even though the emasculated bovines themselves are eating plastic in cities and towns of Indian streets.

While the BJP in its manifesto pledges to roll out "Pashu Aadhar cards" and subsidised cattle feed for calves, Congress has promised ₹5,000 for every family seeking to buy a cow. The AAP has promised ₹40 per day for the maintenance of each cow in the state.

Besides, the Congress has offered a ₹2,000 pension to 'divyangs', widows, senior citizens, and needy women, and a waiver of loans of up to ₹3 lakh for all fishermen.

The AAP has also promised free water to farmers, ₹3,000 unemployment allowance, and a waiver of electricity bills.

With an eye on tribal constituencies, the BJP manifesto promises to set up 25 residential schools for tribals. The AAP too has matched it by promising to build residential schools for tribals in all districts besides constructing houses for them.

The women voters are being increasingly enticed by the political parties with the 'revdi' offerings with Congress in Himachal Pradesh promising monthly ₹1500 to each woman above the age of 18. AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal has offered ₹1000 monthly 'financial assistance' to all women in Gujarat above 18 of age saying "it is not a freebie but people's money which is theirs".

Leave aside Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh elections, the humble Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections have attracted a rainbow of 'revdis' by AAP, Congress, and the BJP too.

The ruling BJP in the MCD has promised to provide free cycles to meritorious girl students of class V studying in MCD-run schools in Delhi and to set up 50 'Annappurna Rasoi' run by women in which citizens will get food at ₹5 !.

It is estimated that over 84 percent of Delhi government schools, mostly run by the AAP government, don't have Principles. This apart, teachers in the MCD-run government schools are missing their salaries and schools are grossly understaffed with a single teacher teaching many subjects and some primary schools don't have money to even employ a guard. Many government schools have been closed or on the verge of being closed even though DDA land is available with the MCD to open new government schools.

The 'revdi culture' could not be a substitute for real development lest there would not have been potholes, broken drainages, miserable hospitals, and schools without teachers. But when the political intent is to be in power and not the transformation of the 'basics', 'revdis' come in handy to outplay the voters as deceiving lollypops. They are superficially created to treat the symptoms of 'development' but rarely contribute to it and create undesired inequalities and nepotism.

It would be apt to quote the traditional idiom to describe the crafty mist created by the political class during the poll season: "andha baante revdi, apne apnon ko de", that is, a sightless person will distribute revdis only to his near and dear ones.

(The writer is Special Correspondent of The Pioneer)

# YOU ARE NOT WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE

Number of business leaders interested in personal growth rising, says 'Happiness guru' SRIKUMAR RAO

The number of business leaders interested in personal growth is rising and they are those who can handle stress and anxiety that are increasing worldwide, says 'happiness guru' Srikumar S Rao.

The elite coach, who works with a select group of entrepreneurs, professionals, and senior executives, recently came out with a book "Modern Wisdom, Ancient Roots", in which he distills and condenses valuable life lessons, from ancient masters, sacred writings, and his own experience, into quick-to-read, easily digestible chapters.

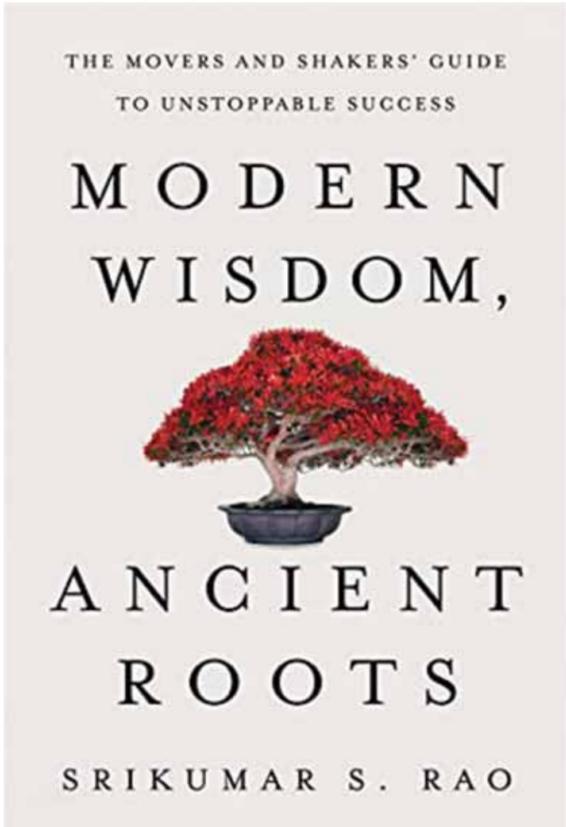
"There are many lessons in the book and they derive from great masters who come from many different traditions and who lived in different times," Rao says.

"The common themes are: You are not who you think you are – a lone individual struggling in a world that is indifferent to you. You are pure awareness and have power that you cannot conceive of.

"You do not live in a 'real' world. You live in a 'construct' you created with your mental chatter and mental models. If you don't like any part of your life, you can deconstruct the parts you do not like and build it again. This is something you will do over and over," he says.

According to Rao, it is "entirely possible to live a life where you are free of stress and radiantly alive every day. In fact, you are wasting your life if you do not feel this way."

On leaders and self growth, he says, "Not all business leaders are interested in personal growth. But the



YOU DO NOT LIVE IN A 'REAL' WORLD. YOU LIVE IN A 'CONSTRUCT' YOU CREATED WITH YOUR MENTAL CHATTER AND MENTAL MODELS. IF YOU DON'T LIKE ANY PART OF YOUR LIFE, YOU CAN DECONSTRUCT THE PARTS YOU DO NOT LIKE AND BUILD IT AGAIN. THIS IS SOMETHING YOU WILL DO OVER AND OVER

number of those who are increasing. These are the leaders who can handle the stress and anxiety that are increasing worldwide." He also says that there are many entrepreneurs who are on a path of conscious growth.

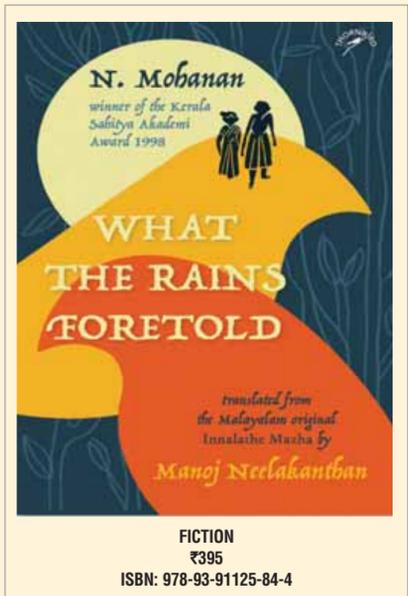
"I will not name them because they have their ups and downs and fall down many times even as their overall trajectory is upward. An external observer can easily misinterpret the initiatives that did not work." Rao believes that personal mastery gives people the ability to focus one-pointedly on any issue that they choose.

"Without the customary distraction of unbridled mental chatter, ideas spring up spontaneously. Entirely different perspectives emerge. Many possible solutions to your problem come to mind. This is what others would call creativity," he says.

Rao, who has coached many CEOs in the world, thinks business leaders can make a quantum leap in their lives by gaining personal mastery.

"Business is not an end in itself. It is a vehicle for personal growth. Yes, you want to increase revenues and become more profitable. Yes, you would like your company to be known as one of the 'best places' to work in. You would like to be considered an exemplary boss," he says.

Rao goes on to add: "But, as you try to achieve each of these ends, you are really working on yourself. If you sincerely how to this intent, quantum leaps happen. You don't have to try to achieve them.



## WHAT THE RAINS FORETOLD

For sure, for sure, It is ordained. The writ of destiny Awaits its unfolding. The writ of destiny Brooks no undoing'

Vararuchi sprang up and looked angrily upwards, from where the voices came. 'Never, never! The writ of destiny will never happen. It is I, Vararuchi, who says this. This will never happen,' he yelled.

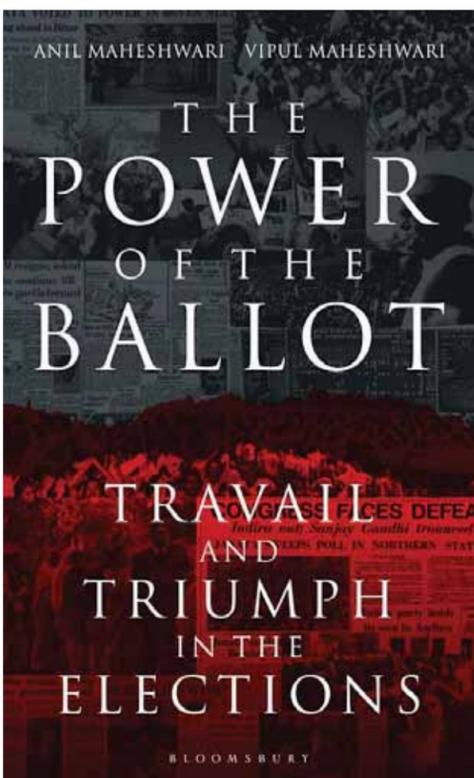
Agitated, Vararuchi walked up and down, wringing his hands in sheer exasperation. At length his gait slackened as he quietened visibly. Looking all around in the darkness, as though searching for someone who would hear him, he declared at the top of his

voice, 'Let this be heard, oh Lords of the cardinal directions, Mother Nature, Clairvoyant Messengers! I have heard my fate, my destiny. But I, Vararuchi, am capable of rewriting my destiny... I will prove destiny wrong by my actions. Bear witness, divine forces, that Vararuchi shall not be turned back in his resolve, come what may.'

Speaking thus, he gathered his staff and belongings and disappeared into the night. Presently the skies darkened, the stars hid under heavy clouds and lightning flashed threateningly. A maddening wind tore through the heart of the forest, shaking trees in its wake. Thunder rent the night air as it began to pour heavily.

## The Power of The Ballot

The book gives an in-depth look at the many challenges surrounding Indian elections, including the problem of criminalization, the role of money



from among themselves rather than a "Raja," the Congress treated Verma as if he were irrelevant. With a margin of 3,377 votes, Verma was declared the victor.

The narrative is full of the components that Indian elections are made up of, including the criteria for receiving a ticket, the significance of caste and community, the ability of the voter to denigrate the powerful, and the use of astrological forecasts.

These are only a few of the many anecdotes told by Anil Maheshwari and Vipul Maheshwari in their book The Power of the Ballot: Trial and Triumph in the Elections, in which they tackle the massive topic of election in India.

The depiction of the tradition in Haryana of weighing candidates against coins is another example of utilising an anecdote to highlight the idiosyncrasies of Indian elections. By the 1980s, the chances of victory for every candidate, including unaffiliated candidates who had little chance of victory, were being compared to coins. All the performances were carefully orchestrated to fool the voters. A creative candidate even went one step further and had himself measured against country booze, which was then served to the crowd. A second contender was weighed against laddoos, which were also presented to the audience. An enraged rural population allegedly weighed a senior minister in the Banshi Lal government against a pile of stones.

The book gives an in-depth look at the many challenges surrounding Indian elections, including the problem of criminalization, the role of money, concerns expressed about computerised voting machines, and the necessity for electoral reforms, all of which are brought out with vivid detail.

Price Rs 699 Pages 381

## The magic of sound healing

Sound healing is an age-old procedure that uses frequencies to bring the body into vibrational balance and improve physical and emotional health and well-being



The concept of Sound healing as a form of therapy has been known for a long time, but it has not been put into practice effectively or widely. Dr. Anju Sharma's *Brahm se Brahmaand* tries to lucidly explore the magic of sound healing by spelling out the effectiveness of vibration on the human mind and body.

The book centres on the theme that everything in the universe is in the form of vibration including sound. The author claims that if we understand the impact of sound, 90 percent of the disease in the body can be cured because sound not only affect the surroundings but also the individual.

According to the author, the concept of sound healing is based on the idea that everybody creates a vibration that is resonant in a certain way. Claiming that vibrations healing is based on the idea that everything in the universe including our body is in the state of vibration, the author says that "illness is caused by blockage which stops that organ in question from vibrating at its healthy/optimum frequency."

Explaining the logic behind sound healing, the book claims that sound healing works by sending sound waves throughout the body, which brings harmony through oscillation and resonance.

This helps restore the body's balance, which in turn helps you heal. Backing her claims with scientific data, the author cites a study published in 2017 that found that 30 minutes of sound therapy combined with traditional care after spinal surgery reduced stress and helped body cells repair-- and sometimes grow. The book tries to drive home the point that sound therapy first heals at the emotional level, then at the mental level, and when the energy movement heals the mental blockage, then it automatically helps us in clearing the physical health.

Overall, an interesting book that tries to revive a concept that needed to be explored and practiced in the challenging modern times when stress is turning out to be one of the biggest health hazards.

Dr. Anju Sharma is an award-winning doctor, psychic reformer, motivational health awareness speaker, and founder of the musical healing band Sound of Infinity.



## Book explores heroic exploits of Lachit Barphukan, other bravehearts

Lachit Barphukan was a master tactician and war strategist whose military zeal infused a sense of immense responsibility in his army, says a new book on the Ahom general of Assam who led his force to victory over a numerically larger and superior Mughal army.

In his book "Bravehearts of Bharat: Vignettes from Indian History", historian Vikram Sampath profiles 15 unsung heroes and heroines of India from varied time spans who fought to uphold the tradition and culture of their land.

The book comes at a time when the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit is being celebrated in the national capital from November 23 to 25 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slated to attend the valedictory function.

The book comes at a time when the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit is being celebrated in the national capital from November 23 to 25 with Prime Minister Narendra Modi slated to attend the valedictory function.

In the chapter on Barphukan, the author describes how Assam's "man of destiny" stood up to be counted and to create history for himself and his clan. Sampath also goes on to give a brief overview of the Ahom kingdom, which, he says, was highly regimented in its structure. The Barphukan was the military and civil commander of the Ahom army. Assam was invaded several times by the Delhi Sultanate up to the 16th century, but this met with no success. The inhospitable and inaccessible terrain, and the warrior spirit of the people who fiercely guarded their independence enabled them to maintain their dogged resistance against all attacks. By December 1636, Kamrup was occupied by the Mughals. According to the Treaty of Asurar Ali, enacted in 1639 CE between the Ahom general Momai Tamuli Borbarua and the Mughal commander Allah Yar Khan, the whole of western Assam, beginning Guwahati, passed into Mughal hands. A most humiliating treaty was concluded in January 1663 at Ghilajhari Ghat according to which the Ahoms were forced to give up western Assam to the Mughals. But there was a revival after Chakradhwaj Singha became the king. Lachit, born in 1622 CE, was the youngest son of Momai Tamuli Borbarua. He was first made the Soladhara Barua, the scarbearer of the king, a position akin to that of a private secretary. In due course, Lachit also held various positions like Ghora Barua (in charge of the royal stable), commander of Simalugarh Fort and later the Dolaksharia Barua (Superintendent of the Royal Household Guards) to Maharaja Chakradhwaj Singha.

# Hapless victims of borderless cyber terror

Globalisation accompanied by multiple waves of advanced information and communication technologies has made nation states and their citizens more prone to attacks by unknown enemies.

The cyber enemies are fast creating a world devoid of trust, creating a brand new vocabulary of conflict and chaos. James Adams, one of the founders of a cyber security firm called iDefense, had in 2001 warned that cyberspace is fast going to be a "new international battlefield".

Cyber warfare is a new reality.

A decade ago, then US Secretary of Defence Leon Panetta declared the dangers of a "Cyber Pearl Harbour". Further then US Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano cautioned for a "Cyber 9/11". In 2015, James Clapper, the then Director of National Intelligence, stated that the US must get ready for a "Cyber Armageddon".

Since the 9/11 terror attack on the US, the most powerful nation has been exposed to external threats. No one, even the US intelligence and other top security agencies would have thought of a terror assault on the US.

But it happened that too at an unparalleled magnitude, and terrorism received a new nomenclature called "global terrorism" and the fight against this scourge came to be known as "Global War on Terrorism". The massive global terror network starting from the dreaded al-Qaeda to the Islamic State has in fact redefined the contours of global terrorism.

Precisely, this phenomenon has grown like an industry accompanied by a large institutional mechanism all around the world. While these monstrous radicals are taking on humanity irrespective of region, religion and race, the devil of cyber terror has emboldened them. And frankly, the nation states have once again encountered an unidentified, borderless and all-encompassing catastrophic regime of terror.



In the light of the latest cyberattack on the e-services at the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, in the last week of November, the possible threat of ransomware is surfacing again. With this horrendous strike, nearly three crore data storage of patients, including the VVIPs like the former Prime Ministers, Presidents, etc, are either lost, damaged or seriously compromised.

With immediate steps taken by the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations of the Delhi Police, there is every chance that the perpetrators will be identified soon. At the moment, we do not have sufficient legal and security measures to prevent such malware attacks in India. Since the establishment of the Indian

Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) in 2004, a national nodal agency, the collection, and analysis of data, and preventive measures to avert cyber security threats have become stronger than before.

The National Cyber Security Coordinator under the National Security Council Secretariat coordinates with multiple institutions at national level on various cyber-security matters. Besides, the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre established in 2014 under the 70A of the Information Technology Act 2000 (amended in 2008) makes necessary arrangements to protect all institutions of national critical importance.

Again, the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and

Malware Analysis Centre) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) is providing us adequate preventive mechanisms to stop such malicious viruses into our cyberspace. In fact it is part of Digital India Initiative of the Government of India that aims to create a secure cyber space by detecting botnet infections across the country. This centre also helps to notify, clean and secure systems for all end users to protect them from possible malware attacks.

But it is pertinent to know whether such mechanisms are enough to protect our national and regional critical infrastructures against hundreds of malwares released by various nefarious actors? If not what more can our Government do? At the moment, the nation-

al cyber security agencies and all other civil-military organisations are certainly not sufficient to counter possible cyberattacks. It must be noted here that no nation, even the mighty US, is completely protected against such attacks. While global organisations like the Interpol and other top security and intelligence agencies can be the hope for countries like India, the US, China, Russia, the UK, the EU, etc, an immediate global-level cooperation and safe data sharing to fight cyber crime is the only way to minimise threats emerging from the cyberspace.

Today, national governments are facing single most serious security threats not from air force, navy, or infantry divisions but from cyberspace. A simple computer or any digital device linked with the

Internet is open to such attacks.

Indeed, nation states are facing an existential threat not only from their real and perceived enemies but also from growing corporate conglomerates around the world. At this juncture, governments at all the four levels — global, national, regional and local — are grappling to safeguard their territorial boundaries from cyber enemies.

The current Ukraine war is a testing ground for cyber warfare. This conflict has provided extensive insights into the current domain of the digital war zone. Leaders like Putin are once again shaking people's confidence in national and international institutions, making them rather irrelevant for some time.

It's time to stop him and save democracy and basic

human rights of the people on both sides of the border of Russia. Putin's designs have no place in a civilised world like ours. His nasty cyber tactics have already brought immense loss to hapless Ukraine.

The moot question is whether we will be able to overcome the chaos in the near future? Experts say there is a very remote possibility to completely destroy the cyber enemies. No nation is safe today, not even those who launch cyberattacks. It is time to realise the fact that we are living in an open world, wherein there is no place to hide from enemies. All the nations are interdependent, and no one can claim to be fully protected from enemies, both physical and virtual.

It is high time we realised that cyberspace is not an isolated realm. It binds all of us together. We are creating our enemies. The irony is that these viruses are man-made. But we are unable to keep them under control. But we are still struggling to grasp the underlying reality.

For an emerging global power like India, we do not need to wait for another AIIMS like cyber attack chaos. Delhi must respond to the crisis effectively. Its security and intelligence agencies must step up any future attacks over Parliament, the Reserve Bank of India, All India Radio, Prime Minister's Office and all other critical infrastructures.

The magnitude and cyber threat is increasing at an unimaginable rate. But strategies to counter it are purely inadequate at the moment. Today biggest challenge is to remain isolated. It is beyond our control. Many security experts predict that cyber threats might push many countries into physical conflicts. Cyber enemies are creating distrust, pitting one against another and making us suspicious of each other.

(The writer is the Head of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Geeta University, Panipat)

**In the light of the latest cyberattack on the e-services of the prestigious AIIMS-Delhi that hacked nearly three crore data storage of patients, including VVIPs like the former Prime Ministers and Presidents, the possible threat of ransomware is resurfacing at an unimaginable scale**



MAKHAN SAINI

## PERSPECTIVE

# Twitter — A signature takeover?

**A social media platform must consider all possible solutions to flush out junk, spam, bots, and other secondary data points. This will keep the focus on first-hand data, which can lead to impressive engagement levels for users and advertisers to rely on and spend more time on the platform**

What started as a data-heavy world wide web is no more just about the internet and data. Since Twitter's launch in 2006, social media platforms have been on a roller-coaster ride.

Beyond data content, the focus is on privacy and security shackles entangled in data transmission. It is the Web3 era where the fundamental right of equality also has a digital interpretation. Users on the internet seek democracy in the digital world with their share of rights and duties.

While content and publishing were the triggers for a long time, the platform's health and hygiene are much more critical than any other aspect. Today, it is more about building sustainable digital and social media platforms than the age-old aggression-driven conversation platforms. While excitement and real-time content pull from the users still prevail, the time now is for social media barons to pause and look at the nextGen social verse.

A scrutiny of the rules for social media players reveals the following most impact guidelines.

**Priority to user privacy & trust**

Social media episodes are presently rife with controversies, harassment, fake information, privacy attacks, and other disturbing trends. This infiltration of the mischief-oriented environment has led to an excessive loss of trust by users from diverse platforms. It is time that the back-end innovators restore this trust by



bringing in content moderation and AI-driven default rules that debar users from crossing the line.

**Quality & insight-driven data strategy**

Given that what's visible on the platform defines the level and quality of the information being perused, whether or not it's used, platforms must consider all possible solutions to flush out junk, spam, bots, and other secondary data points.

This will keep the focus on first-hand data, which can lead to impressive engagement levels for users and advertisers to rely on and spend more time on the platform.

**Monetise better**

Platforms now need to move towards more innovation-driven monetisation models, which are economically more viable than the current ones. Elon's announcement addressing a new high for advertising on Twitter is an effort in the right direction to monetise it in a better way. Setting standards being his goal, he says: "Twitter aspires to be the most respected advertising platform in the world that strengthens your brand and grows your enterprise."

**The bitter truth**

While the bird app's fall after a series of failures has been criticised worldwide, it

must be appreciated that both Elon and Twitter have joined hands to take on the challenge ahead, which is a reboot of all operating mechanisms: from its workforce to policies, product environment, revenue models, and so on. Musk's takeover of the Twitter world may prove to be one of the most important benchmarks for the social media champions of the future.

**A change hero but not a leader?**

Musk's competence for being an efficient change agent but not the right fit for leadership has been the topic of speculation. However, enough examples from the past prove that the own-cum-CEO for-

er's of running entities are barely successful.

Notwithstanding the constructive criticism that Musk has been facing for his failed leadership and unreliable management decisions, his ideas on the kind of innovation and change that would benefit Twitter have received support and appreciation. These innovative ideas can create a historical transition point for the bird app if these are coupled with the appointment of inspired leadership officers. It will also provide pointers for others in the field to learn how the life graphs of social media platforms become messy if not the same is dealt with promptly.

**Binge watch on legal episodes**

That Musk is a lawyer's nightmare is a proven fact. Tesla's changing three legal heads within two years speaks volumes about Musk's penchant for an experiment. Keeping aside Musk's dramatic brushes with the law, it is relevant to look at how the legal battery was at work for Musk to make the Twitter deal happen the way he wanted it and how he continues to grapple with the issues arising out of layoffs.

In July 2022, Musk and his legal team got another jolt when Twitter sued him as he tried to escape the deal. He was pushed to adhere to the contract he had signed. This was again a moment when the legal minds behind Musk built up a strong case emphasising that he had every right to seek more details about the compa-

ny about his decision to take over.

**Musk & his legal muscles**

Musk was never short of options. While the Twitter Board struggled to stop the deal, Musk and his advisers always held the trump card. Upon the Board's denial, Musk approached the shareholders. It made an offer sweet enough for the Board to consider it seriously in the interests of the shareholders, given that Musk had made it clear that if the Board denied it, he would strive to remain a shareholder with the power to harm the tank further. During this contentious period, Musk was engaged in arranging funds that he was short of. Buyback, stock repurchase, and sale of assets are other powerful options that could have made Musk's hostile bid less lucrative, ultimately dealing a death blow to the takeover.

**Musk's current anxiety**

After the bloodbath of strategies to take over the bird app, Musk is not enjoying a beach side vacation. Having laid off nearly half of the company staff, he faces many challenges in turning a socially-free platform into a profitable one. But his taste for haste has not gone down well with critical stakeholders - advertisers, regulators, and of course, the tweeters.

Whether the feverish sale of each official blue tick at \$8 or many other such tools in the making, Musk is all out to create cash-ringing models for the social media platform to reg-

ister profits.

**It's not all Musk's act**

Regardless of the diatribe around the Twitter-Musk saga, it's time to look at essential numbers and stop relating everything to Musk's takeover of Twitter. As per Sensor Tower's data, during the days Musk announced his plan to terminate the agreement to buy Twitter amid spambot and fake account debates, the mean average weekly advertising spending in the US had touched \$945,800. Come September, this dropped to \$944,200, when tensions were building up further over Twitter's deposition in the lawsuit filed in Delaware Court of Chancery. Despite the looming law, the deal seal was expected to be postponed for a while.

By October, before the deal went through, the mean dropped to \$877,200 and plunged to \$589,100 a week after Musk's takeover. Such figures beg further scrutiny.

**Logging out**

As much as social media users may criticise the entire Twitter takeover, the sheer number of installs on App Store and Google Play Store is testimony to the world's choice of Tweeting on the app. The 6.3 million worldwide installs through October 15-26 jumped to a staggering 7.6 million between October 27 and November 7, which is when the takeover saga started.

(The writer specialises in general corporate commercial, mergers & Acquisitions, and private equity)



SIDHARTH SHANKAR



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**

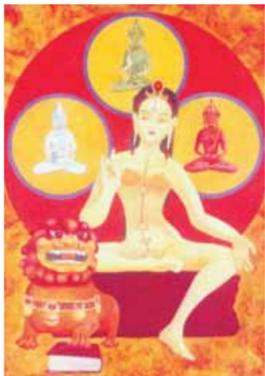
MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

You can enjoy this week as per your well-planned schedule and stay happy. Your health, wealth and happiness are co-related. It is recommended that you learn some stress-free techniques to keep you healthy. Take some time out for a walk amidst nature, that could be a great energy provider and refreshing for you. Career-wise, you need to ease your expectations. Those in business will see a good response and hike in financial matters. Those in the job need to sit down with a financial planner and figure out exactly what your needs are and plan their finances accordingly. On the personal front, you are likely to feel a tight leash around you. There is a lack of understanding and feelings for each other. Married couples need to communicate well.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Green  
Lucky day Thursday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week take your time to identify hidden issues and other subconscious thinking that is preventing you from seeing the fact. Some of you may look out for emotional support from a female person to identify the emotional trouble and what can be done about it. Meditation is beneficial currently. Do not be disappointed about not getting things done as this would spoil your day or the week. On the career front, investing your time in attending a webinar or any online skill development class will be favourable. These programs will help you virtually connect with people. This will further provide you with a unique guiding light and moral force. This week relationship area needs your attention and clear expression. Express yourself before it is too late.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Magenta  
Lucky day Friday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

You are likely to feel great about yourself. Overall health remains good for you. This week is a period of great productivity. You will have a sense of fullness and confidence that will make you feel that you have finally found your niche. This time is the biggest changing point in your life, so being too stuck and aggressive about the things that are not working in your favour could hold you back. It is advised to choose a middle path to live life to the fullest. On the career front, you will face opposition. Your colleagues might not agree with your opinion. You need to understand the mentality of others and stay away from conflicts. On the personal front, you will use your charm to attract people. Be careful as a complication is indicated in your relationships.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Silver  
Lucky day Wednesday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This is a good week for your emotional and physical well-being. Your positive approach to things will be of immense help. Those who are waiting for test results regarding your health, relax and know that the news will be good. You are likely to enter new realms in your spiritual exploration. You will get attracted to herbal ingredients and homemade remedies to cure health and you may join some courses. For those in the retail business, this week will be the most fruitful. For some of you who are working from home should not take it as leisure time, otherwise, this might take a negative turn on you. On the personal front, you may be involved in a serious conflict. Feelings of helplessness and lack of understanding are indicated. The situation may be lightened up with the support of a close family member.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Purple  
Lucky day Friday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

After recovering from certain health issues, you feel recharged with energy and stamina. During this time, you will find your self-confidence unharmed. And this is your greatest achievement that helped you to regain an inner sense of direction. You need to be grateful for all the blessings that surround you currently. This week you will reflect on the positive influence and will prove to be a motivator for others. Career-wise, you will experience roadblocks and will find stagnation in your present job. The current scenario is not bright, and this could demoralize you. Those in business will get some monetary gains. Prioritize your expenses and avoid unnecessary spending, this will help you now as well as in the long run. On the personal front, your maturity plays a significant role at home.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Brown  
Lucky day Saturday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

This week foresees indulging in social activities. You will be shifting the balance in your life from work to more social activities. This will improve your health and give you more energy. This way you are trying to be of help to your family as well as society. On the career front, you may feel a little confused with your job. Try not to get too overworked about it. Your modest approach and shift into a different track/department would be helpful. This is the time to define yourself and not bother yourself with other people's perspectives. There will be a time when you think that everything has come to a standstill. Use this time to enhance your skill. On the personal front, your partner is supportive. You can try and talk to your spouse and relieve yourself from the stress.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Grey  
Lucky day Saturday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week you will feel very charged up and ready to take up some physical activity. You are focused and goal oriented. You are well directed and clear on what your hopes and dreams are and what you should do to get there. Your enthusiasm and charismatic personality will impress others. You are optimistic about your future. Therefore, your overall health will remain good. On the career front, you are trying your best to be in your senior's good book. Your determination and ambition will make you move forward. Remember that you will need to use both your intellect and your heart to be successful. On the personal front, it is advised not to let small issues blow out of proportion in your mind. Beware that there is someone who does not want your relationship to grow and who is working against you.

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Sky Blue  
Lucky day Thursday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

When it comes to following a healthy diet, you all make the same mistake -negligence. Please remember that if you are healthy, you are happy. Give extra attention to your diet and follow physical exercise for at least half a day so that you can take better care of yourself. This will further enhance other aspects of your life including healthy skin. On the career front, it is time to take a stand and make some tough choices. You need to be straightforward in your communication and to the point. This will bring reasonable change and improvement to a specific concern in life. You will find happiness in accomplishment. This week if you implement certain important pending decisions that will have the potential to change the rhythm of life for the better. On the personal front, you have very forceful energy this week. You are likely to be diplomatic and know how to get things done in your favour.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Beige  
Lucky day Sunday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week count your blessings and enjoy the good things that life has to offer. Whatever you do, keep it simple and enjoy it. Stay safe and enjoy a healthy meal with your family. Some of you would like to stay close to nature, therefore, will spend time gardening. Females will feel sensitive and nurturing and make life meaningful. Professionally, good times on the card. Moneywise week is satisfactory, and your generosity will earn you goodwill. Overall, it is an extremely good period in your career life, and you should take full advantage of it. Do not indulge in gossip as it might hurt your image. On the personal front, you will find emotional stability. This is the time to enjoy your relationships.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Pink  
Lucky day Sunday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week your priorities will focus on others like children, spouse, and any elderly members in the family over your health. For those who follow an unhealthy diet, this is a wake-up call. A poor level of vitamins and protein will make you feel tired and irritable. The time is not favourable in terms of health, you must take care and eat healthy to increase metabolism. Professionally, those who are looking for a job will get hired in a few days to evaluate their skills and potential. This will be a very demanding job. Believe in yourself. Some of you will be weighed down with far more responsibilities. On a personal level, you will have concern for others and people around you will be grateful and reciprocate well.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour White  
Lucky day Tuesday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you may need a medical examination, to clear some doubts and lead a stress-free life. You are likely to face some confusion and it will make you feel low. This is the time to lift yourself and transform your lives. It is a crucial time when you must be honest with yourselves and decide what best action should be implemented to rise to the challenges and embrace the best life. Career-wise, this week will be in your favour. You are likely to appreciate your sincere and hard work. Financially the week will be satisfactory, but you need to follow a budget to avoid any tough times. Relationship wise, you will experience freshness and a blissful state. This week you will be passionate and energetic and will enjoy a charming personality.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Mauve  
Lucky day Monday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

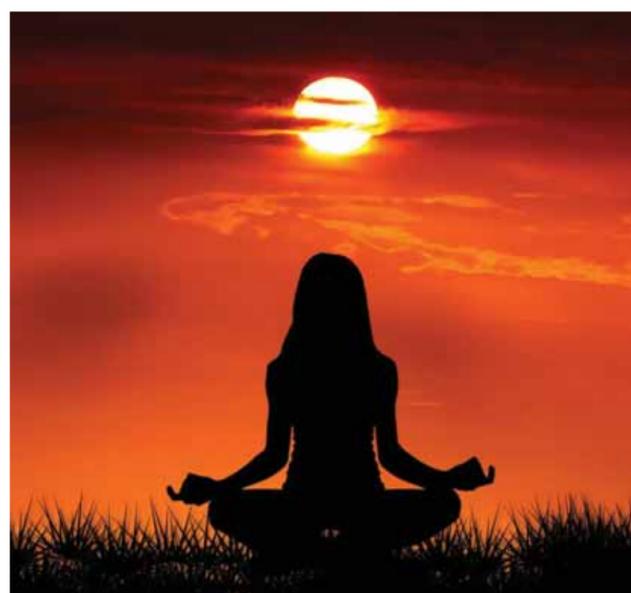
You are likely to spend your time on spiritual pursuits to find peace and inner calm. Follow meditation, yoga, and Pranayama etc. to bring balance and give you the strength to fight any stress. You will be able to find solutions to most of the issues of life. Do not be in a hurry for any work. Give time to pamper yourself. The divine connection will show you the right path. This week financial worries are indicated. Professionally, you are not happy and some of you feel demotivated. If possible, interact with people to keep up your morale. Do not give up on a temporary low phase. This is the time to wait for the good times. Things are not so good in the relationship area. Your partner will have a lengthy list of accusations, sit, and discuss them. Things will move into a lighter phase.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Peach  
Lucky day Tuesday

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# Spirituality turns life into a beautiful experience



During a counselling a person in distress, he claimed: "Sir, I am spiritual. I have done advanced course in Vipassana and learnt dynamic meditation of Osho. I wish to become a healer. Recently I tried to heal someone I liked. Driven by the belief that my healing touch will help him overcome his negatives, I associated with him for quite long. I expected from him to appreciate my efforts and join hands with me as a life partner. But I miserably failed. Its emotional carryover has become burdensome." Kindly guide."

True, you do carry seeds of spirituality as would linkage of lagna (individual identity), 5th house (merits carried over from the past), and 9th house (translation of merits into fruits) mean. Your lagna lord Mars occupies the nakshatra owned by 9th lord Jupiter tenanted in the 5th house. But given the fact that you have been in emotional turmoil for so long, implies that your spiritual potential is yet to unfold. Otherwise, you would have had the awareness, strength, alertness, and wisdom necessary to deal with any unseemly situation intelligently, and with prudence and patience. It is pertinent to note that only when a congenial ground becomes available, and is nurtured well, that the seeds will progressively evolve into a fruit bearing plant. It implies that your indwelling seeds of spirituality has been lying dormant thus far for want of a congenial ground.

The very belief that you can heal others is an illusionary perception, in fact, a reflection of your ahankara. Healing does happen, but it must be a selfless exercise, which only a spiritually evolved person, who is in tune with cosmic consciousness could facilitate. Such persons don't carry any sense of ego. They are charged with enriched positive energy, which is selflessly available to those around. But only those carrying strong urge to transform from within, have unquestioned faith in the master, and are receptive enough to absorb fresh learning, can be benefitted. You cannot heal anybody and everybody, and that too with a sense of desire in mind.

"Can you see astrological indicators suggesting probable timeline when my spiritual potential will begin to unfold?" He asked. A look into finer coordinates of the 1st, 5th, and 9th houses – the cusp sub-lords - offer the answer. Lagna and 5th sub-lords are the Sun, tenanted in the nakshatra owned by Rahu, the 9th sub-lord. It further confirms the indication given above. The irony, however, is that Rahu, the one supposed to translated merits into fruits is posited in an emotionally driven sign Cancer coinciding with the 4th house. And Rahu is placed adverse to the Sun. It implies that it is only after going through emotional turmoil that your spiritual longing will find a way. So, what happened with you is your Karmic calling. Turn this into an opportunity. Even otherwise when you become miserable in life. All hopes are shattered, and your beliefs and perceptions do not have answer to your woes. Only then you are tempted to go beyond to find a lead. That is when your spiritual urges gain ground. This has been beautifully explained by none other than Osho while commenting on the first verse of Patanjali Yoga sutra: "Now the discipline of Yoga". So, that 'now' moment has arrived in your life when you will be able to bring order within you (mind), is what the word discipline means. You are expected to have a feel to that effect during 2nd half

of 2023 when Sun antardasha takes off during Mars major dasha.

"Would it mean that all my effort to explore Vipassana and Dynamic meditation have gone waste?" He asked. All that you have done so far are just meditation techniques meant to prepare ground for taking a spiritual turn. It would have been intellectually exciting. But the real gains come, if these techniques are pursued under the guidance of a qualified Guru – not a teacher who just offers you with a method. The Guru will first lead you purify your mind with all its limitations as would the second verse of Patanjali, its main driving spirit mean: "Cessation of flirtrations of mind". You may then have the space necessary to absorb fresh learning. He then makes you explore truths of life – both eternal and the living realities - and offers you a lesson in how to keep the two in balance. He doesn't lead you to an abstract utopian world, rather makes you practical. Your life may then turn into a beautiful experience.

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