

OPINION 6

G-20 LEADERSHIP IS
GODSEND FOR INDIA

WORLD 9

IRAN MORALITY POLICE STATUS
UNCLEAR AFTER 'CLOSURE' COMMENT

MONEY 10

SERVICES SECTOR OUTPUT GROWTH
HITS 3-MONTH HIGH IN NOV

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11 SPORT



BJP set to retain Guj; Himachal cliffhanger

Exit polls predict AAP won't live up to hype in both the States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Multiple exit poll results released on Monday predicted that the BJP will return for a seventh straight term in Gujarat with a big majority. However, another BJP-ruled state Himachal Pradesh is likely to see a tough contest with one of the pollsters giving the Congress the edge to form the next Government and a couple of others showing BJP retaining the power.

The AAP is not living up to the hype it created, as per the exit polls, which showed it faring badly in both the States.

About half-a-dozen exit polls were unanimous on the BJP sweep in Gujarat, with seats in the range of 117-151.

Except one, other exit polls projected that the long-held tradition of Himachal Pradesh not repeating a party twice in the State will break as they showed the ruling BJP returning to power. However, the India-Today-Axis exit poll predicted that the Congress will gain a majority by bagging a maximum of 40 seats.

The AAP, which had

GUJARAT			
Seats : 182; Majority : 92			
SOURCE	BJP	CONG+NCP	AAP
AAJ TAK-AXIS MY INDIA	129-151	16-30	9-21
NEWS X- JAN KI BAAT	117-140	34-51	6-13
TIMES NOW-ETG	135-145	24-34	6-16
ZEE NEWS-BARC	110-125	45-60	1-5
POLL OF EXIT POLLS	132 (+33)	38 (-40)	8 (+8)

HIMACHAL PRADESH			
Seats : 68; Majority : 35			
SOURCE	BJP	CONG	AAP
AAJ TAK-AXIS MY INDIA	24-34	30-40	0
NEWS X- JAN KI BAAT	32-40	27-34	0
TIMES NOW-ETG	34-42	24-32	0
ZEE NEWS-BARC	35-40	20-25	0-3
POLL OF EXIT POLLS	35 (-9)	30 (+9)	0

indulged in a high-voltage campaign and projected itself as the principal challenger to the BJP, was shown to bag a maximum of 13 seats in Gujarat and just 1 seat in Himachal Pradesh by different pollsters.

The counting of votes in both States will take place on December 8. Elections for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly took place on November 12, while polling in Gujarat happened in two phases on December 1 and 5.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed over 31 rallies and led three big road shows in Gujarat wrapping up on Friday his hectic campaign for the BJP in the Assembly polls.

The BJP sees the outcome

of the Gujarat poll in the PM's home State a curtain raiser to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls which are barely 16 months away.

The party looks to maintain its uninterrupted winning streak there since 1995 in a triangular contest involving the Congress and the AAP.

One of the roadshows of Modi was cancelled on October 31 in the State due to the Morbi Bridge collapse that claimed 130 lives.

The keenly contested Gujarat poll witnessed Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge throwing "Ravan jibe" at Modi with the latter asking voters to "teach a lesson" to the party which "insulted" Gujarat.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who did not campaign

in Himachal addressed two public rallies in Gujarat, breaking away from his "Bharat jodo yatra".

Most exit polls predicted a big mandate for the BJP in Gujarat in the range of 117-148 seats in the 182-member Assembly, while the Congress was predicted to bag seats in the range of 30-51 seats.

India Today-Axis My India predicted a landslide victory for the BJP in Gujarat, with the saffron party likely to win from 129-151 seats.

It gives the Congress only 16 to 30 and the AAP 9 to 21 seats in Gujarat.

According to the News X-Jan Ki Baat exit poll on Gujarat elections, the BJP was likely to get 117-140 seats, the Congress-NCP 34-51, the AAP 6-13 and others 1-2.

Republic TV P-MARQ predicted 128-148 seats for the BJP, 30-42 for the Congress-NCP, 2-10 for the AAP and 0-3 for others.

TV9 Gujarati forecast that the BJP would get 125-130 seats, the Congress-NCP 40-50, the AAP 3-5 and others 3-7.

For Himachal Pradesh, Aaj Tak-Axis My India predicted a close contest between the Congress and the BJP. It said the BJP would get 24-34 seats and the Congress 30-40 seats.

India TV predicted that the BJP would bag 35-40 seats, the Congress 26-31 and the AAP zero.

Exit BJP! AAP likely to sweep MCD polls

BJP, Cong reject polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is set to sweep the MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) polls, according to multiple exit polls.

The exit poll findings are in tune with AAP supremo and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's oft-repeated claims that the voters in the national Capital are going to turf out the ruling BJP from the seat of power in one of the largest municipal bodies in the world providing civic services to an estimated population of more than 1.46 crore people.

Without exception every single exit poll predicted a thumping win for the AAP in the MCD polls held on Sunday.

An exit poll done by Aaj Tak-Axis My India gave the AAP between 149 and 171 wards and BJP 69-91 wards.

Another exit poll by Times Now-ETG predicted that Kejriwal's party getting anywhere between 146 and 156 wards and the BJP between 89-94 seats. News X-Jan Ki Baat exit poll gives the AAP 159-175 wards and the BJP 70-92. All the three channels' exit polls have the Congress getting 10 or less wards.

Both the BJP and the Congress, however, rejected the projections of the exit polls.

"We will wait for the final results, and we will accept the decision taken by the people of

MCD EXIT POLLS			
SOURCE	BJP	CONG	AAP
AAJ TAK-AXIS MY INDIA	69-91	3-7	149-171
NEWS X- JAN KI BAAT	70-92	04-07	159-175
TIMES NOW-ETG	84-94	6-10	146-156
ZEE NEWS-BARC	82-94	8-14	134-146
POLL OF EXIT POLLS	84 (-84)	6 (-22)	154 (+11)

the Capital. According to us, it is a very tough fight and we should wait till the final outcome," said BJP MP Manoj Tiwari. Congress leader Surendra Rajput said the party conducted a silent campaign and the same is likely to pay dividends.

The Congress has been projected to shrink to just three to seven seats, less than even independent candidates who may walk away with five to nine seats, as per the exit polls. AAP leader Jasmine Shah said his party's Government in the national Capital is supported by the people of the country everywhere.

Buoyed by the exit polls findings, Shah asserted the slated win of the party is victory of the Government that works to make the lives of the citizens better.

The AAP's performance — if the exit polls turn out correct on results day — would be a big setback for the BJP, which has been controlling the MCD for the past 15 years and which had mobilised dozens of Chief Ministers, Union Ministers and MPs for campaigning in Delhi.

On the other hand, the AAP found itself overstretched finding manpower and resources to simultaneously

contest polls in Gujarat and Delhi.

The MCD polls will also take the sting out of BJP's aggressive corruption pitch against the Kejriwal Government and alleged involvement of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the scam. The BJP had also devoted a great deal of time targeting Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain, who is incarcerated in the Tihar jail in a money-laundering case.

A decisive victory in the MCD polls will give better bargaining chips to Kejriwal in his dealings with Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena. The AAP and the Delhi LG are engaged in a day-to-day war of words, and Saxena has ordered a series of inquiries in several crucial decisions taken by the Delhi Government.

The BJP's strategy of connecting the Delhi local election with national issues and bringing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "development for all" message to the doorsteps of Delhi residents has seemingly failed to counter the AAP's narrative that the "corrupt MCD" has destroyed Delhi's civic amenities and turned the national capital into a garbage heap.

Lalu's kidney transplant successful



PTI ■ PATNA

RJD president Lalu Prasad, who underwent a "successful" kidney transplant surgery at Singapore on Monday, is conscious and responding, from his hospital bed, to greetings of near and dear ones, family members said.

Lalu went under the knife along with daughter Rohini Acharya, who donated one of her kidneys to her septuagenarian father.

Will never be caught alive: Goldy Brar

PNS/AGENCIES ■ CHANDIGARH

Goldy Brar, who has claimed responsibility for the murder of Sidhu Moosewala on May 29, appeared in an interview and refuted reports of his detention in the US as "fake" days after Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann made this claim.

Brar told a YouTube channel that he had long left Canada and USA and was "currently in Europe". He said he will "never be caught alive" and that in case he lands in a situation where he could be arrested, he always carries a weapon and would "shoot self dead".

CAPSULE

COURT: UMAR, SAIFI FACE BIG CONSPIRACY CHARGE

New Delhi: The charges against Umar Khalid and United Against Hate founder Khalid Saifi pertained to the "umbrella conspiracy" or the larger conspiracy of the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, a court here has said while discharging them in case linked to riots.

MUSLIMS BOYCOTT POLLS IN GUJ VILLAGE

Kheda: 1,400 Muslim voters from Undhela village in Gujarat's Kheda district on Monday boycotted voting during the second phase of Assembly polls in protest against the public flogging of some men from the community by police two months ago, community leaders said. Cops denied the claim.

J'KHAND MAN BEHEADS COUSIN OVER LAND ROW

Khunti (Jharkhand): A 20-year-old tribal man beheaded his 24-year-old cousin over a land dispute and the accused's friends took a selfie with the severed head in Khunti district, police said on Monday.

Chhawla rape-murder victim's family seeks review of SC acquittal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The parents of the 19-year-old Uttarakhnd girl who was gangraped and killed in Delhi's Chhawla area ten years ago filed a review petition on Monday in the Supreme Court against its judgment that acquitted all the three accused persons. Their petition was also backed by the Uttarakhnd Bachao Movement.

Delhi LG VK Saxena had cleared the files for filing review petition by the Delhi Police against the gruesome murder of the girl, whose body was found at Chhawla in 2012.

"This Hon'ble Court erred in holding that the entire prosecution case falls flat because the accused were neither identified in the depositions nor any Test Identification Parade was conducted on the accused.

"It is submitted that the instant is a case of circumstantial evidence and not direct evidence, and the circumstances in the instant case conclusively prove that the offences of kidnapping, rape and murder of the victim were done by the accused only," said the review petition filed by advocate Pranav Sachdev.

"The court erred in coming to the conclusion that the non-examination of the beat constables created serious doubts about circumstances under which the accused were arrested and the car was seized," the petition said.

The trial court and the High Court had convicted the accused with the death sentence. But the Supreme Court acquitted them citing lack of evidence and glaring faults from prosecution and investigation.

Modi chairs all-party meet, seeks suggestions for G-20 summit

Mamata, Naveen Shinde, Kejriwal, Stalin among CMs attend meeting

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday chaired an all-party meeting at the Rashtrapati Bhavan with Central Ministers, Chief Ministers of several States and other leaders to solicit suggestions for the G-20 Summit scheduled for September 9 and 10 next year in New Delhi.

Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, Sikkim's Prem Singh Tamang, Maharashtra's Eknath Shinde, and Delhi's Arvind Kejriwal attended the meeting.

Other Chief Ministers who attended the meeting were Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan



Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the all-party meeting on G20 summit in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

Reddy and Tamil Nadu's MK Stalin.

BJP president JP Nadda, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D Raja and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief Chandrababu Naidu were in attendance at the high level meet at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, External

Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister Piyush Goyal represented the Government at the meeting.

India assumed the G20 presidency on December 1. The country is expected to host over 200 preparatory meetings across the country beginning this month.

Modi has announced a domestic political campaign programme around the theme "One Earth-One Family-One Future".

City of Joy creator dies

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The winter sun had just set on Sunday when Asha Bhavan Centre got to know about the demise of celebrated French author Dominique Lapierre, who had donated much of the royalties he received from his 1985 novel "City of Joy" to establish the Howrah NGO and fund several other humanitarian causes in Bengal.

Mourning the loss, John Mary Barui, the director of the centre, said a prayer meet was arranged as soon as its members came to know about his death.

Asha Bhavan Centre, with the support of Lapierre, set up multiple schools in Bengal



30.7.1931 — 4.12.2022

over the years, stated Barui. Lapierre would often say India was his second home, he recalled.

The French author, who was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2008, breathed his last on December 4. "At 91, he died of old age," his wife Dominique Conchon-Lapierre told French newspaper Var-Matin.

Centre to set up 500 theaters to spread word on governace

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In a mega push for infotainment infrastructure for rural India, the Centre would open 500 cinema halls by the end of March 2023 with each having a seating capacity of around 150 audience.

To be initiated by the Ministry of Information Technology's digital arm Common Service Centre (CSC), the CSC Rural Cinema will be for the entertainment of villagers in remote areas and has a target of opening about one lakh cinema theatres across the villages of the country, said the sources. The sources also said that the platform will also be used to "propagate" the governance, development and several awareness programmes.

The CSC on Monday announced that it would open 500 cinema halls in rural areas

by March 2023 and 1,500 by December 2023 and by the fiscal end of 2024 it would be able to develop 10,000 such CSC Rural Cinema.

In this regard, CSC e-Governance Services India Limited signed an MoU with October Cinemas to take the entertainment through CSC Rural Cinema to rural areas. The MoU was signed between CSC, an SPV under the Ministry of Electronics and IT and October Cinemas aiming to open around one lakh small movie theatres in rural areas during the next couple of years.

"India is the world's largest entertainment market in terms of movie consumption. Our venture will have features to control piracy of films. We will provide all hardware and software equipment to Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) who run the CSC.

IMC launches 'No spitting' campaign

PNS ■ INDORE

The civic body of Madhya Pradesh's Indore, which has been ranked the country's cleanest city for the past six years in the Centre's Swachh Survekshan initiative, on Monday launched its 'No Thu Thu' campaign to curb spitting in public. In the first phase, people will be advised against spitting gutkha and paan etc in public, while the second phase will see fines being imposed, Indore Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava, who launched the campaign, said. The mayor launched the campaign from Mhow Naka intersection here by cleaning a road divider. "Indore is the leader in cleanliness across the country, but the habit of spitting paan-gutkha on the roads and their dividers as well as at intersections and other public places still exists. This results in red spots at public places," he said.

England, Croatia reach World Cup quarterfinals

AP ■ QATAR

England captain Harry Kane scored his first goal of this year's World Cup, helping his team beat Senegal 3-0 Sunday and setting up a match against France in the quarterfinals.

While Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic saved three penalty kicks in his team's 3-1 win over Japan in a shootout at the World Cup on Monday, securing a return to the quarterfinals for the runner-up in the 2018 tournament, Mario Pasalic converted the clinching penalty for Croatia after the teams were tied at 1-1 after extra time.

England's Kane scored for the 52nd time for his country to move within one of Wayne Rooney's England record. He



Japan players are ejected after Croatia's win in the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Japan and Croatia on Monday

AP

also overtook Gary Lineker as his country's leading scorer in major tournaments with 11 goals.

"The ball just sat up nicely and the connection was perfect," Kane said. "I had one just before that I should have done

better with so it was nice to see that one go in."

Jordan Henderson and Bukayo Saka also scored at Al Bayt Stadium while Jude Bellingham played a key role in the opening two goals and Phil Foden had two assists.

CM inspects lift irrigation project in Chhipaner Sehore-Harda road

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that officers-employees who work honestly will be rewarded and those who engage in irregularities will be made to sit at home and we will replace them. Chief Minister Chouhan stated this on Monday after conducting a surprise inspection of Chhipaner irrigation project and construction works of the Sehore-Harda road near Nasrullaganj in Sehore district.

Chief Minister Chouhan spot instructed SCS Water Resources SN Mishra to complete all the works by December 31 and start irrigation in 5 thousand 70 hectare after testing etc. He said that the quality of pump-



pipe line and canals should be of high standard. It is worth mentioning that after the commencement of this scheme, the fields of 69 villages of Sehore and Dewas districts will start getting irrigation water.

Describing the bridge of

irrigation scheme as his ambitious and dream project, Chief Minister Chouhan said that traffic on it will also start soon. The construction work of this bridge has been completed, only some works of the approach road are remaining, that too will be

completed by January 3 and if possible, it will be inaugurated on January 5 and will be given as a gift to the citizens of Sehore and Harda districts. Chief Minister Chouhan expressed satisfaction over the work of construction etc.

Chief Minister Chouhan made a surprise inspection of the government fair price shop in Chhipaner. During this, he inquired about regular opening of ration shops and maintenance of stock register. Chief Minister Chouhan checked the quality of the ration by getting the ration kept in the ration shop weighed and through assessment of the prescribed quantity. Chief Minister Chouhan sought information from beneficiaries who came to the ration shop for ration whether

the shop opens on time or not and whether everyone gets ration on time or not. Beneficiaries talked about getting ration on time and told that they have no complaint regarding ration.

Chief Minister Chouhan also discussed with the citizens of Chhipaner regarding the voter list. He instructed to include the names of all voters who have completed 18 years of age in the voter list. He said that no voter's name should be missed in the voter's list. Along with this, in the polling stations where the progress is less, Kotwar should get munadi (proclamation) done, so that the names of all eligible youths are added to the voter list. MP Ramakant Bhargav along with other public representatives was present.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jhalawar, Rajasthan on Monday.

Pioneer photo

Corneal transplant in two patients in AIIMS Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Awareness regarding eye donation is increasing in the society. AIIMS Bhopal - Department of Ophthalmology has been at the forefront of such activities in central India under the visionary leadership of our Director Prof Dr Ajai Singh. Recently the eye department received 3 eyes and the corneal tissues were immediately utilized for transplantation in two patients.

Prof Bhavana Sharma, Head, Ophthalmology informed that, by employing latest surgical techniques, ensure utilization of a single corneal tissue for transplantation in multiple patients. This is possible because only the affected layer of the cornea is replaced by donated tissue.

The Hospital Corneal Retrieval Program was started

The Hospital Corneal Retrieval Program was started by the Department of Ophthalmology, due to which 2 eye donations were received by Gopal Das and Sandeep Kumar

by the Department of Ophthalmology, due to which 2 eye donations were received by Gopal Das and Sandeep Kumar Bhattacharya in the last 5 days.

Their relatives were motivated for eye donation by the eye bank team of AIIMS and got eye donation done. Donated corneas were transplanted to needy patients. A 60-year-old patient had Ulcer in the pupil of the eye for the last 2 weeks, due

to which there was pus in the eye. For the treatment of this patient in AIIMS Hospital, the pupil of patient Omvati's eye was replaced. Another 25-year-old patient developed whiteness of the eye due to Herpes infection. For this, the patient was undergoing treatment for the last few years and was also taking medicines, but due to non-recovery, the doctor of AIIMS Hospital changed the membrane of the eye for the treatment of the patient.

The third 60-year-old patient had cataract, along with that the patient also had problems in the pupil of the eye. For the treatment of this patient in AIIMS Hospital, along with cataract operation, the membrane of the eye was also successfully replaced. AIIMS, Bhopal and the patients who have undergone eye transplant will always be grateful to all eye donors and their families.

MLA Rameshwar Sharma and Mayor flag start bus service for Bilkisganj

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

City bus service has started between Nilbad and Bilkisganj in Bhopal. MLA Rameshwar Sharma and Mayor Malti Rai flagged off 12 city buses on Monday. MLA Sharma said that every village will be connected by city buses so that even the villagers can travel in city buses.

Total 12 city buses of route no-304 run from Nadra to Nilbad, now these buses will ply 12 km ahead till Bilkisganj. This will benefit the people of more than a dozen villages. BCLL (Bhopal City Link Limited) will operate the buses.

Buses will reach Neelbad via Nadra. Then Berkhedhi jod , Kalkhedha jod, Ratibad, Sarwar Semri jod, Chhota Jhagaria Mundla jod , Barjhiiri, Amla jod, Khurchini jod and reach Bilkisganj Jhagaria.

MLA Sharma said that when the children of the village go to study in the city, they first have to go through the problems of transportation. Due to this there is hindrance in their studies. Farmers also face problems in taking their produce 'vegetables, grains, fruits' etc. to the city market.

In such a situation, the operation of these buses will not only benefit the villagers, but will also help in realizing the dreams of their children. Now bus facility has been extended in some parts of Huzur. Soon this bus facility will be launched in other areas as well. About 1.25 lakh passengers travel in city buses in Bhopal in a day. They charge a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 42 rupees as fare. All buses are fitted with GPS tracking system and cameras.

World Soil Day celebrated with farmers by KVK and NABARD, at KVK Dhar

PNS ■ DHAR

District level Farmers Quiz and Awareness Program was held here on Monday at KVK, Dhar in association with NABARD on the occasion of World Soil Day on December 05, 2022. A session was held on Soil Health Management and Organic Farming. The importance of maintaining healthy soil, need for soil testing and aspects related to soil nutrition, organic farming and vermicomposting were highlighted. The program was attended by Dr Asati, Director, Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Dr G S Gathiye, Dr S S Chouhan and Shri D S Mandloi and Sagarika Chaphekar, DDM, NABARD, Dhar.

The concluding remarks were given by Deputy Director



Agriculture, Dhar GS Mohniya who appealed to all farmers to start organic farming on a small scale and take efforts to maintain the required level of PH and carbon in the soil. The prizes were sponsored by NABARD and were given at the hands of Mohniya and Dr SK Asati.

Chaphekar and Dr Chauhan conducted the Farmers Quiz, wherein ques-

tions related to agriculture in MP and agri practices were asked. The first prize winner from each DDM district will participate in the State Level Quiz to be conducted by NABARD, MP RO, Bhopal. The participation was from FPOs promoted by NABARD, FPOs under Central Sector Scheme and other progressive farmers. About 100 farmers participated in the event.



Madhya Pradesh Home Guards and Civil Defence personnel during full dress rehearsal ahead of the 76th Raising Day celebrations of Home Guards & Civil Defence and Disaster Emergency Response Force, in Bhopal on Monday.

Pioneer photo

Miscreant asked to make emergency calls and fled with mobile phone

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Baghsewania police have arrested a thief who stole mobile phones and would also ask people to provide mobile phones to make emergency calls at AIIMS Bhopal and escape with the mobile phone; 10 mobile phones worth Rs 1.5 lakh were recovered from the possession of the accused.

After receiving several complaints of mobile theft and escaping with mobile phones a team was formed to investigate thefts in AIIMS Bhopal were revealed after working in different areas for a few hours.

Chandramohan Ahirwar of Sironj lodged a complaint on December 3 that his brother Rajkumar had an accident and was taken to AIIMS Bhopal for treatment and on November 11 he was taken for checkup and victim was standing in line during which mobile phone has two SIM with mobile numbers 7223885860, 6268220952 was stolen.

During the investigation, the incident site was inspected and on the basis of the suspicious behavior reported by the complainant and the CCTV camera footage around

The accused accepted stealing and escaping with several mobile phones and 10 mobile phones were recovered from his possession

the incident site, a search was conducted for the accused in which the team was successful and the accused Rakesh Mehra alias Halke was arrested.

The accused accepted stealing and escaping with several mobile phones and 10 mobile phones were recovered from his possession. The offender was booked under Section 41 (1-4) of the CrPC Act.

Accused Rakesh Mehra alias Halke targets most of the hospitals, he goes inside AIIMS and targets patients at hospitals in distressed condition and takes mobile phone to talk to the patient after explaining his problem to the patient's family and on the pretext of talking he escapes with the mobile phones.

Sadhvi's Sansad chaupal held in Berasia

Bhopal: Bhopal MP Sadhvi Pragya Singh held 'Sansad Chaupal' in Berasia and Tarawli village. The MP was seen upset over the delay in shifting of the power line in Berasia. He also reprimanded the officer of the electricity company from the stage. People also approached her in Tarawli with many problems.

The 1100 KVA power line is passing through Ward-13 of Berasia, which is very low. Because of this many accidents happened due to electric shock. For the last one year, people have been raising the demand to shift the line, but it could not be shifted.

In MP Chaupal, people surrounded the officials in front of MP Thakur. Not only complained to the MP, but also introduced the people injured due to electrocution. A girl also reached the stage whose hand was badly injured. Seeing the hand, the MP reprimanded the officials. Some people also were seen at the venue who became hearing and speech impaired after coming in grip of the high tension power line.

Hearing the problems of the people, the MP reprimanded the officers of the electricity company and asked to shift the line. The MP also assured a girl to get a government job. Berasia MLA Vishnu Khatri was also present on the stage.

SBI contributes Rs 1.17 lakh in Armed Forces Flag Day fund

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Fulfilling its Corporate Social Responsibilities, Chief General Manager of State Bank of India, Bhopal Circle, Binod Kumar Mishra handed over a cheque of Rs1,10,000 (Rupees One Lac Ten Thousand only) to Col. Yashwant K Singh, District Soldier Welfare Officer, (Shaurya Chakra) and an amount of Rs 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lac only) has also been given to Directorate of Sainik Welfare, Chattisgarh as a contribution to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

Binod Kumar Mishra said on the occasion that this amount is SBI's humble contribution to the welfare of War Bereaved, War Disabled and other ex-Servicemen/ Serving Personnel. He said, "At SBI, we are strongly committed to inclusive growth, building communities and aligning with the national priorities.

Our contribution to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund is a humble gesture to support the welfare of our Armed Forces. We express our gratitude to soldiers who valiantly safeguard our nation and protect its citizens despite

The focus area of the Bank's CSR activities is aimed at supporting education, health care, assistance to the poor and underprivileged

facing enormous hardships."

He also said that the Corporate Social Responsibility activities of the Bank touch the lives of millions of poor and needy across the country. The focus area of the Bank's CSR activities is aimed at supporting education, health care, assistance to the poor and underprivileged, environment protection, livelihood creation and assistance during natural calamities like floods/droughts etc.

SBI General Managers Shailendra Singh Taragi, BL Saini, Neeraj Prasad, Lokesh Chandra DGM (B&O) of Bhopal Module and other officials of SBI were also present at the occasion.

Increase in night temperature witnessed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

After intense cold nights few regions have witnessed an increase in night temperature, the state capital recorded night temperature at 14.8 degree celsius while Indore recorded it at 16.8 degree celsius.

Day temperatures rose to 31 degree celsius and the highest was recorded at 31.5 degree celsius. Khargone was recorded at 31 degree celsius.

Bhopal recorded day temperature at 29 degree celsius and in the next 24 hours change in the weather conditions is likely to occur. The western region of the state witnessed higher temperatures than eastern region of the state.

The weather conditions would change due to the low pressure area created in the Bay of Bengal which has induced cloud cover in the state and due to this, the temperature of the night has crossed 15 degree cel-



sus and remained around 30 degree celsius during the day.

The Met said that for the next 48 hours, the weather will continue to be warm like this. Due to cloud cover during the day, the heat of the sun will be less, but it will increase the temperature at night. There will be a rise in temperature for three days. Coldness would be witnessed after 2-3 days as in the current systems there is less possibility of the temperature to dip

down steeply.

Strong winds coming from the Himalayas to India via Pakistan in December and due to snowfall in the Himalayas, it becomes more intense. This causes hail and rain in northern India. Due to this, the coolness increases in Madhya Pradesh, but no strong system has been witnessed in the first week of December. Western disturbances are coming, but it is not strong enough.

AIIMS Bhopal organises health camp at Lal Ghati



STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Taking forward the series of social outreach camp activities, AIIMS Bhopal organized another health camp under the joint aegis of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services. Under the guidance of Executive Director AIIMS Bhopal, Prof (Dr) Ajai Singh and the leadership of Dr. Ashwani Tandon, Associate Dean (Academics), a team of doctors from different departments of AIIMS organized this camp at Idgah

Hills and examined the patients.

In this camp, after the registration of patients, general and specialist medical consultation was provided and about 175 patients were examined and medicines were distributed. Along with this, all the patients were also given training on hand washing, daily hygiene, teeth cleaning/oral hygiene, etc. In the camp, patients related to Gastro-intestinal, urinary, neurological, dental/oral, ENT, joint disorders, malnutrition

related and dermatological patients were specially examined.

In this health camp, Dr. Anjan Sahu (ENT Department), Dr. Anshul Rai (Department of Dentistry), Dr. Ashish Dixit (AYUSH Department), Dr. Ananthakrishnan M (Community and Family Medicine Department), Dr. Seenam Shaikh Hanafi (Department of Pediatrics), and Dr. Sri Nivetha T (Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics) contributed.

Aim of education is to reveal the natural talents of students: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the aim of education and religion of teachers is to reveal the natural talent of the students. The "Anugoonj" program organized by School Education serves this purpose very well. I am overwhelmed to see the children's works of art in the exhibition here. The clay toys, paintings, photographs and other works made by them are amazing. These children will become the best photographer, artist, scientist, musician etc.

Chouhan attended the closing ceremony of "Anugoonj" organized by the School Education Department at Government Subhash Excellent School on Monday. He enjoyed and appreciated the presenta-

tions of the students and also blessed the children. Wife of the Chief Minister, Smt. Sadhna Singh, Mayor Mrs. Malti Rai, MLA Mrs. Krishna Gaur and Nagar Nigam Chairman Kishan Suryavanshi were present.

Chouhan said that new education system has been implemented in the state. We will create a new history in the field of education. Earlier Madhya Pradesh was at 17th position in the country in the field of education, now it has come at 5th position. Children of government schools in Madhya Pradesh are performing excellently in every field. The day will come in Madhya Pradesh when people will take children out of private schools and send them to government schools.

Chouhan said that soon 50 thousand teachers will be recruited in the Education

Department and Scheduled Tribe Welfare Department. They will be given respectable remuneration and other facilities. In the next 3 years CM Rise School will beat other schools.

The Chief Minister told the students that every child among you can do the biggest work. Swami Vivekananda used to say that we are not ordinary human beings, we are part and parcel of God, the storehouse of infinite powers. Know your strengths. Education provides an opportunity to reveal the inner potential of the individual.

Chouhan said that apart from providing laptops to the students who have scored more than 75 percent marks in class 12th in the state, the government is also paying the fees for higher education of such students on admission to various professional courses.

Chouhan told the parents that they should not only ask their children to study, but also motivate them in the field of sports and arts according to their interest. Chouhan raised slogans along with the children – We will play, we will touch the sky. We will study and we will touch the sky.

The Chief Minister said that I feel proud to inform that the teachers of Sehore district are doing a unique innovation together. It has been resolved by them that smart classes should be made in all the government schools of the district. For this, the teachers are collecting funds at their own level and are also taking help from the villagers. Their effort is to make smart classrooms by installing televisions in all the schools without government help. It is a revolution and the passion of teachers who are taking education

forward in government schools.

Minister of State for School Education (Independent Charge) Inder Singh Parmar said that through Anugunj program, the government is working to move forward by combining art and education. The talents of our children are being developed and they are being established at the national level. Through their art, the students of Madhya Pradesh are spreading the message of "One India, Best India" to the whole country. From this year this program has also been started at the divisional level. He appreciated the art of students Vineet Gayatri Singh (Dance), Janhvi Rhagav (Dramatics), Abhay Khare (Dramatics).

Chouhan duly inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp. Before this, he saw and appreciated the artworks of the students in the exhibition.



Students of Government schools perform at a cultural programme "Anugoonj" organised by MP School Education Department in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo



Visitors go through a group photographers photo exhibition organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan at Swaraj Bhawan in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

Farmers Seminar organised at Bio-Fertilizer Center of Department of Soil Science

PNS ■ JABALPUR

Soil which is called our mother with respect is slowly becoming dead, everyone should be aware of this. Work has to be done with seriousness, so that conservation and enrichment of the soil can be done to maintain health of the soil and for this, agricultural students, scientists and farmers should work together, said Brajesh Dutt Arjaria, Member of the Board of the University on the occasion of World Soil Day program and Farmers Seminar organised at Bio-Fertilizer Center of Department of Soil Science.

Special guest of the program and progressive Agricultural Eng K.K. Aggarwal said that the change in the basic nature of the soil is a matter of concern for all of us. Our farmer brothers should pay more attention to this subject, so that quality food grains are obtained from healthy soil.

Students should choose the right direction and do research work, so that the problem of food grains in the future would be witnessed.

In Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jabalpur program on World Soil Day was organised which

was based on the theme of "Soil: Where Food Begins", Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

The chief guest director of the program elaborated services, Dr. DP Sharma Director said that extension services have helped in solving the challenges faced by the soil in the changing environment and promoting natural farming.

Director Research Services Dr. G.K. Kotu said that emphasized on research and conservation of old methods and adapt research according to the challenges of the future.

Dr. PB Sharma Dean Agriculture College, Jabalpur said that by adopting integrated farming system for sustainable farming, the health of the soil also improves.

Dr. N.G. Mitra, Head of the Department of Soil Science shared details on the utility of biofertilizers and soil health, Dr. TR. Sharma, Chief Scientist and Deputy Registrar shared information about the usefulness of soil health cards in horticulture crops.

The role of the Public Welfare Committee was commendable. On this occasion, about 90 farmers and farmers and women of Jabalpur district participated.

Inter-State cyber gang busted for providing 'work from home'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has busted an international cyber fraud gang running a fake call centre for duping unemployed youths on the promise of providing them with work from home roles with an e-commerce company, officials said on Monday.

Four accused -- Amit Kedia (30), Sachin Gupta (36), Rohit Jain (36) and Pradeep Kumar (34) -- were arrested, police said, adding that the kingpin of the gang, Gulati, operated from Dubai.

The accused posed as officials of the e-commerce firm and procured details of job seekers from various online job providing portals such as Naukri.Com and Shine.Com, they said.

The matter came to light after a complaint was received from a woman who alleged that she received a message from an unknown mobile number. The caller introduced himself as Nathalie from Amazon Company and subsequently, she was cheated of

Rs. 3,15,745 on the pretext of work from home after she followed the link to a fake website that was shared by the accused in a WhatsApp message sent to her.

During enquiry, it was found that the cheated money was transferred to various bank accounts via Paytm, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said technical analysis of call details and money transaction revealed that the complainant received a WhatsApp message from a Philippines number and the cheated money was transferred to various bank accounts of different metropolitan cities of India.

When accused Pradeep Kumar was apprehended, he disclosed that he used to sell activated current bank accounts of his locality to his associates Amit Kedia and Sachin Gupta and based on his instances, his two associates were apprehended and more bank accounts were recovered from their possession, he said.

CM conducts surprise inspection of newly constructed access road and bridge

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan creached Chhipaner in Sehore district on Monday and conducted a surprise inspection of the newly constructed access road and bridge. CM Shri Chouhan obtained information about the construction work from Executive Engineer Public Works Subhash Patil.

He instructed that the construction of the access road should positively be completed by the end of December. Strict action will be taken if the work is not completed on time. CM Chouhan said that the access road and bridge will

be dedicated on January 5. He also listened to the problems of the villagers present on the spot and directed the officials to resolve them.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that this bridge connecting Sehore and Harda is my ambitious project. A three kilometer long approach road is being constructed from Chhoti Chhipaner to Narmada river bridge at a cost of Rs. 6 crore 41 lakh.

Its construction will be completed by the end of December. With the construction of this road, the distance from Harda to Bhopal will be reduced by about 35 kilometers, which will provide a lot of convenience to the residents of

Harda district.

A long bridge of 840 meter has been constructed on the border of Harda and Sehore districts at a cost of Rs. 38 crore 66 lakh. With the construction of this access road, the use of this bridge will also start.

Chief Minister Chouhan discussed with Collector Rishi Garg and inquired about disposal of applications received under the Mukhya Mantri Jan Seva Abhiyan.

He also inquired about other roadways in Harda district. He instructed to give top priority to solving people's problems. Bhopal Divisional Commissioner Mal Singh and other officers were present.



On the 5th day of the monthly death anniversary of late Vijesh Lunawat, Vijesh Lunawat Smriti Foundation distributed woolen clothes, shawls, blankets, caps and socks to the children, women and men in the slums of Rahul Nagar, Aradhana Nagar and Nehru Nagar. Smita Vijesh Lunawat, Secretary and other members of the Foundation were present. VLF is doing seva work every 5th continuously for last one and half years. Today around 1500 clothes were distributed. Pioneer photo

EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD (FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINACNE LTD)				
Corporate Office: No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai, TN - 600 002				
POSSESSION NOTICE (U/s. Rule 8 (1) - for immovable property)				
Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with (Rule 3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers to repay the total outstanding amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Since the below mentioned Borrowers having failed to repay the below stated amount within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the below mentioned borrowers and the public in general that, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule mentioned properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited and further interest and other charges thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets."				
Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession	
Branch : Mhow LAN No. SEIBMO0212496 Borrowers: 1. Mr. GOPAL 2. Mrs. MANJU BAI	ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF LAND ALONG WITH BUILDING SITUATED AT: VILLAGE: NAGPUR BEARING PH. NO.17 KHANO 151 TEHSIL: SANWER AND DISTRICT - INDORE M.P. TOTAL MEASURING OF AREA-29'34"-886 Sq. Ft. (As per Patta- 34'32"=1088 Sq. Ft.) North by : House of Vishnu, South by : House of Mahawan, East by : Common Road, West by : House of Trachand, Measurement : AREA-29'34"-886 Sq. Ft. (As per Patta- 34'32"-1088 Sq. Ft.) Situated at Within the Sub-Registration District of INDORE and Registration District of INDORE	29-08-2022 & Rs.970120/-	01.12.2022	
Place : Indore		Date : 06-12-2022		Authorised Officer, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

Therapists from Kerala to perform panchkarma in Bhopal's ayurveda hospital, near Kaliasot

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Country's first Government Panchakarma and Wellness Center will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on December 6

a cost of Rs 10 crore. Right now a 150-bed Panchakarma unit is being operated in the Ayurvedic College.

About 200 patients get Panchakarma done daily. Keeping in view the increasing interest of the people towards Panchakarma and the increasing number of patients, a hi-tech unit has been set up. At present there is a waiting period of one and a half months in

Complete ban on use of mobile phones at Mahakal temple

PNS ■ UJJAIN

From December 20 a complete ban on mobile phones would be imposed at World famous Baba Mahakaleshwar temple. Devotees along with VVIP officers and priests will not be able to take mobile phones in Mahakal temple.

A few days ago, mobile phones was completely banned in Sanctum Sanctorum and Nandi hall, but now from December 20, mobile phone ban will be implemented in the entire Mahakal temple.

A decision has been taken in the meeting of the Mahakal Temple Management Committee regarding the increase of Rs 60 in the price of the most famous Laddu Prasad of Mahakal Temple.


The cost of laddu prasad of Mahakal temple is Rs 374. Collector Ashish Singh says

A few days ago, mobile phones was completely banned in Sanctum Sanctorum and Nandi hall

that even after an increase of Rs 60, a loss of Rs 14 has to be borne by committee. Devotees will get laddu prasad for Rs 360 rupees instead of Rs 300 rupees after 3 days in Mahakal temple.

Double top buses will be run from the temple of Ujjain Baba Mahakal, the devotees can get ride during their visit to Ujjain.

The dress code of the employees has been fixed in the Mahakal temple. Due to which the coming devotees will be able to identify the people of the committee.



कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल
यांत्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय) गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.ई.एल.)
निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र

भोपाल, दिनांक 30.11.2022

क्र. 166/यां.वि./2022

निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत टेकेदार परसेन्टेज मोहर बंद निविदाये निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	घरोहर राशि	प्रपत्र राशि	कार्य हेतु निर्धारित एम.ओ.आर.	कार्य की अवधि
01	2022_UAD_235461_1	Construction of cc road drain of Ashoka garden A and B sector and various places of zone 12	1,35,71,353	67,857	12,500	MPUADD ISSR 2021	6 Month/-

1. Interested bidders can view the NIT on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in/>

2. The Bid Document can be purchased only online from 10:30 A.M. (time) 01.12.2022 (date) to 17:30 P.M. (time) 30.12.2022 (date).

3. Amendments to NIT (if any) would be published on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in/> only, and not in newspaper.

The initial period of 05 (Five) year after completion shall be treated as Defect Liability Period (DLP)


कार्यपालन यंत्री (सिविल)

नगर निगम भोपाल

क्र. 912/022/023

रजिस्ट्री सं. सी.एल.- 33004/99

REGD. No. D. L-33004/99



भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्रकाशित से प्रकाशित
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नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, नवम्बर 23, 2022/ अग्रहायण 2, 1944
NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022/ AGRAHAYANA 2, 1944

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 23rd November, 2022

S.O. 5446(E).-- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building(widening/2 laning with paved shoulder), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway in the stretch of land from Km 0+000 to 40+500 km. in (Jirapur to Susner MP-RJ-Border-Road) in the district of Jhalawar, in the state of Rajasthan, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, the Sub Divisional Officer (Revenue) and land Acquisition Officer Gangdhar, District Jhalawar, in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, eitherallow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling within the stretch of land from Km. 0+000 to 40+500 km. to. (Jirapur to Susner MP-RJ-Border-Road) (Tehsil-Dag) National Highway NH- 752B in the district of Jhalawar, in the state of Rajasthan.

State: RAJASTHAN
District: JHALAWAR

S.No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)	Area (in Hectare)
Taluk: Dag					
Village: Naharghatti					
1	405/2, 405/3, 405/6	Government (Gair Majruwa)	Ka. Ka., Banjar, Rasta	0.0190000 (Hectare)	0.0190000
2	406	Government (Gair Majruwa)	Nadi	0.2140000 (Hectare)	0.2140000
3	407	Government (Gair Majruwa)	Rasta	0.0350000 (Hectare)	0.0350000
4	411	Government (Gair Majruwa)	Ka. Ka.	0.2200000 (Hectare)	0.2200000
Total				0.4880	0.4880

[F. No. CE-RO BPL/30010/36/2018-19/3A]
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

G-20032/22

Modi, BJP brass deliberate upon State, LS polls strategy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Highlighting India's presidency of the G-20 as a matter of "pride" for all citizens and an opportunity to establish global Indianness and its culture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday deliberated with BJP leaders the strategies and planning for coming Assembly polls and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections barely 16 months away.

The PM arrived in the national capital after casting his vote in the Assembly elections of Gujarat and was welcomed by party president JP Nadda at the BJP headquarters where he inaugurated the party's national office-bearers meeting. Addressing a key closed-door meeting of BJP leaders from across the country, Modi asked party members to maintain a direct connect with border villagers and said they should be developed as places that draw visitors.

Besides its national office-bearers, presidents and general secretaries (organisation) of the BJP's state units are also part of the meeting chaired by the party's national president J P Nadda.

Former Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh briefed reporters on the meeting and Modi's address in the meeting which would conclude on Tuesday.



Photo: Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

The prime minister said there is an acknowledgement worldwide of the country's emergence as an economic power amid global challenges like the Ukraine war and the Covid pandemic. He spoke about G-20 meet which India is hosting for the first time saying the event gives India an opportunity to project itself in the world community.

According to sources, the meeting took up the slew of State elections lined-up next year including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, besides Tripura and Chhattisgarh ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, and detailed preparations for the big challenge of 2024 Lok Sabha poll. Modi lauded the "Kashi Tamil Sangamam", a month-long event going on in Varanasi that celebrates ancient cultural ties between the two places. Modi said "sneh milan"

programmes, an idea he had first voiced during the party's national executive meeting in Hyderabad, should be promoted for cultural exchanges as being seen in Kashi, an ancient name of Varanasi.

Singh said the two-day meeting will be discussing various topical issues and also upcoming state elections. Party leaders are deliberating on further strengthening its presence at booths.

Besides its national office-bearers, presidents and general secretaries (organisation) of the BJP's state units are also part of the meeting chaired by the party's national president J P N

Various groups of leaders, including Union ministers, have also been roped in to strengthen the party's presence, especially in places where it lost in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and is eyeing victory in 2024.

G-20: India pitches for hope, healing, harmony to deal with global issues

Accelerating progress on health, edu, climate finance, tech transformation, digital public infrastructure on the plate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With India assuming G-20 presidency earlier this month, its G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant on Monday made a strong pitch for working together through hope, harmony and healing to deal with the global challenges, with a focus on developing countries and the Global South whose voice is often unheard.

Kickstarting the first meeting of the G-20 Sherpas in Udaipur, Kant also highlighted India's initiatives such as Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and direct benefit transfer that have helped lift a vast population above the poverty line.

Kant said the issue notes on 13 working groups have already been circulated among the participants. The notes address concerns such as accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth; accelerating progress on sustainable development goals, particularly health and educa-

tion, climate finance, technological transformation and digital public infrastructure. "We will be in the listening mode as you guide us and as we get your perspective," he said.

On Sunday, he had flagged rising global debt, inflation and slowdown in growth, sharp differences over the Ukraine conflict as key challenges facing the world.

Kant stressed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said India's Presidency would like to be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented and decisive.

"The challenges that we face today can be solved only by working together through hope, harmony and healing and our first concern should be towards those whose need is greatest," he said at the opening session of the deliberations focusing on technological transformation in the digital economy.

Kant said India's G-20 Presidency will seek to advocate the priorities of the developing countries and the Global

South in addition to that of the G-20 partners.

"Our perspective is that we should have a win-win collaboration between all of us, developing countries, Global South, and advanced economies. We need to build new approaches, this is a unique form of both the developed world and emerging economies. We need to build approaches to benefit the world on key global issues," he said.

The first session of discussions on Monday focussed on technological transformation in the digital economy, health and education, while the second will be on green development and India's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative.

There will be three more sessions on Tuesday that will focus on accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth, multilateralism and food, fuel and fertilisers, women-led development, tourism and culture.

India formally assumed the G-20 Presidency on December 1.

Govt to set agenda for Parl Winter Session, all-party meet today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has convened an all-party meet of floor leaders on Tuesday to discuss the legislative agenda and important issues likely to be discussed in the Winter Session of Parliament beginning December 7.

For his part, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will also on Tuesday chair a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee ahead of the session. This time, he has decided to call a BAC meet instead of the customary all-party meet on the eve of the session, sources said.

The BAC discusses the legislative agenda of the House as well as issues on which parties would like to have discussion. Last week, the government had listed 16 new bills for introduction in the Winter Session.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi had recently sent out invites to floor leaders of various parties to attend the all-party meet.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to be present.

The session begins a day before the votes of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh assembly elections, along with those of six assembly and one Lok Sabha bypolls, are counted. The government has also sought the cooperation of party leaders to ensure smooth functioning of both the Houses. The Winter Session of Parliament will commence on December 7 and continue till December 29, having 17 sittings spread over 23 days.

IN SHORT

AKHILESH PRASAD BIHAR CONG COMMITTEE PREZ

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha MP Akhilesh Prasad Singh was on Monday appointed president of the Bihar Congress Committee with immediate effect. Singh has been a part of the G23 grouping which has been critical of the party leadership in the past.

SC QUASHES TAJ MAHAL RELATED HISTORY PLEA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking removal of alleged wrong historical facts related to the construction of the Taj Mahal from history books and find the age of the monument. The 17th century monument is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

SC TO HEAR CBI REPORT ON MULAYAM, AKHILESH PLEA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Monday it will hear the submissions on whether the petitioner can be given the copy of a CBI report on closure of its preliminary enquiry into allegations of amassing disproportionate assets against former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister late Mulayam Singh Yadav and his son Akhilesh Yadav.

31% FALL IN CROP BURNING IN PUNJAB, HARYANA

New Delhi: The total number of paddy crop residue burning events during September 15-October 30 period in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and NCR districts of UP and Rajasthan have come down to 53,792 this year, a reduction of over 31 per cent, compared to the corresponding period in 2021, according to data shared by authorities on Monday. The total active fire counts (for 'kharif' season) in Punjab, Haryana, and NCR districts of UP and Rajasthan, and Delhi for 2021 had stood at 78,550 in 2021.

REPORT ON ASHAs, ANMs' ROLE IN COVID RELEASED

New Delhi: Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Melinda French Gates, Co-Chair, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on Monday jointly released a report "Grassroot Soldiers: Role of ASHAs and ANMs in the Covid-19 Pandemic Management in India," here detailing the key role of ASHAs and ANMs in India's pandemic response strategy.

'Oil import from Russia driven by market forces'

India reiterates its stand on Ukraine with Germany, says EU bought more oil

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India on Monday strongly defended importing oil from Russia during the ongoing Ukraine conflict and said it is largely driven by market forces. Moreover, European Union (EU) has bought more oil from Russia than India during the last few months, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

This assertion in the backdrop of some European nations and the US criticizing India for procuring fuel from Russia came during talks here with his visiting German counterpart Annalena Baerbock. She arrived on Monday for a two-day visit to India.

Enunciating New Delhi's position on the war, Jaishankar also said India's position on the Ukraine issue is clear that this is not an era of war and that the conflict should be resolved through dialogue.

As regards the issue of oil, he said, "The European Union from February to November has imported more fossil fuel from Russia than the next 10 countries combined. The oil import in European Union is six times what India has imported, gas is infinite times because we don't



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany Annalena Baerbock during a meeting, in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

import it"

Addressing a joint press meet with the German minister after talks, Jaishankar also said "I would urge you to look at these figures. There is a website called 'Russia Fossil Fuel Tracker' it would give you country-by-country data of who is really importing what and I suspect that might be very very helpful." Russian war in Ukraine brought difficulty for Indian energy supply, the German Minister said.

Jaishankar said there is a finite amount of energy resources and Europe cannot make choices to prioritise its energy needs while asking India to do something else. Jaishankar said the situation in Afghanistan and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan figured in talks with his German counterpart. He said there cannot be talks with Pakistan if it continues cross-border terrorism.

On the signing of the mobility pact between India and Germany, he said it is a strong signal of basis for a more contemporary bilateral partnership. The agreement will make it easier for people to study, do research and work in each other's country. On trade ties, Jaishankar said Germany is India's largest partner in the EU. India also flagged the issue of delay in visas by Germany.

The visiting German minister described India as a role model for many countries and noted that Berlin wants to bolster its security cooperation with New Delhi. Asked about challenges facing the region from China, Baerbock said there is a need to assess the threats while describing Beijing as a competitor and rival in many ways.

Report: People living near traffic hotspots at higher cardiovascular, respiratory, mental disorder risk

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

If you are an adult and happen to live near traffic areas emitting high air-pollution—fine particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) – then most chances are that you face the higher risk of having at least neurological, respiratory, cardiovascular and common mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety.

Published in journal Frontiers in Public Health, a largest study worldwide said that those participants exposed to higher concentrations (above 10µg/m3) of fine particulate matter had a 21 per cent increased risk of two or more co-occurring conditions compared to those exposed to concentrations below 10µg/m3.

For participants exposed to



above 30µg/m3 of NO2 the research showed a 20 per cent increased risk of having two or more co-occurring conditions compared to those participants that were exposed to concentrations of NO2 below 20µg/m3.

The study was conducted on more than 364,000 people. "The strongest associations were observed for co-occurring neurological, respiratory, cardiovascular and common mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety," said the study led by researchers from Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN), King's College London.

SC asks Centre to draw uniform rules for cadaveric organ transplant in States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to consider as representation a plea which has sought uniformity of rules governing cadaveric organ transplant in all the States. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha, which was hearing a PIL filed by an organisation named 'Gift of Life Adventure Foundation', was apprised about the lack of uniformity in rules relating to organ transplantation.

The plea said the imposition of the mandate of producing a domicile certificate for getting registered as an organ recipient in a state in case of cadaveric organ transplant was "arbitrary". Due to the lack of uniformity, some states imposed conditions such as a recipient will have to produce a domicile certificate of a period of 10 to 15 years to be eligible for cadaver organ transplant. The bench, which refused to entertain the PIL, however, agreed to ask the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to consider examining the plea as a representation on the issue of lack of uniform rules.

Fix responsibility for illicit liquor, drug menace in Punjab: Apex court orders State Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The youth will be finished," an anguished Supreme Court said on Monday voicing concern over the burgeoning illicit liquor trade and drug menace in Punjab, and asked the State Government to fix responsibility on the local police for failing to keep vigil. A bench of justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar asked the Punjab government to spell out specific steps taken to curb the production and sale of illegal liquor.

Senior advocate Ajit Kumar Sinha, appearing for the Punjab Government, assured the court that the State is taking action and has already destroyed over 13,000 illegal liquor bhat-tis (distilleries).

"We are not concerned with government A or government B. So far as Punjab is concerned, the drugs problem is increasing. The youth will be finished. It is very unfortunate that this is happening. Who is the sufferer? The poor people. Illegal manufacture and transportation has to stop because it ultimately affects the health and the society", the apex court said.

Indian Navy to don new Prez standard, colour, crest, do away with colonial design

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy will now have a new design of the President's Standard and Colour and the Indian Navy crest. It was unveiled at Visakhapatnam on Navy Day on December 4. It is a change from the colonial past.

Giving details here on Monday, navy officials said President Droupadi Murmu has approved the introduction of a new design for the President's Standard and Colour and Indian Navy Crest.

Resonant to the ongoing national endeavour to move away from the colonial past, the Naval Ensign was amended to a new Design that draws inspiration from our history wherein the Red Horizontal and Vertical Lines on the White Ensign were replaced with an Blue Octagon with Twin Golden Borders encompassing the National Emblem atop

a clear anchor and 'National Emblem 'Satyamev Jayate' inscribed on the stock of the Anchor. Further, the National Flag was retained on the upper left canton.

The erstwhile design of the President's Standard and Colour for the Indian Navy was instituted on September 6, 2017. The design comprised one each horizontal and vertical red bands intersecting at the centre and the National Emblem inserted at their intersection.

The National Flag was at the upper left canton adjacent to the staff and a Golden Elephant was at the lower right canton on the fly side. This design was inspired from the erstwhile Naval Ensign.

The Indian Navy adopted a new Naval Ensign on September 2021 and the new design of the President's Standard and President's Colour awarded to the Indian Navy incorporates this change.

The new design of the President's



Standard and Colour comprises three main constituents - the National Flag in the upper left canton adjacent to the staff, the State Emblem underscored with 'Satyamev Jayate' in Golden Colour on the upper right canton on the fly side, and a Navy Blue - Gold Octagon below the Golden State Emblem.

The Octagon has twin golden octagonal borders, encompassing the golden National Emblem (Lion Capital of Ashoka - underscored with 'Satyamev Jayate' in blue Devnagri script) resting atop an anchor; and superimposed on a shield.

Below the shield, within the octagon, in a golden bordered ribbon, on a Navy Blue background, is inscribed the motto of the Indian Navy 'Sam No Varunah' in golden Devnagri script.

The Golden State Emblem signifies 'Power, Courage, Confidence and Pride' whilst the Navy Blue - Golden Octagon

shape draws inspiration from Shivaji Maharaj Rajmudra or the Seal of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and represents the eight directions (four cardinal and four inter cardinal), symbolising the Indian Navy's maritime outreach.

The new design of President's Standard and Colour highlights India's glorious maritime heritage and also symbolises a powerful, courageous, confident and proud Indian Navy. The Indian Navy Crest has been amended to replace the foul anchor with a Clear Anchor. The clear anchor depicts steadfastness of the Indian Navy to deter any challenge in maritime domain, and represents clarity in vision, mission and aspirations of its sailors.

The Clear Anchor also depicts Indian Navy's commitment towards securing the Coast and Maritime Interest of India. The change would imply removal of the symbolic nautical rope in the Crest Designs.

The New Naval Crest has a traditional naval clear anchor below the Ashoka Lion Head with an invocation from the Vedas meaning 'May the Ocean God be Auspicious unto us'.

The phrase was adopted as the motto of the Indian Navy on the suggestion of Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, the first Indian Governor General of Independent India. The National Motto 'Satyamev Jayate' meaning 'Truth Always Triumphs' is inscribed on the Stock of the Clear Anchor.

The President's Standard and President's Colour are awarded to static and mobile formations of the Indian Navy respectively, to acknowledge their distinguished and meritorious service to the Nation. The Indian Navy was the first among the three Services to be awarded the President's Colour on 27 May 1951 by then President Rajendra Prasad.

J&K’s secessionist groups congratulate Pak’s Gen Munir

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Post the change of guard in Pakistan Army with Gen Syed Asim Munir taking charge of the top post from outgoing chief Gen Qamar Jawed Bajwa on Tuesday, the secessionist groups from Jammu and Kashmir have started congratulating him in their bid to project their loyalties and in return get financial help from the ISI.

The desperation to show loyalty to the new army chief is such that notorious terrorist and separatist leader, Masarat Alam Butt, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail here, organized a meeting in the prison premises with fellow Kashmiri inmates and congratulated Munir for being appointed as Army chief.

Tihar jail has recently been embroiled in unsavoury controversy for alleged ‘facilitation’ to Delhi Minister Satyender



Jain, also an inmate, with massage facility in the prison premises. Officials have not ruled out Jain’s role in facilitating Alam for conducting a meeting inside the jail and releasing his congratulatory statement through an emissary.

Alam’s statement was released by the Kashmir Media Service, a media outlet and a channel partner of Kashmiri terrorist groups, in Secunderabad of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). Other groups from the Valley have expressed similar sentiments in congratulating Munir.

Butt welcomed the appointment of Munir as the Pak army chief.

Likewise, the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Political Party welcomed Munir’s appointment and demanded resolution of the Kashmir issue through relevant UN resolutions.

APHC Chief of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar in a statement in Islamabad denounced the Modi government for “confiscating” hundreds of properties of Jamat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir. The Centre has banned the JeI Jammu and Kashmir for involvement in terrorist activities. The outfit is also facing cases for terrorism and is being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Another outfit Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir also congratulated Munir. These outfits are lobbying

at the international level to show relevance so that the media reports reach the new Pak army chief and he directs the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) boss under him to transfer money to them for fomenting trouble in the Valley.

In a letter to the European Union (EU), Chairman of the Kashmir Council Ali Raza Sayyad urged the European body to press for release of thousands of Kashmiris arrested by India before the G-20 meeting.

While the US considers Jammu and Kashmir to be a disputed territory, a number of AAP leaders are close to the American embassy here.

The separatist groups in Jammu and Kashmir are organized into two groups, one that seeks to project allegiance to the Pak army and the other seeks to portray proximity to the ruling democratic political parties.

Farooq re-elected NC chief

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Dr Farooq Abdullah was unanimously re-elected the president of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference for another term on Monday.

The 85-year-old sitting Parliamentarian from Srinagar and former J&k Chief Minister is set to lead the party’s aggressive poll campaign in the coming months. No other party leader had filed papers to contest the elections paving way for the ‘unanimous’ election of Dr Abdullah without facing any contest.

“Dr. Farooq Abdullah has been re-elected as JKNC President in today’s delegate session at Dargah Hazratbal (in Srinagar). The party delegates from both the provinces of Jammu and Kashmir unani-

mously nominated only one name, Dr. Farooq Sb, to continue as party president,” NC spokesman Imran Nabi Dar said.

Dr Abdullah had earlier created a flutter by suddenly announcing his decision to step down from the post of party president on November 18.

Soon after getting reelected at the special delegate session at Hazratbal, marking the 117th birth anniversary of Sheikh Mohd Abdullah, Dr Abdullah directed his own son and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to join the poll arena.

Dr Abdullah said, “As party president, I am telling you (Omar Abdullah) that you have to contest the election.”. “Because if we have to fight



them then we all have to jump into the fray and contest elections,” he added.

The former Union minister said the BJP “will do anything, even make attempts to buy your loyalties, but God will fail all their designs”. Omar has been consistently saying for a long time that he will not contest the Assembly election until J&K’s statehood is restored.

Referring to the 2018 Panchayat polls Dr Abdullah publicly admitted boycotting the panchayat polls in 2018 was “a huge mistake” and the party must contest every future election in Jammu and Kashmir.

“I want to tell the party that boycotting the panchayat elections (in 2018) was a huge mistake. Remember this, we will not boycott any coming election. Instead (we will) contest and win them.”

Recruitment to 21,000 posts rigged: CBI to HC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a major revelation the Central Bureau of Investigation on Monday told the Calcutta High Court how large scale rigging took place in the appointment to Group D posts in the State.

The revelations further smear the face of the Mamata Banerjee Government which has seen a number of senior ruling Trinamool Congress politicians including Ministers, MLAs and top officials including a sitting Vice-Chancellor going to jail in connection with the school level recruitment tests conducted by the School Services Commission. The CBI which is also investigating the SSC scam —involving the recruitment of teachers and Group C employees — told the High Court how a massive rigging had taken place in the appointments to 21,000 posts.

The central Agency has found in its investigation that the recruiters had tampered with 9,000 OMR sheets most of which have been destroyed.

The CBI also told that there was imprint of large-scale bungling in the entire appointment process --- from appointment panel to waiting



list to the merit list, lawyers present in the court said adding the single Bench of Justice V Basu told the CBI to go ahead with its work and the Court would see that no single culprit in the scam was spared.

The Agency informed the Court that in order to hide the massive irregularities the hard disk of the original computer of the SSC through which the appointments were made had been kept hidden at Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. The recovery and analysis of the hidden data had revealed many shocking information about the scam, the Agency told the Court.

In a related development the CBI is likely to submit a second chargesheet in the teacher recruitment scam, sources said adding the chargesheet would contain more explosive information about the scam.

72 hours on, SP forensic team yet to visit blast site



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Almost 72 hours have elapsed since a massive explosion on Friday night took down a partly built two-storey house and caused three deaths and several injuries at Bhupatinagar village in East Midnapore district but neither the Superintendent of Police nor the district forensic team have visited the area, locals on Monday rued.

This even after the Bengal Opposition leader Suvenudh Adhikari on Sunday wrote a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to order an NIA investigation into the case.

With the incident giving further impetus to the raging controversy over the deteriorating law and order situation in the State that has seen more than a dozen people including chil-



dren falling to bomb blasts and gun fights in the past one month the BJP and the ruling Trinamool cadres clashed in the village after the former went to register their protests in the area.

“Neither the SP has come nor a forensic team has been sent to the area ... this shows complacency of the administration ... the men who died in the blast were all TMC men who were manufacturing bombs,” said a local BJP leader adding the local people have been forced to keep their mouths shut.

The impact of the blas was so much that the entire housed caved in and two craters were created on the floor, sources said adding a big stockpile of bombs that had been kept in the house of local TMC leader Rafkumar Manna had gone off leading to

his death. Two more persons allegedly making bombs too perished in the blast.

Curiously however the dead bodies of the victims were recovered in a paddy field next morning about a mile away from the spot leading to strong suggestions that their colleagues were trying to remove the corpses in order to escape political embarrassment.

The BJP workers who went to Bhupatinagar on Monday were literally beaten away by the alleged TMC goons and the police present at the site had a hard time to rescue the saffron men to safety, sources said.

“We will wait for some more time and then start a massive campaign if the police do not take action and arrest the other culprites in the case,” said Adhikari.

ITBP concludes 60th Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear course

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 60th “Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear” Course at “National Institute for Training in Search, Rescue and Disaster Response”, Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, Ramgarh, Panchkula (Haryana) concluded on Monday.

Inspector General, Basic Training Centre, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Ishwar Singh Duhan, who was the chief guest for the closing ceremony said a total of 30 officers from different units of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force participated in this course which was conducted from November 9 to December 5.

NITSRDR is an important national level disaster training institute in North India, which trains not only IAF but also NDRF, SDRF, Army, NCC and IAF Academy trainees in the domain of disaster.

The purpose of this course is to impart an insight to the force personnel to recognize the injured person in disasters like chemical, nuclear, biological and nuclear.

SP sure of Dimple’s victory in Mainpuri



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party claimed that party candidate Dimple Yadav would win the Mainpuri bypoll with “three times more votes” than what Mulayam Singh Yadav had garnered.

SP MP Ram Gopal Yadav, after casting his vote at Saifai in Etawah, said Dimple Yadav would win with three times more votes than what Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) used to get.

Ram Gopal Yadav alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party “goons” intimidated the voters and SP workers at various places in Mainpuri.

“In Mainpuri, they were not allowing SP agents at several booths. We have lodged a complaint with the returning officer. Similarly, BJP goons came to a polling station of Mainpuri in an inebriated state and pushed our polling agent out. The police and administration were of no help,” Ram Gopal Yadav alleged.

“Police and administration are manipulating. The Election Commission had directed that security forces’ deployment for election duties should be randomised. But when polling parties arrived, around 2,000 of the staff were stopped and held back as reserves as they had Yadav surname. They forget that not only Yadavs but everyone votes for SP,” Yadav further alleged.

“They did not allow SP workers and supporters to cast votes in Rampur. The beating of people started on Sunday. There is nobody to listen but the public is supreme,” the SP leader said.

Raj leg of Bharat Jodo Yatra begins



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAIPUR/NEW DELHI

Amidst the factionalism in Rajasthan Congress, the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by former party chief Rahul Gandhi began its State sojourn from Jhalawar district on Monday, with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his arch rival, former deputy Sachin Pilot, in attendance. The 89th day of the yatra started from Kali Talai in Jhalrapatan, a rural area on the Rajasthan-Madhya Pradesh

Supplies Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas.

Addressing a Press conference, Gehlot lashed out at the mainstream national media, claiming they have “boycotted” the yatra as editors and owners were under pressure. Gehlot claimed the media has completely failed to fulfil their responsibility as the fourth pillar of democracy, and history will not forgive them for that.

“Kaan khol kar sun lo...national media wale bhi. state media wale bhi. Itihas apko maaf nahi karega!” he said. (“Listen carefully...national and state media, history will not forgive you.”)

As the Rajasthan chief minister launched his tirade against the media, AICC general secretary (Communication) Jairam Ramesh intervened to defend the journalists present there, saying they should not be blamed as they have been doing their job properly. However, he also lamented the coverage of the yatra in the mainstream was not as per their expectations.

Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ramesh charged that the possibility of India’s division has increased due to his policies and that “political dictatorship” is becoming a reality.

“There are three challenges before the country which need to be fought. The possibility of division of India has increased due to the intention and policies of the prime minister. Economic disparity is rising and divisive ideology are the two other challenges,” Ramesh said.

Ramesh said the Bharat Jodo Yatra was planned to raise various issues facing the people. He further said the yatra is not for winning elections and it is expected that it will activate and strengthen the party organisation.

On the BJP accusing the Congress of dividing India, he said the BJP doesn’t deserve to raise such allegations as those who follow the ideology never played a role in the freedom struggle and in the making of the Constitution. He said the RSS has a divisive ideology and

the BJP is expert in giving slogans, event management.

The Rajasthan chief minister further said the Bharat Jodo Yatra was attracting the attention of “the whole world” and the youth associated with it would prove to be an asset for Rahul Gandhi. He was referring to the 10 yatriis who have accompanied Rahul Gandhi from the beginning of the yatra on September 7.

While Gehlot shared pictures on Twitter, Pilot took to the micro-blogging platform to convey that the yatra in the state started with a resolve to fulfil hopes and expectations of the youth.

Rajasthan is the only Congress-ruled state where the yatra has entered and will cover about 500 km passing through Jhalawar, Kota, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, Dausa and Alwar districts over 17 days before entering Haryana on December 21. Rahul is scheduled to interact with farmers at Lalsot in Dausa on December 15 and address a public meeting at Malakheda in Alwar on December 19.

TN educationists praise Yogi’s good governance, development

PNS ■ LUCKNOW



During the Kashi Tamil Sangamam taking place in Varanasi, a group of Tamil Nadu educationists praised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s model of good governance and development.

When asked to rate Yogi Adityanath on a scale of 1 to 10, some gave him a perfect score, some gave him a score of 9, and some responded that the work of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath could not be measured in numbers as the development of UP was “unprecedented.”

The visitors from Tamil Nadu described Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath as a “role model” for other states.

During the ongoing one-month Kashi Tamil Sangamam

in Varanasi, a group of more than 200 teachers travelled to Varanasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya.

Professor D Subbaiah from Chennai Presidency College said, “Yogi Adityanath, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, has done a lot for the state and is continuing to do so. Other states should also take inspiration from his work and consider him as a role model.”

V Krishnamurthy said that Yogi Adityanath was doing excellent work in UP and

deserved 10 out of 10 when compared to the chief ministers of other states.

Babu, who is from Annamalai University, stated that ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ was a fantastic idea. Babu expressed his appreciation for the show by saying that Yogi’s efforts merited a score of 10.

Mariyappan, assistant professor of engineering college, said that despite the large population of the state, Yogi Adityanath had done a wonderful job in maintaining peace and order in Uttar Pradesh.

“Yogi believes that the state’s citizens are all members of one big family. If measured by numbers, Yogi is the nation’s top-scoring chief minister but I’ll give him 9 out of 10, as there is always space for development.”

PM roadshow during polling violated MCC; EC afraid: Cong

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of violating the model code by taking out a roadshow before casting his vote in the second phase of polling in Gujarat and alleged that the Election Commission is “afraid” and is “under pressure” not to act against him.

Congress head of media and publicity Pawan Khera said the Congress has seen that over the last several weeks, inaction on the part of the Election Commission is evident from the watchdog of our democracy, the watchdog of our elections.

“We have been making representations to the Election Commission at various levels. Every second or third day we have made some representations or the other in Gujarat, in Delhi, but, I am afraid the Election Commission looks like it is willingly under pressure,” he told reporters. The Congress leader said the party is deliberating on taking necessary legal measures on the issue. Khera said the value of the vote



of the prime minister or that of any common man is the same. “But how is it that the PM holds a roadshow fo 2.5 hours when he goes to vote,” he said.

“What are the compulsions of the Election Commission that it cannot see any violations by the prime minister,” he said.

He said in the second and the last round of polling in Gujarat, Prime Minister Modi while voting in Ahmedabad decided to do a roadshow of two and half

hours which was covered live by all channels free of cost.

“Is this not an advertisement? Shouldn’t you be charging the BJP, why you are doing it for free,” he asked.

“We will take necessary steps, and prevail upon the Election Commission of India through whatever means possible, legal means possible, to ensure that such publicity comes under the purview of election expenditure of the party, which undertakes this publicity, which forces you to run these roadshows live, especially when the election is under way,” he also said.

The Congress leader also alleged that its tribal candidate and sitting MLA of Danta in Gujarat, Kantibhai Kharadi, wrote to the Election Commission seeking additional security as he apprehended a threat to his life.

By the evening he was attacked by 24 people, who he alleged were ‘goons’ of the BJP and he had to take cover of the forest at night, where we finally rescued him at 2.33 AM.



A boy, riding a bicycle, silhouetted against the setting sun, on the outskirts of Agartala on Monday. (PTI)



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Iran waking up

The notorious morality police, which was crushing the anti-hijab protests, have been disbanded

Have the Ayatollahs blinked on hijab in Iran? Perhaps, if Attorney General Mohammad Javad Montazeri’s statement is anything to go by. The morality police, he said, “was abolished by the same authorities who installed it.” State media reports suggest that he said this on Saturday during a meeting at which officials were discussing the anti-hijab unrest; the morality police have been violently trying to suppress for months. The theocratic Government, however, has neither confirmed nor denied the abolition. In fact, there are conflicting signals from the powers that be. The state-owned Arabic television channel, Al Alam, has claimed that Montazeri’s statement has been taken out of context; other state channels also maintain that the Government remains firm on mandatory hijab law. Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, however, says something else. At a press conference in Belgrade, Serbia, when asked about the morality police, he did not deny the abolition. He said, “In Iran, everything is moving forward well in the framework of democracy and freedom.” Not very unequivocal, but the allusion was for all to notice. Even if the morality police have not been removed, it is indubitable that the protests, which began months ago after a young woman was beaten to death by moral cops for not wearing the hijab properly, have rattled the top authorities in Tehran. Around 450 people, including children, have died in the demonstrations across the country, and yet there are few signs of the movement subsiding.

As in the case of protests in China over Beijing’s stupid zero-Covid policy which have exhibited anti-Xi Jinping feelings, the campaign against the Islamic headscarf too may be becoming anti-theocracy. The people of Iran have suffered a lot of depredations at the hands of Islamist hotheads who, Amnesty’s 2021 report says, “heavily suppress the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. They banned independent political parties, trade unions and civil society organisations, censored the media and jammed satellite television channels.” Security and intelligence officials arbitrarily arrest those whose social media postings they find “counter-revolutionary” or “un-Islamic”—which could be practically anything. For instance, women not covering their heads are un-Islamic, as also are men who wear ties with suits. Several thousand men, women and children were interrogated, unfairly prosecuted and/or arbitrarily detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, the human rights body reported. Protesters, journalists, dissidents, artists, writers, teachers and dual nationals were among them. Also among them were human rights activists, women’s rights defenders, votaries of LGBTI people’s rights, labour rights and minority rights, environmentalists, etc. Hopefully, the anti-hijab movement becomes a watershed moment in Iran’s history—between an Orwellian state with Islamist characteristics and a liberal democracy.

PICTALK



Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany Annalena Baerbock visits Kinari Bazaar, at Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi **PTI**

Rail Project scrapped

Kerala Govt bowing to the people’s pressure scraps the rail project averting an environmental disaster

The Rs 1.2 lakh crore Silver Line Semi Speed Rail project linking Kasaragod with Thiruvananthapuram has been scrapped by the Government of Kerala following widespread agitation by the people who would have been thrown to the streets and lost their precious lands. Though experts like E Sreedharan, the legendary Railway Engineer and Alok Kumar Verma, former chief engineer of Indian Railways warned the Kerala Government about the environmental and ecological damages the stand-alone project would inflict on the State in addition to the thousands who would be displaced as a result of land acquisition, an intransigent CPI(M)-led administration went ahead with installing survey stones along the proposed path. A hitherto unseen mass agitation forced the government to do a vault face and call off the project.

This is not the first time Kerala is seeing such a protest. Way back in the 1980s, the then Rajiv Gandhi led Congress Government had decided to set up a nuclear power plant to be built in the High Ranges of eastern Kerala with technical and financial aid offered by the then Soviet Union. This would have resulted in the destruction of hundreds of hectares of lush, verdant rain forests and wild lives. The protests launched under the leadership of M A Varghese, a frail looking professor and his battle cry that the reactor could be built only over his dead body made the Centre see the writing on the wall and spiked the project. Latest developments show that the CPI(M) Government has not learnt anything from these two incidents. The new ill-conceived project is the Sabari Rail to facilitate pilgrims from reaching the holy shrine of Lord Ayyappa

atop the Western Ghats. The fact that Sabarimala shrine is opened only for three months every year has not been taken seriously by the proponents of the project. Pilgrims themselves have not demanded for such a rail connectivity because their trip to Sabarimala would not be complete without paying obeisance at more than a dozen temples along the route. This will be better served by the existing road network in the State. The claim by a section of politicians that the rail route would help transporting hill-produce from Idukki district to Cochin Port is nothing but bunkum as plantations that yield tea, coffee, cardamom are getting shut down by the day. Kerala should get its existing rail tracks doubled so that travel time could be brought down to less than half of the present journey. Another separate rail line means more agitations and bloodshed.

G-20 leadership is godsend for India

The India’s leadership of G20 can catapult the country to prominence but more importantly give it a chance to work for lasting world peace

India is now the chairman of the G-20, which was formally handed to it at Bali by the previous incumbent Indonesia. The presidency of the G-20 has the potential to catapult India to the degree of prominence the country has not experienced before. However, G-20 leadership would be for only one year. Thereafter, the dividend earned from the capital gained during this one year should accrue. Would not the most handsome divide be an ongoing world peace?

The spontaneous conviction of most countries might well be that the peace will be, let us say, eternal. The “non-era of war” would endure indefinitely, to borrow somewhat from Prime Minister Modi’s statement to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Thereafter, whether India becomes the world’s number one power or not would be less important; the country would enjoy diplomatic dominance at least as long as the peace lasts.

Every thinking person in the world today would be aware that the use of a thermonuclear weapon means widespread death and destruction. Yet, weaker or less responsible nations with nuclear weapons in their hands do not hesitate to threaten those countries of whom they are afraid, have ongoing issues or simply have scores to settle. It is not impossible that irresponsible leaders of such nations could well be tempted to use this weapon of mass destruction. Criminals realize their folly only after they are punished; otherwise, they are incorrigible.

One hears much that is spoken and written in favour of diplomacy and statesmanship. However, it is essential that one recognizes the historical fact that neither diplomacy nor strategy has prevented war. The proud Maginot Line of France failed to even obstruct the German invasion in the summer of 1940. The only factor that defeated but did not deter either the Swedish army in 1708, Napoleon’s invading army nor Hitler in 1941—the invasion of Russia—nature’s intervention in the form of snow-fall on the Russian steppes. What



else then can prevent war in the absolute?

Something reminiscent of dharma, its inspiration as well as its deterrence could perhaps help to keep nations away from thinking of war and destruction and in this age, thinking nuclear. That the use of nuclear weapons is not merely destructive but also an evil, needs to be driven into the vast masses of people all over the world. How Hiroshima and Nagasaki were rendered burning hells in 1945 needs to be captured in record and displayed to all coming generations, especially in countries boasting of their nuclear arsenals. How murdering innocent human beings in such a manner is the worst dushkarma (misdeed) anyone, group or nation can perpetrate, must be driven into the minds of people. How effective this conviction can be, has been demonstrated through history in India.

The subcontinent was invaded via the Hindu Kush down the Khyber Pass and across the seas for no less than a millennium. There have been innumerable episodes of retaliation in justifiable defence by the Hindus. Yet, they suffered enormously in these invasions by an alien ideology and way of life, bled badly;

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NUCLEAR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ILO WARNING ON WAGES

Sir — All is not well and is bad news as the warning by the Global Wage Report 2022-23 by the International Labour Organization (ILO) of rising inflation that has caused a striking decline in real monthly wages highlighting the urgent need for policies to prevent further poverty, inequality, and social unrest, and the November data by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data, which shows a rise in unemployment in India for the third consecutive month since September 2022 that reached 8 per cent.

The CMIE data of December 2, 2022, shows an even higher unemployment rate of 8.1 per cent in the county. The urban unemployment rate was 9 per cent while the rural unemployment rate was 7.7 per cent, showing comparatively more hardship for the urban unemployed compared to the rural areas. The ILO global report on wages across the world said that the global monthly wages fell in real terms to -0.9 per cent in the first half of the year marking the first instance of negative growth this century. As a result, the purchasing power of middle-class families has been reduced, while low-income households have been hit particularly hard.

The jobless growth is indeed a worrisome trend. We cannot be happy as a nation which is high on GDP but low on per capita income. The per capita income is of course directly related to the employment the people get in the country at all levels. Besides, the fear of recession is also very real as no income in the hands of the people means low demand and thus goes the vicious cycle of lesser and lesser jobs. Hope the government is mindful of this.
Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

INDIA AT HELM OF AFFAIRS

Sir — Excellent that India, a peace loving suave nation, assumes the presidency of G20 (from Dec 1st for a year) and of UNSC (by rotation on December month). India has all-round goodwill. It has grown tremendously on all fronts in

Save our soil



Once you take the life out of the soil, it will become an inert sand - Sadhguru. Every year December 5th is witnessed as World Soil Day to raise awareness about the importance of soil and our lives and its campaign

“Soils: Where food begins” aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems. Like us, soils need a balanced and varied supply of nutrients in appropriate amounts to be healthy. Agricultural systems lose nutrients with each harvest, and if soils are not managed sustainably, fertility is progressively lost, and soils will produce nutrient-deficient plants. Over the past years the nutrients and vitamins in plants have gradually decreased. Almost 74 Nations around the world have pledged concrete actions to save soil in their countries. It is high time we understand the importance of saving soil and saving climate.
Tashi Baheti | Ujjain

spite of hiccups of overpopulation (140 crore), regular weather catastrophes wrecking havoc on its economy and unpredictable weather hitting agriculture, its main occupation.

India should make excellent coordination by involving as many relevant members as possible on the given subject. To tread the path of realistic approaches, optimal choices, latest technology usage, suitability, realistic solutions and realistic peaceful coordination. While dealing with G20 members, it should realise that Small scale industries are apron strings of big industries. Any sudden major changes will adversely affect both large scale and small scale units too. Hence India should be in touch with international “expertised Scientists communities”. It should help the smaller and poorer nations financially to achieve 100% clean inexpensive energy as they are victims of rapid industrialization of big nations. At the UN Security Council, India can achieve realistic peaceful coordination between Russia and Ukraine by involving as many common friends of both nations. After all, war is pyrrhic. All involved and many others too will be losers. No winners in a war.
Madhu PV | Secunderabad

NAGARJUNA SAGAR LIES IN A LIMBO

Sir — As bifurcation differences over water sharing between the two Telugu states simmer after the earlier meetings failed to break the deadlock, the latest meeting called by KRMb to address the issues relating to water sharing after the two states giving their consent for rule curve relating only to Srisaillam reservoir is heartening but at the same time remaining elusive on Sagar rule curve and Nagarjunasagar is surprising.

Notwithstanding the bone of contention existing for long over the water sharing between the two states, one hopes, Central Water Commission intervenes and resolves Sagar rule curve amicably because time is ripe for both the states to come to a reasonable understanding and resolve the differences in a give and take policy by prioritizing growth and development instead of bickering and prolonging the matter because water been an elixir of life need to be shared and not allowed to be flown down to join the sea.
KR Srinivasan | Secunderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



PRAFULL GORADIA

to influence geopolitics and geoeconomics by proactively promoting the interests of the regions these blocs represent. Global peace is ostensibly sought to be achieved through trade and economics.

The G-20 being essentially an economic forum, it would be its primary duty to also awaken, as many nations as possible, to the crime of destruction and not merely killing. For example, the Cathedral of Notre Dame, which was destroyed in a fire in 2020; the magnificent Temple of Somnath of the era of Bhimdev Solanki can never be brought back, as are many a rare factories or centres of manufacturing, which are irreplaceable. India under its current Prime Minister has a truly unprecedented opportunity to lead the world towards a lasting if not perennial peace. The country has already become the world’s fifth largest economy and is one of the world’s leading powers, though India does not seek to dominate others. Unless the hearts and minds of people are metamorphosed, the darkest chapters of history would be written again and again.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

SOUND BITE

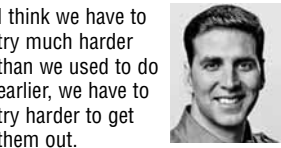
The moment I raised the question of land and the moment I started to defend the right of poor people on their land, is when this whole media tamasha starts.



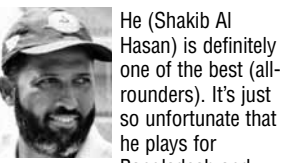
Congress leader
— Rahul Gandhi



Iran’s Attorney General
— Mohammad Jafar Montazeri



Actor
— Akshay Kumar



He (Shakib Al Hasan) is definitely one of the best (all-rounders). It’s just so unfortunate that he plays for Bangladesh and doesn’t get the same kind of recognition.
Indian cricketer
— Wasim Jaffer



Journalist/anchor
— Ravish Kumar

FIRST COLUMN

CREATING A ROBUST FUTURE FOR PLANET

Euro-centric view of human evolution needs a revisit




VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

In modern times, there are certain critical points of change that get flagged. The French Revolution, the American War of Independence, and the Bolshevik Revolution stand out. Each of these defines a critical point in human history. Whether the list of the important events is complete or not is a matter of perception. That it espouses a euro-centric view of human evolution is obvious. There is nothing wrong in such a narrative, except for its incompleteness.

There are substantial parts of the world across which the European races spread. This covered the world from Latin America to Australia. The approach from the African world, Western Asia, South East Asia, East Asia, Australia – all went by default. Australia for example has had human habitation running into multiple centuries, almost from the Palaeolithic age onwards. Yet very little connected narrative is available about Australia before the Europeans arrived there.

The present dominance of the euro-centric view of learning perpetuates this approach. It has been institutionalised through the curriculum of educational institutions. The trouble is deeper, as there is little or no institutional attempt to modify and evolve this perspective to completeness. The current international bodies of the United Nations and more only perpetuate this bias.



Newly emergent nations follow the Euro American pattern of curriculum planning and seek eminence through conformity. Through a serious study of anthropology and an extension of its approach much of this can be countered. Also, studying human evolution from the vantage point of identification and utilisation of energy resources may serve a purpose. The human evolution from using human muscle power for energy purposes to the present status of using atomic energy may help in settling right many of the aberrations in the periodization of human history. India has a narrative, of its present level of evolution, generally taken to be of about 15,000 years of antiquity. Evidence exists of human presence on this subcontinent even prior to those 15,000 years or so. It is just that the history of the times before that is not amenable to the tools used for writing the narrative of what is termed as ‘history’ in the current values of the academic world.

A gradualist approach would help. A general awareness has to emerge about recognition of the assumptions, governing action of the people whose history is being written. In India, for example, thinking about the so-called other world of spirituality and ‘abstraction’ is central from the Rig Vedic times. This kind of orientation is not present in many parts of the world such as Europe, Americas, etc.

What could work is talking of ‘alternate approach’ to human evolution and history. This ‘alternate approach’ need not require a negation of the present attempts of history writing. It would require emphasis on the elements which emphasise a spiritual or a more than material approach to human evolution.

The Indian approach is about the conventional mind that looks at plants, animals, nature and more. A cursory recall of the riches of Rig Veda or the writings of Kalidas reveal sensitivity in depiction of plants and animals, which is missing in the writing of the text of those times in European languages.

Steps need to be taken towards understanding the alternate assumptions of human actions in different parts of the globe for real understanding of the evolution of human species, which may set a more realistic direction to compass human development. It will be real, rooted in local traditions and helping to create a robust global future.

(The author is an internationally acclaimed management consultant)

Twitter can benefit from Musk’s ideas



SIDHARRTH SHANKAR

Musk will be the star in the history of social media platforms, especially in moments of change

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.

No more sense is palpable in data content and how much it is. Instead, 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 NexGen Social Verse.

A scrutiny of the rules for social media players reveals a great deal. 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 backend innovators restore this trust by bringing in content moderation and AI-driven default rules that debar users from crossing the line.

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.

Platforms now need to move towards more innovation-driven monetisation models, which are economically more viable than the current ones. Elon Musk’s announcement addressing a new high for advertising on Twitter is an effort in the right direction to monetise better. 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”.

While the bird app’s fall after a series of failures has been criticized worldwide, it must be appreciated that both Musk 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. Elon Musk will be the star in the history of social media platforms, especially in moments of change.



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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 REGISTER PROFITS

(The Author is an M&A Partner, JSA, Advocates & Solicitors)

His takeover of Twitter may prove to be one of the most important benchmarks for the social media champions of the future. Hence, it is befitting to embrace this chaos-driven journey that Elon has started and hope to see online more stable, sustainable, human, and socially-driven media platforms.

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 owner-cum-CEO formats 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 coupled with the appointment of inspired leadership officers.

Elon Musk is a lawyer’s nightmare is a proven fact. Tesla’s turning 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 Elon 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.

Then, 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 and follow through along with Twitter.

Musk was never short of options. While the Twitter Board struggled to stop the deal, Musk and his advisors 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.

After the bloodbath of strategies to take over the bird app, Elon 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-ring-ing models for the social media platform to register profits.

Regardless of the diatribe around the Twitter-Elon 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 amidst 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.

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.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

A MASSIVE FRAUD OF THIS TYPE AND MAGNITUDE ALLOWS FOR THE TERMINATION OF ALL RULES, REGULATIONS, AND ARTICLES, EVEN THOSE FOUND IN THE CONSTITUTION. — FORMER US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



ATTACKING THE CONSTITUTION AND ALL IT STANDS FOR IS ANATHEMA TO THE SOUL OF OUR NATION. YOU CANNOT ONLY LOVE AMERICA WHEN YOU WIN. — WHITE HOUSE DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY ANDREW BATES

We must think differently for the differently abled

From Agatha Christie to Steven Spielberg, from John Lennon to Boman Irani, dyslexics have powered our imagination



NOOPUR JHUNJHUNWALA

(The author is Co-Founder, ChangeInkk Foundation, a nonprofit committed to breaking the stigma surrounding specific learning disabilities)

Let’s begin with a quick game of ‘Take a Step Forward.’ So, take a step forward if you have helped someone with a disability. Another step ahead if you have donated to support a disability. One more step forward if you have liked an awareness campaign for a disability. Another step if you believe that inclusion of a person with a disability is important.

And the last step forward if a person with a disability has made life easier for you. Taken aback? Can’t think of anything? How about electricity? Maybe cars? What about telephones and computers? Relaxing seeing animated cartoons? Well, this entire list of inventors—from Benjamin Franklin, Henry Ford, Alexander Graham Bell, Steve

Jobs to Walt Disney—is mapped to persons with dyslexia, a learning disability. Sounds impossible, right? How can our lives revolve around inventions of the differently abled? Aren’t dyslexics the ones who are not able to read, who confuse their b’s and d’s, have terrible spellings and are not able to do math? Yes, that’s right! Dyslexia is a learning disability that impacts processing language.

So, how is it possible that someone who struggles with basic language and math skills, is able to change the world? The simple answer is that the narrative around disabilities and inclusion is so focused on things the differently abled cannot do, and how we need to uplift them because of their inabilities, that somewhere

amidst pushing them forward, we have pushed them away from owning their strengths. In doing so, we often cease to think of the flipside—the magical potential and strengths of these people.

In this case we forget that individuals with learning disabilities have average or above average intelligence but their brain functions, processes and grasps information differently. This ability to think differently has been coined as dyslexic thinking.

Global studies indicate that the strengths associated with dyslexic thinking are critical skills of the future.

Dyslexia is more common than we realise. While official figures are not available, research indicates that between 15 and 20 crore Indians have

a learning disability, of which 3.5 crore are students.

There is no way to determine whether a person has a specific learning disability by merely looking at them.

Let’s rewind a bit. Let’s try a quick activity to help you understand a dyslexic individual’s experience with language and text. Read this, as quickly as you have read the piece so far. I am flipping the sand clock now: ‘I way out de adle to reag, dut I snre cau thiuk bifently.’

Lost and frustrated? This is how a person with Dyslexia struggles with reading simple texts like,

‘I may not be able to read, but I sure can think differently.’ Beyond language, learning disabilities impact executive functioning. So it’s common

for them to also confuse left from right, mix up instructions, struggle with time management and be forgetful. This disability, nonetheless, is the reason behind the world’s most indispensable inventions. And that’s not where it stops.

Dyslexics—from Agatha Christie to Steven Spielberg, from John Lennon to Cher, from Boman Irani to Whoopi Goldberg—are powering our imagination. They are also driving employment and growth. In fact, 40 per cent of self-made millionaires are dyslexics. While the list is endless, I am hoping that you are catching on with the importance of what disabilities offer our civilisation. And yet, all their journeys started as a child who was dismissed as being a “duffer”, not good enough to succeed in anything.

In India, we find success stories of dyslexics that have transcended barriers and emerged as educators, civil servants, leading investors, tech leaders, artists and CEOs. The Government has made significant strides in creating an ecosystem of support for people with specific learning disabilities. The first critical step was the 2016 amendment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act to recognise it as a disability .

Next is the emphasis that the New Education Policy (NEP), 2020, lays on inclusion of children with special needs as one of its goals, calling out inclusion of those with learning disabilities in the classroom. The higher education regulatory bodies like All India

Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC) have both worked on comprehensive guidelines on provisions to include students with special learning disabilities. But policies alone can’t make it happen. Strong efforts are needed to accelerate screening for early identification of children. We need to strengthen the capacities of our educators to teach inclusive classrooms, especially with the focus on improving learning outcomes. Beyond educational institutions, workplaces need to provide inclusive and enabling environments. Lastly, but most importantly, we need to work together to break the social stigma, look beyond the disabilities and celebrate their abilities.

Russian media report blasts at 2 military bases

AP ■ KYIV

Explosions rocked two air bases in Russia on Monday, Russian media reported. One of the explosions reportedly happened at a base that houses nuclear-capable strategic bombers that have been involved in launching strikes against Ukraine.

Neither Ukrainian nor Russian authorities immediately commented on the possible cause of the blasts.

Russian state RIA Novosti news agency said three servicemen were killed and six others injured, and a plane was damaged, early Monday when a fuel truck exploded at an air base in Ryazan, in western Russia. The base houses long-range flight tankers that serve to refuel bombers in the air.

Separately, authorities in the Saratov region along the Volga River said they were checking reports about an explosion in the area of the Engels air base, which houses Tu-95 and Tu-160 strategic bombers that have been involved in launching

strikes on Ukraine. Those bombers are capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Saratov regional governor Roman Busargin said there was no damage to civilian facilities and added that the authorities are checking whether there have been any incidents at military facilities.

Regional media reported sounds of a powerful explosion near the Engels base, and some residents were quoted as saying they saw a flash of light coming from the area.

Asked whether Russian President Vladimir Putin had been briefed about the Engels base explosion, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said simply that the president was being regularly informed about ongoing developments.

In Ukraine on Monday, the office of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said three rocket strikes hit his hometown of Kryvyi Rih in south-central Ukraine, killing a factory worker and injuring three others. In the northeastern region of Kharkiv, a person was killed in



strikes by S-300 missiles on civilian infrastructure in the town of Kupyansk, it said.

The war that began with Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb 24 has displaced millions from their homes, killed and injured an untold number of civilians, and shaken the world economy — notably through the fall-out on the prices and availability of foodstuffs, fertiliser and fuel that are key exports from Ukraine and Russia.

Western countries on Monday began imposing a \$60-per-barrel price cap and a ban on some types of Russian oil, part of new measures aimed at stepping up pressure against Moscow over the war.

The move has prompted a rejection from the Kremlin and also criticism from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy — whose government wants the cap to be half as high.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, who is in charge of energy issues, warned in televised comments on Sunday that Russia

won't sell its oil to countries that try to apply the price cap.

“We will only sell oil and oil products to the countries that will work with us on market terms, even if we have to reduce output to some extent,” Novak said in televised remarks hours before the price cap came into effect.

The 27-country European bloc also imposed an embargo on Russian oil shipped by sea.

Russia, the world's No.2 oil producer, relies on the sale of oil and gas to underpin its economy, which has already come under sweeping international sanctions over President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine.

In recent weeks, Russia has been pounding Ukrainian infrastructure — including power plants — with military strikes and keeping an offensive going in the east, notably in and around the town of Bakhmut.

Russian forces have also been digging in near the southern city of Kherson, which was recaptured by Ukrainian forces last month after an 8-month occupation.

Ukrainians hid orphaned kids from Russian deportation

AP ■ KHERSON

Hours after Russia invaded Ukraine in February, health staff at a children's hospital in the south started secretly planning how to save the babies.

Russians were suspected of seizing orphan children and sending them to Russia, so staff at the children's regional hospital in Kherson city began fabricating orphans' medical records to make it appear like they were too ill to move.

“We deliberately wrote false information that the children were sick and could not be transported,” said Dr. Olga Pilyarska, head of intensive care. “We were scared that (the Russians) would find out ... (but) we decided that we would save the children at any cost.”

Throughout the war Russians have been accused of deporting Ukrainian children to Russia or Russian-held territories to raise them as their own. At least 1,000 children were seized from schools and orphanages in the Kherson region during Russia's eight-month occupation of the area, say local authorities. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

But residents say even more children would have gone missing had it not been for the efforts of some in the community who risked their lives to hide as many children as they could.

At the hospital in Kherson, staff invented diseases for 11 abandoned babies under their care, so they wouldn't have to give them to the orphanage where they knew they'd be given Russian documents and potentially taken away. One baby had “pulmonary bleeding,” another “uncontrollable convulsions” and another needed “artificial ventilation,” said Pilyarska of the fake records.

On the outskirts of Kherson



in the village of Stepanivka, Volodymyr Sahaidak the director of a center for social and psychological rehabilitation, was also falsifying paperwork to hide 52 orphaned and vulnerable children.

The 61-year-old placed some of the children with seven of his staff, others were taken to distant relatives and some of the older ones remained with him, he said. “It seemed that if I did not hide my children they would simply be taken away from me,” he said.

But moving them around wasn't easy. After Russia occupied Kherson and much of the region in March, they started separating orphans at checkpoints, forcing Sahaidak to get creative about how to transport them. In one instance he faked records saying that a group of kids had received treatment in the hospital and were being taken by their aunt to be reunited with their mother who was nine months pregnant and waiting for them on the other side of the river, he said.

While Sahaidak managed to stave off the Russians, not all children were as lucky. In the

orphanage in Kherson — where the hospital would have sent the 11 babies — some 50 children were evacuated in October and allegedly taken to Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014, a security guard at the institution and neighbors told The Associated Press.

“A bus came with the inscription Z (a symbol painted on Russian vehicles) and they were taken away,” said Anastasiia Kovalenko, who lives nearby.

At the start of the invasion, a local aid group tried to hide the children in a church but the Russians found them several months later, returned them to the orphanage and then evacuated them, said locals.

Earlier this year, The Associated Press reported that Russia is trying to give thousands of Ukrainian children to Russian families for foster care or adoption. The AP found that officials have deported Ukrainian children to Russia or Russian-held territories without consent, lied to them that they weren't wanted by their parents, used them for propaganda, and given them Russian families and citizenship.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, says Russian officials are conducting a deliberate depopulation campaign in occupied parts of Ukraine and deporting children under the guise of medical rehabilitation schemes and adoption programs.

Russian authorities have repeatedly said that moving children to Russia is intended to protect them from hostilities. The Russian Foreign Ministry has rejected the claims that the country is seizing and deporting the children. It has noted that the authorities are searching for relatives of parentless children left in Ukraine to find opportunities to send them home when possible.

Russian children's rights ombudswoman Maria Lvova-Belova personally oversaw moving hundreds of orphans from Russian-controlled regions of Ukraine for adoption by Russian families. She has claimed that some of the children were offered an opportunity to return to Ukraine but refused to do so. Her statement couldn't be independently verified.

Ukraine reports new barrage of widespread Russian strikes

AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

Ukrainian officials reported a new barrage of Russian missile strikes across the country Monday, an attack that was anticipated as Russia seeks to disable Ukraine's energy supplies and infrastructure with the approach of winter.

Media reports referred to explosions in several parts of the country, including the cities of Odesa, Cherkasy and Kryvyi Rih. In Odesa, the local water supply company said a missile strike cut power to pumping stations, leaving the entire city without water.

“The enemy is again attacking the territory of Ukraine with missiles!” Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy head of the Ukrainian president's office, wrote on Telegram.

Air raid alerts sounded across the country, and authorities urged people to take shelter.

A spokesman for the Ukrainian Air Force, Yuriy Ihnat, said Russia launched land-based missiles from southern Russia and shipborne missiles from the Caspian and Black seas. Russian strategic bombers also launched missiles, he said.

Ihnat warned the Russians could attack in several waves to make it more difficult for the Ukrainian air defenses to shoot down the missiles.



Earlier Monday, Russian media reported that explosions rocked two air bases in Russia. One reportedly happened at a base that houses nuclear-capable strategic bombers that have been involved in launching strikes against Ukraine.

Neither Ukrainian nor Russian authorities immediately commented on the possible cause of the blasts.

Russian state RIA Novosti news agency said three servicemen were killed and six others injured, and a plane was damaged, early Monday when a fuel truck exploded at an air base in Ryazan, in western Russia. The base houses long-range flight tankers that serve to refuel bombers in the air.

Separately, authorities in the Saratov region along the Volga River said they were checking reports about an explosion in the area of the Engels air base, which houses Tu-95 and Tu-160 strategic bombers that have been involved in launching strikes on Ukraine. Those

bombers are capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Saratov regional governor Roman Busargin said there was no damage to civilian facilities and added that the authorities are checking whether there have been any incidents at military facilities.

Regional media reported sounds of a powerful explosion near the Engels base, and some residents were quoted as saying they saw a flash of light coming from the area.

Asked whether Russian President Vladimir Putin had been briefed about the Engels base explosion, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said simply that the president was being regularly informed about ongoing developments.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak, trolled the Russians over the drone attack on Engels, stopping short of claiming responsibility.

“The Earth is round – discovery made by Galileo.

Astronomy was not studied in Kremlin, giving preference to court astrologers. If it was, they would know: if something is launched into other countries' airspace, sooner or later unknown flying objects will return to departure point,” Podolyak tweeted.

Zelenskyy's office said three rocket strikes hit the president's hometown of Kryvyi Rih in south-central Ukraine, killing a factory worker and injuring three others. In the northeastern region of Kharkiv, a person was killed in strikes by S-300 missiles on civilian infrastructure in the town of Kupyansk, it said.

The war that began with Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 has displaced millions from their homes, killed and injured an untold number of civilians, and shaken the world economy — notably through the fallout on the prices and availability of foodstuffs, fertilizer and fuel that are key exports from Ukraine and Russia.

Western countries on Monday began imposing a \$60-per-barrel price cap and a ban on some types of Russian oil, part of new measures aimed at stepping up pressure against Moscow over the war.

The move has prompted a rejection from the Kremlin and also criticism from Zelenskyy — whose government wants the cap to be half as high.

Russian oil cap begins, trying to pressure Putin on Ukraine



AP ■ KYIV

Western countries on Monday began imposing a \$60-per-barrel price cap and a ban on some types of Russian oil, part of new measures aimed at stepping up pressure against Moscow over its war on Ukraine.

The European Union, along with Australia, Britain, Canada, Japan and the United States agreed to the price cap on Friday.

The move has prompted a rejection from Kremlin and also criticism from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy — whose government wants the cap to be half as high.

The 27-country European bloc also imposed an embargo on Russian oil shipped by sea.

Questions have arisen about just how the Western measures will affect market prices.

On Monday, U.S. Benchmark crude traded up 90 cents to \$80.88.

Many other factors, includ-

ing COVID-19 prevention measures in China that have crimped its manufacturing, are also having an impact on demand for crude and thus prices.

They are far down from a peak earlier during the war.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, who is in charge of energy issues, warned in televised comments on Sunday that Russia won't sell its oil to countries that would try to use the cap.

“We will only sell oil and oil products to the countries that will work with us on market terms, even if we have to reduce output to some extent,” Novak said in televised remarks hours before the price cap came into effect.

The Ukrainian government demanded over the weekend a lower price cap, to \$30 per barrel, insisting that at the \$60 level Russia would still reap annual oil revenues of \$100 billion — money that can be used to finance its war machine.

Russia, the world's No.2 oil producer, relies on the sale of oil and gas to underpin its economy, which has already come under sweeping international sanctions over President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine.

In recent weeks, Russia has been pounding Ukrainian infrastructure — including power plants — with military strikes and keeping an offensive going in the east, notably in and around the town of Bakhmut.

Russian forces have also been digging in near the southern city of Kherson, which was recaptured by Ukrainian forces last month after an 8-month occupation.

The war that began with Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 has displaced millions from their homes, killed and injured an untold number of civilians, and shaken the world economy — notably through the fallout on the prices and availability of foodstuffs, fertiliser and fuel that are key exports from Ukraine and Russia.

Scheduled power cuts in Kiev, 3 other regions from today

IANs ■ KIEV

Scheduled power cuts will take place in Kiev and the three other regions of Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Odesa from Monday onwards as authorities are trying to stabilise power outages across Ukraine.

In a social media post on Sunday, DTEK, the largest energy company in Ukraine, said: “From December 5, we are returning to scheduled power outages. However, the situation with the energy system remains dire.

“For this reason, we kindly ask everyone to treat the possible deviations from the schedule that might occur in order to stabilise the energy system with understanding. We are doing everything in our power to make sure that those happen as little as possible.”

The development comes as millions of Ukrainians have been experiencing power cuts after repeated Russian strikes on the country's critical energy infrastructure.

According to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, about 6 million households across the war-torn nation are without electricity as of December 1.

The latest large-scale Russian missile attack on November 23 resulted in temporary power outages at all nuclear power plants and most thermal and hydroelectric power plants, while power transmission facilities were also damaged.

Due to the widespread power outage, water and heat supply to households was also interrupted.

‘Ukraine war ups arms sales but challenges lie ahead’

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Global arms sales increased by nearly 2% in 2021, the seventh consecutive year of increases, an international arms sales watchdog noted Monday.

It added that the war in Ukraine had increased demand for weapons this year, but the conflict may also lead to a supply challenge, not least because Russia is a major supplier of raw materials used in arms production.

That could hamper efforts in the United States and Europe to strengthen their armed forces and replenish their stockpiles after sending billions of dollars' worth of ammunition and other equipment to Ukraine, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, or SIPRI, said.

“Increasing output takes time” said Diego Lopes da Silva, a senior researcher with SIPRI, adding that if the supply chain disruptions continue, “it may take several years for some of the main arms producers to meet the new demand created by the Ukraine war.”

SIPRI noted that some reports indicate that Russian companies are increasing production because of the war but



have had difficulty accessing semiconductors and are also being impacted by war-related sanctions.

It gave the example of a company that said that it has not been able to receive payments for some of its arms export deliveries.

Arms sales in 2021 reached \$592 billion and was up 1.9% which was higher than the previous period but still below the average for the four years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In its report published Monday, SIPRI said that “many parts of the arms industry were still affected by pandemic-related disruptions in global supply chains in 2021, which included delays in global shipping and shortages of vital components.”

We might have expected even greater growth in arms sales in 2021 without persistent supply chain issues,” said Dr Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, head of the SIPRI Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme.

She singled out companies, such as Airbus and General Dynamics, which also reported labour shortages.

The institute compiled a list of the world's 100 largest arms-producing and military services companies.

Although U.S. Companies dominate arms sales — 40 US companies appeared on that list and totalled \$299 billion in 2021 — the North America region was the only one to see a 0.9% drop in arms sales compared with 2020.

Putin better informed now about Ukraine war, says US

IANs ■ KIEV

The head of US intelligence has said Russian President Vladimir Putin has “become better informed” about the difficulties facing his invading forces in Ukraine, as the Kremlin suggested the Russian president could visit the occupied Donbas region at a future unspecified date.

Speaking at a defence forum, Avril Haines, the US Director of National Intelligence, indicated Putin was no longer as insulated from bad news about the conditions facing his invasion of Ukraine as he was earlier in the campaign, The Guardian reported.

Alluding to past assessments that Putin's advisers could be shielding him from bad news, Haines said he was “becoming more informed of the challenges that the military faces”.

“But it's still not clear to us that he has a full picture of at this stage of just how challenged they are,” she said, addressing an audience at the Reagan National Defense Forum in California.

US SC taking up clash of religion, gay rights

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court is hearing the case Monday of a Christian graphic artist who objects to designing wedding websites for gay couples, a dispute that's the latest clash of religion and gay rights to land at the highest court.

Democracy is the worst form of government, except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time. The designer and her supporters say that ruling against her would force artists — from painters and photographers to writers and musicians — to do work that is against their faith.

Her opponents, meanwhile, say that if she wins, a range of businesses will be able to discriminate, refusing to serve Black customers, Jewish or Muslim people, interracial or interfaith couples or immigrants, among others.

The case comes at a time when the court is dominated 6-3 by conservatives and following a series of cases in which the justices have sided with religious plaintiffs. It also comes as, across the street from the court, lawmakers in Congress are finalizing a landmark bill protecting same-sex marriage.

The bill, which also protects interracial marriage, steadily gained momentum following the high court's decision



earlier this year to end constitutional protections for abortion.

That decision to overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade case prompted questions about whether the court — now that it is more conservative — might also overturn its 2015 decision declaring a nationwide right to same-sex marriage. Justice Clarence Thomas explicitly said that decision should also be reconsidered.

The case being argued before the high court Monday involves Lorie Smith, a graphic artist and website designer in

Colorado who wants to begin offering wedding websites.

Smith says her Christian faith prevents her from creating websites celebrating same-sex marriages. But that could get her in trouble with state law. Colorado, like most other states, has what's called a public accommodation law that says if Smith offers wedding websites to the public, she must provide them to all customers. Businesses that violate the law can be fined, among other things.

Five years ago, the Supreme Court heard a different challenge involving Colorado's law

and a baker, Jack Phillips, who objected to designing a wedding cake for a gay couple. That case ended with a limited decision, however, and set up a return of the issue to the high court. Phillips' lawyer, Kristen Waggoner of the Alliance Defending Freedom, is now representing Smith.

Like Phillips, Smith says her objection is not to working with gay people. She says she'd work with a gay client who needed help with graphics for an animal rescue shelter, for example, or to promote an organisation serving children with disabilities. But she objects to creating messages supporting same-sex marriage, she says, just as she won't take jobs that would require her to create content promoting atheism or gambling or supporting abortion.

Smith says Colorado's law violates her free speech rights. Her opponents, including the Biden administration and groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, disagree.

Twenty mostly liberal states, including California and New York, are supporting Colorado while another 20 mostly Republican states, including Arizona, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee, are supporting Smith.

ISIS suspect held in Pakistan Embassy attack in Kabul

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

A member of the militant Islamic State group has been arrested in last week's shooting attack targeting the Pakistani Embassy in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul, the spokesman of the Taliban government said.

The attack, in which shots were fired at the embassy from a nearby building, triggered anger in Pakistan, and increased tensions between the two South Asian neighbours.

Pakistan's top diplomat in Kabul was walking across the lawn inside the embassy compound at the time of the attack. He was unharmed but one of his Pakistani guards was wounded. The regional affiliate of the Islamic State group, known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province and a rival of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban, has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack.

The Islamic State group said two of its fighters attacked "the renegade Pakistani ambassador and his guards" while they were inside the embassy's yard. The statement gave no further details. The chief spokesman for the Taliban government, Zabihullah Mujahid, announced the arrest of a suspect in a tweet Monday.

Mujahid said the suspect is a foreign national and that the attack was organised jointly by IS and "rebels," apparently a reference to anti-Taliban groups in Afghanistan.

North Korea fired artillery rounds near border: S Korea

AP V ■ SEOUL

South Korea's military said North Korea fired about 130 suspected artillery rounds on Monday into the water near their western and eastern sea borders, the latest military action contributing to worsening relations between the neighbours.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the weapons, fired Monday afternoon from North Korea's western and eastern coastal areas, fell within the northern side of buffer zones created under a 2018 inter-Korean agreement to reduce military tensions. There were no immediate reports of shells falling inside South Korean territorial waters.

South Korea's military said it communicated a verbal warning to North Korea over the firings and urged it to abide by the agreement. The South Korean and US militaries were closely monitoring North Korea's military activities while strengthening their readiness to respond to any "potential contingency", the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The North Korean firings were possibly a response to South Korean artillery exercises scheduled from Monday to Wednesday near the inland border town of Cheorwon.

The firings also came days after Washington, Seoul and Tokyo announced largely symbolic sanctions on some North Korean people and institutions accused of illicit activities to finance the country's nuclear



weapons and missile programmes.

It was the first time North Korea has fired weapons into the maritime buffer zones since Nov 3, when around 80 artillery shells landed within North Korea's side of the zone off its eastern coast.

North Korea has fired dozens of missiles as it increased its weapons demonstrations to a record pace this year, including multiple tests of an inter-continental ballistic missile system potentially capable of reaching deep into the US mainland, and an intermediate-range missile launched over Japan.

North Korea has also conducted a series of short-range launches it described as simulated nuclear attacks on South Korean and US targets in an angry reaction to an expansion of joint US-South Korea military exercises which North Korea views as rehearsals for a potential invasion.

Experts say North Korea hopes to negotiate economic

and security concessions from a position of strength and force the United States to accept it as a nuclear power. South Korean officials have said North Korea might up the ante soon by conducting its first nuclear test since 2017.

North Korean state media said last week that leader Kim Jong Un has called for a major political conference before the end of the year at which he is expected to address increasingly tense relations with Washington and Seoul over the expansion of North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes.

The inter-Korean military agreement that established the buffer zones is one of the few tangible remnants of the countries' short-lived diplomacy of 2018. Former South Korean President Moon Jae-in met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un three times that year while also helping to set up Kim's first summit with former US President Donald Trump.

Iran morality police status unclear after 'closure' comment

AP ■ CAIRO

An Iranian lawmaker said Sunday that Iran's government is "paying attention to the people's real demands", state media reported, a day after a top official suggested that the country's morality police whose conduct helped trigger months of protests has been shut down. The role of the morality police, which enforces veiling laws, came under scrutiny after a detainee, 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, died in its custody in mid-September.

Amini had been held for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress codes. Her death unleashed a wave of unrest that has grown into calls for the downfall of Iran's clerical rulers.

Iran's chief prosecutor Mohamed Jafar Montazeri said on Saturday the morality police "had been closed," the semi-official news agency ISNA reported. The agency did not provide details, and state media hasn't reported such a purported decision.

In a report carried by ISNA on Sunday, lawmaker Nezamoddin Mousavi signalled



a less confrontational approach toward the protests.

"Both the administration and parliament insisted that paying attention to the people's demand that is mainly economic is the best way for achieving stability and confronting the riots," he said, following a closed meeting with several senior Iranian officials, including President Ebrahim Raisi.

Mousavi did not address the reported closure of the morality police.

The Associated Press has

been unable to confirm the current status of the force, established in 2005 with the task of arresting people who violate the country's Islamic dress code.

Since September, there has been a reported decline in the number of morality police officers across Iranian cities and an increase in women walking in public without headscarves, contrary to Iranian law.

Montazeri, the chief prosecutor, provided no further details about the future of the mortality police or if its closure was nationwide and permanent.

However he added that Iran's judiciary will continue to monitor behavior at the community level."

In a report by ISNA on Friday, Montazeri was quoted as saying that the government was reviewing the mandatory hijab law. "We are working fast on the issue of hijab and we are doing our best to come up with a thoughtful solution to deal with this phenomenon that hurts everyone's heart," said Montazeri, without offering details.

Saturday's announcement could signal an attempt to appease the public and find a way to end the protests in which, according to rights groups, at least 470 people were killed. More than 18,000 people have been arrested in the

protests and the violent security force crackdown that followed, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group monitoring the demonstrations. Ali Alfoneh, a senior fellow at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, said Montazeri's statement about closing the morality police could be an attempt to pacify domestic unrest without making real concessions to protesters.

The secular middle class loathes the organization (morality police) for restricting personal freedoms," said Alfoneh. On the other hand, the "underprivileged and socially conservative class resents how they conveniently keep away from enforcing the hijab legislation" in wealthier areas of Iran's cities.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

N.I.T. No.	E-File No -126732/RT
Name of work with its location	Tender for "Provision for shot Blasting of LHB coaches as well as Bogie & Springs of LHB coaches at RCNK/SNP 12 months
Approx. cost of work	Rs.27,70,987.50/-Including GST (Rs. Twenty-Seven Lacs Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Seven and paise five zero only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 55400/-
Completion period of work	12 months of date of execution of work
Cost of Tender document on cash/by post	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11:30 hrs on 19/12/2022 Opening of Tender at 11:35
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No.: E-file-126732-Tender-RT Dated: 03.12.2022 3226/22	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that: Mrs. Payal Coyal has acquired the portion of freehold property bearing no. 30/8-A-1, area measuring 60'192 sq. mtrs. out of khasra no. 322, 323 & 324, situated at area of village Chowkhil Maharajabad, abadi known as Shahzada Bagh Indl. Area, Delhi 110035 vide Gift Deed dated 18.02.2019, Doc no. 1681 and Mrs. Ginni Dev attorney holder of Shop bearing area measuring 19'44 sq. yds. on, portion of Plot no. 6-B-2, bearing part of Upl. no. 308/7, out of khasra no. 322-324, situated in the area of vill. Chowkhil Murakbad, colony known as Sahzada Bagh, Old Rantak Road, Delhi vide GPA, ATS & will dated 24.03.2000, and Now, Mrs. Payal Coyal and Mrs. Ginni Dev both are intending to sell the above said properties to Mrs. Asha Gupta vide Sale Deed. Further, Mrs. Asha Gupta is mortgaging the above said properties with Fullerton India Credit Company Limited & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to: Mr. Munesh Dhanwanthi Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Vistas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-HL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 906877172/9818229636 (M).

उत्तराखण्ड प्राविधिक शिक्षा पखिद
शोध विकास एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, आमवाला, देहरादून

निविदा सूचना

शोध विकास एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, आमवाला, देहरादून प्रशिक्षणाधियों की योजना व्यवस्था हेतु प्रतिष्ठित सेवा प्रदाताओं से दो-बिड प्रणाली (Technical & Financial Bid) के आधार पर अतिप्रत्यक्षालीन निविदा आमंत्रित करता है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 06 दिसम्बर 2022 से 12 दिसम्बर 2022 अपराह्न 01:00 बजे तक 'संयुक्त सचिव, शोध विकास एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, आमवाला देहरादून' के कार्यालय से निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- (18% GST सहित) नगद में जमाकर प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 12 दिसम्बर 2022 की अपराह्न 03:00 बजे है। शोध शर्तें निविदा-प्रपत्र पर उपलब्ध हैं।

निविदा सू - 819/आईआरसीडीओ/अनिमोनायक/2022-23 दिनांक: 2022 संयुक्त सचिव

China's former president Jiang cremated in Beijing



PTI ■ BEIJING

China's former president Jiang Zemin was cremated here on Monday in the presence of the top leaders of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) including President Xi Jinping.

He was the President and General Secretary of the CPC from 1989 to 2002. Jiang, who had leukemia, died of multiple organ failure on November 30 in

Shanghai at the age of 96. His body was flown here by a special flight last week from Shanghai. Xi and other leaders received the body in Beijing.

The remains of Jiang were cremated at the Babaoshan Revolutionary Cemetery in western Beijing on Monday, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

President Xi and other leaders of the Communist Party of China and the state paid their respects to Comrade Jiang at the Chinese PLA General Hospital before escorting Jiang's body to the cemetery for cremation, the report said.

A memorial meeting to commemorate his life and achievements will be held at the Great Hall of People, the iconic building overlooking the sprawling Tiananmen square here on December 6 at 10 am local time.

Ruling Nepali Cong emerges as largest party, wins 57 seats under direct voting in Nepal's HoR polls

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's Nepali Congress emerged as the largest party by winning 57 seats in Nepal's parliamentary election as the counting of votes under the direct system concluded here on Monday, brightening the party's chances of forming the new government.

Elections to the House of

Representatives (HoR) and seven provincial assemblies were held on November 20 to end the prolonged political instability that has plagued the Himalayan nation.

The counting of votes started a day later.

In the 275-member HoR, 165 will be elected through direct voting, while the remaining 110 will be elected through a proportional electoral system. A party or a coalition needs 138 seats for a clear majority.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION - IV.

Pampore Kashmir - 192121

Email:- xentlmd4@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-2

In view of the poor response the last date of receipt of tenders (online), bid submission end date and bid opening of NIT No: TLMD/IV/e-NIT/17 of 2022-23 for "Augmentation of 450MVA, 220/132/33kV Grid station Zainakote under the jurisdiction of TLMD-IV, Pampore (JKPTCL)/isfurther extended as under:

1.e-Bid submission end date and time	19-12-2022 up to 14:00 hrs
2.Last date and time for submission of Hard Copy of E- Bid (Original Instruments)	20-12-2022 up to 16:00 hrs
3.Date and time of opening of online techno commercial e-bid	21-12-2022 at 14:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document / NIT / BOQ can be downloaded from website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
TLMD-IV Pampore

DIPK-NB-5369/22

China eases controls, gives no sign when 'zero Covid' ends

AP ■ BEIJING

China is easing some of the world's most stringent anti-virus controls and authorities say new variants are weaker. But they have yet to say when they might end a "zero-COVID" strategy that confines millions of people to their homes and set off protests and demands for President Xi Jinping to resign.

On Monday, commuters in Beijing and at least 16 other cities were allowed to board buses and subways without a virus test in the previous 48 hours for the first time in months. Industrial centers including Guangzhou near Hong Kong have reopened markets and businesses and lifted most curbs on movement.

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

CORRIGENDUM

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF OFFER

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the last date of submission of tender against NIT No. Head (PMG)/ BRPL E Tender / 2022-23/1508 dated 18.11.2022 for Purchase of Power by BRPL has been extended till 13.12.2022 and the revised schedule is as follows:-

A. Last date of submission of RFP Bids including EMD 13th Dec, 2022 at 15:00 Hrs.

B. Opening of non financial technical Bids 14th Dec, 2022 at 11:00 Hrs.

HOD (PMG)
BSES Rajdhani Power Limited.

For further details please log on to <http://www.bsesdelhi.com> & www.msfcemcommerce.com

Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110018
Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No.: +91 11 4620 7235
Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that our Pigmy Agent Mr. Sunil Kumar Sood, agent code PDSUSP-3 has resigned from the services on 28 July 2022. All customers belong to him are advised to visit the branch within one month from this notice for balance confirmations. Any difference in balance after this period will not be entertained by the bank.

Sd/-Senior Branch Manager
Canara Bank
64/60-61 Main Narela Road
Alipur, Delhi-110036

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1) BHARATBENZ_BB3123RCBR
REG. NO.HR69D4217 -YOM-2018

2) MAH_BLAZO40TT
REG. NO.HR46E7885-YOM-2018

UNDER HYPOTECHATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT

BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD., 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7,SECTOR 125,NOIDA-201313

OR CONTACT :JAGBIR SIR
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT / 9999996157
EMAIL:jagbir.singh@kotak.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1) BHARATBENZ_BB3123RCBR
REG. NO.HR69D4217 -YOM-2018

2) MAH_BLAZO40TT
REG. NO.HR46E7885-YOM-2018

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BRANCH ADDRESS:
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OR CONTACT :JAGBIR SIR
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT / 9999996157
EMAIL:jagbir.singh@kotak.com



UJVNL Limited

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 883 **E-Tender Notice** Date: 05/12/2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chibro Power Station, invites online bids from interested parties.

E - Tender No : CH (Maint.-) 27/2022-23 Procurement of Spares for 60 MW Francis Turbine of Chibro

Estimated cost : ₹ 11,89,148/- GST extra

Date of availability of bid document on website: 06.12.2022, 11:00 hrs.

Last date for submission of bid on website: 27.12.2022, 12:00 hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"

(Executive Engineer, Maint., Chibro)

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	30-Elect-60-T-2022-23-E3 Electrical work in connection with Renovation of R-301 to R-313 & from R-346-R-371, Toilets T-18A, T-22, T-23, T-24, T-25, 3rd floor Corridor of AC wing, A-wing, D-wing, lift lobby of G-3 & G-4 at 3rd floor, porch at G-2 including RPF hut & other misc. work at Railway Bhawan.
Approx. cost of the works in	Rs. 214.01 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 257000.00
Date & time of submission of tender	28.12.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	28.12.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/ General, New Delhi

3235/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



UJVNL Ltd.

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)

H.O. "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone-0135-2763808 Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com

RO No. 882 **e-TENDER NOTICE** Date: 05.12.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), Arakot-Tiuni, UJVNLtd., Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :

Tender Nos.04/EE(Civil)/AT/2022-23

Name of work: Drifting for Geotechnical investigations at Arakot- Tiuni HEP in District-Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand.

Estimated cost: ₹1,34,13,711.00 (GST Extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website: 05-12-2022 from 17.00 Hrs

Last date for submission of bids on website: 28-12-2022 at 17.00 Hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <https://uktenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer (Civil)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

APPENDIX IV A

[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 09.01.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 28,03,189/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine only) pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLDP00489267 (Earlier LAN Code 00000577 of DHFL), by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 28.11.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 29.11.2022 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Dharan Singh, Varun Kaushik and Babita.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Plot No B-72 measuring area 100 Sq Yard out of Khasra No 367, situated in the Revenue Estate of Village Bindapur, Colony known as Subhash Park Extn, B Block, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, bounded as under

East :Plot No. 71 West :Portion of Plot No. 72
North :Road South :Gali

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date :28.11.2022 Sd/
Place : NEW DELHI Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that: Mrs. Payal Coyal has acquired the portion of freehold property bearing no. 30/8-A-1, area measuring 60'192 sq. mtrs. out of khasra no. 322, 323 & 324, situated at area of village Chowkhil Maharajabad, abadi known as Shahzada Bagh Indl. Area, Delhi 110035 vide Gift Deed dated 18.02.2019, Doc no. 1681 and Mrs. Ginni Dev attorney holder of Shop bearing area measuring 19'44 sq. yds. on, portion of Plot no. 6-B-2, bearing part of Upl. no. 308/7, out of khasra no. 322-324, situated in the area of vill. Chowkhil Murakbad, colony known as Sahzada Bagh, Old Rantak Road, Delhi vide GPA, ATS & will dated 24.03.2000, and Now, Mrs. Payal Coyal and Mrs. Ginni Dev both are intending to sell the above said properties to Mrs. Asha Gupta vide Sale Deed. Further, Mrs. Asha Gupta is mortgaging the above said properties with Fullerton India Credit Company Limited & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to: Mr. Munesh Dhanwanthi Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Vistas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-HL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 906877172/9818229636 (M).

उत्तराखण्ड प्राविधिक शिक्षा पखिद
शोध विकास एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, आमवाला, देहरादून

निविदा सूचना

शोध विकास एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, आमवाला, देहरादून प्रशिक्षणाधियों की योजना व्यवस्था हेतु प्रतिष्ठित सेवा प्रदाताओं से दो-बिड प्रणाली (Technical & Financial Bid) के आधार पर अतिप्रत्यक्षालीन निविदा आमंत्रित करता है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 06 दिसम्बर 2022 से 12 दिसम्बर 2022 अपराह्न 01:00 बजे तक 'संयुक्त सचिव, शोध विकास एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, आमवाला देहरादून' के कार्यालय से निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य रु 590/- (18% GST सहित) नगद में जमाकर प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 12 दिसम्बर 2022 की अपराह्न 03:00 बजे है। शोध शर्तें निविदा-प्रपत्र पर उपलब्ध हैं।

निविदा सू - 819/आईआरसीडीओ/अनिमोनायक/2022-23 दिनांक: 2022 संयुक्त सचिव

Sensex slips nearly 34 pts on profit taking in oil, auto stocks



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex fell for the second straight session on Monday in a volatile trade due to profit taking in oil, IT and auto stocks ahead of the RBI policy announcement on December 7.

The 30-share BSE benchmark dipped 33.9 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 62,834.60. During the day, it fell 360.62 points or 0.57 per cent to 62,507.88.

The broader NSE Nifty eked out marginal gains and ended 4.95 points or 0.03 per cent higher at 18,701.05.

Among the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Dr Reddy's, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major laggards.

Tata Steel, NTPC, State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank and Power Grid were among the winners.

"Market continued its profit-taking trend from the record high as they exercised prudence ahead of the RBI policy announcement on 7th December. Partially, it was also due to increase in crude prices due to OPEC decision not to cut output target, and ease in China's

Covid policy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Markets made a muted start to the week and ended almost unchanged. After the flat start, the Nifty index oscillated in a narrow range and finally settled at the 18,701 level," said Ajit Mishra, VP — Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

In the broader market, BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.25 per cent and midcap index advanced 0.10 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, metal jumped 2.37 per cent, commodities realty (0.74 per cent), bankex (0.46 per cent) and financial services (0.35 per cent).

FMCG, IT, telecommunication, oil & gas and teck were the laggards.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher, while Seoul ended lower.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly lower in the afternoon trade. Wall Street had ended on a mixed note on Friday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.73 per cent higher at USD 87.05 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought shares worth Rs 214.76 crore on Friday, as per exchange data.

RBI starts deliberations amid expectations of moderate rate hike

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel on Monday started brainstorming for the next round of monetary policy amid expectations of a moderate interest rate hike of 25-35 basis points as inflation has started showing signs of easing and economic growth tapering.

The RBI has hiked key benchmark lending rate by 50 basis points (bps) thrice since June over and above an off-cycle 40 bps increase in repo in May.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das would be announcing the bi-monthly monetary policy on Wednesday (December 7) on the conclusion of the three-day of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meet.

India's largest lender State Bank of India in a research report authored by Group Chief Economic Adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh on Monday said: "We expect the RBI to hike rates in smaller magnitude in December policy attuned to emerging market central banks and the overall rate setting tone. A 35-bps repo rate hike looks imminent. We believe at 6.25 per cent, it could be the terminal rate for now".

The current policy repo



rate is 5.9 per cent.

Several other experts too expect the rate hike to be in the range of 25-35 basis points on Wednesday.

On September 30, the RBI had hiked the key policy rate (repo) by 50 basis points with an aim to check inflation.

It was the third successive hike of 50 bps. Before the September hike, the central bank had raised the repo rate by 50 bps each in June and August, and 40 bps in May.

Consumer price index (CPI) based retail inflation, which the RBI mainly factors in while arriving at its monetary policy, is showing signs of moderation but still remains above the central bank's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent since January this year.

The inflation dropped to

6.77 per cent in October from 7.41 per cent in the preceding month, mainly due to easing prices in the food basket, though it remained above Reserve Bank's comfort level for the 10th month in a row.

The GDP growth in the second quarter of the fiscal slowed to 6.3 per cent as against a growth of 13.5 per cent in the preceding three months.

The RBI has been tasked by the government to ensure the retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent. However, it failed to keep the inflation rate below six per cent for three consecutive quarters beginning January 2022. So it had to submit a report to the government detailing reasons for the failure to contain prices and remedial steps to rein in the price rise.

Meta airtel

Meta to jointly invest with Airtel in telecom infrastructure

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Social media giant Meta Platforms and Bharti Airtel on Monday announced a collaboration to jointly invest in telecom infrastructure to cater to the rising demand of high speed data and digital services in India.

The announcement comes on the back of telecom operators' demand to share revenue with service providers to build networks.

"Airtel and Meta will jointly invest in global connectivity infrastructure and CPaaS (communications platform as a service) based new-age digital solutions to support the emerging requirements of customers and enterprises in India," the statement said.

As part of the collaboration, Airtel will partner with Meta and STC (Saudi Telecom Company), to extend the world's longest subsea cable system, 2Africa Pearls, to India.

The plan to extend 2Africa Pearls to India was announced by Meta in September 2021.

Under the collaboration, Airtel and Meta will extend the cable to Airtel's landing station in Mumbai and also pick up dedicated capacity to further strengthen its submarine network portfolio.

"The 2Africa cable will significantly boost India's cable capacity and empower global hyper-scalers and businesses to build new integrated solutions and provide a high-quality seamless experience to customers," the statement said.

Airtel will also integrate Meta's WhatsApp within its CPaaS platform. With this integration, businesses will now be able to use WhatsApp and reach to provide omnichannel customer engagement to enterprises.

"We, at Airtel, are delighted to deepen our partnership with Meta to serve India's digitally connected economy by leveraging the technology and infrastructure strengths of both companies. With our contributions to the 2Africa cable and Open RAN, we are investing in crucial and progressive connectivity infrastructure which is needed to support the increasing demand for high-speed data in India," Bharti Airtel, CEO for Global Business, Vani Venkatesh said.

Airtel and Meta are members of the Telecom Infra Project (TIP) Open RAN project group.

PAN number likely to be used as unique identifier for businesses for single-window clearance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is considering to allow businesses to use Permanent Account Number (PAN) instead of other data as a unique identifier for entering into national single window system to seek different clearances and approvals of the central and state departments.

At present there are over 13 different business IDs like EPFO, ESIC, GSTN, TIN, TAN and PAN, which are being used to apply for various government approvals.

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said that his ministry has already approached the department of revenue on the matter.

"We are moving towards using one of the existing databases as the entry point, which is already available with the government...And most probably that will be the PAN number. So with the PAN, a lot of the basic data about the company, its directors, addresses, and a lot of common data is already available in the PAN database," Goyal told reporters here.

The national single window system (NSWS) is aimed at reducing duplicity of information submission to different ministries, reduce compliance burden, cut gestation period of projects, and promote ease of starting and doing business.

NSWS enables the identification, applying and subsequent tracking of approvals for all integrated states and central departments.

He said that use of PAN number will help auto-populate



other application forms that will be received in the system and will help speed up the approval process and encourage more companies to apply on the system. The system currently accepts applications for 248 government-to-business clearance and approvals from 26 central ministries and departments, including states.

So far 19 states/Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Karnataka, and 27 central government departments are already onboarded the system, which was started in September last year and is under beta testing phase.

The minister also informed that at present businesses are taking approvals for different policies including vehicle scrapage policy, ethanol policy, hall-marking of jewellery and Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) approvals.

"We will be moving towards newer areas like all inspection approvals, country of origin approvals, export promotion council applications. At the next stage, these will come on the system," he said, adding that all applicants of the production linked incentive scheme are being encouraged to use the system.

He was addressing the media after a review meeting on the National Single Window System in New Delhi on Monday. The meeting witnessed participation from 32 central ministries/departments, 36 states/UTs and industry associations.

India's services sector output growth hits 3-month high in Nov on strong demand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's services sector output growth touched a three-month high in November as business inflows rose markedly amid accommodative demand conditions, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from 55.1 in October to 56.4 in November, indicating a sharp increase in output that was the quickest in three months even amid higher operating expenses.

Survey participants linked the latest expansion to demand strength, successful marketing and a sustained upturn in sales.

For the 16th straight month, the headline figure was above the neutral 50 threshold. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"Indian service providers continued to reap the benefits of strong domestic demand, with PMI data for the penultimate



month of 2022 showing faster increase in new business and output," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

On the jobs front, sustained expansions in new work intakes and demand buoyancy continued to promote job creation in the service economy.

"Employment rose at a solid pace that was among the quickest in over three years," the survey said.

On the prices front, services companies across India reported higher operating expenses. In addition to greater transportation costs, firms reported higher prices for energy, food, packaging, paper, plastic and electrical products.

"Whilst on the whole the latest results are encouraging, the trend for inflation is somewhat concerning. Strong demand for services again boosted firms' pricing power, with more companies transferring cost increase to their customers," Lima said.

The overall upturn in input costs was sharp and little-changed from October, while output charges rose at the quickest rate in over five years, Lima said.

"Evidence of stubborn inflation may prompt further hikes to the policy rate at a time when global economic challenges could negatively impact India's growth," Lima added.

The RBI will come out with its next bi-monthly policy review on December 7 at the end of a three-day meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) beginning Monday.

According to experts, the Reserve Bank may opt for a lower rate increase of 25-35 basis points in lending rates amid retail inflation showing signs of moderation and the need to push growth.

Tata Motors mulling price hike for passenger vehicles from next month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Motors is looking to increase passenger vehicle prices from next month in order to make its model range compliant with stricter emission norms which kick in from April 1 next year, according to a top company official.

In an interaction with PTI, Tata Motors Managing Director - Passenger Vehicle and Electric Vehicles Shailesh Chandra said the price revision would also offset the impact of commodity prices, which have remained high for the most part of the year.

"The regulatory change will have its impact on the cost. Even the real impact of softening of



commodity prices is only going to come from next quarter and we still have the residual impact of the commodity escalation that we have seen during the year," Chandra said.

He noted that even the battery prices have gone up and the same has not been passed on to the market.

"So we are evaluating a price increase basis some of the residual effect that is left as far as the commodity prices are concerned. Battery prices and new regulations have also impacted the EV side," Chandra said.

Besides, there is a cost involved in making the model range transition to conform to new emission norms, he added.

"We are exploring potential price increase next month because of these factors for both ICE and EVs," Chandra said.

Tata Motors sells a range of models like Punch, Nexon, Harrier, and Safari in the domestic market. It leads the electric vehicle segment with products like Tiago EV and Nexon EV.

Govt taking steps to make Indian MSMEs stronger, globally competitive: Minister

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Micro, small and medium enterprises are among the most important pillars of India's economy and the government is working to make the sector stronger and more developed, Minister of State for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma said on Monday.

"We will also work to ensure that interrelationship between the MSME sector and other important pillars of the Indian economy are further strengthened as India grows," the minister said.

Addressing FICCI's Annual MSME Summit, Verma urged the industry and other stakeholders to work with the government to make India a USD 5 trillion economy along with becoming self-reliant.

He said there are 6.3 crore Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country which are providing 11 crore jobs.

"MSMEs contribute around 30 per cent to our GDP and have a share of 50 per cent of the income generated from total exports," he said.

Further, the minister said that the government is taking continuous steps to strengthen Indian MSMEs and PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment



Generation Programme), launched last financial year, was a step in this direction. Under this scheme in the year 2021-22, a total of 1.03 lakh new units have been set up in the manufacturing and services sector.

The government, Verma said, is also working to ensure that by taking advantage of the full potential of the MSMEs, there contribution to the Indian economy should be doubled.

"For this, we will ensure to remove the external barriers and provide strength to MSMEs in order to make India self-reliant.

"We are also working to develop the culture of becoming entrepreneurs in the youth, provide loans to MSMEs, improve their quality and increasing their competitiveness to increase their efficiency," he added.



Air India to lease 12 more aircraft comprising A320 neo, Boeing 777

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Air India on Monday said it will lease 12 more aircraft comprising both A320 neo and Boeing 777, which are expected to be inducted in its existing fleet in the first half of 2023.

The new planes will be deployed on the airline's short, medium and long-haul international routes, Air India said in a statement.

Air India said it has leased 42 aircraft since its privatisation in January this year.

Of the 12 new leased planes, six are wide-body Boeing 777-300ER, while the remaining six are narrow-body Airbus A320 neo, as per the statement.

The airline had in September this year announced that it will be adding 30 leased aircraft -- 21 A320, 4 A321 and 5 B777-200LR in its fleet over a 15-months period, amid its plan

to have 30 per cent share in both domestic and international markets.

The A320 neo will be operated on the airline's domestic as well as short-to-medium haul international routes, Air India said.

The airline said the B777-300 ER will have four-class configuration -- first, business, premium economy and economy -- to connect metro cities with more international destinations.

In addition to leasing of aircraft, Air India has also brought back into operations 19 aircraft, which were grounded for a long time while nine more such planes are expected to join the fleet, it stated.

As part of the expansion, Air India is enhancing the frequency of flights between key cities on the domestic routes, besides announcing expansion of international flight services.

INBRIEF

ADANI'S NDTV OPEN OFFER CLOSES WITH 32% SUBSCRIPTION

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group open offer for NDTV ended on Monday with investors tendering nearly 32 per cent share of the media house despite a deep discount to the stock's current trading price. The Adani group firm acquired nearly 53.27 lakh share shares of NDTV from the open market at a price band of 294 by the end of trading hours on Monday, exchange data showed.

RCPSDC TO SKILL SHG WOMEN MEMBERS IN FOOTWEAR

Department of Mission Shakti, Govt of Odisha, has collaborated with Rubber, Chemical & Petrochemical Skill Development Council (RCPSDC) to improve livelihood opportunities for SHG women members through market focused skilling and entrepreneurship promotion in footwear manufacturing. Over a period of next two years, as many as 2000 women SHG members will be trained by RCPSDC in footwear (Hawai slipper) manufacturing and empowered to commence their micro manufacturing/ assembling units. An MoU to this effect was signed by Ms Mansi Nimbal IAS, State Mission Director cum CEO, Mission Shakti Department, Govt of Odisha and Saif Mohammad, CEO, RCPSDC at the Make in Odisha Conclave in the dignified presence of Chief Minister of Odisha.

Specialist players & split coaching make lot of sense for bigger teams: Andy Flower

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur, addressing at the International volunteer day, in New Delhi on December 05, 2022

मुख्यमंत्री युवा इंटर्नशिप योजना

युवा विकास में
मध्यप्रदेश सरकार की
महत्वपूर्ण पहल



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री



मध्यप्रदेश के युवाओं
के लिए

‘मुख्यमंत्री जनसेवा मित्र’
बनने का
सुनहरा अवसर

- प्रत्येक विकासखंड में 15 इंटर्न्स, प्रदेश भर में कुल 4695 युवाओं का चयन
- प्रति माह 8000 रुपये का स्टाइपेंड
- पिछले 2 वर्षों में स्नातक/स्नातकोत्तर उत्तीर्ण हुए 18-29 आयु वर्ग के युवा
- विकास योजनाओं के लिए जमीनी स्तर पर काम करने का अनुभव पाएं

MPonline पोर्टल पर 7 दिसम्बर, 2022 से आवेदन करें

अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी सुशासन एवं नीति विश्लेषण संस्थान