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MAKE IN
ODISHA
CONCLAVE'22
BHUBANESWAR | 30 NOV-04 DEC | 2022



Shri Naveen Patnaik
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

04th DEC. 2022 | JANATA MAIDAN | BHUBANESWAR

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(11.00 am onwards)

Food Court

Mega Cultural Program

(5.30 pm onwards)

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Rs 1 cr for dist-level Mission Shakti federation

CM addresses women entrepreneurs at MIO

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Mission Shakti, which began in 2001, has today become a mass movement of 70,000 empowered women in Odisha, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik addressing women entrepreneurs at the Make in Odisha (MIO) Conclave here on Saturday.

"Women empowerment is not a mere slogan for my Government. It is a non-negotiable code. I strongly believe



that without empowering women, any family, any society, any State or country can't progress," Patnaik said.

"In Odisha, 6 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are functional. The State Government's aim

is to convert the SHGs into SMEs," he said.

To strengthen the Mission Shakti federations, revolving funds of Rs 1 crore would be provided to them at the district level and Rs 50 lakh at

the block level. At the panchayat level, market complexes and office rooms would be constructed. Besides, in all 30 districts, micro, mini industrial parks would be set up, announced the CM.

Archana honey-trap case

Hotelier questioned for second time

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Hotelier Shiba Prasad Das on Saturday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for a second time in connection with Archana Nag's money laundering case.

"Many people visit my hotel. Archana might have visited my hotel. No deal was struck in my hotel. I don't know Sradhanjali and Khageswar," said Das.

On Friday, the investigating agency had grilled film producer Pramod Swain for around 13 hours in connection



with the Archana case. Leaving the ED office, he said, "I am innocent and had not

given a single penny to anybody. I submitted some documents and my passport to the

ED."

A land owner, Prabhat Ranjan Pati had also appeared before the agency in connection with a land deal between him and Archana.

So far, another Odia film producer Akshay Parija, businessman and BJD MLA Sudhir Kumar Samal's brother Gangadhar Samal, another businessman Amiyakant Das, Archana's associate Shradhanjali, her business partner Khageswar Patra and her driver Chandan have appeared before the ED in connection with the case.

'Jatayu' to suck garbage from city roads



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

To make Bhubaneswar a bin-free city, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has added 'Jatayu', an additional scientific tool, for sanitation activity on roads.

BMC Mayor Sulochana Das on Friday in the presence of Deputy Mayor Manjulata Kanhar and Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange inaugurated the Jatayu Cleaning

Machine at Janpath near the Census Office. She also launched the equipment at the District Centre in Chandrasekharpur. With 1.5-tonne capacity and 9-diameter suction pipe, Jatayu can suck garbage and hard materials from roadside. While the Jagruti will deploy the machine for cleaning of garbage from main roads of the city, another agency, Pratyush, will clean internal roads of the city.

In city outskirts 80-yr-old monk assaulted in cops' presence



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A Mahima cult monk, Brundban Das (80) was beaten up by some miscreants at his ashram at Mendhasal on the Chandaka-Khordha National Highway in the presence of police.

Besides Das, some of his followers were also injured in the attack.

The goons also damaged the

ashram. The monk had carried out afforestation in 10 acres of barren land in which he has grown medicinal trees.

It was alleged that Das was the target by a relative of a local Sarpanch and his supporters. But police instead of taking action against the attackers remained mute spectators.

The monk's supporters have demanded immediate action against the culprits.

Make in Odisha Conclave

'Odisha to be hub for petroleum, chemicals'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Efforts are to turn Odisha to a manufacturing hub for petroleum and chemicals sector. Attending the sectoral session on Day 2 of the Make in Odisha Conclave, here, Minister, Industries, MSME and Energy Pratap Keshari Deb said, "We are making sincere efforts in a bid to establish Odisha as the manufacturing hub for petroleum and chemicals sector. We will stick to our commitment to providing all necessary benefits under our industrial policy for this sector."

Executive Director, Industrial Promotion and Invest-

ment Coproration of Odisha Limited (IPICOL) Kalyan Mohanty welcomed over 220 dignitaries and shared the State's vision and focus.

Principal Secretary, IPICOL Hemant Sharma mentioned that Odisha has immense scope for development of plastics, chemicals and petrochemical downstream.

He further said MSMEs can make a great turnover in the coming five years if they invest small amounts in the chemicals and petrochemical industry in Odisha. Anyone investing in the sector would be given 20% capital investment subsidy which no other State can offer at this mo-

ment, he told. He also announced a lucrative offering for the industrialists saying that anyone who puts up a plant in any areas of western Odisha can get 100% reimbursement in SGST till such time when they are able to clear it. Initially, the claim period was within 5 to 7 years but now the period is extended till 10 years to 15 years, he said

AS Sahney, Executive Director, Petrochemicals, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, an anchor tenant in the Petroleum Chemicals and Petrochemicals Region (PCPIR) hub, said by 2025, the Indian Oil is planning to commission a textile park in Bhadrak.

Hiranand Savlani, CFO, Astral Pipes along with Minister, Industries, MSME and Energy Deb virtually inaugurated a manufacturing facility of Astral Pipes Ltd in Ramdaspur, Cuttack.

Narayanan Suresh Krishnan, MD and CEO of Paradeep Phosphates Ltd, KJ Patel, Senior Executive Director, IFFCO, Sisir Jalan, president, India Plastic Federation, Mayur D Shah, president, AIPMA and SK Nayak, Vice Chancellor, Ravenshaw University among others spoke.

Manoj Mehta, Director and Head - Chemicals, Petrochemicals, FICCI gave the vote of thanks.

Temp to fall by 3 to 4 deg in State

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The minimum temperature in several parts of the State would drop in the coming days, the Regional Office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here predicted on Saturday.

The minimum temperature is likely to fall by 3 to 4 degree Celsius at many places in four to five days.

Keonjhar recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 13.5 degree on Friday night. The twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar recorded minimum temperature of 16.8 and 18.1 degree, respectively.

Meanwhile, a cyclonic circulation is likely to form in south Andaman Sea around December 4. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over south-east Bay of Bengal and adjoining south Andaman Sea by December 5. But it would likely to have no impact in Odisha, the weather office said.

KiiT Int'l School Lit Fest kicks off

Nandita Das, Jeeva Raghunath, Ravinder present



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The 8th National Children's Literary Festival 2022 of KiiT International School kicked off here on Saturday in the presence of actor and director Nandita Das, author and storyteller Jeeva Raghunath and author Ravinder Singh.

Novelist Ruskin Bond, who has conceptualised the festival, would join the event virtually

during the course of the event.

Raghunath shared a story imitating different sounds which was well-appreciated by students who joined her during her brief storytelling session. Kolkata-born author Ravinder Singh, who was raised in Odisha and joined as a software engineer at a firm in Bhubaneswar before moving elsewhere, was ecstatic about coming back to his home

town to participate in the festival.

"When I happen to write a novel, I am proud of the fact that my stories are based out of Bhubaneswar. Odisha has been my karmabhoomi for so long. Every time I come to the city, I witness the changes around me and enjoy the street food," he said.

The festival will conclude on Sunday.

'Form 'Fiscal Council' to make fiscal policy sustainable'

Economist Govinda Rao says at Utkal Varsity event

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Alumni Association of the Department of Analytical & Applied Economics, Utkal University, organised its annual lecture series on "Sustainable Fiscal Policy in India: Post-Pandemic Challenges" on Saturday. Prof Dr M Govinda Rao, former Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy and former Member of Fourteenth Finance Commission (2013-14), discussed the limited role of rule based fiscal policy in crisis situations like Covid-19.

This Prof Bidyadhar Misra Memorial Lecture Series is



organised by the association every year in the memory of Prof Misra, founder of the department. Prof Rao praised Prof Misra's academic contributions to research on small

industries, tribal development, etc.

He said the Indian economy is currently going through the post-pandemic syndrome in the forms of rising unemploy-

ment, reverse migration, disturbances in the production relations and distribution networks. The policymakers both at the State and national levels are finding it difficult to

cope with the situations. Prof Rao remained sceptical on the effectiveness of rule-based fiscal policy in its present form.

Lamenting on the burgeoning fiscal deficit, Prof Rao said debt sustainability in India has been a matter of concern for a long time. The levels of deficit and debt have been much higher than the levels seen in the emerging economies. The attempts to control them by implementing rule-based fiscal policy, like in most other countries, have not been successful and the numerical targets on deficit and debt recommended by successive Finance Commissions and taken in FRBM Acts have been observed in their breach rather than compliance. The corona pandemic has brought the issue to the fore once again.

"It is high time that we bring

second generation reforms in the existing budget management rules" Prof Rao said.

Along the lines of the 15th Finance Commission, he also stressed on evolving a new fiscal architecture for the 21st Century with three important pillars: (i) fiscal rules across all levels of government towards achieving sustainability; (ii) a scientific public finance management system to provide comprehensive, consistent, reliable, and timely reporting of fiscal indicators that are a part of the fiscal rules; and (iii) an independent fiscal institution namely "The Fiscal Council" to assess and advise on the working of the first two pillars.

The memorial lecture ended with remarks by alumni association president Dr Subhas Kumar.

WORLD 5
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ON IRAN NUCLEAR PLANT**MONEY 6**
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EC warns against urban voter apathy

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

DELHI DECIDES TODAY

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

“For election, we have got 108 coys (companies) of Central and State armed police forces,” he said. Sixty-eight model polling stations and as many pink polling stations covering all 11 Assembly segments, have been established for quality experience of voters. Sixty drones will be used in ensuring law and order in the sensitive zones of each district, which has been given four-five unmanned aerial vehicles each.

Rs 10.50L-cr proposals in MIO meet



CM expresses happiness

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

“I am happy to announce that the Make in Odisha (MIO) Conclave-2022 has generated investment intents of Rs 10.50 lakh crore with potential for 10.50 lakh direct and indirect employments. It’s heartening to see the huge response we have got especially in the post-Covid scenario.”

Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik stated this at the concluding session of Make in Odisha Conclave at the Janata Maidan here on Saturday.

“Let us all work hard to implement these investments on the ground and take Odisha to a new era of growth. I would like to assure all our investors that we will walk the extra mile for them. We will walk the talk. It will be a win-win situation,” he said, adding, “Let the juggernaut move on.”

He gave “special thanks to our country partners Japan, Norway and Germany”.

IFFI jury stands with Lapid on Kashmir Files issue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Israeli filmmaker and chief of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) jury Nadav Lapid, who triggered a controversy in India earlier this week with his remarks against the film ‘The Kashmir Files’, has got the support of all jury members except one Indian jurist. The supporters issued a joint statement.

Lapid had said during the closing ceremony of the IFFI in Goa that ‘The Kashmir Files’ was a ‘propaganda’ film



and ‘vulgar.’ Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon took exception to these remarks and asked the filmmaker to apologise. The India jury member

Sudipto Sen disputed Lapid’s claims about the film directed by Vivek Agnihotri. Veteran actor Anupam Kher had acted in the film. Both of them have slammed Lapid.

According to the news portal *The Wire*, breaking their silence, the three foreign members of the IFFI jury have now said they stand behind what Lapid said. On Saturday, fellow jury member Jinko Gotoh tweeted a statement expressing the support of all the foreign members of the jury for Lapid’s stance on ‘The Kashmir Files.’

Hate mail for envoy

New Delhi: Days after he slammed filmmaker Nadav Lapid for his remarks against the film ‘The Kashmir Files’, Israeli envoy to New Delhi Naor Gilon has received a hate mail calling Hitler “great” for the Holocaust.

Details on P4

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

Thyroid

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

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

Eye and Ear Diseases

Allopathy has no cure for vision impairment, glaucoma, macular degeneration etc.

Yoga practice along with medicines like Eyegrit, Akshi Tarpan, Eargrit and Karnapurna etc. we have given people freedom from eye and ear diseases.

Liver

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

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

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

Skin diseases

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

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

Arthritis

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

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

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

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

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4 die, 1 critical as SUV hits tree in N'rangpur



PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

Four persons were killed and another sustained critical injuries when an SUV by which they were travelling hit a roadside tree near Saraguda area under the Dabugam police limits in Nabarangpur district late on Friday night.

The deceased were identified

as Sheikh Saddam (25), Rabin Hial (26) and Saban Benia (25) from Nabarangpur town and Ansar Khan (24) from Papadahandi in the district. The injured person Saqib Khan (25) from Papadahandi is undergoing treatment at the Saheed Laxman Nayak (SLN) Medical College Hospital in Koraput.

According to reports, the nfive youth were travelling by a Hyundai Creta from Nabarangpur to Umarkote when the vehicle rrammed into the tree due to fog, killing three occupants on the spot.

The youths were travelling together to see Rabin Hial off in Umarkote, where the latter was working with a finance company.

On receiving information, the Dabugam police reached the site and rushed two injured persons to the Dabugam Community Health Centre. Later, the victims were taken to the SLN Hospital in Koraput.

The bodies were handed over to their respective families following postmortem in the afternoon.

Bharat Ratna for Madhubabu

Signature drive held in UP, MP, Guj

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The members of All Odisha Lawyers' Forum collected signatures of Odias residing in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat in support for Bharat Ratna to Utkalgaurab Madhusudan Das posthumously.

The members including Gadadhar Das, Sanjay Sahu, Kishor Jadhia, Rajib Chopra, Jayasish Jadhia and Deepak Som led by lawyer Dr Lingaraj Sahoo collected signatures from the three States as a part of a signature campaign, which started in Kolkata in 2018. So far, it has covered Andaman, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Mathura, Amritsar, Haridwar



and Kolkata. "Many great leaders have been honoured with the coveted Bharata Ratna since 1954. But no Odia legendary has been given the award. Now it is right time to

amend the historic injustice done to Odisha and recognize the incomparable sacrifices of Madhubabu to the people of the State," said Dr Lingaraj Sahoo.

Student held for killing teacher in K'jhar

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

Police on Saturday arrested a youth on the charge of stabbing to death a teacher in Hatidih block of Keonjhar district in November.

The accused was identified as Arup, a former student of the deceased Anirudh Swain, a Mathematics teacher at the Dhenka High School.

Arup was arrested by the Nandipada police from Kaniari village of Dhenka panchayat under the Soso police station in the district.

Sources, Arup had a heated altercation with Anirudh at the latter's house. However, losing his cool, Arup stabbed Anirudh with a knife and then bludgeoned the teacher with a

stone. Anirudh died on the spot in the attack.

Arup then fled from the spot with Anirudh's two-wheeler. Two weeks later, Fire Services personnel recovered the body of Anirudh from a canal.

Police reached the spot and seized the vehicle and weapons used in the crime which the accused had abandoned there. The cops got a steel bangle of the accused during investigations. With the help of the bangle and other evidences they managed to nab Arup.

Anandpur SDPO Prasant Kumar Behera said the accused was arrested and forwarded to court under the relevant Sections of IPC.

Rayagada RK Mission holds 125th anniv



PNS ■ RAYAGADA

The 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Ramakrishna Mission was celebrated in the Hatamuniguda Ashram.

The programme started with offering of flowers to Swamiji amidst blowing of conch shells followed by lighting of 125 ceremonial lamps amidst Vedic chanting.

Swami Sandarshananda, Swami Aryananda and Dr Shashank Grahacharjya, Director, Centre of Excellence for Result Based Management and Social Innovation, Bhubaneswar attended the programme as special guests and discussed on the 125 years of the journey of the Ramakrishna Mission.

Manas Madhi, a student, also spoke on the occasion. The proceedings of the first two meetings of the Ramakrishna Mission Association held on 1st and 5th May 1897 were read out by Indranil Mukherjee.

The programme included opening and closing songs which were presented by students of the Ashram. Ashram secretary Swami Gitatmananda welcomed the guests and the audience and introduced the topic.

In the evening a documentary "Blooming Lotus of Humanity-125 years of Ramakrishna Mission" was screened. About 750 people participated in the programme. All were served with prasad.

Man held for killing lover in Balangir

Another person arrested for providing gun

PNS ■ BALANGIR

Police have arrested two persons for their alleged involvement in the murder of Chhattisgarh woman whose body was recovered a few days back from a forest near Turekela College in Balangir district. The deceased was identified as Tanu Kure, an Axis Bank employee in Raipur in Chhattisgarh.

The arrests were made based on a complaint filed by the family of the deceased with the Raipur police after Tanu went missing on November 21.

After her body was found in Turekela three days later, police had started an investigation during which it was ascertained that Tanu was

having a love relationship with one Sachin Agarwal of Kantabanji.

The duo's relationship had turned bitter as Sachin was angry over another person calling up Tanu regularly. On November 24, he took Tanu to Bangomunda in a four-wheeler on some pretext. During the journey the couple had an argument. Sachin flew into a rage and fired three rounds at the woman from his pistol.

He then dumped the body in a forest in Turekela and poured petrol over it and set it on fire. Police during investigation found that the pistol was registered in the name of one Suraj Sagarwal.

Later, both Sachin and Suraj were arrested after the latter confessed to their crime, said Kantabanji SDPO Lakshmi Narayan Marndi.

CAG picks holes in Biju Setu Yojana

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has found several irregularities in the implementation of the Biju Setu Yojana (BSY) in the State. The CAG has pointed out several reasons, including delay in finalisation of tender, poor quality survey resulting in changes in design, failure in resolving issues related to land acquisition and inefficiency of private

contractors, for the tardy progress of the BSY.

The CAG report said the State Government had planned to complete 793 bridge projects during 2017 to 2021. Out of this, only 473 (59%) were completed. The BSY was launched by the Government in 2011 to boost road communication in rural areas.

The authorities concerned could spend only Rs 2,255 crore against the budget provision of Rs 2,570 crore

under the scheme. Works on 48 projects remained incomplete after incurring an expenditure of Rs 184 crore due to non-acquisition of land needed for the bridge or for the approach roads. Besides, the provision for manual excavation instead of mechanical excavation led to extra expenditure of Rs 4.82 crore in 82 projects, said the CAG report, which was tabled in the Assembly on Friday.

The CAG report cited poor monitoring of the work by the

State Quality Monitors (SQMs) and Third Party Quality Monitors (TPQMs). The SQMs did not inspect 96% of the bridge works while the TPQMs did not do their job in 80% of the project works. A bridge over the Suktel river in Balangir district was completed in September 2015 with an expenditure of Rs 7.58 crore. But cracks appeared in the bridge due to poor quality construction work. The bridge collapsed in April 2020, said the CAG report.

Social audits

Discrepancies in Nuapada NREGS, NSAS execution

AJIT PANDA ■ NUAPADA

A public hearing of social audits done for MGNREGS, National Social Assistance Scheme and 15th Finance Commission grants utilised in the financial year 2021-22 in Khariar block of Nuapada district was held on Wednesday. Khariar Panchayat Samiti Chairperson Puspanjali Nanda, Vice Chairman Gautam Tandi and ZP Chief Executive Officer, Madhuchhanda Sahu were present.

District Social Audit Officer Milan Pati presented the findings at the beginning. The main findings of SA on MGNREGS were poor



maintenance of case records, absence of information board in work sites and financial deviations etc. The SA team said that case records of projects were not maintained as per guideline and prescribed check lists of MGNREGS. In most of the cases work orders had not been issued and pictures of worksite facilities, different stages of works, wage

list and FTO details were not found in the case records.

Likewise, in most cases the pictures of information boards were not found and there was poor maintenance of muster rolls. The SA team also revealed that the concerned officials were reluctant to submit the case records of the projects to the SA team.

Financial deviations had

also been identified in many projects. Vouchers of expenditures were missing in some files. In the National Social Assistance Programme, payments have been released to dead persons, it was found.

The Public Hearing Committee decided to impose fine according to guidelines on officials for not submitting records to the SA team.

CM's word for Padampur dist not reliable: Cong

PNS ■ PADAMPUR

The Congress has urged voters to support its nominee Satyabhusan Sahu in the Padampur by-poll.

At a Press meet in Paikmal on Saturday, PCC president Sarat Patnaik hit out at the Naveen Patnaik Government for constantly neglecting Padampur and cheating the people on the plea of forming a district.

He said that in the recent Assembly session, the Government clarified that there is no proposal for new



district formation. Given this, how far the announcement made by CM Patnaik on turning Padampur to a district is reliable, he asked.

Congress nominee Sahu said the BJD spent crores for

arranging election rallies of the CM by bringing people from far-off places, including neighbouring Chhattisgarh. When the Election Commission has set limit for MLA election expenses at Rs

40 lakh, the BJD is spending crores in the Padampur by-election to win it at any cost, he alleged and demanded the intervention of the EC.

Former Minister Ganeswar Behera asked CM Patnaik to bring a list of his developmental programmes for Padampur in 2023 for the 2024 elections and urged people to support Congress in the by-election. Among others, senior leaders Jagannath Patnaik and State Mahila Congress president Bandita Parida spoke.

B'swar Dist Library in limbo sans manpower

Hardly opened
UBACHAK MOHANTY
■ BALESWAR

The District Library of Baleswar is in a shambles as it is badly hit by staff crunch. For the last three months, the library is hardly opened for the readers to use it as the staff members including the librarian, the assistant librarian and the peon have retired.

Since September it has been running without staff. At times, the district culture office opens the library for one or two hours and then shuts it. Except newspapers, no book is issued from the shelf for reading, alleged a reader who



is preparing for competitive exams. He alleged further that though the Culture Minister belongs to Baleswar district, the district library is in a pitiable condition.

Reports further added that the library built in the parental house of legendary poet Fakir

Mohan Senapati was renovated and given a facelift a few years ago to attract readers. The library houses about 30,000 books; besides it acquires monthly journals and magazines. Sadly, as the library remains closed for most of the time, the readers, mainly the

students and senior citizens find hardly any opportunity to avail the facility.

Reports further added that although equipment was purchased to make the library a smart one yet nothing has been done so far to recruit the required manpower. About Rs 4 lakh was spent to procure computers, scanners, printers and internet etc. to provide e-library facility, yet due to lack of use, the gadgets are gathering dust.

Regarding the issue, District Culture Officer Asish Kumar Sahu said the department was appraised regarding the vacancies of staff members and hoped that the manpower would be recruited soon.

INBRIEF

CLEARTRIP, OTDC SIGN MOU TO BOOST TOURISM

Bhubaneswar: The Cleartrip, one of India's fastest-growing OTA platforms, and the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) signed an MoU on Saturday to boost tourism in Odisha. The Cleartrip will onboard OTDC partner hotels to its platform. This will generate greater visibility for OTDC partner hotels on the Cleartrip platform, eventually encouraging more tourists to visit Odisha. The MoU was signed at the 'Make in Odisha' Conclave.



DOG BITES 20 PEOPLE, KILLED BY LOCALS IN BALESWAR

Baleswar: A stray dog was beaten to death by locals after it ran amok and bit over 20 people in ward no. 4 here on Saturday morning. Panic gripped the area as the dog biting spree news spread like wildfire. All the injured persons were treated in the District Headquarters Hospital.

SCRIBE BAIASHNAB JENA PASSES AWAY

Bhubaneswar: Senior journalist and columnist Baishnab Jena passed away here on Saturday. He was 68 and is survived by his wife and two sons. Jena, who was suffering from ailments for last few months, was a freelance scribe towards the later part of his life.



COMMISSIONERATE RED CROSS DISTRIBUTES BLANKETS

Bhubaneswar: The Indian Red Cross Society Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissionerate branch on Friday distributed blankets among needy senior citizens of Satyabhamapur, Kotiballi and Turintira villages under Baliana and Balipatna blocks. A team consisting of ACP Lalitendu Mohanty, executive committee member Dillip Dashsharma and life member Dr Dwarikanath Mohanty distributed the blankets.



SBI DONATES PATIENT VAN TO LIONS EYE HOSPITAL

Bhubaneswar: The State Bank of India on Friday donated a 14-seat patient career van (TAT Make) to the Lions Eye Hospital, Bhubaneswar. SBI MD Alok Kumar Choudhury, in the presence senior officials, handed over the key of the vehicle to hospital chairman Lion Dhiren Kumar Dhal. Lions SK Parida, PK Parida, Er Sanjay Kumar, Ashok Agarwalla, Er Sidhartha Mohanty and Amitav Das were also present.



PPA HOLDS DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Paradip: The Paradip Port Authority organised an event at the local Jagruti School on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Chief guest PPA Secretary Dr PN Bahekar, DC Alekh Sahoo and DTM Sriman Narayan lauded activities of the students and said the PPA would take necessary steps for all-round development of the school. The PPA Secretary gave away prizes to the winners of different competitions held among school-children. He distributed gifts to the PPA's differently-abled employees and children of Jagruti.



B'PUR PRESS CLUB CONDEMNS ATTACK ON JOURNO

Brahmapur: The Brahmapur Press Club has strongly condemned the attack on TV reporter Debahari Barik in Padampur while he was covering the election campaigning. The Club described it as a yet another attempt to throttle the voice of media. Brahmapur scribes led by club president Gopal Pattnaik congregated at the Gandhi statue and staged a demonstration against the brutal attack. Club members also demanded an Odisha Working Journalists' Protection Act. Senior journalists Dr KC Panda, Dr Jagannathan Mohapatra, Gopal Pattnaik, Narayan Mohankud, BK Bisarad, Sudip Sahu and Cheernjit Rajguru spoke.

BEMC GETS 2ND SEPTAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Brahmapur: The Housing and Urban Development Department and the Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board (OWSSB) have started construction of a second faecal sludge and septage treatment plant (FSSTP) here. The project is being constructed at Sitalapalli with an investment of ? 3.5 crore. According to Berhampur Municipal Corporation sources, with this plant, dumping of septage in drains and open spaces can be prevented. The first FSSTP was set up at Mohuda in 2018. It had been inaugurated by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.



DURIAN STARTS 2ND SHOWROOM IN BBSR

Bhubaneswar: The Durian Furniture has announced setting up its second showroom in Bhubaneswar. The store showcases an eclectic range of luxury home furniture including sofas, recliners, dining sets, beds and more. With a special inaugural offer on a select range of home and office furniture, the store is all set to create a haven for lifestyle furniture for the people of Odisha.

Ansupa stakeholders' meet held

PNS ■ ATHAGARH

Community empowerment and sustainable economic growth are possible when natural resources are used in a wise way.

Ansupa being the largest freshwater lake of Odisha has immense ecological and economic value since ages. Recently it's been included as a Ramsar Site. For its ecological restoration and beautification measures, a stakeholders' meeting was held by the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) and the Grow with Nature at Ostia gram panchayat. Local Range Officer



Satyabrata Pradhan explained the role of the CDA in maintaining the ecological integrity of Ansupa lake. Wildlife biologist and founder-chairperson of GROW with Nature Gayatri Devi sought participation of local people for long-term development and biodiversity of Ansupa. Sarpanch Artabandhu Behera highlighted the local people's problems and suggested solution measures.

At Shanghai vigil, bold shout for change preceded crackdown

AP ■ SHANGHAI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Construction begins on Iran nuclear plant

AP ■ CAIRO

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

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

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

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

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

The announcement of



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

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

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

Since September, Iran has

FBI Director raises national security concerns about TikTok

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

Blinken designates Pak, China as religious freedom violators

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

“Today, I am announcing designations against Burma (Myanmar), the People’s Repub-

lic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, the DPRK, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as Countries of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom,” he said.

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

“Our announcement of these designations is in keeping



with our values and interests to protect national security and to advance human rights around the globe. Countries that effectively safeguard this and other

human rights are more peaceful, stable, prosperous and more reliable partners of the United States than those that do not,” Blinken said.

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

those facing religious persecution or discrimination.

“We will also regularly engage countries about our concerns regarding limitations on freedom of religion or belief, regardless of whether those countries have been designated,” he said.

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

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

Ukraine urges tougher Western squeeze on Russian oil prices



AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

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

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

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

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

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

The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported that since Friday Russia’s forces had fired five missiles, carried out 27 airstrikes and launched 44 shelling attacks against Ukraine’s military positions and civilian infrastructure.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy head of the president’s office, said the attacks killed one civilian and wounded four oth-

ers in eastern Ukraine’s Donetsk region. According to the U.K. Defense Ministry, Russian forces “continue to invest a large element of their overall military effort and firepower” around the small Donetsk city of Bakhmut, which they have spent weeks trying to capture.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Pak Head of Mission to Kabul survives assassination bid

IANAS ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s Head of Mission to Kabul, Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani has survived an assassination bid, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) confirmed.

In a statement, the Ministry said the Embassy’s compound in Kabul came under attack on Friday targeting the head of mission, but “by the grace of Allah Almighty, the head of mission is safe”, Geo News reported.

However, a Pakistani security guard Israr Mohammad has been critically injured in the attack while protecting Nizamani, the Foreign Office said. It said that Pakistan’s government strongly condemns the assassination attempt and attack on the embassy demanding the Afghan government conduct an immediate investigation into the incident, Geo News reported.

“The interim government of Afghanistan must immediately hold thorough investigations in this attack, apprehend the culprits, hold them to account, and take urgent measures to ensure the safety and security of Pakistani diplomatic personnel and citizens in Afghanistan,” the

Office added.

While saving the head of mission during the attack, according to Geo News, the security guard sustained three bullets in his chest and was later shifted to a medical facility.

Sources said that the attack took place while the Nizamani was on a walk.

When the incident happened, there was no activity in the Pakistani Embassy due to weekly off. The head of mission and other officials are being called back to Pakistan temporarily, the sources said.

In response to a media query, MOFA Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said there are no plans to close the embassy or withdraw diplomats from Kabul.

The spokesperson said Pakistan is in contact with the Afghan government and enhanced security measures are being taken to protect Pakistani diplomatic personnel and missions in Afghanistan.

Later in the day, Pakistan summoned Afghan Charge d’Affaires Sardar Muhammad Shokaib to convey its deep concern and anguish over the attack on Ambassador Nizamani, the Foreign Office said.

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

PTI ■ TORONTO

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

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

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

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



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

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

Snowden receives Russian passport, takes citizenship oath

AP ■ MOSCOW

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

Lawyer Anatoly Kucherena was reported as saying that Snowden got the passport and took the oath on Thursday, about three months after Russian President Vladimir Putin granted him citizenship.

The reports did not specify whether Snowden has



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

Russia eventually granted

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

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

“Snowden has long signaled his allegiance to Russia, this step would only formalise that,” Price told reporters.

Israeli officer kills Palestinian after stabbing bid

AP ■ JERUSALEM

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

Govt to set up 4 task forces to boost telecom manufacturing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

countries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said that telecom oper-

ators in the country are also supporting local manufacturers.

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

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

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

which is also necessary for making world-class products.

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

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

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

"This support from the government has morally boost-

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Mohit Malhotra, MD &

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW YORK

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

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

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

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

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



the scientific and spiritual achievements of ancient India recalling the contributions, Brahmagupta theory of finding Zero, planetary positions, he added.

Describing India as the Land of Innovations, Discoveries, Spirituality and Wonders, Mr.Anand said, "The best of the scientific solution suggested through treatise Bhagavad Gita has been the universal science of the soul which talks about address all challenges through reconstruction and talks happiness is the end of all our actions." "The science that compels us to embrace divinity and divine qualities. All other bodies of knowledge are subject to change, but this body of knowledge contained is timeless - eternal. Yogis through 'Chittashuddhi' (Eternal Purity) has taught us to achieve a deep meditative state, sense of eternity and happiness." The ancient Indian wisdom and scientific achievements, he added, has helped the world measure the Speed of Light, distance between Sun and earth about the source of the light of Moon, Gravity, and gravitation, about cen-

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Mumbai and New Delhi are the other Indian cities tracked in the report.

New Delhi's prime office



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

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

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

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

Indian startup Kheyti wins Prince William's Earthshot Prize

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The results of the project



have been described as "dramatic".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Gopalakrishna S/o. Mr. Gyan Singh is owner of Property Comprising of Plot No. 1452 and 1453, Whose addressing area is 30 Sq. mtrs. and 30 Sq. mtrs. respectively, i.e., total of 60 mtrs. Situated at Sector 4-C, Shalimar Nagar, Vasant Vihar, U.P., vide Registered Sale Deed dated 05.03.2018 registration No. 2150 with Sub Registrar III MEERUT. All persons are hereby informed that Mr. Krishanlal S/o. Mr. Gyan Singh has approached INDIA SHELTER FINANCE CORPORATION LTD to take a Loan and they have lost Registered Sale deed dated 17.11.2008 in respect of said property executed by MEERUT Development Authority in favor of Mr. Salish Kumar S/o. Uday Singh July registered at sub Registrar office III MEERUT vide documents No. 12255, volume no. 3841, book no. 1, pages no. 219 to 242, dated on 17.11.2008. Mr. Krishanlal S/o. Mr. Gyan Singh has informed the UP Police dated 01.12.2022 about the loss of the above mentioned sale deed. If anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate
SG Associates (Law Firm)
Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No 21301
Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that Mr. Parmod Mittal has acquired the Entire Second Floor, without road rights, Property bearing No. C-747, area measuring 516 Sq. Yds., Situated at New Friends Colony, New Delhi vide Sale Deed dated 21.02.2012, Doc no. 2458 and Now, Mr. Parmod Mittal is mortgaging the above said property with Indusind Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhanrajwari Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Vertas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-IT, Tower-1 (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9068707172/9818228636 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Smt. Lalita Rani Mehndiratta W/o Late Shri Lok Nath, Contact: 97119-73586, Email: nramta1981@gmail.com, R/o Flat No. 66/B, Block-R, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095, has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The documents like original Allotment/ Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession and NOC for Water & Electricity, issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An F.I.R. in respect of this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 03/12/2022. Any persons claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact Deputy director (LAB housing) @Block, 3rd floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Shri Rishi Sarin S/o Davi Sarin R/o 17/195, Chilli Int Road, Phulitall Bazar, Agra Fort, Kiraoli, Agra, Uttar Pradesh- 282003 owner of DDA Plot No. 6, Block EFGH, Local Shopping Centre, Masjid Moh, DELHI has applied for conversion of the aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application no. LD25758CL/CON/06112022 dated 23.11.2022 in DDA. That the original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, Lease Deed, C Form, D Form and Occupancy Certificate of the above property have been lost. A FIR dated 23.11.2022 bearing LR no 1019567/2022 against this effect has been lodged at Crime Branch Delhi. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address/ phone No 7042477033 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CL) or Director (CL), A-Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Trans. Line Maint. Division-8, JKPTCL Bemina, Srinagar-190010

e-mail: tlmdbjktcl@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-IV

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

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

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

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

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

Netherlands eliminates US in R16

AP ■ AL RAYYAN

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

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

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

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

But just like in 2010 against



Ghana and 2014 against Belgium, the United States were eliminated in the round of 16.

The Americans are winless in 12 games against European opponents at the World Cup since

2002, losing six, and are 1-7 during the tournament's knockout rounds.

Pulisic, playing four days after getting hurt during his game-winning goal against Iran,

Neymar expected to train again with Brazil at World Cup



AP ■ DOHA, QATAR

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

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

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

Neymar looked fine as he accompanied his teammates at Lusail Stadium on Friday.

He walked without a limp and briefly played with the ball without any visible issues. He could be seen jogging across the field on his way to the locker room after the match was over.

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

quarterfinals against Colombia. He didn't play in the 2019 Copa America because of another right ankle injury.

Alex Telles and Gabriel Jesus injured their right knees in the 1-0 loss to Cameroon on Friday, when Brazil coach Tite used a reserve squad as the five-time champions had already reached the round of 16. Telles had made his debut in Brazil's second game, against Switzerland, after regular starter Alex Sandro got injured. Gabriel Jesus came off the bench in the first two matches. It wasn't yet clear if the players would remain with the squad in Qatar despite not being able to play.

Right back Danilo, who also missed Brazil's last two matches because of an ankle injury, was expected to train normally with the rest of the group Saturday. He was expected to be available for the match against South Korea.

Brazil was eliminated by Belgium in the quarterfinals in Russia. The team is trying to win its first World Cup title in two decades.

ENGLAND BONDS OVER CARDS AHEAD OF SENEGAL CLASH

AP ■ DOHA

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

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

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

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



No other team picked up more than the seven points England recorded on its way to the knockout round and it is only one of three still undefeated. Yet the message from coach Gareth Southgate and captain Harry Kane this week has been about maintaining focus and standards.

Belgium and Germany were high-profile departures from the group stage, while defending

champion France, along with Argentina, Spain, Brazil and Portugal have all been on the wrong end of upsets.

And to think England's 0-0 draw with the United States was considered enough of a shock that it prompted loud jeers from Three Lions fans after that match last week.

"I think it's always difficult when you see big teams or big players in teams that don't have

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

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

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

The years since have been pitted with disappointment and underachievement.

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

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

Senegal coach Aliou Cisse ill ahead of game with England



AP ■ DOHA

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

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

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

with his instructions," Senegal assistant coach Regis Bogaert said Saturday.

"Hopefully tomorrow he will be able to be on the bench. We are sure that at 10 p.m. He will be there with the team, for sure." England is favoured to progress to the quarterfinals, but Bogaert believes other surprise results at this year's World Cup can inspire Senegal.

"The message is a strong one," he said. "We've seen Cameroon can beat Brazil and Tunisia can beat France so we know Senegal can beat England.



Cameroon first African team to beat Brazil at World Cup

AP ■ LUSAIL, QATAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Both Epassy and Aboubakar play for clubs in Saudi Arabia.

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

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

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

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

AP ■ DOHA

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

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

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



resulted in elimination for the Uruguayans, is expected to be Suarez's last World Cup game if he stays true to his pre-tournament pronouncement.

And if so, it ended the international career of one of soccer's most divisive characters, a player who is adored in

Uruguay, who won titles at Ajax, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid, and who was at his height one of the best strikers in the world.

Suarez brought joy to his teams and fans, often after extended periods of gloom. With Suarez, Uruguay ended 20 years of World Cup underachievement — either failing to qualify or being eliminated in the group stage — to reach the semifinals in 2010.

He helped deliver Uruguay's first Copa America title in 16 years in 2011. He was instrumental in Atletico Madrid's first Spanish title in seven years in 2021. In doing so, Suarez also managed to regularly provoke emotions on the other side of the spectrum.

Camel pageant among World Cup's sideline attractions

AP ■ ASH-SHHANIYA, QATAR

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

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

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

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

The event, which was designed to bring cultural aware-

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

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

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

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

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



We like these camels. We give them names. It's like a family."

Visitors were greeted by a camel jingle "Welcome to the Camel Competition" and served Karak, a spiced tea with milk.

Owners and their families sat in an air-conditioned luxury tent with red velvet chairs and a glass wall to watch the competition.

The main attraction were the pure-bred female camels.

Competitors makes several passes in front of a stand of fans that cheer for their favorite. There's also a milking competition, with the prize going to the camel that produces the most milk.

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

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

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

Brazil fans at World Cup game remember soccer great Pelé



AP ■ LUSAIL, QATAR

Brazilian fans showed their support for soccer great Pelé ahead of the national team's match against Cameroon at the World Cup on Friday.

The 82-year-old Pelé, who had a colon

tumor removed last year, was hospitalized Tuesday in Sao Paulo to regulate his medication. Doctors said Friday he had a respiratory infection and would remain in the hospital being treated with antibiotics, according to the Hospital Albert Einstein. "It's sad to hear this news about Pelé on the day of a Brazil match at the World Cup," said 41-year-old Brazil fan Rafael Bistelli, who traveled from Sao Paulo to watch the national team in Qatar. "We are trying to send him our positive energy from here." Doctors said Friday that Pelé's response to treatment had been "adequate and the patient, who remains in a regular bedroom, is stable, with an overall improvement in his health condition."

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

BANGLA BATTLE: TOP-ORDER COMPOSITION IN FOCUS AS DHAWAN, RAHUL JOSTLE FOR OPENING SPOT

PTI ■ MIRPUR

A consistent Shikhar Dhawan and a supremely talented KL Rahul will battle it out for the opener's slot even as a top-heavy Indian batting line-up will aim for transformation and show more intent against a gutsy Bangladesh in the three-match ODI series, starting Sunday.

Throw a fabulously consistent young turk Shubman Gill (rested for this series) into the mix, and coach Rahul Dravid will struggle to fit in all the boxes of this jigsaw puzzle called Indian top-order.

The focus for the next one year will primarily be on ODIs and just like the T20s, India's approach in the 50-over format needs a sea change.

Sometimes having a plethora of options isn't actually a good headache to have as it creates more confusion among the rank and file of the team.

When there are similar skill set options, the coach tries to give everyone equal opportunities but it results in not having a settled line-up and this is not an ideal situation when a marquee event is round the corner.

Currently, the Indian white ball squad is now going through that particular phase.

A few years back, Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan were automatic picks as India's preferred ODI opening pair with hardly any questions asked or their spots being debated.

But Dhawan's slow approach in the Powerplay overs and the emergence of Gill as a potent 50-over opener is bound to throw up possibilities.

KL Rahul, during the last phase of Ravi Shastri's coaching stint played a few games in the middle-order but he loves to bat at the top and has had a fair amount of success too.

Ironically, the numbers in the face of it will not give a clear indication as to who should be



Rohit's opening partner for the series.

In the 19 ODI innings that Dhawan has opened for India in 2022, he had a poor strike-rate of 75.11. While between 2016-18, it used to be 101 and between 2019-21, it dipped but was still a steady 91. Rahul, who has five hundred and 10 fifties in 45 ODIs with a healthy strike-rate 85 plus and an impressive average of 45, looks a better candidate.

For the opening match though, in case the team management wants to give rest to a jet-lagged Dhawan, who has flown all the way from Down Under to join the team in Mirpur, Rahul will certainly join Rohit at the top.

Middle-Order muddle

While Virat Kohli at No. 3 is an automatic choice, Shreyas Iyer as India's No. 4 is slowly settling down. Rishabh Pant after his heroics in the ODI series in England remains ahead of Ishan Kishan to start as No. 5 in the line-up.

Pant has copped a lot of flak for some of his cheap dismissals in T20s but despite some underwhelming shows in the recently concluded series, he remains the first choice keeper in 50 over format

Kishan, who prefers opening in T20 has got all his three half-centuries in ODIs batting at either No. 3 or 4.

It is believed that Kishan isn't being looked at as a finisher and hence if he is played, he has to be fitted somewhere in top four.

But this whole equation could be turned upside down if Rahul decides to keep wickets, something which he has done sporadically in the past.

With no Sanju Samson in this particular series, Rajat Patidar and Rahul Tripathi, two consistent domestic cricket and IPL performers will fancy a chance or two to stay in the mix.

Tripathi also bowls a bit of seam-up stuff and in the absence of Hardik Pandya (rested due to workload), the Pune man might just provide a back-up option.

FIR against Lakshya, coach Vimal and family for age fraud, cheating

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's number one shuttler Lakshya Sen, his family and former national coach Vimal Kumar were charged with cheating and age fraud in an FIR filed in Bengaluru.

The FIR, filed on Thursday by M Goviappa Nagaraja, alleged that the 21-year-old reigning Commonwealth Games champion, along with his brother Chirag Sen, had fudged their age to get into playing age-group tournaments since 2010.

The complaint, a copy of which is in possession of PTI, also names Sen's father Dharendra, a coach with the Sports Authority of India, mother Nirmala and Kumar who has been coaching the duo for more than 10 years.

They have been charged with cheating (Section 420), forgery (468), using a forged document as genuine (471) and acts done by several persons of common intention (34) under the Indian Penal Code.

The Sen brothers, who hail from Uttarakhand, train under Kumar at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in Bengaluru, while the complainant runs another academy in the metropolis.

The complainant alleged that Kumar colluded with Lakshya's parents to forge a birth certificate in 2010 and if the charges were proven, the star Indian shuttler, who was awarded the Arjuna recently, will have to forego a lot of his records.

Categorically denying the



charges, Kumar told PTI: "It is very annoying. It is cheap stuff. Lakshya aware, age verification is the sole has done well and has started prerogative and responsibility of training again after a break. It is the Badminton Association of India who is sole governing authority for administering the game in India," he said.

Currently No. 6 in the world, Lakshya was on Wednesday honoured with the Arjuna Award at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. He won a World Championship bronze after going down to compatriot Kidambi Srikanth in 2021. He was also a runner-up in the All England Championships and played a key role in India's historic Thomas Cup triumph earlier this year.

The chief coach of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, Kumar further said in a statement that the allegations were "baseless, frivolous and made with malicious intent".

"As all badminton lovers are aware, age verification is the sole prerogative and responsibility of the Badminton Association of India who is sole governing authority for administering the game in India," he said.

"All players no matter where they train always represent their respective affiliated state units or the country while participating in any domestic or international tournament.

"My focus over the 30 years as a coach has always been to groom our upcoming youngsters to the best of my ability to bring laurels for our country based on their merit.

"I therefore deny all these false allegations against me. I would not like to make any further comments in this regard," he added.

PAKISTAN REACHES 499-7, STILL TRAILS ENGLAND BY 158 RUNS

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

England struck with four late wickets on Saturday to revive its hopes of victory against Pakistan with two days left in the first cricket Test where seven batters have so far scored centuries.

Pakistan reached 499-7 in its first innings on the lifeless wicket and still trailed by 158 runs at stumps on the third day with play again ending early because of fading light.

Captain Babar Azam (136), Imam-ul-Haq (121) and Abdullah Shafique (114) all hit tons on a run-friendly wicket which even Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja feels is not a great advert for Test cricket. But England hit back after tea when Ollie Robinson broke the 123-run stand between Babar and debutant Saud Shakeel (37). Robinson found the outside edge of Shakeel's bat and Babar, who hit 19 fours and a six in his eighth hundred, played a cut against offspinner Will Jacks (3-132).

Veteran James Anderson (1-47) used all his 175-test experience on an unresponsive wicket for the bowlers, before finally he got his first wicket in his



19th over when Mohammad Rizwan (29) was caught at short mid-wicket.

Babar and Shakeel denied England success in the middle session and guided Pakistan to 411-3 by tea with the Pakistan skipper dominating both spin and pace. Babar was the seventh batter in three days to notch a hundred in England's first test in Pakistan in 17 years after the visitors had posted 657 all out on the back of hundreds from England openers Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett, Harry Brook and Ollie Pope.

Babar used his feet well against the spinners and raised his half century off 68 balls when he lifted Jack Leach (2-160) over wide mid-on for a six after lunch.

He reached his hundred off 126 balls when he thumped a backfoot cover-driven boundary.

Earlier, Imam and Shafique struck centuries after Pakistan resumed on 181-0 before throwing away their wickets.

Azhar Ali (27) got a life when Crawley couldn't grasp a difficult chance at leg slip against Anderson before he was trapped leg before wicket by Leach after England took the second new ball immediately after 80 overs.

Left-handed Imam, who made centuries in each innings during the drawn test against Australia in March at the same venue, scored 121 off 207 balls. Shafique, a centurion in the same test against Australia, hit a more conventional 114 off 203 balls.

Sukant Kadam enters semifinals of para badminton meet


PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World No. 3 Sukant Kadam of India sailed into the semifinals of the Peru Para Badminton International in Lima.

The ace shuttler will face Guatemala's Raul Anguiano in his last-four clash. Kadam won both his group matches, against France's Clement Sarrobert and Ludwing Anquise Chaina, in straight games.

In the quarterfinals, Kadam went past Brazil's Breno Johann without dropping a game. The match lasted 21 minutes, with the Indian winning it 21-14, 21-9.

O-1358



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BALIANTA

E-mail - pri-balianta@nic.in

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B.)

e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. 01 / 2022-23

No. 35/3 Dated 30.11.2022

1. Number of works : - 02 (Two)

2. Approximate estimated Cost : - 74.92 lakh to 87.75 Lakh

3. Period of Completion : - 9 (Nine) Calendar Month.

4. Date & Time of availability of bid documents in the portal-Dt.07.12.2022 to 27.12.2022.

5. Last date/Time of receipt of bid in the portal- Dt 27.12.2022 up to 4.00 P.M.

6. Date of opening of Bid: -28.12.2022 at 11.00 AM.

7. Name & address of the office inviting bid:- Block Development Officer,Balianta

Furthier details can be seen from the e-procurement portal


http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in

sd/-

Block Development Officer

Balianta

OIPR-19265/11/0001/2223



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAYURBHANJ

MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION BARIPADA

AT/P.O-Baripada Dist-Mayurbhanj, PIN-757001

E-Mail: mi.mayurbhanj@yahoo.co.in

ODISHA INTEGRATED IRRIGATION PROJECT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE(OIIPCR)


(WORLD BANK PROJECT ID: PI63533)

REQUEST FOR BIDS(RFB) E Procurement Notice

NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT FOR SMALL WORKS

RFB No. OIIPCR-MBJ/W2-1/2022-23Date: .11.2022

Name of Work:	Improvement to MIPs under Mayurbhanj M.I.Division,Baripada
Total No. of Works	8 Nos.(Individual MIP & Individual Package)
Estimated Cost of Works(s):	Varies Approximately from 21.062 Lakh to 77.64 Lakh in individual package for One No. project. (Total estimated cost of the 8Nos. of Works 387.75 Lakh)
Cost of Bid Document:	Free of Cost.
Time for Completion:	Refer to DTCN
Availability of Bid Documents:	From 07.12.2022 10.00 Hrs to 06.01.2023 up to 15.00 Hrs through online.
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting:	On dt 21.12.2022 From 11.30 Hrs. To 14.00 Hrs.
Period for receipt of bid(s):	From 07.12.2022 10.00 Hrs to 06.01.2023 up to 15.00 Hrs through online.
Payment of bid cost/bid security:	Shall be Paid On-Line through through the e-Procurement portal of Govt. of Odisha.
Date of opening of bid(s):	On dt: 06.01.2023 at 15.30 Hrs onwards.
Details about the tender:	Available in website of www.dowrodisha.gov.in and www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Name/Address of the OIT:	Executive Engineer,Mayurbhanj M.I. Division, Baripada AT/Po-Baripada(Near Murgabadi Fly Over Bridge)/Dist: Mayurbhanj PIN-757001 E-Mail:- mi.mayurbhanj@yahoo.com
Sd/- MR Dash Executive Engineer Mayurbhanj M.I. Division,Baripada	
OIPR: 32041/11/0007/2223	



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION-1 : SAMBALPUR

e-procurement Notice

BID IDENTIFICATION No: SE/R&B/SBP/ 32/ 2022-23


E-mail - exeengsbp@rediffmail.com

No. 7797 Dated: 24.11.2022

- The Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No-1, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE for construction of Civil & Electrical works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.
- No. of works : 03 (Three)
- Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/- (On Line)
- Class of Contractor : "B" & "A" and "MV" Class Contractor
- Date and time Available in Web site & receipt of Bids: 17.00 Hrs 07.12.2022 to 11:00 Hrs of 15.12.2022
- Date of Opening of Tender: 15.12.2022 at 11:30 Hrs.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Web Site.
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.

sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Sambalpur(R&B) Division No.1

OIPR-34112/11/0013/2223



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ROURKELA IRRIGATION DIVISION,ROURKELA

email Id :- seridrk@rediffmail.com

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

BID IDENTIFICATION NO. SERID-RKL-04/2022-23

BID documents consisting of work, estimate cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in complete online process only.

1. Nature of Work	: Canal work & Dam work
2. Total Number of works	: 05(Five) nos
3. Bid Identification No.	: SERID-RKL-04/2022-23 (Online)
4. Estimated Cost	: Rs.6.28 lakhs to 17.43 lakhs
5. Class of Contractor	: Referred to DTCN
6. Cost of Tender Paper	: Referred to DTCN
7. Earnest Money Deposit	: Referred to DTCN
8. Period of completion	: Referred to DTCN
9. Date & time of Availability of Bid documents in the portal	: From dt 07.12.2022 at 10.00 A.M to dt. 16.12.2022 up to 05.30 P.M.
10. Last Date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	: Dt. 16.12.2022 at 05.30 P.M
11. Date and time of Opening of Bids	: Dt. 17.12.2022 at 11.00 hours
12. Last date & time of seeking of clarification	: Dt 13.12.2022 at 1.00 P.M
13. Date of Lottery (in case of situation arise)	: 19.12.2022 at 11.30 hours
14. Place of Opening	: Office of the Superintending Engineer, Rourkela Irrigation Division, Rourkela.
15. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, Rourkela Irrigation Division, Rourkela.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. As Goods & Service Tax (GST) has Come into force with effective from 01.07.2017.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

sd/-
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
ROURKELA IRRIGATION DIVISION
ROURKELA

OIPR-32018/11/0012/2223

Unnati becomes first Indian to enter U-17 women's singles final of Badminton Asia Junior C'ships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rising shuttler Unnati Hooda on Saturday became the first Indian to enter the U-17 women's singles final of the Badminton Asia Junior Championships in Nonthaburi, Thailand after beating Japan's Mion Yokouchi in straight games.

Unnati won 21-8 21-17 over her Japanese rival in the women's U-17 singles semifinals. She faces Sarunrak Vitidsarn of Thailand in the gold medal match on Sunday.

Under-15 singles player Anish Thoppani and U-17 men's doubles pair of Arsh Mohammad and Sanskar Saraswat also posted brilliant victories to move into the finals.

Top-seed Unnati once again lived up to the expectations and stamped her authority as she wrapped up the match in straight sets. The Odisha Open champion has not yet dropped a set in her campaign at the prestigious event. The men's doubles pairs of Arjun MR-Chirag Shetty (2013) and Krishna Prasad Garaga-Satwiksairaj Rankiredy (2015) have won gold medals for India in the U-17 category at the tournament.

The in-form duo of Arsh and Sanskar also showcased a similar dominating display against Chinese Taipei's Chi-Ruei Chiu and Shao Hua Chiu to ease into the U-17 men's doubles final with a commanding 21-15, 21-19 win in a lop-sided last-four contest.

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



REVDI CULTURE IS HERE TO STAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

economics’ and part of the “ Ravadj culture” as has been made out by some of the advocates of ‘globalization’.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

‘Revadis’ distributed by political parties, in the game of winning elections, are more or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congress also pledged to regularise contractual government employees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is Special Correspondent of The Pioneer)

YOU ARE NOT WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE

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

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

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

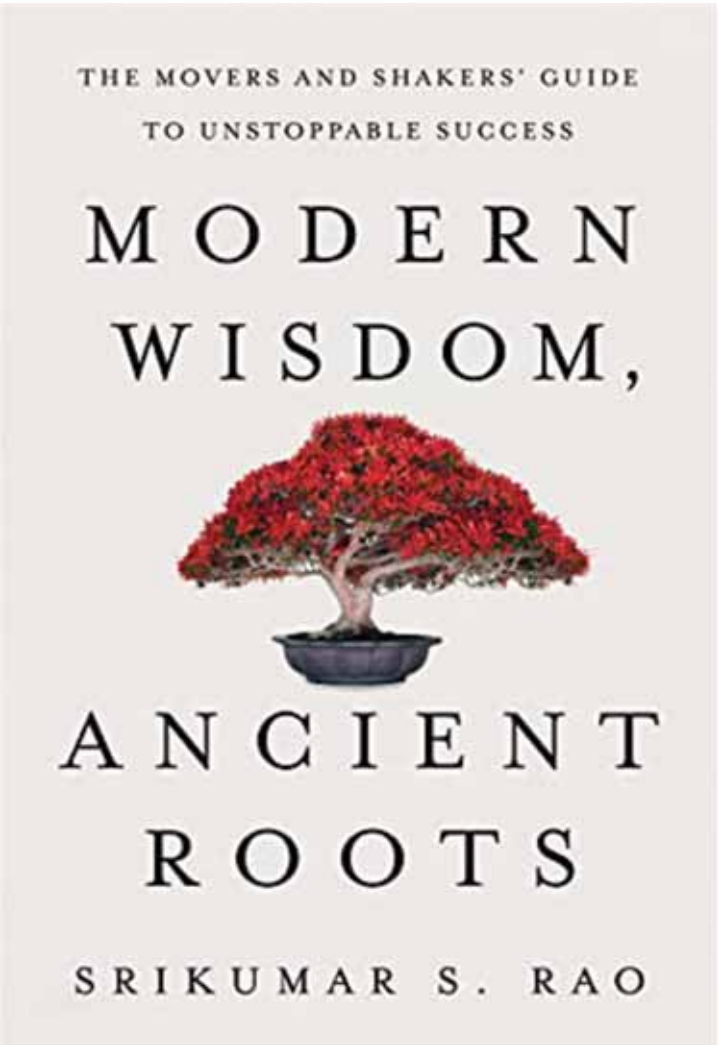
“There are many lessons in the book and they derive from great masters who come from many different traditions and who lived in different times,” Rao says.

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

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

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

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



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

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

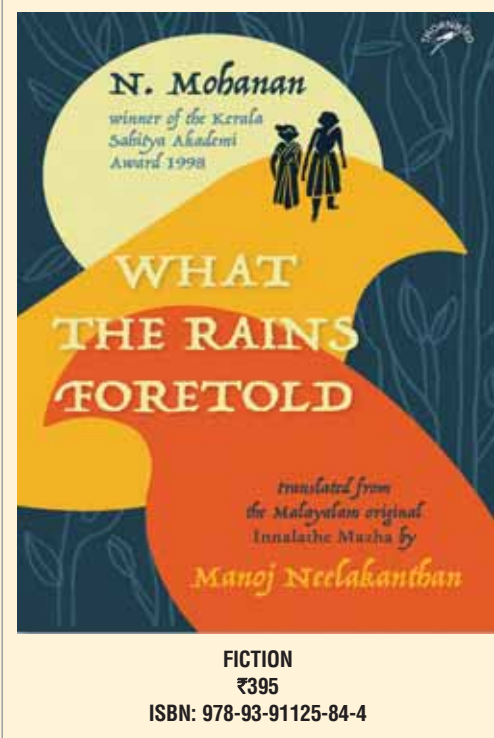
“I will not name them because they have their ups and downs and fall down many times even as their overall trajectory is upward. An external observer can easily misinterpret the initiatives that did not work.” Rao believes that personal mastery gives people the ability to focus one-pointedly on any issue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

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

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

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

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



WHAT THE RAINS FORETOLD

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

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

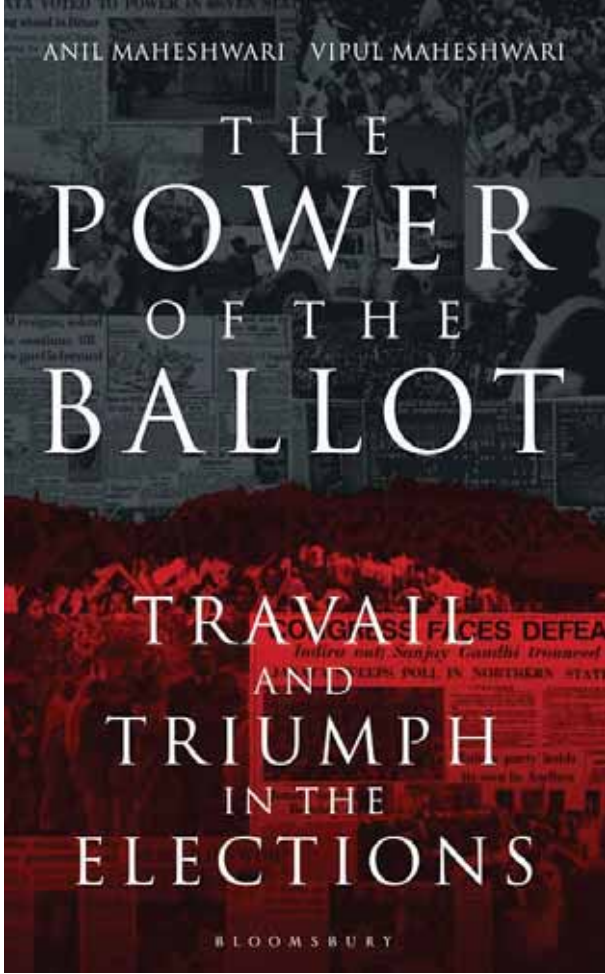
Agitated, Vararuchi walked up and down, wringing his hands in sheer exasperation. At length his gait slackened as he quietened visibly. Looking all around in the darkness, as though searching for someone who would hear him, he declared at the top of his

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

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

The Power of The Ballot

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



The Bharatiya Jan Sangh, the forerunner of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), ran as a new political organisation in the 1962 Lok Sabha elections. Suraj Lal Verma, the proprietor of a flour mill, contacted Jan Sangh activists in Lucknow with hopes of securing a seat for the Sitapur constituency in the upcoming election. When asked why he wanted to run for office, he said that an astrologer had foretold he would win.

After a brief outburst of laughter, the party officials decided to award Verma the ticket in exchange for his donation of five jeeps and Rs 25,000 to five assembly candidates. In

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

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

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

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

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

**Price Rs 699
Pages 381**

The magic of sound healing

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



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

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

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

Explaining the logic behind sound healing, the book claims that sound healing works by sending sound waves throughout the body, which brings harmony through oscillation and resonance. This helps restore the body’s balance, which in turn helps you heal.

Backing her claims with scientific data, the author cites a study published in 2017 that found that 30 minutes of sound therapy combined with traditional care after spinal surgery reduced stress and helped body cells repair-- and sometimes grow.

The book tries to drive home the point that sound therapy first heals at the emotional level, then at the mental level, and when the energy movement heals the mental blockage, then it automatically helps us in clearing the physical health.



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

hazards.

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

Book explores heroic exploits of Lachit Barphukan, other bravehearts

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

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

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

In the chapter on Barphukan, the author describes how Assam’s “man of destiny” stood up to be counted and to create history for himself and his clan.

Sampath also goes on to give a brief overview of the Ahom kingdom, which, he

says, was highly regimented in its structure.

The Barphukan was the military and civil commander of the Ahom army.

Assam was invaded several times by the Delhi Sultanate up to the 16th century, but this met with no success. The inhospitable and inaccessible terrain, and the warrior spirit of the people who fiercely guarded their independence enabled them to maintain their dogged resistance against all attacks.

By December 1636, Kamrup was occupied by the

Mughals. According to the Treaty of Asurar Ali, enacted in 1639 CE between the Ahom general Momai Tamuli Borbarua and the Mughal commander Allah Yar Khan, the whole of western Assam, beginning Guwahati, passed into Mughal hands.

A most humiliating treaty was concluded in January 1663 at Ghilajhari Ghat according to which the Ahoms were forced to give up western Assam to the Mughals.

But there was a revival after Chakradhwaj Singha

became the king.

Lachit, born in 1622 CE, was the youngest son of Momai Tamuli Borbarua. He was first made the Soladhara Barua, the scarfbearer of the king, a position akin to that of a private secretary.

In due course, Lachit also held various positions like Ghora Barua (in charge of the royal stable), commander of Simalgarh Fort and later the Dolaksharia Barua (Superintendent of the Royal Household Guards) to Maharaja Chakradhwaj Singha.

PTI

Hapless victims of borderless cyber terror

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

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

Cyber warfare is a new reality.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Again, the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and

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

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

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

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

Internet is open to such attacks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Twitter — A signature takeover?

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



SIDHARTH SHANKAR

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

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

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

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

Priority to user privacy & trust

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



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

Quality & insight-driven data strategy

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

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

Monetise better

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

The bitter truth

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

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

A change hero but not a leader?

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

mats of running entities are barely successful.

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

Binge watch on legal episodes

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

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

ny about his decision to take over.

Musk & his legal muscles

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

Musk's current anxiety

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

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

ister profits.

It's not all Musk's act

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

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

Logging out

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

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