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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 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.

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

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), 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.

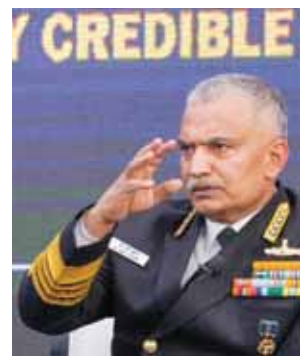
Sixty drones will be used in ensuring law and order in the sensitive zones of each district, which has been given four-five unmanned aerial vehicles each.

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

China increasing forays in Indian Ocean: Navy chief

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



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

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

Giving a low down on the increasing Chinese visibility in the strategically important Indian Ocean, Admiral Kumar said there are a lot of Chinese ships in the region including research vessels, warships and merchant ships. The Indian Navy is keeping a close watch, he said adding there are more than 60 other extra-regional forces also present in the 'vital region.'

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

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

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

Guj opposes in SC bail for Godhra train attack accused

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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GUEST COLUMN

A wake-up call for the Indian shrimp industry

Shaji Baby John

The current turmoil in the global shrimp market marked by excess supply and the dwindling price has important lessons for the Indian seafood industry in general and the shrimp farming sector in particular. Ecuador flooding the market with highly competitive pricing, fears of a global recession, China persisting with Covid19-related lockdown practices and uncertainties linked to the Ukraine war are some of the immediate reasons for the slowdown. It is true that these factors have a role in reversing the fortunes of shrimp farmers, processors and exporters in the country. At the same time, we should not be deceived by thinking that the current slump is something that could be tagged with the commodity cycles characterised by boom and bust alone. The over four-decade-old experience in the seafood sector tells me something different.

Lessons from Ecuador: The emergence of Ecuador as the major competitor for Indian shrimp export is not something that happened overnight. The winds of change from Ecuador were felt by all those having their eyes and ears on the ground. In 2022 Ecuador is expected to cross the record volume of 8,41,000 tonnes of exports achieved in 2021 (Jan-Dec). The exports in the first six months of 2022 (Jan-Jun) were up by 35 per cent compared with the same period in the past years. Industry experts feel that exports from Ecuador may cross one million tonnes by the end of this year. The South American country's tryst with shrimp farming began in the 1970s and registered steady growth till the end of the last century. But the year 2000 turned out to be a nightmare with devastating disease outbreaks leading to a 70 per cent contraction in production. The aquaculture sector making steady recoveries since then went for a major change in 2018 by adopting the sustainable shrimp production (SSP) system. The core principles of SSP comprise 100 per cent traceability, zero use of antibiotics, net neutral impact on the environment and certification from the Aquaculture Stewardship Council, a regulatory agency. The most important highlight of the SSP is its ability to realise the highest value at the lowest cost. The success of Ecuador is mainly due to its willingness to invite global experts to develop SSP practices suiting their requirements and thereby converting a crisis into an opportunity.

The stakeholders in the Indian shrimp sector need to sit down and take a close look at the factors that led to the success of Ecuador. The adoption of SSP has enabled the Ecuadorians to achieve sustainable and high-value output and emerge as one of the leading global shrimp exporters in a short span of four years.

The success of Ecuador holds an important lesson for the Indian shrimp farmers and other stakeholders in the sector. The time has come for the stakeholders in the Indian shrimp farming sector to change their focus from solely increasing the tonnage in terms of output to improving the revenue realisation potential of each farmer. We need to follow the model of Average Revenue Per User or ARPU as used by the telecom services providers. The difference is instead of per user we needed to focus on each farmer. It is high time for the Indian shrimp sector to shift its focus from tonnage to increasing the revenue realisation potential (RRPF) of each farmer. The matter assumes importance because the farmer is the backbone of the entire shrimp value chain. Adverse impact on the farmer will have a cascading effect on the chain comprising seed makers, hatchers, processors and exporters. The increase in RRPF on a sustainable basis is the way forward to overcome the present situation. The art of improving revenue per farmer will automatically lead to the issue of improving the quality of the product. And that would lead to the drawbacks connected with the current aquaculture practices and their possible remedies. Kings Infra Ventures has been promoting the theme of shifting the focus from tonnage to RRPF as part of its strategy to realise high-value output using sustainable practices. We have successfully deployed the SISTA360 protocols (System for Integrated, Sustainable & Traceable Aquaculture) for achieving the objectives. Along with demonstrating our capabilities with SISTA360 protocols, we also mooted the idea of developing integrated eco-friendly aquaculture tech parks. These initiatives are under various stages of implementation with promising results.

Domestic market: The other important area that needs the immediate attention of the policymakers and other stakeholders is the domestic market. The development of a vibrant domestic market for quality protein at an affordable cost will be a shield for Indian shrimp farmers to guard against the vagaries of the global market. The domestic market for protein-rich seafood in the country remains a highly fragmented and unorganised sector. Everyone agrees that the country has huge potential for developing a market for quality seafood. The supply-chain bottlenecks and lack of institutional support mechanisms are acting as major hurdles in this direction. The disruptions in global trade during the Covid19 pandemic highlighted the importance of having a domestic market. The policymakers realised the importance of a domestic market. The formation of the fisheries ministry has escalated the process further and a slew of schemes are currently available for helping the domestic market. Unfortunately, many of these schemes remain largely unknown to many of the persons in the fisheries sector. The processors and exporters along with the farmers needed to pay greater attention to the various schemes at the institutional level to develop a vibrant domestic market.

It is gratifying to note that the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has mooted several schemes that would help in providing institutional support for developing a domestic market. The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) are two flagship projects of the NDFB that could be effectively tapped for developing the necessary infrastructure support for the domestic market network. A supply chain network with a quality cold storage facility is the primary requirement for developing a vibrant market for a highly perishable commodity like fish. The State governments have a greater role in this matter as social, economic and cultural practices differ from State to State.

The current turmoil in the global shrimp market is a wake-up call for everyone involved in the Indian shrimp and seafood sector. The downtrend should be used as an opportunity for a course correction and to scale up higher in the value chain. As I have stated before, a course correction focusing on sustainable aquaculture has tremendous potential to elevate India as the global hub of quality protein food at competitive rates.

(The author is the chairman of Kings Infra Ventures Limited who also writes on the blue economy and sustainable food production system. Views expressed are personal)

Congress protests against deteriorating law and order situation

Party leaders prevented from demonstrating near Raj Bhawan on Ankita Bhandari case

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The leaders of the Uttarakhand Congress held an angry protest at Cantt police station here on Saturday against what they alleged misbehaviour by the police with Congress leader Jayendra Ramola and others. Ramola was detained by the police when he tried to sit on a protest outside the Raj Bhawan on Saturday morning. The vice president of Uttarakhand Congress, Mathura Dutt Joshi said that Ramola along with some other people were on a relay hunger strike in Rishikesh demanding justice for Ankita Bhandari and disclosure of the name of the VIP in the case for 51 days.

The protesters were on fast unto death from the last seven days. Joshi said that when the government paid no heed to the protesters they decided to hold fast unto death in front of the residence of the chief minister but when they were informed that CM is not in the city they decided to shift the venue of their protest to the Governor house. He claimed that police forcibly lifted Ramola and other protesters and misbehaved with them. When the Congressmen got information that the police had brought Ramola and others to the Cant police station they arrived there. Leading the Congressmen, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Karan Mahara sat on a Dharna at the police station and courted arrest. Speaking on the occasion Mahara said that the Pushkar Singh Dhami government wants to stifle the voice of opposition but the Congress party would continue to fight for justice for Ankita Bhandari. He said that the BJP government is trying to cover up the case from the day one and now it is trying to shield the VIP for whom Ankita was being forced to provide service.

The PCC president said that the law and order situation in the State has crashed and criminals are having a field day but the CM of the State is busy campaigning in Delhi. He demanded that the director general of Police should be immediately removed from his position.

The Badrinath MLA Rajendra Bhandari, Vice President Mathura Dutt Joshi, Navin Joshi, Godavari Thapli, Amarjeet Singh, Garima Dasauni and others accompanied Mahara in the protest.

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BJP to raise awareness on anti-conversion and women reservation laws

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party State president Mahendra Bhatt said that Uttarakhand has become the State which has brought an empowered law with provision of maximum jail sentence for those guilty of forced religious conversion. Stating that this is a matter of pride for the people of Uttarakhand, he said that the policy and intent of the BJP was clear which is why the Congress which opposes the BJP on the roads had to support the bill in the Vidhan Sabha. The BJP State president said this during an informal interaction with media persons at the party's State office here on Saturday.

Bhatt said that the BJP will start a special communication programme to raise public awareness on the anti-conversion and women reservation laws. He said that out of the nine States where anti-conversion laws are in place, Uttarakhand now has the provision for three to 10 years jail sentence for those found guilty. Further, provision has also been made for upto Rs five lakh compensation to the victim from the person found guilty. "This has been done so that those involved in carrying out religious conversion through force, fraud or inducement receive strict punishment and to instill the fear of law among such elements. Similarly, despite the various legal and other hurdles along with the issues raised by the opposition, the Dhami government succeeded in passing the bill to provide 30 per cent horizontal reservation to women with Uttarakhand domicile in government jobs in the State," he said while also thanking the opposition and independent MLAs for their support in the Vidhan Sabha.

Bhatt said that the BJP government has done its work and the laws are going to be enacted soon. The BJP will now undertake a special campaign to raise public awareness on these two subjects. The party's office bearers and spokespersons will hold Press conferences in all the districts to raise awareness, he added.

BJP to form Divyang cell to increase representation of differently abled

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party State president Mahendra Bhatt announced that the party will form a separate Divyang cell in order to increase the representation and activity of the differently abled persons. He said that the Central government is assisting the differently abled persons through various schemes. The party also organises various programmes to raise awareness and ensure that the benefits of such schemes reach the intended beneficiaries. In order to further boost such efforts of the party, the BJP will form a separate cell for the differently abled. This will provide adequate representation to this section of society in the party while also enabling the communication of their issues and solutions with the government, he said.

Man's body found in grain tank in Haridwar home

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The body of a Pauri resident was found inside a tank used to store grain at a house in Chand Colony of Bhagwanpur area of Haridwar district on Friday night. The district's senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh also reached the spot to inspect the scene and directed the police personnel to ensure early disclosure in the case.

According to the police, the body has been identified as that of Nitin Bhandari (30) a resident of Chorikhal area of Pauri district. Sources state that the police have also found some important clues. There was a mark believed to have been inflicted by a sharp object on the head of the deceased. The body is said to be about four days old. The police teams are raiding various locations in search of the tenants who have vacated the house. Though the police have got some important clues in the case, they are refraining from disclosing anything at this point of time with the investigation still underway. The landlord Sikandar has a three-storey house in Chand Colony of Bhagwanpur. In the month of September this year, three people including a woman had come to stay here on rent. Two days ago, these people vacated the house and went away. Sikandar reached the house on Friday night. He saw a grain tank on the third floor of the house and got suspicious on seeing it.

On peeping inside the tank he spotted the body of a young man in it. After this the information was given to the police SSP Ajai Singh, SP (Rural) Swapna Kishore Singh and inspector Amarjeet Singh reached the spot. Police took possession of the body and began investigation in the case.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Original Sale deeds of land 1. Khata No 24, (Fasli 1420 to 1425) Kashra No 11 Ka min, Area 344 Sq Gaj or 288 Sq Mtr, Mauja Dhanaula, Pargana Parwadoon, Dist-Dehradun, executed by Veer Bahadur in favour of Indra Bahadur Chhetri dated 18.08.2018 and 2. Khata Khatoni No 326, (Fasli 1415 to 1420) Kashra No 50, Area 151.30 Sq Mtr, Mauja Vijaypur Hathibadkala, Pargana Pachhwadoon, Dist-Dehradun, executed by Puran Singh in favour of Maya Thapa & Prem Bahadur Thapa dated 18.02.2018 have been actually lost. If found by anyone kindly contact: **Indra Bahadur Chhetri S/o Lal Bahadur Chhetri R/o 465, Kaulagarh, Dehradun Ph:8791041911.**

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I, Shobhana Srivastava, D/o Vinay Chandra Sinha, address: 74R, 2nd Floor, Bhudgaon Road, Vasant Vihar, P.O New Forst, Dehradun have changed my name form SOBHANA SRIVASTAVA to SHOBHANA for all future purposes.

In my Army records my wife's name has been mistakenly recorded as Trina Manna whereas her correct name is TRINA BHOWMIK MANNA. It should be updated in my army record for all future purposes. Army No. 18006832M Rank HAV Name Aditya Manna BEG Recodrs, Roorkee

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PUBLICATION NOTICE IN O.A. No. 525 OF 2021

(SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993, READ WITHSUB-RULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME)

Dy No. 1230 **Date: 01.11.2022**

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1. M/s Arvind Printers & Stationers a proprietorship firm, Jain R/o 149, Kalabagh Sri Badrinath Marg, Opp. Govt. Girls Inter College, Kotdwara, District Pauri Garhwal, UK.
2. Anshu Jain S/o Late Arvind Kumar Jain R/o 149, Kalabagh Sri Badrinath Marg, Opp. Govt. Girls Inter College, Kotdwara, District Pauri Garhwal, UK.
3. Shakuntala Jain W/o Late Arvind Kumar Jain, R/o 149, Kalabagh, Sri Badrinath Marg, Opp. Govt. Girls Inter College, Kotdwara, District Pauri Garhwal, UK.
4. Prabhat Kumar Jain S/o Late Laxmish Chandra Jain, R/o Najibabad Road, Harshighpur, Near Petrol Pump, Kotdwara, District Pauri Garhwal, UK.
5. Sarita Jain W/o Late Raj Hans Jain, R/o Badrinath Marg, Kotdwara, District Pauri Garhwal, UK.

Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted **OA No. 525 of 2021** against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 26,67,934.15/- in which** Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on **21.10.2022.**

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on **16.01.2023.** Further, you are required to show cause as to why the relief(s) prayed for in OA should not be granted and to file reply, if any, in your defence in a paper book form in sets and produce all the documents and affidavits under which your defence or claim for set off, counter claim, in this Tribunal personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the Tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **01st day of November, 2022.**

By order of Tribunal
Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun

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Bank of India

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1.	**Branch: Sevlakalan** **Borrower:** Mr. Sachin Kumar Malkani S/o Mr. Dharampal Singh.	**1.** Vehicle- PIAGO APE Registration No.- UK07CB3869 Chasis No.- MBX0003BHVB597741	**Rs. 5.47 Lakhs** + interest other expenses w.e.f 31.03.2021	**Rs. 85,000/-** / **Rs. 1,000/-**	Bank of India, Sevla Kalan A/c Name- Collection Account A/c No.: 705790200000033 IFSC- BKID0007057
		2. Vehicle- PIAGO APE Registration No.- UK07CB3870 Chasis No.- MBX0003BHVB597694		**Rs. 85,000/-** / **Rs. 1,000/-**	
2.	**Branch: Sevlakalan** **Borrower:** Mr. Sajid Qureshi S/o Mr. Babu Qureshi	**1.** Vehicle- Three wheeler PIAGO Loader Registration No.- UK07CB1833 Chasis No.- MBX0000ZBUK368962	**Rs. 1.55 Lakhs** + interest other expenses w.e.f 31.03.2021	**Rs. 88,000/-** / **Rs. 1,000/-**	

Other terms and conditions: 1. The Vehicle will be sold in "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" (The possession of the vehicle already lies with the bank), including encumbrances if any (There are no encumbrances to the knowledge of the Bank at present). **2.** The vehicle can be inspected with prior intimation between **03.01.2023 to 06.01.2023 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM** at BANK OF INDIA SEVLA KALAN BRANCH, DEHRADUN. **3.** The vehicle shall not be sold below the Reserve Price. **4.** EMD shall be deposited by way of DD in favour of Bank of India at respective Sevla Kalan, Branch Dehradun OP through online (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer) to credit of account number as mentioned above, on or before **06.01.2023 by 5.00 PM. 5.** Bids shall be submitted off line in the prescribed format with relevant details (formats may be obtained from concerned branches) **6.** A copy of the bid formalong with the enclosure shall be sumbitted to Bank of India Sevla Kalan Branch Dehradun in sealed envelope. **7.** The bids shall be opended at Bank of India Sevla Kalan Branch, Dehradun on **09.01.2023 between 4 pm to 5 pm** in presence of Branch Officials, All Bidders and two members from general public under chairmanship of Authorized Officer. **8.** Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the highest bidder who shall be declared as "successful bidder", subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor. **9.** EMD of the unsuccessful bidders shall be returned on the next business day. **10.** The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of saleby the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price within the period stated above, the deposit made by him shall befor feited and the secured assets shall be put for thon sale again. **11.** All charges for conveyance, taxes (including pending if any), transfer of owner ship and registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only. **12.** Bank reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the tender without assigning any reason thereof. **13.** The intending bidder shall also attach a copy of the PAN card issued by the income Tax Departmentand and his/her identity proof and the proof of residence such as copy of the Passport,Driving License, etc. **14.** All disputes are subject to Dehradun jurisdiction only.

Date: 03.12.2022 **Place: Dehradun** **Authorised Officer, Bank of India**

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

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Four dead after car carrying marriage party falls down mountainside

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Four persons died on the spot when the car they were returning in from a marriage function fell 100 metres down the mountainside near Naugaon in Almora district on Saturday. The father, elder sister, sister in-law and nephew of the groom died in the mishap while three others were seriously injured.

According to sources, a marriage party had gone from Matela village in Bageshwar to Sheraghat in Pithoragarh district on Friday. The marriage party was returning on Saturday when at about 9 AM, when the car with seven persons on board fell down the road and landed near the Binsar river. The local villagers reached the site first after which the police and personnel of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) also reached the site to conduct rescue and recovery operation. According to officials, the police are probing to ascertain the cause of the accident.

Uttarakhand doubles grant for limb implants of specially abled

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand government has approved a 100 per cent increase in the grant given to the specially abled for artificial limb implant. The chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami made this and other announcements on the occasion of international day for the persons with disabilities on Saturday. Addressing a programme organised by the social welfare department the CM said that the State government would now give a grant of Rs 7,000 for artificial limb implant to specially abled. At present this grant is Rs 3,500. He also declared that the reward money for the State level efficiency award would be increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 8,000.

In the programme the CM felicitated the winners of this award. He handed over citation, medals and cheques of the award to 32 specially abled persons on the occasion. The awardees include eleven sportsmen, ten employees, ten self employed and one officer.

Speaking on the occasion Dhami said that the process of providing disability pension would be simplified on the lines of old age pension. He said that the beneficiaries of the pension would now include all those whose sons and grandsons are more than 20 year old.

The CM said that the persons with disabilities would be given a relaxation of five per cent in the minimum passing marks in the examinations. He said that the union and the State governments are committed for the welfare of the persons with disabilities. He said that efforts are being made to provide the right of equality to such persons both in economic and social fields under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He added that every possible effort is being made to bring the specially abled in the national mainstream.

Dhami said that such persons are providing appreciable services in every field on the basis of their will power and commitment. He said that a sum of Rs 155 crore has been earmarked for the welfare of persons with disabilities in the budget of the year 2022-23. He said that a monthly pension of Rs 1,500 is being given to specially abled who are poor and the parents of such children are being given a grant of Rs 700 for their sustenance.

A sum of Rs 25,000 is also being provided as an incentive to those marrying such persons. MLA Khajan Das, Dehradun mayor Sunil Uniyal Gama, principal secretary N Fenai, director of social welfare BL Firmal and others were present on the occasion.

Vipin Rawat murder: Police officer suspended for negligence in probe

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chamoli resident Vipin Rawat who had sustained head injuries on November 25 following an altercation with some men died on Saturday. His death triggered a wave of protest on social media and a large number of people assembled in the hospital where his body was kept. Acting swiftly the Uttarakhand police on the orders of chief minister suspended the in-charge of the Lakkhibagh police post under Patel Nagar police station Pravin Saini for showing laxity in the investigation.

On the night of November 25, Rawat had gone to Inamullah building with his friends to have dinner. Here he had an altercation with a group of youths during which one of them hit Rawat on the head with a baseball bat. He sustained serious injury on head and was rushed to CMI hospital and later was shifted to Mahant Indiresh hospital. The death of Rawat agitated many and they demanded action on the issue. The Badrinath MLA Rajendra Bhandari arrived in the hospital along with Congressmen and sat on a Dharna demanding registration of a case of murder and removal of Lakkhibagh police post in charge for allegedly sympathising with the alleged murderer. The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Karan Mahara also joined the protesters in their Dharna. Speaking on the occasion, Mahara said that the deceased was a member of National Students Union of India (NSUI). He alleged that the accused was arrested only after the death of Rawat. Mahara said that the police are behaving in an autocratic manner and the law and order situation in the State has crashed.

Mentally affected woman gangraped by trio in Haridwar

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The police have registered a case and started investigation following a complaint about a mentally affected girl being gangraped by three men in the Bahadarabad area of Haridwar. Sources state that the rape was also confirmed in a medical examination.

According to the information received from the police, a mentally affected 21-year-old woman used to roam around in the area. It is being said that when she was sauntering on the Bahadarabad bypass late in the evening on November 29, three bike-borne men pulled her into the bushes and then gangraped her. The family of the victim lodged a police complaint on Friday evening after which the police lodged an FIR on Saturday.

In the investigation of this case, the police found that three men who were doing the task of grinding stones in houses under construction had carried out this crime. All the three accused are said to be residents of Roorkee Civil Line Kotwali area.

According to the Bahadarabad police, efforts are underway to arrest the three accused.

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POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective Borrowers/Guarantors /Mortgagors to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of the said notice(s).The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the dates mentioned against each account. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Name of the Branch/ Borrower/Guarantor	Description of Mortgaged Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of possession notice affixed	Amount outstanding as on the date of demand notice
1.	Branch: New Tehri Borrower: 1. Sh. Rahul Naithwal S/o Sh. Ramesh Naithwal. 2. Sh. Ramesh Naithwal S/o P.D. Naithwal.	Property bearing Shop No. C-10, Bhagirathipuram, Tehri Garhwal, Land Area: 3.93 Sqmt. East: New Tehri Ghansali Motor Road, West : THDC Colony, North: Shop of Chamoli Electrical, South: Shop of Gupta General Store. Property is owned by Ramesh Naithwal S/o P D Naithwal.	03.09.2022	02.12.2022 Symbolic Possession	Rs. 14,17,531.00 with further interest w.e.f 01.09.2022

Date: 03.12.2022 Place: New Tehri Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank

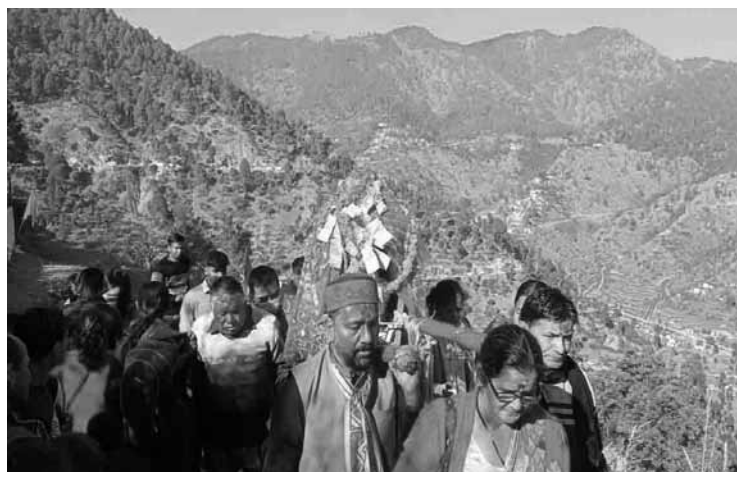
Thousands attend Bunkhal Kalinka Mela in Pauri

Minister says every home in Kandarsyun area will soon have water supply

PNS ■ PAURI

The famous two-day Bunkhal Kalinka mela started in Pauri district with enthusiasm and religious fervour in Pauri district on Saturday. Thousands of devotees of the goddess arrived here from nearby villages and different parts of the State and nation on the occasion. Health and Education minister Dhan Singh Rawat also attended the religious fair and paid his obeisance to the goddess.

Addressing the large gathering on the occasion, the minister said that the drinking water project has been sanctioned for the Kandarsyun area and very soon the water will be supplied to every house in the area. Large water tanks will be constructed in locations from Chaurikhal to Pithundi so that the people of area do not have to face the problem of water shortage. A health camp was also organised on the occasion and the minister also inspected this camp.



It is pertinent to mention here that the Bunkhal Kalinka Mela has been one of the four major religious fairs of Pauri district for many decades now. This particular event was also known for the considerable numbers of goats and buffaloes sacrificed by the people after the fulfillment of their wishes. However, animal sacrifice has been discontinued in all the four fairs following High Court orders and rise in public awareness for some years now.

Act against single-use plastic, raise public awareness: DM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Dehradun district magistrate Sonika has directed officials to undertake a campaign against the use of single-use plastic on a war footing along with a public awareness campaign. She issued this direction while chairing a meeting of officials of linear departments and the State Infrastructure and Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (SIIDCUL) to review the implementation of the Uttarakhand High Court orders regarding the plastic ban in the State.

The DM directed officials to ensure the implementation of the ban on the use, storage and transport of single-use plastic and to take action as per the provisions in the rules.

She said that meetings should be held on usage of plastic in industrial estates along with registration, identification and other tasks. The officials concerned have been directed to submit the report of such activities to the nodal officer/additional district magistrate (Finance and Revenue) within four days. The officials were also told to direct the producers, exporters and companies in the district to collect and take back the plastic being brought with their products. Strict action will be taken as per the court orders in case this is not done. The ADM (Finance and Revenue) KK Mishra said that all officials will have to mentally prepare themselves, undertake public awareness activities and raids to ensure implementation of the court orders.

Coordinated effort needed for welfare of women and children: Semwal

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The secretary for women empowerment and child development, HC Semwal has said that in order to strengthen the foundation of the development in the State all the departments should work in a coordinated manner to provide cent per cent benefit of government schemes to the women and children beneficiaries.

He was presiding over an inter-departmental coordination meeting here on Saturday. In the meeting, 25 State level officers of different departments participated. In the meeting elaborate information was provided about the Mission Vatsallya, Mission Saksham Anganwadi 2.0 and Mission Shakti and the issues which need inter-departmental coordination were identified.

Semwal said that the all round development of women and children is needed for achieving the targets of sustainable development. In the meeting all the departments were asked to compulsorily attend the meeting which would be held on December 8 to discuss the draft of the Uttarakhand women policy.

For the safety of the working women a presentation about the Gaura Shakti app was given in the meeting and the departments were asked to register all their women employees in the app and set up internal complaint committees in their departments.

Muni Ki Reti municipality officials along with volunteers raise public awareness on the ban on single-use plastic and proper disposal of plastic waste **Pioneer photo**

Minister reviews preparations for Vijay Diwas

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Sainik Kalyan minister Ganesh Joshi presided over a meeting of the officers of the department at his camp office on Saturday. In the meeting the minister took stock of the preparations for the upcoming Vijay Diwas. He sought details of the programme the department would organise on December 16 at Gandhi Park. In the programme the Veer Naris and the dependents of the martyrs would be felicitated. He directed the officers that the Vijay Diwas programme would be organised in a proper manner. The director of Sainik Kalyan Brigadier Amrit Lal and others were present on the occasion.

Tourists embark on boats at Naini lake on the weekend in Nainital **Pioneer photo**

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

RO Stressed Asset Recovery Branch (ROSARB) Dehradun, C-1/101, Commercial Complex, Indra Nagar Colony, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001.Phone#8477000402, 8477000405, IFSC-BARB0SARDEH, E-mail: sardeh@bankofbaroda.co.in.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s)/ Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the **Bank of Baroda**, the possession **(Constructive/ Physical/Symbolic Mention against each accounts)** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Bank of Baroda** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis** on below mention dates, for recovery of under mentioned dues & Future interest, charges and costs etc as detailed below. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/Guarantor/s) Secured Asset/s/Due/s/reserve prize / e-Auction date & time EMD and Bid Inercase amount are mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Branch Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantors/Mortgagor	Description of Property	Outstanding dues / Status of Possession (Constructive /Physical)	Date & Time of E-Auction	A) Reserve Price (in Lac) B) EMD (in lac) C) Bid multiplier	Property Inspection date & Time.
1.	**Borrower:** Mrs Amreeta Thapa W/o Mr Ashis Kharel. **Partners/Guarantors:** Mr. Ashis Kharel **(Guarantor),** R/o H.No 156, Shahid Krishna Bahadur Marg, Selaqui Dehradun-248197.	All that part and parcel of Residential property situated on land bearing Khata no.482 (fasli year 1394 to 1399) Khasra no. 1224/2Min, area 188.19 sq. mtrs situated at Mauza Central Hope Town Pargana Pachwa Doon Tehsil Vikasnagar, District Dehradun. Bounded & butted as -North - Land of Ilam and others, South - Land of Donor, East - Road and land of Sarita Tamang, West - Land of Vikrant Chauhan and others. As mentioned in Gift deed No. 4113dtd. 23.08.2011.	**Rs. 58,53,824.70** Plus Charges and interest thereon. **SARFAESI** Physical	**21.12.2022** 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	A) Rs. 50,94,000/- B) Rs. 5,09,400/- C) Rs. 50,000/-	w. e. f. 04.12.2022 to 20.12.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile 8477000402/8477000405.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

For detailed terms & conditions SCAN HERE:

Date: 03.12.2022 **Place: Dehradun** **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**

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आन्ध्रा Andhra कार्पोरेशन Corporation

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (UNDER SARFAESI ACT)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISON TO RULE 8 (6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s), that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India** (Secured Creditor) will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS"** and **"WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS"** on **21.12.2022** in between **10:00 A. M. to 03:00 P. M.,** for recovery of respective amounts, due to the **Union Bank of India** (Secured Creditor) from the respective Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned below. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit will be as mentioned below, For details terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **Union Bank of India** (Secured Creditor) website i.e. **www.unionbankofindia.co.in.** Bidder may also visit the website **https://www.ibapi.in**. The under mentioned properties will be sold by Online E-Auction through website **www.mstcecommerce.com** on **21.12.2022** for recovery of respective amounts plus interest and other expenses in the respective borrowers accounts.

■ Online E- Auction through website https://www.mstcecommerce.com
■ Date & Time of Auction : 21st December, 2022 at 10.00 A. M. to 03.00 P. M.

Lot No.	a) Name of the Borrower, b) Name of the Branch, c) Description of Property, d) Name of the Owner/s	a) Reserve Price (In ₹) b) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In ₹)	Debt Due Amount Contact Person & Mobile No. Inspection Date / Time	Encumbrance Possession: Symbolic / Physical
1	a) **M/s. Boltmaster India Pvt. Ltd.** b) Asset Recovery Management Br. c) Factory Land & Bldg. at Plot No. 14, 15, & 16, Sector-6, Rudrapur, Uttaranchal. **Total Land Area of the Property :** 77472 sq. ft. or 7200 sq. mt. d) **M/s. Boltmaster India Pvt. Ltd.**	a) ₹ 3,80,10,000/- b) ₹ 38,01,000/-	**₹ 38,63,98,693/- (Rs. Thrity Eight Crore Sixty Three Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Three Only)** as on **31.03.2022** + further Int. thereon w. e. f. **01.04.2022** at applicable rate of interest, cost and charges till date. ∗ **Mr. Suryeshwar**-Mob. No. 7588485111 ∗ **Mr. Shailesh Singh**-Mob. No. 8052113909 • 16.12.2022 / 11.00 a. m. to 1.00 p. m.	Not Known to A. O. Physical Possession

Bidders are requested to visit the Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.co.in** for detailed terms & conditions of E-Auction and other details before submitting their Bids for taking part in the E-Auction. Bidder may also visit the website **www.ibapi.in** of Service Provider Indian Banks Auction Properties Information (IBAPI) Portal.
The intending bidders must have valid e-mail ID to participate in on-line Auction. The terms and conditions of sale shall be strictly as per the provisions of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) / RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

This may also be treated as notice under Rule 8(6) / Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the linkprovided i.e **www.unionbankofindia.co.in** or **https://www.ibapi.in, www.mstcecommerce.com**

Place : Rudrapur, Uttaranchal. Sd/-
Date : 04.12.2022 Authorized Officer, **Union Bank of India**

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

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

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

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

FBI Director raises national security concerns about TikTok

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

Blinken designates Pak, China as religious freedom violators

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

Blinken said the US will continue to carefully monitor the status of freedom of religion or belief in every country around the world and advocate for those facing religious persecution or discrimination.

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

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

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

Ukraine urges tougher Western squeeze on Russian oil prices

AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy head of the president's office, said the attacks killed one civilian and wounded four others in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region. According to the U.K. Defense Ministry, Russian forces "continue to invest a large element of their overall military effort and firepower" around the small Donestsk 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

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

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

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

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

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

Snowden receives Russian passport, takes citizenship oath

AP ■ MOSCOW

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

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

The reports did not specify whether Snowden has renounced his US citizenship. The United States revoked his passport in 2013, leading to Snowden being stranded in a Moscow airport for weeks after arriving from Hong Kong, aiming to reach Ecuador.

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

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

"Snowden has long 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 workers, 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 operators in the country are also supporting local manufacturers.

"There are demands in various departments. If those demands are oragnised 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 boosted 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 segment. 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 ministry said in a statement.

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

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

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

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

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

SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OYO to downsize 3,700-employee base, cut 600 jobs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IPO-bound travel tech firm OYO on Saturday announced it will downsize about 10 per cent of its 3,700-employee base by cutting 600 jobs in the technology and corporate verticals and hiring 250 members, primarily in the relationship management teams.

OYO said the move is part of implementing wide ranging changes in its organisational structure. It is downsizing its product & engineering, corporate headquarters, and OYO Vacation Homes teams, while it adds people to the partner relationship management and the business development teams.

"OYO will downsize 10 per cent of its 3,700-employee base, which includes fresh hiring of 250 members and letting go of 600 employees," a statement said.

Product and engineering teams are being merged for

smoother functioning, it added.

The downsizing in tech is also happening in teams which were developing pilots and proof of concepts such as in-app gaming, social content curation and patron facilitated content, the company said. Additionally, members of projects which have now been successfully developed and deployed such as 'Partner SaaS' are being either let go or are being redeployed in core product & tech areas such as AI (artificial intelligence) driven pricing, ordering and payments, it informed.

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 contribution of Indian seers to the world of science.

Describing India as the Land of Innovations, Discoveries, Spirituality and Wonders, Mr.Anand said, "The best of the scientific solution suggested through treatise Bhagavad Gita has been the universal science of the soul which talks about address all challenges through reconstruction and talks happiness is the end of all our actions." "The science that compels us to embrace divinity and divine qualities. All other bodies of knowledge are subject to change, but this body of knowledge contained is timeless - eternal. Yogis through 'Chittashuddhi' (Eternal Purity) has taught us to achieve a deep meditative state, sense of eternity and happiness." The ancient Indian wisdom and scientific achievements, he added, has helped the world measure the Speed of Light, distance between Sun and earth about the source of the light of Moon, Gravity, and gravitation, about centripetal 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 Chanyaka 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 Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director at Knight Frank India, said, "While recessionary forces in the west weigh on the global economy, the APAC region and India are expected to remain beacons of growth in an otherwise uninspiring economic backdrop."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. That Mr. Joginder Singh is claiming owner of Property bearing No. A-7, area measuring 200 Sq., Yds., out of Khasra No. 48/22. Situated in the area of Village Mundka, colony known as Rajdhani Park P & T Block, Nanglai, Delhi. hereinafter referred to as said property, who acquired the said property on the basis of GPA, Agreement, and will dated 12.03.2003, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claiming owner want to sell the said property to Mr. Vishnu Kumar who is taking a Loan from Fullerton India Home Finance company Ltd. for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the owner ship of Mr. Joginder Singh in respect of the said property its sale /Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of dispute, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, IInd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph : 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com

Indian startup Kheyti wins Prince William's Earthshot Prize

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

Kappagantulu 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. Krishanlal S/o Mr. Gyan Singh is owner of Property Comprising of Plot No. 1452 and 1453, Whose admeasuring area in 30 Sq. mtrs., and 30 Sq. mtrs., respectively, i.e., total of 60 mtrs., situated at Sector 4-C, Shatabdi Nagar Yojna, Meerut, 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 17.11.2006 in respect of said property executed by Meerut Development Authority in favor of Mr. Satish Kumar S/o Udhay Singh duly registered at sub registrar office-III MEERUT vide documents No. 12255, volume no. 3641, book no. 1, pages no. 219 to 242, dated on 17.11.2006., 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/title 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 C 78
Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, **Shri Rishi Sarin** S/o Davi Sarin R/o **17/195,Chilli Int Road,Phullatti Bazar, Agra Fort, Kiraoli, Agra, Uttar Pradesh- 282003** owner of **DDA Plot No 6, Block EFGH,Local Shopping Centre, Masjid Moth, 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 26.11.2022 bearing LR no 1019557/2022against 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, **Shri Jagjit Singh** S/o Bara Singh R/o **H-36 G S Apartments Sector-13 Rohini Delhi** owner of **DDA Plot No 41 Transport Centre Rohtak Road Delhi** has applied for conversion of the aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application no LD25952CL/CON/14112022 dated 14.11.2022 in DDA. That the original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip,Lease Deed, C Form, D Form and Occupancy Certificate of the above property have been lost, A FIR Dated 03.12.2022 bearing LR no 1043053/2022 against this effect has been lodged at Crime Branch Delhi. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address/phone No.9958643421 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-23.

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mr. Parmod Mittal has acquired the Entire Second Floor, without roof rights, Property bearing No. C-747, area measuring 516 Sq. Yds., Situated at New Friends Colony, New Delhi vide Sale Deed dated 21.02.2012, Doc no. 2458 and Now, Mr. 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. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Smt. Lalita Rani Mehndirata W/o Late Shri Lok Nath, Cont. 97119-73586, Email: nmamta1981@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 to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 01/12/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document 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) D-block, 3rd floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer, Trans. Line Maintt. Division-8, JKPTCL Bemina, Srinagar-190010
e-mail: tlmd8jkptcl@gmail.com
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EXTENSION NOTICE-IV

To invoke better response, the last date for submission of e-bids in respect of e-NIT No. TLMD-8/TS/17 of 2022 dated: 30-09-2022 for "**Augmentation / Re-Conductoring 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.

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. TLMD-VIII/TS/3269-72
Date:-01/12/2022
DIPK-NB-5344/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
TLMD-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 knockout round.

But just like in 2010 against Ghana and 2014 against Belgium, the United States was 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, had a chance to put the United States ahead in the third minute but Noppert, playing in only his fourth international match, blocked his point-blank shot.

With the Americans seeking an equalizing goal, Noppert dived to stop Tim Weah's 25-yard effort in the 42nd.

The crowd of 44,846 was well back from the field at renovated Khalifa International Stadium, which has an athletics track and was more subdued than the raucous spectators for the match against Iran.

While the United States had the better play at the start, the Dutch went ahead after breaking the American press. Dumfries one-timed a pass from the right flank as Depay streaked unmarked into the penalty area.

His right-footed shot from 14 yards beat Matt Turner to the far post in the 10th minute for his 43rd international goal, moving him into sole possession of second place on the Dutch career scoring list behind Robin van Persie's 50. The goal was the first allowed by the United States from the run of play in the tournament. In 37 World Cup matches, the Americans have never won a game in which they trailed.

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 liar," said midfielder Declan Rice.

"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 Boagaert 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 Cameroonian club, made an inspiring run and cross to set up Vincent Aboubakar's header and stoppage-time winner in a 1-0 victory to make the Indomitable Lions the first African nation to beat Brazil at a World Cup.

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

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

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

"I knew (Ngom Mbekeli) was a good, quality player. He just needed an opportunity to 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 Uruguay forward. You are "the devil himself." You need to apologize to my country for what you did. Quite the reaction to a soccer player, even if his deliberate handball more than a decade ago is still one of the most contentious moments in World Cup history.

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

Brazil fans at World Cup game remember soccer great Pelé

AP ■ LUSAIL, QATAR

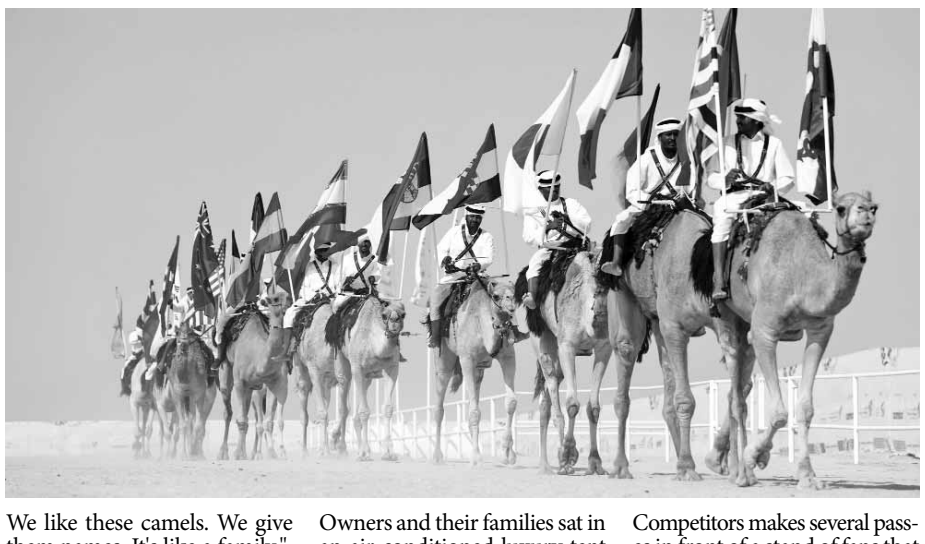
Brazilian fans showed their support for soccer great Pelé ahead of the national team's match against Cameroon at the World Cup on Friday.

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."

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 awareness 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."

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 T20Is, 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.

We will narrow down our options closer to World Cup: Rohit

PTI ■ MIRPUR

Skipper Rohit Sharma doesn't want to clutter things by "thinking too far ahead" about the ODI World Cup and said he and head coach Rahul Dravid have a "fair idea" of how they would approach the showpiece to be held in India in October-November next year.

Asked if World Cup preparations start with the three-match ODI series against Bangladesh starting here on Sunday, Rohit made it clear that there is still time before his team can start thinking specifically about the marquee event.

"Every time you play a game, its preparing for something. The World Cup is still 8-9 months (10 months) from now. We can't think so far ahead. We need to keep an eye on what we need to do as team," Rohit told mediapersons ahead of the first ODI.

He said if he starts planning too early, it won't help but also made it clear that the team think-tank knows in which direction it needs to travel.

"It is very, very important for us not to start thinking about so many things. Like we need to play this guy or that guy. Me and coach (Dravid) have fair idea what to do. We will narrow it down once we come closer to the World Cup," he added.

Workload management must with some on road for two and half months

A few players like wicket-keeper-batter Rishabh Pant, with this Bangladesh series, will be on the road for more than two and half months and the skipper emphasized on the requirement of workload management.

He admitted that a lot of cricket is being played and it won't stop. It is the team and people around it who need to do the right things.

"As professionals, we have to keep up the intensity. Yes, there's a lot of cricket and that's why we give them breaks. And people need to understand that when we give players a break, it is only to manage the workload keeping the bigger picture in mind.

"Cricket is not going to stop. There will always be lot of cricket and we need to manage our players. You want your best players to play with higher intensity all the time. So it is important to give them breaks, manage them as freshness is very important," Rohit elaborated.

He then gave a peek into his team's gruelling schedule during the past few months.

"Lot of the guys have been on the road before the World Cup and we had two back-to-back series versus Australia and South Africa. And then, we went straight to Australia. It has already been two and half months. It is impossible in this day and age that you will always play with your best 15. It's not going to happen," he was blunt.

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.

Shami out of Bangladesh ODIs due to shoulder injury, Umran Malik to replace him

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior fast bowler Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of the ODI series against Bangladesh, starting Sunday, due to a right shoulder injury and replaced by Umran Malik in India's squad, the BCCI announced on Saturday.

It has been learnt that Shami had suffered the injury during a training session after he returned from Australia, where the Indian team made a semifinal exit from the T20 World Cup.

Shami could also miss the upcoming two-Test series, beginning in Chittagong from December 14. "Fast bowler Mohd. Shami sustained a shoulder injury during a training session in the lead up to the ODI series against Bangladesh. He is currently under the supervision of the BCCI Medical Team at the NCA, Bengaluru and will not be able to take part in the three-match series. The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Umran Malik as Shami's replacement," BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said in a press release.

The extent of Shami's injury is not known yet. Umran Malik is one of the fastest bowlers in world cricket. He made his ODI debut recently in New Zealand where he played two games and claimed two wickets.

Australia bounce back to down India, seal series 3-1

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

India made a promising start by taking a first-half lead but its defence fell apart later as the team lost the fourth hockey Test 1-5 to Australia and conceded an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series, here on Saturday.

The final match of the series will be played on Sunday. India had won the third match after losing the first two contests.

Comeback man Dilpreet Singh (25th) struck early to give India the lead after a resolute defensive display by Harmanpreet and Co. In a goalless first quarter.

But India's defence crumbled towards the fag end of second quarter with Jeremy Hayward (29th) and Jake Whetton (30th) scoring in space of 50 seconds. Tom Wickham (34th) extended the Kookaburras lead, before Hayward completed his brace (41st) .

Matt Dawson entered the scoresheet in the 54th minute with a low volley strike that went past Krishan Pathak.

Pathak, who came in place of the seasoned Sreejesh, however made some creditable saves to save India from more humiliation.

On a sultry afternoon, the hosts fired in all cylinders with Harvey creating some splendid raids from the midfield.

But the world No. 1 team struggled to breach a resolute Indian defence, which was held firmly by Sreejesh during a goalless first quarter.

Pathak came out with flying colours and made a splendid save in the second quarter to keep Nathan Ephraums at bay.

It seemed India could level the series when Dilpreet struck a brilliant goal to hand them the lead against the run of play.

From the top of striking circle, Dilpreet quickly pierced the defence and made a sharp turn before smashing it into the bottom corner.

But India's lead lasted for about less than five minutes with player-of-the-match Hayward bringing up the equaliser with a superbly placed drag-flick.

He dragged the ball long before despatching it to the top right corner at a lightning fast speed as it went past Pathak before he could react.

From being 0-1 down, the world number one went 2-1 up in the blink of an eye when Whetton struck off a Jack Welch assist, showing his poaching skill.

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.

The semifinals between Kadam and Anguiano will be held on Sunday.

Brathwaite fights back in opener after Labuschagne landmark ton

AP ■ PERTH

Marnus Labuschagne hit an unbeaten 104 to add to his first innings of 204 to become the third Australian with single and double centuries in a Test as Australia set the West Indies an unlikely 498 runs to win the opening Test. West Indies reached stumps Saturday at 192-3 in its second innings in 62 overs on the fourth day, needing another 306 runs for what would be a sensational victory.

Australia earlier declared on 182-2 at lunch with Labuschagne and Steve Smith 20 not out after having resumed the fourth day on 29-1. The home side scored 153 runs in the session in just 26 overs.

The 81-run stand between Labuschagne and Smith followed their 251-run third-wicket stand in the first innings where Smith also scored an unbeaten 200.

The only other Australians to score a century and double century in a test were Greg Chappell and Doug Walters against New Zealand and the West Indies, respectively.

The home side hit up a formidable 598-4 declared in its first innings and dismissed the West Indies for 283.

West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite led the resistance in the second innings with a fighting 101 not out, his 11th ton in 80 Tests, and laid the platform with debutant opener Tagenarine Chanderpaul (45) in a 116-run opening stand.

During the innings Brathwaite became the 13th West Indies batter to complete 5,000 Test runs.

He has faced 166 balls and hit 11 fours, and will resume Sunday with Kyle Mayers, who is yet to score.

Brathwaite weathered an Australian attack minus skipper Pat Cummins, with the visitors hoping to salvage a draw from a seemingly hopeless position.

Australia has 90 overs left, including the availability of the second new ball, on the last day to take seven wickets.

The wicket has played true for the best part but the odd ball has kept low with cracks opening and batting may become difficult Sunday.

Cummins was nursing a right-side soreness and did not take the field until the fall of Chanderpaul's wicket which was 153 minutes into the innings.

Cummins' soreness will be further assessed before he is cleared to bowl. Cummins wrecked the West Indies first innings with 3-34 as the tourists collapsed from 245-4 to 283 all out.

Chanderpaul was dropped by Mitchell Starc at long leg off a top-edged hook off Cameron Green. West Indies was 109-1.

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 Nothaburi, 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 Rankireddy (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 lopsided last-four contest.

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 Dhirendra, 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 has done well and has started training again after a break. It is mentally very disturbing for him."

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.

sunday magazine
December 4, 2022

the pioneer
agenda

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.

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

> 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

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 'Annapurna 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 Corrrespondent of The Pioneer)

YOU KNOW YOU'VE READ A GOOD BOOK WHEN YOU TURN THE LAST PAGE AND FEEL A LITTLE AS IF YOU HAVE LOST A FRIEND
— PAUL SWEENEY

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 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.

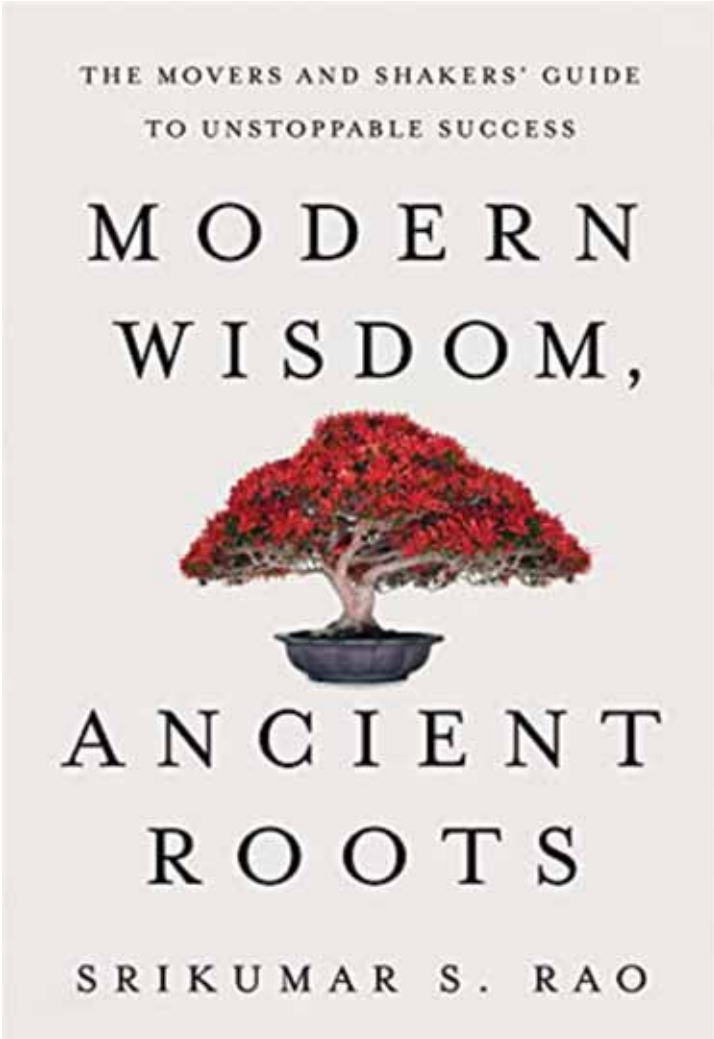
"I will not name them because they have their ups and downs and fall down many times even as their overall trajectory is upward. An external observer can easily misinterpret the initiatives that did not work." Rao believes that personal mastery gives people the ability to focus one-pointedly on any issue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

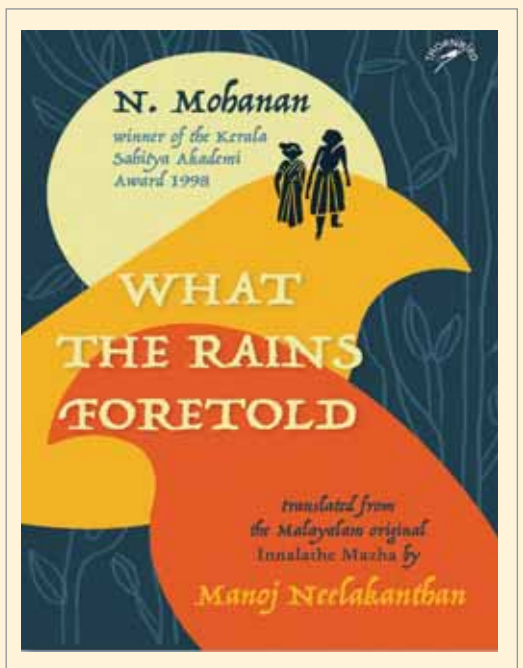
Rao, who has coached many CEOs in the world, thinks business leaders can make a quantum leap in their lives by gaining personal mastery.

"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.



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



FICTION
₹395
ISBN: 978-93-91125-84-4

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.'

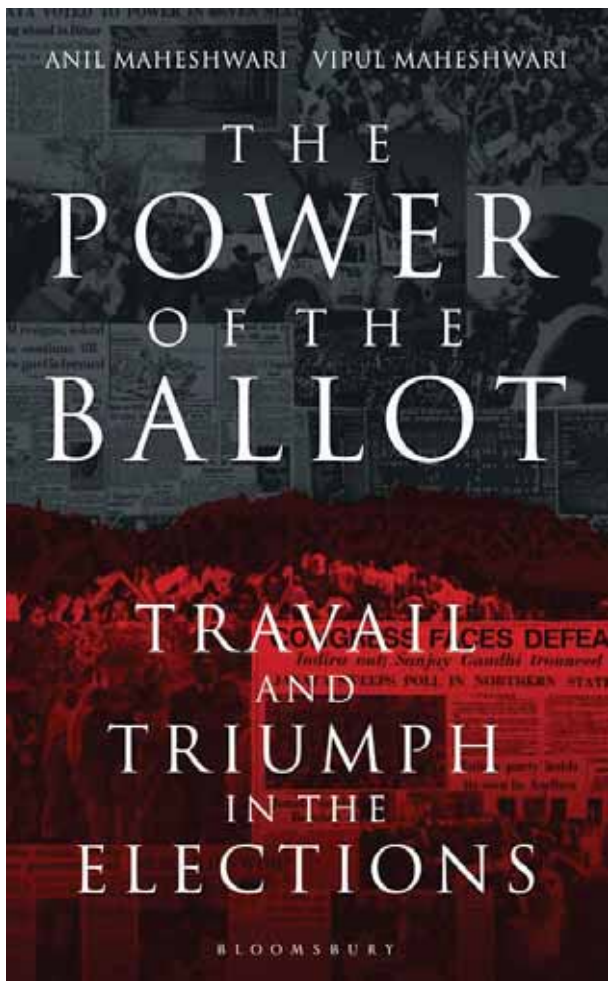
Vararuchi sprang up and looked angrily upwards, from where the voices came. 'Never, never! The writ of destiny will never happen. It is I, Vararuchi, who says this. This will never happen,' he yelled.

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 order to compete against Dinesh Pratap Singh, the Raja of Kasmanda, who was running for Congress, the party needed a candidate from the Sitapur region. Additionally, it required financial and material resources. Nevertheless, the Jan Sangh did not validate Verma's claims about his riches. He was the owner of a relatively small flour mill, after all. Verma's jeep was seized, and he was given a light beating by irate party members. When the Jan Sangh began campaigning for him, using his last name frequently, Verma fled to Lucknow to hide. Even though the people desired a candidate 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.

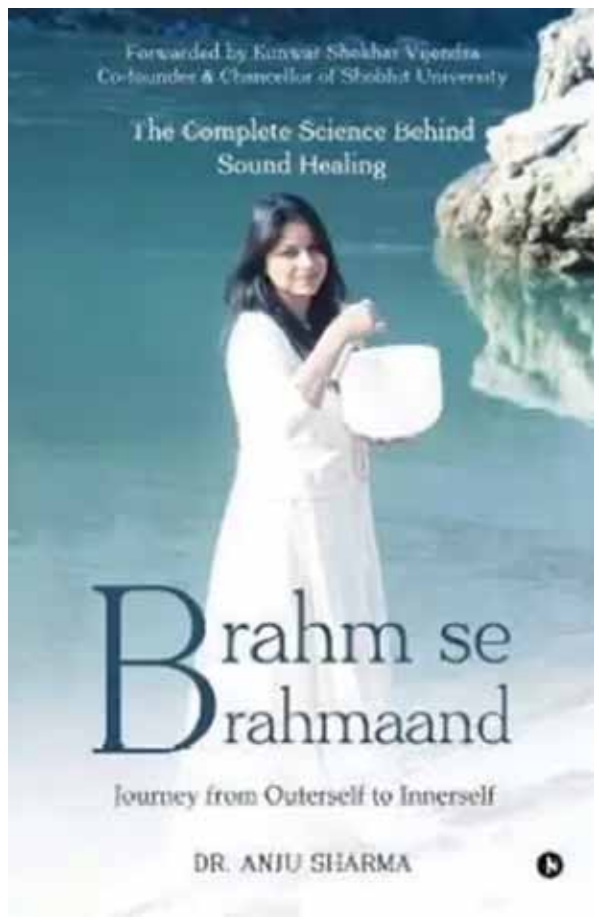
The depiction of the tradition in Haryana of weighing candidates against coins is another example of utilising an anecdote to highlight the idiosyncrasies of Indian elections. By the 1980s, the chances of victory for every candidate, including unaffiliated candidates who had little chance of victory, 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 Bansi Lal government against a pile of stones.

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

Price Rs 699
Pages 381

The magic of sound healing

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



The concept of Sound healing as a form of therapy has been known for a long time, but it has not been put into practice effectively or widely. Dr. Anju Shamra'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 affect the surroundings but also the individual.

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Anju Shamra 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 Simalugarh Fort and later the Dolaksharia Barua (Superintendent of the Royal Household Guards) to Maharaja Chakradwaj 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 national cyber security agencies and all other civil-military organisations are certainly not sufficient to counter possible cyberattacks. It must be noted here that no nation, even the mighty US, is completely protected against such attacks. While global organisations like the Interpol and other top security and intelligence agencies can be the hope for countries like India, the US, China, Russia, the UK, the EU, etc, an immediate global-level cooperation and safe data sharing to fight cyber crime is the only way to minimise threats emerging from the cyberspace.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For an emerging global power like India, we do not need to wait for another AIIMS like cyber attack chaos. Delhi must respond to the crisis effectively. Its security and intelligence agencies must 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

SIDHARRTH 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 formats of running entities are barely successful.

Notwithstanding the constructive criticism that Musk has been facing for his failed leadership and unreliable management decisions, his ideas on the kind of innovation and change that would benefit Twitter have received support and appreciation. These innovative ideas can create a historical transition point for the bird app if 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 company 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 register profits.

It's not all Musk's act

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

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

Logging out

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

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

SELF-ACKNOWLEDGMENT BOOSTS YOUR EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL IMMUNITY, GIVING YOU THE STRENGTH YOU NEED TO RELEASE THE PAST AND RISE ABOVE FEAR, DOUBT OR RESIGNATION
— DEBBIE FORD

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA

ARIES March 21-April 19

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

Lucky number 14 | **Lucky colour** Green
Lucky day Thursday

TAURUS April 20-May 20

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

Lucky number 6 | **Lucky colour** Purple
Lucky day Friday

GEMINI May 21-June 20

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

Lucky number 15 | **Lucky colour** Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday

CANCER June 21-July 22

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

Lucky number 19 **Lucky colour** White
Lucky day Tuesday

LEO July 23-Aug 22

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

Lucky number 8 | **Lucky colour** Magenta
Lucky day Friday

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

Lucky number 13 | **Lucky colour** Brown
Lucky day Saturday

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

Lucky number 11 | **Lucky colour** Beige
Lucky day Sunday

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

Lucky number 20 | **Lucky colour** Mauve
Lucky day Monday

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

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

Lucky number 18 | **Lucky colour** Silver
Lucky day Wednesday

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

Lucky number 7 | **Lucky colour** Grey
Lucky day Saturday

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

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

Lucky number 2 | **Lucky colour** Pink
Lucky day Sunday

PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

Lucky number 12 | **Lucky colour** Peach
Lucky day Tuesday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Spirituality turns life into a beautiful experience

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

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

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

"Can you see astrological indicators suggesting probable timeline when my spiritual potential will begin to unfold?" He asked. A look into finer coordinates of the 1st, 5th, and 9th houses – the cusp sub-lords - offer the answer. Lagna and 5th sub-lords are the Sun, tenanted in the nakshatra owned by Rahu, the 9th sub-lord. It further confirms the indication given above. The irony, however, is that Rahu, the one supposed to translated merits into fruits is posited in an emotionally driven sign Cancer coinciding with the 4th house. And Rahu is placed adverse to the Sun. It implies that it is only after going through emotional turmoil that your spiritual longing will find a way. So, what happened with you is your Karmic calling. Turn this into an opportunity. Even otherwise when you become miserable in life. All hopes are shattered, and your beliefs and perceptions do not have answer to your woes. Only then you are tempted to go beyond to find a lead. That is when your spiritual urges gain ground. This has been beautifully explained by none other than Osho while commenting on the first verse of Patanjali Yoga sutra: "Now the discipline of Yoga". So, that 'now' moment has arrived in your life when you will be able to bring order within you (mind), is what the word discipline means. You are expected to have a feel to that effect during 2nd half of 2023 when Sun antardasha takes off during Mars major dasha.

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

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