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- Pink Toilet & Feeding Room
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- मुफ्त हेल्थ चेकअप
- मेधावी छात्राओं को मुफ्त साइकिल



व्यापारी

- Start-Up Tax Benefits
- निगम का फैक्ट्री लाइसेंस समाप्त
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- Property Tax में छूट
- 100 गज मकान का नक्शा माफ
- निगम हुआ Online MyMCD App
- 4,000 ऑटो टैक्सा के लिए स्टैंड



छात्र / बच्चे

- MCD स्कूलों में स्मार्ट क्लास
- MCD स्कूलों में CCTV की सुरक्षा
- MCD स्कूलों में WiFi की सुविधा
- Knowledge Park एवं पुस्तकालय



कर्मचारी / मजदूर

- 10 लाख झुग्गी वासियों को पक्का मकान
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- झुग्गियों में स्कूल और अस्पताल
- देहड़ी-पटरी वाले असंगठित मजदूरों को सुविधाएं
- अस्थाई MCD सफाई कर्मचारियों को नियमित
- निगम कर्मचारियों को उद्धार - सैलरी और पेंशन में सहूलियत



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4 दिसंबर प्रातः 8 बजे से 5:30 बजे तक



कमल का बटन दबाएं
भाजपा को MCD में विजयी बनाएं

Published by : भारतीय जनता पार्टी, दिल्ली प्रदेश

‘Jain misused official position in jail, met co-accused in PMLA case’

Committee report is illegal as L-G had no power to constitute it, say Delhi Govt sources

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An inquiry report regarding VIP treatment to jailed Delhi Minister in Tihar has found that Satyendar Jain "mis-used" his official position and met with the co-accused in a money laundering case, in which he was arrested, in his prison cell.

The report by the committee, comprising Principal Secretaries of the Delhi Government's Home, Law and Vigilance departments, has

noted "collusion" on part of then Director-General (Prisons) Sandeep Goel with Jain. "The serious lapses/irregularities committed by jail authorities cannot be ignored. Jail suffered a serious dent in its image in recent times and, therefore, strict action deserves to be taken against the officers/officials.

The committee has been able to identify at least three officials namely the then Jail Superintendent Ajit Kumar, warden Vikas and the DG (Prison) Sandeep Goel against whom

departmental proceedings should be initiated. The DG (Prisons) should also identify more officials involved in omission and commission and take action expeditiously.

The committee holds that Jain inmate and Minister, too, is involved in the violation of the norms and rules of the prisons and in the misuse of his official position and authority which enabled him to enjoy special treatment/facilities in jail," the report said. The committee was set up by Lieutenant-Governor

(L-G) VK Saxena following reports of special treatment to Jain in prison. Responding to the issue, Delhi Government sources said that the L-G had no power to set up this committee. "The committee and its report are illegal. L-G is acting like Aurangzeb.

He should realise that India has a Constitution and he is bound by the same," they added. Talking about the report, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that report has proved that

Kejriwal Government has given VIP treatment to Jain and it shows how Jain has misused his position to get five star facilities in jail.

"At least five inmates namely, Rinku (POCSO accused), Afsar Ali, Manish (POCSO accused), Sonu Singh and Dilip Kumar were pressurized by the jail administration (including Jail Superintendent, Jail Warden and Jail Munshi) to provide "special services" to Jain. Underlines that retinue of Jail officials including Wardens, Munshis

and other staff were involved in the service of Jain," the report said. "The inmates did not offer any service to Jain voluntarily or out of "love and affection" as cited by the suspended Jail Superintendent Ajit Kumar. Instead, the inmates feared that if they refused to obey, they would be given "Punishment Ticket" or tortured in jail," it stated.

"In violation of Prison Rules Jain frequently held court in his room with co-accused in same case Vaibhav Jain and Ankush

Jain apart from Sanjay Gupta and Raman Bhuraria who are accused in other cases filed by ED. Such meetings often happened even during restricted curfew hours," the report said.

Jain's wife Poonam Jain and other family members had frequent meetings with him in Jail in blatant violation of rules and with collusion of senior jail officials including Sandeep Goel and Ajit Kumar, it said. Goel met Jain in his cell for about 50 minutes on October 6 from 18.39 hrs to 19.29 hrs. This reflects that he

was quite close to the jailed Minister and indicates collusion of top brass, while Ajit Kumar interacted with Jain in his cell for about 15 minutes on September 12, the report said.

"Benami use of the jail account cards of other inmates to purchase fruits/food and other items by Jain for personal use, was found. Around 3-4 Jail account cards were used by him and his close aide Sanjay Gupta to purchase consumables from the jail canteen," it informed.

Anti-Brahmin slogans in JNU deface campus



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Several buildings on Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus were defaced on Thursday with anti-Brahmin slogans, photos of which were shared on social media.

Students claimed that the walls in the School of International Studies-II building were vandalised with slogans against Brahmin and Baniya communities. There was no immediate reaction from JNU Administration on the incidents. Some of the slogans on the wall are "Brahmins Leave The Campus", "There Will Be Blood", "Brahmin Bharat Chhodo" and "Brahmino-Banias, we are coming for you! We will avenge."

RSS-affiliated ABVP accused the Left. "ABVP condemns the vandalism of academic spaces by communist goons. They have written abuses on the walls of JNU. They have defaced chambers of free-thinking professors to intimidate them," said ABVP JNU president Rohit Kumar.

Kejriwal interacts with city's RWAs

Power, funds will be handed to RWAs if AAP comes to power in MCD too, says Kejriwal



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday interacted with all Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and conveyed to them that if AAP was voted to power in the MCD, all RWAs would have their own 'mini councillors' with power handed to them in steps. Kejriwal said the AAP would provide them with basic minimum funds.

"The public will not remain mute spectators or consumers anymore. Each RWA will have its own mini councillor and powers will be handed to them step-by-step.

"We will also have extensive consultations on these issues. If we successfully implement this idea of including residents in the MCD, it will become an example for entire country. If we succeed in creating a model of direct public participation for governance in Delhi, it will give a new system of governance to the whole world," Kejriwal said "We had tried to organise Delhi into 3,500 Mohalla Sabhas, but BJP-run MCD's did not cooperate, the whole

scheme got obstructed, now we will actively involve RWAs in this," he said. He also sought suggestions during his interaction with RWA representatives from Malviya Nagar, Patparganj, Mayur Vihar, Kalkaji, Greater Kailash, Chittaranjan Park and Khirki Extension. RWA representatives of villages and unauthorised colonies were also present at the session.

Kejriwal had on Tuesday announced that RWAs in national Capital would be granted "financial and political" powers and empowered with the status of 'mini councillors' if AAP assumed control of MCD. He had said the idea behind this vision was to "make the people the masters of Delhi (Janta ko Dilli ka malik banana hai)." Addressing RWA representatives, AAP leader and Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj said "The demand to include RWAs in the MCD has been there for years. The residents always wanted the MCD to empower the RWAs. We view it like an administrative extension," he said. Several RWA representatives also presented their ideas to the Chief Minister during the interactive session.

AAP will pay salaries of all MCD workers if elected, says Sisodia

'MCD's core job is to keep Delhi clean but BJP turned it into dump yard'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the run up to the MCD polls, the AAP on Thursday held over 155 Jansamvads, Nukkad Sabhas and buzz activities across the city to seek votes from Delhiites. Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia himself held 10 Jansamvad rallies in east Delhi and sought votes from the people to keep Delhi clean.

Addressing a rally at Trilokpuri, Sisodia said that every person is aware that the

core responsibility of the MCD is to keep the city clean, but the BJP couldn't understand this in the last 15 years and turned the city into a dump yard. "The BJP turned the city into a dump yard.

They did not pay the salaries of sanitation workers for months. Even retired workers have not received their previous salaries," said Sisodia.

"As soon as the Kejriwal Government comes to power in the MCD, the sanitation workers will be rid of their salary issues.

All sanitation workers will receive their salaries on time and all contractual workers will be made permanent," he said. "CM Arvind Kejriwal



Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia campaigns for MCD elections at Trilokpuri in New Delhi on Thursday

showed trust in teachers of Delhi Government schools and gave them their due respect. In return, State Government schoolteachers worked hard and established a world-class city Education Model. Similarly, we trust our sanitation workers, too, and together we will make the Capital the most beautiful Capital in the world," the Deputy CM said.

"The MCD's main responsibility is to keep the city clean, but BJP couldn't understand this in the last 15 years. The saffron party was busy promoting extortion and making money from it. The public is upset with them and this time in the civic elections, the AAP will form the Government," Sisodia said.

"The garbage mountain in Bhalwa is a mountain of BJP's failures in MCD.

Just as the BJP's misrule in MCD grew in the last 15 years, the height of this garbage mountain kept increasing yearly. But public need not worry now. They must take a selfie with this garbage mountain, as this will start disappearing after December 7," Sisodia added.

The Jansamvad rallies were held at different locations in the city including New Ashok Nagar, Trilokpuri, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Kondli, Gharoli, Kalyanpuri, Mayur Vihar Phase-2, Mandavli, Vinod Nagar, and Patparganj.



Anurag campaigns for BJP candidates in city

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Anurag Thakur campaigned for BJP candidates on Thursday in ward number 107 Vikaspuri, 99 Hari Nagar, 93 Madipur, 95 Vishnu Garden, 96 Rajouri Garden, 102 Khyala and 115 Uttam for Delhi MCD elections. During his public meetings, Thakur appealed to people to bring BJP back in MCD with full majority. Attacking Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during his public meetings, Thakur said, "Earlier Kejriwal was known for U-turns, now he is known for doing politics of lies and deceit. Hardcore corruption is identity of Delhi CM. By giving protection to the

corrupt, Kejriwal looted Delhi and is now eager to loot MCD."

Attacking Manish Sisodia the Union Minister said, Sisodia was using 14 phones so as not to get entangled in liquor scam. "That means he is in fear of Modi, and that is why he is finding ways to avoid agencies," he said. Commenting sharply on Delhi Smog Towers, Thakur said, "Today senior leaders of Delhi BJP did a fact check of another famous work of AAP Government: The smog tower of Delhi. It was promised that smog towers will be installed all over Delhi. The tower costing ₹25 crore is lying idle today. Every month, ₹20 lakh of hard-earned public money is going waste." SR

Cong slams BJP for taking credit for 'pucca makaan' drive

NEW DELHI: Lashing out at BJP, the Delhi Congress on Thursday alleged that the saffron party is taking credit for pucca makaans for slum dwellers in Delhi. The in-situ development of slums and

jhuggis jhopris was the vision of Congress president Sonia Gandhi and the then Sheila Dikshit Government implemented it but now the BJP Government is taking credit.

The BJP in its manifesto for civic body polls, promised to help seven lakh families living in the slums get a pucca house by 2027 under various Central schemes and showcased 3,024 flats in Kalkaji built under Centre's Jahan Jhuggi Wahin Makaan scheme for dwellers.

MADHYA PRADESH HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER 2022_MPHID 225210

Online Percentage Rate bids for the following works are invited from registered Contractors/firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria.

S. No.	System E-Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract & EMD & Cost of Tender Form	Completion Period	Date of Purchase & Submission of Bids	Date of Opening of Tenders
1.	2022_MPHID_225210	Const. of Approach Road from Bypass Highway to Girgaon Awasiya Yojna (18.468 Hect Land) at Girgaon Gwalior.	Rs. 208.16 Lakh & Rs.208160/- & Rs. 177000/- (I/c GST)	6 Months I/c Rainy Season	Dt. 05.12.2022 at 10:30 AM & Dt. 27.12.2022 upto 02:30 pm.	Dt. 21.12.2022 at 03:30 PM Envelop A, B & Dt. 27.12.2022 at 03:30 PM Envelop C

1. Full Details of above Tenders can be seen on www.mptenders.gov.in. Amendments in NIT, if any Shall be published on Website only.

2. Board has reserve all rights to stop or cancel the tender process at any time or any stage.

/mphidb

/mphidb

M.P. Madhyam/107517/2022

(Neeru Rajput, E.E.)
DIVISION No. 2, GWALIOR
Mob. : 8770327441

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Ms. Nanchan Kumari (Borrower), Mr. Raghunath Sharma (Co-Borrower), BODEL0002866980	LIG Flat No-276, Third Floor Block-B2 Pocket-C, Narela, Delhi. Admeasuring an area 453.16 Sq. Ft.	Rs.14,91,764.32/- as on Nov 28, 2022.	Rs. 14,25,000/- Rs. 1,42,500/-	December 23, 2022, From 02:00 PM to 04:00 PM	January 09, 2023, From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will take place on website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited.** (URL Link-<https://disposahub.com>). The Morgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **11 January 07, 2023** before **05:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005, on or before **January 07, 2023** before **05:00 P.M** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **January 07, 2023** before **05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **January 07, 2023** before **05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at "**Delhi**".

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 9599281817**

Please note that Marketing agencies **1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited, 2. Augeo Assets Management Private Limited 3. Matex Net Pvt Limited** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date : December 02, 2022
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, मिलाई (छ.ग.)

क्रमांक / परि.शा. / न.नि. / 2022 / 529 / 345 मिलाई, दिनांक 29 / 11 / 2022

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Main Portal : <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

आयुक्त, नगर पालिक निगम मिलाई की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	सिस्टम नं०	अनुमानित लागत	निविदा ज्ञानलौक करने की अंतिम तिथि
1	नगर पालिक निगम, मिलाई की 10 मुख्य मार्गों का विकास एवं सौंदर्यीकरण कार्य।	115721	196.20 लाख	14.12.2022

निविदा हेतु आवश्यक दस्तावेज अनलाईन जमा की जाये। उक्त कार्य हेतु दी जाने वाली दरें अनलाईन (Online) दी जायें। उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, वरीयर चरित्र, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी <https://cgstate.gov.in> से ज्ञानलौक की जा सकती है।

हस्ता
कार्यपालन अभियंता

NOIDA

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/ downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Fresh - Tender Work :

S.No.	Jobs No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	50/DGM/SM (WC-8)/ET/ 2022-23	M/o Village (Kayakalp of Poorva Madhyamik Vidyalaya in Village Geijha sector-93), Noida.	22.22
2	39/DGM/SM (WC-9)/ET/ 2022-23	D/o Village (Repair & Maintenance Work In Primary School of Village Nalgahra (Dallupura) For Operation Kayakalp) Noida	39.06
3	43/DGM/SM (WC-9)/ET/ 2022-23	D/o Village (M/o Composite Vidyalaya and C/o Guard Room in Village Shahpur Goverdhanpur Bangar under Operation Kayakalp) Noida	39.90
4	45/DGM/SM (WC-9)/ET/ 2022-23	D/o Village (M/o Primary, Junior High School and C/o Mina Munch, Stair Case In Village Sultanpur under Operation Kayakalp) Noida	40.52
5	47/DGM/SM (WC-9)/ET/ 2022-23	D/o Village (M/o Primary School in Village Nagli Wazidpur & Nagli Nagla under Operation Kayakalp) Noida	41.37

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **15.12.2022 up to 5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated **16.12.2022 at 11.00 AM**.

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION JAMMU.
SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
E-NIT No:- EE/PMGSY/J/300F 2022-23 DATED:-26.11.2022

Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu on behalf of The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on %age Above/Excess (+) OR %age Below/ Less (-) basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt, CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State Govts up to 5.00 PM on 03.12.2022 for each of the following works.

S. No	Name of Work/ Package No.	Name of the PIU	Const. Part (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of documents (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. In completion)	Time Allowed for	Call of tender of tenders	Time and date of opening	Class of contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Balance Work of Road from Padami to Galai Package No.JK05-113 Phase-X Block filling of Oxygen cylinders Mathwar District Jammu. (Advertised Cost= Rs.87.50Lacs)	JAMMU	87.50	0.06	1.75	04 Months	1st	05.12.2022 At 10:00Am	Any registered (A&B) contractor with State PWD/ CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the work. Having experience of similar nature of work as prescribed in SBD attached.

1. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: **26.11.2022.**

2. The original documents, when submitted by L1 for the cost of tender document, EMD should be same as uploaded online (scanned copies) otherwise the allotment will not be issued. The tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to Participate in any further/future tendering process in PMGSY for a period of one year.

3. (a) The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from **26.11.2022 upto 06:55 P.M to 03.12.2022 upto 5.00PM.**
(b) A Pre bid meeting will be held on **28.11.2022 at 12:00 pm Noon** in the Office of The Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents.
(c) The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from **26.11.2022 upto 05:00 PM to 03.12.2022 upto 05:00 PM.**

4. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online on **05.12.2022 upto 10:00 A.M** by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.

Sd/-
No:-EE/PMGSY/J/4611-70
Dated:-26.11.2022
DIP/J-12338/22

Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu
For and on behalf of The Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OPINION 6

THE OBSESSION WITH
ECONOMIC GROWTH

WORLD 8

RUSSIAN FM: US, NATO DIRECTLY
INVOLVED IN UKRAINE CONFLICT

MONEY 10

GST MOP UP GROWS 11% TO
₹1.46L CR IN NOVEMBER

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY DECEMBER 2, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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SMITH SCORES
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Intense campaigns fail to draw Guj voters to booths

60.23% polling
in first phase
election for 89
Assembly seatsPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Massive campaigning by the BJP, door-to-door outreach by the Congress, and campaign blitzkrieg by new entrant Aam Aadmi Party failed to reflect in the turnout for the first phase of the Gujarat election for 89 seats on Thursday.

While the final voting figure was awaited, the average turnout stood at 60.23 per cent, the Election Commission said, which is far lower than 68 per cent voting recorded in the first phase of polling for the same number of seats in 2017.

While voting began at 8 am in the morning and ended at 5 pm, the final turnout would be higher as the process continued at the polling stations where voters had arrived before 5 pm and were standing in queues.

Tapi district recorded the highest provisional voting turnout of 72.32 per cent. The tribal-dominated district comprises two Assembly constituencies of Vyara and Nizar. With a 68.09 per cent turnout, the Narmada district stood second.

Bhavnagar in Saurashtra region recorded the lowest turnout of 51.34 per cent.



People wait in a queue to cast their votes during the first phase of Gujarat Assembly elections, in Rajkot on Thursday

PTI

Apart from Narmada, four other districts recorded over 60 per cent voting turnout: Navsari (65.91 per cent), Dang (64.84 per cent), Valsad (62.46 per cent) and Gir Somnath (60.46 per cent).

The fate of 788 candidates will be decided in the first phase. Barring a few incidents, polling was largely peaceful across all 89 seats in south Gujarat and Saurashtra-Kutch regions which went to polls in the first phase.

Voting was halted in a few places due to malfunctioning of electronic voting machines as well as control units and voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPATs) but the faulty units were replaced and the process resumed.

Polling was largely peaceful barring a few incidents of scuffles between rival groups, the EC said. Locals protested at Dhrafa village in Jamodhpur taluka of Jamnagar district as there were no separate polling booths for men and women.

Continued on Page 5

Modi raises Gujarat poll pitch with 50-km show

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While Gujarat voted for the first phase of polling on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued with his relentless campaign for the second phase holding a 50-km-long roadshow and attacking the Congress for calling him names.

The roadshow between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar saw the Prime Minister riding a vehicle and waving to voters lined up on both the sides of the road starting from the Naroda Gam and ending at Gandhinagar South constituency.

The three-hour mega roadshow spanned across 16 Assembly constituencies falling in the second phase of the Gujarat Assembly election.

Modi made at least 35 stops at the memorials of prominent personalities, including Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, on the way.

Striking at the rival Congress for using "Ravan" jibe at him, the Prime Minister sought to put the Opposition party on the mat by asking the people to "teach the Congress



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an election campaign roadshow for Assembly elections, in Ahmedabad on Thursday

PTI

leaders a lesson" by voting for the "lotus" (BJP's symbol) in the State elections as "such abusive words used for him" were an "insult" to Gujarat and its people" because he was "raised by the people of this land".

Sharpening his attack against the Congress, the main rival in the triangular Gujarat contest with the AAP being also in the fray, the Prime Minister said that it only raised slogans of "garibi hatao" and "misguided people" and that that poverty actually increased under the grand old party's regime.

This he said at in Bodeli town of Chhotaudepur district in Gujarat, where Assembly elections will be held in its second phase on December 5.

Addressing another poll rally at Kalol town in Panchmahal district of Gujarat, the Prime Minister said there is a competition among Congress leaders as to who will use the most abusive words against him, referring to the Opposition party president Mallikarjun Kharge's "Ravan" jibe at him.

Continued on Page 5

India rejects China's shot at exercise with US near LAC

'India exercises with whomsoever it chooses and does not give a veto to third countries'PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A day after China objected to the ongoing India-US joint military exercise claiming it was taking place close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC), India on Thursday rejected it and said it "exercises with 'whomsoever' it chooses and does not give a veto to third countries on this issue".

The exercise called "Yudh Abhyas" is currently underway in Auli, Uttarakhand, about 100 km from the LAC. It is the 18th edition of the India-US joint Army exercise.

China on Wednesday said it was opposed to the joint Indo-US military exercises asserting that it violates the spirit of the two border agreements signed between New Delhi and Beijing.

Brushing aside the objection, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said here these exercises going on with the US in Auli have nothing to do with the 1993 and 1996 agreements.

"Chinese side needs to reflect and think about its own breach of these agreements. India exercises with whomsoever it chooses and does not give a veto to third countries on this issue," he asserted.

The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and share expertise between both



armies in peacekeeping and disaster relief operations. The nearly two-week exercise began earlier this month.

"The joint military exercise between India and the US close to the LAC at the China-India border violates the spirit of the agreement between China and India in 1993 and 1996," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing in Beijing.

"It does not serve the mutual trust between China and India," he said in response to a question posed by a correspondent from Pakistan. In August, the Chinese military expressed concern over the India-US military exercises.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry's reference to the 1993 and 1996 agreements is interesting as India termed the PLA's attempts to move a large number of troops to the disputed areas in the LAC in eastern Ladakh in May 2020 violated the bilateral agreements which state that the boundary question is resolved through peaceful and friendly consultations.

The military exercise is conducted annually between India and the US with the aim

of exchanging best practices, tactics, techniques and procedures between the armies of the two nations.

"The 18th Edition of India-US Joint Exercise #YudhAbhyas commenced today at Foreign Training Node, Auli. The aim of Joint Exercise is to enhance interoperability & share expertise between both the Armies in Peace Keeping & Disaster Relief Operations. #IndianArmy #IndiaUSFriendship," the Indian Army tweeted on November 19.

The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, the US in October 2021, officials said.

The Ministry of Defence here on November 15 had said that US Army soldiers of 2nd Brigade of the 11th Airborne Division and Indian Army soldiers from the Assam Regiment will participate in the exercise.

The joint exercise will also focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations. Troops from both nations will practice launching swift and coordinated relief efforts in the wake of any natural calamity, the ministry said.

Will strive for consensus via dialogue in G-20: India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

With India assuming the presidency of the prestigious G-20 grouping, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said New Delhi will focus on having consensus on key global issues through consultation adding "world is very polarised".

He also said India's G-20 presidency was taking place at a very critical moment in international affairs and it was particularly vital that world leaders focus on the right issues, especially those that affect the more vulnerable sections of the world. Underlining these crucial endeavours while addressing the first event of India's presidency of the combine in the shape of the G-20 University Connect Initiative, Jaishankar said India will strive to emerge as the voice of the global south — comprising Asia, Africa and Latin America — that has to face the brunt of



India's G-20 logo on display on the rampart of Red Fort in New Delhi

Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

polarisation and conflict in the developed world.

"As the mother of democracy, India's G-20 presidency will be consultative, it will be collaborative and it will be decisive," he said addressing university students at the Sushma Swaraj Bhawan here.

Students from 75 universities had joined the event virtually. He said India would flag concerns on issues such as energy security, food security, access to healthcare, climate action and climate justice during the G-20 presidency.

Continued on Page 5

Cabbies get soft skills, language training

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

As India formally assumed the G20 presidency on Thursday, batches of cab/coach and taxi drivers are being imparted behavioural and soft skill training with a component of foreign language with an aim to facilitate the foreign delegation who will be flying to India to attend the prestigious events to be held spanning an year in 55 locations across the country.

In this connection, the first batch of around 300 drivers who had been trained by India Tourism Development Corporation were handed over the certificates and badges by G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Tourism, at a ceremony held here recently.

The training is being imparted by ITDC's Ashok Institute of Hospitality and Tourism Management under the Tourism Awareness Programme (TAP) programme of CBSP Scheme for the taxi, cab, and coach drivers since June 2022 offering them behavioural and soft skill training with a component of foreign language. More batches are on the anvil, said an official.

Congratulating the participants at the event, Reddy said, "India espouses the values of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and Atithi Devo Bhava."

It is our responsibility as frontline service providers to convey this spirit and warmth of Indian culture in our interactions with all visitors.

Continued on Page 5

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Bollywood actor Swara Bhasker during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Ujjain on Thursday

PTI

Lapid sorry for hurting Kashmiri Pandits, but iterates 'propaganda'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tendering a "total apology" if his remarks on "The Kashmir Files" had been misinterpreted, Israeli filmmaker Nadav Lapid said his aim was not to insult the Kashmiri Pandit community or those who had suffered. At the same time, he reiterated his criticism of the movie.

Lapid was the international jury chair at the recent International Film Festival of India (IFFI) and stirred a controversy by dubbing the Vivek Agnihotri film "vulgar" and a "propaganda".

"I didn't want to insult anyone. My aim was never to insult the people or their relatives, who have suffered. I totally apologise if that's the way they interpreted it," Lapid, who has left the country since his remarks at the closing ceremony of the 53rd edition of the festival in Goa this week, told CNN-News18.

"But at the same time, whatever I said and I said clearly that for me and my fellow jury members, it was and it is a vulgar propaganda movie that didn't have a place and was inappropriate for such a prestigious competitive section. I can repeat it again and again," he added.

The Paris-settled director said his remarks were neither a statement on the political situation in Kashmir nor a denial of the tragedy.

"I have enormous respect for the tragedy, victims, survivors and for whoever suffers there. It (my remarks) was not at all about this. I'll repeat these words 10,000 times if I have to say that I was not talking about the political issue, historical equation, or disrespecting the tragedy that happened in Kashmir," he said.

"I was talking about the movie and that such serious topics deserve, in my opinion, a serious film..." he added. Lapid also dismissed claims



made by IFFI international jury member Sudipto Sen, who had said the comments on Agnihotri's directorial were the Israeli director's "personal opinion". "It wasn't a personal opinion at all," Lapid countered. "We all thought that the movie used a series of manipulation, vulgar, violence because it was supposed to transmit a message that can cause hostility, violence and hate in the environment," he added.

A day after the controversy erupted, Agnihotri said he would quit filmmaking if intellectuals, including Lapid, were able to prove that events depicted in his film were false.

Asked to comment on Agnihotri's statement, the filmmaker said it was a natural reaction from the "The Kashmir Files" helmer.

"I'm sure that the director is furious. I would be furious too if someone would talk about my film the same way. My films are often looked upon as very controversial and polemic. Certain people have said some very harsh and horrible things about my movies. The filmmaker knows very well that the question is not what exactly were the facts. None of us (in the jury), especially myself, ever doubted the facts. I don't have any capacity, the tools to say what happened in Kashmir," Lapid, who lives in France, said.

Lapid came under attack not just by "The Kashmir Files" team but also several BJP leaders and Israel's Ambassador to India Naor Gilon as well as its Consul General to Midwest India Kobbi Shoshani.

HC's jamadar solicits tips with impunity, suspended

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday suspended a bundle lifter/court jamadar for receiving money through PayTM from lawyers on the court premises.

The man found a novel way for receiving money from the lawyers by flashing a PayTM code on his waist. The disciplinary action was taken after his photo went viral, in which a lawyer is seen scanning the code for the tips.

Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal took the matter seriously and called for action to be taken against the jamadar, who was



attached with the Court of Justice Ajit Singh, after many lawyers complained about the person's habit of seeking tips.

During the suspension period, he will be attached to the nazarat (process serving agency) section of the High Court and not leave the station without prior approval of the Registrar.

England's Rice admits mid-season Qatar World Cup taking its toll

AP ■ DOHA

When even Declan Rice admits a mid-season World Cup is proving physically challenging, it's time to take note.

The workhorse England midfielder said he was feeling the strain after playing three games already in Qatar, with a match against Senegal in the round of 16 coming up on Sunday.

You know what? It's been a little bit tough on the legs," said Rice, who played the entirety of his country's opening two Group B games, but was substituted after 58 minutes of the

3-0 win against Wales on Tuesday.

"I've not had a conversation with the manager yet ... But that was maybe to manage my load," he added.

The World Cup is being staged during the months of November and December for this first time in its history because temperatures can reach in excess of 100 F (37 C) in Qatar during the summer. That has meant a disruption to the Premier League and top flight domestic competitions in other countries, with players thrust into the intensity of a World Cup just a few months into the season.



England's Declan Rice, right, kicks the ball past Iran's Mehdi Taremi during the World Cup group B soccer match between England and Iran at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha

AP file

Bengal SSC names 183 ineligible teachers working across State

Move comes after Calcutta HC ordered WB SSC to publish names after CBI submitted report of 952 illegally-appointed teachers in West Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Within hours of the Calcutta High Court directing the West Bengal School Service Commission to publish the names of illegally appointed teachers post 2016-17 school services examinations, the SSC on Thursday made public the names of 183 “ineligible” teachers working in various schools of the State.

The names of the teachers were posted in the SSC website and were likely to be published in the newspapers too, sources said adding about 80 per cent of the illegal appointees who had “purchased” their appointments for lakhs of rupees taught subjects like mathematics, life science, geography, literature, etc. for the past 5-6 years.

The publication of the names of illegal appointees comes a day after the Central Bureau of Investigation investigating school level recruitment scam all at SSC, TET and Group D and C levels told the court that they had thus far been able to find out 952 appointees who had obtained their jobs by paying hefty amounts to authorities.

The SSC and TET scam has already seen former Bengal Education Minister and once number two in the State Cabinet Partha Chatterjee, ex-TET chairman Manik Bhattacharya and many other senior functionaries including a sitting University Vice-chancellor going to jail.

The Court on Thursday told the SSC to act fearlessly and help in investigation as the “big rat” would soon be caught.



Thousands of empaneled candidates who had appeared for teaching and non-teaching jobs in primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary level in 2013, 2016-17 have been sitting on dharna for the past couple of years in demand of justice.

They allege that thousands of candidates secured jobs through illegal means by paying cash to the tune ranging between ₹5-25 lakh depending upon the grade of posts. While reporting on the modus operandi of the scam the CBI said the irregular appointees had been asked to submit blank OMR sheets in some places or write their papers with pencils. These papers were filled up subsequently.

In other cases the candidates who had fetched low ranks were subsequently

given higher marks either at the interview level or through some other means. Curiously enough thousands of allegedly manipulated OMR sheets — which are normally preserved for future reference — were later destroyed.

Apparently creating bigger mess the State Cabinet subsequently ordered the formation of about 1900 supernumerary posts to accommodate the eligible and impaneled candidates — without terminating the jobs of the irregular appointees.

A petition was filed on behalf of the Commission seeking the High Court order to allow appointments in the supernumerary posts. The Court took cognizance of the petition and directed the CBI to find out the person under whose instructions the petition was filed.

Sadhvi Pragya Thakur, Kulkarni withdraw discharge plea in 2008 Malegaon blast case

How can plea be considered as trial has begun, 200 witnesses probed, says HC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a development in the 2008 Malegaon blasts case, BJP MP Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur and Sameer Kulkarni, both accused in the case, on Thursday withdrew their discharge applications pending before the Bombay High Court, after the court wondered as to how their applications could be considered since the trial already begun and more than 200 witnesses had been examined.

Lt. Col. Prasad Purohit, another accused in the case, withdrew his petition challenging the trial court's order rejecting his discharge plea on the alleged ground that the sanction to prosecute him obtained under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was defective.

The three accused withdrew their applications after the high court questioned them as to how their pleas could be considered since the trial had already begun and more than 200 witnesses had been exam-



ined and said that it “cannot set the clock back”.

Advocate Prashant Maggu, appearing for Sadhvi Pragya and Kulkarni, also reasoned that since the charges had already been framed against the accused and 289 witnesses had already been produced before the trial court, it would not be right for them to press for discharge from the case at this juncture and so they decided to withdraw their plea.

In 2018, Sadhvi Pragya, Kulkarni and Purohit had moved the high court seeking discharge in the case after it was rejected by the special NIA court in 2017.

However, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the petitions of Sadvi Pragya and Kulkarni had not come up for hearing until now. However, in Purohit's, his lawyers had already argued his discharge plea and the order was reserved in the case.

On Monday, a HC bench of Justices Ajey S Gadkari and Prakash D Naik, hearing Purohit's plea, asked the three



accused why the court should hear the discharge pleas when more than 200 witnesses had already been examined. Sadhvi Pragya had claimed that the prosecution could not obtain proper sanction in view of her being an MP.

On Thursday, Sadhvi Pragya and Kulkarni withdrew their pleas, while Purohit's legal team said that since the sanctioning authority would be cross-examined by them in the trial court, it would not press for it to be heard now by the high court.

Sadhvi Pragya, Kulkarni and Kulkarni are three of the seven accused who are being tried by Special Court under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and various other sections of the IPC for their alleged involvement in the 2008 blasts.

Seven key accused, including Lt Col Purohit and Sadhvi Pragya, are being tried under sections 16 (committing a terror act) and 18 (criminal conspiracy) of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), and sections 120(b) (punishment of criminal conspiracy), 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder) and 326 (intentionally causing harm to others) of the IPC. They are also being tried for charges under the Explosives Substances Act.

If convicted under these sections, the maximum punishment can be life imprisonment or death.

improvised explosive kept under the seat of a LML Freedom motor-bicycle had exploded between Bhikku Chowk and Anjuman Chowk, near Noorani Masjid, at Malegaon in north Maharashtra, on the night of September 29, 2008, leaving six persons dead and injuring 101 others.

On October 30, 2018, a special court in Mumbai framed charges against Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, Lt Col Prasad Shrikant Purohit, Kulkarni and four other accused under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and various other sections of the IPC for their alleged involvement in the 2008 blasts.

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If convicted under these sections, the maximum punishment can be life imprisonment or death.

Power glitch due to Mumbai Metro work brings int'l airport server down

Flights delayed for an hour at Chhatrapati Shivaji airport

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



Chaos reigned at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) on Thursday, after a computer server crashed at Terminal-2 (T-2) of the airport for more than an hour, badly affecting the check-ins and other operations of many of the airlines. In an apparent consequence of the ongoing infrastructure digging works of the Mumbai Metro line in the vicinity of the CSMIA, a main cable of a major utility company snapped leading to the breakdown of a computer server at the Terminal 2 of the airport.

The computer server at the terminal T-2 breakdown led

to long queues and the check-ins were done in the manual mode at the country's second busiest airport after the one in Delhi. The schedules of several of the flights went haywire after a network cable got snapped due to “ongoing work elsewhere in the city”

The T-2, which is one of the two terminals at the CSMIA, deals with most of the international flights and it is also used for domestic routes.

Attributing the glitch to a “a temporary network interruption outside the airport due to ongoing development work in the city”, an official Spokesperson for CSMIA said: “Our passengers are requested to allocate additional time for

check-in and also to kindly connect with their respective airlines, owing to a temporary network interruption outside the airport due to on-going development work in the city.”

“Our teams are present on ground and manual processing has been initiated to facilitate all passengers. We sincerely regret the inconvenience and thank our passengers for their understanding,” the CSMIA spokesperson said.

“There was a network interruption resulting from a cable cut during some construction work in the city. This interrupted the various ticketing systems. All systems are now restored and working,” the spokesperson added.

PIL can't initiate impeachment of Koshiyari for comment on Shivaji, Savitribai: Bombay HC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday wondered as to how impeachment proceedings could be initiated against Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari through a public interest litigation over his statements against icons like Savitiribai Phule and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Hearing a PIL filed by Deepak Jagdev, a HC bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Abhay Ahuja sought to know as to how the court could pass an order restraining the Governor from speaking about historical figures.

The HC bench made the observations when Jagdev's plea, seeking urgent listing for a hearing, was mentioned before them. However, the HC bench did not specify any date on which the matter would be listed.

In his PIL, the petitioner claimed that the Governor had statements about historical figure Chhatrapati Shivaji



Maharaj, Constitution draftsman Dr. BR Ambedkar and social reformers Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule in a derogatory manner and that in the light of the same, impeachment proceedings ought to be initiated against Koshiyari.

Jagdev said that the Governor's statements had caused public furor in the state. “All of Maharashtra is burning, as political leaders and local organisations are holding protests”. In his petition filed through advocate Nitin Satpute, the petitioner said that he was aggrieved by the Governor's controversial remarks against the most loved names in Maharashtra.

BSP vote bank to decide Dimple's fate in Mainpuri

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party voters are likely to play a key role in deciding the winner in the Mainpuri bypoll, where former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav and Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Raghuraj Shukla are in a direct fight.

Dimple Yadav is trying to save her father-in-law Mulayam Singh Yadav's bastion while the BJP is making efforts to wrest the constituency from the SP as it did in Azamgarh recently where SP, which was trying to save Akhilesh Yadav's parliament constituency, faced a humiliating defeat.

“This (Mainpuri) is the Lok Sabha constituency where Mayawati's BSP vote bank will decide who will be making the Member of Parliament in the fight between BJP and SP. Actually, in Mainpuri more

than 1.25 lakh votes belong to the Jatav community and more than 70,000 votes belong to different castes including Katheria,” a political analyst pointed out.

As per the experts, with Mayawati's BSP not participating in the bypoll, the party supporters have the option to cast their vote for other candidates, and in such circumstances both SP and BJP face the challenge of wooing the core vote bank of the BSP.

In the last election in Azamgarh too, as per the experts, the BSP's vote bank played a key role in the final election results. The BSP candidate got over two lakhs votes in Azamgarh ensuring the defeat of SP and a victory of BJP in a triangular fight. In Mainpuri, the party has been receiving a lot of sympathy after the demise of its patron Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Cabbies get soft...

From Page 1

This is whether they are visiting India for tourism, to experience our culture, to avail medical facilities, or to attend conferences, and especially to all G-20 delegates.

“This training is one among the many initiatives of the Union Tourism Ministry which is working towards comprehensive development of the tourism sector.” He further urged the drivers to take this training forward by practising the foreign languages in their interaction with foreigners and also show them the highest levels of courtesy and care.

During the launch of the TAP programme under the “Capacity Building for Service Provider (CBSP) Scheme” in June 2022, Dr Sambit Mitra, Chairman, ITDC had said, “Over the last 2 years, the tourism industry has witnessed a tidal shift in its growth, and with the world gradually opening up, we need to take crucial steps towards redefining the tourist services.

How can ‘Jallikattu’ preserve native bull breeds: SC to TN Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, which is hearing a challenge to a Tamil Nadu law allowing “jallikattu”, on Thursday, asked the State Government how the bull-taming sport was necessary for preserving the native breed of bulls.

“Jallikattu”, also known as “eruthazhuvuthal”, is a bull-taming sport played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival. A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice KM Joseph also asked the state whether an animal can be used, as in “jallikattu”, for the entertainment of humans.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Tamil Nadu, told the top court that “jallikattu” is not per se entertainment and the person who showcases his bull treats the animal with great care and compassion.

The bench, also comprising justices Ajay Rastogi, Aniruddha Bose, Hrishikesh Roy and C T Ravikumar, asked should the animal, for whom one is supposed to have “compassion” as a constitutional value, be subjected like this for the entertainment of humans and can a State allow this on the basis of its perception of cultural rights.

Modi raises...

From Page 1

Before Kharge, another Congress leader had said the party will show Modi his “aukat” (place), the Prime Minister said, apparently referring to Madhusudan Mistry's remark last month.

Modi said such abusive words used for him were an insult of Gujarat and its people because he was raised by the people of this land.

He asked people to teach the Congress leaders a lesson by voting for the ‘lotus’ (BJP's symbol) in the state elections.

Kharge on Monday night addressed a rally in Behrampur area of Ahmedabad city where he said the Prime Minister asks people to vote “looking at his face” in

all elections. “Are you 100-headed like Ravan,” he had said.

Modi said, “I respect Khargeji but he has to follow orders of the party high command. He was compelled to say that Modi has 100 heads like (demon king) Ravan.”

“But, the Congress did not realise that Gujarat is the land of Ram Bhakts. Those who never believed in the existence of Lord Ram, have now brought in Ravan from Ramayana just to abuse me,” the Prime Minister said.

“And, I am surprised they never expressed repentance, forget about tendering an apology, after using such cuss words for me. Congress leaders think it is their right to use abusive language for Modi and insult the country's Prime Minister,” he said.

In an apparent jibe at the Gandhi family, Modi said Congress leaders are abusing him because their allegiance is towards a family, not India's democracy.

Intense campaign s fail to...

From Page 1

They threatened to boycott voting, claiming that separate booths were always set up in the past.

In Junagadh, a ruckus broke out after police tried to stop a Congress leader who walked to the polling station carrying a gas cylinder on his shoulder to protest against inflation. Such protest was seen in many other places too.

The EC tweeted the picture of 104-year-old Ramjibhai who, it said, “participated in the festival of democracy by voting at the polling station instead of opting for a postal ballot”.

At least 33 ballot units, 29 control units and 69 VVPATs

were replaced in the first three hours of polling at different stations due to malfunctioning, the office of Chief Electoral Officer said in a statement.

“Around 0.1 per cent ballot units, 0.1 per cent control units, and 0.3 per cent VVPATs have been replaced in three hours of voting. Reserve machine sets are available in all districts with the zonal officer in charge of that area. Wherever a small or big problem occurs, arrangements have been made to replace them in no time,” it added.

Former Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, State BJP chief C R Patil, Rajya Sabha member Parimal Nathwani, BJP candidate from Jamnagar (North) Rivaba Jadeja, former Leader of Opposition Pares Dhanani, state Aam Aadmi Party president Gopal Italia were among those who voted early. While Rivaba voted in Rajkot, her husband and cricketer Ravindra Jadeja voted in Jamnagar.

Delhi Police in HC against Tharoor's discharge in Sunanda case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police moved the High Court (HC) on Thursday against the discharge of Congress leader Shashi Tharoor in the case of his wife Sunanda Pushkar's mysterious death, more than 15 months after a trial court let him off. The police sought condonation of delay in filing the revision petition and Tharoor sought direction to Delhi Police not to share documents with the media. Both were approved by the court.

The HC sought Tharoor's

response to the plea by the Delhi Police for condoning the delay, and listed the matter for hearing on February 7, 2023. The Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram was discharged of all offences like cruelty and abetment to suicide in August 2021, more than seven years after his businesswoman wife Pushkar was found dead in a suite in a luxury hotel in the national Capital on the night of January 17, 2014.

The couple had been staying in the hotel as Tharoor's official bungalow was being

renovated at the time. After Tharoor's counsel referred to the protracted delay, Justice DK Sharma issued a notice to the politician and sought his reply to the police's application. “First we will decide the condonation of delay application,” the judge said. The HC also asked the counsel for the police to supply a copy of its petition to Tharoor's lawyer. The police, through Additional Standing Counsel Rupali Bandhopadhyaya, filed the revision petition seeking setting aside of the trial court's 2021 order and for direction to

frame charges against Tharoor under Section 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) and 306 (abetment to suicide) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Senior advocate Vikas Pahwa and lawyer Gaurav Gupta, representing Tharoor, claimed the plea was not served to him and was “deliberately” sent to a wrong email id. Pahwa contended the police have filed the revision petition after a delay of over a year and, before issuing notice on the main plea, the court should hear him

on the application for condonation of delay.

He said several orders were earlier passed that during the pendency of the case the record be not given to anybody except for the parties. “This media trial goes on. This affects right to fair trial,” he argued. As the counsel for police said she has no objection to this, the High Court directed that the copies or documents related to the case shall not be supplied to any person who is not a party to the case in court. It listed the matter for further hearing on February 7, 2023.

Will strive..

From Page 1

“We must become the voice of the Global South. We share the apprehension that sustainable development, climate action and climate justice could be side tracked due to more dominant issues,” Jaishankar said, adding India has to take the lead in pushing for collective action and “that is exactly what we intend to do at G-20”.

Jaishankar said harmonising various interests was some-

thing that has been deeply ingrained in India's history and culture. “We have long been a pluralistic and consultative society which has debated issues openly before we arrive at a decision. Since this is deeply ingrained in our DNA, we have never been insecure with diversity. Our essential unity is not only the basis for pluralism, but also a source of confidence for engaging the world,” he said.

On achieving consensus, he said, “World is very polarised. Even having everybody in the room was a real challenge in the last G20 meeting in Bali. Country-like India which is independent-minded has a middle-ground to bring

different parties to the table.” He was obviously referring to the G-20 summit in mid-November, in Bali, Indonesia.

He said India will also shine the spotlight on the Mission LIFE, with its associated, environmentally sustainable and responsible choices, at the level of individual lifestyles as well as national development.

Given its significance, we would like G20 not to be a Delhi-centric set of events, but one that is hosted and celebrated across the width and the breadth of our country, the External Affairs Minister said adding more than 200 meetings will be held at various places across the country.

FIRST COLUMN

GCC, UK FTA DEALS
MUST BE CONCLUDED

GCC is the largest trading partner bloc for India



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) re-emphasised the willingness to launch Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations last week. The GCC established in 1981, consisting of six member states, is the most powerful block in the Arabian geo-economic map. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Dr Nayef Falah M. Al-Hajraf, Secretary General of GCC, held a joint press conference in New Delhi to announce the resumption of FTA negotiations.

The Commerce Ministry said: "FTA is envisaged to be a modern, comprehensive agreement with substantial coverage of goods and services. Both sides emphasized that the FTA will create new jobs, raise living standards, and provide wider social and economic opportunities in India and all the GCC countries. Both sides agreed to significantly expand and diversify the trade basket in line with the enormous potential that exists on account of the complementary business and economic ecosystems of India and the GCC."

It may be noted that GCC is the largest trading partner bloc for India. India had earlier walked out of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement in 2020. RCEP is one of the largest trading blocs created by an agreement between 15 countries of the Indo Pacific except for India. The flaring relationship with China, including a couple of military clashes, forced India to walk out of the agreement two years ago, as it feared that the Indian market could become a dumping group for China aided or China manufactured goods.

Taken together with a near certain slowing down of the Chinese economy, there might be a rush to send as much stuff to large economies as India to balance out the domestic turmoil. However, it may be worthwhile noting that South Korea, Japan, and Australia, despite having severe geopolitical clashes with China, had decided to join the RCEP. Albeit it may be argued that they had joined the agreement in 2020, when the bilateral relations with China and overall global outlook on China had not taken a dent, as it has now.

The doors remain open for India to look at some sort of special interest agreement with RCEP as some influential members of the body such as Japan, think it is important to have India at the table.

India is also trying to negotiate a trade agreement with the European Union. This week members of the EU were in India for the third round of negotiations leading to a potential FTA. However, many experts are skeptical of an early timeline for trade agreement negotiations with the EU, given the gamut of issues on both sides. Meanwhile, the India-UK trade deal has hit a roadblock after nearly reaching the finishing line in October this year. The UK-India trade agreement is being closely watched out as it could set a template for future trade negotiations with the western economic blocs.

India has done well to steer towards a trade friendly policy regime especially in the digital domain, a key factor for new age trade agreements. The recently released draft on Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, allows free flow of data with "trusted geographies", which will be identified by the government in future. This is a clear indicator that India will keep its options open for digital trade related issues in future negotiations. It may also feature in the India-GCC trade agreement, which needs to commence soon. In 2022, the Indian government did well by quickly concluding bilateral trade agreements with two economically significant nations, the UAE and Australia.

In the last month of the current year, the hope is that the momentum for concluding trade deals continues through 2023.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

MCD polls: Occasion to kick anarchists out



SUMEET BHASIN

The AAP has been in power in Delhi since 2013 but its government is yet to show its appetite for governance


Elections are occasions for the people to hold political parties accountable for the promises they make. There is a greater awareness among the people now about the performance of the political parties. The last few years have helped aspirational democracy to gain prominence among the people. Identity politics across the country is taking the backseat with the advent of the aspirational democracy. Performance and the credibility of the political leadership are now crucial factors for the people when they decide to cast their votes in favour of the candidates of their choices.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has been a political laboratory. Political veterans have come out of MCD politics, who served the country in the later part of their careers. Thus MCD elections should not be taken lightly. Also, Delhi being the national capital, the efficiency of the MCD holds out for the local body governance across the country. Delhi has a population in excess of two crores, which is larger than the population of several states in the country. The MCD is the first contact for such a vast population, which makes it incumbent upon the people to exercise utmost caution while exercising their franchise.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has been in power in Delhi since 2013. Nine years have gone by and the AAP government is yet to show its appetite for governance. The AAP could not grow out of its compulsive politics of freebies. The Arvind Kejriwal-led outfit took the shortcut to power in the national capital. The AAP claimed to be the proponents of alternative politics. But the party which used the Anna Hazare platform to launch the political campaign has not been able to show what alternative politics the party brought to the national polity.

Delhi is a city of multiple authorities. Land and police are with the Central government. Water, electricity, roads, tourism, health, education are with the city government. The MCD looks after the subjects of town planning, roads, sanitation, primary health, primary education, and civic amenities. By the nature of the national capital, an incumbent government in Delhi has to act most responsibly to bring all stakeholders onboard for the larger good of the people. All the agencies have to demonstrate symbiotic relations to work in unison without bringing political differences in their ways for the welfare of the people.

But political anarchism has been the religion of the AAP. Kejriwal remains a compulsive anarchist. He cannot have working relations with the lieutenant governor of Delhi, who, according to the charter of the Delhi government, is the head of the administration. The Delhi LG



MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI HAS BEEN A POLITICAL LABORATORY. POLITICAL VETERANS HAVE COME OUT OF MCD POLITICS, WHO SERVED THE COUNTRY IN THE LATER PART OF THEIR CAREERS. THUS MCD ELECTIONS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)



will go by the rule book to ensure that there is no miscarriage of the governance. He will weigh all aspects before approving the proposals sent by the Kejriwal-led Council of Ministers in the national capital.

But the last 13 years have shown that the Kejriwal-led administration has no respect for the institutions. The Delhi Chief Minister has on several occasions encouraged his ministers and MLAs to bad-mouth the Delhi LG. This amounts to revolt against the Constitutional arrangements. A political party, which suffers from acute lack of discipline, cannot be worthy of the people's trust to work in a Constitutional arrangement. The AAP, thus, has set a bad precedent for the political parties, which may take cues from the working style of Kejriwal and his ministers to disobey the Constitutional bodies.

The AAP claims to have changed the face of education in Delhi, but the facts suggest something else. Kejriwal can indulge in marketing a few schools to cover up the rank non-performance in Delhi in the education field. Eighty per cent of the Delhi schools don't have science teachers for class X-XII. The AAP had promised to open new schools, but the city government could not open even one despite the Delhi Development Authority already having allotted land for the purpose. Schools in the rural parts of Delhi are without adequate teachers and amenities. The future of millions of stu-

dents has been badly affected because of the rank non-performance of the Kejriwal government. Worse is the fact that the Delhi government didn't recruit the required teachers in the national capital for the optimum utilisation of the school infrastructure. Same is the case with the hospitals. There has been no recruitment of doctors and paramedic staff in the Delhi hospitals. Doctors are mostly taken on contract in the city hospitals and are exploited with adverse terms of employment, as they work extra hours without being adequately compensated. This is definitely not the mark of the proponent of an alternative politics where the two critical responsibilities -- education and health -- are starved of the required manpower. Evidently, this is being done as the Kejriwal government is diverting the budgets of the education and health for advertisement purposes to promote the AAP in states where the party contests elections.

The anarchist politics of the AAP has badly affected the people of Delhi. During the grave crisis posed by the outbreak of the Covid-19, Delhi government abandoned all its responsibilities and Chief Minister and his ministers locked themselves in their homes for fear of catching the virus. It was left for the Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah to step in and set up facilities and infrastructure to serve the health emergency needs of the people.

In fact, the Delhi government,

which has a clear responsibility to check black marketing of goods, failed comprehensively when people in the city paid hefty amounts to buy oxygen cylinders. Kejriwal has blood on his hands for letting people in the city die for lack of beds, oxygen cylinders and medicines. If not for the Central government, the people in the city may have seen even worse situations.

The AAP government is also the culprit for creating panic among the people during the pandemic, as it encouraged the migrants to leave the city. The migrants had to leave the city because the AAP government blocked the availability of the foodgrains to them. If the city government had been empathetic to the migrants, they would not have walked barefoot several miles to escape the miseries in the national capital. That was despite the fact that the Central government was providing free ration to the people during the pandemic.

People voting in the MCD elections must recall the criminal negligence of the AAP government during the pandemic. The AAP must be held accountable for abandoning the responsibilities for which they had taken oath. Can such a party ever be given a chance to rule a city? The answer is a clear no. Anarchists deserve severe punishments. The people can punish only by rejecting such politicians, and teaching them a lesson which should serve as an example across the country.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

IT IS AMUSING THAT KEJRIWAL DEMANDED BHARAT RATNA FOR SATYENDAR JAIN AND MANISH SISODIA. HE (JAIN) SHOULD GET THE 'GHOTALA AND MASSAGE RATNA'.

— MADHYA PRADESH CM SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN



THE SAFFRON PARTY IS A "VIDEO-MAKING COMPANY" ...THE RELEASE OF STING VIDEOS ON AAP LEADERS BY THE BJP ARE "AWFUL AND BORING FILMS."


— DELHI CM ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Prioritise mental wellness to defeat melancholy

In order to shape a society we must act to use our emotions in a constructive manner and give others equal space

Recently I came across the World Health Organisation's slogan on World Mental Health Day for the year 2022. It says "Make mental health & well-being for all a global priority". Just a few weeks ago, on October 10, the entire world observed the Day by drawing attention to issues pertaining to mental well-being, creating awareness, etc. But, the discussions held on such a critical topic mostly remain inside the walled halls and we find that so many things are still to be done to attain proper infrastructure and economic support for mental wellness. Moreover, our society also lacks openness to discuss such issues.

Renowned TV actor



AMBRESH RANJAN

(The author is a former journalist)

Vaishali Thakker's suicide incident once again drew our attention that money and career are not everything for living a happy life and our smile doesn't always reflect our inner happiness. A few years ago, a young and smiling face and an established actor Sushant Singh Rajput died by suicide.

According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), maximum number of suicides in the history of India were reported in 2020-21. Delhi with 2,760 cases recorded the highest number of suicides this year, among the four metropolitan cities, followed by Chennai (2,699), Bengaluru (2,292) and Mumbai (1,436). Loneliness, dependency and expectations may be a few major concerns

driving people to take the extreme steps.

In a high-rise apartment culture, many of us live alone in a walled flat. Many of us never talk or know our neighborhood residents. Many of us feel people are not available with us when we need them. Human cooperation can play a vital role in preventing such attempts but in the absence of concerned people we lack the required level of cooperation amongst us.

Mental stress invites melancholy which has disastrous repercussions on individuals and society. Many of us might be suffering with mental issues, but usually don't express them. It can definitely be cured if it gets noticed timely and anyone is willing to assist in dealing

with it. The only care of melancholy is emotional care. Emotional care is the most primary thing we all need at every stage of our life. It in fact fulfills our many other necessities.

Moreover, emotional need is one of the criteria of our mental wellbeing also. In order to achieve our mental satisfaction, we all at every stage of our life continuously perform the act of sharing care from our close ones, with whom we are emotionally or simply attached.

The level of attachment decides the level of care we deliver and it naturally enhances its proportion in case of having more concern with a person.

Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher, has rightly said, "Man is a social animal". Forming groups, sharing bonds, showing affection, keeping expectations are a few traits that humans inherit. Famous Indian lyricist Mazrooh Sultanpuri penned down – *Mai akela hi chala tha jaanib-e-manzil magar, log saath aate gaye aur karwaan banta gaya*.

Doesn't every one find these two lines connected with his or her life? Definitely, there is a certain point in our life when we start our journey alone and later on we meet people who accompany us and gradually they become our friends or colleagues and even life partners also.

They actually assist in living a good life. Sharing and caring makes our lives better.

Humans could not have imagined big civilizations, had they not have learned these two practices. These two sides of the paddle have brought our boat too far and proved us superior on the planet.

A mother gives birth to her baby and nurtures her till she attains the young age. It's selfless love between the two. She tries to fulfill every demand of the child even by sacrificing her needs.

What does she expect from him or her and can it be claimed that her expectations will be met. Surprisingly, the disparity of expectation can be observed here also. It's not a mathematical formula that always gives you the same results.

A grown-up kid also starts forming groups for various purposes, i.e. forming teams for game, study, travelling, etc., their bonding level decides the varied levels of expectations amongst them. Meeting expectations carry their togetherness forward. So, conditionally, expectations strengthen or weaken our relationships. But exceptions are always there because they inherit emotions.

Sometimes emotions are constructive, sometimes destructive too. In order to shape a society we must act to use our emotions in a constructive manner and give others equal space. It's the right time to work for mental wellness for all. Living with this spirit will give us a purpose for our life.

Russian FM: US, NATO directly involved in Ukraine conflict

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russia's foreign minister on Thursday accused the West of becoming directly involved in the conflict in Ukraine by supplying it with weapons and training its soldiers.

Sergey Lavrov also said that Russia's strikes on Ukrainian energy facilities and other key infrastructure that have left millions without power, heating and water were intended to weaken Ukraine's military potential and derail the shipments of Western weapons.

"You shouldn't say that the US and NATO aren't taking part in this war, you are directly participating in it," Lavrov said in a video call with reporters.

"And not just by providing weapons but also by training personnel. You are training their military on your territory, on the territories of Britain, Germany, Italy and other countries."

He said that the barrage of Russian missile strikes was intended to "knock out energy facilities that allow you to keep pumping deadly weapons into Ukraine in order to kill the Russians."

"The infrastructure that is targeted by those attacks is used to ensure the combat potential of the Ukrainian armed forces



and the nationalist battalions," Lavrov said.

Ukraine and the West have accused Russia of targeting key civilian infrastructure in order to reduce morale and force Ukraine into peace talks on Moscow's conditions.

Lavrov insisted that Moscow remains open for talks on ending the conflict. "We never asked for talks but always said that we are ready to listen to those who are interested in a negotiated settlement," Lavrov

said.

The Kremlin has urged Ukraine to acknowledge Crimea, which Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014, as part of Russia and recognise other land gains that Russia has made since sending its troops into Ukraine on February 24.

It also has continued to push for guarantees that Ukraine wouldn't join NATO, along with vaguely formulated "demilitarisation" and "denazification" goals.

Asked if a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Joe Biden is possible, Lavrov responded that "we don't shun contacts" but added that "we haven't yet heard any serious ideas yet."

Lavrov said that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has raised the issue of US citizens imprisoned in Russia in a phone call, but noted that Putin and Biden agreed to set up a separate channel of commu-

nication between special services to discuss the issue when they met in Geneva in June 2021.

"It's working and I hope that some results will be achieved," he added.

The Biden administration has been trying for months to negotiate the release of WNBA star Brittney Griner and another American jailed in Russia, Michigan corporate security executive Paul Whelan, including through a possible prisoner swap with Moscow.

Commenting on Russia's decision to postpone a round of nuclear arms control talks with the United States that was scheduled for this week, Lavrov argued that "it's impossible to discuss strategic stability nowadays while ignoring everything that is happening in Ukraine."

"The goal has been announced to defeat Russia on the battlefield or even destroy Russia," he said.

"How can the goal of defeating Russia not bear significance for strategic stability, considering that they want to destroy a key strategic stability actor?"

During the online news conference that lasted for 2½ hours, Lavrov ranted against the US and its NATO allies, accusing them of trampling on international law while trying to isolate and destroy Russia.

UN makes record aid appeal amid disasters, Ukraine war



AP ■ BERLIN

The United Nations said on Thursday that it is asking member states for a record USD 51.5 billion in aid funding for next year, as disasters and the ongoing war in Ukraine drive up humanitarian needs worldwide.

The global body's humanitarian office said the funds are needed to help 339 million people in 69 countries, an increase of 65 million people compared with the same time last year. The appeal is a 25 per cent increase

on that made for 2022, it said.

"Humanitarian needs are shockingly high, as this year's extreme events are spilling into 2023," said the UN's emergency relief coordinator, Martin Griffiths.

He cited droughts in the Horn of Africa, floods in Pakistan and the conflict in Ukraine, which have pushed the number of displaced people worldwide above 100 million.

"All of this on top of the devastation left by the pandemic among the world's poorest," said Griffiths.

"For people on the brink, this appeal is a lifeline. For the international community, it is a strategy to make good on the pledge to leave no one behind."

The UN's annual Global Humanitarian Overview combines funding required by the global body and numerous non-governmental organisations.

Current funding provided by member states is less than half of what's needed, forcing aid groups and agencies "to decide who to target with the funds available," the UN humanitarian office said.

Ukrainian Olympian auctioning medals to help war effort

AP ■ KYIV

One of Ukraine's most decorated Olympians is auctioning his medals — two golds and a bronze — in hopes of raising a six-figure donation to contribute to the war effort in his native land.

"My Olympic medals won't matter if Ukraine can't stand for this fight for freedom and independence," two-time canoe champion Yuri Cheban told The Associated Press in an email exchange Wednesday.

Cheban won Olympic gold in the 200 meters in 2012 and 2016 and a bronze in the 500 meters in 2008. SCP Auctions, which is conducting the sale, expects the gold medals to fetch in the neighborhood of \$75,000 each, an impressive estimate buoyed by the relative scarcity of available recent medals, and also their meaning.

Cheban will give the proceeds to the Olympic Circle charity fund, a collection started by athletes and targeted toward helping the city of Mykolaiv, which isn't far from



the recently liberated city of Kherson and also close to Cheban's home, the Black Sea port city of Odessa.

"I think a lot of people in the world don't know the full extent of the situation in Ukraine," the 36-year-old Cheban said. "Right now, peaceful Ukrainian cities are without electricity, hospitals, schools, stores. People are freezing in their own apartments and some of my family is trying to live and work under these conditions."

Cheban said the idea to auction his medals came from countryman Slava Medvedenko, a basketball player who auctioned off his two championship rings from his time with the Lakers (2001 and 2002) to fund the war effort. Medvedenko's rings sold for a total of more than \$253,000.

AP ■ LODZ (POLAND)

Europe's largest security organisation, one founded to maintain peace and stability on the continent, opened a meeting on Thursday with strong denunciations of Russia's war against Ukraine, a conflict that is among the greatest challenges the body has faced in its nearly half-century of existence.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has been a rare international forum — along with the United Nations — where Russia and Western powers have been able to meet to discuss security matters, and the meeting in Lodz, Poland, is the first high-level meeting of its kind since Russia invaded

Ukraine in February.

But since the war began, the OSCE has been another forum for the bitter clash to play out between Russia and the West, even as the OSCE's own powers to help resolve conflict have proven insufficient.

Notably absent was Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who wanted to join the meeting but was banned by Poland, the current chair of the OSCE, from entering the country.

Poland is a member of the 27-member European Union, which has put Lavrov on a sanctions list. Lavrov denounced the ban on Thursday.

"I can say responsibly that Poland's anti-chairmanship of the OSCE will take the most miserable place ever in this



organization's history," Lavrov said. "Nobody has ever caused such damage to the OSCE while being at its helm."

"Our Polish neighbours have been digging a grave for the organisation by destroying the last remains of the consensus culture," he said in a video call with reporters.

The Polish chairman in

office, Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau, said he had a responsibility to defend the OSCE's "fundamental principles," and argued that it was not Poland but Russia which has hollowed out the organisation by blocking much of its work.

He accused Russia of spreading disinformation against Poland. "I would say it's outrageous

Spain finds more letter bombs after Ukraine embassy blast

AP ■ MADRID

Explosive devices concealed in postal packages were discovered at Spain's Defence Ministry, a satellite centre at an air base and an arms factory that makes grenades sent to Ukraine, Spanish authorities said on Thursday, a day after a similar package exploded at the Ukrainian embassy in Madrid.

Authorities also said that a similar explosive device was dispatched by regular post to Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on November 24, but was disposed of by bomb squad

experts.

The latest discoveries raise to five the number of explosive devices that were sent by post around the country over the past few days.

The Russian embassy in Madrid on Thursday condemned the letter bombs, saying in a tweet that "any threat or terrorist attack, especially those directed at diplomatic missions, are totally condemnable".

The package dispatched to the Ukrainian embassy and addressed to the ambassador slightly injured an employee when it burst into flames while



he was handling it.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba quickly ordered that security be stepped up at all Ukrainian embassies abroad and has asked his Spanish coun-

terpart for a speedy investigation. Spain's National Court is investigating the incident as a terrorist act and extra security has been assigned to the Ukrainian embassy.

Police said all but one of the four letter bombs were disposed of. Interior Ministry State Secretary for Security Rafael Pérez said police were using the one intact explosive device and its package that was sent to the air base to assist investigators.

He said an initial assessment was that all five packages were likely sent from within Spain.



North Korea's Kim calls for meeting to review State affairs

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for a major political conference before year's end where he's expected to address his increasingly tense relations with Washington and Seoul over the expansion of his nuclear and missile programs.

North Korea's state media said Thursday that Kim presided over a meeting of the ruling Workers' Party's Politburo in which members reviewed the implementation of state policies in 2022 and decided to hold a larger plenary meeting of the party's Central Committee at an unspecified time in late December.

Kim in recent years has used political conferences in late December or early January to review state affairs and reveal his most important goals in economic and foreign policy and arms development. It's possible that those meetings are replacing the function of Kim's New Year's Day speeches, which he has skipped since 2020 after using them for years to issue major announcements.

During Wednesday's meeting in capital Pyongyang, Kim insisted that the country this year overcame "unprecedented adversity" in both internal and external circumstances to achieve progress in national development and elevate the country's "prestige and honor," the Korean Central News

Agency said.

North Korea has ramped up missile testing to a record pace this year, exploiting a divide in the United Nations Security Council worsened by Russia's war on Ukraine to speed up weapons development and dial up pressure on Washington and Seoul.

But Kim has also been struggling to improve a dysfunctional and heavily sanctioned economy made worse by pandemic border closures in recent years, an issue he may also address during the year-end meeting.

State media reports of Kim's comments during Wednesday's Politburo meeting did not include specific details of what would be discussed in the party plenary. They also did not mention any critical remarks toward Washington or Seoul.

The KCNA said Kim described 2023 as a crucial year for accomplishing the goals set under a five-year plan established during a ruling party congress in January 2021, where he vowed to revamp his economy and also bolster his nuclear deterrent in the face of U.S.-led sanctions and pressure. During that congress, Kim issued a long wish list of sophisticated weaponry, including more powerful intercontinental ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons, nuclear-powered submarines, spy satellites and tactical nuclear arms.



PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
TOD/IN/OP/LOT/150/2239, dtd.29.11.2022
Name of the work: "Allotment of vacant halls (03 nos) at 2nd floor of newly constructed building near Gate-3 inside Port Prohibited area on Annual Premium Basis." Annual Premium : Rs.59,43,710/-
Period of allotment : 5 years. Last date & time of submission of bid: 19.12.2022 up to 17.00 hrs. Date and time of opening (technical bid): 20.12.2022 up to 16.00 hrs. Refer our website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app & http://paradipport.gov.in/.
Sd/- Traffic Manager,
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/210/22-23 dtd.30.11.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that Folio No. K03742 Share Certificate No(s) 407741 & 414109 for 1344 share(s) bearing Distinctive Nos. 409537247-409538206 & 1096379023-1096379406 (both inclusive) of Berger Paints India Ltd., having its Registered Office at Berger House, 129, Park Street, Kolkata, West Bengal, 700017 registered in the name(s) of GURVINDER KAUR has/have been lost. /We, have now applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu of the above. Any person having any objection to the issue of duplicate Share certificate(s) in lieu of said original share certificate(s), is requested to lodge his/her objection thereto with the Company at the above address or with their Registrars, C B MANAGEMENT SERVICES (P) LTD., P-22, Bondel Road, Kolkata-700 019, in Writing, within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice.
Place: Delhi Name & Address of the shareholder(s)
Date: 01-12-2022 Gurminder Kaur Adc- 51, Narmada Apartments, Akshandha, Delhi-110019

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
TENDER NOTICE			
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)			
	N.I.T. No.	S.N.	28-A & B-2022-23-W-V
1	Name of work with its location	A	Civil work in connection with provision of additional FOB 6.10 mtr. wide at Palwal and Ballabgarh Railway station between JNC-PWL under ADEN/TKD Similar nature of work:- Fabrication, supply, assembly, erection and launching/regarding of girders through girder, plat girders, FOB's etc in running track
		B	HN2M improvement at sick line complex including elimination of makeshift shelters & others structures etc. Similar nature of work :- Any work steel fabrication or fabrication and erection of FOB or PF shelter or industrial shed or steel/composite girder bridge or Microwave / HT tower of channel sleepers.
2	Approx. Cost of work	A	Rs. 40692407.44
		B	Rs. 8966888.11
3	Earnest Money Deposit	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 201025/CE-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)	
		A	Rs. 353500.00
		B	Rs. 179700.00
4	Completion period of Work	A	8 Months
		B	6 Months
5	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs. on 23.12.2022 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. On 23.12.2022	
6	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in	
No. 128-W/28/OET/2022-23/W-V/NIT-28-A & B-2022-23-W-V Dated : 30.11.2022 3197/2022			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

NORTHERN RAILWAY											
TENDER NOTICE											
Name of Work	: Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of 10 kVA inverters of Hi-Rel make fitted in Inspection Carriage of Delhi Division.										
Tender No.	: 30-Elect-2T-Chg-2022-23										
Approx cost of the work in (Rs.)	: Rs. 32,66,832.60										
Cost of tender form	: Rs. 0.00										
Address of the Office	: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.										
Earnest Money	: Rs. 65,300.00										
Period of completion of work	: 36 Months										
Last date & time of submission of tender	: 23.12.2022 up to 15.00 hrs.										
And opening of tender	: 23.12.2022 at 15.01 hrs.										
Website & notice board	: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI										
3201/22											
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE											
NORTHERN RAILWAY											
e-TENDER NOTICE											
No. NR-DL10/COMM(SAN)/7/2021											
Dated: 25 November, 2022											
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-tender for the following works:											
1	<table><tr><td>Name of work</td><td>1. Mechanized cleaning and Housekeeping work of Group C Station (Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway station) of Delhi Division for a period of four years. 2. Mechanized cleaning and Housekeeping work of Group N Station (Kurukshetra Railway station) of Delhi Division for a period of four years. 3. Comprehensive cleaning and Housekeeping work of Group P Station (Subzi Mandi & Daya Basti Railway station) of Delhi Division for a period of four years. 4. Mechanized cleaning and Housekeeping work of Group Q Station (Delhi Safdarjung Railway station) of Delhi Division for a period of four years 5. Mechanized cleaning and Housekeeping work of Group R Station (Shakurbasti Railway station) of Delhi Division for a period of four years</td></tr></table>	Name of work	1. Mechanized cleaning and Housekeeping work of Group C Station (Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway station) of Delhi Division for a period of four years. 2. Mechanized cleaning and Housekeeping work of Group N Station (Kurukshetra Railway station) of Delhi Division for a period of four years. 3. Comprehensive cleaning and Housekeeping work of Group P Station (Subzi Mandi & Daya Basti Railway station) of Delhi Division for a period of four years. 4. Mechanized cleaning and Housekeeping work of Group Q Station (Delhi Safdarjung Railway station) of Delhi Division for a period of four years 5. Mechanized cleaning and Housekeeping work of Group R Station (Shakurbasti Railway station) of Delhi Division for a period of four years								
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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE											

4 lion cubs saved from war in Ukraine arrive at US sanctuary

AP ■ SANDSTONE (MINNESOTA)

Four lion cubs that were orphaned during the war in Ukraine have arrived safely at a Minnesota animal sanctuary that has pledged to provide them a permanent home.

A male cub named Taras and three females named Stefania, Lesya and Prada, who are all between four and five months old, spent the last three weeks at the Poznan Zoo in Poland. Their arrival Tuesday marked the final step in an arduous journey after they lived through sporadic bombings and drone attacks in Ukraine, according to the International Fund for Animal Welfare, one of several groups working to rescue animals from the war.

"These cubs have endured more in their short lives than any animal should," Meredith Whitney, wildlife rescue program manager at the fund, said in a statement. "They were born at breeding facilities in Ukraine during the war and then orphaned at a few weeks old."



Their new home is The Wildcat Sanctuary in Sandstone, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) north of Minneapolis. They were put on a plane that was returning to the U.S. From

Poland. It landed Tuesday in Minneapolis, from where sanctuary staffers brought them to the facility where they were assessed by a veterinarian and given a warm place to rest. The flight was funded in part by the New York-based Andrew Sabin Family Foundation.

Dr. Andrew Kushnir, an American veterinarian with the fund who accompanied the cubs on their flight, cared for the cubs in Ukraine and Poland. Despite drone attacks and airstrikes, he prepared their specialized formula every three hours, the fund said. On nights when the power went out, he used his arms and legs to warm their milk bottles.

The cubs came from two litters, Whitney said. Three were rescued from Odessa, she said, while Prada, the oldest, was born at a breeder in Kyiv. The rescuers don't know what became of the mothers, she added.

Biden hosts Macron amid friction over US climate law

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Presidents Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron are celebrating the longstanding US-French relationship — but these are friends with differences.

The French president is using his visit to Washington to sharply criticize aspects of the US president's signature climate law as a bad deal for Europe.

Biden is set to honour Macron with the first state dinner of his presidency on Thursday evening. First, the two leaders will sit down in the Oval Office for morning talks that officials from both sides said were expected to largely center on the leaders' efforts to stay united in their response to Russia's war in Ukraine and to coordinate their approach to an increasingly assertive China.

But ahead of Thursday's meeting, Macron made clear that he and other European leaders remain deeply concerned about the incentives in a sweeping new climate-related law that favour American-made climate



technology, including electric vehicles. Macron on Wednesday criticised the legislation, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, during a luncheon with US lawmakers and again during a speech at the French embassy.

The French president said that while the Biden administration's efforts to curb climate change should be applauded, the subsidies would be an enormous setback for European companies.

"The choices that have been made ... Are choices that will fragment the West," Macron said at the French embassy.

He added that the legislation "creates such differences between the United States of America and Europe that all those who work in many companies (in the US), they will just think, We don't make investments any more on the other side of the Atlantic."

Separately, at the luncheon

with members of Congress from both parties, along with business leaders and diplomats, Macron said that major industrial nations need to do more to address climate change and promote biodiversity.

He criticized a deal reached at a recent climate summit in Egypt in which the United States and other wealthy nations agreed to help pay for the damage that an overheating world is inflicting on poor countries.

The deal includes few details on how it will be paid for, and Macron said a more comprehensive approach is needed — "not just a new fund we decided which will not be funded and even if it is funded, it will not be rightly allocated."

Speaking after his prepared remarks and without cameras present, Macron took aim at the Inflation Reduction Act, calling the subsidies harmful to French companies and others in Europe, according to a person in the closed-door meeting. The person requested anonymity to discuss the private comments from Macron.

Nepali Congress wins 55 seats, starts talks with other parties to form Govt

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The Nepali Congress, which has emerged as the single largest party in the parliamentary elections, has intensified consultations with other political parties in its bid to form the next government, a senior ruling party leader said on Thursday.

The Nepali Congress (NC) has so far bagged 55 seats under direct election to the House of Representatives while opposition CPN-UML has won 44 seats. So far election results of 162 seats have been declared.

In the 275-member House of Representatives, 165 will be elected through direct voting, while the remaining 110 will be elected through a proportional electoral system.

A party needs at least 138 seats to form a majority government.

Talking to PTI, senior NC leader and former deputy prime minister Prakash Man Singh said the party has intensified consultations with various other political parties to form the next government.



The party will elect its Parliamentary Party leader after the results of all the seats are out and the seats to be allocated on the basis of proportionate voting system is determined, said Singh.

Half a dozen leaders within the NC have expressed their aspirations to become the next

prime minister. Singh, 66, is among the leaders who are in the race to become the next prime minister.

Singh, who was elected as a member of the House of Representatives from Kathmandu 1, has been presenting himself as the next prime minister, saying that he has worked

from the grassroots to the number two position in the party.

Singh, who is in favour of assuming the leadership role after winning the trust of NC President Sher Bahadur Deuba, met with UML Chairman K P Sharma Oli on Sunday.

The CPN-Maoist Centre has got 17 seats, CPN-Unified Socialist 10, Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party 4 and Rashtriya Janamorchha has bagged one seat under direct election.

The Rastriya Prajatantra Party and Janata Samajwadi Party, the two allies of the opposition UML, have bagged 7 seats each.

Rastriya Swatantra Party and Nagarik Unmukti Party have won 7 and 3 seats respectively while Nepal Workers and Peasants Party has won one seat. The independent candidates have won 5 seats.

Elections to the House of Representatives (HoR) and seven provincial assemblies were held on November 20 to end the prolonged political instability that has plagued the Himalayan nation. The counting of votes started on Monday last.

UN votes to press countries to stop terrorists getting nukes

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously Wednesday to keep pressing all countries to implement a resolution aimed at keeping nuclear, chemical and biological weapons out of the hands of terrorists, black marketeers and others. The council resolution approved by a 15-0 vote extends the mandate of the committee monitoring implementation of the 2004 resolution on the threat of "non-state actors" obtaining or trafficking weapons of mass destruction for 10 years until Nov. 30, 2032. It also continues support for the committee's group of experts.

The resolution calls on the committee and the 193 U.N. Member nations to take into account the use by non-government groups and individuals of rapid advances in science and technology to spread the use of these banned weapons.

The council says in the resolution that it is



"gravely concerned" at the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-state actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use "nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, including by relying on advances in science and technology. The April 2004 resolution was adopted in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the United States to close what then U.S. President George W. Bush called a loophole that could allow terror groups to gain weapons of mass destruction.

Pakistan to get rid of menace of terrorism soon: Interior Minister

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Thursday acknowledged a spike in acts of terrorism in the country but vowed that the menace would be tackled soon.

Sanaullah addressed a press conference here after Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants withdrew from the ceasefire agreed upon in June this year and took responsibility for a suicide attack in Quetta that killed three people, including a policeman, on Wednesday.

Sanaullah said that while the rise in terror incidents was alarming, it would not get "out of control".

"It is not worrying [...] Don't think that this is going out of control or that some group will become out of reach," he said. That the TTP claimed responsibility for the attack was both "alarming and condemnable," he said, adding that the TTP's activities posed a danger to regional peace and should also be a cause of concern for neighbouring Afghanistan.

EU warns Musk to beef up Twitter controls ahead of new rules

AP ■ LONDON

Atop European Union official warned Elon Musk on Wednesday that Twitter needs to beef up measures to protect users from hate speech, misinformation and other harmful content to avoid violating new rules that threaten tech giants with big fines or even a ban in the 27-nation bloc.

Thierry Breton, the EU's commissioner for digital policy, told the billionaire Tesla CEO that the social media platform will have to significantly increase efforts to comply with the new rules, known as the Digital Services Act, set to take effect next year.

The two held a video call to discuss Twitter's preparedness for the law, which will require tech companies to better police their platforms for material that, for instance, promotes terrorism, child sexual abuse, hate speech and commercial scams. It's part of a new digital rulebook that has made Europe the global leader in the push to rein in the power of social media companies, potentially setting up a clash with Musk's vision for a more unfettered Twitter.

Breton said he was pleased to hear that Musk considers the EU rules "a sensible approach to implement on a worldwide basis."

"But let's also be clear that there is still huge work ahead," Musk said, according to a read-out of the call released by Breton's office. "Twitter will have to implement transparent user policies, significantly reinforce content moderation and protect freedom of speech, tackle disinformation with resolve, and limit targeted advertising."



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El Salvador journos sue spyware maker in US court

AP ■ SAN SALVADOR

Journalists from an investigative news outlet in El Salvador sued NSO Group in United States federal court Wednesday after the Israeli firm's powerful Pegasus spyware was detected on their iPhones.

In January, the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab, an internet watchdog, reported that dozens of journalists and human rights defenders in El Salvador had their cellphones repeatedly hacked with the spyware.

Among them were journalists at the El Faro news site.

"These spyware attacks were an attempt to silence our sources and deter us from doing journalism," Carlos Dada, El Faro's co-founder and director, said in a statement released by the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, which filed the lawsuit on behalf of the El Faro journalists.

"We are filing this lawsuit to defend our right to investigate and report, and to protect journalists around the world in their pursuit of the truth," Dada said NSO Group did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the lawsuit.

NSO, which was blacklisted by the U.S. Government last year, says it sells its spyware only to legitimate government law enforcement and intelligence agencies vetted by Israel's Defense Ministry for use against terrorists and criminals.

In response to the Citizen Lab report in January, NSO said it does not operate the technology once it is given to a client and cannot know the targets of its customers. But it said the use of its tools to monitor activists, dissidents or journalists "is a severe misuse of any technology and goes against the desired use of such critical tools."

It said it has terminated multiple contracts in the past due to client misuse. At the time, a spokeswoman for the administration of Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele said the government was not a client of NSO Group and had no association with Pegasus.

Carrie DeCell, senior staff attorney with the Knight First Amendment Institute, said, "The use of spyware to surveil and intimidate journalists poses a truly urgent threat to press freedom."

The lawsuit alleges NSO Group violated U.S. Law by developing spyware and deploying it against the El Faro journalists.

Apple and WhatsApp have pending lawsuits against NSO Group in the same U.

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China relaxes zero-Covid norms, steps up security ahead of ex-president's funeral

PTI ■ BEIJING

China relaxed its stringent zero-Covid restrictions in several cities after public protests and stepped up security across the country on Thursday as it braced for next week's high-profile funeral of former president Jiang Zemin who died a day earlier.

Flexible measures were implemented across China to ensure people's livelihoods amid the cold front, the official media reported.

After protests against zero-covid lockdowns, China's top industrial and business hub Guangzhou lifted temporary restrictions in some regions and officially allowed qualified close contacts to be quarantined at home instead of in temporary shelters.



Such announcements relaxing the Covid curbs were announced in Beijing, Shijiazhuang, Taiyuan besides several other cities, the official media reports said.

Beijing witnessed mixed lockdown covid policies. While some buildings went into lockdown on Thursday, all over the city people complained that many of the Covid testing centers have been closed following complaints of people getting

infected while standing in long lines.

Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, who headed the anti-covid fight for the past three years, has signalled a new chapter in the country's pandemic response with small, progressive refinements to restrictive measures, in a sign the zero-Covid policy may be gradually phased out.

In a meeting with experts from the National Health Commission on Wednesday, Sun also acknowledged that the Omicron variant is more transmissible but less deadly, according to state news agency Xinhua.

Sun said the country is "facing a new situation and new tasks as the pathogenicity of the Omicron virus diminishes, vaccination becomes more widespread and experience in prevention and controls".

Two Indian Films win accolades at Global Sustainable film awards

PNS/AGENCIES ■ LONDON

Two Indian Films have been feted at the prestigious tve Global Sustainability Film Awards 2022 (tve GSFA). The ward function was conducted at a gala event at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in London on November 29.

The jury announced the winners of five competitive film categories along with the Founder's Award which is a special nominated category. Bad Blood by VICE Media, India won the award for the Greener Living short film category, and a special tve Trustee Choice Award was given to the film Water for Life from Green Hub, India.

tve is a UK-registered charity founded by the United Nations Environment Programme, WWF-UK, and Central Television (now part of ITV) in 1984. Its mission is to use the power of storytelling to drive real world change for a more sustainable future.

The tve GSFA, which is a prestigious international film awards focused on global sustainability, rewards films both on their creativity as well as on the sustainability impact. This year it had received more than 70 film submissions worldwide as entries for the five competitive film categories.

A diverse and eminent international jury panel drawn from the fields of sustainability and filmmaking, adjudicated the entries.

The winning films for the various categories of the tve GSFA 2022 are as follows:

COMPETITIVE AWARD CATEGORIES

Transforming Society: Road to Fulfilment (Phoenix Film, UAE)

Greener Living: Bad Blood (VICE Media, India)

Documentary Impact: Eating Our Way to Extinction (Broxstar Productions Ltd, UK)



Young Filmmaker: Changing Paradigms (Henry Smith, Australia)

Digital Technology and AI for Sustainable Living: Age of Change: Circular (Circular, UK)

Additionally, a special tve Trustee Choice Award was given to the film Water for Life from Green Hub, India.

Nick Nuttall, chair of the jury for the tve GSFA 2022, praised the winners for

their choice of themes that align with the seismic issues facing humanity and the planet. "The films we judged and awarded were undoubtedly inspiring but also told fascinating stories that reflect both the threats, and importantly the solutions, to climate change and the loss of animal and plant life up to how to build sustainable livelihoods," he said.

During the tve GSFA ceremony, the founder of the awards, president of TVE Surina Narula, MBE said "I would like to extend my congratulations to all the winners and finalists of the 11th edition of the tve Global Sustainability Film Awards. I am delighted that we have two winning films from India this year. The quality of the films participating in these awards is a matter of great satisfaction as this indicates the success we have had in getting more organizations and individuals to actively engage in the conversation on global sustainability over the last eleven years."

FEEDBACK INFRA PRIVATE LIMITED			
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E-mail: feedback.legal@feedbackinfra.com Website: www.feedbackinfra.com			
STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2022			
(Rupees in Lakhs)			
Sl No.	Particulars	For the Quarter Ended June 30, 2022	For the Year Ended March 31, 2022
		Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	5,215	19,978
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,685)	(11,306)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,685)	(17,414)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(1,263)	(13,503)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(1,263)	(13,061)
6	Paid up equity share capital (face value of Rs. 10 per share each)	1,636	1,636
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(10,414)	(9,152)
8	Securities premium account	1,739	1,739
9	Net Worth	(8,778)	(7,515)
10	Paid up debt capital / Outstanding Debt	52,546	52,235
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Share	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio *	-9.32	-7.99
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)		
	Basic	(7.72)	(82.53)
	Diluted	(7.72)	(82.53)
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	1,210	1,210
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) *	0.19	(0.30)
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (ISCR) *	0.19	(0.30)
Additional information as per Regulation 52(4) of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015			
1 During the year ended June, 2022, Principal payment was overdue on Non-Convertible Debenture. The interest which was due on monthly basis has not been paid on due date.			
2 The rating for the listed non-convertible debentures of the Company as assigned by the CARE Ratings Limited is "CARE D".			
3 Debentures are secured by way of first pari-passu charge by hypothecation of entire current assets, movable fixed assets of the Company both present and future, Corporate Guarantee of the Promoter Company and pledge of shares of subsidiary Company. These are to be secured against first pari-issue charge over total assets to the extent of total assets cover of atleast 1.5 times. The total asset coverage ratio is 1.16 times as on June/30, 2022.			
* Notes 1: Adopted definitions for Ratios: Ratios have been computed as follows			
Debt Equity Ratio = Total Debt / Total Equity			
Total Debt= Non current borrowings + current maturities of non-current borrowings			
Total equity = Equity share capital + Other equity + Compulsory convertible instruments to equity			
Interest Service Coverage Ratio (ISCR)= (EBDIT-Current Tax)/Gross Interest			
Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) = (EBDIT-Current Tax)/(Gross interest + Principal Repayment of long Term debts excluding repayment from refinancing of debt)"			
Assets Coverage Ratio = (Total assets) / (Total borrowing excluding unsecured borrowings and compulsory convertible instruments to equity)			
Note - 2			
a) The above is an extract of the annual financial results required to be filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as amended). The full format of the annual financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on the Company website www.feedbackinfra.com			
b) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.feedbackinfra.com			
c) The above financial results as at and for the half year ended June/30, 2022 have been reviewed and recommended by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on November/30th, 2022.			
d) The Statement has been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards ("Ind AS") as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules issued thereunder and in terms of Regulation 52(1) of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and SEBI's circular no. CIR/IMD/DFI/69/2016 dated August 10, 2016.			
e) The Company is primarily in the business of infrastructure related consultancy. The Board of Directors of the Company, which has been identified as being the chief operating decision maker (CODM), evaluates the Company's performance, allocate resources based on the analysis of the various performance indicator of the Company as a single unit. Therefore, the Company's business activity falls within a single business segment in terms of Ind AS 108.			
For and on behalf of Board of Directors			
Place : Gurugram		Sd/-	
Date : November 30, 2022		Priyanka Saini	
		Director	
		DIN:09676215	

Mkts on record-making spree, rally for 8th day

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices rallied for the eighth day running on Thursday, ending at fresh record closing highs, amid firm global market trends and continuous foreign fund inflows. Positive PMI data and buying in IT counters added to the momentum.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 184.54 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 63,284.19, its fresh record closing high. During the day, it rallied 483.42 points or 0.76 per cent to 63,583.07, its lifetime intra-day peak.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 54.15 points or 0.29 per cent to end at 18,812.50, its new record closing high.

Among the Sensex pack, UltraTech Cement, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Infosys, HCL Technologies, and Larsen & Toubro were the major winners. ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the laggards.

According to a monthly survey released on Thursday, the seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 55.7 in November, up from 55.3 in October, signalling the strongest improvement in operating conditions in three months.

Experts say that US Federal



Reserve's stance hinting at moderated pace of rate hike also boosted the sentiment.

"Fed chief Jerome Powell's observation that 'it makes sense to moderate the pace of rate hikes' has come as a shot in the arm for the bulls to take the ongoing rally forward," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.63 per cent and midcap index climbed 0.62 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, IT jumped 2.03 per cent, realty (1.94 per cent), tech (1.58 per cent), commodities (1.24 per cent) and industrials (0.74 per cent).

Power, oil & gas, energy and FMCG were among the laggards.

"Although markets extended gains and scaled fresh highs

once again, the recent upsurge failed to gather steam today... While the undertone remains bullish, the focus will now shift to next week's credit policy announcement," said Shrikant chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

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

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly in the green in the afternoon trade. Wall Street had ended significantly higher on Wednesday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.40 per cent higher at USD 87.32 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought shares worth Rs 9,010.41 crore on Wednesday, as per exchange data.



GST mop up grows 11% to ₹1.46L cr in November

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The collections from Goods and Services Tax (GST) grew by 11 per cent to about Rs 1.46 lakh crore in November on increased consumer spending and better compliance.

This is the ninth month in a row that the revenues have remained above the Rs 1.4 lakh crore mark. However, the collection in November was the lowest since August.

In October, GST collections had touched the second-highest level of Rs 1.52 lakh crore on festive spending.

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of November 2022 is Rs 1,45,867 crore of which Central GST is Rs 25,681 crore, State GST is Rs 32,651 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 77,103 crore (including Rs 38,635 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 10,433 crore (including Rs 817 crore collected on import of goods).

"The revenues for the month of November 2022 are 11 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year, which itself was Rs 1,31,526 crore," the Finance Ministry said in a state-

ment.

KPMG Partner Indirect Tax Abhishek Jain said continuing festive procurements, year-end reconciliations of input tax credits, credit notes, etc. Would have played a significant role in the GST revenue uptick.

N.A. Shah Associates, Partner, Indirect Tax, Parag Mehta said the major factors for the increase in collections are the festive and wedding seasons.

"There has also been a major increase in sales for real estate and vehicle markets. Overall, there is substantial spending by consumers. Further, the authorities have been cracking down on tax evaders, defaulters, fake invoice instances etc," Mehta said.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said GST collections for the month of October 2022 are encouraging and now it seems to be stabilizing around 1.5 lakh crores.

"October and November are festive months, which drove up purchases of goods and services, fueling GST numbers once again. In October, individuals splurged on real estate, automobiles, vacations, and other essential items," Mohan said.

Reliance Industries emerges as most valuable listed company in India: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reliance Industries has emerged as the most valuable listed company followed by Tata Consultancy Services and HDFC Bank, according to a list released on Thursday.

In the '2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 Top 10' list, companies, on an average, were worth a total of Rs 226 lakh crore (USD 2.7 trillion).

The Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries is valued at Rs 17.25 lakh crore, nearly 6 lakh crore more than Tata Consultancy Services which is valued at Rs 11.68 lakh crore, according to the second edition of the list of 500 most valuable companies in India.

HDFC Bank, ranked at number three, was valued at Rs 8.33 lakh crore, it added.

Other companies that featured in the top 10 list are Infosys, which secured number four position, with a value of Rs 6.46 lakh crore, ICICI Bank at Rs 6.33 lakh crore, Bharti Airtel at Rs 4.89 lakh crore, Housing Development Finance Corporation Rs 4.48 lakh crore, ITC at Rs 4.32 lakh crore, Adani Total Gas at Rs 3.96 lakh crore and Adani Enterprises at Rs 3.81 lakh crore.

To make it to the '2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500' list, companies were required to have a minimum value of Rs 6,000 crore, equivalent to USD 725 million.

"The 2nd edition of the Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 report, featuring India's 500 most valuable companies, could



not have come at a better time. From a 'rare bright spot,' when most world economies are starting at a slowdown, India is slated to be entering its decade of eminence.

"Indian companies and their leadership deserve great acclamation for their contribution to the country's unique positioning today, and they will play an even bigger role in making India the world's third largest economy over the next decade," Axis Bank Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Chaudhry said.

Despite global challenges, the companies on the '2022 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500' list created value to the tune of Rs 226 lakh crore (USD 2.7 trillion), for their stakeholders, he noted.

The top line of these 500 companies is equivalent to 29 per cent of India's GDP, and they employ up to 1.5 per cent of the country's total workforce.

"What stood out in the report is that 67 companies on the list are younger than 10 years. These new-age companies will indeed shape the coming decade with their entrepreneurship, technol-

ogy and digital innovations," he added.

According to the report, the sectors that enjoyed strong growth are energy, retail, hospitality and consumer goods.

The software and services sector was the hardest hit and cumulatively lost Rs 6 lakh crore over last year, said the report.

"On the back of inflation and looming recession, Indian IT outsourcing companies are expected to go slow on closing big-ticket deals," Hurun India MD and Chief Researcher Anas Rahman Junaidd said.

He said the medical diagnostics sector, which enjoyed very high growth during Covid-19 on the back of testing mandates, reversed gains and shed around Rs 13,000 crore in value.

"Gautam Adani has launched 7 companies to the list and has acquired the 8th - Ambuja Cements. Perhaps it is not surprising that he is the richest person on the subcontinent. The others include N Chandrasekaran who chairs Tata Sons that added six companies to the list and Sanjeev Goenka and Kumar Mangalam Birla who have added three each to the list," he said.

Rupee gains 8 paise to close at 81.22 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 8 paise to close at 81.22 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday on broad dollar weakness after Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the pace of interest rate hikes may slow.

Forex traders said foreign fund inflows and a rally in domestic equities boosted investor sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.08 and touched an intra-day high of 80.98 and a low of 81.32 against the greenback. The local unit finally settled

at 81.22, registering a rise of 8 paise over its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee closed at 81.30 against the US dollar, on month-end exporter dollar selling and MSCI rebalancing related inflows.

"The Indian rupee started the new month on a front foot following stronger Asian currencies and risk-on sentiments.

"It has gained in three out of the last four days as the dollar index slipped to a three-month low after Fed Chair Jerome Powell confirmed the pace of interest rates set to slow along with China easing the COVID restrictions," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC



Securities. Parmar further noted that in the near-term, spot USD-INR has support at 80.72, the 100 days simple moving average and resistance at 81.91, the recent swing high formed on November 21. The bias remains bearish for the pair as long as it trades below 82.10.

Meanwhile, the dollar index,

which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.41 per cent to 105.51.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined 0.10 per cent to USD 86.88 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 184.54 points or 0.29 per cent to end at 63,284.19, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 54.15 points or 0.29 per cent to 18,812.50.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Wednesday as they purchased shares worth Rs 9,010.41 crore, according to exchange data.

New-age security solutions: IFSEC Expo

SWARN KR ANAND ■ MUMBAI

The 15th edition of the International Fire and Security Exhibition and Conference India Expo (IFSEC) India Expo 2022 started at Pragati Maidan in Delhi on Thursday. Over 180 brands are showcasing their products displaying new methodical technology solutions that have been making waves in the Indian security and surveillance industry at the expo being organised by Informa Markets in India. A two-day conference is being hosted on, "Gearing Up for New-Age Security Threats".

Joint Commissioner of Delhi Police Rajesh Kumar, who inaugurated the expo, said hard-

ware security tools still need to be developed in a much-advanced manner so that they can be protected against the vagaries of nature and any unforeseen intrusion or attacks.

Throwing light on the evolving nature of modern security solution, Prama Hikvision CEO & MD Ashish Dhakan said 26/11 attacks proved a turning point in the need and demand for high-tech security and surveillance gadgets, as the new-age solution lies in embedding such apparatus with artificial intelligence so that surveillance image or video can give real-time exposure of potential dangers, like how the gesture and posture of an individual indicate his/her propensity towards crime.

Car sales in fast lane in Nov; Maruti, Hyundai, Tata Motors post double-digit growth

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Car makers have logged the best-ever November sales as demand for personal transport continued to remain strong even after the end of the high-selling festive season, driving towards record sales in 2022.

Leading automakers Maruti Suzuki India, Hyundai, Tata Motors and Mahindra saw double-digit growth in dispatches to dealers last month, making it the best-ever November for the passenger vehicle industry.

Kia India, Honda Cars, Skoda and MG Motor also witnessed strong sales momentum last month.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Nissan however reported a decline in domestic wholesales as compared to November 2021.

The country's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki India said

its domestic wholesales rose 18 per cent to 1,39,306 units as against 1,17,791 units in November 2021. Sales of mini cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, increased to 18,251 units as compared with 17,473 in the same month last year. The company's utility vehicle sales, comprising Brezza, Ertiga and Grand Viatara, rose to 32,563 units as compared with 24,574 vehicles in the year-ago month, MSI said.

Commenting on the sales, Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava said the industry's wholesales grew by 31 per cent to 3,22,860 units last month as compared with 2,45,636 units in November last year. "This is the highest ever November sales for the industry-beating the previous best of 2.86 lakh in November 2020," Srivastava stated.

Sebi permits brokers to extend margin trading facility to equity ETFs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi has allowed brokers to extend the margin trading facility (MTF) to equity exchange traded funds (ETFs) and such funds can be used as collateral as well.

Currently, only select stocks that come under Group 1 securities are offered the MTF facility by brokers.

"Taking into account the emergence of ETFs as an investment product with various advantages such as transparency, diversification, lower cost, etc, it has been decided to allow units of equity exchange traded funds (equity ETFs)... As an eligible security for MTF as well as an eligible collateral under MTF," Sebi said in a circular.

The facility is executed with borrowed funds or securities



that enable investors to take exposure in the market over and above their resources.

Sebi said that initial margin security for MTF as well as an eligible collateral under MTF," Sebi said in a circular.

Further, the stocks or units

of equity ETFs deposited as collateral with the stock broker for availing collaterals and the stocks or units of equity ETFs purchased under the funded stocks should be identifiable separately and no co-mingling would be permitted for the purpose of computation of funding amount.

Credit rating agencies: SEBI extends deadline to implement standardised framework

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday extended the deadline till December 15 for credit rating agencies to implement the standardised framework for industry classification.

The framework is for rating exercise and research activities.

This is the second time that Sebi has extended the timeline to implement the framework. Initially, the deadline was September 30, which was extended till November 30.

In view of representations received from credit rating agencies, it has been decided to extend the date of applicability of the standardised industry classification till December 15, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a

circular. Under the guidelines, credit rating agencies will have to implement standardised industry classification for the purpose of rating exercise, peer benchmarking and research activities. The standardised framework will help bring about uniformity in the classification being used across sectors and in securities market.

Further, Sebi said that monitoring of implementation of standardised industry classification will be done in terms of the half-yearly internal audit for credit rating agencies.

Separately, Sebi came out with an operational circular for listing obligations and disclosure requirements for issuers of listed non-convertible securities, securitised debt instruments and commercial paper.

Govt to launch fourth tranche of Bharat Bond ETF

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government will launch the fourth tranche of Bharat Bond ETF, India's first corporate bond exchange traded fund, from Friday.

The new fund offer of the ETF will open on December 2 and close for subscription on December 8, Edelweiss Mutual Fund, which manages the fund, said in a statement on Thursday.

The funds raised would be utilised for undertaking capital expenditures by central public sector enterprises (CPSEs).

This new Bharat Bond ETF and Bharat Bond Fund of Fund (FOF) series will mature in April 2033.

Through the launch of this new series in the fourth tranche, the government proposes to raise an initial amount of Rs



1,000 crore with a green shoe option of Rs 4,000 crore.

In December last year, the government had launched the third tranche with a base issue size of Rs 1,000 crore. It was over-subscribed 6.2 times with bids worth Rs 6,200 crore coming in.

The maiden offering of Bharat Bond ETF was launched in 2019, helping CPSEs raise Rs 12,400 crore. In the second and third tranches, it had raised Rs 11,000 crore and Rs 6,200 crore, respectively. The ETF has raised

Rs 29,600 crore in its three offerings so far.

"Bharat Bond ETF programme has received an enthusiastic response from all categories of investors since its launch. Bharat Bond has created a unique opportunity for all Indian investors to invest in PSU Bonds and fuel India's growth story," Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary, DIPAM, Ministry of Finance, said.

Bharat Bond ETF invests only in 'AAA'-rated bonds of public sector companies.

Swiss, Serbia go head-to-head for R16



AP ■ DOHA

When Serbia plays Switzerland at the World Cup on Friday, it will be a head-to-head elimination match to get into the knockout rounds.

The European rivals seemed destined for a win-and-advance final group stage match at 974 Stadium ever since the tournament draw in April placed them in Group G with heavily favored Brazil.

"We knew at the beginning of the tournament that the game against Serbia would be the final in this group," Swiss captain Granit Xhaka said after a 1-0 loss to Brazil on Monday.

That result sent Brazil to the round of 16 even before playing its last game against Cameroon, and left Switzerland in second place likely needing only a draw with Serbia to advance. Not that the Swiss plan on playing for a tie.

"I don't know a single team in the world that would go on the pitch aiming for a 0-0. That's really dangerous," Swiss midfielder Djibril Sow said.

Still, Switzerland have a proven record of managing these situations in modern tournaments, advancing out of

the group to the round of 16 at the past two World Cups and in the past two European Championships.

Serbia has not played a World Cup knockout match since becoming an independent nation, and a relative lack of tournament experience — playing at three of the four World Cups since 2010 but no Euros — perhaps showed in Qatar.

Leading Cameroon 3-1 on Monday after dominating the play either side of half-time, the Serbians lost control and conceded back-to-back goals quickly to draw the game.

The five goals Serbia was so far conceded is as many as the rest of the group combined, while Switzerland has let in just Casemiro's rising shot that was a late winning goal in Brazil's 1-0 win.

Switzerland could not force Brazil goalkeeper Alisson Becker into a save, but should have two fit creative threats restored Friday: Xherdan Shaqiri in a playmaker role and Noah Okafor, whose pace and direct play can be used late in games. Shaqiri and Xhaka were key figures — with their goals and provocative celebrations — when the Swiss won this same fixture 2-1 at the last World Cup.

BELGIUM OUT OF WORLD CUP

World's No. 2 team finish third in Group F after playing goalless draw against Croatia

AP ■ DOHA

Romelu Lukaku missed a string of late chances as Belgium crashed out of the World Cup in the group stage after a 0-0 draw with Croatia on Thursday which sent the 2018 runners-up into the knockout phase.

Croatia had a penalty award controversially cancelled by VAR early in a largely uneventful first half.

The introduction of Lukaku at the interval changed the game, but he was guilty of three dreadful misses as Zlatko Dalic's side rode their luck to hold on.

Croatia progressed as runners-up in Group F behind winners Morocco who beat Canada 2-1 to also qualify for the last 16.

Belgium, the world's second-ranked side, saw their run of reaching at least the quarter-finals at four straight major tournaments come to an abrupt end.

Roberto Martinez's men managed just one goal in the tournament in a fortunate opening 1-0 win over Canada.

Martinez dropped captain Eden Hazard to the bench as one of four changes which also saw Leandro Trossard and Dries Mertens start for the first time in Qatar.

The build-up to the match had been dominated by rumours of an altercation between senior Belgian players, involving Eden Hazard, which Martinez described as "fake news".

Croatia almost took the lead inside the first 10 seconds, as the ball was played forward to Ivan Perisic after kick-off and the Tottenham man cut inside and drilled a shot just wide of the far post.



MOROCCO IN LAST 16

AP ■ DOHA

Morocco powered into the last 16 of the World Cup for the first time in 36 years on Thursday with a 2-1 victory over eliminated Canada.

Goals from Hakim Ziyech and Youssef En-Nesyri ensured the North Africans finished top of Group F ahead of 2018 World Cup runners-up Croatia.

Morocco, who last reached the knockout stages of the World Cup in 1986, will face the runners-up from Group E in the last 16, with the identity of their opponents decided later

Thursday.

Canada's defeat meanwhile capped a disappointing World Cup for the CONCACAF side, who depart after losing all three of their group games on their long-awaited return to the finals.

Morocco put themselves firmly on course for the second round after upsetting Belgium 2-0 on Sunday, a result that left them needing only a point against Canada on Thursday to be sure of advancing.

Achieving that objective never looked in doubt after the Moroccans grabbed the lead after only four minutes in front



of 43,102 fans at the Al-Thumama Stadium.

Canada captain and goalkeeper Milan Borjan raced off his line to clear an underhit backpass from Steven Vitoria but could only watch in horror

as the ball fell to Morocco's Ziyech.

The Chelsea star seized the opportunity ruthlessly, coolly lifting a finish over the stranded Borjan into the empty net for 1-0.

That early setback winded Canada, who struggled to gain any sort of a foothold against a rampant Morocco who were soon 2-0 up.

Right-back Achraf Hakimi's long ball caught the Canadian defence napping and En-Nesyri darted in behind before smashing home a finish at the near post to beat Borjan.

Messi misses penalty but Argentina advance

AP ■ DOHA

Lionel Messi had a penalty saved but Argentina still advanced to the last 16 of the World Cup as Group C winners after a 2-0 victory over Poland on Wednesday.

Poland also went through as runners-up although a 2-1 win for Mexico over Saudi Arabia in the group's other game meant Czeslaw Michniewicz's side advanced only on goal difference.

Alexis Mac Allister's 46th-minute goal settled Argentina's nerves after a tense first half, before Julian Alvarez doubled their lead just over 20 minutes later.

Argentina had been unable to find a way past Wojciech Szczesny in an opening 45 minutes in which the Poland goalkeeper saved his second penalty of the tournament.

Szczesny was adjudged to have fouled Messi while stretching to reach a cross, but he dived to his left to beat away the resulting spot-kick.

It was the 31st penalty Messi had failed to convert in his career.

Poland offered little attacking threat, with star striker Robert Lewandowski virtually anonymous throughout.

Instead it was left to Szczesny to take centre stage for the Poles, denying Messi with two crucial early stops.

Argentina continued to create the better chances in the first



half and Marcos Acuna flashed a shot wide after Alvarez had also gone close to breaking the deadlock.

Szczesny had to scramble to stop Angel di Maria scoring direct from a corner, before the goalkeeper was again called into action to deny Alvarez.

There was nothing he could do when Mac Allister broke the deadlock less than a minute after the interval.

Nahuel Molina charged

down the right, then cut the ball back for Mac Allister to drill just beyond Szczesny's reach.

The goal forced Poland to show some belated attacking ambition and Kamil Glik headed just wide from a free-kick almost immediately after the restart.

Argentina continued to go in search of more goals and Alvarez scored their second after combining well with Enzo Fernandez.

Fernandez, making his first start for Argentina, picked out his team-mate, who held off a defender before lashing the ball past Szczesny.

Poland were still walking a tightrope with yellow cards potentially crucial to their chances of reaching the last 16.

Grzegorz Krychowiak went into the book in the 83rd minute but a late goal for Saudi Arabia against Mexico saw the Poles safely through on goal difference.



Mexico exit on goal difference

AP ■ DOHA

Mexico suffered an agonising exit from the World Cup on goal difference on Wednesday despite beating Saudi Arabia 2-1 in a dramatic finale to Group C.

Second-half goals from Henry Martin and Luis Chavez secured victory for Mexico but they finished third behind Poland after Salem Al-Dawsari's late strike.

Mexico desperately pushed for a third goal in an effort to improve their goal difference as they faced elimination on FIFA fair play rules.

Having failed to win either of their first two group games for the first time in 44 years, Mexico knew victory was essential if they were to stand a chance of reaching the last 16 at an eighth successive World Cup.

Chavez tested Al-Owais right after the interval and Martin soon broke the deadlock as he turned in from close range following Cesar Montes' clever flick-on at a corner.

Mexico's second goal arrived just five minutes later when Chavez sensationally curled a free-kick into the top corner from 30 metres.

Keeping an eye on the score between Argentina and Poland, Mexico pushed relentlessly for a third goal, with Lozano's effort ruled out for a tight offside.

Martin blazed over when he had a glorious chance and Chavez had another free-kick turned away by Al-Owais, who also sprawled to his right to claw out a drive from Lozano.

Uriel Antuna then had another goal disallowed for offside before Al-Dawsari's late strike put an end to the drama.



England should be 'feared' at WC: Rice

AP ■ DOHA

Declan Rice believes England should be feared by their World Cup rivals as they gear up for a last-16 showdown with Senegal on Sunday.

Gareth Southgate's side beat Wales 3-0 on Tuesday to finish as undefeated Group B winners, underlining their status as one of the leading contenders for the title in Qatar.

England's next test comes against Senegal at the Al Bayt Stadium, where a victory over the Africa Cup of Nations holders would set up a potential quarter-final date with world champions France.

While they will face tougher opponents after the group stage -- in which they played Iran, the United States and Wales -- Rice is adamant that England deserve maximum respect from even the best teams at the World Cup.

"Yeah, definitely," he said. "Other nations will look at our quality and why should we not be feared?"

"If you look at our attacking talent we have world-class talent. Across the board we have players who have won the biggest trophies.

"It is up to us to prove that. The likes of France have done that. We're not just here to get into the last 16, we want to go the whole way."

The likelihood of Belgium needing to win was increased when Morocco scored an early goal across Doha. Yannick Carrasco had a chance to open the scoring but his shot was blocked.

Mertens curled over after a trademark Kevin De Bruyne run and pass, before Croatia were awarded a penalty seconds later when Carrasco tripped Andrej Kramaric in the box.

But the decision was overturned following a lengthy VAR check which decided that a tiny fraction of Dejan Lovren's shoulder was offside.

Desperate for a goal after a first half in which neither side mustered a shot on target, Martinez sent on Lukaku, Belgium's record scorer, for Mertens at half-time.

They immediately carried more threat, with Lukaku, who struggled with injury in the build-up to the tournament, heading straight at Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic.

Thibaut Courtois was then called into action for the first time, stretching to tip over Mateo Kovacic's curling effort as the game opened up.

That also suited the Croatian attackers though and Courtois had to twice get down to keep out low shots from Marcelo Brozovic and Luka Modric.

Belgium should have taken the lead on the hour mark.

Carrasco almost bundled the ball in but was denied by Livakovic, before Lukaku contrived to hit the post with the goal gaping on the rebound.

Lukaku was guilty of an even worse miss two minutes later, heading over an empty net from six yards out, although replays suggested the ball may have been out of play when De Bruyne crossed it in.

Suarez refuses to apologise for Ghana WC handball

AP ■ DOHA

Uruguay great Luis Suarez refused to apologise on Thursday to Ghanaians over his infamous handball at the World Cup 12 years ago.

The South Americans take on the Africans in a must-win Group H clash in Qatar on Friday that is a repeat of the notorious quarter-final in South Africa in 2010.

Suarez deliberately handled the ball on the line at that tournament to prevent a certain goal from Dominic Adiyiah's header right at the end of extra-time.

Suarez was shown a red card but Asamoah Gyan missed the subsequent penalty and Uruguay went on to win the shoot-out and qualify for the

semi-finals.

Striker Suarez became an overnight hero in his homeland while Ghana missed out on becoming the first-ever African team to reach the World Cup semi-finals.

Twelve years later, asked whether he knew that Ghanaians viewed him as the "devil", Suarez said he had no regrets.

"I don't say I apologise about that because I take the handball but the Ghana player missed the penalty, not me," said Suarez, speaking in broken English.

"Maybe I can say I apologise if I tackle and injure a player and take a red card, maybe I can apologise.

"But in this situation I take a red card, the referee said



'penalty'. It's not my fault because I did not miss the penalty, the player missed the penalty.'

There has been lots of talk since the World Cup draw was made about Ghana potentially seeking revenge and many of the

African team's fans have vented their ire at Suarez ahead of the crunch clash.

But Suarez insisted the game was in the past and that it makes no sense to talk about revenge.

"Those that are talking about revenge... were eight at the time, they have only seen it in images," said the former Barcelona and Liverpool forward, now 35.

"You can't misinterpret

everything. When we played Portugal the players were talking about revenge for being knocked out (by Uruguay in 2018) but you can't live in the past."

Uruguay coach Diego Alonso said there was much more at stake for both teams than vengeance.

Uruguay must win to have any chance of progressing to the last 16 while Ghana could also be eliminated if they do not triumph.

"I don't know how Ghana will approach it, whether or not it's revenge," said Alonso.

"For us it's a decisive match, that's what matters to us. We're doing the best we can, respecting our opponents, but we don't view it that way."

tactic, we have players that have won trophies year in, year out, so they've brought that mentality and installed it to England," he said.

"It's about the manager too, the way he talks to us. He's so calm. He emphasises we're England, we're just as big as anyone else and we can achieve anything. When you have a manager like that, anything is possible."

Rice also highlighted England's strength in depth -- Southgate made four changes to his line-up against Wales, including starts for Phil Foden and Marcus Rashford, who played decisive roles.

"It's always nice to know you can bring players off the bench that can instantly change the game," said the West Ham midfielder.

"We have got players who are world class. It ranks among the top squads at the tournament."

POMS PLUNDER WORLD RECORD 506-4 IN 1ST TEST

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

Virus-hit England stamped its aggressive brand of cricket on its first Test in Pakistan in 17 years by amassing a world record 506-4 with four batters smashing hundreds on Thursday.

Zak Crawley hit 122 and Ben Duckett made 107 in a blistering opening stand of 233. Ollie Pope and Harry Brook blazed hundreds in the last session in an astonishing display of power-hitting against an inexperienced Pakistan bowling attack.

And the Test almost didn't start. England confirmed it had a fit 11 and the match could go ahead only two hours before the toss. Then it destroyed a host of records in only 75 overs before play ended prematurely because of bad light.

The 506-4 total was the highest on the first day of any Test, surpassing Australia's 494-6 in 1910 against South Africa in Sydney. England also became the fastest team to score 500 runs.

Pope, who will keep wickets after



Ben Foakes couldn't recover from a viral infection that hit the England camp, cemented coach Brendon McCullum's aggressive approach by making 108.

Brook struck six fours in one over by debutant Saud Shakeel in the final session to reach 101 not out.

Captain Ben Stokes, who won the toss and elected to bat after recovering in time from the virus, was not out on 34 off 15 balls.

England batters smashed 73 boundaries and three sixes in a white-ball fireworks display with the red ball.

In the absence of injured spearhead Shaheen Afridi, Pakistan opted to hand debuts to three bowlers; fast bowlers Haris Rauf and Mohammad Ali and legspinner Mohammad Zahid.

But none of the bowlers could extract any help from a slow, grassless pitch at Pindi Cricket Stadium.

Surprisingly, Joe Root was the only batter to miss out when he fell to Mahmood, who finished the day with 2-168. Rauf (1-78) and Ali (1-96) shared the other wickets.

Labuschagne and Smith hit 200s in Perth against WI



AP ■ PERTH

Double centuries by Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith allowed Australia to declare at 598-4 against the West Indies on the second day of the first Test on Thursday.

West Indies was 74 without loss at stumps in fading light at Perth Stadium.

Labuschagne scored 204, his second double century, and was out to the last ball before lunch.

Smith reached 200 not out and Australia declared when Travis Head was out on 99 after playing on offspinner Kraigg Brathwaite, the tourist's most successful bowler with 2-65.

West Indies openers Brathwaite, 18 not out, and Tagenarine Chanderpaul, 47 not out, successfully negotiated 25 overs.

The debutant Chanderpaul, the son of batting great Shivnarine, faced some testing moments at the crease, and took a painful blow on the groin from fast bowler Josh Hazlewood.

Chanderpaul hit a boundary off his first ball in test cricket and hooked skipper Pat Cummins for a towering six over

long leg as he dominated the stand under floodlight.

Australia started the day on 293-2 with Labuschagne on 154 and Smith on 59, and the West Indies desperate for a breakthrough in cloudy conditions conducive for swing bowling.

Instead, Labuschagne and Smith continued from where they left off overnight and stubbornly piled more misery on the tourists.

Labuschagne smashed fast bowler Jayden Seales through the covers for his 20th boundary to bring up his double century. Then he fell when he edged Brathwaite as wicket-keeper Joshua da Silva finally held onto a catch after dropping Labuschagne on 132 and 194.

Labuschagne's previous double century was 215 in 2020 against New Zealand in Sydney. This time, he batted for 483 minutes and hit a six and 20 fours off 350 balls.

His dismissal ended the 251-run stand for the third wicket, the sixth highest for Australia in test history.

Australia went to lunch on 402-3 and middle session belonged to Smith. He equalled Don Bradman's 29 test centuries in his 88th test.

Smith pushed a single to reach his hundred before lunch. Only Ricky Ponting (41), Steve Waugh (32) and Matthew Hayden (30) have scored more hundreds for Australia.

During the course of his 435-minute innings, Smith reached 4,000 runs in 44 home tests averaging 65.98 — third behind Bradman (98.22) and West Indian Gary Sobers (66.8) for home tests.

Adopting a new batting stance that has been more than a year in making, Smith batted flawlessly in facing 311 balls and hitting 18 boundaries. Smith has ditched his trademark back and across shuffle and stands tall and balanced at the crease.

Smith's other three double centuries were against England including his career-best 239 at the old WACA in 2017.

With the pitch quickening and the West Indies bowlers tiring, Smith and Head put the tourists to sword in a run-a-minute 196-run fourth-wicket stand. The pair went on a leather hunt in smashing 166 runs in less than 30 overs.

A ball after Smith's fourth double century, Head on 99 played on and missed out on a deserved century.

Stokes keeps door open for ODI World Cup return

PTI ■ RAWALPINDI

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes has not ruled out the possibility of coming out of ODI retirement for England's title defence of the 50-over World Cup in India next year.

The 31-year-old England Test captain had announced retirement from ODIs in July, citing pressure on his workload, but less than five months after that decision, he has left the door open for a possible U-turn. "Who knows how I might feel towards a World Cup at the time," Stokes was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo website.

He was speaking ahead of the first Test against Pakistan which began here on Thursday. Stokes starred in England's

2019 50-over World Cup final win and did the same again when they were crowned T20 champions in Australia in November.

The next 50-over World Cup will be held in India in October-November in 2023.

"It's one of those things. Going to a World Cup is an amazing thing to do, to represent your country," he said.

"But at the moment I'm not even thinking about that. My focus is solely on this series (against Pakistan)."

Stokes said he was approached by director of cricket Rob Key in the aftermath of the T20 success about a return for the 50-over World Cup.

"He pulled me to the side and as soon as he said '50-over



World Cup' I just walked away," said Stokes.

When Stokes announced his ODI retirement, he had said it should serve as a warning to authorities over the amount of multi-format cricket players are expected to play. "There is too much cricket rammed in for people to play all three formats now," he said in July. "We are not cars, you can't just fill us up and we'll go out there and be ready to be fuelled up again."

He had then dismissed suggestion he would come back to play at the 50-over World Cup.

"It wouldn't be fair on anyone who gets that opportunity with me not playing this format now to all of a sudden be like, 'Yeah, I'll come back'," he had said.

B'desh A put up improved batting show after India A take huge lead



PTI ■ COX BAZAR

Bangladesh A batters gave a far better account of themselves on an eased track as they reached 172 for one in their second innings after India A declared at an imposing 465 for five on the third day of the first unofficial 'Test' here on Thursday.

With Abhimanyu Easwaran and

Yashasvi Jaiswal's twin hundreds headlining the second day's play, India batted an hour on the third day with third choice red-ball keeper Upendra Yadav (71 not out, 122 balls) completing his half-century before the declaration came into effect.

Having conceded a mammoth first innings lead of 353 runs, Bangladesh A players did show a lot of commitment in the second innings as Zakir Hasan (81 batting) and Test star Najmul Hossain Shanto (56 batting, 124 balls) added 101 runs for the unbroken second wicket stand.

This was after Zakir and Mamhmodul Hasan Joy (21, 88 balls) added 71 for the opening stand and constructed a platform for consolidation.

For India, the only successful bowler during their 63 overs of vigil on the day was left-arm orthodox Saurabh Kumar (1/45 in 18 overs).

Saurabh got his fifth wicket of the match by having Joy caught by Jayant Yadav after nearly two wicket-less hours.

Taskin Ahmed ruled out of opening ODI vs India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bangladesh pace spearhead Taskin Ahmed has been ruled out of the opening ODI against India in Mirpur on December 4 due to a recurring back pain, chairman of selectors Minhazul Abedin said.

"Taskin is ruled out from the opening game of the ODIs as his back pain recurred," BCB chief selector Minhajul told Cricbuzz on Thursday. "We will be seeing his progress before taking further decision regarding his participation," he added.

Veteran opener Tamim Iqbal has sustained groin injury in the warm-up game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on November 30.

"We are waiting for Tamim's scan report. He had a groin injury and physician asked him to have a scan to take a decision about his availability," said Minhajul.



Union Youth Affairs, Sports and Information and Broadcasting Minister Shri Anurag Thakur with National Sports Awards winners in New Delhi on Wednesday night.

Would have felt hurt if Pandya or DK hit me for sixes: Rauf



PTI ■ KARACHI

Haris Rauf believes that no player in world cricket save the peerless Virat Kohli could have hit him for those two sixes in that thrilling India victory against Pakistan in the T20 World Cup match in October.

Speaking for the first time to a Pakistani website about those two hits, Rauf said he had Hardik Pandya or Dinesh Karthik hit him like that, he would have felt "hurt". Kohli's unbeaten 83 off 52 balls, considered as one of the greatest T20 innings, saw India beat arch-rivals Pakistan by four wickets.

Needing 28 off the last eight balls, Kohli first lofted Rauf down the ground with a back-foot punch for the ages and then flicked him behind square to basically close the game before

last over.

"That was his class and the kind of shots that he plays, and the two sixes that he hit, I don't think any other player could hit those kind of shots. Had Dinesh Karthik or Hardik Pandya hit me like that, I would have been hurt but that was Kohli, and that's different class," Rauf told 'Cricwick' website in an interview.

The first six hit down the ground is something that Rauf isn't able to comprehend even after a month.

"I had no idea that he (Kohli) can hit me down the ground off that length. So when he hit that shot off me, that's his class. My plan and execution was fine but that shot was all class."

Rauf's plan was to give left-arm spinner Mohammed Nawz at least 20-run cushion for the

last over but Kohli's brilliance upset his plans.

"Look, India required 31 off the last 12 balls. I had given away only three runs off four deliveries. I knew Nawaz was bowling the last over, he is a spinner and I had tried to leave at least four big boundaries for him and leave at least more than 20 runs," said Rauf.

"And since 28 were required off last eight balls, I bowled three slower one and he was deceived. I had only bowled one quick ball out of four. So the idea was to bowl a slower one on that back-of-a-length zone since the dimensions of square boundary was bigger."

Rauf said he has shared a good rapport with Kohli, having bowled to him at the India nets during the 2018-19 series when the last Test was held at the SCG.

"I was playing Grade 1 club cricket in Sydney and I had bowled to the Indian team. Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Ravi Shastri, they have always met me with lot of warmth. Ravi Shastri, in fact, during World Cup told me that he was so happy to see my success and transition."

"Kohli has also been very appreciative. He told me that you bowled at our nets and now it is good to see you do well at international level."

Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjape named in new CAC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India players and national selectors Ashok Malhotra and Jatin Paranjape will join Sulakshana Naik in the three-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) which will be entrusted with the duty of picking the new selection panel later this month.

Malhotra replaced former India seamer Madan Lal and Paranjape came in place of Rudra Pratap Singh, who has joined Mumbai Indians as a talent scout. Only former women's international Naik remained from the last committee.

"Malhotra has represented India in seven Tests and 20 ODIs and recently served as the President of the Indian Cricketers' Association. Paranjape has played four ODIs for India and was part of the senior men's selection Committee," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said.

In November, the BCCI had sacked the entire selection panel headed by Chetan Sharma. The other members were Harvinder Singh, Sunil Joshi and Debasish Mohanty.

It is understood that Chetan, despite his unceremonious dumping and adverse performance report after India's semi-final debacle at the T20 World Cup, has reapplied alongside Harvinder.

Maharashtra meet Saurashtra in Vijay Hazare final

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Saurashtra's battle hardened domestic veterans will meet their match in Maharashtra's destructive power hitters as domestic doyens Jaydev Unadkat and Ruturaj Gaikwad square off in what promises to be an enticing grand finale of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Friday.

If Unadkat's opening spell literally sealed the semifinal against Karnataka, it is Gaikwad's 'Daddy Hundreds' that has put Maharashtra's total beyond reach of good batting outfits like UP and Assam.

A cursory glance at the statistics will show how Saurashtra's road to final has been paved by their bowlers while Maharashtra's batters have done all the heavy-lifting till the summit clash.

Actually Gaikwad didn't even play the initial few games and in just four matches has piled up 552 runs, including the List A record breaking seven sixes in a scintillating 220 against UP and followed it up with 168 in the semifinal against Assam.

His teammate Ankit Bawne, a domestic bulwark with 571 runs in eight games is the team's top run-getter so far. Rahul Tripathi, another white-ball specialist, who with 524 runs during the league phase, completes a worthy triangle.

Tripathi, however isn't available anymore as he is in Bangladesh for the short three-match ODI series.

Compare this to Saurashtra's batting stats, Samarth Vyas (431 runs) is topping the run-charts but save his double hundred at the early part of the tournament, the scores dried up



as the tournament progressed.

Wicketkeeper Harvik Desai has been a steady influence with 390 runs that included a couple of hundreds and some clean glove-work behind the stumps.

But just like Ruturaj's presence gives Maharashtra a formidable look, it is Unadkat, Saurashtra's 'Man of All Seasons', who can still make opposition batters wary with his subtle skills and art of knowing how to pick wickets at a level which is a notch below the international standard.

He had 67 wickets in Saurashtra's Ranji Trophy winning season and in this edition of Vijay Hazare, he has so far taken 18 wickets at an economy rate of 3.43 across nine games.

His partners in crime are long-time teammate and left-arm orthodox Dharmendra Jadeja (15 wickets at 3.61) and the wily Chetan Sakariya (12 wickets at 4.78).

Incidentally, none of the main Saurashtra bowlers, including their seam bowling all-rounders Chirag Jani (7 wickets at 4.34) and Prerak Mankad (7 wickets at 3.92) have been taken apart this season.

Therefore, Maharashtra will have their task cut out at the Narendra Modi Stadium where toss will play an important factor.

Maharashtra's batting can send shivers down the spine but Saurashtra, with a more measured performance this season, would know that save Gaikwad and Bawne, the others of late haven't had a lot of batting time and they could use that to their advantage.