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WORLD 5

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON IRAN NUCLEAR PLANT MONEY 6

24TH TRANCHE OF ELECTORAL BONDS ON SALE FROM MON

SPORT 8

FIR AGAINST LAKSHYA, COACH VIMAL FOR AGE FRAUD

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EC warns against urban voter apathy

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

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



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

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

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

ELHI DECIDES TODAY China increasing

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

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

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

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

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



Security personnel at a polling booth ahead of MCD elections at Gole Market in New Delhi on Saturday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Guj opposes in SC

bail for Godhra train

forays into Indian Ocean: Navy chief

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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forces also present in the 'vital Elaborating upon the importance of the Indian Ocean, Kumar said large amount of trade transits through the sea lanes of the region, besides energy supply of several nations. The Indian Navy keeps track of the ships and will not allow vessels inim-

ical to the country's interest, the

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

IFFI jury stands with Lapid on 'Kashmir Files' issue

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

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



Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon took exception to these remarks and asked the filmmaker to apologise. The India jury member Sudipto Sen

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

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

Continued on Page 2

Envoy gets hate mail

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

Details on P4

The Gujarat Government has opposed in the Supreme Court the bail pleas of

attack accused

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

some convicts of the 2002 Godhra train burning case, saying they were not mere stone-pelters and their acts prevented people from escaping the burning coach.

Continued on Page 2

Misconceptions spread by Allopathy

Save yourself and the country from the misconceptions spread by pharma and medical industry. Let's make India disease free.

The life of the people taking medicines for years to control diseases like the B.P., Sugar, Thyroid, Asthma, and cholesterol etc. has become hell due to the side effects of these medicines and prolonged diseases. With scientific research on the knowledge obtained from great sages like Charak, Sushrut, Dhanvantari and Patanjali, we have succeeded in rooting out the disease and making crores of people completely free from all diseases.

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Ban mobile phones in temples: HC to TN Govt

¬he Madras High Court has directed the Tamil Nadu Government to implement a ban against the usage of mobile phones in temples across Tamil Nadu, "so as to maintain the purity and sanctity.

Justice R Mahadevan and Justice J Sathya Narayana Prasad of the HC bench here gave the direction to the State Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (HR&CE) Department on Friday while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL).

Petitioner M Seetharaman sought a direction to the authorities concerned to take effective measures to prohibit the possession and usage of android cellphones inside the premises of Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple at Tiruchendur in Tuticorin district in the State. It is one of the six abodes of Lord Muruga. Among others, the

petitioner contended that since the said temple is an ancient shrine, for free and peaceful dharsan, the usage of camera to videograph or photograph the Deeparathanai, poojas and other rituals is a hindrance. All the devotees are in possession of mobile phones and they take photographs or videos within the premises of the temple, without any restrictions.

Taking photographs of the valuable idols is not only contrary to the Agama Rules (related to a temple's rituals), but also endangers the security of the temple and its valuables,

he submitted.

The petitioner also expressed apprehension of photographs of women devotees being taken without their consent, which will be

The court was informed by the temple authorities that steps have been taken to impose restrictions for usage of cell phones by the priest, devotees, public and others inside the shrine, appoint self-help groups to supervise the usage of cell phones and set up security counters for deposit of cell

Kolkata Police books Rawal for hate speech in Gujarat polls rally



The Kolkata Police has booked actor Paresh Rawal under different sections of the IPC on a complaint filed by CPI(M) State secretary Md Salim, who alleged that he delivered "hate speech" against the Bengali community during an election rally of the BJP in Gujarat.

A case has been registered against Rawal under IPC sections 153 (provocation with intent to cause riot), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups), 153B (propagates denial of rights to linguistic or racial groups), 504 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 505 (statements intending public mischief), police said in a communication to Salim.

TMC leader among 3 dead in East Midnapore blast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Hours before TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee was to hold a rally at Contain in East Midnaporé a bomb blast – barely 40 km from the rally venue — left three dead and as many others injured.

The blast occurred inside the house of local TMC booth president Rajkumar Manna of village Nariabelia Bhupatinagar area sources said adding Manna and his brother Debkumar and another person Biswajit Gayen died in the blast.

The three persons' charred bodies were recovered some one km away from Manna's house which was blown off under the impact of the explosion.

While the police were tightlipped about the blast locals alleged the blast occurred late on Friday night when the trio were making crude bombs reportedly for the forthcoming panchayat

At least a dozen people including three children have died in at least 28 incidents of



blasts and firing in the past one month leading the opposition parties to allege that the blasts were a result of TMC's preparations for the coming panchayat elections.

While almost the entire house of the Mannas caved in under the impact of the blast the victim's wife said soon after the blast some people barged into the house and ran away with the dead bodies of the victims which explained why the corpses were found about a km away from the place of incident.

Soon after the incident the BJP demanded and NIA investigation into the explosion while the Left. The district police administration however said that the cause of the blast was not yet known and investigations were on.

Court discharges Umar Khalid, Saifi in 2020 Delhi riots case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Acity court has discharged former JNU student Umar Khalid and United Against Hate founder Khalid Saifi in a case related to the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. The FIR in the case was registered on the basis of the statement of Constable Sangram Singh who said a riotous mob had pelted stones on Main Karawal Nagar Road, besides setting ablaze several vehicles in a nearby parking lot on February 24,

Special Public Prosecutor Madhukar Pandey confirmed that Umar Khalid and Khalid Saifi were discharged in the matter by the court of Additional Sessions Judge Pulastya Pramachala.

"The battle has been quite tough but we are positive about getting justice", said father of Jmar Khalid who was discharged in a case related to the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. Expressing hope that his son will be released from jail soon,



putting up a brave fight.

Khalid is accused in several other cases and facing charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with the larger conspiracy behind the riots and these matters are pending in court.

The duo will continue to remain in jail as both have not received bail so far in the case related to the larger conspiracy of Delhi riots registered under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Ilyas said.

"By the grace of Almighty Allah and due to the continuous and exemplary efforts of senior advocate Triderp Pais and his team, Umar Khalid and Khalid Saifi has been discharged in the Delhi riot case of FIR 101.

Gangster shot dead in Rajasthan

A gangster was shot dead by four men at the gate of his house in Rajasthan's Sikar district on Saturday, police said.

Raju Theth, who had several criminal cases against him and was on bail, was the rival of dreaded criminal Anandpal Singh, who was killed in a police encounter in June 2017.

Four assailants opened fire at Theth at the main gate of his house on Piprali road under Udyog Nagar police station, Superintendent of Police Rasthradeep

Efforts are being made to trace the suspects. Haryana and Jhunjhunu borders have been sealed, police said.

Soon after the murder, a person named Rohit Godara, who introduced himself from Lawrence Bishnoi gang, claimed responsibility on Facebook, saying it was the revenge for Anandpal Singh and Balbir Banuda.

Banuda, a gangster who was a member of the Anandpal gang, was killed in a gang war in Bikaner jail in July 2014.

Hyderabad varsity professor arrested for misbehaving with foreign student

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

University of Hyderabad A(UoH) professor was taken into custody for allegedly trying to misbehave with a foreign student, police said on Saturday.

The 62-year-old man was booked for allegedly attempting to outrage the woman's modesty and for sexual harassment and the case was registered under

Penal Code (IPC) on a complaint by a university

The professor has been placed under suspension by the

The professor, who works in Hindi department, allegedly took the woman, who hails from Thailand, to his residence Friday evening saying he would take Hindi classes and tried to misbehave with her. He was alone at home when the

Women to serve as sailors in warships after Agniveer training

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Women will now serve as sailors in warships, submarines and other operational areas after getting trained as Agniveers in the next one year or so, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said here on

Giving details of the women now getting inducted for the first time as sailors in the Navy, he said 341 of them are now undergoing training after getting selected as Agniveers under the newly introduced Agnipath scheme. Overall, 3,000 Agniveers including 341 women were selected after the Agnipath scheme was rolled out on June 14 this year. Kumar termed the Agnipath scheme as



He said women were selected as per standard norms and after training all sailors will be posted according to their capabilities. He also said the Navy is committed to gender neutrality adding

inducting women sailors for the first

The Navy chief also said from next year women officers will be posted in all branches of the Navy adding women officers are serving in the force for the last 17 to 18 years. Commodore Shantanu Jha said the 341 women sailors would be inducted into 29 trades in the Navy.

On budgetary allocation, the Navy Chief said this year it was 17.8 % which is quite adequate and in terms of spending they have been able to manage it "quite well" and have achieved a Revenue to Capital expenditure ratio of 32%-68%, which he said accords "flexibility in pursuing their capability developments

China increasing forays in Indian Ocean: Navy...

From Page 1 On the issue of the Quad formation, the Navy chief said it is not a military treaty. Likeminded countries having democratic traditions have come together to form the grouping, Admiral Kumar said. China has all along criticised the Quad grouping claiming it will lead to the militarisation of the Indo-Pacific Region. US, Japan, India and Australia are part of the Quad grouping and regularly hold the Malabar series of naval exercises in the Indo-Pacific.

Besides these operational the Navy chief said the

carrier (IAC) II or prefer a repeat order for the IAC I, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar while setting a timeline of 2047 for making his force 'Atmanirbhar' (self-

Kumar said the proposed procurement of a fleet of Predator drones from the US is under process and that the Navy is on course for a major capability enhancement to deal myriad security The Chief also said an

exercise is underway in the force to shed the colonial past view that we have to get away contemplating whether to from this "Ghulami ki go for indigenous aircraft mansikta" (slave mentality).

Navy, he said assurances have been given to the government that the force will become 'Atmanirbhar' (self reliant) by 2047 and several measures are being initiated to meet the

On modernisation of the

'We are still working on what size it should be and what its capabilities should be. Right now we have put a hold on it because we have just commissioned INS Vikrant. We are quite happy with the ship. The way the ship performed in the trial," Admiral Kumar said when

The Navy has been making a strong push for having the IAC-II having a displacement

of 65,000 tonnes which was estimated to cost close to Rs 50,000 with the envisaged specifications.

India's first indigenouslybuilt aircraft carrier INS Vikrant (IAC I) was commissioned in September. The aircraft carrier, with a displacement of 40,000 tonnes, was built at a cost of around Rs 23,000 crore.

The Navy Chief also said the Light Combat Aircraft (naval version) project will significantly help in developing the proposed next generation deck-based fighters.

developing the next generation fighters to be operated from the deck which is something called

the twin engine deck-based fighters," he said.

"We are preparing the draft cabinet note for that. We are confident that by 2026, we should have the prototype," he said.

The Navy Chief said production of the aircraft would start by 2032.

Asked about procurement of the Predator drones, he said the case for it is under process.

The original proposal was to procure 30 MQ-9B Predator armed drones at a cost of over USD 3 billion to crank up along the frontier with China as well as in the Indian Ocean

IFFI jury stands with Lapid on Kashmir Files...

From Page 1

Though the handle has not been verified by Twitter, Lapid confirmed to The Wire that the statement put out by the Twitter account was authentic and that the jury members had emailed him a copy, the website stated.

The statement reads: "At the festival's closing ceremony, Nadav Lapid, the jury's president, made a statement on behalf of the jury members, stating: "We were all of us ed and shocked by the 15th film, The Kashmir Files, that felt to us like a vulgar

inappropriate for an artistic competitive section of such a prestigious film festival." "We stand by his statement.

"And to clarify, we were not taking a political stance on the film's content. We were making an artistic statement, and it saddens us greatly to see the festival platform being used for politics and subsequent personal attacks on Nadav. That was never the intention of the jury." The statement is signed by filmmakers Gotoh, Angulo Barturen.

The Wire said its email to

response, however, Sebastien Farcis, Delhi correspondent of the French newspaper Liberation managed to speak to

two of them for a story he filed.

The French film editor Pascale Chavance, he wrote, gave her full support to Nadav Lapid. "It is so obvious that it is a propaganda film," Farcis quoted her saying, the website pointed out. Spanish director Javier Angulo Barturen concurred: "I completely agree with what Nadav Lapid said in majority opinion within the

EC warns against urban voter...

From Page 1

The first phase of voting was held for 89 seats in



CHANGE OF NAME

shall hereafter be known as was 66.79 per cent. Mohit Khatwani for all future purposes.

Name of the

Saurashtra, Kutch and south the state at 62.53 per cent, 13 Gujarat on December 1. 'Urban apathy continues

unabated from Shimla to Surat. ECI appeals to voters of Gujarat to come out in large numbers during second phase to compensate for low voting in phase," the ECI spokesperson tweeted. In Guiarat, voter turnout in

Surat, Raikot and Jamnagar I, hitherto known as Mohit was lower than the overall 63.3 S/o Sh. Nanak Chand R/o per cent in the first phase of A-1/152, 2nd Floor, Sector- Gujarat assembly elections, the 16, Rohini, Delhi-110085, poll panel said. The voting have changed my name and election in Gujarat in 2017

The urban assembly seat of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh

percentage points less than the state average of 75.6 per cent. Though overall the voting percentage increased marginally in Himachal Pradesh in 2022 compared to 2017 (74.17 percent), too many voters shied away from polling stations in urban centres in the State.

The Election Commission said the voting percentage increased in many constituencies in Gujarat in the first-phase polling but the overall turnout was diminished by the urban apathy to voting in key districts such as Surat, Rajkot and Jamnagar.

Election Chief Commissioner Rajiv Kumar to come out in large numbers during the second-phase polling on December 5 to make up for the low voting in the first phase. The possibility of surpassing the 2017 voting percentage now depends on their increased participation, he said, according to the Election Commission.

There was a visible difference in the turnouts between rural and urban constituencies. The difference is as wide as 34.85 percentage points between the rural constituency of Dediapada in Narmada district (82.71 per cent) and the urban seat of Gandhidham (47.86 pc), a sharp decline of 6.34 percentage points from the 2017 turnout.

own low of 55.91 per cent in

"Within many districts, rural constituencies have voted much more than the urban constituencies. For example, in Rajkot, there is a decline (in turnout) in all the urban assembly constituencies," it

Guj opposes in SC bail for Godhra...

From Page 1

From Page 1

Pathak said. "We are collating

magic shows, to reach out to

On February 27, 2002, 59 people were killed when the S-6 coach of Sabarmati Express was burnt at Godhra, triggering the riots in the state.

The matter came up for hearing on Friday before a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha.

The apex court, while asking the state to specify the individual roles of the convicts, observed that bail pleas of those who were accused of stone pelting could be considered as they have already spent 17-18 years in jail.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state of Gujarat, said these convicts threw stones on the train to 11 convicts in the Godhra train burning

which prevented people from escaping the case. burning coach.

"It is not a case of mere stone pelting," he told the bench.

Mehta told the bench that appeals filed by the convicts in the top court against the October 2017 verdict of the Gujarat High Court, which had upheld their conviction in the case, could be listed for hearing. He told the bench that he would

examine the individual roles of these convicts and apprise the bench about it. The bench has posted the matter for

further hearing on December 15. In its October 2017 judgement, the high court had commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence awarded

It had upheld the life sentence awarded to 20 other convicts in the case. On November 11, the apex court had extended the period of interim bail granted to one of the convicts until

March 31, 2023. It had noted that on May 13, the top court had granted him interim bail for six months on the ground that his wife was suffering from terminal stage cancer and

his daughters were differently-abled. In its November 11 order, the bench had noted that having due regard to the situation which continues to subsist, "we extend the period of interim bail until March 31, 2023 on the same terms and

PD(90210)A recorded the lowest turnout in appealed to the voters of Gujarat The latest turnout was a new low, the EC said. The second lowest voting SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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was in the Karanj constituency of Surat, which was also 5.37 percentage points lower than its

"Had the voting percentage these assembly constituencies been even equal to the level of their own voting percentage in 2017 election, the state average would have been more than 65 per cent," the EC underlined in a statement.

voters. The stakes are high for Dependra Pathak, special the AAP as it aims to unseat the commissioner of law and order BJP that has ruled the civic body for the last 15 years, and in Zone I, said policing focussed on the MCD election the party is banking on the for the past six-eight weeks. image of Kejriwal as the leader There is a focus on routine who has provided the denizens policing, staying alert and gathering local intelligence, with free electricity and water

and will live up to the promises

made in the municipal

most important issue in the

the information and analysing elections too.The MCD polls and strategising the area-wise will decide whether Kejriwal's charisma is still intact in the national capital or people have The AAP conducted more than 14,862 public meetings, still faith in the BJP in civic including jansamvaads, nukkad sabhas, door-to-door body. n a fiercely fought electoral battle, the AAP hopes campaign, padyatras, nukkad the popularity of Kejriwal will nataks, dance for democracy, work to its advantage. The MCD elections is the problem of inefficient disposal of garbage and the landfills in the city brimming over with waste. During the 13-day run,

the BJP organised over 1,000 roadshows, street-corner meetings, door-to-door campaigns with top party leaders, including National President JP Nadda, senior Union ministers and chief ministers of party-ruled states. As many as 19 Union ministers including Hardeep Singh Puri, Piyush Goval, Anurag Thakur, chief ministers of six states- Manohar Lal Khattar, Jairam Thakur, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Pushkar

ministers and 31 MPs took part in the campaign and targeted the AAP, with Kejriwal often in their crosshairs. campaigners Hema Malini, Yogi Adityanath and Smriti Irani did not campaign in the MCD and they remained busy

Singh Dhami, two deputy chief

in Gujarat. This will be the first civic election after the fresh delimitation exercise, and the poll will be held days after the first phase of the Guiarat assembly elections, and a day ahead of its second phase. Authorities have set up 13,638 polling stations across Delhi for the exercise.

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MCD poll: Security upped in Capital

40K police personnel, 20K Home Guards and 108 companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed to ensure smooth conduct of election

Elaborate security arrangements have been made for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls in the national Capital on Sunday. As many as 40,000 police personnel, 20,000 home guards as well as 108 companies of paramilitary and State armed police forces have been deployed to ensure smooth conduct of the MCD election on Sunday. Sixty drones will also be used to ensure law and order in sensi-

A general briefing and rehearsals have been conducted for the police, paramilitary, battalion force and home guards to ensure smooth execution of security arrange-Commissioners of Police and inspectors held meetings with peace committee members of

en public-police relationship The officials sensitised them to become "eyes and ears" of police and report on 1090 regarding anything suspicious.

the respective areas to strength-

The staff was sensitised to exhibit impartial conduct, remain vigilant for any miscreants and to carry out duties in compliance with the Model Code of Conduct, North Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Sagar Singh Kalsi

said.

"Approximately 40,000

Delhi Police personnel, 20,000 homeguards from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, along with 108 coys (companies) of Central Armed Police Forces and State Armed Police have been deployed for duties," said Anand Mishra, DCP (operations and election). A company comprises around 70-80 security person-

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Zone II Sagar Preet Hooda said survey of all the sensitive polls and booths had been done. "We have a strong deployment of force in the sensitive poll booths. Area-wise specific plans have also been prepared,"

Senior district-level officers have been asked to stay in the office during the night, while

directed to attend any call related to gang fights, clashes or issues that might have a communal colour. "Visibility and immediate intervention are required to Hooda said. "For election, we prevent any situation from

have got 108 coys (compa-

nies) of Central and State

for the past six-eight weeks.

policing, staying alert and gathering local intelligence, Pathak

said. "We are collating the

information and analysing and

strategising the area-wise data."

also analysing the kind of can-

didates and demographic com-

position of the area. For

instance, if certain areas have

more slum clusters, they

become more sensitive, he said.

on strongrooms where elec-

tronic voting machines (EVMs)

will be stored, counting centres

and polling centres based on

their status — whether critical

done, Pathak said.

Police are also keeping tabs

The officer said police were

There is a focus on routine

the officer said.

armed police forces," he said. breaches of peace. Checking of vehicles has gone up and individuals are Sixty drones will be used in ensuring law and order in the sensitive zones of each district, also being searched to ascertain which has been given four-five unmanned aerial vehicles each, if any illegal weapon is being carried, he said. "We have a very detailed police arrange-Dependra Pathak, special commissioner of law and order ment. Thousands of our personnel, including outside in Zone I, said policing focussed on the MCD election

sonnel, including outside forces, will be deployed for the election process," he said.

Five-six companies of paramilitary forces will be deployed in each district to protect the strongrooms. There will be CCTV cameras and 24/7 police presence to check the comings and goings

police inspectors have been

going out of hand," he said,

addressing apprehensions over

Stressing that the role of the police did not end with the elections, Pathak said it was also important to maintain security post counting and celebratory functions.

'To have seamless coordination with the Election Commission and civic agencies involved in the conduct of elections, we are here with a focused role of maintaining law and order and providing a very safe and secure environment," Pathak said.

Homeguard, paramilitary forces and flying squads will be "If anything is going to disaccordingly deployed and a detailed arrangement has been turb this, then professional police and legal action will be

against AAP after MCC 'violation' in Yoga event

A day ahead of the high-stakes municipal elections in Delhi, poll authorities on Saturday directed police to take necessary action and "lodge an FIR" for alleged violation of the model code of conduct during an event organised by the AAP in the nation-

al Capital.

The alleged model code of conduct (MCC) violation took place at the event -- 'Dilli ki Yogshala: Yog Prashikon ko Samman Rashi Ka Vitran' held on Friday at the Constitution Club, which was attended by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia.

The action by the New Delhi District Election Officer (DEO) comes after the BJP's Delhi unit on Friday alleged an MCC violation by Kejriwal and lodged a complaint with the State Election Commission. Following the complaint, the State Election Commission (SEC) had written to the New (SEC) had written to the New Delhi District's DEO, saying the event had been brought to the commission's notice.

Delhi district election administration on Saturday said, due permission was taken for the event for a gathering of around 150 people and the AAP organised the event in which the CM and his deputy were present when cheques were being dis-

"A violation has been found in this, and an action taken report has been submitted to the State Election Commission. Police authorities have been directed to lodge an FIR," he said.

tributed to many yoga instruc-

According to the letter dated December 3 sent by New Delhi district election authorities, the DEO has directed to "take necessary action and lodge the FIR immediately for committing violation of MCC by the AAP".

In the letter sent by the office of the New Delhi DEO to the SEC in connection with the event associated with the distribution of honorarium to yoga instructors, it said that poll authorities swung into action after receiving the communication from the SEC.

Poll body seeks action BJP looking to retain MCD for 4th time

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

s the voting for the As the voting for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will start on Sunday, the BJP is looking to retain its clout over MCD in the polls, whereas the AAP is looking forward to repeat the success of Delhi Assembly elections in MCD and the Congress is looking forward to regain its turf over the years. The BJP has claimed to win at least 150-200 seats while the AAP claimed to win over 200 seats. The political parties have appealed the people to vote for the MCD on Sunday.

On Saturday, political parties and their candidates remained busy in booth management and ensuring party workers to each polling booths. The candidates were also busy

in chalking strategy to bring out people to cast their votes. In the high decibel 13-day campaigning, the BJP leaders claimed victory in the election for 250 MCD wards on December 4 and mounted an all-out attack on the AAP and its convener Arvind Kejriwal over corruption. AAP leaders led by Arvind Kejriwal attacked the BJP with equal vigour, raising issues such as

landfills in the city and "cor- national capital since 2015 in ruption" during the saffron party's 15-year-rule at the municipal corporations.

The AAP in its manifesto

also promised waste management and a solution to landfills. It also promised beautification of parks among other promises. Kejriwal also promised to make the MCD corruption-free and solve vehicle-parking problems.

Earlier this year, the BJPruled Centre unified the three corporations in the national capital into MCD reducing the number of wards from 272

BJP national vice president and incharge of the party's Delhi unit Baijayant Panda claimed that the city voters will vote for development. "The BJP is going to secure a comfortable majority in the MCD," Panda said.

Kejriwal had earlier claimed during the campaigning that the BJP will not secure more than 20 wards. The three main parties have fielded candidates in all the 250 wards, with 1,349 in the fray in all. As many as 1.45 crore people are eligible to cast their votes. The Congress, which has suffered back-to-back drubbing in the parliamentary, assembly and municipal corporations polls, will try to redeem itself with a

notable performance this time.
The Congress has promised RO water purifiers to poor, waiver of due house tax, and day-boarding at MCD-run schools. The Congress has also promised to resolve landfill issues in Delhi related to waste

Meanwhile, the infighting in Congress spilled over to Delhi ahead of the MCD polls as former CM Sheila Dikshit's son Sandeep Dikshit hit out at his party colleague Devender Yadav. Reacting to a photo of a press conference by Delhi Congress leaders on Friday, Dikshit objected to his presence on the stage.

According to the former Lok Sabha MP, Yadav did his best to humiliate his mother, a three-time Chief Minister of Delhi, when she was alive. Yadav served as an MLA from the Badli constituency and is serving as the AICC in-charge for Uttarakhand.

In the 2017 municipal corporation polls, the BJP trounced AAP and Congress, winning 181 of 270 wards on which polls were held.

Liquor sale continues despite dry days in Delhi-NCR

Noida: There was hardly any impact on liquor sales in Noida till Saturday evening amid implementation of dry days in Delhi due to the municipal corporation elections on Sunday.

Usually, liquor vends in the border areas of Noida, Uttar Pradesh, witness a rush of customers from Delhi during dry days in the national Capital, given the porous borders of the two adjoining cities. Gautam Buddh Nagar Excise



officer Rakesh Bahadur Singh said there are around 100 government authorised liquor stores in Noida, of which

around two dozen are located in areas in close proximity to Delhi. "Usually, during such situations, liquor vends in Noida witnessed a sudden spike in number of customers from

However, nothing of that sorts was seen today. The sales have been normal and no unusual rush has been reported so far," the officer told PTI.

He said statistics related to sales of liquor from stores in Noida from Friday to Sunday would be analysed on Monday and that might confirm if there has been any impact of Delhi's dry days to the excise revenue of Uttar Pradesh. Elections to 250 wards of

Municipal Corporation of Delhi are scheduled for Sunday. The counting of votes will be held on December 7. In view of the elections and vote count, Delhi's excise department had on December 1 banned sale

liquor sale from 5.30 pm of December 2 (Friday) up to 5.30 pm of December 4 (Sunday).

Due to dry days, tipplers have expressed annoyance as there are marriage seasons and liquor would not be served. Even, hotels, restaurants and army mess can not serve liquor due to dry days in Delhi The excise department also announced dry day on December 7, according to an official notification.

AAP Govt introduced Lalu model in city: BJP Sisodia: BJP has turned Delhi into city



The BJP on Saturday alleged **⊥** that the AAP Government introduced the "Lalu model" in a new avatar in Delhi and bungled crores of rupees by enlisting fake names as beneficiaries under the construction workers' welfare board. It is "Delhi's Lalu model," alleged Union Minister Anurag Thakur at a Press conference, a day before the Municipal Corporation of Delhi polls.
Rashtriya Janta Dal supre-

mo Lalu Prasad was convicted in the fodder scam of Bihar and was in jail in cases related to it. "There (Bihar), cattle feed was gobbled up, here (Delhi) labourers' right were denied," Thakur claimed and alleged that Kejriwal and "his friends" bungled crores in the name of welfare of construction workers in Delhi. The Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) of the Delhi government has found that "ghost" workers were disbursed funds to the tune of Rs 900 crore by the AAP government's Labour department, official sources had said earlier.

In 2018, the ACB had registered a case after they found bogus registration of employees under the Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

"Shramik scam is a very shameful scam as it has been found in investigation so far that more than half amount i.e. about Rs 450 crore has been allotted in fake names. The Kejriwal government did not provide even minimum facilities to workers of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bengal and other states working in Delhi during Covid period and forced them to migrate from Delhi amid the pandemic.

LoP to Kejriwal: Withdraw of garbage mounds, stray animals charges against BJP or be ready to face legal action

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{he\ Leader\ of\ Opposition\ in}_{Delhi\ Assembly,\ Ramvir}$ Singh Bidhuri, has asked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to withdraw within 24 hours the allegations levelled against the BJP for shutting down yoga classes in Delhi. "If he does not withdraw these allegations while apologising in 24 hours, legal action will be taken against him.

"To get sympathy vote in the MCD, Kejriwal is blaming the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena for the closure of yoga classes in the national capital. But the fact is that the government itself allowed to shut the "Dilli ki Yogshala" pro-

"Delhi CM is in the habit of lying in public before the election just to secure votes. He knows that the yoga classes which were being held in the city after neglecting all the rules and regulations and the



Lieutenant -Governor has no role in the closure of these classes," said Bidhuri.

"The governing board of an autonomous institute Delhi Pharmaceutical Science & Research University (DPSRU)was given the responsibility to run yoga classes in Delhi. This university has neither resources nor experts for it due to which the governing board of this university itself has decided to stop these class-



Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), saying it turned Delhi into a pile of garbage in last 15 years.

The BJP, which was in MCD for 15 years, turned the country's Capital into a pile of garbage and the capital of stray animals," Sisodia's tweet read.

"This time the public will form @ArvindKejriwal government in MCD also to make Delhi clean and beautiful," he wrote further. Sisodia also said that no

matter how much BJP conspire but they can not stop 'Dilli ki Yogshala'. "This is the result of @ArvindKejriwal ji's efforts of making yoga a people's revo-lution, that today yoga has reached the poorest of the poor", he said in subsequent

"Kejriwal ji's resolve to make Delhi healthy with yoga will never stop. No matter how many conspiracies the BJP does, it will not be able to stop the Yogshala of Delhi", Sisodia added in the same tweet.

As part of its campaign, the



ipal corporation. "People of Delhi believe that if Kejriwal runs MCD, only then the garbage will be cleaned from the city. On December 4, Delhittes are going to form the AAP government in the civic body by sweeping the saffron party clean with a Jhaadu," it read.

"Delhiites will form the Kejriwal Government by electing each councilor from AAP

in MCD to get rid of BJP's politics of littering the city. If there is Kejriwal Government in the municipal corporation, then Delhi will be garbage free, problems of employees will be resolved, stray animals will get homes, all works of the corporation will be done fast," the AAP has said in its statement after the campaigning

end on Friday evening.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia held a town hall with 400 traders to discuss issues faced by them while dealing with the civic body.

Aftab asks for novels in Tihar jail



New Delhi: Aftab Poonawala, who allegedly killed his live-in partner Shraddha Walker and chopped her body into 35 pieces before dumping it, has asked the Tihar administration to provide novels and literature books to read. On the request of Aftab the Tihar jail authorities gave him a copy of 'The Great Railway Bazaar', jail sources said on Saturday.

Sources said that the mur-der accused Aftab, who is currently lodged in Tihar Jail, requested police for an English novel to read inside jail. The book 'The Great Railway Bazaar: By Train Through Asia, a travelogue by American novelist Paul Theroux.

The jail authorities gave him the book as it is not based on crime and does not have content that could make him harm others or himself.

Beautification of roads to be finished by Dec-end before G-20

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI**

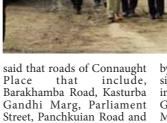
leaning and beautification Cof roads, kerbs, footpaths and central verges etc in different areas of the national Capital will be completed by the end of December this year, ahead of the G-20 summit.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, New Delhi Municipal Council chairman Amit Yadav and senior officials inspected the ongoing beautification projects on Saturday. India has assumed the Presidency of the influential group for a year from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023. Informing



about the steps taken to clean the roads, Sources in the paan/guthka stains can be NDMC said that the works of cleaning the footpaths and kerbs using recycled water through pressure hoses from

removed, have begun on a regular basis. Giving the details of the area on which the sanitation work is underway, they



Janpath etc were being cleaned

by the council. Apart from this, sites where works have begun include Khan Market, India Gate Radial, ISBT, Ring Road, Mandi House, Mathura Road, Sardar Patel Marg, Pragati

Maidan, Lodhi Road and Purana Qila Road, among others, they said. Other than cleaning, several other works are being done by the civic agency such as repair and replacement of footpaths along with fresh painting of kerb stones is also underway, sources said.

"Thousands of flower pots with seasonal plants and flowers are being put along the footpaths and earthen side verges of roads. Similarly, the central verges of all these roads are being cleaned and adorned with fresh paint and uniformwith fresh paint and uniformly planted flowering and seasonal plants," they stated."The entire exercise of repair and

plantation is expected to be completed by end of December this year and cleaning exercise will continue on a regular basis," said sources.

The NDMC plans to take up several civil, electrical and horticulture works on 41 arterial roads in New Delhi in preparation for the G20 summit, official said on Friday, adding that authority will spend upto Rs 150 crore on beautifying and rejuvenating the areas surrounding these

Officials said the NDMC will especially focus on road leading from Indira Gandhi International Airport to city, and areas where delegates will

stay and hold meetings. India is expected to host over 200 G20 meetings during its yearlong Presidency of influential group which will culminate with an annual summit on September 9 and 10 next year. Delhi is set to host a series of meetings, including a leaders' summit next year. While main site of summit

will be redeveloped exhibition and convention centre in Pragati Maidan, several meetings will take place in NDMC areas. NDMC officials said that around 190 meetings are likely to be held in areas, and 12,000 delegates are expected to visit during one year of India's presidency.

ED seizes betel nuts worth ₹11.5 cr in raids

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

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

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

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



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

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

and Gondia districts of Maharashtra," the agency said in a statement.

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

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

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EMPOWERMENT OF DIVYANGS

Make edu more accessible to divyang kids: Prez

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

wenty-five-year-old 1 Bijender Kahtana who is hearing impaired and holder of various awards in athletics, judo and basketball added yet another feather to his cap when on Saturday he along with 52 persons with varied type of disabilities was conferred with national awards by President Droupadi Murmu for their exemplary contribution in their respective fields.

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

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



President Droupadi Murmu confers the National Award for Individual Excellence 2022 — "Divvangatha Ke Sashaktikaran Ke Kshetra Mein Sarvshrestha Anusandhan/Navpravartan/Utpad Vikas" to Bhausaheb Ashok Botre, in New Delhi

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

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

for his accomplishments in the field of sports while another national awardee, a wheelchair bound Goel, with locomotor disability has been raising issues related to the construction of ramps in govern-

ment buildings in Lucknow.

Beating all odds, Pramod
Dhar Dubey, (37) having intellectual disability presently
assists in providing therapy under the supervision of a therapist, in recognition of which he was awarded by the President.

49-year old Sompura Himanshu Jayantilal, visuallyimpaired since birth, was honoured with the national award for Individual Excellence 2021 under the category 'Shrestha Divyangjan,' while the same award for similar category was taken away by Dr. Shubham Ramnarayan Dhoot, suffering with blood disorder hemophilia for his outstanding work in Ayurveda stream.

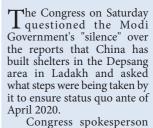
He has developed the world's first Ayurvedic proprietary medicine named "Raktamrut" for blood disorders. Raktamrut helps in the treatment of hemophilia, leukemia, low hemoglobin due to an unknown factor and Raktapitta.

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

Cong slams Modi Govt over 'Chinese shelters in Depsang'

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE



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

There was no immediate reaction from the government

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

structure in recent years with Centre giving a major boost to such efforts following eastern Ladakh standoff. November 15, Modi had met Xi Jinping, the Chinese head of state. He was not showing angry red eyes, he was in fact adorning a red shirt and I wonder what he talked about

Citing media reports, she said that in the area of Depsang, China has built temperature-regulated "shelters" that help any army personnel

as he met Xi Jinping after the

supreme sacrifice of 20 of our

bravehearts," Shrinate said at a

AICC press conference.

Control)," she alleged

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Congress on Saturday decided to take on the BJPled NDA Government on a range of issues including the latest Chinese incursions during the Winter Session of Parliament which begins on Wednesday. Besides, the party during

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

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

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

Briefing the media, AICC's chief spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said three big issues have emerged from the Congress' side for this short session of Parliament of 17 days.
"The tension between India
"the last 22

and China for the last 22 months and there has been no discussion in Parliament on the issue. The Congress would want that the issue be discussed in Parliament," he said. "The three issues are bor-

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

the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Choudhury and senior leaders Chidambaram, K C Venugopal, Manish Tewari, Javed Ansari, K Suresh and Manickam Tagore were among those who attended the meeting.
The Congress will also raise the issue of high inflation

these issues," Ramesh said.

Besides Ramesh, Congress

president and Leader of

Opposition in Rajya Sabha

Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of

and price rise, falling value of the rupee, falling exports and high Goods and Services Tax Ramesh said the Congress

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

to be stationed permanently.
"Two hundred such shelters have been built by China in our territory 15-18 km inside the LAC (Line of Actual

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

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

Four years ago, the country was ranked at the 102nd position. In the ranking, Singapore is at the top, followed by the UAE and South Korea at the second and third positions, respectively, the officials said. China is at the 49th place,



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

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

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

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

Man accused of rape after false promise of marriage granted bail

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

anticipatory bail to the appellant would not be treated as expression of opinion on the merits of the case. The case pending before the Rajasthan High Court bench in Jaipur will be decided on merits and in accordance with law, without being influenced by this order,

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

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

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

On August 6, 2021, Singh's marriage was fixed by his parents. When the complainant came to know about this, she allegedly started blackmailing, asking him to marry her and warned that she would lodge a rape case against him, the appeal said.

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

Herbs effective in cure of upper respiratory tract infections: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $F_{
m mulation}^{
m ifatrol,\ an\ ayurvedic\ for$ time-tested herbs, is effective in treatment of upper respiratory tract infections (URTI), a contagious viral and bacterial infection, according to a study published in the International Research Journal of Ayurveda and Yoga.

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

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

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

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

medicines have been seen as

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

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

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

OICICI Bank

Date: December 03, 2022

Place: Delhi/NCR

Branch Office: ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

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

	Sr. lo.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Earnest	Time of	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
	1.	(Borrower) Mr. Mukul Verma (Co Borrower) Loan Account No. LBDEL00005243194/ LBDEL00005259497	Item No 1: All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Vacant Site No 20, Formed Out Of Sy Nos. 76/1, 77, 78/2, 79 & 80 of Kambipura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Which Is Duly Converted From Agricultural Purposes To Non- Agricultural Residential Purposes, Vide Conversion Order No. ALN(S)SR(K)/48/ 2012-13, Dated 10/01/2013, Issued By The Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District And The Layout Is Approved By Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Vide No. Bda/tpm/prl-16/2013-14/6878/2013-14, Dated 20/03/2014 And Measuring East To West: Northern Side: 47'.00" Feet, Southern Side: 51'.40" Feet, North To South: Eastern Side: 30'.33" Feet Western Side: 30'.00" Feet, Totally Measuring: 1484 Sq. Ft., And Bounded On The:- East By: Private Property West By: Road, North By: Site No. 19, South By: Site No. 21. Item No 2: All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Vacant Site No 21, Formed Out of Sy Nos. 76/1, 77, 78/2, 79 & 80 Of Kambipura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Which Is Duly Converted From Agricultural Purposes To Non- Agricultural Residential Purposes, Vide Conversion Order No. ALN(S)SR(K)/48/ 2012-13, Dated 10/01/2013, Issued By The Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District And The Layout Is Approved By Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Vide No. BDA/TPM/PRL-16/2013-14/6878/2013-14, Dated 20/03/2014 And Measuring East To West: Northern Side: 51'.40" Feet, Southern Side: 55'.80' Feet, North To South: Eastern Side: 30'.33' Feet Western Side: 30'.00' Feet, Totally Measuring: 1617 Sq. Ft., And Bounded On The:- East By: Private Property West By: Road, North By: Site No. 20, South By: Private Property.	Rs. 1,27,62, 339.10/- (as on December 01, 2022)	Rs. 80,00/, 000/- Rs. 8,00, 000/-	December 09, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM	December 28, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-www.disposalhub.com). The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till December 27, 2022 before 04:00 PM failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be so The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank limited, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 on or before December 27, 2022 before 05:00 PM and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before December 27, 2022 before 05:00 PM 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, 1st Floor, West Wing, DSMG, Mythri Centre, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 on or before December 27, 2022 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Bangalore.

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 9844542086/8008999536/7304918084 Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s Matex Net Pvt. Ltd. 2. M/s NexXen Solutions Private 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

> Authorized Officer **ICICI Bank Limited**

At Shanghai vigil, bold shout for Construction begins change preceded crackdown

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

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

The Nov. 26 protest in

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then patrons spilled out of a nearby bar after a World Cup match between South Korea and Uruguay, according to a friend of an early participant. Many joined the vigil, taking photos and sharing them online.
At 11:21 p.M., a popular

Twitter account tracking dissent in China posted images of the vigils, drawing the attention of many who had been scrolling anguished posts on the Urumqi

on Iran nuclear plant

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

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

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

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

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

The announcement of



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

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

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

Since September, Iran has

tests that have come to mark one of the greatest challenges to its theocracy since the chaotic years after its 1979 Islamic Revolution. The protests were sparked when Mahsa Amini, 22, died in

been roiled by nationwide pro-

custody on September 16, three days after her arrest by Iran's morality police for violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code for women. Iran's government insists

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

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

FBI Director raises national security concerns about TikTok

AP WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

Blinken designates Pak, China as religious freedom violators

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

Announcing this on Friday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said around the world, governments and non-state actors harass, threaten, jail, and even kill individuals on account of their beliefs. In some instances, they stifle individuals' freedom of reli-

gion or belief to exploit opportunities for political gain. These actions sow division, undermine economic security, and threaten political stability and peace. The US will not stand by in the face of these abuses.

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

Nicaragua, the DPRK, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as Countries of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom,"

"Our announcement of

Simultaneously, Blinken also placed Algeria, the Central Afri-

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

these designations is in keeping tively safeguard this and other



with our values and interests to protect national security and to advance human rights around the globe. Countries that effechuman rights are more peaceful, stable, prosperous and more reliable partners of the United States than those that do not, Blinken said.

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

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

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

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

es were only eligible for a work permit if the

principal applicant was working in a high-

emotional well-being, physical health and financial stability of workers by keeping fam-

ilies together. As a result, it is expected that

the worker will better integrate into their

overall work environment and communi-

porary two-year measure, Canada will

expand eligibility to work in the country to

spouses and working-age children through

a phased approach for workers at all skill lev-

estimated that family members of more than

200,000 foreign workers could begin work-

ing in Canada, offering a greater opportu-

nity for both foreign workers seeking to

work in Canada and for employers address-

phases to ensure its successful implemen-

The measure will be implemented in 3

ing their labour needs," it said.

"As a result of this new approach, it is

Starting in January 2023, through a tem-

The new measure aims to improve the

skill occupation.

ty, Fraser said.

s, the statement said.

Ukraine urges tougher Western squeeze on Russian oil prices



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

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

Russian oil shipped by sea.

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

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

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

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

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

region. According to the U.K. Defense Ministry, Russian forces "continue to invest a large element of their overall military effort and firepower" around the small Donestsk city of Bakhmut, which they have spent weeks trying to capture.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pak Head of Mission to Kabul survives

IANS ISLAMABAD

 $P^{\text{akistan's Head of Mission to}}_{\text{Kabul, Ubaid-ur-Rehman}}$ Nizamani has survived an assassination bid, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) confirmed.

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

However, a Pakistani security guard Israr Mohammad has been critically injured in the attack while protecting Niza-

mani, the Foreign Office said. It said that Pakistan's government strongly condemns the assassination attempt and attack on the embassy demanding the Afghan government conduct an immediate investigation into the incident, Geo News report-

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

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

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

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

mats from Kabul.

The spokesperson said Afghan government and enhanced security measures are being taken to protect Pakistani diplomatic personnel and mis-

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

query, MÖFA Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said

sions in Afghanistan.

Foreign Office said.

Office added.

porarily, the sources said. In response to a media

there are no plans to close the embassy or withdraw diplo-Pakistan is in contact with the



AP ■ MOSCOW

 $F_{\rm tractor\ Edward\ Snowden,}^{\rm ormer\ US\ intelligence\ contract}$

who fled prosecution after

revealing highly classified sur-

veillance programmes, has

received a Russian passport and

taken the citizenship oath,

Russian news agencies quoted

was reported as saying that

Snowden got the passport and

took the oath on Thursday,

about three months after

Russian President Vladimir

Putin granted him citizenship.

fy whether Snowden has

The reports did not speci-

Lawyer Anatoly Kucherena

his lawyer as saying Friday.

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

Tn a major move that will benefit thousands

Lof Indian professionals and other for-

eigners in Canada, the North American

country will expand its work permit eligi-

bility to the family members of Open Work

Permit (OWP) holders from next year to

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

Snowden receives Russian

renounced his US citizenship.

The United States revoked his

passport in 2013, leading to

Snowden being stranded in a

Moscow airport for weeks after

arriving from Hong Kong, aim-

Russia eventually granted

ing to reach Ecuador.



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

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

has two children.

reports were correct.

that," Price told reporters.

Israeli officer kills Palestinian after passport, takes citizenship oath stabbing bid him permanent residency. He married American Lindsay

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

AP ■ JERUSALEM Mills in 2017 and the couple

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ned Price said Friday that the US was aware of reports Snowden had finalised his Russian citizenship but could not confirm them, and referred questions about his status to the Russian government. However, Price said the Biden administration would not be surprised if the "Snowden has long signaled his allegiance to Russia, this step would only formalise

Govt to set up 4 task forces to boost telecom manufacturing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said that telecom oper-

supporting local manufactur-

"There are demands in various departments. If those demands are oragnised and channelised and are given to units under the 'make in India' and PLI then it will be a significant boost for manufac-

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

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

making world-class products.

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

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

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

'This support from the government has morally boost-

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

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

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

has got security repercussions. Chinese products are

entering into the Indian market through Bangladesh and some of them are coming directly. Many FTTH players in small cities are installing them. The last mile fibre-tothe-home (FTTH) players are estimated to account for 50 per cent market share in the segment. Government has assured us that they will work on it," Thomas said.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds. through electoral bonds.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

On Friday, Godrej Properties informed about the land transaction but did not disclose the total deal value. Market sources and prop-

erty consultants said the land deal was struck at around Rs 750 crore. Godrej Properties, which is

Godrej Group, is one of the leading real estate companies in The company has been aggressively buying land outrightly and also entering into joint development agreements

(JDAs) with landowners to

part of business conglomerate

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



a developable potential of about 3.72 million square feet.

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

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

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

this project will allow us to significantly increase our market share in Mumbai over the next several years.

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

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

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

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

of implementing wide ranging changes in its organisational structure. It is downsizing its product & engineering, corporate headquarters, and OYO Vacation Homes teams, while it adds people to the partner relationship management and the business development "OYO will downsize 10

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

Product and engineering teams are being merged for



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

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

PTI ■ NEW YORK

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

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

institutional in solution They cannot be addressed by any government or institution acting alone. They require collaborative nizations, corporations

universities, NGOs, and creative individuals," he said.

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

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



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

Describing India as Discoveries, Spirituality

and Wonders, Mr. Anand said, "The best of the scientific solution suggested through treatise Bhagavad Gita has been the universal science of the soul which talks about address all challenges through reconstruction and talks happiness is the end of all our actions." "The science that compels us to embrace divinity and divine qualities. All other bodies of knowledge are subject to change, but this body of knowledge contained is timeless - eternal. Yogis through 'Chittashuddhi' (Eternal Purity) has taught us to achieve a deep meditative state, sense of eternity and happiness." The ancient Indian wisdom and scientific achievements, he added, has helped the world measure the Speed of Light, distance between Sun and earth about the source of the light of Moon, Gravity, and gravitation, about centripetal forces, telegraphy. Through Budhyan theories of Maths to Aryabhatt we have learnt to go beyond all limitations, Brahmagupta theory of finding

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"The steady performance of the Indian office markets seen in 2022 is expected to sus-

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

ali no 35 m/ms., and 30 Sc, mirs, respectively, i.e., lobid of mirs, situated al Sector 4-C, Shatadak Nagar Yona earut, U.p., vide Registered Sale Deed dated 5.03.2018 jistration No. 2150 with Sur Registered 18.02 EXECUTE AIR STATES AND AIR STATE

E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.co Ph: 7011172764, 813020083



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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Shri Rishi Sarin S/o Davi Sarin Rio 17/195,Chilli Int Road,Phullatti Bazar, Agra Fort, Kiraoli, Agra, Uttar Pradesh- 282003 owner of DDA Plot No 6, Block EFGH,Local Shopping Centre, Masjid Moth, DELHI has applied for conversion of the aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application to LD25758CU/CON/06/12022 dated 23.11.2022 in DDA. That the original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip,Lease Deed, C Form, D Form and Occupancy Certificate of the above

Form, D Form and Occupancy Certificate of the above property have been lost, A FIR dated 26.11.2022 bearing LR no 1019557/2022against this effect has been lodged

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

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. That Mr. loginder Singh is claiming owner of Property bearing No. A-7, area measuring 200 Sq., Yds., out of Khasra No. 48/22, Situated in the area of Village Mundka, colony known as Rajdhani Park P. & TBIOKA, Nangloi, Delhi. hereinafter referred to as said property, who acquired the said property on the basis of GPA, Agreement, and will dated property on the basis of GPA, Agreement, and will dated L03.2003, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claiming owner want to sell the said property to Mr. Vishnu Kumar who is taking a Loan from Fullerton India Home Finance company Ltd. for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the owner ship of Mr. Joginder Singh in respect of the said property its sale /Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of dispute, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

XIMATE ASSOCIATES (ANOVACESE & COMMANIA). Delhi-is Ph: 011-4112527-28 kumar-associates advocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Shri Jagjit Singh S/o Bara
Singh R/o H-36 G S Apartments Sector-13 Rohini
Delhi owner of DDA Plot No 41 Transport Centre
Rohtak Road Delhi has applied for conversion of the
aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application no LD25952CL/CON/14112022 gated 14.11.2022
IDDA Table projekt be projekt by Alletment in DDA That the original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, Lease Deed, C Form, D Form and Occupancy Certificate of the above property have been lost, A FIR Dated 03.12.2022 bearing LR no 1043053/2022 against this effect has been lodged at Crime Branch Delhi. and effect has been louged at Cline branch Delin. Any persons claiming any right, inferest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address/phone No.9958643421 within 15 days from the date of publication of this state.

LER for U1950/2022/against ritis effect has been logged at Crime Branch Delhi Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address! phone No 7042477033 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write notice. The person claiming any right, interest objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CL) or Director (CL) A-Block, 2rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-23. Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer, Trans. Line Maintt. Division-8. JKPTCL Bemina, Srinagar-190010

NIT No. TLMD-8/TS/17 of 2022 dated: 30-09-2022 for "Augmentation / Re-Conductoring of Existing 220kV D/C New Wanpoh-Mir Bazar Transmission Line with HTLS Conductor, In District Anantnag & Kulgam of Kashmir Valley" is hereby extended with revised critical dates as under.

08-12-2022(15:00 Hrs) E-bids submission end date and time 09-12-2022(15:00 Hrs) Online techno commercial e-bid opening date 10-12-2022(16:00 Hrs) and time

Sd/-**Executive Engineer**

Indian startup Kheyti wins Prince William's Earthshot Prize

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

offers shelter from unpredictable elements and destructive pests and the startup also trains and supports farmers to ensure their greenhouse is as effective as possible. Kappagantulu said, "We

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

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

The results of the project Ganges into sustainable leather



have been described as "dra-

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

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

Agarwal's Phool from Uttar

Pradesh which converts flow-

ers dispersed into the river

support from the Earthshot Prize Global Alliance - a network of world-leading philanthropies, NGOs, and private sector businesses around the solutions.

this year's 15 finalists world-

All 15 will receive tailored

wide projects.

world who will help scale their The other winners of the 2022 prizes include: Mukuru Clean Stoves from Kenya in the Clean Our Air category for their processed biomass stoves; Notpla from the United Kingdom in the Build a Wastefree World category for their

biodegradable plastic made out

of seaweed; the Indigenous

for ocean conservation; and 44.01 from Oman in the Fix Our Climate category for lowcost and safe alternative to traditional methods of storing carbon. Inspired by US President John

Women of the Great Barrier

Reef from Australia in the

Revive Our Oceans category

Kennedy's Moonshot

scale innova-

tive solutions

that put the

world firmly on

a trajectory

toward a stable

climate

challenge in 1960s, the which united millions of people around the goal of putting a person on the 9066707172/9818228636 (M). moon within a decade, the Earthshot Prize aims to discover and help

73586, Email: nmamta1981@gmail.com, R/c Flat No. 66/B, Block-R, Dilshad Garden, Delhi- 12 0095, has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The documents like original Allotment/ Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession and NoC for Water & Electricity, issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 01/12/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact-Deputy director (LAB housing) D-block, 3rd floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi 0095, has applied for the conversion of aforesai

This is to inform general public that Mr. Parmod Mittal has acquired the Entire Second Floor, without roof rights Property bearing No. C-747, area measuring 516 Sq. (ds., Situated at New Friends Colony, New Delhi vide sale Deed dated 21.02.2012, Doc no. 2458 and Now, Mr. Parmod Mittal is mortgaging the above said property wit indusInd Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection he same may be raised within 07 days of this publication of Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates aw Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Towe (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Smt. Lalita Rani
Mehndirata W/o Late Shri Lok Nath, Cont. 97119-

e-mail: tlmd8jkptcl@gmail.com **EXTENSION NOTICE-IV** To invoke better response, the last date for submission of e-bids in respect of e-

1. Last Date of submission of Hard Copy of Bid

All other terms and conditions of e-NIT will remain same No. TLMD-VIII/TS/3269-72 Date:-01/12/2022 DIPK-NB-5344/22 TLMD-8, JKPTCL, Srinagar

Netherlands eliminates US in R16

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

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

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

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

But just like in 2010 against



eliminated in the round of 16. nents at the World Cup since

Ghana and 2014 against The Americans are winless in 12 Belgium, the United States was games against European oppo-

2002, losing six, and are 1-7 during the tournament's knockout Pulisic, playing four days after getting hurt during his game-winning goal against Iran,

States ahead in the third minute but Noppert, playing in only his fourth international match, blocked his point-blank shot.

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

The crowd of 44,846 was

well back from the field at renovated Khalifa International Stadium, which has an athletics track and was more subdued than the raucous spectators for the match against Iran. While the United States had

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

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

Neymar expected

to train again with

Brazil at World Cup

AP ■ DOHA, QATAR

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

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

against Serbia. Brazil doctors said they will reevaluate the injury after the training session and decide whether Neymar will be available for Monday's match against

South Korea in the round of 16. Neymar looked fine as he accompanied his teammates at Lusail Stadium on Friday.

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

Neymar, seeking his first major title with Brazil, was forced out of the 2014 World quarterfinals against Colombia. He didn't play in the 2019 Copa America because of another right ankle injury. Alex Telles and Gabriel Jesus

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

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

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

ENGLAND BONDS OVER CARDS AHEAD OF SENEGAL CLASH

 $F^{\text{or a nation that has frequent-}}$ cer's major tournaments, a card game that relies on the art of deception is strengthening the bond among England's players ahead of their match against Senegal in the World Cup round of 16. Werewolf, a game of roleplay and deduction, has become a popular pastime for the squad between games.

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

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

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



more than the seven points England recorded on its way to the knockout round and it is only one of three still undefeated. Yet the message from coach Gareth Southgate and captain Harry Kane this week has been about maintaining focus and standards.

Belgium and Germany were high-profile departures from

No other team picked up champion France, along with Argentina, Spain, Brazil and Portugal have all been on the wrong end of upsets.

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

"I think it's always difficult when you see big teams or big

 Γ he day before what was likely his last World Cup game,

Luis Suarez walked into the

room, sat down and placed

himself squarely in the spotlight

let it all out: Ghana wants to "retire you," he said to the

Uruguay forward. You are "the

devil himself." You need to apol-

ogize to my country for what

you did. Quite the reaction to a

soccer player, even if his deliberate handball more than a

decade ago is still one of the

most contentious moments in

Ghana on Friday, which still

AP ■ ASH-SHHANIYA, QATAR

poise and grace.

T ike all good pageant contes-

Ltants, Nazaa'a displayed not

only dazzling beauty but also

designed to bring cultural aware-

Uruguay's 2-0 win over

World Cup history.

Then a Ghanaian journalist

AP ■ DOHA

again.

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

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

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

The years since have been pitted with disappointment and

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

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

Suarez a World Cup great for

Uruguay, 'Devil' for others

Senegal coach Aliou Cisse ill ahead of game with England



AP DOHA

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

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

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

Uruguay, who won titles at Ajax,

mental in Atletico Madrid's first

Spanish title in seven years in

2021. In doing so, Suarez also

managed to regularly provoke

emotions on the other side of the

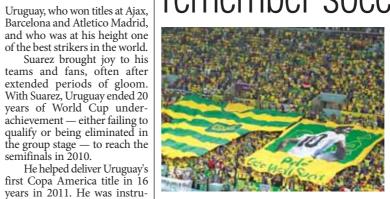
spectrum.

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

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

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

Brazil fans at World Cup game remember soccer great Pelé



 $\label{eq:problem} B_{\text{great Pel\'e}}^{\text{razilian fans showed their support for soccer}} \\ \text{great Pel\'e} \text{ ahead of the national team's match}$ against Cameroon at the World Cup on Friday. The 82-year-old Pelé, who had a colon

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

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

Cameroon first African team to beat Brazil at World Cup

AP ■ LUSAIL, QATAR

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

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

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

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

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

"I knew (Ngom Mbekeli) was a good, quality player. He just needed an opportunity to show that. Hopefully his performance can motivate other local

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

playing for the national team a year ago," Epassy said through a translator. "We can be proud of what we've done tonight. We showed that we can also be a top

play for clubs in Saudi Arabia. kar was the top scorer at the African Cup of Nations in

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

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

"No one knew me — even in Cameroon — until I started

Both Epassy and Aboubakar With eight goals in seven games, the 22-year-old Abouba-

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

haired creature that overcame standout striker. several preliminary rounds and hundreds of other camels to win the pageant at Qatar Camel Mzayen Club on Friday. The event, which was

Camel pageant among World Cup's sideline attractions ness to World Cup visitors, was sponsored by the Ministry of Sports and Youth, in conjunction with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, the local World Cup organizing

resulted in elimination for the

Uruguayans, is expected to be

Suarez's last World Cup game if

And if so, it ended the

he stays true to his pre-tourna-

international career of one of

soccer's most divisive characters,

a player who is adored in

ment pronouncement.

She batted her eyelashes committee. and flashed a toothy smile for Nazaa'a was one of 15 camels who competed for the the television cameras at the crown, parading by fans while wearing bejeweled collars and Mzayen World Cup, a pageant held in the Qatari desert about 15 miles (25 kilometers) away draped with strings of gemfrom Doha and soccer's World

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Competitors makes several pass-

ous contest: A doctor is on staff to make sure the animals don't use fillers or Botox to make them more beautiful. Last December dozens of camels were disqualified from the King Abdulaziz Camel Festival in Saudi Arabia for cosmetic enhancements. Then there's the money:

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

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

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

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

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

The focus for the next one year will primarily be on ODIs and just like the T20Is, India's approach in the 50-over format needs a sea change.

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

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

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

A few years back, Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan were automatic

picks as India's preferred ODI opening pair with hardly any questions asked or their spots being debated.

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

KL Rahul, during the last phase of Ravi Shastri's coaching stint played a few games in the middle-order but he

loves to bat at the top and has had a fair amount of success too.

Ironically, the numbers in the face of it will not give a clear indication as to who should be Rohit's opening partner for the series.

In the 19 ODI innings that Dhawan has opened for India in 2022, he had a poor strike-rate of 75.11. While between 2016-18, it used to be 101 and between

2019-21, it dipped but was still a steady 91. Rahul, who has five hundred and 10 fifties in 45 ODIs with a healthy strike-rate 85 plus and an impressive

average of 45, looks a better candidate.

For the opening match though, in case the team management wants to give rest to a jet-lagged Dhawan, who has flown all the way from Down Under to join the team in Mirpur, Rahul will Middle-Order muddle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Workload management must with some on road for two

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pakistan reaches 499-7, still trails England by 158 runs against the spinners and raised

 $E_{\text{wickets on Saturday to revive}}$ its hopes of victory against Pakistan with two days left in the first cricket Test where seven batters have so far scored cen-Pakistan reached 499-7 in its

first innings on the lifeless wicket and still trailed by 158 runs at stumps on the third day with play again ending early because of fading light. Captain Babar Azam (136),

Imam-ul-Haq (121) and Abdullah Shafique (114) all hit tons on a run-friendly wicket which even Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ramiz Raja feels is not a great advert for Test cricket. But England hit back after tea when Öllie Robinson broke the 123-run stand between Babar and debutant Saud Shakeel (37). Robinson found the outside edge of



and pace.

Shakeel's bat and Babar, who hit 19 fours and a six in his eighth hundred, played a cut against offspinner Will Jacks (3-132).

Veteran James Anderson (1-47) used all his 175-test experience on an unresponsive wicket for the bowlers, before finally he got his first wicket in his 19th over when Mohammad Rizwan (29) was caught at short mid-wicket.

Babar and Shakeel denied England success in the middle

hosts fired in all cylinders with

Harvey creating some splendid raids from the midfield.

struggled to breach a resolute

Indian defence, which was held

firmly by Sreejesh during a

colours and made a splendid

save in the second quarter to

keep Nathan Ephraums at bay.

goalless first quarter.

tom corner.

But the world No. 1 team

Pathak came out with flying

It seemed India could level

From the top of striking cir-

But India's lead lasted for

about less than five minutes with

player-of-the-match Hayward

bringing up the equaliser with a

superbly placed drag-flick.

He dragged the ball long

before despatching it to the top right corner at a lightning fast

speed as it went past Pathak

world number one went 2-1 up

in the blink of an eye when

Whetton struck off a Jack Welch

assist, showing his poaching

From being 0-1 down, the

before he could react.

session and guided Pakistan to 411-3 by tea with the Pakistan skipper dominating both spin

Babar was the seventh batter in three days to notch a hundred in England's first test in Pakistan in 17 years after the visitors had posted 657 all out on the back of hundreds from England openers Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett, Harry Brook and Ollie Pope.

Babar used his feet well

his half century off 68 balls when he lifted Jack Leach (2-160) over wide mid-on for a six after

He reached his hundred off 126 balls when he thumped a backfoot cover-driven boundary. Earlier, Imam and Shafique

struck centuries after Pakistan resumed on 181-0 before throwing away their wickets. Azhar Ali (27) got a life

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

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

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

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

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

Shami could also miss the upcoming two-Test series, beginning in Chittagong from December 14. "Fast bowler Mohd. Shami sustained a shoulder injury during a training session in the lead up to the ODI series against Bangladesh. He is



of the BCCI Medical Team at the NCA, Bengaluru and will not be able to take part in the threematch series. The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Umran Malik as Shami's replacement," BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said in a press release.

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





Australia bounce back to down India, seal series 3-1 On a sultry afternoon, the

PTI ADELAIDE

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

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

Singh (25th) struck early to give India the lead after a resthe series when Dilpreet struck a brilliant goal to hand them the olute defensive display by lead against the run of play. Harmanpreet and Co. In a goalcle, Dilpreet quickly pierced the less first quarter. But India's defence crumdefence and made a sharp turn before smashing it into the bot-

bled towards the fag end of second quarter with Jeremy Hayward (29th) and Jake Whetton (30th) scoring in space of 50 seconds. Tom Wickham extended the Kookaburras lead, before Hayward completed his brace

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

Pathak, who came in place of the seasoned Sreejesh, however made some creditable saves to save India from more humilof para badminton PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

nis last-four clash. Kadam won both his group matches, against France's Clement Sarrobert and Ludwing

In the quarterfinals, Kadam went past Brazil's Breno Johann without dropping a game. The match lasted 21 minutes, with

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

Sukant Kadam enters semifinals

Marnus Labuschagne hit an unbeaten 104 to add to his The ace shuttler will face Guatemala's Raul Anguiano in

Anquise Chaina, in straight

the Indian winning it 21-14, 21-

AP ■ PERTH

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

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

The 81-run stand between

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

to score a century and double century in a test were Greg Chappell and Doug Walters against New Zealand and the West Indies, respectively. The home side hit up a for-

midable 598-4 declared in its first innings and dismissed the West Indies for 283. West Indies skipper Kraigg

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



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

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



FIR against Lakshya, coach Vimal

and family for age fraud, cheating

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

Australia has 90 overs left, including the availability of the second new ball, on the last day

The wicket has played true

for the best part but the odd ball has kept low with cracks opening and batting may become difficult Sunday. Cummins was nursing a

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

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

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

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

PTI NEW DELHI

 $R^{\text{ising shuttler Unnati Hooda}} \\ R^{\text{on Saturday became the first}}$ Indian to enter the U-17 women's singles final of the Badminton Asia Junior Championships in Nothaburi, Thailand after beating Japan's Mion Yokouchi in straight games.

Unnati won 21-8 21-17 over

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

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

lived up to the expectations

and stamped her authority as she

wrapped up the match in

straight sets. The Odisha Open

champion has not yet dropped



tigious event. The men's doubles pairs of Arjun MR-Chirag Shetty (2013) and Krishna Prasad Garaga-Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (2015) have won gold medals for India in the U-17 category at the tournament. The in-form duo of Arsh

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

PTI NEW DELHI

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

by M Goviappa Nagaraja, alleged that the 21-year-old reigning Commonwealth Games champion, along with his brother Chirag Sen, had fudged their age to get into playing age-group tournaments since 2010. The complaint, a copy of which is in possession of PTI,

also names Sen's father Dhirendra, a coach with the Sports Authority of India, mother Nirmala and Kumar who has been coaching the duo for more than 10 years.

They have been charged with cheating (Section 420), forgery (468), using a forged document as genuine (471) and

acts done by several persons of common intention (34) under the Indian Penal Code.

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

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

Categorically denying the charges, Kumar told PTI: "It is very annoying. It is cheap stuff. Lakshya has done well and has started training again after a break. It is mentally very disturbing for him.'

Currently No. 6 in the world, Lakshya was on Wednesday honoured with the



Arjuna Award at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. He won a World Championship bronze after going down to compatriot Kidambi Srikanth in 2021.

He was also a runner-up in the All England Championships and played a key role in India's historic Thomas Cup triumph earlier this year.

The chief coach of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy,

ment that the allegations were "baseless, frivolous and made with malicious intent". 'As all badminton lovers are aware, age verification is the sole

Kumar further said in a state-

prerogative and responsibility of the Badminton Association of India who is sole governing authority for administering the game in India," he said. "All players no matter where

they train always represent their

respective affiliated state units or

the country while participating

in any domestic or international tournament. "My focus over the 30 years as a coach has always been to groom our upcoming youngsters to the best of my ability to

bring laurels for our country based on their merit. "I therefore deny all these

false allegations against me. I would not like to make any further comments in this regard,"

New Delhi, December 4, 2022

the pioneer

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





REVDI CULTURE IS HERE TO STAY

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

hildhood stories like that of 'Kabuliwala' remind one of the street hawkers announcing their arrival and selling goodies like 'budia ke baal', peanuts, 'channa', 'gazak', and also ubiquitous sweet, 'revdis'.

The last selling item has recently taken a political colour with no less a person than Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself giving a condescending look at the humble "revdis" and decrying what he called "revdi culture" of freebies spawned by certain political parties and more specifically by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of Arvind Kejriwal ruling Delhi and Punjab and currently making a high-pitch foray in PM's home state

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

The 'freebies' or 'revdis', though, seen in the larger context, could also include tax cuts for corporate sectors, waving off of Nonperforming assets, and also sanctioning projects and schemes in the poll-bound states

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Congress has also promised a ₹10 lakh free medical health cover to all citizens. While the BJP has promised two free LPG cylinders annually for women under the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana', Congress has pledged subsidized cylinders at ₹500 per unit.

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

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

says.

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

ON THE EVE OF POLL SEASON.ALL **POLITICAL PARTIES** RIGOROUSLY **DECORATE THEIR** 'ELECTION FACE' WITH GOODS AND ITEMS WHICH COULD FETCH THEM EASY AND ENOUGH VOTES

TO WIN. AND LIKE WILLY HAWKERS, POLITICAL LEADERS ANNOUNCE THEM IN THEIR MANIFESTOS AS IF THESE COULD BE THE VEHICLES OF TRANSFORMATION IN A DEVELOPING

COUNTRY LIKE OURS

less the same except for their packaging and

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

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

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

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

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

Congress also pledged to regularise contractual government employees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is Special Corrrespondent

of The Pioneer)

New Delhi, December 4, 2022

J ARE NOT W YOU THINK YOU

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

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

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

"There are many lessons in the book and they derive from great masters who come from many different traditions and who lived in different

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

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

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

On leaders and self growth, he says, "Not all business leaders are interested in personal growth. But the THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS' GUIDE TO UNSTOPPABLE SUCCESS MODERN WISDOM,

ANCIENT

SRIKUMAR S. RAO

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

AND OVER

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

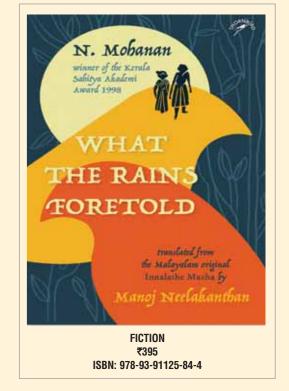
"I will not name them because they have their ups and downs and fall down many times even as their overall trajectory is upward. An external observer can easily misinterpret the initiatives that did not work." Rao believes that personal mastery gives people the ability to focus one-pointedly on any issue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

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

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

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

try to achieve each of these ends, you are really working on yourself. If you sincerely hew to this intent, quantum leaps happen. You don't have to try to achieve them.



WHAT THE RAINS **FORETOLD**

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

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

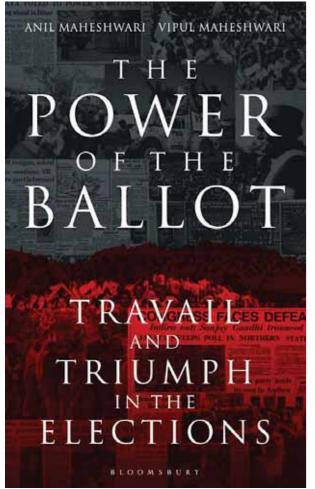
Agitated, Vararuchi walked up and down, wringing his hands in sheer exasperation. At length his gait slackened as he quietened visibly. Looking all around in the darkness, as though searching for someone who would hear him, he declared at the top of his

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

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

The Ballot

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Price Rs 699

The Power of The magic of sound healing

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



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

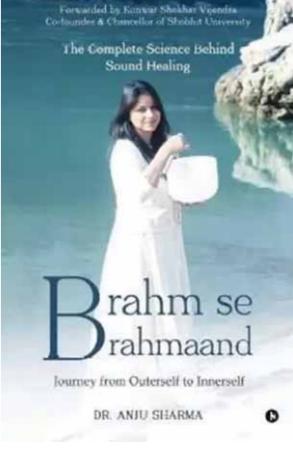
The book centres on the theme that everything in the universe is in the form of vibration including sound. The author claims that if we understand the impact of sound, 90 percent of the disease in the body can be cured because sound not only affect the surroundings but also the individual.

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

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

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

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



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

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

Book explores heroic exploits of Lachit Barphukan, other bravehearts Mughals. According to the

achit Barphukan was a mas-Lter tactician and war strategist whose military zeal infused a sense of immense responsibility in his army, says a new book on the Ahom general of Assam who led his force to victory over a numerically larger

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

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

In the chapter on Barphukan, the author describes how Assam's "man of destiny" stood up to be counted and to create history for

himself and his clan. Sampath also goes on to give a brief overview of the Ahom kingdom, which, he

says, was highly regimented in its structure. The Barphukan was the military and civil commander

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

tance against all attacks. By December 1636, Kamrup was occupied by the

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

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

But there was a revival after Chakradhwaj Singha

became the king. Lachit, born in 1622 CE, was the youngest son of Momai Tamuli Borbarua. He was first made the Soladhara Barua, the scarfbearer of the king, a posi-

tion akin to that of a private

secretary.

In due course, Lachit also held various positions like Ghora ble), commander of Simalugarh Royal Household Guards) to

Barua (in charge of the royal sta-Fort and later the Dolaksharia Barua (Superintendent of the Maharaja Chakradwaj Singha.

Hapless victims of borderless cyber terror

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

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

Cyber warfare is a new reality.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The National Cyber

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

Again, the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and

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

But it is pertinent to know whether such mechanisms are enough to protect our national and regional critical infrastructures against hundreds of malwares released by various nefarious actors? If not what more can our Government do? At the moment, the national cyber security agencies and Internet is open to such attacks. all other civil-military organisations are certainly not sufficient to counter possible cyberattacks. It must be noted here that no nation, even the mighty US, is completely protected against such attacks. While global organisations like the Interpol and other top security and intelligence agencies can be the hope for countries like India, the US, China, Russia, the UK, the EU, etc, an immediate global-level cooperation and safe data sharing to fight cyber crime is the only way to minimise threats emerg-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE •

Twitter — A signature takeover?

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



SIDHARRTH SHANKAR

presently rife with controversies, harassment, fake information, privacy attacks, and other disturbing trends. This infiltration of the mischieforiented environment has led to an excessive loss of trust by users from diverse platforms. It is time that the back-end inno-

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

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

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

A scrutiny of the rules for social media players reveals the following most impact guide-

Priority to user privacy & trust

Social media episodes are vators restore this trust by



Quality & insight-driven data strategy

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

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

Monetise better

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

The bitter truth

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

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

A change hero but not a leader?

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

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

Binge watch on legal episodes

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

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

more details about the compa-

mats of running entities are ny about his decision to take ister profits.

Musk & his legal

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

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

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

It's not all Musk's act

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

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

Logging out As much as social media

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

(The writer specialises in general corporate commercial, mergers & Acquisitions, and pri-

























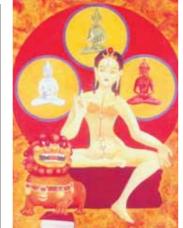




ARIES March 21-April 19

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

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

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

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Magenta



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

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

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

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

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

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



GEMINI May 21-June 20

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

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Beige Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

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

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

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

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour White Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

ucky number 12 | Lucky colour Peach

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

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

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

"Can you see astrological indicators suggesting probable timeline when my spiritual potential will begin to unfold?" He asked. A look into finer coordinates of the 1st, 5th, and 9th houses – the

Spirituality turns life into a beautiful experience



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

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

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

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