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LEAD INDIA IN
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BJP set to retain Guj; Himachal cliffhanger

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The AAP, which had

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

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

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

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

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

The BJP sees the outcome

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

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

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

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

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who did not cam-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 2

Exit BJP! AAP likely to sweep MCD polls

BJP, Cong reject polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

An exit poll done by Aaj Tak-Axis My India gave the AAP between 149 and 171 wards and BJP 69-91 wards. Another exit poll by Times Now-ETG predicted that Kejriwal's party getting anywhere between 146 and 156 wards and the BJP between 89-94 seats. News X-Jan Ki Baat exit poll gives the AAP 159-175 wards and the BJP 70-92. All the three channels' exit polls have the Congress getting 10 or less wards.

Both the BJP and the Congress, however, rejected the projections of the exit polls. "We will wait for the final results, and we will accept the decision taken by the people of

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

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

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

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

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

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

contest polls in Gujarat and Delhi.

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

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

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

Lalu's kidney transplant successful



PTI ■ PATNA

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

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

Will never be caught alive: Goldy Brar

PNS/AGENCIES ■ CHANDIGARH

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

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

CAPSULE

COURT: UMAR, SAIFI FACE BIG CONSPIRACY CHARGE

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

MUSLIMS BOYCOTT POLLS IN GUJ VILLAGE

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

J'KHAND MAN BEHEADS COUSIN OVER LAND ROW

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

PM: G-20 Presidency unique chance to showcase country's strengths to world

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

At the meeting, the Prime Minister stated that India's G20 Presidency belonged to the entire nation, and it was a unique opportunity to showcase the country's strengths to the entire world. Modi also pointed that there is global curiosity and attraction towards India today, which further increases the potential of India's G-20 Presidency.

He emphasised the impor-



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

PTI

ance of teamwork, and sought the cooperation of all leaders in the organisation of various G-20 events.

He pointed out that the G-20 Presidency would help showcase parts of India beyond the conventional big metros, thus bringing out the uniqueness of each part of our nation.

Highlighting the large number of visitors who would be coming to India during India's G-20 Presidency, the Prime Minister took note of the potential for promoting

tourism and boosting the local economies of the venues where G-20 meetings would be organized.

Before the Prime Minister spoke, various political leaders shared their valuable insights on India's G-20 Presidency.

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

Continued on Page 2

SC: Purpose of charity mustn't be conversion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asserted that the purpose of charity should not be conversion and acknowledged that forced religious conversion is a "serious issue" and against the Constitution.

"The purpose of charity should not be conversion. Allurement is dangerous," the top court said, while hearing a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay seeking direction to the Centre and States to take stringent steps to control fraudulent religious conversion by "intimidation, threatening, deceivingly luring through gifts and monetary benefits".

The Centre told the court it is collecting information from States on religious conversion through such means. Appearing before a bench of Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought time to furnish detailed information on the issue. Mehta sought a week's time which the SC granted.

When a lawyer questioned the maintainability of the plea, the bench said, "Do not be so technical. We are here to find a solution. We are here for a cause. We are here to set things right. If the purpose of the charity is good then it is welcome but what is required to be considered is the intention. Do not take it as adversarial."

Continued on Page 2

England, Croatia reach World Cup quarterfinals

AP ■ QATAR

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

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

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



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

AP

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

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

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

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

City of Joy creator dies

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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



30.7.1931 – 4.12.2022

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

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

Continued on Page 2

Centre to set up 500 theaters to spread word on governance

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



The CSC on Monday announced that it would open 500 cinema halls in rural areas by March 2023 and 1,500 by December 2023 and by the fiscal end of 2024 it would be able to develop 10,000 such CSC Rural Cinema.

In this regard, CSC e-Governance Services India Limited signed an MoU with October Cinemas to take the entertainment through CSC Rural Cinema to rural areas.

The MoU was signed between CSC, an SPV under the Ministry of Electronics and IT and October Cinemas aiming to open around one lakh small movie theatres in rural areas during the next couple of years.

"India is the world's largest entertainment market in terms of movie consumption. Our venture will have features to control piracy of films. We will provide all hardware and software equipment to Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) who run the CSC. An investment of around ₹15 lakh is needed to run these cinema halls which will have video parlour cinema licence. We have already got over 5,000 expressions of interest," said CSC Managing Director Sanjay Kumar Rakesh.

Continued on Page 2

PM should use G-20 presidency to prevent Chinese incursions: Kharge

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said it was a matter of pride that India has got the G20 presidency and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to leverage this opportunity for the country's benefit and help deter China from carrying out incursions at the border and correct the trade imbalance with it.

Speaking at an all-party meeting convened by the prime minister on G20 presidency, Kharge asked him to use this opportunity to help the country secure a permanent seat in the UN Security Council and play a key role in helping nations come out the debt crisis as his predecessor, Manmohan Singh, had done during the 2008 economic crisis, sources said.

He also said India should raise the issue of some nations providing support to terrorism and the prime minister should



use this occasion to seek support of other nations to act against such countries.

The sources said Kharge hoped Modi would use his influence to deter China and help stop the incursions carried out by it in Indian territory, besides putting an end to the trade imbalance between the two countries.

On India's stand vis-a-vis the Ukraine war, he told the prime minister to continue efforts to maintain peace and help create an environment where no war-like situation is created again.

Congratulating Prime Minister Modi over India's

G20 presidency, the Congress chief said it is a matter of pride for the country and G20 leaders will be able to see the country and the progress carried out in the last 75 years.

He also cited the example of India hosting the Non Aligned Summit in 1983 in which nearly 100 nations participated and later the same year it hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) summit where leaders of 42 countries took part.

He also recalled the words of former US president Barack Obama about Manmohan Singh showing the world the way forward during the 2008 economic crisis that gripped the world.

The Congress president told the meeting the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said 53 nations are going through a debt crisis and hoped that India shows the path forward in helping these

countries come out of the crisis.

Sources said Kharge also asked Modi to help create a system that could aid repatriation of fugitives who escaped to other countries after committing economic frauds in India.

He said that India and the prime minister should also use this opportunity to leverage itself and get compensation from rich nations based on the COP27 agreement for damage caused to the environment.

Kharge also asked the prime minister to use this opportunity to talk to the United States for finding a permanent solution to the problem of US visas for Indians as the waiting period for getting a US visa has touched 900 days currently.

He called upon the prime minister to use the occasion for getting more investment into the country, help fully harness the tourism potential and ensure security of NRIs and students studying abroad.

Keeping predictability in taxation law utmost importance, says SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maintaining predictability in taxation law is of utmost importance and the court should not accept an argument by the Central Excise and Service Tax department (CEST) that waters down its own circular, the Supreme Court said on Monday.

The apex court said the price charged to independent parties for sale of excisable goods can be used as a benchmark for determination of excise duty on related transactions, when such a price is readily available.

The top court observed this in its verdict on a plea filed by the Commissioner of Central Excise and Service Tax, Rohtak, against the November 2017 order of the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT), Chandigarh.

The CESTAT had set aside the show-cause notice issued by the Revenue (CEST) to the assessee, a firm involved in manufacture of decorative lam-

inates and other like materials, on the ground that it had invoked an incorrect method of valuing related party transactions.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala noted the counsel appearing for the assessee had contended that the CBEC circular of July 1, 2002 clarified the manner in which valuation was to be done when sales are made to both independent and related buyers and the circular is binding on the Revenue.

"It goes without saying that the Revenue's stance against its own circular can potentially lead to a chaotic situation where, with one hand, the Revenue would lay down instructions on how to interpret the relevant statutes and rules, and with the other hand, it would promptly disobey those very directions," the bench said in its 30-page judgement.

The top court said, "Maintaining predictability in taxation law is of utmost importance and, for this reason, the court should not accept an



argument by the Revenue that waters down its own circular" as this would fall squarely within the contours of the prohibition outlined in one of the previous judgements delivered by the apex court.

The apex court, which confirmed the demand made by the Revenue, said it does not approve the levy of interest and penalties upon the assessee.

It directed that these amounts be reduced from the total recoverable amount from the assessee.

In its verdict, the bench noted that while the department's hands are tied with regard to its circulars, no such prohibition operates on courts and tribunals.

"It is incumbent upon the

adjudicatory bodies to ascertain the correct position of law unencumbered by the Revenue's interpretation as crystallized in its administrative directions," it said.

The bench said the price charged to independent parties for the sale of excisable goods can be used as a benchmark for determination of excise duty on related transactions, when such a price is readily available.

"However, we add the caveat that when making such calculations via transposition, the Revenue cannot act in a mechanical way. The assessment of the appropriate value of the related party transaction must be made after considering relevant material and due application of mind," it said.

Gujarat polls: Muslim villagers claim they boycotted second phase voting over Kheda public flogging incident; poll officials deny

PTI ■ KHEDA

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

Poll officials have denied the claim saying there was no boycott call.

Community leaders said all 1,400 Muslim voters of the total 3,700 voters in the village, situated in Matar taluka, joined the protest and didn't exercise their franchise when votes were cast across 93 Assembly seats in the second phase.



"All Muslim voters from the village stayed away from the voting process as a mark of protest against the public flogging and the administration's refusal to punish the guilty. We gave a boycott call to express our anger at the one-sided action by the police. Till now, no policemen have been suspended for their misdeed," Maqbul Saiyad, a local Muslim leader from Undhela, claimed.

K Kavitha's CBI quiz from Dec 11

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

TRS MLC K Kavitha, who has been served with a notice by the CBI for questioning in connection with the Delhi excise policy scam, on Monday told the agency she will be able to meet the investigators from December 11-15 (except on December 13) instead on December 6, due to her preoccupied schedule.

In a letter to the investigating agency, Kavitha said she had gone through the contents of the

FIR copy, as well as the complaint available on the website in connection with the case and her name did not figure anywhere in any manner whatsoever.

"As proposed by you, I am not in a position to meet on 6th December, 2022, because of my preoccupied schedule. I will be able to meet you either on 11th, 12th or 14th or 15th of this month whichever is as convenient to you at my residence in Hyderabad. Same may please be confirmed at the earliest," she said in the letter to the CBI.

Centre-Delhi row: No UT has its own services, Centre tells SC, slams Sisodia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

No Union territory has its own services under the Constitution, the Centre told the Supreme Court on Monday, and disputed Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's claim about non-cooperation by government officials.

The Centre alleged Sisodia tried to create an "unwarranted prejudice" to ensure that AAP government's interpretation of Article 239AA is accepted by the apex court.



Article 239AA of the Constitution grants special status to Delhi among the Union

Territories through the 69th constitutional amendment.

The affidavit filed by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on behalf of the Centre said the illustration (given by Sisodia in an affidavit about non-cooperation of officials) are, by and large, vague and incapable of any precise examination by the central government more particularly, when "no contemporaneous intimation of alleged failure is communicated to the central government"

Two men die as unidentified vehicle hits their motorcycle

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two men died allegedly after an unidentified vehicle hit their motorcycle in a suspected case of hit-and-run, the Delhi Police said on Monday.

The deceased were identified as Sameer (21) and Md. Islam Khan (19), residents of Daryaganj, they said.

The accident took place on Sunday near a gurdwara on GT Karnal road in Siraspur, police said.

The matter came to light after an information was received from SRHC Hospital in Narela regrading death of two youths after they met with an accident.

According to the police, the family members of the deceased told officials that both of them were going to Murthal, Haryana on a bike when they met with the accident.

On the basis of MLC (Medico-legal Case) and circumstances, a case under sections 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way) and 304A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at Samaypur Badli police station, a senior police officer said.

After post-mortem at Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital, the bodies were handed over to their family members for last rites, police said, adding CCTV cameras are also being scanned to identify the accused and ascertain the sequence of the accident.

BJP set to retain Guj; Himachal...

From Page 1
News X-Jan Ki Baat survey said the BJP was likely to get 32-40 seats in the hill State, the Congress 27-34 and the AAP zero.

While Republic TV P-

MARQ predicted that the BJP would get 34-39, the Congress 28-33 and the AAP 0-1.

Times Now-ETG said the average seats BJP was likely to get was 38 and the Congress 28.

Unlike Gujarat, the Assembly election in Himachal Pradesh was held in a single phase on November 12, while voting for Gujarat was held in two phases on December 1 and December 5.



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sham Lal S/o Maman Ram R/o H.No. FCA 62, Near Pathwari Mandir, Shyam Colony, Teh. Ballabgarh, Faridabad have changed my minor son name from Kartik to Raghav Maan for all purposes.



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PD(90211)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of 1) Mr. Darshan Lal Gupta, 2) Mr. Jagdish Lal Gupta & 3) Mr. Manohar Lal Gupta who are the owner of Plot/Property bearing No.C-1/14, Block-C-1, situated at Mianwali Nagar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi vide Conveyance Deed dated 04.12.1995, which is registered as Document/Registration No.18482 in the office of SRO-I, Delhi, registered on 05.12.1995 and intend to mortgage the aforesaid property against the financial assistance from RBL Bank Limited. That Original Conveyance Deed dated 04.12.1995, which is registered as Document/Registration No.18482 in the office of SRO-I, Delhi, registered on 05.12.1995 is not available/ misplaced/lost. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFI, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days at below address.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moh, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext. II, New Delhi-49
Contact: 011-40046316

Four-storey building collapses in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A four-storey residential building collapsed in north Delhi's Shastri Nagar Monday morning. The police said that no one was residing in the building, so there was no loss of life or injury in the incident.

Locals said the incident took place early in the morning and the entire structure collapsed on the road.

Purported videos from the spot show the building falling down as locals walk by. The building is located between two other buildings.

The adjacent buildings weren't damaged. Officials suspect that the old structure collapsed because of its construction.

According to Sagar Singh Kalsi, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North), at around 8:45 a.m. on Monday, a PCR call was received regarding the building collapse at Shastri Nagar, following which an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was dispatched to the spot.

The collapsed structure was a four-storey building owned by Balraj Arora. It had developed cracks in May 2022 and was thus vacated.

People of RSS, BJP will have to say Hey Ram, Jai Siyaram: Rahul

PTI ■ JHALAWAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday accused the BJP and the RSS of ignoring the invocations of 'Hey Ram' and 'Jai Siyaram', which acknowledges both Lord Ram and Goddess Sita.

Gandhi was addressing a corner meeting organised on the arrival of his Bharat Jodo Yatra at Nahardi in Jhalawar district. He later proceeded for the night halt at the Khel Sankul here.

"The people of the BJP and RSS, learn to live your lives by the ideals of Lord Ram. And listen carefully, you will have to say 'Hey Ram' and 'Jai Siyaram'," he said



He said earlier the 'Jai Siyaram' slogan was used in the entire country.

"Can Ram exist without Sita... The question does not arise. Without Sita, there cannot be Ram and without Ram there cannot be Sita," he said. "Then why have the BJP and the RSS removed maa Sita from their slogans. Why don't they ever say Jai Siyaram?"

"It's okay if you want to say

Jai Shri Ram. Do so. But the RSS people will have to say Jai Siyaram and they cannot insult mother Sita," he said.

The Congress leader also targeted the BJP and the RSS over the slogan 'Hey Ram'.

"There is another slogan that Gandhiji used to say. That is probably the most beautiful slogan... Hey Ram! This is the slogan having the deepest meaning. I want to tell you the meaning of Hey Ram. These are words that Mahatma Gandhi said after being shot. Hey Ram, Hey Ram, Hey Ram," he said.

"Today, I want to tell you the depth of that slogan and the thinking of Gandhiji. Hey Ram means Lord Ram.

Centre to set up 500 theaters to...

From Page 1
Commenting on the new initiative, Rakesh said the concept of cinema halls in villages is still new and the aim is to start small cinema halls with around 100 seats. As per the project CSC cinema halls, will also work as a commercial hub, will make the digital India services more accessible to the people in rural areas."

"We are launching CSC Rural Cinema for the entertainment of villagers in remote areas. India is the world's largest entertainment mar-

ket in terms of movie consumption. Our venture will have features to control piracy of films. We will provide all hardware and software equipment to VLEs who run the CSC. An investment of around Rs 15 lakh is needed to run these cinema halls which will have video parlour cinema licence. We have already got over 5,000 express of interest requests from VLEs. We hope to make around 10,000 cinema halls operational in rural areas by the end of 2024," said Punit Desai, Managing Director, October Cinemas.

SC: Purpose of charity...

From Page 1
"It is a very serious issue. Ultimately it is against our Constitution. When everyone stays in India, they have to act per the culture of India," the bench observed.

The court had earlier warned a "very difficult situation" will emerge if proselytisation through deception, allurements and intimidation is not stopped.

Earlier, the Gujarat Government had told the top court that freedom of religion did not include the right to convert others, and requested

the top court to vacate a high court stay on the provision of a state law that mandates prior permission of the district magistrate for conversion through marriage.

Upadhyay in his plea said that forced religious conversion is a nationwide problem which needs to be tackled immediately. "The injury caused to the citizens is extremely large because there is not even one district which is free of religious conversion by 'hook and crook," the plea submitted. "Incidents are reported every week throughout the country

where conversion is done by intimidating, threatening, deceivingly luring through gifts and monetary benefits and also by using black magic, superstition, miracles but Centre and States have not taken stringent steps to stop this menace," said the plea filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey.

The plea has also sought directions to the Law Commission of India to prepare a report as well as a Bill to control religious conversion by intimidation and through monetary benefits.

Emerald Court society discriminating against single tenants?

Though the RWA has denied moral policing, it has issued notices to bachelor tenants to vacate flats, citing violation of its rules

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Noida's Emerald Court society has issued notices to tenants who are single to vacate their premises, citing violation of its rules.

The residential body of the posh society in Sector 93A, where the twin towers once stood, said they had been getting complaints from other residents because of which notices have been issued to those living as paying guests (PGs) and it has been done in the interest of harmonious

community living and we have no intention of any moral policing."

The notice, issued on November 15, stated a rule of society's bye-law which stipulates that it is "prohibited to use flats as paying guest accommodation, guest house or rented to a group of students/bachelors where the residency of the flat is of transient nature."

All tenants must have police verification certificate and approval of the Emerald Court Residents Welfare Association (RWA), the notice

further said. "Serious concern has been expressed by local authorities on the possibility of objectionable activities in some of these flats and Emerald Court RWA has been asked to provide details to the local authorities. In view of the sensitivity of the matter, we have managed the issue with the assurance that these types of accommodations will not be operating within Emerald Court from January 1, 2023," the notice stated.

"We are hereby informing the owners of these flats to give notice to the students/bachelors/guest house managers and get the flats vacated within 30 days from today. From January 1, 2023 we will not permit these PG accommodations and guest houses to operate from our premises," it stated.

Uday Bhan Singh Teotia,



president, Emerald Court RWA, said the rule cited in the notice is not a new one and the RWA was getting complaints related to administration of the society by other residents. "This notice is to check violation of society rules. We have not asked anyone to vacate

overnight but have given due time of two to three months. The notice was issued in November," Teotia told PTI.

He said some cases have come to the fore in which rent agreement of an apartment is made in the name of one person but that flat is further

sub-let to five, six, or even seven girls.

"All this cannot be allowed," added Teotia, who had spearheaded the residents' fight against developer Supertech Ltd which led to the Supreme Court ordering demolition of the twin towers built illegally in the society's premises.

According to local tenants, bachelors often face problems finding apartments or independent house on rent in the city adjoining the national Capital.

"People outright deny giving their apartment to bachelors on rent. This often leaves bachelors with the only option to go through brokers, who charge a lot of money," said Kala Trivedi (26), who earlier lived in a society in Noida Sector 46 but has now moved

to South Delhi.

"We were two girls living in the apartment and at the time of vacating it, my landlord told us that he will never again rent it out to unmarried women. All this even when there was no damage to his property or any complaint about us from other residents in the society," the engineering professional claimed. Rajiva Singh, president, Noida Federation of Apartment Owners Associations (NOFAA), said there cannot be any discriminatory rules and regulations based on caste, creed, geographies or marital status of a resident in a community living.

"In case any resident — whether an owner, a tenant or a bachelor — is not following the defined society rules and guidelines as per the model by-

laws, they need to be treated at par and corrective measures taken accordingly. Bachelors and youths are part of our community and need to be mentioned in case they are cause of inconvenience for others. They are part of our responsibility, we cannot shun our responsibilities as welfare bodies," he said. However, he noted that every society resident needs to be disciplined enough as not to cause any inconvenience to fellow residents and activities risking people's security should be avoided.

"Any commercial activity like PG, with frequent changes in tenants, which can be a threat to the security of a society, has to be avoided. Proper police verifications are needed for all such tenants and PGs for the safety of societies," Singh said.

Urban apathy plagues MCD polls also

Upper strata centres in Delhi saw poor voter turnout as compared to unauthorised colonies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The urban apathy cited by the Election Commission during the Himachal and Gujarat polls was seen in the MCD elections in Delhi too. Polling centres situated in upper class localities in the national Capital recorded a very poor voter turnout on December 4.

The State Election Commission (SEC) data showed that Andrews Ganj recorded 33.74 per cent voter turnout.

Upper strata centres in East Delhi including Preet Vihar, Laxmi Nagar, Patparganj, Dilshad Garden, and Yamuna Vihar recorded 47.72 per cent, 49.02 per cent, 47.75 per cent, 49.75 per cent, and 49.11 polling respectively.

On the other hand, unauthorised colonies in the city recorded a higher percentage of voting as compared to the upper strata areas. "Among unauthorised colonies in Delhi, Sabapur area recorded 53.2 per cent voter turnout, while 53.96 per cent voting was registered in Sonia Vihar, Karawal Nagar West reported 55.61 per cent voting, Sadatpur recorded



Security personnel stand guard outside a storeroom containing Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) at a counting centre at Gold Dhadkana area in New Delhi on Monday

53.28 polling and Sri Ram Colony registered 56.17 per cent turnout," said the SEC data. Brijpuri saw 62.95 per cent voting and Nehru Vihar recorded 61.95 per cent voter turnout.

Significantly, areas dominated by minorities reported an even larger voter turnout with Brahampuri reporting 54.53 per cent polling.

"Welcome colony has seen 58.79 per cent of voters casting

their vote, while Seelampur has reported a 61.64 per cent voter turnout in the area," the data read.

Violence-hit Jahangirpuri also reported a 52.94 per cent voter turnout, which is an impressive number.

"Bhalaswa saw 54.08 per cent turnout, while Sarup Nagar witnessed 57.65 per cent of voting for the MCD elections," said the SEC data.

The people living in the

rural areas of the national Capital also came all out to franchise their exercise as compared to the upper strata areas, with Bankner reporting 57.27 per cent polling.

The ward-wise data released by the SEC showed that Narela ward recorded 53.65 per cent voting; Holambi Kalan 50.87 per cent; Burari 52.31 per cent; Kadipur 53.49 per cent and Mukundpur 50.28 per cent polling.

The wedding season, cold winter mornings and India-Bangladesh ODI, may also be some of the other reasons for a low voter turnout in Delhi. Besides, the reported missing names from the voter's list may be another reason for the poor turnout.

Delhi has historically seen low turnouts at municipal polls. In 2007, only around 45 per cent of those eligible turned up to vote. In 2012 and 2017, this increased to around 54 per cent. The turnout for the 2020 Assembly polls was 62.59 per cent. Bakhtawarpur reported 64.3 per cent the highest number of female voters, while Guru Har kisan reported the lowest number of female voters with just 40.76 per cent.

AAP buoyant as exit polls project win

BJP, Cong reject projections as possible voting trends, not final results

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal's assertion of his party's maiden win in the MCD elections may come true on Wednesday, if the exit polls are to be believed.

Both the BJP and the Congress, however, rejected the projections of the exit polls. They said the exit poll only shows the possible voting trends, not the final results.

The results of the MCD elections will be announced by the Election Commission on Wednesday.

The exit polls have predicted a clean sweep for AAP in the MCD, with the party projected to win 149-171 seats out of the 250 wards of the national Capital, while the BJP has scored 69-91 seats.

The Congress is projected to shrink and bag just three to seven seats and Independent candidates are expected to win five to nine seats.

"We will wait for the final results, and we will accept the



decision taken by the people of the Capital. According to us, it is a very tough fight and we should wait till the final outcome," said BJP MP Manoj Tiwari.

"Based on the issues raised by the AAP, the people should not have voted for them, but watching the results of the exit polls, we will surely wait for the counting," said Tiwari.

Another leader of the BJP, who did not wish to be named, said that the party will wait for the final results of the MCD elections as the party does not

agree with the exit polls.

"The party does not want to comment on the polls shown as they have trust in the people of the Capital, the BJP will surely win the municipal elections," he asserted.

AAP leader Jasmine Shah said that his party's Government in the national Capital is supported by the people of the country everywhere.

Buoyed by the exit polls findings, Shah asserted that the slated win of the party in the MCD elections is victory of the Government that works to

make the lives of the citizens better.

"Kam ki Rajneeti ki jeet hai (politics of delivering works has won)" said an AAP spokesperson.

"The people of the national Capital have made up their minds to give the vote to the party which works, not the one which makes false accusations, uses abusive words against adversaries. Throughout the whole campaign, all that the BJP has done is level allegations and indulge in dirty politics," Shah claimed.

"We will get more than 200 seats in the final results, as people have thrown out the BJP from Delhi," Shah added.

Congress leader Surendra Rajput said that the party conducted a silent campaign and the same is likely to pay dividends.

"How long will the people of Delhi tolerate the lies of both the BJP and AAP? They have decided to bring a change as they have voted for the Congress wholeheartedly. The final results will clear the image of the party where it is actually standing in Delhi today," Rajput added.

Congress leader Jaikishan trashed the exit polls outcomes and said they are far from the actual results.

BS-III, IV vehicles barred again as city air 'very poor'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the air pollution level in the national Capital was recorded in the severe category on Sunday, the Delhi Government's transport department has issued an order banning the movement of BS-III and BS-IV vehicles in the national Capital till December 9. The Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi at 4 PM on Monday stood at 347 which falls under the "very poor" category, as per the bulletin released by the Central Pollution Control Board.

The AQI of Ghaziabad stood at (281), Faridabad (294), and Gurugram at (288) which comes under poor category. On the other hand, Noida and Greater Noida, reported the AQI at (305) and (350) respectively which comes under the "very poor" category, as per the data of the pollution control board. The Transport

Department in the order stated that BS-III, petrol and BS-IV, diesel LMV (four-wheelers) if found plying on the city's roads would be prosecuted under Section 194 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and fined ₹20,000.

The Sub-Committee for operationalisation of the revised Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has reviewed the air quality scenario as well as the forecasts for meteorological conditions and the AQI in Delhi. After the review, it has ordered to implement Stage-III (severe air quality) of revised GRAP in Delhi-NCR, with immediate effect.

"As per the directions provided under Stage III of the revised GRAP and under Section 115 of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, it is hereby ordered that there shall be restrictions to ply BS-III, petrol and BS-IV, Diesel Light

Motor Vehicles (four wheelers) in Delhi, with immediate effect, till dated December 9 or till downward revision in GRAP stage, whichever is earlier," it stated. This rule will not be applicable to the emergency vehicles that were plying in the Capital, the order further stated.

Last month, in a related development, LocalCircles, a community social media platform, conducted a survey which received responses from over 9,000 owners of BS-IV diesel cars. According to the survey, a section of the car owners expressed displeasure at the move. Nearly 11 per cent of the car owners said they will violate the ban and face the consequences, while 25 per cent said they will switch to public transport. Another 49 per cent diesel car owner said they had access to vehicles which did not come under the ban and will use those

When very poor is good!

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Air Quality Index (AQI) of the national capital on Monday marginally improves to 347 which fall under the "very poor" category, as per the bulletin released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. Meanwhile, maximum temperature is expected to dip further in the national capital region in the coming days.

Delhi's 24-hour average AQI stood at 407 at 4 pm on Sunday. The city air quality was last classified in the "severe" category on November 4, when the AQI was 447.

The AQI of Ghaziabad stood at (281), Faridabad 294, and Gurugram at (288) which comes under poor category. On the other hand, Noida and Greater Noida, reported the AQI at (305) and (350) respectively which comes under the "very poor" category, according to a data of the pollution control board.

Out of the total 36 station,



Chand National Stadium (352), ITO (377) and Sirifort (340) also recorded the AQI under the 'very poor' category, the CPCB data said.

IHBAS, Dilshad Garden (290) reported the AQI to the 'poor' category, said pollution index and suggest ways to tackle air pollution. Starting its campaign, the company has installed 17 LED display boards in key locations in Gurugram.

"Carrier India continues to expand United for Air, a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative designed to educate and bring communities together to work for cleaner outdoor air. Carrier plans to install additional air monitors and LED display boards to make real-time data accessible to more residents of Gurugram. It will take this initiative to other locations of Delhi-NCR soon," said a statement. These boards will display

LEDs displaying real-time AQI to be installed in Delhi-NCR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As part of its 'United for Air' initiative, Carrier India will install LED display boards across Delhi-NCR which will display real-time air quality index and suggest ways to tackle air pollution. Starting its campaign, the company has installed 17 LED display boards in key locations in Gurugram.

"Carrier India continues to expand United for Air, a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative designed to educate and bring communities together to work for cleaner outdoor air. Carrier plans to install additional air monitors and LED display boards to make real-time data accessible to more residents of Gurugram. It will take this initiative to other locations of Delhi-NCR soon," said a statement. These boards will display



air quality on the basis of data collected from air quality monitors installed in the nearest location. The company has installed eight such air quality monitors in collaboration with Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority.

The air quality monitors connect with LED boards that display real-time PM2.5 and PM10 levels, along with recommendations such as 'Go for an evening walk' and 'Do yoga outdoors' when conditions are good, and 'Wear masks' and 'Avoid strenuous activities' when pollution levels are high.

Gang running fake call centre busted; 4 held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has busted an international cyber fraud gang running a fake call centre for duping unemployed youths on fake promise of providing them with work from home roles with an e-commerce company, officials said on Monday. Four accused — Amit Kedia (30), Sachin Gupta (36), Rohit Jain (36) and Pradeep Kumar (34) — were arrested, police said, adding that the kingpin of the gang, Gulati, operates from Dubai. The accused impersonating as officials of the e-commerce firm had procured details of job seekers from various online job providing portals such as Naukri.Com and Shine.Com, they said. The matter came to light after a complaint was received from a woman who alleged that she received a message from an unknown mobile number. The caller introduced himself as Nathalie from Amazon

Company and subsequently, she was cheated of ₹3,15,745 on the pretext of work from home after she followed the link to a fake website that was shared by the accused in a WhatsApp message sent to her. During enquiry, it was found that the cheated money was transferred to various bank accounts via Paytm, police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said technical analysis of call details and money transaction revealed that the complainant received as WhatsApp message from a Philippines number and the cheated money was transferred to various bank accounts of different metropolitan cities of India.

When accused Pradeep Kumar was apprehended, he disclosed that he used to sell activated current bank accounts of his locality to his accomplices Amit Kedia and Sachin Gupta who were held and more bank accounts were recovered.

Builder held, HSVP officials booked in commercial property fraud in G'gram

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

A Gurugram division of the State Vigilance Bureau has arrested builder and local leader Vashisht Kumar Goyal and booked officials of the Haryana Shahri Vikar Pradikaran (HSVP) for alleged fraud in HSVP's commercial property located in Sector-23-23A in Gurugram.

The FIR was registered against Goyal and other HSVP officials under relevant sections of the IPC including the prevention of corruption Act at the State vigilance police station.

According to the officials, a complaint was received at the State vigilance against Rishiraj Director M/s RR Foundation Engineering Pvt LTD and Estate Officer of HSVP in May 2019.

It was alleged in the complaint that the respondent had auctioned a commercial shop number 30 of HSVP located in Sector-23-23A in 1997. The

HSVP had also issued the allotment letter in December 1997 but the same was cancelled in April 1998 due to not submitting of 15 per cent booking amount.

Thereafter, the respondent revision and appeal were also cancelled in 1999, 2000, 2008 and 2011.

It is alleged that despite chief administration instructions the then HUDA estate officer Mukesh Kumar Solanki had issued a reallotment letter for the property in June 2018 at the same price after 21 years.

According to the FIR, the estate officer without having prior permission from its senior officials wrongly issued the re-allotment letter of the said property in favour of the alleged persons. which causes a huge revenue loss to the State Government.

According to the officials, departmental inquiry has been recommended against a senior official of the HSVP who also disobey the department rules and norms in the matter.

Awareness programme to check perinatal HBV infection launched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the World Health Organization (WHO) pushes to eradicate chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infections by 2030, and need to halt perinatal mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) becoming increasingly urgent, Delhi-based Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) and the State Government's Health Department jointly launched a unique programme 'winning over mothers with Hepatitis B (Womb)' to spread awareness about the condition.

According to the statistics, of the total Hepatitis B infections in India, at least 20-30 per cent are mother-to-child transmissions with experts warning that in at least 90% of cases, the infected



mother transfers the infection to her child.

Marking the 25th year of the 'yellow ribbon' campaign, ILBS plans to tie up with the Delhi government to rope in more medical institutes to expand the reach of the programme, Sarin said, stressing on the necessity of Hepatitis B vaccination for new born zero dose plus three doses till 14 weeks of age.

Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar flagged off the campaign to raise awareness regarding vertically transmitted (mother-to-child) hepatitis among the women of reproductive age in Delhi.

The 'yellow ribbon' campaign, which was launched in 1998, is meant to increase public awareness about viral hepatitis. This year's theme was Hepatitis elimination: A social responsibility.

Delhi Director of Family Welfare Dr. Vandana Bagga stressed that no child should be left unimmunized and there was a need to fight the social stigma prevalent among those living with hepatitis while Health Secretary Amit Singla ensured that steps are being taken to eliminate hepatitis B and C from the State.

Modi, BJP brass deliberate upon State, LS polls strategy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



Photo: Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

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

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

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

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

Besides its national office-bearers, presidents and general secretaries (organisation) of the BJP's state units are also part of the meeting chaired by the party's national president J P N. Various groups of leaders, including Union ministers, have also been roped in to strengthen the party's presence, especially in places where it lost in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and is eyeing victory in 2024.

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to be present.

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

IN SHORT

AKHILESH PRASAD BIHAR CONG COMMITTEE PREZ

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

SC QUASHES TAJ MAHAL RELATED HISTORY PLEA

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

SC TO HEAR CBI REPORT ON MULAYAM, AKHILESH PLEA

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

31% FALL IN CROP BURNING IN PUNJAB, HARYANA

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

REPORT ON ASHAs, ANMs' ROLE IN COVID RELEASED

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

'Oil import from Russia driven by market forces'

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

PTI

import it."

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

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

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

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

ED attaches ₹30.70 cr assets of Karuvannur co-operative bank agent in money laundering case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹30.70 crore of Bijoy AK, Commission Agent of Karuvannur Service Co-Operative Bank Ltd. under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in fraud and cheating cases.

The attached assets include 20 immovable properties consisting of land and building in Kerala, two vehicles (Innova and Audi), cash seized from his house (₹3,40,000 and Foreign Currency equivalent to ₹2,08,12) totaling ₹5,48,124, balances in 57 bank accounts and his firms to the tune of ₹35,86,990.

Bijoy was illegally sanctioned and disbursed loan to the tune of ₹26.60 crore in cash without any collateral due to

systematic conspiracy hatched and perpetuated by the Secretary and Committee Members of the Bank since 2010.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of FIRs registered by Kerala Police under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Section relating to cheating.

Kerala Police (Crime Branch) has registered more than 16 FIRs in Thrissur district regarding fraud in Karuvannur Service Co-Operative Bank Ltd.

"The money laundering investigation carried out so far has revealed that multiple bogus loans were sanctioned by the bank on the same property without the knowledge of members of the Society," the ED said in a statement.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

For participants exposed to



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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Indian Navy adopted a new Naval Ensign on September 20 this year and the new design of the President's Standard and President's Colour awarded to the Indian Navy incorporates this change.

The new design of the President's



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RAKESH K SINGH ■
NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Farooq re-elected NC chief

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Recruitment to 21,000 posts rigged: CBI to HC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■
KOLKATA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
KOLKATA

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

SP sure of Dimple’s victory in Mainpuri



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

Raj leg of Bharat Jodo Yatra begins



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
JAIPUR/NEW DELHI

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

Supplies Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas.

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

“Kaan khol kar sun lo...national media wale bhi. Itihas aapko maaf nahi karega!” he said.

“Listen carefully...national and state media, history will not forgive you.”

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

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

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

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

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

the BJP is expert in giving slogans, event management.

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

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

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

PM roadshow during polling violated MCC; EC afraid: Cong

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sunil Kumar Chauhan/ Shashi Chauhan LBGUR00002537952	Flat No 93, Block- G, Ground Floor, Ocus Medley, Sec 99, Gurgaon December 02, 2022	July 06, 2021 Rs. 23,42,636/-	Gurgaon

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : December 06, 2022
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

DIRECTORATE OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT, MADHYA PRADESH

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The Director, Skill Development, Narmada Road, Near Rampur petrol pump, Jabalpur M.P. invites Online bids (Two bid system) from Manufacturers or Authorized dealers for supply of Equipments for Industrial Training Institute Shivpuri of Madhya Pradesh as below:

S.NO.	Description	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid Document Price
01	Equipments	INR 2,00,000/- (Rs. Two Lacs only)	INR 1000/- + Processing Fees

2. Kindly go through <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> for online e-tenders as per key dates as follows:-

S. No.	Particulars	Date & Time
1.	Online Bid Document Purchasing End Date	26/12/2022, 14:00 Hrs
2.	Pre bid Meeting at Directorate of Skill Development, Jabalpur	08/12/2022, 11:00 Hrs
3.	Bid Closing For Submission On Online Bids	26/12/2022, 16:00 Hrs
4.	Submission Of Hard Copy Of Earnest Money (Only Original Bank Guarantee) (Envelope-B-EMD)	26/12/2022, 17:30 Hrs
5.	Online Opening Of The Technical Bids (Envelope-A)	26/12/2022, 18:00 Hrs

Tender document and other details are available at the websites <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> and www.mpskills.gov.in

3 Cost of Tender {(Rs. 1000/- + Processing fee) Non refundable} is to be paid online only on <http://www.mptenders.gov.in>

4. Only original hard copy of the EMD (Bank Guarantee/FDR- for 1 Year) must be received at the office of the undersigned latest by **5:30 PM on 26.12.2022** and tender will be opened ONLINE on the same day i.e. **26.12.2022 at 6:00 PM.**

5. All Corrigendum/Amendments/Changes if any will only be issued and made available only on <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>

Director
Skill Development, Madhya Pradesh
Jabalpur

G-20116/22

FIRST COLUMN

CREATING A ROBUST FUTURE FOR PLANET

Euro-centric view of human evolution needs a revisit



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

(The author is an internationally acclaimed management consultant)

Twitter can benefit from Musk’s ideas



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

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

No more sense is palpable in data content and how much it is. Instead, the focus is on privacy and security shackles entangled in data transmission. It is the Web3 era where the fundamental right of equality also has a digital interpretation. Users on the internet seek democracy in the digital world with their share of rights and duties.

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

A scrutiny of the rules for social media players reveals a great deal. Social media episodes are presently rife with controversies, harassment, fake information, privacy attacks, and other disturbing trends. This infiltration of the mischief-oriented environment has led to an excessive loss of trust by users from diverse platforms. It is time that the backend innovators restore this trust by bringing in content moderation and AI-driven default rules that debar users from crossing the line.

Given that what’s visible on the platform defines the level and quality of the information being perused, whether or not it’s used, platforms must consider all possible solutions to flush out junk, spam, bots, and other secondary data points. This will keep the focus on first-hand data, which can lead to impressive engagement levels for users and advertisers to rely on and spend more time on the platform.

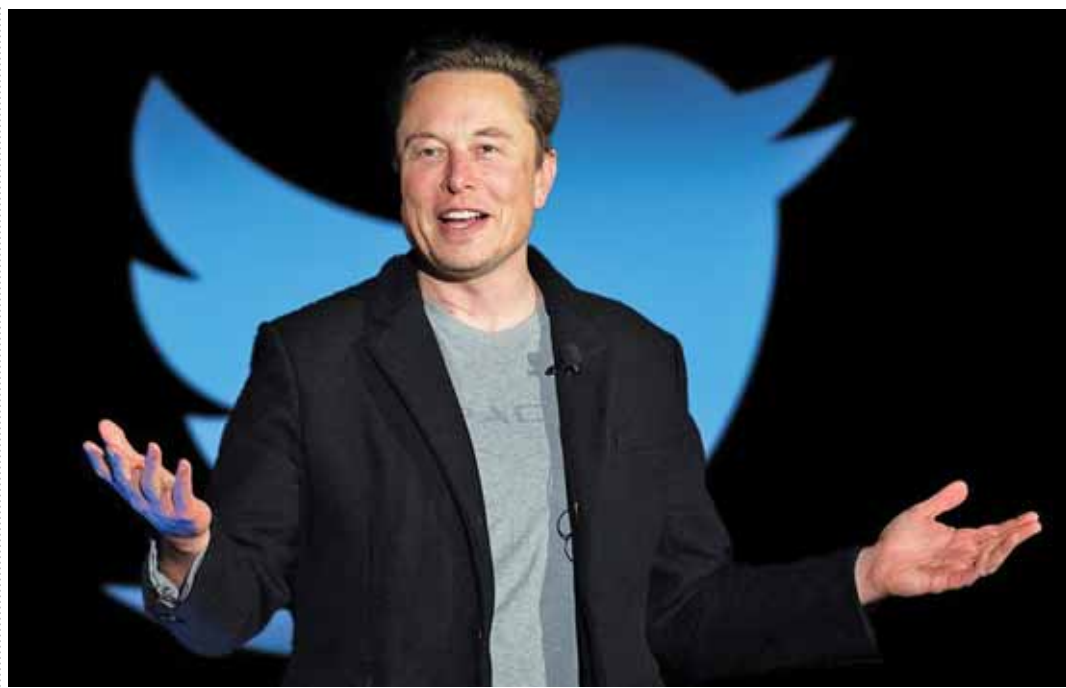
Platforms now need to move towards more innovation-driven monetisation models, which are economically more viable than the current ones. Elon Musk’s announcement addressing a new high for advertising on Twitter is an effort in the right direction to monetise better. Setting standards being his goal,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

While the bird app’s fall after a series of failures has been criticized worldwide, it must be appreciated that both Musk and Twitter have joined hands to take on the challenge ahead, which is a reboot of all operating mechanisms: from its workforce to policies, product environment, revenue models, and so on. Elon Musk will be the star in the history of social media platforms, especially in moments of change.



WHETHER THE FEVERISH SALE OF EACH OFFICIAL BLUE TICK AT \$8 OR MANY OTHER SUCH TOOLS IN THE MAKING, MUSK IS ALL OUT TO CREATE CASH-RINGING MODELS FOR THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM TO REGISTER PROFITS

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



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

Musk’s competence for being an efficient change agent but not the right fit for leadership has been the topic of speculation. However, enough examples from the past prove that the owner-cum-CEO formats of running entities are barely successful.

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

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

Then, in July 2022, Musk and his legal team got another jolt when Twitter sued him as he tried to escape the deal. He was pushed to adhere to the contract he had signed and follow through along with Twitter.

Musk was never short of options. While the Twitter Board struggled to stop the deal, Musk and his advisors always held the trump card. Upon the Board’s denial, Musk approached the shareholders. It made an offer sweet enough for the Board to consider it seriously in the interests of the shareholders, given that Musk had made it clear that if the Board denied it, he would strive to remain a shareholder with the power to harm the tank further. During this contentious period, Musk was engaged in arranging funds that he was short of.

Buyback, stock repurchase, and sale of assets are other powerful options that could have made Musk’s hostile bid less lucrative, ultimately dealing a death blow to the takeover.

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

Whether the feverish sale of

each official blue tick at \$8 or many other such tools in the making, Musk is all out to create cash-ring-ing models for the social media platform to register profits.



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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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

We must think differently for the differently abled

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

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

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



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

Jobs to Walt Disney—is mapped to persons with dyslexia, a learning disability.

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

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

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

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

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

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

a learning disability, of which 3.5 crore are students.

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

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

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

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

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

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

enough to succeed in anything.

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

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

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

Russian media report blasts at 2 military bases

AP ■ KYIV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ukrainians hid orphaned kids from Russian deportation

AP ■ KHERSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

On the outskirts of Kherson



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ukraine reports new barrage of widespread Russian strikes

AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

bombers are capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

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

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

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

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

"The Earth is round — discovery made by Galileo.

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

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

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

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

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

Russian oil cap begins, trying to pressure Putin on Ukraine



AP ■ KYIV

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

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

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

The 27-country European bloc also imposed an embargo on Russian oil shipped by sea. Questions have arisen about just how the Western measures will affect market prices.

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

Many other factors, includ-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scheduled power cuts in Kiev, 3 other regions from today

IANs ■ KIEV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Ukraine war ups arms sales but challenges lie ahead'

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

The institute compiled a list of the world's 100 largest arms-producing and military services companies. Although U.S. Companies dominate arms sales — 40 US companies appeared on that list and totalled \$299 billion in 2021 — the North America region was the only one to see a 0.9% drop in arms sales compared with 2020.

Putin better informed now about Ukraine war, says US

IANs ■ KIEV

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

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

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

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

US SC taking up clash of religion, gay rights

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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



earlier this year to end constitutional protections for abortion.

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

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

Colorado who wants to begin offering wedding websites.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ISIS suspect held in Pakistan Embassy attack in Kabul

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

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

North Korea fired artillery rounds near border: S Korea

AP V ■ SEOUL



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

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

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

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

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

weapons and missile programmes.

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

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

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

Experts say North Korea hopes to negotiate economic

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

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

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

Iran morality police status unclear after 'closure' comment

AP ■ CAIRO

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

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

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

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



a less confrontational approach toward the protests.

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

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

The Associated Press has

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AP ■ BEIJING

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

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

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

N.I.T. No.	E-File No -126732/RT
Name of work with its location	Tender for "Provision for shot Blasting of LHB coaches as well as Bogie & Springs of LHB coaches at RCNK/SNP 12 months
Approx. cost of work	Rs.27,790,987.50-Including GST (Rs. Twenty-Seven Lacs Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Seven and paise five zero only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 55400/-
Completion period of work	12 months of date of execution of work
Cost of Tender document on cash/by post	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11:30 hrs on 19/12/2022 Opening of Tender at 11:35
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.: E-file-126732-Tender-RT Dated: 03.12.2022 3226/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Payal Coyval has acquired the portion of freehold property bearing no. 303/8-A-1, area measuring 60.192 sq. mtrs. out of khasra no. 322, 322 & 324, situated at area of village Chowki Mahabirabad, abadi known as Shahzada Bagh Indl. Area, Delhi 110035 vide Gift Deed dated 18.02.2019, Doc no. 1681 and Mrs. Ginni Dev attorney holder of Shop bearing area measuring 19.44 sq. yds. on, portion of Plot no. 8-B-2, bearing part of Upl. no. 308/7, out of khasra no. 322-324, situated in the area of vill. Chowki Murakbad, colony known as Sahzada Bagh, Old Rantak Road, Delhi vide GPA, ATS & will dated 24.03.2000, and Now, Mrs. Payal Coyval and Mrs. Ginni Dev both are intending to sell the above said properties to Mrs. Asha Gupta vide Sale Deed. Further, Mrs. Asha Gupta is mortgaging the above said properties with Fullerton India Credit Company Limited & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dwarawalle, Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Vistas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9068707172/9818229636 (M).

श्री शक्ति विकास एवं प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, आमवाला, देहरादून

निविदा सूचना

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

निविदा सू - 819/आर-आर-सीडी/अनिमोबाय/2022-23 दिनांक: 2022

संयुक्त सचिव

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

CORRIGENDUM

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF OFFER

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

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

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

HOD (PMG)
BSES Rajdhani Power Limited.

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

Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110018
Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No.: +91 11 4620 7255
Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

China's former president Jiang cremated in Beijing



PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

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

Elections to the House of

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

The counting of votes started a day later.

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

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION - IV. Pampore Kashmir - 192121

Email:- xentlmd4@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-2

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

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

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

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
TLMD-IV Pampore

DIPK-NB-5369/22

UJVN Ltd.

(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Executive Engineer (Civil)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 09.01.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 28,03,189/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine only) pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLDP000489267 (Earlier LAN Code 00000577 of DHFL), by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 28.11.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f 29.11.2022 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Dharan Singh, Varun Kaushik and Babita.

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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

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

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

Date :28.11.2022

Place : NEW DELHI

Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

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



PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RBI starts deliberations amid expectations of moderate rate hike

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

The current policy repo



rate is 5.9 per cent.

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

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

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

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

The inflation dropped to

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

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

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



Meta to jointly invest with Airtel in telecom infrastructure

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

So far 19 states/Union Territories, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Karnataka, and 27 central government departments

are already onboarded the system, which was started in September last year and is under beta testing phase.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tata Motors mulling price hike for passenger vehicles from next month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INBRIEF

ADANI'S NDTV OPEN OFFER CLOSES WITH 32% SUBSCRIPTION

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

RCPSDC TO SKILL SHG WOMEN MEMBERS IN FOOTWEAR

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

THREE LIONS SET FRENCH DATE

AP ■ DOHA

England set up a titanic World Cup quarter-final against holders France as Jude Bellingham's masterclass inspired a 3-0 win against Senegal in the last 16 on Sunday.

Gareth Southgate's side survived a nervous start at the Al Bayt Stadium before Jordan Henderson and Harry Kane put Senegal to the sword with a pair of clinical finishes before half-time.

Bukayo Saka scored England's third, but it was Bellingham's prodigious work-rate and burgeoning quality in possession that allowed them to turn the tide.

Bellingham set up Henderson's opener and the Borussia Dortmund midfielder was involved again when England captain Kane bagged his first goal in this World Cup.

Kane has now netted 11 times at major tournaments, overtaking Gary Lineker as England's all-time top scorer in those competitions.

But at the tender age of 19, it is Bellingham who has emerged as England's driving force.

He is the first teenager to assist in a World Cup knockout stage game since 1966, having already announced his arrival on the global stage by netting his first England goal in the 6-2 rout of Iran in their group opener.

Just two years after he was playing in the English second tier with Birmingham, the precocious Bellingham was totally unfazed against Senegal in the biggest game of his life.

England will need another command performance from Bellingham if they are to extend their stay in Qatar beyond the last eight.

Eying a third successive semi-final appearance at major tournaments, England will return to the Al Khor desert on Saturday to take on the red-hot Kylian Mbappe and company after France brushed aside Poland 3-1 on Sunday.

Euro 2020 runners-up England have won only one of their last eight meetings with France, who pose a significant threat to their hopes of winning a first major title for 56 years.



The depth of attacking talent available to Southgate could be crucial and, defending his decision to drop Marcus Rashford for Saka despite the forward's double against Wales, he boasted "we have an embarrassment of riches in all areas of the pitch".

'READY FOR FRANCE'

Harry Kane hailed England's serene progress to the World Cup quarter-finals after scoring his first goal of the tournament in a 3-0 win over Senegal in the last 16.

The Three Lions have now won a knockout game in three consecutive major tournaments for the first time to set up a mouth-watering clash against reigning champions France in the last eight on Saturday.

"Knockout games are never easy. We showed great maturity through the tournament," Kane told ITV after moving to within one goal of Wayne Rooney's record of 53 for England.

"The mentality was top from the beginning and we took our chances when they came."

At 29, Kane is one of the senior players in Gareth Southgate's squad on a night when youngsters Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden and Bukayo Saka again showed their promise.

Saka scored his third goal of the tournament, while Foden provided two assists and Bellingham was heavily involved in the opening two goals.

"All three of them having big parts in the goals. We've got a great mixture of youth and experience now and another knockout win," added Kane.

"Over the years it's not been easy for England, so to win 3-0 it's a really great night."

France will pose a much tougher test of England's hopes of winning a first major tournament since 1966.

Kylian Mbappe was in stunning form for Les Bleus as he scored twice in a 3-1 win over Poland on Sunday to move clear as the top goalscorer in the tournament with five.

"We'll enjoy this one but then our focus turns to that, it's going to be a really tough game," said Kane.

"They are reigning champions but it's a good battle."



Cisse admits Senegal given WC lesson by England

AP ■ DOHA

Senegal coach Aliou Cisse Sbemoaned his team's defensive lapses after England brushed the African champions aside 3-0 in the World Cup last 16 on Sunday, admitting there had been a gulf in quality.

"A match lasts 90 minutes and in the first half we played pretty well and created chances but unfortunately we didn't score," said Cisse.

"We were playing a very good England team and we saw that in their challenges, their physical strength. We weren't as good as we should have been."

Cisse, who was unwell in the run-up to the match, said: "Senegal's strength before the World Cup was our defensive set-up. The fact we have let in a lot of goals at this tournament is difficult to explain. We are going to have to look at that."

"You pay for any mistake you make at the World Cup because of the calibre of the teams."

The coach said his side was missing two or three players who could have made a difference including star striker Sadio Mane, who was ruled out of the tournament before it started with an injury.

But he said he was making no excuses.

"We have worked for years to be the best in Africa but we were facing one of the top five teams in the world and we saw the difference tonight," he added. Cisse, whose side are ranked 18th by FIFA, said the team were on an upward trajectory.

"We have been trying hard to reach this level and we need to continue to ensure that at the next World Cup we can play better against a team of this calibre."

Croatia shoot-out Japan

AP ■ DOHA

Croatia reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup on Monday with a dramatic 3-1 penalty shoot-out win over Japan after a tense last-16 clash ended 1-1.

Mario Pasalic struck the winning penalty to send Croatia through after Ivan Perisic had pulled Croatia level in the 55th minute of normal time following Daizen Maeda's opener for Japan just before the break.

Croatia now face either Brazil or South Korea in the last eight and continued midfield icon Luka Modric's stay at his fourth and likely final World Cup.

Japan's bid to reach the last eight for the first time in their history came to a crushing end after another display of the sort which saw off Spain and Germany on their way to topping Group E.

However they could not claim one more big European scalp in the shape of the 2018 finalists and go home in the second round, as they did four years ago, after having three of their penalties saved.

Japan could easily have been ahead within three minutes when Shogo Taniguchi glanced a header wide from point-blank range, and 10 minutes later Daizen Maeda came close to turning in Junya Ito's brilliantly placed low ball from



the right flank.

Kramaric was then too slow to latch on to Perisic's dangerous flick-on and from there Japan took control, and the lead. Daichi Kamada had already blasted over after a superb passing move when in the 43rd minute Maeda fired in the opener after Ritsu Doan's cross was knocked down by Maya Yoshida.

Japan looked the better team and ready to inflict more damage but out of the blue Croatia's most dangerous player Perisic levelled the scores with a bullet header from Dejan Lovren's deep cross.

Almost immediately afterwards Wataru Endo responded

ed by having a good strike tipped over the bar by Dominik Livakovic, before Shuichi Gonda pulled off the save of the match to keep out Modric's beautifully-struck, dripping shot.

Modric was replaced nine minutes into the first half of extra-time in which Japan had the best chance, Kaoru Mitoma's effort well tipped away by Livakovic.

With penalties drawing close, one final chance fell to Modric's replacement Lovro Majer, who dragged his shot wide, but his team prevailed in the shoot-out to end the Blue Samurais' entertaining adventure.



Spot kicks are 'not a lottery': Enrique

AP ■ DOHA

Spain coach Luis Enrique set Seach of his players the "homework" of practising 1,000 penalties ahead of the World Cup, saying he is convinced they are not a lottery.

The 2010 world champions face Morocco in the last 16 on Tuesday, with the threat of extra-time and penalties looming in the knockout phase of the tournament in Qatar.

Spain beat Switzerland on penalties at last year's Euro 2020 but were eliminated on spot-kicks by Italy in the semi-finals.

"Over a year ago, in one of the Spain camps, I told them they had to get here with at least 1,000 penalties taken," Enrique said on Monday.

"I imagine that they have done their homework. If you wait until getting here to practice

penalties... (it won't be enough). The Spaniard insisted spot kicks were "not a lottery".

"It's a moment of maximum tension, a time to show your nerve, and that you can shoot the penalty in the way you have decided, if you have trained it a thousand times," he said.

"It says a lot about each player. It's trainable, manageable, how you manage the tension. It's increasingly less luck — the goalkeepers have more influence."

"We have a very good goalkeeper, any of the three can do very well in this situation. Every time we finish training I see a lot of players taking penalties."

The Spain coach also responded to criticism over the team's style of play — their commitment to playing out from defence sometimes puts them under pressure in dangerous areas.

Morocco to 'come out swinging' against Spain



AP ■ DOHA

Morocco coach Walid Regragui has urged his team to believe they can defeat powerhouse Spain as they attempt to reach a first World Cup quarter-final.

The north African side are in the last 16 for only the second time after advancing as winners of Group F ahead of 2018 runners-up Croatia, having defeated Belgium and Canada in Qatar.

"It will be a very testing game for us. We're coming up against one of the best footballing nations in the world. I think they're one of the favourites to reach the final,"

Regragui said on Monday.

"That said, we've also got things up our sleeve. We've had one extra rest day compared to them and we're going to try and pull a surprise out of the bag."

"If we're able to send Spain packing I think this will be a wonderful surprise not only for us but for our country."

Spain denied Morocco a famous win at the 2018 World Cup with a last-gasp equaliser in a 2-2 draw, the only point the Moroccans picked up in Russia.

"We're not seeking revenge at all. We're not looking at what happened in the past," said Regragui, who was appointed in August.

"We've got a new generation

and, for me, the mentality has to change with the Moroccan team. All the negative aspects, that's the old Morocco, we've changed. Our country's changed."

Morocco, the lone Arab nation and the last African team remaining in Qatar, will have the vocal backing of thousands of fans for Tuesday's game at Education City Stadium.

"We'll come out swinging. We want to hoist the Moroccan flag way up high. We're playing first and foremost for us and our country," said Regragui.

"All Arabs and Africans, we want to make them happy. We want their prayers and we want their support so it can give us that extra ingredient to win. Before it was just the Moroccans that supported us."

Morocco would become just the fourth African team to reach the quarter-finals — after Cameroon in 1990, Senegal in 2002 and Ghana in 2010 — if they beat the 2010 champions.

Morocco's only other appearance in the last 16 came in 1986, when they lost 1-0 to eventual runners-up West Germany.

"I don't think we should go out with any sort of complex," said Regragui.

"Yes, we're the underdog, but we know what Spain are made of and the recipe is easy. We shouldn't be worried, we should have no regrets and give the best of ourselves."

WINNING WORLD CUP OBSESSION: MBAPPE

AP ■ DOHA

Kylian Mbappe on Sunday said he dreamed of winning the World Cup for a second time after his brace helped France to a 3-1 win over Poland which advanced the holders to the quarter-finals in Qatar.

"Of course, this World Cup is an obsession for me, it's the competition of my dreams," said the 23-year-old who burst onto the global stage by starring when France won the title in Russia four years ago.

"I have built my season around this competition and around being ready both physically and mentally for it. I wanted to come here ready and so far things are going well, but we are still a long way from the objective we set and that I set."

The Paris Saint-Germain superstar now has five goals in just four games at the tournament and is already France's second-top scorer ever at the World



Cup with nine goals in 11 appearances overall. Only Just Fontaine, who scored an incredible 13 times at the 1958 tournament in Sweden, has more World Cup goals for France.

However Mbappe insisted he was not bothered about the prospect of winning the Golden Ball for the tournament's best player.

"The only objective for me is to win the World Cup which means now to win the quarter-final," said Mbappe, who also set up the opening goal against Poland for Olivier Giroud.

"That is what I am dreaming of. I didn't come here to win the Golden Ball. That is not why I am here. I am here to win and help the French national team."

While the veteran Giroud netted his 52nd international goal to move past Thierry Henry and become France's all-time top scorer, Mbappe was once again France's outstanding player.

Ronaldo looks to shine like Mbappe & Messi

AP ■ DOHA

Kylian Mbappe is the top scorer. Lionel Messi has been thrilling fans with his goals and dribbles. So what about Cristiano Ronaldo, one of the other superstars at the World Cup?

OK, he's broken a tournament record by becoming the first player to score a goal at five World Cups, but since converting that penalty in Portugal's opening game, Ronaldo has had a rather quiet time of it.

Maybe he's about to burst into life in the knockout stage — and erase a blemish in his glittering career: None of Ronaldo's eight World Cup goals have come in the knockout stage.

The five-time world player of the year heads into the round of 16 in likely his final World Cup facing Switzerland, which hasn't advanced beyond this stage since 1954.

Don't be fooled, though:



This is the same Switzerland that eliminated France in the last 16 at the European Championship last year and has become one of its continent's most consistent teams.

Portugal might need Ronaldo to start delivering. And the player himself will surely want to put himself back in the

spotlight, having seen Messi — his great rival — perform so well for Argentina in its win over Australia in the last 16 and Mbappe — the man who is fast establishing himself as the sport's new superstar — already rack up five goals for France on its path to the quarter-finals.

Still oozing self-confidence

at the age of 37, Ronaldo continues to back himself to perform at the highest level, yet his last two performances in the group stage were underwhelming. His only goal so far has come from the penalty spot in Portugal's opening victory over Ghana.

Portugal won its first two group games to advance and little should be read into the loss to South Korea, given coach Fernando Santos rotated heavily — even if Ronaldo started for the third straight game.

He'll be playing for the fourth time in 13 days and that's quite the workload these days for Ronaldo, whose game time has been managed for the past year and a half at Manchester United.

The other Ronaldo subplot is that he is still trying to convince potential suitors he is worth investing in when the World Cup is over, now he is a free agent after leaving United in contentious circumstances.

‘WOMEN’S IPL WILL BRIDGE GAP B/W INT’L & DOMESTIC CRICKET’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Stars such as Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana feel the women's IPL could help newcomers in making a seamless transition from domestic to international cricket.

The inaugural women's IPL is set to be held in March and some of the country's top players, from national team captain Harmanpreet to senior opener Mandhana, are looking forward to the event that will also see participation from overseas stars.

Speaking on Star Sports show 'Follow the Blues', Harmanpreet said, "The IPL will be a great platform for players that are really good, but you know for them, international cricket is still something that they cannot change their approach and mind-set overnight.

"But in the IPL, when they get a chance to play against overseas players, it will give them a platform, they can play well, they can understand what is international cricket.

"So, when they are playing for the Indian team, they will not face any extra pressure, because right now, the players that are selected from the domestic teams, sometimes I can see that they are blank, they are not able to understand how to change their game plan.

"To cut that gap, the tournament will play a major role. So, the coming years, with the girls who play in the IPL, we will definitely see some major changes in their performances."

The Women in Blue have made a lot of progress in the past year, but have not been able to win championships. The team made it to the semi-finals of the ODI World Cup, beat Sri Lanka in a T20I and ODI bilateral series, won a Commonwealth Games silver medal and bagged a historic 3-0 win in England.

The, they won the Asia Cup for a record seventh time.

Talking further about the IPL, Harmanpreet said, "The IPL is a huge step forward for women's cricket,



Shafali Verma to lead India in women's U-19 WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Talented opening batter Shafali Verma was on Monday named captain of India's 15-member squad for the ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup to be held in South Africa from January 14 to 29.

The All-India Women's Selection Committee picked the team for the maiden edition of the U-19 Women's T20 World Cup, as well as for the upcoming bilateral away T20 series against South Africa U-19 beginning from December 17.

The 18-year-old Shafali, who has played two Tests, 21 ODIs and 46 T20Is after making her debut in the senior national team in 2019, will also lead the 18-member Indian squad in the



five T20 matches against South Africa U-19. All the five T20 matches will be played at Tuks Oval, Pretoria on December 27, 29, 31 and January 2 and 4 respectively.

In the U-19 Women's World Cup, which will feature 16 teams, India have been placed in Group D alongside South

Africa, UAE and Scotland.

The top three teams from each group will progress to the Super Six round, where the sides will be pooled into two groups of six each.

The top two teams from each group will then progress to the semi-finals, which will be played on January 27 at JB Marks Oval in Potchefstroom. The final will take place at the same venue on January 29.

India U-19 Women's team for SA T20s: Shafali Verma (captain), Shweta Sehrawat (vice-captain), Richa Ghosh (wk), G Trisha, Soumya Tiwari, Sonia Mehdiya, Hurley Gala, Hrishita Basu (wk), Sonam Yadav, Mannat Kashyap, Archana Devi, Parshavi Chopra, Titas Sadhu, Falak Naz, Shabnam MD, Shikha, Najla CMC, Yashashree.

because before this, we have witnessed the Australia board, England board, they have looked after the WBBL and The Hundred.

"We have discussed that there's a big gap between domestic and international cricket, because even if you play well in domestic cricket and then suddenly play international games, you're not able to understand what to do and how to do it."

Mandhana compared the women's IPL with leagues such as The Hundred and the WBBL and spoke about how they have helped their domestic players.

"All of women's cricket, I won't say the Indian team or the domestic set-up. We keep talking about how it will increase the bench strength.

"But actually, the fact is that it's going to help the domestic girls massively because that sort of experience in playing in leagues like this will get a lot of things sorted for women's cricket," Mandhana said.

"Grassroot wise and we have seen how the Big Bash and The Hundred have helped Australia and England respectively in their domestic set-up as well as other things.

"So, I'm actually really happy, the Indian team will benefit a lot from the women's IPL, but it's also going to benefit a lot of domestic girls which I'm looking forward to.

Batter Jemimah Rodrigues said the women's IPL would take the game to the next level in India.

"The women's IPL is going to change a lot of things for women's cricket in India. I think this is like the best platform for us now that we as an Indian team have been doing so well in all the major events like the World Cup, the Commonwealth.

"This is just the right time for it to happen and I'm sure that we are going to get so much more talent that's going to come out from here. I am very sure that women's cricket in India is all set to go to the next level after the women's IPL," Rodrigues said.

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

One of the shrewdest minds in world cricket, Andy Flower, feels having different coaches and specialist players for red and white-ball cricket make a "lot of sense" for bigger teams like India, England and Australia amid a punishing international calendar.

Reigning T20 and ODI World Cup champions England are the only major side to adopt the split coaching formula and have a totally different set-up for the five-day and shorter formats.

Flower, who now coaches T20 franchises around the world after spending 12 years in English cricket set-up, feels the mental health of players and coaches is bound to be affected with so much cricket going on. "For some countries it is not needed. For bigger countries who are playing tons of cricket, players specialising makes sense. It would also make sense from a coaching point of view and a lifestyle and health point of view.

"Being on the road, living in hotels for two or three quarters in a year, that is not a healthy thing for families and relationships," the former Zimbabwe captain said.

Commenting on the roaring success of England in the shorter formats, Flower said a lot of credit must go to former captain Eoin Morgan and coach Trevor Bayliss, who engineered the side's remarkable transformation after a dismal 2015 World Cup.

"The biggest catalyst of change was Eoin Morgan and Trevor Bayliss. They encouraged an uber attacking style of play and they had freedom to do this as they had a poor World Cup in 2015," said the 54-year-old.

Flower coaches the Lucknow franchise in the IPL and has coached in T20 leagues around the world since 2019. He was with Delhi Bulls for the T10 League in Abu Dhabi.

His captain at Lucknow, K L Rahul, has copped a fair bit of criticism of late for his strike rate. Asked to comment on his recent performances, Flower said: "I don't agree with you that he has not been able to deliver.

"He has proved time and time again that he is able to deliver. He is an amazing cricketer and so beautiful to watch but also he has got an amazing record, especially in the IPL, and a ridiculously good average. I rate him very highly."



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

Gill strong contender to open for India in 2023 ODI WC: Yuvi

PTI ■ GURUGRAM

The highly rated Shubman Gill is a strong contender to open for India in the 2023 ODI World Cup at home, feels World Cup winner Yuvraj Singh.

Gill is not a part of the ODI series in Bangladesh but was part of the second string India squad in New Zealand.

"I think Shubman is doing very well and is performing consistently. I believe he is a strong contender to open for India in the 2023 World Cup," Yuvraj said.

Yuvraj, who retired from all forms of the game in 2019, has been mentor to some of the young cricketers from his state including Shubman.

During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, Shubman stayed with Yuvraj and trained under him alongside current Punjab skipper and Sunrisers Hyderabad all rounder Abhishek Sharma.

"Shubman is very hard-working and is doing all the right things. I believe he is destined for greatness in the next 10 years," Yuvraj said.

Yuvraj declined to comment on India's show in the T20 World Cup or the sacking of national selectors.

On a different note, Yuvraj said that he is open to work as a sports/cricket administrator.

"I can't say what will happen in future but if I can help in growth of sports in the country, I wouldn't mind. But it is not just cricket but I will like to help in growth of sports in this country."



INDIAN FINED 80% OF MATCH FEE FOR SLOW OVER-RATE

PTI ■ MIRPUR

India were on Monday penalised for slow over-rate in the first ODI against Bangladesh here, with the players coughing up 80 per cent of their match fee.

India lost the opening game of the three-match series by one wicket on Sunday. ICC elite panel match referee Ranjan Madugalle imposed the sanction after India were ruled to be four overs short of the target after time allowances were taken

into consideration.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

India captain Rohit Sharma pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing, the ICC said in a statement.

England beat Pak by 74 runs in 1st Test

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

England showcased its masterful approach of aggression in Test cricket with a superb 74-run victory over Pakistan in the final session of the first Test on Sunday.

Needing 263 runs with eight wickets in hand on Day 5, Pakistan was dismissed for 268 against the reverse swing of James Anderson (4-36) and Ollie Robinson (4-50) – losing its last five wickets for just 11 runs after tea.

Jack Leach wrapped up the game by having the last wicket of Naseem Shah, trapped leg before wicket, after England delayed the second new ball for well over an hour with Anderson and Robinson doing the damage with the old ball.

Pakistan also succumbed to the relentless attacking field settings of England captain Ben Stokes throughout the final day before Robinson and veteran Anderson sliced through the lower order with the host needing 86 runs.

"What we've had to deal with coming in makes this win even better," Stokes said, referring to a virus that hit half of his teammates on the eve of the match before they recovered in time for England's first test in Pakistan in 17 years.



"We wanted to come here and carry on with our mantra of exciting cricket and giving ourselves an opportunity to win. We've no interest in drawing."

The win on a docile Pindi Cricket Stadium wicket firmly underlined England's fearless aggressive approach under new coach Brendon McCullum,

which saw them win six of the seven Test matches back home this summer. Robinson exposed Pakistan's long tail soon after tea when he had Agha Salman (30) trapped leg before and then Azhar Ali (40) fell in the fielding trap when Joe Root grabbed a low two-handed catch in the leg slip.

Robinson had earlier ended the nearly four-hour defiance of one of the four Pakistan debutants – Saud Shakeel – in the second session to a brilliant diving catch by Keaton Jennings as the left-hander top-scored with 76.

Anderson broke the 87-run stand by having Mohammad Rizwan caught behind off a

Livingstone out of Pak tour with knee injury

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

All-rounder Liam Livingstone has been ruled out of the rest of England's tour of Pakistan with a knee injury, the team's management said on Monday. The 29-year-old made his Test debut Thursday in the ongoing first Test in Rawalpindi, scoring nine and seven not out in England's two innings.

But he jarred his knee while fielding on day two and did not bowl in Pakistan's first innings. Livingstone also missed the T20 series against Pakistan a few months ago after suffering an ankle injury.

England have yet to decide if a replacement will be called up. The second Test is in Multan from December 9-13, and the third in Karachi from December 17-21.

delivery which moved a shade outside the off stump and took the outside edge of the bat as England kept on coming hard at the Pakistan middle-order.

‘Indian team has everything to become world champion’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Pakistan hockey captain Tahir Zaman believes India can reclaim the World Cup title after a hiatus of 47 years if they can handle the pressure of being the hosts and play consistent game. Zaman, an integral part of Pakistan's 1994 World Cup-winning team, said playing the marquee event at home has its pros and cons.

"I would say India has a good chance this time. To be honest, home ground, home crowd advantage, but they should not forget that it can also be a disadvantage. The pressure of the home crowd and local media is something they have to be careful of," Zaman said.

"Apart from that, playing disciplined hockey, and not getting emotional will help. I would say the consistency I have noticed in the Indian team's per-



formance shows that they have everything that can make them the world champions this time."

The FIH World Cup will be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29. Zaman, a lively forward in his playing days, expects a highly competitive tournament.

"France and South Africa are the kinds of teams that can make any kind of upsets. But, on

the other hand, Australia, Belgium, Germany, and perhaps Argentina are big teams to watch out for.

"I would rate Australia and the Netherlands higher than Belgium this time. But, let's see how it goes. May the best team win the World Cup," said Zaman, who has 252 international caps and 134 goals to his name.

McDonald worried about Green's workload ahead of 2023 IPL

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald is concerned about Cameron Green's workload leading up to next year's IPL and said a decision on the all-rounder's participation in the lucrative T20 tournament will be taken closer to the event.

Australia all-format player Green is expected to garner huge interest from IPL franchises in this month's player auction after the 23-year-old recently nominated his name for the event.

His (Green) overall load in the next 12 months of cricket, is it a concern? Yeah, I think it's a concern for every player," McDonald told Australian Associated Press (AAP).

"We've spoken about it several times. It's hypothetical to see how he's feeling come the end of March. He's got a lot of cricket before the IPL and I'm sure his decision won't be made right now, it will be made later on down the track leading into the

IPL. "You never know what your body is going to feel like in three months' time on the back of nine Test matches plus some white ball cricket of the back end of that Indian series," he added.

The 2023 IPL will be held in between the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (February-March) in India and the Ashes (June-July) in England. Australia opener David Warner has already warned Green about the challenge of managing his workload.

Australia Test captain Pat Cummins had already opted out of next year's IPL due to a busy international schedule.

Of late, Green has been troubled by back injuries, which limited his bowling.

"We're lucky and fortunate enough that the quality in front of him (Green) doesn't mean that he has to bowl excessive amounts of overs," McDonald said. "He bats in the top six, he's holding his own as a batter. So I could say that he's pretty much unrestricted at the moment."