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LUCKNOW, SUNDAY DECEMBER 4, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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SPORT 7
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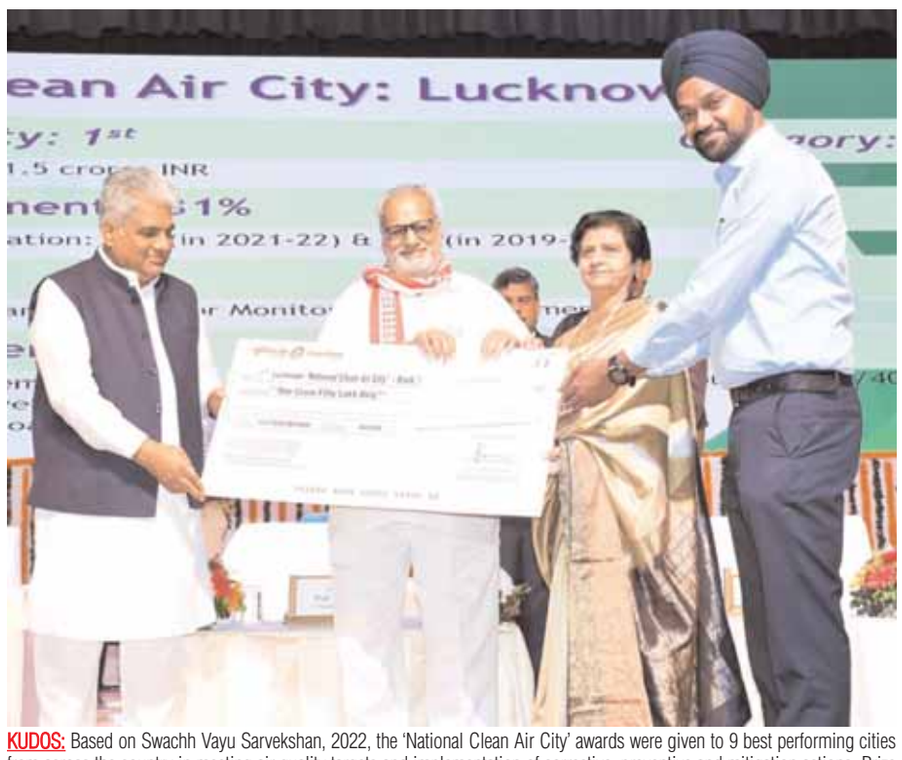
EC warns against urban voter apathy

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wary of the "urban apathy" that impacted the overall voter turnouts, be it in Shimla when Himachal Pradesh voted on November 12 or in Surat in the first phase of polling on December 1, the Election Commission (EC) on Saturday went public urging the voters of Gujarat to come out in large numbers during the second phase of polling for 93 seats on December 5, high-voltage campaigning for which ended on Saturday. As many as 833 candidates are in the fray across 93 constituencies for the December 5 polls. Votes will be counted on December 8. Prominent candidates in the second phase of the triangular contest involving the BJP, Congress and the AAP include Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel from Ghatlodia, Patidar leader Hardik Patel from Viramgam and OBC leader Alpesh Thakor from Gandhinagar South. Both Hardik and Thakor are contesting on BJP ticket. *Contd on Page 6*

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

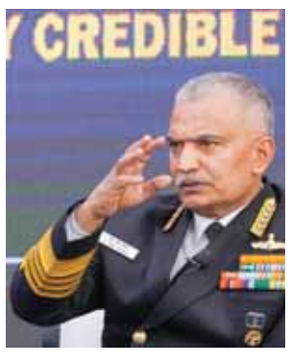


KUDOS: Based on Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan, 2022, the 'National Clean Air City' awards were given to 9 best performing cities from across the country in meeting air quality targets and implementation of corrective, preventive and mitigation actions. Prize cheques and certificates were given in three categories of cities based on population. In the first category of cities — those having a population more than 10 lakh — Lucknow bagged the first prize and a cash reward of Rs. 1.5 crore for reducing average ambient PM10 concentration by 31% from 2019-20 to 2021-22 and scoring higher on actions taken for abating burning of biomass and solid waste. Mayor of Lucknow, Sanyukta Bhatia, received the cheque and certificate from Orissa Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal and Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, on Saturday.

China increasing forays in Indian Ocean: Navy chief

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



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

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

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

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

Informing that Chinese fishing vessels operate all over the world including the Indian Ocean Region, Admiral Kumar said, "our job is to track them through robust surveillance and not allow them to fish in India's exclusive economic zone." *Continued on Page 6*

IFFI jury stands with Lapid on Kashmir Files issue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Lapid had said during the closing ceremony of the IFFI in Goa that 'The Kashmir Files' was a 'propaganda' film and 'vulgar.' Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon took exception to these remarks and asked the filmmaker to apologise. The India jury member Sudipto Sen disputed Lapid's claims about the film directed by Vivek Agnihotri. Veteran actor Anupam Kher had acted in the film. Both of them have slammed Lapid.

According to the news portal *The Wire*, breaking their silence, the three foreign members of the IFFI jury have now said they stand behind what Lapid said. On Saturday, fellow jury member Jinko Gotoh tweeted a statement expressing the support of all the foreign members of the jury for Lapid's stance on 'The Kashmir Files.' *Continued on Page 6*

Hate mail for envoy

New Delhi: Days after he slammed filmmaker Nadav Lapid for his remarks against the film 'The Kashmir Files', Israeli envoy to New Delhi Naor Gilon has received a hate mail calling Hitler "great" for the Holocaust. **Details on P6**

Guj opposes in SC bail for Godhra train attack accused

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Gujarat Government has opposed in the Supreme Court the bail pleas of some convicts of the 2002 Godhra train burning case, saying they were not mere stone-pelters and their acts prevented people from escaping the burning coach. *Continued on Page 6*

Misconceptions spread by Allopathy

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

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Skin diseases

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

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

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Fire breaks out in UP Cooperative Bank

No major damage caused, say officials

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A massive fire broke out on the 8th floor of UP Cooperative Bank's headquarters in Hazratganj on Saturday. The bank was in news following a cyber fraud in which a sum of Rs 146 crore was transferred to different accounts by hackers on October 15. The police have worked out the case and recovered the entire amount. Interestingly, the fire broke out on the same floor where the cyber fraud was committed by the hackers.

As per reports, Gajendra Pathak, who is incharge of allowing entry to safai workers to open the locks and clean the office, felt a foul smell from a room known as Brochures room on the 8th floor. Minutes later, he saw fumes emanating from the room.

The bank officials said they attempted to douse the flames by using fire extinguishers and informed the Fire department around 9:40 am. "The firemen reached around 10 am and successfully douses the flames. Some old brochures, which were of no use, were partially damaged. No major losses took place," an official said.

In the fraud case, a former staff, RS Dubey of Indira Nagar, was accused of conspiring with the hackers. The police arrested the accused named in the case. The police had found that the company of one of the accused, Sukh Sagar Singh Chauhan of Gomti Nagar, had got Rs 74 crore in the digital transaction. The police got the lead following the interrogation of Dubey, who disclosed the names of his aides as Umesh Kumar Giri, Gyan Dev Pal, Ravi Singh Verma and Satish Kumar. The cyber fraud had taken place on October 15 and Dubey had facilitated entry of the fraudsters using his familiarity with security guards. The police were yet to find the device which the hackers used to breach the bank's server.

Jail inmate falls sick, dies; kin create ruckus

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A jail inmate fell sick all of a sudden and died during treatment at Balrampur Hospital in Wazirganj police station area on Saturday. His family members created a ruckus in the hospital, alleging that he was not provided proper medical care and that he was thrashed in jail.

As per reports, Mohammed Amir (40) of Daliganj near Mankameshwar Temple was named in a case registered under Negotiable Instrument (NI) Act and later sent to jail in Gosainganj. Around 10 am on Saturday, Amir developed health-related complications and was taken to the jail hospital from where he was referred to Balrampur Hospital. A police spokesman said Amir was admitted to the hospital around 10:30 am on Saturday and he died around 1:05 pm. The hospital administration sent a memo to Wazirganj police. Thereafter, the police reached there and sent the body for autopsy.

Amir's family members assembled at the hospital and created a ruckus. They alleged that Amir was thrashed in jail and did not get proper medical care, which resulted in his death. They claimed that he had no health complications earlier. They said he was scheduled to be released from jail on December 29.

It surfaced that Amir had a money-related dispute with a man. "We were informed in the morning that Amir had fallen sick and he had been admitted to Balrampur Hospital," they said. Amir is survived by wife and two daughters.

Police in talks with the bereaved family members of Mohammed Amir who died on Saturday Pioneer

Providential escape for Allahabad HC judge, driver in road mishap

Lucknow (PNS): A sitting judge of the Allahabad High Court and his driver had a providential escape after a 14-wheel truck hit his car in BBD police station area on Friday night. His driver filed a case in this connection. As per reports, judge Surendra Singh's car was hit near Break Point dhaba in the area around 11:10 pm on Friday.

A police spokesman said a case for reckless driving was registered on the complaint of judge's driver Radhey Krishna Mishra of Prayagraj. He said the truck brushed past the judge's car whose front tyre was damaged. "The front portion of the car was also damaged and a case under the relevant sections of the IPC was registered. Efforts are underway to track down the errant driver," he said.

The police said the judge and his driver were safe. "We will arrest the truck driver soon," he added.

Man defrauded of ₹20L by realtor

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A realtor and his men were accused of defrauding a man of about Rs 20 lakh in the name of booking a flat at his project called Urban Woods in Sushant Golf City police station area.

The victim, Amitesh Pandey of Mohanlalganj, filed a case with the Vibhuti Khand police on Saturday. In his complaint, Amitesh, who is a banker, said realtor Shashank Gupta lured him into buying a flat in his project and took Rs 19,34,000 from him for booking in 2016.

"I was not interested in investing in a flat but he lured me into doing so. In March 2018, he gave me a fake allotment letter even though the project was non-existent back then. He later motivated me to adjust the money in other projects when I insisted him to register the flat in my name in 2020," he said.

He further said that he came to know from various sources that the project was fake and he decided to take back his money.

"One of my relatives and I were held hostage at the office of the realtor in Vibhuti Khand. He threatened to frame us rape cases. He even thrashed and abused us," he alleged. He said an associate of the realtor impressed upon him by saying he was a close aide of an MLA and had a good rapport with officials at the CM's office.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I, Sumit Narain Dwivedi R/o 117/H-2/170, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur UP have changed my Son's name from Yuvaan Narain Dwivedi to Kushagra Dwivedi vide Affidavit No. 72AE 998359 dated 24.11.2022 before Govt. Notary Kanpur.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my name was HUMAN SHAFIQ which is now changed to HUMA SHAFIQUE. In future I shall be known as HUMA SHAFIQUE. HUMA SHAFIQUE W/o Shafique Ahmad 17, Jhapia Bamrouli, Uparhar, Allahabad.

NOTICE

Notified that is my Passport N. R9835742 in my name is written Mohammad Mustafa Anwar which is wrong. Correct name is Mohd. Mustafa Anwar S/o Adeel Anwar R/o 163/309 Haji Building, Maulviganj Aminabad Park Lucknow-226018

सूचना

मेरे सर्विस रिकॉर्ड (आर्मी नं. 4569030K) में त्रुटिवश पुत्री अर्चना शर्मा की जन्मतिथि 02.04.2012 अंकित हो गई है। जबकि सही जन्मतिथि 22.07.2008 है। अतः सही जन्मतिथि दर्ज करें। लाल जी पुत्र श्री राजाबाबू ग्रा. पचदेवरा, पो. अमावता, अजीतमल, औरैया।

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my name was SANJAY MISHRA which is now changed to SANJAY KUMAR MISHRA . In future I shall be known as SANJAY KUMAR MISHRA. SANJAY KUMAR MISHRA S/o Brahm Datt Mishra Semraha Deeha Uperhar Karchhana, Prayagraj.

NAME/DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE

I, Arti mala Shukla W/o, Ex-Hav Mahesh Chandra Shukla R/o 84, Banke Lal Puram Swarn Jayanti Road, Koyla Nagar, Kanpur, 208011 hereby declare that my correct name/date of birth is "ARTI MALA SHUKLA" /12-02-1968 whereas the name/date of birth recorded in service records of my Husband is "Arti Mala"/ 01-07-77 which is incorrect. My correct name/date of birth is "ARTI MALA SHUKLA" /12-02-1968 be used for all future purposes and same be changed in service records of my husband. This change affirmed vide Affidavit dated before Kanpur District Court.

NOTICE

I have to changed my name from Sunil Kumar Yadav to Sunil Yadav S/o Ram Kumar Yadav for future purpose. Add- 117/132 Raja Ka Purwa, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

I, Sumit Narain Dwivedi R/o 117/H-2/170, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur UP have changed my Son's name from Rudra Narain Dwivedi to Ekagra Dwivedi vide Affidavit No. 72AE 998358 dated 24.11.2022 before Govt. Notary Kanpur.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my name was SHAFIQ AHMAD which is now changed to SHAFIQUE AHMAD . In future I shall be known as SHAFIQUE AHMAD. SHAFIQUE AHMAD S/o- Wahaj Uddin 17, Jhapia Bamrouli, Uparhar, Allahabad.

सूचना

सूचित हो की मैं तृप्ता जैन व रिचा जैन निवासी 4/139 विभव खंड गोमती नगर लखनऊ मेरा प्लाट नं 4/6 विभव खंड गोमती नगर जोकि अनिल सेखरी के नाम का आवंटन पत्र खो गया है अब से इसका उपयोग किसी अन्य के द्वारा अवैध होगा।

सूचना

सूचित करते हैं कि पहले मेरा नाम शकीर इस्लाम उस्मानी था जो अब बदलकर शाकिर इस्लाम उस्मानी हो गया है। आज से मुझे शाकिर इस्लाम उस्मानी के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जायेगा। शाकिर इस्लाम उस्मानी, पुत्र मोहम्मद इल्यास, मकान नं0 सी 51, जी, टी0बी0 नगर, नियर टूटी मस्जिद करैली, प्रयागराज

NOTICE

In the army record of my husband posted in Mahar Regiment, my date of birth has wrongly been mentioned as 20.8.1978. My correct date of birth is 30.8.1978 as also mentioned in my Aadhar Card No.49843368197 which should accordingly be amended in husband's army record. Rajesh Kumari W/o Nayak Subedar Raj Kumar, Army No. J.C. 572203 R/o Nagla Haryana, Post Nanamau, Distt. Mainpuri.

BDC ex-member peppered with bullets by rivals

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A former member of BDC and presently a MGNREGA worker was peppered with bullets by his rivals in Kakori police station area on Saturday afternoon.

As per reports, Ram Jeewan Lodhi of Gurdeen Khera was attacked when he was returning home from the town area close to Chaudhary Mohalla Ward near Sharda Canal. Police recovered bullet shells and Lodhi's bike from the crime scene.

ADCP, West, CN Sinha said, "Ram Jeewan Lodhi was shot three times and he sustained injuries in his hands and head. He was rushed to Trauma Centre of KGMU where he was pronounced dead," he said.

The ADCP said Lodhi had an enmity with Shiva aka Shamsher, who is a former gram pradhan of the area. "The family of the deceased has named Shiva and his men in a complaint. A case has been registered and manhunt has been launched for Shiva and his men. Shiva was not found at his house and it deepened the suspicion on him," Sinha said.

Eyewitnesses told the police that Lodhi was shot after a brief verbal spat with Shiva. "Shiva whipped out a pistol and fired at Lodhi," an eyewitness was quoted as saying by the police.

The attacker was accompanied by others who fled the scene taking advantage of the chaos which followed after the incident.

Meanwhile, a group of youths abducted their rival and freed him after thrashing him in Sarojini Nagar police station area on Saturday. Reports said the victim, Shahrukh of Baag No. 3, had gone to pick up his younger brother from a school in Shanti Nagar when his rivals reached the scene and abducted him. They took him to some place where they thrashed him before setting him free. He named Jeet, Manish and Manas in his complaint and said that he had a showdown with them a week ago.

Levana Suites owners, manager get bail

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court has granted bail to the owners and manager of Levana Suites hotel here where four people were killed and many were injured in a fire on September 5 this year.

The Lucknow bench of the high court granted bail to Levana Suites owners Rahul Agrawal and Rohit Agrawal and manager Sagar Srivastava.

"There may have been some infraction of regulatory requirements to run a hotel but that would not amount that the accused persons had been negligent or they failed to take due care of their guests or they had knowledge of fire accident, which would result in death/injuries to the guests," Justice DK Singh observed in the bail order.

Four people had died and several injured in a massive fire that broke out at the hotel in Hazratganj area of Lucknow on September 5 this year. The FIR in the matter was lodged at Hazratganj police station. The FIR had alleged that no arrangements for fire safety, emergency escape or entrance were made in the hotel and no arrangements were there for smoke to come out and also no such safety arrangement was there to counter such exigencies. It was also alleged in the FIR that windows of the hotel rooms were blocked with iron grills and thus, they could not be opened for the purpose of escaping by the occupants.

During the rescue operation, firemen faced immense difficulty in cutting iron grills to enter the building. The FIR further alleged that gas cylinders were kept in the hotel premises in a very unsafe and reckless manner. It was further alleged that the owners and manager of the hotel had knowledge that such lapses and lack of arrangements would likely threaten life and safety of the people.

In the bail pleas, it was argued that the owners and manager of the hotel have been booked for the most serious offence of committing culpable homicide besides other offences but in fact, they had no knowledge that such an incident could ever occur and hence the offence cannot attract against them.

To this plea, the bench observed, "To attract the provisions of Section 304 IPC (committing culpable homicide), there has to be knowledge of an accused that his act would likely cause death."

The state counsel and the victims' lawyers opposed the bail pleas arguing that no-objection certificates were obtained by bad means and the accused were aware that such an incident could happen on any day and hence they are not entitled for bail.

"Considering the aforesaid facts and circumstances of the case and also the fact that the charge sheet has already been filed and the accused persons have been in jail since the first week of September 2022, I am of the opinion that the accused persons are entitled to be enlarged on bail," the bench said.

Two held by STF for extortion demand

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A team of STF claimed to have arrested two men on Saturday on the charges of demanding extortion from a Rae Bareli native. The accused, identified as Mukesh Yadav and Raghavendra Singh, were nabbed near Hardaspur canal in Mill police station area following a tip-off. The police team recovered a country-made pistol and a live cartridge from their possession.

The accused reportedly confessed to their crime and disclosed that they had threatened the owner of AK Township Developers Pvt Ltd, Ashish Kumar of Ashok Nagar in Rae Bareli, on November 15 last and had demanded Rs 5 lakh as extortion. The duo were carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 each for their involvement in several crime cases.

"We got a tip off that the accused were planning to flee the city as police had tightened the noose around them. The cops swung into action and nabbed the duo," police said. Mukesh Yadav is named in as many as 19 cases, including attempt to murder and extortion.

Dalit girl gang-raped, strangulated

Mathura (PTI): A 14-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly strangled to death after gang-rape in a village under Mahavan Police Station area of Mathura district. According to Police, the girl had gone to a forest area near her house to relieve herself at around 8.30 pm Friday night.She had taken her nine-year-old sister with her.

Three men of the village caught the girl there and allegedly gang-raped her, and strangled her to death later, they said. Her younger sister somehow managed to escape from there and told her family about the incident. When they heard about it, the family along with other villagers began a search for the girl and ended up apprehending two men.

Superintendent of Police Rural Trigun Bisen who visited the spot pacified the agigtated villagers, and took Deshraj and Yogendra, the two men caught by the villagers, into custody.

Police are now conducting raids in search of the third accused, Sachin, who is on the run. Deputy Superintendent of Police Alok Singh said prima facie it appears that the girl was killed after rape. An FIR has been lodged and police are investigating the matter.

Power employees suspend 4-day work boycott

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Power Employees' Joint Action Committee on Saturday announced to suspend the four-day work boycott following talks with Energy Minister AK Sharma.

The minister assured the power employees that their demand for removal of the chairman of UP Power Corporation Limited would be looked into. Convenor of the committee Shailendra Dube said the agitation had affected the power supply across the state and around three crore power consumers were affected by the agitation.

He said that over 25,000 engineers and power employees had participated in the agitation. The major demands of the power employees include rollback of the orders for privatisation of the transformer repair workshops and orders for the operation of power transmission sub-stations through outsourcing to private agencies. The employees are also demanding cancellation of the tender of Rs 25,000 crore for the purchase of smart meters.

LSWA delegation meets excise minister to press demands

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A delegation of Liquor Sellers' Welfare Association (LSWA) met the excise minister on Saturday to apprise the latter of their demand to increase the margin on sale of liquor to make up for their losses and renewal of their licences.

LSWA media incharge Devesh Jaiswal said the meeting was fruitful and satisfactory. Jaiswal said the demand to increase the margin on the sake of liquor was the need of the hour. "For the last ten years, quota and licence fee have nearly doubled but the margin on sale of IMFL has decreased from 18 per cent to 11 per cent while that on desi liquor from 14 per cent to 8 per cent. On the contrary, the expenses on running a shop (rent, salary of salesmen, cost of contract deed, installation of CCTV cameras, LMC fees, which increased by 500 per cent, food licence, freight charges, damage of goods and other counts) have increased by nearly three times," he pointed out.

Jaiswal said liquor sellers were facing a lot of hardships in running their business and also facing losses due to increased expenses. He said the Excise department should allot a high-standard scanner as the PoS machines were not working properly. Jaiswal said the department should not increase the MRP of low-brand desi liquor, IMFL and beer because the revenue is high on such brands. "There is a need for 42.8 per cent of Tetra Pal of desi liquor availability in the city area of Lucknow," he said.

The delegation also demanded that the shop opening time be increased to 11 pm from 10 pm to prevent illegal sale. The delegation further demanded immunity for licence holders from police FIR for the illegal work of sellers. "The sellers undergo police verification and they should be taken to task if they commit a crime. Shop-owners usually take licences in the names of their family members. Police action should be taken only if a probe establishes the role of a licence holder in any illegal activity," the delegation said.

CITYBRIEFS

YOUTH FESTIVAL INAUGURATED

The five-day International Youth Festival-2022, organised by City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus II, kicked off at the Kanpur Road auditorium on Saturday. The chief guest was Labour Minister Anil Rajbhar, who inaugurated the opening ceremony. Over 500 participating students from Nepal and various states of India presented a view of a world full of values of unity and brotherhood. CMS students presented colourful educational-cultural programmes in the honour of the participating students' teams.

FELICITATED

Punjab National Bank felicitated the children of Drishti Samajik Sansthan on the occasion of International Disability Day on Saturday. The objective of the day is to promote the importance of securing the rights of persons with disabilities so that they can participate fully, equally and effectively in society along with others. Various competitions were organised for the children who participated enthusiastically. Organised on the initiative of senior PNB officer Sanjay Shukla, the objective of the programme was to encourage differently-abled children and make them aware of their rights.

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Yogi govt OKs projects worth ₹1,000 crore in Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

KEEPING IN MIND THE CONVENIENCE OF DEVOTEES, A 0.566-KM FOUR-LANE ROAD IS BEING BUILT FROM SUGRIVA FORT TO SHRI RAM JANMABHOOMI MANDIR MARG, AND IT HAS BEEN NAMED JANMABHOOMI PATH

The Yogi Adityanath government has approved projects worth about Rs 1,000 crore to provide direct road connectivity from various locations to the Ram temple being built in Ayodhya.

The initiatives include land acquisition for road connectivity, rehabilitation of buildings and shop-owners and construction of buildings. With this, all the roads leading to Ram Janmabhoomi will be widened and beautified, creating a beautiful ambiance for pilgrims.

Keeping in mind the convenience of devotees, a 0.566-km four-lane road is being built from Sugriva Fort to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir Marg, and it has been named Janmabhoomi Path.

In a high-level meeting, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave his approval to the development project which will cost approximately Rs 83.33 crore, including land purchases and other projects.

In addition, Rs 3.90 crore and Rs 27.17 crore have been made available for the construction work. At present, 39 per cent of the work has been completed whereas the work of pipeline for sewer water supply by Jal Nigam is going at a rapid pace.

Utility duct and RCC drain construction are also underway. From Shringar Haat to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir Marg, a four-lane stretch measuring 0.742 kilometres is also being constructed.

The name of this route is Bhakti Path. For its expansion, an amount of Rs 62.79 crore has been approved for the purchase of land and other construction work and a sum of Rs 32.10 crore has been released.

Owners of 350 shops which were in the way of the construction have been given compensation. As many as 290 shops have been demolished for widening of the road to 13 metres, including 5.50-metre wide CC road.

A 12.940-km four-lane road from Sahadatganj to Naya Ghat Marg is being built and has been named Ram Path in order to facilitate access to the Ram Janmabhoomi temple.

An amount of Rs 797.69 crore has been approved for widening of this road. For purchase of land and other construction work, a sum of Rs 290 crore has been released. About 40,765 square metres of land is needed for Ram Path, against which 4,773 square metres of land has been acquired.

BJP will come back to power: Yogi in Guj

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Saturday that the Bharatiya Janata Party would come back to power in Gujarat with a thumping majority. He appealed to people to turn up at polling booths in large numbers to vote for the BJP in the final round of elections to be held on Monday.

On the last day of his marathon campaign in Gujarat, Yogi said that the double-engine government alone could ensure development at the speed of a bullet train and welfare of people while respecting faith, and described the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party as "barriers in the country's progress" and were incapable of providing security, prosperity & employment to people, and respecting faith.

Urging voters to reject the Congress and AAP, Yogi said: "The voters of Uttar Pradesh have already done it and now it's your turn. AAP could not even open its account whereas of the 403 seats in UP, Congress only got two. You need at least four people even for carrying a body to the cremation ground."

Yogi said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, 'Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat' is emerging. "There is no terrorism, separatism and naxalism in the country. A new model of secure India has been established. Bulldozer has set a new model. It is not only used in construction but also runs over criminals and terrorists," he said.

"Gujarat is a model state that has provided leadership to the country at every critical juncture right from the period of Lord Krishna to Dayanand Saraswati, Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Swami Narayan and now Prime Minister Narendra Modi under whose leadership, India's prestige at the global stage has increased remarkably," he added.

"In this 'Amrit Kaal' of Indian independence, India has defeated the UK, which ruled the country for two centuries, to become the world's fifth largest economy. On December 1, India under PM Modi's leadership also formally took on the mantle to lead G20, a group of 20 most developed countries that control 80 per cent of the world's resources," he said.

He added: "Under PM Modi's leadership, a vaccine was developed during Covid in real quick time. Besides, PM Modi provided free tests, treatment and vaccines in addition to giving free ration to 80 crore people. PM Modi has also provided houses, toilets, free electricity, free LPG cylinders and health insurance coverage under Ayushman Bharat to millions of poor people. PM Modi launched PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, which is benefitting farmers immensely. Why didn't Congress governments in the past launch such a scheme for farmers. You can't expect any such thing from Congress or AAP. They have no compassion for the poor and no respect for people's faith."

Appealing to people to discard Congress to honour Mahatma Gandhi's wish, Yogi said that while BJP honoured people's faith by starting construction of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya, building Kashi Vishwanath corridor and renovating and beautifying Kedarnath and Badrinath dhams as well as Dwarkapuri and Ujjain's Mahakal, devotees were fired at and lathicharged while saints were barred from entering Ayodhya during the erstwhile Congress governments.

Campaigning for UP bypolls ends

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The campaign for the bypolls to Rampur & Khatauli assembly seats and Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat ended on Saturday evening. In all the three constituencies, the ruling BJP is locked in a direct fight with the Samajwadi Party-Rashtriya Lok Dal combine.

High stakes are involved for the Samajwadi Party in Mainpuri. The seat is witnessing the contest between BJP candidate and former SP MP Raghuraj Singh Shakya and Dimple Yadav, wife of SP president Akhilesh Yadav.

Earlier, this by-election was considered to be easy for Dimple. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party changed all the pre-poll predictions by fielding veteran leader Raghuraj Singh Shakya.

The heat quotient increased significantly as UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath campaigned in Mainpuri and addressed two meetings. The BJP deployed an army of MLAs and ministers to fight the SP in its traditional bastion.

Deputy CMs Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak also addressed several meetings in Mainpuri for two days. BJP state president Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh and general secretary (organisation) Dharampal Singh a;so left no stone unturned to mobilise the voters.

Rampur is another SP bastion where veteran leader Azam Khan is fighting an existential battle.

Five months after it wrested the Rampur Lok Sabha seat from Azam's stronghold, the BJP is now wooing Pasmanda Muslim voters. The BJP deployed its Muslim leaders to win over the Pasmanda (OBCs) Muslims and held small meetings and conferences across the constituency.

Muslims and other communities have benefitted from government schemes like free ration during the pandemic and housing for the poor.

Considered the "Muslim face" of SP, Azam had won from Rampur for the tenth time in the assembly polls in March earlier this year. The by-election is being held following Azam's disqualification after he was sentenced to three years in connection with a hate speech case.

Azam, who is facing over 80 cases, was released on bail after 27 months in May last. His close aide Asim Raza, who was defeated in the parliamentary by-election five months ago, has been fielded by the SP from the assembly seat.

The bypoll to Khatauli assembly seat has been necessitated due to disqualification of BJP legislator Vikram Singh Saini after his conviction and two-year imprisonment by a district court in a 2013 riots case.

This bypoll is a battle of prestige for Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Jayant Chaudhary. RLD candidate Madan Bhaiya, a four-term MLA, had won his last election almost 15 years ago. However, he tasted three consecutive defeats in the assembly polls in 2012, 2017 and 2022 from Loni in Ghaziabad.

With the BSP abstaining from the bypoll, the SP-RLD alliance made an understanding with Dalit leader Chandrashekhar Aazad, who heads the Azad Samaj Party. Azad extended his support to the alliance candidate and actively campaigned for him.

Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party on Saturday gave a complaint to the Election Commission, alleging partisan conduct of police in Mainpuri.

SP spokesman Rajendra Chaudhary, in a letter to UP's Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla, demanded the removal of several police officers inMainpuri and Rampur districts.

He also urged the Election Commission to ensure compliance of its directive to the officials of Mainpuri and Rampur.

#Swachh_UP_Sashakt_UP takes Twitter by storm

LUCKNOW: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's campaign to make Uttar Pradesh a clean and strong state is getting tremendous support on social media with #Swachh_UP_Sashakt_UP becoming one of the top trends on microblogging platform Twitter on Saturday.

Using the hashtag, social media users praised the campaigns being run by the Yogi government for cleanliness and also appreciated better law & order situation and infrastructure in the state. The hashtag reached the number one position on Twitter's India Trends and was among the top trending topics for about four hours. During this period, the hashtag reached 19.86 crore people with 31,200 engagements and more than 15,200 tweets and retweets. Tweets were also made on this hashtag from the CM's office.

A user named Arun Yadav wrote, "Yogiji has eliminated both mafia and filth from UP." Another user Sudhir Mishra tweeted, "During previous governments, UP's cities figured among the filthiest cities, today in Yogi Government, the same cities top in cleanliness rankings." Rahul Kumar Valmiki tweeted, "UP has improved a lot in the last 5 years. Industries have expanded, the youth of the state have got better opportunities for self-employment. UP has become strong under the leadership of Maharaj ji." Dr Prachi Sadhvi wrote, "UP has got a different identity not just like that. Yogi ji has made the state clean as well as strong."

King George's Medical University U.P., Lucknow
Ph. 05222258428

Ref. No. E/1580 **Dated: 03.12.2022**

Short-term Tender Notice

Sealed tenders under two bid system are hereby invited from the "A" class licensed registered electrical contractors / experience contractors of Electric department KGMU Lucknow for the execution of **(A) Electrical work for Gastroenterology department, Radiotherapy department, at Shatabdi Hospital Phase-2 KGMU Lucknow. (B) Supply & fixing of LED ceiling light 36 watts with replace of old & damaged PLL light at LT room NO 222, 223, 408, 410, 418 & 419 at Kalam Centre KGMU Lucknow. (C) Providing & installation of two way sound loud speaker, stage monitor, amplifier, mixer & equalizer or other related sound system work at 400 seated hall at Atal Bihari Vajpayee scientific convention centre KGMU Lucknow. (D) Providing & installation of two way sound loud speaker, stage monitor, amplifier, mixer & equalizer or other related sound system work at 200 seated hall at Atal Bihari Vajpayee scientific convention centre KGMU Lucknow (E) Providing of light point, fan point, plug point, power point, A.C. point, DB, MCB etc for Minor OT at 1st floor extended OPD QMH KGMU Lucknow.** The tender shall be opened on **14.12.2022 timing 3.00 PM at Electrical Department KGMU, Lucknow** The details of the tender document can be viewed at university website **www.kgmcindia.edu** & **www.kgmu.org**. Other terms and condition regarding the tender and work can be seen in the office of electric department during any working days.

Executive Engineer (Electrical)

Govt sees potential in real estate to make UP $1-tn economy

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government is looking at the real estate sector as a real source of investment in its goal to make Uttar Pradesh a $1-trillion economy. In the next five years, the real estate sector would get investments worth Rs 7.3 lakh crore, as per an estimate by the Yogi Adityanath government.

Special focus is being laid on urban areas. Under this, 64 lakh homes HIG, MIG, LIG EWS categories will be constructed in urban areas close to small markets. The government will encourage private companies to invest in these houses.

Citing a survey report, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath told officials in a meeting held recently that in the year 2020-21, the contribution of real estate in Uttar Pradesh's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is 14.4 per cent, which is equal to Rs 34 billion. About 20 lakh people are associated with this sector.

Yogi told the officials concerned that there is a need to pay attention to this because according to the report, this sector can be helpful in providing new opportunities for growth, development, and employment in the state.

It has been said in the report that at present, the population of the state is 23.09 crore, of which about 23.7 per cent of the population (almost 5.47 crore) lives in urban areas.

In the year 2027, the population of the state is expected to be 24.47 crore, of which 35 per cent of the population (8.56 crore) would increase in urban areas. In this situation, over 3.09 crore people will increase in the urban areas of the state in the next five years.

At present, there are 10.7 lakh houses in urban areas whereas in the next five years, 64 lakh houses will be required in accordance with the population. This is the reason that there will be a boom in the real estate sector, which will play an important role in making the state a $1-trillion economy.

The construction of 64 lakh homes will cost Rs 7.3 lakh crore, according to the chief minister. The average cost of constructing a home is expected to be Rs 1,500 per sq ft.

Private real estate companies will contribute 65 per cent of the cost of construction of these houses while 35 per cent contribution will be from the authority under the government. Besides, 75,000 acres of land will be required to build these houses, of which 32,000 acres is currently available with the government. In such a situation, the government will have to make more arrangements for 43,000 acres of land.

Yogi has divided it into four parts to promote the real estate sector in the state — Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddh Nagar, and Meerut of NCR in the western zone. There will be an increase in the population here as the manufacturing sector contributes 67 per cent to the growth state value addition. With the arrival of new companies, the means of employment will increase, which will attract people towards it. Similarly, there will be cities like Lucknow and Kanpur in the central zone, whose manufacturing sector has a 13 per cent share in the growth state value addition.

Apart from this, the Bundelkhand zone has been included in the southern zone, in which Chitrakoot is prominent due to rapid progress of the defence corridor. And, the eastern zone includes Varanasi, Prayagraj, Mau, Gorakhpur, Sonbhadra, and Ayodhya. There are immense possibilities here in the medical, commercial real estate and tourism sectors.

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NOTICE FOR ARREARS OF RENT OF LOCKERS

That the different branches of **UCO Bank** had rented safe deposit Vaults (Lockers) to the respective locker hirer and as mentioned in the table below.
The rent has not been paid by the respective locker hirer and there are arrear of rent against them. The branches have issued three notices to the respective locker hirer for payment of overdue locker rent, but still rent not deposited by the locker hirer.

Sl. No.	Branch with Sol id	Locker No.	Customer Name
1	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	AA0020	RAJESH KUMAR CHAWALA
2	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	AA0041	LAXMI KANT PANDEY
3	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	AA0043	RAGHVENDRA KUMAR SAXENA & DEEPTI
4	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	AA0053	MISRI LAL & PRABHAWAT
5	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	AA0091	RAJ KUMAR TIWARI
6	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	AA0104	SHALINI RATHORE & ASHWANI
7	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	AA0130	CHANDRA BAHN SAXENA & SHASHI KIRAN
8	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	AA0136	BRIJ TIWARI
9	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	AA0140	PRAKASH WATI SHUKLA & DURGESH
10	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	AA092	KULJEET SINGH & PREETAM SINGH
11	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	BA0121	KRISHNA HANDA & VIKRANT HANDA
12	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	CA015	LAXMAN DAS MATANI
13	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	CA019	SUBASHNI AWASTHI
14	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	CA028	YOGESH AGARWAL & SUNITA
15	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	CA077	ANOOP SRIVASTAVA & MAMTA SRIVASTAVA
16	P. ROAD-KANPUR(0016)	CA078	DILEEP SRIVASTAVA
17	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	AA005	KRISHAN NAND SHUKLA
18	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	AA028	SURENDAR JIT SINGH
19	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	AA068	RAJEEV BHARGAVA
20	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	BA0079	ASHOK KUMAR
21	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	BA0085	SARITA GOEL
22	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	BA0119	SMT NEETU SINGH
23	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	CA0181	ISHWAR DUTT MISHRA
24	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	CA0200	RAMESH CHANDRA SHUKLA
25	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	CA0205	CHITRANJAN KISHORE NIGAM
26	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	CA0215	SATISH KUMAR RASTOGI
27	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	CA204	SHIV SHAYAN
28	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	DA0231	RAM PRASAD MISHRA
29	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	DA0294	OM PRAKASH KHOLI
30	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	DA0296	MANJULIKA F BOAZ
31	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	DA226	SARDAR BANKAR SINGH SONI
32	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	DA249	DINESH CHANDRA GUPTA
33	KANPUR PARADE (0224)	DC237	PADMA MISRA
34	TRIJUNCTION (0744)	AA021	YUGAL KISHORE TIWARI
35	TRIJUNCTION (0744)	AA024	TRILOK NATH KAPOOR
36	TRIJUNCTION (0744)	AC213	ANIL KUMAR MITTAL
37	TRIJUNCTION (0744)	AC287	SANGEETA MADAN
38	TRIJUNCTION (0744)	BA470	DEVENDRA KUMAR TIWARI
39	TRIJUNCTION (0744)	AA259	MANMOHINI KAPOOR
40	TRIJUNCTION (0744)	AC037	SURESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI
41	TRIJUNCTION (0744)	BA332	ARCHANA AGARWAL
42	TRIJUNCTION (0744)	DA597	LAL CHAND KRISHAN CHAND AHUJA

The notice is hereby given to the locker hirer that if the rent in above mentioned locker is not received by the bank then the locker will be break open at the risk and cost of the respective locker hirer in accordance with clauses of the rent deed and the bank will realize its dues by public or private sale of a part or the whole of the content of the locker. Any amount and /or contents of the locker remaining after the bank's dues have been satisfied will be held by the bank at the entire risk, responsibility and cost of the respective locker hirer. In case, the proceeds of such sale be insufficient to recover the bank's dues, the locker hirer will be liable for the deficiency.

Date: 04.12.2022 **Place: Kanpur** **Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)**

CPI (ML) delegation meets family of Dalit youth who died due to police beating

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A delegation of the Communist Party of India (ML) met the family of Dalit youth Pravesh (20), who died due to alleged police atrocities in the Bewana village of Ambedkar Nagar on Saturday.

The delegation consisting of five members also visited the crime scene and submitted its report to higher authorities in the party. The party will stage a demonstration at the Ambedkar Nagar district headquarters in protest against the incident. In the report, the delegation said a brawl took place between two groups in Bewana police station area on November 30 night. "Later, a local police team reached the scene and caught Pravesh who was standing at the opening of a lane and was not part of the brawl. A native of Songaon in Jamalpur in Ambedkarnagar, Pravesh had visited his sister's house on the fateful day," the deceased's sister was quoted as saying by the delegation.

The delegation further alleged that the policemen kicked Pravesh in the chest and private parts and pushed down his sister Kalwati and other fanily members when they rushed to his rescue. "Pravesh fell unconscious and was pronounced dead at the district hospital," the delegation members said.

The incident evokes stiff protest by the villagers who demanded justice for the victim. Following public pressure, senior officers assured proper action against the policemen in question.

"A case was registered against two policemen for murder and under sections for SC/ST Act but the accused are still on the lam. The autopsy report concluded that Pravesh died of police beating. The delegation also visited the house of the deceased to collect information regarding the incident and demanded immediate arrest of the errant policemen, monetary compensation to the family of the deceased and a government job to a member in his family. The delegation was led by senior CPI (ML) leader Ram Bharose.

Vocational training to help girls become self-reliant in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As part of its ongoing endeavour to help girls become self-reliant in the state, the Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, will provide vocational training to them in schools.

Director-General of School Education Vijay Kiran Anand said the training would commence in the upgraded Kasturba Balika Vidyalayas of the state. "Orders have been issued and these schools have been asked to connect 100 per cent girl students to this programme," he said.

Meetings with parents will be held to generate awareness about the value of vocational training at the community level with the cooperation of district inspectors of schools, principals, district coordinators of Skill Development Mission, district basic education officers and district coordinators of girl education.

"To motivate and enrol more girls, the introduction of skill development schemes and its advantages should be discussed. Room and furniture should be compulsorily made available for training," Anand said.

He said a room within each hostel should be converted into a training room and the girls be assigned trade-based training as per their interests during pre-counselling. It should be mandatory to report the attendance of girl students undergoing training on the Prerna portal.

A warning has also been issued along with the directive that the district coordinators for girl education and wardens would face disciplinary action if different circumstances were discovered during physical verification or a surprise inspection.

Assistant Director of the Skill Development Mission Rajeev Yadav said a total of 54 Kasturba Balika Vidyalayas had been notified, and training would begin soon. The registration procedure has begun.

In addition to this, the Skill Development Mission runs numerous programmes across the state to give girls access to vocational education.

In view of women's safety, a safety kit distribution programme is also going on. After 10 days of training, special kits will be provided to the girls by experts. Additionally, as part of the pilot project, vocational training has already begun in a few women's residential homes.

Three meet tragic end

PNS ■ KANPUR

Three persons were killed when three following vehicles rammed into one another when a truck driver ahead of them applied brakes suddenly on Kanpur-Lucknow highway near Chamrauli village in Ajgain police station area of Unnao district on Saturday morning. Due to powerful collision, two persons were burnt alive while one other was allegedly run over by another vehicle after he jumped off his dumper in a bid to save himself. The incident took place around 7 am when a truck driver going towards Lucknow from Kanpur suddenly applied brakes near a road divider in front of Chamrauli village. Thereafter the three following vehicles, including two dumpers and a truck, rammed into one another. In the incident, one of the dumpers laden with pebbles suddenly caught fire which led to the killing of two persons sitting in it. The third person was killed after being run over by another vehicle when he jumped off his dumper in a bid to save himself. Police rushed to the spot and informed the fire brigade which controlled the fire. With the help of crane efforts were made to take out the charred bodies of two persons badly trapped in the dumper. The deceased were suspected to be driver and cleaner. Circle Officer Pankaj Singh said on the basis of truck number, efforts were on ascertain the identity of the deceased.

The damaged vehicles after the mishap on Kanpur-Lucknow highway on Saturday morning.

'GITA PATH' CEREMONY: Under the aegis of Shrimad Bhagvad Gita Jayanti Ayojan Samiti over one lakh patriots and followers of holy epic Gita will be participating in the mass 'Gita Path' ceremony to be organised at Green Park stadium at 1 pm on December 4. Apart from Mahabharat TV serial fame actor Nitish Bhardwaj, noted authority on Gita Swami Kailashanand Giri Ji Maharaj will be present as chief guest while Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti will grace the occasion as the special guest. Addressing mediapersons, Dr Umesh Paliwal said the Samiti had been organising large meetings, torchlight procession and distributing pamphlets in different localities of the city to publicise the objectives of this event. In order to ensure availability of this holy epic in all houses, two lakh copies of Shrimad Bhagvad Gita containing 75 shlokas dedicated to the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations were being distributed among students, teachers/managers of different schools/colleges and their guardians.

After the Gita Path, 'prasad' distribution will take place, he said. Prominent members of the organising committee present at the press conference were Anil Oak, Bhawani Bhikh Tewari, Sanjiv Pathak, Kamal Trivedi, Krishna Kumar Dubey, Bhupesh Awasthi and Mukesh Paliwal.

Paddy purchase review meeting held

PNS ■ KANPUR

Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar while holding a review meeting for progress of paddy purchase 2022-23 also addressed the officials of all the division virtually. The officials of regional food controller and other officials concerned were present in the meeting. The DC informed that the purchase as on date stood at 42,387 metric tonne (MT) as to the given target 36,7000 MT through 6,462 farmers. He said however this was short by 11.55 per cent and last year as on date it was 8.06 per cent purchase.

He said during the review as compared to last year purchase the targets were less in Kanpur Dehat and Kannauj and this engendered the need for a review of the current purchase. He issued stern warnings to the officials of PCF, PCU, Mandi and Food Corporation of India where the purchase had been zero.

He said the district magistrates had been issued directives to ensure registration of more farmers and through control room of districts they need to obtain paddy purchase list and hold a dialogue with at least 300 farmers and motivate them to sell their produce at the centres. He said at all the centres where the paddy purchase had been accomplished verification need to be carried out through the district food marketing officer.

Dr Shekhar said all such farmers who had already registered themselves for paddy purchase should be contacted on their mobiles and a feedback should be taken from them. He said district officials should take details from control room and prepare a database. He said in case if any dereliction of duty they need to issue show cause notices. He said paddy reaching purchase centres should be offered competitive rates and farmers be provided fair average quality prices and on minimum support price. He said every day progress needs to be evaluated so that the farmers got a fair price for their products.

Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar, addressing a meeting at Collectorate.

EXHIBITION: The Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) of the Ministry of Defence Gliders India Limited (GIL) will participate with full enthusiasm in the International Defence Exhibition 2022 to be held in Vietnam from December 8 to 10. Various products manufactured by Ordnance Parachute Factory (OPF), the defence production unit of GIL, will be on display at the exhibition. OPF, the defence production unit of GIL, had made complete arrangements for this international exhibition. In this exhibition models of Brake Parachute Sukhoi-30, Brake Parachute Hawk in the range of products of OPF will be displayed.

There will also be miniature models of PTAM, PTAR, Parasail, SD Parachute, Illuminating Parachute, KM Float, Boat Gemini Crafts and products like Rain Pancho Convertible as Bivoue and Pancho Glacier will be displayed in their original form.

With this type of special partnership, global branding of various quality parachutes and other products manufactured in the country will happen as well as orders for these products will also be received. In this international exhibition, stalls of 170 companies from 30 specialised producing countries related to defence sector will be set up. So far 45 foreign delegations have officially registered themselves to participate in the exhibition. The participation of GIL in such an event that will definitely give special impetus to Atmanirbhar Bharat policy and Make-in-India campaign of Government of India.

LIC launches WhatsApp services

Kanpur(PNS): The Life Insurance Corporation of India launched its WhatsApp Services. Chairperson of LIC Kumar launched LIC's select interactive services with its policyholders on WhatsApp. The policyholders who had registered their policies on the LIC portal will be able to make use of these services on WhatsApp by saying 'Hi' on mobile number 8976862090. The following screen will help policyholders to avail listed services and choose the option number for selection of services.

The LIC expects that all its valued policyholders will take benefit of the service.

DHARNA: The leaders of the Joint Forum of Central Trade Unions (JFCTU), led by their convenor Asit Kumar Singh, staged a dharna at the Additional Labour Commissioner's office in protest against the 'anti-labour' policies of the Union government. They also handed over a memorandum, addressed to the President of India, to the Assistant Labour Commissioner Dr Nicky Nancy. Leaders claimed that the Union government in a bid to serve the interest of corporate houses, had enforced several new 'anti-labour' laws on pretext of smoothening the trade activities by abolishing the existing labour laws. In their 17-point charter of demands contained in the memorandum, they demanded to abolition of anti-labour laws and enforcing minimum support price in the interest of farmers. Acts relating to forced retirement of government employees be withdrawn and policies promoting privatisation and corporatisation be banned.

BJP appoints gali, mohallah pramukhs to connect with voters

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

With an eye on upcoming urban local body polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has started deputing 'gali' and 'mohallah' pramukhs to connect with voters.This was the first time when the party, apart from panna pramukh, has been inducting gali and mohallah pramukhs at grassroots level. Armed with a four-page pamphlet titled "double engine ki bhajpa sarkar ke prayas se smart hote shahar", party workers are connecting with voters to apprise them about development works and projects being taken up under Smart City mission in the past five years in the Sangam city.

BJP workers are apprising voters about facilities being offered by the government under Smart City mission, including sewage system, solid waste management, sanitation, easy transportation, parking, street lights, information technology, connectivity, digitization, e-governance and clean and green environment.Besides, the workers were also narrating a series of works undertaken for the benefit of urban population, including new township, green corridors, convention centres, Asra Yojana, one city-one operator plan, e-nagar services, online facilities of birth and death registration, kanha gaushala etc.

BJP spokesman Rajesh Kesarwani told the mediapersons that party leadership is leaving no stone unturned to reach out to every voter ahead of urban civic body polls and for that gali and mohallah pramukhs are being appointed in every ward.

The objective is to connect with voters at grassroots level and apprise them about achievements and development projects being carried out in the city in the past five years.The BJP has already taken up a campaign to induct 'key voters' who can influence voters' minds in respective booths in all 100 wards of the city. Moreover, after strengthening booth structure and management plan, party leadership has focused on appointing gali and mohallah pramukhs who could be helpful to ensure the party's triumph in all 100wards.

At every booth, 20 working committee members, five members from IT and social media wing and five members for rallies are assigned the task to reach out to voters and ensure cent percent voting in favour of the party candidate.

Senior BJP leader Ashish Gupta, said: "We are distributing special pamphlets among masses to go all out to ensure a big win in the upcoming urban civic polls this year. Besides, party leadership has chalked out a specific strategy for each ward in terms of its social equations, highest number of voters of a particular community\caste as well as weakness and strongholds."

The BJP is targeting all community vote banks that have traditionally not been BJP supporters. Hoping to improve its digit tally it recorded in the 2017 urban municipal polls, the BJP leadership has managed to induct over 50,000 names of the left out voters in the district electoral list. Moreover, micromanagement at the booth level is being worked out, apart from mobilisation of voters at several levels.

The party leadership has also chalked out a plan for the 22-odd wards where the party has not been able to get sizable votes so far. Extra attention is being given to such wards," leaders added.

Moreover, the party is also eyeing those wards which have been traditional citadels of the rival camps like Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

'Private hospitals need to take advantage of PMJDY'

PNS ■ KANPUR

Secretary Medical Health and Family Planning Ravindra Kumar while addressing a workshop at Ursula Hospital on Saturday informed that sprivate hospitals need to avail themselves of the benefit of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and also extend its benefits to the poor as well. He said the objective of this workshop was to link the private hospitals with Ayushman Yojana. He said other schemes to be linked were Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, MMJAA, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhayay Rajya Karamchari cashless yojana and a few more.

Secretary Medical Health and Family Planning Ravindra Kumar addressing a workshop at Ursula Hospital.

He said by linking private hospitals to these schemes there shall be an all round development of private hospitals. Addressing the officials of over 90 private hospitals he said the UP government was extending the benefit of providing medical treatment free up to Rs 5 lakh and appealed to the people and the private hospitals to avail themselves of the facility.Addressing the gathering the CEO of State Agency for Comprehensive Health and Integrated Services (SACHIS), Sangeeta Singh informed that there were 1,949 packages under the Ayushman Yojana. She said every hospital did not have every facility required and thus there was a need to link oneself to the private hospitals. She said with this the patient will not have to travel to others districts for treatment. She said first the rates were hiked then the green channel system had been introduced. She said hospitals with good credentials will be provided 50 per cent of the amount in advance and later after the SACHIS audit 50 per cent of the amount will be transferred to the hospital.She said in the state over 56 hospital had been identified and this included five government hospitals.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Alok Ranjan informed that a total of 153 hospitals were linked and out of the total 133 were private and 20 in the government sector.

He said the government wanted to extend the facility to the people of the state and thus each one had to join this mega programme. The meeting was virtually held in Etawah, Kanpur Dehat etc. The programme was conducted by member Access Health International Manisha Tripathi.

DM asks officials to install speed guns in accident-prone areas

Prayagraj (PNS): District Magistrate Sanjay Kumar Khatri chaired the meeting of road safety committee with the officials of National Highway, RTO, Traffic police and PWD and asked officials concerned to install speed gun or speed radars in accident prone areas, known as black spots to check speed limits of vehicles.He also asked officials to ensure trauma centre-like facilities at the community health centres located near highways. DM also asked officials to identify the spots \ streets having frequent jams or road blockades and further directed them to close the unnecessary cuts (open place) located within dividers to ease the problems of jams.

He also asked to install traffic signage at static locations and hold regular road safety related workshops. DM also asked the joint team of traffic police, NH authorities, RTO and PWD officialsto identify black spots and chalk out a strategy to minimize road mishaps.

Woman, children run over by dumper

Prayagraj (PNS): In a heart-rending incident, a woman and her daughter and son were killed when a speeding, uncontrollable dumper ran over them in Prayagraj late on Friday night. The accident took place near Peepal Gaon police outpost of Dhumanganj police station area at around 1 o'clock in the night. The driver of the dumper fled from the spot after the accident. The speeding dumper suddenly becoming uncontrollable rammed into the bike on which the trio was travelling. The son was riding the bike. All three died on the spot. On receiving the information, the police reached and seized the dumper. All the three deceased belonged to Kareli's Karehada village.

नगर विकास सहकारी बैंक लि०, हरदोई

नीलामी स्थल : नगर विकास सहकारी बैंक लि. 162, रेलवेगंज, हरदोई, फोन : 05852-235110

नीलामी/बिक्री सूचना

नीलामी की तिथि व समय : 16.12.2022 **समय : अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे**

वित्तीय परिसम्पत्तियों के प्रतिभूतीकरण एवं पुननिर्माण और प्रतिभूति हित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 के अन्तर्गत बैंक के प्रभाराधीन अचल परिसम्पत्ति की बिक्री नगर विकास सहकारी बैंक, लि0, हरदोई के प्राधिकृत अधिकारी के रूप में अधोहस्ताक्षरीकर्ता ने वित्तीय परिसम्पत्तियों के प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुर्ननिर्माण और प्रतिभूति हित प्रर्वतन अधिनियम–2002 की धारा 13(4) के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित सम्पत्ति का सांकेतिक/प्रतीकात्मक कब्जा ले लिया है। सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि बैंक की बकाया राषि की वसूली के लिए निम्नलिखित खाते में प्रभारित सम्पत्ति की नीलामी वित्तीय परिसम्पत्तियों के प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुर्ननिर्माण और प्रतिभूति हित प्रर्वतन अधिनियम–2002 के अधीन '' जैसा है जहॉ है'' तथा ''जैसा है जो भी है'' के आधार पर आयोजित की जायेगी।

क्र. सं.	ऋणी का नाम एवं पता	सम्पत्ति का मालिक	सम्पत्ति का विवरण	बकाया राशि	आरक्षित मूल्य	धरोहर धनराशि
1.	दीपेन्द्र कुमार सिंह पुत्र श्री जगमोहन सिंह निवासी– 292 ऊँचा थोक साण्डी रोड, हरदोई	भानु प्रताप सिंह पुत्र श्री भीम सिंह निवासी– चित्तर पुरवा तह0 व जिला– हरदोई	भूमि की खाता सं0 1202 एरिया प्लाट 55.76 वर्ग मी0 स्थिति मो0 ऊँचा थोक, अन्दर नगर पालिका परगना, तह0 व जिला– हरदोई	02.07.2020 रू0 3,28,000.00 दि. 31.03.2016 से ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्चे	रू0 5,00,000.00 (पाँच लाख मात्र)	10 प्रतिशत आरक्षित मूल्य का अर्थात रू0 50,000.00 (पचास हजार मात्र)
2.	श्री मृगांक सिंह पुत्र श्री कृष्ण पाल सिंह, निवासी– ग्राम– जोगीपुर, पो0– तत्तौरा तहसील एवं जिला– हरदोई	श्री मृगांक सिंह पुत्र श्री कृष्ण पाल सिंह, निवासी– ग्राम– जोगीपुर, पो0– तत्तौरा तहसील एवं जिला– हरदोई	1. खाता खतौनी नंबर–00468, गाटा नंबर 22 अमी/0.1640 हे0, 24 अमी/0.0650 हे0, 1010 मि/0.0760 हे0, 1013 मि/0.0610 हे0, 1055 अमी/0.2720 हे0, 1056 मि/0.1820 हे0, 1096 मि/0.0310 हे0, 1098 अमी/0.7210 हे0, 1127 मि/0.0390 हे0, 1128 मि/0.0460, हे0, 2. खाता खतौनी संख्या–00101, गाटा संख्या 24 बमी/0.3080 हे0, 120/0.0570 हे0, 121/0.0630 हे0, 1055ब/0.4760 हे0, 1059/0.9060 हे0, 1096 बी/0.1930 हे0, 1098 बी/6.2940 हे0 3. खाता खतौनी संख्या– 00754, गाटा संख्या 152मि/0.1900 हे0, ग्राम–तत्तौरा, परगना–बावन तहसील– और जिला– हरदोई	23.04.2022 रू0 6,57,918.00 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्चे।	रू0 10,00,000.00 (दस लाख मात्र)	10 प्रतिशत आरक्षित मूल्य का अर्थात रू0 1,00,000.00 (एक लाख मात्र)

स्थान : हरदोई

विजय पाल वर्मा, प्राधिकृत अधिकारी
नगर विकास सहकारी बैंक लि0, मो: 8004911748

नीलामी की शर्ते– नगर विकास सहकारी बैक लि0, 162, रेलवेगंज हरदोई (उ0प्र0) शाखा से प्राप्त कर सकते है

'IEEE providing major platform to young scientists'

Pryagraj (PNS): On the occasion of 75 years of the country when the entire country is celebrating its Amrit Mahotsav, we all scientists should take a pledge to make an important contribution in the field of science and technology .This view was expressed by Prof. R. S Verma, Director, IIIT-A while addressing the inaugural session of the 9th "Electrical, Computer and Electronics Engineering" (UPICON 2022) organized by IEEE Uttar Pradesh section at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad at Jhalwa campus on Saturday.Chief Guest Prof. Verma said that in the 75 years of independence, the country has not yet achieved the Nobel Prize in the field of science . He appealed to the scientists, faculty members and researchers present in the conference that we all have to work together in the interest of the nation.

He said that we described this type of seminar as a technical confluence because it provides an important platform for the young scientists of the country to discuss and cooperate with each other.

Prof. SN Singh, Director, Atal Bihari Vajpayee- Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management (ABV-IIITM), Gwalior as Guest of Honour said that IEEE provides a platform to researchers. He said that research is needed to take the country forward.

He said that researchers should work together with scientists and industry professionals so that a new direction can be given to the country. He apprised the participants that there are more than four lakh members of IEEE in 163 countries of the world. Dr. Satish Singh, President, IEEE UP-Uttarakhand Section and Registrar (acting), IIIT-A said that the Uttar Pradesh chapter had made remarkable progress during the last two years. About 1200 activities have been conducted during a year, as a result of which the Uttar Pradesh chapter has become one of the top chapters in the country. The IEEE is providing a major international platform to the young scientists and researchers of the state.On this occasion, IEEE, Uttar Pradesh honoured Prof Rakesh Srivastava, IIT, BHU with Prof. G. K Dubey Memorial Award-2022.

'High BP becoming a major cause of health concern'

PNS ■ KANPUR

Noted nephrologist Dr Archana Bhadauria while addressing the technical session of IMA State Working Committee-Con 2022 on Saturday said currently high blood pressure was becoming a major cause of health concern and often it was the subtle reason for chronic kidney diseases as well. She said in common terms kidney diseases were of two kinds-- acute kidney disease and chronic kidney disease and thus it engendered the need for constant monitoring of kidney health. She said all kidney diseases were not irreversible and can be cured but timely.

Explaining chronic kidney disease she said diabetes was the most common cause of kidney disease. Both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. But also heart disease and obesity can contribute to the damage that causes kidneys to fail. Urinary tract issues and inflammation in different parts of the kidney can also lead to long-term functional decline. She said diabetes was the most common cause of kidney disease both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. She said but also heart disease and obesity can contribute to the damage that caused kidneys to fail. She said urinary tract issues and inflammation in different parts of kidney can also lead to long-term functional decline. She said there were a few other conditions or circumstances that can cause kidney disease like glomerulonephritis which was a group of diseases that caused inflammation and damaged the kidney's filtering units and these disorders were the third most common type of kidney disease. She said another was polycystic kidney disease or PKD was a common inherited disease that causes large cysts to form in the kidneys and damage the surrounding tissue. She said malformations that occurred as a baby developed in its mother's womb like narrowing may occur that prevented normal outflow of urine and caused urine to flow back up to the kidney which caused infections and may damage the kidneys.

Dr Bhadauria said another factor was autoimmune disease it happened when the body's defence system, the immune system, turned against the body and caused lupus nephritis that resulted in inflammation of small blood vessels that filtered wastes in kidney.

Sitharaman offers prayers, meets Tamils in Kashi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who arrived in the city to participate in Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS), offered prayers at various temples and met the South Indians who live in different localities near Hanuman Ghat here for centuries. Far from economic affairs, the Finance Minister's day was totally dedicated to cultural and religious interaction. During her hectic activities during the day on Saturday, Sitharaman, a strong Tamil face of Modi government, was seen in happy mood talking to local Tamil residents as well as visitors who came here from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry for attending month-long ongoing KTS in her mother tongue (Tamil).

Sitharaman's day began with visiting Hanuman Ghat and then she boarding a boat along with Tamil visitors and others saw the grandeur of internationally famous Ganga ghats of the city, which is the parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Then she visited the residence of great Tamil poet and social reformer Subramania Bharati and met his family members. Nirmala Sitharaman hails from Madurai and she also obtained her schooling and graduation from Chennai and Tiruchirapalli before moving to Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi for post-graduation and doctorate degrees in economics.

(Top) Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman offering prayers at Kedareshwar Mahadev temple in Varanasi on Saturday (below) on a boat along with Tamil people

Later, she was accorded a traditional welcome on her arrival at Annamalaiyar Nandanavanam where she offered prayers and met Tamil families. She also visited the Nattukottai area and offered prayers at a south Indian temple there. She visited many other temples including Gauri Kedareshwar Mahadev at Kedar Ghat. Earlier, on Friday night when she reached Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) Officers' Club for her stay, she was welcomed with a bouquet by General Manager (GM) Anjali Goyal. Meanwhile, a contingent of people related to the fields of culture, heritage and tradition arrived in the city to participate in KTS. This seventh batch of Tamil delegates will also visit Prayagraj and Ayodhya after visiting various temples in Varanasi and attending the programme at KTS in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) like the earlier delegations. On Sunday Sitharaman will attend a seminar on 'Architecture and Other Heritage Forms in IKS' (Indian Knowledge System) at BHU and will also interact with students at another event at the university. Later, the union finance minister will participate in a cultural programme under KTS at BHU. When the 7th batch comprising 208 spiritual people from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and adjoining places arrived at the Banaras railway station on Friday night, they were accorded a ceremonious welcome by local dignitaries amidst playing of 'Damru' and showering of flowers petals. In the morning members of the delegation offered prayers at Kashi Vishwanath Dham (corridor) and when they reached there, they were welcomed by chief executive officer (CEO) of corridor administration Sunil Verma and others. The guests were overwhelmed and emotional with warm welcome on reaching Kashi Vishwanath temple. Then the visiting delegation was taken on a tour of the corridor and were served 'prasad' at 'Maa Annapurna Rasoi'. They also visited the heritage sites and nearby markets in and around the temple area. As a part of their tour itinerary, the delegation later in the evening also visited Sant Ravidas Ghat on a cruise and take part in the sacred Ganga aarti followed by visit to other adjoining ghats of the city.

NER GM inspects Banaras stn

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

General Manager (GM) of North Eastern Railway (NER) Chandra Vir Raman inspected Banaras railway station on Friday night during his day-long visit to the city. He also inspected Varanasi City railway station and NER Divisional Hospital and held a review meeting at DRM office. After reaching Banaras station, the GM inspected the second entry, circulating area, general passenger hall, AC waiting room, coach guidance system, digital charting system, auto announcement system, escalators, both foot over-bridges (FOBs), various offices set up on platform number1 and 8 etc. He expressed happiness on seeing the black pottery stall of Azamgarh set up in the passenger hall. Appreciating the effective steps taken to improve the operational system at the station, he advised to attract more and more freight traffic. He was accompanied by DRM of Varanasi Division Ramashray Pandey and other senior officers. Prior to this, Raman inspected the Varanasi City railway station and reviewed the station's cleanliness and passenger amenities. He also inspected food stalls, FOB, waiting room, VIP room, dormitory, water booths, platforms, booking counters, 'One Station One Stall' etc. During his stay the GM also did a thorough inspection of the Divisional Hospital where he planted saplings of trees with medicinal properties to give a message of environmental protection. The GM was apprised about the detailed functioning of the hospital by Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) Dr RJ Chaudhury. The GM inspected the emergency, registration counter, outdoor and indoor medical wards, operation theatre, ICU etc and directed the medical officers and paramedical staff to further improve the arrangements in the hospital. Earlier while reviewing the progress of work plans for increasing sectional speed along with expansion of traffic facilities at DRM Office, he emphasised on completion of construction of rail over bridges (ROBs) and low-height subways at various busiest railway crossings of Varanasi division on time. Discussing various infrastructure development projects and modification work of different yards, Raman directed the officers concerned to complete all works with quality within the stipulated time. The review meeting was also attended by DRM Ramashray Pandey, ADRM (Infra) Gyanesh Tripathi, ADRM (Operations) SPS Yadav, ADRM (Administration) Rahul Srivastava, Senior Divisional Finance Manager Preeti Verma, Senior Divisional Engineer (Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, Senior Divisional Operations Manager AP Singh, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W) SP Srivastava, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) Pankaj Kesharwani, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineer-I Rajat Priya, SDS & TE-II Yashveer Singh, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM) Alok Kesharwani, CMS Dr RJ Chaudhary, Senior Divisional Safety Officer Ashutosh Shukla, Senior Divisional Engineer-II Satyam Singh, SDE-I Rishi Srivastava, Assistant Commercial Manager AK Suman and other branch officers.

NER GM CV Raman inspecting Banaras railway station on Friday night.

Pension scheme for players with disabilities announced

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association for Physically Challenged on Saturday announced a pension scheme for players with disabilities. The association also honoured some physically challenged cricket players on the day. At a function organised in Pahadia here to mark the day president of Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association for Physically Challenged Dr Manoj Kumar Srivastava honored players of the team with citation and mementos. Ajay Yadav, Daroga Yadav, Gopal Yadav, Vipin Kumar, Adesh Pandey, Manoj Yadav and Ankur Srivastava were among the honoured players, who had represented the team in the international level tournament. Dr Srivastava also announced a pension scheme for cricket players with disabilities and informed that association has decided to give a monthly pension to physically challenged cricket players. First of all the association has decided to give the benefit of the pension scheme to 21 players and they will be given an amount of Rs 600 per month as pension from this month, he added. The captain of association's team Pankaj Kumar extended his gratitude to office-bearers of the association for announcing pension scheme. President of Women's Wing of Association Pallvi Kant, vice-president Jamuna Shukla, Ritu Garg, Pankaj Singh, Vivek Sood and Prakash Kumar Srivastava extended their best wishes to the players and assured that the association would always be with the players in future too.

UP Divyang cricket team being honoured in Varanasi on Saturday.

RALLY: To mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities, students of Gyanchand Mandit Bal Vidyalaya on Saturday took out an awareness rally under the auspices of Faculty of Social Work, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith (MGKV). Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Tyagi flagged off awareness rally which began from the department and culminated at the Humanities Faculty. He said such programmes should be held on regular basis as such activities instil confidence among children with disabilities. The drawing competition was organised after the rally and the winners were rewarded. The Dean of Faculty of Social Work Prof Ashok Kumar Singh, principal of Vidyalaya Dr Anita Singh Gautam, chief proctor of university Prof Amita Singh, PRO Dr Navratna Singh and others were present in the rally.

G-20 conference: CS gives guidelines to officials

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A virtual meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra regarding the upcoming G-20 conference on Friday. In the meeting, the CS gave necessary guidelines to the officers, including Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma and District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam for the successful completion of this event. Later, while holding a meeting with the local officers, the DC informed that as many as six meetings of G-20 are proposed to be held in the city. In view of these important G-20 meetings, the DC directed the Additional Municipal Commissioner to make all the arrangements. He also instructed the Municipal Corporation officer to take all necessary steps to improve the rank of Varanasi in the cleanliness survey and 'Ease of Living Index'. In view of the G-20 meetings, Sharma also gave instructions to the officers concerned to work on wall paintings, facade lighting etc. Commissioner of Police (CP) Ashok Mutha Jain, Deputy Commissioner of Police, ADM Protocol, Additional Municipal Commissioner and many other officers were present in the meeting. Meanwhile, a meeting was also held under the chairmanship of DC regarding the organisation of Khelo India University Games 2023 in the city. It has been decided to organise the proposed Games in April next year in UP and its different events are proposed to be organised in the districts of Varanasi, Meerut, Gorakhpur and Gautam Buddha Nagar. In this direction, the Additional Chief Secretary (Sports), UP Govt, held a meeting last month and gave some necessary instructions to the officers of all these districts. According to decisions, the disciplines of wrestling, yoga and malkhamb will be held in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here. Addressing the officers Sharma informed that during the Khelo India University Games as many as 22 sports, including archery, boxing, hockey, shooting, volleyball, rowing, athletics, weightlifting, badminton, football, kabaddi, table tennis, wrestling, fencing, basketball, gymnastics, kho-kho etc apart from malkhamb and yoga will be organised. Out of 22 disciplines, three including wrestling, yoga and malkhamb will be conducted in the city. Sharma said for the successful conducti of events, the district will require cooperation of the secretaries of all sports unions, administrative officers and all local universities. He instructed the officers that competitions should be widely publicised and proper food and other arrangements of the teams/players of different states be made. He said proper arrangements of transportation and residential facilities should also be made. Along with this, he said that if any team wants to visit various temples of Varanasi during the organisation of the competition, arrangements should also have to be made. The university teams of district Varanasi should be formed and practiced so that they can get medals in maximum sports. CP Ashok Mutha Jain, DM S Rajalingam, Regional Sports Officer RP Singh and others were also present.

Cleanliness drive launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The 95 Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Saturday launched a cleanliness drive from Sant Ravidas Ghat to Chet Singh Ghat. The CRPF personnel cleaned the ghats from Sant Ravidas Ghat to Chet Singh Ghat and also made the visitors aware about cleanliness. Deputy Commandant Mahendra Mishra said there should be active participation of public in making Ganga free from pollution. He said we should make continuous efforts to make the river free from pollution. He appealed to people to join the cleanliness drive which was launched not only to clean the river but also all the ghats. The brand ambassador of the drive Anil Kumar Singh administered the oath to people present on the occasion to make others aware to keep the river and ghat clean. The inspector of Battalion Nathuram, Praveen Singh, corporator of Nagwa Ward Ravindra Singh, incharge of Lanka police station Virendra Singh also joined the drive. The drive was launched under the direction of DIG, Chandauli Surendra Chaudhary and guidance of Commandant of Battalion Anil Kumar Briksh.

CRPF personnel participating in the cleanliness drive.

Woollen clothes distributed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The social organization Akshay Seva Foundation (ASF) distributed woollen clothes among the inmates of Women Old Age Home in Durgakund on the occasion of the death anniversary of its founder Sheila Tripathi. ASF general secretary said the foundation has been serving the inmates of this Women Old Age Home for the last three years and distributed woollen clothes among them this year and added that the organisation would continue extending its help to them in the future too. An entertainment programme was also organised under which members of the foundation entertained the inmates. The other office-bearers of the foundation Dr Ajay Chaurasia, Anoop Singh, Mushir Ahmed, Amrita and Dinesh were also present on the occasion.

DC inaugurates training programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Health department in association with Shri Sadguru Seva Sangh Trust, Chitrakoot organised a training programme at Government Postgraduate Ayurveda College and Hospital in Chowka Ghat regarding the door-to- door eye test and awareness campaign which was inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma on Saturday.

The eyes of 50+ people will be tested under the door to door and awareness campaign, the DC said and added the health workers and vision screeners of the Trust will conduct examination of eyes. The Anganwadi and Asha workers will also help the vision screeners to conduct the eye test and so eye experts of Sadguru Eye Hospital, Chitrakoot, will impart training to them, the DC said and added that training programme was held in this direction.

After getting training, the health workers, Asha and Anganwadi workers will conduct the eye test with the team of vision screeners of Trust by visiting door to door in all 100 wards of the city and in case any problem is detected in the eyes of any person he or she will be given referral card and advised to visit to eye check-up camps to be organised at nearby primary health centres on December 10 and 11, the DC said and added that eyes of the referral persons will be examined by eye experts thoroughly and spectacles will be distributed among the eye patients free of cost. The patients of cataract will be referred to the eye hospital of the Trust for free operation with their consent, he said. The DC gave training kits to five Anganwadi and Asha workers. CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary, DPO Dr AK Maurya, trustee Manoj Pandya, principal of college Dr Neelam Gupta and administrator of trust Dr Ilesh Jain were among those present on the occasion.

Special drive for revision of photo electoral rolls today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district administration will launch a special drive on December 4 for revision work of photo electoral rolls in view of forthcoming urban body polls. District magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam has directed the officers concerned to determine sensitive polling booths only after getting complete information. As per the directive of the Election Commission of India, the district administration has started the revision work of photo electoral rolls on the basis of eligibility date of January 1, 2023 and in this order a special drive will be launched on December 4 under which BLOs will remain present in their respective polling booths from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm to register the claims/objections of voters and also collect forms-6, 6A, 6B, 7 & 8. ADM-E and Dy DEO Ran Vijay Singh said officers related to election, including DEO and observers will conduct patrolling of polling booths on the day of special drive and added that in case any BLO is found absent legal action will be ascertained against him or her. The educational institutions/offices and other institutions where there are polling booths will remain open on December 4, he said and appealed to voters who will complete 18 years on January 1, 2023, but are not voters, to be present at their respective polling booths and get their names registered in electoral rolls by filling in prescribed forms. The new voters can apply online to get their names enrolled in electoral rolls through voter helpline app and website of the election commission-https://nvsp.in and https://voter portal.eci.gov.in, he said. Meanwhile, DM Rajalingam chaired a meeting at his camp office on Friday evening regarding preparations for forthcoming urban body polls and took DDO to task for having no information about duty of employees and selecting training staff. He directed the additional municipal commissioner to chalk out route chart for sector zone plan regarding urban body election. The special drive should be launched to apprise the voters of their name and number in voters' lists and polling booths, the DM said and added sensitive polling booths should also be determined after getting all information. He directed all officers concerned to be in election mode and ensure all arrangements related to election at polling booths.

613 qualify physical test

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A total of 613 candidates qualified the physical test of the first phase of the 21-day long recruitment process of Agniveer under the Agniveer recruitment on Saturday at Ranbankure Stadium of 39 GTC in Cantonment area. The first phase of Agniveer Recruitment will conclude on December 6. The Army Recruitment Office is conducting the recruitment. A total of 7,838 candidates from Rajatalab of Varanasi and Machhlishahr tehsil of Jaunpur were invited to appear in the race after the physical test for various posts in the army. But a total of 5,672 candidates appeared in the race after physical tests and out of them, 613 candidates qualified it. Under the guidance of senior army officers, physical tests of candidates were conducted under the first phase of the recruitment. A total of 1,43,286 applicants of 12 districts, including Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Mau, Ballia, Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Chandauli, Mirzapur, Bhadohi and Sonbhadra, have applied for the tests of the first phase of the recruitment. The maximum 1,18,136 youths have applied for the post of Agniveer General Duty while a total of 11,259, 10,623 and 3,268 youths have applied for the post of Agniveer Technical Store Keeper, Agniveer Tradesman and Agniveer Technical respectively. The traffic restriction was imposed on some routes which approach the Cantonment area and under which no vehicle was allowed to ply towards Cantonment Board from Valmiki trijunction and Sharda motor training school trijunction. No vehicle was also allowed to ply towards Cantonment Board from Nehru Park trijunction, JHV Mall and Phulwaria overbridge. The police personnel were deployed at various places to ensure smooth traffic. A total of 7,601 candidates from Pindra tehsil of Varanasi and Mariahu and Kerakat tehsils of Jaunpur will appear for the physical test on Sunday.

Ultrasound machine inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To facilitate poor people of rural areas, the Health department has started free service of ultrasound at Community Health Centre (CHC) in Puwari Kala in Harahua block of the district. Union Minister for Heavy Industries Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey inaugurated the ultrasound machine at a programme on Friday.

The poor people of rural areas could get free service of ultrasound at nearby health centres so the Health department installed an ultrasound machine at CHC in Puwari Kala in Harahua block which union minister Dr Pandey inaugurated at a function on Friday. More health facilities will be increased at this health centre in future under which digital X-ray machine will soon be made available here, the minister announced adding that a dialysis machine will also be made available here. The government is making efforts continuously to provide better health services to the people near their houses under which medical facilities are being made better at all the government hospitals and health centers, he said and added that people of rural areas are at present getting all medical facilities near their houses whereas they had to go to hospitals in the city in the past even for the test for general diseases. Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary, Superintendent of CHC Dr DK Prasad and others were present on the occasion.

Devotees to get closer look of Akshayvat soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Divisional commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant has asked officials to draw up a strategy wherein devotees could get a closer look of the Akshayvat, the centuries-old banyan tree considered sacred by Hindus.

The tree is situated inside the Allahabad Fort which is under Army control. Prayers were earlier offered at the replica of the Akshayvat outside the fortress. It was opened for devotees during the 2019 Kumbh and since then devotees can offer prayers but from a distance. According to Hindu scriptures, Akshayvat is indestructible and offers salvation to those who offer prayers there. The sacred tree also finds mention in Vedas and Puranas and Goddess Sita also offered prayers at the tree. The myth has it that sage Markandeya asked Lord Narayan to display his divine power. Narayana flooded the world for a moment, but only Akshayavat was visible above water. Moreover, Chinese Buddhist pilgrim Xuanzang mentioned the tree in his writings. The Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) has been tasked with the beautification of the route leading to Akshayvat which will be equipped with facade lighting, greenery and tales related to the sacred tree on the walls. Pant, who along with DM and other senior officials visited the site on Friday, asked officials to develop themes based on Akshayavat and Patalpuri on route between Quila ghat and Akshayvat entry gate as well as adjoining areas. For that, the commissioner has asked officials to form a committee of elite and educated people to invite suggestions and prepare a theme list. Plans are also afoot to beautify Patalpuri temple route that includes installation of facade lights, renovation of walls and themes around temples. The divisional commissioner has also asked officials to install QR code at all these places so that devotees could scan and get to know about the sites. The senior district officials are making these efforts on the directives of CM Yogi Adityanath who had asked officials concerned to make proper arrangements for devotees arriving from far flung states to have a glimpse of Akshayvat, Patalpuri and Saraswati Koop.

ED seizes betel nuts worth ₹11.5 cr in raids

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

As per the FIR, many Nagpur-based traders in connivance with various public servants, were indulging in smuggling of substandard Betel Nuts/Areca Nuts of Indonesian Origin and falsely claiming the same to be originating from member countries of South Asia Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA) and South Asia Free Trading Agreement (SAFTA) by using Fake Certificates of Origin, and by using bogus and undervalued bills/invoices. This caused evasion of Customs Duty and loss to the Government. Further, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had also investigated the illegal smuggling of betel nuts and issued eight Show Cause Notices.

"ED investigation has revealed that there is a well organized syndicate of suppliers of Indonesian Betel Nut, Commission Agents, Logistic providers, Transporters, Hawala Operators and Buyers who were smuggling Indonesian Betel Nut into India via the Indo-Myanmar Border. Fabricated domestic invoices were made and transported smuggled betel nuts to Nagpur and Gondia districts of Maharashtra," the agency said in a statement.

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

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

NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EMPOWERMENT OF DIVYANGS

Make edu more accessible to divyang kids: Prez

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"There should be maximum use of technology in order to remove language related barriers in education and to make education more accessible to children with disabilities," she said, adding that more than two per cent of India's population are persons with disabilities. "It is also our duty to ensure that they get a good education, stay safe in their homes and society, have the freedom to choose their career and have equal employment opportunities," she said. Pooja Ojha, who suffers from 80 per cent locomotor disability is a para-canoe sportsperson, having represented India in Thailand, Hungary, Japan, and Canada was yet another sportsperson who was felicitated with the prestigious award. Similarly, Atul Jaiswal, 25, having 100 per cent hearing impairment since birth was conferred with the award for his accomplishments in the field of sports while another national awardee, a wheelchair bound Goel, with locomotor disability has been raising issues related to the construction of ramps in government buildings in Lucknow.

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

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

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

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

Cong slams Modi Govt over 'Chinese shelters in Depsang'

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday questioned the Modi Government's "silence" over the reports that China has built shelters in the Depsang area in Ladakh and asked what steps were being taken by it to ensure status quo ante of April 2020.

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

There was no immediate reaction from the government to the Congress' allegations.

While the Congress has been attacking the government over its handling of the border issues with China, officials have maintained that India has significantly enhanced its border infrastructure in recent years with Centre giving a major boost to such efforts following eastern Ladakh standoff. "On November 15, Modi had met Xi Jinping, the Chinese head of state. He was not showing angry red eyes, he was in fact adorning a red shirt and I wonder what he talked about as he met Xi Jinping after the supreme sacrifice of 20 of our bravehearts," Shrinate said at a AICC press conference.

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

"Two hundred such shelters have been built by China in our territory 15-18 km inside the LAC (Line of Actual Control)," she alleged.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

Sharing the hate mail on Saturday, the ambassador said Just wanted to share one of a few DMs I got in this direction. According to his profile, the guy has a PhD. Even though he doesn't deserve my protection, I decided to delete his identifying information," the Israeli envoy tweeted while hiding the identity of the user in the message he shared.

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

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

"Just wanted this to be a reminder that anti-Semitism sentiments exist, we need to oppose it jointly and maintain a civilized level of discussion," he wrote. The message came days after Gilon's reaction to Lapid's comments at the government-organised International Film Festival of India in Goa. He even apologised to India in an 'open letter' on Twitter.

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday decided to take on the BJP-led NDA Government on a range of issues including the latest Chinese incursions during the Winter Session of Parliament which begins on Wednesday.

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

It will also seek discussions on issues of EWS reservation, state of the economy and situation at the border during Parliament's winter session, even as many of its leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, are unlikely to be present due to the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

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

"The tension between India and China for the last 22 months and there has been no discussion in Parliament on the issue. The Congress would want that the issue be discussed in Parliament," he said.

"The three issues are border situation, economic situation and weakening of constitutional institutions whose rights and independence are being snatched away. We would like to have a discussion on these issues," Ramesh said. Besides Ramesh, Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Choudhury and senior leaders Chidambaram, K C Venugopal, Manish Tewari, Javed Ansari, K Suresh and Manickam Tagore were among those who attended the meeting.

The Congress will also raise the issue of high inflation and price rise, falling value of the rupee, falling exports and high Goods and Services Tax rates.

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

FROM PAGE 1

CHINA INCREASING FORAYS IN INDIAN OCEAN: NAVY...

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

Besides these operational issues, the Navy chief said the force is

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

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

The Chief also said an exercise is underway in the force to shed the colonial past as "we strongly support the view that we have to get away from this "Ghulami ki mansikta" (slave mentality).

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

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

The Navy has been making a strong push for having the IAC-II having a displacement of 65,000 tonnes which was estimated to cost close to Rs 50,000 with the envisaged specifications.

India's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant (IAC I) was commissioned in September. The aircraft carrier, with a displacement of 40,000 tonnes, was built at a cost of around Rs 23,000 crore. The Navy Chief also said the Light Combat Aircraft (naval version) project will significantly help in developing the proposed next generation deck-based fighters. "This is helping us in developing the next generation fighters to be operated from the deck which is something called the twin engine deck-based fighters," he said. "We are preparing the draft cabinet note for that. We are confident that by 2026, we should have the prototype," he said. The Navy Chief said production of the aircraft would start by 2032.

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

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

EC WARNS AGAINST URBAN VOTER...

The first phase of voting was held for 89 seats in Saurashtra, Kutch and south Gujarat on December 1.

"Urban apathy continues unabated from Shimla to Surat. ECI appeals to voters of Gujarat to come out in large numbers during second phase to compensate for low voting in 1st phase," the ECI spokesperson tweeted.

In Gujarat, voter turnout in Surat, Rajkot and Jamnagar was lower than the overall 63.3 per cent in the first phase of Gujarat assembly elections, the poll panel said. The voting percentage in the first phase of election in Gujarat in 2017 was 66.79 per cent.

The urban assembly seat of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh recorded the lowest turnout in the state at 62.53 per cent, 13 percentage points less than the state average of 75.6 per cent. Though overall the voting percentage increased marginally in Himachal Pradesh in 2022 compared to 2017 (74.17 percent), too many voters shied away from polling stations in urban centres in the State.

The Election Commission said the voting percentage increased in many constituencies in Gujarat in the first-phase polling but the overall turnout was diminished by the urban apathy to voting in key districts such as Surat, Rajkot and Jamnagar. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar appealed to the voters of Gujarat to come out in large numbers during the second-phase polling on December 5 to make up for the low voting in the first phase. The possibility of surpassing the 2017 voting percentage now depends on their increased participation, he said, according to the Election Commission.

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

The second lowest voting was in the Karanj constituency of Surat, which was also 5.37 percentage points lower than its own low of 55.91 per cent in 2017.

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

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

IFFI JURY STANDS WITH LAPID ON KASHMIR FILES...

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

The statement reads: "At the festival's closing ceremony, Nadav Lapid, the jury's president, made a statement on behalf of the jury members, stating : "We were all of us disturbed and shocked by the 15th film, The Kashmir Files, that felt to us like a vulgar propaganda movie, inappropriate for an artistic competitive section of such a prestigious film festival."

"We stand by his statement.

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

The Wire said its email to the three was to yet to elicit a response, however, Sebastien Farcis, Delhi correspondent of the French newspaper Liberation managed to speak to two of them for a story he filed.

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

GUJ OPPOSES IN SC BAIL FOR GODHRA...

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

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

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

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state of Gujarat, said these convicts threw stones on the train which prevented people from escaping the burning coach.

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

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

He told the bench that he would examine the individual roles of these convicts and apprise the bench about it.

The bench has posted the matter for further hearing on December 15.

In its October 2017 judgement, the high court had commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence awarded to 11 convicts in the Godhra train burning case.

It had upheld the life sentence awarded to 20 other convicts in the case.

On November 11, the apex court had extended the period of interim bail granted to one of the convicts until March 31, 2023.

It had noted that on May 13, the top court had granted him interim bail for six months on the ground that his wife was suffering from terminal stage cancer and his daughters were differently-abled.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Four years ago, the country was ranked at the 102nd position. In the ranking, Singapore is at the top, followed by the UAE and South Korea at the second and third positions, respectively, the officials said. China is at the 49th place, they added. Under its Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach, an ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) was undertaken from November 9 to 16.

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

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

Herbs effective in cure of upper respiratory tract infections: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Fifatrol, an ayurvedic formulation composed of time-tested herbs, is effective in treatment of upper respiratory tract infections (URTI), a contagious viral and bacterial infection, according to a study published in the International Research Journal of Ayurveda and Yoga.

A team of researchers had carried out the study on 203 patients with URTI in various health centres across the country. During the treatment, the health parameters of the patients, who were given Fifatrol twice a day, were checked on the first, fourth and seventh day. As per the study, the patient's condition was found to be improved by 69.5 percent and 90.36 percent within the fourth and seventh days respectively. "Effectiveness was evaluated by examining the reduction in symptoms scores at day 4 and 7 respectively. This observational study has gathered evidence about the effectiveness and safety of Fifatrol on the amelioration of the symptoms of URTI," said the authors.

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

In fact, Fifatrol as an immunity-boosting ayurvedic drug has found a mention as Covid-19 combating formulation in the 'Compendium of Indian Technologies for Combating Covid-19 (Tracing, Testing &Treating)' compiled by the state-run National Research Development Corporation last year. Dr Sanchit Sharma, Executive Director of AIMIL Pharma which is engaged in preparation and sale of Fifatrol said that normally, the ayurvedic medicines have been seen as supplements to increase immunity. "However, the current Government has been taking several steps to boost the Ayurveda sector. There has been compelling evidence that medicinal herbs can be a first line of defense against infectious diseases," he said

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

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

PTI ■ MIRPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Middle-Order muddle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MIRPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pakistan reaches 499-7, still trails England by 158 runs

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

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

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

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

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

Babar and Shakeel denied England success in the middle session and guided Pakistan to 411-3 by tea with the Pakistan skipper dominating both spin and pace.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sukant Kadam enters semifinals of para badminton meet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The ace shuttler will face Guatemala's Raul Anguiano in his last-four clash.

Kadam won both his group matches, against France's Clement Sarrobert and Ludwing Anquise Chaina, in straight games.

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

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

Brathwaite fights back in opener after Labuschagne landmark ton

AP ■ PERTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cummins was nursing a right-side soreness and did not take the field until the fall of Chanderpaul's wicket which was 153 minutes into the innings. Cummins' soreness will be further assessed before he is cleared to bowl. Cummins wrecked the West Indies first innings with 3-34 as the tourists collapsed from 245-4 to 283 all out.

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

But in the next over, Starc made amends and bowled Chanderpaul to end the opening resistance. It was an impressive debut by Chanderpaul, the son of former batting great Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

They will face another Chinese Taipei pair of Lai Po Yu and Yi-Hao Lin in the final.

In the men's U-15 semifinal, Anish made a sensational comeback after being one game down to stun the second seed Lee Yu-Jui of Chinese Taipei 18-21 21-12 21-12.

In the final, Anish will be up against Chung-Hsiang Yih of Chinese Taipei, who beat India's Gnana Dattu 21-16 19-21 21-13 in another semifinal. Dattu signed off with a bronze.

In 2013, Siril Verma had won gold medal in the men's U-15 singles while Samiya Farooqui and Tasnim Mir clinched the U-15 women's singles titles in 2017 and 2019 respectively.

The U-15 men's doubles pair of Bjorn Jaison and Aathish Sreenivas PV also won a bonze after losing to top-seeded Indonesian duo of Muhammad Mubarrok and Raihan Pramono 18-21 14-21 in the semifinals.

LOCAL EVENTS

ELECTRONIC MEDIA ENTER FINAL

Electronic Media defeated Hindustan Times by 30 runs to enter the final of the 2nd Subhash Mishra Inter-Media Cricket Tournament at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Saturday.

Opting to bat, EM piled up 149 runs for the loss of six wickets in the allotted 20 overs, with Satish Bharti (59) and Devesh Pandey (34) being the top scorers. In reply, HT could manage only 119 runs for the loss of seven wickets.

BRIEF SCORES:

EM: 149 (Satish 59, Devesh 34, Mayur 16; Deepak Gupta 2/16, Anshul 1/18);**HT:** 119 (Rohit 32, Sharadeep 24; Ashish 8/2, Devesh 12/1)

QAYAM ABBAS ZAIDI SHINES

Qayam Abbas Zaidi bagged five medals including two golds to emerge the best athlete in the annual sports event of Unity College on Saturday. SAI director Sanjay Saraswat inaugurated the event. Other present were former hockey players Danish Mujtaba, Devendra Dhaynchand and UP Non-Olumpic Association secretary AK Saxena.

Students of Unity College performing at Annual Sports event

Netherlands eliminate US in R16

AP ■ AL RAYYAN

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

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

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

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

But just like in 2010 against Ghana and 2014 against Belgium, the United States was eliminated in the round of 16. The Americans are winless in 12 games against European opponents at the World Cup since 2002, losing six, and are 1-7 during the tournament's knockout rounds.

Pulisic, playing four days after getting hurt during his game-winning goal against Iran, had a chance to put the United States ahead in the third minute but Noppert, playing in only his fourth international match, blocked his point-blank shot.

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

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

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

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

Neymar expected to train again with Brazil at World Cup

AP ■ DOHA, QATAR

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

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

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

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

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

Neymar, seeking his first major title with Brazil, was forced out of the 2014 World Cup after hurting his back in the quarterfinals against Colombia. He didn't play in the 2019 Copa America because of another right ankle injury.

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

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

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

ENGLAND BOND OVER CARDS AHEAD OF SENEGAL CLASH

AP ■ DOHA

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

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

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

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

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

Belgium and Germany were high-profile departures from the group stage, while defending champion France, along with Argentina, Spain, Brazil and Portugal have all been on the wrong end of upsets.

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

"I think it's always difficult when you see big teams or big players in teams that don't have the success that you want or don't live up to the expectation of a nation or where they see themselves," said defender John Stones.

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

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

The years since have been pitted with disappointment and underachievement.

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

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

Senegal coach Aliou Cisse ill ahead of game with England

AP ■ DOHA

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

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

"He's been sick for a couple of days now and he let us take charge of training yesterday with his instructions," Senegal assistant coach Regis Bogaert said Saturday.

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

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

Cameroon first African team to beat Brazil at World Cup

AP ■ LUSAIL, QATAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Both Epassy and Aboubakar play for clubs in Saudi Arabia.

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

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

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

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

AP ■ DOHA

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

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

Uruguay's 2-0 win over Ghana on Friday, which still resulted in elimination for the Uruguayans, is expected to be Suarez's last World Cup game if he stays true to his pre-tournament pronouncement.

And if so, it ended the international career of one of soccer's most divisive characters, a player who is adored in Uruguay, who won titles at Ajax, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid, and who was at his height one of the best strikers in the world.

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

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

Brazil fans at World Cup game remember soccer great Pelé

AP ■ LUSAIL, QATAR

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

The 82-year-old Pelé, who had a colon tumor removed last year, was hospitalized Tuesday in Sao Paulo to regulate his medication. Doctors said Friday he had a respiratory infection and would remain in the hospital being treated with antibiotics, according to the Hospital Albert Einstein. "It's sad to hear this news about Pelé on the day of a Brazil match at the World Cup," said 41-year-old Brazil fan Rafael Bistelli, who traveled from Sao Paulo to watch the national team in Qatar. "We are trying to send him our positive energy from here." Doctors said Friday that Pelé's response to treatment had been "adequate and the patient, who remains in a regular bedroom, is stable, with an overall improvement in his health condition."

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

Camel pageant among World Cup's sideline attractions

AP ■ ASH-SHHANIYA, QATAR

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

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

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

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

The event, which was designed to bring cultural awareness to World Cup visitors, was sponsored by the Ministry of Sports and Youth, in conjunction with the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, the local World Cup organizing committee.

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

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

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

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

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

Visitors were greeted by a camel jingle "Welcome to the Camel Competition" and served Karak, a spiced tea with milk. Owners and their families sat in an air-conditioned luxury tent with red velvet chairs and a glass wall to watch the competition.

The main attraction were the pure-bred female camels. Competitors makes several passes in front of a stand of fans that cheer for their favorite. There's also a milking competition, with the prize going to the camel that produces the most milk.

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

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

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

sunday magazine
December 4, 2022

the pioneer
agenda

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

REVDI CULTURE IS HERE TO STAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A free or highly subsidized health and education system catering to the economically poor section should be an obligation of the state and must not be considered 'bad economics' and part of the " Ravadj culture" as has been made out by some of the advocates of 'globalization'.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Revadis' distributed by political parties, in the game of winning elections, are more or less the same except for their packaging and carry bags..!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congress also pledged to regularise contractual government employees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is Special Corrrespondent of The Pioneer)

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

YOU ARE NOT WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On leaders and self growth, he says, "Not all business leaders are interested in personal growth. But the number of those who are is increasing. These are the leaders who can handle the stress and anxiety that are increasing worldwide." He also says that there are many entrepreneurs who are on a path of conscious growth.

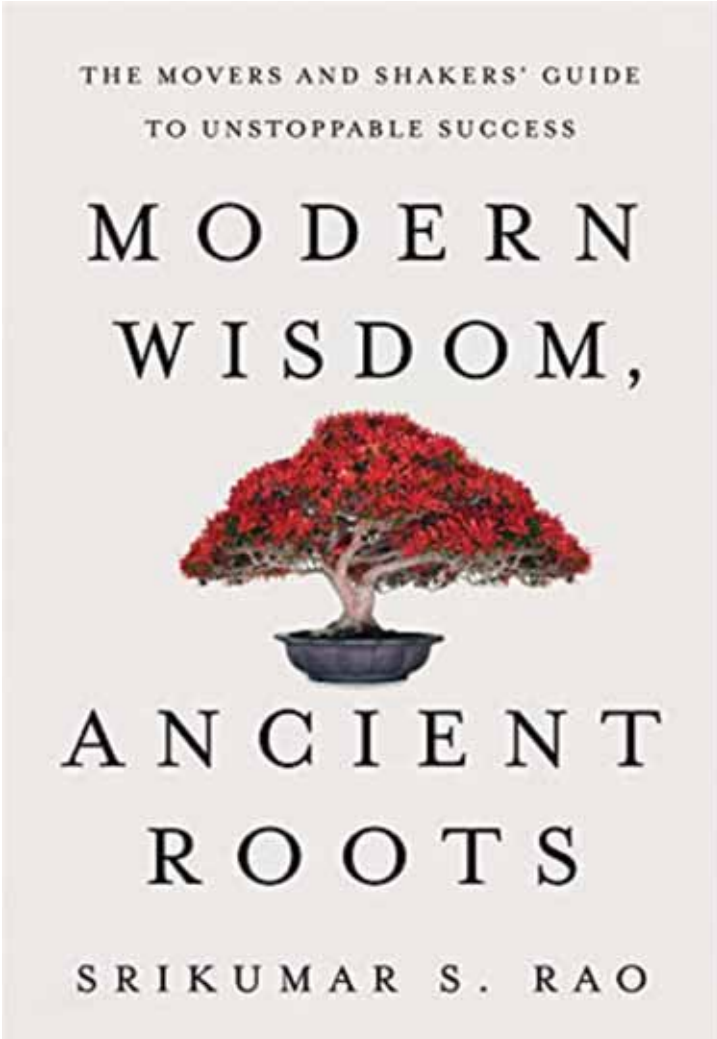
"I will not name them because they have their ups and downs and fall down many times even as their overall trajectory is upward. An external observer can easily misinterpret the initiatives that did not work." Rao believes that personal mastery gives people the ability to focus one-pointedly on any issue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

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

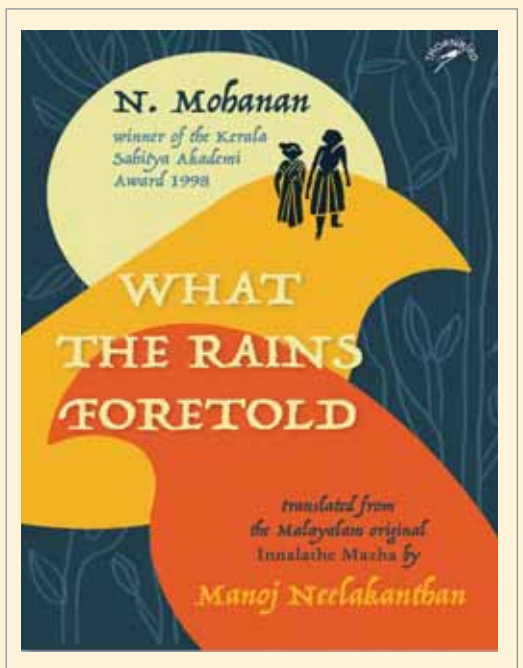
Rao, who has coached many CEOs in the world, thinks business leaders can make a quantum leap in their lives by gaining personal mastery.

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

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



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



FICTION
₹395
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WHAT THE RAINS FORETOLD

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

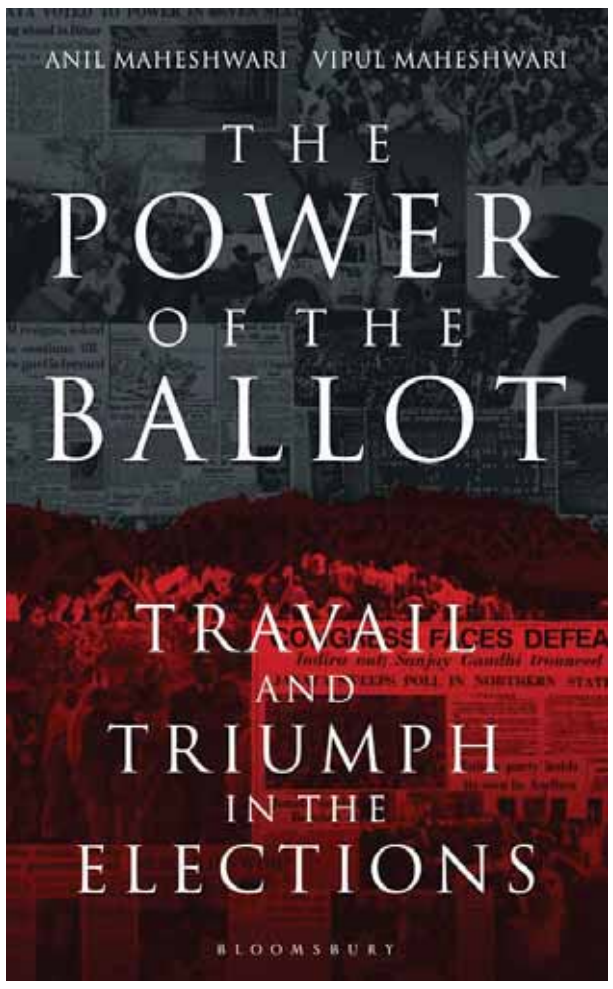
Vararuchi sprang up and looked angrily upwards, from where the voices came. 'Never, never! The writ of destiny will never happen. It is I, Vararuchi, who says this. This will never happen,' he yelled.

Agitated, Vararuchi walked up and down, wringing his hands in sheer exasperation. At length his gait slackened as he quietened visibly. Looking all around in the darkness, as though searching for someone who would hear him, he declared at the top of his voice, 'Let this be heard, oh Lords of the cardinal directions, Mother Nature, Clairvoyant Messengers! I have heard my fate, my destiny. But I, Vararuchi, am capable of rewriting my destiny... I will prove destiny wrong by my actions. Bear witness, divine forces, that Vararuchi shall not be turned back in his resolve, come what may.'

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

The Power of The Ballot

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



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

After a brief outburst of laughter, the party officials decided to award Verma the ticket in exchange for his donation of five jeeps and Rs 25,000 to five assembly candidates. In order to compete against Dinesh Pratap Singh, the Raja of Kasmanda, who was running for Congress, the party needed a candidate from the Sitapur region. Additionally, it required financial and material resources. Nevertheless, the Jan Sangh did not validate Verma's claims about his riches. He was the owner of a relatively small flour mill, after all. Verma's jeep was seized, and he was given a light beating by irate party members. When the Jan Sangh began campaigning for him, using his last name frequently, Verma fled to Lucknow to hide. Even though the people desired a candidate from among themselves rather than a "Raja," the Congress treated Verma as if he were irrelevant. With a margin of 3,377 votes, Verma was declared the victor.

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

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

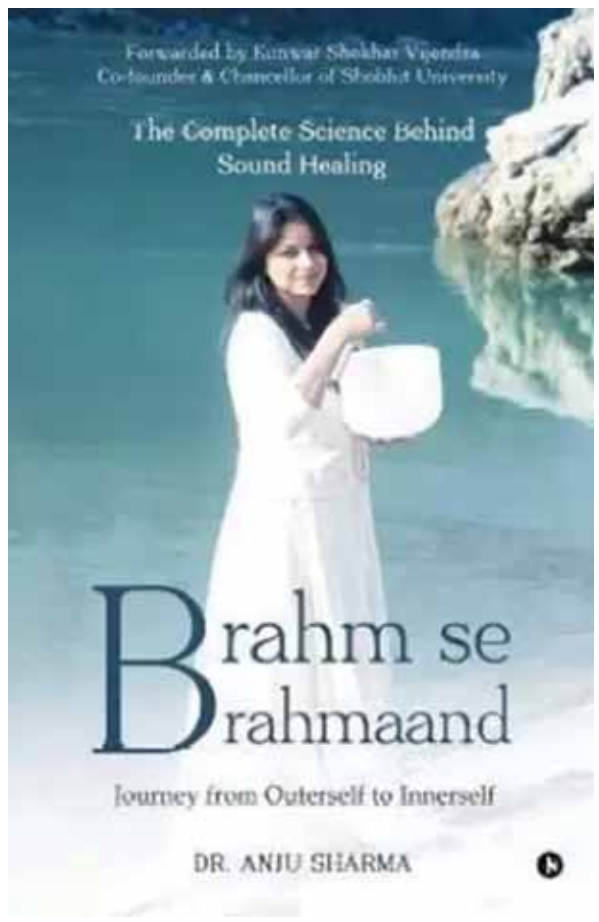
The depiction of the tradition in Haryana of weighing candidates against coins is another example of utilising an anecdote to highlight the idiosyncrasies of Indian elections. By the 1980s, the chances of victory for every candidate, including unaffiliated candidates who had little chance of victory,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

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

Price Rs 699
Pages 381

The magic of sound healing

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Book explores heroic exploits of Lachit Barphukan, other bravehearts

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

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

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

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

Sampath also goes on to give a brief overview of the Ahom kingdom, which, he says, was highly regimented in its structure.

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

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

By December 1636, Kamrup was occupied by the Mughals. According to the Treaty of Asurar Ali, enacted in 1639 CE between the Ahom general Momai Tamuli Borbarua and the Mughal commander Allah Yar Khan, the whole of western Assam, beginning Guwahati, passed into Mughal hands.

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

But there was a revival after Chakradhwaj Singha became the king.

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

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

PTI

Hapless victims of borderless cyber terror

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

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

Cyber warfare is a new reality.

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

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

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

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

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

With immediate steps taken by the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations of the Delhi Police, there is every chance that the perpetrators will be identified soon. At the moment, we do not have sufficient legal and security measures to prevent such malware attacks in India. Since the establishment of the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) in 2004, a national nodal agency, the collection, and analysis of data, and preventive measures to avert cyber security threats have become stronger than before.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Twitter — A signature takeover?

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

SIDHARRTH SHANKAR

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

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

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

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

Priority to user privacy & trust

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

Quality & insight-driven data strategy

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

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

Monetise better

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

The bitter truth

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

A change hero but not a leader?

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

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

Binge watch on legal episodes

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

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

Musk & his legal muscles

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

Musk's current anxiety

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

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

It's not all Musk's act

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

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

Logging out

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

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

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

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA

ARIES March 21-April 19

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

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

TAURUS April 20-May 20

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

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

GEMINI May 21-June 20

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

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

CANCER June 21-July 22

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

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

LEO July 23-Aug 22

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

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

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

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

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

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

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

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

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

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

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

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

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

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

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

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

PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

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

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Spirituality turns life into a beautiful experience

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

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

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

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

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

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