

WORLD 5
CONSTRUCTION BEGINS
ON IRAN NUCLEAR PLANT

MONEY 6
24TH TRANCHE OF ELECTORAL
BONDS ON SALE FROM MON

SPORT 8
FIR AGAINST LAKSHYA, COACH
VIMAL FOR AGE FRAUD

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EC warns against urban voter apathy

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

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



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

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.

DELHI DECIDES TODAY

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

“For election, we have got 108 coys (companies) of Central and State armed police forces,” he said. Sixty-eight model polling stations and as many pink polling stations covering all 11 Assembly segments, have been established for quality experience of voters. Sixty drones will be used in ensuring law and order in the sensitive zones of each district, which has been given four-five unmanned aerial vehicles each.

China increasing forays in Indian Ocean: Navy chief

‘Four to six Chinese warships in region at any given time’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



research vessels, warships and merchant ships. The Indian Navy is keeping a close watch, he said adding there are more than 60 other extra-regional forces also present in the ‘vital region.’

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

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

IFFI jury stands with Lapid on Kashmir Files issue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



and ‘vulgar.’ Israeli Ambassador to India Naor Gilon took exception to these remarks and asked the filmmaker to apologise. The India jury member

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

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

Hate mail for envoy

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

Details on P4

Misconceptions spread by Allopathy

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Amla along with Aloe Vera juice, Giloy Juice and a balanced diet, we have saved people from diabetes and its complications. Also, for the first time in the world, we have succeeded in completely curing type-1 diabetes to make patients completely non-diabetic.

Thyroid

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

We have freed people from thyroid and its complications by treating them with the Thyrogrit, coriander water and Kapalbhati, Ujjayi etc. pranayams and Yoga.

Eye and Ear Diseases

Allopathy has no cure for vision impairment, glaucoma, macular degeneration etc.

Yoga practice along with medicines like Eyegrit, Akshi Tarpan, Eargrit and Karnapurna etc. we have given people freedom from eye and ear diseases.

Liver

Allopathy has no permanent cure for Fatty liver, Liver cirrhosis and Hepatitis (A, B, C & D).

On the other hand, we have cured people of fatty liver, liver cirrhosis, hepatitis and made their

digestive system completely healthy with regular Yoga practice such as Basti and medicines like Sarvakalp Kwath, Punarnava juice, Livogrit and Livamrit etc.

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.

Yoga, Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Panchakarma, Shatkarma, Godhan Arka + Neem Ghanvati and Panch Mahabhuta therapy as well as Kayakalp Vati, Dermagrit, Psorogrit, purify the body to give people permanent freedom from skin diseases.

Arthritis

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.

Through Integrated Yoga Practice, Peedanil Gold with Peedanil pey, Orthogrit, Orthocare and therapies like Vatamokshan, Raktmokshan, Acupressure, Acupuncture, Leech Therapy,

Chiropractic, Medicinal Wrap, Vaitarna Basti and Nutrela Nutrition we have freed people from Arthritis, Cervical, Spondylitis etc. Vaat diseases.

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In allopathy, there is no medicine for it. Inhalers and steroids used to treat such situations give temporary relief and patients lungs get affected for life.

We have successfully cured Asthma and lung fibrosis etc with Bhastrika, Kapalbhati, Anulom-Vilom Pranayams and Bhujangasana, Lungbasti etc. Yoga practices along with medicines such as Swasari Pravahi, Vati, Swasari Gold and Curcumin Gold etc. In fact we have permanently cured damaged lungs.

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Balance of development and environment is necessary: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that balance of development and environment is necessary. Destruction of nature in the name of development is not right. Today everywhere pollution is increasing in rivers. If we don't think about, the conditions of global warming will be created. He said that the state government would always be cooperative towards the citizens affected by the gas tragedy.

He will have to bear the consequences of bad deeds. God is one, the paths are different. If you listen to each of the religious leaders together, you get a meaningful message. As long as a person is alive, he should do good deeds, fulfill his duties. Everyone has different responsibilities. Everyone should do their duty. Only then our life will be blessed.

Chouhan thanked the religious leaders that today they have given a meaningful message at the all-religion prayer meeting. When someone passes from the world due to some human error that is very tragic. The loss of life was due to the fault of Union Carbide, the error and negligence of those responsible for controlling it. Hundreds of innocent children and youths passed away. It has

been 38 years since this tragedy, but it is not possible to forget it.

The Chief Minister said that we have to learn a lesson from Bhopal. Everyone responsible should fulfill his duty. Those who do not fulfill their responsibility should also be punished. Playing with nature is not right. It is not proper to kill living beings under any circumstances. Today natural agriculture is being talked about, which is done without using destructive chemicals and pesticides. Chief Minister Chouhan said that we do not utilize nature but exploit it. This is what creates the discrepancy. Chouhan said that it is necessary to save the environment. The Bhopal gas tragedy gives a message. While exploiting the nature, we should use as much as we can compensate.

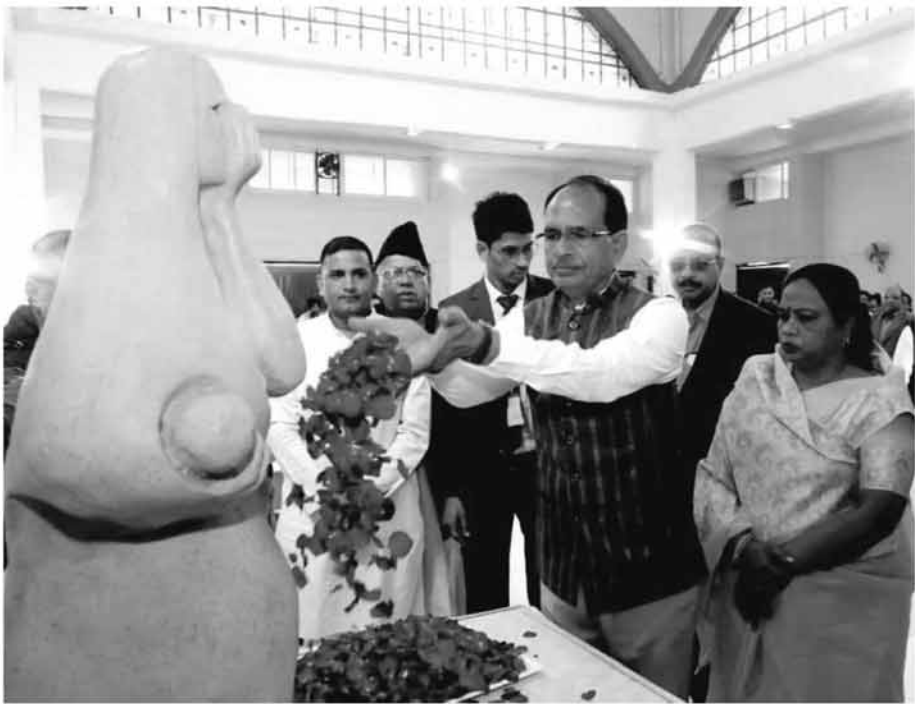
Chouhan said that every-

one should save the environment collectively. To give a message to the general public, let us work to increase the amount of oxygen for our breaths. Efforts have been made to give this message by planting saplings daily. Think and act for the benefit of future generations by saving the earth. This earth is for everyone. This idea is going on all over the world. Now the earth is getting polluted. Let us save the earth and the rivers. Natural resources are getting poisoned. To stop this, balance is necessary in development and environment. Humans should stay within their limits, breaking the limits is fatal.

Chouhan said that the state government is standing with the people affected by the gas tragedy. On behalf of the people of the state, the Chief

Minister paid homage to the brothers and sisters who lost their lives in the tragedy and offered floral tributes. The CM said that I pray to God to give peace to the departed souls and give us wisdom so that no city becomes Bhopal. Let us all perform our civic duties.

Mayor of Bhopal Malti Rai, Ramesh Sharma "Guttu Bhaiya", public representatives, religious leaders, Additional Chief Secretary Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Relief and Rehabilitation Mohammad Suleman, Principal Secretary Smt. Karlin Khongwar Deshmukh, Bhopal Commissioner Mal Singh, Director Gas Relief were present along with officers-employees and citizens. Heads of various religions offered prayers and paid homage to the citizens who lost their lives in the gas tragedy.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan pays tributes to the gas victims of 1984's gas tragedy during an all-religion prayer meeting on 38th anniversary of the gas disaster in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

BHEL CMD visits under-construction solar plant at Govindpura

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Nalin Singhal, CMD, BHEL on Saturday visited the under-construction 5 MW capacity Solar plant at Govindpura, A-Sector, reviewing the work-in-progress of the solar plant with the officers. He then held discussion with the executives and supervisors in the factory. Speaking on the occasion, Singhal stressed on the use of advanced technology and smooth work ethic to ensure timely completion of work.

He said that, today, BHEL is getting orders from Indian Railways, apart from Nuclear and Thermal segments. The company is also getting a lot of opportunities under the Self-reliant India campaign, under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister. Praising the employees of BHEL and the work culture here, he said that BHEL has always set new milestones by facing challenges suc-



cessfully.

On this occasion, he answered various questions asked by the officers and supervisors while laying emphasis on the method & efforts to manufacture quality products through rational designs, thereby reducing material cost.

He appreciated the role of supervisors in production work in the factory and said that BHEL is like a family and BHEL

management has always considered all its employees as an integral part of the family. The management is making every possible effort to ensure that the employees do not face any kind of inconvenience. He also said that we all have to work together with full commitment to take BHEL to newer heights.

Reviewing the progress of the under-construction solar plant at Govindpura, he said that

it is an important step towards environment protection not only for BHEL but Bhopal also. It is worth mentioning that this solar plant, spread over an area of 20 acres, will produce 79 lakh kilowatts of electricity annually and will save about Rs 5.5 crore. An expenditure of about Rs 22 crores is estimated in the construction of this plant, being manufactured by BHEL.

After the interaction session with the officers and supervisors, Vinay Nigam expressed his gratitude for the suggestions extended and said that all such suggestions which are in the interest of the company will be implemented immediately. Turnover and profit is in the interest of all the employees and it is the sole objective of all the employees of BHEL.

Earlier, Rakesh Singh, General Manager (Materials Management) welcomed the CMD on the occasion.

CM plants saplings in Smart City Park

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Kadam, Kachnar and Sarika Indica along with social workers and representatives of organisations today in the Smart City Park. Members of Kushabhau Thackeray Foundation Senior Advocate Ashwin Kumar Upadhyay, Anshul Tiwari, Abhilash Thakur, Sambal Jha, Arpan Saxena and Suryakant Chaturvedi also planted saplings. The Foundation also organises intellectual discussions along with many works of social service.

Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Bhopal Ward 55 Corporator Archana Parmar also planted saplings. Sarvashri Jitendra Parmar, Narayan Singh Parmar and Suraj Parmar were also present. Nikki Rai of Indore also planted a sapling on his birthday.

Crime branch arrest two persons from Shujalpur for taking loans procuring fake documents

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Crime branch arrested two accused including the mastermind who cheated by taking fake loans on plots and houses from finance companies, accused were arrested from Shujalpur who used to take fake loans from private finance companies on different plots and houses in collusion with the owners.

The accused were absconding from the year 2018 after taking loans of about Rs 18 lakh from different finance institutions.

In November 2021, a complaint was made by the complainant Amit Singh Cluster Manager Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited Bhopal that Geeta Singrole

and her husband Ghanshyam Sigrole of House No. 35 Purushottam Nagar (Naveen Nagar) Old Semra Swapnil School Bhopal and Allarakha Umar Parsala and his wife Rahima of House No.24 Putli Ghar cheated Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited Bhopal of Rs 675180 in the year 2018 on a 600 square feet house no. Plot No; 30 in village Arvaliya and loan of Rs 605494 was also availed on the same plot.

The finance company found that the details accused have provided are wrong and none of the EMI were paid.

It was found that all the accused along with Ujjwal Jain and Jyoti Singh who owned the plot and her

husband Raghuvver who have helped in availing loan also went absconding.

Later in the investigation it was found that they have also availed loans from different finance companies and banks. They took a total of Rs 18 lakh of loan.

During the investigation Ghanshyam Singraule and his accomplice Ujjwal Jain were arrested from Shujalpur and interrogated. The accused along with the owner of the land from the private finance companies used to carry out the crime by taking loans from different finance companies using forged documents.

Search for the absconding accused would be done as information would be obtained from the nabbed accused.



Survivor gas victims burn an effigy of Dow Chemicals on 38th anniversary of the gas disaster in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

SBI celebrates 'International Day of persons with disabilities'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

With an objective to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and honour their contribution in the aspect of life, the International Day of Persons With Disabilities (IDPD) was celebrated on Saturday, at the Local Head Office of State Bank of India, Bhopal Circle. Specially abled customers and staff members were felicitated and honoured in a programme held at SBI.

The theme of this International Day of Persons With Disabilities (2022) is "transformative solutions for inclusive development, the role of innovation in promoting an accessible and equitable world".

The Chief General Manager of the Circle Binod Kumar Mishra and other Senior Officials of the SBI and employees participated in the



program organized on this occasion. On this occasion Shri. Binod Kumar Mishra said that every year on Saturday, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities is celebrated all over the world. The purpose of this day is to support and uplift the self-esteem of persons with disabilities and to improve their lives. He added that disability is not a curse, rather it is the spirit of mov-

ing forward, forgetting the disability which makes you stand apart in society. Shri Mishra said that our Bank is feeling proud by honouring all guests and staff members present at the occasion.

Dr Divyata Garg of Kendriya Vidyalaya Bhopal, Dr Amit Garg of Kamla Nehru Vidyalaya, Bhopal, Dr Radheshyam, Parwalia, Assistant Professor of Lakshmi Bai College Bhopal, Dr

Hargovind Yadav of Education Department and nearly about 35 specially abled staff members of State Bank of India participated in this programme. Chief General Manager Binod Kumar Mishra and Circle Development Officer, Deepak Kumar Jha welcomed everyone and felicitated them.

The guests, customers and staff members were very happy to be felicitated in the programme and shared their views & thoughts. They thanked the State Bank of India for honouring them and holding such a beautiful programme for them.

All the Top Management officials and staff members of the Bank were present at the occasion. The program was successfully conducted by Anil Kumar Srivastava, Assistant General Manager and the team members of the PR&CSB Department.

House of DJ operator burgled at Neelbad locality on Friday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

House of a DJ operator at Neelbad was targeted by miscreants and valuables over Rs 1.5 lakh were burgled on Friday; the family had gone to attend marriage and returned on Friday and found the house ransacked.

Ratibad police said that the victim Pankaj Joshi had gone to Lalghati with family to attend the marriage of his cousin. After the marriage on Friday afternoon they returned and found that the motorbike at the house was missing and the doors of the house were open.

The victim approached police and lodged a complaint, the victim in his complaint stated that he along with family had gone to attend a marriage of his cousin at Lalghati, they returned on Friday and found that the bike which was parked in the premises was not there and locks were found broken. He entered the house and found that gold and silver jewelry and Rs 84000 cash

After the marriage on Friday afternoon they returned and found that the motorbike at the house was missing and the doors of the house were open

were also burgled.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and have started further investigation.

Police suspect that the burglars were aware of the whereabouts of the family and committed the burglary when the family was away. The victim operates DJ and lives with his family in Neelbad. The CCTV footage would be investigated to check the miscreants involved in the burglary.

Phoenix Malls opens Phoenix Citadel, Indore

Indore: The Phoenix Mills Limited (PML), India's leading retail mall developer and operator, announced the grand opening of Phoenix Citadel, the largest retail destination in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Phoenix Citadel has been developed PML under its first joint venture with Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments). PML is the pioneer of retail-led, mixed-use developments in India with an operational retail portfolio of over 80 lakh square feet (sq. ft.) of retail space across 10 malls in 7 gateway cities of India, with additional under construction portfolio of over 50 lakh sq. ft.

Spread over 19 acres of land and with a gross leasable area of 10 lakh sqft, Phoenix Citadel is a world-class and exceptional fashion and family entertainment destination. The mall is set to have a huge economic impact on MP, and is also set to be one of the largest employment generators. The mall is a complete destination and consumption hub offering an unparalleled experience to the customers. With a perfect blend of lifestyle and fashion brands, world class dining & bars and entertainment options of international stature, Phoenix Citadel is a perfect example of being an experience-driven destination.

MP State level sub junior rugby football competition being organized in Ratlam

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Madhya Pradesh state level sub junior rugby football competition is being organized in Ratlam. Among the hundreds of players from the different districts, eleven players from Gwalior district will also show their talent in the competition. The Gwalior team left for Ratlam yesterday night.

Talking to the media persons here, Keshav Pandey, President of the District Rugby Football Association of Gwalior told that there will be a state level competition from Sunday. He added that this competition is held to select the players for the National Sub-Junior Championship to be held in Punjab from December 21 to 25.

Pandey further said that along with Gwalior, districts like Mandsaur, Shajapur, Jhabua, Betul, Sehore, Khandwa, Indore, Jabalpur and Dewas will also be represented in the state level championship.

Giving details about the players from Gwalior, Pandey told that Manvendra Singh from Radiant School, Prince Gurjar, Yuvraj Parmar, Himanshu Gurjar and Bhagwan Singh from Kiddy's Corner

Along with Gwalior, districts like Mandsaur, Shajapur, Jhabua, Betul, Sehore, Khandwa, Indore, Jabalpur and Dewas will also be represented in the state level championship

School; Ansh Bhadoria, Pradhuma Narvariya, Ayush Chokotia, Harshvardhan Singh Gurjar, Devyansh Singh Tomar and Nishant Shivhare from Greenwood School have been selected in the team.

Pandey further said that Sunil Kant will be the judge of the team while Ankur Chaurasia, the coach and Ashna Sharma, the team manager.

District Rugby Football Association President Pandey, Secretary Bhupendra Kant, Greenwood School Director Aditya Singh Bhaduria, Vijay Garg, Director of Kiddy's Corner School, Vijay Gupta, Director of Radiant School and the office bearers of Rugby Association Gwalior were present to send off the team.



People take part in a cycle rally from Union Carbide to Itwara to pay homage to the gas victims on 38th anniversary of gas disaster, organised by Insani Biradari Organisation in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

'International Day of Persons with Disability' observed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Director AIIMS Bhopal appreciated the efforts of the department and said such state of art innovative technology should be made indigenously to cut down the pricing so that it is available to large population in country like India where amputation is one of the leading causes of Divyangta. He also added that patient support groups should be created which

would help to identify individuals in the society and help them with the available resources; AIIMS Bhopal PMR dept should take initiative in such community rehabilitation program.

The exhibition had Bionic Hand which waste center of attraction along with many advanced hydraulic joints and Carbon fiber foot.

ILLEGAL MINING CASE

Pankaj Mishra files complaint case against ED Asst Director

PNS ■ Ranchi

Chief Minister Hemant Soren's MLA representative, Pankaj Mishra, who is an accused in the illegal mining and transportation case, has filed a complaint case against the Assistant Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED), Ranchi, Debvrat Jha. The complaint has been lodged in the special court of ED, which has been accepted by the court of Prabhat Kumar Sharma.

It has been said in the complaint that the assistant director of ED has concealed facts. It has been said in the application that the case, on the basis of which the ED has filed a case in the money laundering case, is Barharwa police station case number 85 of 2020, which has been terminated at the local police station on the application of the applicant Vijay Hansda. But, the ED officials have filed a prosecution report hiding the facts.



In this case, the police had said in a press conference that apart from Pankaj Mishra, Minister Alamgir Alam was found innocent and the court also did not take cognizance against Pankaj Mishra. But the assistant director of ED has hidden this information from the ED court. Pankaj Mishra is not an accused in 85/20. For this reason, Pankaj Mishra has registered the case.

Notably, Mishra, who was arrested in the illegal mining case, is undergoing treatment at RIMS for the past several days. And a medical board has advised Pankaj Mishra to get treatment at the drug de-addiction centre.

The doctors' team said that he is addicted to Fortwin injections and that he starts feeling restless when he is given a mild medicine. In such a situation, now the only option is the drug de-addiction center. Apart from that place, they cannot be treated anywhere else. At last, the board in its report has given permission to refer to the de-addiction centre, the same board's report was sent by the RIMS management to the jail administration.

Blood donation camp to remember Dr Rajendra Prasad

Pankaj Kumar
■ Dhanbad

A Blood donation camp was organised here on Saturday to remember Dr Rajendra Prasad on his 138th birth anniversary. The camp organised at Rajendra Park by Rising Charitable Society (RCS) was inaugurated by CJSF DIG Vinay Kajle.

The DIG first paid floral tributes to the first president of independent India. Later he inaugurated the blood donation camp where 100 persons including 10 females donated blood to mark the occasion. The Chief Guest recalled the works done by Rajendra babu and hailed the RCS for remembering him in a different manner. A Bhutani citizen, Tenzin Jamatos, who was in Dhanbad to attend marriage of an Indian family friend, also donated blood.

Guv, CM pay tributes to Dr Rajendra Prasad, Albert Ekka



Governor Ramesh Bais, Chief Minister Hemant Soren after paying homage to Paramveer Albert Ekka on his death anniversary, at Albert Ekka Chowk in Ranchi on Saturday.



Governor Ramesh Bais pays tributes to first President of India Rajendra Prasad on his birth anniversary, in Ranchi on Saturday.

PNS ■ Ranchi

Governor Ramesh Bais and Chief Minister Hemant Soren today paid homage to the country's first President Bharat Ratna Dr. Rajendra Prasad at his statue located at Rajendra Chowk (Doranda) on the occasion of his birth anniversary. They also paid tributes and Paramveer Chakra winner martyr Al-

bert Ekka by paying floral tributes to him on his death anniversary at his statue located at Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Albert Ekka Chowk).

On the occasion, the CM said that today is the day to remember two great personalities of the country. Today is the birth anniversary of the country's first President Bharat Ratna Dr. Rajendra Prasad and the martyrdom day of the brave tribal son of Jharkhand, Sha-

JMM attacks BJP on Forest Conservation Rule – 2022



JMM General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya addresses media persons at the party office in Ranchi on Saturday.

PNS ■ Ranchi

The ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led Central Government for encroaching on the rights of the tribal community. For this, the party has made the basis of the Forest Conservation Rule 2022 (Forest Conservation Rule – 2022) brought by the Central Government recently and the party said that implementing the rule will have a horrific impact on people living in forest and near forest.

Addressing a press meet at the party's newly build headquarter in the State Capital on Saturday, JMM General Secretary cum Spokesperson, Supriyo Bhattacharya said that if this rule is passed by the Parliament and becomes a law, then 200 million people of the Country, including the tribals of Jharkhand who are completely dependent on forests, will be directly affected by it. JMM

demands that the Central Government should give permission for euthanasia to these 20 crore people at the same time," he added.

Bhattacharya said that in the earlier Forest Rights Act 2006, the permission of the Gram Sabha had to be taken on everything related to the forest but in the new law, the rights of the forest on the states have been made only a formality, including the permission of the Gram Sabha.

The JMM leader has focused on seven types of impact after the introduction of the new Forest Conservation Act. Which are mainly Ecological Impact, Zoological Impact, Social Impact, Religious Impact, Economic Impact, Topological Impact and Demographic Impact.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressing his objections regarding the Forest Conservation Rules 2022. He urged to change it. Hemant Soren talked about the arrangements to protect the rights of the tribal communities living in the forests of the country.

Hiitting hard on BJP Bhattacharya said that about 32 tribals of Jharkhand including 18 natives are dependent on forests. "The BJP Government at the Center is working to make these forest-dependent people dependent on corporate houses. The forest is natural. It cannot be created. It is clear that the people who sell airports, trains, and banks have made preparations to sell nature as well," he added.

"This issue is not only related to Jharkhand but also to tribal and forest-dominated states like Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra. JMM will work for a comprehensive discussion on this issue in the coming days," said Bhattacharya.

BSL to provide training in handicrafts, MoU inked

RAHUL SHARMA
■ Bokaro

Under the aegis of BSL with the objective of providing self-employment opportunities to women and youth in the regional villages of Bokaro, Bokaro Steel Plant is starting a Handicraft Training Center at BIV Sector 2D School from 15th December under its CSR. MoU was signed between Bokaro Steel Plant and LIMS-ESAF, Dumka for imparting training in Handicraft using locally available materials like water hyacinth, bamboo etc. The MoU was signed by CRK Sudhanshu, General Manager (CSR) on behalf of BSL and Dr. Ajithsen Selvadass, Associate Director on behalf of LIMS-ESAF. During this programme organized at Bokaro residence, BSL Director-in-charge Amarendu Prakash, Executive Director (Personnel and Administration) Sanjay Kumar, Executive Director (Finance and Accounts) Suresh Rangani, Executive Director (Materials Management) Amitabh Srivastava, Executive Director (Projects) Chittaranjan Mohapatra, other senior officers, headmen and public representatives of regional vil-



ages and officials of LIMS-ESAF Foundation were present.

It is noteworthy that LIMS-ESAF Foundation, Dumka has vast experience in production, training and marketing in the field of handicrafts. Training will be started by the experts of the organization in the Handicraft Training Center this month, preparations for which are going on war footing. A show room is also being opened in the training center itself for the sale of handicraft items manufactured here. On the occasion of the signing of the MoU, Director-in-charge Amarendu Prakash, describing the quality of handicraft

items as world-class, expressed confidence that this would not only pave the way for self-employment for rural women and youth, but would also establish Bokaro as a handicraft development center and a new identity will also be found. He also called upon the present chiefs and public representatives to motivate people in their respective areas to take advantage of this opportunity. A target has been set to train 200 villagers in the first batch at the Handicraft Training Centre, which will be completed by March, 2023. After that there is a plan to train a total of 600 local rural women and men in 2023-24.

SAIL distributes equipment among Divyang persons

PNS ■ Ranchi

On the occasion of International Disability Day, SAIL Ranchi units under its CSR drive distributed various artificial aids like tricycle, wheel-chair, CP chair, hearing aid, MSIED Kits, Braille sticks, crutches, different types of belts etc among 58 Divyangs at Namkum Block Office on Saturday.

On this occasion, MLA of Khijri Vidhan Sabha Rajesh Kachhap; Deputy Commissioner of Ranchi Rahul Sinha; Executive Director of SAIL, RDCIS Nirvik Banerjee, Executive Director of SAIL, Safety Ashis Chakraborty; Block Development Officer Gyan Shankar Jaiswal, Block CO Vinod Prapapati, Block Chief Asha Kachhap, senior officers of SAIL, public representatives of Namkum block, members of Gram Sabha were present.

Kachhap said on this occasion that the self-confidence of the disabled is their valuable ornament and we have to increase it. He thanked the SAIL management and further inspired them for the developmental works of the block. DC Rahul Sinha also gave information about other schemes of Jharkhand government in the meeting and while thank-



ing SAIL and encouraged them to undertake developmental work in other blocks as well. Nirbhik Banerjee, Executive Director, RDCIS informed that 150 more Divyangs will be provided with artificial aids in this month itself.

He said that in today's mission, the officials of District and Namkum, had an amazing teamwork with SAIL and ALIMCO and wished similar joint efforts in future. Block Development Officer Gyan Shankar Jaiswal gave the

welcome speech. The meeting was also addressed by C.O. Namkum Vinod Prapapati, MP Representative Pramod Singh and Block Chief Asha Kachhap.

All equipment distributed today were manufactured by the Government of India's Navratna Enterprise ALIMCO i.e. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation. Earlier, these artificial organs and equipment were imported from abroad at high cost.

On this occasion senior officers from SAIL P. Mala Hemrom, CGM (P&A), Jitendra Saluja, CGM(CET); Ujjwal Bhaskar, CoC; Asit Mohanty, Ram Das Tigga, S.K.Saha, Suman Thakur, Golap Chowdhary, Anish P.A., Pragya Kumari were present. On behalf of Namkum block, Zilla Parishad member Ramavtar Kerketa, Deputy Chief Veena Devi, MP representative Pramod Singh, MLA representative Madhava Kachhap, Khijri Panchayat head Carmela Kachhap, Zilla Parishad member Rita Horo and other public representatives were present. Mr. Karan Prasad, Block Welfare Officer operated the platform and equipment were distributed under the supervision of Mrs. Rajnigandha, Inclusive Education Resource Teacher. Mrs. Renu Kumari, Women Extension Officer, contributed to the event.

INBRIEF

ESL sets up testing camp on World AIDS Day

On the occasion of World AIDS Day, celebrated globally on the 1st of December, the ESL CSR team set up an HIV testing camp near 38 Khata Gate, Siyaljori. The camp was organised under Project Aarogya, which is a dedicated CSR programme by ESL that is focused on providing and improving healthcare facilities to the local communities. It is noteworthy that the camp was set up in partnership with Citizens Foundation and with support of Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre, Chas. The event brought together a total of 51 drivers, porters and labourers who were tested for HIV. No person got tested positive for HIV in the camp. The event aimed to create awareness regarding the HIV testing and create sensitization among the community for HIV/AIDS. Such drives are essential for overall fitness of the community and Vedanta ESL, being a conscious corporate citizen, focuses on the well-being of the people in the area its operations are set up in.



Blood Donation Camp at XISS

A Blood Donation Camp was organized by the Rotaract Club of Social Revolution (RCSR) of XISS. Director, XISS said that it was very symbolic to have the blood donation camp on the feast day of St Francis Xavier. As Fr Xavier gave his life, sweat and blood for the people of India so also are the blood donors by happily giving blood to give new life to many who are in need of blood to save their lives.

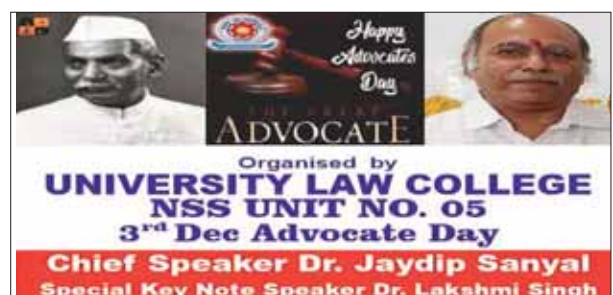


WUIF spreads joy at Old Age Home

Wake Up India Foundation and Drishti Sanstha shared happiness with people at Adarsh old age home on Saturday. The children of Drishti Sanstha and Wake-up India Foundation interacted with the inmates, shared their sorrows and entertained each other by singing songs together. All the children also distributed food among the old people and spent time with them, due to which a wave of happiness spread among all the people. Srishiti, Subhashree, Rishi, Anshuman, Tanisha, Aditi, Anushka, Harsh, Ankit, Riya, Shubham, Samridhi, Rajdeep, Anjali, Ananya were present on this occasion. All the people of the old age home were very happy with this incident and they gave a lot of blessings. Through this medium, it was not only told that happiness increases by sharing the happiness of others, but with small help many big problems can be solved.



Advocate's Day Celebrated at ULC



Advocate's Day programme was organized online by the NSS Unit at University Law College, VBU Hazaribag. Members of the Bar Association also participated in this online event. The program was organized by Dr. Laxmi Singh. Addressing the online program, Law College Principal Dr. Jaideep Sanyal as the keynote speaker said that Dr. Rajendra Prasad's birthday is celebrated as Advocates Day every year, because he was a respected lawyer in his time and Leaving his practice of advocacy for the country, he played an important role in the independence of India. Due to his versatile personality, advocates consider him as their role model and try to follow in his footsteps. He said that Dr. Rajendra Prasad had said that nationalism should be paramount for every advocate. Dr. Sanyal said that in the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad gave priority to the principle of consensus in the role of Chairman. On the debate on Hindi Devanagari numerals and on the decision on Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana, Dr. Rajendra Prasad made a consensus and presented examples of the paramountcy of national unity and integrity to the gathering. In the proposal to adopt the constitution on 26 November 1949, Dr. Rajendra Prasad shed light on the whole constitution in a way and in the end expresses sorrow on two subjects, one that could not determine the educational qualification for the legislature and the other that the Indian language Hindi The draft constitution could not be discussed. In his statement, Dr. Rajendra Prasad had also talked about giving reservation to women.

Central Coalfields Limited
A Mining Company
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in), CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>".

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

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



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

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 Divyangian,’ 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 an 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 identity

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.

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

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.

Man accused of rape after false promise of marriage granted bail

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

On August 6, 2021, Singh’s marriage was fixed by his parents. When the complainant

came to know about this, she allegedly started blackmailing, asking him to marry her and warned that she would lodge a rape case against him, the appeal said.

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

Herbs effective in cure of upper respiratory tract infections: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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 per cent and 90.36 per cent 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 effective-

ness and safety of Fifatrol on the amelioration of the symptoms of URTI,” said the authors.

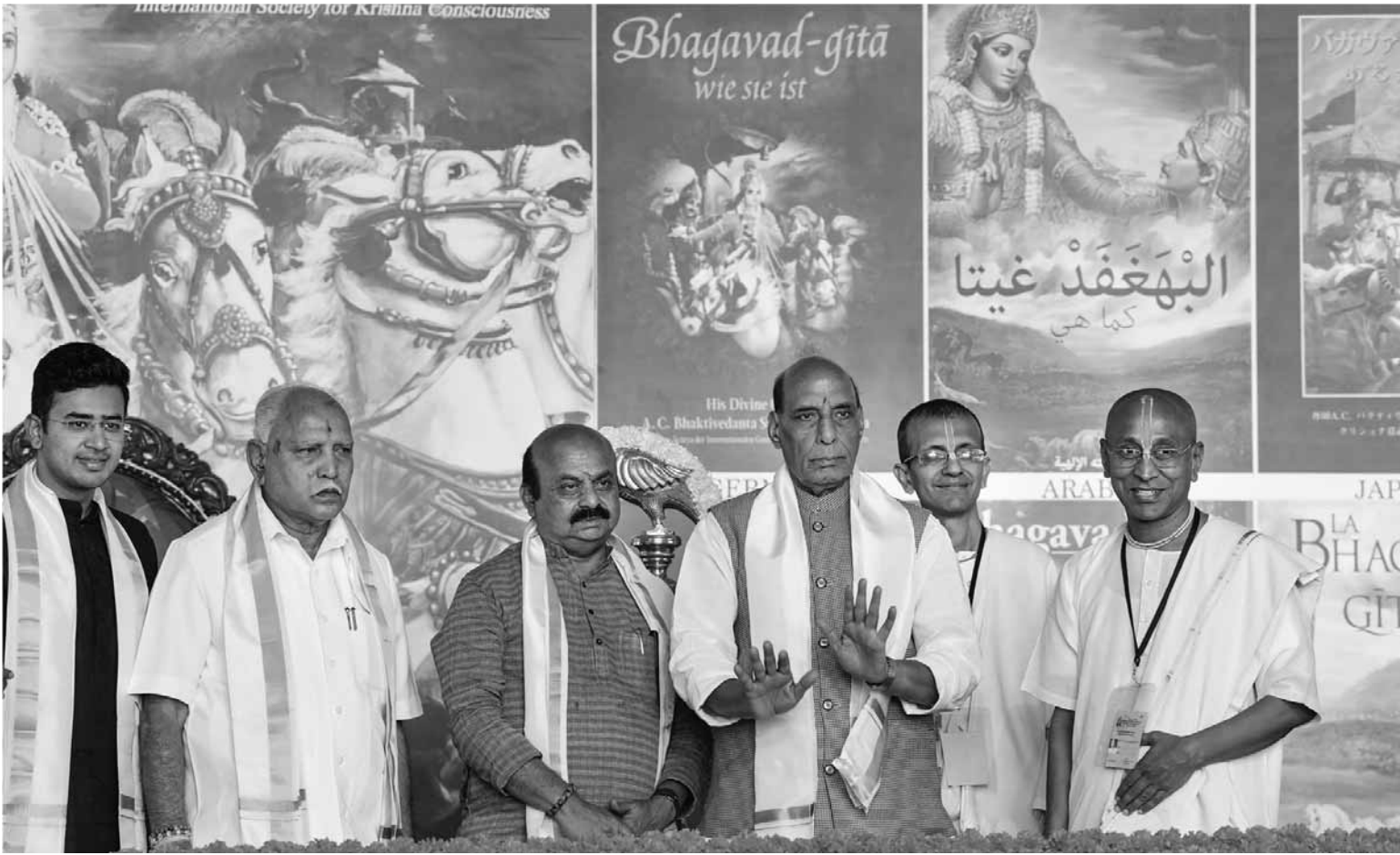
The researchers also did not find any adverse impact of the formulations on the patients. The study also noted that Fifatrol has not only been found to be effective in treating URTI but also well accepted by the physicians of Ayurveda for the successful management of conditions like Flu and associated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

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



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and BJP MP Tejasvi Surya during the inauguration of the ‘Gita Dana Yajna Mahotsava’ on the occasion of Gita Jayanti, at ISKCON Rajadhiraja Govinda temple in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI Photo

At Shanghai vigil, bold shout for change preceded crackdown

AP ■ SHANGHAI

The mourners in Shanghai lit candles and placed flowers. Someone scrawled “Urumqi, 11.24, Rest in Peace” in red on cardboard — referring to the deadly apartment fire in China’s western city of Urumqi that sparked anger over perceptions the country’s strict COVID-19 measures played a role in the disaster.

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

The Nov. 26 protest in Shanghai wasn’t the first or the largest. But it was notable for the bold calls for change in China’s leadership — the most public defiance of the ruling Communist Party in decades.

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



Three grinding years of lockdowns under China’s “zero-COVID” policy, along with Xi’s erasure of civil liberties, made the country ripe for such an outburst in a way that nobody expected — not the authorities, the police or protesters themselves.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At 11:21 p.m., a popular Twitter account tracking dissent in China posted images of the vigils, drawing the attention of many who had been scrolling anguished posts on the Urumqi fire.

Construction begins on Iran nuclear plant

AP ■ CAIRO

Iran on Saturday began construction on a new nuclear power plant in the country’s southwest, Iranian state TV announced, amid tensions with the US over sweeping sanctions imposed after Washington pulled out of the Islamic Republic’s nuclear deal with world powers.

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

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

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

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

The announcement of



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

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

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

Since September, Iran has

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

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

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

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

FBI Director raises national security concerns about TikTok

AP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

Blinken designates Pak, China as religious freedom violators

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

lic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, Nicaragua, the DPRK, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as Countries of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 for having engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom,” he said.

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

“Our announcement of these designations is in keeping



with our values and interests to protect national security and to advance human rights around the globe. Countries that effectively safeguard this and other

human rights are more peaceful, stable, prosperous and more reliable partners of the United States than those that do not,” Blinken said.

Blinken said the US will continue to carefully monitor the status of freedom of religion or belief in every country around the world and advocate for

those facing religious persecution or discrimination.

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

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

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

Ukraine urges tougher Western squeeze on Russian oil prices



AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ers in eastern Ukraine’s Donetsk region. According to the U.K. Defense Ministry, Russian forces “continue to invest a large element of their overall military effort and firepower” around the small Donetsk city of Bakhmut, which they have spent weeks trying to capture.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pak Head of Mission to Kabul survives assassination bid

IANAS ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s Head of Mission to Kabul, Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani has survived an assassination bid, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) confirmed.

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

However, a Pakistani security guard Israr Mohammad has been critically injured in the attack while protecting Nizamani, the Foreign Office said. It said that Pakistan’s government strongly condemns the assassination attempt and attack on the embassy demanding the Afghan government conduct an immediate investigation into the incident, Geo News reported.

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

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

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

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

In response to a media query, MOFA Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said there are no plans to close the embassy or withdraw diplomats from Kabul.

The spokesperson said Pakistan is in contact with the Afghan government and enhanced security measures are being taken to protect Pakistani diplomatic personnel and missions in Afghanistan.

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

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

PTI ■ TORONTO

In a major move that will benefit thousands of Indian professionals and other foreigners in Canada, the North American country will expand its work permit eligibility to the family members of Open Work Permit (OWP) holders from next year to address acute labour shortages. The OWP allows foreign nationals to work in Canada for any employer and any job.

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Sean Fraser on Friday announced that his department is extending work permits to family members of temporary foreign workers.

“Canada is expanding work permits for family members! Starting in 2023, spouses and children of a principal applicant will be eligible to work in Canada,” Fraser tweeted.

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



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

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

Snowden receives Russian passport, takes citizenship oath

AP ■ MOSCOW

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

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

The reports did not specify whether Snowden has



renounced his US citizenship. The United States revoked his passport in 2013, leading to Snowden being stranded in a Moscow airport for weeks after arriving from Hong Kong, aiming to reach Ecuador.

Russia eventually granted

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

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

“Snowden has long signaled his allegiance to Russia, this step would only formalise that,” Price told reporters.

Israeli officer kills Palestinian after stabbing bid

AP ■ JERUSALEM

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

Govt to set up 4 task forces to boost telecom manufacturing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

countries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said that telecom oper-

ators in the country are also supporting local manufacturers.

"There are demands in various departments. If those demands are organised and channelised and are given to units under the 'make in India' and PLI then it will be a significant boost for manufacturing," Vaishnaw said.

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

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

which is also necessary for making world-class products.

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

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

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

"This support from the government has morally boost-

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

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

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



has got security repercussions. Chinese products are entering into the Indian market through Bangladesh and some of them are coming directly. Many FTTH players in small cities are installing them. The last mile fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) players are estimated to account for 50 per cent market share in the seg-

ment. Government has assured us that they will work on it," Thomas said.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

SBI is the only authorised bank to issue electoral bonds.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Mohit Malhotra, MD &

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Product and engineering teams are being merged for



smoother functioning, it added.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW YORK

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

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

institutional in solution. They cannot be addressed by any government or institution acting alone. They require collaborative action among governments, international organizations, corporations, universities, NGOs, and creative individuals," he said.

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

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



the scientific and spiritual achievements of ancient India recalling the contributions, Brahmagupta theory of finding Zero, planetary positions, he added.

Describing India as the Land of Innovations, Discoveries, Spirituality and Wonders, Mr.Anand said, "The best of the scientific solution suggested through treatise Bhagavad Gita has been the universal science of the soul which talks about address all challenges through reconstruction and talks happiness is the end of all our actions." "The science that compels us to embrace divinity and divine qualities. All other bodies of knowledge are subject to change, but this body of knowledge contained is timeless - eternal. Yogis through 'Chittashuddhi' (Eternal Purity) has taught us to achieve a deep meditative state, sense of eternity and happiness." The ancient Indian wisdom and scientific achievements, he added, has helped the world measure the Speed of Light, distance between Sun and earth about the source of the light of Moon, Gravity, and gravitation, about cen-

tripetal forces, telegraphy. Through Budhyan theories of Maths to Aryabhatt we have learnt to go beyond all limitations, Brahmagupta theory of finding Zero, planetary positions, he added.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"The steady performance of the Indian office markets seen in 2022 is expected to sustain in 2023," it said.

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

Mumbai and New Delhi are the other Indian cities tracked in the report.

New Delhi's prime office



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

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

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

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

Indian startup Kheyti wins Prince William's Earthshot Prize

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

His Greenhouse-in-a-Box offers shelter from unpredictable elements and destructive pests and the startup also trains and supports farmers to ensure their greenhouse is as effective as possible.

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

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

The results of the project



have been described as "dramatic".

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

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

Another Indian project, Founder and CEO Ankit Agarwal's Phool from Uttar Pradesh which converts flowers dispersed into the river Ganges into sustainable leather

called Fleather, was among this year's 15 finalists worldwide projects.

All 15 will receive tailored support from the Earthshot Prize Global Alliance - a network of world-leading philanthropies, NGOs, and private sector businesses around the world who will help scale their solutions.

The other winners of the 2022 prizes include: Mukuru Clean Stoves from Kenya in the Clean Our Air category for their processed biomass stoves; Notpla from the United Kingdom in the Build a Waste-free World category for their biodegradable plastic made out of seaweed; the Indigenous

Women of the Great Barrier Reef from Australia in the Revive Our Oceans category for ocean conservation; and 44.01 from Oman in the Fix Our Climate category for low-cost and safe alternative to traditional methods of storing carbon.

Inspired by US President John F. Kennedy's Moonshot challenge in the 1960s, which united millions of people around the goal of putting a person on the moon within a decade, the Earthshot Prize aims to discover and help scale innovative solutions that put the world firmly on a trajectory toward a stable climate by 2030.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Gopalakrishna S/o. Mr. Gyan Singh is owner of Property Comprising of Plot No. 1452 and 1453, Whose addressing area is 30 Sq. mtrs. and 30 Sq. mtrs. respectively, i.e., total of 60 mtrs. Situated at Sector 4-C, Shalimar Nagar, Vasant Vihar, U.P., vide Registered Sale Deed dated 05.03.2018 registered with Sub Registrar III MEERUT. All persons are hereby informed that Mr. Krishan Lal S/o. Mr. Gyan Singh has approached INDIA SHELTER FINANCE CORPORATION LTD to take a Loan and they have lost Registered Sale deed dated 17.11.2008 in respect of said property executed by MEERUT Development Authority in favor of Mr. Salish Kumar S/o. Uday Singh July registered at sub Registrar office III MEERUT vide documents No. 12255, volume no. 3841, book no. 1, pages no. 219 to 242, dated on 17.11.2008. Mr. Krishan Lal S/o. Mr. Gyan Singh has informed the UP Police dated 01.12.2022 about the loss of the above mentioned sale deed. If anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocate
SG Associates (Law Firm)
Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No 2137
Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Shri Rishi Sarin S/o. Davi Sarin R/o 17/195, Chilli In Road, Phulhatti Bazar, Agra Fort, Kiraoli, Agra, Uttar Pradesh- 282003 owner of DDA Plot No. 6, Block EFGH, Local Shopping Centre, Masjid Moh, DELHI has applied for conversion of the aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application no. LD25758CL/CON/06112022 dated 23.11.2022 in DDA. That the original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, Lease Deed, C Form, D Form and Occupancy Certificate of the above property have been lost. A FIR dated 28.11.2022 bearing LR no 1019567/2022 against this effect has been lodged at Crime Branch Delhi. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address/ phone No 7042477033 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CL) or Director (CL), A-Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Shri Jagjit Singh S/o. Bara Singh R/o H-38 G S Apartments Sector-13 Rohini Delhi owner of DDA Plot No. 41 Transport Center Roshak Road Delhi has applied for conversion of the aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application no. LD25952CL/CON/14112022 dated 14.11.2022 in DDA. That the original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, Lease Deed, C Form, D Form and Occupancy Certificate of the above property have been lost. A FIR dated 03.12.2022 bearing LR no. 1043053/2022 against this effect has been lodged at Crime Branch Delhi. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9558843421 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CL) or Director (CL), A-Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-23.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that Mr. Parmod Mittal has acquired the Entire Second Floor, without road rights, Property bearing No. C-747, area measuring 516 Sq. Yds., Situated at New Friends Colony, New Delhi vide Sale Deed dated 21.02.2012, Doc no. 2458 and Now, Mr. Parmod Mittal is mortgaging the above said property with Indusind Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhanraj Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Vertas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-IT, Tower-1 (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9068707172/9818228636 (M).

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer, Trans. Line Maint. Division-8, JKPTCL Bemina, Srinagar-190010
e-mail: tlmdbjktcl@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-IV

To invoke better response, the last date for submission of e-bids in respect of e-NIT No. TLMDB-8/TS/17 of 2022 dated: 30-09-2022 for "Augmentation / Re-conductoring of Existing 220kV D/C New Wanpoh-Mir Bazar Transmission Line with HTLS Conductor, In District Anantnag & Kulgam of Kashmir Valley" is hereby extended with revised critical dates as under.

	08-12-2022(15:00 Hrs)
1. Last Date of submission of Hard Copy of Bid	08-12-2022(15:00 Hrs)
2. E-bids submission end date and time	09-12-2022(15:00 Hrs)
3. Online techno commercial e-bid opening date and time	10-12-2022(16:00 Hrs)

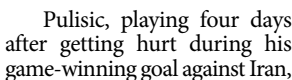
All other terms and conditions of e-NIT will remain same.

No. TLMDB-VIII/TS/3269-72
Date:-01/12/2022
DIPK-NB-5344/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
TLMDB-8, JKPTCL, Srinagar

Neymar expected to train again with Brazil at World Cup

But just like in 2010 against



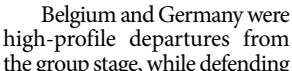
His right-footed shot from 14 yards beat Matt Turner to the far post in the 10th minute for his 43rd international goal, moving him into sole possession of second place on the Dutch career scoring list behind Robin van Persie's 50. The goal was the first allowed by the United States from the run of play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



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

AP ■ DOHA

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.



"I think it's always difficult when you see big teams or big players in teams that don't have

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

AP ■ DOHA

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

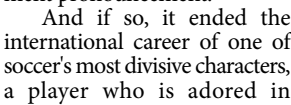
"The message is a strong one," he said. "We've seen Cameroon can beat Brazil and Tunisia can beat France so we know Senegal can beat England."

AP ■ LUSAIL, QATAR

"I knew (Ngom Mbekeli) was a good, quality player. He just needed an opportunity to

"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."

AP ■ DOHA



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.

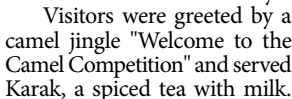
AP ■ LUSAIL, QATAR

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."

AP ■ ASH-SHHANIYA, QATAR

The event, which was designed to bring cultural aware-

"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."



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.

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

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

PTI ■ MIRPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

certainly join Rohit at the top.

Middle-Order muddle

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

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

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

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

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

With no Sanju Samson in this particular series, Rajat Patidar and Rahul Tripathi, two consistent domestic cricketer 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 eight 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 Krishnan 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-kick.

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

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

Sukant Kadam enters semifinals of para badminton meet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Brathwaite fights back in opener after Labuschagne landmark ton

AP ■ PERTH

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

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

The 81-run stand between

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

to take seven wickets.

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Top-seed Unnati once again lived up to the expectations and stamped her authority as she wrapped up the match in straight sets. The Odisha Open champion has not yet dropped



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

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

FIR against Lakshya, coach Vimal and family for age fraud, cheating

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The FIR, filed on Thursday by M Goviappa Nagaraja, alleged that the 21-year-old reigning Commonwealth Games champion, along with his brother Chirag Sen, had fudged their age to get into playing age-group tournaments since 2010.

The complaint, a copy of which is in possession of PTI, also names Sen's father Dhirendra, a coach with the Sports Authority of India, mother Nirmala and Kumar who has been coaching the duo for more than 10 years.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The chief coach of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy,

Kumar further said in a statement that the allegations were "baseless, frivolous and made with malicious intent".

"As all badminton lovers are aware, age verification is the sole prerogative and responsibility of the Badminton Association of India who is sole governing authority for administering the game in India," he said.

"All players no matter where they train always represent their respective affiliated state units or the country while participating in any domestic or international tournament.

"My focus over the 30 years as a coach has always been to groom our upcoming youngsters to the best of my ability to bring laurels for our country based on their merit.

"I therefore deny all these false allegations against me. I would not like to make any further comments in this regard," he added.

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.

‘Revdis’ 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 Arogya 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

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

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

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

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

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

Giving an example of the first 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 Correspondent 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.

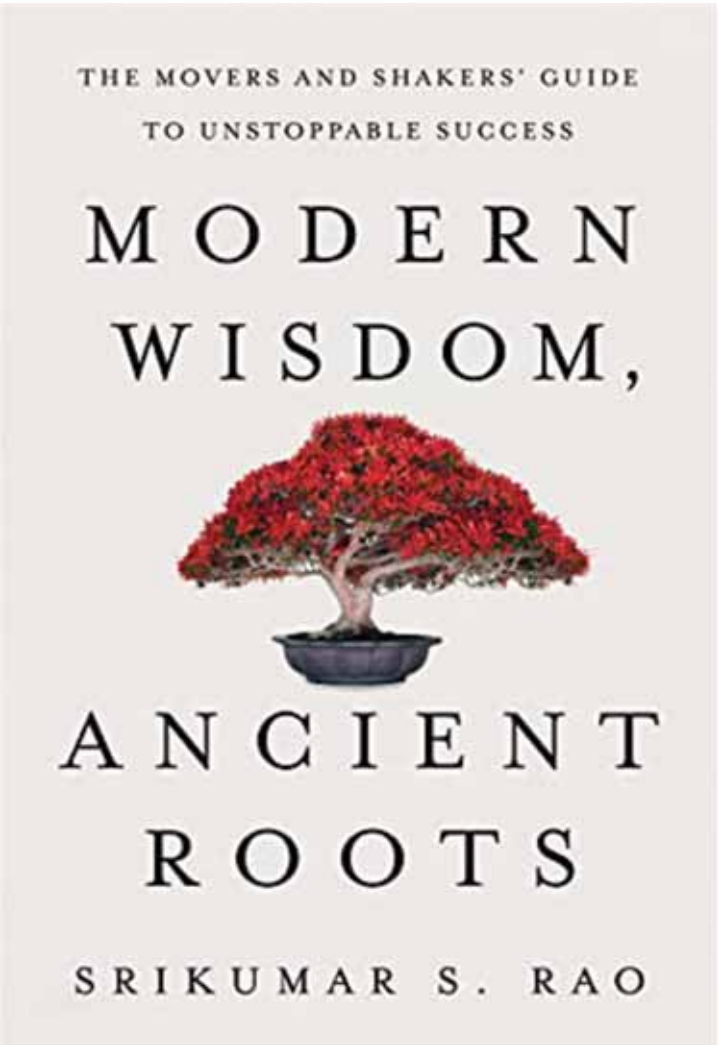
“There are many lessons in the book and they derive from great masters who come from many different traditions and who lived in different times,” Rao says.

“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



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

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

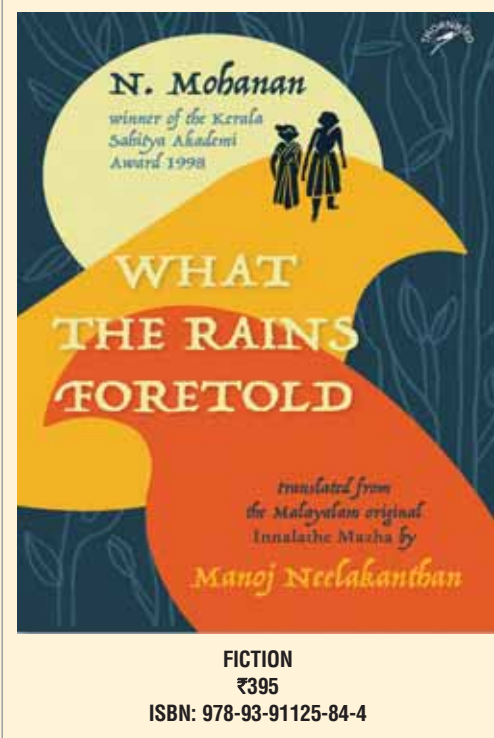
“I will not name them because they have their ups and downs and fall down many times even as their overall trajectory is upward. An external observer can easily misinterpret the initiatives that did not work.” Rao believes that personal mastery gives people the ability to focus one-pointedly on any issue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



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.

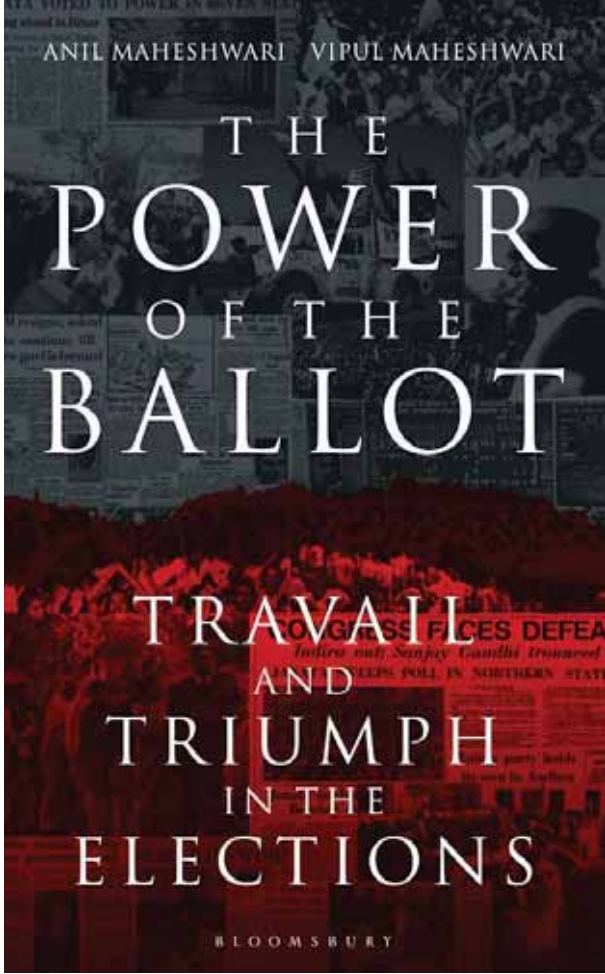
Agitated, Vararuchi walked up and down, wringing his hands in sheer exasperation. At length his gait slackened as he quietened visibly. Looking all around in the darkness, as though searching for someone who would hear him, he declared at the top of his

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



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 Bansilal 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 Sharma’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 Sharma 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 Simalughar Fort and later the Dolaksharia Barua (Superintendent of the Royal Household Guards) to Maharaja Chakradhwaj 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 nation-

al cyber security agencies and all other civil-military organisations are certainly not sufficient to counter possible cyber-attacks. 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



SIDHARTH 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 for-

mats 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 compa-

ny 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 reg-

ister 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)

