

## WORLD 5

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LEADER AFTER POLL DEFEAT

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APPROACH TO SAVE SERIES

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# World looking at mother of democracy India: PM

Judiciary taking many steps to ensure timely justice: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the Constitution is a commitment, pledge, and belief that has made India the "Mother of Democracy" and maintained that the judiciary is taking many steps to ensure timely justice.

Speaking at the Constitution Day celebrations in the Supreme Court, Modi said the entire world is looking at India which is witnessing rapid development and economic growth.

"We the People in the Preamble of the Constitution is a commitment, pledge and belief that has made India the Mother of Democracy," said the Prime Minister. He also stated, "Laws are being made easier and accessible for the common citizens and the judiciary is taking many steps to ensure timely justice."

Modi launched new initiatives under the e-court project, which provides services to lit-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Justice of India Justice DY Chandrachud at the launch of the new initiatives under e-court project, during the Constitution Day celebrations in the Supreme Court, in New Delhi on Saturday. Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju is also seen

igants, lawyers and the judiciary through information and communication technology-enabled courts. The initiatives launched by Modi included "virtual justice clock", "JustIS" mobile app 2.0, digital court and "S3Waas".

"We the people' in the Preamble is a call, an oath and a trust", Modi said, adding that "in the modern time, the Constitution has embraced all the cultural and moral emotions of the nation".

He said, "Identity of India as the mother of democracy needs to be further strength-

ened". Since 2015, Constitution Day is being celebrated on November 26 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.

The Prime Minister also noted the importance of the Constitution Day in the year of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsava. He paid tributes to Babasaheb Dr BR Ambedkar and all the members of the Constituent Assembly.

Remembering the dark day in the history of India when the country is celebrating the momentous occasion of

Constitution day, the Prime Minister recalled that on November 26, India faced the biggest terrorist attack in its history by the enemies of humanity. Modi paid his tributes to the ones who lost their lives in the dastardly Mumbai attacks.

Crediting the Constitution for the success, the Prime Minister referred to the first three words of the Preamble, 'We the People', saying, "This spirit of the constitution is the spirit of India, that has been the mother of democracy in the world."

## ED attaches 40% share of Unitech project in Noida

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached 40 per cent share of a hotel project (1,40,000 Sq Ft FSI Space) within the upscale Commercial Centre, Garden's Galleria, Noida in connection with a money laundering case against the real estate major Unitech and its promoters.

The attached asset worth ₹65.32 crore was owned by Unitech's Ranchero Services Limited, Cyprus, which is a Benami overseas company of Unitech promoters.

An investigation by ED revealed that Unitech Group had invested the "Proceeds of Crime" to the tune of USD 8 million through a Benami company Ranchero Services Limited, Cyprus, into Unitech Hotels Private Limited in 2007-2008, the agency said in a statement.

"Investigation revealed that Ranchero Services Limited, Cyprus, is owned by Unitech promoters and was being managed through an overseas trust on their behalf," the ED said in its statement.

During the investigation, the ED arrested five Unitech promoters/directors Sanjay Chandra, Ajay Chandra, Ramesh Chandra, Preeti



Chandra, and Rajesh Malik.

Till now, the ED has filed two prosecution complaints or chargesheets and the PMLA court has taken their cognizance.

The agency has attached domestic and overseas assets worth ₹1,132.55 crore through 16 provisional attachment orders, including the current one.

The attachments include assets of Carnoustie Group, Shivalik Group, Trikar Group besides the properties of the shell, Benami, and personal companies of Chandras, and others.

Total proceeds of crime worth over ₹6,500 crore have been detected till now in this case. Further investigation is in process, the agency added.

## India's cashew king latest among many to shut biz in Kerala

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOCHI

The political turmoil and industrial unrest haunting Kerala have hastened the exit of many industrial groups, both big and small, from the State. The latest to join the bandwagon of entrepreneurs leaving the State for good is Beta Group, owned by J Rajmohan Pillai, which is into the production of packaged food products like Nut King.

The year 2021 has seen the exit of more than a dozen major units from the State as the proprietors downed the shutters and left for the oil-rich West Asian countries.

The Beta Group hailing from the family of late K Janardhanan Pillai, labelled as India's cashew king has shut down all its cashew processing factories numbering around 100 and is moving to little-known Guinea-Bissau, a West African country.

"We will set up Guinea-Bissau's largest cashew processing and export unit which will provide jobs to at least 2,000 people in the near future itself."

"The agreement signed between Beta Group and the Guinea-Bissau Government mandates that the Group would invest \$100 million over the next five years," Dr



Rajmohan Pillai with Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau Nuno Gomes Nabiam

Rajmohan Pillai, chairman, Beta Group, told *The Pioneer* over telephone from Bissau.

The Beta Group's decision to shift its operation to the African country comes at a time when entrepreneurs are leaving the State en masse fearing the high handed attitude of trade union leaders who have become a law unto themselves.

Though Dr Pillai described the decision to shift Beta Group was in response to the irresistible invitation from the Guinea-Bissau Government led by Prime Minister Nuno Gomes Nambam, corporate leaders in Kerala said on condition of anonymity that situation in God's Own Country was not conducive for investment or expansion.

"When trade union leaders call the shots on issues like who should be included in the list of workers and who should be kept away, it is a signal to the entrepreneurs to move out," said a senior corporate.

## Poll code breach in B'garh 3 college teachers axed, 16 GRSs shunted

BJP demands action against HE Min Pujari too

ASUTOSH RATHA ■ BARGARH

Three college teachers, including a Principal, of Bargarh district were suspended for violating the election code which is in force in the district due to the Padampur by-election scheduled for December 5.

On September 19, State Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari had organised a meeting in the premises of a Government college canvassing for the BJD candidate in the by-election.

As per allegation by the BJP, the meeting was organised by Krushna Mohan Panda, lecturer of History of Padmapur Anchal College. Binay Ranjan

Panda, In-charge Principal of Mandosil Degree College and Sudhir Rath, Political Science lecturer of Dava College had joined the meet.

The BJP demanded stern action from the District Election Officer, Bargarh district Collector and State Electoral Officer (CEO) against them for violating the election code as Government employees.

After investigation of a complaint by the BJP in this regard, disciplinary action was taken against the trio. Not only that, the district administration replaced 16 GRSs on Friday again on a complaint of BJP for breach of poll MCC. Meanwhile, BJP leader Dr Lekhashree Samanatha Singhar demanded action against Minister Pujari. "When will action be taken against the Minister Pujari? she asked.

## G Udayagiri coldest in State at 10 deg



Bhubaneswar records 14.5

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As predicted by the weather office, several districts in the State experienced cold wave conditions following a drop in minimum temperatures on Friday night.

As many 19 places recorded below 15 degree Celsius. G Udayagiri became the coldest recording a temperature of 10 degree followed by Phulbani and Daringabadi with 10.5 and Semiluguda 10.9 degree

The twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar recorded 15 and

14.5 degree, respectively, the Regional Office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here said on Saturday. This was the first time the night temperature dipped below 15 degree in the capital city. The temperatures in other places were Kirei 9.5 degree, Koraput 12.5, Angul 12.6, Keonjhar 11, Bhawanipatna 14.2, Baleswar 14.7, Baripada 14, Deogarh 11.7, Sonepur 13, Bargarh 13.4, Balangir 13.6, Jharsuguda 11.2, Sundargarh 12, Hirakud 12.8, Kendrapada 14, Chandbali 14.9 and Sambalpur 14.3 and Dhenkanal, Nabarangpur, Bhadrak and Titilagarh 15 degree each.

## In Jaipur BJD woman leader held with drug

PNS ■ JAIPUR

A BJD woman leader, Jhuni Patra, was arrested from Jaipur district after 30 grams of brown sugar was seized from her possession, police said on Saturday. She is a resident of Dolipur under the Jaipur Road Model police station.

Acting on a tipoff, a team of Flying Squad officers of the Excise Department conducted a raid at Dolipur and seized the contraband valued at around Rs 3 lakh, police sources said.

Significantly, Jhuni Patra admitted that she is a BJD leader from Ward No-19 of the town and president of a local unit of the ruling party. A case has been registered against Patra under various sections of IPC and the NDPS Act, 1985. Official sources said Patra has a Baleswar link in the illegal trade.

## Vande Bharat Express in Odisha soon

- Jagannath Exp to be launched before Rath Yatra
- 5G services in State in offing

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Good news for Odisha as the semi-high-speed Vande Bharat Express would be rolled out in the State very soon, announced Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw here on Saturday.

Attending a privately-organised 'Odisha Nirman Conclave-2022', the Union Minister said, "At present, two Vande Bharat trains are being manufactured in India. In the month of January or February, we will be manufacturing at least four or five trains a month. Under this plan, a circuit is underway in Odisha. We are examining the electrification and other essential parts



for running the Vande Bharat train in the State."

He also revealed that a Jagannath Express train featuring the rich and ancient culture of Lord Jagannath would be launched before the Lord's next Rath Yatra. A

Jagannath circuit has been made in Odisha, he announced.

Asked about launching of metro train services in Odisha, Vaishnaw said, "Odisha really deserves a metro train. However, the State Government has not sent any proposal regarding this to the Centre."

He added that 28 railway stations across Odisha would be upgraded and tenders have been invited in this regard.

Vaishnaw, who is also the Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Minister at the Centre, announced that the much-awaited 5G network services would be launched in Odisha in the first phase.

"The equipments required for the 5G network in Odisha are already in place. The 5G services will be launched here within two-three months," he confirmed.

## Arabs burying hatchet at World Cup!

AP ■ DOHA

For a brief moment after Saudi Arabia's Salem Aldawsari fired a ball from just inside the penalty box into the back of the net to seal a World Cup win against Argentina, Arabs across the divided West Asia found something to celebrate.

Such Arab unity is hard to come by and fleeting when it arrives. But Qatar's hosting of the World Cup has provided a moment where many in the Arab world have rallied by Doha and the Saudi team's win. "All Arabic countries are celebrating because one Arab team won," said 27-year-old Saudi Rakan Yousef after Arab fans congratulated him in Doha, Qatar, on the Green Falcons' win.

"Even the emir of Qatar attended our match. ... There's this feeling now that we are all brothers. That's why I'm speechless."

The Arab world's division



Saudi Arabia players and their head coach Herve Renard applaud fans at the end of the World Cup soccer match against Poland, at the Education City Stadium in Al Rayyan, Qatar, on Saturday. Poland beat Saudis 2-0

start even with the Arabic language. Spoken Arabic changes regionally, with the Berber-infused Arabic of North Africa, the rapid-fire Egyptian heard in movies and television comedies, the soft Levantine drawl and the guttural dialect of the Gulf Arabs.

Religion is another differentiator — there are Muslims, both Sunni and Shia with sub-groups within, and minority Christians, Druze, Baha'i and others. Different views on religion and regional rivalries bleed into conflicts, such as the ongoing war in Yemen. Oha

But despite an attempt by al-Qaida to stir up extremists, the month-long World Cup in energy-rich Qatar so far has seen unity among the Gulf Arab nations. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, the heads of state in two countries that only some two years ago had boycotted Qatar, attended the tournament's opening match.

Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, called Qatar's hosting of the tournament "a milestone for all Arabs" and also attended the opening. That feeling was shared by others as well.

"We are proud to be here for the first World Cup in an Arabic country," Morocco coach Walid Regragui said.

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi similarly praised Qatar while dismissing the criticisms of journalists — and by extension, rights groups.

## Opp questions absence of CM, other Mins in House

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Assembly on Saturday discussed the farmers' issues with opposition Congress targeting the State and Central Governments over the token system for procurement of paddy and input subsidy to the farmers.

Bringing an adjournment motion, Congress members raised different issues of farmers while BJP members protested against the absence of the departmental Minister and did not participate in the discussion.

The BJP members rushed to the Well of the House and staged a sit-in. Later, they



staged a walkout.

In the absence of Cooperation Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Panchayati Raj Minister Pradip Amat replied to the adjournment notice.

Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja said, "The State Government has announced input subsidy keeping an eye on the Padampur by-election. Why did the government remember about the input subsidy so late?"

The State Government is

yet to declare drought areas. The Special Relief Commissioner has not notified the affected areas, crops damaged and the number of farmers affected due to the calamity, he said.

Criticising the Centre over the crop insurance scheme, Saluja said the farmers should have got the assistance by July 31 but in vain. Crores have been swindled from the scheme.

Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati questioned, "If the

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Finance Minister are absent from the House and busy in the poll campaign, how the House will run?"

Clearly, if the Leader of the House (Chief Minister) himself remains absent, then what is the purpose of running the House, he also asked.

Replying to the motion, Panchayati Raj Minister Pradip Amat said the token system has been made for transparency in paddy procurement and the payments are being made online. Due to the objections of the insurance companies regarding the crop cutting experiment, there is a delay in disbursement of crop insurance, he said.

Amat further said the State Government has already written 14 to 15 times to the Central Government regarding crop insurance but to no avail.



# Withdraw GST on Kendu leaves: CM to Centre

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief minister Naveen Patnaik has urged the Central Government to consider withdrawal of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Kendu (Tendu) leaves in the State as it is adversely affecting the trade and livelihoods of people dependent on it.

In a letter dated November 25 to Union Finance Minister and Chairperson of GST Council Niramala Sitharaman, the CM requested that the 18% GST on Kendu leaves be rolled back in the greater interest of Odisha as lakhs of people associated with



the trade are getting affected. Stating that Kendu leaf, a minor forest produce, is the financial backbone of about eight lakh leaves pluckers, binders and seasonal workers most of whom belong to the tribal community and poorest sections in the State, Patnaik said

imposition of the GST on the item has a negative impact on the implementation of welfare schemes meant for these targeted categories.

"The tribal people collect the leaves as part of their right defined under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest

Dwellers (recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. They have the right to procure and sell these products. Imposition of GST (18 per cent) on Kendu leaves is adversely affecting the Kendu leaves trade. This in turn affects the livelihoods of Kendu leaves pluckers, binders & seasonal workers and implementation of the social security and welfare schemes for them. In the interest of the livelihoods of the Kendu leaves-dependent community, it is urged upon to withdraw the imposition of GST on Kendu leaves for the greater interest of the State of Odisha," the letter read.

## CM's letter mere drama: BJP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Saturday termed CM Naveen Patnaik's letter to the Centre to withdraw GST from Kendu leaves as eyewash. Since a large number of voters in Padampur work in the Kendu leaves sector, the letter has been written to woo them ahead of the December 5 by-poll, it said.

Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi (BJP) said whereas the State Government is getting Rs 200 crore from Kendu leaves annually by im-

posing 9% GST, it should first think of rolling back the tax. The CM should explain why he has not raised the issue of waiving the tax even once in the GST Council meet. So, the State Government is doing a drama, Majhi claimed. Majhi alleged that the State Government had stopped providing bonus for two years to the Kendu leaves pluckers during the Covid pandemic. The State Government is conspiring to privatise the Kendu leaves sector in the name of handing it over to the gram panchayats.

# ICSI holds seminar on real estate issues



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) Bhubaneswar Chapter in collaboration with the Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA) organised a seminar on issues and challenges in the real estate sector here on Saturday.

Inaugurating the seminar, ORERA Chairperson Siddhant Das said the ORERA is providing a lot of protection to home buyers and it gives order only on the material evidences placed before it.

Member (Admn) Pradeep Kumar Biswal highlighted the initiative taken by the ORERA and said because of the enactment of real estate regulation a lot of ethics and governance has been undertaken in dealing with real estate sectors. Member (Judicial) Ramanath Panda, Secretary Bijay Kumar Prusty, Additional Secretary Sravani Patnaik, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation City Planner Lingaraj Prasad Pattanaik, advocate Bibhu Prasad Tripathy and ICSI chapter chairperson Jyotirmoy Mishra also spoke.

## 15 fishermen detained for trespass in Puri

PNS ■ PURI

Forest and Fisheries Department officials detained 15 fishermen and two trawlers for allegedly trespassing into a prohibited zone near Astarang at the Devi river mouth in Puri district on Saturday.

The two trawlers of the fishermen were also seized.

The area has been declared no-entry zone to protect the endangered Olive Ridley turtles whose mass nesting season has begun.

The State Government imposes the seven-month long

ban on fishing activities, from November 1 to May 31, to ensure that the turtles don't get entangled in fishing nets or come under the trawlers during their breeding season.

The ban is clamped every year at Gahirmatha coast and within 20 km from the mouths of rivers Dhamara, Devi and Rusikulya.

The ban is imposed in accordance with Sections 2, 7 and 4 of the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), 1982 and provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

# 'Deceased donor programme need of hour'

## Organ donation workshop held at AIIMS

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

At least 17 people die each day waiting for organ transplant. Every 10 minutes, another person is added to the transplant waiting list. A single donor can save eight lives and a deceased donor programme is the need of the hour, said experts attending the Continued Medical Education (CME) and workshop on "Awareness on Organ Donation" organised by the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.



Apart from raising awareness among the public, the eminent speakers from different fields of organ transplant highlighted the other aspects like choosing appropriate donor and recipient, organ allocation, need of grief counselling and comprehensive quality clinical care, which can

only further expedite the process of organ transplant in the country as well as in Odisha.

Declaring the brainstem death in ICU setups, the neuro physicians and critical care providers play a pivotal role, said president, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, Prof Subrat Acharya.

The workshop was organised at AIIMS in association with the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Prof Ashutosh Biswas assured to extend all support for establishing transplant services in the institute.

# OBCC turning into headache for Works Dept

## Authorities blamed for project delay, cost escalation

SAROJ MISHRA

■ BHUBANESWAR

The Works Secretary, who is looking after three departments, seems to be unable to give time to the parent department's affairs. As his supervision is decreasing in the department, many important files are pending and no decision is being taken.

Even court orders, staff promotion and posting are pend-

ing and getting delayed. The department's budget planning and other important matters are getting delayed.

An Engineer-in-Chief as the department Secretary could have done a better job. Presently, the department's functioning has gone haywire under the tenure of the present Secretary.

The Works Department's main job is construction and maintenance of infrastructure like roads and buildings. During the present Secretary's tenure, major roads in Bhubaneswar are being shifted to the Urban Development Department. This is a new trend as earlier, roads under the

Urban Development and Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Departments were given to the Works Department for construction and maintenance.

Under the Abhada plan, more than Rs 44,215.03 crore has been allocated. The Works Department has given charge to the Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation (OBCC) to execute the project and provide the funds for it. However, instead of the Work Department directly selecting the contractors the OBCC is selecting them. In the process, more than 79 per cent extra is being spent from the State exchequer by the OBCC. This

can be revealed if a special audit is conducted.

The OBCC is being headed by a former Engineer-in-Chief, who has been given extension thrice though many efficient and capable Chief Engineers are there in the department. A new MD could have expedited the projects and carried out better supervision or monitoring. Besides, the engineers' association is miffed as the repeated extension is affecting the gradation list of other engineers. It has questioned as to what is the achievement of the OBCC in the last four years.

The transfer of the Works Department budget funds to

the OBCC has raised questions on the transparency and effective utilisation as no audit is being carried out by the CAG.

Under the State Government's integrated financial management system, funds are being transferred electronically to the OBCC; so, there is no provision for CAG audit.

So, massive funds are embezzled. Taking advantage of this, consultants are becoming the biggest gainers and making huge profits.

Besides, obviously due to the Secretary's lack of efficiency, infrastructure projects like buildings, multiple purposes,

halls, hospitals, schools, stadiums construction are being delayed. The Secretary during reviewing of the projects under the 5T initiative in a bid to hide the loopholes is shifting the blame to others. Three Chief Engineers have been appointed as OSDs though no circular to this effect has been issued. All of them are sitting idle.

The Odisha Engineers' Service Association has demanded that a restructuring of the department be carried out, posts be created, gradation is done and then posting be done. Otherwise, it is a mockery of the Finance Department, the association said.

## Constitution Day was observed on Nov 26

# Austin's seamless web & Indian Constitution @ 73

In his magnificent survey on the 'Workings of the Indian Constitution from 1950-2000', Granville Austin observes that there are three strands that mark out Indian Constitution such as (a) establishing sound institutions and observing the spirit of democracy, (b) pursuing social revolution, and (c) enhancing country's unity and integrity. He believes that except for the emergency years when the democratic spirit was defiled and judges superseded (1973 and 1977) for not being committed to the philosophy of the party in power, these three strands have coalesced to create a seamless web.

As the Constitution completes 73 years, it would be useful to analyze how the tripod has panned out. John Marshall, CJ of the USA wrote, "A constitution is framed for ages to come and is designed to achieve immortality as nearly all human institutions can approach. Its course can be far from tranquil. Indeed, the journey of the Indian Constitution has been far from tranquil."

For Austin, the Fundamental Rights and socio-economic justice principles of Part IV were the consciences of the nation. The social revolution strand was predicated on how distributive justice goods were



SATYA NARAYAN MISRA

achieved by the parties in power in a democratic manner. Nehru, who wielded authority from 1946 to 1964, introduced Centralized Planning (Planning Commission) on the lines of the GOSPLAN of the USSR. This was not envisaged in the Constitution, which had planning as a concurrent subject in the Seventh Schedule. The other major change he introduced through the First Amendment (1951) was to create a Ninth Schedule which ensured that the Land Ceiling Acts were immune from judicial review. This was his big blow to judicial independence to review the constitutional validity of legislative acts. Twenty years later, Indira, his

daughter introduced the 24th amendment (1971) which tried to make Parliament omnipotent and enabled it to dilute Fundamental Rights. In 1975, she tried to bar the courts to adjudicate election disputes of the PM by introducing a new Article 329A. In 1976 she brought in the 42nd amendment which aimed at snuffing out the power of judicial review from the court. These four amendments have been at the heart of the slugfest between the Congress in power and the Supreme Court.

Surprisingly, the Supreme Court in the Shankari Prasad Vs UOI (1951) case upheld Nehru's first amendment. However, Indira was not so lucky with the 24th, 39th and 42nd amendments. The Kesavananda Bharati (1973) judgement allowed the Parliament to amend even the fundamental rights. However, it has enunciated the basic of structure doctrine as per which the Parliament cannot delete or deface basic features like democracy, republic, federalism, secularism, and independence of the judiciary. In the Raj Narain Vs Indira Gandhi Case (1975), it struck down the preferential treatment to the PM in the matter of election and firmly ensconced the

principle of rule of law. The Minerva Mills Case (1980) firmly reiterated that Parliament is not supreme in its amending power and judicial review would remain the cornerstone of constitutional democracy. It was reminiscent of the iconic Marbury vs Madison Case (1803), when CJ Marshall firmly planted the idea of judicial review, through which the court will examine fairness or otherwise of executive action and legislative decision.

There is a perception that the Indian Constitution has been amended too often (103) as against the US Constitution operative since 1789 with only 27 amendments. However, a careful reading will reveal that there have been only ten substantive amendments. Apart from the four amendments referred to above, the 25th amendment (1971) gave primacy to distributive justice over fundamental rights. The Supreme Court has upheld it in Kesavananda Bharati judgement. The anti defection provision was included in 1985. In 1992, the 73rd amendment introduced Panchayats and Municipalities as the three tier democracy. The right to free public education was introduced in 002 as a new Article 21A. The 44th amendment took

away Right to Property as a Fundamental Right and placed it as an ordinary right. (300A). The plethora of cases regarding property rights has become a thing of the past.

The Modi Government must be credited for bringing in the concept of One Nation One Tax by introducing Goods and Services Tax (GST), which allows both the State and Centre to impose the GST. Though a few items like petroleum, liquor and electricity are outside the purview of GST, fiscal federalism has been brought in through the formation of the GST Council in the 101st amendment. The latest 103rd amendment in 2019 is to give 10% reservation to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) to the upper castes has been a master move over a slew of reservations granted to SC/ ST and OBC. The Supreme Court has upheld the 10% reservation. Indra Sawney judgement in 1992 had approved 26% reservation to OBC. Nagaraj judgement (2006) even upheld reservation in promotion for SC/ST.

The strand of social revolution is encapsulated in Part IV of the Constitution. Raising the level of nutrition (Article 47), providing early childhood care and education to

children below the age of six years (Article 45) are important goals before the State. In 1978, Article 38(2) was introduced enjoining the State to minimize inequalities of income. The ground reality brings out a serious mismatch between goals and reality on the ground. As per the latest NFHS-V report, stunting among children is as high as 35.5%. Anemia amongst children and pregnant women has increased from 58.6% and 50.4% in 2015 respectively to 67.1% and 52.2% in 2021. The World Inequality Report (2022) brings out how the top 10% have become richer with a 57% share of total income as against 40% in 1951. On the other hand, the bottom 50% account for only 13.1% of total income as against 20% in 1951. Quite clearly the pro-rich tax policy and inadequate investment in better employment opportunities for the poor have contributed to such an increasing trend in income inequality. While average economic growth, savings and exports have doubled compared to the pre-economic liberalisation period, the human development parameters like IMR, MMR, nutritional intake, quality of education and healthcare have not witnessed commensurate

improvement.

Andre Beteille, the famous sociologist, wrote, "A constitution may indicate the direction in which we are to move, but the social structure will decide how far we move and at what pace." Given the caste dynamics of India and the plethora of reservations that the Government provides in terms of employment opportunities, the basic principle of competition and merit in a market-driven society is getting hugely compromised. Francis Fukuyama in his latest book "Liberalism & Its Discontents (2022) notes that neoliberalism has been responsible for wealth creation but has also resulted in sharp spurt in income inequality through soft tax policy. India after 2000 is witnessing this trend. Thomas Piketty in the World Inequality Report strongly argues in favor of a higher tax on the super-rich to usher in a more just society. The social revolution dimension Austin wrote about is under serious challenge as the Government facilitates big corporates and underperforms in its role in providing merit goods for capability development of its innumerable masses. (The author is an Emeritus Professor)

# Jollywood artist Rani's car meets with accident

## Motorcyclist killed

PNS ■ ATHAGARH

Jollywood artist Rani Panda miraculously escaped a major accident when her car reportedly made a head-on collision with a motorcycle in Athagarh in Cuttack district on Friday night.

However, the motorcyclist died in the mishap. The deceased was identified as Sukant Behera, 28, a resident of Rajanagar village under the Athagarh police limits.

The incident occurred at around 10 pm when Rani Panda was returning in her car after attending a wedding event. The car dashed head on



with the bike at Dalakhai Chhak under the Athagarh police limits. The motorcyclist, who sustained critical injuries, was rushed to the SCB Hospital in Cuttack, where doctors declared him dead. The front portion of the car was completely damaged.

Tension ran high at the accident site. On receiving information, police reached the spot and managed to convince the irate locals. A probe was underway into the incident.

## 9-day Brahmakumaris' mela from today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Prajapita Brahmakumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya will organise the Divya Mahakhumb Mela from November 27 to December 5 at the Exhibition Ground here. This is the first of its kind event by the organisation that would see a confluence of knowledge, science and spirituality.

Rajayogini Bramakumari Mira Didi from Malaysia would inaugurate the event where director Cuttack Sub Zone Rajayogini Kamalesh Didi will join as chief guest. Bhubaneswar

MP Aparajita Sarangi and IT, Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Tushara Kanti Behera will attend as honourable guests.

There would be debates each day from November 28 to January 4 on a host of topics including dispensing justice based on spirituality, healthy mind healthy results, mystery behind success, one god- one world, Golden Age art and culture and order in disorder etc. Brahmakumaris Bhubaneswar's Rajayogini sister Gita will coordinate. The main attraction of the event are 4D show, heliographic and laser show, games, Rajayoga and sand art.



# B'pur Class-VI student alleges ragging

Mother lodges complaint

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

After a series of ragging incidents rocked Brahmapur, now a Class-VI student of the Gurukul International School at Gosaninugaon in the city has alleged ragging by his seniors.

The incident came to the fore after the victim's mother lodged a police complaint on Friday that though she had informed the school authorities about it, they did not take any action against the guilty students.

The victim was allegedly beaten up several times by his seniors, who threatened him not to reveal the matter to

anyone or else he would face the consequences. However, the boy informed his mother, who approached the school authorities. But as no action was taken, she decided to lodge the police complaint.

The incident has sent shockwaves among the parents, who have become apprehensive about their wards' safety in the educational institutions.

Recently, concerned about the ragging incidents, the Brahmapur SP had held discussions with the college principals in an effort to prevent the menace. Earlier, ragging incidents were reported from two colleges in the city, following which the college authorities rusticated a number of students.

## ‘Govt fails to take anti-ragging action’

Navnirman Sangathan warns protest on Nov 30

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Navnirman Yuva Chhatra Sangathan on Saturday said that if the State Government fails to take appropriate action on the ragging issue, it would stage a demonstration before the State Assembly on November 30. Ragging affects hundreds of students in the State.

Sangathan leaders said that because of the Government's failure to stop ragging, students are sometimes taking extreme steps being unable to tolerate the mental trauma. Sangathan State coordinator Manwar Ali said the Government suppressed the facts in the Ruchika Mohanty ragging case rather than delivering justice to the BJB College girl student. "Had the Government taken strong action in the Ruchika case, the ragging incidents could have been averted in Brahmapur and Burla," he said.

## Death due to fall from Meena Bazar swing NHRC slaps notice on B'ngir DM, SP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission sought an Action-Taken Reports (ATRs) from the District Collector and Superintendent of Police, Balangir over the incident of electrocution death during the Kartik Purnima celebration in Tureikela block of the district.

Considering the petition filed by rights activist and Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC issued notice and sought for ATRs from the authorities within four weeks.

Tripathy mentioned one Debraj Sahu died on November 8 after falling from a swing. In a tragic turn of events, a joy ride at a Meena Bazaar turned fatal after the deceased fell from a swing in

Tureikela block. The petitioner alleged that the fatal accident happened due to negligence of public servants and he sought intervention of the Commission for compensation to the next of the kin of the victim and appropriate measures to prevent occurrence of such incidents in future. This is a case of negligence of the authorities who sanctioned the procession but could not visualise and prevent the fatal incident that injured and caused death, Tripathy alleged.

He requested the Commission for an impartial inquiry of the incident; actions against errant officials and preventive action to check such fatal incidents in future, including compensation to the next of the kin of the deceased.

## INBRIEF

### TWO WOMEN DIE IN ROAD MISHAP IN KANDHAMAL

Phulbani: Two women were killed when their scooty collided with a motorbike in G Udayagiri of Kandhamal district on Saturday. Two youths who were travelling by the motorcycle were injured. The deceased were identified as Pradipta Sahu (34), a native of Nayagarh and a teacher in Lingagarh Girls High School, and Bimla Pradhan (47), a Clerk at the same school and a resident of Kupaguda village under Maalikapadi panchayat in the district.

### YOUTH DIES IN MISHAP; LOCALS BLOCK ROAD IN JSPUR

Jagatsinghpur: Thirty-year-old youth Brijesh Roshan Ray, a resident of Khairabasta village in the Naugaon area, was killed in a road mishap at Mundala on the Jagatsinghpur-Naugaon road on Thursday. He was returning home by his bike when a passenger bus hit him from behind. Locals staged a road blockade demanding compensation for the deceased's family. Police officers, the Tehsildar and the BDO reached the site, seized the bus and assured the agitators that stringent action would be taken against the errant bus driver and its owner. The roadblock was then lifted after 12 hours.

### K'PADA CRACKER BLAST CLAIMS 1 LIFE

Kendrapada: The first casualty in the fire cracker blast during Kartikeshwar immersion at Balia Bazar in Kendrapada Sadar PS on November 23 night was reported on Friday night. Uday Bhoi from Kendupatana village of Nischantakoili, who after being injured in the incident, was under treatment at the SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack. Meanwhile, 12 other injured persons in the incident are undergoing treatment at the ICU of SCB MCH and two of them are stated to be critical.

### JOB FAIR HELD IN JAGATSINGHPUR

Jagatsinghpur: A job fair was held at the Sarala Mohavidyalaya premises in Tirtol on Thursday being inaugurated byParadip ADM Kanhu Charan Dhir in the presence of representatives of 22 job provider companies and 11 job training companies. As many as 2,001 youths from Jagatsinghpur district participated in the recruitment drive. District Employment Officer Arpita Priyadarshani informed that 1,000 youths were chosen by companies and would be provided appointment letters after completion of legal formalities. Besides, 528 candidates were selected for training at different technical institutes and companies.



### JSW FUNDS RS 20L FOR PARADIP COLLEGE CANTEEN, E-LIBRARY

Jagatsinghpur: The JSW under its CSR activities donated Rs 20 Lakh to the Paradip College under the Mo College



Abhiyan programme for constructing a canteen and an e-library. The foundation-stone-laying ceremony was held in the college premises on Friday. Paradip ADM Kanhu Charan Dhir, JSW terminal project head PC Jhanji, JSW CSR head Prasant Biswal, Paradeep Municipality Chairperson Basanta Biswal, college Principal Dr Sasmita Satpathy attended the event. Both projects were longstanding demands of the college.

### CONSTITUTION DAY HELD AT ECOR

Bhubaneswar: The Constitution Day was observed at the East Coast Railway headquarters here on Saturday. All Principal HoDs, senior officials, staffed by Additional General Manager Sharad Kumar Srivastava read out the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. The day was also celebrated at all three ECoR Divisions and railway stations.



### CONSTITUTION DAY AT DAV, CHANDRASEKHARPUR

Bhubaneswar: A series of programmes like project display of Mathematics, Social Science, Art and Craft, a Youth



Parliament, panel debate, quiz event and mono-acting were held to celebrate the Constitution Day by Department of Political Science at the DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur here. Students and parents joined the activities enthusiastically in large numbers.

### EXCISE ASI AXED FOR TAKING BRIBE IN KEONJHAR

Keonjhar: Keonjhar district Excise Superintendent Naryan Meher has suspended Barbil sector ASI Puspallata Goswami on the charge of taking bribe from a country liquor shop. A few days ago in a viral video, it was seen Puspallata counting currency notes and telling someone that the amount was less. After the matter came to the Excise Superintendent's noticed, he directed the Deputy Excise Superintendent to conduct a probe. However, Pushapalata said she is innocent and that would be proved in course of time.

### GANJAM JOURNALISTS SEND MEMO FOR CHIEF MINISTER

Chhatrapur: At the instance of Odisha Journalists' Union (OJU) president Shashi Bhushan Praharaj, a ten-point demand letter was sent by Ganjam District Collector Dibyajyot Parida to the Chief Minister on Friday. The demands included a Journalist Protection Act, increase in health insurance to Rs 5 lakh and death allowance to Rs 10 lakh., simplification of bank loans and inclusion of district, block and sub-division journalists in the journalist accreditation policy.

## ‘Stop violence against women, back their rights’

B'pur OCS holds 15-day programme

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25, the One Stop Centre (OSC) in association with the Indian Society for Rural Development (ISRD) began its fortnight-long convergence programme with all departments. The event will continue till December 10.

The inaugural day of the programme was held at the

MPL Girls High School at Aska Road on Thursday. The speakers urged upon the public to carry out the mandates of the OSC.

The OSCalso spearheaded a noble campaign "UNITE-Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls" that aims to mobilise society to prevent violence against women, stand in solidarity with women's rights and support feminist movements around the world. A large number of women and girls, social activists, intellectuals, and members of various women organisations attended.

## In Baleswar Truck helper held for killing driver

PNS ■ BALESWAR

The Dankuni police of West Bengal with the help of their counterparts in Basta in Baleswar district have solved the recovery of an unidentified dead body from near an over-bridge on NH-60 near the Haldipada bypass in Baleswar district on November 9 by arresting a truck helper.

The accused identified as Ananta Bhowmik (28) of village Godarcharar under Buxighat police station of Coochbehar in West Bengal was forwarded to court following his arrest.

While the Basta police were investigating into the case, a truck owner of West Bengal become suspicious and approached the Dankuni police when he saw the helper return with his truck but the driver Gobind Madak(32), a resident of Dubri in Assam, was missing.

The Dankuni police began investigation and during questioning Bhowmik confessed that he killed Madak with a rod on the way following heated arguments between them over changing of a flat tyre of the vehicle near Balugaon Later, he dumped the body near the Haldipada bypass.

## In Nuapada

# Panic as bear strays into village for food

PNS ■ NUAPADA

Panic prevailed among locals when they spotted a bear wandering in the streets in search of food at Godaphula village of Sadar block in Nuapada district on Friday.

The bear had strayed from the nearby Saliha jungle, which has been declared as a corridor for bear movement by the Forest Department, but the fence along the stretch is broken allowing the animal to stray into the village in search



of food. While some village youths gave coconuts and bananas to the bear, most of the local residents panicked

and preferred to stay indoors. Till reports last came in, the bear was still wandering in the streets in the area.

# Mayurbhanj Mahotsav a big draw

Week-long fest to conclude on Sunday

KAVI VISHNU SATPATHY ■ BARIPADA

The seven-day-long annual socio-cultural extravaganza, the '5th Mayurbhanj Mahotsav' kicked off here at the local Chhow Padia on November 21 amidst much fanfare. It will conclude on Sunday.

Various types of stalls, catering to popular needs and requirements, have been put up. Besides, delicious dishes like famous Mayurbhanj



Mudhi Mansa, rice-roti-mansa, Dala Khichdi, Ram Rochak, Gurh Laddu and Arisa pitha etc were available in various food stalls.

While Mayurbhanj Maharaja Praveen Chandra Bhanjdeo, Maharani Rashmi

Rajyalaxmi Bhanjdeo and Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti Bishweswar Tudu graced its inaugural function as guests, Rairangpur MLA Naba Charan Majhi, Zilla Parishad President Bharati Hansda, former As-

sembly Deputy Speaker Sanand Marandi and former MLA Bhavad Hansda were the guests on the second day. Mahotsav Reception Committee chief and Baripada Municipality Chairman Krushnanand Mohanty, committee president Asit Pati, general Secretary Kalinga Keshari Jena and working president Sanjeev Dwivedy coordinated.

It may be pointed out here that the annual festival could not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. So, this time there are heavy turnouts of revellers every evening.

## Hockey WC

# Night landing of flights at R'kela airport sought

PNS ■ ROURKELA

In view of the Hockey World Cup 2023, which is scheduled to be held from January 13 to 29 at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, the Odisha Government has urged the Centre to take steps for night landing facilities at the Rourkela airport.

Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra in a letter to Union Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal stated that there is a need for night landing facilities at the airport for flight operations after sunset.

"It would also encourage private air operators to participate in the UDAN scheme for flight services. The State Government would extend all necessary support as and when required," Mohapatra mentioned.

The SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and AAI had signed a fresh MoU for operation and management of the airport for commercial use under the UDAN scheme on October 28. The operation of commercial flights from the airport is expected to begin

from December 5. Alliance Air is learnt to have emerged as the operator for Rourkela-Bhubaneswar route and talks are underway with other airlines for the Rourkela-Kolkata route.

Meanwhile, the Hockey India has announced that all the country's hockey Olympians and former international players will be given complimentary tickets to watch the upcoming World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. So, there will be flying of players day and night.

# 8 yrs on, XIM R'kela campus still pipedream

‘State Govt, RSP, local leaders need to focus on project’

AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA

It was March 4, 2015, when Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had declared the Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar's second campus at Rourkela. It had generated much optimism

among the residents who were disheartened over the IIM issue.

Though Rourkela, fulfilling all criteria, was a strong contender for the IIM, but at the last moments, the State Government had decided to establish it at Sambalpur, giving in to a strong lobby. But till date the assurance of the CM for establishment of the XIMB branch at Rourkela has not translated into action.

Sources said that after the CM's declaration, the then Vice-Chancellor of Xavier

University, Bhubaneswar, Prof Dr Fr Paul Fernandes wrote a letter to the then Principal Secretary, Higher Education Gagan Kumar Dhal on March 9, 2015 to instruct the Rourkela Steel Plant to provide land and Rs 120 crore for establishment of the institution. Earlier, in a tripartite meeting of the State Government, Rourkela Steel Plant and XIMB, Bhubaneswar at the Lok Seva Bhawan, the RSP had agreed to it.

A copy of the VC's letter was also sent to the Private

Secretary to CM VK Pandian. On 16.05.2015, the Higher Education department wrote a letter to the RSP to do the needful.

On 22.07.2015 replying to it, the then GM I/c (P&A), RSP PK Pradhan writing a letter to the Principal Secretary, Higher Education, mentioned that 30 acres of land had been identified but before processing it in SAIL Board he needed certain clarifications.

Whether the land will be handed over to XIMB on

sublease basis or through surrender by the RSP? Whether a representative of RSP would be in XIMB, Rourkela unit board or not? Whether 25% seats will be reserved for the children of SAIL employees or not? Whether funding of Rs 120 crore would be made in one go or in five years? These were the questions he raised, but the matter remained in cold storage ever since.

Reacting to the inordinate delay of the prestigious project, former president,

RSP Executive Association and noted social activist of the city Bimal Bisi described it as unfortunate. "As every year many students passing out from NIT-Rourkela and other institutions are going to other cities to pursue their management courses, it would be more beneficial for them if the XIMB campus would be here. So, both the State Government and RSP management, besides the local elected representatives should focus on it on priority," Bisi demanded.



# SC order to pay imams salaries violation of Constitution: CLC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Information Commission has said the 1993 Supreme Court order allowing remuneration to imams in mosques was in "violation of the Constitution" and besides setting a "wrong precedent", has become a point of unnecessary political slugfest and social disharmony.

Information Commissioner Uday Mahurkar, while hearing an RTI application filed by an activist demanding details of salaries to imams by the Delhi government and the Delhi Waqf Board, also observed that the order violated constitutional provisions that say "taxpayers money will not be used to favour any particular religion".

The Supreme Court in 1993 on a petition from the All India Imam Organisation had directed the waqf board to

give remuneration to imams in mosques managed by it.

He has directed that a copy of his order be sent to the Union law minister with suitable action to ensure enforcement of provisions of articles 25 to 28 of the Constitution in letter and spirit to keep all religions on par in terms of monthly remuneration to priests of different religions at the cost of the public exchequer -- both central and states -- and also other matters.

"Further with regard to the judgment by the Supreme Court in the case between the 'All India Imam Organisation and ... Vs Union Of India And Ors' on 13 May, 1993, that opened the doors to special financial benefits from public treasury to only imams and muezzeens in mosques, the commission observes that the highest court of the country in passing this order acted in violation of the provisions of the



Constitution, particularly Article 27, which says tax payers money will not be used to favour any particular religion," Mahurkar said.

"The commission notes that the said judgment sets a wrong precedent in the country and has become a point of unnecessary political slugfest and also social disharmony in the society," the information commissioner said.

He also directed the Delhi Waqf Board to pay a compensation of Rs 25,000 to RTI

activist Subhash Agrawal for the loss of time and resources in chasing the response to his application. The activist was not being able to get a satisfactory response to his application.

"It is necessary to go into the history when it comes to giving special religious benefits to the Muslim community by the State. A religious (Islamic) nation Pakistan was born out of the demand of a section of Indian Muslims for partition of India along religious lines.

Despite Pakistan choosing to be a religious (Islamic) nation, India chose a Constitution guaranteeing equal rights to all religions," Mahurkar said.

"It is necessary to note here that it was the policy of giving special benefits to the Muslim community before 1947 that played a key role in encouraging pan-Islamic and fissiparous tendencies in a section of Muslims, ultimately leading to the nation's partition," he said.

So giving remuneration to imams and others only in mosques, amounts to "not just betraying the Hindu community and members of other non-Muslim minority religions, but also encouraging pan-Islamist tendencies amongst a section of Indian Muslims which are already visible", the information commissioner said.

Steps such as giving special religious benefits to the Muslim

community only like the one taken up in the present matter, in fact, severely affects inter-faith harmony as they invite contempt for the Muslims as a whole from a section of ultra nationalist population, Mahurkar said.

He said the Delhi Waqf Board (DWB) gets an annual grant of around Rs 62 crore from the Delhi government while its own monthly income from independent sources is just around Rs 30 lakh.

"So the monthly honorarium of Rs 18,000 and Rs 16,000 being given to the imams and muezzeens of DWB mosques in Delhi is being paid by the Delhi government virtually from the taxpayer's money which in turn is in sharp contrast with the example quoted by the appellant in which the priest of a Hindu temple is getting a paltry Rs 2,000 per month from the trust controlling the said temple," he said.

Mahurkar said those who justify such steps in the name of protection to religious minorities raise a question that if a particular religious minority has a right to protection, the majority community too has a right to protection in a multi-religious country where it is incumbent that the rights of the members of all religions are protected equally in the interest of inter-faith harmony and unity of the nation.

He said Delhi Waqf Board initially denied salaries to imams but later in a revised reply said it is only an honorarium, not a salary.

"The commission observes that there was a clear attempt to hide the information in the initial period by a play of words which showed complete lack of transparency on the part of the respondent authorities in a case which in turn affects the provisions of the Constitution, and also social harmony and

uniform applicability of laws for all religions in keeping with the constitutional direction that citizens of all religions be treated equally," he said.

Mahurkar directed the Delhi Waqf Board and the office of the Delhi Chief Minister to provide responses to the RTI application of Agrawal.

The orders of the commission, the highest body to decide appeals and complaints under the RTI Act, are often challenged in high courts through writ petitions.

The government through an amendment in the RTI Act had diluted perks, salaries and tenure of information commissioners from being on par with central election commissioners or to that of bureaucrats serving at their pay scale. The fixed tenure of five years given to an information Commissioner in the RTI Act was also reduced to three years.

# BSF shoots down Pak drone in Amritsar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday shot down a drone coming from Pakistan along the frontier in the Amritsar Sector.

At about 7.45 pm on Saturday, the BSF troops deployed at the border heard the buzzing sound of a suspected drone entering from Pakistan into the Indian side in Daoke village under Amritsar.

"As per drill, the troops tried to intercept the suspected drone by firing. Bullet hit the Drone due to which it fell down on the ground. The whole area was cordoned off and police as well as concerned sister agencies were informed," the BSF said in a statement.

During the initial searches, the BSF party recovered one quadcopter DJI Matrice 300 RTK (Chinese drone) in partially damaged condition lying in the farming field ahead of border fencing near Daoke village.



"Alert troops of BSF were once again able to capture a drone and foiled smuggling attempt," the paramilitary said.

Before the latest incident, Punjab has witnessed 215 flights this year. In Jammu, about 22 drone flights have been noticed.

The BSF detected about 79 drone flights along the India-Pakistan international border in 2020 which jumped to 109 last year and more than doubled this year with 267 sightings.

BSF Director General Pankaj Kumar Singh has been

record saying the paramilitary has been "bombaraded" by the onslaught of drone flights from across the Pakistan border on the western front, and instances of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones bringing drugs, arms and ammunition more than doubled in 2022 in contrast to the previous year.

To tackle the menace, the BSF has established a state-of-the-art drone forensics laboratory at a camp here to study the flight patterns and take remedial measures. Earlier, the DG had said the results of the drone forensics lab have been encouraging

# Will walk on road for unity till every word of Constitution upheld: Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday asserted he will walk on the road to unity till every word of it is upheld. The day is being observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.

"I will walk that road long enough until every word of our Constitution is upheld, and every citizen stands protected by fairness and justice," Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Constitution is a means of living and its spirit remains the same always, while party leader Kharge recalled the words of Babasaheb Ambedkar to say, "The Constitution is not just a document of lawyers, but it is a means of living and its spirit remains the same always."

"We remember the valuable contribution of all the

great leaders of the Constituent Assembly. Best wishes to all the citizens of the country on Constitution Day," the Congress chief said in a tweet message.

November 26 is observed as Constitution Day since 2015. Earlier, the day was observed as Law Day. Congress chief spokesperson Jairam said the Sangh Parivar and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ignored or misused the Constitution but are now indulging in the "gimmick" of celebrating Constitution Day.

Since 2015, November 26 is observed as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949. Earlier, the day was observed as Law Day.

"These people, who ignore

and misuse the Constitution, are today involved in the gimmick of celebrating Constitution Day," said Ramesh, Congress's media head. The ideology to which Prime Minister Narendra Modi belongs played no role in the framing of the Constitution, he said. "After Independence, the Sangh and Hindu Mahasabha were against the Constitution," he claimed.



# Rahul interacts with ragpicker

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHOPAL/NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Saturday interacted with a woman ragpicker as his Bharat Jodo Yatra passed through a town in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh during which she told him about the issues she and her family faced, including lack of basic amenities such as electricity and water.

Congress general secretary

in-charge of Uttar Pradesh Priyanka Gandhi along with her husband Robert Vadra and son Raihan, who were scheduled to participate for two days in the Yatra, continued even on third day on Saturday.

The yatra reached Mhow, the birthplace of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in the evening.

After an overnight halt, the yatra began from Mortakka in Khandwa district in the morning. When it was passing through Barwaha town in

Khargone, Rahul Gandhi met 45-year-old ragpicker Shannu and her family members, who were part of the crowd standing along the road.

"We are poor and make a living through ragpicking at various places. We live in a hut, which doesn't even have electricity and water," she told Rahul Gandhi during their interaction. The woman and her family members said that their voice was not being heard.

# Cong welcomes EC action in K'taka over voter-fraud charges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The Congress on Saturday welcomed the Election Commission's (EC) action in Karnataka over the voter-fraud charges made by it and said to maintain the sanctity of democracy and free-and-fair elections, the poll panel's probe has to cover all 28 constituencies in and around Bengaluru and not just three.

Congress general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala also demanded an FIR against Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and the chief commissioner of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), who is the electoral officer of the constituencies where voters' data was allegedly collected by a private firm and additions and deletions were made in the electoral rolls.

"The Congress welcomes the swift action by ECI on our complaint of 'VoteFraud' in Karnataka, but for maintaining the sanctity of democracy, ECI cannot confine its inquiry/action to just three assembly seats of Bengaluru," Surjewala wrote on Twitter.

He alleged that the "kingpin" of the "voter fraud", who is responsible for the denial of

the "right to vote" to Kannadigas is none other than Bommai and also hit out at the BBMP chief commissioner.

"FIR must be lodged by ECI against them for a fair enquiry to take place," The Congress leader said.

He alleged that Chilume Trust and Chilume Enterprises were authorised by the Bommai government to collect voters' data for all 28 Assembly constituencies in and around Bengaluru.

"They have illegally collected voter personal data and uploaded it to a private app. Any fair enquiry in VoteFraud by ECI has to cover all 28 assemblies," Surjewala said in a series of tweets.

The Rajya Sabha MP said Chilume hired nearly 10,000 employees, sub-contracted the data collection work to multiple agencies and the voters' data was "illegally stolen".

"Crores were pumped in. Where did the money come from? Who funded this illegal operation? ECI has to enquire the brazen hijacking of democracy," the Congress leader said.

Surjewala alleged that new revelations disclose that Chilume's "fat cat", Ravikumar, had also received payments from the BJP-led Centre in the bank accounts of innocent vil-



lagers and withdrawn the same, indicating a huge money-laundering racket and the duping of the exchequer.

"ECI should investigate and ask ED/IT to investigate," he said.

"Lastly, all the above is imperative for retaining the very sanctity of democracy, for the Bommai government's sinister plan to corrupt the electoral process has been caught red handed.

"Onus is on ECI and each one of us to defend democracy and every Kannadiga's right to vote," the Congress general secretary said.

The EC ordered the suspension of two additional district electoral officers on Friday and directed for a review of the deletions and additions in the voter lists of three Assembly seats in Karnataka.

This followed allegations of "electoral fraud" in the state by

the Congress.

The poll watchdog also directed the chief electoral officer of the southern state to share a list of all deletions and additions effected in the electoral rolls of the Shivajinagar, Chickpet, and Mahadevapura Assembly seats after January 1, 2022, with all the recognised political parties so as to enable them to file claims and objections.

The commission issued directions to immediately suspend additional district election officers S Rangappa (in charge of the Shivajinagar and Chickpet constituencies) and K Srinivas (in charge of the Mahadevapura constituency).

The poll panel also ordered a departmental inquiry against them. The Karnataka Assembly polls are slated next year and the Congress is seeking to wrest power from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state.

# Prez Murmu, Shah, Rajnath pay homage to 26/11 Mumbai terror attack victims

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday paid homage to the victims of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008.

President Murmu said in a tweet message, "We share the enduring pain of their loved ones and families. Nation pays homage to the security personnel who fought valiantly and made supreme sacrifice in the line of duty."

External affairs minister S Jaishankar paid tribute by sharing a nearly two-minute long video, highlighting his statements from last month's memorial event by the UN Security Council held at Mumbai's Taj Hotel's lobby. The hotel was one of the sites targeted by the terrorists in 2008.

"Terrorism threatens humanity. Today, on 26/11, the world joins India in remembering its victims. Those who planned and oversaw this attack must be brought to justice. We owe this to every victim of terrorism around the world," Jaishankar tweeted along with the video.

India is working with sev-



eral countries whose citizens had lost their lives in the 2008 Mumbai Terror Attack, said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, adding that it will make sure that real perpetrators do not escape.

"It's an occasion where the entire country remembers it. I want to underline how strongly we feel about it and determined we are to complete the process of justice," Jaishankar said.

"Today is the anniversary of the 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai. Even after so many years, the people who planned and oversaw it have not been punished. They have not been brought to justice. This is something which we give utmost importance to," the External Affairs Minister added.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said he "salutes the memory of all those who lost their lives in this incident". "My heartfelt tributes to the

security personnel who sacrificed their lives while fighting this attack. This country has not forgotten the incident of 26/11, nor will it ever forget," his tweet read.

Union home minister Amit Shah also paid his "heartfelt tributes to those who lost their lives in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks". "I...remember and salute our brave security personnel who made the supreme sacrifice fighting the terrorists. Today gives a message to the whole world to fight unitedly against terrorism," he tweeted.

The 2008 Mumbai attacks lasted for four days till November 29. Over 150 people were killed during these attacks, which included civilians as well as police personnel, and even foreign citizens. More than 300 people were wounded in the attacks.

As many as 10 members of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)sneaked into Mumbai via the Arabian Sea and carried out coordinated attacks in multiple locations across the financial capital of India. Besides Taj Hotel, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, the Leopold Cafe, the Nariman House and the Oberoi Trident were other places where the attacks took place.

# Govt expects good turnout this Rabi season: Union Agri Min



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Saturday said the Government expects "good" production of agriculture crops in the ongoing rabi (winter-sown) season on the back of higher sowing area and favourable soil moisture conditions.

Tomar held a meeting with senior officials of the ministry to take stock of the rabi crops position. He highlighted that sowing area in rabi season is up 24.13 lakh hectares so far as compared with the year-ago period.

Tomar expressed satisfaction that area coverage reported under wheat is 152.88 lakh hectares so far as compared to 138.35 lakh hectares in the corresponding period of last year. "For wheat, there is an increase in area coverage by 14.53 lakh hectares over last year and this has been the highest ever since last four years," the statement said.

# US scientists develop mRNA-based vaccine against all types of influenza

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in the US have developed an mRNA-based vaccine against all 20 known subtypes of influenza virus, which provided broad protection from otherwise lethal flu strains in initial tests.

This may serve as a general preventative measure against future flu pandemics in the

near future, according to the researchers.

The "multivalent" vaccine, described in a paper published in Science, uses the same messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) technology employed in the Pfizer and Moderna SARS-CoV-2 vaccines.

This mRNA technology that enabled those Covid-19 vaccines was pioneered at Penn.

Tests in animal models showed that the vaccine dramatically reduced signs of ill-

ness and protected from death, even when the animals were exposed to flu strains different from those used in making the vaccine.

"The idea here is to have a vaccine that will give people a baseline level of immune memory to diverse flu strains so that there will be far less disease and death when the next flu pandemic occurs," said study senior author Scott Hensley, a professor of Microbiology at the Perelman School of Medicine.

Influenza viruses periodically cause pandemics with enormous death tolls. The best known of these was the 1918-19 "Spanish flu" pandemic, which killed at least tens of millions of people worldwide.

Flu viruses can circulate in birds, pigs, and other animals, and pandemics can start when one of these strains jumps to humans and acquires mutations that adapt it better for spreading among humans.

Current flu vaccines are merely "seasonal" vaccines that

protect against recently circulating strains, but would not be expected to protect against new, pandemic strains, said researchers. "It would be comparable to first-generation SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines, which were targeted to the original Wuhan strain of the coronavirus," Hensley said.

"Against later variants such as Omicron, these original vaccines did not fully block viral infections, but they continue to provide durable protection against severe disease and

death," he added.

The experimental vaccine, when injected and taken up by the cells of recipients, starts producing copies of a key flu virus protein for all 20 influenza subtypes.

"For a conventional vaccine, immunizing against all these subtypes would be a major challenge, but with mRNA technology, it's relatively easy," said Hensley, who along with his colleagues are currently designing human clinical trials.






## A black and white photograph showing a group of people outdoors. In the foreground, a man with a beard, wearing a light-colored jacket, is gesturing with his hands while talking to a man in a dark jacket. Other people are visible in the background, some smiling. The man in the dark jacket is looking at the man in the light jacket. The background is slightly out of focus, showing more people and what appears to be a snowy or icy ground.

"Today, we stand united in stating that hunger must never again be used as a weapon," Scholz said in a video message. "That is why we cannot tolerate what we are witnessing. The worst global food crisis in years with abhorrent consequences for millions of people – from Afghanistan to Madagascar, from Sahel to Horn of Africa."

## A black and white photograph showing a hand placing a white ballot into a white ballot box. The box features a stylized version of the Malaysian flag (Jalur Gemilak) on its front.

Independent and others have received 13 seats. Elections to House of Representatives (HoR) and seven provincial assemblies were held on Sunday. The counting of votes started on Monday.



# GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) JAMMU.

### NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

#### E-NIT No:-CEJ/PMGSY/724 OF 2022-23 Dated:-21/11/2022

Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu on behalf of The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on %age Above/Excess (+) OR %age Below/ Less (-) basis(i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&KU.T.Govt, CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State/U.T.Govts up to 1700 Hrs.**On 03-12-2022** for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the date of completion on OMMAS.

S.No.	Name of the Work/Package No.	Name of the PIU	Constt. Part (Rs. In Lacs)	Maintt. Part (Rs. In Lacs)	Total (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Documents (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Security (EMD) @2% of total cost Rounded to the nearest thousand (Rs. In Lacs)	Time Allowed for completion	Call of tender	Time and date of opening of technical bids	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Upgradation of Road from MRL19-Rudwan to Kandral, Package No. JK21-3003, PMGSY-III, Batch-I of 2022-23, Block - Ramgarh, District Samba, Length-3.500 Kms <b>Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST - Rs. 276.17Lacs.</b>	Jammu	276.17	33.14	309.31	0.06	6.19	09 Months	2nd	06-12-2022 1100 Hrs.	Any registered contractor with State/U.T. PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works
2	Upgradation of Road from MRL-15-KotheyMahasian to ShahpurBrahmana via Khojipur, Package No. JK05-3013, PMGSY-III, Batch-I of 2022-23Block -Bishnah, District Jammu. Length 3.350Kms <b>Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST - Rs. 319.77Lacs.</b>	Jammu	319.77	38.37	358.14	0.06	7.16	09 Months	2nd	06-12-2022 1100 Hrs.	Any registered contractor with State/U.T. PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works
3	Upgradation of Road from T01-Chhan Khatriyan To ChakDiyalla Via Jharjartha Package No - JK07-3004, PMGSY-III, Batch-I of 2022-23, Block- Hiranagar, District Kathua, Length-8.800 Kms (Using Waste Plastic) <b>Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs.691.34Lacs.</b>	Kathua	691.34	82.96	774.30	0.06	15.49	11 Months	2nd		
4	Upgradation of road from T03 Shewa Bridge to Khankoot Via Mahala, Package No JK04-3007, PMGSY- III, Batch-I of 2022-23, Block Gundana, District Doda Length 14.220 Kms(Using Waste Plastic) <b>Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 1700.81 Lacs.</b>	Doda	1700.81	204.10	1904.91	0.06	38.10	18 Months	2nd		
5	Up-Gradation of road from MRL01-Narayana Hospital Kakrial To DomailKatraRoad ViaKandiyar , Package No. JK20-3003, PMGSY-III, Batch-I of 2022-23, Block- Panthal, District Reasi, Length: 5.750 Kms (Using Lime Stabilization /Waste Plastic) <b>Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 704.55Lacs.</b>	Udhampur	704.55	84.55	789.10	0.06	15.78	11 Months	2nd		
6	Up-Gradation of road from MRL02- Chowki to Katwail Via Majua, Package No. JK14-3006, PMGSY-III, Batch-I of 2022-23, Block Ghordi, Distt. Udhampur Length: 7.700 Kms(Using Waste Plastic). <b>Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 752.39Lacs.</b>	Udhampur	752.39	90.29	842.68	0.06	16.85	12 Months	2nd	06-12-2022 1100 Hrs.	Any registered contractor with State/U.T. PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works
7	Up-Gradation of road from MRL01 Shivgali to Basantgarh , Package No. JK14-3009, PMGSY-III, Batch-I of 2022-23, Block- Dudu , Distt. Udhampur Length: 9.375 Kms(Using Waste Plastic) <b>Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 1495.56 Lacs</b>	Ramnagar	1495.56	179.47	1675.03	0.06	33.50	17 Months	2nd		

1.(a) The Bidding document can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 1655 Hrs on 23-11-2022 to 03-12-2022 upto 1700Hrs.  
 (b) The Bids shall be deposited ONLINE ONLY in electronic format on the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 1000 Hrs on 25-11-2022 to 1700 Hrs. on 03-12-2022.  
 (c) Pre bid meeting will be held on 24-11-2022 at 1200 Hrs.  
 (d) Technical Qualification Part of Bids will be opened online at 1100 Hrs on 06-12-2022.  
 2. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in>.  
 3. For Complete information refer to the bidding document.  
 4. For further details kindly visit our website <https://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in>.

Sd/-  
 Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu  
 For and on behalf of The Government  
 of Jammu and Kashmir

No:-CEJ/PMGSY/24187-24260  
 Dated:-21-11-2022  
 DIP/J-12124/22



# ‘Broking houses lauding financial gains of SBI’

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Chairman of the country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) Dinesh Khara on Saturday asserted that analysts and broking houses are praising the financial performance of the bank which reported its highest profits recently.

For the first time, SBI registered the highest-ever profits recorded by any corporate house, Khara said.

"In the recent quarterly results, the bank's profits are the highest ever. SBI crossed the highest ever profits recorded by any corporate and analysts and broking houses are praising this," he said.

In the second quarter of the current financial year, the



net profit of the lender stood at Rs 13,265 crore, higher by 74 per cent compared to the previous similar period.

Naming broking houses, he said, "Motilal Oswal Securities had stated SBI is in a cruising mood. ICICI Securities said that SBI is firing on all cylinders".

Khara said that SBI is a "proxy to the Indian economy. This is so as the bank gets the patronage of 47 crore customers and is practically a banker to every household".

With India already becoming the fifth largest economy, he said perhaps by 2027, the country would be the third largest in terms of the size of the economy.

But, Khara also said that there is a need for improvement in customer service as there are many options available today.

The SBI chairman said that customer expectations are changing and the bank needs to solicit and walk up to their doorsteps.

"We have improved customer service, but have miles to go. Banking has now become a knowledge sector. We need to package offers what the customers are looking for," he stated.

During the peak of the pandemic, SBI had rendered continuous service to the customers, he said, adding that there had also been a shift in their behaviour in going to the digital mode.

"SBI has invested in technology, and the bank's app YONO had helped in generating business and offering services in a frictionless manner," he added.

Khara said that there is a need for punctuality in opening up the branches of the bank as well.

## Adani arm seeks licence to expand power distribution in Mumbai

PTI ■ MUMBAI

An Adani Group company has sought licence for expanding its power distribution business into more areas of Mumbai, including the country's largest container port JNPT. In an advertisement published in several newspapers in the city on Saturday, Adani Electricity Navi Mumbai (AENM) said it has approached the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) for a distribution licence in some pockets of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region along with its listed parent Adani Transmission.

The company is aiming to get licence to distribute power in areas exclusively served by the state-owned Mahadiscom in Mumbai's suburbs Mulund and Bhandup, and also Thane district, Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Kharghar, Talaja and Uran.

The group, whose assets include the Adani Ports busi-



ness, is also vying to distribute power to the country's largest container port JNPT located near Navi Mumbai. The parallel distribution licence application is the first such move by any player under the Electricity Act 2003. The application has been admitted by the MERC on Friday, following which the public notice has been issued.

It said the Adani group will serve over 5 lakh consumers by the end of five years from grant of licence.

The public notice said Adani Transmission owns over 99 per cent equity in AENM,

while the listed company's nominees including Pranav Adani own a marginal holding.

Power industry veterans Anil Kumar Sardana, Rohit Soni and Mehul Rupera are directors of AENM.

Adani Electricity has been distributing power in Mumbai for over four years and competes with Tata Power in the business. The company, which entered the fray after an over Rs 18,000-crore acquisition of the beleaguered Anil Ambani Group's Reliance Energy, has not been able to increase its market share in the areas it serves.

## GST Council to meet virtually on Dec 17



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 48th meeting of the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will be held on December 17.

"The 48th Meeting of the GST Council will be held on 17th December, 2022 by video conference," the GST Council said in a tweet. The meeting would discuss two reports of a panel of state finance ministers on levy of GST on casinos, online gaming and horse racing and the other on setting up of GST Appellate Tribunal.

Besides, a report of the officers' panel on decriminalisation of certain provisions of the GST law too is likely to be taken up for discussion.

# Square Yards forays into biz of facilitating fractional ownership of real estate to investors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Proptech firm Square Yards has entered into the business of facilitating investors in having fractional ownership of rent-yielding real estate assets and earn 14-18 per cent annual return on their capital.

PropsAMC, the asset management services and data intelligence arm of Square Yards, has launched fractional ownership real estate investment platform backed by pro-

prietary data and analytical capabilities, the company said in a statement.

Square Yards, which is mainly into brokerage service of properties and home loans, is targeting to build USD 1 billion worth of AUM (Assets Under Management) of fractional ownership properties over the next three years.

The minimum ticket size to participate will be Rs 25 lakh. Most of its products will not have any lock-in for investors.

The platform will enable investors in having fractional ownership of leased and pre-leased commercial assets including warehouses, holiday homes and schools. It will also explore opportunities with high coupon pay-outs on secured assets in residential space. It will target cities like Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Bengaluru, Gurugram, Noida, Chennai and Goa.

Many startups and financial services firms, including startup hBits and MYRE Capital, have entered into the business of enabling fractional ownership.

"India's commercial real estate market has for long been dominated by high net-worth individuals and institutions. Fractional investing aims to break this status quo by mak-



ing commercial property investing affordable for the average Indian," said Tanuj Shori, Founder and CEO, Square Yards.

With Square Yards' fractional ownership real estate investment programme, he said, investors can build a diversified portfolio at a lower acquisition cost.

"With rental yields of 7-9 per cent per annum, enhancement of yield by rent appreciation of 4-5 per cent and finally the capital appreciation of 5-8 per cent every three years, fractional investment is the reigning instrument of good faith at present to perform at 14-18 per cent per annum," Shori said.

# India going to record fastest 5G rollout in world: Nokia India exec

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is going to record the fastest 5G rollout in the world and it is going to have the biggest success of the next-generation telecom service with the support of the government, a senior Nokia India official said.

While speaking at an event organised by the Foreign Correspondent Club on Friday evening, Nokia India Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Amit Marwah, without naming China expressed concern over infiltration equipment in telecom sector from neighbouring countries. "We (India) are not late, we are at the right time. In the

rest of the country compared to other countries where the ecosystem has to develop. We have a 5G-ready ecosystem. We have 10 per cent of smart-phones in India which are 5G ready. India is going to witness the fastest rollout of 5G which will be at least three times faster than what we have seen in 4G," Marwah said.

The 5G services will progressively cover the entire country over the next couple of years -- Jio promises to do that by December 2023 and Bharti Airtel by March 2024.

Marwah said telecom manufacturing is becoming robust in India backed by the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

"We were part of PLI 1.0. We were one of the only companies that met and exceeded our target of PLI 1.0. We let go-off that scheme and let go-off the incentive of one year because PLI 2.0 was even more interesting. Volumes and scale in India are increasing so much that you have let go for one year. We re-applied for PLI f2.0 and today we are part of PLI 2.0 which means we are investing more, adding more lines and adding more products," he said.

The PLI scheme offers up to 20 times incentive on incremental sales of telecom gears made in India. The government has added additional incentives for designing prod-

ucts in India in the second version of the PLI scheme.

Marwah said that manufacturing is on a very positive note in India across the sectors but definitely in telecom.

"The only challenge right now is the availability of fabs which are semiconductors. 60-80 per cent of what we manufacture requires semiconductors. That is the area where we still need to work on. There is still some kind of infiltration of equipment in telecom from neighbouring countries which need to have a little more vigilance and kind of stopping at the customs," Marwah said.

Department of Telecom, Deputy Director General

(Policy) YGSC Kishore Babu said that the 5G adoption and applications are expected to be more diverse in India compared to other countries.

"However, most of the use cases across the world remind us we may have to innovate to meet most of the require-

ments in the coming months and years," Babu said.

Tech Mahindra, Chief Strategy Officer and Head of Growth, Jagdish Mitra said 5G is the biggest opportunity in technology so far, for India to bridge what we have typically referred to as Bharat and India.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
We Khairid Khan, Asif Malik S/o Mohd. Shamsuddin R/o H.No-335/4, Gali No-6, Gurudwara Mohalla, Maujpur, Delhi and Mohd. Shadab S/o Mohd. Shamsuddin R/o H. No-8/75 S-2, DDA colony, B-Block, New Jafraabad, Shahdara Delhi have finish & end-up all relationship with our brother i.e. Mohd. Sharif S/o Mohd. Shamsuddin R/o H.No-1024-B, 1st flr, Gali No-6, Sudamapuri, Babarpur, Delhi-32. And also disown & debar him from our movable & immovable property due to his misbehaviour towards our family & he has already disowned by our parents. In future he will be responsible for all acts/work done by him.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, Mohd. Shamsuddin S/o Nazeer Ahmed R/o H.No-335/4, Gali No-6, Gurudwara Mohalla, Maujpur, Delhi have disown & debar my son Mohd. Sharif R/o H.No-1024-B, 1st flr, Gali No-6, Sudamapuri, Babarpur, Delhi-32 from my all movable & immovable properties & from all relationship due to his misbehaviour towards me and my family. In future he will be responsible for acts/work done by him.



**UJVN Limited**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. UO4101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No: 864      **E-TENDER NOTICE**      Date: 26/11/2022

Office of the Executive Engineer PCQM Dhalipur, Dehradun invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of the tender is given below:  
**E-Tender No- 25/EE/PCQM/Dhalipur/2022-23**  
Name of work- Repair and Maintenance of Bund and other miscellaneous work at various location along power channel Dhalipur, Dehradun  
**Estimated value of tender:** Rs. 25.59,787.92 (excluding GST)  
**Date & Time of availability of bid document on website** - From 17:00 Hrs. of 28.11.2022  
**Last Date & Time for submission of tender:** Up to 15:00 Hrs. 20.12.2022  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal - "http://uktenders.gov.in"  
**Executive Engineer (PCM)**

**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

**MODI INDUSTRIES LIMITED**

CIN - U15429UP1932PLC000469

Regd. Office : Modinagar - 201204. (U.P.) Tel : 01232- 243115, 9084786567  
E-mail : modindustriesslimited@gmail.com Website : www.modindustries.net

**NOTICE OF 88TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, BOOK CLOSURE AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION**

NOTICE is hereby given that the 88th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of Modi Industries Limited will be held on Tuesday, the 20th December, 2022, at 04:00 P.M., at Auditorium, Dayawati Modi Public School, Modinagar-201204, District Ghaziabad (U.P.), to transact the Ordinary and Special Business, as set out in the Notice of AGM. The physical copy of the Notice of the Meeting, Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2022 and remote e-voting details have been sent to all members individually at their registered addresses. The date of completion of dispatch of the notices to the shareholders is 26th November, 2022. These documents are also available on Company's website [www.modindustries.net](http://www.modindustries.net) for download by the members and kept at the Registered Office of the Company for inspection by Members.

Notice is hereby given in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended that the Company is pleased to provide remote e-voting facility to its members for transacting all the business through National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) through their portal [www.evoting.nsdl.co.in](http://www.evoting.nsdl.co.in) or RTA, MAS Services Limited. However, if the members are already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then they can use their existing user ID and password for casting their vote. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. The facility for voting through ballot paper shall be made available at the AGM and the members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. The Company has appointed Shri Amar Nath Jaiswal, the Proprietor on behalf of M/s. A.N. Jaiswal & Co., (Membership No. ACS-19000 & CP No. 14629) of New Delhi as Scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.

In view of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, Ministry of Corporate Affairs dated May 5, 2020 read with General Circulars dated April 8, 2020 and April 13, 2020 (collectively referred to as "MCA Circulars"), have permitted the holding of AGM through Video Conferencing ("VC")/Other Audio Video Means ("OAVM"). The Company is providing this facility also to the shareholders to participate in the AGM from their homes. The detailed instructions for attending the AGM through VC/OAVM are provided in the AGM notice.

In case of any grievances connected to e-voting process, the members may please contact Ms. Pallavi Mhatre (Manager), NSDL, 4th Floor, 'A' Wing, Trade World, Kamla Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400013. Email [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in), Tel 1800224430 and 18001020990.


The detailed procedure for remote e-voting are contained in the Notice of the AGM. If you require any additional information or have any enquiries, please contact to the under signed at above mentioned address.

NOTICE is also hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, Rule 10 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 that the Register of the Members and Share Transfer Books of the Equity Shareholders of the Company will remain closed from Wednesday, the 14th December, 2022 to Tuesday, the 20th December, 2022 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of taking record of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.


**For Modi Industries Limited,**  
**Sd/-**  
**Shobit Nehra**  
**Company Secretary**

Date: 26.11.2022  
Place: Modinagar (U.P.) 201204

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform all concerned that my father Late Sh. Purshottam Das Mittal S/o Late Sh. Ramanand R/o A-181, First Floor, Shivalki, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017, who is the original allottee and owner of House bearing Plot No: 137, Block-D, Sector-47, NOIDA (U.P) expired on 04/04/2017. My father Late Sh. Purshottam Das Mittal had executed a Will in respect of above mentioned plot in my favour Sh. Sanjiv Kumar Mittal and the said Will was registered vide registration No. 276 in Book No. 3 Vol No.114 on page 151 to 155 in the office of Sub Registrar, Sh. V A Haaz Khas, New Delhi on 14/03/2017. So, it is publicly announced and informed to all concerned that the said House bearing Plot No: 137, Block-D, Sector-47, NOIDA (U.P) is to be mutated and transferred in my favour Sanjiv Kumar Mittal S/o Purshottam Das Mittal R/o A-181, First Floor, Shivalki, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017 through the above mentioned registered will. If anyone has/have any objection, he/she may file his/her objection along with sufficient proof to Residential Department of the Noida Authority, Sector-6, Noida within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.  
**SANJIV KUMAR MITTAL**



**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION, PULWAMA**  
email: [xenphepulwama@gmail.com](mailto:xenphepulwama@gmail.com)



**CORRIGENDUM**

**Subject:-** Invitation of tenders for pipe line network, SSF, GSR and ancillary works under JJM - Extension of last date for bid submission thereof.

**Reference:-** This office e-NIT S. No. 19/PHEP/Fresh of 2022-23 published under No. PHEP/ 1602-12 dated. 25-06-2022 followed by Corrigendum No. PHEP/2134-44 Dated. 21-07-2022, No.PHEP/2722-32 dated. 24-08-2022 No. PHEP/3132-48 dated. 06-09-2022, No. PHEP/3504-14 Dated. 26-09-2022 and No PHEP/3448-57 Dated. 01-11-2022.

Due to administrative reasons the above-mentioned e-NIT along with tenders received for the same is hereby cancelled.

**No.-PHEP/4307-17**  
**Dated:- 25-11-2022**

**Sd/-**  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**Jal Shakti (PHE) Division,**  
**Pulwama**  
**DIPK-14155/22**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Banking regulator RBI has put a pause on onboarding of online merchants by Paytm Payments Services, even as the company said it will have no material impact on its business, according to a regulatory filing.

One97 Communications (OCL), which owns the Paytm brand, had proposed to transfer the payment aggregator services business undertaken by it to Paytm Payments Services (PPSL) in December 2020 to comply with payment aggregator (PA) guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India



(RBI) but the banking regulator had rejected its application.

The company had re-submitted the required documents in September 2021.

Paytm said PPSL has now received a letter from RBI in response to an application for the authorisation to provide PA services for online merchants.

As per the letter, PPSL is required to "Seek necessary approval for past downward investment from the company into PPSL, to comply with FDI Guidelines" and "not onboard new online merchants".

Paytm, in the regulatory filing, said it can resubmit

the PA application within 120 calendar days. The company will not onboard new online merchants till the time approvals remain pending.

PAs are entities that facilitate e-commerce sites and merchants to accept various payment instruments from customers for completion of their payment obligations without the need for merchants to create a separate payment integration system of their own.

According to RBI's PA guidelines, a single entity cannot continue to provide an e-commerce marketplace along with payment aggregator services and such payment aggregator services must be separated from the e-commerce marketplace business.

Paytm further said there were no material observations from RBI and the move has no material impact on its business and revenues since the communication from the central bank is applicable only to onboarding of new online merchants.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY**  
KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND

**ADMISSION TO THE POSTGRADUATE COURSES - 2023 SESSION**

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to the following postgraduate degree/diploma courses of Ranchi University commencing from May, 2023. An All India Entrance Examination will be conducted through ONLINE mode at the following cities of this Country (Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore & Ranchi).

GROUP A	
<b>1. Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology</b>	: 4 seats (NO RESERVATION)
<b>Duration</b>	: 2 years
<b>Qualification</b>	: M.Phil. (Medical & Social Psychology/ Clinical Psychology) from a University recognized by the UGC
<b>2. M.Phil. in Clinical Psychology</b>	: 21 seats (UR-09, EWS-01, OBC-06, SC-03, ST-02) (PwD-01)
<b>Duration</b>	: 2 years
<b>Qualification</b>	: M.A./M.Sc. in Psychology course from a University recognized by the UGC With minimum 55% marks for UR & EWS and 50% marks for SC, ST & OBC in aggregate.
GROUP B	
<b>3. M.Phil. in Psychiatric Social Work</b>	: 15 seats (UR-06, EWS-01, OBC-05, SC-02, ST-01) (PwD-01)
<b>Duration</b>	: 2 years
<b>Qualification</b>	: Masters in Social Work course from University recognized by the UGC with minimum 55% Marks for UR & EWS and 50% marks for SC, ST and OBC in aggregate.
GROUP C	
<b>4. Diploma in Psychiatric Nursing</b>	: 23 seats (UR-10, EWS-02, OBC-06, SC-03, ST-02) (PwD-01)
<b>Duration</b>	: One year
<b>Qualification</b>	: 'A' Grade Certificate or Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery.

**Group A & B: Selected candidates will get scholarship of Rs. 25,000/-per month.**  
**Group C: Selected candidates will get scholarship of Rs. 2500/- per month.**

The application form is to be submitted electronically ONLY on internet through CIP website: [www.cipranchi.nic.in](http://www.cipranchi.nic.in) on or before December 31, 2022. Hard copy of the application form will not be entertained. Online Payment fee of Rs.1000/-\*\* for Unreserved, EWS and Rs. 500/-\*\* for OBC, PwD, SC and ST candidates. (\*\*Transactional charges will be extra from the above-said fee structure via Debit Card, Credit Card, UPI Payment, Net Banking & Mobile Wallets.) Please note that the examination fee is non-refundable.

Online form will be available on our website ([www.cipranchi.nic.in](http://www.cipranchi.nic.in)) from 01.12.2022. Online Examination will be held on 19.02.2023 and interview/practical would be held in person at CIP between 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. Session will commence from 01<sup>st</sup> May, 2023. Last date for joining the courses is May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Please visit [www.cipranchi.nic.in](http://www.cipranchi.nic.in) for downloading the prospectus with requisite details before filling the ONLINE application form.

**Director**  
**Central Institute of Psychiatry**







# INDIAN BATTLING NEEDS FRESH APPROACH TO SAVE SERIES

PTI ■ HAMILTON

India would expect a better approach from skipper Shikhar Dhawan and young Shubman Gill in the Powerplay overs when the team clashes with New Zealand in the do-or-die second One-Day International here on Sunday.

The Seddon Park is a three-way open ground but is known for being one of the batting friendliest tracks in New Zealand where willow wielders would get value for their shots.

Dhawan (72 off 77) and Gill (50 off 65 balls) added 123 in their opening stand but on a small Eden Park ground, a score of 306 for 7 was at least 40 runs short of par score.

The bowlers could be taken to task for conceding those runs in just over 47 overs, the buck actually stops at the main batters since if it was not for Washington Sundar's brilliant cameo, India would not have touched the 300-run mark.

It was largely due to the safety-first approach of the Indian openers during the first 10 Powerplay over where the runs did not come at a desirable pace.

Moeen Ali in a recent interview to PTI spoke how in earlier times, teams followed Australian template in white ball cricket and now it is the English way that is being aped by the teams.

And that is where India is lagging behind as it could score only 40 runs in the first Powerplay overs in Auckland.

Sample another piece of statistic which will give an idea that the problem lies in the general outlook of Indian top-order batters across limited overs formats (not just Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul or Virat Kohli).

Dhawan hit 72 off 77 balls that had 13 fours. So effectively, he scored 52 runs in boundaries in 13 deliveries. He scored another 20 runs in 64 deliveries and out of which 44 were dot balls as he was unable to get going in the Powerplay.

As the skipper struggled, at the other end, Gill didn't do his overall averages any harm by stacking up another half-century, but the pace of his innings was also a debatable one.

His 50 was scored in 65 balls with three sixes and a boundary. This means 22 runs were scored from four deliveries. He scored



# Akashdeep scores hat-trick but sloppy India lose 4-5 to Aus

AP ■ ADELAIDE

Akashdeep Singh's hat-trick went in vain as India conceded two late goals to lose 4-5 against Australia in the high-scoring first hockey Test of the five-match series here on Saturday.

Akashdeep Singh (10th, 27th, 59th) scored thrice while skipper Harmanpreet Singh (31st) converted a penalty corner for India.

Australia's goals were scored by Lachlan Sharp (5th), Nathan Ephraums (21st), Tom Craig (41st) and Blake Govers (57th, 60th) who found the back of the Indian net twice from penalty corners towards the fag end of the match. The second match of the series will be played on Sunday.

Australia started on an attacking note and took the lead as early as in the fifth minute with Sharp slotting home past India custodian PR Sreejesh with his very first touch of the match.

The Indians responded within minutes with Amit Rohidas creating a great move from the left flank but his ball was intercepted inside the circle by the Australian defence.

Akashdeep equalised for India in the 11th minute after Hardik Singh made a wonderful interception to create the opportunity.

Six minutes into the second quarter, Australia restored their lead, courtesy poor defending from the Indians as they failed to clear a cross and Ephraums got a smart deflection to put the ball into the net.

Akashdeep once again came to India's



rescue and scored with a fierce reverse hit in the 27th minute to level the scores.

Just at the stroke of half-time, Australia got a penalty corner but India's second goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak was alert to avert the danger.

A minute after the change of ends, Harmanpreet gave India the lead for the first time in the match, scoring from a penalty corner The Indians then secured back-to-back penalty corners but wasted both. In the 41st minute, the Kookaburras secured another penalty corner and Craig scored from a rebound after Sreejesh saved the initial drag-flick.

The home team continued to press hard and secured a handful of penalty corners but failed to cash in on the opportunities.

India were sloppy on the turf in the last five minutes of the game as Jarmanpreet Singh got an unnecessary green card, leaving his side a man down for the rest of the game.

Australia took full advantage of the situation and secured another penalty corner which was converted by Govers with a powerful flick.

But Akashdeep levelled the scores a minute from the final hooter, scoring from a goalmouth melee.

But poor defending from the Indians inside their own circle cost them as Australia earned two more penalty corners and Govers once again found the net with the second attempt to hand the home team a 1-0 lead in the series.

## India lose bronze medal play-off to Spain

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

India lost 1-3 to Spain in the tie-break after the two-round bronze medal play-off ended in a tie at the FIDE World Team chess Championship here on Saturday. In both the rounds, the teams played out 2-2 draws. But Jaime Santos Latasa and David Anton Guijarro defeated Vidit Santosh Gujrathi and Nihal Sarin respectively in the blitz tie-break to give Spain the advantage.

S L Narayanan drew with Alexei Shirov and Abhijeet Gupta held Miguel Santos Ruiz in the other games. This gave Spain victory by a 3-1 margin early on Saturday. In the first round, Gujrathi, playing with black, drew Santos Latasa while Sarin signed peace with Guijarro in the last game of that match. The two other games Narayanan vs Daniil Yuffa and Gupta against Santos Ruiz too ended in draws.

The pattern was repeated in the second round too as games on all the four boards involving the same players ended in draws.

Spain took the tie-break for a 4-2 victory and win its first-ever medal in a team competition. Meanwhile, China beat Uzbekistan 4-0, winning the two rounds by a similar 2.5-1.5 scoreline.



# Australia beat Croatia 2-1 to reach Davis Cup final

AP ■ MALAGA (SPAIN)

Australia had to fight back twice to reach its first Davis Cup final in 19 years after beating Croatia 2-1. Lleyton Hewitt's team recovered from losing the first singles on Friday. Then the Australian doubles pair battled back from a set down in the decider.

Australia won its 28th and last title in 2003. It has finally got back to the final. "I am so proud. Australia has a really rich history in this competition," said Hewitt, who played a record 43 Davis Cup ties for Australia from 1999-2018.

"We have been fortunate to win it all on a number of occasions a long time ago. And I

the remaining 28 runs from 61 deliveries.

The same approach of just building the foundation and leaving the heavy-lifting for the back-end has cost India a T20 World Cup but strangely even as personnel changed in ODIs for this series, the approach has remained archaic.

With so many players jostling for opening slots, it is imperative that the players score heavily so that the numbers can't be ignored when the new selectors prune the pool to around 20, at least three to four months before the 50-over marquee event.

While Dhawan will certainly open with Rohit in Bangladesh next month, there aren't any guarantees that Shubman will be able to retain his place in the playing XI as Rohit will comeback as an opener. KL Rahul might take Suryakumar Yadav's (rested for next series) middle-order slot.

Rishabh Pant has a way better ODI strike-rate and average compared to T20Is but the vice-captain of this series needs to be more consistent in order to keep the big gloves away from

Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan, who are definitely close on his heels. As Virender Sehwag, few weeks earlier had said that Pant needs to decide first what will be his style of batsmanship.

At the moment, the marauder from Rourkee seems to be in a state of limbo: whether to attack or defend. Sooner he gets his bearing, better it will be for the ODI core team.

## BOWLERS NEED TO FIND FULLER LENGTHS

At Eden Park which has short and weird dimensions, Indian pacers bowled way too short. They will need to find a way to counter Tom Latham and Kane Williamson, who have both been consistent against India over the years in this format.

While Umran Malik was impressive bowling northwards of 145 clicks, Arshdeep Singh despite his ability to get the swing struggled for pace and Shardul Thakur was generally erratic.

Toss will be an important factor as batting becomes easier at the Seddon Park as the evening wears on.

# India clinch gold medals at Youth World Boxing Championships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian boxers Vishwanath Suresh, Vanshaj and Devika Ghorpade lived up to their favourites tag, registering commanding victories to clinch gold medals at the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Championships 2022 in La Nucia, Spain.

Chennai-born Vishwanath handed India their first gold at the prestigious championships after thrashing Ronel Suymom of Philippines without breaking a sweat in the men's 48kg final.

This came after Bhawna Sharma bagged a silver medal in the women's 48kg category, losing 0-5 loss against Uzbekistan's Gulsevar Ganieva in the opening match of the day. Ashish (54kg) was the other Indian to

finish with a silver medal. He went down 1-4 against Japanese pugilist Yuta Sakai in a thrilling final.

Devika, who hails from Pune, added a second gold to India's tally, beating England's Lauren Mackie in the women's 52kg final. Youth Asian champion Vanshaj wrapped up the day in style for India by winning ta third gold.

The confident Sonipat-based boxer made light work of Demur Kajaia of Georgia in the men's 63.5kg summit clash.

With 11 medals, India topped in the on-going edition of the event, followed by Uzbekistan (10), Ireland (7) and Kazakhstan (7).

This year's championships witnessed participation from



close to 600 boxers from 73 countries. India's eight medals in the women's section is also the highest for any country.

Having already won three gold medals, Ravina (63kg) and Kirti (+81kg) will look to add two more yellow metals to India's kitty when they fight in the women's final on the last day of the competition.

Ravina and Kirti will be up against Megan deCler of Netherlands and Ireland's Elizabeth D'Arcy respectively.

Besides three gold and two silver on the penultimate day, India's tally also includes four bronze medals coming from Tamanna (50kg), Kunjarani Devi Thongam (60kg), Muskan (75kg) and Lashu Yadav (70kg), who lost in the semifinals.

# UP THRASH DEPLETED MUMBAI BY 8 WICKETS

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Uttar Pradesh took full advantage of an under-strength Mumbai side as they romped home by eight wickets in a lopsided pre-quarterfinal match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Saturday.

UP bowlers, led by pacers Shivam Mavi (4/41) and Kartik Tyagi (2/43) and ably assisted by left-arm spinner Shiva Singh (2/43), restricted Mumbai to a below-par 220 all out on a fine batting pitch.

The chase was a cakewalk as keeper-opener Aryan Juyal (82 off 103 balls) anchored it with useful contributions from fellow opener Madhav Kaushik (46 off 75 balls) and skipper Karan Sharma (42 not out off 38 balls).

UP won the match with 26 balls to spare and will now face Maharashtra in the quarterfinal.

Jaiswal and the dangerous Sarfaraz Ahmed (both on India A tour of Bangladesh) due to national commitments did have its effect as neither Prithvi Shaw (10) nor skipper Ajinkya Rahane (26 off 39 balls) could make a difference on the big day.

While Shaw was cleaned up by Mavi as he tried to play across the line, Rahane loosely drove away from his body to a fuller 'fifth off-stump' line delivery from Tyagi. Mumbai were at one stage tottering at 94 for five after spinners Shiva and Shivam Sharma dismissed Arman Jaffer (32) and Suved Parkar (13) with arm balls.

Suved was gone trying to cut a delivery close to the stumps while Jaffer played to the wrong line and was out LBW.

However, Mumbai's crisis man Shams Mulani (51 off 70 balls) and keeper-batter Hardik Tamore (53 off 67 balls) added 103 runs for the sixth wicket

which helped the current Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 champions cross the 200-run mark.

But once Tamore was out trying to hit a second six off Shiva, the last five Mumbai wickets fell for a mere 23 runs with no resistance from the lower order. With no scoreboard pressure on them, UP openers Madhav and Aryan added 119 runs in 25 overs to set the tone. Aryan was more attacking with 10 boundaries while his partner had three fours and a six to his credit.

In fact, Priyam Garg (39 not out) and skipper Karan added 63 runs for the unbroken third wicket stand in just under 12 overs to knock off the required runs with minimum fuss.

**Brief Scores:**

**Mumbai:** 220 all out in 48.3 overs (Hardik Tamore 53, Shams Mulani 51, Shivam Mavi 4/41, Shiva Singh 2/43, Kartik Tyagi 2/43).



**Uttar Pradesh:** 221 for 2 in 45.4 overs (Aryan Juyal 82, Madhav Kaushik 46).

**J&K KNOCK OUT KERALA, MAKE DREAM QUARTERFINALS**

Jammu and Kashmir extended

their dream run in the Vijay Hazare Trophy to the quarterfinals as they knocked Kerala out from the tournament with a seven-wicket win, here on Saturday.

In-form Auqib Nabi led the show with his career-best haul

of 4/39, helping J&K skittle out Kerala for a paltry 174 in 47.4 overs after they opted to field in their first-ever Vijay Hazare Trophy knockout match.

In reply, J&K cantered home in 37.5 overs with Shubham Khajuria (76) and Qamran Iqbal

(51) setting up win with their 113-run opening stand in 21.4 overs.

In the form of his life, Khajuria smashed six sixes and five fours in his 61-ball knock, which was his fourth half-century on the trot this season.

However, he was run out for a second consecutive time as J&K lost three wickets for the addition of just 32 runs. But there was no scoreboard pressure and Henan Nazir and Fazil Rashid sealed their sixth win from seven matches this season.

J&K will now face group B toppers Assam in their quarter-final here on Monday.

The J&K pace trio of Nabi, Yudhvir Singh (2/16) and left-arm pacer Mujtaba Yousuf (1/37) accounted for seven batters as Kerala struggled to get going.

Opener Vinoop Maoharan top-scored for Kerala with a 81-ball 62 but Yudhvir dismissed

him to trigger the collapse in the 32nd over, before Nabi wreaked havoc with a dream spell.

With 12 wickets apiece from seven matches, Nabi and Yudhvir have done exceptionally well for J&K this season.

The Ajay Sharma-coached side had upset reigning Ranji champions Madhya Pradesh, chasing down a massive 343 with two wickets in hand.

They also defeated Baroda, Odisha and Nagaland with little fuss.

Their only defeat came against group D toppers Punjab as they finished second in the league stage.

**Brief Scores**

**Kerala:** 174 all out in 47.4 overs (Vinoop Manoharan 62, Sijomon Joseph 32; Auqib Nabi 4/39, Yudhvir Singh 2/16) lost to Jammu and Kashmir 175/3 in 37.5 overs (Shubham Khajuria 76, Qamran Iqbal 51; Sijomon Joseph 2/19) by seven wickets.



# the pioneer agenda

I don't have a religion.  
I believe in a God.  
I don't know what it looks  
like but it's MY god. My  
own interpretation of the  
supernatural  
— Jennifer Aniston



## CLIMATE CHANGE THE FAILED CoP27

Considering the past actions on the commitments of the developed world, this so-called deal arrived at CoP 27 is at best a face-saver document, writes Dr. VK BAHUGUNA

The Conference of Parties (CoP), better known as CoP27, organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt ended on November 20 with the adoption of a declaration for the creation of a fund for providing compensation to the poor nations facing the vagaries of climate change and extreme weather conditions due to the past emissions of the rich nations. The negotiating teams and others are touting it as a historical deal, but that is a far-fetched claim.

This declaration at best is a face-saving deal for the consumption back home for people of these poor nations facing the wrath of climatic vagaries. The developed countries, however, have resisted these calls, fearing opening up a floodgate for compensation claims but ultimately agreed with no surety to adhere to their commitments.

On average, \$4000 was needed for one person for a week to attend the CoP. Understandably, many young activists could not attend the Conference due to a lack of funds, and few bothered to raise their voices.

However, the CoP opened with most heads of state and leaders heading the country delegations speaking with strong feelings on taking action for the survival of the human race and pleading forcefully against complacency. The UN secretary general António Guterres delivered one of his best speeches yet when he exhorted the world leaders that “We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator”. He asked the countries to “cooperate or perish”.

The CoP 27 came after the world had faced the Covid-19 pandemic which many scientists blame on the abuse of nature by humans, a fact clearly visible during the lockdown period when we all noticed clear Himalayan peaks from Delhi as the sky became clear and the wild elephants started roaming on urban roads they never visited before. After Covid-19, when the Russia-Ukraine war pushed the global oil and gas prices and the natural disasters world faced, it was expected that climate change would be taken seriously by the world community. But the negotiators from powerful countries did not change much as is evident from the deliberation at the end of CoP 27.

From the point of view of professional analysts considering the past actions on the commitments of the developed world, this

so-called deal is a vacuous statement at best. The deal stipulates that a mechanism will be established for the creation of funds for helping the least developed countries affected by the climatic vagaries like Maldives etc. The proposal includes mobilization of funds from private sources also. The document has clearly ruled out India getting any share of it rather it is expected to contribute in the fund. It does not fix any quota for the developed countries nor fixes a time frame for its implementation. The skepticism is arising because of the complete failure of the developed world led by the United States and European Union in meeting their previously agreed commitments of \$100 billion in support to the poor nations on the flimsy ground and specious arguments like accounting procedures and lack of funds.

The approach of the developed world all through in all CoPs is to blame India and China for being the biggest emitters conveniently forgetting the havoc they wrecked on nature during the past more than 150 years and more. In 2021, China accounted for the highest 25% (15 billion metric tonnes) of global CO2 emission followed by the USA accounting for 11% (5 billion Metric tonnes) of the global total. The European Union emits around 2.8 billion metric tonnes. India's emission in 2021 was 2.7 billion metric tonnes which is around 7.5 % of the global emissions. The per capita fossil CO2 emissions in 2021 were 1.3 tC per person per year for the globe and were 4.0 (USA), 2.2 (China), 1.7 (EU27), and 0.5 (India) tC per person per year for the four highest CO2 emitting countries.

India will surpass China in population in 2023, but it cannot be equated with China in funding for climate change considering the country's relatively low emissions. India's contribution to historical cumulative CO2 emissions is 3%, whereas the US. On the other hand, the EU contributed 25% and 17% respectively to total fossil CO2 emissions from 1850 to 2019. China contributed 13%, the Russian Federation 7%, and Indonesia and Brazil 1%.

Thus there is no equity, justice or fairness in global climate change talks. The climate change negotiations, therefore, for most developing countries like India are proving a wastage of money and efforts as nothing concrete except our statements before the world leaders on our achievements on the Nationally Determined Targets on Paris agreement of 2015 and how much clean

INDIA WILL SURPASS CHINA IN POPULATION IN 2023, BUT IT CANNOT BE EQUATED WITH CHINA IN FUNDING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERING THE COUNTRY'S RELATIVELY LOW EMISSIONS. INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO HISTORICAL CUMULATIVE CO2 EMISSIONS IS 3%, WHEREAS THE US. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EU CONTRIBUTED 25% AND 17% RESPECTIVELY TO TOTAL FOSSIL CO2 EMISSIONS FROM 1850 TO 2019. CHINA CONTRIBUTED 13%, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION 7%, AND INDONESIA AND BRAZIL 1% EACH.

energy we are generating and how much trees we are planting and what is our road map for achieving net-zero emission by the year 2070. The agreement on the creation of funds to support the poor nation is just recognition by the developed world after protracted negotiations of their responsible for past emissions. Now, therefore, the issue should be taken up vigorously by the developing countries in all forums and India should launch diplomatic networking to safeguard its interests and the interests of the developing world for climate justice.

India and other developing countries in the CoP 27 meet had rightfully raised the issue of the gradual elimination of all kinds of fossil fuels. Thankfully, the developed world supported this, but the Russian and Saudi Arab vehement opposition blocked ti further progress. The Indian negotiators citing the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had told the Egyptian CoP27 presidency that meeting the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement "requires phase down of all fossil fuels".

"Selective singling out of sources of emissions, for either labeling them more harmful or labeling them 'green and sustainable' even when they are sources of greenhouse gases has no basis in the best available science", they contended.

The developed world has been demanding phasing out the use of coal in power generation which India and other countries cannot agree. The developed world's hypocrisy is quite apparent on this as they have developed better alternatives for coal but on the issue of transfer of technology, they always duck the question. So neither they want to part with the technology nor they are willing to be liberal on funding the poor nations, yet they want to assume the leadership role in climate change dialogue. In a nutshell, the climate change talks regarding human welfare are proving bogus and a bore if we assess the progress since Kyoto Protocol was signed except a few successes obtained through Paris deal in 2015.

The global mean temperature will cross the 1.5°C limits in the current decade or next, and the 2°C mark during 2040–2060 as estimated by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change in their sixth report. Lip service syndrome is best exemplified by the statement of Egypt's government and subsequent decisions taken in CoP 27. The

UN Secretary-General has commented that only the creation of a loss and damage fund is not a solution. The World Bank which is outside the purview of UNFCCC can pitch in effectively in tackling the fund position if the US and its European allies are genuinely committed to treating climate change as a top global priority and accepting their responsibility to do climate justice. This was also a reason why many countries were pitching for reforms in the World Bank, which is perceived as having failed to help with the climate crisis. What is the use of the World Bank funding poverty and water-related projects in poor countries when poor countries sink further into misery due to climate-related disasters?

In several areas, the temperature in India is already on the rise from 0.8 to even 1 degree Celsius. We have less time for negotiation and should strive for more time on action. Many experts feel that India should hold parallel climate change negotiations and lead the world. The country should formulate some common action programme so that developing nations and China look inwards and help each other with technology and other resources. Efforts must be made to avoid disasters as the one Pakistan witnessed recently which wiped away 13 % of the GDP. Back home the dreadful memory of the Chennai flood will haunt for years. We need to declare climate emergencies in each country and support a programme to meet the emergency.

In the Indian scenario, we need to declare water scarcity and its poor management, agricultural uncertainties, soil degradation, and natural forest and bio-diversity depletion as a climatic emergency and emphasize alternative fuels for our transport and energy sector. Unplanned waste disposal, poor investment in natural resources, and population control must be the focus area in the overall climate action plan. Already the success is excellent on solar power generation targets. However, on climate change, world leaders should remember one quote by Zimbabwean Philosopher Matshona Dhliwayo "Busy hands achieve more than idle tongues." Let us junk these half-baked dreams being sold in diffused glib negotiations and focus on concrete doable actions.

(The Writer is a former Director-General in the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)



Amazon Prime Video were coded for the content analysis of tobacco imagery and included: The Marvellous Mrs Maisel (rated 16+); Stranger Things (rated 16+); Bodyguard (rated 16+); Riverdale (rated 13+); Narcos (rated 16+); Sacred Games (rated 18+); Mirzapur (rated 18+); Chilling Adventures of Sabrina (rated 16+); 13 Reasons Why (rated 16+); and The Crown (rated 16+).



# How to prevent humanity’s surrender to AI

The arrival of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has dramatically changed our lives. Globalisation criss-crossing the globe has pushed human civilisation to new frontiers of change. And one of the most remarkable dynamics heralded by the forces of such globalisation is no other than the grand advancements in information and communication technologies leading to the invention of the AI and its tools. It is estimated that by the year 2030, the AI could add \$13 trillion to the global economic output. This could finally increase the world’s GDP by 1.2 per cent each year. A new generation born in the Google Age is fully accustomed to AI driven tools even before the coming of the deadly Covid-19. It is hoped that the young generation would specifically contribute to the massive growth of the new AI economy.

The datafication of the world has indeed compelled all of us to surrender to AI. Experts say that big data management demands machines. Their storage, usage and distribution largely are possible only by the use of the AI tools. The very fact what machines can think was given by Alan Turing in 1950 in his seminal work called “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”. This book indeed answered many critical questions some 70 years back about AI. In that book, he proposed the idea of “The Imitation Game” that gave the idea of machine thinking like man. Today what we call “Turing Test” has become a remarkable tool in the AI paradigm. Interestingly this directly focuses on the ability of the machines to predict and respond like a human. However, the origin of the AI lies in the “Mechanical Man” found in ancient Greece and Egypt. Until 1929, Japanese professor Makoto Nishimura’s invented robot named “Gakutensoku” created waves around the world spreading the message that this machine can work like a human and sense like them. But the very word called the “Artificial Intelligence” was first coined in a conference organised in the



Dartmouth College in the US in 1956 only.

The irony is that many national governments such as the US have openly played a significant role in helping expand the big tech business. Starting from the Bush Administration’s Global Internet Freedom Task Force (GIFTF) to Obama’s International Strategy for Cyberspace: Prosperity, Security and Openness in a Networked World (ISCP-SONW), the big tech conglomerates and their subsidiaries have virtually occupied the new knowledge economy. The quintessential five — Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft (GAFAM) — have quietly pushed down the yesteryear’s large business magnates from the top of the charts of global business. This has come through entirely different routes. These corporations, besides fast becoming economic and political entities,

have started redefining the socio-cultural ethos of the common people. Their social media platforms and other high tech have interwoven people in myriad forms all across the world.

What has baffled humanity today is shocking mechanics built in the AI machines and tools. Altogether they are gradually replacing the work and skills carried out by humans for generations. By 2030, almost 47 per cent of the jobs that face high risks of automation would be taken over by AI. Besides, some of the jobs that equally involve risks and demands perfection in top industries like health, mining, space, etc, would be performed by the machines. It seems the loss of man-controlled jobs would add woes to the economic plight of us.

The biggest ever debate and dialogue is centred on the loss of privacy with the AI machines. Our very basic rights are lost with these machines. Precisely, there is no such law

as of today that can prevent the damages caused by the use of AI. The complex data environment, algorithms and the models underlying the development of the AI operations help the public institutions and the private corporations to maintain data secrecy. This kind of an environment can quickly breed public distrust over the new AI-drawn environment.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet specifically intervened and asked for a moratorium on the sale and use of AI last year. She warned of the dangers of unregulated AI tools. Further she highlighted that technology’s decisions can change, define or damage human lives. A report released by the UN in this regard clearly highlights the risks of AI technologies. It also made it public that AI can serve as a force for good but if used irresponsibly, it can bring disaster to humanity. So the

UNHRC strongly appealed that the AI devices that do not conform to the international human rights law must be banned.

The GAFAM has been central to crafting both bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements to their maximum benefit. With the birth of the WTO in 1995 along with its most controversial agreement called the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), the private corporations have started surpassing the borders of the nation-states. Many of these companies have already grown so big that they can easily take over many of the countries in the world. In fact such a scenario is posing a potential threat to the survival of the once powerful nation-state. And the GAFAM kinds of groups are virtually occupying the socio-cultural spaces of many besides being large physical entities. And when they are entering into the AI market

unlike the other business houses, they have the advantage of their huge customer base. It is an added advantage for them, and this is continuously taking the global AI market to the common people.

Now the moot question here is: Are we all responsible for giving away human rights to the AI tools and machines? The cumbersome, erratic and expansive network of globalisation has given a fillip to the upcoming AI market. And we all have become a part of the same. So only blaming the big tech companies is not enough for now.

Above all, the machines invented or created by humans should not be allowed to take away the universal human rights. But alas! We all are inseparable from the digital media networks. We are into them. And AI machines have finally stolen our treasured past and promised future. The reason behind is our intense desire for a super comfortable,

efficient and hassle-free lifestyle. As we move on to the next epoch of human civilisation, we will be certainly detached from our fellow beings. Machines will be our companions. Life will be much faster than ever before.

Gone are the days when we had abundant time for other humans to share our hopes and despairs. With AI penetrating deep down our privacy, we have seriously lost our capacity to preserve and manoeuvre what have been known as purely our own. The 21st century’s new “Data Nation” and the tech giants have grabbed our privacy. The only way to balance work and life is to hammer out concrete legal strategies (both at national and global levels) to make AI human friendly. Else humanity will soon surrender to AI.

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

**What has baffled humanity today is shocking mechanics built in the AI machines and tools. Altogether they are gradually replacing the work and skills carried out by humans for generations. By 2030, almost 47 per cent of the jobs that face high risks of automation would be taken over by AI. The loss of man-controlled jobs would add woes to the economic plight**



MAKHAN SAIKIA

## PERSPECTIVE

# 26/11: A shared pain that binds India, Israel together

The 26/11 Mumbai attacks have forged a strong bond between India and Israel. Lauding the courage of India and the people of Mumbai, Israel has said that the enormous loss on that “horrible day” in November 2008 continues to be an emotional moment for a lot of Israelis who feel that the 26/11 terror strike “is a shared pain” that binds India and Israel together.

“I remember vividly the courage of India and of the people of Mumbai and there is not one minute in which we do not benefit from the strategic partnership that was forged between us, among other things, on that horrible day,” Israeli foreign ministry’s Director General, Alon Ushpiz, wrote on Twitter.

“Tomorrow (Saturday) marks 14 years since the bloody terrorist attack in Mumbai which targeted 5 locations including the Chabad House in which Rabbi Gavriel and Rivka Holtsberg, Rabbi Gavriel Taitelbaum, Mrs. Norma Rabinovich, Rabbi Ben Zion Kurman and Mrs. Yocheved Orpaz were murdered,” Ushpiz, who has in the past served as Israel’s Ambassador in India, wrote on Friday.

Israel’s top diplomat also called India’s Ambassador to Israel, Sanjeev Singla, to convey his “deepest condolences” for this enormous loss of innocent civilians that day, among them six Israelis.

“May the memory of the victims be a blessing,” he said.

The 2008 Mumbai terror attacks continue to stir outrage in Israel, where commemora-

tive events are held on its anniversary to condemn the senseless killings and demand action against the Pakistan-based masterminds of the carnage.

With posters and banners depicting the brutality of the ghastly attacks, Indians in Israel held candlelight vigil since Friday evening on the 14th anniversary of the terror attacks that shook India. They called for the Pakistan-sponsored Lashkar-e-Tayyeba terrorists involved in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks to be brought to book.

The attacks, which drew widespread global condemnation, began on November 26 and lasted until November 29, 2008. A total of 166 people, including several foreign nationals, died and more than 300 were wounded.

Nine Pakistani terrorists were killed by the Indian security forces. Ajmal Kasab was the only terrorist who was captured alive. He was hanged four years later on November 21, 2012.

“The terrorists who killed women, children and innocents in such a frenzy should be identified and eliminated. The countries of the world should not only impose strict financial sanctions on the countries that provide shelter to the terrorists but also stop them in every way,” Ravi Soma, President of the Israel-Telangana Association told PTI.

People from Telangana, living in Israel, organised an event in Ramat Gan (close to Tel Aviv) offering prayers for the innocent lives lost in the brutal attacks and lit candles in



their memory. They also referred to the loss of six Jewish lives in the attacks in which 166 people were killed, hinting at a deliberate attempt to break the strong bonds between India and Israel.

The 26/11 attack continues to be an emotional moment for a lot of Israelis who feel that the Mumbai terror strike “is a shared pain” that binds India

and Israel together.

The Indian Chaplaincy in the Holy Land, comprising mostly of the Malayalee Community in the region, also organised a remembrance ceremony attended by a large number of people from all over the country.

Adoration/Rosary ceremony, a Holy mass for the departed in the terrorist attack,

and special prayers was followed by a meeting with people holding lit candles and posters with slogans against terrorism, some Indian flags and also calls to end violence and promote peace. “Violence divides! Love unites!”, said Rev. Pradeep, who heads the Indian Chaplaincy.

Condemning the Mumbai attacks, he said that he “prays

that such incidents will never occur again and people will live in peace and brotherhood”.

Degel Menashe, an organisation representing the Bnei Menashe Jewish community that has connections with India’s north-eastern states of Manipur and Mizoram, condemned the attacks and has planned a commemorative event on Saturday.

Members of the organisation held protest also in Churachandpur holding placards reading, “no to terrorism”, “we stand by all the victims of 26/11 attacks”, etc.

Indian students at all the leading institutions in Israel — Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, Technion in Haifa, Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, Ariel University in the West Bank and some other institutions — have also planned candlelight vigil to commemorate 26/11 on Saturday evening.

“Each drop of blood is a burning flame against terrorism. Each martyr of 26/11 is a light kindled against the darkness,” Krupa Susan Verghese, a PhD student at Ariel University told PTI.

Ankit Chauhan, a post-doctoral fellow at Ben-Gurion University, said that the “gruesome terrorist attacks inflicted deep scars on every Indian’s psyche that cannot be wiped”. “Still some of the terrorists are roaming around freely on this earth who did this heinous act. Terrorism does not have any face and terrorists should be treated with no mercy. No mercy for terror anywhere in the world,” he stressed.

Some of the students also lauded the efforts of the Indian security forces and the sacrifices made by them. “Today we once again remember our unsung brave hearts who lost their lives and we pay our sincere respect to the lost lives and their families,” said Bhavana Velpula, a PhD student in medicine at Tel Aviv University.

“As Indian nationals stay-

ing abroad, we acknowledge and condemn this terrible incident. Gatherings for such a cause connect us to our country and its roots, uniting us together as one nation and together we raise our voice against terrorism coming in any form,” she added.

Jewish outreach movement, Chabad, last year unveiled a plaque in the southern coastal city of Eilat in memory of the six Jewish victims of the Mumbai terror attacks. “To the memory and rise of souls of Rabbi Gavriel Noah and Rivka Holtsberg, who were martyred during the time of their holy mission in a terror attack at the Chabad house in Mumbai, India, from which the message of Torah was being spread all over the area,” the plaque in Hebrew reads.

The Torah constitutes the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. “And for the four guests who stayed in the Chabad house at the time of the attack, and were also martyred: Rabbi Gavriel Taitelbaum, Mrs. Norma Rabinovich, Rabbi Ben Zion Kurman, Mrs. Yocheved Orpaz. May their souls be bound up in the bond of eternal life,” the plaque in Hebrew reads.

Six Jews were among the 166 victims of the terror attack. All of them were killed at the Nariman House, popularly also known as the Chabad House. Israeli leaders and officials have also repeatedly called for the perpetrators of the horrendous crime to be “brought to justice”.

*(With inputs from PTI)*



