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SENSEX, NIFTY SETTLE
AT FRESH LIFETIME HIGHS

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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Lapid's jibe at Kashmir Files draws fire, Israel says sorry

Indonesian Min slams Israeli director's 'propaganda' remark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Israeli filmmaker and head of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) jury Nadav Lapid's remarks against the film "The Kashmir Files" snowballed into a major controversy with Israel Ambassador to New Delhi Naor Gilon on Tuesday denouncing Lapid and apologising to the hosts.

Visiting Indonesian Minister for political, legal and security affairs Mohammed Mahfud also joined the ongoing controversy and backed the film, saying it definitely not "propaganda".

"I saw the film... it is definitely not propaganda. The voice of the people in Kashmir needs to be heard... We do not accept what was said..." he said.

Actor Anupam Kher, who played the lead role in the film, termed the criticism of the Kashmir Files "pre-planned" and charged Lapid of being insensitive towards the suffering of Kashmiri Pandits.

Director of the film Vivek Agnihotri too spoke about "truth" in a cryptic media post and said, "It is the most dangerous thing as it can make people lie. Who are these people who always stand against India?...I challenge all intellectuals of the world to prove if any scene, dialogue or event shown in the film is false, then I will quit film-making."

These sharp reactions

came a day after Lapid called the film a "propaganda" and "vulgar movie" at the closing ceremony of the IFFI in Goa. *The Kashmir Files* revolves around the exodus and killing of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir Valley in 1990s.

The Israeli Ambassador apologised to India in an "open letter" on Twitter. An open letter to #NadavLapid following his criticism of #KashmirFiles. It's not in Hebrew because I wanted our Indian brothers and sisters to be able to understand. It is also relatively long so I'll give you the bottom line first. YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED. Here's why: pic.twitter.com/8YpSQGMXIR — Naor Gilon (@NaorGilon) November 29, 2022

Gilon said Lapid abused the Indian invitation to the judges' panel in the "worst way". "In Indian culture, they say a guest is like God. You have abused in the worst way the Indian invitation to chair the panel of judges at @IFFIGoa as well as the trust, respect, and warm hospitality they have bestowed on you," he added.

This terse message by the envoy was in response to Lapid saying the jurors at the film festival were "disturbed and shocked" by *The Kashmir Files*. "That felt to us like a propaganda, vulgar movie, inappropriate for an artistic competitive section of such a prestigious film festival," he said.

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Israeli filmmaker and IFFI jury chairperson Nadav Lapid, third left, being honoured at the closing ceremony of the International Film Festival of India in Goa on Monday

PTI

BJP terms film dig Holocaust denial; Cong says hate gets called out finally

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The row over the Israeli director and IFFI international jury chairperson Nadav Lapid controversial comments on the film "Kashmir files" reverberated across India's political landscape on Tuesday.

The BJP compared Lapid's condemnation of the movie to the denial of the Holocaust while the Congress called it as an "embarrassment" saying hate eventually gets called out.

BJP leader and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa

Sarma slammed criticism of *The Kashmir Files* at IFFI, saying, "Jury members aren't god. We found the film 'The Kashmir Files' to be nice and promoted it."

"We have seen ourselves what happened in Kashmir, what authority do they (jury members) have to slam the movie," news agency ANI quoted Sarma as saying on Tuesday. BJP's IT cell head Amit Malviya compared Lapid's condemnation of "The Kashmir Files" to the denial of the Holocaust.

"For the longest time, peo-

ple even denied the Holocaust and called Schindler's List a propaganda, just like some are doing to the Kashmir Files. Truth eventually triumphs, no matter what," he said.

His colleague, BJP's Goa spokesperson Savio Rodrigues, said Lapid's statement "is an insult to the horrors faced by Kashmir Hindus (in the past)".

"You can critique a film artistically but to term the truth about the brutality faced by the Kashmiri Pandits propaganda is shameful," he added.

Continued on Page 2

Gehlot, Pilot put up united face, address presser jointly

After Rahul's assets remark following Gehlot 'traitor' barb, two greet each other at party meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

A day after former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said both Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot were assets to the party, they presented a united face in public before attending a meeting with senior Congress leaders to review the preparations for Bharat Jodo Yatra which is set to enter the desert State this weekend.

Sources in the meeting said that Gehlot and Pilot exchanged pleasantries in the presence of members of the coordination committee, including AICC general secretary KC Venugopal and Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra.

"This is the Rajasthan Congress," Venugopal said addressing the media jointly with Gehlot and Pilot. Venugopal recalled former party president Rahul Gandhi's remarks in Indore on Monday, when he said both leaders are assets to the party.

"Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot have assured that the Yatra will be the one of the most successful in the country. I am sure that Rajasthan will also be the number 1 State," Venugopal told reporters.

"When Rahul Gandhi has said that our leaders are assets then we are assets... Where is the dispute then," Gehlot said when asked about Rahul's observation.



Congress general secretary KC Venugopal raises his hands with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and party leader Sachin Pilot during the State-level coordination committee meeting on 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' at party headquarters in Jaipur on Tuesday

PTI

Gehlot's remarks were in sharp contrast to his remarks calling Pilot a "traitor". Rahul in an interaction with the media had in Indore on Monday said that both leaders were assets to the party.

"Rahul Gandhi also meant that every party worker is an asset. This is the beauty of our party that after our top leader says anything, there is no scope (for further argument)," Gehlot added. He also reviewed the preparations for the Bharat Jodo Yatra route in the desert State that Rahul will lead into this weekend.

Gehlot stirred a controversy last week in an interview when he said that Pilot is a "gaddar" (traitor) who cannot replace him as he had revolted against the Congress in 2020, and tried to topple the State Government. In response, Pilot said such "mud-slinging" would not help.

Briefing the media, Gehlot also said the main issue before

the party is the 2023 Assembly election, and claimed the mood is in the favour of the Congress.

"We will win the Assembly elections. We have introduced several unique schemes and programmes which are benefiting people across the State. I get an overwhelming response from people when I go on visits. It means that the Government is going to be repeated," he said.

Targeting the BJP, Gehlot said that the party should bother about itself instead of commenting on the Congress.

On reports of NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery's concern over the revival of the Old Pension Scheme, the CM said the NITI Aayog or the Reserve Bank of India should first tell what concerns they had raised at the time of demonetisation.

He said the old scheme for Government employees was revived in the state for social security.

Feted director Lapid's run-in not one-off case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

He headed the international jury at IFFI, has been to India earlier and is a much awarded filmmaker. But it was not until his blunt criticism of "The Kashmir Files" that Israeli director Nadav Lapid hit the headlines, and had people scouring the net to find out more about him.

The Tel Aviv born and Paris-based filmmaker's comments describing the movie as vulgar and a propaganda during the closing ceremony of the 53rd International Film Festival of India in Goa on Monday propelled him straight into a raging row.

Lapid, who said he was disturbed and shocked at "The Kashmir Files" being chosen for the Indian Panorama sec-

tion, is clearly a man used to speaking his mind — and doesn't matter if he ruffles a few feathers in the bargain. Doesn't matter either if India's Minister and its top stars might be in the audience.

The 47-year-old director of "Policeman" and "The Kindergarten Teacher", chosen to head the international jury at IFFI 2022, had just a few days ago aired his views on the Indian national anthem being played at the opening ceremony of the festival.

"I completely admire the fierce patriotism, but that was an overwhelming experience for an artist at an international event," the writer-director told *The Peacock*, the flagship publication of the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), one of the organisers of

the event along with Information and Broadcasting ministry and National Film Development Corporation.

In the interview, published during the November 20-28 festival, he also said he is not participating as an ambassador of Israel but an artist willing to experience different cultures.

"If I wanted to represent Israel, I would have gotten into diplomacy," said the director often viewed as anti-establishment in his country.

Unusual for a man in showbiz, Lapid mostly stays away from social media platforms and shuns the media glare.

Based in France, Lapid is the son of writer Haim Lapid and film editor Eira Lapid.

Continued on Page 2

Pandav Nagar murder: Hunt on for weapons

Stepson seen walking with man's body parts in bag; Anjan was killed for lewd behaviour towards stepdaughter, bahu

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police is yet to recover the weapons used by a woman and her son for killing and chopping the body of her husband into 10 pieces in Pandav Nagar area.

Sources in the Delhi Police said the weapons of murder are yet to be recovered and further investigation is underway. The duo is currently in the police custody. Sources said a team of Delhi Police is likely to visit Bihar to record the statements of Anjan's family and his children. The case bears eerie similarities with the murder of 26-year-old Shradha Walkar by Aftab in the national Capital.

The police have accessed CCTV footage that shows



Deepak walking with a bag in his hand late at night.

The police said this is one of his trips to throw away the body parts of his stepfather. His mother Poonam is seen following him. Another clip shows them during the day, apparently to identify spots to dispose of the pieces. The trigger for the grisly crime was the fact that Anjan had alleged ill intentions towards her stepdaughter and Deepak's wife as

well, and he was also sending Poonam's earnings to his other wife and eight children in Bihar. Poonam worked as a domestic help in the area.

In April, Poonam hatched a conspiracy to eliminate Anjan with the help of her son Deepak, said the police, adding that the duo on May 30 served alcohol laced with sleeping pills to him.

The mother-son stabbed Anjan with a dagger and a knife over the neck, chest and abdomen, the police said, adding that after the murder, the body was kept in a room.

The blood got drained from the body by the next morning and they then started cutting it into 10 pieces and kept them in the fridge.

Adani wins bid to redevelop largest slum Dharavi

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Adani Group has emerged as the highest bidder for the redevelopment of Dharavi, one of the world's largest slums.

The Adani group's bid of ₹5,069 crore for the 259-hectare

Dharavi Redevelopment Project was much higher than second-placed DLF's quote of ₹2,025 crore, said chief executive officer of the project SVR Srinivas.

"We will now be sending the details to the Government, which will consider and give final approval," Srinivas told PTI, adding that the Eknath Shinde Government will approve it in a couple of weeks.

The bid is for the entire

₹20,000-crore project, and the total timeline for the project is seven years to rehabilitate the 6.5 lakh slum dwellers who are spread over a 2.5 sqkm area right now, he said. The project, which will help the winning bidder to book high revenues by selling lakhs of square feet of residential and commercial space in central Mumbai, has been in limbo for many years now because of its complexities.

Eight bidders, including entities from South Korea and the UAE, had attended a pre-bid meeting held in October and three of them actually bid for the project. Naman Group, a city-based developer, was the third whose bid did not qualify.

Continued on Page 2

Vistara to merge into AI; Singapore Airlines to buy 25.1% stake

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Tata group on Tuesday announced the merger of Vistara with Air India under a deal wherein Singapore Airlines will also acquire a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India, marking a major consolidation in India's fast-growing aviation space.

The deal, which will make Air India the country's largest international carrier and second-largest domestic carrier, is expected to be completed by March 2024, subject to regulatory approvals.

Currently, Tata Group owns a 51 per cent stake in Vistara and the rest is with

Singapore Airlines (SIA). Singapore Airlines (SIA) said it would be investing ₹2,058.5 crore in Air India as part of the merger transaction. Vistara and Air India are the country's second and third largest domestic carriers, respectively. Together, their market share stood at 18.3 per cent in October.

Tata Group has not provided any details about the merged entity such as those pertaining to branding, uniforms and frequent flyer programmes, although it seems likely that Vistara as a brand name might not exist in the long run.

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World Cup turns Qatar into melting pot of world affairs

AP ■ LONDON

Soccer — or football, to most of the global billions watching the World Cup this month — is not human society itself, with all its thorny issues. But at times, the game is a reflection of the entire planet — of nations, their disputes, their aspirations and those of a multitude of minority communities.

In early November, just weeks before the most heavily scrutinised World Cup in the tournament's history kicked off in Qatar, top FIFA officials sent a letter urging teams to "let football take centre stage."

FIFA president Gianni Infantino followed this up on the eve of the opening match with a one-hour diatribe against all who had criticised the host nation's human rights

record, the conditions that led to thousands of migrant workers dying building the nation's glittering new stadiums and its stance on LGBTQ issues.

Fans from around the world have a different idea of what that "centre stage" should show. Many, but not all, Iranians attending matches in Qatar have wanted to express their support for protesters at home. And they've wanted the team to do the same.

Other political issues have been erupting fast and furious on a near-daily basis. And outside the World Cup bubble, the world itself has kept turning in some of its most fractious events, both unsurprising and surprising: Russia's war in Ukraine, mass shootings in the United States and the sudden eruption of protests in China.



A protester is taken off pitch during the World Cup group H soccer match between Portugal and Uruguay, at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, on Monday

AP

Of the sporting spirit, George Orwell wrote: "I am always amazed when I hear people saying that sport creates goodwill between the nations, and that if only the common peoples of the world could meet one another at football or cricket, they would have no

inclination to meet on the battlefield."

His point stands. Russia was banned from this World Cup after hosting the previous one in 2018, mirroring the isolation the country and its leaders face for the Ukraine invasion. Ukraine itself fell at

the last hurdle for qualification, with fans at home likely more concerned about bombardment and survival amid electricity and water shortage than watching matches in Qatar.

Decades of enmity between the United States and Iran have been seeping into the buildup before the two nations play a critical World Cup match Tuesday that could see one of the countries progress to the knockout stages. The US Soccer Federation briefly displayed Iran's national flag on social media without the emblem of the Islamic Republic, saying the move supported protesters inside Iran. The Tehran government reacted by accusing America of removing the name of God from its national flag.

The century-long Israeli-

Palestinian conflict, including Israel's occupation of lands Palestinians want for a future state, has also featured in Qatar, though neither national team is competing.

The Palestinian flag and pro-Palestinian fans have been prominent, while Israeli media and fans have been less welcome in an Arab nation that has not normalized relations with Israel.

As Morocco completed a famous victory over the highly-ranked stars of Belgium Sunday, unrest broke out in Belgian cities and also in the Netherlands, where the immigrant North African community has long been marginalized.

"Those are not fans; they are rioters. Moroccan fans are there to celebrate," the mayor of Brussels said.

AAP will be people’s choice in 2024 Assembly polls in Haryana: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Buoyed by its performance in the Zila Parishad elections in Haryana, the Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday vowed to emerge as the "number one choice" of people in the Assembly polls scheduled for 2024 in the BJP-ruled state.

The AAP grabbed second spot in the Zila Parishad elections, bagging 15 of over 100 seats that its candidates contested on the party symbol, in Haryana. The BJP won just 22 of the 100 seats it had contested.

The Zila Parishad elections in Haryana, results of which were declared on Sunday, also saw the Indian National Lok Dal making some



gains as it won 10 seats in Sirsa. However, the majority of the seats in several districts, including Jhajjar, Hisar, Rewari and Rohtak, were won by Independents.

"We will come in first position in (Haryana Legislative) Assembly polls, become first choice of the people," Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is also the AAP's national convenor, told

reporters when asked for comment on his party's performance in the Zila Parishad polls.

Elections to 143 Panchayat Samitis and 22 Zila Parishads in Haryana were held in three phases. The Panchayat Samitis, comprising 3,081 members, will elect their respective presidents.

Haryana has 22 Zila Parishads comprising 411 members. The members will, in turn, elect the 22 Zila Parishad chiefs. The AAP's victory in 15 Zila Parishad seats has come as a boost to its expansion plan in the BJP-ruled state.

The Kejriwal-led party has been vigorously implementing its membership drive to gain a foothold in Haryana

with an eye on the 2024 Assembly polls.

However, a miserable defeat for its candidate Satender Singh, who had switched over from the BJP, in the Adampur Assembly bypoll earlier this month had come as a setback in those efforts.

The BJP's Bhavya Bishnoi, grandson of former chief minister Bhajan Lal, won the seat by over 15,740 votes, defeating Congress nominee Jai Prakash.

The resignation of Bhavya's father Kuldeep Bishnoi after he left the Congress and joined the BJP had necessitated the bypoll.

Ahead of the bypoll, Kejriwal had launched his party's 'Make India No.1' campaign from Hissar on September 7.

Conman Sukesh writes fresh letter to LG alleging threats to drop plaint against Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Jailed fraudster Sukesh Chandrasekhar has written a fresh letter to Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, alleging he is receiving threats from the jail administration to withdraw his complaint against jailed AAP leader and Delhi minister Satyendar Jain. In his eighth letter against AAP leaders, Sukesh said his family received threat calls from numbers belonging to Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and jailed minister Satyendar Jain's "close aide".

"On November 16 and 17, my family received phone calls from unknown number in which a person named 'JK' spoke to them... I recollect 'JK'



as 'Jay Kishan' who is a close associate of Satyendar Jain and is based in UAE but keeps shuttling between Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai and he is a pharma contractor and I have met him with Jain previously," said the Mandoli Jail inmate in his hand-written letter, which was posted through his lawyer Ashok Singh.

"My family has informed me that the caller JK threatened them and asked them to

convey to me not to go against Jain, Kejriwal and AAP. He said Jain 'Saab' and Kejriwal 'Saab' are ready for compromise and promised that double amount will be given back and also promised that any contract of my choice will be issued to any one I say in Punjab provided I stay quiet till December 8," he claimed in his letter.

"Further, if I continue, then I would be tortured and killed. Surprisingly on November 21 and 24, my family received phone calls from two mobile numbers... the numbers were verified and were found to be of Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain," said Sukesh adding that his family did not answer calls due to constant threats received

previously from multiple unknown numbers. Sukesh claimed that he and his family started getting threats after the Principal Secretary, Home and Law along with Vigilance has recorded his statement in detailed regarding all the contents written by me in my complaints filed before you, previously.

"After my first statement was recorded on November 14 in Mandoli Jail by the committee, the next day I was threatened by the jail administration to make sure, I do not divulge any details or provide any evidence if I continue and go against Jain, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and jail administration, I will be shown what living 'NARK' (hell) is," his letter stated.

Woman gives shoe-beating to man at Hindu Ekta Manch event

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A video of a woman sharing a stage with a man and later hitting him with slippers during an event hosted by Hindu Ekta Manch went viral on Tuesday. The incident took place in south Delhi's Chhatrapur where the Manch was conducting a programme 'Beti Bachao Mahapanchayat'.

The organisation, however, said neither the woman nor the man is associated with it. In the video, the woman with her face covered can be seen climbing the



stage and talking about her plight at the programme. She then started hitting the man standing near her with slippers. Others present on the stage intervened and tried to pacify

her and she was taken off the stage.

The Hindu Ekta Manch clarified that it was a personal dispute and both the parties were related. "It was a personal dispute. The man is not associated in any way with the Hindu Ekta Manch. The matter was resolved immediately. No police complaint was filed," Hindu Ekta Manch worker Laxman Singh said.

BJP terms film dig Holocaust...

From Page 1

On its part, the main opposition Congress attacked the Government and said "hate gets called out, eventually".

"PM Modi, his Govt, BJP, the RW ecosystem feverishly promoted 'The Kashmir Files'. A movie rejected by International Film Festival Of India. Jury Head Nadav Lapid called it 'propaganda, vulgar movie - inappropriate for the film festival'," said Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete.

Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi shared a video link of the Israeli filmmaker's speech where he criticised "The Kashmir Files".

"A sensitive issue of justice for Kashmiri Pandits was sacrificed at the altar of propaganda. This is a must listen segment at the #IFFIGoa2022," Chaturvedi said.

Her party colleague Sanjay Raut supported Lapid's and said the film has been politicised after its release and has caused more

Kashmiri Pandits to suffer.

"It's true about the Kashmir Files. There was propaganda by one party against another. A party and Government were busy with publicity. But a maximum number of killings in Kashmir occurred after this film. Kashmiri Pandits, security personnel were killed," Raut said.

Actor Swara Bhasker, known for her views against the Government, shared a link to the news story about Lapid's remarks at the closing ceremony of the film gala.

"Apparently it's pretty clear to the world," Bhasker who is also known as AAP backer wrote in the caption.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina said Israeli director Lapid's remarks on "The Kashmir Files" reflected his lack of knowledge about the ground situation in the Union Territory while filmmaker Ashok Pandit demanded a probe into his appointment.

Adani wins bid to redevelop largest...

From Page 1

The Government has sought a consolidated net worth of a minimum of Rs 20,000 crore to choose the winning bid and is likely to evaluate both technical and financial eligibility before awarding the project to the highest bidder.

The winning bidder is required to form a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for executing the project, and a staggered timeline of investments has also been stipulated by the Government.

The developer has to take care of rehabilitation, renewal, amenities, and infrastructure components.

Vistara to merge in AI; Singapore Airlines...

From Page 1

Teams are working on various aspects of the merger, including those related to frequent flyer programmes. It will take time before the specifics are finalised. The required changes and announcements will be made in due course, two officials in the know said.

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said the merger of Vistara and Air India is an important milestone in the journey to make Air India a truly world-class airline.

"As part of the transformation, Air India is focusing on growing both its network and fleet, revamping its customer proposition, enhancing safety, reliability, and on-time performance. We are excited with the opportunity of creating a strong Air India which would offer both full-

service and low-cost service across domestic and international routes," he said.

Currently, Air India offers economy, business and first class seats while Vistara offers economy, premium economy and business classes. Once the consolidation is complete, passengers are expected to have more choices in terms of domestic and international flights in a seamless manner under the Tata group umbrella.

In a release on Tuesday, Tata group said that with the consolidation, Air India would be the country's leading domestic and international carrier with a combined fleet of 218 aircraft.

At present, Tata group has four airlines under its wings - Air India, Vistara, AirAsia India and Air India Express, which is focused on low-cost international services.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	30-Elect-56-T-2022-23-E3 Electrical work in connection with provision of air conditioners and UPS in Doctors chambers in dispensaries over Delhi division.
Approx. cost of the works in	Rs. 45.05 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divil. Elect. Engineer/General New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 90100.00
Date & time of submission of tender	26.12.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	26.12.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

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(A) 1. 34/DGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/2022-23, S.T.P Treated water line Sewerage Distric-A (Providing and laying of Missing Link of treated water pipe line in Sector-55, 57, 58 and Extension upto Sec-28 and 52 Parks and Green Belt) NOIDA. Cost Rs. 40.88 Lac
Which can be uploaded by date:- 13.12.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date:-14.12.2022 at 11.00 AM.
(B) 1. 16/PGM/AO/SM(JAL-OA)/22-23, O/M of sewer line and MSPS/IPS at Expressway (Cleaning and removal of existing rubbish/Bio mass/Grit and Sediment Material from Open inlet Chamber and well upto Bottom Invert Level IPS-4, Sec-44 and IPS-3, Sec-93A at Noida Gr. Noida Expressway), NOIDA. Cost Rs. 34.04 Lac
Which can be uploaded by date:- 06.12.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date:- 07.12.2022 at 11.00 AM.
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e mail - serw_ctc@vahoo.com

No. Tender Online RWC -31/22 Letter No.-4837 Date :- 23.11.2022

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1. Name of the work	: Building Work
2. Class of Contractor	: A Class contractor
3. Time for Completion	: As specified in the Column-5 of the Annexure.
4. Detail Projects	: As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender		
		From To		Technical Bid Financial Bid		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online RWC - 31 / 22	02. 12.2022 at 11.30 A.M.	20.12.2022 to 05.00 P.M.	20.12.2022 up to 01.00 P.M.	21.12.2022 at 11.30 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Cuttack

OIPR: 2509/71/10039/2223

and despairing" look at the Israeli society, won the Special Jury Prize at Locarno Film Festival.

It was written and directed shortly before demonstrations across Israel in 2011, when thousands of people took to the streets to protest the rising cost of living.

In a 2014 interview with US-based website Film Comment, Lapid described "Policeman" as a "pessimistic

film about social immobility and incapacity to change reality."

"I identified a huge elephant in the Israeli living room: social injustice and inequality. Unlike historians or sociologists, a filmmaker has the privilege of imagination. I wrote a story about an imagined group shortly before similar groups came to life. In that sense it is an interesting case of the relationship between fiction and

reality."

When the feature was released in Israel in August the same year, the government film rating authority, equivalent to India's CBFC, declared it suitable for 18-year-olds and above. Lapid called the decision an attempt to censor the film's troubling depiction of economic inequity leading to civic uprising. Following the outrage, the age limit was revised from 18 to 14.

Lapid's jibe at Kashmir Files...

From Page 1

The jury has distanced itself from his remarks, calling them his "personal opinion", after severe backlash. The Israeli Ambassador said his country men should be humble as Indians are consuming a lot of Israeli content, including the 'Fauda' TV series.

"I'm no film expert but I do know that it's insensitive and presumptuous to speak about historic events before deeply studying them and which are an open wound in India because many of the involved are still around and still paying a price," he said. Gilon said he was "extremely hurt" to see the reactions in India that Lapid was doubting 'Schindler's List', a movie based on the Holocaust.

"I unequivocally condemn such statements. There is no justification. It does show the sensitivity of the Kashmir issue here," he said.

The diplomat said, "As a son of a Holocaust survivor, I was extremely hurt to see reactions in India to you that are doubting Schindler's List, the Holocaust and worse."

"From your interview to Ynet the connection you make between your criticism of #KashmirFiles and your dislike to what is happening in Israeli politics was quite evident," the envoy said. Lapid reportedly is viewed as an anti-establishment filmmaker. Citing the interview, Gilon said the connection the filmmaker makes between his criticism of "The Kashmir Files" and his dislike to what is happening in Israeli politics was quite evident. "My sug-

gestion. As you vocally did in the past, feel free to use the liberty to sound your criticism of what you dislike in Israel but no need to reflect your frustration on other countries. I'm not sure that you have enough factual basis to make such comparisons," he said.

"You will go back to Israel thinking that you are bold and 'made a statement'. We, the representatives of Israel, would stay here. You should see our DM boxes following your 'bravery' and what implications it may have on the team under my responsibility," Gilon said. India-Israel ties are very strong and will survive the "damages" inflicted by his remarks, Gilon said in his tweets addressed to Lapid. "As a human being I feel ashamed and want to apologize to our hosts for the bad manner in which we repaid them for their generosity and friendship," said the envoy.

Kher, who played a protagonist in the movie, called the criticism of "The Kashmir Files" at the film festival "pre-planned" and accused Lapid of being insensitive towards the suffering of Kashmiri Pandits. Kher, addressing the media with Israel's consul general Kobbi Shoshani — who also condemned Lapid's remarks, said, "If you are a jury member you cannot use words like 'vulgar or propaganda. I think it is a vulgar remark by that person, who himself is vulgar and opportunistic'."

"To use the platform of IFFI for your own agenda is not only unfortunate, it's disgusting."

The actor blamed what he

called the "toolkit gang" for the whole controversy. "A reliable source informed me that he was missing from his room throughout the night. This was not the statement he was to give at the closing ceremony of the film festival. What he said was entirely different. This is pre-planned as immediately after his remarks the toolkit gang became active on social media," he said. The actor said it is shameful for a person from a community (Jews) that suffered the horrors of the Holocaust to make such offensive remarks on a movie based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits.

"The one who does not understand the pain of people of holocaust victims in his country, can't understand the pain of Kashmiri Pandits," Kher said. "I as a Kashmiri Pandit reject his remarks," he said. The actor said Kobbi Shoshani called him up to apologise for Lapid's remarks and then came to meet him. "That was Lapid's personal opinion, it has nothing to do with State of Israel."

We don't accept it," Shoshani told media. Kher on Monday night shared images from "The Kashmir Files" and the movie "Schindler's List" on Twitter. "Schindler List" is a movie based on the holocaust.

Without mentioning Lapid's name, Kher wrote, "No matter how big the lie is, it's always small in comparison to the truth."

The Kashmir Files' was screened at IFFI on November 22 as a part of the Indian Panorama Section.

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E-Auction Sale Notice

Circle Office- 01 Paltan Bazar, PNB House, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive/physical/symbolic** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is"**, **"As is what is"**, and **"Whatever there is"** on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of dues due to the Bank/Secured creditor from the respective borrower(s), and Guarantor (s). The Reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Sl. No.	Name of The Branch	Name of the Account	Name & Addresses of The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/Owner's Name (Mortgagers of Property (ies))	(A) (D) of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002	(B) Outstanding Amount as on (C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT, 2002	(A) Reserve Price	(B) EMD	(C) Last Date of deposit of EMD	(D) Bid Increase Amount	DATE & TIME OF AUCTION	Details of The Encumbrances Known To The Secured Creditors
					(A) (D) of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002	(B) Outstanding Amount as on (C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT, 2002	(A) Reserve Price	(B) EMD	(C) Last Date of deposit of EMD	(D) Bid Increase Amount		
This Notice is also to be Treated as 30 days statutory notice to under Rule 8(6) Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002												
1.	Clock Tower, Dehradun, Uttarakhand			All that residential property bearing M.C No. B-XIV-4736/1 measuring 200 Sq Yards comprised in Kharsa No. 144 Khata No. 874/ 943, as per jamabandi for the year 2007-08 situated at Mauja Taraf Saidan Hadbast No. 172 situated at Sunder Nagar, Tehsil & District Ludhiana. Bounded & Butted as under: North: Property of Mr. Ranjeet side measuring 60 ft, South: Property of Manisha Jain, side measuring 60 ft, East: Road side measuring 30 ft, West: House cum Plot No. 10 side measuring 30 ft.	25.04.2019	Rs 2,02,19,681.68 as on 01.04.2019 + interest thereon	Rs 1,15,07,300.00			06.01.2023 From 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	Not Known to	
					21.09.2022		Up to 5 PM					
					Physical Possession		Rs 1,00,000.00					

TERMS AND CONDITIONS :
1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions :
2. The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and **"WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"**
3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
4. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.msctccommerce.com>.
5. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, www.msctccommerce.com, <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> & www.pnbindia.in
6. For any query the Interested bidder May Contact **Shri Nagar Saxena**, Mob. No. 8826137239 & **Shri R.K. Kohli**, Mob. No. 9412052465
STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Date: 30.11.2022 Place: Dehradun Authorised Officer

People will run MCD as RWAs will be like mini-councillors: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) in the national Capital will get political and financial powers and they will run like mini-councillors of the ward if the AAP comes to power in the civic body.

Naming it the 'Janata Chalayegi MCD (Public will run MCD)' campaign, Kejriwal appealed to the public to vote for the AAP and get their tasks done "swiftly" through RWAs. Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Kejriwal said the idea behind this vision is to "make people the owners of Delhi (*janata ko Dilli ka malik banana hai*)."

"Today, we want to say that if the AAP comes to power in the MCD after the municipal poll, we are going to really empower RWAs. We will give them political and financial powers," said Kejriwal, who is also the AAP's national convener. "All of you must appeal for votes for the AAP by going door to door and sending



Whatsapp messages," he said. "If any other party's councillor comes to power, he will not allow RWAs to work. You have to ensure that the AAP gets all 250 seats," Kejriwal said. "RWAs will be given funds to run their offices."

RWAs will be empowered. The real purpose behind this is to allow the people of Delhi to take their own decisions. I appeal to all RWAs to support AAP. We will frame a trans-

parent framework. We will rely on online platforms also, so that MLAs, councillors and RWAs all know where the problem is and there is accountability. The public's work will be done swiftly," Kejriwal added.

In a tweet, Kejriwal said, "Public will now run the Government in MCD. We will empower every RWA of Delhi by giving the status of 'Mini Councillor'. Our objective is to

decentralise power and give it in the hands of the public. Every citizen of Delhi will be the Chief Minister of the national Capital," Kejriwal also tweeted, "I challenge BJP national president JP Nadra to tell what work they have done in the MCD in the past 15 years. Tell me at least one work you have taken up in 5 years, apart from abusing me."

"If the BJP had done any good work in the last 15 years,

RWAs: Move will help people only if promise is fulfilled

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Most RWAs appeared unimpressed with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's announcement of "mini councillor" status to them if the AAP wins the civic polls. They said if the promise is fulfilled, it would prove beneficial for the people but past experience does not evoke much confidence.

Meanwhile, the BJP and Congress on Tuesday slammed Kejriwal saying that making the members of the RWA 'mini councillors' of the MCD is an

'election gimmick'. Atul Goyal, president, United RWAs Joint Action (URJA), a confederation of 2,500 RWAs in Delhi, said, "RWAs are neutral bodies. We don't take sides in elections. Just days ahead of the election you are trying to lure us." Goyal said there are thousands of RWAs in the city and if the AAP Government is serious about the promise they should bring an RWA Act. "Then only a real change will be brought in society," he said.

Echoing Goyal's view, Ashok Bhasin, president of a north Delhi RWA said, "If ful-

filled, this will help people and bring a change. But these are hollow promises. In August 2017, he made a similar promise that RWAs will be involved in the decision-making. Then he promised to give funds to the RWAs."

BS Vohra, president, Federation of East Delhi RWAs, welcomed the announcement to empower the RWAs. "But the concept of mini 'parishad' is not clear yet. Any cash assistance must go to the SDM and work must be done through him. Let's remain apolitical bodies and

therefore please don't ask us to run after votes," Vohra said.

Delhi BJP election committee convener Ashish Sood alleged, "The people of Delhi have seen from time to time that some AAP MLAs have neglected RWAs and misbehaved with their officials."

Like the MLAs, the corporators of the party who won in 2017 also never held any RWA or Mohalla Sabha meet in their area." Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar termed this move a "blatant lie" saying that another false promise made by Kejriwal.

there would have been no need to bring 17 Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and MPs on the ground to seek votes for the MCD polls.

See, I am campaigning alone," he said Earlier, Kejriwal interacted with local residents during a door-to-door campaign in the Chirag Delhi area to seek support for the AAP in

the MCD polls.

Taking a dig at the BJP, Kejriwal said if the BJP had "worked" during its rule in the city's civic body, then it wouldn't have required so many CMs and Union Ministers to campaign for them for the MCD election. "There's garbage everywhere in the city. I'll clean the city if voted to power. The

BJP abuses me day and night. We have made arrangements for water, we will take responsibility for garbage disposal too. Give one chance to AAP, and we will clean the city like never before," Kejriwal said. "We will make Delhi shine," the AAP supremo told residents.

He also referred to the BJP as a "film production compa-

ny" over the recently leaked videos of AAP Minister Satyendar Jain in prison. "The BJP has become a film production company. The only difference is, normal movies are released on Friday. These people release a movie every day. They release a picture at 9 AM daily and it runs till 12," he added.

Laxmi appointed as Gautam Buddh Nagar Police Commissioner



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh Government has appointed IPS officer Laxmi Singh as the new Noida Police chief, making her the first woman officer to head a Police Commissionerate in the State. Laxmi, 48, has been serving as an Inspector General of Police, Lucknow range. She holds the distinction of being the first woman IPS topper (33rd rank overall) in the UPSC-held exams and was adjudged the best probationer at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad, as per official records.

She has also been awarded the PM's silver bation and the home minister's pistol during her training. Holding a B.Tech degree in Mechanical Engineering, she had her first posting as senior superintendent of police in 2004.

In 2013, she was promoted as a deputy IG and in 2018 she was promoted to the rank of IG. Laxmi has previously served as the IG/DIG of the Special Task Force (STF) in Gautam Buddh Nagar from January 1, 2018 to March 5, 2018.

Thereafter, she was made IG of the police training school in Meerut from March 2018 to

May 26 in 2020 before being moved as IG Range Lucknow.

A senior official who has worked with her told said that she maintains a personal diary of criminal incidents that take place in her jurisdiction. The new Noida Police chief is married to BJP MLA from Sarojini Nagar seat in Lucknow and former ED officer Rajeshwar Singh.

Among other awards, Laxmi has received the Police Medal in 2016, UP DGP's silver and gold medals in 2020 and 2021. She was last year honoured with the UP chief minister's excellence in service medal.

The 2000-batch officer, who replaced Alok Singh in Gautam Buddh Nagar, is expected to take charge on Wednesday.

The UP government late Monday night issued a transfer and posting list of 16 Indian Police Service (IPS) officers in the state, including for the new Commissionerates of Varanasi, Agra and Prayagraj. The state at present has 7 police commissionerates, a policy structure created first in 2020.

Alok Singh, a 1995-batch IPS officer, has been posted as an additional director general of police (ADGP) at the DGP office in state capital Lucknow. The state government, last week, announced three new police commissionerates in three districts of Ghaziabad, Agra and Prayagraj. This was in addition to four existing ones in Lucknow, Gautam Buddh Nagar (Noida), Varanasi and Kanpur.

The commissionerates in Lucknow and Gautam Buddh Nagar were established in January 2020 while they were set up in Varanasi and Kanpur in March 2021.

'Kejriwal is Mungeri Lal, dreaming of winning MCD polls'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Sports & Youth Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur on Tuesday slammed the Arvind Kejriwal Government as "corrupt" and "shameless" and asked people to repose faith in the BJP candidates in the forthcoming MCD polls. Thakur held public meetings in Ward No. 202 Preet Vihar, 208 Anarkali, 207 Vishwas Nagar, 242 Dayalpur and 230 Bhajanpura. Thakur said Kejriwal has written an unforgettable chapter in the politics of lies and deceit during his seven years in office.

"Arvind Kejriwal used to say that he will make Delhi like London. It seems that he is making everything in jail only. He leads a corrupt and shameless regime."

As soon as the AAP formed the Government in Punjab, their Health Minister had to resign on charges of corruption. Delhi's Health Minister has been in jail for the last six months. From mineral water to massage, all 5-star facilities are available in jail for him. This can happen only in Kejriwal's model.

AAP Ministers do corruption and Kejriwal gives them certificates of integrity. This is the Delhi model of Kejriwal," the Minister said.

Claiming that the AAP Government has become synonymous with anarchy, Thakur said it has three friends, alcohol, scams and corruption.

"Arvind Kejriwal is Mungeri Lal who is dreaming of winning MCD elections. But the sensible people of Delhi will not fall prey to his false claims and hollow promises," he said, adding, "AAP made tall claims in UP and Uttarakhand also. But what happened? Their deposits were forfeited. In UP, out of 403 seats, deposits could not be saved in even a single seat. In Uttarakhand also the account did not open."



Sambit Patra highlights MCD's achievements after AAP's challenge

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra on Tuesday highlighted achievements of the BJP's 15 years in the MCD after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asked the saffron party chief JP Nadra to highlight at least two works done by it in the civic body.

Addressing a press conference, Patra said heights of residential buildings went up to 17.5 metres from 15 metres. As per the new rule, a NOC from the fire department will no longer be required for redevelopment of residential buildings with still parking.

"The MCD has also eased norms for open air and rooftop restaurants. Services like making birth and death certificates, applying for a trade licence and paying property tax have gone online. A total of 17 multilevel parking have been constructed and the remaining nine will be completed soon, 7.5 lakh street lights have been converted to LEDs, today 60 per cent of all street lights in Delhi are powered by solar energy and



because of this, the corporation is saving Rs 140 crore for the people of Delhi," he claimed.

"Bharat Darshan and Waste-to-Wonder parks have been constructed, and over one crore tourists have come to see them, plus Door-to-Door collection of garbage is being made available at 60 per cent of places in the city."

To increase cleanliness, solid waste disposal has been increased by installing 220 compactors," Patra said. "Space has been made by closing 1,482 garbage dumps and many NGOs have started working in those places, Waste-to-Energy plants have been set up and the height of all the three landfill sites in Delhi has been reduced by 20 meters," he added.

AAPs Jansamvaad, Nukkad Sabhas in Delhi's 148 areas

New Delhi: The AAP on Tuesday held Jansamvaad, Nukkad Sabhas and Buzz Programs in around 148 areas of the national Capital under its election campaign ahead of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls.

Several senior leaders of the AAP including party's national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Rajya Sabha MPs Sushil Gupta and Raghav Chadha, Cabinet Ministers Kailash Gahlot and Raaj Kumar Anand hit the roads to seek voters for the municipal elections.

"The way people's support is being received in every Jansamvaad, it has been proved that Kejriwal is the first choice of the people in MCD. He will bring progress in the corporation, cleanliness will be ensured, roads and streets will be repaired, parks will be maintained, stray animal crisis will be resolved," said a

senior AAP official. "On December 4, all the deposits of BJP will be forfeited in MCD and the AAP government will be formed with the support of public."

Kejriwal has promised that if his Government comes to power in civic body, people will get rid of all three mountains of garbage within next five years," he said. Kejriwal lead door-to-door campaign in Chirag Delhi where he talked to every resident on his way

and patiently explained to them party's pitch for polls. During the campaign, he also sat down at a local chai-tapri to sip tea with locals and get a sense of political atmosphere at grassroots. However, Sisodia held 10 Nukkad Sabhas at 10 different locations across East Delhi including Pandav Nagar, Shakarpur, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Anarkali, Jagatpuri, Geeta Colony, Krishna Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, and Shastri Park.



AAP trade Wing declares '10 Guarantees' for over 20L businessmen in MCD Polls

New Delhi: The AAP Trade Wing on Tuesday announced '10 Guarantees' for over 20 lakh businessmen of the national capital.

Informing about the guarantees, AAP Trade Wing Convener Brijesh Goyal stated that the party will provide resolution of the issue of conversion charges and parking charges, Parking arrangement in association with the local market, Freedom from

'Inspector Raj' and 'Recovery Raj', Shops sealed by the MCD will be de-sealed, Simplification of various licences of the MCD, Freedom from the fear of sealing, Simplification of approval of building plans by the Corporation.

Apart from this, Proper arrangement of cleanliness in the markets, Prohibition on increase of all taxes like house tax, trade and factory licence,

etc, Proper arrangement of toilets for women in the markets will be provided by the AAP after it comes to power in the Civic body, he said.

"Over the next couple of days, the trade wing officials that are present in the different market areas of Delhi will distribute AAP's guarantee pamphlets in their respective markets and inform the traders what the Aam Aadmi Party is offering them," Goyal added

Men showed presence of mind to save Aftab, top cop praises police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora has lauded the police escort team for showing 'presence of mind' during the attack on the van carrying Shraddha Walkar murder accused Aftab Poonawala to jail on Monday and preventing any harm.

According to officials, Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora visited the Vikas Puri Police Line office of the 3rd Battalion of Delhi Armed Police on Tuesday to meet the members and appreciated their presence of mind and tactful handling of the situation.

He also gave away cash awards to each member. Two sub-inspectors were rewarded with Rs 10,000 each, two head constables with Rs 5,000 each and a constable with Rs 5000 as a token of appreciation. Deputy Commissioner of

Police (3rd Battalion) Dhal Singh said that on Monday undertrial prisoner (UTP) Poonawala was required to be taken to Forensic Science Laboratory Rohini from Central Jail (Tihar).

"In the evening (Monday), at around 6.45 PM, when the UTP was ready to escort from FSL laboratory to Tihar jail, the outside area of FSL was checked by the escort team as well as by local police and no suspicious movements of persons was noticed."

"While, the jail van moved from FSL Rohini office and crossed the gate, suddenly a group of people attacked on the jail van with swords in their hands but the Command of 3rd Bn DAP displayed exemplary presence of mind and swiftly moved the jail van from the place so as to avoid any harm to the UTP and the escorting staff," Singh said.

Saket Court allows police to conduct narco test on Aftab

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Saket court on Tuesday allowed the Delhi Police to conduct a narco test on Aftab Poonawala who killed his live-in partner Shraddha Walker into 35 pieces before dumping in Mehrauli forest areas. The polygraph on Aftab has been completed and a report will be submitted soon.

Cong promises to regularise temporary MCD staff



New Delhi: Delhi Congress on Tuesday promised to regularize all temporary employees in the MCD including daily wagers and end outsourcing jobs to contractors within six months if voted in power.

The party, while releasing its vision document for the MCD, said the ad hoc job culture in the MCD had most adversely affected the Dalit community, particularly the sanitation workers. The party leaders said that it will empower the Dalits financially by

ensuring them permanent jobs, which the BJP had failed to do during its 15-year rule in the corporation by treating the dalit workers shabbily, despite big contribution by them.

He said that funds for the welfare schemes and guarantees to the dalit community would be allocated in the next budget of the MCD after the elections. He said that BJP did not spend the funds meant for the welfare of Dalits, and as a result, nearly Rs 2500 crore remained unspent. Delhi

Congress chief Anil Kumar said that if voted in power his party will ensure social justice, financial justice, religious justice and cultural justice to dalits.

He said that Congress was confident to elect its mayor in the MCD this time to realize its target of 'Dalit Ke Sath Nyay Wali Dilli, Sheila Dikshit Wali Dilli'. "The Congress government had implemented many welfare schemes for the uplift of Dalits, to ensure a secure future for their children."

Law dept refuses to clear lawyers' bills; AAP cries foul

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Law Department has refused to clear lawyers' bills due to alleged 'non-compliance of financial rules' and violation of terms of their engagements by the Law Minister.

Coming down on the move Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that stopping payment of lawyers engaged by the

Government was "wrong" and charged Lieutenant-Governor and the BJP with obstructing the AAP Government's works in Delhi.

The bills refused by the department include the fees of two senior advocates — Rs 15.5 lakh and Rs 9.8 lakh — over "blatant departure from rules" formulated by the AAP Government itself for engagement of experienced advocates

on record, the sources said. "The Principal Secretary (Law) has submitted a report to the Law Minister, Delhi L-G and Chief Minister under Rule 57 of the Transaction of Business of GNCT of Delhi Rules, communicating inability of the department to process the bills due to violation of rules," one of the sources said.

The department has also disagreed on the appointment

of several senior advocates in various matters, directly by Law Minister Gahlot, without following "due process", the sources further claimed. Kejriwal said people do not vote for those creating roadblocks in the works of the Government.

They just keep creating roadblocks, he alleged, adding first they stopped yoga classes and now they have stopped

payments to lawyers. "L-G has stopped so many projects in last six months and they will see the result of the obstruction soon in MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) polls," he said, adding people favour those who work and not those who create obstructions.

Noting that the BJP has eight MLAs in Delhi, Kejriwal said if the party kept on obstructing works of the Delhi

Government, AAP (Aam Admi Party) will win back these seats in the next elections.

Sources said, according to the laid down process for engagement and payment of bills of senior lawyers engaged by the government in the high court and the Supreme Court, the fee payable to them is to be fixed prior to hiring them and seeking its approval from the finance department.

Ulemas' role vital in deradicalisation: Doval

Religion should be source of peace, not reason for discord, conflict, or violence, says NSA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With cross-border terrorism and ISIS-inspired terrorism posing a threat to peace and security, the Ulemas have a vital role to play in countering radicalisation and extremism by propagating progressive ideas and thought, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval said here on Tuesday.

Underlining these points at a dialogue between the Indonesian and Indian delegation of Ulema, Islamic scholars and leaders of other faiths, Doval said the cooperation of the civil society is essential in countering the threat from ISIS-inspired individual terror cells and returnees from theatres like Syria and Afghanistan.

The Indonesian delegation of Ulema is accompanying Mohammad Mahfud MD, coordinating minister for political, legal and security affairs, who is on a visit to India on the



invitation of Doval who had attended the second India-Indonesia Security Dialogue on March 17 in Jakarta.

Emphasising the important role of Ulema in Islamic society, Doval said the aim of the discussion is to bring together Indian and Indonesian Ulema and scholars to promote tolerance, harmony and peaceful co-existence which will bolster the fight against violent extremism, terrorism and radicalisation.

Urging the need to develop a common narrative on

deradicalisation, Doval said in a democracy there is no place for hate speech, prejudice, propaganda, demonisation, violence, conflict and misuse of religion for narrow ends.

Drawing attention towards youths who are becoming the "primary target" of radicalisation, the NSA said if their energies are nurtured in the right direction, they can become "harbingers of change" and building blocks of progress in any society. He said we also need to counter disinformation and propaganda that can

"impede peaceful co-existence" among the followers of different faiths.

Doval said the essence lies in disseminating positive discourse far and wide, and not merely reacting to the agenda set by inimical forces.

While technology is a blessing for humanity, it is also being misused by anti-social elements to spread hatred and for disruptive purposes, he cautioned.

He said the Ulema must also be adept at using technology and utilizing various technological solutions to thwart propaganda and hate.

Doval said Islam had emerged as a rallying point for the disadvantaged and tolerant outlook. Fissures emerged among the caliphs after the death of the Prophet on the question of legitimate heir with each faction attempting to outdo each other by espousing a more radical interpretation of Hadiths, he said. "It is here that the Ulema have a pivotal role to play.

They have a leading role in educating the people on the original tolerant and moderate principles of Islam and countering radicalisation and extremism with progressive ideas and thought," he said.

Mahfud said discussions such as this give us the opportunity to learn from each other and be inspired by the best practices in preserving a peaceful and harmonious society.

"Religion, I think should be a source of peace, not the reason for discord, conflict, or violence. Religion should be a unifying tool, not a divisive instrument," he said. He said world is facing difficult challenges, ranging from poverty, climate change, food insecurity, pandemic, corruption, unemployment, armed conflicts, income inequality, and human rights abuses to name a few.

Modular terror a new challenge for NIA, security forces in J&K

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Hybrid or modular terror model has emerged as a new challenge for the security forces in Jammu & Kashmir as the terrorists involved in attacks are not known to each other and tasks are assigned among many unconnected ultras over social media platforms like Telegram.

Such modular mechanism even adds to the woes of investigative agencies like NIA in cracking terror-related cases.

Recent trends in the Valley suggest terror groups are resorting to operations through modules comprising hybrid terrorists who are difficult to trace in the face of invisibility and involvement of multiple players. Such modules also recruit part time terrorists to execute a cer-

tain task the individual then carries on with his normal chores, officials in the security agencies said. Mushrooming of women over ground workers (OGWs) has also emerged as a discernible feature of the latest terror tactic, they said.

The other challenges include use of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for sending weapons, explosives, drugs and fake currency, issuance of online threat and hartal calls by the terror groups via Telegram channels, circulation of fake news and propaganda through Pakistani online portal Kashmir Fight.

The terror groups have also been hitting soft targets like labourers from other States and minorities especially Kashmiri Pandits The Pakistani handlers of the terror modules are using

Ankara for terrorism as many close combat weapons like pistols of Turkiye origin like Canik TP9 have been recovered in searches after encounters, they said.

In 2022 so far, as many as 29 civilians have been killed in Valley by terrorists including three Kashmiri Pandits, three other Hindus, 15 Muslims besides six outsider Hindus and two Muslims.

However, casualties of the security forces have shown a declining trend from a peak of 86 in 2018 to 77 in 2019, 58 in 2020, 29 in 2021 and 26 so far this year, according to official data. The civilian casualties have also recorded a declining trend from a high of 80 loss of lives in 2018 to 46 in 2019 followed by 37 in 2020, 35 in 2021 and 29 till so far this year.

NIA raids organised criminal syndicates in 13 locations



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted a third round of crackdown against organised criminal syndicates and networks besides top gangsters at 13 locations in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Chandigarh and Delhi-NCR.

The districts covered in the search operation are Fazilka, Taran Taran, Ludhiana, Sangrur and Mohali districts of Punjab, Yamuna Nagar district

of Haryana, Sikar district of Rajasthan and Outer North District of Delhi/ NCR to dismantle and disrupt the emerging nexus between terrorists, gangsters and drug smugglers/traffickers based in India and abroad in connection with two cases registered in August.

"This 3rd round of raids and searches is part of the NIA crackdown against organised criminal syndicates and networks, top gangsters, their criminal and business associates based in Punjab, Haryana

and Rajasthan and arms suppliers based in Rajasthan and Delhi," the NIA said in a statement. Searches were conducted at the houses/premises of Kaushal Chaudhary of Gurugram (Haryana), Vishal Maan of Prahapur (Delhi), Binny Gurjar of Sangroor (Punjab), Ravi Rajgarh of Ludhiana (Punjab) and their associates, it said.

During the searches, incriminating materials, including various types of contraband, have been seized,

along with ammunition. Investigations will continue to dismantle such terror networks as well as their funding and support infrastructure, it further said. Preliminary investigations have revealed that these gangs were carrying out targeted killings and were also raising funds to carry out such criminal activities through smuggling of drugs and weapons.

The recent sensational crimes and extortion calls by criminal syndicates and gang-

sters to businessmen, professionals, including doctors, had created a widespread scare among the people.

These gangs were using cyber-space to publicise these crimes to create terror among the public at large, according to the NIA FIRs.

"Investigations have also revealed that such criminal acts were not isolated local incidents but there was a deep rooted conspiracy amongst terrorists, gangsters and drug smuggling cartels and net-

works, which were operating from both within and outside the country," the agency said in its statement.

Most of these conspiracies were being hatched from inside jails of different States and were being executed by an organized network of operatives based abroad.

Many gang leaders and members had fled from India and were operating from foreign countries, including Pakistan, Canada, Malaysia and Australia, it added.

'Moral duty of citizens to ensure welfare of soldiers'



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said here that it is the moral duty of every citizen to ensure the welfare of soldiers and their families and that industries and businesses can never flourish in a country where the national security is not strong.

In his address at the Armed Forces Flag Day Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Conclave, he also asserted that the "welfare of soldiers, who ensure our national security, should not be the responsibility of only the government but it should be the duty of all".

Rajnath emphasised that industries and businesses can never flourish in a country where national security is not strong. Appreciating the support of big corporate donors in the last few years which has led to a substantial increase in the fund, he exhorted the fraternity to contribute even more for the well-being of soldiers and the nation at large. The event

was organised by the department of ex-servicemen welfare, the Ministry of Defence.

The defence minister expressed gratitude to the retired as well as serving armed forces personnel whose valour and sacrifice safeguarded the sovereignty and integrity of the country. He made special mention of a soldier's message enshrined on the Kohima War Memorial in Nagaland, which reads: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today."

Reiterating the government's commitment towards the welfare of the soldiers, he said a number of initiatives were taken in this direction.

Rajnath urged the private sector to provide employment opportunities to about 60,000 soldiers who retire at a very young age every year, saying that these disciplined ex-servicemen are capable of understanding the most complex technology and using it proficiently.

The defence minister also launched a new website for the

Armed Forces Flag Day Fund. The portal is an interactive and user-friendly portal developed to promote online contribution

to the fund. He also released the anthem for this year's promotional campaign for the Armed Forces Flag Day.

We cannot be agnostic about technology: EAM

New Delhi: India has to give due weightage to technology for its geopolitical positioning as it will play a crucial role in striking alliances in a multi-polar world, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Tuesday while stressing the point that the country cannot remain "agnostic" to developments in this sector.

Making this assertion at the Global Technology Summit, he said India would like to use its G-20 Presidency to reflect the interests and concerns of the global south that have been sidelined over the years. India will assume presidency on December one.

Elaborating upon the role of technology, Jaishankar said the rise of India was deeply linked with the rise of Indian technology. "We cannot be agnostic about technology. We have to stop thinking that there is something neutral about technology...more and more things are technology driven and we need to understand that there is a very strong political connotation in-built into technology," the minister said. He said the principle of econom-



ic strategic autonomy will hold the key to global rebalancing and big players will constantly strive to be more capable technologically.

"We, especially in India in the last two years, have woken up to the fact, where does our data reside? Who processes and harvests our data and what do they do with it? That is a very very key question," Jaishankar said.

He said it was important to look at the quality of partners and the sociology partners that India has in the arena of technological and strategic spheres.

Recounting his interaction with his counterparts in Africa and Latin America, Jaishankar said there has been a lot of interest in the digitally-enabled delivery platforms developed by India in the global south.

SC allows MMRCL plea for felling 84 trees at Mumbai's Aarey Colony



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday permitted the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd to pursue its plea with the relevant authority for felling 84 trees at Mumbai's Aarey Colony for constructing train ramps at its car shed project.

This significant order would enable the MMRCL to seek felling of 84 trees from the Tree Authority to start its construction work which has been stalled for quite some time now and, according to Mumbai Metro, the project cost has escalated from Rs 23,000 crore to Rs 37,000 crore.

The apex court observed that it cannot be "oblivious of serious dislocation" which may be caused in projects involving "large public funds". "The MMRCL should be permitted to pursue its application before the tree authority for felling of 84 trees. Let the tree authority take a decision independently," a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha said.

"Undoubtedly issues per-

taining to the environment are important. The State Government which had taken a decision in the first place to accept the technical committee report, later on changed its view while deciding upon realignment," said the court. The top court fixed the batch of petitions, including the suo motu (on its own) one, for final hearing and disposal in the first week of February next year.

The Court took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the MMRCL, that almost 95 per cent work on the project has been completed.

"It would not be possible for the court to stay the decision,

"Moreover, it must be noted that substantial no of trees have already been felled...As already noted earlier 2144 trees were felled in executing work for the car depot. What is now sought is a permission to apply to tree authorities for felling of trees for ramp. Without the ramp, work done would be of no use," the CJI said in its order.

The top law officer said the plea of the MMRCL was pending with the Tree Authority which is not proceeding due to the pendency of the petitions here in the Supreme Court.

"The original total cost of the project was Rs 23,000 crore. The MMRCL has already invested Rs 22,000 crores. Because of the delay caused by the litigation, the cost has escalated to Rs 37,000 crores,"

SC transfers trial in murder of YSV Reddy to Hyd CBI court

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday transferred the trial in the murder case of YS Vivekananda Reddy - former Lok Sabha MP and uncle of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy - to a Special CBI Court in Hyderabad.

A Bench of Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna was hearing a plea filed by the daughter of Reddy seeking directions to the CBI to expedite the probe into the murder case and citing delays at trial court in Kadapa.

"It cannot be said that apprehension of the petitioner that there may not be fair trial or that there is larger conspiracy is imaginary. Petitioner has the fundamental right to get justice. This is a fit case to

Mehta said. He then listed out the benefits and the impact of the metro rail project saying the carbon emission, due to less vehicular traffic, would come down. Above 13 lakh passengers may travel through the metro and may lead to ease in traffic situation, fuel consumption and air pollution, he said, adding that every day, nine persons die in train accidents in Mumbai.

transfer to a State other than the State of Andhra Pradesh, as justice need not only be done but also seen to be done. Criminal trial, if biased, criminal justice will be at stake," said the apex court.

Reddy was stabbed to death at his residence in Kadapa in March 2019. In 2020, the Andhra Pradesh High Court had transferred the investigation into the murder to the CBI.

IN SHORT

CONG RAPS PM OVER AIMS SERVER HACKING
New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday hit out at the Modi Government over the hacking of the AIMS server and said it raises "serious questions" about cyber security in the country. AICC general secretary, organisation, K C Venugopal asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of a new cyber security policy which he announced two years ago. It is feared that data of around 3-4 crore patients could have been compromised due to breach detected on November 23.

SENA SYMBOLS DISPUTE 1ST HEARING ON DEC 12
New Delhi: The first hearing of Shiv Sena symbols dispute case will be held on December 12 by Election Commission of India. The EC has also directed both parties to submit any further statements/documents by 5 PM on December 9.

MEA TO HOLD LUSOPHONE FEST IN GOA ON DEC 3-6
New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Goa Government will organise the International Lusophone Festival in Goa from December 3-6.

SC AXES PIL ON HIKE IN NUMBER OF HC JUDGES
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a PIL that sought a direction to Centre and all States to double number of judges in subordinate judiciary and High Courts to effectively tackle pendency of cases, saying such "populist" and "simplistic" measures cannot be solution.

New HIV infections in kids down 52% in 2010-21

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Due to Covid-induced disruptions, around 110,000 children and adolescents (0-19 years) died from AIDS-related causes during 2021 while another 310,000 were newly infected, bringing the total number of young people living with HIV to 2.7 million, according to the latest UNICEF global snapshot on children and HIV/AIDS, which was released recently.

These disruptions put the lives of newborn babies at increased risk. In 2021, more than 75,000 new child infections occurred because pregnant women were not diag-

nosed and initiated on treatment, as per the snapshot.

Taking serious note of the gloomy scenario, ahead of World Aids Day on December 1, UNICEF has warned that progress in HIV prevention and treatment for children, adolescents, and pregnant women has nearly flatlined over the past three years, with many regions still not at pre-Covid service coverage.

This stagnation comes on top of an existing and growing gap in treatment between children and adults. Unless the drivers of inequities are addressed, ending AIDS in children and adolescents will continue to be a distant dream, warned UNICEF.

"Though children have long lagged behind adults in the AIDS response, the stagnation seen in the last three years is unprecedented, putting too many young lives at risk of sickness and death," said Anurita Bains, Unicef associate chief of HIV/AIDS. "Children are falling through the cracks because we are collectively failing to find and test them and get them on life-saving treatment. Every day that goes by without progress, over 300 children and adolescents lose their fight against AIDS."

Despite accounting for only 7 per cent of overall people living with HIV, children and adolescents comprised 17 per cent of all AIDS-related

deaths and 21 per cent of new HIV infections in 2021. However, the snapshot shows that longer-term trends remain positive.

New HIV infections among younger children (0-14 years) dropped by 52 per cent from 2010 to 2021, and new infections among adolescents (15-19 years) also dropped by 40 per cent. Similarly, coverage of life-long antiretroviral treatment (ART) among pregnant women living with HIV increased from 46 per cent to 81 per cent in a single decade. While the total number of children living with HIV is on the decline, the treatment gap between children and adults continues to grow.

Maternal mortality lowest in Kerala, highest in MP, UP

New Delhi: India has reported a decline in the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), from 130 points in 2014-16 to 97 points in 2018-20. As per the latest publication of SRS MMR bulletin, 2018-20, among States, as expected, Kerala has the lowest MMR at 19 while Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have reported significantly higher MMR at 195, 173 and 167 respectively.

None of the States have been, so far, able to bring the MMR to a single digit. "Significant decline in the MMR from 130 in 2014-16 to 97 per lakh live births in 2018-19. The various healthcare initiatives of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Government to ensure quality maternal and reproductive care have helped tremendously in bringing down MMR," tweeted Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is defined as the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births during the same time period.

An analysis of the data shows that most of the States under the "Empowered Action Group" (EAG) category has high MMR, much above than the SDG level which is 70. For instance, except Jharkhand

which has reported significant decline in MMR to touch to 56, Assam continue to have high MMR at 195 Bihar (118), Madhya Pradesh (173), Chhattisgarh (137), Odisha (119), Rajasthan (113), Uttar Pradesh (167) and Uttarakhand (103) Southern States category which include Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu has reported an average MMR at 49. Andhra Pradesh has 45, Telangana (43), Karnataka (69), Kerala (19) and Tamil Nadu (54). Other states like Gujarat have reported MMR at 57, Haryana (110), Maharashtra (33), Punjab (105), West Bengal (103).

SC asks States to give details of undertrials to NALSA in 15 days

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Days after the emotional speech of President Droupadi Murmu flagging the plight of poor tribals languishing in jails in petty offences despite bail, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed State Governments across the country to provide details of such prisoners within 15 days to NALSA for formulating a national scheme for their release.

"NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) in collaboration with the Home Ministry will collect the data relating to number and status of pending applications of premature release filed by life convicts," ordered the Bench of

Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Abhay S Oka, adding that the entire process to be finished in two months.

The Bench directed the jail authorities to submit the details of such prisoners to the respective State Governments which will forward the documents to the National Legal Service Authority within 15 days. The bench said the jail authorities will have to submit such details as the names of undertrial prisoners, charges against them, date of the bail order, what bail conditions were not met and how much time they have spent in jail after the bail order.

"At the inception, we flagged the issue of detainees/Undertrial prisoners, who continue to be in custody

despite being granted bail but could not fulfill the bail conditions. Each jail authority of the country has to convey to their state government the details which will be forwarded to NALSA for formulation of a national level scheme to provide assistance to such prisoners," it said in its order.

Advocate Devansh A Mohta, who is assisting the court as amicus curiae, said the Delhi State Legal Service Authority (DSLSEA) has a scheme to assist such undertrial prisoners languishing in jail despite being granted bail. The bench said, "In Delhi, these kinds of cases may be less but could be more where financial means become a challenge." Judges asked advocate Gaurav Agrawal, appearing for NALSA,

to explore all possibilities for formulating a national scheme and suggest ways for dealing with this situation and execution of the bail orders.

The top court was hearing a plea by a life convict named Sonadhar, who has been in custody for 18 years and sought premature release. On September 15, the top court had said convicts who have completed 10 years of their life sentence and whose appeals would not be heard in the near future by the high courts should be enlarged on bail unless there exist cogent reasons to deny the relief.

The apex court said it needs to keep the objective of decongesting the jails in mind in the case of convicts whose appeals have been pending for

years against conviction and are not likely to be heard in the near future by the high courts due to pendency of cases. It had said its endeavour is two-fold --first, convicts having undergone more than 10 years imprisonment, unless there exist cogent reasons to deny them the relief, they should be enlarged on bail. Second, identification of cases where convicts have completed 14 years of custody, in which event, a case can be referred to the government for considering premature release within a fixed time period irrespective of pendency of their appeals.

The top court had said if a detainee has already served 14 years of sentence in a murder case, then there are norms prevalent in each state for

examination of such cases for premature release. "However, it appears that legal assistance to do so after expiry of 14 years has not been forthcoming in many cases, including the present one (of petitioner Sonadhar). We do feel that this aspect needs attention and the respondent State and for that matter other States must put their house in order in respect of this aspect," the bench had said and sought the assistance of NALSA.

The President Murmu had, in her maiden Constitution Day address on November 26 at the Supreme Court, highlighted the plight of poor tribals of her home state Odisha besides Jharkhand, saying they remain incarcerated despite getting bail for lack of money to



furnish the bail amount or arrange sureties. Departing from her written speech in English, Murmu had spoken in Hindi to urge the judiciary to do something for the poor tribals, noting those accused of serious offences walk out free but these poor inmates, who may have gone to jail for slapping someone, have to spend

years on end before they are released.

Justice Kaul was among those seated on the dais with Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, when the President narrated her experience of meeting several undertrial prisoners as an MLA in her native Odisha and later as the Governor of Jharkhand.

Didi chides DM in public for ignoring 'blanket order'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a development that opposition parties promptly dismissed as "scripted and aimed at re-building an image, sullied by multiple exposes on state-sponsored corruption," Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday stalled a public programme for good 20 minutes and rebuked the District Magistrate and Block Development Officer in front of thousands of people for failing to comply with government orders.

The order thus being spoken of was on procurement and bringing on the stage 15,000 blankets, shawls and sweaters to be distributed by the Chief Minister among the public.

When she found out that only sweaters had been brought at the venue, a furious Chief Minister rebuked the DM with

the microphone on, asking why the blankets had not been brought on stage.

Banerjee told the DM, "Whenever there are any lapses by the police or any other department everyone blames me ... why will I have to take it every time ... where are the blankets for me to be distributed?"

When the DM informed that they had been kept at the BDO office she thundered: "I will take strong action against you." When requested to continue with her speech as there were other programmes too the Chief Minister said "I had come for distributing the blankets ... so there is no point continuing the meeting ... first bring the blankets then I will speak ... till then I am sitting here and so does the crowd."

The Chief Minister stalled the meeting for a good 20

minutes after which the blankets were rushed to the venue. Banerjee distributed 1,000 blankets from the Tuesday rally.

Hours later Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari called it a "model example of how the Mamata Banerjee Government functions ... the incident itself proves that there is no coordination in the administration ... the whole bureaucracy is demoralised in the face of government-sponsored corruption ... everyone is thinking of saving one's job ... this demoralisation will further go up if the officers are rebuked in public in this manner."

CPI(M) leadership said that the incident pointed at the poor condition of the State. "We wanted to bring industry so that the people can lead a better life but Mamata Banerjee



drove them away ... now she has to distribute blankets as the people don't even have that money," party State committee member Kaustav Chatterjee said adding the Tuesday's "histrionics" was a scripted before to give a lift to the Chief Minister's sagging image.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister on Tuesday announced the formation of a separate Sunderbans district. The district will be carved out of existing two districts of

North and South 24 Parganas.

The formation of the new district majorly comprising the Royal Bengal Tiger zone of the Sundarbans would help the administration to concentrate more on the development of the swampy area crisscrossed by scores of backwater rivers and many more creeks plagued by steady erosion and advancing sea. Several river islands have already disappeared into the sea since 1967 and many are on the verge of extinction.

'Assam-Meghalaya border talks have become bit complicated after violence'

PTI ■ GUWAHATI/ SHILLONG/ SILCHAR

The process for the second round of talks between Assam and Meghalaya for resolving the border dispute has become "slightly complicated", following the killing of six people in the November 22 violence at Mukroh village, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said on Tuesday. Assam and Meghalaya have identified 12 disputed areas along the interstate border. These two northeastern states, which started the first round of discussions in July 2021, signed an MoU in March this year to resolve differences in six areas.

"The situation (for border talks) is slightly complicated and we may not be able to go forward immediately. It could get delayed," Sangma said here. Sangma's remarks came on a day when Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Tuesday said that he does not approve of police firing on civilians, which should be resorted to only against terrorists and criminals.

The firing by the Assam police and state forest guards at Mukroh in a disputed area of the Assam-Meghalaya border which claimed six lives a week ago will, however, have no impact on the "broader landscape of relations" between the



two states, Sarma told a press conference here.

Negotiations are on between the two northeastern states and any boundary adjustment will happen through the Committee formed for the purpose by them, he said.

"Taking the life of civilians is not acceptable ... Police should use its weapons against terrorists and criminals and not against civilians. I do not approve of the firing," he said after presiding over a cabinet meeting. Meanwhile, The NHRC has taken cognisance of the violence in the disputed area on the Assam-Meghalaya border that claimed six lives earlier this month, the rights body said on Tuesday.

It said the incident was an outcome of the long-pending border dispute between the two states and could have been averted had the controversy been settled earlier.

The Commission observed

that whatever be the dispute police has to use restraint in such a situation.

"The National Human Rights Commission has taken cognizance of a memorandum by the chief minister of Meghalaya (Conrad K Sangma) that six persons, including one Assam forest official, had died in firing by the Assam Police and Assam Forest Guards at Mukroh village in West Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya on 22nd November, 2022," NHRC said in a statement.

The violence at Mukroh village falling in the disputed Block-I area along the interstate boundary has resulted in clashes in the state's capital Shillong and six districts in the Khasi Jaintia Hills region.

The process for the second phase of talks to resolve differences in the remaining six disputed areas was initiated, and regional committees have also been set up.

Massive row erupts as Kharge compares Modi to 'Ravana'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI

In a stark reminder to the 'Maut Ka Saudagar' remarks against Narendra Modi by the then party chief Sonia Gandhi in 2007, a massive row erupted in poll bound Gujarat on Tuesday after the newly elected Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge compared the Prime Minister with 'Ravana' during a rally. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel lost no time in claiming the remark reflects the opposition party's hatred for Gujaratis.

Elections for the 182-member Assembly in the BJP-ruled Gujarat are scheduled to be held in two phases on December 1 and 5.

Addressing people in Behrampur area under the Congress-held Danilimda seat on Monday night, Kharge said in every election, votes are sought in the name of Modi instead of local candidates or the performance of government.

"Modi asks people to ignore everything and vote (for BJP) by keeping his face in front of the eyes. I wonder on how many occasions we have to see your face? People have to see your face during municipal corporation polls, then in the Assembly polls and also during polls to elect MPs," he said.



"Everywhere you want us to see your face. Why? How many faces do like Ravan? Are you 100-headed like Ravan? I don't understand this," the Congress president said. He further said instead of doing his work as India's PM, Modi canvasses for various elections, be it local bodies or Assembly polls.

"The BJP believes in telling lies only. I recently said Modi is 'badshah' of telling lies, because he keeps on telling lies. What happened to two crore jobs every year? He used to say he will give Rs 15 lakh to each citizen after bringing black money from abroad," Kharge said.

Taking a strong exception to the remarks, CM Patel in a tweet said, "Bereft of any development agenda and support from the people, the Congress is out to abuse Gujarat and Gujaratis." The statement made by Kharge ji against PM Narendra Modi is a testimony to their hate for Gujaratis. The people of Gujarat will reject them this time too for such behaviour," Patel added.

My workers will provide security to me: Shivpal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after the security of Pragatishheel Samaj Party (Lohia) president Shivpal Yadav was downgraded by the Uttar Pradesh government, he said his workers would now provide him security.

Shivpal's security was downgraded on Monday from 'Z' to 'Y' category, days after he mended fences with nephew Akhilesh Yadav.

"This was expected of the BJP. Now, my workers and people will provide me security. Dimple Yadav's victory and BJP candidate's loss in Mainpuri will now be even bigger," Shivpal said.

Earlier, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav had termed the move 'objectionable'. He had also hit out at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for likening his



uncle to a 'pendulum' and a 'football'.

In a tweet in Hindi, Akhilesh said: "It is objectionable to reduce the security cover of Shivpal Singh Yadav. It is also to be noted that a pendulum is a symbol of movement of time and indicates the change of time for everyone. It says that there is nothing stable on which one could be proud of."

Kerala Ministers question propriety of Church leaders in spearheading agitation against port

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■
KOCHI

Two ministers in the CPI(M)-led Kerala Government have described the agitation spearheaded by the Latin Catholic Archdiocese against the Vizhinjam International Sea Port as anti-national and an act of sedition.

V Abdul Rehman, Minister for Harbor, said at Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday that the Kerala Government has all details of the leaders behind the agitation against the Port which is being built by the Adani Group. "We have tackled serious agitations in the past and it is not difficult for us to take care of this anti-Port agitation. This is a movement against national interests," said Rehman while addressing a seminar on Vizhinjam Port. The minister claimed that the Government has not forced

out even a single resident under the pretext of land acquisition. "We will see to it that the Port works are completed as per schedule. This is a project of national importance and till now we were restrained in our approach to the agitation against the port. All demands made by the leaders of the agitation have been met but now they want the project to be scrapped altogether," said Abdul Rehman.

Meanwhile heavy posse of policemen have been deployed along coastal Kerala to nip in the bud any violence which is likely to occur in the coming days. Cops who were on leave have been directed to join for duty immediately in the backdrop of the rioting and vandalism at Vizhinjam that saw 40 cops getting injured and public property getting destroyed.

Education Minister V

Sivankutty, the ideological face of the CPI(M), lashed out against the Church leaders for their role in spreading the agitation. "The police was restrained in their response to attacks carried out by the agitating fishermen. There were instances of the unruly crowd snatching the lathis from the policemen and throwing them into the sea. This is a serious offence and is an anti-national activity," said Sivankutty.

He said there is no chance of the police withdrawing the cases filed against the Archbishop, Auxiliary Bishop and the vicar of Vizhinjam for rioting and breakdown in law and order. "This is the worst kind of agitation and is a threat to the culture of Kerala. The cases were filed only after ascertaining the role of the Church leaders," said Sivankutty while interacting with media.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Shashi Gaur/ Pankaj Bhati/ LBFDB00002370853	Flat No- 37, 4th Floor, Block- B18 Pocket-1 Sector- 34 Rohini Delhi- 110085/ November 24, 2022	June 24, 2022 Rs.6,54,239/-	Delhi NCR

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

Date : November 30, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Manju Rawat/ Deepak Singh Rawat/ QZGUR00005040030/ 19700044128	Plot No. B-290/12, Third Floor, Khasra No- 308, Village Ghonda Gujran Khadar, Block-B, Gali No12, Bhajanpura, Shahdara, Delhi./ November 24, 2022	November 28, 2019 Rs. 25,95,229/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : November 30, 2022
Place : Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable asset
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Manoj Kumar (Borrower), Suma Manoj (Co Borrower) Lan No. LBDEL00002098845	Flat No. 691, 3rd Floor, Lig Flats, Pocket-A, Block-C, Loknayak Puram, Delhi- 110041, Area: 452 Sq. Fts.	Rs. 24.05, 619.06 as on Nov 22, 2022	Rs. 13,30,000/- From 10:00 AM to 12 noon onwards	December 23, 2022, From 10:00 AM to 11:00 am onwards	January 07, 2023, From 11:00 am onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com)** The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **January 06, 2023 before 05:00 P.M** failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at: **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **January 06, 2023 before 05:00 P.M** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **January 06, 2023 before 05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at: **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **January 06, 2023 before 05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at **Delhi**.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited On 8126013708/7304914763**

Please note that Marketing agencies **1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Auggeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit **www.icicibank.com/n4p4s**

Date : November 30, 2022
Place : Delhi/ Ncr
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

FIRST COLUMN

PLASTIC PART OF LIFE BUT CAUTION NEEDED

Industries have to find viable alternatives to plastic



SAKSHI SETHI

Plastic remains one of the best inventions. However, human greed ended up in its excessive production, leaving piles of heaps, which need to be mended now. Plastic's reputation fell as anxiety about waste increased in the 1970s and 1980s. Plastic waste besides contaminating land, water and soil with harmful chemicals is also responsible for the death of thousands of animals on land, water and sea due to ingestion. Just as ivory is demonised, so is plastic pollution now harming wildlife.

The invention of plastic was initially praised for its ability to create multiple benefits but with time terms like 'cheap' became synonymous with 'replaceable' or 'throwaway', resulting in deterioration of the reputation of plastic.

Plastic pollutes every corner of the earth, causing a direct and deadly effect on wildlife. The larger the plastic items, say plastic bags and straws, can choke and starve marine life, while the smaller fragments can cause liver and gastrointestinal damage in animals which can ultimately affect the human life.

Today, we need supermarkets and grocery stores to stop using plastic bags, especially the ones that are to be disposed of as soon as the packet gets opened. It has become a target for activists looking to ban single use disposable plastics.



Paper on the other hand is easy to shape, while being lightweight, but is neither strong, nor does it last for long. It consumes a large amount of wood which is important for the environment. So, scientists started looking for various alternatives, which could be lightweight, strong, durable, inexpensive and something not entirely dependent upon natural resources.

The word 'plastic' originally meant pliable and easily shaped. In 1862, Alexander Parkes—the man behind the world's first ever man-made plastic, PARKESINE—at the London International Exhibition developed it as a synthetic substitute for shellac for waterproofing. Soon after the success, synthetic polymers, later known as 'plastics' were discovered and developed. Plastic was originally created as a solution to maintain the availability of natural resources on earth. Plastic is a versatile material which has afforded us with many benefits in regard to helping us live a clean, healthy, and efficient lifestyle. It has proven to be useful in many ways for being lighter, besides superior aesthetic appeal and excellent thermal and electrical insulation properties.

It has a unique ability to combine with other materials like adhesives, paper, aluminium foils, while also being used for food packaging, besides also having a lesser production cost. Moreover, the need for plastic exists in several fields such as health and medicare. Patients with severe neural conditions, or toddlers learning to train their motor skills, or elders with movement problems need a flexible, lightweight and a durable material in their daily life, which can only be fulfilled with plastic.

Recycling plastic means reduced quantum of plastic waste. This in turn reduces pollution and saves a lot of animal species crucial to the food chain. If the problem was created by the industry, it should also give the solution. Plastic industry offered recycling of plastic as a solution. In 1980, the plastic industry started with a drive wherein they encouraged the municipalities to collect and process recyclable materials as part of their waste management system. Also, with technical advancements in waste management for recycling plastic, the scenario started to improve gradually.

With intelligent design and thoughtful development, there is a chance to address the greedy mentality of take and make which fuels plastic pollution and implement a circular economy. Despite so much growing mistrust, plastic remains to be a critical part of modern life.

(The author is a teacher at a reputed school in Delhi)

Waste disposal needs all hands on deck



SUMET BHASIN

But AAP knows no governance, so municipal bodies have cut garbage hills without Delhi Govt's help

In between 2011 and 2021, Delhi added over 32 lakh people to its population, besides adding about eight lakh households. This is a projected figure for 2021, and official data is still awaited. Delhi has steadily been attracting migrant population, for lack of opportunities in some of the states such as Bihar for the youth.

Indore in Madhya Pradesh, a few years ago, was faced with eyesores of land-fill sites, rising like a mountain, as the city garbage gathered, while the population steadily grew on account of the thriving economy of the city and rise of the IT, pharmaceutical sectors following a benign policy regime of the state government. Within a short span of time, the municipal waste in Indore tested the administrative strength of the corporation.

But all changed with the Madhya Pradesh government taking the task to eliminate the garbage mountain eyesore. The municipal corporation was strongly backed by the state government with financial support to acquire men and machines for a turnaround. The state government liberally supported the Indore municipal corporation. The result was elimination of dhalao, segregation of waste at homes, processing of waste took place in several areas, stringent fines were imposed against littering, which included charges of even Rs 1 crore on hotels, hospital and restaurants, disciplined the stakeholders, and the landfill site mountain disappeared to give space for shopping centres and office complexes.

It has been wondered in several quarters why Delhi cannot replicate the Indore model and eliminate the garbage eyesores at Ghazipur, Okhla and Bhalswa. The answer is that Delhi is not blessed with a Madhya Pradesh administration, as the city government in the national capital works at cross purposes with the municipal corporations. The advertisement budget of the Delhi government alone could have helped the municipal corporations to substantially speed up elimination of the landfill sites. But the Delhi government since 2013 after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) came to power with Arvind Kejriwal as Chief Minister has shown rank betrayal of the governance norms. The Delhi government has worked to financially starve the municipal corporations. Still, the civic bodies have been steadfast in their commitment to improve the life of the people, and worked within the constrained capacities to cut down legacy garbage dumped at the landfill sites.

Data speaks for themselves that the municipal corporations have been battling against all odds to cut down Garbage Mountains. Legacy waste at the three landfills at Ghazipur, Bhalswa and Okhla stood at 229.1 lakh tonnes in May, 2022

and has come down to 203 lakh tonnes in September, 2022. It implies that around 26.1 lakh tonnes have been disposed of in four months, at the rate of 6.52 lakh tonnes per month. The total legacy waste at the three sites of Ghazipur, Bhalswa and Okhla stood at 280 lakh tonnes in mid-2019. The processing of waste brought this down to 229.1 lakh tonnes in May 2022, which means that 50.9 lakh tonnes were disposed of in three years, at the rate of 1.41 lakh tonnes per month.

There are as many as 44 trommel machines which are processing 9,000 to 10,000 tonnes of waste daily at Bhalswa. They have processed 25 lakh tonnes till July, 2022. Besides, 26 trommel machines are working at Okhla landfill which processes 7,000 tonnes of waste every day. They have processed 17 lakh tonnes of legacy waste till July, 2022. Also, 10 trommel machines are working at Ghazipur landfill which process 4,000 tonnes of waste every day. Soon, 50 additional trommel machines are to be deployed for the processing of waste at Ghazipur, Narela and Okhla landfill sites.

It may also be known that 'Waste to Energy Plant' has a total capacity of processing 5,250 tonnes of waste, which generates 52 MW electricity. The Tehkhand Waste to Energy Plant became operational recently, which brings the total number of waste to energy plants in the national capital to four. After the inauguration of the Tehkhand plant, the capacity for disposal of garbage per day in Delhi has increased by 2,000 metric tonnes and this plant will also generate up to 25 MW of Green

Energy.

Additionally, 12,300 MT Bio CNG Plant, three Bio Gas Plants of 200 MT per day capacity and eight Metal Recovery Facilities of 175 MT per day capacity are about to come up at Okhla landfill site. Construction of the 3,000 metric ton waste to energy plant at Narela is to be completed by August 2025.

The NGT directed the Delhi government to pay Rs 900 crore as environmental compensation for improper management of solid municipal waste in 2022. But, in August 2022, the Delhi government withheld Rs 900 crore of payments to MCDs. This shows that the Delhi government has been apathetic to the needs of people, while serving its own interests by costly advertisements.

This shows that the municipal corporations on its own have been at the forefront in finding sustainable solutions to the solid waste generated in the national capital. It is also to be underlined that the strictness of the Indore model could not be deployed in the national capital due to the multiplicity of authority and also because of the Delhi government working at cross purposes.

If all hands were on board, the task of the municipal corporations would have gained the necessary speed and scale to eliminate the garbage mountains at three of the sites. But the Delhi government in the last nine years has worked with the single agenda to shame the national capital by making the civic bodies beg for their rightful share of finances which are sent by the Central government. This has caused delays in acquiring men and machines to deal with the issue of solid waste management.

Still, the municipal corporations worked through their revenue models by creating tourism spots to beef up their earnings. The Wonder of the World Park is one such example which has been created from the waste and has become one of the key tourist destinations in the national capital. Similar attractions have come in all parts of the country. In contrast, the Delhi government, which has the tourism department, has not created a single asset which can attract the tourists to the national capital.

This calls for the people to weigh the political leadership in the national capital on the basis of the tangible outcomes on promises they make. Fifteen years of the governance models of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the municipal corporations and nine years of the AAP rule in the national capital are study in contrast.

It begs attention if even a fraction of the advertisement budget, which the AAP government splurges in states where the Kejriwal-led party contests elections, was spent in improving the civic amenities the national capital would have sported a brighter look. Why should the money of the people of Delhi be spent to promote AAP in Goa, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat? Why should that money not be spent in boosting the capacities of the municipal corporations to improve the quality of life of the people in the national capital. Delhi wants accountability, not laments of the work shirkers.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WE WANTED THE SIXTH BOWLER TO COME IN, SO SANJU SAMSON MISSED OUT AND HOODA CAME IN. AND CHAHHAR WAS PICKED BECAUSE HE CAN SWING THE BALL REALLY WELL.

— INDIAN SKIPPER SHIKHAR DHAWAN



EVEN IF YOU SEE SANJU SAMSON, I WOULD HAVE PLAYED HOODA AHEAD OF SAMSON BECAUSE HE WAS PART OF THE WORLD CUP SQUAD AND SUDDENLY HE IS NOWHERE.

SO IT'S DIFFICULT FOR HOODA AS WELL AS THAKUR.

— FORMER CRICKETER ASHISH NEHRA

Biden, Trump contest looms over 2024 Prez poll

If neither contests, the chances of a fresh face becoming the next tenant of the White House is possible in 2024

Will a potential Joe Biden versus onald Trump residential race happen in 2024 in the United States? It is the question after the two current and former presidents have thrown themselves in the presidential ring two years in advance.

Democrats and republicans are already preparing for the 2024 presidential polls. Polls show that though Biden remains unpopular, he still enjoys more support than Trump. According to a recent Emerson College survey, the Democrats have held an edge of four percentage points. However, there are no cheers from the voters for a re-run of the Biden versus Trump match. According to recent polls, nearly 60 per cent of Americans do not want Trump

back in the White House. A Biden-Trump contest would also mean the chances of a woman president fading away.

Trump announced his candidature on November 15 in Florida. Facing several court cases and investigations, the former President is keen to take up the White House challenge to protect against legal challenges. He showed his intention of a re-run right from when Biden defeated him in 2020. "To make America great and glorious again, I am announcing tonight my candidacy for president of the United States," Trump said at his Florida headquarters. His announcement has dashed the hopes of GOP leaders to find a fresh face.

With his sustained sup-

port base and his "white supremacy" concept, Trump is confident of an easy path to the White House. The latest opinion polls indicate Trump remains the front-runner for the GOP nomination and other aspirants being in the single digits. The polls also showed that Trump received 55 per cent of Republican registered voters' support. In contrast, his potential Republican rival De Santis got just 25 per cent of the votes. De Santis won a second four-year term as governor this month with a solid political base and war chest behind him.

President Biden celebrated his 80th birthday quietly on November 20. He is buoyant after the unexpected Midterm poll results from

this month, where Democrats held onto the Senate. Not deterred by his age, Biden said, "I have not made that formal decision, but it's my intention – my intention to run again."

There are other hopefuls in both parties. Come 2023, more aspirants might emerge, more might withdraw, and the competition will be tough. Vice President Kamala Harris, aspiring to succeed Biden, is one of them. Biden might repeat his running mate, but Kamala has not revealed her plans.

Biden's Secretary of Transportation, Pete uttieg, is yet another probable. He has overseen the passage of significant infrastructure investments. He would be the first openly gay President



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

if elected. California Governor Gavin Newsom has a massive campaign war chest and the backing of major Democratic donors.

After emerging second to Hillary Clinton in the 2016 Democratic primary and second again to Joe Biden in 2020, Bernie Sanders has yet to rule out running again in 2024 if the field opens up. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts has become a leading political voice on economic and human rights issues. She did well in her 2020 presidential campaign. Some speculate that if Biden were to withdraw from the race, she might reconsider.

Trump's Vice president, Mike Pence, could be a potential challenger to his one-time boss Trump. He changed his

loyalty after January 6, 2021, Capitol riots. Trump has clarified that Pence will not join him on the ticket again if he runs a third time.

The other probable face is Nikki Haley—US ambassador to the United Nations under President Trump. Though she called Trump her friend, following the January 6 Capitol riots, she delivered mixed messages on her support for Trump.

Republican Texas Governor Greg Abbott, 64, who won a third term this month, is another aspirant. He has pursued increasingly conservative policies, opposing COVID-19 vaccines and mask mandates during his second term. Representing Wyoming in the House of representatives since 2017, former Vice

President Dick Cheney's daughter Liz Cheney is also a potential aspirant.

Though it is customary in America that a potential presidential race begins two years in advance, the final picture emerges only after the primaries and the party conventions. With the election expenses increasing, candidates must sustain the momentum and build a massive war chest.

Biden can set the agenda on significant issues like gun control, the economy, abortion, immigration, and climate change, if he wins. A Trump win would only mean going back to Trumpism. If neither contests, the chances of a fresh face becoming the next tenant of the White House is possible in 2024.

Torture charges mount post-Kherson occupation

AP ■ KHERSON (UKRAINE)

When a dozen Russian soldiers stormed into Dmytro Bilyi's home in August, the 24-year-old police officer said they gave him a chilling choice: Hand in his pistol or his mother and brother would disappear. Bilyi turned his gun over to the soldiers, who carried machine guns and had their faces concealed. But it didn't matter. They dragged him from his house in Ukraine's southern village of Chornobaiivka to a prison in the nearby regional capital of Kherson, where he said he was locked in a cell and tortured for days, his genitals and ears shocked with electricity.

"It was like hell all over my body," Bilyi recalled. "It burns so bad it's like the blood is boiling ... I just wanted it to stop," he said.

More than two weeks after Russians retreated from the city, accounts such as his are helping to uncover sites where torture allegedly took place in Kherson, which Kremlin forces occupied for eight

months.

Five such rooms have been found in the city, along with at least four more in the wider Kherson region, where people allege that they were confined, beaten, shocked, interrogated and threatened with death, police said. Human rights experts warn that the accusations made so far are likely only the beginning.

"For months we've received information about torture and other kind of persecution of civilians," said Oleksandra Matviichuk, head of the Center for Civil Liberties, a local rights group. "I am afraid that horrible findings in Kherson still lie ahead."

The Associated Press spoke with five people who allege that they were tortured or arbitrarily detained by Russians in Kherson or knew of others who disappeared and endured abuse. Sometimes, they said, the Russians rounded up whoever they saw — priests, soldiers, teachers or doctors — with no specific reason. In other cases, Russians were allegedly tipped off by sympathizers who pro-



vided names of people believed to be helping the Ukrainian military.

Once detained, the people said they were locked in crowded cells, fed meagre portions of watery soup and bread and made to learn the Russian anthem while listening to screams from prisoners being tortured across the hall. Detainees were allegedly forced to give information about rel-

atives or acquaintances with ties to the Ukrainian army, including names and locations disclosed in handwritten notes.

As a police officer with a father in the military, Bilyi remained under the radar for several months of Russia's occupation, until he said someone likely tipped them off. He spent four days in a cell with others,

being pulled out for questioning and electric shocks.

Investigators accused him of having a Kalashnikov rifle — not just a pistol — and pressured him to share his father's whereabouts. Then they shocked him for half an hour a day for two days before releasing him, he said.

Ukrainian national police allege that more than 460 war crimes have been committed by Russian soldiers in recently occupied areas of Kherson. The torture in the city occurred in two police stations, one police-run detention centre, a prison and a private medical facility, where rubber batons, baseball bats and a machine used for applying electrical shocks were found, said Andrii Kovanyi a press officer for the police in Kherson.

When Igor was detained in September from the call centre where he worked, he was brought into a room, ordered to remove his shirt and to place his palms on the metal door to increase the flow of electricity and the pain of being shocked with a stun gun, he said.

The Russian soldier said, "Are you ready? Now you're going to scream like a bitch ... You will not get out of here, and we will kill you," said Igor, who spoke on the condition that only his first name be used to protect his identity.

The 22-year-old, accused of providing Ukrainians with Russian military positions, said he was shocked by the gun along his back for 2 1/2 hours and then forced to stay awake in a chair all night.

Pictures on his phone, seen by the AP, show clusters of red circular marks lining the length of his back. He was freed after two days but not before writing a letter providing details about a relative of his uncle's who the Russians wanted information on. Documenting the crimes in Kherson will be challenging because no other city this large has been occupied by Russia for so long, said Brian Castner senior crisis adviser at Amnesty International.

"Evidence must be collected and preserved to maintain that chain of custody, so that when there is inter-

national justice, the evidence is lock-tight and perpetrators can be held to account," he said.

Police in Kherson are investigating and collecting testimony. But more and more people are arriving daily, and the justice system is overwhelmed, local rights experts said.

In March, Dmytro Plotnikov's friend was seized by Russians when he went to Kherson's central square to run errands shortly after the occupation began. Plotnikov knows of three other people who were captured and released by Russians, one of whom still had visible bruises on his body more than a month after being freed, he said.

But since the Russians left Kherson, what concerns him most are the Ukrainians who collaborated with them and remained.

In May, Plotnikov's neighbour posted a photo of his sister and her address on a Russian chat group, he said. His sister is outspokenly pro-Ukrainian, and the neighbour accused her of spreading hate about Russian people, he said.

Biden, Macron ready to talk Ukraine, trade in State visit

AP ■ WASHINGTON

French President Emmanuel Macron is headed to Washington for the first state visit of Joe Biden's presidency — a revival of diplomatic pageantry that had been put on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Biden-Macron relationship had a choppy start. Macron briefly recalled France's ambassador to the United States last year after the White House announced a deal to sell nuclear submarines to Australia, undermining a contract for France to sell diesel-powered submarines.

But the relationship has turned around with Macron emerging as one of Biden's most forward-facing European allies in the Western response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This week's visit - it will include Oval Office talks, a glitzy dinner, a news conference and more - comes at a critical moment for both leaders.

The leaders have a long agenda for their Thursday meeting at the White House, including Iran's nuclear program, China's increasing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific and growing concerns about security and stability in Africa's Sahel region, according to U.S. And French officials. But front and center during their Oval Office meeting will be Russia's war in Ukraine, as both Biden and Macron work to maintain economic and military support for Kyiv as it tries to repel Russian forces.

In Washington, Republicans are set to take control of the House, where GOP leader Kevin McCarthy says Republicans will not write a "blank check" for Ukraine. Across the Atlantic,



Macron's efforts to keep Europe united will be tested by the mounting costs of supporting Ukraine in the nine-month war and as Europe battles rising energy prices that threaten to derail the post-pandemic economic recovery.

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby on Monday described Macron as the "dynamic leader" of America's oldest ally while explaining Biden's decision to honor the French president with the first state visit of his presidency.

The U.S. Tradition of honoring foreign heads of state dates back to Ulysses S. Grant, who hosted King David Kalakaua of the Kingdom of Hawaii for a more than 20-course White House dinner, but the tradition has been on hold since 2019 because of COVID-19 concerns.

"If you look at what's going on in Ukraine, look at what's going on in the Indo Pacific and the tensions with China, France is really at the center of all those things," Kirby said. "And so the president felt that this was exact-

ly the right and the most appropriate country to start with for state visits."

Macron was also Republican Donald Trump's pick as the first foreign leader to be honored with a state visit during his term. The 2018 state visit included a jaunt by the two leaders to Mount Vernon, the Virginia estate of George Washington, America's founding president.

Macron was scheduled to arrive in Washington on Tuesday evening ahead of a packed day of meetings and appearances in and around Washington on Wednesday - including a visit to NASA headquarters with Vice President Kamala Harris and talks with Biden administration officials on nuclear energy.

On Thursday, Macron will have his private meeting with Biden followed by a joint news conference and visits to the State Department and Capitol Hill before Macron and his wife, Brigitte Macron, are feted at the state dinner. Grammy winner Jon Batiste is to provide the entertainment.

Ukraine's 'Invincibility' centres offer refuge, resilience

AP ■ BUCHA (UKRAINE)

Retired Ukrainian construction worker Borys Markovnikov is on the move again: this time, just a few steps from his home in the town of Bucha, northwest of Kyiv, to seek shelter and warmth at a "Point of Invincibility" — a government-built help station that serves food, drinks, warmth and ultimately, resilience, in the face of Russia's military onslaught.

In recent weeks, Ukraine has rolled out hundreds of such help stations, christened with a name of defiance as places where residents facing outages of power, heating and water can warm up, charge their phones, enjoy snacks and hot drinks, and even be entertained.

Markovnikov, 78, has had to move a few times. He recalled how he was driven from his home in the eastern Donbas region after Russian-backed separatists seized territory there in 2014. Earlier this year, he fled his adopted town of Bucha — now infamous for massacres during a brief occupation by Russian



forces — on foot, across the front line, to Kyiv. Later he was able to return home, but home is not always an easy place to live.

"My neighbours told me there was a tent with electricity and a TV, and I came to have a look," said Markovnikov, ogling Monday's soccer World Cup match between Ghana and South Korea, adding he had no power at home. "We still believe. Without belief, you can't survive."

Ukraine's State Emergencies Service said Friday nearly 1,000 such centres have been erected

across the country since the programme was first launched on November 18. Its website features a handy online map to show beleaguered citizens where they are located.

As of Friday, over 67,000 people had gotten help in them — and more could pour in if, as many experts and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy have warned, more Russian strikes lie ahead.

Such centres — often consisting of small, insulated tents no larger than a classroom — were rolled out just in time as a

Russia protests Pope comments as Vatican seeks to mediate

AP ■ ROME

Russia has lodged a formal protest with the Vatican over Pope Francis' latest condemnation of atrocities in Ukraine, in which the pontiff blamed most of the cruelty on Chechens and other minorities in an apparent effort to spare ethnic Russian troops from criticism.

The Kremlin's ambassador to the Holy See, Alexander Avdeev, told the RIA Novosti agency that he met Monday with a Vatican official to express his "indignation" about Francis' comments, which were contained in an interview with the Jesuit magazine America that was published Monday.

In his comments, Francis defended his usual reluctance to call out President Vladimir Putin by name, saying it was clear Ukraine is the "martyred" victim in the war. But he also said that, while it was the Russian state that invaded Ukraine, "Generally, the cruelest are perhaps those who are of Russia but are not of the Russian tradition, such as the Chechens, the Buryats and so on".

The pope's apparent distinction between the mostly Muslim Chechens and Buddhist Buryats on the one hand, and ethnic Russian fighters on the other, irked Moscow.



Uneasy calm grips Ukraine as West prepares winter aid

AP ■ KYIV

An uneasy calm hung over Kyiv on Tuesday as residents of the Ukrainian capital did what they could to prepare for anticipated Russian missile attacks aiming to take out more energy infrastructure as winter sets in.

To ease that pain, NATO allies were making plans to boost provisions of anything from blankets to generators to ensure the 43 million Ukrainians can maintain their resolve in the 10th month of fighting against Russia's invasion.

Ukraine's first lady implored the West to show the same kind of steadfastness that Ukrainians had shown against Russian President Vladimir Putin's military campaign.

"Ukrainians are very tired of this war, but we have no choice in the matter," said Olena Zelenska, the wife of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in a BBC interview during a visit to Britain.

"We do hope that the approaching season of Christmas doesn't make you forget about our tragedy and get used to our suffering," she said.

A two-day meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Bucharest, Romania, was likely to see the 30-nation alliance make fresh pledges of nonlethal sup-



port to Ukraine: fuel, generators, medical supplies and winter equipment, on top of new military support.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was to announce substantial US aid for Ukraine's energy grid, US officials said. Ukraine's grid has been battered countrywide since early October by targeted Russian strikes, in what Western officials call a Russian campaign to weaponise the coming winter cold.

Ukrainians are putting up defences — both for troops and for civilians. The government has rolled out hundreds of help stations, christened Points of Invincibility, where residents facing outages of power, heat-

ing and water can warm up, charge their phones, enjoy snacks and hot drinks, and even be entertained.

"I had no electricity for two days. Now there's only some electricity, and no gas," said Vanda Bronyslavavina, who took a breather inside one such help center in Kyiv's Obolon neighbourhood.

The 71-year-old lamented the uncertainty about whether Russia will simply resume its strikes after infrastructure gets fixed, in a frustrating cycle of destruction and repair. It underscored how the war continues to cast a pall over every aspect of life, even if civilian casualties are relatively low at the moment.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-57-T-2022-23-E3
Electrical work in connection with strengthening of wiring cabling, earthing with other associated work in dispensaries/hospitals over Delhi division.
Approx cost of the works : Rs. 56.26 lacs
Address of the office : Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security : Rs. 1,12,500.00
Date & time of submission of tender : 26.12.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender : 26.12.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board : www.irgpn.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
3179/2022
Serving Customers with a Smile

UJVNL LTD.
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763502
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnll.com

RO No.: 869 e-Tender Time Extension Notice Date: 29-11-2022
Due to some unavoidable reasons the submission and opening of Part-1 dates of e-tender of the office of Executive Engineer (Gen.), Chilla Power House are hereby extended as is given below:
Tender No.13/EE(G)/Chilla/2022-23, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning works of 220volt, 400AH Plantie Battery Set and Battery Charger at Chilla Power House.
Last date for submission of bids on website : 06.12.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs
Date for opening of bids on website : 08.12.2022 at 12:00 PM
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer (Gen.), Chilla Power House
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
Mullana-Ambala, Haryana
(Established under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
(Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A++')
ADMISSION NOTICE-MDS (2022-23)
Applications are invited for admission to Stray Vacancy Round for MDS course for the session 2022-23 in MM College of Dental Sciences & Research, a constituent Institute of Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana-Ambala out of the list of candidates as per DGHS, Govt. of India. Only the applicants who have filled the choice for the College are eligible to apply. Application Form can be downloaded from University website (www.mmmullana.org). Last date of receiving duly filled up application with processing fees of Rs.2000/- in form of DD in name of Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana is 30-11-2022 upto 4 PM. positively in University office. Physical counselling shall be held on 01.12.2022 at 9:00 A.M. onwards in the University Campus.
REGISTRAR
Ph.: 01731-274475-78 | Fax: 274375
Website: www.mmmullana.org | Email: info@mmumullana.org

NATO commits to future Ukraine membership

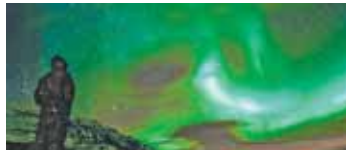
Bucharest: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg reaffirmed the military alliance's commitment to Ukraine on Tuesday, saying that the war-torn nation will one day become a member of the world's largest security organization.

AP

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TLMD-VI(6), BEMINA, SRINAGAR
TeleNo:0194-2492429Fax:0194-2492429.
Email: tlcdistpdd@gmail.com
EXTENSION-I
e-NIT No: TLMD-VI/11 of 2022-23
Dated: 10/11/2022
Name of the work: Augmentation of Grid Station Kulgam by way of Replacement of 132/33KV, 50MVA Transformer by 132 / 33 kv, 80 MVA Transformer.
Corrigendum title: Extension of bid submission dates for NIT due to poor response.
Bids not accompanied with CDR/DD shall not be entertained for techno-commercial evaluation.
CRITICAL DATES AFTER CORRIGENDUM: -
1. e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission supporting documents in PDF formats) 10-12-2022(3pm)
2. OnlineTechno-Commerciale-Bid opening date and time. 12-12-2022 (3pm)
3. Venue of opening of Techno-Commercial-Bids. Office of the Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, Bemina, Srinagar
4. Cost of Bid document (to be submitted in the form of DD /Online Payment Pledged to Executive Engineer, TLMD-VI, JKPTCL Bemina Srinagar. Rs.8500/-
5. Cost of EMD(in the form of CDR/DD) Rs. 1305000/- pledged to Superintending Engineer O&M-II (Transmission), Bemina Srinagar.
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per attached SBD, BOQ and other documents uploaded on site.
No: TLMD-VI/2915-17
Dated:-26.11.2022
-Sd/-
Executive Engineer
TLMD-VI,Bemina Sgr.
DIPK-NB-5270/22

Trial starts in Norway for Putin ally's son who flew drone

AP ■ COPENHAGEN



Christian Elden, who has said that Yakunin should be considered a British citizen, rather than Russian.

Norwegian news agency NTB said that Yakunin is charged with flying drones several times on Svalbard, where he was between August 3 and September 6. Yakunin is the son of Russian businessman Vladimir Yakunin, a longtime acquaintance of Putin, who was placed on the US State Department's sanctions list of Russian officials and businessmen following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Yakunin remains in custody. His trial is expected to run until Friday.

Numerous drone sightings have been reported near offshore oil and gas platforms belonging to NATO member Norway, a major oil and gas producer. Several Russian citizens have been detained for flying drones or taking photographs of sensitive sites in Norway. Also Tuesday, a 50-year-old Russian man who was stopped at Norway's border with Russia in the Arctic north carrying two drones and cameras and other media equipment was sentenced to 120 days in prison, Norwegian media reported.

No evidence was found by the Oslo District Court that the man was engaged in espionage, Norwegian broadcaster TV2 said.

But by flying his drone a total of 47 times from late August until early October he was found guilty by the court of violating drone regulations relating to Russian citizens.

US rejects China objections to South China Sea mission

AP ■ BEIJING

The US Navy on Tuesday dismissed Beijing's protests over a "freedom of navigation operation" conducted near a Chinese-held island in the South China Sea, in the latest incident drawing new attention to one of the world's potential military flashpoints.

In an unusual move, the Navy's 7th Fleet issued a rebuttal to China's objections to Tuesday's mission, calling it "the latest in a long string of (Chinese) actions to misrepresent lawful U.S. Maritime operations and assert its excessive and illegitimate maritime claims" in the South China Sea. China claims the area virtually in its entirety.

The Navy said that China's sweeping maritime claims pose a serious threat to the freedom of navigation and overflight, free trade and unimpeded commerce, and freedom of economic opportunity for South China Sea littoral nations. "As long as some countries continue to claim and assert limits on rights that exceed their authority under international law, the United States will continue to defend the rights and freedoms of the sea guaranteed to all," it said.

The Navy said its guided



missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville on Tuesday "asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the South China Sea near the Spratly Islands, consistent with international law."

China called the action illegal and said it mobilized naval and air assets to issue warnings and drive off the ship.

"The U.S. Military's actions have seriously violated China's sovereignty and security, which is further ironclad evidence of its pursuit of navigational hegemony and militarisation of the South China Sea," spokesperson for the Southern Theater Command, Air Force Col. Tian Junli, was quoted as saying.

"China has indisputable sovereignty over the South China Sea islands and their

adjacent waters," Tian said.

The long-seething South China Sea territorial conflicts involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have long been regarded as a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China rivalry in the region.

While the U.S. Lays no claims to the strategic waterway, where an estimated USD 5 trillion in global trade transits each year, it has said that freedom of navigation and overflight is in America's national interest. The sea is also home to rich fishing stocks and a potential wealth of energy and mineral resources.

In March, U.S. Indo-Pacific commander Adm. John C. Aquilino told The Associated Press that China has fully militarised at least three of sever-

al islands it built in the disputed waters with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile systems, laser and jamming equipment. He described it as an increasingly aggressive move that threatens all nations operating nearby.

Then in July, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on China to comply with a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's vast claims on historical grounds in the South China Sea.

On a visit to the area earlier this month, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris reaffirmed Washington's commitment to defend the Philippines under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty. She also announced an additional aid of USD 7.5 million to Philippine maritime law enforcement agencies.

Nepal elections: Half dozen PM aspirants emerge in Nepali Cong

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

About half a dozen leaders of the Nepali Congress, which has emerged as the single largest party in Nepal's parliamentary polls, have expressed their desire to become the country's next prime minister, amidst growing pressure on the party to transfer the leadership to the younger generation.

Even as the leaders of the ruling five-party alliance intensified efforts to form a new government, it will take a few more days before the final results of the House of Representatives and seven provincial assembly elections held on November 20 are announced.

Half a dozen leaders within the Nepali Congress (NC), which has so far won 53 seats under the direct voting system, have expressed their aspirations to become the next prime minister, My Republica newspaper reported.

So far results of 158 seats have been declared. The ruling alliance led by the NC is moving towards a clear majority, allowing them to form a new government. The counting of votes is almost complete, with the results of six seats yet to be announced.

A party needs at least 138 seats to form a majority government in the 275-member House of Representatives.

The five-party ruling



alliance, which includes the NC, CPN-Maoist Centre, CPN-Unified Socialist, Loktantrik Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Janamorchha has a combined strength of 85 seats in the HoR under direct election, followed by the Opposition CPN-UML alliance with 57 seats.

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, who is also the NC's president, discussed the issue of the government formation with Maoist Center Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" and Unified Socialist Chairman Madhav Kumar Nepal.

Following discussions with Prachanda and Nepal, Deuba agreed to continue the current alliance and move forward for the economic development and prosperity of the country by including other parties in the process.

Sources claim that the top leaders of the three parties concluded that the electoral

coordination was partially successful in the recently held elections. They also claimed that the leaders are unanimous that after the results of the election, they will discuss the formation of the government at the centre and provincial level as well as other issues and move forward by forging an agreement.

With the continuation of the current coalition, it is estimated that there is a strong possibility that 76-year-old Deuba can become the Prime Minister again and that he will be elected as the leader of the NC parliamentary party.

However, NC's Ram Chandra Paudel (78), Prakash Man Singh (66), Shashank Koirala (64), and 46-year-old General Secretary Gagan Kumar Thapa are likely to challenge Deuba's bid to become the Prime Minister for the sixth time.

Census: Christians minority in England



AP ■ LONDON

Fewer than half the people in England and Wales consider themselves Christian, according to the most recent census — the first time the country's official religion has been followed by a minority of the population.

Britain has become less religious — and less white — in the decade since the last census, figures from the 2021 census released Tuesday by the Office for National Statistics revealed.

Some 46.2% of the population of England and Wales described themselves as Christian on the day of the 2021 census, down from 59.3% a decade earlier. The Muslim population grew from 4.9% to 6.5% of the population, while 1.7% identified as Hindu, up from 1.5%.

More than 1 in 3 people — 37% — said they had no religion, up from 25% in 2011.

The other parts of the UK, Scotland and Northern Ireland, report their census results separately.

GOP prepares blitz of probes

AP ■ WASHINGTON

House Republicans are promising aggressive oversight of the Biden administration once they assume the majority next year, with a particular focus on the business dealings of presidential son Hunter Biden, illegal immigration at the US-Mexico border and the origins of COVID-19.

Republicans won't have enough votes to advance key legislative priorities if there is no Democratic buy-in, but their oversight of government agencies could put Democrats on the defensive and dampen support for the Biden administration going into the 2024 presidential elections.

Some of the lawmakers expected to lead those investigations once House Republicans select their new committee chairs:

JUDICIARY'S BIG ROLE

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, is expected to serve as the next chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. Jordan helped form and then lead the ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus and voted on Jan. 6, 2021, to object to counting Pennsylvania's electoral vote.

President Donald Trump

thought so highly of Jordan that he presented the congressman with the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Judiciary Committee handles oversight of the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and issues such as crime, immigration and protection of civil liberties.

It's typically one of the most partisan committees on Capitol Hill, yet Jordan's combative style stands out even there. The committee would be the place where any effort would begin to impeach a member of the Biden administration, as some Republicans have been proposing for Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Jordan's inquiries to the administration in recent months make clear the committee will investigate the FBI's execution of a search warrant at Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence. He has also advocated for a wide-ranging look at the Biden administration's immigration policies and the origins of COVID-19.

"All those things need to be investigated just so you have the truth," Jordan told conservative activists last summer at a conference. "Plus that will frame up the 2024 race when I hope and



I think President Trump is going to run again and we need to make sure that he wins."

OVERSIGHT'S LONG LIST

Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., is expected to serve as the next chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee and has made clear that investigating President Joe Biden's son Hunter will be one of his top priorities. The Republicans say their investigation of Hunter Biden's business dealings is to "determine whether these activities compromise U.S. National security and President Biden's ability to lead with impartiality."

Comer has also been laying the groundwork for investigating the situation on the U.S.-

Mexico border. He sent a letter to Mayorkas seeking an array of documents and communications pertaining to the administration's border policy. "We cannot endure another year of the Biden Administration's failed border policies," the letter said.

But that's just a slice the committee's focus.

"We're going to investigate between 40 and 50 different things," Comer said Sunday on NBC's "Meet The Press." "We have the capacity. We'll have 25 members on the committee, and we're going to have a staff close to 70. So we have the ability to investigate a lot of things."

The federal government's spending in response to COVID-19 will also be scruti-

nised.

"We believe that there have been hundreds of billions, if not trillions of dollars wasted over the past three years, so that spans two administrations, in the name of COVID.

"We want to have hearings on that. We want to try to determine what happened with the fraudulent unemployment insurance funds, the fraudulent PPP loan funds, some of this money that's being spent for state and local governments in the COVID stimulus money," Comer said.

AFGHANISTAN IN FOCUS

Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, is expected to serve as the next chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee,

which will be investigating the U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan. McCaul reiterated a request in mid-October for various documents and directed the State Department to preserve all records related to the chaotic withdrawal, which included the loss of 13 U.S. Service members killed during a suicide bombing attack.

"The way it was done was such a disaster and such a disgrace to our veterans that served in Afghanistan. They deserve answers to the many questions we have," McCaul said on ABC's "This Week." He added: "Why wasn't there a plan to evacuate? How did it go so wrong?"

SPOTLIGHT ON ENERGY AND TAXES

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., is expected to serve as the next chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has the broadest jurisdiction of any authorizing committee in Congress, from health care to environmental protection to national energy policy. Republicans on the committee have already spent months investigating the origins of COVID-19 and are expected to continue that work in the next Congress.



China lockdown stir pauses as police flood city streets

AP ■ HONG KONG

With police out in force, there was no word of additional protests against strict government anti-pandemic measures Tuesday in Beijing, as temperatures fell well below freezing. Shanghai, Nanjing and other cities where online calls to gather had been issued were also reportedly quiet.

Rallies against China's unusually strict anti-virus measures spread to several cities over the weekend in the biggest show of opposition to the ruling Communist Party in decades. Authorities eased some regulations, apparently to try to quell public anger, but the government showed no sign of backing down on its larger coronavirus strategy, and analysts expect authorities to quickly silence the dissent.

In Hong Kong on Monday, about 50 students from mainland China sang at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and

some lit candles in a show of support for those in mainland cities who demonstrated against restrictions that have confined millions to their homes.

Hiding their faces to avoid official retaliation, the students chanted, "No PCR tests but freedom!" and "Oppose dictatorship, don't be slaves!"

The gathering and a similar one elsewhere in Hong Kong were the biggest protests there in more than a year under rules imposed to crush a pro-democracy movement in the territory, which is Chinese but has a separate legal system from the mainland.

"I've wanted to speak up for a long time, but I did not get the chance to," said James Cai, a 29-year-old from Shanghai who attended a Hong Kong protest and held up a piece of white paper, a symbol of defiance against the ruling party's pervasive censorship. "If people in the mainland can't tolerate it anymore, then I cannot as well."

4 Palestinians killed by Israeli fire in occupied West Bank

AP ■ JERUSALEM

A Palestinian man on Tuesday rammed his car into an Israeli soldier, seriously injuring her, before he was shot dead by Israeli police in the occupied West Bank. He was the fourth Palestinian killed in a series of violent incidents throughout the day.

It was the latest bloodshed in a mounting surge of Israeli-Palestinian violence in the wake of a Jerusalem bombing last week that killed two Israelis. The violence began overnight near

the city of Hebron, where fighting erupted between Israeli forces and residents.

The Israeli army said clashes erupted after two army vehicles got stuck due to mechanical issues. It said soldiers opened fire after Palestinians hurled rocks and explosives. It said Palestinian gunmen also opened fire. The Palestinian Health Ministry said Mufid Khalil, 44, was killed and at least eight other people were wounded by Israeli fire.

In a separate incident, two brothers were killed by Israeli



fire during clashes with troops near the village of Kafr Ein, west of Ramallah in the northern West Bank early Tuesday. The Palestinian news agency Wafa identified them as Jawad and Dhafir Rimawi, 22 and 21.

The Israeli military said troops operating in the village

Ethiopia offers no date for end to blackout in Tigray region

AP ■ NAIROBI

There is "no timeline" for restoring internet access to Ethiopia's embattled Tigray region, a senior government official said Tuesday.

The restoration of Tigray's internet service will be carried alongside the resumption of its phone and electricity services, though no date has been set for those goals, Ethiopia's Minister for Innovation and Technology Belete Molla said.

He was speaking at the UN's annual Internet Governance Forum being held this



week in Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

"The government of Ethiopia is designing a package that is not only about internet resumption but the resumption of everything, because this is what we need as a people, as a government," Belete said of the

internet shutdown in Tigray. "There is no timeline."

Tigray, home to more than 5 million people, has been mostly without internet, telecommunications and banking since war broke out between federal government troops and forces led by the Tigray People's Liberation Front in November 2020.

A ceasefire deal signed between the warring sides in South Africa earlier this month commits the government to restoring Tigray's basic services, but the communications blackout has not yet been lifted.

Houston lifts boil-water order affecting more than 2 million

AP ■ HOUSTON

Houston officials lifted an order Tuesday that had called for more than 2 million people in the nation's fourth-largest city to boil their tap water before drinking or using it. The boil order had been in effect since Sunday, when a power outage at a purification plant caused pressure to drop.

The order led to the closure of businesses and schools, including the Houston Independent School District, which cancelled classes Monday and Tuesday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that we are selling our property J-28, South Extn.-I, New Delhi-110049 to Saravshri Prakash Chander Chopra and Harish Malik, residence of J-15 and B-19, South Extn.-I, New Delhi-110049. Whereas in a chain of documents we have lost one document i.e. GPA by Shri Kuldip Singh in favour of Mrs. Shiv Kumari Singh having No.24-0318920. If anyone found the document, kindly handover the same to Mohan Lal Varma, J-28, South Extn.-I, New Delhi-110049 within 15 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that the H.No. F-4, Sector-56, Noiaha, has been allotted in the name of Dharanbir S/o Late Sh. Dina Nath R/o A-140, Sector-19, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.), had said the said property on the basis of GPA to the following persons:- A GPA was executed in favour of Smt. Suman Dhaka W/o Sh. Satya Prakash Dhaka R/o B-171, Sector -19, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P.), on 27.02.1992 at Suo Registrar Office Noida Book No-IV, Volume no. 1610/1617 on pages 35/453 to 458 at Document No.1049. That the agreement to sell was not registered. The said property is going to be transferred in favour of Smt. Pushpa Sathey W/o Sh. Krishna Balabhai Sathey & Anand Sathey S/o Sh. Krishna Balabhai Sathey R/o N-123, Sector-12, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P.). Now, if any one has/have any objection he/she may submit his/hir objection in the Residential Department of Noida Authority along-with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the publication of this notice. Smt. Suman Dhaka

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum

Ref. i) Tender Notice No. 63/2022-2023 dated. 19.11.2022

ii) Tender No. 03220999A Due on 13.12.2022. (S.No.2)

iii) Tender No. 03220006 Due on 26.12.2022. (S.No.10)

In reference to above mentioned tenders the new condition according to correction slip no. 1 has been incorporated in the tenders. All other terms & conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in. 3175/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)

Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813

Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 96461-17607)

Tender Enquiry No. 29/AHP-134(N)/MM-I/O&M Dated: 26-11-2022

SE/MM-I/O&M/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat-151111 invites e-tender for the work of Operation & Maintenance and General Cleanliness of PLC based complete Ash Handling Plant of 2x210 MW Units (Stage-I) and 2x250MW Stage-II along with operation & routine maintenance of 1 No. 100 MT Electronic pitless weighbridge and issuing of Exisle Gate Pass cum invoices to each dry fly ash loading trucks and work of Decantation of LDO/HSD/HPHF/O wagons / BTPN wagons/ Tankers and general House Keeping and maintenance of Decantation system & storage tank area at GHTP Lehra Mohabat.

For detailed NIT and tender specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 30-11-2022 from 11:00 AM onwards

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any will be uploaded online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

76155/12/1158/2021/17731 GHTP-67/22

MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR

(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

Mullana-Ambala, Haryana

(Established under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

(Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A++')

ADMISSION NOTICE-MD/MS (2022-23)

Applications are invited for admission to Stray Vacancy Round (NRI/IO) for MD/MS course for the session 2022-23 in MM Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, a constituent Institute of Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana-Ambala out of the list of candidates as per DGHS, Govt. of India. Only the applicants who have filled the choice for the College are eligible to apply. Application Form can be downloaded from University website (www.mmmullana.org).

Last date of receiving fully filled up application with processing fees of Rs.2000/- in form of DD in name of Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana is 30-11-2022 upto 4 PM, positively in **University office**. Physical counselling shall be held for vacant NRI seats on **01.12.2022 at 9:00 A.M.** and for Management seats on **01.12.2022 from 11:00 A.M.** in the University Campus. **REGISTRAR**

Ph.: 01731-274475-78 | Fax: 274375

Website: www.mmmullana.org | Email: info@mmumullana.org

Sensex, Nifty settle at fresh lifetime highs

Maintain winning momentum for 6th day

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty ended at fresh lifetime peaks on Tuesday amid a largely firm trend in other Asian markets and continuous foreign fund inflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex gained 177.04 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at 62,681.84, its fresh record closing high. During the day, it jumped 382.6 points or 0.61 per cent to its lifetime intra-day peak of 62,887.40.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 55.30 points or 0.30 per cent to end at 18,618.05, its fresh record closing high.

"While the winning streak continued and key benchmarks scaled new highs, investors traded with caution in a slightly volatile market. There are worries about growing protests in China over the imposition of strict lockdowns, which markets fear could hurt the already slowing global economy.

"If the situation doesn't



improve, this could impact the market. But since India is in a slightly better position compared to other major economies, investors are willing to bet big on us," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd. Among the Sensex pack, Hindustan Unilever, Sun Pharma, Nestle, Dr Reddy's, Tata Steel, ICICI Bank, Titan and HCL Technologies were the major winners.

IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Power Grid and Larsen & Toubro were among the major laggards.

"Indian markets opened on positive note following positive overall Asian markets... During the afternoon session the markets continued their positive trend with heavy buying in FMCG and consumer durables stocks.

"Sentiments remained optimistic as data showed that foreign portfolio investors have infused funds worth Rs 32,344 crore in the Indian stock markets so far in the month of November and became net buyers again," said Narendra Solanki - Head Fundamental Research-Investment Services, Anand Rathii Shares & Stock

Brokers. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.39 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.29 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, FMCG jumped 1.73 per cent, metal (0.57 per cent), consumer durables (0.58 per cent) and healthcare (0.54 per cent).

Consumer discretionary, energy, industrials, telecommunication, auto, bankex and services were among the laggard. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended higher, while Tokyo settled lower.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly lower in the afternoon trade. Wall Street had ended in the negative territory on Monday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 2.45 per cent higher at USD 85.23 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought shares worth Rs 935.88 crore on Monday, as per exchange data.

India to see significant economic activity over next 10 yrs: Nilekani

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will witness "significant economic activity" over the next decade on the back of open network for digital commerce (ONDC), record aggregating system and government measures like GST, FASTag and e-way bills, Infosys Technologies co-founder and chairman Nandan Nilekani said on Tuesday.

He made the remarks while speaking at the 7th edition of the Global Technology Summit organised by Carnegie India.

"...There are three big things coming today, which will over the next decade have more of an impact (on India). I believe in the next 10 years India is going to see significant economic activity which is broad based, inclusive and democratised," he said.

The first is, ONDC second is account aggregator framework and the transformation happening in the logistics sector due to government initiatives like GST, Fastag and the e-way bill, Nilekani said.

Nilekani said he expects the ONDC -- an initiative of the government to promote an

open platform for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services through electronic networks -- to begin soon.

ONDC will allow the commerce business to be disintegrated for millions of small suppliers to sell on the network, for millions of small retailers to participate as small sellers on the platform to really turbocharge hyper-local commerce making their businesses more inclusive.

Secondly, account aggregator network which again fundamentally is an idea that data should ultimately be used by people who generate the data and therefore individuals, small businesses can use the data to get access to multiple services like credit and so forth. This record aggregating system is also a business for India's data empowerment architecture. It has a unique installation called consent manager.

"A consent manager on your behalf gets your data from different providers and provides it further for different benefits. For example, a small business can use his consent manager get his GST details, get bank statement from the bank, get tax sta-



tus from the income tax system and give it in a secure manner to lender who can then take a decision to give credit. All this is fundamentally going to democratise lending and other financial services," the Chairman explained.

He said, there is transformation happening in the logistics sector due to government initiatives like GST, FASTag and e-way bill. All these have simplified the movement of goods and vehicles on the highways. The government has many plans to build multimodal parks, all this will help reduce logistics cost.

Further, a variety of start-up innovators, local delivery and intercity delivery are going to change that moment and delivery of goods, he said.

Nilekani also said that from about 600 million in 2014, today 1.3 billion Indians have Aadhaar IDs (identity).

"India has led the world in creating digital public goods where everyone in the country can be in the digital economy... With Aadhaar... I was the founding chairman of Unique Identification Authority of India which did this project. By the time I stepped down in 2014, 600 million Indians had digital ID, and subsequently under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and his government today 1.3 billion Indians have digital IDs."

It is an online ID that can be used anywhere across India. It authenticates a person through biometrics and OTPs, he said.

FinMin to meet heads of banks on Dec 5 to promote cross-border trade in rupee

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has called a meeting of CEOs of banks, including top six private sector lenders, on December 5 to discuss ways to promote cross-border trade in the rupee instead of the US dollar.

Besides, sources said the meeting to be attended by other stakeholders, including senior officials of external affairs and commerce ministries, will review the progress made on this front so far.

Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi will be chairing the meeting and is also likely to see attendance from representatives of the Reserve Bank of India and Indian Banks' Association (IBA), sources said.

Following detailed guidelines from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on cross-border trade transactions in domestic currency in July, about nine special vostro accounts have



been opened with two Indian banks to facilitate overseas trade in the rupee.

Sberbank and VTB Bank - the largest and second-largest banks of Russia, respectively - are the first foreign lenders to receive the approval after the RBI announced the guidelines.

RBI as per the guidelines decided to put in place an additional arrangement for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/imports in INR.

Another Russian bank Gazprom, which does not have its bank in India, has also opened this account with Kolkata-based UCO Bank.

The move to open the spe-

cial vostro account clears the deck for settlement of payments in the rupee for trade between India and Russia, enabling cross-border trade in the Indian currency, which the RBI is keen to promote.

The RBI has allowed the special vostro accounts to invest the surplus balance in Indian government securities to help popularise the new arrangement.

UCO Bank already has a vostro account-based facility in Iran. Gazprombank, or GPB, is a privately-owned Russian lender and the third-largest bank in the country by assets.

"Indian importers undertaking imports through this mechanism shall make payment in INR, which shall be credited into the special vostro account of the correspondent bank of the partner country, against the invoices for the supply of goods or services from the overseas seller/supplier," RBI had said earlier.

RBI to launch pilot of retail digital rupee on Dec 1

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said it will launch the first pilot for retail digital rupee (e?-R) on December 1, 2022, in which four banks including SBI and ICICI Bank will initially participate.

On November 1, the RBI had launched the first pilot in the digital rupee - wholesale segment.

Announcing the operationalisation of Central Bank Digital Currency - Retail (e?-R) Pilot, the RBI said the pilot would cover select locations in closed user group (CUG) comprising participating customers and merchants.

"The e-R would be in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender. It would be issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued," it said.

It would be distributed through banks and users will be able to transact with e?-R



through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks and stored on mobile phones/devices.

Transactions can be both Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M).

The RBI further said the e?-R would offer features of physical cash like trust, safety and settlement finality.

"As in the case of cash, it will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks," the central bank said.

The pilot would initially cover four cities -- Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar.

Most rated Indian firms can withstand weaker rupee, says Moody's

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Most rated companies in India can withstand a weaker rupee, although external factors like rising interest rates in developed economies and higher energy prices would increase currency volatility, Moody's Investors Service said on Tuesday.

In a commentary on non-financial companies in India, Moody's said on November 25, the Indian rupee touched 81.67 versus the US dollar, after depreciating almost 10 per cent since the beginning of the year.

A steady rise in interest rates in developed economies combined with higher energy prices has resulted in a widening current account deficit, pressuring the rupee. "Although these external factors increase currency volatility, most rated companies in India have buffers to with-

stand the rupee's depreciation," Moody's said.

The weakening rupee is credit negative for Indian companies that generate revenue in the domestic currency but depend on US dollar debt to fund their operations. A weaker rupee will also hurt companies with dollar-denominated costs but rupee-based revenues.

"However, we expect the negative credit implications for rated companies to be limited or temporary," it said.

Most rated companies have protections to limit the effect of currency fluctuations.

These include natural hedges, some US dollar revenue and financial hedges, or a combination of these factors, which help limit the adverse effects on cash flow and leverage, even under a more severe depreciation scenario.

Rupee falls 3 paise to close at 81.71 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee slipped 3 paise to close at 81.71 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday as rising crude oil prices in the international market weighed on forex market sentiment.

However, a firm trend in domestic equities and a weak American currency overseas capped the losses in the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 81.58 but later slipped into the negative territory.

During the session, it touched an intra-day high of 81.57 and a low of 81.74 against the greenback.

The local unit finally settled at 81.71, registering a decline of 3 paise over its previous close of 81.68.

States borrowing cost falls 7 bps to 7.61% as bond supplies dry up on Central payouts

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The weighted average yield on states' market borrowings declined by 7 basis points to 7.61 per cent at Tuesday's auction on lower issuance as a number of states stayed away from the market.

States have been given two installments of the central tax devolution on November 10 and an installment of Rs 17,000 crore of the Rs 35,300 crore pending GST compensation on November 24, reducing the borrowing requirement of the states.

The issuances fell also because the states were using the Reserve Bank's liquidity



windows -- the ways and means advances (WMA) and the overdraft facility (OD) -- which increased to 155 days and 57 days, respectively in September from 127 and 28 days, respectively in August.

At the latest auction of state government securities, only nine states went to the market raising Rs 12,700 crore, which is 56.4 per cent lower

than the indicated amount for this week, according to an analysis by Icrs Ratings. However, cumulatively, the overall issuance is down only 2 per cent on-year.

Overall, November saw Rs 57,200 crore of state bond issuance only, which is 42 per cent lower than the Rs 98,200 crore indicated for this month in the auction calendar. In absolute terms, the gap between the actual and indicated issuance of Rs 41,000 crore in November is the largest monthly gap in FY23 so far, the agency's chief economist Aditi Nayar said in a note.

Accordingly, the weighted average cut-off/yield declined

by 7 basis points (bps) to 7.61 per cent on Tuesday from 7.68 per cent in the last auction; the weighted average tenor also declined to 14 years from 17 years last week.

In fact, the yields have been falling across the debt market as is visible from the benchmark 10-year G-sec (government securities) yield, which inched down by 1 bps to 7.28 per cent. But the weighted average cut-off of 10-year state debt fell more sharply - to the tune of 8 bps -- to 7.61 per cent this week. Accordingly, the spread between the 10-year state bonds and G-sec yield narrowed sharply to 33 bps from 41 bps last week.

CEA projects 9% jump in peak power demand to 235GW in April 2023

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on Tuesday said peak power demand may shoot up by nine per cent to 235 GW in April 2023 and called for proper planning to avoid recurrence of energy crisis. In April this year, the peak power demand was around 215GW.

The country had witnessed unprecedented coal demand from the power sector during the summer this year after COVID curbs were eased.

"If we are not careful, a similar crisis may come next year. As per our estimate, demand in April 2023 will be higher. The same (demand) this year was around 215 GW,

which might go up to 230-235 GW." CEA chairperson Ghanshyam Prasad said at the 13th Energy Conclave 2022 organised by CII here.

Noting that the thermal power capacity of the country will go up till the transition period, he said the energy security for the country is the primary concern though India is committed to renewable sources.

"Although, there are talks of phasing down thermal power capacity, this, by 2030, is likely to go up to 248 GW in the best-case scenario. It could go up to 256 GW if there is low support from hydro and renewable energy," Prasad said on the sidelines of the event.



India currently has close to 210 GW of thermal power capacity.

Despite the fact that the total coal-fired power capacity will rise, its share in the total energy mix will reduce to 50 per cent from 75 per cent now, and in terms of installed capacity, it will shrink to 30-35 per cent, he said.

Prasad stated that plans are afoot for plants with a total 30 GW capacity to be installed at coal mine pitheads amid logistics and cost concerns.

"CEA and the Power ministry together are working on a plan for 500 GW of renewable energy and 536 GW of transmission capacity for evacuation," he added.

ONGC gas price to be capped at \$6.5 for 5 years, no change in Reliance-bp price

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A government-appointed gas price review panel, led by Kirit Parikh, is recommending a floor and ceiling price for natural gas produced from legacy fields of state-owned firms for five years to help moderate CNG and piped cooking gas rates.

State producers Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) will be paid a minimum or floor price of USD 4 per million British thermal unit and a cap or ceiling price of USD 6.5 as against the current rate of USD 8.57, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The report, which calls for

not tinkering with the existing pricing formula for difficult fields such as KG-D6 of Reliance Industries and bp plc, is under finalisation and may lower the ceiling price for ONGC gas marginally.

The floor and ceiling price will be applicable for five years although the initial thought was to keep it for three years, they said adding the ceiling price will have an annual escalation clause.

The escalation being suggested is USD 0.5 per mmBtu annually with no change pricing for first two years or a USD 0.25 per mmBtu annual escalation for five years.

The escalation will be adjusted to the foreign exchange rate, they said.

The panel, which was



tasked with suggesting a "fair price to the end-consumer" while ensuring a "market-oriented, transparent and reliable pricing regime for India's long-term vision for ensuring a gas-based economy", has favoured two different pricing regimes, sources said.

For the legacy or old fields of ONGC and OIL -- where the cost has long been recov-

ered and which are currently governed by a formula that uses rates in gas-surplus nations such as the US, Canada and Russia -- the committee is recommending a floor or minimum base price and cap or ceiling rates.

This would ensure that prices do not fall below the cost of production, as they did last year, or do not spike to

record levels as currently.

Gas from legacy fields is sold to city gas distributors who had to raise rates of CNG and piped cooking gas by over 70 per cent after prices went up from USD 2.90 per million British thermal unit till March to USD 6.10 in April and further to USD 8.57 last month, reflecting a surge in global rates. This rise in rates, which narrowed the gap between CNG and polluting diesel, had prompted the review.

Sources said the city gas will get top priority in the allocation of the gas from legacy fields, called APM gas. The sector will be in the 'no-cut' category, meaning supplies to other consumers will be cut first in case of a decline in production.

'Govt needs to set up separate Ministry for pharma sector'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government needs to set up a separate ministry for the pharma sector to encourage domestic producers and decrease Chinese imports, opined CEOs while participating in a discussion on the challenges being faced by the sector.

In a CEO Roundtable at the 15th edition of CPHI & PMEC India held on Tuesday, the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of companies, including those from RPG Life Science and Fermenta Biotech, also discussed ways to shift the focus of the domestic industry from volume to value.

The leaders also pointed out the need to reduce dependency on China by using technology.



Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) Director General Vivek Sehgal said that the industry needs to collaborate and co-work and unite for collective voice on IPR related issues.

The leaders also discussed having a single industry organ-

isation to put across the grievances of the pharma industry before the government.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the 15th edition of CPHI & PMEC India, Pharmexcil Director General Ravi Uday Bhaskar said the Indian pharmaceutical exports have recorded an impressive growth of around 5 per cent in the current financial year (April-Oct 2022).

"Despite having global challenges, we have exported over USD 25 billion in the biggest market, which means about 30 per cent of our exports are going to the US," he added.

Currently, the Indian pharma market is valued at around USD 50 billion, out of which almost USD 25 billion constitutes the export market.

Xherdan Shaqiri added another goal in the final minute of the game, and did the same thing with his hands as the Swiss won 2-1 in the second of the three group matches.

Khaka and Shaqiri both have ethnic Albanian heritage and family ties to Kosovo.

The Swiss likely need only a draw at Stadium 974, and Shaqiri should be available to play after sitting out the match against Brazil with a muscle injury.

THE SUN & PLAY: DESPERATE INDIA HOPE FOR FULL GAME IN FINAL ODI

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Frustrated by the fickle weather, a desperate Indian team would pray for a rain-free final ODI against New Zealand in its bid to finish on an even keel in a series that neither had context nor any major take-aways.

There is forecast of scattered showers in Christchurch and nothing can be more irritating than playing a series where the Gen-Next of Indian cricket hardly got any game time to show their prowess.

Out of five white-ball games that also includes three-match T20I series, two matches (one T20I and one ODI) didn't yield any result and one game (T20I) was curtailed significantly and ended in a tie due to Duckworth-Lewis method.

With the series in line, Shikhar Dhawan and his men would aim to put up an impactful performance at the picturesque Hagley Oval ground, which has traditionally helped the seam bowlers and has an average score in the 230 range in the past few years.

The Indian batting in first Powerplay (first 10 overs) has been much talked about and even though skipper Dhawan has been a prolific ODI opener

over the years, even he understands that to secure his place for the next World Cup, his approach needs a sea change.

His young opening partner Shubman Gill, however, has shown more intent in shot selection with scores of 50 and 45 not out in the two games.

So has Indian cricket's current blue-eyed boy Suryakumar Yadav, whose three sixes in a short 12.5 overs of play at the Seddon Park, did send the Indian supporters into raptures.

But the bigger challenge for Indian batting line-up will be to put up an above par score against New Zealand on a ground where swing bowlers have ruled the roost in the past few ODI games.

And for that, not just the openers or Surya but the likes of Rishabh Pant also needs to step up and be counted.

Rishabh's ODI record is pretty impressive but currently, the runs have dried up since the tour of England (primarily in 20 over cricket) and he is one player, who needs to fire in order to ensure that Indian middle-order looks competitive against a quality Black Caps attack.

Rishabh's presence and lack of bowling options among the specialist batters also effectively mean that Sanju Samson has



to once again sit out, like the last game where Deepak Hooda, because of his all-round skills, was preferred over the immensely popular cricketer from Kerala.

Since the last match was a wash-out, it will be interesting if interim head coach VVS Laxman decides to shuffle with the playing XI, especially the

bowling attack where Kuldeep Yadav is yet to get an opportunity. But to leave out either Yuzvendra Chahal or Washington Sundar will be doing them a dis-

service.

Shardul Thakur looked pedestrian in the opening ODI in Auckland and, in all likelihood, Arshdeep Singh, Deepak Chahar and the fiery Umran Malik will continue to lead the pace attack.

For the New Zealand pacers Matt Henry, Tim Southee and Lockie Ferguson, there couldn't be a better venue to exploit the frailties in India's batting to the fullest. Similarly, the Indian bowling attack would get a conducive bowling track to ask some probing questions to the likes of Tom Latham and Kane Williamson, who have proved to be the thorn in flesh during the last game.

TEAMS

India: Shikhar Dhawan (captain), Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Deepak Hooda, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Deepak Chahar, Arshdeep Singh, Shardul Thakur and Umran Malik. **New Zealand:** Kane Williamson (captain), Finn Allen, Devin Conway, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Tim Southee, Matt Henry, Adam Milne, Jimmy Neesham, Mitchell Santner and Lockie Ferguson.



Umran's speed helps me to deceive batters with lesser pace: Arshdeep

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Their bowling styles are like chalk and cheese but Arshdeep Singh finds Umran Malik's frightening pace beneficial as the batters are always struggling to adjust due to the marked difference in their respective speed.

The Jammu pace sensation is one of the fastest bowlers in world cricket alongside South African Anrich Nortje, Englishman Mark Wood to name a few, who regularly hit 150 clicks.

Arshdeep is more of a swing bowler, who normally when in rhythm, hits around early 130 kmph mark.

Both the IPL performers made their ODI debut against New Zealand in the opening game in Auckland and the Punjab man wants the partnership to continue forever.

"It is always good to bowl alongside Umran and he is also fun-loving so the dressing room atmosphere remains nice," Arshdeep said ahead of the third and final ODI against New Zealand, here on Wednesday.

"As far as bowling is concerned, I get a lot of benefit from Umran's bowling as batters need to adjust heavily from 155 kmph to 135 kmph. And they get deceived by pace and we enjoy bowling with each other. I expect we are able to continue this partnership for longest time," he said. Having made a name in T20Is, Arshdeep doesn't want to change too much while playing the 50-over format.

"My way of bowling is attack at the start and defensive at the end in T20Is. Not very different in ODIs for me and wherever I get a chance, I will try to do well."

Fans have a right to criticise

Arshdeep in his short career has already seen the ugly side of fandom when he was mercilessly trolled on social media after India's loss to Pakistan in an Asia Cup game in Dubai. A drunk fan had also abused him while he was getting into the team bus.

But showing maturity beyond years, the 23-year-old said that he has learnt to take everything in his stride.

"If you do well, you get love and praise and when you don't, the fans have the right to criticise us. They also love the game and the team. You will get love and brickbats both along the way but key is to accept both with equal humility," Arshdeep said.

Recently in Australia, he got a lot of support and there were quite a number of devoted Arshdeep fans, who would have his photographs printed on their T-shirts.

"It feels great to see (people wearing T-shirt with his photo) and pen lyrics dedicated to him but focus is always on the game, good or bad, one needs to conduct one's self well," he said.

For him staying in the moment is the most important thing.

"When you play the game, you want to enjoy rather than think that I want to be the main bowler of the side. You want to stay in the moment rather than think where I will be one year down the line. If you stay in present, it helps you as a player," said Arshdeep, who has 33 wickets in 21 T20Is.

About the rain-affected series, he said that some things are beyond anyone's control.

"Weather is not in our control and even during breaks one needs to be mentally prepared. We need to follow the process and there should be no let up in preparation," he concluded.

Unbeaten West Indies upbeat before 2-test Australian series

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The West Indies have had little success in the shortest form of cricket lately but veteran Jason Holder says that won't diminish the test team's ambitions for the two-match series against Australia beginning Wednesday.

The Caribbean side lost in the preliminary stage of the Twenty20 World Cup in late October in Australia, beaten by both Ireland and Scotland. Those losses meant the team which won the T20 World Cup in 2012 and 2016 didn't qualify for the main tournament.

Coach Phil Simmons has quit and the two tests in Australia — the second a day-night match beginning Dec. 8 in Adelaide — will be his last in charge.

Holder says the test team is going in the opposite direction — unbeaten this year with series wins at home against Bangladesh and England.

"If you look at the nucleus of this test team it's been together for the last five or six years, which is really important," Holder told Australian Associated Press from Perth, Western Australia, site of the first test. "In comparison to the other (West Indies) sides, there is probably a little bit more chopping and changing.

"Our focus right now is test cricket. We put the Twenty20 World Cup behind us and we are just trying to focus on that."

Five players are in the test squad that played on the T20 team, including fast bowler Alzarri Joseph. As a 19-year-old, Joseph impressed Australian players during a 2016 net session in the Caribbean. Joseph will be



making his first test appearance in Australia — the Caribbean side hasn't play for the Frank Worrell Trophy for seven years Down Under.

"We saw him just bowling thunderbolts," Australia opener David Warner said of the 2016 net session. "On those wickets . . . It was a bit daunting. We just didn't know where he'd come from."

Joseph debuted for the West

Indies two months later and has since taken 62 wickets in 22 tests.

"He was young back then. It's good to see him evolve from then," Warner told AAP. "He's a fantastic bowler, he's got a good record. I faced him in the IPL when he first came in and took (six wickets) against us.

"That's what West Indies cricket needs, they need guys coming in bowling at high speeds . . . Back to what they

were in the '80s and '90s."

Both the new stadium in Perth and the Adelaide Oval are expected to favor fast bowlers.

Holder confirmed that Tagenarine Chanderpaul, son of West Indies legend Shivnarine, would debut for the visitors.

Meanwhile, Warner said he will reassess his future at the end of the test summer in Australia, with the opener likely to be the first of the current team to retire from red-ball cricket.

Warner indicated earlier this month he could retire from test cricket within a year and play on until the 2024 T20 World Cup. The 50-over World Cup is also scheduled for next year in India.

"They're the whispers," Warner said when asked if this might be his last test season in Australia. "I did make some comments but these legs are still fresh. I'm still scoring runs. I'll have to assess again at the end of the season and speak to the family."

There are no cowards in Australian team: Cummins hits back at Langer

PTI ■ PERTH

Test captain Pat Cummins on Tuesday strongly hit back at former coach Justin Langer, saying there are "no cowards" in the Australian team and added that his unsavoury comments won't distract them ahead of their Test series against West Indies.

Last week, Langer had lashed out at the "cowards" in the national team, saying he "hated"

that some players were going behind his back and leaking details from inside the dressing room.

"There's no cowards in an Australian cricket team, not ever," Cummins told reporters on Tuesday ahead of their opening Test here.

"I'd probably never disclose private conversations. I think it's disappointing sometimes the focus gets drawn to off-field issues but it hasn't really affected our team."

Langer had stepped down as chief coach in February after he was not offered a long-term contract extension by Cricket Australia.

The 52-year-old had faced complaints about his "rigid" coaching style from senior players such as Aaron Finch, Pat Cummins and former Test captain Tim Paine.

However, Langer later retracted from his comments, saying "they're like my little brothers!"

Focus on defence as Indian men's hockey team faces formidable Australia in 3rd Test

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

The Indian men's hockey team will look to address its defensive woes when it takes on world's number one side Australia in the third Test here on Wednesday, hoping to bounce back from back-to-back defeats in the five-match series here on Wednesday.

A series of defensive lapses saw world number five India go down in the first two Tests despite taking early lead and this will be area which the team will need to improve in the third match. India conceded a last-minute goal to lose the opening Test 4-5. In the second game, they were leading through skipper Harmanpreet Singh's third-minute goal but were blown away in the final quarter to go down 4-7.

This series is crucial for both the teams as it's a part of preparations for the World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in Odisha, starting January 13. "We have gone through the



errors we have made in the first two matches. Australia is so quick in converting from the set plays even if they find the slightest of gaps, hence we must structure our defence better," Harmanpreet said.

Both matches were fiercely fought with India and Australia going full throttle in their attack. They have utilized speed to their advantage and have scored a total of 20 goals in just two matches. The two matches also saw many penalty corners being traded between both teams.

"When it is high-scoring matches and both teams are going full steam in their attack,

one too many penalty corners are created," Harmanpreet said. "While we have managed to create penalty corners and also score from it, we have given away quite a few PCs as well which need to be curtailed in the upcoming matches."

The series is the first meeting between the two teams after Australia thrashed India 7-0 in the CWG final in Birmingham.

Talking about the takeaways from the two games, Harmanpreet said, "Good interception and counter attacks continue to be our plus point. We have also been on par with Australia in terms of speed and fitness.

All-round India A take opening-day honours against Bangladesh A

PTI ■ COX'S BAZAR (BANGLADESH)

The pace-spin combo of Navdeep Saini and Saurabh Kumar impressed the most as India A grabbed the opening-day honours after a commanding performance against Bangladesh A in the first unofficial Test here on Tuesday.

Opting to field after winning the toss, Saini (3/21), Saurabh (4/23) and Mukesh Kumar (2/25) helped India A bundle out their opponents for a paltry 112 in only 45 overs.

In reply, the visitors finished strongly at 120 for no loss to go ahead by eight runs by the time stumps were drawn. Yashasvi Jaiswal and India A skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran were looking good at 61 and 53, respectively, when play ended on the first day.

After Saini and Mukesh picked up five of the top six with just 63 runs on the board, the hosts recovered somewhat to cross three figures owing to Mosaddek Hossain's 63.

Hossain struck six fours and three sixes after Bangladesh were reeling at 26 for five one stage. However, the problem with the home team was that it's batters also struggled against spin, with left-arm spinner Saurabh running through the lower-order



to finish with excellent figures.

The 29-year-old Saurabh's performance assumes significance as he could be drafted into the Indian Test team for the upcoming two-match series in Bangladesh if star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja is ruled out.

When their time to bat came, India A were served well by the duo of young Jaiswal and Easwaran as the pair not only added 120

runs but also scored them at a good rate. While Jaiswal struck eight fours in his 106-ball knock, Easwaran found the fence six times while facing 111 deliveries at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium.

Even as veteran Easwaran led from the front, Jaiswal will resume his quest to bring up a sixth hundred in only his eighth first-class match and consolidate the visitors' position in the opener.

Earlier in the day, Delhi pacer Saini struck the first blow when he bowled Mahmudul Hasan Joy, who was beaten by late swing.

Mukesh had the other opener, Zakir Hasan caught behind before disturbing Mominul Haque's stumps. Saini then had Najmul Hossain Shanto caught at third slip, before skipper Mohammad Mithun went for a wide one to leave Bangladesh A tottering at 26 for five.

Mosaddek sought to revive the innings but there was no support at the other end.

However, the Indian openers quickly managed to get the measure of the Bangladesh bowling attack, as the likes of Khaled Ahmed, Rejaur Rahman Raja and Tajjul Islam failed to either get a break-through or contain.

Lakshya regains career-best sixth spot, Gayatri-Treesa breaks into top 20 in BWF rankings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen on Tuesday jumped two spots to regain his career-best sixth position in the latest BWF World Rankings.

The 21-year-old from Almora, who had a stellar run this season, has 75,024 points from 23 tournaments. Kidambi Srikanth and H S Prannoy remained static at world number 11 and 12 respectively. Women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand broke into the top 20 by jumping two places to world number 19. The pair, winner of bronze medal in Birmingham Commonwealth Games, has 46,020 points from 17 tournaments.

French Open and Commonwealth Games champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty remained in the seventh spot in men's doubles.