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Established 1864
Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA

RNI Regn. No. CHHENG/2012/42718, Postal Reg. No. - RYP DN/34/2013-2015
*Late City Vol. 11 Issue 323
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RAIPUR, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

WORLD 5
TAIWAN PREZ QUITS AS PARTY LEADER AFTER POLL DEFEAT

MONEY 6
FASTEST 5G ROLLOUT IN INDIA: NOKIA

SPORT 8
INDIAN BATTING NEEDS FRESH APPROACH TO SAVE SERIES

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World looking at mother of democracy India: PM

Judiciary taking many steps to ensure timely justice: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Modi launched new initiatives under the e-court project, which provides services to litigants, lawyers and the judiciary through information and communication technology-enabled courts. The initiatives launched by Modi included "virtual justice clock", "JustIS" mobile app 2.0, digital court and "S3WaaS".

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

He said, "Identity of India as the mother of democracy needs to be further strengthened". Since 2015, Constitution Day is being celebrated on November 26 to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.

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

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

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

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

ED attaches 40% share of Unitech project in Noida

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

"The agreement signed between Beta Group and the Guinea-Bissau Government mandates that the Group would invest $100 million over the next five years," Dr Rajmohan Pillai, chairman, Beta Group, told *The Pioneer* over telephone from Bissau.

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

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

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

Rajmohan Pillai with Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau Nuno Gomes Nabiam

Pro-Pak slogan in Bharat Jodo doctored video maker booked

PTI ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh Police have registered a case against a man for posting a doctored video on social media of pro-Pakistani slogans being raised during the Congress' "Bharat Jodo Yatra", an official said on Saturday.

A member of the Congress legal cell lodged a complaint in Raipur on Friday, following which an FIR was registered against the man, who hails from neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, said police. In his complaint, a member of the Congress legal cell alleged that the accused had posted a doctored video of the yatra on his Twitter handle, in which pro-Pakistan slogans were raised.

An offence has been registered under section 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and a probe has been launched, the official said.

UCC, 1L Govt jobs, ₹10K cr for agri infra in BJP's Guj pledge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Uniform Civil Code, one lakh Government jobs for women, ₹10,000 crore for Agri-marketing infra, blue economy industries corridor, and financial assistance to EWS/OBC students are among the main points of the BJP Gujarat manifesto released on Saturday by party's national president JP Nadda and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

The manifesto called the "Sankalp Patra" also promised free education to girls from pre-primary to post-graduate level. In the manifesto released at Gandhinagar, the BJP also promised 1 litre of edible oil four times a year and 1 kg subsidised chana per month at subsidised rates through the PDS system to the people of Gujarat.

Setting up an anti-radicalisation cell is another promise of the BJP.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, BJP national president JP Nadda and State party chief CR Patil during release of the party manifesto for Gujarat polls, in Gandhinagar, on Saturday PTI

2 CRPF jawans on poll duty shot by colleague in Guj

Porbandar: Two jawans of the CRPF were killed and two others were injured after their colleague opened fire over some issue in a village near Porbandar in Gujarat on Saturday evening, officials said.

Veteran actor Vikram Gokhale passes away

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Veteran actor and thespian Vikram Gokhale — known for his stellar performances in films like Mazrathi film "Natsamrat" and films like "Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam", "Bhool Bhulaiyaa", "Agneepath" and "Khuda Gawah" — died at the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital in Pune on Saturday.

He was 77 and is survived by his wife and two daughters.

A versatile actor who acted in films, dramas and television serials in both Hindi and Marathi languages, Gokhale had acted in more than eighty films, more two dozen television serials and innumerable plays in a career lasting for nearly five decades.

Gokhale had been admitted to the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital in Pune earlier this week. His condition had deteriorated during the last few days. He was on ventilator support for a few days. At one stage, a rumour had spread that he had passed away, a news report that his family members denied.

Arabs burying hatchet at World Cup!

AP ■ DOHA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Corruption is like leprosy, it is necessary to end it completely: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that corruption is a leprosy, it has to be eradicated completely. The state government has a zero tolerance policy on corruption. Ensure immediate action on public welfare schemes, development works, FIR in police stations and every complaint or information of corruption in matters of criminal cases with strong will.

The general public should get timely benefits of the schemes without any give and take, good governance should be established in all areas, this is the priority of the state government. Morning meetings are being organized for the purpose of establishing such arrangements. It is necessary to make every effort that public representatives and officers-employees work with team spirit.

Chouhan was reviewing the public welfare schemes, development works and law and order situation in Dewas district in the morning meeting. Minister in-charge of Dewas Yashodhara Raje Scindia, MLA Gayatri Raje, Ashish Sharma, Manoj Chowdhary, Additional Chief Secretary Women and Child Development Ashok Shah, Principal Secretary Public Health Engineering Shri Sanjay Shukla, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Manish Rastogi, ML Belwal of Aajeevika Mission took part in the meeting held at 7.30 am at Chief Minister's residence office virtually.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that officers and employees who have been posted at one place for a long time or whose conduct is not good or against whom there are complaints of corruption, should be identified immediately. The state government is committed to make arrangements in the interest of the public. Chief Minister Chouhan congratulated the district officials for the progress of Dewas district in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) and Mukhya Mantri Jan Sewa Abhiyan. Also, while appreciating the officers for an improved power system, he said that awareness regarding smart meters and doubts about electricity bills should be organized and publicity activities should be conducted.

He also praised the activities conducted in Dewas district for the recovery of missing girls and women's safety in the meeting.

The Chief Minister expressed his displeasure over the slow pace of works in the district under Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), non-distribution of supplementary nutritious food for the last two months and the condition of rural roads. Chief Minister Chouhan instructed to review the activities conducted in Sonkachchh subdivision and Dewas Municipal Corporation of the district, FIRs in police stations and continuously review the action taken on the culprits.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the schemes completed under the Jal Jeevan Mission should be dedicated along with the public. There is a need to encourage public participation in the maintenance and management of schemes. The public should be motivated to pay the water tax at the right time. Chouhan inquired about the restoration works under the scheme.

Chouhan said that people's representatives should actively participate in the implementation of all the schemes including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Chouhan said that complaints like not writing FIRs in police stations, delay in writing and not applying the right section should be investigated sensitively. Under the law and order situation, it is also necessary to be vigilant about the cases of delay in investigation and not taking action. With regard to the availability of fertilizers, Chief Minister Chouhan said that it should be ensured that farmers do not have to stand in queues for fertilizers.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prabhuram Choudhary addresses an orientation programme of Ayushman Bharat Umang School Health and Wellness programme in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Ujjain railway station awarded with 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Ujjain railway station has been awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India giving five star rating which will be valid for one year. This certification is given to those stations where safe and nutritious food is served to the passengers.

Railway Public Relations Officer Khemraj Meena said that Ujjain station of Western Railway Ratlam Division has been given 'Eat Right Station' certification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). It will be valid till 15 November 2024.

The 'Eat Right Station' certification by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is awarded to stations that set standards in providing safe and nutritious food to passengers. 'Eat Right' is a campaign by the Government of India to transform the country's food system by ensuring safe and healthy food for all Indians.

At Ujjain station also various parameters for 'Eat Right Station' certification such as platform, station premises, cleanliness and hygiene of various stalls, no use of single use plastic, no use of paper for food items, food items Ingredients used for preparation like spices, salt etc. should be branded, expiry date should be written on all food items, use of hand gloves by vendors and their police verification, facility of pure drinking water, dry and wet waste dustbins were examined.

Based on the report of the investigating officers, the Ujjain railway station has been awarded this certificate by the FSSAI.

Dr Bhavya awarded ICMR grant for MD thesis

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Dr Bhavya, Junior Resident, Department of Pharmacology has been awarded ICMR grant (financial support) for MD thesis. Her thesis topic is "Evaluation of the effect of pharmacological treatment on cognition in patients with bipolar disorder I: a prospective longitudinal study."

The thesis is being conducted in the department of Pharmacology in collaboration with department of Psychiatry. The thesis will be conducted under guidance of Dr. Ajay Shukla (guide), Dr. Shubham Atal (co-guide) from department of Pharmacology and Dr Abhijit Rozatkar (co-guide) from department of Psychiatry. Professor (Dr) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal congratulated the entire team for the achievement.

Lawyers play an important role in society: Girish Gautam

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Speaker of Madhya Pradesh Assembly Girish Gautam participated as the chief guest in the law lecture program organized on Constitution Day by "Advocate Council Malwa Prant" in Indore on Saturday.

Supreme Court advocate and daughter of late senior BJP leader Sushma Swaraj Bansuri, Renu Jain, Vice-Chancellor of Devi Ahilya University, Head of the School of Law, Devi Ahilya University, Indore. Archana Ranka.

In his speech on the occasion, Gautam said that advocates play an important role in society. Lawyers have played an important role in our nation before independence and even after independence. In India's freedom movement, advocates not only did the work of public awareness on the strength of their knowledge and arguments, but also forced the British to return.

Gautam said that the advocate acquires knowledge and skills and gets an opportunity in which he is respected in the society.

The Sanskrit proverb 'Nabhisheko na Sanskar: Simhasya Kriyate Vane'. Quoting Vikramarjitsattvasya Swayamev Mrigendrata..', he said that just as a lion becomes the king of the jungle on the strength of his hard work, no one crowns him, in the same way, advocates also have to make their place on the strength of their knowledge and skills.

He said that in Indian philosophy, the set of culture, thought, tradition and philosophy has been called nation, whereas in western philosophy, nation is bound only by geographical boundaries. The nation has been defined in our Vedas as well. Culture is created by rituals and our rituals are Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, Atithi Devo Bhava. That is why our culture is unique in the whole world.

Teachers from all over the State of CM rise schools visit Regional Science Center during their ongoing training programme in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Cash stolen from a parked car in Koh-e-Fiza

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Miscreants targeted a parked car at Good Shepherd Marriage garden in the night on Friday and escaped with a purse carrying Rs 5500. The victim had gone to attend a marriage function; Koh-e-Fiza police have started an investigation.

The victim Neetu Jaitley had gone to attend a marriage at Good Shepherd Marriage garden and parked her car outside the venue. After the marriage when Neetu to her car window glass pane was found broken and purse carrying cash.

According to the police the bag was stolen from the victim's car parked and when she returned after around two hours, she found her bag was stolen.

The victim Neetu Jaitley had gone to attend a marriage at Good Shepherd Marriage garden and parked her car outside the venue

The incident took place at around 9 pm when the victim went to the venue she parked the car and went to marriage venue and on her return she found that the bag was missing. She asked the locals but they expressed ignorance over spotting anyone near the car.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under section 379 of the IPC and have started further investigation into the matter.

The spot where the theft took place was guarded by guards but no one failed to spot anyone near the car and stop the theft.

Meanwhile a computer laptop and hard disk were stolen from a parked car at Manuabhan ki Tekri car on Friday; victim had gone with his friends to visit the place and when returned valuables were found stolen.

Shubham Vishwakarma found that the glass of the window was broken and valuables were stolen. Police have started investigation after a complaint was made by Shubham.

CM plants saplings on Late Keswani's death anniversary

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings in the Smart City Garden on the birth anniversary of renowned journalist and writer Late Rajkumar Keswani along with his relatives and acquaintances. Sandhvi Mishra of Swadesh TV news channel planted saplings on her birthday.

Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings of Jungle Jalebi (Vilayati Imli), Tikoma and Sarika Indica. Raunak Keswani, Sunita Keswani, Jigyasa Gaikwad and Manish Samandar participated in the plantation. Kulbhushan Saxena, Sudhir Saxena, Sandhya Saxena, Poorva Saxena, Mayank and Sujit Saxena also planted saplings.

Preamble of the Constitution read out by Prof Ajay Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Constitution Day was celebrated on November 26, 2022 at AIIMS, Bhopal as per the instructions of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.

Under the leadership of Prof Dr. Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal, all the heads of departments, faculty members, officers and employees of the institute read the Preamble of the Constitution.

Prof. Dr. Ajay Singh said on this occasion that our constitution is the best constitution in the world. If we go anywhere in the whole world, we will find that India is the best constitutional country. In our country everyone has the right to social, educational, religious and other equality and freedom.

Along with this, our duties towards the constitution are also mentioned. What should we do and what should we not do. All these things have been included in the Indian Constitution. He said that today is also a special day for us because the makers of the constitution made the constitution of the country with hard work and tireless efforts.

Prof Ajay Singh said that our constitution is the best constitution in the world. If we go anywhere in the whole world, we will find that India is the best constitutional country

On this day, we remember our constitution makers with respect for their contribution.

On this occasion, Col. (Dr.) Ajit Kumar, Deputy Director (Administration) of the Institute told that the Constituent Assembly adopted the Indian Constitution November 26, 1949. That is why it is a very important day for all of us. He said that we all have deep faith and respect for the Indian Constitution.

In the end, the Executive Director sent greetings to all the departmental heads, faculty members, officers and employees of the Institute on the occasion of Constitution Day.

CTPL secures 2 million USD capital by IPV & Recur Club

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

One of the fastest growing digital transformation enablers, serving educational institutions -Creanovation Technologies Private Limited (CTPL), has secured 2 million USD, as a mix of dilutive & non-dilutive capital by Inflection Point Ventures (IPV) & Recur Club.

Ankur Mittal, Co-founder & COO, Inflection Point Ventures said "CTPL is unlocking immense value for educational institutions by capitalising on the huge void existing in the space of admissions.

With this new phase, post- Covid digital transformation is the need of the hour. With a customer retention of 100%, CTPL is driving admissions for its partner institutes both digitally and offline through its proprietary platforms, people & unique blend of digital and offline network. We can certainly say that with their huge experience of the education ecosystem, they have created unique tools and processes to lead the transformation."

SC issues notice to Madhya Pradesh govt on toll tax issue

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Supreme court, on Friday, issued notices to the Madhya Pradesh Government on the plea in which toll tax collection on Lebad -Jaora and Jaora-Nayagao highways was challenged.

In the Special Leave petition (SLP) preferred by social worker and activist Paras Saklecha filed through Advocate on Record Sarvam Ritam Khare, it was pleaded that on Lebad -Jaora road, the toll tax collected till year 2020 is around 1461 crores i.e. already more than 3 times of the total project cost which was 471 crores.

Similarly on Jaora - Nayagao road, whose project cost was 605 crores, the toll already collected is 1325 crores i.e. about three times of the project cost. The tenure of the contract is 25 years i.e. till 2032 and by then the toll collected would be many many times more and cause excessive and arbitrary taxation on the people.

Saklecha preferred a writ petition before the Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh High court which was rejected by the High court.

Advocate pleaded that on Lebad -Jaora road, the toll tax collected till year 2020 is around 1461 crores ie already more than 3 times of the total project cost

Against that order, Special Leave Petition was preferred in the Supreme court of India.

On Friday, after hearing the arguments advanced by Senior Advocate Devdutt Kamat along with Advocate Aljo Joseph and the advocate on Record Sarvam Ritam Khare, the bench headed by Chief Justice of India, issued notices to the government and called for reply.

The challenge to toll collection on these two roads will have a bearing on the toll tax regime in the entire state of Madhya Pradesh and the policy, which is supposed to be people friendly instead of being contractor friendly.

Students at a memento presentation ceremony to their Principal Sr Lily during annual function celebrations of St Joseph's Convent senior secondary school in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Household goods gutted in fire at Mother India colony

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Household goods were gutted in fire after a fire broke out at a house in Mother India Colony of Shahjahanabad police station area, victim is a widow and has collected goods for her daughter's marriage which were gutted in fire.

After a month, the daughter's marriage was scheduled in the house. For the daughter's marriage, the victim's mother had bought goods with her savings collected for the last several years.

Due to a sudden fire, all the goods of daughter's marriage were burnt to ashes. She is in poor financial condition.

According to information, Guddi Bai, a resident of Mother India Colony, works as domestic help. Her husband died a few years ago.

Guddi Bai said that on Friday she went to work with her children to cook food in nearby houses. The house caught fire at around 7.30 in the evening. Due to the fire, goods for marriage, ration, bed, TV-fridge, fans kept in the house were gutted in fire and locals informed the Municipal Corporation, but no one came. Then the people of the colony together broke the lock and helped the victim in pacifying the fire. Guddi Bai told that her husband had died 8-9 years back, her children are young to support her and she is only bread earner.

There has been a loss of more than Rs 3 lakhs. The cause of the fire could not be revealed.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during Bharat Jodo Yatra on Saturday interacting with four youngsters who gave their piggy banks to him in support. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is accompanying him in the march at Khargone, Madhya Pradesh. *Pioneer Photo*

CM Baghel meets Kharge, briefs on state's development

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday apprised Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge of the developmental projects in the state.

He made a courtesy call on Kharge at New Delhi. Baghel apprised him of the development work undertaken in the last four years.

The Chief Minister said the government has successfully completed four years in the state. He spoke on the progress made through public welfare schemes.

Man gets life term for killing 3

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

A court has sentenced a 25-year-old man to life term for killing three persons including a woman in a village in Raipur district, a government lawyer said on Saturday.

Additional Public Prosecutor Manoj Verma on Friday said that Fourth Additional Sessions Judge Vibha Pandey found Chandrakant Nishad (24) guilty of killing his step mother-in-law and two brothers-in-law.

On October 10, 2019, Nishad beat Dulari Bai, Sonu and Sanjay to death in Bana village and set ablaze their bodies.

Man booked for posting doctored video

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh police on Saturday registered an offence against a man for allegedly posting a doctored video on social media of pro-Pakistani slogans being raised during the Congress 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

An FIR was registered against a man from Madhya Pradesh following a complaint lodged by a Congress legal cell member on Friday, Civil Lines Police Station House Officer (SHO) Satyaprakash Tiwari said.

Ankit Kumar Mishra alleged that the accused had on Friday posted the doctored video on his Twitter handle.

An offence was registered under Section 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and other provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Every citizen is expected to know law: Expert

STAFF REPORTER
BILASPUR

Every citizen is expected to have knowledge about law and the constitution. He should also follow them, Anand Prakash Wariyal, Member Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority (CGSLSA) of Bilaspur, said on Saturday.

He was addressing a seminar organized jointly by CGSLSA and the Atal Bihari Vajpayee University, Bilaspur, to mark the 'National Constitution Day' in the university. The topic was 'India is mother of all democracies'.

He said a person cannot escape by saying that he did not have knowledge of the law. CGSLSA is holding a special campaign to provide legal awareness, free legal aid and services to the people.

University Vice Chancellor Arun Diwakar Nath Bajpai said the constitution provides security to the citizens. The rights of citizens are also included.

But the time has come where citizens must ensure that the rights of animals, trees, plants and rivers on which humans surve are also protected.

Kamini Jaiswal, a senior government official, said the Indian constitution is the longest in the world. It took 2 years, 11 months and 17 days by 284 members of the Constituent Assembly to prepare it. The framers of the constitution understood the need to amend the provisions from time to time, she said.

Four Naxals including two women killed

STAFF REPORTER
JAGDALPUR

Four Maoists, including two women cadres, were killed on Saturday in a gun battle with security forces in Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh.

The gunfight took place around 7.30 am in Pomra forest when the security forces were on an anti-Maoist operation, Bastar (Range) Inspector General of Police Sundarraj P said.

The operation by the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was launched based on inputs about the presence of Maoist leaders Mohan Kadti and Sumitra along with 30-40 colleagues in the forest, he said.

When a patrolling team of DRG was in the forest, the gunfight broke out.

After the exchange of fire stopped, the bodies of four Maoists were recovered from the spot and they are yet to be identified, the officer said.

A 315 bore rifle, .303 rifle and a huge cache of ammunition along with items of daily use were recovered from the spot, he added.

Attempt to sell 42 qntls of illegal paddy

STAFF REPORTER
KOREA

The Korea district administration in Chhattisgarh on Saturday detected an effort to sell 42.40 quintals of illegal paddy through a registered farmer's account at the Tribal Service Cooperative Society in Girjapur.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has told district Collectors to monitor paddy procurement. Nodal officers have been appointed at the procurement centres for inspection, an official communication said.

> **"A registered farmer's token was checked on the basis of suspicion at Girjapur by the nodal officer"**

A registered farmer's token was checked on the basis of suspicion at Girjapur by the nodal officer. The farmer had been allocated a token to sell 42.40 quintals of paddy at minimum support price.

During interrogation, the wife of the farmer and the vehicle driver gave misleading information.

Korea Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh said the patwari and other revenue officials conducted an inspection of the crop field and accessed the production status of paddy crop of the farmer.

It was found that the farmer was yet to harvest his paddy. Therefore, the consignment brought in his name was not his produce. Based on it, a preliminary report was made and the paddy consignment was seized.

Alternative ID cards can be used to cast votes

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

The Chief Electoral Officer in Chhattisgarh on Saturday said that along with the Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), the Election Commission has approved 12 alternative ID cards for voters.

This has been done for the upcoming Bhanupratappur assembly by election on December 5, an official communication said.

The 12 other cards include those for Aadhaar, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment

Guarantee Act (MNREGA) job, passbook with photo issued by banks or post offices, health insurance smart card from the Labour Ministry, driving license, PAN and smart card issued by Registrar General of India (RGI).

The other documents include the Indian passport, pension document with photo, service identity card with photo issued by Central, state government and public undertakings, ID card issued by Public Ltd Companies to employees, government identity issued to MPs, MLAs, Members of Legislative Council, Unique Disability ID card issued by the Indian government.

Only the original passport (and no other identity document) will be accepted as proof of identity of overseas voters.

punjab national bank
पंजाब नैशनल बैंक

Circle Office **SASTRA**, Naya Raipur
PH.No.(0771)2210426/428

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Punjab National Bank** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002, issued Demand Notices as below mentioned calling upon the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notices and Interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amounts, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 said rules on this the date mentioned below.

The borrowers & guarantors in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **Punjab National Bank** for amount mentioned below and interest thereon.

The borrower's and / or guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl No.	Branch Name / Name & Add. of the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) & Guarantor(s)	1)Date of Demand Notice & 2)Date of Possession	Outstanding Amount as per demand notice	Description of Immovable Properties
1.	**Branch: Mandi Gate, Pandri, Raipur Borrower- Mr. Ghasiya Ram Mahanand, Co-Borrower- Mrs. Indira Mahanand**	**(1) 06.09.2022 (2) 25.11.2022**	**Rs. 4,04,529.24/-** + Intt. w.e.f 18.05.2022	Residential Flat bearing EWS flat no. 02, Block No. 06, Ground floor, Part of Kh. No. 1501/4 Situated at CGHB, mauza - Nardaha, PH. No. 80/1, Raipur, Tehsil & District - Raipur (C.G.) having area 398.76 sft. in the name of Mr. Ghasiya Ram Mahanand & Mrs. Indira Mahanand. **Bounded:North by-** Block No. 11, **South by-** Flat No. 01, **East by-** Flat No. 03, **West by-** Block no. 5
2.	**Branch: Mandi Gate, Pandri, Raipur, Borrower- Mr. Paman Das Sitani, Co-Borrower & Mortgagor Mrs. Naina Sitani**	**(1) 30.09.2022 (2) 25.11.2022**	**Rs. 6,90,332.68** + Intt. w.e.f 31.08.2022	Residential Flat bearing flat no. B-205, Block No. B, second floor, Jasmine Area Situated at "Avanti Garden", Daldal Seoni, Kushabhau Thakre ward no. 26, Raipur, Tehsil & District - Raipur having area 1125 sft. in the name of Mrs. Naina Sitani. **Bounded: North-** Open Passage, **South-** Flat no. 26., **East-** Passage, **West-** Open Sky
3.	**Branch: Rajim Borrower- M/s Hemant Stone, Proprietors- Mr. Laxman Sahu, Mr. Laxman Sahu, Mr. Neelam Kumar Sahu, Mrs. Shanti Sahu**	**(1) 07.02.2022 (2) 23.11.2021**	**Rs.28,90,056.40** + Intt. w.e.f 01.01.2022	**Primary Security:** All that part and parcel, Plant & Machinery, Stock of raw material, finished good & book debt situated at No. 2719, village Basin, PC No. 17, RIC & Tehsil - Rajim, District - Gariyaband(CG) in the name of Mr. Laxman Sahu.Rajim,**Collateral Security:** Residential land and building bearing Kh. No. 248/28 situated at mauza -PH no. 09, RNM & Tehsil - Rajim, District - Gariyaband (C.G.) having 0.02 hect. or 2200 sft in the name ofMr. Laxman lal & Mr. Neelam Kumar. **Bounded:North by-** Rajim- Pokhra Road, **South by-** Land of Vijay Maa Kamla bai, **East by-** House of Shiv Kumar Sen, **West by-**Land of Kalindari W/o Rajkumar
4.	**Branch: Rajim Borrower- M/s Amar Shakti Traders, Proprietor- Mr. Vinay Jain (Singhai), Guarantors & Mortgagors- Mrs. Seema Jain (Singhai)**	**(1) 09.05.2022 (2) 23.11.2021**	**Rs.1,56,92,349/-** + Intt. w.e.f 09.05.2022	**Property 1)** EM of residential house bearing Part of Kh. No. 720/5 & 721/5 (After Mutation Kh. No. 720/6 & 721/6) situated at Gobra Nawapara, PH No. 161/46, RNM - Nawapara, Tehsil - Abhanpur, District - Raipur(C.G.) having 0.022 hect. & 2400 sft in the name of Mrs. Seema Jain (Singhai).**Bounded:North by-**Rajim Road, **South by-**Remaining Land of seller, **East by-**Remaining Land of seller, **West by-** Remaining Land of seller **Property 2)** EM of diverted land and industrial shed bearing kh. No. 847/2 & 847/4 situated at Village Accholi, PH No. 85/15, RIC, Tehsil & District - Mahasamund (C.G.) having 0.22 hect. or 23672 sft in the name of Mrs.Seema Jain (Singhai). **Bounded: North by-** As per deed, **South by-** As per deed, **East by-** As per deed, **West by-** As per deed
5.	**Branch: Bhilai Borrowers- Mrs. Snehlata Jain & Miss Shreya Jain**	**(1) 06.09.2022 (2) 24.11.2021**	**Rs.31,57,523.12** + Intt. w.e.f 06.09.2022	Residential Flat bearing Flat no. 407, fourth floor, Block A, Kh. No. 862/5, 862/2, 862/3, 863/1, 862/4,1084/49 situated at "Vandemataram Appartment" Junwani, Smriti Nagar, Bhilai, ward no. 02, Tehsil &District Durg (CG) having area 900 sft in the name of Mrs. Snehlata Jain.**Bounded: North by-**Remaining land of seller, **South by-**Flat no. 406, **East by-**Flat no. 408, **West by-** Remaining land of seller
6.	**Branch: Durg Borrower- Mr. Mustaqueen Ahmed, Co-Borrower- Mrs. Ashiya Begum**	**(1) 18.07.2022 (2) 24.11.2021**	**Rs.30,84,328.34** + Intt. w.e.f 30.06.2022	Residential land and building bearing Kh. No. 204/10 situated at mauza -RNM Durg -1, ward no. 53 Potiyakala (North), Tehsil & District Durg having area 1350 sft in thename of Mrs. Ashiya Begum w/o Mr. Mustaqueen Ahmed. **Bounded: North -** Remaining land of seller, **South -** 30ft Road, **East-**Land of Yadav, **West-** 25ft Road
7.	**Branch: Devendra Nagar, Raipur Borrower- Mr. M. Govind Raju, Guarantor- Mr. Krushna B. Ramteke**	**(1) 30.08.2022 (2) 22.11.2021**	**Rs.8,94,946.76** + Intt. w.e.f 30.08.2022	Residential house bearing Khata no. 792, Kh. No. 687/17 (Part) Situated at Mauza - Gondawara, PH. No.108, Raipur, RNM - Raipur-1, Tehsil & District - Raipur (C.G.) having area 1000 sft. in the name of Mr.M. Govind Raju. **Bounded: North by-** House of Ashwani, **South by-** House of Pathak, **East by-** Road, **West by-** Remaining Land of Seller

Date : 27.11.2022, Place: Raipur **Authorised Officer,Punjab National Bank**

Seventh phase of malaria free campaign from Dec 1

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh's Health and Family Welfare Department will run the seventh phase of the malaria-free campaign from December 1.

The intensive campaign will be organized in Dantewada, Sukma, Narayanpur and Bijapur. Health workers will conduct door-to-door checks and will start immediate treatment of victims, an official communication said on Saturday.

With success achieved in the last six phases, the annual parasite index (API rate) which was 2.63 in 2018 has fallen to 0.92, said Dr Subhash Mishra, Director, Director (Epidemic Control).

He said that under the campaign, along with the investigation and treatment, public awareness activities will also be conducted. People would be urged to use mosquito nets daily.

They would be asked to maintain cleanliness around the house and prevent growth of mosquitoes.

Mishra said people should check for symptoms like high fever, body pain, headache, vomiting, chills, dizziness, rashes on the body and bleeding from the nose. If the symptoms are observed, immediate medical help must be sought.

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Printed and Published by Vijay Budhia for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Limited, "The Pioneer Building", 11, Civil Lines, Near Raj Bhavan, Opp. Sanskriti Bhavan, Raipur-492007 Telephone(0771) 2223260/70 and Printed at Kavya Prakashan, Express Tower, Adarsh nagar, Mowa, Raipur-492005, Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay, Resident Editor: Sujeet Kumar, Delhi Office: No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900.

SC order to pay imams salaries violation of Constitution: CIC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

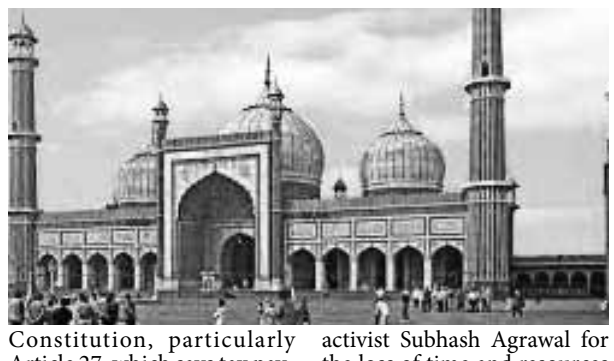
The Central Information Commission has said the 1993 Supreme Court order allowing remuneration to imams in mosques was in "violation of the Constitution" and besides setting a "wrong precedent", has become a point of unnecessary political slugfest and social disharmony.

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

The Supreme Court in 1993 on a petition from the All India Imam Organisation had directed the waqf board to give remuneration to imams in mosques managed by it.

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

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



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

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

He also directed the Delhi Waqf Board to pay a compensation of Rs 25,000 to RTI activist Subhash Agrawal for the loss of time and resources in chasing the response to his application. The activist was not being able to get a satisfactory response to his application.

"It is necessary to go into the history when it comes to giving special religious benefits to the Muslim community by the State. A religious (Islamic) nation Pakistan was born out of the demand of a section of Indian Muslims for partition of India along religious lines. Despite Pakistan choosing to be a religious (Islamic) nation, India chose a Constitution guaranteeing equal rights to all religions," Mahurkar said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The commission observes that there was a clear attempt to hide the information in the initial period by a play of words which showed complete lack of transparency on the part of the respondent authorities in a case which in turn affects the provisions of the Constitution, and also social harmony and uniform applicability of laws for all religions in keeping with the constitutional direction that citizens of all religions be treated equally," he said.

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

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

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

BSF shoots down Pak drone in Amritsar

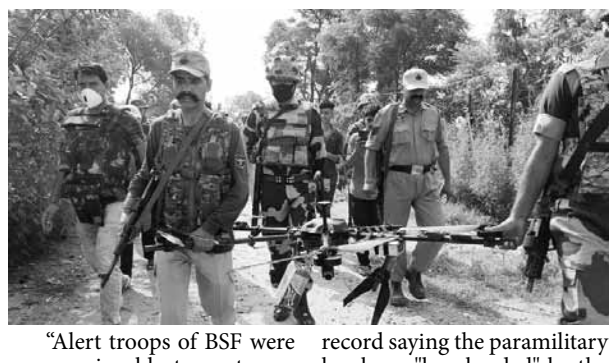
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The (Rashtriya Swayamsevak) Sangh and BJP have absolutely no faith in the Constitution," said Ramesh amid his party's Bharat Jodo Yatra which was passing through Manihar in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district.

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

Rahul interacts with ragpicker

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHOPAL/NEW DELHI

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

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

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

After an overnight halt, the yatra began from Mortakka in Khandwa district in the morning. When it was passing through Barwaha town in Khargone, Rahul Gandhi met 45-year-old ragpicker Shannu and her family members, who were part of the crowd standing along the road.

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

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

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

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

He alleged that the "kingpin" of the "voter fraud", who is responsible for the denial of the "right to vote" to Kannadigas is none other than Bommai and also hit out at the BBMP chief commissioner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

India is working with sev-

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

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

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

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said he "salutes the memory of all those who lost their lives in this incident". "My heartfelt tributes to the security personnel who sacrificed their lives while fighting this attack. This country has not forgotten the incident of 26/11, nor will it ever forget," his tweet read.

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

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

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

Govt expects good turnout this Rabi season: Union Agri Min

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

This may serve as a general preventative measure against future flu pandemics in the near future, according to the researchers.

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

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

Tests in animal models showed that the vaccine dramatically reduced signs of illness and protected from death, even when the animals were exposed to flu strains different from those used in making the vaccine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ukraine works to restore water, power after Russian strikes

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian authorities endeavoured on Saturday to restore electricity and water services after recent pummelling by Russian military strikes that vastly damaged infrastructure, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy saying millions have seen their power restored since blackouts swept the war-battered country days earlier.

Skirmishes continued in the east and residents from the southern city of Kherson headed north and west to flee after punishing, deadly bombardments by Russian forces in recent days. The strikes have been seen as attempts at Russian retribution against Ukraine's beleaguered but defiant people after Ukrainian troops over two week ago liberated the city that had been in Russian hands for many months. "The key task of today, as well as other days of this week, is energy," Zelenskyy said in his nightly televised address late on Friday. "From Wednesday to today we have managed to halve the number of people whose electricity is cut off, to stabilize the system."

He said, however, that blackouts continued in most regions, including Kyiv, the capital. "In total, more than 6 million subscribers are affected. On Wednesday evening, almost 12 million subscribers were cut off," Zelenskyy added.

He allowed himself a rare show of pique about how Kyiv authorities were faring, alluding to "many complaints" with the rollouts of "points of invincibility" — public centers where residents can stock up on food, water, battery power and other essentials — in capital. "Please pay attention: Kyiv residents need more protection," he said. "As of this evening, 600,000 subscribers have been disconnected in the city.

Many Kyiv residents were without electricity for more than 20 or even 30 hours." "I expect quality work from mayor's office," he said, alluding to administration of Mayor Vitali Klitschko.

The president and the mayor have sporadically sparred since Zelenskyy took office in 2019. Zelenskyy has accused Klitschko and officials around him of corruption, while Klitschko contends the president's office has put him under political pressure. Early Saturday, the Kyiv municipal administration said water connections had been restored throughout city, but that about 130,000 residents remain without electricity.

City authorities said on Saturday morning that all power, water, heating and communication services would be restored within 24 hours. The scramble to restore power came as Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo met on Saturday with Zelenskyy in Kyiv.

De Croo tweeted that Belgium was "releasing new humanitarian and military aid," but gave no immediate details. Meanwhile, Ukrainians were marking the 90th anniversary of the start of the "Holodomor," or Great Famine, that killed more than 3 million people over two years as the Soviet government under Josef Stalin confiscated food and grain supplies and deported many Ukrainians.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz marked the commemoration by drawing parallels with the impact of the war on Ukraine — a key supplier of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other foodstuffs — on world markets.

Exports from Ukraine have resumed under a UN-brokered deal but have still been far short of pre-war levels, driving up global prices.

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

Ruling alliance maintains lead in Nepal elections

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's Nepali Congress-led ruling coalition on Saturday maintained its lead in Nepal's parliamentary elections, winning 77 seats out of the 148 declared.

In the 275-member House of Representatives, 165 seats will be elected through direct voting, while the remaining 110 will be elected through a proportional electoral system. A party or a coalition needs 138 seats to win a clear majority in the House.

The Nepali Congress (NC) has won 48 seats alone under the direct voting system. Its allies — CPN-Maoist Centre and CPN-Unified Socialist have won 16 and 10 seats. The Lokatantrik Samajwadi and Rastriya Janamorcha have bagged two and one seats respectively.

They all are part of ruling alliance. The Opposition alliance led by former premier K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML has bagged 46 seats. The CPN-UML has won 38 seats.

The CPN-UML partners - the Rastriya Prajatantra Party and Janata Samajwadi Party - have won five and three seats respectively. The newly-formed Rastriya Swatantra Party has won 7 seats. Nagarik Unmukti Party, Nepal Workers and Peasants Party and Janamat Party have received 3, 1 and 1 seats respectively.

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

Lanka Tamil parties to press for autonomy in new Constitution

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Tamil minority parties who had an intra-party discussion following president Ranil Wickremesinghe's invitation to talks have agreed to put forward a three-point formula, including their push for federalism, a Tamil National Alliance (TNA) source said on Saturday.

The island nation's all Tamil political parties based in the East and the North on Friday met at the residence of 89-year-old TNA leader Rajavarothiam Sampanthan to push for federalism ahead of Wickremesinghe's proposed all-party meeting next month to address the long-held demand for political autonomy for the minority community in the country. The formula decided in the intra-party meeting on Friday includes the proposal to hold the stalled provincial council elections, including devolution to the Tamil regions in formulating a brand new Constitution, and put a stop to what they call the grabbing of lands belonging to the Tamils by the State.

"The parties will meet again before meeting the president," the TNA source said on condition of anonymity. Wickremesinghe on Wednesday invited all political parties for talks aimed at ending the Tamil ethnic issue by February 4 next year— Sri Lanka's 75th anniversary of independence from Britain.

Taiwan President resigns as party leader after poll defeat

AP ■ TAIPEI (TAIWAN)

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has resigned ashead of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party following local election losses suffered by her party.

Tsai offered her resignation on Saturday evening, a tradition after a major loss, in a short speech in which she also thanked supporters. She said she will shoulder the responsibility as she had hand-picked candidates in Saturday's elections.

Voters in Taiwan overwhelmingly chose the opposition Nationalist party in several major races across the self-ruled island in an election Saturday in which lingering concerns about threats from China took a backseat to more local issues. Chiang Wan-an, the Nationalist party's mayoral candidate, won the closely watched seat in capital Taipei.

will let the world see Taipei's greatness," he said in his victory speech on Saturday night. Other Nationalist party candidates also won mayoral seats in Taoyuan, Taichung and New Taipei city.

Not all votes had been formally counted by the time of his speech, but Chiang and the other candidates' numerical lead allowed them to declare victory. Kao Hung-an, a candidate in the relatively new Taiwan People's Party, won the mayoral seat in Hsinchu, a city home to many of Taiwan's semi-conductor companies. Taiwanese were picking their mayors, city council members and other local leaders in all 13 counties and in nine cities.

New state voter fraud units finding few cases from midterms in US

Washington: State-level law enforcement units created after 2020 presidential election to investigate voter fraud are looking into scattered complaints more than two weeks after midterms but have provided no indication of systemic problems. That's just what election experts had expected and led critics to suggest that new units were more about politics than rooting out widespread abuses. Most election-related fraud cases already are investigated and prosecuted at the local level.

Florida, Georgia and Virginia created special state-level units after the 2020 election, all pushed by Republican governors, attorneys general or legislatures. *(AP)*

3 criminals waiting to target me again: Imran

Rawalpindi: Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan on Saturday alleged that "three criminals", who were behind the failed assassination attempt on him early this month, are waiting to target him again.

Addressing a mega rally of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party here in this garrison city, which houses headquarters of powerful army, Khan said he had a close encounter with death and had seen bullets flying overhead during attack on him.

In his first in-person address to party workers after failed assassination bid on his life, Khan alleged that "three criminals" — who he claimed were behind the attack on him — are waiting to take a shot at him again. *(PTI)*

Iran leader praises force tasked with quashing protests

Baghdad: Iran's supreme leader praised paramilitary volunteers tasked with quashing dissent on Saturday in a televised address as dozens of eye doctors warned that a rising number of demonstrators have been blinded by security forces during anti-government protests. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei addressed members of the Basij, the volunteer paramilitary wing of the elite Revolutionary Guard, and reiterated unsupported claims that protesters demonstrating countrywide are "tools" of the U.S. And its "mercenaries." "(The) Basij should not forget that the main clash is with global arrogance, or the U.S.," Khamenei said in address marking Basij week in Iran. *(AP)*

Activists from Lebanese NGO Abaad and sex abuse survivors chant slogans during a protest against sexual harassment, rape and domestic violence, in front of parliament building in Beirut: downtown Beirut, Lebanon on Saturday, The activists are protesting a Lebanese law that allows a rapist to get away with his crime if he marries the survivor. The law, in place since late 1940s. The Arabic banner, center, reads: "I am a disgrace, I should die so my family can retain their honor." AP/PTI Photo

UN wildlife summit ends with protection for 500 species

AP ■ PANAMA CITY

An international conference on trade in endangered species ended Friday in Panama, with protections established for over 500 species.

The measures were approved by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, known by its initials as CITES.

The conference agreed to tighten trade regulations on sharks targeted by the fin trade and tiny frogs with translucent skin. Global shark populations are declining, with annual deaths due to fisheries reaching about 100 million. The sharks are sought mostly for their fins, which are used in shark fin soup, a popular delicacy in China and elsewhere in Asia.

Covid-19 cases in China soar to record high amid stirs over curbs

Beijing: China witnessed a record number of coronavirus cases for the third consecutive day on Saturday, with infections surpassing 35,000 despite large-scale lockdowns under the stringent Zero-COVID policy, triggering rare protests and clashes with the police.

China on Saturday reported over 34,900 cases, mostly that of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus, as officials went about imposing lockdowns, shutting people in their flats to cut the transmission chain.

China has reported six deaths – four in Beijing, one in Henan and another in Sichuan – this month, its first fatalities from the virus in six months. China's social media as well as Twitter postings by some of the Chinese showed videos of public protests from various places with people clashing with police and health officials in hazmat suits. A large protest was witnessed in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang province, where 10 people were killed and nine injured in a fire two days ago at an apartment block that was sealed as part of the COVID lockdown.

Beijing continues to bear brunt of lockdown as cases hit a record high of over 2,600.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) JAMMU.
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
E-NIT No:-CEJ/PMGSY/724 OF 2022-23 Dated:-21/11/2022

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

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

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

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

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

'Broking houses lauding financial gains of SBI'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

In the second quarter of the current financial year, the net profit of the lender stood at Rs 13,265 crore, higher by 74 per cent compared to the previous similar period.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adani arm seeks licence to expand power distribution in Mumbai

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

The public notice said Adani Transmission owns over 99 per cent equity in AENM, while the listed company's nominees including Pranav Adani own a marginal holding.

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

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

GST Council to meet virtually on Dec 17

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

PropsAMC, the asset management services and data intelligence arm of Square Yards, has launched fractional ownership real estate investment platform backed by proprietary data and analytical capabilities, the company said in a statement.

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

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

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

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

"India's commercial real estate market has for long been dominated by high net-worth individuals and institutions. Fractional investing aims to break this status quo by making commercial property investing affordable for the average Indian," said Tanuj Shori, Founder and CEO, Square Yards.

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

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

Surjewala demands adequate supply of urea for farmers in Rajasthan

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP from Rajasthan Randeep Surjewala has demanded from the Union minister for chemical and fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya to ensure adequate supply of urea for the farmers in the state.

Surjewala wrote a letter to Mandaviya saying that Rajasthan was allocated 4.50 lakh metric tonnes of urea by the central government for October in the Rabi season 2022-23 but only 2.89 lakh metric tonnes of urea was made available by the ministry of fertilizers.

Similarly, in November also, against the allocation of 4.50 lakh metric tonnes, only 1.20 lakh metric tonnes of urea has been supplied by the central government till November 10, 2022, he said.

Surjewala said that the farmers were upbeat for advance sowing of rabi crops due to good rainfall this year but this has been adversely affected by the shortage of fertilizers in several districts of the state.

"I have been told that the government of Rajasthan has already informed you about this crisis by writing a letter, but till now no solution has been found to this problem," he said.

The Congress leader said that the sowing of mustard and gram is going on at present in Rajasthan and the average area of these two crops is likely to be 38 lakh hectares and 22 lakh hectares respectively, for which a minimum of 6 lakh metric tonnes of urea will be required in November.

He said that if the availability of fertilizers in sufficient quantities is not ensured in time then there will be a deep crisis in agriculture and farming and requested to ensure the availability of fertilizers as soon as possible.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

While speaking at an event organised by the Foreign Correspondent Club on Friday evening, Nokia India Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Amit Marwah, without naming China expressed concern over 'infiltration equipment' in telecom sector from neighbouring countries.

"We (India) are not late, we are at the right time. In the rest of the country compared to other countries where the ecosystem has to develop. We have a 5G-ready ecosystem. We have 10 per cent of smartphones in India which are 5G ready. India is going to witness the fastest rollout of 5G which will be at least three times faster than what we have seen in 4G," Marwah said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Department of Telecom, Deputy Director General (Policy) YGSC Kishore Babu said that the 5G adoption and applications are expected to be more diverse in India compared to other countries.

"However, most of the use cases across the world remind us we may have to innovate to meet most of the requirements in the coming months and years," Babu said.

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

RBI pauses onboarding of online merchants by Paytm Payments Services

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Paytm, in the regulatory filing, said it can resubmit the PA application within 120 calendar days. The company will not onboard new online merchants till the time approvals remain pending.

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

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

Office of the Executive Engineer PCM Dhalipur, Dehradun invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of the tender is given below:
E- Tender No- 25/EE/PCM/Dhalipur/ 2022-23
Name of work-Repair and Maintenance of Bund and other miscellaneous work at various location along power channel Dhalipur, Dehradun
Estimated value of Tender: Rs. 25,59,787.92 (excluding GST)
Date & Time of availability of bid document on website - From 17:00 Hrs of 28.11.2022
Last Date & Time for submission of tender: Up to 15:00 Hrs 20.12.2022
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal " **"http://uktenders.gov.in"**

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"
Executive Engineer (PCM)

MODI INDUSTRIES LIMITED
CIN - U15429UP1932PLC000469
Regd. Office : Modinagar - 201204. (U.P.) Tel: : 01232- 243115, 9084786567
E-mail : modiindustrieslimited@gmail.com Website : www.modiindustries.net

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

NOTICE is hereby given that the 88th Annual General Meeting ('AGM') of the members of Modi Industries Limited will be held on Tuesday, the 20th December, 2022, at 04:00 P.M., at Auditorium, Dayawati Modi Public School, Modinagar-201204, District Ghaziabad (U.P.), to transact the Ordinary and Special Business, as set out in the Notice of AGM. The physical copy of the Notice of the Meeting, Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2022 and remote e-voting details have been sent to all members individually at their registered addresses. The date of completion of dispatch of the notices to the shareholders is 26th November, 2022. These documents are also available on Company's website www.modiindustries.net for download by the members and kept at the Registered Office of the Company for inspection by Members.
Notice is hereby given in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended that the Company is pleased to provide remote e-voting facility to its members for transacting all the business through National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) through their portal www.evoting.nsdl.com to enable the members to cast their votes electronically. The remote e-voting period commences on **Saturday, the 17th December, 2022 (09:00 am) and ends on Monday, the 19th December, 2022 (05:00 pm)**. No e-voting shall be allowed beyond the said date and time. During this period members of the Company, holding shares, as on the cut-off date of 13th December, 2022, may cast their vote by remote e-voting. Any person, who acquires shares and becomes member of the Company after dispatch of the notice and holding shares as on the cut-off date i.e. 13th December, 2022, will be provided the notice through e-mail or by post after the cut-off date and such members may also obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or RTA, MAS Services Limited. However, if the members are already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then they can use their existing user ID and password for casting their vote. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. The facility for voting through ballot paper shall be made available at the AGM and the members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. The Company has appointed Shri Amar Nath Jaiswal, the Proprietor on behalf of M/s. A.N. Jaiswal & Co., (Membership No. ACS-19000 & CP No. 14629) of New Delhi as Scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
In view of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, Ministry of Corporate Affairs dated May 5, 2020 read with General Circulars dated April 8, 2020 and April 13, 2020 (collectively referred to as 'MCA Circulars'), have permitted the holding of AGM through Video Conferencing ("VC")/Other Audio Video Means("OAVM"). The Company is providing this facility also to the shareholders to participate in the AGM from their homes. The detailed instructions for attending the AGM through VC/OAVM are provided in the AGM notice.
In case of any grievances connected to e-voting process, the members may please contact Ms. Pallavi Mhatre (Manager), NSDL, 4th Floor, 'A' Wing, Trade World, Kamla Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400013. Email evoting@nsdl.co.in, Tel 1800224430 and 18001020990.
The detailed procedure for remote e-voting are contained in the Notice of the AGM. If you require any additional information or have any enquiries, please contact to the under signed at above mentioned address.
NOTICE is also hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, Rule 10 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 that the Register of the Members and Share Transfer Books of the Equity Shareholders of the Company will remain closed from Wednesday, the 14th December, 2022 to Tuesday, the 20th December, 2022 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of taking record of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

CORRIGENDUM

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

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

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

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

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division,
Pulwama

DIPK-14155/22

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND
ADMISSION TO THE
POSTGRADUATE COURSES – 2023 SESSION

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

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

Group A & B: Selected candidates will get scholarship of Rs. 25,000/- per month.
Group C: Selected candidates will get scholarship of Rs. 2500/- per month.
The application form is to be submitted electronically ONLY on internet through CIP website: www.cipranchi.nic.in on or before December 31, 2022. Hard copy of the application form will not be entertained. Online Payment fee of Rs.1000/- for Unreserved, EWS and Rs. 500/-** for OBC, PwD, SC and ST candidates. (**Transactional charges will be extra from the above-said fee structure via Debit Card, Credit Card, UPI Payment, Net Banking & Mobile Wallets.) Please note that the examination fee is non-refundable.**
Online form will be available on our website (www.cipranchi.nic.in) from 01.12.2022. Online Examination will be held on **19.02.2023** and interview/practical would be held in person at CIP between **13th to 15th March, 2023**. Session will commence from 01st May, 2023. Last date for joining the courses is **May 31st, 2023**.
Please visit www.cipranchi.nic.in for downloading the prospectus with requisite details before filling the ONLINE application form.

Director
Central Institute of Psychiatry

US FRUSTRATES ENG AGAIN AT WORLD CUP IN 0-0 DRAW

AP ■ AL KHOR (QATAR)

Loud jeers rang around the stadium. England's fans were not happy. The United States had frustrated them yet again at a World Cup.

That's three times and counting that the teams have met on soccer's biggest stage and England is still waiting for its first win against the Americans after a 0-0 draw on Saturday.

Coach Gareth Southgate had reminded his players of that record beforehand, with the US famously winning 1-0 in 1950 and playing out a 1-1 draw in 2010. They didn't seem to heed his warning and didn't respond to Gregg Berhalter's young and energetic team.

England beat Iran 6-2 in its opening game in Qatar to justify its status as one of the tournament favourites. But it could consider itself fortunate not to have dropped another match to the US, after Christian Pulisic hit the crossbar with a first-half strike and Weston McKinnie lifted a shot over from eight yards out.

The England fans had turned up at the Al Bayt Stadium in anticipation of celebrating a win and qualification to the knockout stages with a game to play.

"I want our fans at home to have a smile on their faces and we haven't quite managed to achieve that," Southgate said. "But people are going to react how they react and I can't let that affect how I feel about the team or how the team feels.

"The objective is to qualify and we have three games to do it."

Frustrating England is one thing.

But Berhalter's job is to advance to the knockout stages.

The draw sets up a match for the US against Iran on Tuesday for a spot in the round of 16. Iran beat Wales 2-0 earlier and sits second in Group B with three points, one more than the Americans.

"It sets up our first knockout game of the World Cup," Berhalter said. "We win or we're out of the World Cup. That's going to be the focus for us while we are preparing the team for the next game.

"But most importantly, understanding the intensity Iran is going to bring. They played an excellent game today. Played with ton of spirit will have to be up for it if we want a chance to advance."

Southgate, meanwhile, will try to lift his players. He described them as dejected following the elating win against Iran.

And despite the boos, England is still top of the group with four points.

"It wasn't the best performance, for sure," said Harry Kane, who came close to scoring with a stoppage-time header. "Good spells with the ball, but we didn't quite have the final product.

"We had two or three opportunities and didn't put it away."

KANE WAIT

Kane, Golden Boot winner from the 2018 World Cup, is still looking for his first goal at this tournament.

MUSAH MISS

Yunus Musah, who chose to represent the US over England, showed exactly what Southgate is missing out on with a dominant midfield performance.

Poland beats Saudis 2-0

AP ■ AL RAYYAN, QATAR

Robert Lewandowski at last scored a goal in a World Cup match on Saturday, helping Poland beat Saudi Arabia 2-0 and boosting his team's chances of reaching the knockout stages.

Lewandowski shed tears after scoring in the 82nd minute. He raced toward the corner with his arms outstretched, then stayed slumped on the field as teammates rushed to congratulate him. He got up, rubbed his face, and blew a kiss to the crowd.

Arguably one of the best forwards in the world, Lewandowski's barren streak at the World Cup was somewhat puzzling. Now, after five previous matches at the tournament, it's over.

Lewandowski also set up the opener in the 40th minute when he kept the ball in play after goalkeeper Mohammed Al-Owais' initial block, then laid it back for Piotr Zielinski to knock in.

Lewandowski also hit the post and Al-Owais denied the Barcelona player from scoring another goal late in the match.

Poland was scrambling for long periods at the Education City Stadium as the Saudi team was pushed forward by enthusiastic fans in what seemed like a home game. The frustration was clear on Lewandowski's face as Poland's yellow cards mounted.

Saudi Arabia had a chance to equalize at the end of the first half but Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny saved Salem Al-Dawsari's penalty kick. He then blocked Mohammed Al-Burayk's shot from the rebound.

Poland will next face Argentina, while Saudi Arabia will meet Mexico in their last Group C games.

Australia revives its World Cup campaign

AP ■ AL WAKRAH, QATAR

Australia only needed to avoid defeat to stay in the World Cup. The Socceroos did more than that in a 1-0 win over Tunisia on Saturday.

Mitchell Duke gave Australia the lead midway through the first half with a header and Australia went on to register its first win at soccer's biggest event since a victory over Serbia back in 2010.

The result means Australia still has a chance to qualify for the round of 16, despite losing 4-1 to defending champion France in their opening match.

France and Australia lead Group D with three points each, while Denmark and Tunisia have one point each.

France was playing Denmark later. In the final round of group games on Wednesday, Tunisia plays France and Australia meets Denmark.

After a scrappy start from both sides, Australia went ahead with a play out of the back from its goalkeeper. Duke collected the goalkeeper's pass near midfield and made a quick touch to set Craig Goodwin down the left flank and Duke then sprinted forward to nod Goodwin's deflected cross into the far corner. Duke celebrated by making a J' with his fingers in a tribute to his son, Jaxson, who was in the stands.

The goal quieted the large contingent of red-clad Tunisia fans among the crowd of 41,823 inside Al Janoub Stadium, and sent the small pockets of Australian supporters dressed in yellow into delirium.

Tunisia impressed when it held European Championship semifinalist Denmark to a 0-0 draw in its opener but only occasionally threatened against Australia until the Aussies sat back and defended toward the end.

Australia had also gotten off to an early 1-0 lead over France in its opener but then was outplayed in a loss which it blamed on a series of defensive errors.

There were fewer errors this time, and some timely interventions, too - none bigger than a last-gasp sliding clearance from center back Harry Souttar to block Mohamed Dräger's dangerous shot shortly before halftime. Tunisia is still seeking to advance from the group stage for the first time in its sixth World Cup appearance but now needs to beat France.

During the second half, Tunisia fans held aloft a large Palestinian flag with the words, "Free Palestine" printed on it.

Japan aims for WC knockout stage against Costa Rica

AP ■ DOHA

How big was Japan's 2-1 upset of Germany in the opening round of the World Cup?

Newspapers in Japan used the term "Daikimboshi" from sumo wrestling to describe the magnitude of the surprise: when a low-ranked wrestler overpowers a grand champion.

The victory has also been compared to Japan's 34-32 upset of powerful South Africa in the 2015 rugby World Cup in England.

Japan was the underdog against four-time champion Germany, but it will be a strong favorite in its next Group E match against Costa Rica, where a victory could move Japan into the knockout stage with a game to spare.

A loss by Costa Rica on Sunday would eliminate it from advancing. Costa Rica faces Germany in its final match and Japan goes against Spain.

Costa Rica is reeling from a 7-0 thrashing against Spain in its opener, and it's anyone's guess how the Ticos will respond. With a population of just over 5 million, the tiny Central American country is appearing in its sixth World Cup. It reached the quarterfinals in 2014 in Brazil.

Japan has never reached the quarterfinals at a World Cup, and that's the aim this time. This is Japan's seventh straight appearance, and it has reached the round of 16 on three occasions, including in Russia in 2018. It lost 3-2 in stoppage time to Belgium after leading 2-0.

It was eliminated by Paraguay on penalties in 2010, and lost to Turkey 1-0 in 2002 when the country co-hosted the event with South Korea.

Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu has spoken often about going farther this time and breaking the "final-16 hex."

Substitutes Ritsu Doan and Takuma Asano scored late goals against Germany — they both play in Germany's Bundesliga — to lead Japan to the upset. Asano got the winner in the 83rd minute, squeezing the ball behind German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer from a very sharp angle.

Belgium need 2nd chance to impress at World Cup

AP ■ DOHA

Belgium midfielder Kevin De Bruyne knew he didn't play well in his team's opening World Cup game. He said as much when he accepted the man of the match award.

"I don't know why I got the trophy," De Bruyne said.

"Maybe it's because of my name."

With De Bruyne looking to improve after the unimpressive 1-0 win over Canada, Belgium has a second chance against Morocco on Sunday to show why it is the No. 2-ranked team in the world behind Brazil .

This could also be the last World Cup chance for many on the highly-rated Belgian squad, as the "golden generation" has often been reminded in the runup to Qatar. The spine of the team - De Bruyne, Eden Hazard, Axel Witsel, Jan Vertonghen, Toby Alderweireld and goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois - are all in their 30s.

Coach Roberto Martinez, who said the performance against Canada was one of Belgium's worst since he's been in charge, might be tempted to bring in fresh faces against Morocco.

Martinez would dearly love to bring back powerful striker Romelu Lukaku, who missed the Canada opener with a left thigh injury and is doubtful for the entire group stage. Some Belgian media has been reporting that Belgium's record goalscorer could make an earlier-than-expected return against the Moroccans at Al Thumama Stadium in Doha.

Morocco will be less fazed at the prospect of trying to contain De Bruyne having already succeeded at subduing another of the world's best midfielders in Luka Modric.

A 0-0 draw with 2018 World Cup finalist Croatia in their first Group F game was a promising start to the World Cup for Morocco and especially for coach Walid Regragui, who had less than three months to prepare his team having only been hired at the end of August.

He had coached Morocco in just three friendly games before entering the World Cup. Compare that to Zlatko Dalic's five years in charge of Croatia. Or Martinez's six years with Belgium.

The World Cup schedule gave Morocco a daunting start with 2018 runners-up Modric and Croatia followed by De Bruyne and Belgium, who finished third in that last World Cup. But the point against Croatia provided a real confidence-booster.

"Arriving in these conditions is not easy, but I accepted the challenge," Regragui said.

Germany's World Cup survival on the line against Spain

AP ■ DOHA

When the World Cup draw came out in April, one of the highlights of the group stage was Sunday's Spain vs Germany at Al Bayt Stadium.

Eight months later, the game between the two former world champions and pre-tournament favorites gained even more prominence thanks to Germany's surprising loss to Japan in its opener in Qatar. Another setback against Spain this weekend and Germany may be heading home early for the second straight World Cup. A loss - coupled with at least a draw by Japan against Costa Rica earlier Sunday — will mean elimination for the four-time champions.

Spain, meanwhile, will be looking to secure its spot in the next stage and reinforce its status as one of the top title contenders following an impressive 7-0 rout of Costa Rica in its opener.

The signs are not encouraging for Germany. Its most recent match against Spain was an embarrassing 6-0 defeat in the Nations League two years ago. Its last win against "La Roja" came in a friendly eight years ago.

Germany won its fourth World Cup title in 2014 in Brazil but didn't make it out of the group stage in 2018 after losses to South Korea and México. It would be the first time it fails to advance past the group stage in back-to-back tournaments.

Spain won its lone World Cup in 2010 in South Africa and was eliminated in the round of 16 in 2018 in Russia. A win against Germany will allow Spain to reach the last 16 if Costa Rica doesn't defeat Japan.

Expectations around Spain's young squad were raised after its outstanding performance against Costa Rica, when the team reintroduced "tiki-taka" ball-possession style and 18-year-old Gavi became the youngest World Cup scorer since Pelé in 1958.

The seven goals it scored against Costa Rica matched Spain's tournament total from Russia in 2018.

"The result gives us a big boost," Spain coach Luis Enrique said. "But now we have to play against a Germany team that needs the victory." Luis Enrique said he wasn't concerned with his young players being overly confident, and promised to make changes to the starting lineup for Sunday's match, without elaborating.

Winger Leroy Sané could return for Germany after missing the match against Japan because of a knee injury. It will be the fifth meeting between the powerhouses at World Cups, with Spain winning the most recent one 1-0 in the semifinals of the 2010 tournament.

INDIAN BATTING NEEDS FRESH APPROACH TO SAVE SERIES

PTI ■ HAMILTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

His 50 was scored in 65 balls with three sixes and a boundary. This means 22 runs were scored from four deliveries. He scored the remaining 28 runs from 61 deliveries.

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

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

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

Rishabh Pant has a way better ODI strike-rate and average compared to T20Is but the vice-captain of this series needs to be more consistent in order to keep the big gloves away from Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan, who are definitely close on his heels. As Virender Sehwag, few weeks earlier had said that Pant needs to decide first what will be his style of batsmanship.

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

BOWLERS NEED TO FIND FULLER LENGTHS

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

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

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

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

AP ■ ADELAIDE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Akashdeep once again came to India's rescue and scored with a fierce reverse hit in the 27th minute to level the scores.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

India lose bronze medal play-off to Spain

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

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

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

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

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

Australia beat Croatia 2-1 to reach Davis Cup final

AP ■ MALAGA (SPAIN)

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

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

"We have been fortunate to win it all on a number of occasions a long time ago. And I know what it meant to me as a player to play a final, and I am glad these guys can play it."

Borna Coric put Croatia ahead by beating Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-4 6-3, but Alex de Minaur leveled after defeating Marin Cilic 6-2 6-2 to send it to the doubles.

Jordan Thompson and Max Purcell then secured the semifinal win against Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic by 6-7 (3) 7-5 6-4. "This is what this team is about, that never-say-die attitude," De Minaur said.

Canada will face Italy on Saturday in the other semifinal.

In the opener, Kokkinakis struck 11 aces, but Coric was able to break him once in each set.

"On my serve, I felt like it was an ace or he put it back on my toes," Kokkinakis said.

Cilic, who was on the Croatia team that won the title in 2018, committed 10 double faults. That erratic serve helped De Minaur break Cilic four times and level his head-to-head record with the former US Open winner at two wins each.

Thompson and Purcell bettered the more experienced pair of Mektic and Pavic, both ranked in the top 10 in doubles. Thompson and Purcell combined for 13 aces, broke the Croats twice, and never dropped a service game to come back after losing the first-set tiebreaker. Two-time winner Croatia was the runner-up last year.

India clinch gold medals at Youth World Boxing Championships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

This came after Bhawna Sharma bagged a silver medal in the women's 48kg category, losing 0-5 loss against Uzbekistan's Gulsevar Ganieva in the opening match of the day. Ashish (54kg) was the other Indian to finish with a silver medal. He went down 1-4 against Japanese pugilist Yuta Sakai in a thrilling final.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Government to establish dietary supplements testing labs: Sports Secretary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To prevent "inadvertent" use of prohibited substances by the athletes, the government will establish laboratories for testing dietary supplements, sports secretary Sujata Chaturvedi said on Saturday.

Many sports persons, after failing dope tests, have claimed that they ingested prohibited substances 'inadvertently' through dietary supplements.

Chaturvedi emphasised on having regulated testing facilities for the dietary supplements.

"We recently entered into an MoU with the National Forensic Science University, Ahmedabad and the Food Safety Standards Authority of India, for a lab to help with the dietary supplement testing," Chaturvedi said at a function orgainsed by FICCI.

"We are now heading towards a completely revamped national anti-doping programme housed in our National Anti-doping Agency," Chaturvedi said during the TURF2022 & India Sports Awards event.

In August, the Parliament passed the National Anti-Doping Bill which seeks to provide a statutory framework for the functioning of the National Anti-Doping Agency and the National Dope Testing Laboratory. Chaturvedi said the country's overall sports development has been on the right path this year and that they are working on starting women's leagues in a big way.

"We've had archery, football and various other sports coming into these leagues. I can assure you it's going to be a huge deal in the coming years because we support inclusion in sports."

Legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George underlined the unique potential of sports in empowering women.

"Women in sports defy the perception that they are weak or incapable," she said.

"In many countries, it has been seen that sport can be a force to amplify human voice and tear down gender barriers and discrimination."

UP THRASH DEPLETED MUMBAI BY 8 WICKETS

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, Mumbai's crisis man Shams Mulani (51 off 70 balls) and keeper-batter Hardik Tamore (53 off 67 balls) added 103 runs for the sixth wicket which helped the current Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 champions cross the 200-run mark.

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

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

Brief Scores:

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

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

J&K KNOCK OUT KERALA, MAKE DREAM QUARTERFINALS

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

In-form Auqib Nabi led the show with his career-best haul of 4/39, helping J&K skittle out Kerala for a paltry 174 in 47.4 overs after they opted to field in their first-ever Vijay Hazare Trophy knockout match.

In reply, J&K cantered home in 37.5 overs with Shubham Khajuria (76) and Qamran Iqbal (51) setting up win with their 113-run opening stand in 21.4 overs.

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

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

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

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

Opener Vinoop Maoharan top-scored for Kerala with a 81-ball 62 but Yudhvir dismissed him to trigger the collapse in the 32nd over, before Nabi wreaked havoc with a dream spell.

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

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

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

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

Brief Scores

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

sunday magazine
November 27, 2022

the pioneer
agenda

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

CLIMATE CHANGE THE FAILED CoP27

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The approach of the developed world all through in all CoPs is to blame India and China for being the biggest emitters conveniently forgetting the havoc they wrecked on nature during the past more than 150 years and more. In 2021, China accounted for the highest 25% (15 billion metric tonnes) of global CO_2 emission followed by the USA accounting for 11% (5 billion Metric tonnes) of the global total. The European Union emits around 2.8 billion metric tonnes. India's emission in 2021 was 2.7 billion metric tonnes which is around 7.5 % of the global emissions. The per capita fossil CO_2 emissions in 2021 were 1.3 tC per person per year for the globe and were 4.0 (USA), 2.2 (China), 1.7 (EU27), and 0.5 (India) tC per person per year for the four highest CO_2 emitting countries.

India will surpass China in population in 2023, but it cannot be equated with China in funding for climate change considering the country's relatively low emissions. India's contribution to historical cumulative CO_2 emissions is 3%, whereas the US. On the other hand, the EU contributed 25% and 17% respectively to total fossil CO_2 emissions from 1850 to 2019. China contributed 13%, the Russian Federation 7%, and Indonesia and Brazil 1%.

Thus there is no equity, justice or fairness in global climate change talks. The climate change negotiations, therefore, for most developing countries like India are proving a wastage of money and efforts as nothing concrete except our statements before the world leaders on our achievements on the Nationally Determined Targets on Paris agreement of 2015 and how much clean energy we are generating and how much trees we are planting and what is our road map for achieving net-zero emission by the year 2070. The agreement on the creation of funds to support the poor nation is just recognition by the developed world after protracted negotiations of their responsible for past emissions. Now, therefore, the issue should be taken up vigorously by the developing countries in all forums and India should launch diplomatic networking to safeguard its interests and the interests of the developing world for climate justice.

> INDIA WILL SURPASS CHINA IN POPULATION IN 2023, BUT IT CANNOT BE EQUATED WITH CHINA IN FUNDING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERING THE COUNTRY'S RELATIVELY LOW EMISSIONS. INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO HISTORICAL CUMULATIVE CO_2 EMISSIONS IS 3%, WHEREAS THE US. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EU CONTRIBUTED 25% AND 17% RESPECTIVELY TO TOTAL FOSSIL CO_2 EMISSIONS FROM 1850 TO 2019. CHINA CONTRIBUTED 13%, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION 7%, AND INDONESIA AND BRAZIL 1% EACH.

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

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

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

The global mean temperature will cross the 1.5°C limits in the current decade or next, and the 2°C mark during 2040–2060 as estimated by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change in their sixth report. Lip service syndrome is best exemplified by the statement of Egypt's government and subsequent decisions taken in CoP 27. The UN Secretary-General has commented that only the creation of a loss and damage fund is not a solution. The World Bank which is outside the purview of UNFCCD can pitch in effectively in tackling the fund position if the US and its European allies are genuinely committed to treating climate change as a top global priority and accepting their responsibility to do climate justice. This was also a reason why many countries were pitching for reforms in the World Bank, which is perceived as having failed to help with the climate crisis. What is the use of the World Bank funding poverty and water-related projects in poor countries when poor countries sink further into misery due to climate-related disasters?

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

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

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

GOOD HEALTH IS NOT SOMETHING WE CAN BUY. HOWEVER, IT CAN BE AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE SAVINGS ACCOUNT
— ANNE WILSON SCHAEF

STREAMING DEATHS

There's an old saying, when the cat's away, the mice will play. Same applies to the Over-the-Top (OTT) platforms. With no written and clear laws regarding implementation of tobacco disclaimer or warning labels on smoking scenes in the OTT web series, while the tobacco industry is trying to lure the online viewers in a big way to trap them in the tobacco net, OTT media is busy raking in moolah through their advertisements. ARCHANA JYOTI takes a closer look at this fatal gap.

SCENE 1

Thirty-year-old Rohan, a movie buff, has been a regular at conventional picture halls to watch films. He supports anti-tobacco health warnings as a prominent static message displayed at the bottom of the screen every time tobacco products are shown in the film. "Exposure to smoking in films is a recognised cause of smoking uptake among children. In an attempt to protect children, films containing smoking are required to include tobacco control messaging including audiovisual disclaimers, on-screen health warnings when tobacco imagery is displayed and anti-tobacco 'health spots' before and during the film," he says.

CUT TO SCENE 2

With Covid-19 restrictions in place, Rohan has now shifted to OTT platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and Hotstar to watch movies and his favourite programmes. But to his utter shock, he finds that the e-platforms streaming films and series have been blatantly displaying excessive usage of tobacco consumption. He was also surprised that there were no warning messages to caution the children and youth about the harmful usage of the tobacco items. "I am flummoxed at this violation.

In the absence of any clear regulation, OTT platforms are increasingly becoming favourite spots for the tobacco industry to hook the youth with their addictive products," he observes as he cities reports that estimate that the video streaming content is expected to exceed US$332 billion by 2025.

Rohan, who works in an MNC is not the only one who is worried at this dangerous trend but also wants a check on this fatal violation on the OTT platforms. According to a survey by the National Law School of India University, along with several youth organizations, at least 88 per cent of youth agreed that OTT platforms should be regulated like traditional television and film when it comes to depiction of tobacco use. Atleast 82.5% of respondents agreed that tobacco use in shows and movies contributes to making tobacco use seem normal and acceptable, a reason enough to impose a check on such ads.

Taking umbrage at this defiance, the health experts and anti-tobacco activists are seeking urgent regulation on the OTT content to protect youth from being addicted to tobacco products. Joining the cause, Vice-Chancellors across Karnataka too have requested Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to regulate OTT platforms to display tobacco warning messages.

The health experts contend that if such vacuums are continued to be allowed, gains made so far through tobacco warning campaigns will be negated. There is a need for better enforcement of existing Rules on streaming platforms in India, and modernisation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Article 13 guidelines to account for new streaming platforms to protect youth from tobacco imagery globally, they say. If brought under COTPA umbrella, the OTT will also have to adhere COPTA regulation, which attracts a jail term of up to 5 years and/or a fine of up to Rs 5,000 in case of violation.

Says **Bhavna Mukhopadhyay**, Chief Executive, Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), "The streaming media has become a haven for promotion of tobacco use and this extensive promotion is to undermine Government film rules and provisions that discourage tobacco use. We urge the Government to take necessary action to ensure these online streaming platforms are compliant with COTPA, relevant rules and any other applicable laws in order to protect the children from exposure to tobacco products display on the OTT platforms"

"The viewership of OTTs has scaled at an extremely high rate in India, one reason for it being the sharp decrease in web costs and the other being, accessibility of multi-lingual and multi-regional content. Smoking is seen very often in such content, which must have a multi-level impact on its viewers," notes Manan Goel from College of Vocational Studies, Delhi University.

Goel along with his colleagues Parth Goel, Raghvendra Singh, Ritik Arora, Saanya Chawla, Utsav Agarwal, all from the College of Vocational Studies had conducted a study in 2020 and noted that smoking is seen very often in such content, which must have a multi-level impact on its viewers.

In their study, they tried to analyse the change in smoking habits, its impact, and also, the reasons behind the same changes and found that there is a direct link between viewing smoking scenes and immediate desire to smoke. "The smoking propensities of an individual is impacted because of the hours spent watching TV series, movies which contain smoking imagery. The correlation degree found between the number of hours spent on such TV shows, movies and the number of cigarettes daily is small but the significance level does not reject the hypothesis. Thus, showing that smoking imagery does impact the viewers; increase in the number of daily cigarettes."

What is OTT

An over-the-top (OTT) is a media service offered directly to viewers via the Internet. OTT bypasses cable, broadcast, and satellite television platforms, the types of companies that traditionally act as controllers or distributors of such content. Over the years OTT has become more popular among youth, particularly among children.

The WHO too rings the alarm bell as it warns that every year the tobacco industry invests more than US$ 9 billion to advertise its products. Increasingly, it is targeting young people with nicotine and tobacco products in a bid to replace the 8 million people that its items kill every year.

Tobacco is a prominent risk factor for 6 to 8 leading causes of death and almost 40% of the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) including cancers, cardio-vascular diseases and lung disorders are attributable to tobacco use. As such the consequent burden of mortality and morbidity due to consumption of tobacco is very high in India. The number of deaths every year in India which is attributable to tobacco use is almost 13.5 lakhs.

As per the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) 2019, nearly one-fifth of the students aged 13-15 have used tobacco in some form. Prevalence of tobacco use among boys is 9.6% and among girls is 7.4%. The median age for initiation of cigarette and bidi smoking, and smokeless tobacco use were 11.5 years, 10.5 years and 9.9 years respectively.

Yet another study on "Tobacco imagery in on-demand streaming content popular among adolescents and young adults in India: implications for global tobacco control" highlighted that there is rampant depiction of tobacco use and tobacco brand placement. Many of the series showed tobacco brands as well as close ups of tobacco products and tobacco usage. None of the series included anti-tobacco messages, spots and disclaimers. The shows with tobacco depictions included both foreign-produced and Indian-produced series and most were rated for viewers below 18 years, thus targeting youth and children, said the study published in BMJ.

Dr **Monika Arora,** Vice President and Professor at PHFI says, "We studied tobacco imagery in 188 episodes of the ten most popular series among 15 to 24-year-old Indian youth on Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. Our findings indicate that many shows had tobacco depicting imagery in it. None of the shows were compliant with tobacco-free film and TV rules under COTPA, 2003."

Another study conducted in 2019 by KPMG reported that there were 325 million viewers of on-demand streaming platforms in India, and that young people (age 15-24) spent an average of 70 minutes per day watching online video content, which has further increased due to Covid 19 restrictions.

A study conducted in Delhi too showed that adolescents aged 12–16 years with high exposure to tobacco occurrences in Bollywood films were 2.3 times more likely to have ever used tobacco compared with adolescents with low exposure.

However, the scenario is expected to change soon. But only if the Health Ministry takes urgent call in the matter. "There have been few rounds of consultations on the subject. A decision may be taken soon on bringing the OTT platforms at par with films screened in theatres and by cable or network TV broadcasters when it comes to adhering to the anti-tobacco warnings," a senior health official said on anonymity.

Mukhopadhyay says if such a thing happens, it would be a trendsetter in the world.

"It's a serious lacuna considering the far wider reach of the OTT shows amongst all the sections and age groups of the society. OTT giants like Netflix and Amazon came to India in 2016, it is sad that till date there are no laws to control the content," Anand Mishra, an advocate on record at the Supreme Court, said.

Side-stepping Tobacco-free Film Rules in India

The WHO Country Office for India conducted a study on "Tobacco imagery in on-demand streaming content popular among adolescents and young adults in India: implications for global tobacco control", to assess the impact of tobacco imagery in digital streaming series popular among adolescents and young adults in urban India. The HEALTH PIONEER shares the results.

This study was undertaken in collaboration with HRIDAY, the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, University of California, and Onebeyond LLC, California. The study also assessed the compliance of the content shown in these online series with the Tobacco-free Film and Television Rules in India. This is the first such study conducted in the country to generate evidence on implementation of the tobacco free films policy on streaming or over-the-top (OTT) on-demand video streaming platforms such as Amazon Prime, Netflix and Hotstar.

In recent years, on-demand video streaming platforms such as Amazon Prime, Netflix and Hotstar are rapidly becoming popular in India. A recent market research amongst Indians in the age group of 20–25 years has revealed that the time spent on these platforms range from 5 to 20 hours per week.

The study recommends the enforcement of Tobacco-free Film and TV Rules under the Tobacco Control Act of India for all content streamed on all web-based OTT platforms in India, whether produced within the country or internationally. In addition, the study also recommends that the current guidelines under Article 13 of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) pertaining to the depiction of tobacco in entertainment media should be updated to bring newer internet and mobile based platforms under its purview.

"The Tobacco-free Film and TV policy pioneered by the Government of India is an innovative approach to health education. This study highlights the urgent need to initiate a dialogue with digital content providers to ensure sterner compliance to the policy and help protect vulnerable age groups like adolescents and young adults from unnecessary exposure to tobacco imagery in entertainment content showcased on these platforms."

— Dr RODERICO H. OFRIN
WHO Country Representative to India

STUDY DESIGN

As part of the study, 10 popular Web-series on streaming platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime, were identified after discussions with participants aged 15–24 years in Delhi. These were content-coded for tobacco imagery using the peer reviewed Breathe California protocol. Incidents of tobacco use and brand appearances in each series episode were counted, and compliance with extant Rules was recorded. In total, 188 episodes across 10 selected series from Netflix and Amazon Prime Video were coded for the content analysis of tobacco imagery and included: The Marvellous Mrs Maisel (rated 16+); Stranger Things (rated 16+); Bodyguard (rated 16+); Riverdale (rated 13+); Narcos (rated 16+); Sacred Games (rated 18+); Mirzapur (rated 18+); Chilling Adventures of Sabrina (rated 16+); 13 Reasons Why (rated 16+); and The Crown (rated 16+).

KEY FINDINGS

- Of the 188 episodes studied, 108 (57.4%) contained at least one incident of tobacco use.
- The total number of tobacco incidents in the selected series ranged from zero in Bodyguard, Riverdale and 13 Reasons Why to 1652 in The Marvellous Mrs Maisel.
- The US-produced series like The Marvellous Mrs Maisel by Amazon and Narcos and The Crown by Netflix depicted a higher number of tobacco imagery when compared to Indian produced series like Mirzapur by Amazon and Sacred Games by Netflix.
- Four out of the 10 series studied showed tobacco brands through product placements across episodes, and all of these were foreign productions. The two series — Sacred Games and Mirzapur — produced in India, showed tobacco imagery, however they did not display the brand name of the products.
- Both foreign and Indian produced series depicting any tobacco incidents, did not comply with the tobacco-free film and TV Rules in India.

How to prevent humanity's surrender to AI

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

The datafication of the world has indeed compelled all of us to surrender to AI. Experts say that big data management demands machines. Their storage, usage and distribution largely are possible only by the use of the AI tools. The very fact what machines can think was given by Alan Turing in 1950 in his seminal work called "Computing Machinery and Intelligence". This book indeed answered many critical questions some 70 years back about AI. In that book, he proposed the idea of "The Imitation Game" that gave the idea of machine thinking like man. Today what we call "Turing Test" has become a remarkable tool in the AI paradigm. Interestingly this directly focuses on the ability of the machines to predict and respond like a human. However, the origin of the AI lies in the "Mechanical Man" found in ancient Greece and Egypt. Until 1929, Japanese professor Makoto Nishimura's invented robot named "Gakutensoku" created waves around the world spreading the message that this machine can work like a human and sense like them. But the very word called the "Artificial Intelligence" was first coined in a conference organised in the Dartmouth College in the US in 1956 only.

The irony is that many national governments such as the US have openly played a significant role in helping expand the big tech business. Starting from the Bush Administration's Global Internet Freedom Task Force (GIFTF) to Obama's International Strategy for Cyberspace: Prosperity, Security and Openness in a Networked World (ISCPSONW), the big tech conglomerates and their subsidiaries have virtually occupied the new knowledge economy. The quintessential five — Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Microsoft (GAFAM) — have quietly pushed down the yesteryear's large business magnates from the top of the charts of global business. This has come through entirely different routes. These corporations, besides fast becoming economic and political entities, have started redefining the socio-cultural ethos of the common people. Their social media platforms and other high tech have interwoven people in myriad forms all across the world.

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

The biggest ever debate and dialogue is centred on the loss of privacy with the AI machines. Our very basic rights are lost with these machines. Precisely, there is no such law as of today that can prevent the damages caused by the use of AI. The complex data environment, algorithms and the models underlying the development of the AI operations help the public institutions and the private corporations to maintain data secrecy. This kind of an environment can quickly breed public distrust over the new AI-drawn environment.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet specifically intervened and asked for a moratorium on the sale and use of AI last year. She warned of the dangers of unregulated AI tools. Further she highlighted that technology's decisions can change, define or damage human lives. A report released by the UN in this regard clearly highlights the risks of AI technologies. It also made it public that AI can serve as a force for good but if used irresponsibly, it can bring disaster to humanity. So the UNHRC strongly appealed that the AI devices that do not conform to the international human rights law must be banned.

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

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

Above all, the machines invented or created by humans should not be allowed to take away the universal human rights. But alas! We all are inseparable from the digital media networks. We are into them. And AI machines have finally stolen our treasured past and promised future. The reason behind is our intense desire for a super comfortable, efficient and hassle-free lifestyle. As we move on to the next epoch of human civilisation, we will be certainly detached from our fellow beings. Machines will be our companions. Life will be much faster than ever before.

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

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

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

MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 2008 Mumbai terror attacks continue to stir outrage in Israel, where commemorative events are held on its anniversary to condemn the senseless killings and demand action against the Pakistan-based masterminds of the carnage.

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

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

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

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

People from Telangana, living in Israel, organised an event in Ramat Gan (close to Tel Aviv) offering prayers for the innocent lives lost in the brutal attacks and lit candles in their memory. They also referred to the loss of six Jewish lives in the attacks in which 166 people were killed, hinting at a deliberate attempt to break the strong bonds between India and Israel.

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

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

Adoration/Rosary ceremony, a Holy mass for the departed in the terrorist attack, and special prayers was followed by a meeting with people holding lit candles and posters with slogans against terrorism, some Indian flags and also calls to end violence and promote peace. "Violence divides! Love unites!", said Rev. Pradeep, who heads the Indian Chaplaincy.

Condemning the Mumbai attacks, he said that he "prays that such incidents will never occur again and people will live in peace and brotherhood".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(With inputs from PTI)

THE ESPECIAL GENIUS OF WOMEN I BELIEVE TO BE ELECTRICAL IN MOVEMENT, INTUITIVE IN FUNCTION, SPIRITUAL IN TENDENCY
—MARGARET FULLER

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA

ARIES March 21-April 19

If you have great expectations for this week, you will be disappointed since it is not a favourable week in financial issues. You are confused and unable to make any definite decisions at work. You're left with unfinished business and unorganized work papers. There will be some relief in the middle of the week, and you will discover a consistent attitude to your task. Your colleagues will anticipate more active engagement from you, and you will be able to contribute your best efforts. During this period, you will build confidence and mingle with others. However, the week concludes on an unfavourable note. As there will be family strife or someone in the family may suffer from a significant health condition that requires you to dedicate your time and money to care for.

Lucky number 4 | **Lucky colour** Navy Blue
Lucky day Tuesday

TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, God bestows all his blessings on you. Children will perform well in their exams, and whatever project you have been working on for a long time will be completed. There is a wonderful aura surrounding you that will give you the confidence to believe that you are a source of inspiration for many. Your communication abilities are effective, and because you have a fascinating personality, people will be drawn to you and expect a more honest and cooperative attitude from you. You are the leader of your group. Enjoy every minute of it. By the end of the week, you will also become spiritual. To connect with the divine, you perform pooja, meditation, and chanting, which will only enhance your creativity.

Lucky number 26 | **Lucky colour** Golden
Lucky day Sunday

GEMINI May 21-June 20

This is a time to experience different colours of life, such as love, adoration, compassion, emotional and spiritual satisfaction, anger, and, most importantly, an abundance of monetary fortune. The week begins with success in your financial endeavours. Your profits gradually increase as the week goes on. You, too, are concerned and live your life to the fullest. Your calm and generous demeanour at work will create a welcoming and harmonious workplace. You are preoccupied with domestic concerns throughout the middle of the week and effectively manage to strike a balance between your work and your family. The end of the week is a good time to savour the results of your labour. Good health, vigour, a creative spark, and happy vibrations may be found anywhere.

Lucky number 2 | **Lucky colour** Orange
Lucky day Tuesday

CANCER June 21-July 22

Surprising lifestyle changes are on the horizon. Out of bloom, you find yourself in a position where you may feel proud, secure, and ready to face the world's difficulties. You are a winner in the sense that you will attain success in the area for which you had hoped. People are envious of your achievements since you are well-known and famous. Your good wishes, on the other hand, will earn you a pat on the back. You will be able to progress in the development of everything that is in your best interests. A battle has been conquered, goals have been met, and exposure has been recognised and appreciated. Happiness and enjoyment are derived from the past. By the conclusion of the week, you will have pleasant nostalgic recollections of youth, friends, and spending time with younger people.

Lucky number 12 **Lucky colour** Grey
Lucky day Saturday

LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you are headstrong, egoistic, and a bit violent. The theme of the week is work, work, and more work. You feel overburdened because a lot of job pressure is keeping you from having a good time. You perceive the horizon too far away and struggle to obtain goals. There is also a chance that you may become hasty and aggressive to some extent. You will make rash decisions when you are confused. Whenever you are anxious or unsure, simply meditate to boost your confidence and clarity. When faced with difficult decisions, your impartiality shines through, but you must be cautious not to act too quickly or the work will be wasted. You may utilise your intuitive nature to lead you through simple situations and your analytical tendency to make more difficult decisions.

Lucky number 28 | **Lucky colour** White
Lucky day Friday

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week gives you a lot of financial gain and enjoyment. You are an expert who puts all your knowledge to use in a more practical manner. You are trustworthy and fair in your interactions with others. You adhere to schedules, follow processes, and conduct yourself in accordance with rules and regulations. There is also a possibility that you may inherit a large sum of money or that you will receive a fortune. Raises and promotions are also on the agenda, which will only serve to boost your self-esteem. A new job, project, or task might also be anticipated. You gather your resources and make good use of them. You may use these fresh concepts in your profession. This week, your children may also be a source of joy for you.

Lucky number 5 | **Lucky colour** Pastel Green
Lucky day Friday

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

The week begins with a hunt for solutions to complete the final ordeal successfully. You're standing right on the finish line. Expect difficulties, but you will find a way to overcome them. You are passionate and spend time with your spouse/partner during the week. The end of the week will be favourable for purchasing a new home/conveyance or for other property-related concerns. Most of you may have found yourself in an extraordinarily fortunate position, with several chances awaiting you. You feel healthy, vibrant, active, and in a good mood. Your confidence will be boosted by family support and collaboration. You'll go out to celebrate with your loved ones.

Lucky number 20 | **Lucky colour** Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, all the activities revolve around work. Risk is synonymous with opportunity. There are several possibilities to profit from your hard work. You can afford to consider chances this week since you have a lot of creative potential. You're in that stage where your dare-devil mentality allows you to cross all barriers. An enormous assignment has been on your mind, and you have the power to complete it with elegance. Prepare to face the rigorous discipline of an elder lady in the family during the middle of the week. It will assist you to follow the thoughts and suggestions of your mother or a mother-like character. Sharpen your mind through reading good literature, solving riddles, and gaining an insight or a breakthrough in the spiritual realm.

Lucky number 21 | **Lucky colour** Black
Lucky day Tuesday

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week will be all about planning, discipline, and attention. There's a lot of uncertainty in the air. There are times when you could find an answer and realise the truth, but you choose not to. You purposefully avoid seeing the reality because you are afraid that your decision may worsen the issue. There is a chance that you may receive a court order in your favour in the middle of the week. Any legal issues or inquiries brought against you may leave you disappointed. It is time to take a break, reconsider, and analyse your job. Heal yourself and return with renewed vigour to tackle the difficulties. Have patience; everything will be fine; this is just a temporary phase in your life.

Lucky number 3| **Lucky colour** Red
Lucky day Wednesday

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Your good deeds will eventually pay off. The week begins with hard work and commitment in the material realm, with the goal of improving both your effort and yourself. You will pay attention to details, be persistent, concentrate, and work hard. You will intensify your efforts because what you are attempting will be challenging. But it will provide you with excellent professional experience and expertise. Finally, your applied abilities and intellect committed to the assignment will result in achievement. The moment has come for substantial cosmic healing and reconnection with God. A lot of intense forces come together towards the end of the week, with a great possibility for some form of healing to occur. Some of you may find acceptance of their love partner or marriage proposals.

Lucky number 28 | **Lucky colour** Peach
Lucky day Saturday

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This is a great week to make your dreams come true. There is a lot of love, money, and happiness. God bestows all blessings. Other indications point to this being an excellent week for organising, mental inspiration, and intuition. Use this week's favourable energy to boost your mental abilities. This week has been financially, spiritually, and emotionally gratifying in every way. Relationship issues are undoubtedly more evident right now. Everything is coming into place as you anticipated. New career or business opportunities are also on the agenda. You have strong health, command, and power, as well as good communication and leadership abilities. Lady Luck is also on your side.

Lucky number 27 | **Lucky colour** Indigo
Lucky day Friday

PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Collaboration and teamwork will lead to success. Workplace understanding and harmony will improve. You breathe new life into your job and lifestyle, which is brimming with ideas and enthusiasm. Opportunities and prospects for the near future appear to be promising. There are signs that a newly launched firm is thriving. You may soon receive an offer for a new position at work. Cooperation is a prominent subject right now, and discussions should go well. There is a divine creation as well as spirituality. Those in the family who are expecting a baby will be overjoyed to hear the wonderful news. You are brave in exploring new territory. By the end of the week, you will have settled all your concerns because you have the inner resources to tackle any challenge.

Lucky number 13 | **Lucky colour** Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Balance emotion with reason

I have spent enough of time and energy pursuing someone I loved. I found lot of positives in him is why I was after him. Initially he responded well. But he ultimately ran away. Now, I feel miserable. You had cautioned me when I last consulted you. But my gut feeling told me that the positives in him would override his negatives and will finally come back to me. Is my destiny so bad that my wishes won't get fulfilled. Will I ever be able to get a good partner in life in near future, for which I am craving? Kindly guide me how to go about." Someone totally distraught because of wrong choice made, asked me the other day.

Everybody born into this world comes with both positives and negatives, coming as they may as Karmic carryover from the past. Both sides run concurrently. I agree, he is a potential guy who built a good career as would career signifying Moon rising over the head when born mean. It is further aided by the 10th sub-lord Saturn posited in the 11th house, placed in the nakshatra owned by 11th lord Sun identified with fulfilment of desires.

As already indicated, his outward demeanour may apparently look refined, as would Mercury well aligned to Neptune mean. His inner frame of mind, however, vital to inter-personal relationship skills, is simply weird. You were already aware of his two failed marriages. You still chased him blindly. Look at his astrological pointers. The Sun is placed adverse to Saturn and Neptune. In the first place, it would mean the seeds of fear and insecurity deeply imbedded in his being. He would have a negative mind set, habitually suspicious of others. He would be self-pitying and a pessimist. He would enjoy vicarious pleasure by hurting others. Second, he would be an escapist stuck to his illusionary perceptions and belief. The moment he is confronted with contrarian views, instead of trying to find an answer, he may just run away. Mars placed adverse to Neptune indicates that he suffers from inferiority complex, which he would try to camouflage with his invented sense of confidence and outward appearance. Mars opposite Venus makes him self-indulgent. Since Venus is the lagna lord and Mars is the 7th lord identified with partner, it will be difficult for him to hold on to a relationship for long. Venus placed adverse to Neptune doesn't speak good of his reputation either. Also, He will not be able to manage his finance well. Saturn placed adverse to Neptune makes him inhibited and self-deluding. On top of that, lagna sub-lord Ketu occupying the lunar constellation owned by Rahu makes him out and out a material person, who, given an opportunity will try to exploit others. This time, you became a victim. The result is there to see.

Even more important is to know, why you fell into his trap. You got tricked by your own mind that made you believe your desire being gut feeling. Also, love can't be cultivated. If it is to happen, it comes about spontaneously, which knows no logic. You were just clinging to the man, expecting spending pleasant time in his company. There was no love from either side. The other guy was just enjoying your company in passing. You are born in Aries lagna. That makes you impulsive, who will jump into action without applying proper forethought. The lagna lord Mars occupying a fixed sign Aquarius, read together with the Sun also there, makes you a stubborn guy, not open to listening or counsel, unless pushed to the wall. Venus ill-disposed off to Uranus makes you vulnerable to get into unconventional relationship, ignoring ground realities. Moon posited adverse to Mercury makes you restless, which doesn't allow you the time and space necessary for due diligence. Moon also placed adverse to both Jupiter and Saturn makes you vulnerable to go through alternating phase of optimism and pessimism.

It may not be out of place to mention here that birds have two wings to fly, the two in balance with each other. Similarly, human beings have been provided with two tools – reason and emotion – to lead one's life. Too much guided by the head may make you just mechanical. And overawed by emotions, one may go crazy. We need to balance out the two for a smooth run of life. It is not that you lack the sense of reason. But you need to learn to balance emotion and reason, and tomorrow will be yours.

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