



PM attends G20 All Party Meeting, in New Delhi

## AAP looks poised to sweep MCD elections

**New Delhi:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is all set to sweep the civic polls held in Delhi on December 4, and end BJP's 15-year stronghold in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), as per the exit poll findings of different agencies released on Monday. According to India Today-Axis My India survey, in the 250-ward MCD, the AAP is projected to win 149-171 wards, followed by BJP at 69-91, Congress at 3-7, while others may get 5-9 seats. In Chandani Chowk, which has 30 wards, 20 may go to AAP while BJP is projected to win 10 wards. In East Delhi, where there are 36 wards, AAP may win 22, followed by BJP at 14. Out of the 25 wards in New Delhi, AAP may win 21 followed by BJP at 4. The exit poll further predicted that of the 41 wards in North-East district, 21 will go to BJP, followed by AAP at 17, Congress at 2, while 1 ward will go to others. As per the India Today exit poll, AAP is set to get 43 per cent of vote share while 35 per cent votes will go to the BJP. Congress will finish a distant third with 10 per cent vote share.

## World Cup Trophy Tour Begins Over 80 pc voting recorded in Padampur bypoll in Odisha



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Much awaited Trophy Tour of the 2023 Men's FIH Hockey World Cup was kick-started on Monday. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik handed over the trophy to Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey. Shri Patnaik wished the Trophy Tour a grand success and said it will be a memorable World Cup for the teams and the fans. "I hope the Hockey Men's World Cup Trophy Tour will build excitement for the world cup across India. We will be hosting 16 teams and

the matches will be played in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela," he said. Minister Sports & Youth Services Tusharkanti Behera and Secretary General of Hockey India Bholanath Singh were among those present at the program. Secretary Sports and Youth Services R Vineel Krishna coordinating the entire tour across the nation and a Gigantic Global Event. The International Tournament will start on January 13 and will continue till January 29. Over the next 21 days,

the trophy will travel to 13 states and a UT, including West Bengal, Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, before returning to Odisha on December 25. Once back in Odisha, the Trophy Tour will be conducted in all the districts of the state. The Trophy will also be taken to 17 blocks of Sundergarh district, termed the cradle of hockey, officials said. The Trophy will be returning to Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar where the finals will be played on January 29.

**Bargarh(KCN):** Over 80 per cent polling was recorded in by-poll to Padampur Assembly constituency in Bargarh district.

As per preliminary reports, the total voter turnout was little more than 80 per cent, which is the highest in the constituency so far. However, the final polling percentage will be known once the polling officials return from the booths, an official said. Voter turnout in the constituency in 2019 was 79 per cent.

The voting was conducted smoothly at 319 polling stations under tight security arrangements.

Over 2.57 lakh voters, including 12 members of the transgender community, were eligible to exercise their franchise in the by-poll.

Voting was partially disrupted in a few booths due to technical snag in



the EVM. Voting, however, remained smooth and peaceful in all the other booths during the bypoll, said Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) SK Lohani.

At least 15 platoons of police and nine companies of central paramilitary forces had been deployed to ensure smooth voting, they said. The by-election

assumes significance in the wake of the BJD's loss in Dhamnagar, its first such defeat since 2009, with many in political circles claiming that the result would also indicate if electoral scales were tilting against the Naveen Patnaik-led party ahead of the 2024 state elections.

There are 10

candidates in the fray for the by-poll. The ruling BJD fielded Barsha Singh Bariha, the daughter of Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha whose death necessitated the by-poll, while the opposition BJP's nominee is the former MLA and party's Krushak Morcha president Pradip Purohit. Congress'

candidate Satya Bhusan Sahu had won the seat three times earlier.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik campaigned for the BJD candidate, while Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar, Ashwini Vaishnav, Dharmendra Pradhan and Bishweswar Tudu canvassed for Purohit.

BJD candidate Barsha Singh Bariha and Purohit, the BJP nominee and Congress' Satya Sahu cast their votes in their respective booths.

"We have deployed sufficient police force in the strong room. Three layers of security arrangements have been made in and around the strong room," said Bargarh collector Monisha Banerjee. Votes will be counted on December 8. Counting will start at 8 am at 14 tables. There will be 23 rounds of counting of votes, she said.

## Kolkata, West Bengal India KISS Foundation adopts Kandhamal Dist under Mission TB-Free

### Kandhamal MP Achyuta Samanta distributes 'Food Baskets' to patients and wishes them fast recovery

**Phulbani, (KCN):** The KISS Foundation has joined the Prime Minister TB Free Campaign 'TB Harega Desh Jitega' launched by Govt of India to make the country TB free by 2025. It has adopted the entire Kandhamal district with the efforts of Kandhamal Lok Sabha MP and Founder of KISS Foundation Dr Achyuta Samanta to make the district TB free.

On Monday, Dr Samanta launched the 'Food Basket' distribution programme for TB patients. The food basket comprises 3 kg of cereals and millets



for the adult patients; 2 kg of cereals and millets for children; 1.5 kg and 1 kg pulses for adults and children respectively; 250 grams and 150 grams of vegetables cooking oil for adults and children and 1 kg and 750 grams of groundnuts for adults and children

respectively. In the first phase, nutritional food distribution programme has been launched for 606 TB patients including 39 children in 6 blocks at Phulani and another 6 blocks in Baliguda.

The food basket distribution will be

carried out every month. KISS Foundation will incur an expenditure of Rs 5 lakh every month and approx Rs 40 lakh for the next six months. Dr Samanta informed that KISS Foundation will bear all the expenses under the mission.

While distributing

the food baskets to the patients, Dr Samanta said the objective of distributing the baskets is to support the nutritional requirement of the patients as medicine alone is not enough to cure patients. Collector of Kandhamal Ashish Ishwar Patil lauded the initiative of KISS Foundation of adopting the district and said that the support will expedite Govt of India's mission to eliminate the disease from across the country by the targeted year of 2025. Additional District Medical Officer Dr Abhay Patnaik was present on the occasion.

## Odisha honeytrap case: ED gets 7-day remand of prime accused Archana Nag

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is probing the money laundering angle in the high-profile honeytrap case in Odisha, has got permission of court to take prime accused Archana Nag on seven-day remand. Archana was produced before the District and Session Court here on Monday under tight security. During her appearance, the ED has requested the court to bring Archana on a 15-day remand. After hearing, the court granted the ED to take her on seven-day remand, sources said. While replying to media queries before stepping into the court, Archana said, "I was arbitrarily arrested. After my arrest,

my family was kept under house arrest. I was unable to know the reason behind my arrest for six days." She also refuted the allegations of extortion of money from Odia film producer Akshaya Parija. "I have not received any money from Akshaya Parija. Why are the so-called victims hiding? Where is Shradhanjali Behera? Why is she keeping mum in this case?" asked Archana, adding, "I am not getting scope to speak to the media." Archana also said she wanted a CBI investigation into the case so that the truth will come out. The sensational case came to limelight when a girl filed complaint against renowned Odia

film producer Parija, accusing him of sexually exploiting her. Following this complaint, some purportedly obscene pictures of Parija with a girl went viral in social media. Later, Parija too had lodged another complaint before Nayapalli police station alleging that the woman Archana Nag and another woman, Shradhanjali Behera, had made extortion demands of Rs 3 crore from him. More than 20 leaders from ruling BJD and opposition BJP, besides prominent businessmen, film producers and real-estate tycoons were reportedly honey-trapped by Archana Nag, who had allegedly hired high-profile call girls to please wealthy customers.

## GM, SER felicitates outstanding "Divyang" Railway employees

Kolkata(KCN): "International Day of Persons with Disabilities" was observed at SER Headquarters, Garden Reach today. To mark this occasion, Ms. Archana Joshi, General Manager, South Eastern Railway (SER) felicitated 29 Divyang railway employees in recognition of their sincerity, dedication and outstanding services.

These employees are working in different departments in SER Headquarters and four Divisions viz. Kharagpur, Adra, Ranchi & Chakradharpur. Sri Atulya Sinha, Additional General Manager, Dr. Mahua Verma, Principal Chief Personnel Officer and other senior Railway officers were present on the occasion.

sion.

Addressing the employees, Ms Joshi congratulated the employees for rendering outstanding service to the organisation. In this connection, she mentioned the different assistance provided by SER to the Divyangians e.g. Divyang Toilet, Signage at Stations etc. She also spoke of the special camps which are organised for the disabled employees at regular intervals like distribution of wheel chairs, hearing aids etc. She stressed on the necessity for sensitising the society towards special needs of the Divyangians. The programme was organised by the Headquarters Staff Benefit Fund, SER, Garden Reach.

## Utkal Vikash Parisad felicitated to the Honorable Minister

Cuttack Sadar,(KCN): Welcome ceremony and Felicitation program arranged by East coast railway mazdoor union at Mancheswar Bhubaneswar. In this program Honorable Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti Government of



India Mr. Bishweswar Tudu joined and the leading Seva organization of Cuttack Sadar Utkal Vikash Parisad (UVP) president Youth Social worker Er. Prakash Chandra Sethi felicitated him for his extraordinary quality for betterment of Society.

## Kolkata to host First National Space Science Exhibition

Kolkata(KCN):The city of Kolkata is going to host a unique celebration of space sciences this week when the National Space Science Exhibition begins in various venues across the city. The exhibition is being hosted by the Centre of Excellence in Space Sciences India, IISER Kolkata in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation, the S.N. Bose National

hosted by St. Xavier's College today, at its Raghobpur campus, a Women in Space Sciences Panel at the Birla Industrial and Technological Museum on the morning of December 9, 2022, which will highlight challenges and opportunities for women scientists, a science adda session in Bengali at Science City on December 10, 2022 afternoon and an industry

Institute of Observational Sciences, Ashoka University, SatCom Industry Association of India and ISRO centres. "This exhibition is an unprecedented collaboration of various Kolkata city based organizations and the national space science community to showcase Indian space science achievements, and ISRO's role in catalysing the growth of space-reliant

National Space Science Symposium that is overseeing the planning of the exhibition. Shri Kumar will deliver the inaugural address of the exhibition on December 7, 2022 afternoon and is also scheduled to speak at the historic Rajabazar campus of Calcutta University on December 8, 2022 morning. This exhibition and public lectures are open to the public



Centre for Basic Sciences, Science City, Birla Industrial and Technological Museum along with city based partner organisations including the Presidency University, University of Calcutta and St. Xavier's College. Events include a space science exhibition in Science City from December 6-11, 2022, which is open to the public with a valid entry ticket. Associated events include a rural outreach program

academia relations panel on December 11, 2022 morning. Public talks in Bengali and English will be organised in various partner organisations. Students and the public will have the opportunity to interact with space scientists, space industry entrepreneurs and science outreach experts from the Astronomical Society of India, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Physical Research Laboratory, IISER Kolkata, Aryabhata Research

technologies for the benefit of society" said Professor Dibyendu Nandi of IISER Kolkata who is leading the Local Organising Committee. "The idea of holding such a national exhibition focussing on space sciences was suggested by Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar, former Chairman of ISRO and current Chairperson of ISRO'S APEX Board" said Dr. S. Seetha of Raman Research Institute who heads the Outreach Committee of the

and are expected to be rare treats for city students and residents. Special lectures in Bengali, including the science adda session adds a unique local flavour to the event. "We are very excited to be hosting this exhibition and welcome the city to join us in this celebration of India's space science endeavours" added Professor Prasanta Panigrahi, Director of IISER Kolkata. A detailed schedule of events is available at: <http://www.cessi.in/nsss/exhibition>.

## Rice at Hostel Doorsteps

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Smoothing the process of distribution of subsidised rice to wel-



fare institutions, the State Government has decided to allot rice to the schools and hostels run by the SC, ST Development Department at their doorstep. For this purpose, SC, ST Development Secretary, Roopa Roshan Sahoo has written a let-

ter to all Collectors cum District Magistrates. The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS & CW) Department allots subsidised rice in favour of ST/SC boarders of hostels run by the Department under the Welfare Institution & Hostels Scheme.

As per the prevailing practice, allotted rice is lifted by the headmaster from the concerned nominal fair price shops. However, considering the practical difficulties being faced by the headmasters in transportation of subsidised rice and to make the process coherent & cost effective, it is decided to provide rice to the schools and hostels at doorstep, Shrimati Sahoo said.

The transport contractors engaged to supply rice under Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme of School & Mass Education department will be engaged for lifting and supplying subsidised rice meant for hostels run by ST & SC Development Department, she said.

Shrimati Sahoo said the transportation cost will be borne by the concerned headmaster from the scholarship amount sanctioned for mess management.

The Collectors have been requested to ensure delivery of allotted rice to the school point through the transport contractors already engaged to supply rice under the MDM scheme to ST/SC boarders of hostels under the Welfare Institution & Hostels Scheme.

## Odissi enthralled audience

Konark(KCN): The finale of 33rd Konark Festival 2022 filled the winter air with energetic classical dance showcases of Odissi and Kuchipudi on Monday.

The first set of performances saw Pravat Kumar Swain & Group of Nritya Naivedya from Bhubaneswar performing three Odissi dance recitals of Surya Bandana, Pallavi and Sada Ripu choreographed by Guru Pravat Kumar Swain.

The performances were based on Hindu mythology and vedic scriptures.

The second half of the show saw two Kuchipudi performances by Jaikishore Mosalikanti & Group of Shivamohanam from Chennai. The troupe performed Tarangam depicted on Hindu deity Shri Krishna and Thillana that is usually performed for the finale of most South Indian classical dance repertoires. The performances were based on Raag Kalyani and Adi Talam and were choreographed by Jaikishore Mosalikanti.

During the finale of the 12th International Sand Art Festival being held in Chandrabhaga beach, sand artists participating in the festival for the past five days were felicitated for showcasing the best of this unique artform.

The theme of the day was 'World Peace' and 'Tribal Culture' based on which captivating sand sculptures were created.

Orissa High Court Judge, Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, IGP Central Range

## Odisha bypoll: Security tightened in Padampur

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Security has been tightened in Padampur to ensure smooth conduct of the high-stake bypoll on Monday. At least nine companies of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) including six Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and three Border Security Force (BSF) have been deployed in Padampur. Three teams of Odisha Police's Special Operations Group (SOG) have also been engaged as part of the security arrangements for the bypoll.

At least 15 platoons of police force and around 500 personnel in the ranks of constable, assistant sub-inspector (ASI), sub-inspector (SI) and inspectors are engaged in maintaining law and order. Of the total personnel, 80 are in the ranks of ASI and SI and 40 of inspector. Sources said a few more platoons of police force will be deployed in the subdivision on the day of polling.

Besides, 22 check posts including 10 inter-state ones have been set up to keep a tight vigil on unscrupulous elements. At least 45 mobile parties each comprising an officer have been formed for the bypoll. Each party will be given charge of at least 8-10 booths. "The mobile parties will patrol near 319 booths spread across 278 locations. Adequate security arrangements have also been made near the strong room in Padampur," said Bargarh SP Parmar Smit Parshottamdas. On November 24, an exchange of fire had taken place between the SOG and Naxals in Gandhamardan hills. Two women Naxals from Chhattisgarh were neutralised by the security forces in the encounter.

The police did not rule out the possibility of Maoists planning to create law and order problem during the bypoll. Sources said security forces are continuously making rounds of Gandhamardan hills to ensure that the Naxals do not cause any trouble during polling.

Narasingha Bhol, Chairman Odisha Tourism Development Corporation Lenin Mohanty,



Chief Security Officer East Coast Railway PVS Santha Ram, Joint Director Tourism Biswajit Routray, and Chairperson, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Aruna Mohanty were among the dignitaries witnessing the programs.

## SER registers 4.60% growth in freight in first 8 months of current fiscal

Kolkata(KCN): The South Eastern Railway (SER) has loaded a total 132.22 million tonnes of originating freight in the first eight months (April-November) of the current financial year (2022-23) registering a growth of 4.60% in comparison to the corresponding period of previous financial year.

During this period, the revenue generation from originating freight loading has also increased to Rs 11724.28 crore as against Rs. 10466.70 crore in the same period of

the previous year. Therefore, the earnings performance of SER has enhanced by 12.02%. SER has also registered a remarkable growth in coal loading in the first eight months i.e. April to November of the current financial year (2022-23). During this period, SER has loaded 33.93 million tonnes of coal, which is 27.03% more than the corresponding period of previous fiscal. The main commodities of freight loading during this period were iron ore, coal, pig iron & finished steel, cement, petroleum products etc.

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## Hansika Motwani gets married to beau Sohael Kathuriya in Jaipur; check out photos, videos here



JAIPUR(KCN): Actress Hansika Motwani



and her beau Sohael Kathuriya have tied the knot in Jaipur's Mundota Fort and Palace. Videos showcasing the grand wedding have also gone viral on fan pages. Fireworks lit up the Sunday night sky during the 'varmala' ceremony. Hansika and Sohael

were also seen holding hands after the ceremony in one of the videos. According to reports, the marriage vows were as per Sindhi customs. Although their wedding festivities were a private affair, many photos and videos have gone viral on social media.

Talking about their D-day look, the beautiful bride wore a classic red lehenga while the groom complimented her look by opting for an ivory sherwani.

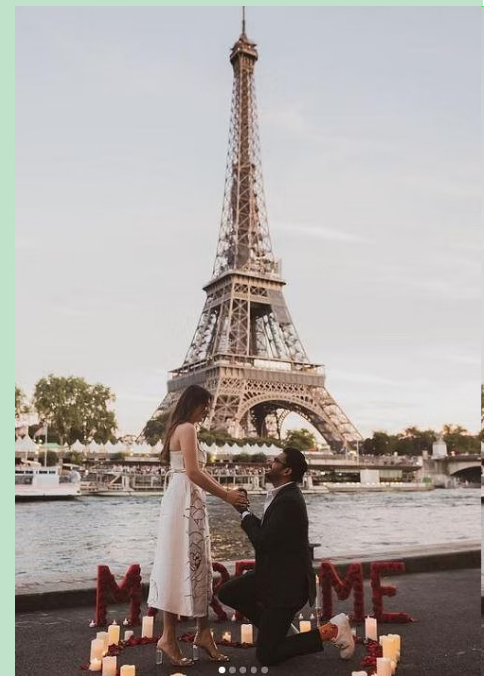
The bride and groom had already served major fashion goals during their pre-nuptial functions. After having a 'Mata Ki Chowki' in Mumbai, the couple flew to Jaipur for other functions. They hosted a Sufi night, a pre-wedding all-themed party, a Haldi ceremony, and a Mehendi ceremony.

After opting for a simple look for her Mehendi ceremony, Hansika experimented with the heavy for her Sufi night. She wore a white sharara with mirrorwork all over it. She accessorized her look with heavy jewellery including a 'passa', traditionally adorned by Muslim brides. She had a dream proposal in Paris in November, photos of which posted on the couple's social media handles had kept the fans' interest high.

If reports are to be believed, Hansika and Sohael are childhood friends and have been dating for several years.

The couple's dreamy Paris proposal.

The couple's dreamy Paris proposal. Hansika debuted on TV as a popular child art-



ist in a popular show 'Shaka Laka Boom Boom' and went on to be part of the blockbuster 'Koi Mil Gaya' alongside Hrithik Roshan and Preity Zinta. She made her debut as a lead actor in Puri Jagannadh Telugu directorial 'Desamuduru', which also earned her a Filmfare.

She went on to do Telugu movies like 'Desamuduru', 'Kantri' and 'Maska'.

She has appeared in Tamil films such as 'Mappillai' and 'Engayem Kadhal'. She will be next seen in 'Partner', '105 Minutes', 'My Name Is Shruthi' and 'Rowdy Baby'.

## Rowel Star- The new shining Star of the Rajasthan Music Industry

Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): The Rajasthani music industry is going leaps and bounds, celebrating the new singing star Afjor Khan aka Rowel Star. This new generation of Rajasthani singers is making headlines for his outstanding singing style and making the world shake legs with his unique Rajasthani songs.

Afjor Khan, popularly known as Rowel Star on Social Media, has created a sensation in the Rajasthani music world with his mesmerizing voice and affective tone. "I am an ardent fan of Guru Randhawa and take his inspiration for my songs. I want to create some unique mix of folk songs with blending hip-hop and wanted to give something new to the music world, says Rowel Star." He recently gave his voice to two new songs, "Tera Shoot" & "Nahiyo Jeena", making the Rajasthani cultures a step ahead in this ever-evolving music world. The shoot of these songs has recently been completed in Dubai and will be out very soon to rock the floors!

About his upcoming projects, Rowel Star will be seen sharing the floors with renowned Rajasthani Singer Sumsa Supari.

They together have shot the song recently



in Dubai in various amazing locations. The song will be out soon and published on the YouTube channel Sumsa Supari Films. Rowel Star's songs, Maro Sajaniyo,

Bannasa ke Mijaj, and Jai Jasol Maa album are the most popular and trending, creating a sensation on his YouTube channel and blessing him with millions of views and subscribers.

Born and raised in a small village in the Panawara district of Barmer, Rajasthan, Afjor has been fascinated by the music culture since he was five. He was sent to his maternal house at Sindhari for schooling. During his school days, he sang songs and attracted many ears listening to his soulful voice. His teacher once gave him a chance to sing a song on Republic Day, which grabbed praise from the entire school.

It was the year 2007 when Afjor Khan won the hearts of millions for singing the famous Rajasthani song of those days, "Maharana Pratap", which rolled out tears from listeners' eyes. His soulful voice created a huge impact on people's minds. Afjor won the gift price of Rs. 1500/- for his singing.

After the impressive response to his performance, there was no looking back for Afjor Khan, and his journey of becoming Rowel Star has kick-started!

## Alia Bhatt to make Hollywood debut with Gal Gadot-starrer film 'Heart of Stone'

Mumbai (KCN): Bollywood star Alia Bhatt will be making foray into Hollywood with Netflix spy thriller film "Heart Of Stone".

In her debut project in the West, Bhatt, who is receiving critical acclaim for her latest Hindi release "Gangubai Kathiawadi", will be starring alongside "Wonder Woman" actor Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan. Netflix India announced Bhatt's casting on its official Twitter handle. "Starting our day by announcing (and



SCREAMING!!!) that @aliaabhatt is going to be starring in Heart of Stone, an International spy thriller along with @gal\_gadot and @jamiedornan,? the post read. Tom Harper will be directing "Heat of Stone" from a script penned by Greg Rucka and Allison Schroeder. According to the official logline, the film revolves around Rachel Stone (Gadot) an intelligence operative, the only woman who stands between her

powerful, global, peace-keeping organization and the loss of its most valuable? and dangerous? asset. The film is produced by Skydance's David Ellison, Dana Goldberg, and Don Granger, along with Mockingbird's Bonnie Curtis and Julie Lynn, and Pilot Wave's Gadot and Jaron Varsano. Harper, Rucka and Patty Witcher serve as executive producers. Details about Bhatt's character are currently under wraps.

## An exemplary Science & Art Exhibition that can serve as our guideline for young innovators and thinkers



Education is the external manifestation of the internal perfection already present in an individual, was suggested by Swami Vivekananda. But unfortunately, our education system in India has been improperly stalled by unhealthy rat race for achieving purely materialistic career goals such as getting fat salaries, achieving high positions within an organization for co trial of power or simply for the purpose of social prestige. Our education system across the nation is equipped with collection of vast sources of information, data, records and reports. The examination system is simply the reflection of mugging and vomiting that information collected in the classrooms and libraries. The greatest failure of our education system has been carrying ahead the legacy of the British colonial rule. The British education system in India was designed to produce well trained and educated, English speaking native clerks that can help running the British administration in India smoothly at a cheaper price. Almost seven plus decades post independence, we are

still stuck with this sane colonial idea of producing upper and lower division clerks only; and not producing true educators, thinkers, philosophers, innovators, scientists, composers, writers or statesman in the very true sense of the term. Hence, any attempt to break such stereotypes in our education system and encourage young students to look for developing and presenting innovative ideas is greatly appreciable. A student should have an all round aptitude for multiple disciplines during their formative years. The cross pollination of different theorems, scriptures, schools of thoughts, scientific models, classroom based experiments and interaction with the teachers all have a positive impact in shaping the young minds. On November 19th this year a fabulous Science and Art Exhibition 2022 was held by the students of Indian Public School-Howrah at Sarat Sadan, Howrah, West Bengal. It was attended by Dr. Subhabrata Roy Chaudhury, the Secretary, The Science Association of Bengal, Kolkata and other dignitaries like school directors Mr Barun Kunkri and Ms. Krishna Nadani and renowned academics like Prof Ashok Shaw (Budge budge Institute of Technology), Prof. Saikat Kumar Basu

(PFS/SAB/ECHO) and Dr. Sudhir Ranjan Bhaduri (St Thomas School, Howrah). It has been outstanding exhibition made hugely successful by the students guided by a group of dedicated teachers ornamented with several innovative scientific models, smart phone based networking and other innovative technologies together with a spectacular display of a wide range of art objects such as paintings including beautiful sketches,

### ■ Saikat Kumar Basu

6-8 and Ms. Shreecheta Sarkar Bera and Ms. Antara Biswas for History and Geography. Some of the highly innovative exhibition themes displayed were LIFI (class 9), Automatic Home Solutions (Class 11), Wifi Jammer (class 12) to Kidney Model (Class 6), Plant and Animal Cell models (class 8) and production of bioplastics under the guidance of Mr. Samarjit Mullick (Class 11). An

meticulous in making these technologies available at a cheaper price to make it accessible and affordable to the ordinary citizens. The explanations and demonstrations by the students in various projects related to Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences as well as Science & Technology have been truly inspirational. A prize giving ceremony was followed with students at various levels and disciplines being recognized for their outstanding efforts and sincere hard work. A truly inspirational event that would

this exhibition. They deserve further praise for including not only scientific models; but also incorporating social studies (disciplines like history and geography) in making models and presentations. Arts and handicrafts are also neglected in our school educational system due to various socio-cultural and socio-economic reasons. The organizers deserve special credit for making this into a holistic arts and science exhibition; where both branches are given equal importance. The active participation of both students and teachers in various activities like model building, circuit designs, preparing power point presentations, hands on display and scientific explanations, designing various types of posters and pamphlets,

mythology, abstract art works and numerous handicrafts using recycled daily used products has been hallmark of this outstanding exhibition. The students demonstrated how simple materials available around us could be used ingeniously to produce numerous simply outstanding works of art, crafts and scientifically useful products and models at a comparative cheaper and affordable pricing. The enthusiasm and cooperation between the school administration, teachers and students have been exemplary. Different groups of teachers took turns in encouraging and guiding students in developing innovative scientific, geography and history models as well as producing unique arts and crafts material that has been awe

Technology, Kolkata graced the occasion. Honourable Principal, Ms. Ruma Pal delivered the welcome address and introduced all the dignitaries. Dr. Roy Chowdhury in his key note address encouraged students to actively participate in such activities and come up with new innovative ideas to help the nation to grow scientifically and industrially. Prof. Shaw highlighted the importance of innovative designs for success in our future industries and appreciated the initiative greatly. Dr. Basu, emphasized on the need to develop a healthy mind through our education instead of participating in rat race for simply materialistic gains. He provided numerous case studies and examples from India and abroad to encourage students with the biographies of eminent scientists, innovators, explorers and philosophers. The program was a big success abs should be a boost for promoting such initiatives in our school curriculum. Such initiatives can definitely help in building a platform for students with interest to further explore their scientific and artistic talents and contribute to the well being of the nation and our society. The program ended with the declaration of the results of the arts and science competition, and the names of the successful students were read out after being judged by a panel of academic experts.

Kolkata, West Bengal India



landscapes, ethnic cultures and various sculptures to mention only a handful. Decorative art objects designed from our daily used waste products deserve a special mention.

The participating classes UKG to Class 12 for the Arts and Craft Exhibition and classes 6 to 12 for the Science Exhibition. The teacher coordinators who participated in the exhibition to supervise and mentor the students were Ms. Madhusree Pal Choudhary and Ms. Chameli Roy (Arts and Craft), Mr. Samarjit Mullick for Science along with Ms. Sreejita Charkarborty for classes



outstanding History model on ancient coins, and a geography models like volcanic eruption and Global Warming received much attention from the audience. The science models highlighted not only include good innovations; but, the students were

encourage students motivated towards further higher studies and national building. The school management did an excellent job by making this initiative an integrated approach by including students from both lower and higher classes to participate in

demonstrating simple classroom experiments with innovative future applications, in addition to preparation and displays of various sketches, portraits, landscape, drawings based different cultural and social issues,

## Why UP keen to be like Maharashtra



The once laid-back Uttar Pradesh is shedding its image where nothing works due to political interferences and rank corrupt bureaucracy. Well, it is fast emerging as not only among the favourite investment destination in India, but it is also implementing projects swiftly. When it comes to implementation or under implementation of projects, it is only second to Maharashtra. In FY22, work on projects worth Rs 17.31 lakh crore were under implementation or in the final leg of implementation in Maharashtra. And if we talk about the Uttar Pradesh, according to data sourced from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy and CareEdge, it has emerged No. 2 with Rs 9.79 lakh crore worth

of projects under implementation or in the final stage of implementation. While Odisha Rs 9.11 lakh crore and Gujarat Rs 8.95 lakh crore emerged No. 3 and 4, respectively, in the state league tables for the same year. There were Rs 8.73 lakh crore worth of projects under implementation in Andhra Pradesh — placing the state at No. 5 among states in FY22. In Uttar Pradesh, the proposals of investment worth 73 lakh crore were implemented in the past five year period. That's staggering. It goes without saying that while states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have been both attracting investment and implementing projects, the entry of Uttar Pradesh in this list is both welcome and surprising. Surprising as Uttar Pradesh was till couple of years ago hardly known for wooing investors and ensuring projects

being implemented in time. That's a huge paradigm shift in the nature of Uttar Pradesh. Surely with this kind of change, investors feel encouraged and happy that their project(s) are implemented in time. It gives confidence to all those investors who are planning to invest as well.

Naturally, the performance of Uttar Pradesh in implementing the projects is phenomenal to say the least. Imagine it is only behind to Maharashtra and ahead of states like Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Karnataka in terms of implementation of projects. It is suffice to say that it would go a long way in attracting private investments by the corporate sector. It is critical to higher growth rates and economic development. More investment creates a multiplier effect in the economy by generating both direct and indirect employment, boosting consumption and

### ■ Vivek Shukla

fostering further development. Well, the overall mood looks very upbeat across India most of the states in India are looking for investments and investors. In the recent past, we have seen Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana courted global electronic majors, including representatives from Apple, Intel, Samsung and LG, as well as contractors and assemblers such as Foxconn and Jabil. Uttar Pradesh is promising more sops — ranging from concessional land to rebate on GST and capital and interest subsidy. The state is clearly going all out to woo prospective investors at a time when investment is needed to spur economic activity. For India to grow, a healthy balance between co-operation and competition between the states is

the need of the hour. The Prime Minister has called for 'cooperative federalism' in his Independence Day Speech. The competition between states in achieving higher economic growth, and outshining each other on the parameters of development can only be a win-win situation for India. Effective partnerships between the government and private sector in critical areas of infrastructure and long-term investments would expedite development. As Uttar Pradesh is a huge state with massive population, it requires investment from all the quarters for overall growth. Well, this is true for all states. The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced various formats in order to attract private investments, especially

in roads and highways, airports, industrial parks and higher education and skill development sectors. In this backdrop, Global Investors Summit (GIS) is scheduled to be held in Lucknow 10-12 February. The state aims to attract investments worth a massive 10 lakh crores through the summit. One has to remember that any country or state makes a big leap when the leadership works and acts like a statesman. In this regard, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is going all out to woo the investors and called upon global and domestic industries to take advantage of the massive opportunities being provided by Uttar Pradesh and to participate in the project of making "New India" a prosperous and powerful country. Post economic liberalisations, thousands of youngsters have started their own ventures and are doing very well. Ravish Pipal is one such young guy

from Agra. His father had a small factory of shoes in the city of Taj Mahal. Ravish Pipal was in double mind to do job or business post his college. Finally, he joined his family business and expanded it in a big way. Says Pipal, "We were doing small business till I joined my father. I looked at overseas market for our products rather than local market. To my surprise the overseas market was huge. I tapped it carefully and doing well." According to him, this is a great time to start some business rather than doing a job as one can loan easily. And if the Uttar Pradesh government has changed for better, it is high time that the youngsters of the state think beyond doing a job. They should consider becoming an Entrepreneur. Entrepreneurship is all about the propensity to take risks, plan, organize, streamline and manage a new business idea in a dynamic global marketplace.

Entrepreneurship is marked by job creation rather than job seeking. Entrepreneurs are independent-minded, innovative people. Entrepreneurship might be difficult, but it is a rewarding journey. One thing is beyond any debate, if Uttar Pradesh has to think beyond politics, it has to create an ideal situation for investors to invest and youngsters of the state too have to think to become their own boss rather than seeking a job. It would like to be in the company of progressive states like Maharashtra and Gujarat rather than Bihar for obvious reasons. Uttar Pradesh has to maintain the current investors' friendly policies so that investors love to invest in the hallowed land that had given birth to Lord Ram and Lord Krishna. If Uttar Pradesh change, it augurs well for the country.

Ex editor Somaiya Publications

## Exit Polls: BJP to get 'Big majority' in Gujarat, to edge over Congress in Himachal Pradesh

NEW DELHI: Exit polls on Monday predicted a big majority for the BJP in Gujarat while most of them gave an edge to it in Himachal Pradesh, indicating the re-election of the ruling party in both states. However, two exit polls showed a dead heat between the BJP and the Congress in Himachal Pradesh where results could go either way.

The counting of votes in both states will take place on December 8. Elections for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly took place on November 12, while polling in Gujarat hap-

In Himachal Pradesh, the exit polls projected a range of 24-40 seats for the BJP and 26-40 seats for the Congress. The AAP was projected to bag seats in the range of 0-3. The majority mark is 35 seats.

According to the News X-Jan Ki Baat exit poll on Gujarat elections, the BJP was likely to get 117-140 seats, Congress-NCP 34-51, AAP 6-13 and others 1-2.

Republic TV P-MARQ predicted 128-148 seats for the BJP, 30-42 for the Congress-NCP, AAP 2-10 and others 0-3.

TV9 Gujarati forecast that the BJP would get 125-130 seats, Congress-NCP 40-50, AAP 3-5 and others 3-7.

For Himachal Pradesh, Aaj Tak-Axis My India predicted a close contest between Congress and the BJP. It said the BJP would get 24-34 seats and the Congress 30-40 seats.

India TV predicted that the BJP would bag 35-40 seats, Congress 26-31 and AAP zero.

News X-Jan Ki Baat survey said the BJP was likely to get 32-40 seats in the hill state, Congress 27-34 and AAP zero.

While Republic TV P-MARQ predicted that the BJP would get 34-39, Congress 28-33 and AAP 0-1, the Times Now-ETG said the average number of seats BJP was likely to get was 38 and the Congress 28.

For the Municipal Corporation of Delhi polls, most exit polls predicted a huge win for the AAP over the BJP with the Congress a distant third.

## PM Modi to chair 'second national conference of chief secretaries' in January

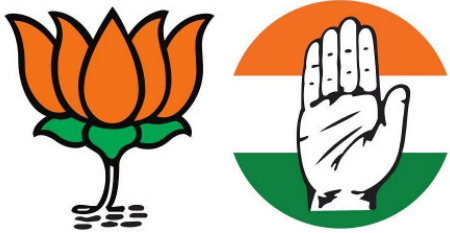


NEW DELHI: Ahead of the Union Budget 2023-24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the 'second national conference of chief secretaries' in the national capital next month, a senior government official said. The 'second national conference of chief

secretaries' will be held in Delhi in January and it will be a significant step towards further strengthening the partnership between the Centre and the state governments, the official told PTI. Several officials, including young district collectors and magis-

trates, from the states and union territories as well as the Union ministries, are likely to attend the conference. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the 2023-24 Budget in Parliament on February 1, 2023. An e-mail sent to the official

spokesperson of NITI Aayog seeking comments remained unanswered. PM Modi inaugurates key BJP meet as party eyes next round of polls. In June this year, Modi chaired the first three-day national conference of chief secretaries at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.



pened in two phases on December 1 and 5. Most exit polls predicted a big mandate for the BJP in Gujarat in the range of 117-148 seats in the 182-member assembly, while the Congress was predicted to bag seats in the range of 30-51 seats.

The Aam Aadmi Party was projected to bag anything between three and 13 seats. The majority mark in Gujarat is 92.

## Apple transportation through drones to become reality in Himachal's tribal Kinnaur district

SHIMLA: Apple growers in remote and inaccessible areas of the tribal Kinnaur district are in for a new revolution as transportation of apples through drone technology would soon become a reality. Successful trials of transportation of 20 kg apple boxes were done in Rohan Kanda village in Nichar block of Kinnaur district and the boxes were transported for a distance of 12 km from an orchard to the main road in six minutes by the Vegrow apple procurement agency in collaboration with Skyyear.

The trial for lifting apple boxes was done to check the feasibility, battery and rotation time and assess the load lifted in one rotation in November and the cost aspect is being worked on now.

"Our target is to lift about 200 kg in one go to make the transportation economical for the apple growers and we are hopeful that the fruitful model would be implemented by the next season," said incharge of Vegrow, Dinesh Negi.

"Financial feasibility is being chalked out and the administration would facilitate the company for getting the licence and other requirements but the deal is between the private company and the orchard-

ists," said Deputy Commissioner Kinnaur, Abid Hussain Sadiq. "There is no road connectivity to the twin villages of Rohan Kanda and Chota Kanda in Nichar block of Kinnaur and the apple boxes are carried on foot and a maximum of three boxes



(90kg) are brought to the road in one trip. It takes over four hours for one round due to hilly terrain and a coolie (labourer) can take maximum of three rounds in a day," said an apple grower from Nichar Manoj Mehta, adding as the process is time consuming the freshness of the fruit is compromised and labour shortage is another problem.

Successful trial has rekindled hope of timely and safe transportation especially at time of early snow and talks are going on with the private company to fix the prices and efforts are afoot to make transportation of 200 kg of apple boxes at one time to reduce the cost, said Vice-Pradhan of Gram Panchayat Nichar, Jagdev.

The move would help in reducing the cost of transportation besides saving time as bringing apples from hilly terrain to the main road for loading in trucks is an expensive, time-consuming and tough task as these orchards are not connected by roads, he told her.

Apple is grown on 10,924 hectares in the district. The apple transportation from the lower areas of Kinnaur starts in August-end but the bulk of transportation takes place from October 15 to November 15.

This year, 40.83 lakh boxes were produced as compared to 24.33 lakh boxes in 2021 while the number of boxes was 36.64 lakh in 2020, 28.43 lakh in 2019 and 30.83 lakh in 2018.

One box contains 20 kg of apple, officials in the

Kinnaur horticulture department said.

The price for transporting five kg weight for one kilometre has been fixed at Rs 45 and for 10 Kg at Rs 55 by the Himachal Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (HPSEDC) for government departments, said Managing Director of the corporation Mukesh Repaswal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also recently talked about the successful trail of apple transportation through drones during the "Mann Ki Baat" programme and said that delicious apples of Kinnaur would reach the market soon as they would be lifted through drones.

The Himachal Pradesh government had given consent to Drone Policy 2022 with the objective of propagating Drone-enabled technology for heralding economic prosperity and creating employment avenues in June this year.

In the agriculture and horticulture sector, drones would be used to gather farm and crop-specific data to assess farm productivity, assess crop damage, spray of fertilizers on crops and reduce misapplication of resources, officials maintained.

## Ukrainians hid orphaned children from Russian deportation

KHERSON: Hours after Russia invaded Ukraine in February, health staff at a children's hospital in the south started secretly planning how to save the babies.

Russians were suspected of seizing orphan children and sending them to Russia, so staff at the children's regional hospital in Kherson city began fabricating orphans' medical records to make it appear like they were too ill to move.

"We deliberately wrote false information that the children were sick and could not be transported," said Dr Olga Pilyarska, head of intensive care. "We were scared that (the Russians) would find out ... (but) we decided that we would save the children at any cost."

Throughout the war, Russians have been accused of deporting Ukrainian children to Russia or Russian-held territories to raise them as their own. At least 1,000 children were seized from schools and orphanages in the Kherson region during Russia's eight-month occupation of the area, say local authorities. Their whereabouts are still unknown. But residents say even more children would have gone missing had it not been for the efforts of some in the community who risked their lives to hide as many children as they could. Orphaned children sleep inside cribs at the children's regional hospital maternity ward in Kherson, southern Ukraine | AP At the hospital in Kherson, staff invented diseases for 11 abandoned babies under their care, so they wouldn't have to give them to the orphanage where they knew they'd be given Russian documents and potentially taken away. One baby had "pulmonary bleeding", another "uncontrollable convulsions" and another needed "artificial ventilation," said Pilyarska of the fake records.

On the outskirts of Kherson in the village of Stepanivka, Volodymyr Sahaidak the director of a centre for social and psychological rehabilitation was also falsifying paperwork to hide 52 orphaned and vulnerable children. The 61-year-old placed some of the children with seven of his staff, others were taken to distant relatives and some of the older ones remained with him, he said. "It seemed that if I did not hide my children they would simply be

taken away from me," he said.

But moving them around wasn't easy. After Russia occupied Kherson and much of the region in March, they started separating orphans at checkpoints, forcing Sahaidak to get creative about how to transport them. In one instance he faked records saying that a group of kids had received treatment in the hospital and were being taken by their aunt to be reunited with their mother who was nine months pregnant and waiting for them on the other side of



the river, he said. While Sahaidak managed to stave off the Russians, not all children were as lucky. In the orphanage in Kherson — where the hospital would have sent the 11 babies — some 50 children were evacuated in October and allegedly taken to Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014, a security guard at the institution and neighbours told The Associated Press.

Hospital staff work at the children's regional hospital maternity ward in Kherson, southern Ukraine | AP

"A bus came with the inscription Z (a symbol painted on Russian vehicles) and they were taken away," said Anastasiia Kovalenko, who lives nearby.

At the start of the invasion, a local aid group tried to hide the children in a church but the Russians found them several months later, returned them to the orphanage and then evacuated them, said, lo-

cal. Earlier this year, The Associated Press reported that Russia is trying to give thousands of Ukrainian children to Russian families for foster care or adoption. The AP found that officials have deported Ukrainian children to Russia or Russian-held territories without consent, lied to them that they weren't wanted by their parents, used them for propaganda, and given them Russian families and citizenship. The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based

think tank, says Russian officials are conducting a deliberate depopulation campaign in occupied parts of Ukraine and deporting children under the guise of medical rehabilitation schemes and adoption programs.

Russian authorities have repeatedly said that moving children to Russia is intended to protect them from hostilities. The Russian Foreign

Ministry has rejected the claims that the country is seizing and deporting the children. It has been noted that the authorities are searching for relatives of parentless children left in Ukraine to find opportunities to send them home when possible.

Russian children's rights ombudswoman Maria Lvova-Belova personally oversaw moving hundreds of orphans from Russian-controlled regions of Ukraine for adoption by Russian families. She has claimed that some of the children were offered an opportunity to return to Ukraine but refused to do so. Her statement couldn't be independently verified.

A view of the courtyard of Kherson regional children's home in Kherson, southern Ukraine | AP UNICEF's Europe and Central Asia child protection regional adviser, Aaron Greenberg, said that until the fate of a child's parents or other close relatives can be verified, each separated child is considered to have living close relatives, and an as-

essment must be led by authorities in the countries where the children are located.

Local and national security and law enforcement are looking for the children who were moved but they still don't know what happened to them, said Galina Lugova, head of Kherson's military administration. "We do not know the fate of these children ... we do not know where the children from orphanages or from our educational institutions are, and this is a problem," she said.

For now, much of the burden is falling on locals to find and bring them home.



In July, the Russians brought 15 children from the front lines in the nearby region of Mykolaiv to Sahaidak's rehabilitation centre and then on to Russia, he said. With the help of foreigners and volunteers, he managed to track them down and get them to Georgia, he said. Sahaidak would not provide further details about the operation for fear of jeopardizing it but said the children are expected to return to Ukraine in the coming weeks.

For some, the threat of Russia deporting children has brought unexpected results. In October when there were signs that the Russians were retreating, Tetiana Pavelko, a nurse at the children's hospital, worried they'd take the babies with them. Unable to bear children of her own, the 43-year-old rushed to the ward and adopted a 10-month-old girl.

Wiping tears of joy from her cheeks, Pavelko said she named the baby Kira after a Christian martyr. "She helped people, healed and performed many miracles," she said.

# Ashok Gehlot alleges mainstream media has 'boycotted' Bharat Jodo Yatra

JHALAWAR: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday lashed out at the mainstream national media, claiming they have "boycotted" Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra as editors and owners are under pressure.

Addressing a press conference here a day after the Bharat Jodo Yatra entered the Congress-ruled state, Gehlot claimed the media has completely failed to fulfil their responsibility as the fourth pillar of democracy, and history will not forgive them for that.

As Gehlot launched his tirade against the media, All India Congress Committee General Secretary (Communication) Jairam Ramesh intervened to defend the journalists present at there, saying they should not be blamed as they have been doing their job properly.

However, he also lamented the coverage of the yatra in the mainstream was not as per their expectations.

Gehlot said the Yatra is getting overwhelming support from across the country and on social media.

"My charge is that the media has boycotted the yatra. Lakhs of people are joining it. But the national media is not supporting it. It means they have nothing to do with social cause for which media exists. It is the fourth pillar, it has its own importance," he said.

He asked whether the media did not cover veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani's yatra in 1990.

"It is the duty of the media to tell what has happened. When an accident happens, you cover it. Rahul Gandhi is marching with a

## Rival AIADMK leaders pay tribute separately to Jayalalithaa on death anniversary

Chennai: Late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa was remembered across the state on Monday on her sixth death anniversary, with rival AIADMK leaders K Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam paying tributes separately.

Scores of party workers and supporters, many clad in black attire, turned up at the late leader's memorial at the Marina here.



Palaniswami, AIADMK interim general secretary, led scores of supporters in paying floral tributes to Jayalalithaa. He was also clad in black. The party workers also vowed to walk the path

positive thought, it is a positive yatra. There is no violence, no hatred. If you are not showing this yatra, you are not fulfilling your duty,"



Gehlot said.

"Kaan khol kar sun lo? national media wale bhi. state media wale bhi. Itihas aapko maaf nahi karega!" he said. "Listen carefully...national and state media, history will not forgive you."

He said objections were raised when social activist Medha Patkar took part in the yatra but the yatra is open for BJP and RSS people

laid down by her, saying she steered the party that was founded by the stalwart and late CM MGR (M G Ramachandran), to "chase away evil force" and make Tamil Nadu proud.

Ramachandran is fondly addressed as MGR. They also vowed to "send home the family rule," pave the way for people's rule and make Tamil Nadu the top state in the country.

In his address, Palaniswami heaped praises on Jayalalithaa and recalled she handled law and order issues "with an iron hand."

Later, rival leader Panneerselvam, flanked by his supporters including MLAs P H Manoj Pandian and R Vaithilingam, paid floral tributes to the late AIADMK general secretary, before leading a procession to her memorial.

Party workers remembered the late leader across Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Puducherry. Many who came to her memorial here could be seen turning emotional.

After having led her party to a rare successive electoral triumph in 2016, Jayalalithaa died on December 5 that year, following a 75-day hospitalisation.

## PM Modi chairs all-party meeting to brief leaders on India's G20 Presidency



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday chaired an all-party meeting to underscore the significance of India's presidency of the G20 and brief the leaders about the government's approach.

India formally assumed the G20 Presidency on De-

ember 1. Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar were among the leaders present at the meeting.

Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge of Congress, West

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik were among those present at the meeting which is taking place at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovern-

mental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. Last month, Indonesia handed over the G20 presidency to India in the presence of PM Modi at the Bali summit for the coming year. Centre could have used any national symbol other than lotus for G20 logo: Mamata

too, and anyone can join it.

The chief minister said media houses also have "high commands" and journalists too are

cotted such a big march," he said.

Jairam Ramesh then intervened to mollify the chief minister's attack. "Don't blame them Ashokji," he said. "They too have high command."

"There is no demand for the yatra in their high command. But there are journalists who have been covering the yatra since Kanyakumari. We are getting support and coverage at their level," he said.

It is a different thing that the news coverage in mainstream media is not as expected, Ramesh said. Rajasthan is the only Congress-ruled state the yatra has entered and will cover about 500 km through Jhalawar, Kota, Bundi, Sawai

Madhopur, Dausa and Alwar districts over 17 days before entering Haryana on December 21.

"I know you guys have transfers and postings and you get afraid in the name of transfer. I know that during the corona period, salaries were slashed from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 70,000 to Rs 30,000. I know this too, that the salaries were not restored after the corona period was over.

"And I want to tell you that you should tell your owners that we are not going to be afraid, Rahul Gandhi's path is of truth and non-violence and his caravan has begun," he told the mediapersons.

"You do your duty and send your coverage (to your office)...but owners and editors are under pressure. I charge that they have boy-

Madhopur, Dausa and Alwar districts over 17 days before entering Haryana on December 21.

Gandhi will interact with farmers in Dausa on December 15 and address a public meeting in Alwar on December 19.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7 and has so far covered Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Rajasthan is the first Congress-governed state in its route.

The yatra will conclude in Jammu and Kashmir in February 2023 after covering 3,570 km in 150 days.



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### Rupee falls 47 paise to close at 81.80 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee pared its initial gains to settle down by 47 paise at 81.80 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday weighed down by weak domestic markets and

downside. The US Dollar declined on optimism over reopening in China. However, upbeat job market data cushioned the downside. The US non-farm payrolls added 2.63 lakh jobs in November, beating estimates of 2 lakh jobs, Choudhary said. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on weak domestic markets and recovery in crude oil. Any fresh outflows by FIIs may also weigh on rupee. However, a weak dollar may support Rupee," Choudhary said.

He further noted that "investors may remain cautious ahead of RBI's monetary policy outcome on Wednesday. There are expectations of a 35-bps rate hike." The Reserve Bank may opt for a lower rate increase of 25-35 basis points in lending rates amid retail inflation showing signs of moderation and the need to push growth, according to experts. The RBI will come out with its next bi-monthly policy review on December 7, at the end of a three-day meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) beginning Monday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Friday as they purchased shares worth Rs 214.76 crore, according to exchange data. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 33.9 points or 0.05 per cent to end at 62,834.60, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 4.95 points or 0.03 per cent to 18,701.05.



rise in crude oil prices. Forex traders said a weak dollar in the overseas market cushioned the downside for the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 81.26, but pared the gains and ended at 81.80, down 47 paise over its previous close. During the day, the local unit witnessed an intraday high of 81.25 and a low of 81.82. On Friday, the rupee had settled down by 7 paise at 81.33 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.10 per cent to 104.44. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 1.82 per cent to USD 87.13 per barrel. According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee depreciated on Monday on weak domestic markets and higher crude oil prices. However, the weak US Dollar cushioned the

### Rupee falls 9 paise to close at 81.35 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The local unit witnessed an intraday high of 81.08 and a low of 81.35. On Thursday, the rupee

German trade surplus topped 104.53. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.17 per cent to



(provisional) appreciated by 4 paise to close at 81.26 against the US dollar. "Weak US Dollar index supported the rupee. However, weak domestic markets, a surge in crude oil and FII outflows capped sharp gains," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. The US Dollar declined as US ISM manufacturing PMI slipped into contraction and positive riskier currencies such as Euro and Pound. Euro surged as the

slight negative bias on risk aversion in global markets and fresh outflows by FIIs. However, softness in the greenback may support Rupee at lower levels. Markets may also take cues from US non-farm payroll data today evening, wherein it is expected to show a slower pace of hiring," Choudhary added. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.18 per cent to

USD 87.03 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,565.93 crore, according to exchange data. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 415.69 points or 0.66 per cent to end at 62,868.50, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 116.40 points or 0.62 per cent to 18,696.10.

### Meta to jointly invest with Airtel in telecom infrastructure

NEW DELHI: Social media giant Meta Platforms and Bharti Airtel on Monday announced a collaboration to jointly invest in telecom infrastructure to cater to the rising demand of high speed data and digital services in India. The announcement comes on the back of telecom operators' demand to share revenue with service providers to build networks.

"Airtel and Meta will jointly invest in global connectivity infrastructure and C P a a S (communications platform as a service) based new-age digital solutions to support the emerging requirements of customers and enterprises in India," the statement said. As part of the collaboration, Airtel will partner with Meta and STC (Saudi Telecom Company), to extend the world's longest subsea cable system, 2Africa Pearls, to India. The plan to extend 2Africa Pearls to India was announced by Meta in September 2021. Under the collaboration, Airtel and Meta will extend

the cable to Airtel's landing station in Mumbai and also pick up dedicated capacity to further strengthen its submarine network portfolio.

our partnership with Meta to serve India's digitally connected economy by leveraging the technology and infrastructure strengths of both

automation in radio networks using advanced analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning models. Airtel is currently conducting trials for



"The 2Africa cable will significantly boost India's cable capacity and empower global hyper-scalers and businesses to build new integrated solutions and provide a high-quality seamless experience to customers," the statement said. Airtel will also integrate Meta's WhatsApp within its CPaaS platform. With this integration, businesses will now be able to use WhatsApp and reach to provide omnichannel customer engagement to enterprises. "We, at Airtel, are delighted to deepen

companies. With our contributions to the 2Africa cable and Open RAN, we are investing in crucial and progressive connectivity infrastructure which is needed to support the increasing demand for high-speed data in India," Bharti Airtel, CEO for Global Business, Vani Venkatesh said. Airtel and Meta are members of the Telecom Infra Project (TIP) Open RAN project group. Airtel has signed an agreement to help increase operational efficiency of Open RAN (radio access network) and facilitate energy management and

4G and 5G Open RAN solutions on select sites in the state of Haryana and will commercially deploy the solution across several locations in India over the next few quarters, the statement said. "We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Airtel to further advance the region's connectivity infrastructure that will enable a better network experience for people and businesses across India," Meta, vice president of mobile partnerships, Francisco Varela said.

### RBI may halt rate hike cycle after December policy: SBI

NEW DELHI: SBI Economic Research team believes that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will halt hike in repo rate after the December monetary policy. "We believe at 6.25%, it could be the terminal rate for now," says the bank in its latest SBI Ecowrap report. The bank believes the Monetary

rate stems from improving multiple domestic and global factors. The bank feels that inflation will be on a downward trajectory after December 2022. It pegs the inflation at around 5.2% by March 2023. "The fear of impact of unseasonal rains on CPI inflation (particularly on food CPI) is likely to be unfounded. While India had

report. The bank also feels that the Rupee is no longer a weak currency after having fallen only 7.2% since the Russia-Ukraine war. "The 'less fall' of the rupee post the Ukraine war that upped the ante on energy and commodity fronts and clogged the supply lines have been a testimony to the renewed

shock," says the report. The bank also pointed out the improving current account deficit situation. "We expect that if trends of strong remittances and software exports have continued (RBI data suggests software exports in Q2 was strong) in Q2, and India's CAD comes in below the threshold level of 3.5% of GDP in Q2, the CAD for FY23 could still be closer to 3% benchmark or lower and not in excess of 3.5% of GDP," it said. It also highlighted the fact that moderating US inflation numbers would nudge the US Federal Bank to slow down its rate-hike spree. "There was a good reason to believe that US inflation has shown signs of peaking and it is coming under control," says SBI.



Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI will increase the repo rate by 35 basis points on 7 December 2022 taking the repo rate to 6.25%. SBI's latest view on the terminal

received a staggering 54% above normal rains in October 2022, during Oct-Nov 2022, India's excess rainfall was only 23% above normal," says the bank in its latest

pross of the Indian economy and our policymakers who have taken pains to chalk out strategies and plans to keep the country largely immune from the external material

## THE WOMENS IPL WILL HELP BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC CRICKET: HARMANPREET KAUR

**New Delhi** :The inaugural edition of the Women's IPL 2023 has started to create buzz among cricket lovers with the tournament considered to be the next big thing for Indian women's cricket. The Women in Blue have made a lot of progress in the past year, by winning the Women's Asia Cup 2022 for a record seventh time. India now faces Australia in a five match T20I series that gets underway from December 9th, 2022, in preparation for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

Australia Board, England Board, they have looked after the WBBL and The Hundred. I think we as athletes have discussed it as well, that there's a big gap between domestic and international cricket which some cricketers were not able to match, because even if you play well in domestic cricket and then suddenly play international games, you're not able to understand what to do and how to do it. And someone like me, I was lucky you know, I had Jhulan di, Anjum di who were guiding me as to what to do, how I can perform better. So, some players, they are shy, they cannot open up, so, for them it's very difficult to play both domestic and international cricket. So, the IPL will be a great platform for players that are really good, but you know for them, international cricket is

still something that they cannot change their approach and mind-set overnight. But in the IPL, when they get a chance to play against overseas players, that will be something that will give them a platform, they can play well, they can understand what is international cricket. So, when they are playing for the Indian team, they will not face any extra pressure, because right now, the players that are selected from the domestic teams, sometimes I can see that they are blank, they are not able to understand how to change their game plan. So, to cut that gap, the tournament will play a major role, and we are happy that after the world cup, we'll get some really good cricket. So, the coming years, with the girls who play in the IPL, we will definitely see some major changes in their performances."

Jemimah Rodrigues said she is looking forward to the Women's IPL and also explained how it's going to impact domestic players in India. "The women's IPL is going to change a lot of things for women's cricket in India. I think this is like the best platform for us now that we as an Indian team have been doing so well in all the major events like the World Cup, the Commonwealth. This is just the right time for it to happen and I'm sure that we are going to get so much more talent that's going to come out from here. I'm sure we are going to get so many different matches and at the same time, I am very sure that women's cricket in India is all set to go to the next level after the women's IPL. So, we are really looking forward to it, very excited and can't wait to go out there and play the women's IPL." Smriti Mandhana also spoke on the Women's

IPL, comparing it to leagues such as 'The Hundred' or the WBBL and how they have consequently helped their domestic players, she said, "All of women's cricket, I won't say the Indian team or the domestic set up. We keep talking about how it will increase the bench strength. But, the fact is that it's going to help the domestic girls massively because that sort of experience in playing in leagues like this will get a lot of things sorted for women's cricket. Grass root wise and we have seen how the Big Bash and The Hundred have helped Australia and England respectively in their domestic set up as well as other things. So, I'm actually really happy, the Indian team will benefit a lot from the Women's IPL, but it's also going to benefit a lot of domestic girls which I'm looking forward to."

## Scorpion Kuwait Becomes BPP Sports Champion



**KUWAIT:** (Bharatiya Pravasi Parishad Association of Kuwait) a well known Pan India Sociog Cultural Organisation in Kuwait is now on games.

On Friday, 2nd February, BPP has conducted its Season 2 Cricket match Finals at Abuhalfah Ground.

Scorpion Kuwait and NAGA XI entered the finals and faced each other. At the end Scorpions Kuwait has won the match by 62 runs.

Grand prize awarding ceremony was organised. Winner and Runner teams were awarded Cups with prize money and Medals for the players. Cups with certificates were awarded to

the Best participants to honour them. Mr Santhosh Mani was honoured by giving a cup for Organising the match. Kapico tours and Travels has given two gift coupons for the best organisers.

BPP Season 2 matches were started with 16 teams and on the 6th week the FINALS conducted.

Mr. Sampath kumar, BPP vice president has coordinated the season 2 tournaments with the excellent supports extended by the Organising Secretary Mr. Rajiv, Treasurer Mr. Surendar and General Secretary Mr. Sudhir Menon. Initially Mr. Binoy Sebastian, BPP President has made the toss and

inaugurated the match. Mr. Karthikeyan, General Secretary BPP Tamil wing has compered the program. BPP Tamil wing office bearers Mr. Rajaram, Mr. Sakthivel, Mr. Mannai Raja, Mr. Vinodh, Mr. Nagaraj, Mr. Palani Rajan and Mr. Vaiparan have made all arrangements to make this entire season a grand success. Bharatiya Pravasi Parishad Association's Fahahil Area President and Bharatiya Pravasi Parishad Odisha Wing's Mr. Biswa Ranjan Sahoo has distributed the prizes.

The complete tournament and prize awarding ceremony was live telecasted on YouTube.

## Lance Morris, Michael Nesar added to Australia's Test squad

**New Delhi:** Exciting fast bowler Lance Morris and Michael Nesar have been added to Australia's squad ahead of the pink-ball Adelaide against West Indies. Australia's selectors have decided to bolster the pace unit in light of Pat Cummins' injury in Perth as well as the back-to-back Test matches coming up this later this month.



While Nesar has been on the fringes of the Test squad and even made his debut in Adelaide last year against England, Morris's inclusion is slightly left field. The 24-year-old Western Australia quick burst onto the domestic cricket scene only in 2019-20 when he turned out for the Melbourne Stars in the Big Bash League. He made his Sheffield Shield debut next season and had a fine 2021-22 campaign, taking 20 first class wickets at 27.05. He's pushed his game even further this season and currently sits atop the wicket-takers list with 27 wickets from

five games at an average of 18.40.

"Michael (Nesar) has been with the squad on a regular basis in past seasons and was simply outstanding in Adelaide last summer," said selection chair George Bailey. "He has continued to perform incredibly consistently since and will be warmly welcomed back. Lance is another of the outstanding young fast bowlers coming through the ranks. He has genuine pace and his ability to create

opportunities for wickets is a real drawcard. It will be a great experience for him to come into the environment."

The fast bowling reinforcements are a product of both injury concerns as well as precautionary due to the hectic schedule that awaits Australia in the season and the first half of 2023. Australia captain Cummins is under an injury cloud after not bowling on the fifth day in the victory over West Indies in Perth owing to a thigh strain.

While he is confident of shrugging off the injury ahead of the Day-Night Test, Australia have a further three Tests against South Africa to follow, as well as a big tour of India and the Ashes to come next year. Mitchell Starc (45 overs) and Josh Hazlewood (43 overs) too had big bowling loads in the first Test of the summer while all-rounder Cameron Green will have to be managed over the course of the season. Australia also have seamer Scott Boland in the squad and will be the likely inclusion in the XI for Adelaide if Cummins doesn't pass fit.

Australia squad for Adelaide Test: Pat Cummins (c), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, David Warner, Michael Nesar, Lance Morris

## Liam Livingstone out of remainder of Pakistan tour

**New Delhi:** England will be without all-rounder Liam Livingstone for the remainder of the Pakistan tour due to an injury. The England debutant hurt his knee while fielding on Day 2 of the ongoing Test in Rawalpindi. Following scans on Sunday, he was deemed unfit to resume and is set to fly back home to UK on Tuesday (December 6). After the injury, Livingstone wasn't on the field for the rest of Pakistan's first innings but did bat in England's second. However, he walked out

a spot lower than usual at No.8 and hobbled his way to an unbeaten 7 off 8 balls on Day 4 before England declared and set Pakistan a target of 343. In the first innings, he made 9 off 10 and wasn't called up to turn his arm over. England instead, put Jacks's offspin to good use, as he picked a six-fer in the first innings. It remains to be seen if England seek a replacement for the allrounder. For the next Test in Multan from December 9, England are likely to welcome back regular 'keeper



Ben Foakes. They could turn to Mark Wood if he regains full fitness or even offer an opportunity to the impressive 2004-born leg-spin allrounder

Rehan Ahmed, who has turned heads while plying his trade for Leicestershire. If picked, Rehan will become England's youngest-ever Test cricketer.



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