

Israel counts last votes as Netanyahu's majority firms up

TELAVIV(KCN): Israeli election officials were tallying the final votes from Thursday, with former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looking likely to reclaim the premiership with a comfortable majority backed by far-

Netanyahu's majority. But the likelihood was small, and members of Netanyahu's expected coalition were already jockeying for portfolios in what will be Israel's most right-wing government.

Israel held its fifth election in four years on Tuesday, a protracted political crisis that saw voters divided over Netanyahu's fitness to serve while on trial for corruption. Some 90% of ballots were counted by Thursday morning and final results could come later in the day.

As it stands, Netanyahu and his ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox allies are expected to secure 65 seats in Israel's 120-seat parliament or Knesset. His opponents in the

CONTINUED ON: P-7



Continued from previous page: cials were tallying the final votes from Thursday, with former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looking likely to reclaim the premiership with a

right allies. A last-minute surprise is still possible if a small dovish group is able to sneak past the electoral threshold needed to enter parliament and hold back the size of

hood was small, and members of Netanyahu's expected coalition were already jockeying for portfolios in what will be Israel's most right-wing government.

SWOT analysis: BJP eyeing seventh straight win in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD(KCN): The Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP) will battle anti-incumbency and slug it out with traditional rival Congress and aggressive new player Aam Aadmi Party(AAP) in the next month's high-octane Assembly elections in Gujarat.

After winning Gujarat for a record six times in a row since 1995, here is a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of the BJP in the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

STRENGTHS:

*The mass appeal of Prime Minister Modi who

remains BJP's trump card.

*BJP is banking on its outreach to the Patidars after facing the community's ire in the 2017 polls over the quota agitation.

Its decision to make Bhupendra Patel chief minister in September last year and bring the quota stir spearhead Hardik Patel into its fold may work in the party's favour.

*The Gujarat unit of the BJP has a formidable organisational setup till the booth level. *The ruling party is counting on the plank of Hindutva, development and 'double engine' growth. Home Minister Shah, CONTINUED ON: P-7



North Korea keeps up missile barrage with suspected ICBM

SEOUL(KCN): North Korea added to its barrage of recent weapons tests on Thursday, firing at least three missiles including an intercontinental ballistic missile that forced the Japanese government to issue evacuation alerts and temporarily halt trains.

The launches are the latest in a series of North Korean weapons tests in recent months that have raised tensions in the region. They came a day after Pyongyang fired more than

Choi Yong Soo, a South Korean Navy captain who handles public affairs for Seoul's Defense Ministry, didn't answer directly when asked whether the military believes the launch might have failed with the missile exploding in midair, saying that the test was still being analyzed.

Citing anonymous military sources, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that the missile possibly failed to maintain normal flight following a stage separation.

The Japanese government initially feared that the ICBM would fly over its northern territory, but later revised its assessment, saying there were no overflights.

The office of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida broadcast alerts through



20 missiles, the most it has fired in a single day ever.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the North firing an ICBM from an area near its capital Pyongyang around 7:40 a.m. and then firing two short-range missiles an hour later from the nearby city of Kacheon that flew toward its eastern waters.

The longer-range missile was fired on a high angle, apparently to avoid reaching the territory of neighbours, reaching a maximum altitude of 1,920 kilometres (1,193 miles) and travelling around 760 kilometres (472 miles), according to South Korea's military. It wasn't immediately clear whether the launch was successful.

Japan's Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada announced similar flight details but said that his military lost track of the weapon after it "disappeared" in skies above waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

television, radio, mobile phones and public loudspeakers to residents in the northern prefectures of Miyagi, Yamagata and Niigata, instructing them to go inside firm buildings or underground.

There have been no reports of damage or injuries from areas where the alerts were issued. Bullet train services in those regions were temporarily suspended following the missile alert before resuming shortly. Kishida condemned the North's launches and said officials were analyzing the details of the weapons.

The office of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said his national security director Kim Sung-han discussed the launches during an emergency security meeting where members talked about plans to strengthen the country's defence in conjunction with its alliance with the United States.

The office said South CONTINUED ON: P-7

Supp Budget on 24 NOV

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Supplementary Budget for the remaining month of the current financial year 2022-23 will be presented before the State Legislative Assembly on November 24.

The Session will have 33 working days of which six days have been marked for Private Members business days.

The inaugural day of the session will include the presentation of the first supplementary



statement of expenditures for 2022-23. Discussion on demand for grants on statement of expenditure will be held on November 30 and December 1.

The Appropriation bill on the first Supplementary Statement of Expenditure will be presented on December 2.

The Supplementary Statement of Expenditure, 2022-23 is proposed to be an exercise for re-prioritization of the Budget in which the Administrative Departments would be

CONTINUED ON: P-7

As per a notification issued by the Assembly Secretariat, the Winter Session of the Assembly will commence on November 24 and will continue till December 31 next.

Rahul Gandhi says Modi, KCR are looting people for corporates, family

HYDERABAD(KCN): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, during the Bharat Jodo Yatra

Resuming the yatra from Bowenpally on Wednesday, Gandhi

in Hyderabad on Wednesday, hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi "for benefitting his corporate friends" and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao "for benefitting his family by looting public money".



"Modi destroyed the wheels of economy of the country by demonetisation, false GST and Covid-19 pandemic policies," he said.

and his contingent reached Muthangi in Patancheru, passing through Balanagar, Kukatpally and Chandanagar.

Rahul Gandhi said that CM K. Chandrashekar Rao was the first beneficiary of the Dharani portal, claiming Rao used it to know about land deals in the state. He alleged that Rao regularly followed irrigation projects to get commissions for his family. CONTINUED ON: P-7

66.63 % Polling by 6PM

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Voting for the by-election to Dhamnagar (SC) Assembly Constituency in Bhadrak district is underway. Voting started at 7 AM and 66.63 percent polling was recorded till 6 PM.

Voting was delayed at booth number 15 and 75 due to a technical glitch, sources said. However, there are no such reports from any

away on Thursday. He was undergoing treatment at Cuttack SCB when he breathed his last.

The office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Odisha said a compensation of Rs 15 lakh will be provided to the family members of the deceased polling officer.

Meanwhile, BJP workers in Dhamnagar have alleged that BJD workers rigged two booths number 22 and 23 in Khalagadia school under Katasahi panchayat. Police reached on the spot to control the situation.

As many as 2,38,417 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the poll, of which 1,23,038 are male, 1,15,346 female and 33 transgenders.

Poll is going to be held in 252 booths. Based upon the field



other booths.

A clash between two groups of voters triggered unrest in booth numbers 169 and 170 in Rameswarpur area. Two people injured in the clash have been admitted to hospital. Police have registered a case in this connection. Long queues were seen in front of the polling stations even before voting started. The voting process, which is being held under tight security, will continue.

A polling officer engaged on duty at booth number 139 during the by-election to the Dhamnagar Assembly constituency passed

inputs, 110 booths have been identified as sensitive. Special arrangements have been done for such booths.

A total of 997 police personnel and four companies of CAPF have been deployed for the poll.

As many as five candidates have remain in fray for the by-poll. Apart from BJD's Abanti Das, BJP's Suryabanshi Suraj and Congress' Baba Harekrushna Sethi, two independent candidates—Raju Das and Pabitra Mohan Das are fighting for the MLA seat fell vacant following the demise of BJP MLA Bishnu Sethi.

DAV Zonal Sports meet-2022 concluded at DAV Kalinga Nagar

DAV NTPC, Kaniha & DAV Chandrasekharpur clinched the title in Girls' Kho-Kho and table tennis boys respectively

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Zonal Level Girls' Kho-Kho and Boys' Table Tennis Tournament 2022 organised under the aegis of DAV National Sports Meet-2022 concluded

showcase their talents.

In a colourful closing ceremony organized for this purpose, Principal of the host school-cum- cluster-in charge Sri Bipin Kumar



in a glittering ceremony here at DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar. In an exciting final match in Kho-Kho, DAV Public School, Kaniha beat last time champion DAV, Pokhariput by 7 points and emerged cham-

Sahoo commended the participants for their spirit of true sportsmanship displayed throughout the event. Joining the prize giving ceremony as the guest, Mr Niranjana

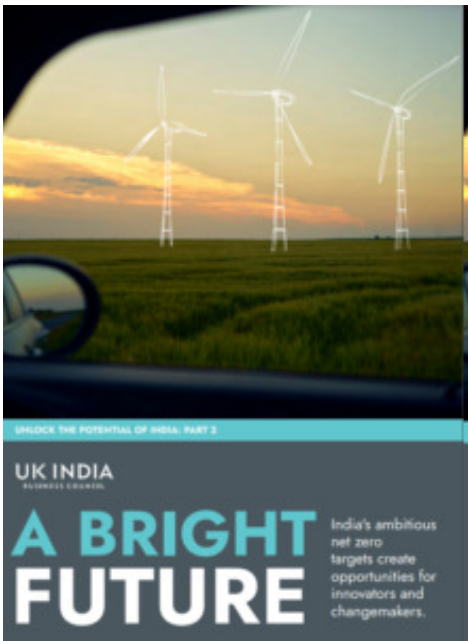


pion. Similarly in boys' table tennis, DAV, Chndrasekharpur emerged champion defeating DAV, CDA, Cuttack in 3-2 set. Both the tournaments provided an outstanding platform for hundreds of gifted sports geniuses from 15 DAV Schools of Odisha Zone to

Swain, Principal, LR DAV Cuttack felicitated the winner and runners-up teams with trophies. The event was conducted smoothly by the Physical Education department of the school with the co-operation of all the staff members under the supervision of the Principal.

A bright future: India's ambitious net zero targets create opportunities for innovators and changemakers

Kolkata (KCN): India is moving forward in its mission to achieve net zero by 2070. It is reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and enhancing its renewable energy capacity. All this is happening at a phenomenal pace. At the same time, India's GDP is growing faster than any major economy in recent years, and growth is projected to continue into the next decade and beyond.



A cornerstone of India's development strategy is a determined shift to manufacturing, under the 'Make in India' initiative. The country is growing its manufacturing output and energy usage, while concurrently making it cleaner and more efficient. Manufacturing is, traditionally, a major cause of carbon emissions. In India, there is powerful policy support to use innovation and

technology to transform the way things are made, to reduce the impact of the process, and to deliver solutions that are less harmful to the environment. This is happening across all areas of industry — from traditional activities such as agriculture to aviation, automotive and energy storage. No part of the massive Indian economy, now the world's fifth largest, is unaffected.

In this UK India Business Council report, we highlight examples of how Indian and UK businesses are collaborating in a host of industries. And yet, there are many more UK businesses that are still to enter the Indian market. This report aims to show these manufacturers that India is a place where businesses can flourish in a fast-growing economy with robust demand for advanced technologies.

'Jansampark Padayatra' extended

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday extended the duration of Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) 'Jansampark Padayatra' till November 15.

The padayatra, scheduled to conclude on Wednesday, was extended as the chief minister felt the programme could not be conducted properly due to different holidays and festivals since it was launched on October 2.

The BJD president advised the party leaders and workers to make people aware of the various welfare measures of the state government. He has written to all state office bearers, district observers,

district, block level presidents, party MPs, MLAs



and other leaders in this regard. Party members would take integrity pledge to work selflessly for the welfare of the state on the concluding day. ENS

Odisha's adolescent girl champions interact with international donors from the Global Programme to End Child Marriage

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Adolescent girls from different districts of Odisha interacted with a team of representatives from various countries on their journey as champions to End Child Marriage in Odisha.

Twenty girls interacted with international visitors in Bhubaneswar and shared their stories of courage and determination, with many of them having resisted the pressure from families to get married at an early age.



The team comprised Isabelle Solon Helal, Deputy Director, Global Affairs Canada, Ali Hendy, Child Protection and Child Marriage Lead, UK (FCDO), Ritika Dhall, Assistant Director, Gender Equality, Norad, Beate Gabrielsen, Head of Political Section, Norway, Mieke Vogels, Senior Policy Advisor SRHR, Netherlands Embass and Ute Scholz, President, Zonta International who, together with senior representatives of UNICEF and UNFPA as part of the steering committee of the Global Programme to End Child Marriage (GPECM) were part of the interaction.

The Global Programme promotes the rights of adolescent girls to avert child/early/forced marriage and pregnancy and enables them to achieve their aspirations through education and alternative pathways. It supports households in demonstrating positive attitudes, empowers girls to direct their own futures, and strengthens the services that allow them to do so.

The adolescent girls shared their stories of courage and journey as peer leaders and also asked questions to the visitors.

"My parents wanted me to get married when I was 15-years-old. I was scared of the consequences if I refused. But I spoke to Anganwadi didi and together with district administration officials, they convinced my parent not to go ahead with the marriage. They helped me to enrol in the Industrial Training Institute where I learnt tailoring. Today I earn Rs 8,000 a month and proudly support my family," said Malati Pujari from Nabarangpur. Suprava Subhadarshini Behera, 16 years, from Kandhamal is training to be an electrician. Like Malati, her marriage was fixed in July this year. She too reached out to the anganwadi worker and with her help could stop her marriage. Both the girls, like many others in the state, have been benefitting from the Advika initiative that teaches life skills to adolescents through weekly meetings at the

anganwadi centers.

The girls also asked questions to the team on gender inequality in western countries, the value of education as the only path to success and about the minimum age of marriage in other countries.

"While education is important, a person can learn through experiences as well," said Isabelle Solon Helal, Deputy Director, Global Affairs Canada. She said children can volunteer with their communities, take up a sport, learn a new craft and add more dimensions to their education which needn't only be through schools and colleges.

Ritika Dhall, Assistant Director, Gender Equality, Norad from Norway said gender inequality is often hidden. It may show in difference in salaries in men and women even though they do the same work. "We need to work around the world to ensure equality is understood and practiced," she said.

Launched in 2016 the Global Programme to End Child Marriage covers 12 countries - Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia. It is the first United Nations-led joint initiative designed with a focus on promoting the rights of adolescents to delay marriage, supporting adolescents to realize their rights by engaging with communities, and strengthening systems that deliver critical services to adolescents,



including health and education.

In Odisha UNICEF and UNFPA, through support from GPECM, work across all 30 districts to promote life skills for adolescents, improve overall well-being including sexual and reproductive health and build more capacity within the government systems to prevent child marriage and build linkages to skilling and livelihood opportunities. The programme also promotes positive behaviour changes and social norms to empower girls and provide equal opportunities to girls and boys.

Prior to the interaction with the adolescents, the donors visited Ganjam and Gajapati districts to understand the joint work between UNICEF and UNFPA on ending child marriage by interacting with multiple partners, adolescents, community members including Panchayat representatives and women's groups. They also interacted with the District Task Force on ending child marriage and adolescent empowerment.

ASI forms panel to plan Srimandir conservation

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Amid growing concerns over the structural safety of Shree Jagannath temple, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is working on a five-year plan in coordination with the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) for conservation of the shrines and its subsidiaries.

ASI, Bhubaneswar circle, has formed a committee comprising its officials, sevayat community members and officials from the SJTA which will study all monuments and the architecture of the 12th century temple complex to prepare detailed drawings, photo documentation and layouts for the plan. The com-

mittee includes former deputy superintending archaeological engineer



of ASI Tapan Bhattacharya and ex-Indian Museum director Rajesh Purohit. Superintending archaeologist, ASI Arun Malik said ASI had last year sought permission from the temple administration for laser scanning of the entire temple complex which will help in digital documentation of the monument and peripheral temples. The per-

mission, though, is yet to come. "Laser scanning is the most advanced way of ascertaining structural damages. Once we get the permission, work can begin," he said.

In the last fortnight, stones have fallen twice from the main temple. Malik, however, claimed that conservation is a regular affair in Srimandir but since it is an ancient monument, some incidents happen. There are 138 subsidiary temples in the Srimandir complex. In the last four years, the ASI has completed conservation of 90 out of 138 subsidiary shrines on the complex. Malik said ASI will next begin work on addressing the crack on a beam

in the eastern part of the Nata Mandap of the shrine. Member of the technical core committee of Srimandir NC Pal said though the condition of Shree Jagannath temple is good, its conservation needs a focussed and not a piecemeal approach. "It is a 900-year-old temple and structural damage is bound to happen. Hence, we see stone dislodgement, detachment of lime plaster and cracks frequently. To ensure major mishaps do not happen, conservation should be taken up in a continuous manner and not as and when damages happen," he said. Pal added water leakage is a primary problem in many of the subsidiary temples.

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Shradha Rani Sharma, 'says Abdu Rozik' can become 'Big Boss Winner' this time!

"No one can stop Abdu Rozik from becoming 'Big Boss' Winner." - Actress Shradha Rani Sharma

Mumbai (KCN): Actress Shradha Rani Sharma, who was a part of 'Big Boss' Season 5, is watching Big Boss 16 very

a favorite of Indians. Abdu's bonding with everyone in the house is very good. Regarding Abdu Rozik, Shradha Rani

I think no one can stop Abdu Rozik from becoming 'Big Boss Winner'. He will be the winner of Big Boss Season 16.



carefully and very deeply. According to her, Contestant Abdu Rozik is being liked a lot by the people. Even though Abdu Rozik was recently nominated by the family members, still he has become

Sharma says, "Whether there is a task in the house or there is a quarrel with someone, Abdu is often seen explaining, he doesn't hesitate in any situation. He has become an international player and

Even if he gets eliminated by mistake, he will be back on public demand. He is a very talented person." Now it has to be seen to what extent the words of Shradha Rani Sharma are true?

Amidst excellent reviews, Anurag Kashyap's 'Dobaaraa' has now reached Kolkata

Kolkata(KCN by ANKIT AGARWAL): A per-

fect combination of a thriller film having Taapsee Pannu in it, after 'Pink' and 'Badlaa' is huge excitement in itself. The cherry on the top on its way is 'Dobaaraa', a film directed by none other than Anurag Kashyap.

friends to the screening. Moreover, the team, Taapsee Pannu, Pavail Gulati, and Ektaa R Kapoor interacted with the Kolkata media. While they talked about their views about the film, Taapsee was seen sharing how she came across this topic, and on the other hand, as Pavail was about to debut with this film, he spoke about how this film came after 'Thappad' marking it his sec-



Having caught the attention of the masses with its mind-blowing trailer and songs, Anurag Kashyap's Dobaaraa is constantly spreading its charm all across the nation much before its release. After the film has made its mark at several prestigious film festivals like the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne,



Fantasia International Film Festival, and London film festival, the makers presented the film to its audience in multiple cities including Mumbai, Chennai, and Delhi. Now the team Dobaaraa has reached Kolkata where Prosenjit Chatterjee hosted a special screening of the film.



While Anurag Kashyap's upcoming mystery drama Dobaaraa has been the talk of the town,



actor of modern Bengali cinema Prosenjit Chatterjee hosted a special screening of the film. He also invited a couple of his industry



ond project with Taapsee. Moreover, the producer Ektaa also talked about why she chose this topic and how she got on to this project. Starring award-winning actress Taapsee Pannu, the film is directed by the acclaimed director Anurag Kashyap and produced by Shobha Kapoor & Ektaa R Kapoor's Cult Movies, a new wing under Balaji Telefilms and Sunir Kheterpal & Gaurav Bose (Athena). Watch Dobaaraa on 19th August 2022 at the cinemas near you.

Neeraj Bharadwaj is shooting for web series 'Saazish' in Bhopal



Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): Film and TV veteran and famous actor Neeraj

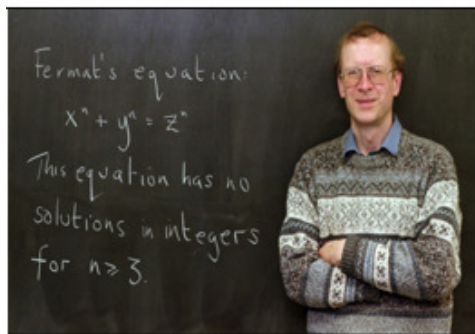
Bharadwaj is shooting for the web series 'Saazish' in Kalua Khurd, Bhopal, which will soon be airing on Disney Hotstar. It is produced by Col. S S Pattnaik and the director is Hiralal Khatri. About which Neeraj Bharadwaj says, "I am playing the role of city's famous lawyer Abhay Pratap Singh, who gets the brother of villain Shahbaz Khan punished. After that Shahbaz Khan commits a lot of oppression on my family and me. I am not able to do anything. After that

conspiracy is hatched and then what happens is still a secret. My role in this is different, I hope people will like it, and just like before, I will definitely be able to make a place in the heart of the audience with my performance." By the way, Neeraj Bharadwaj will soon have a webseries named Madgaon ...A Murder Case. Its shooting has been completed. The main cast of the web series 'Saazish' are Mughda Godse, Shahbaz Khan, Raza Murad, Mustakh Khan and Dev Manaria with Neeraj Bharadwaj. Its screenplay and dialogues are by Vinod Vats, Vikas Vashisht and Ajay. Its cameramen are Manish Vyas and Amar Vyas, music is by Manish Bhanushali. It is produced by Col.S S Pattnaik, co-producer Dev Manaria and executive producer is Anu Madras. It will be coming soon on Disney Hotstar. Its shooting is going on in Bhopal followed by Vadodara.

Last laugh of the Fermat's Last Theorem

The notorious mystery of Fermat's last theorem was created by Pierre de Fermat in 1637.

Pierre Fermat (1607 - 1665) was most talked about mathematician in public life over last 358 years or more before Fermat's last theorem got a solution from Andrew wiles. Fermat attended University of Toulouse and later studied civil law at the University of Orléans that helped him to lead a successful political life as a diplomat taking care of judgement etc. In 1631, he was one of the well-known and very busy government official in Toulouse and was named as Pierre De Fermat as a mark of respect and recognition. In 1652, he was promoted to highest chamber of criminal court. But his public life came no way to make his mathematical ability dwarfed and in his secret private life he emerged as an enthusiast of number theory. Till date he is remembered for Fermat's Last Theorem (FLT) that can be stated as $x^n + y^n = z^n$ has no solution for $x, y, z, n \in \mathbb{N}$ for $n > 2$



Andrew Wiles

$$5^2 + 12^2 = 13^2$$

$$133^2 + 156^2 = 205^2$$

and so on.

The problem was rather easy for him. Soon he graduated himself to a higher degree variant i.e.

$$x^3 + y^3 = z^3$$

Fermat was not able to provide solution to the above equation other than the trivial one such as

$$0^3 + z^3 = z^3$$

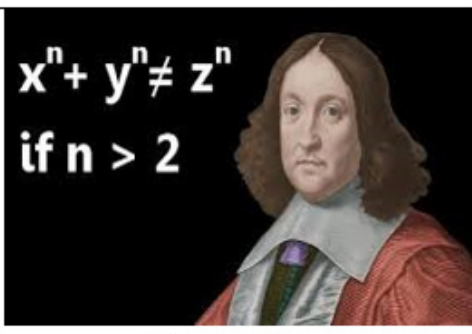
or he could arrive at a solution of the form

$$6^3 + 8^3 = 9^3 - 1$$

which is not a proper solution of the equation of x, y and z in degree 3. He wanted to probe further and increased the power of x, y, z subsequently and finally when all his effort went into vain to have a set of whole number solution of

$$x^n + y^n = z^n \quad \text{where } n > 2$$

he came to an intermediate conclusion that the equations of above form when $n > 2$ cannot have a whole number solutions other than the trivial ones. This was his breakthrough thought behind such an



Pierre De Fermat

Pierre de Fermat was an amateur mathematician who only solved problems of mathematics in his spare time. He was from southern France. His mathematical wisdom was largely based on the book called Arithmetica. Arithmetica was written by Diophantus of Alexandria in the third century AD. It was this book, where Pierre de Fermat encountered the equation

$$z^2 + y^2 = z^2$$

The equation has a close relationship with the Pythagorean Theorem. But unlike Pythagorean theorem, where z, y and x includes the length of two sides of a right angled triangle and hypotenuse in proportional measurement, Diophantus in Arithmetica challenged his readers to find whole number solutions to the equation. Pierre De Fermat was in the first one who indicate that such equation has an infinite number of whole number solutions that satisfies the proportional measurement of length giving rise to Pythagorean triples solutions such as

$$3^2 + 4^2 = 5^2$$

ordinary looking equation. The argument was that no such whole number solution existed for set of numbers x, y, z when degree becomes more than 2. He made a note in Latin in the margin of his copy of Diaphantus's Arithmetica, stating that there are no whole number solutions for any of the infinite number of equations and added 'Cuius rei demonstrationem mirabilem sane detexi, hanc marginis exiguitas non caperet' meaning 'I have discovered a truly marvellous proof of this, which this margin is too narrow to contain!'

According to the above statement, Pierre De Fermat had found a proof of his earlier statements but did not bother to write it down on some pretext taking the secret of proof away for more than 350 years of mathematical achievement. Later after his death, Fermat's son Cle\ment Samuel found his father's copy of the Arithmetica and noticed a number of notes in the margin of the pages in the book. Out of such noting, the above mentioned Latin sentences were found that indulged the mathematicians of generation after

Dr. Shefalika Ghosh Samaddar

generation. Fermat's habit of noting down gives a glimpse of his brain that could think like a logic engine leading to the destination of proof. But the steps or path of the logic engine was never retraced. It was only the destination that could have been found from such sparsely created proof mechanism. In 1670, Cle\ment Samuel decided to print a new copy of Bachet's translation of Diaphantus's Arithmetica with corresponding notes in the margin by Fermat for the benefit of mathematical community. Most of the Fermat's claims in the margin were found to be correct and the mathematical community was delighted to have such beautiful conjectures that generated a new interest in number theory. Except, nobody was able to prove that there were no solution to the equation $x^n + y^n = z^n$ ($n > 2$). As all other marginal notes are solved other than this problem, the problem subsequently came to be known as Fermat's Last Theorem, being the unproven one. Fermat died on January 12, 1665 in Castres, France.

As the time passed, existence of a proper Fermat's Last Theorem gained rigidity to the extent of being infamous. The desire for the proof solely started taking its high as it caught the imagination of many others weather from mathematics or not. Even the theorem started to invade the personal life of many becoming the object of obsession. German Industrialist Paul Walfskehl died in 1908 and bequeathed 100000 marks (approximately \$1 million) as a reward for anyone who could prove or disprove Fermat's Last Theorem. Walfskehl deprived his wife and his own family as he found solace in mathematics and not from his family. In a way, he wanted to thank Fermat as he was fascinated with the problem. The problem became his lifelong obsession giving him a meaning to life when he was on the verge of suicide. Walfskehl prize further invoked public interest in Fermat's Last Theorem (FLT). FLT started appearing in daily conversation, in TV serials, in culture in theatre and in literature too.

The Devil and Simon Flagg' is a short story written by Arthur Porges in 1954. The protagonist makes a Faustian pact with Devil. Flagg could hope to save his soul by posing a question that the Devil cannot answer and very aptly he asks for a proof of Fermat's Last Theorem. And Devil had no answer. Fermat's Last Theorem made its entry in fiction (the girl who played with fire by Stieg Larson). FLT is found in films (Bedazzled with Brendan Fraser and Elizabeth Harley). In 1989, one episode of StarTrek: The Next Generation titled 'The Royale', provides an opinion about FLT. One of its characters Captain Jean Luc Picard describes FLT as "a

puzzle we may never solve". FLT is in play as well (Arcadia by Tom Stoppard).

The proof or solution was actually given by Andrew Wiles at Princeton University in 1995. With the proof, came a grand finale of all competitions for the proof of FLT. There are others who heaved a sigh of relief that ultimately extinguish the feverish temperament of mathematicians and others get a rest with the proof in hand. Ever since Andrew Wiles was 10 years old he encountered the simple looking, easy to understand problem in one of his library books. The problem inspired him to appreciate the efforts put by others in this direction and he tried to learn from their point of no return. He was obsessed with the problem for more than three decades, out of which the last seven years he confined himself in secrecy. Finally he proved that $x^n + y^n = z^n$ ($n > 2$) has no whole number solution, though the solution in complex plane exists. His published documentation of proof of FLT contains more than 130 pages. It showed his effort and ability to derive the logic engine to tread the path of uncommon. However, the chain of logic is quite sophisticated to have its existence in 1637. Wiles also used modern tools and techniques of mathematics that came into being much-later of 1637. Thus, though FLT has been proved successfully, certainly it is not the proof that Fermat had in mind. In a way, Fermat still had the last laugh as his proof remained undiscovered in spite of best efforts by all, over centuries.

A number of counterexamples were presented to show that FLT can be nullified on the basis of these example such as

$$3987^{12} + 4365^{12} = 4472^{12}$$

The result can be verified with a calculator that can squeeze only 10 digits into its display. It is true. But if the same result is checked with a calculator having more numbers of digits display (not 10), then the result is

$$3987^{12} + 4365^{12} = 4472.0000000070576171875^{12}$$

proving the earlier equation a near-miss solution of FLT. A near-miss solution is no solution at all, keeping FLT firm is its place with crowning glory. The story of the riddle that spell bounded the world for 358 years did not come to an end. In 2012, Shinichi Mochizuki of Kyoto University of Japan, while trying to prove abc conjecture successfully using his newly found mathematical language, found an indirect proof of FLT as a corollary of a theorem. A 600 page document with a new mathematical language to be learnt is all that is required to understand the proof of FLT by Mochizuki.

The last laugh is definitely with Fermat till today in spite of our best efforts to prove FLT.

The writer is a National Institute of Technology Sikkim, Indian Science News Association

The support of truth takes integrity

Integrity is the most prominent personality characteristic of an individual. Besides it gives sense of self-esteem and satisfaction towards life as it brings in positive aura around the person. In another words having high integrity is like wearing crown. What is Integrity? The sad



thing is that if you ask some people what integrity means to them, they will probably tell you that it doesn't mean much and some many not even know what integrity is. Integrity is how somebody lives their life. In this life we live, we face choices every day that only we can answer.

All the greatest achievers in the history of mankind are men and women of unimpeachable integrity. Certain people feel that in order to get ahead in life they need to break certain rules. Integrity means moral sound-

ness, honesty, and freedom from corrupting influence.

Thus Integrity goes closely to the honesty. Our personal integrity can only be formed by ourselves. Nobody can control out integrity. The ones who value their integrity highly are the good people in this world, and the opposite is true for those who do not value their integrity. We live in a world where integrity isn't talked about nearly enough. We live in a world where "the end justifies the means" has become an acceptable school of thought for far too many. Honesty is very important in the development of people's conscience. Honesty is a path to many things such as knowledge, academic goal's truth and understanding. Every one person who trusts you will spread the word of that trust to at least a few of their associates, and word of your character will spread like wildfire. From where these principles take place in our mind, through beliefs, beliefs through life experi-

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

ences Doing the right thing is integrity for me choosing the right over the wrong, raising my voice on something which looks inappropriate is integrity for me. One may belief in working late hours while the other one may believe having a social life after working hours. But they both are contributing to the organizations. What matters is dedication. Despite several efforts by successive state and national governments, corruption continues to be a scourge for the nation. Promoting transparency and honesty, especially in educational institutions and corporations, as well as strengthening anti-corruption institutions might be the way forward for India if it truly wants to achieve its socio- economic development goals. So living my life with full dedication to whatever I do whether it's professional or personal is integrity for me. These are my set of principles I decided to follow to have a fulfilled and satisfactory life, you

set yours accordingly with examining your beliefs connected to your happiness. Living life with integrity can be a moral responsibility but for me it's more personal. "Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not" Today Integrity is the most agreeable and demanding quality. People who have this are in high demand. Through integrity one can make great achievements. Integrity is the miracle lamp of Aladdin, with which one can achieve anything one want. Integrity means fruit on the tree of industry, dedication to perseverance and excellence. Integrity is how someone lives their lives. In this life we live, we face choices every day that can only be answered. We dictate how we live our lives, and the way we conduct them defines us. Integrity is doing the right thing against the wrong thing.

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad

Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan shot, injured at protest rally

WAZIRABAD: A gunman opened fire Thursday at a campaign truck carrying



Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, wounding him slightly in the leg and killing one of his supporters, his party and police said. Nine others were also wounded. The identity of the gunman, who was arrested at the scene, was not immediately known. No group has claimed responsibility for the shooting. The attack raised new concerns about growing political instability in Pakistan, a nuclear-armed nation with a massive population of 225 million people. Imran Khan, who was injured in a shooting incident, is seen after the incident, in Wazirabad, Pakistan. (Photo | PTI)

Since his ouster in a no-confidence vote in Parliament in April, Khan has mo-

turned Islamist politician was travelling in a large convoy of trucks and cars head-

jured in a shooting incident. (Photo | AP) District police officer Ghazanfar Ali said one person was killed and nine others were wounded in the attack. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan condemned the attack.

Fawad Chaudhry, a senior leader from Khan's party, told the supporters surrounding Khan's truck that the attack was "an attempt on the life" of the country's former premier.

Khan was later seen with a bandage on his right leg, just above the foot, according to reports and a blurry image. He was moved to another vehicle from his container truck, from where announcements were being made that he was safe.

ing towards the capital, Islamabad. The convoy is part of his campaign aimed at forcing the government to hold early elections.

Among the wounded was Faisal Javed, a lawmaker from Tehreek-e-Insaf. In a



video statement, with blood staining his clothes, Javed said Khan's protest march to Islamabad would not stop.

Faisal Javed, a senator and close aide of Khan, who was in-

He is being taken to a hospital in Islamabad but he is not seriously wounded. A bullet hit him in the leg," Asad Umar, an official from Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf party, told reporters. According to the Interior Ministry, the

government has ordered a probe into the incident.

Khan at loggerheads with military, election commission Khan has been at loggerheads with the country's powerful military and has refused to back down from his plans to march on the capital. The military has said that although Khan had a democratic right to hold a rally in Islamabad, no one would be allowed to destabilize the country. Authorities in Islamabad have already deployed additional security around the city to deter any clashes or violence.

The attack happened less than a week after Khan began his march from Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, along with thousands of supporters. It was not immediately known if Khan's convoy would proceed on to Islamabad. Earlier, Chaudhry had said they plan to enter Islamabad on Friday. Chief Imran Khan and his supporters began their march from Lahore to Islamabad demanding snap elections, Oct. 29 2022. (Photo | AP) Since his ouster in April, Khan has alleged that he was the

victim of a conspiracy and has called for early elections. Sharif's government has said that there would be no early vote and that the next elections will be held according to schedule, in 2023. Khan's latest challenge to the government comes after Pakistan's elections commission disqualified him from holding public office for five years for allegedly selling state gifts unlawfully and concealing assets as premier. Khan, who has challenged the disqualification in a pending court case, has said he would sue Chief Election Commissioner Sikandara Raja, who was behind the decision, for calling him a "dishonest person."

It was not immediately known if Khan's convoy would proceed on to Islamabad. Earlier, Chaudhry, the senior party leader, had said they plan to enter Islamabad on Friday. The attack comes at a time when impoverished Pakistan is grappling with the aftermath of unprecedented floods that struck this Islamic nation over the summer, killing 1,735 people and displacing 33 million.

Pope presses Muslim dialogue in first papal visit to Bahrain

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis is bringing his message of dialogue with the Muslim world to the kingdom of Bahrain, where the Sunni-led government is hosting an interfaith conference on East-West co-existence even as it stands accused of discriminating against the country's Shiite majority. Human rights groups and relatives of Shiite activists on death row have urged Francis to use his visit, which begins Thursday, to call for an end to the death penalty and political repression in Bahrain. But it's not clear if Francis will publicly embarrass his hosts during his four-day visit, the first of any pontiff to the island nation in the Persian Gulf. Francis has long touted dialogue as an instrument of peace and believes a show of interfaith harmony is needed, especially now given Russia's war in Ukraine and regional conflicts, such as in Yemen. On the eve of the trip, Francis asked for prayers so that the trip will promote "the cause of brotherhood and of peace, of which our times are in extreme and urgent need."

The visit is Francis' second to a Gulf Arab country, following his 2019 landmark trip to Abu Dhabi, where he signed a document promoting the Catholic-Muslim fraternity with a leading Sunni cleric, Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb. Al-Tayeb is the grand imam of Al-Azhar, the seat of Sunni learning in Cairo. Francis followed that with a 2021 visit to Iraq, where he was received by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, one of the world's pre-eminent Shiite clerics.

Francis will meet again this week in Bahrain with al-Tayeb, as well as other prominent figures in the interfaith field who are expected to attend the conference, which is similar to one hosted last month by Kazakhstan that Francis and el-Tayeb also attended. Members of the regional Muslim Council of Elders, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, Patriarch Bartholomew, a representative from the Russian Orthodox Church and rabbis from the United States are all expected, according to the Bahrain program. The trip will also allow Francis to minister to Bahrain's Catholic community, which numbers around 80,000 in a country of around 1.5 million. Most are workers hailing from the Philippines and India, though trip organizers expect pilgrims from Saudi Arabia and other neighbouring countries will attend Francis' big Mass at the national stadium on Saturday. Bahrain is home to the Gulf's first Catholic Church, the Sacred Heart parish, which opened in 1939, as well as its biggest one, Our Lady of Arabia Cathedral. The church, with a capacity of 2,300, opened last year in the desert town of Awali on land gifted to the church by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. In fact, the king presented Francis with a model of the church when he visited the Vatican in 2014 and extended the first invitation to visit.

Why is Kim firing so many missiles? US-South Korea drills, experts say

SEOUL: North Korea has fired more missiles in the last 24 hours than it did during the whole of 2017 -- the year of "fire and fury" when leader Kim Jong Un traded barbs with then-US president Donald Trump. What has triggered the record-breaking blitz of weapons tests? Analysts say ongoing US-South Korean military exercises are a key factor and warn that Kim is building up to another nuclear test.

AFP takes a look at what's going on:

What drills?

Seoul and Washington are carrying out their largest ever joint air drills, called Vigilant Storm, which involve hundreds of warplanes from both sides staging mock attacks 24 hours a day.

The drills, originally due to end Friday, will be extended, South Korea's air force said, to "maintain ironclad security joint posture" in the face of North Korean aggression.

The complex annual exercises take "months of planning and preparation", South Korea's air force says.

This year, about 240 American and South Korean warplanes will conduct around 1,600 sorties, which is "the largest number ever" for these drills, it added. The exercises "strengthen the operational and tactical capabilities of combined air operations", it said. Why do they matter?

The drills involve some of South Korea and America's advanced fighter jets -- F-35As and F-35Bs, both of which are stealth aircraft designed to produce as small a radar signature as possible.

North Korea may have nuclear weapons -- which the South does not -- but its air force is the weakest link in its military, analysts say

and is likely unable to counter stealth aircraft technology.

"Most of North Korea's aircraft are outdated... they have very few state-of-the-art fighter jets," Cheong Seong-chang, a researcher at the Sejong Institute, told AFP. "The North does not have much oil needed for aircraft, so training is also not being done prop-



erly," he added.

What's Kim afraid of?

The stealth jets, experts say. This summer there were reports that US and South Korean commandos were practising so-called "decapitation strikes" -- the removal of North Korea's top leadership in a lightning-fast military operation.

Pyongyang's blitz of launches this week are "because of Vigilant Storm which includes the F-35 stealth fighter jets", said Go Myong-Hyun, a researcher at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. Pyongyang believes stealth

jets would "be used in decapitation operations", Go added.

Experts say there are additional signs that Kim is concerned, pointing to a revision of North Korea's nuclear law this September. The new law, which allows for a first nuclear strike, placed Pyongyang's nukes under Kim's "monolithic command".

If North Korea's nuclear "command and control system" -- Kim -- is "placed in danger owing to an attack by hostile forces, a nuclear strike shall be launched automatically and immediately", it says.

What does the North say?

Pyongyang calls Vigilant Storm "an aggressive and provocative military drill targeting the DPRK".

Even the name offends the North, which claims it harks back to Operation Desert Storm, the US-led military assault on Iraq in 1990-1991 after the invasion of Kuwait.

The US and South Korean militaries have been training together for years, and the joint drills have long infuriated Pyongyang, which sees them as rehearsals for war. It has repeatedly justified its missile launches as necessary "countermeasures" to what it calls America's "hostile" policies.

Its supporters in Beijing and Moscow agree, and have blocked US-led attempts to sanction Pyongyang at the United Nations over its tests, saying Washington is responsible for provoking the North with the drills.

"But the Kim regime threatens regional peace with illegal weapons primarily because of its revisionist goals against South Korea, not because of a particular action Washington does or does not take," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

Why does Seoul take part?

South Korea's hawkish President Yoon Suk-yeol took office in May vowing to get tough with Pyongyang. He has dramatically ramped up joint drills, which had been scaled back during the pandemic or paused for a bout of ill-fated diplomacy.

Since talks collapsed in 2019, North Korea's Kim has doubled down on his banned weapons programmes, conducting repeated tests of bigger and ever more threatening weapons.

Washington and Seoul have been warning for months that the recent missile launches could culminate in another nuclear test -- which would be Pyongyang's seventh.

The United States stationed around 27,000 troops in South Korea to help defend it against the North, and the allies say joint drills are an essential part of their defence strategy.

Dhamnagar bypoll: 58.5 per cent votes cast till 5 pm, two injured in clash

BHUBANESHWAR: A total : 58.5 per cent voters exercised their franchise in the Dhamnagar assembly by-poll till 5 pm on Thursday, an Election Commission official said.

Despite the strict security for the day, there

played in the constituency.

There were 15 model booths and five pink booths, which have women security personnel and polling officials.

The constituency has in the previous elections recorded around 70 per cent voter turnout.



were reports of clashes between BJD and BJP workers in polling booths 169 and 170 at Rameswarpur in the constituency while voting was on and two persons were injured.

The local police said the clash occurred when workers of one party tried to put up posters inside the prohibited 100 m distance from the polling booth and was resisted by supporters of the other party.

A case was registered at the local police station on the basis of allegations of the two sides and the injured were taken to a nearby hospital, the police said.

The EC official said voting happened in all the 252 polling stations of the constituencies, of which 110 booths were declared sensitive.

There was webcasting in 126 booths.

Some initial EVM glitches were reported in the morning after polling began at 7 am and were immediately solved, he said.

A total 2.38 lakh voters - 1.23 lakh men and 1.15 lakh women - were eligible to exercise their franchise. A total 1000 police personnel and four companies of central paramilitary forces (each company has 100 personnel) were deployed for the by-election.

The entry and exit points of the constituency were sealed.

He said a 1,008 polling officers were de-

SWOT analysis: Will AAP's aggressive entry in Gujarat change Assembly poll equations?

AHMEDABAD: Will the aggressive entry of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Gujarat change the Assembly poll equations in the state? This question has dominated the political discourse in recent weeks after the Arvind Kejriwal-led party created a buzz.

The AAP's presence has made next month's elections a three-cornered contest in a state where politics has remained essentially bipolar.

The AAP, which is contesting all 182 seats, is in power in Delhi and Punjab.

Here is a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities,

Threats) analysis of the AAP in the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

STRENGTHS:

*Appeal among the lower middle-class voters and AAP's pitch that it is a party with a difference.

*The voter outreach through many "welfare guarantees" including free electricity up to 300 units per month, Rs 3,000 per month to the jobless, and Rs 1,000

per month to women above 18 years.

*The promises to take up issues that affect voters could make AAP an attractive option.

WEAKNESSES:

*AAP lacks a local leader with mass appeal, and its grassroots-level organization is no match for that of the rival parties.

*Does not have enough experience in Gujarat politics.

*AAP has no vote bank and local body seats won in 2021 cannot be an indicator of its showing in an Assembly election.

OPPORTUNITIES:

*AAP has a chance to make itself heard in Gujarat and create a new political narrative.

*Winning even a few seats in a state dominated by the BJP and the Congress will help the AAP establish a base and see its stock soaring ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

THREATS:

*'The Modi factor' which can again give BJP an edge.

*BJP's well-entrenched Hindutva politics.



Lawyers renew agitation over Orissa HC bench demand

SAMBALPUR: Renewing agitation for establishment of a high court (HC) bench in Sambalpur, members of the district bar association resorted to cease work

over the demand on Wednesday. The protest by lawyers paralysed functioning of courts in the district. The agitating lawyers also shut down offices of the revenue divisional commissioner (RDC), district collector and other state government departments.

The lawyers announced that a decision has been taken to paralyse functioning of state government offices on every Wednesday over the issue till their demand is met. If any public holiday coincides with a Wednesday, they will resort to agitation the next working day.

President of Sambalpur district bar association Sureswar Mishra said on September 28, all western Odisha bar associations under the aegis of central action committee (CAC) had staged demonstration in front of the State Assembly demanding a comprehensive proposal from the government for establishment of a HC bench in Sambalpur.

"A ministerial group and secretaries of

government departments held discussion with us and we were assured that steps would be taken to send a comprehensive proposal to the Centre for set-



ting up a HC bench with the consent of Orissa High Court. However, no step has been taken in this regard even after more than a month," claimed Mishra.

"We want the State government to expedite the process of sending the comprehensive proposal for establishment of a HC bench in Sambalpur to the Centre with consent of Orissa High Court," he added.

During the agitation over the HC bench demand on September 28, residents of Sambalpur had extended support to the lawyers. The CAC had shut down all government offices in Sambalpur and staged dharna outside the district court.



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RBI's rate-setting panel meets to finalise inflation report for government

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel on Thursday met to finalise a report for the government on why it failed to keep retail inflation below the target of 6 per cent for three consecutive quarters since January this year, said sources. They added that the report will be presented to the government as per the Reserve Bank of India Act. Governor Shaktikanta Das heads the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The other members are: Shashanka Bhide, Honorary Senior Advisor at National Council of Applied Economic Research, Delhi; Ashima Goyal, Emeritus Professor at Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai and Jayanth R Varma, Professor at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra and RBI Executive Director Rajiv Ranjan are the other two members. The RBI Act requires the central bank's MPC to report to the government reasons for failure to meet the retail inflation target and measures to bring it at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The meeting was called under the provisions of Section 45ZN of the RBI Act 1934.

Naveen reviews BSKY, lauds flagship scheme

BHUBANESWAR: The Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), the flagship scheme of the state government, is benefiting about 73,000 patients every month at empanelled private hospitals alone for which exchequer bears a cost of Rs 165 crore per month. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday reviewed the implementation of



the BSKY and expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the health benefit scheme. After the launch of the BSKY smart health card from September 1, 2021, over 5.45 lakh beneficiaries have availed health services worth Rs 1,191 crore from it. Out of these, 23,119 beneficiaries availed services of Rs 64.25 crore in empanelled hospitals outside the state. The state government has borne the entire cost of healthcare provided by empanelled private hospitals.

BSKY smart health cards have been given to 96.5 lakh families covering over 3.3 crore people of Odisha. BSKY beneficiaries are provided healthcare in empanelled private hospitals for an annual health coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family and additional Rs 5 lakh for the women members of the family after exhaustion of the initial limit. There are a total of 500 private hospitals within and outside the state which are empanelled under BSKY.

Official sources said empanelled hospitals outside the state now cover 17 states of the country and are providing healthcare to all BSKY card holders throughout India. More than 76 beneficiaries availed the treatment in CMC Vellore and 979 beneficiaries availed the treatment in Tata memorial Hospital, Mumbai.

The CM said beneficiaries of this scheme have given good feedback on Mo Sarkar platform. He appreciated the BSKY as an important social security scheme of the government which provides quality healthcare free of cost to the patients.

Supp Budget on 24 NOV

Continued from page-1

allowed to augment the provision in one unit only by locating equivalent savings in some other unit of expenditure, Finance Department sources said. In the Supplement Budget, high impact new Capital projects, announcements made by the Government from time-to-time and proposals for enhancing livelihood activities will be fully funded.

The Departments were asked to recoup the advance taken from Odisha Contingency Fund (OCF) in the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure.

The Supplementary Budget outlay of the State in 2020-21 was Rs 11,200 crore. The Supplementary Budget outlay was enhanced to Rs 19,833 crore during 2021-22 financial year. In this trend, it seems that the Supplementary Budget outlay may cross Rs 25K crore this year.

Cognizant Q3 profit increases

HYDERABAD: IT major Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp. (CTSH) on Wednesday posted a 15.6 per cent rise in net profit at \$629 million in the third quarter of

Rahul Gandhi says Modi, KCR are looting people for corporates, family

Continued from page-1

He said that Chandrashekar Rao was also following in Modi's footsteps, as only TRS MPs supported the now-reversed farm Acts in Parliament.

In his continued attack against the BJP, he said that Modi was using public money to buy MPs and MLAs, to overthrow state governments. He said that the BJP is intent on selling all public sector undertakings (PSUs).

The Congress leader said that the party would fight against the sale of PSUs with public support, claiming that the country's youngsters were depressed due to a lack of employment.

"Engineering graduates are forced to work as delivery boys and labourers," he said.

Rahul Gandhi also slammed the hate politics in the country, holding the BJP and RSS for spreading communal violence. "Their aim is not just spreading violence and hatred, but creating fear among the public. They want the public, youth, farmers and government employees to fear the BJP and RSS," he said.

He cited an instance of the BJP pretending to privatise BHEL and BDL as a fear tactic. "All public sector managements and employees are being scared. These PSUs are the assets of India. BJP wants to give these to their friends," he said.

Rahul Gandhi also took aim at demonetisation, claiming that Narendra Modi used to deal a blow to the public sector, MSMEs and manufacturing and construction firms that employed youngsters.

The Congress leader said that instead of recovering black money, the note ban hit the small and medium enterprises, with those surviving its effect reeling from the introduction of GST.

He cited the instances of over 4.5 lakh losing their jobs in jeans enterprises in Bellary as an effect of demonetisation.

SWOT analysis: BJP eyeing seventh straight win in Gujarat

Continued from page-1

considered a master strategist, has been overseeing the preparations.

Bridge collapse to Bilkis Bano convicts' remission: Top issues in Gujarat Assembly elections

WEAKNESSES:

*The BJP lacks a strong local leader who can fill Prime Minister Modi's shoes.

Gujarat had three chief ministers including the incumbent Bhupendra Patel since 2014 after Modi became prime minister.

Modi was chief minister for 13 years.

*Besides facing allegations of corruption in the state levelled by the AAP and Congress, the party may face heat on issues like inflation, unemployment and economic distress.

*AAP's aggressive campaign has sought to pick holes in the state's education system and health infrastructure.

OPPORTUNITIES:

*A weak opposition could present the BJP with a chance to win seven Assembly elections in a row and match the CPI-M-led Left Front's feat in West Bengal.

*The main opposition Congress appears to be missing from the campaign with party leaders apparently preoccupied with Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra.

*If the BJP is able to halt AAP's march in Gujarat by restricting it to less than five seats in the 182-member Assembly, it has a chance to limit the Arvind Kejriwal-led party's ambitions to emerge as the main challenger at the national level.

THREATS:

*The recent bridge collapse in Morbi in which 135 people were killed may have an impact on BJP's electoral fortunes.

*Infighting within BJP has largely been kept under wraps due to strong central leadership, but a defeat may see the fissures come out in the open.

*In the event of a hung Assembly, the ruling party may find it difficult to find an ally to cobble a majority.

*If the AAP manages to win in some places, it could pose a challenge to the BJP.

The saffron party's seat tally has been declining in each election since 2002. It won 127 seats in 2002, 117 in 2007, 116 in 2012 and 99 in 2017.

calendar year 2022 compared to \$544 million in the year-ago period. The company's revenue increased by 5.6 per cent to \$4.86 billion in the period, as against year-ago revenues of \$4.74 billion, which fell short of analysts' expectations.



The Teaneck, New Jersey-based company said for the current quarter ending in December, it expects revenue in the range of \$4.72 billion to \$4.77 billion.

The company expects full-year earnings in the range of \$4.43 to \$4.46 per share, with revenue expected to be \$19.3 billion with a growth of seven per cent, which is lower than the 8.5-9.5 per cent guidance it gave for the full year in the June quarter.

Israel counts last votes as Netanyahu's majority firms up

Continued from page-1

current coalition, led by caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid, were expected to win 50 seats. Netanyahu's expected win and his likely comfortable majority put an end to Israel's political instability, for now. But it leaves Israelis split over their leadership and over the values that define their state: Jewish or democratic.

Netanyahu's top partner in the government is expected to be the far-right Religious Zionism party, whose main candidate, Itamar Ben-Gvir is a disciple of a racist rabbi, says he wants to end Palestinian autonomy in parts of the West Bank and until recently hung a photo in his home of Baruch Goldstein, an American-Israeli who killed 29 Palestinians in a West Bank shooting attack in 1993. Ben-Gvir, who promises to deport Arab legislators, says he wants to be named head of the ministry that is in charge of the police.

Religious Zionism has promised to enact changes to Israeli law that could make Netanyahu's legal woes disappear and, along with other nationalist allies, they want to weaken the independence of the judiciary and concentrate more power in the hands of lawmakers. The party's leader, Bezalel Smotrich, a West Bank settler who has made anti-Arab remarks, has his sights set on the Defense Ministry, which would make him the overseer of the military and Israel's West Bank military occupation.

As the votes were being counted, Israeli-Palestinian violence was flaring. One Palestinian said to be throwing a firebomb was killed by Israeli police in the occupied West Bank, while a Palestinian stabbed a police officer in Jerusalem's Old City and was then shot and killed by Israeli forces. Later, the Palestinian Health Ministry said Israeli troops operating in the West Bank killed another man. Ben-Gvir used the incidents to promise a tougher approach to Palestinian attackers once he enters government. "The time has come to restore security to the streets," he tweeted. "The time has come for a terrorist who goes out to carry out an attack to be taken out!"

After the results are formally announced, Israel's ceremonial president taps one candidate, usually from the largest party, to form a government. They then have four weeks to do so. Netanyahu is likely to wrap up talks within that time, but Religious Zionism is expected to drive a hard bargain for its support.

The polarizing Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving leader, was ousted in 2021 after 12 consecutive years in power by an ideologically-diverse coalition that included for the first time in Israel's history a small Arab party. The coalition collapsed in the spring over infighting. Netanyahu is charged with fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in a series of scandals involving wealthy associates and media moguls. He denies wrongdoing, seeing the trial as a "witch hunt" against him orchestrated by "hostile" media and a "biased" judicial system.

North Korea keeps up missile barrage with suspected ICBM

Continued from page-1

Korea will maintain its combined military exercises with the United States in response to North Korea's intensifying testing activity, which it said would only deepen the North's international isolation and unleash further economic shock on its people.

One of the more than 20 missiles North Korea shot on Wednesday flew in the direction of a populated South Korean island and landed near the rivals' tense sea border, triggering air raid sirens and forcing residents on Ulleung island to evacuate. South Korea quickly responded by launching its own missiles in the same border area.

Those launches came hours after North Korea threatened to use nuclear weapons to get the U.S. and South Korea to "pay the most horrible price in history" in protest of ongoing South Korean-U.S. military drills that it views as a rehearsal for a potential invasion. North Korea has been ramping up its weapons demonstrations to a record pace this year. It has fired dozens of missiles, including its first demonstration of intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017, as it exploits the distraction created by Russia's war in Ukraine and a pause in diplomacy to push forward arms development and dial up pressure on the United States and its Asian allies.

The North has punctuated its tests with an escalatory nuclear doctrine that authorizes preemptive nuclear attacks over a variety of loosely defined crisis situations. U.S. and South Korean officials say North Korea may up the ante in the coming weeks with its first detonation of a nuclear test device since September 2017.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken held a telephone call with South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin over Wednesday's missile launches, including the one that "recklessly and dangerously" landed near the South Korean coastline, and stressed the "ironclad" U.S. commitment to the security of its ally, according to their offices.

State Department spokesperson Ned Price also addressed concerns about possible North Korean preparations for another nuclear test, which would be its seventh overall. Experts say such tests could possibly bring North Korea a step closer to its goal of building a full-fledged arsenal threatening regional U.S. allies and the American mainland.

"Should it go forward with a seventh nuclear test there would be additional costs and consequences," Price said, noting that the test would be a "dangerous, reckless, destabilizing act."

North Korea last flew a missile over Japan in October in what it described as a test of a new intermediate range ballistic missile, which experts say potentially would be capable of reaching Guam, a major U.S. military hub in the Pacific. That launch forced the Japanese government to issue evacuation alerts and pause train services.

Experts say North Korea is escalating a brinkmanship aimed at forcing the United States to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power and negotiating economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

Nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang have been stalled since early 2019 over disagreements in exchanging the release of crippling U.S.-led sanctions against the North and the North's denuclearization steps. The North has so far ignored the Biden administration's calls for open-ended talks, insisting that Washington should first discard its "hostile" policy, a term North Korea mainly uses to describe sanctions and combined U.S.-South Korea military exercises. White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby on Wednesday underscored that the Biden administration has repeatedly sought to reach out to North Korean officials through diplomatic channels and has made clear "we're willing to sit down with North Korea without precondition to discuss the denuclearization of the peninsula."

A giant Maradona emerges in Argentina, days before World Cup

BUENOS AIRES: In the middle of the concrete jungle that is Argentina's bustling capital, a huge mural has emerged of Diego Maradona wearing a national team jersey, his right hand in a fist and a defiant expression on his face. The massive artwork, 148 feet high and 131 feet

wide (45 meters by 40 meters) and painted on the side of a 14-story building in Buenos Aires, is one of several tributes that Argentines have dedicated to their soccer "God" shortly before the start of this year's World Cup in Qatar, the first since Maradona's death on Nov. 25, 2020.

Maradona's feats and defeats as a player on the national team are being remembered, from the famous and infamous goals against England before the county won the 1986 World Cup to the failed final against West Germany four years later, and the doping test that got him expelled from the following World Cup in 1994.

Well-known street artist Martín Ron was behind the world's largest mural, inspired by a photograph of the then-Argentina captain that captures his expression shortly before he sang the national anthem at the 1990 World Cup final against West Germany, which Argentina lost 1-0.

"It's a photo of Diego when he was close to winning the country's third star," Ron told The Associated Press during a break from the work he began a month ago. Argentina also won the World Cup in 1978, but Maradona didn't make the team for that tournament.

"This photo summarizes everything Diego was," Ron said. "Beyond the player, he was the guts, the motor, the heart." To one side of Maradona's face, Ron painted a constellation of stars in the shape of a kite, a reference to his nickname "cosmic kite," which is what one well-known radio commentator called the soccer star following his second goal against England in 1986.

"His absence will be felt, Diego was always a star. In all the World Cups he did his own thing, inside and outside the field," Ron said. "And in Qatar, he will sadly not be there."

Ron's mural was officially unveiled on Sunday to coincide with the soccer great's birthday. Days earlier, the Argentine soccer association received the original jersey that Maradona wore in the 1986 World Cup. It was a gift from Germany great Lothar Matthäus, who exchanged jerseys with Maradona after the final that Argentina won 2-1 at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City.

"One of the happiest moments with him was when (Brazilian referee) Arppi Filho blew the whistle during the final in Mexico. I just happened to be very close to Diego, I was lucky that he hugged me before anybody else," former player Ricardo Giusti recalled during a recent event alongside other former World Cup champions outside Buenos Aires.

"We enjoyed it so much, everybody enjoyed Diego. That's what's sad. It makes us feel a lot of sadness, sorrow and disillusion," the former midfielder said.

Matthäus' donation was a sort of reparation for Argentina after it failed to win an auction for the jersey Maradona wore in the match against England in the quarterfinals of that World Cup tournament. An unknown bidder from outside the country bought the iconic item at auction for a record \$9 million in May.

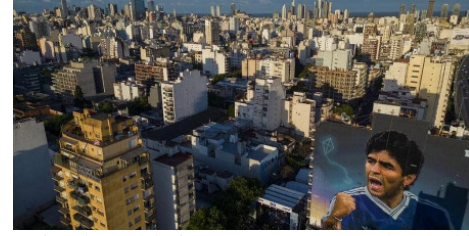
In 1994, Maradona played his last World Cup match against Nigeria in the group stage. He was suspended for 15 months following the 2-1 victory after a positive doping test.

As Argentina's coach, Maradona led the national team to the quarterfinals at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, but the team lost to Germany 4-0.

One of the most disturbing images came eight years later at the 2018 World Cup in Russia when an overweight and somewhat disoriented Maradona collapsed at the stadium in St. Petersburg following a 2-1 victory over Nigeria.

Maradona died at the age of 60 while he was under hospital care in his home following brain surgery. Judicial authorities continue to investigate if medical negligence was involved.

"He is missed, Diego's image has been, and is, very strong," said Carlos Tapia, another member of the 1986 championship team. "He was our reference, captain, everything. He was always close to each one of us. Let's hope he can be a guiding light from above in Qatar."



Tech use to fight corrupt

New Delhi: Prime Minister, Narendra Modi addressed the program marking Vigilance Awareness Week of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi today, and launched the new Complaint Management System portal of the CVC. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that Vigilance Awareness Week began with the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel. "The entire life of Sardar Patel was dedicated to honesty, trans-

parency and the building of a public service system based on these values", he said. The Prime Minister remarked that the campaign revolving around awareness and alertness is based on these principles. He observed that the campaign of Vigilance Awareness Week is taking place to realise the dreams and aspirations of a corruption-free India and underlined its importance in the lives of every citizen. The Prime Minister said for a developed India, trust and credibility are critical. That people's trust in the government enhances people's self-confidence. The Prime Minister lamented the fact that earlier governments not only lost people's confidence but they also failed to trust people. The legacy from the long period of slavery of corruption, exploitation, and control over resources, unfortunately, received more strength after the independence. This severely harmed at least four generations of this country, he said. "We have to change this decades-long way fully in the Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal", the Prime Minister pointed out. Referring to his clarion call from the ramparts of Red Fort for a decisive battle against corruption the Prime Minister pointed out two key reasons for corruption and hindering people's progress i.e. lack of amenities and unnecessary pressure from the government. He said for a very long time, this absence of amenities and opportunity was deliberately kept alive and a gap was allowed to widen leading to an unhealthy competition of a zero-sum race. This race fed the ecosystem of corruption. Corruption created by this scarcity affects the poor and middle classes the most. "If the poor and middle class spend their energy to arrange for the basic amenities, then how will the country progress?" the Prime Minister asked. "That is why", the Prime Minister remarked "we are trying to change this system of scarcity and pressure for the last 8 years. The government is trying to fill the gap between supply and demand. The three ways adopted to achieve this are advancement in technology, taking basic services to the saturation level, and finally heading towards atmanirbharta."



With regard to the use of technology, the Prime Minister mentioned linking PDS to technology and removing crores of fake beneficiaries and saving more than 2 lakh crore rupees from going to the wrong hands by adopting Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Similarly, the adoption of transparent digital transactions, and transparent government procurement through GeM is making a huge difference. Speaking on taking the basic facilities to the saturation level, The Prime Minister pointed out that reaching every eligible beneficiary of any government scheme and achieving the goals of saturation puts an end to discrimination in society while eliminating the scope of corruption. Highlighting the principle of saturation that is adopted by the government for the delivery of every scheme, the Prime Minister gave examples of water connections, pucca houses, electricity connections and gas connections. The Prime Minister said that too much dependence on foreign goods has been a big cause of corruption. He highlighted the government's push towards atmanirbharta in defence and underlined that the possibility of scams is ending as India would be manufacturing its own defence equipment, from rifles to fighter jets to transport aircrafts. Terming CVC an institution that encourages everyone's efforts to ensure transparency, the Prime

Minister recalled his request last time for 'preventive vigilance' and praised the efforts of CVC in that direction. He also asked the vigilance community to think about modernising their audits and inspections. "The will which the government is showing against corruption, the same will is necessary to be seen in all the departments as well. For a developed India, we have to develop such an administrative ecosystem, which has zero tolerance on corruption", he said.

The Prime Minister asked for a system where corruption-related disciplinary proceedings are completed in time-bound mission mode. He also suggested continuous monitoring of criminal cases and asked to devise a way of ranking departments on the basis of pending corruption cases and publishing the related reports on a monthly or quarterly basis. The Prime Minister also asked for streamlining of the vigilance clearance process with the help of technology. There is a need for auditing the data of public grievances so that we can go to the root causes of corruption in the concerned department, the Prime Minister added.

The Prime Minister stressed the need to bring in common citizens in the work of keeping a vigil over corruption. "No matter how powerful the corrupt may be, they should not be saved under any circumstances, it is the responsibility of organisations like you. No corrupt person should get political-social support, every corrupt person should be put in the dock by the society, it is also necessary to create this environment", he said. Touching upon a worrying trend, the Prime Minister said "We have seen that many times the corrupt people are glorified in spite of being jailed even after being proven to be corrupt. This situation is not good for Indian society. Even today, some people give arguments in favour of the corrupt who have been found guilty. It is very necessary for such people, such forces to be made aware of their duty by society. In this also concrete action taken by your department has a big role."

The Prime Minister emphasised that institutions acting against the corrupt and corruption like the CVC, have no need to be defensive in any way. He stressed that there is no requirement to work on any political agenda but to work towards making the lives of ordinary citizens simpler. "Those who have vested interests will try to obstruct the proceedings and defame individuals associated with these institutions", the Prime Minister interjected, "But Janta Janardan is the form of God, they know and test the truth, and when the time comes, they stand with those in support of the truth". The Prime Minister further urged everyone to walk the path of truth to fulfil their duties with dedication and emphasised, "when you take action with conviction, the whole nation stands with you."

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister said that the responsibility is huge and the challenges keep transforming too. "I am sure that you will continue to play a vital role in building a transparent and competitive ecosystem in Amrit Kaal", the Prime Minister said. He stressed the need for constant dynamism in the methodology to tackle this challenge. The Prime Minister also expressed delight in interacting with the winners of the essay competition and suggested the introduction of a speech competition in the future. Observing that 4 of the 5 winners who received the essay prize for the fight against corruption were girls, the Prime Minister urged the boys to take up the mantle and rally together in this journey. "The importance of cleanliness is understood only when the dirt is eliminated," he added. "Technology is definitely leaving a paper trail of sorts when it comes to tracking those who work outside the ambit of law", the Prime Minister observed, and concluded by stressing the need to adopt technology as much as possible in this fight against corruption. Principal Secretary, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Minister of State for Personnel & Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Cabinet Secretary, Central Vigilance Commissioner, Shri Suresh N. Patel and Vigilance Commissioners Shri P K Srivastava and Shri Arvinda Kumar were those present on the occasion




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