

MONEY 6

PETROL, DIESEL PRICE HIKED
FOR SECOND DAY IN A ROW

WORLD 7

PAK COURT JAILS 2 MORE
AIDES OF 26/11 BRAINS

SPORT 8

HAMSTRING IS FEELING
ABSOLUTELY FINE: ROHIT

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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTAFair distribution of
Covid shots must

Last Thursday, India became the second country after the United States to reach the 9 million Covid-19 mark. This is not an achievement, although policy makers may take solace in the fact that it took 22 days for the deadly infection to travel from 8 million to 9 million. The earlier travel time for a million had at one time touched 11, 12 and 13 days.

It is hardly worth reiterating that we have by no means crossed the danger mark. As the experience of Europe clearly demonstrated, it merely takes the people a small relaxation of vigil for the pandemic to resume its rampage. This was also the case with Delhi, India's national Capital, where the pre-Diwali festivities led to all the gains of the monsoon season being wiped out. It is unknown if the foul air of the city resulting from the burning of stubble in neighbouring States played a part in the Covid-19 spike, but certainly the air people inhaled didn't help.

However, it is difficult to make generalisations about mass gatherings — usually religious festivals — acting as super-spreaders. The Onam festival in Kerala certainly pushed up the numbers of those infected in a State that once claimed to lead the way in pandemic management. Yet, curiously, the secular festival of democracy in Bihar which experienced mass political rallies and zero social distancing, didn't have any visible impact on the spread of the coronavirus.

In West Bengal, the great fear was that the week-long festivities centred on Durga Puja would create a health crisis. The fear was legitimate since the ruling party in the State often conveyed the impression that celebrations took precedence over all other considerations. However, the High Court stepped in with draconian restrictions that the people — with the exception of a small group of the reckless — by and large adhered to. This week the High Court once again stepped in by imposing restrictions on the Chhath Puja, popular among the large Bihari community in the State.

Although Indian companies have negotiated agreements with multinational pharmaceutical giants for the supply of the vaccine, it is still uncertain when adequate supplies will be available in the country. It is certain that the relief over the availability of the vaccine will be coupled with fissures over who gets to the top of the queue. This is an important matter since non-availability of a vaccine that is bound to be in short supply — at least temporarily — will create political complications for any Government, not to mention rampant allegations of nepotism and even profiteering. Having braved the pandemic for nearly a year, the last problem the country must overcome is the fair distribution of a cure whose demand is certain to far exceed supply

demands on the Government haven't become overwhelming. Yet, sooner or later the economic devastation will have political consequences.

No wonder all eyes, all over the world, are on the pharmaceutical companies engaged in finding a vaccine that will ward off the virus. Almost every progress, whether in Oxford or somewhere in Russia, is being closely monitored. So far the results of the tests have been very encouraging and there is an expectation that people will start receiving the miracle jabs by January 2021.

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Having braved the pandemic for nearly a year, the last problem the country must overcome is the fair distribution of a cure whose demand is certain to far exceed supply.

Stop backing terror,
India tells PakistanDelhi summons
Pak envoy to
register protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded security forces for neutralising four Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists in Nagrota, India on Saturday summoned Pakistani envoy here to register its protest over Islamabad's continued backing of terror activities emanating from its soil.

Reiterating its demand that Pakistan must fulfil its international obligations for neutralising four Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists in Nagrota, India on Saturday summoned Pakistani envoy here to register its protest over Islamabad's continued backing of terror activities emanating from its soil.

Registering its protest, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the attack was prevented due to the alertness



of the Indian security forces.

"India reiterated its long-standing demand that Pakistan fulfil its international obligations and bilateral commitments not to allow any territory under its control to be used by terrorists, Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires Aftab Hasan Khan was told that the huge cache of arms, ammunition and explosive material indicated a detailed planning for a major attack to destabilise the peace and security in Jammu & Kashmir to derail the polls to local District Development Councils.

It was demanded that Pakistan desists from its policy of supporting terrorists and terror groups operating from its territory and dismantle the terror infrastructure operated by terrorist outfits to launch attacks in other countries," the MEA further said.

It also added that the Indian Government was "firmly and resolutely committed" to

take all necessary measures to safeguard its national security in the fight against terrorism.

The MEA said the JeM is proscribed by the United Nations and several countries. The Government of India expressed its serious concerns at continued terror attacks by JeM against India.

The JeM has been part of several attacks in India in the past, including the Pulwama attack in February 2019.

The four suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists, who were hiding in a truck, were killed in a three-hour encounter with security forces on the Jammu-Srinagar NH near Nagrota early Thursday.

AIADMK, BJP
to fight Assembly
elections togetherADMK's leaders
announce decision

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu on Saturday said its alliance with the BJP will continue for the 2021 Assembly elections and exuded confidence it will win a hatrick poll next year.

AIADMK top leaders O Panneerselvam and K Palaniswami made the announcement at a Government event here, attended by Union Home Minister and BJP veteran Amit Shah. Chief Minister Palaniswami is the AIADMK Co-Coordinator while Coordinator Panneerselvam is his deputy.

"I would like to inform through this meeting that in the coming election (2021), the victorious alliance of AIADMK and BJP will continue," Panneerselvam said.

Palaniswami, who said Prime Minister Modi and Shah were working towards making the country a superpower,

asserted that "the alliance formed for the Lok Sabha polls will continue."

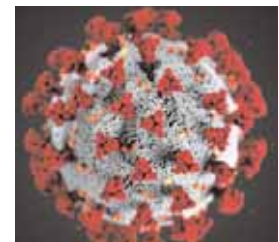
"Our alliance will win maximum seats and AIADMK will retain power," he said.

The AIADMK and the BJP aligned for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, along with others, including PMK, but the combine could win only the lone Theni seat out of the 39 segments in Tamil Nadu, with the ruling party clinching it.

The top leaders' assertion comes against the backdrop of the Government's denial of permission to the BJP's Vel Yatra, aimed at exposing the DMK for "lending support" to an atheist group accused of denigrating Tamil hymn 'Kanda Sashiti Kavacham,' sung in praise of Lord Muruga, citing the Covid-19 pandemic.

The AIADMK had recently lashed out at its saffron ally on the matter and accused it of attempting votebank politics.

BJP State president L Murugan has been courting arrest in different towns after trying to take out the procession despite denial of permission.

46 new +ves in
Bhubaneswar

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Capital city Bhubaneswar on Saturday registered 46 new Covid-19 positive cases, pushing the total positives tally to 30,418. This included 592 positive cases.

Of the new cases, 36 were local contacts and 10 quarantine cases.

Meanwhile, one more person succumbed to the virus on

TOTAL TALLY
RISES TO 30,41824 MORE
INFECTED IN
CUTTACK CITY

the day, increasing the city's total toll to 202.

However, 68 more patients recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 29,603.

In Cuttack, 24 new positives were reported on the day, taking the city's total tally to 15,663. Of the new cases, 12 were from institutional quarantine, 10 local contacts and two from home quarantine cases.

Ayurveda PG doctors can now
do ENT, dental, eye surgeriesGovt allows formal
training in such
procedures part of
their curriculum

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move aimed to meet the shortage of doctors across the country, the Government has allowed the Postgraduate (PG) students of Ayurveda to perform a range of general surgery, including orthopedic, ophthalmology, ENT and dental.

The Centre has issued a gazette notification in this regard allowing Ayurvedic PG passouts to receive formal training for such procedures. The training modules for surgical procedures will be added to the curriculum of Ayurvedic studies.

The amendments in the Indian Medicine Central Council Regulations, 2016 has been carried out to introduce formal training in these procedures as part of the curriculum for postgraduate students of shalya (general surgery) and shalakya tantra (diseases of ear, nose, throat, ENT, eye, head, oro-dentistry) special-



sations.

Union Ayush Secretary Rajesh Kotecha explained the Ministry has specified the procedures that an Ayurveda doctor can conduct while handling a patient.

The gazette notification issued on November 19 stated that during the period of study, the PG scholar of Shalya and Shalakya shall be practically trained to acquaint with as well as independently performing specified activities so that after completion of his/her PG degree, he/she is able to perform the procedures independently.

As per the legislation, Ayurveda practitioners can legally perform common procedures such as skin grafting,

cataract surgery, and root canal treatment.

As per the amendments, the complete list of procedures that will be taught in MS (Ayurved) Shalya tantra will include perianal abscess, breast abscess, axillary abscess, cellulitis, all types of skin grafting, ear lobe repair, excision of the simple cyst and benign tumours (lipoma, fibroma, schwannoma, etc) of non-vital organs, excision/amputation of gangrene.

They will also be allowed to take up traumatic wound management all types of suturing, haemostatic ligatures, ligation and repair of tendon and muscles, removal of metallic and non-metallic foreign bodies from non-vital organs among many other areas.

Under MS (Ayurved) Shalakya Tantra, the Ayurveda doctor can practice in medical areas pertaining to diseases of eyelids such as Glaucoma and trained to carry out various surgery, including cataract surgery.

The practitioners will also be eligible to conduct local Anesthesia in the eye, and varied surgeries related to nose, ear, and dental-related medical issues.

Covid-19
IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 90,92,177

DEATHS: 1,33,218

RECOVERED:

85,16,511

ACTIVE: 4,40,399



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	17,74,455	46,573	16,47,004
Karnataka	8,71,342	11,641	8,34,968
Andhra Pradesh	8,61,092	6,927	8,39,395
Tamil Nadu	7,68,340	11,586	7,43,838
Kerala	5,57,442	2,023	4,88,437
Uttar Pradesh	5,24,223	7,524	4,93,228
Delhi	5,23,117	8,270	4,75,106
West Bengal	4,52,770	7,976	4,19,403
Odisha	3,13,323	1,678	3,03,897
Telangana	2,62,653	1,426	2,49,157
Rajasthan	2,40,676	2,146	2,16,579
Bihar	2,30,247	1,216	2,23,615
Chhattisgarh	2,19,404	2,691	1,96,896
Haryana	2,15,021	2,163	1,92,533
Assam	2,11,427	973	2,07,219
Gujarat	1,95,917	3,846	1,78,886

57 trainee officers
test Covid +ve at
Mussoorie centre

New Delhi: As many as 57 out of 428 trainee civil service officers have tested Covid positive at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) at Mussoorie in the last 24 hours, prompting authorities to close "all non-essential departments" there.

The co-curricular activities have been suspended till further order.

Officers found infected have been quarantined and 162 people have been examined while the remaining staff were also investigated. Sanjeev Chopra, director of LBSNAA, said, "A total of 33 OTs (Officer Trainees) tested Covid-19 positive on Friday."

However, the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances & Pensions said that 57 officer trainees have tested COVID positive at LBSNAA since November 20, 2020.

Covid reinfection
unlikely for six
months: Study

London: A new UK study on Saturday suggests that individuals who have previously had Covid-19 are highly unlikely to contract the illness again for at least six months following their first infection.

The study, done as part of a major collaboration between the University of Oxford and Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) NHS Foundation Trust, suggests that most people are unlikely to get Covid-19 again if they have already had it in the previous six months.

"This is really good news because we can be confident that, at least in the short term, most people who get Covid-19 won't get it again," said Professor David Eyre of the University of Oxford's Nuffield Department of Population Health, one of the authors of the paper.

17 more
die; State
Covid toll
now 1,625■ 778 new +ves;
total tally
3,13,323■ 1,011 recovery;
total recoveries
3,04,968

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As many as 17 more Covid-19 deaths were reported in the State on Saturday, with which the total toll climbed to 1,625, the Health and Family Welfare Department said.

Five deaths were reported from Sundargarh district, three from Keonjhar, two each from Cuttack and Ganjam and one each from Khordha (Bhubaneswar), Mayurbhanj, Puri, Deogarh and Jagatsinghpur. Meanwhile, 778 new positive cases were reported on the day from all 30 districts and the State pool, pushing the total positives' tally to 3,13,323.

Continued on Page 4

Uproar in House
over Govt move
to close schools○ Congress' Bahinipati threatens
to commit suicide
○ Govt to bring motion for
detailed debate

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Assembly Saturday witnessed uproarious scenes with both Opposition Congress and BJP members cornering the BJD Government over its move to close down thousands of schools on the plea of less students' attendance.

The issue was raised by Congress Legislature Party

Leader Narasingha Mishra, who said that as education is a fundamental right for all, the Government should immediately roll back its decision. "If schools are closed, what will be the fate of students and teachers," he asked. Leader of the Opposition Pradipta Naik of BJP also strongly criticised the decision to shut down schools on some plea or the other.

Continued on Page 4

Custodial deaths
rock Assembly
for second day

OPP DEMANDS CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST PURI SP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The alleged custodial deaths in Puri and Birmitrapur continued to rock the State Assembly for the second consecutive day on Saturday with Opposition BJP and Congress demanding stringent action against the erring police personnel.

The issue was raised by Leader of Opposition Pradipta Kumar Naik (BJP) as soon as the House assembled for the day. He rejected the Government's action of transferring Puri SP Akileshwar

Singh and demanded his suspension.

"K Ramesh was picked up by police at the SP's instruction. Ramesh was hacked to death at the police station. However, the SP says Ramesh died following a scuffle with police. His transfer is just eyewash to divert public attention. A detailed discussion should be conducted through a motion in the House," Naik said.

He also alleged that Ramesh's cremation was not done according to the Hindu tradition.

Continued on Page 4

HOME THEATRE

Predictable & boring



MISMATCHED
Netflix
***ing: Prajakta Koli, Rohit Saraf, Muskaan Jafari, Devyani Shorey, Taaruk Raina, Vihaan Samat, Rannvijay Singh, Suhasini Mulay, Vidya Malvade**
Rated: 5/10

This film is based on Sandhya Menon's book *When Dimple Met Rishi* and the series has been written by Gazal Dhaliwal and directed by Akarsh Khurana and Nipun Dharmadhikari. On the face of it, *Mismatched* is a light rom-com and at the heart of it are diverse students. This is something that the younger viewers are going to identify with. But then given the theme and the story of the movie, this one is totally for the teenagers — those between the ages of 16 to 19 — young, angry, rebelling, want to have fun, experimenting and just being themselves away from the prying eyes of their parents.

Then there is the lead pair. A girl who only has one thing in mind — to excel and have a career — unlike her mother who only wants to see her daughter married. The boy, a romantic and a

Bollywood movie fan is looking for a wife. Yes, at 18. Sounds bizarre. But it is funny to see how he goes about winning his girl.

But this is make-belief and there has to be drama and nothing comes easy in reel life or real. There are bound to be twists and turns and there are several here.

But if you are the kind of person who likes to watch shows that have a clear-cut ending, this one be avoided since it is season one and given by how things end here, season 2 is definitely on the cards. When? Time will tell. Also, those who are always looking for meaningful content, this is predictable and somewhat boring, at least it will be for the adults. The teenagers are sure to find a connection and see themselves in at least one of the several characters.

While it is interesting to see diverse characters, since the focus is on the lead all the time, the back stories of the others have not been explored even when each has one. This means that there isn't much depth to the characters, at least for now.

Overall, one can binge watch these six episodes. — Shalini Saksena

A fun Christmas watch

THE PRINCESS SWITCH: SWITCHED AGAIN
Netflix
***ing: Vanessa Hudgens, Sam Palladio, Mark Fleischmann, Mia Lloyd, Nick Sagar, Suanne Braun, Lachlan Nieboer**
Rated: 6/10

Those who saw the original, this sequel will only be a takeoff where things left off. However, one does have to see the first one to enjoy this rather cute but preposterous love story. Preposterous because not only are there three Vanessa Hudgens but they switch again just so one from the original pair is able to spend time with her ex and they need closure while everyone around them is hell bent on getting them together

because they look sweet together.

Preposterous because one of the three Hudgens' is a villain and wants the crown for herself, steals all the jewels and disappear to a non-extradition country! Her own millions have sadly disappeared and her minions are not below stealing or kidnapping from the royalty even though she is one.

But it is a Christmas movie as well and everything has to be sweet and cute with plenty of love thrown in for good measure.

Also, one can't have a Christmas movie where the halls and the entire façade doesn't scream Christmas in bold letters. With everything warm and fuzzy around you, all you have to do is sit back with a mug of hot chocolate and enjoy this one.

— Shalini Saksena

Sets the Christmas mood

HOLIDAY HOME MAKEOVER WITH MR CHRISTMAS
Netflix
***ing: Benjamin Bradley**
Rated: 6/10

Even though Christmas is more than a month away, people will tell you that there isn't enough time to ensure things are in place if you want to get into the spirit of this festival. *Holiday Home Makeover with Mr Christmas* with Benjamin Bradley who is known in the industry and his clients as a designer of incredibly detailed, atmospheric and beautiful interiors is a series just right for you if you want to know how things are done.

If you don't know how to do it right, then also, the show is interesting to

watch. So much so that one actually wants to go out there but all the decorations there are so make one's home welcoming and full of the festival spirit with family and friends and good food to eat.

One can always tweak it to Indian tastes and we do love a festival and love to celebrate it with all its trimmings — tree, food and OTT decorations. And even if you don't have to go all overboard, Bradley gives little gems of advice on how one can still celebrate without being ostentatious and staying away from the commercial aspect of this festival.

But it is difficult to stay grounded when he goes around doing the absolutely beautiful home transformation. All one wants is to enjoy the brilliance of the reveal.

— Shalini Saksena

A SIMPLE MURDER
SonyLiv, 7 Episodes
***ing: Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub, Priya Anand and others**
Rated: 5/10

A lot of content is being generated on the OTT platform and in a hurry at that. Reason is simple, once the cinemas open and start getting populated the relegation of alternate

NOT SO SIMPLE AFTER ALL

entertainment avenues will become a natural process. Of course, committed OTT viewers will stay and carry on with their web series but the vertical surge of viewership will recede — equally vertically once life returns to normal.

Sensing this as no rocket science,

the producers are dishing out jiffies and also getting lapped up by home bound bored viewers. *A Simple Murder*, in that sense is not so much of a drag, but calling it run-of-the-mill small budget series would not be an exaggeration.

Greed is of course at the centre of

the story revolving around a proposed *supari* killing but on actual show is the degeneration of society at large. Be it marital relationship, adultery, sexual harassment at office, political criminal nexus, contract killing or, for that matter, even honour killing and inter-religion marriages, there is a peep into

the pace is slow even though there is so much happening all at the same time. It is amazing to see how the makers have slowed the storyline without compromising on the tautness and the whole nail-biting thing to know what comes next.

There are so many characters and their stories and each intertwined rather beautifully to bring you a tale of a father's love for his son and how a parent would go to any lengths to protect their child whatever be the cost, even it means at the cost of one's profession and belief.

It is definitely a show that is not to be missed. Unfortunately, one will have to wait and see what the final outcome of this one will be since only half will be aired from December 6, 2020. The series will also air on Zee Cafe.

— Shalini Saksena

Reality bites, and how!

DAS CAPITAL – GULAMON KI RAJDHANI
On Cinemapreneur
***ing:Yashpal Sharma & others**
Rated: 5.5/10

If you don't mind added depression in these Corona days, *Das Capital* will grip you with a dark drama embedded in a complete loss of faith in humanity and humanness. Seeped in corruption, our society has nowhere to go except to hell and there is no gentle way of saying this. *Das Capital* encases the total ruination of man's integrity, his existential compulsions and his ugly will to survive the life and times of modernity, whatever it takes. And if it takes selling his loving wife's dead body to skeleton sellers, so be it.

Yashpal Sharma gives a stellar performance throwing up all this dirt at you with such convincing depression that you would be part of his society to not get affected.

This story of poverty, corruption and all that a rural society is beset with unfolds in the

villages of Bihar where the BDO is king and king-maker, a shark who has no qualms in biting away the last flesh of decency from a trait called scruples. He makes money and down the line the racket eats up the insides of everybody — the common man, the clerks and even the crops and vegetation of the area.

What gets you in the end is the fact that all this is reality and it happens all the time as so-called well meaning administrators, politicians and NGOs look the other way, if at all they are not party to the chain of organised corruption.

Yashpal as a reserve quota clerk trying to make ends meet gives a reality slap to the audience with his topline performance which brings tears to your eyes along with his.

You cry with him, for him and ultimately for yourself for living in such torrid times where the life and death of a common man is of no consequence whatsoever.

Das Capital is a very gripping drama but too negative to take in, in such negative times.

all aspects of what urban jungles ae all about.

Showcasing such wholesome negativity comes with obvious baggage and that's what *A Simple Murder* carries with a lot of unease.

The characterisation and the actors chosen for it complement each other with excellence but for a story to carry on through the seven episodes and then into a second season, there needs to be something more.

TELLY TALE

FUN FILLED DIWALI WITH ABHIGYA

While the pandemic might have posed its own challenges for all of us this year, Diwali brought with it a ray of hope. To delight its viewers, Zee TV had a special Diwali surprise in store for audiences with a three-hour special



episode of *Kumkum Bhagya*, *Jashn Milan Ka*. Fans of the show had been waiting with bated breath for Pragya to return to Abhi's house. With the festival marking a new beginning for the audience's favourite on-screen *jodi*, viewers got a chance to witness Pragya receiving a *bahu*-like welcome from Dadi, followed by Abhi Pragya performing the Diwali rituals together with hope in their hearts.

The fun and entertainment quotient of the show doubled up as Abhi calls for a Diwali celebration at his house and joining him were all the popular Zee TV faces like Karan-Preeta (Dheera) Dhoopar and Shradha Arya), Ranbir-Prachi (Krishna Kaul and Mugdha Chapekar), Agasty-Chhoti Guddan (Savi Thakur and Kanika Mann) and Rishabh-Shrishti (Manit Joura and Anjum Fakhir) along with TV stars like Krystle D'Souza, Surbhi Jyoti, Avinash Mishra, Vrushika Mehta and Deepika Singh.

During the shoot of *Jashn Milan Ka*, Sriti Jha and Shabir Ahluwalia's passionate act left everyone mesmerised. The *Kumkum Bhagya* stars swayed to romantic songs like *Ve Maahi* and *Tu Hi Yaar Mera* and we have to say that their chemistry was out of this world. But what was surprising was that our favourite Abhi and Pragya pulled off this flawless act without any prior rehearsals. Their steps, their co-ordination and their expressions were all on point as these seasoned actors danced in sync and complemented each other extremely well.

Talking about their *Jashn Milan Ka* act, Shabir Ahluwalia revealed: "It was absolutely fun performing with Sriti once again. We've done several acts together, but this one was special. However, we

didn't get any time at all to rehearse. First of all, we were shooting for *Kumkum Bhagya* back-to-back and after that, we wanted to avoid contact with a lot of people as much as possible during the pandemic. Hence, we came directly to the set on the day of the shoot, we went over the steps with our choreographers and then went for the take. It all went smoothly, and it was really fun."

Sriti Jha also added: "It was a beautiful act, and we had some really amazing songs, and the choreography was simple and sweet. So, it was easy to get into the groove of things without much effort. It is always great dancing with Shabir and we had lots of fun while shooting for *Jashn Milan Ka*."

While Sriti and Shabir have reunited, Alia (Reyhnaa Pandit) is planning a new twist. What will happen next in AbhiGya's life?

INDIAN IDOLS MEET KAPIL

With *Indian Idol Season 12* on the anvil, this weekend, *The Kapil Sharma Show* will extend a warm welcome to the judges Himesh Reshammiya and Vishal Dadlani along with the charming host of the show, Aditya Narayan. Apart from all the fun and banter, there is a little surprise in store for the viewers. The viewers will be privy to some of the *Indian Idol* aspirants of this season — Mohd Danish, Shanmukha Priya, Sireesha Bhagavatula, Ashish Kulkarni and Anjali Gaikwad. These talented singers had the



entire cast of *TKSS* in awe with their unique *jugalbandi*!

If this is a teaser, then we can't keep calm for the upcoming *Indian Idol S12* which is all set to premiere on November 28 and will air every Sat-Sun from 8 pm onwards.

RAJU SRIVASTAV IS A FAN OF HAPPY

Known for his incredible comic timing and excellent mass appeal, ace comedian, Raju Srivastav recently disclosed how much he loves and enjoys watching &TV's *Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai* and *Happu Ki Ultan Paltan*, both which have a strong Kanpur flavour in dialect and narrative. Raju being a Kanpur native, is a 'High Voltage Fan' of both these shows.

On his two favourite shows, Raju Srivastav says: "I am from Kanpur as you all know, and my family and I thoroughly enjoy watching the two shows. *Dono hi*



shows *mein ek apnapan hai aur dhansu Kanpuria jungle hain joh sabhi ko hasate hain*. We have till date never missed a single episode. I especially love Happu Singh and his family, their constant *nok-jhoks* and typical Kanpuria one-liners — *Niyocchavar Kar Do, Arrey Dada, Gurde Chheel Denge, Guiyaan Ke Khet Mein, Kantaap, Nimbu Nichod Denge, Bhaukal, Chiraand*, are my favourites. *Sabhi kirdaron ka chikai karne ka andaaz nirala hain. Mein toh Kehta Hoon, agar aap UP ya Delhi ke nivasi hain toh you are very lucky as now both these shows are now available in all the pay packs of Den cable. Dono shows ke naye episodes dekh kar aap sabhi haste-haste lotpot ho jayegein!*"

Replying to Raju ji, Daroga Happu Singh (Yogesh Tripathi) from &TV's *Happu Ki Ultan Paltan* says: "Thank you, Raju ji, for your immense love and encouragement. We are quite humbled and feel elated to be admired by our own *kanpur ke, aur bharat ke itne bade aur mashqoor haasy abhineta. Ab iss Khushi ke saath, hum ek aur khushi bhi jod dete hain. Toh khoob haste rahiye aur &TV ke shows ko apne poore parivaar se saath roz maaze se dekhite rahiye.*"

AECL SEASON 3 IS HERE

After the successful completion of IPL 2020, the fun is yet to continue for the cricket lovers. As the fans are eager to watch their favourite celebrities and artists, battling it out on the ground with bat and ball, Artist Event Cricket League (AECL) is soon to commence their upcoming Season 3 of the league.

Formed in 2019, AECL has been a mega success with eight and 16 teams participating in the respective seasons. Eminent and renowned personalities including Sapna Choudhary, Hussain Kuwajerwala, Millind Gaba, Shibani Kashyap, Ashok Mastie, Tarun Dutt and DJ Sumit Sethi were present along with the founder/MD of AECL Ashish Mathur to officially announce the launch.

The matches will be played with a tennis ball with 12 overs for each side during the league stage and 15 overs for each side during the knockout stages.

‘You should be able to convince audience’

RATI PANDEY, who plays Adi Parashakti on Dangal TV's Devi Adi Parashakti, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her fear of getting back to shoot, why she chose to do reality shows and her Bollywood plans

■ How tough was it to come back to shoot after lockdown opened?

As much as I was excited to be back on set but there was also a sense of fear. Actors don't have the luxury to always wear a mask so that was something I was scared of. But I was sure that our producers took all the precautions and sanitised the sets frequently. Our shots were also spaced out and only the people required were allowed on the sets. So yes, it was fun yet different.

■ How's your equation with the co-stars? Is there a bit of awkwardness due to social distancing that needs to be maintained?

The equation was nice as I knew Kanan and Tarun and are good friends. Before the lockdown we had a really good time but after the lockdown we had to shoot separately to follow social distancing. We hardly met. We miss each other while shooting.

■ Is the costume heavy to walk around in? How much time does it take to be ready?

Definitely the costume is heavy. It used to take two hours to get ready. We have assumed our Gods and Goddesses wearing heavy jewellery so I had to follow that according to the genre of the show. Also, after the lockdown I had to do my own make-up and it used to take time as we had to sanitise our rooms and maintain hygiene. It has already been four months and I have now started getting used to this.

■ You have been part of many reality shows as well. What was the attraction?

I have not been a part of many reality shows apart from two or three probably. It's a really different experience altogether. Working for daily soaps is a bit stressful, you are always sleep deprived and it's kind of monotonous. So, it was a really good break from that genre. The good thing about reality shows is that you get to be yourself and as an individual you get to show your own talent. I love dance shows but I don't think I'll be a part of any conversational show.

■ Did you have apprehensions in taking up Shaadi Mubarak?

I was a little apprehensive about the character as it was an elderly one. When I watched the show, I came to know that it was a central character and there will be a love angle and it's an interesting concept. The lead of the show is a wedding planner so we get to do a lot of new things daily as we interact with different characters and it's a mixture of lot of emotions and



The costume is heavy. It used to take two hours to get ready. We have assumed our Gods and Goddesses wearing heavy jewellery so I had to follow that. Also, after the lockdown I had to do my own make-up and it took time as we had to follow proper hygiene as well

relationships. It's a different show.

■ How easy is it to play Preeti Jindal?

I don't consider any character as easy as I am still a learner in this industry. Even today I am nervous on the first day of shoots. It takes time for me to get into the skin of the character. But yes, now I am at ease. The main concern with Preeti Jindal was that it was a replacement and I have never replaced anyone before. It was a challenge as the audience has seen the character as some other person. I am sure I will leave a mark but let's hope the audience accepts me.

■ Is it okay to draw comparisons when actors are replaced?

Everybody has their own individuality and personality and pattern of performing. Comparing is like an expectation for the actor to be a mimicry artist. The most important aspect is to get into the skin of the character and then add in your element. You should be able to convince the audience by your performance and that is what matters.

■ You have hosted shows as well. How has the experience been?

I have hosted a couple of shows and I love doing it. I would love to get such opportunities. It is very different from acting. I feel actors should not be bound to acting. They must explore all fields of this fraternity. So, I would love to do it again

■ What about Bollywood plans?

Every actor dream's to be in Bollywood. So yes, still looking forward. Let's see what's there.

‘Custodial’ torture: 6 Pipili youths admitted to SCB

DIG ORDERS PROBE

PNS ■ PURI

Close on the heels of the two alleged deaths in police custody in Puri and Sundargarh, another allegation of custodial torture was reported from Pipili on Saturday.

As many as six persons, arrested by the police in connection with the assault on a youth at Bhabanipur village under the Pipili police station last week, were admitted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack with multiple injury marks on their bodies.

On November 13, the six youths- identified as Hafiz

Khan (25), Pratap Kumar Behera (23), Raju Behera (18), Mohammad Tafig alias Juma (18), Jagannath Puspalak alias Jaga (19) and Dharanidhar Behera (24) had allegedly attacked one Sajid Hussain at around 9.30 pm in Pipili with swords over some past enmity.

Sajid was admitted to the Pipili Community Health Centre (CHC) and later shifted to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar where he is stated to be critical.

Based on a complaint made by Sajid’s brother, Jahid Hussain, the six accused were arrested by the Pipili police the next day. Police also seized two swords and a bike from their possession.

The six accused were kept in custody for around six days at the Pipili PS. They were forwarded to the court and then sent to the Nimapada jail on November 19. However, the jail authorities refused to lodge the six accused after seeing their health condition.

Later, police took the six accused to the Nimpada Government Hospital from where the doctors immediately referred them to the SCB Hospital in Cuttack.

However, the Pipili SDPO has refuted the allegation of police excess and said the accused are undergoing treatment since they were ill.

Meanwhile, the Central Range DIG has ordered an inquiry into the incident.

Baripada to get railway heritage museum

PNS ■ BARIPADA

In an initiative to recount and preserve the glorious history of the erstwhile Mayurbhanj kingdom, the Ministry of Railways has decided to build a heritage museum at the Baripada railway station, for which the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has begun a tender process involving a cost of over Rs 1 crore.

The proposed museum would display two steam engines now placed in front of the Baripada railway station, train compartments as well as the history Mayurbhanj monarchy. The Baripada railway station, which is more than a century-old, still carries the majesty of the British rule. It shows the contribution of Mayurbhanj King towards



development of kingdom.

The Rupsa-Baripada-Bangiriposi Narrow Gauge line was introduced by the erstwhile Mayurbhanj ruler Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanj Deo. The first section of 52 km from Rupsa to Baripada was inaugurated on January 20 in 1905.

An agreement was inked between the king and the then

Bengal Nagpur Railway (now South Eastern Railway) on December 2, 1918 for expansion of 9.5 km railway from Bangiriposi to Talabandha. The project was completed on July 15, 1920.

After the merger of Mayurbhanj with Odisha on January 1, 1949, the railway section in Baripada remained neglected.

INBRIEF

MINORITIES DEMAND RESERVED ASSEMBLY SEAT

Bhubaneswar: The Dr Naveen Badanayak Foundation held a workshop here for the minority of Gajapati district and demanded for an Assembly seat for the minority communities in 2024 general elections. Panchayati Raj, H&UD Minister Pratap Jena, who attended as chief guest, said his Govt has taken a lot of initiatives for the development of minorities, tribals and common people at large, particularly in Gajapati district. Rajya Sabha member Muna Khan joined as guest of honour. Many delegates demanded a reserved seat in the Assembly for the Christian community. Bishop Dr Pallab Lima may be given a BJD ticket to contest from Gajapati in 2024 polls, they said.

CRPF JAWAN CREMATED IN JAGATSINGHPUR

Jagatsinghpur: The mortal remains of CRPF jawan Ranjan Mohanty, who was martyred at Srinagar on November 18, were cremated in his native village Chhatiana under Jamugaon panchayat in Naugaon block on Thursday. Earlier, the CRPF headquarters at Srinagar had sent body to his family members. The body was taken to the village crematorium by a procession of hundreds of local residents, including prominent personalities.

B’PUR ST VINCENT’S SCHOOL CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION DAY

Brahmapur: To Commemorate the adaption of the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949. The St Vincent’s Convent School here organised virtual competitions like speech, slogan writing and painting competitions on Friday for Classes-I to X. A total of 180 students participated in the competitions. The best speakers and artists were awarded.



KIIT convocation: 7,135 students get degrees

Ravi Shankar, SK Chaudhary, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra honoured

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A total of 7,135 students of the 2019-20 graduating batch of the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University here received their degrees at its 16th annual convocation held in virtual mode on Saturday from chief guest Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder, Grameen Bank and Nobel Peace Laureate, Bangladesh in the presence of

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder, Art of Living and other dignitaries.

The university conferred Honoris Causa degrees of DLitt on Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and SK Chaudhary, CMD, IRCON International Ltd and Honoris Causa Degree of DSc on “Cyclone Man of India” Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology, Government of India.

In his introductory address, KIIT & KISS founder Prof Achyuta Samanta said he has imagined and is relentlessly working for “A World of Three Zeroes”, zero poverty, zero unemployment and zero net carbon emissions.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar said, “The purpose of education is to



build a strong personality that is equipped to convert new challenges into opportunities and broadmindedness and humility to continue learning forever.”

SK Chaudhary said, “KIIT and its sister institution Kalinga

Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) have made tremendous contributions in the field of education in the last two decades. I congratulate the founder of KIIT & KISS for doing such a great service to the society.”

3-year-old boy enters Exclusive World Records

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A three-year-old wonder boy from Cuttack CDA has entered into the Exclusive World Records for his talents.

K Sai Pratyush, son of K Sai Kishore and Deepthirekha Mohanty has achieved the feat for reciting rhymes in a broken manner and English alphabets.

He has been appreciated for identifying colours, animals, fruits, vegetables, body parts, shapes, telling national symbols, numbers (1-30), rhymes, month names, days of week, national anthem and reciting English alphabets.



The boy is a pre-nursery student. As his father is a South Indian and mother an Odia, he had started speaking in multiple languages from the beginning. He can recite 36 types of rhymes in Odia, Telugu, Hindi and English.

Pratyush earlier also entered the India Book of Records for his talents.

Rains, dense fog likely in 3 days

BHUBANESWAR:Several parts of Odisha are likely to experience rainfall and dense fog in next three days due to a fresh low pressure formed over equatorial Indian Ocean and the adjoining parts of Bay of Bengal, informed the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, on Saturday.

A low pressure area has formed over Equatorial Indian Ocean and the adjoining central parts of South Bay of Bengal. It is likely to concen-

trate into a depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal during next 48 hours and intensify further during subsequent 48 hours. It is very likely to move west-north-west-wards towards Sri Lanka and reach Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts on November 25.

Under its effect, some parts of Odisha are likely to receive rain and to be covered with dense fog from today till November 24.

PNS

ATM loot bid foiled by locals in city

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Some alert locals foiled an ATM loot attempt by miscreants in the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Road under the Laxmisagar police station in the wee hours of Saturday.

The looters targeted the Indian Bank ATM situated but failed to execute the loot after locals rushed to the spot hearing noise from inside the kiosk. While one person was arrested so far, police are interrogating four others in this connection.

City DCP Umashankar Dash said the incident took place at around 4 am today. “The miscreants had come with iron rods and screwdriver to break open the ATM. But locals rushed and immediately alerted the police. There was a scuffle between locals and miscreants during which four

■ 5 HELD BY COPS

■ THE LOOTERS TARGETED THE INDIAN BANK ATM

looters managed to escape from the spot.”

“The one who was nabbed by locals was handed over to police. Based on his confession, we have managed to nab four others. All five are being questioned and we are verifying if they were involved in such loot cases earlier. Further investigation will lead us to their detailed identification and whether they have a criminal record,” added the DCP.

Most probably, all the detainees are residents of nearby slums, he said.

CM seeks J’khand coop for Ichha Dam

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday wrote to his Jharkhand counterpart Hemanta Soren seeking cooperation in an early completion of the Ichha Dam over river Kharkhai in Jharkhand for benefit of farmers belonging to both States.

Patnaik also sought Soren’s cooperation for storage of water up to Full Reservoir Level (FRL) in the Chandil Dam in monsoon for mitigation of flood in Odisha. He said the Subarnarekha irrigation project of Odisha would be able to utilise its full potential only after completion of the Ichha Dam in Jharkhand.A sum of Rs 1,026.91 crore has so far been paid to Jharkhand for the above works against an estimated share cost of Rs 1,208 crore of Odisha, he stated.

SCHOOL CLOSURE MOVE Abhibhabak Mahasangha holds all-party meet

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An all-party meeting of 18 political parties and 17 civil society organisations was convened by the Odisha Abhibhabak Mahasangha (OAM) on Friday over the move of the State Government to close over 14,000 schools on ground of less student strength.

As per their decision, a delegation will meet the Chief Minister and request him to withdraw the decision of closure of schools.

The SMC/ Village Committees of schools which are targeted to be closed will submit the memorandum through the Collector/ DEO to the Chief Minister to reverse the decision.

Besides, district level conferences will be organised involving political parties, civil societies, educationists, teacher’s organisations etc against the move.

They urged the Government to convene a consultation with experts, educationists, political parties to find out alternative of the present crisis in school education.

It was also resolves to form a broader platform of political parties, civil societies, teachers organisations, SMCs to save education.

A committee of experts will work out an alternative to the crisis in education.

While the meeting was presided over by OAM chairman Basudev Bhatt, leaders of BJD Devi Mishra, BJP general secretary Pritivraj Harichandan, CPI (M) leader Alrikishore Patnaik, former Union Minister Brajakishore Tripathy, Ripunath Seth, (Congress)Amiya Pandav, Ashish Kanungo, Jyoti Mohapatra, Judhistira Mohapatra, Nishikanta Mohapatra from AAP among others were present.

RUDE BEHAVIOUR

Ganjam PRI representatives seek Tehsildar transfer

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA ■ BRAHMAPUR

In an unprecedented move, many Sarapanchs and Samiti Members under Kukudakhani Block along with the office bearers of the Sarapanch Sangh submitted a memorandum for the Chief Minister demanding immediate transfer of Kukudakhandi Tehsildar Ipsita Priyadarshini Mishra for her alleged rude behavior towards the elected representatives and the general public.

Right from the day one of taking charge, Kukudakhandi Tehsildar Mishra instead of providing services and benefits to the poor and homeless people under various development schemes has been misbehaving with them, they alleged in a memorandum.

The public in general and poor people in particular are being harassed regularly, they alleged.

The Tehsildar locks the main gate of the Tehsil Office even during office hours and asks the poor people and the general public who come to the office on different scores to stand outside without any reason. After standing under the hot sun outside the main gate, the Tehsildar asks the people to go home and never allows them to meet her and ventilate their grievances for which she is legally duty bound, the memorandum added.

Expressing concern, the memorandum pointed out that, on October 14 when a Panchayat Samiti meeting was going on in the block premises, the Tehsildar became extremely arrogant and misbehaved with the elected representatives those who wanted some clarifications during the discussion. She, instead of addressing the concerns of the members, became furious and left the meeting venue threat-

ening the elected representatives not to cooperate in any development work of the block. Her behavior is unprecedented and a disgrace to the elected representatives/members, the memorandum alleged further.

Because of her noncooperation and negligence, many deserving and qualifying beneficiaries of the Kukudakhandi block are being deprived of benefits under Biju Pucca Home scheme, Prime Minister Awas Yojana and several such welfare schemes. Similarly, the Tehsildar has also deliberately neglected and ignored the distribution of Patta (mutation) of Grama Kantak Land to hundreds of poor and homeless villagers, the memorandum said.

They demanded immediate transfer of Tehsildar Mishra and warned of launching agitation if the demand was not fulfilled by November 25.

In Gajapati ₹10.26-cr ganja plants destroyed

The police torched around 1.26 Lakh ganja plants in this raid

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

The Excise Department and Udayagiri police on Saturday destroyed illegal ganja plantation worth about ₹10.26 crore in Bimanapura village under Kirana panchayat of Nuagada block in Gajapati district. The Udayagiri police and Excise personnel conducted a joint raid under the supervision of Gajapati SP Tapan Kumar Patnaik, Excise Superintendent Pradipta Kumar Panigrahi and Nuagada Additional Tehsildar Asish Kumar Pradhan in the village and destroyed the ganja cultivation spread over 51 acres of forest land. The police torched around 1.26 Lakh ganja plants in this raid. The destroyed cannabis plants are estimated to be worth 10.26 crore.

Odisha bags 2 nat’l fisheries awards

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State received two prestigious national level fisheries awards on the occasion of ‘World Fisheries Day’ during an event organised on Saturday in New Delhi. The State bagged the “Best Marine State” award and Kalahandi district received the “Best District” award in Inland fisheries sector. The awards were presented by Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Giriraj Singh in presence of Minister of State Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Sanjeev Kumar Balyan along with dignitaries from Government of India.

While the ‘Best Marine State’ award carries a financial incentive of Rs 10 lakh, the ‘Best Inland District’ award for Kalahandi district carries a financial incentive of Rs 3 lakh.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated the Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department and Kalahandi District Administration for receiving the awards.

Man killed in group clash in Keonjhar

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

A fight over a trivial matter turned fatal when a person died in a group clash at Anra village under the Nandipada police station in Keonjhar district on Saturday. The diseased was identified as Anand Nayak.

As per sources, a hen of one Laxmidhar Mallick of Anra village had strayed into the vegetable garden of one Bhimsen Khandei three days ago. But it died after eating the vegetables sprayed with pesticide that led to a heated altercation between Laxidhar and Bhimsen. Later, a village meeting was held on Friday evening to settle the dispute.

However, an altercation broke out again and it led to a group clash. During the clash, Anand suffered critical injuries. He was immediately rushed to a hospital in Bhadrak and later shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack, where he died.

Industry assns’ stir put on hold

BHUBANESWAR:The DEPM rate system will continue further. Taking the apprehension of small and medium-scale industries of the State, the State Govt has taken this decision. The Joint Action Committee of Industries’ Associations thanked CM Naveen Patnaik for his intervention to save thousands of MSEs, which generate lakhs of employments.

The Govt took the decision at a meeting on Nov 18 convened by Principal Secretary, MSME Dept, Satyabrata Sahu. Representatives of various industry associations were present. President, OSSIA Smarajit Mohanty; president, OYEA Mihir Kanungo; secretary general OASME Satwik Swain; Chairman, OIA Abani Kanungo; president, UPMA Bhagirathi Nanda on behalf of the entire industrial fraternity of the State decided to put on hold the proposed sit-in dharna scheduled to be held on November 21.

Congress to back Nov 26 TU bandh

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha unit of Congress would extend full support to the nationwide strike call given by the central trade unions on November 26 in protest against the Central Government’s policies.

The decision was taken after the leaders of various central trade unions like INTUC, AITUC,HMS, CITU,AIUTUC and AICCTU met Pradesh Congress Committee president Niranjan Patnaik at the Congress Bhawan here on Saturday.

“Everyone in the Congress including Youth Congress, Chhatra Congress, Mahila Congress and all district-level workers will be requested to extend full support to the Bharat Bandh on November 26,” said Patnaik.

The countrywide shutdown call has been given by the trade unions against the alleged anti-people, anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-nation policies of the Central Government.

In Puri BJP holds protest, gives ₹1 lakh to Ramesh’s kin

PNS ■ PURI

In protest against the death of IK Ramesh in the Baselisahi police station in the town, hundreds of BJP activists led by party national spokesperson Sambit Patra staged a rally from the Gundicha Temple to the district Collector’s office here and handed over a memorandum to Collector Balwant Singh on Saturday.

The activists burnt effigies of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and outgoing Puri SP Akhileswar Singh protest the alleged custodial death of Ramesh.

Sambit Patra said it was not a case of custodial death but a murder in police custody. He met the Collector and demanded a Rs 1-crore compensation to family of Ramesh, safe return of his parents from the undisclosed location kept by police

❑ DEMANDS ₹1-CR AID TO FAMILY

❑ SAMBIT PATRA SAID IT WAS NOT A CASE OF CUSTODIAL DEATH BUT A MURDER IN POLICE CUSTODY

ad arrest of Baselisahi PS IIC.

Puri JP MLA Jayant Sarangi and Brahmagiri BJP MLA Lalitendu Mahapatra accompanied Patra.

Earlier, Patra met Ramesh’s family at Mochisahi and handed over Rs 1 lakh as ex-gratia towards his funeral rites.

M’nadi basin seismic survey begins

The OIL plans to acquire, process and interpret 1,502 LKM of 2D seismic data and 1,670 sqkm of 3D seismic data in five blocks

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday inaugurated a seismic survey of the Oil India Limited (OIL) in the Mahanadi basin (on-land) at Kakatpur in Puri district. The OIL plans to acquire, process and interpret 1,502 LKM of 2D seismic data and 1,670 sqkm of 3D seismic data in five blocks. Interpretation of the data is envisaged to lead to an extensive exploratory drilling campaign in quest of establishing hydrocarbon reserves. Pradhan said commercial production of oil and gas from the Mahanadi basin would be a game changer in the socio-economic development of the State and would also thrust Odisha and eastern India on the path of progress and prosperity in sync with the vision of Purvodaya.

OSOU permanent campus stone laid



PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

Foundation-stone for a permanent campus of the Odisha State Open University was laid on Saturday at Badasinghari Mouza of Sambalpur district by VC Dr Srikant Mohapatra in the presence of Registrar Dr Manas Ranjan Pujari and faculty members.

The university had started

operating on June 19, 2015 from a small temporary building in the GM University campus with the first batch comprising 250 students. Now, it has a students' strength of over 30,000. In 2018, the World Bank under the Odisha Higher Education Project for Excellence and Equity (OHEPEE) had sanctioned Rs 15 crore for a permanent campus of OSOU and 40 acres

of land has been allotted to the university in Badasinghari Mouza adjacent to the GM University second campus and IIM campus near Goshala, Sambalpur. The Higher Education Department has entrusted the responsibility for construction of the boundary wall of OSOU to the Odisha State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OPHWC).

CPET-2020 merit list released

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Higher Education Department on Saturday published the State-wide merit list of the Common PG Entrance Test (CPET)-2020. Students can visit <https://pg.samsodisha.gov.in/> website for more information. The State conducted CPET for the first time for admission into PG courses offered by State universities and colleges. The test was held between October 12 and 22 at 28 centres across the State. A total of 62,942 candidates had appeared at the test out of the 71,789 registered candidates.

17 more die...

From Page 1
Of the new cases, 446 were from quarantine and 332 were local contacts. Angul district recorded the day's highest 68 cases followed by Sundargarh 64, Khordha and Baleswar 61 each, Mayurbhanj and Cuttack 54 each, Keonjhar 53, Sambalpur 40, Deogarh 39, Boudh 37, Kendrapada 36, Bargarh and Jharsuguda 30 each, Balangir 29, Koraput, Ganjam and Jajpur 21 each, Kalahandi 13, Dhenkanal 12, Nabarangpur and Koraput 10 each, Malkangiri, Kandhamal and Nayagarh four each and Gajapati and Subarnapur two each. Besides, 13 positives were reported from the State pool. However, 1,011 patients recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 3,04,968.

Uproar in House over Govt move to close schools

From Page 1
“We demand a special debate through a motion,” Naik said, pointing out that the School and Mass Education Minister has stated that the primary and upper primary schools having less than 40 students would be merged with nearby schools. “Where will the children of such closed schools go,” he asked. As Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro did not give any ruling on the issue, irate members of both Opposition parties rushed to the Well of the House and urged the Speaker to convene an all-party meeting to discuss

Don't compare with others, improve self: Pillay

Hockey legends inspire young cadets at NTHA-O

TATHYA ■ BHUBANESWAR

Indian Hockey legends, Dhanraj Pillay along with ace drag flicker Len Aiyapa and Dilip Tirkey visited the Naval Tata Hockey Academy Odisha (NTHA -O) and interacted with the girl cadets and coaching staff of the Hockey High Performance Centre.

The trio surprised the young hockey players on the blue turf as they took on the sticks to share the tricks of the sport. They interacted and mingled with the young cadets and shared life learning with them.

Pillay said, “Never compare yourself with another, on any aspect. Only aim to better oneself at the game. Those times were different. Today, the turfs are equipped for better results. Follow the coach, learn the



tricks, and constantly strive to better your skill.”

Pillay said, “Even today, the global hockey fraternity talks about the spectacular Hockey World Cup hosted by Odisha in

2018. The State has set a benchmark. Even the hospitality extended to players was by far the best. I thank the Government of

Odisha and Naval Tata Hockey Academy Odisha for giving me this opportunity to visit the centre.

It is always a pleasure to be on the turf and interact with

Army jawan martyred, two women injured in Pak firing

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A soldier of the Indian Army made a supreme sacrifice while two women received injuries during separate incidents of ceasefire violations along the line of control in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch on Saturday.

To prevent any misadventure by the Border Action Team (BAT) of the Pakistan army in the region, the foot soldiers of the Indian army have been maintaining tight vigil and conducting regular patrolling in the forward areas. According to the ground reports, there was no let up from the Pakistan side to provoke strong Indian response. Several sectors remained active across the region since early

morning. Local villagers alleged Pakistan army was targeting civilian areas with heavy mortar shelling.

Defence Spokesman in Jammu, Lt-Col Devender Anand said, “Havaladar Patil Sangram Shivaji received critical injuries during unprovoked ceasefire violation by the Pakistan Army along the line of control in Nowshera sector of Rajouri on Saturday”. He said the Indian Army retaliated strongly. Havaladar Patil, hailing from Kolhapur district in Maharashtra, later succumbed to his fatal injuries.

In the evening, the Pakistan Army once again provoked the Indian army by resorting to fresh mortar shelling in the same sector. Indian army retaliated befit-

tingly, Defence spokesman said. After a small gap of 15 minutes, ceasefire violation was also reported from the Degwar and Malti sectors of Poonch. Defence Spokesman said, Pakistan army resorted to intense shelling leading to civilian injuries.

According to local villagers, two women identified as Sakina Bi (40 years) W/o Nazm Din and Mansha Bi (18 years) D/O Shams Din of village Bagyal Daga in Poonch received injuries during ongoing mortar shelling. The injured were evacuated to the district hospital in Poonch amid constant shelling. The large population living in the forward villages remained closeted inside their homes due to intense shelling.

Custodial deaths rock Assembly for ...

From Page 1
Those who remained present at the cremation were taken to the Brahmagiri police station and kept there for two days. Naik said the Government cannot protect IAS and IPS officers by punishing low-ranking officials. “We demand suspension and booking of Puri SP in the murder case,” he said and demanded a ruling from the Speaker. He alleged that law and order situation has completely collapsed in the State as six members of a family were killed in Balangir district. He also raised the issue of a Sarpanch seeking sexual favour from a woman in order to allocate a house to her under the Awas Yojana in Kalahandi. Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra also came down heavily on the Government stating that “Jungle Raj” is prevailing in the State. “We have never seen police conducting cremation of a victim of custodial death secretly. This kind of incident has happened in Uttar Pradesh and now being repeated in Odisha,” Mishra remarked, “Transfer of the SP is not a punishment. Exemplary action should be taken against him so that other police personnel get a lesson and respect human rights of people in custody,” he said. Congress member Tara Prasad Bahinipati demanded suspension of former Malkangiri district Collector Manish Agarwal who has been booked

in a murder case. Similarly, ex-Puri SP Singh should also be booked under Section 302 of IPC and arrested, he said. Ruling BJD member Amar Prasad Satpathy expressed concern over the custodial deaths in Puri and Birmiritrapur. “However, he said the issue cannot be discussed in the House through a motion as the matter is sub-judice,” Satpathy said. The custodial deaths related to 32-year old K Ramesh who was allegedly hacked to death at the Baseli Sahi police station in Puri town. Similarly, another youth, Tarique Salim, also died at the Birmiritrapur police station in Sundargarh district under mysterious circumstances on Thursday. Meanwhile, apart from shifting Puri SP Akhileswar Singh, the Government has placed under suspension four police personnel in connection with the alleged custodial deaths in Puri and Birmiritrapur. Birmiritrapur PS IIC Smruti Prava Pradhan and Baselisahi PS Sub-Inspector Biplob Kumar Pradhan and Constables Jagannath Swain and Babuli Behera have been placed under suspension for gross misconduct and negligence in duty. Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has on Friday sought a report from the State Government in connection with the alleged Puri custodial death within four weeks. Notably, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra has moved the NHRC seeking its intervention in the matter.

Seven of family charred to death in Gujarat road accident

IAN S ■ GANDHINAGAR

Seven members of a family were charred to death in a road accident near Surendranagar at around 3 a.m. on Saturday when a dumper truck hit their Echo vehicle. The accident caused a fire in the vehicle, in which all the seven persons trapped inside perished, according to police. The Surendranagar police have nabbed the person who was driving the dumper and have sent him for corona testing. The seven victims belonging to the Nai (Barber) community included three women (one girl child) were returning from Chotila pilgrimage to their homes in Patan district. One unit of the extended family was from Nanapura village in Radhanpur Tehsil of Patan while the other was from Korada village in Santalpur Tehsil of Patan.

78 cows die of suspected food poisoning in Churu's Govt-aided shelter: Official

Jaipur: A total of 78 cows belonging to a privately-run government-aided cattle shelter in Churu district have died of suspected food poisoning in the last 24 hours, an official said on Saturday. While 78 cows have died since Friday night, a few others are sick, said an official of the state's Animal Husbandry Department.

Country has rallied behind PM in fight against Covid: Shah

Chennai: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the country had rallied behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and it was doing better than even developed countries over the handling of the contagion. Patting the Tamil Nadu government over its effective handling of the situation under the Palaniswami-Panneerselvam leadership, he said it was duly implementing the various instructions of the Centre on the matter. “The world and country are fighting against COVID-19.

Not just the Government and its machinery, but the entire 130 crore people were fighting against the pandemic, he said

The country has successfully faced it under PM Modi. On a comparative note, India has fared better than many developed countries,” he said. Not just the government and its machinery, but the entire 130 crore people were fighting against the pandemic, he said at a state government function here. **PTI**

Goa Police preparing for tourist surge in Dec amid Covid fears: DGP

Panaji: Goa Police is gearing up for a surge in tourists ahead of the peak tourism season in December, Director General of Police Mukesh Kumar Meena said on Saturday, adding that preparedness for crowds especially in wake of the pandemic was a challenge for the security force. Meena also said that near-

ly 900 police personnel had tested positive for Covid-19, ever since the outbreak earlier this year. “I could see on beaches, the crowd has increased and hotels too are seeing more and more bookings. It will be a challenging task,” Meena said, when asked about the police preparedness for tourists during the peak tourism

season. “We have already discussed with officers, they are forming a strategy. Because of Covid it is a challenging task to deploy force round the clock,” Meena said. The top cop said that around 900 police personnel, including himself, had tested positive for coronavirus.

“People are fed up with being in one place now. They want to come and relax. They think Goa is the best place,” Meena said, adding that all activities, including those related to tourism should be allowed by following existing SOPs, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing norms. **IAN S**

BOLLYWOOD-DRUG MAFIA CASE: Comedian Bharti Singh arrested, husband under probe

86.5 grams of cannabis seized during raids

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday evening arrested television comedian Bharti Singh for alleged possession and consumption of a banned drug, hours after it seized 86.5 grams of Cannabis during the raids on one of two homes in north-west Mumbai. Continuing their investigations into the Bollywood-drug mafia nexus case, the NCB sleuths raided the homes of Bharti Singh and her husband Harsh Limbachiyaa at Andheri's Lokhandwala Complex and Versova in north-west Mumbai to look out for banned drugs. From one of their homes, the NCB officials seized 86.5 grams of cannabis. After the

raids, the couple was taken to the agency's office where Bharti was placed under arrest as per the provisions of NDPS Act 1986 late in the evening, while the questioning of her husband Harsh was continuing till late in the evening. During the questioning, Bharti and her husband reportedly confessed to having consumed cannabis (ganja). The drug consumption is in addition to the charge of possessing banned drugs that Bharti faced. The raid on the homes of Bharti and her husband Harsh and the subsequent arrest of the television comedian came after their names figured in the custodial interrogation of a 21-year-old drug trafficker whom the NCB officials had arrested earlier the day on Saturday. During the raid conducted at a location in Khar Danda area, the investigators seized various drugs including 15 blots of LSD (com-

mercial quantity), ganja (40 gm) and Nitrazepam (psychotropic medicines). In a statement released to the media, the NCB said that in a follow-up on the inputs provided by the arrested drug trafficker, the agency “raided two other places on 21.11.2020 including production office and House of actor-comedian Ms Bharti Singh and from both the places 86.5 grams of Ganja was recovered” “Both Ms Bharti Singh and Her Husband Harsh Limbachiyaa accepted the consumption of Ganja. Ms Bharti Singh was placed under arrest as per the provisions of NDPS Act 1986 and examination of Shri Harsh Limbachiyaa is underway,” the NCB said in its statement. The NCB said that it had arrested two more persons in connection with seizure of MD, a popular club drug that's sold

in pills (ecstasy) or as a powder (MDMA).. The arrest of Bharti comes on the heels of raids carried out at the residence of Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal on November 9, his and his live-in friend Gabriella Demetriades' questioning and the subsequent arrest of his Australian friend Australian friend Paul Bartel was on Friday arrested by the NCB in the much-discussed Bollywood-drug mafia nexus case. Earlier on November 8, the NCB officials had carried out searches at film producer Firoz A. Nadiadwala's residence along Gulmohar Cross Road at Juhu Vile Parle Development (JVPD) Scheme in north-west Mumbai. During the searches, the NCB sleuths seized a total of 717.1 gm of Ganja, 74.1 gm charas and 95.1 gm MD (Commercial Quantity) along with Rs 3,58,610. They also seized 10 gm

of Ganja from another accused Wahid Abdul kadir Sheikh @ Sultan. After the seizure of drugs and cash, the NCB officials arrested five persons, including Firoz A. Nadiadwala's wife Shabana Saeed. On November 9, the NCB officials carried out searches at Rampal's residence for seven hours and seized 11 electronic gadgets including a laptop, mobile phones and tablets from there. They also seized some documents from Rampal's residence. The raid on Rampal's residence and his subsequent questioning should be seen in the context of the arrest of a South African national Agisilaos Demetriades – the brother of Rampal's live-in partner Gabriella Demetriades -- made by the NCB from Lonavala near Pune last month. Agisilaos is alleged to be a part of a larger drug syndicate operating in

Bollywood, which is being investigated after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Forty-seven-year-old Rampal was grilled for eight hours by the NCB on November 13 in connection with the nature of his links with Agisilaos and Bartel, the seizures made during the raid conducted at his Bandra residence for seven hours on Monday, the role of his live-in partner Gabriella, a South African model in the nexus with the drug peddlers. On his part, Rampal had said that he had nothing to do with drugs and he was co-operating with the NCB. Rampal's grilling came after two rounds of questioning that the NCB subjected his live-partner Gabriella to, on November 11 and 12. The NCB's investigations have revealed that Agisilaos was in touch with Omega Godwin, a Nigerian national

who had earlier been arrested for supply of cocaine in Mumbai. During his custodial interrogation, Godwin had named Agisilaos. Earlier, ex-Dharma Productions employee Kshitij Prasad had earlier been arrested by the NCB in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput's death-related drug case and expanded Bollywood-drug nexus case. Sushant, it may be recalled, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his closed room of his duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai on June 14. Incidentally, the raid on Rampal's residence came a day after the NCB officials carried out searches at film producer Firoz A. Nadiadwala's residence along Gulmohar Cross Road at Juhu Vile Parle Development (JVPD) Scheme in north-west Mumbai. During the searches,

the NCB sleuths seized a total of 717.1 gm of Ganja, 74.1 gm charas and 95.1 gm MD (Commercial Quantity) along with Rs 3,58,610. They also seized 10 gm of Ganja from another accused Wahid Abdul kadir Sheikh @ Sultan. After the seizure of drugs and cash, the NCB officials arrested five persons, including Firoz A. Nadiadwala's wife Shabana Saeed. The NCB has registered two drugs cases in the wake of the investigations launched by the CBI into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput in June this year upon the directive issued by the Supreme Court. Nearly twenty persons –including Sushant's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik -- were arrested in connection with a case registered by the NCB on August 28, two days after it registered a case suo moto.

PARL PANEL ASSESSMENT

Exorbitant hospital charges caused more Covid deaths



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Inadequate beds in Government hospitals and absence of specific guidelines for Covid treatment resulted in private hospitals charging exorbitant fees, a Parliamentary panel on Saturday said as it pulled up the Government and asserted that a sustainable pricing model could have averted many deaths.

The first report by any parliamentary committee on the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic was submitted by Chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee on health Ram Gopal Yadav to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu.

Underlining that health-care spending in the country with a population of 1.3 billion is "abysmally low", the panel said the fragility of Indian health ecosystem posed a big hurdle in generating an effective response against the pandemic.

"The committee, therefore, strongly recommends the Government to increase its investments in the public healthcare system and make consistent efforts to achieve the National Health Policy targets of expenditure up to 2.5 per cent of GDP within two years as the set time frame of year 2025 is far away and the public health cannot be jeopardised till that time schedule," the report stated.

The National Health Policy 2017 has set a target of government expenditure on healthcare up to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2025 from just 1.15 per cent in 2017.

Stating that the public had to undergo trauma and distress due to absence of a dedicated healthcare system, the committee observed that the number of Government hospital beds in the country were not adequate to handle the increasing number of COVID and non-COVID patients.

"... Cost of health service

delivery increased due to absence of specific guidelines for COVID treatment in private hospitals as a result of which patients were charged exorbitant fees," the committee noted in the report.

Stressing on the need for better partnership between the government and private hospitals in wake of the pandemic and shortage of state-run healthcare facilities, the report said, "The Committee is of the view that arriving at a sustainable pricing model to treat COVID patients could have averted many deaths."

The committee believes healthcare should never be limited to only those who can afford to pay but should move towards the noble vision of universal health coverage. For this to happen, the Government needs to be considerate and support the private health care sector, the report said.

The committee was all praise for healthcare workers and doctors for being on the frontline in handling the deadly virus and said they should have defined working hours, predictably functioning reliever rosters and scheduled off-duty days.

The doctors, who have laid down their lives in fight against the pandemic, must be acknowledged as martyrs and their families be adequately compensated, it suggested in the report.

ED raids seven locations in Srinagar, Ananatnag in J&K Bank money laundering case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday conducted searches at seven places in Jammu and Kashmir under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act in a case relating to suspicious transactions in J&K Bank.

Among these seven locations, six are in Srinagar and one in Ananatnag district.

The ED initiated investigation under PMLA after CID, Srinagar registered an FIR against officials of J & K Bank, unidentified public servants and private persons and others for suspicious transactions in various bank accounts.

It has been alleged in the FIR that the bank accounts were used for routing money of public servants as well as some private parties. Further, bank officials, in connivance with these public servants, deliberately omitted to raise the alerts as required under Anti-Money

Laundering (AML) norms, officials said.

Investigations conducted under PMLA so far have revealed that the transactions in many of these bank accounts maintained with J & K Bank were not genuine and these accounts were utilized for the purpose of laundering, the ED said in a statement.

On the basis of specific information, searches at seven places belonging to accused Mohammad Ibrahim Dar, Murtaza Enterprises, Azad Agro Traders, M & M Cottage Industries and Mohd. Sultan Teli were conducted which resulted in recovery of evidence of money laundering as the bank accounts have been found to be used for routing suspicious transactions, the agency said.

The individuals and entities covered under searches are involved in hospitality and agro based Industries, civil construction and real estate, it said.

India's Covid tally breaches 90.5L mark with 46,232 new infections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's coronavirus tally crossed the 90.5 lakh-mark on Saturday with 46,232 new infections reported in the last 24 hours, even as the total number of tests conducted across the States has crossed the 13-crore mark with the last one crore done in just 10 days. The total cases in the country now stand at 90,50,597 including 4,39,747 active cases and 84,78,124 recoveries. With 564 new deaths, the count mounted to 1,32,726.

The number of active cases remained below five lakh for the eleventh consecutive day. The total recoveries have surged to 84,78,124 pushing the national recovery rate to 93.67 per cent, while the COVID-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.47 per cent.

According to ICMR, the total number of tests conducted in India for the detection of COVID-19 infection has crossed the 13-crore mark with last one crore done in just 10

days, while the cumulative positivity rate remained low and continues a downward trajectory, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

On Friday 10,66,022 were tested.

The cumulative national COVID-19 positivity rate has declined and stood at 6.93 per cent as on date while the daily positivity rate on Friday was just 4.34 per cent.

Higher volumes of testing eventually lead to low positivity rate, the ministry said.

"An average of more than 10 lakh tests conducted daily has ensured that the cumulative positivity rate is sustained at low levels and is presently following a downward trajectory," the ministry underlined.

Twenty-four states and Union Territories have conducted more tests per million population than India as a whole. Twelve states have lower tests per million population than the national average and they have been advised to substantially ramp up the levels of testing, the ministry under-

scoed.

"In view of the increase in coronavirus cases of some of the north Indian states, the Centre has advised all states and Union Territories to ramp up testing," the ministry said.

Around 78.19 per cent of the new recovered cases was contributed by 10 states and UTs.

Delhi saw 8,775 people recovering from COVID, while Maharashtra and Kerala reported 6,945 and 6,398 new recoveries, respectively. Besides, ten states and UTs have contributed 77.69 per cent of the new cases of coronavirus infections. Delhi reported 6,608 cases in a day. Kerala recorded 6,028 new cases while Maharashtra reported 5,640 cases on Friday.

Of the 564 new fatalities, 82.62 per cent have been reported from 10 states and UTs. With 155 deaths, Maharashtra reported 27.48 per cent of the new fatalities, Delhi accounted for 20.92 per cent of the daily toll with 118 deaths.

Country to increase natural gas use by 4-fold in decade: Modi

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/GANDHINAGAR

Maintaining that India was moving forward with the goal of reducing its carbon footprint by 30 to 35 per cent, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that efforts are on to increase the use of natural gas by four times in this decade and to double the oil refining capacity in the next five years.

He said this while addressing the eighth convocation of Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University (PDPU) via video conference.

"Today, the country is moving forward with the goal of reducing its carbon footprint by 30 to 35 per cent. When I told this to the world, it expressed surprise and wondered if India could achieve this," he said.

"Our effort is to increase the share of natural gas in our energy needs by four times in this decade. Work is also on to nearly double the oil refining capacity in the coming five years," he added.

He also expressed confidence that the country will achieve its renewable energy generation target "before time".

"Today, per unit cost (of solar power) has come down to less than ₹2 from ₹12-13 earlier. Today, solar power has become the country's priority. We have made a commitment to generate 175 gigawatt renewable energy and I am confident that we will achieve this before 2022," he said.

"Also, our renewable energy target of 450 gigawatt by 2030, a big aim, will be achieved before time...I am confident of that," he said.

Modi said that the oil and gas sector will see an investment of crores of rupees in this decade, which will create opportunities for the graduating students of the university in the fields of research, manufacturing and others.



He also said that work is underway to strengthen the start-ups ecosystem related to the energy security sector, and a special fund has been allocated for the purpose.

"If you have any idea, product or any concept which you want to incubate, then this fund will be a good opportunity for you, and a gift from the government," he said.

The PM said that despite the hardships caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the graduating students should remember that their strength and capacities are much bigger than the challenges, and asked them not to lose confidence.

He asked the students to recall the period of the country's Independence movement and how people sacrificed their lives for it. He asked them to similarly become a soldier for "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

"There is a lot to do for the country, but your commitment, your aim should not be fragmented. You see that only they become successful in life who do something with a sense of responsibility...Failures are those who live with a sense of burden. The youth of the 21st century should go ahead with

a clean slate. The concept that "nothing will change" will have to be cleaned..." he said.

The PM asked the students to take sustained efforts as it will bring about positive results.

He said the "Clean India" programme was an example of this, and said small efforts of crores of people turned it into a movement.

During his address, he also recalled how his decision to segregate domestic and agriculture feeders made it possible for the households to get 24-hour electricity in Gujarat.

Modi inaugurated five state-of-the-art facilities to mark the eighth convocation of the PDPU.

The facilities he unveiled at the university are a 45 -MW production of monocrystalline solar photovoltaic panel, a tech business incubator, a sports complex, and a Translational Research Centre at the PDPU, as well as an Indo-EU bilateral project under Horizon 2020 "India-h2o" for industrial waste and desalination.

Modi also suggested the state government to change the name of the Petroleum University to Energy University.

Malabar maritime drill concludes on a high, friendly note

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Malabar maritime exercise hosted by the Indian Navy in two phases concluded on Friday in the Arabian Sea. The Quad countries including India, the US, Australia and Japan took part in the prestigious drill. Australia participated for the first time after India invited it for the event despite Chinese protests.

Giving details of the exercise, navy officials said here on Saturday the 24th edition of the annual Malabar was conducted in two phases. 20. Phase 1 of the exercise involving participation by Indian Navy (IN), United States Navy (USN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and Royal Australian Navy (RAN), was conducted off Visakhapatnam in Bay of Bengal from 3-6 November. The second phase was conducted in the Arabian Sea from 17-20 November.

The first phase witnessed participation of Indian Navy units with United States Ship (USS) John S McCain, Her Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) Ballarat with integral MH-60 helicopter, and Japan Maritime Self Defence Ship



(JMSDF) Onami, with integral SH-60 helicopter. Indian Navy's participation in this phase was led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet and included destroyer Ranvijay, indigenous frigate Shivalik, Offshore Patrol Vessel Sukanya, Fleet Support Ship Shakti, submarine Sindhuraj, P8I and Dornier maritime reconnaissance aircraft and Advanced Jet Trainer Hawk.

During Phase 2 of the Exercise, the four navies par-

ticipated in joint operations centered on the Vikramaditya Carrier Battle Group of the Indian Navy and Nimitz Carrier Strike Group of the US Navy. The two aircraft carriers, along with other ships, submarine and aircraft of the participating navies, engaged in high intensity naval operations including cross-deck flying operations and advanced air defence exercises by MIG 29K fighters of Vikramaditya and F/A-18 fighters and E2C Hawkeye from Nimitz.

The US Navy's Strike

Carrier Nimitz was accompanied by cruiser Princeton and destroyer Sterett in addition to P8A maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

The Royal Australian Navy and JMSDF were represented by frigate Ballarat and destroyer Murasame respectively, along with their integral helicopters.

Indian Navy's participation in Phase 2 was led by Rear Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet and included aircraft carrier

Vikramaditya, indigenous destroyers Kolkata and Chennai, stealth frigate Talwar, Fleet Support Ship Deepak and the integral helicopters of these warships, indigenously built submarine Khanderi and P8I and IL-38 maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

In addition to 'Dual Carrier' operations, advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolutions and weapon firings were also undertaken during both phases of the exercise demonstrating the synergy, coordination and inter-operability between the four friendly navies.

The Malabar series of exercises, which began as an annual bilateral naval exercise between India and the US in 1992, has seen increasing scope and complexity over the years.

The 24th edition of MAL-ABAR, conducted in a 'non-contact at sea only' format in the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic, was reflective of the commitment of the participating countries to support a free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific as well as a rules-based international order.

Depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal during next 48 hrs: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted depression over Southwest Bay of Bengal during the next 48 hours. A low pressure area, formed over equatorial Indian ocean and adjoining central parts of south Bay of Bengal on Saturday, may hit Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coast as a cyclone of lower intensity on November 25.

Predicting the possibility of cyclone, the IMD on Saturday said the depression is likely to intensify further during the subsequent 48 hours. This would be expected to revive the North-East monsoon yet again over the Tamil Nadu coast from Monday itself.

Under the influence of the 'low pressure' area, formed on Saturday, the rainfall activity is likely to increase over extreme south peninsula India from November 23 onwards with fairly widespread to widespread rainfall/thunderstorm activity over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal and Kerala & Mahe during November 24-26, and over south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during November 25-27.

PM Modi to virtually inaugurate multi-storey flats for MPs on Nov 23



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The wait of a number of first-time Lok Sabha MPs for an official accommodation in Delhi will end soon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate multi-storeyed flats, three towers known as Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati, which have come in place of old bungalows at Dr BD Marg in the national capital, for members of Parliament on November 23 via video-conferencing. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will also be present during the inauguration.

A PMO statement on Saturday said that three towers having 76 flats were constructed on land housing eight old bungalows, which were more than 80 years old. The construction of these flats has been completed with savings of about 14 per cent from the sanctioned cost and without time overrun despite the impact of Covid-19, it added.

The construction of these flats has been completed with savings of about 14 per cent from the sanctioned cost

The new flats have four bedrooms, offices for the MP and his or her secretary and parking spaces and are centrally air-conditioned. In addition, the flats have elevators that connect the basement parking, the ground floor office and living spaces and the first floor bedrooms.

The PMO statement said several green building initiatives have been incorporated in the construction, including bricks made from fly ash and construction and demolition waste, double glazed windows for thermal insulation and energy efficiency, energy efficient LED light fittings, occupancy based sensors for light control, air conditioners with VRV system for low power consumption, low flow fixtures for conservation of water, rainwater harvesting system and rooftop solar plant.

President to launch all-India Speakers' conference in Kevadia on November 25

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the two day long all India Speakers' conference in Kevadia in Gujarat on November 25 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the valedictory function on November 26.

Addressing the media on Saturday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that the theme of the two-day meeting will be 'harmonious coordination between legislature, executive and judiciary. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu will also address the presiding officers.

This is the 80th meeting of presiding officers. Birla said that the All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPO) was launched in the year 1921 and since then, this Conference has been ceaselessly striving to strengthen the democratic way of life and promoting a sense of unity and oneness in the Indian Legislatures. This Conference provides a platform to share new ideas, views, and experiences with all the Presiding Officers in India. He said that the collective wisdom of our venerable legislators has helped the Legislatures to keep pace with the changing times. Many of the significant

Addressing the media on Saturday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that the theme of the two-day meeting will be 'harmonious coordination between legislature, executive and judiciary

innovations in parliamentary democracy trace their roots to the deliberations that took place during the Sessions of these Conferences.

Birla said that During this Conference, the Presiding Officers of the Legislatures shall discuss the need for better cooperation and coordination between the three pillars of democracy. "This is in line with our Constitutional obligations that spell out the jurisdictions of the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary and the balance amongst them. It is our collective efforts to maintain the constitutional sanctity, which is very important for mutual coexistence between the three organs of governance and the sustenance of democracy in the nation," he said.

SC judge inaugurates 'North East Delhi Riots Claims Commission'



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court Judge Justice Ssurya Kant on Saturday inaugurated the North East Delhi Riots Claims Commission (NEDRCC) for providing compensation to victims of the communal violence that took place in February.

Justice Kant inaugurated the commission online and said in

a statement that justice to victims of the riot was the need of the hour.

"Justice to the riot victim is the need of the hour. Riot victims must be compensated with promptitude. To achieve this objective, I wish this commission (NEDRCC) all the very best," Justice Kant said in the statement.

Communal clashes had broken out in northeast Delhi on February 24 after violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and around 200 injured.

There are about 750 cases registered in north east Delhi and around 1,200 persons have been arrested in matters related to the riot.

Court asks if there is chance of settlement between Akbar, Ramani in defamation case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Saturday Asked former Union Minister M J Akbar and journalist Priya Ramani whether there was a chance of settlement between them in a criminal defamation complaint filed by him against her. Akbar had filed the complaint against Ramani for allegedly defaming him by accusing him of sexual misconduct around 20 years ago when he was a journalist.

Ramani had said the allegations against Akbar, made in the wake of #MeToo movement in 2018, were her truth and were made in public good. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Ravindra Kumar Pandey posed the query on Saturday as he started hearing afresh the final arguments in the case since the previous judge hearing the matter was transferred to another court on Wednesday.

India set to resume talks on free trade agreements with EU, US

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

India, which has not signed any trade agreement since 2012, will soon revive talks on the possible free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union and the US. Even as the Narendra Modi Government opted out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), it is keen on inking trade deals with other economic blocs, a highly placed source said, adding that India could gain significantly amid a growing anti-China sentiment in many parts of the world.

The EU is India's largest

trading partner accounting for 11.1 per cent of total Indian trade, on par with the US and ahead of China (10.7 per cent). "We are positive that FTAs with the EU and US will benefit India and talks will be resumed," Gopal Krishna Agarwal, the Bharatiya Janata Party's national spokesperson on economic affairs, said. "India is not opposed to trade agreements with other countries, though now that seems to be the popular notion after we exited the RCEP, we understand the need to remain globally and regionally integrated," Agarwal added.

After intense negotiations

for an FTA with the EU, talks have been stalled since 2013 after differences on various issues could not be ironed out. Other Asian nations looking at trade deals with the west, Vietnam has already inked one with Vietnam, which is emerging as a formidable competition to many economies, has already signed at a trade pact with the EU. The European economy needs now every opportunity to restore its strength after the crisis triggered by the coronavirus," Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, said in a statement.

"India should not waste

time now. It must act fast before other countries seal the deals," Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president S.K. Saraf told Indianarrative.com. "We must revive talks on the stalled FTAs and other trade pacts to cash in on the changing geopolitical order. The current anti-China sentiment in Europe could help India at this point and we must not waste an opportunity."

Typically, trade agreements including the one with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) have not worked in India's favour but experts opined that New Delhi

must remain engaged with other countries not only to boost trade but also to be heard in the global community.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla's seven-day trip to Europe just a few weeks ago is being seen as an important development in this direction. On Thursday the first stand-alone India-Luxembourg summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Xavier Bettel was held via video conferencing, where the former underlined the need to expand trade and economic co-operation between India and the EU.

Healing economy expected to keep markets high

Mumbai: Economic recovery along with hopes of a Covid-19 vaccine will keep domestic stock markets high during the upcoming trade week.

Analysts opined that markets are likely to oscillate between renewed fears of rising covid cases globally and optimism over vaccine development.

Besides, profit booking as well as expensive propositions

might dampen sentiments. Nevertheless, upcoming Q2FY21 GDP figures combined with sales push during the festive season is expected to arrest any major downside movement. "Going ahead, the market is likely to be volatile as sentiments oscillate between fear of rising covid cases globally and optimism over vaccine progress," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Retail

Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services. "Investors would closely watch out the development over the US stimulus talks where the hopes are fading. However the overall structure of the market remains positive, as the economic activity continues to improve and Covid cases continue to decline domestically, except few regions." IAN S

Centre okays ₹107.42 cr grant for 28 food processing projects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Saturday said a grant of ₹107.42 crore has been approved for implementing 28 food processing projects spread over 10 states that are likely to generate jobs for nearly 10,000 people.

A decision in this regard was taken in the virtual meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Approval Committee (IMAC) chaired by Food Processing Industries Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. Junior minister Rameswar Teli was also present

in the meeting.

The committee considered the projects applied through an unit scheme of Creation and Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities (CEFPCC) under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) for necessary grants-in-aid.

"28 projects with project costs of ₹320.33 crore, supported with a grant of ₹107.42 crore by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) were approved under the CEFPPC Scheme by the IMAC," an official statement said.

Of this, a grant of ₹20.35 crore has been approved for six projects from north eastern states.

These projects are worth ₹48.87 crore, it said.

The projects will create a processing capacity of 1,237 tonne daily and are spread across the states of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Assam, and Manipur.

These projects are likely to generate employment for nearly 10,000 people, it added.

Focus on automobile aftermarket key to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat': Official

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Focus on automobile aftermarket is the key to 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', a senior official said.

According to H.J.S Pasricha, Head CMD and Scientist F, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), "Indian OEMs as well as their component manufacturers have delivered to a large extent towards the twin objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

"Now, automotive aftermarket needs to be one of the key areas of focus. A well graded plan aimed towards curbing counterfeiters and substandard



products through proper certification and enforcement could very well be the way towards vibrant aftermarket."

Pasricha spoke at a webinar organised by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

The webinar as per a SIAM statement aimed to address contemporary aspects related to the aftermarket parts busi-

ness. It touched upon aftermarket tenets such as quintessential quality, curbing counterfeit, vocal for local, simplifying supply-chain, amplifying access and evaluating e-commerce.

"Aftermarket business is challenging with multiple players right from OEMs at one extreme to counterfeiters at the other end," said Prashant K. Banerjee, Executive Director, SIAM. "We look forward to have an active collaboration with government, BIS (Implementing Agency), ACMA, AIAWA, e-commerce entrants, aggregators etc. to create a quality conscious market."

Harley-Davidson says working with partner Hero to ensure smooth transition for customers in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

American cult-bike maker Harley-Davidson on Saturday said it is working with its new partner Hero MotoCorp to "ensure a smooth transition" for its customers in India, including after-sale services and warranty. Last month, Harley-Davidson and Hero MotoCorp announced their partnership for the Indian market.

They have inked a distribution agreement, under which Hero MotoCorp will sell and service Harley-Davidson motorcycles. It will also sell

parts and accessories and general merchandise riding gear and apparel through a network of brand-exclusive Harley-Davidson dealers and Hero's existing dealership network in India.

Harley-Davidson Managing Director (Asia Emerging Markets and India) Sajeev Rajasekharan said in a statement, "As we change our business model in India, we are pleased to be continuing our journey in the country together with Hero MotoCorp. We are working closely with Hero to ensure a smooth transition for our riders."

Residents of Sector 48 raise demand for cancellation of marriage ceremony

Noida: With the increase in the number of corona patients in the capital of the country, strict restrictions have also been imposed on the events organised there. The people of Delhi have now started organising marriages in Noida in Uttar Pradesh instead of Delhi.

A similar case has come up in Noida Sector 48. A Delhi party is going to organise a wedding ceremony in Sector 48 Park of Noida this week. Residents of Sector 48 are



Noida Sector 48 park in question

angry about this controversial event.

Residents of Sector 48 have written a complaint letter in this regard to Ritumaheshwari, CEO of Noida Development Authority.

Launch of 'ANANDA' - Atma Nirbhar agents new business digital application

Life Insurance Corporation of India launched its first Digital Application, "ANANDA", an acronym for Atma Nirbhar Agents NewBusiness Digital Application, on Thursday, the 19th of November 2020. The launch was done by MR Kumar, Chairman, LIC of India through Video Conferencing, in the presence of the Managing Directors, TC Suseel Kumar, Mukesh Kumar Gupta, Raj Kumar and other Senior Officials of the Corporation. The Digital application is a tool for the on boarding process to get the Life Insurance policy through a Paperless module with the help of the Agent / Intermediary. It is built on

paperless KYC process using Aadhaar based e-authentication of the Life Proposed.

ANANDA is a first of its kind in the Indian Life Insurance industry with LIC of India pioneering the process through its in-house IT enabled systems. This tool has been brought out at the right time, to enable and empower the Marketing force of LIC to face the current challenges and propel insurance selling to a higher level. With social distancing being the new normal, prospective customers can avail the facility of taking a New Life Insurance Policy in the comfort of their homes/offices without having to meet the Agent / Intermediary in person.

Punjab & Sind Bank to raise up to ₹5,500 cr via pref issue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Punjab & Sind Bank on Saturday said its board has approved a proposal to raise up to ₹5,500 crore by issuing shares on a preferential basis.

The board approval is in line with the Government sanction to infuse an amount of ₹5,500 crore in the bank towards contribution of the Centre in the preferential allotment of equity shares during FY2020-21. The board has cleared agenda to "offer, issue, create and allot equity shares up to ₹5,500 crore including share premium to the Government of India by way of preferential issue of equity shares", the bank said in a regulatory filing.

The fund raising will help bank meet its regulatory and growth capital.

Drying-up FII inflows to weaken rupee

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

An expected slowdown in the rate of foreign fund inflows along with the upcoming Q2FY21 GDP figures is expected to weaken the Indian rupee during the coming week.

Besides, expectations on a further stimulus has fanned fears of higher Government borrowings.

Nonetheless, rising virus infection in the US amid hopes of more stimulus is expected to keep the US dollar subdued.

Consequently, the rupee is projected to range between 73.70 to 74.50 per greenback. "Flows into equity markets have been robust and supported the rupee," said Sajal Gupta, Head, Forex and Rates, Edelweiss Securities.

As per estimates, more than Rs 25,000 crore have

flowed into the country's stock markets till now during November.

"However, we expect the flows to slow down going forward and that can put some pressure on rupee and rising imports owing to normalisation can also keep strong rupee in check."

Last week, rupee appreciated to 74.11 levels but saw strong support at 74 handle.

Nonetheless, dollar purchases from RBI as reflected in the forex reserve capped further appreciation. On Friday, official data showed that India's foreign exchange reserves rose \$4.277 billion during the week ended November 13.

Accordingly, the reserves increased to \$572.771 billion from \$568.494 billion reported for the week ended November 6.

Petrol, diesel price hiked for second day in a row

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol price on Saturday was hiked by 15 paise per litre and diesel by 20 paise, the second straight day of increase in rates after firming international oil rates broke nearly a two-month-long hiatus in price revision.

The price of petrol in Delhi was hiked to ₹81.38 per litre from ₹81.23, according to a notification from oil marketing companies.

Diesel rates went up from ₹70.68 to ₹70.88 per litre. On Friday, petrol price was raised by 17 paise per litre and diesel by 22 paise.

This is the first revision in petrol prices since September 22. Diesel rates had not changed since October 2.

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties
E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on 09.12.2020 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M. (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of Rs. 230,69,77,923/- (Rupees Two hundred and thirty crores, sixty nine lakhs seventy seven thousand nine hundred and twenty three only), i.e. Rs. 79,73,84,911/- (Rupees Seventy nine crores seventy three lakhs eighty four thousand nine hundred and eleven only), Rs. 66,83,71,475/- (Rupees sixty six crores eighty three lakhs seventy one thousand four hundred and seventy five only) and Rs. 84,12,21,537/- (Rupees Eighty four crores twelve lakhs twenty one thousand five hundred and thirty seven only) towards earlier Loan Account Nos. S000240450 [now LAP0240450], S000240451 [now LAP0240451] and S000240667 [now LAP0240667] respectively, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 19.11.2020 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 20.11.2020 legal expenses and other charges along with pending Tax Deducted at Source of Rs. 1,41,24,244/- (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Forty Four only), i.e. Rs. 76,13,167/- (Rupees Seventy Six Lakh Thirteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty Seven only), Rs. 63,81,625/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five only) and Rs. 1,29,452/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two only), due to the Secured Creditor from BLISS VILLA (DELHI) PVT. LTD., B. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR) and R. KAPOOR (GUARANTOR).
The Reserve Price of the immovable Property(ies) will be Rs. 158,23,00,000/- (Rupees One Hundred Fifty Eight Crore Twenty three Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 15,82,30,000/- (Rupees Fifteen crores eighty two lakhs thirty thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ in NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Account No. 114505001412 with ICICI Bank Ltd. (IFSC: ICIC0001145), having its branch at B1 and B2, Vanija Nikunj, Enkay Tower, Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon - 122015 (Haryana) before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

HDFC BANK Retail Portfolio Management : Plot # 31, Najafgarh Industrial Area, Tower-A, 1st Floor, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi - 110015, We understand your world
POSSESSION NOTICE APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)]
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the **HDFC BANK LTD.** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 22/08/2020 calling upon the borrower(s) 1. Focus Imaging & Research Centre Private Limited Through Its Managing Director Dr. Prashant Sarin 2. Dr. Prashant Sarin 3. Mr. Ram Prasad Sarin 3. Mr. Vinod Kumar Sharma 4. Mr. Mithan Lal 4. Mrs. Rachana D/o Mr. Raj Singh Bhadoo to pay the amount mentioned in the notice Rs. 25,93,51,609/- (Rupees Twenty Five Crore Ninety Three Lakhs Fifty One Thousand Six Hundred and Nine Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement. Rules 2002 on this 19th day of Nov, 2020 (Thursday). The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of **HDFC BANK LTD.** for an amount of Rs. 25,93,51,609/- (Rupees Twenty Five Crore Ninety Three Lakhs Fifty One Thousand Six Hundred and Nine Only) and interest thereon together with expenses and charges etc, less amount paid if any. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(A) ENTIRE FIRST FLOOR AND SECOND FLOOR WITH ROOF RIGHTS PART OF PROPERTY NO. B-184, ADMEASURING 180 SQ. YARDS, SITUATED IN THE LAYOUT PLAN OF MINISTRY OF WORKS HOUSING & SUPPLY CHS LTD. - THE SOCIETY, KNOWN AS THE NIRMAN VIHAR, DELHI-110092 (OWNED BY MR. VINOD KUMAR SHARMA).
DATE :- 19/NOV/2020 **Authorised Officer**
PLACE :- NEW DELHI **HDFC Bank Ltd.**

VINAYAK VANIYA LIMITED
CIN: L52110DL1985PLC020109
Regd. Off.: Flat No. 28, Still Floor, Devika Tower, 6, Nehru Place, Delhi-110019
Ph.: 011-4367 5500
Email: vvanija1985@gmail.com, Website: www.vinayakvaniya.com
35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING
Notice is hereby given that 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of members of Vinayak Vaniya Limited ("the Company") is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, 15th December, 2020 at 03:00 P.M.** IST through video conferencing (VC) or Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) in compliance with applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 and circulars issued thereunder, to transact the business items as set out in the notice of AGM which shall inter-alia contain the instructions for joining AGM through VC.
Manner of registering/ updating e-mail addresses:
Members holding shares in Demat form and who are yet to register/update their email IDs are requested to approach NSDL/CDSL ("Depository Participant") in case of dematerialized shares. Members holding shares in physical form are requested to send their duly signed request letters to **RCMC Share Registry Pvt. Ltd.**, B-25/1, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase - II, New Delhi -110020 ("RTA") or by writing an e-mail on alok.sharma@rcmcldelhi.com to our RTA along with self-attested copies of PAN Card and address proof to register their email IDs.
Members will have an opportunity to cast their vote remotely on the business items as set out in notice of AGM. The manner of casting vote through remote e-voting/e-voting system including those by physical shareholders or by shareholders who have not registered their email ids shall be provided in notice of AGM. Copy of the AGM notice along with Annual Report for financial year 2019-20 and login details for such voting, will be sent to all the members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/ DP in due course.
The aforesaid notice of 35th AGM along with Annual Report will be made available on the website of the Company i.e. at www.vinayakvaniya.com and on the website of stock exchanges viz. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com.
For VINAYAK VANIJYALIMITED
Sd/-
Anand Prakash
Director
DIN: 06918487
Date: 21.11.2020
Place: New Delhi

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective [successors, assigns, heirs]). The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.
The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of possession of the properties are as mentioned below

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Rakesh Kumar Jain/ Shirodm Jain A/c No :- LBDEL00001174328	Flat No- D-180/C, Shyam Park Extension Sahibabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh/ 19- Nov- 2020	June 29, 2012 Rs. 6,65,051,07/-	Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : 21-11-2020
Place: Delhi NCR
Authorised Officer
Secured Creditor

Therapeutic food makers support Poshan Abhiyan
New Delhi: With an aim to tackle the problem of severe acute malnutrition under the Poshan Abhiyan in the country, Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Association of India, comprising manufacturers of ready-to-use therapeutic foods, has extended support to the Government to develop new products and implement feeding protocols. "CMAM Association is poised to align with various nutrition interventions through development of therapeutic products as prescribed by the Government and extending the PM's vision of a self-reliant India," said Akshat Khandelwal, president of CMAM Association.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for the information of general public that my client **Prakash Chand S/o Sh. Sonu Ram R/o E-164 Madipur JJ Colony New Delhi-110063** have disowned and debarred his son **Ravi & his wife Sonu** and their children **Rishabh & Kanishka** from all his moveable & immovable properties with immediate effect and severed all relations. Any body dealing with them in any manner whatsoever will be doing so at his/her own cost, risk and responsibilities.
Mohinder Dhawan (Advocate)
Bar Room 3, Civil Side Tis Hazari, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
Munna Kumar R/o A-296, HM House to Umar Lal House, Bywasan Village, Delhi-110061 were issued a charge sheet dated 25.11.2019 by Institute of Driving & Traffic Research for committing misconduct of "Continuously absenting from duties w.e.f. 5th September 2019 without any information and authorization" and for investigating the charges levelled a domestic enquiry was constituted and I was appointed as an enquiry officer. After my appointment, I intimated you about the enquiry proceedings fixed for 03.10.2020, 10.10.2020 and 30.10.2020, however you failed to attend the enquiry proceedings and the letters sent to you returned with remarks "No such person at this address". Accordingly, you are now given a final chance to attend the enquiry proceedings fixed for 26.11.2020 at 2.30 PM at IDTR, Adjoining ISBT, Sarai Kale Khan, Ring Road, New Delhi-110013. **Saurabh Munjal (Advocate)** D-101, Plot Court, Essel Tower, MG Road, Gurgaon-122001.

Hamstring is feeling absolutely fine: Rohit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The hullabaloo over his hamstring was confusing as well as amusing for Rohit Sharma, who says he always knew that the injury was not that serious and he would be battle-ready for the tour of Australia.

India's white-ball vice-captain, in a detailed conversation with *PTI*, opened about the left hamstring injury during the IPL, which became a matter of intense speculation after he returned to action within days of being left out of the Australia tour earlier this month. He was subsequently added to the Test squad.

"I don't know what was going on, to be honest and what all were people talking about. But let me put this on record, I was constantly communicating with BCCI and Mumbai Indians," Rohit said.

He hit a match-winning knock of 68 off 50 balls in the IPL final against Delhi Capitals, playing through pain. Rohit is currently doing strength and conditioning work at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru before heading to Australia.



Indian opener Rohit Sharma

PTI/File Picture

"I told them (Mumbai Indians) that I can take the field since it is the shortest format and I will be able to manage the situation quite nicely. Once I made my mind clear, it was all about focussing on what I needed to do," he said.

"Hamstring is feeling absolutely fine. Just started the process of getting it nice and strong. Before I play the longer format, I absolutely needed to be clear in mind that there is no stone that is left unturned, that's probably the reason, I'm at the NCA," Rohit added.

For Rohit, the chatter on the outside regarding his injury and his subsequent participation in the IPL play-offs, didn't matter much.

"So for me, it was not a concern what x, y or z was talking about like whether he would make it to Australia," he said.

"Once the injury happened, the next two days all I did was to figure out what I can do in the next 10 days — whether I will be able to play or not."

Unless one goes to the ground, one won't know how the body is shaping up, feels the five-time IPL champion cap-

tain.

"But every day, hamstring (degree of injury) was changing. The way it was responding was changing, so I was feeling quite confident that I could play and that is the communication that I had with MI at that point.

"I told them that I think I will be okay to play just before play-offs. If there is any discomfort, I won't be playing the play-offs."

All Rohit needed was three and half weeks to get ready for Tests and he fails to understand what the fuss was all about given that the series starts December 17.

"Of course, there is still some work that needs to be done on my hamstring. That's why I didn't go to Australia for the white-ball leg as there are back-to-back games. Around 6 games in 11 days," he said about the limited overs leg beginning November 27.

"So I thought if I get to work on my body for 25 days, I can probably go and play the Test matches. So it was an easy decision for me and I don't know why it became so complicated for others," he wondered aloud.

IPL performance has taken pressure off this Oz tour: Shami

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India's craftiest pacer Mohammed Shami is in the "right zone" after his impressive performance in the IPL, allowing him to prepare for the big Test series against Australia "without any pressure".

Shami had his best IPL season as his 20 wickets for Kings XI Punjab, including a spectacular defence of five runs in double Super Over game against Mumbai Indians, was one of the highlights of the tournament.

"My performances for KXIP in IPL has given me a lot of confidence and put me in the right zone," Shami told *BCCI.TV* on Saturday.

An artist with the red ball, Shami feels that a good IPL has taken off the burden from him.

"The biggest advantage is that I can now prepare for the upcoming series without any pressure. There is no burden on me. I am very comfortable at the moment.

"I had worked hard on my bowling and my fitness in the lockdown. I knew that IPL would take place sooner or later and I was preparing myself for it."

Shami made no bones that Test matches are a priority for him on this tour as he is trying to get into the groove during the training session over last one week.

"We are going to have a long tour starting with the white ball followed by pink and red ball Tests. My focus area has been the red ball and I am working on my lengths and seam movement.

"I have always felt that



once you start pitching the ball at the lengths you desire, you can succeed in different formats."

He feels that post IPL, his white ball form is in control and that's why he required more preparation with red ball.

"What you need is control. I have done well with the white-ball and now spending time in the nets bowling with the red ball. You don't bowl in the same area since both formats are different but your basics don't change much."

With Steve Smith and David Warner, who were missing during India's victorious campaign in 2018-19, back in the mix, things will get tougher for the Indian pace quartet.

But the senior bowler is hardly perturbed by their presence.

"India have quality batsmen and we bowl at them in the nets. We don't look at

names, we focus on our skills. You can be a world-class batsman, but one good ball will still get you out," Shami said.

The veteran pacer said that the diverse skill sets makes for a very potent attack like the one India has with him, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma and the menacing Jasprit Bumrah.

"Our fast bowling group can bowl at 140 kph plus and you need that kind of pace in Australia. Even our reserves are quick, you don't get to see that kind of an attack."

Shami reminded that the pacers have done well in all overseas conditions and have taken 20 wickets in a lot of away Test matches as well as in spin-friendly conditions at home.

"There is a healthy competition but there is no rivalry within the group. If you look at the numbers, we have managed to pick 20 wickets almost on all our away tours."

Motivation has never been a problem for Kohli: Stoinis

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Virat Kohli is more than hundred percent charged up every time he takes the field and the Australian team is preparing in equal measure to counter the threat posed by the Indian captain, said all-rounder Marcus Stoinis.

Kohli, who is heading family way in January, will be returning after playing the six white ball games and the opening day/night Test scheduled in Adelaide.

"Don't worry about Virat. He is up for every single game that he's playing. Yeah, maybe there will be extra motivation, but I don't think there's any extra motivation than 110 percent," Stoinis was quoted as saying by *ESPNCricinfo*.

"So let's see. I am sure he (Kohli) will be ready to go. He is getting home for the birth of his kid, which is the right decision in my opinion. So I am sure he will be extra motivated."

Stoinis said that coach Justin Langer and his men will have foolproof strategy to counter the India skipper, who is in a league of his own when it comes to white-ball cricket.

"We've definitely got our strategies, we've had things that have worked in the past, and at other times the same plans haven't worked and he's made some runs.

"Obviously, he (Kohli) is a great player, and to all these good players, you do what you want to do, you have your plans, and on the day, you get extra competitive and you hope it all falls in your side of the court."

On the personal front, Stoinis scored 352 runs and took 13 wickets for Delhi Capitals in the IPL and wants to replicate that performance in the limited overs games against India, starting Friday.

Asked what changed for him this season, Stoinis said: "I will hopefully continue to bring that form into the summer, but there's nothing really too different (that I have been doing).

"The break was great — it was nice to come back quite fresh into all these competitions. I feel like I was going well in England before leading in as well, so hopefully the results keep coming my way," he said.

Bereaved Siraj declines BCCI offer to fly back home

PTI ■ KOLKATA

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Saturday said that pacer Mohammed Siraj, who has lost his father, was given the option of flying back home to be with his grieving family but he decided to stay back in Australia for "national duty".

Ghouse, who was suf-

fering from a lung ailment, died on Friday. He was 53.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had a discussion with Siraj and he was offered the option of flying back and be with his family in this hour of grief," Shah said in a BCCI media release.

"The fast bowler has decided to stay with the Indian contingent and con-

tinue performing his national duties. The BCCI shares his grief and will be supportive of Siraj in this extremely challenging phase," Shah added.

Board president Sourav Ganguly took to Twitter to laud the Hyderabad pacer for his resilience and mental fortitude in this hour of tragedy.

"May Mohammed siraj

have a lot of strength to overcome this loss...Lots of good wishes for his success in this trip... Tremendous character," Ganguly tweeted.

If Siraj had chosen to fly back to India, he would have had to do another 14-day quarantine here in Australian under the local government rules on his arrival.

Ferguson not worried about missing Test spot

IANIS ■ CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand fast bowler, who has not been named in the Test squad that plays West Indies next month is not too worried about it and says he will fight for a spot in the long-format side which already has a good pace-bowling attack.

The pace bowler, who is undergoing quarantine after returning from the Indian Premier League, where he impressed with his pace but had a mixed tournament performance-wise, will play the T20 series that begins on November 27.

"The Test side is a really tough team to break into, there is so much depth. Obviously, our big three (Boult, Southee, Wagner) have been so successful for a long period of time," Ferguson told reporters in an interaction.

"I've had chats throughout. Steady (coach Gary Stead) and I talk a lot, I've got some family engagements that week, but even then, (Jamieson) played so well last season, so he

certainly deserves a spot in that side," Ferguson said.

Ferguson picked six wickets in five games he played and conceded runs at just 7.46 in the IPL for KKR.

"When you see the depth, Kyle Jamieson, one of my good mates, coming through and taking the opportunity and playing well, puts pressure on other bowlers to perform well all through the levels. I think it is great. For me, honestly, if it means I've got to work hard to get an opportunity and have a chance for that side, as I always do, take it game by game, keep putting the work in in the back-ground, and if that opportunity comes I'll do everything I can to take it with open arms," Ferguson added.

The right-arm pace bowler had a forgettable Test debut in December last year against Australia when he limped off the field after bowling just 11 overs at Perth.

'Pakistan ready to host top cricketing nations in 2021'

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

After nearly a decade of hosting no home Test matches due to a terrorist attack on a rival team's bus in 2009, Pakistan says it's ready to welcome major cricketing nations like South Africa, New Zealand, England and West Indies in 2021.

"We're working hugely in terms of building relationships, nurturing those relationships with (other) cricket boards," Wasim Khan, chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board said.

South Africa is due to visit Pakistan in January to play a two-Test series which is part of world Test championship, followed by three Twenty20s.

New Zealand is penciled in for three ODIs and five Twenty20s in September, followed by two Twenty20s against England at Karachi. It will be England's first tour to Pakistan since 2005.

The PCB has also plans a home series against West Indies in December.

"We have a chock-a-block eight to 10 months coming up for us on the road playing at home," Khan said.

"We're also in discussions with Cricket Australia. They're due to be touring during the 2022 season, we're looking at them coming for an extended period of time."

When Sri Lanka's team bus came under a terrorist attack in March 2009, the doors of international cricket remained shut on



Pakistan until Zimbabwe became the first test-playing nation to play limited-overs series at Lahore in 2015.

Test cricket only returned to Pakistan late last year when Sri Lanka played two five-day games at Rawalpindi and Karachi.

Bangladesh also played a Test match before its second test was called off due to Covid-19.

In between the Zimbabwe and Bangladesh tours, a franchise-based domestic Twenty20 league — the Pakistan Super League — played a big role in pressing Pakistan's claims to host international games.

Players like Shane Watson, Dale Steyn and AB De Villiers were among some big names that toured Pakistan and have played for various city-based franchise teams.

Khan believes these players had a significant role in portraying Pakistan's improving image among cricket-playing nations.

"A lot of these players go back to their own countries ... and say,

you know what? Pakistan is one of the safest places to play," Khan said.

"These are those cricketers who are associated with their own cricket boards, who are international cricketers, who perhaps had a (different) perception of Pakistan before they came here."

Khan also wants to organize a limited-overs series against neighboring Afghanistan somewhere next year, after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, a former cricket captain for the country, visited Kabul and extended an invitation to Afghan national team this week.

"We will do everything we can to find a slot in the calendar to arrange fixtures against Afghanistan," Wasim Khan said.

World record holders Kosgei, Yeshaneh add to field for ADHM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Airtel Delhi Half Marathon on Saturday announced the entries of world record holders Brigid Kosgei and Ababel Yeshaneh for the upcoming event, adding lustre to an already star-studded field.

The event is part of the countdown to the World Athletics Gold Label Race.

At the Chicago Marathon in October 2019, Kenya's Kosgei stunned the world when she broke the long-standing women's world marathon record by more than a minute, clock-

ing 2:14:04.

Yeshaneh was a distant second on that occasion but still ran a superb personal best of 2:20:51.

However, the tables were turned at the Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon in February this year when a contest between the pair in the final stages of the race saw Ethiopia's Yeshaneh prevail in a world record 64:31 with Kosgei second in 64:49.

In their most recent outings last month, the 26-year-old Kosgei won the rescheduled London Marathon in 2:18:58 while the 29-year-old Yeshaneh had to contend with misfortune and fell at the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships in Poland, with just over three kilometres remaining, which took her out of medal contention although she recovered quickly to finish fifth.

While the elite runners will be at the start line at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, amateurs across the world will join the event using the new Airtel Delhi Half Marathon Mobile App.

Thiem downs Djokovic in instant classic

PTI ■ LONDON

Dominic Thiem became the first player in four years to reach back-to-back championship matches at the Nitto ATP Finals on Saturday, as he earned a milestone 7-5, 6-7(10), 7-6(5) victory against World No. 1 Novak Djokovic.

The 2019 runner-up failed to convert four match points in a dramatic second-set tie-break, but held his nerve to rally in a final-set tie-break against Djokovic at the O2 for the second straight year. Thiem's victory was his 300th at tour-level and his fifth against a World No. 1. The last player to reach consecutive finals at the season finale was Djokovic (2012-'16).

Each set came down to just a few points and it was Thiem who claimed the biggest points in the decider. Thiem increased his aggression to win six consecutive points from 0/4 down in the final-set tie-break and converted his sixth match point with a powerful forehand approach shot. Thiem is only



the second player in 2020 to win a tie-break against the World No. 1. Djokovic entered the third-set tie-break with a 15-1 tie-break record this season.

Thiem has now won five of his seven most recent ATP Head2Head matches against Djokovic, which includes two wins at this event. The Austrian also earned a final-set tie-break victory against Djokovic in the round-robin stage last year.

With his fifth win against Djokovic (5-7), Thiem joins

Andy Murray as the only players to beat each member of the Big Three on five or more occasions. Thiem also owns six wins against Rafael Nadal (6-9) and has triumphed five times against Roger Federer (5-2). Thiem has excelled in matches against the Big Three since the start of the 2019 ATP Tour season (9-3).

In a tight first set, neither player was able to earn a break point in their opening five return games. As Djokovic attempted to shorten points by coming to the net, Thiem made the crucial move at 5-5. The World No. 3 consistently fired backhands down the line to Djokovic's forehand volley and extracted errors to serve for the set. Thiem converted his first set point with an ace down the T.

Thiem was put under pressure on serve in the second set, but he found big serves to save break point at 3-4 and two set points at 5-6, 15/40. In the tie-break, Thiem held four match

points but he could not convert as errors began to creep into his game. Djokovic served with power and fired a forehand onto the line to escape danger on two match points and levelled the match when Thiem drove a backhand into the net.

There were no signs of disappointment from Thiem in the decider. The 27-year-old continued to serve at a high level to stay ahead in the score and reach a tie-break. Thiem committed errors early in the final-set tie-break, but he charged back from 0/4 with consistent aggression to win six of the final seven points. Last year, Thiem recovered from 1/4 to beat Djokovic in another final-set tie-break.

Djokovic was attempting to reach his eighth championship match at the season finale and move one win away from matching Federer's record haul of six Nitto ATP Finals crowns. The six-time year-end World No. 1 ends the year with a 41-5 record and four titles.

Women's football camp from Dec 1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian women's senior team will undergo its first national camp since the coronavirus-forced lockdown, in Goa from December 1, kick-starting its preparations for the 2022 AFC Asian Cup with a host of health safety measures.

As many as 30 players have been summoned by head coach Maymol Rocky for the camp. The 2022 edition of the continental event will be hosted in India.

A detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been prepared for the resumption of the team training, which lays down numerous Covid-19 protocols and guidelines in an exhaustive manner.

National teams director Abhishek Yadav said the team is eager to return to the field as soon as possible.

"The team is eager to get back on the pitch as soon as possible. The last few months have been unprecedented but we are taking cautious steps to take Indian football forward together." "The AFC Women's Asian Cup is in sight and we have to

be at the top of our preparations by the time the tournament kicks off."

He stressed that the safety of the team is of paramount importance.


"We have formulated the safety protocols from the protocols laid down by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India; Sports Authority of India (SAI), our medical team and other stakeholders."

The SOP, as prescribed by Indian team doctor Shervin Sheriff, mandates that incoming players and support staff must get a COVID test (RT-PCR) done from an ICMR accredited laboratory prior to their departure from their home towns.

If the RT-PCR test result comes negative, they can proceed to travel with necessary precautions.

After reaching Goa, a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) has to be done and if the result is negative, they can proceed to their respective rooms for seven days of quarantine. They will be tested again on Day 8, before joining training.





the pioneer agenda




In this world,
everyone wants to
know everything
about you, and I
think that's funny
— Leighton Meester

FROM THE INSIDE

Accounting for Karma

The law of karma provides a system of justice in which one is rewarded for good karma and punished for bad ones

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Know what you are worth

You can't simply blame time or destiny indications for your failure. Better look into your own fault lines

4

As we learn to live with Covid-19 around, things have been particularly harsh for children who are finding themselves trapped and are struggling to get back to normal, writes KAARTIK GUPTA, as he suggests measures to ensure that our children remain healthy and emerge stronger from this crisis

THE NEW CRISIS POINT

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Till now, the year 2020 has been a difficult one to say the least. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed everything around us. How we meet and greet others, type of clothes we wear, how we stand and even sit in public places, how often we go out; basically everything has changed. Months of uncertainty, lockdown, reports of chaos caused due to the pandemic all over media, restricted movements and forced isolations have taken a toll on the mental and emotional health of a large number of people.

As per recent reports, there has been a significant rise in people seeking psychological help over the past few months. Anxiety, Depression, increased incidents of domestic violence, substance abuse, stress due to loss of livelihood and financial crisis, escalation in the number of suicides were some of the grave issues for which people sought psychological help. People of all ages have been deeply impacted due to the changed world order.

As the nation is in a gradual phase of unlock at present, most of the workforce and economy has opened up. People have resumed work with varied work days and shifts. However, children are still stuck at homes. They are unable to go to their respective schools and colleges as Covid cases continue to rise and thus as a safety measure, educational institutions have not yet been given the nod to operate completely. Students, at different educational levels, are forced to continue with online classes. Some have even appeared for online exams, while few others wait for the technical glitches to be sorted. These have been challenging times especially for children as not just they had to adapt to a very different method of learning, they have also been deprived of the fun times they share with their friends in school and college. Those belonging to the lower socio-economic strata have found it even more difficult to keep up with the teaching due to lack of resources like smartphones, laptops and slower internet speed.

Problems faced by children due to the pandemic include:


- **Online learning:** Technological advancements made it possible for students to continue with their studies even from the space and safety of their own homes. Online classes, e-lectures, webinars replaced regular classrooms and lecture halls. However, it came with the side-effects of reduced attention span, virtual absenteeism as students would login for class but would be watching or playing something else rather than listening to their teachers, lack of writing skills as all the assignments or projects had to be virtually completed and submitted. Poor internet connectivity, concurrent online classes of sibling, lack of smartphone also affected the children's ability to attend e-schools/colleges. In addition to this, time-bound assignment submissions and exams heightened the child's anxiety if in case he/she is unable to upload the document for a reason beyond his/her control. Back-to-back classes also affected the children's ability to pay attention to what is being taught.
- **Restricted outdoor activity:** Childhood is a period where an individual grows not just by learning things at school, but also by engaging in play activities with his/her peers. It is a treasured time of the day and almost all children look forward to going out and playing with their friends. But the pandemic forced them to stay indoors and thus restricted their ability to play with friends and siblings. This has been one of the most important factors for children having more psychological and behavioural issues during the past few months. Regular exercise and playing activities ensure adequate production and secretion of endorphins and

growth hormones which are vital for a child's overall health and well-being.


- **Lack of privacy:** With everyone being at home for most part of the day, one's personal space has also been compromised to a certain extent. This is especially true for adolescents as more family time, less time with friends has been tough on some teenagers. Although, many have utilised this time well to bond with their family members, some found it difficult which often led to an increase in arguments and conflicts at home.
- **Increased screen time:** Ask any parent of a teenager or even a child and they will tell you how fed up they are due to their child's excessive phone/laptop usage. Social media, OTT platforms, messaging apps, online games; this cocktail is any parents' worst enemy and ironically their child's go to thing. Excessive screen time has been an issue for a very long time now, but due to the pandemic when even studies started happening online things just went from bad to worse for children and adolescents. As per a recent pre-Covid times study, an adolescent on an average spends around 6-7 hours watching or using phone/laptop screen; much higher than the healthy usage. Children and adolescents are completely hooked onto the screen which has adverse effects on their psychological well-being.
- **Restricted socialisation:** Due to the pandemic, our social interactions and gatherings have been severely affected. Humans are social animals and we need to socialise for us to feel safe and secure. Adolescents and young adults, especially the ones in their last school or college year, are apprehensive if they would be able to meet their friends and teachers properly one final time before they pass out from the educational institutions. Children have reported feeling isolated and lonely during the past few months as they have not been able to go and meet their friends in person.
- **Increased risk of child abuse:** The pandemic has increased the prevalence of many common sources of family stress, placing children at risk of abuse and neglect. As per recent reports, the incidents of domestic violence and abuse had significantly gone up during the lockdown period placing children at a greater risk and adversely affecting their impressionable minds. A child who has been a victim or even a witness to abuse at home can experience a variety of psychological and emotional issues both as a child and even later on as an adult. Providing a safe and nurturing home environment for a child to grow in is each one's responsibility and we need to take adequate steps to ensure the same. Any incident of abuse needs to be reported to the police and Child Welfare Committee so that the child can be immediately secured and the perpetrators be punished.

As the number of new cases has lessened over the past few weeks and we all learn to live with Covid-19 around, things are slowly getting back to normal; a new normal. As a child/adolescent going through any of the above mentioned issues, you can take the following measures to ensure that you remain healthy and emerge stronger from this crisis:

- **Communication:** Talk to your parents, siblings or friends about how you are feeling about the current scenario. Confide in the one you trust. Share whatever you are feeling or thinking about, no matter how trivial you might think it may sound to them. As a parent, be patient and a good listener to your child/adolescent. Hear them out and try to understand what he/she is going through. Encourage them to talk about their feelings, their thoughts, any apprehensions or anything they are worried about. Listen to understand, rather than to reply. Provide a caring, supportive and non-judgmental environment at home for him/her to feel safe and secure at home. Do not



AS PER RECENT REPORTS, THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT RISE IN PEOPLE SEEKING PSYCHOLOGICAL HELP OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, INCREASED INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, STRESS DUE TO LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD AND FINANCIAL CRISIS, ESCALATION IN THE NUMBER OF SUICIDES WERE SOME OF THE GRAVE ISSUES FOR WHICH PEOPLE SOUGHT PSYCHOLOGICAL HELP. PEOPLE OF ALL AGES HAVE BEEN DEEPLY IMPACTED DUE TO THE CHANGED WORLD ORDER



dismiss their fears or thoughts as illogical, even if they seem so to you.

- **Get involved at home:** Use the current situation to your benefit and try to get involved with some tasks at home. Learn new skills, take up responsibilities and help out at home in whatever way you can.
- **Limit screen time:** It might be difficult with online classes but reduce your screen time as much as possible. Attend classes sincerely rather than trying to multi-task or fool your teacher as you are the only one who'll suffer because of it. Take short breaks between classes. Always sit on a chair or floor and do your work; use your bed only for sleeping. Be mindful of your posture, as long usage of phone/laptop can lead to problems like cervical spondylitis.
- **Read books:** Do not limit your learning only through phone/laptop. Put in the extra effort and prepare through books as well; reading thoroughly helps in concept clarity and thus can be better recalled during exams.
- **Maintain a routine:** Having a structured day will lessen the anxiety or boredom you may feel. Go to bed and wake up at the same time everyday, do some physical exercise for half an hour at least, eat healthy home cooked food. Fix a time for your studies and engage in your hobbies regularly.
- **Socialise but responsibly:** Gradual unlocking of the country has begun and thus it has become easier to meet your friends. Once in a while you can go out and meet your friends for lunch or dinner provided you are following the safety guidelines laid down by the government for prevention of spread of Covid-19. It will be a good change for you and you can catch up with your friends in person after many months. If not

this, you always have the option of being in touch with them over video calls or normal phone calls. The important thing is to be in touch with your loved ones and not be withdrawn or isolated.

- **Avoid substance use:** Teenage is a time when the individual wants to explore and experiment different things in life. The new found sense of independence and an emotional roller-coaster driven by the hormonal changes can tempt one to seek thrill even at the expense of their well-being. Substance or drug use, which can rapidly develop into an abuse, is a major issue which plagues our children and adolescents. With the glorification of such activities in popular songs and movies, it poses a major threat as engaging in such things is wrongly considered to be cool and youngsters give into it just to be a part of a group. Please be advised to stay away from such stuff and use your intelligence and smartness wisely.
- **Seek Professional Help:** If you notice a significant change in your child's behaviour which is affecting his/her personal, social, academic/occupational functioning please be advised to consult your nearest Mental Health Professional like Clinical Psychologist, Child Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Social Worker or Counsellor.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going! Let us all do our bit to ensure that we all emerge stronger and wiser from this pandemic.

The author is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist at AKGsOVIHAMS Medical Centres at Pitampura and Satya Niketan. He provides psychotherapy, counselling, psychological assessment, and de-addiction counselling to people of all age groups

ACCOUNTING FOR KARMA

The law of karma provides a system of justice in which one is rewarded for good karma and punished for bad ones, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH

Karma is like opening a bank account. We have choices on how much money we want to put in to add to our balance or how much we wish to withdraw. We can choose to put different investments that result in interest to increase what we have available in our account. We can also choose to use credit card in which we pay interest on what we spend. The choice is ours to make.

Similarly, we have a karmic account. Each day we can choose whether we want to engage in thoughts, words, and deeds that are going to result in good that comes back to us. We can also engage in thoughts, words, and deeds, for which we must pay the consequences. Beyond creating good and bad karmic accounts, we can also choose to do things that create a balance of zero so that we do not have to return to this world to either reap the benefits or pay the consequences.

CAN WE REDUCE OUR KARMA? WHAT ARE NEH-KARMAS?

We can reduce our karmas by living mindfully of the karmic law. That means doing things that do not incur good or bad karma. However, if we are still not living life in a *neh*-karma or karma-less way, it is better to have good karma than bad karma. There are many examples of people who can directly see the rewards that came back to them from a deed of good karma. Many times, we cannot read the correlation between what we have done what we received in return. Sometimes the effects span several lifetimes. At other times, what happens to us is a result of something we set in motion years ago.

Everything we do is recorded in the karmic accounts. There is a strict accounting of our every thought, word and deed. It is wise to make sure that we do not commit any actions, thoughts or words that can rebound to us with consequence. Instead, we must have thoughts, words, and deeds that are good so that good can come back to us.

CAN WE MAKE BETTER CHOICES TO SPEED UP OUR JOURNEY BACK TO GOD?

However, if we are on the spiritual path, we do not want to return to this world to reap the rewards of what we do. There is a better plan. We can do good but do so without having to come back to reap the rewards. The solution is to do good in the Name of God, without wanting any reward for ourselves. This means we are doing good in the



world, but the credit is being passed on to God. We do not want material gains for what we do. We only want to accumulate spiritual benefits and the love and pleasure of God. These are termed acts that are *neh*-karma or karma-free.

How can this be done? We can have good thoughts, words, and deeds in life but we pass on the credit to God. We do good things because it is the right thing to do, not to make name for ourselves or earn money. We say good things to others because it is the kind and loving thing to do, just out of goodness of our heart, without expecting anything in return. We think good things about others as an expression of the spiritual love we are developing in which we recognise all people as members of the same family of God.

We still do good, but our deeds are selfless without us wanting any material rewards. We do get benefits, but they are of the spirit. These benefits come in the form of spiritual progress, the love of God, earning the pleasure of God, and the burning of our karmas without creating new ones.

Another activity in which we can spend our time without creating more karma is Meditation. When we sit with a still mind we are not creating more karma. Sitting in meditation but think-

THE REALITIES OF THE KARMIC LAW SHOULD SINK INTO US SO THAT WE MAKE BETTER CHOICES IN OUR THOUGHTS, WORDS, AND DEEDS. IF WE WANT TO MAKE SPIRITUAL PROGRESS, THE ROADMAP IS LAID OUT FOR US AND IS OUR CHOICE AS TO WHETHER WE PUT OUR CAR INTO DRIVE AND MOVE FORWARDS, STAY IN NEUTRAL AND REMAIN IDLE, OR DRIVE IN REVERSE

ing critical and hurtful thoughts of others is not karma-less meditation. It is sitting and thinking thoughts that create more karma. That is why *simran* or repetition of the name of God is an important helping factor in preventing karma in meditation.

If we repeat the name of God, our mind is focused and does not have a chance to create karma by thinking negative thoughts against anyone. *Simran* helps us forget the past hurt or future worries, helps us to focus on being in the present moment in which we are meditating to progress on the spiritual journey back to God. The analogy is like keeping our car in neutral at a red light. We are not using up our gas, but we also not moving in any direction.

LAW OF KARMA AND JOURNEY OF OUR SOUL

The soul undergoes a long journey through various forms of creation from the moment is separated from God until it returns to God. This journey involves transmigration of the soul in which it accumulates karma, a record of all its thoughts, words, and deeds. Karmas accumulated can be good or bad: good thoughts, words, and deeds, or bad thoughts, words, and

deeds. The law of karma, or the law of action and reaction, provides a system of justice in which one is rewarded for good karmas and punished for bad karmas. A soul must pay off all karma to get back to God.

The realities of the karmic law should sink into us so that we make better choices in our thoughts, words, and deeds. If we want to make spiritual progress, the roadmap is laid out for us and is our choice as to whether we put our car into drive and move forwards, stay in neutral and remain idle, or drive in reverse. Our free will means the choice is ours to make.

Let us remember that whatever we do will come back to us, whether good or bad. Let us also realise that others, especially our children, are watching us and will model their behaviour upon ours. Let's be aware of the effect of our thoughts, words, and deeds and ensure that we do not do anything that will come back to us as karmic debt in the future. It is better if we do everything good in the Name of God without wanting any material rewards. In this way, we will not be creating karma and we will find that we will wind up our karmas, reunite with God, and enjoy eternal peace and happiness.

The writer is a spiritual leader



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Rama's lessons to remember



The legend goes that Diwali is celebrated to mark Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after slaying Ravana. We have been celebrating Diwali for ages. But it is important to remember that more than Rama's victory, it is the values he stood for that needs to be recapitulated and imbibed. Lord Rama lives not only as an incarnation of God born to end evil prevailing in the world during those times. Lord Rama lives as *Maryada Purushottam*, the noblest among human beings who stood for certain values and principles, rather epitomised them. Let this Diwali remind us of those values and, may be, give us the will and the ability to practise those. Rama and *Ramayana* need to be the source of strength and sustenance for us to practise righteousness. Thinking of those principles that Rama stood for may then be a timely reminder to help us reinvent ourselves. The sum and substance of Rama's character lie in this one story that has been narrated and recounted time and again. The story goes that when Rama returned to Ayodhya after killing the mighty demon king, who was the most powerful of the kings on the globe in those days, people were dismayed. So the citizens of Ayodhya asked out of disbelief how Rama could kill someone as invincible as Ravana. The reply that the Lord gave is worth pondering over. Lord Rama very humbly said that I did not kill Ravana. It is the 'I' that killed Ravana. I, the bloated ego doused in arrogance. It was the ego of Ravana that proved his undoing. In fact, one big difference between Rama and Ravana was humility. Rama was humility incarnate whereas Ravana was all pride and haughtiness. In the present times, what we are seeing all around us is that humility as a value has become almost extinct, and arrogance and pride are driving human behaviour. Even the corona impact has not done much to dampen the human ego, though it did show man his place. Rama's principles were driven by ethics. This, however, was also shown by all his kinsmen, but Rama still stood apart. He not only chose to keep his father's promise even though he could have avoided it, given the ground swell of opinion that was in his favour. Look how people conduct themselves to retain power today. What happened in the US Presidential election is a pointer. Prudence and ethical wisdom are two entirely different things. Prudence is about knowing which side of the bread is buttered while ethical wisdom is knowing when to say no to the buttered side. Even when Rama was in exile, his brother, Bharat, and people of Ayodhya pleaded to him to reconsider his decision. But that did not deter him from his principled resolve. Rama's commitment to carry out his father's promise even after the latter's demise is a lesson in values. Rama's pursuit of *dharma* was above everything. And the entire *Ramayana* reflects this. Rama knew the essence of *dharma* and he also had the will to uphold it. He was an ideal representation of man who combined values, virtues and vision. Rama's victory over Ravana is certainly to be rejoiced. But his principled conduct offers more valuable lessons.

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Find your peace post a fight

If we handle our disagreements in the right way, we can help our own selves to bounce back and emerge with a stronger bond, says DR ANJU SHARMA

Disagreements can arise in any relationships. The consequence of such disagreements sometimes leads to arguments, that are the worst moments to come across. But if we handle such situations in the right way, we can help us to bounce back with a stronger bond. Here are some tips to deal with anxiety after arguments with loved ones:

GIVE SOME TIME AND SPACE

After an argument, you should give some time and space to each other. This is important to resolve the conflict. To avoid further heated arguments, give a breathing room by stepping away for a glass of water or a breathing exercise. This will give time to calm down the emotionally charged up individuals.

FIGURE OUT THE ROOT CAUSE OF ANXIETY

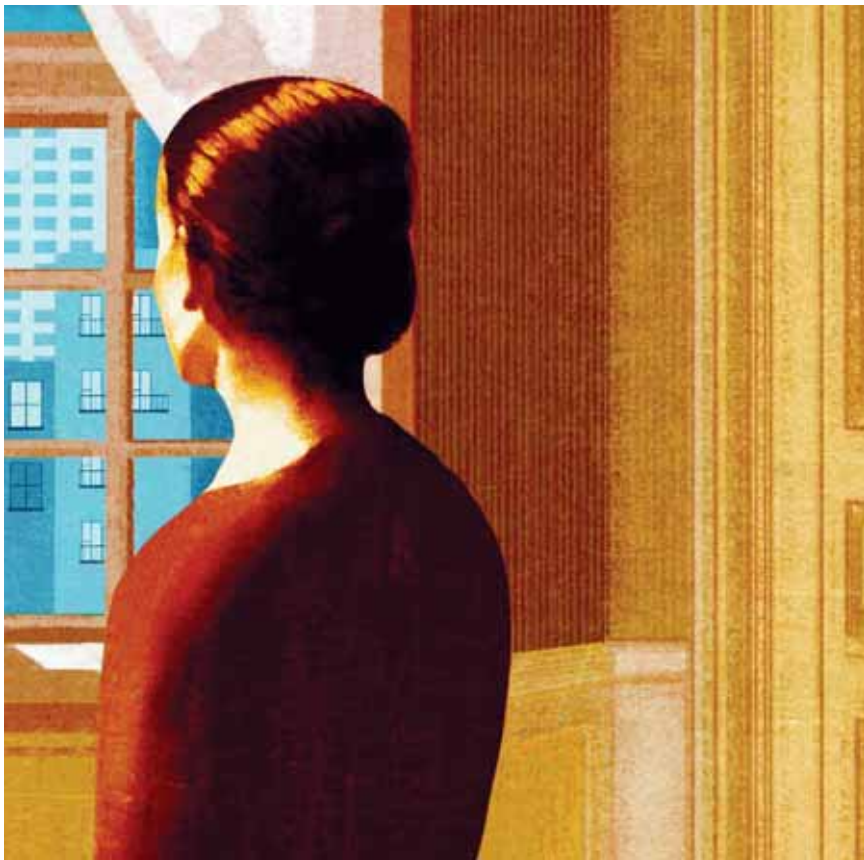
When you are away from your loved one giving time to cool down, try to understand the reason behind the other person's behaviour. If they are being anxious, then understand what triggered their anxiety level and what you can do to calm down the situation.

COMMUNICATE, DO NOT ARGUE

When the time is right, extend the olive branch. Talk to each other calmly and discuss each other's point of view. Talking and apologising to each other means that you acknowledge that both of you have been hurt and want to heal the relationship.

BE A GOOD LISTENER

During the fight, both the individuals are trying hard to get their respective point across and this makes the situation worse. To resolve the argument, try to listen to your loved ones' perspective. If you still disagree with the other person's perspective, then you can acknowledge their emotional hurt and



pacify with statements like 'I am sorry (topic) made you feel bad'. Most importantly, do not get into defensive mode when the other person is speaking about your role in the argument.

HUG AND MAKEUP

One of the most important steps is before or while communicating, hug the

person and rub the spinal cord. Massaging the spine will help in the flow of hormones and calms down the cells of the body. It relaxes the stressed muscles and the person will settle for better communication.

The writer is a renowned Psychic reformer, Sound & Energy Master, Wellness-Holistic Coach and the founder of Musical Healing Band, *Sound of Infinity*

Ten questions to ask self

For good life, we need God's blessings. There is no other way to exist well, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI as he encourages us to look within

There are some questions that each one of us must answer for our own well being. The first question being: "Do you accept that you are small?" If you don't, you are far removed from reality. For example, if you consider yourself very big or important and you come down with a contagious disease. Just watch the reaction of all near and dear ones. They will try to help surely but only after making sure that they are safe. The wise persons take shelter of the omnipotent God. I do so because I have realised that without a good connection with God, I am helpless.

The next question is: "Are you part of the creation or an independent entity?" Lord Krishna states in the *Bhagavad Gita* that we all are parts of God. (15.7) He knows because He is the creator. When you accept this fact, then, others become equally important to you. You need to cooperate with them. Only then, you will get their help. The third question is: "If you don't, then, can you exist on your own?" My experience tells me that I cannot. It has been estimated that human beings need help from upwards of twenty persons to exist well on a daily basis. The fourth question is: "Do you know everything you need to know?" Only a silly person would answer in the affirmative, because there is so much knowledge. Therefore, wise persons take shelter of the omniscient God, who provides the required information through intuitions, etc. or arranges through some other sources like human beings, media, etc.

The fifth question is: "Can you do whatever you desire?" My answer is a firm no. I am very limited in what I can accomplish on my own. Therefore, I have chosen to take shelter of God, and



I seek His help very frequently. God guides and helps as only He can. Suppose I need some favour from some person and he is not keen to oblige. God can and does change that person's mind if God feels that it is for general good, not just for my selfish reasons. The sixth question is: "Can you control results?" Unfortunately, the answer will be in negative mostly than positive, such is the nature of this changing world. Therefore, Lord Krishna has instructed us to not try to predetermine result. (2.47) But one thing is certain and that is one can cross all impediments by God's grace, which can be attained by developing God consciousness. (18.58) There are many ways the same can be achieved.

The seventh question is: "What does taking shelter mean to you?" To me it means turning to God and praying for His guidance and help for whatever is troubling me. God is very merciful. He guides and helps. The eighth question is: "What do you really want

in life?" One seeks the benevolence of God so one's family should remain healthy, peaceful and happy. The ninth question: "What does the word protection mean to you?" We need to be safe from whatever could threaten us, on which we have no control. For example, we need assurance that no one should physically harm us. That brings us to the last question: "Can you gain at will whatever you need by way of resources to exist well?" The answer has to be a firm no, because we need so many types of resources throughout our lives. However, God has promised in the Gita that for His advanced devotees. (9.22)

What did you learn by answering these questions? My experience tells me that for a high quality of life, I need God's shelter. I have found no other way to exist well. God must guide and help me at all times. For me, this is an absolutely necessity.

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Women in a just society in New India

“The awkward fit of theory to actuality is most vivid for poor women in poor economies. These women may depend on others, but lack the supposed securities of dependence. They are impoverished, but are often providers. They are powerless, yet others who are yet more vulnerable depend on them for protection. Their vulnerability reflects heavy demands as much as slender resources.”

— Philosopher Onora O’Neill

Concerns about inequality and injustice women face in various societies don’t require a league consisting only of economists and policy-analysts. Both historically and contemporarily, philosophers and literary figures world over have reaffirmed their interest through their characters in these overwhelming problems. I will like to initiate this article by bringing into picture two characters: Sissy Jupe from Charles Dickens’s novel *Hard Times* and Vasilisa Arsenyeva from Salman Rushdie’s novel *The Golden House*. One may wonder what these novelists writing in different centuries have to do with women and a just society. Both Dickens and Rushdie in their own way handled hard facts of life with an unflinching appeal to their readers.

Mr M’Choakumchild was exploring Sissy’s knowledge about national prosperity. “Now, this schoolroom is a Nation. And in this nation, there are fifty millions of money. Isn’t this prosperous nation, and ain’t you in a thriving state?” Sissy pleaded ignorance but nevertheless explained her ignorance. She said she could not answer the question unless she knew, “Who had got the money, and whether any of it was mine.” Obviously Sissy Jupe, not happy with sad affairs of distributive justice chose to lament it.

Rushdie, in *V Arsenyeva*, finds a different version of a woman. Rushdie captured her emotions while she delivered a monologue on poverty, love and need. Let me quote from her monologue. “Please. I require no sympathy regarding the poverty of my origin... Poverty is a disgusting condition and to fail to emerge from it is also disgusting. Fortunately I excelled at all things both physical and mental and so I have been able to come to America... I know my presence here is the fruit of my own labour... The past is a broken cardboard suitcase full of photographs of things I no longer wish to see. I am the general of myself and my body is the foot soldier that obeys what the general commands.”

The two characters share some commonalities. First both are women: one a young school-going girl and the second *V Arsenyeva*; a relatively older Russian girl with origin in Siberia, and living in America. Next both concern themselves with resources: their distribution and empowerment. Both characters, through their outpourings, set the ball rolling: an emotive story of real agony and anguish of a little girl who would be a woman a few years later and a young woman who was a little girl a few years earlier. Sissy for her age was quite wise; poverty taught her wisdom from very early stage of childhood; it gave her far-sightedness early in life. She could distinguish between finer nuisances of micro and macroeconomics and had no qualms in believing macro affluence did not suo motu convert itself into micro affluence and socio-economic comfort. The monologue of *V Arsenyeva* is a reflection on overcoming paucity of resources and ignorance by dint of “great self-discipline” and the acquired ability to “build a house” so that “one can live in it (this being an example).” Sissy lamented lack of empowerment, *Arsenyeva* believed in self-determination and relentless pursuance of her dreams.

Both these women used their experiences to remind the world it fell short of being completely just. History bears us out the world has always fallen short of being completely just particularly when it comes to women. The exclusion of women outside the realm of opportunity to partner in building prosperous societies and economies is denial of a just society to them and others too.

Much work both in theory and practice has been done for exploring the methods to improve the lot of the weak, the exploited and the marginalised. Looking at the recent history of empowerment, a conference that took place at World Institute for Development Economics Research in Helsinki in 1988 to deliberate upon issues like what is meant by “quality of life”, and the requirements in terms of socio-economic policy for improving and ultimately achieving it there-



by empowering the deprived ones, started a lively discussion on way ahead. Helsinki conference unequivocally stressed on the need to assess a number of distinct areas of human life in determining how well people are doing rather than measuring quality of life by hinging on single index of per capita national income.

From Helsinki conference the world travelled through Millennium Development Goals and reached in 2015 more comprehensive and inclusive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 5 of Sustainable Development Goals 2015 aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women in the public and private spheres and to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources and access to ownership of property. Descent work, equal access to education, and representation in political and economic decision making processes are the rights women must enjoy. Investment in the empowerment of women results not only in making progress on Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals but also in fuelling sustainable economic development. Let us have a look at Indian scenario.

On August 14, 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru reminded the nation about the task ahead i.e. “...the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity.” But unfortunately for close to six decades (which indeed is a long period) the tasks identified by Nehru remained largely unaccomplished with not much success. Many countries like Cuba, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Costa Rica, etc, following different growth strategies could achieve huge reduction in human deprivation and inequality. In these countries much stress was laid particularly on expansion of basic education and health care. India’s performance was certainly not worth bragging about and not very enthusiastic in the field of opportunities for women and their empowerment. When it comes to women, where does the problem lie particularly in traditional societies like ours?

Julia Annas, Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University, in an essay titled “Women and the Quality of Life: Two Norms or One?” tries to answer above question by analysing the existence of “two actual norms for human life”. She gives examples from traditional societies where certain practices have withheld benefits accruing to women. For example, unfortunately it is still believed that resources should not be “wasted” on educating daughters. The reason adduced for

this as cited by Annas is “...the women in the traditional society, with their domestic futures, don’t desire education.” Annas further gives similar examples like, to quote Annas, “...women may justly be kept from participation in public life because they are more self-centered and less capable of impartial thought than men.” This example shows how such reasons adduced result in various assertions of differences between men’s and women’s natures. Annas ridicules this reasoning and asserts that “superficial desires” as compared to “informed desires” where all positive aspects of education are known to women must recede and thus women will show desire for education. What the learned philosopher means is, “...injustice results from the existence of two norms,” and harps on mitigating superficial desires “resting on an unreflective view of their circumstances.”

Even now it has been a known practice in many households that the woman who cooks food is the last to eat it and that too whatever meagre is leftover. They are not expected to complain and they are ever ready to confess that their nutritional status and physical health are good even when they have physical ailments. Thus desires adjust to deprivation and division of functions. This sort of exclusionary neglect needs immediate attention and equipping women with adequate information not justifying “superficial desires” is the first crucial step towards eliminating cases of exclusionary neglect. Annas rightly concludes in any society gender issues are not focused on women alone but the relationship between men and women.

Current efforts afoot in India under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflect on concerns expressed by philosophers like Professors Julia Annas and Onora O’Neill. Narendra Modi has visualised through his vast experience as leader of Gujarat and afterwards the nation the use of comparative perspective by going beyond the limited.

For example, the need to understand the nexus between social conditions and economic opportunities has been properly appreciated. He has realised the crucial linkages between creating basic educational facilities and opening up of new economic opportunities and expanding the scope for better use of labour and skills. Most importantly, it has also been recognised that social opportunities are influenced by a host of factors like the state of health and educational services, the nature and availability of finance, the presence

of markets, including policies to promote and restrict these markets, presence of middlemen in markets and very importantly gender injustice. Therefore, the Prime Minister insists on unified approach to empowerment and this is reflected in various programmes launched by present Government.

The commitment of India to implement the Sustainable Development Goals was spelt out through the speech and commitment made by Prime Minister of India at the UN Summit for the adoption of post 2015 Development Agenda. In his speech the Prime Minister said, “Today, much of India’s development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals.” Further with reference to empowerment, he said, the attack on poverty includes not only expanded conventional schemes of development, but also a new era of inclusion and empowerment, turning distant dreams into immediate possibilities. He further spoke about new bank accounts for 180 million; direct transfer of benefits, micro enterprises and micro finance, drawing on the strength of digital and mobile applications with the focus on basics, housing, power, water and sanitation for all. These are important not just for welfare, but also human dignity. Development is intrinsically linked to empowerment of women and it begins with a massive programme on educating the girl child that has become every family’s mission.

He clarified these are goals with a definite date, not just a mirage of hope. Thus the broad agenda towards empowerment with reference to SDGs in India is set.

The Prime Minister’s constant emphasis on inclusion and inclusiveness is at the root of developmental efforts progressing in India. Sincere, honest and transparent efforts to achieve overall development for all with no exceptions are clearly visible. The Prime Minister’s historic speech makes it amply clear that overall human development has much to do with making structural changes to conquer the inequities and exploitations that characterise society. This in turn constitutes an efficient and effective blend of meeting “basic needs” and equipping people with “capabilities”. Efforts aim at planning and intertwining capabilities created now with a bigger expansion of capabilities in the future. Possible conflicts between immediately enhancing capabilities i.e meeting basic needs and long-term expansion of capabilities in the future i.e economic prosperity cannot be ruled out and

need be addressed in time.

Though SDGs cover all human beings, for the purpose of this article and due to paucity of space, I will limit myself with some important schemes launched in recent past to enhance opportunities for women empowerment.

The Government of India has recognised, amid others, two important ways to empower women: Economic empowerment through participation in economic activities and opportunities and second through mitigation of educational deprivations. The schemes chalked out and implemented broadly address these requirements and thereby endeavour to ensure that women gain equal rights, opportunities and access to resources. The first and foremost thing is their safety, security and economic empowerment. Towards that end, schemes like Mahila Police Volunteers (MPV) envisaging engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers in States/UTs who act as a link between police and community and facilitate women in distress; Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana empowering women below poverty line and protecting their health by providing LPG cylinder free of cost.

Working Women Hostel (WWH) ensures the safety and security for working women by providing safe and conveniently located accommodation. Pradhan Mantri Sukanya Samridhi Yojana aims at economic empowerment of girls by opening their bank accounts and enabling their parents to save funds for their female child’s education and marriage. Under this scheme the account can be opened at any post office or a branch of an authorised commercial bank in India between the birth of the girl child and till the age of ten by a parent or guardian. The account offers 8.6 per cent interest with the girl child able to operate the account once she is ten years old and the account allows for fifty per cent withdrawal at the age of eighteen for higher education. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana aims at prioritising housing for women. Launched in 2016, Mahila-E-Haat is a bilingual marketing platform intended to help aspiring women entrepreneurs, NGOs and self-help groups to showcase their services and products. Mahila Shakti Kendra was launched in 2017 to provide women with opportunities for skill development, employment, health, nutrition and digital literacy.

Each Mahila Shakti Kendra working at National, State, District and Block levels, provides an opportunity to women to approach the

Government for their entitlements through capacity building and training. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana that came into being in January 2015, drives at generating awareness and improving the efficacy of welfare services for girl child. Most important components of the scheme include addressing the issue of declining child sex ratio, gender-based sex-selective eliminations and protecting survival, protection and education of the girl child.

These schemes resonate well with the sustainable targets on gender equality and are marked by inclusionary coherence. For example, the Government has identified ending violence against women and providing security and safety to women as a key national priority. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme aims at equal opportunity and education for girls; Sukanya Samridhi Yojana aims at prosperity of girl child and Janani Suraksha Yojana provides safe motherhood intervention under National Health Mission with the objective of reducing maternal and neo-natal mortality among poor pregnant women.

The most novel feature of these schemes is generally these don’t flow from a common perception that problems faced by women are cases of more general difficulties of the deprived and marginalised population. Each and every scheme with its distinct identity and full-fledged mission is intended for girls and women and aims at establishment of a just society for women without any discrimination.

The crux of recent efforts in India in the field of women empowerment is reduction of women inequality and injustice by providing them resources and opportunities and equipping them with decision-making power including political powers. Onora O’Neill suggests, “a serious account of justice cannot gloss over the predicaments of impoverished providers in marginalised and developing countries.” That is an important lesson for policy makers who plan for creating a just society or making society less unjust. An emerging New India very well addresses the issue raised by Onora O’Neill. The concept of a just society is firmly embedded in the multi-peaked idea of a New India.

(The writer, a retired Additional Deputy CAG, is a poet, writer and columnist. His fourth book “Soliloquy of a Small-Town Uncivil Servant”, a semi-autobiographical account, published in 2019 by Rupa Publications, New Delhi, has been getting international acclaim)

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