

WORLD 6

YEMEN'S HOUTHIS EXECUTE  
9 OVER OFFICIAL'S KILLING

MONEY 7

CRYPTOCURRENCY HYPER  
FUND UNDER GOVT SCANNER

SPORT 8

BOPANNA, RAMKUMAR CRACK  
IN MUST-WIN DOUBLES MATCHPublished From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL  
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI  
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD  
VIJAYWADA

BHOPAL, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2021; PAGES 8+4 ₹2

## sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



## ‘Humiliated’ Captain resigns

## Amarinder blasts Sidhu, Congress

## Centre cautions States on Covid as schools open

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

## As 3rd wave fear lurking, States told to monitor rise of Covid among kids



As schools reopen gradually in various States, the Centre on Saturday asked the respective authorities to monitor any rising Covid infection trends among children and strengthen the public health response infrastructure, including medical oxygen plants, ICU, and hospital facilities and essential medicine stocking.

The suggestions come amid fear of a third Covid-19 wave as at least 70 districts in 15 States have become a cause of concern in terms of rising Covid-19 cases.

At a review meeting with States on Saturday, the Government noted that around 34 of these districts have a positivity rate exceeding 10 per cent, and in 36 districts the rate hovers between 5 and 10 per cent. Cabinet Secretary Rajeev Gauba, who chaired the meeting, said there was no room for complacency and called for strict enforcement of Covid appropriate behaviour, especially in the wake of upcoming festivities.

He asked the States to implement intensive containment and active surveillance in clusters reporting high cases and not delay the imposition of restrictions, increase testing

while maintaining RT-PCR ratio and promptly commission pressure swing adsorption plants, oxygen cylinders, concentrators and ventilators.

“States were also told to undertake regular reviews for priority implementation of emergency response package II to ensure preparedness with enough headroom, monitor infection spread in children considering that few States have opened schools, monitor breakthrough infections post-vaccination and analyse the emerging evidence, monitor mutations including sending sufficient samples for genome sequencing,” the Government said in a statement here.



Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amrinder Singh submits his resignation to Governor Banwarilal Purohit at the Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh on Saturday

PTI

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Out but not defeated, a visibly agitated Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday declared that he will stay in politics and had his options open, while making it clear that he would never accept an “incapable” Navjot Singh Sidhu as the Chief Minister.

Minutes after handing over his and his Council of Minister's resignation to the Governor, Capt Amarinder hit out at the party high command for humiliating him time and again.

Capt Amarinder claimed that he had fulfilled his duty given to him, serving Punjab as the Chief Minister for nine and half years, including five years of his previous term (2002-2007). “I worked as strongly as I can for my Punjab and the

people and would continue to do so. I am not going to bog down. I have completed my task. Now I will take over the next,” he added.

Keeping the cards close to his chest, Capt Amarinder refused to disclose what he had planned for his future.

Earlier in the day, Amarinder had convened a meeting of Ministers and MLAs supporting him at his official residence here at 2 pm. However, apart from a handful of his close allies in the cabinet and among MLAs, not many attended the meeting.

Amarinder had led the Congress to a stunning victory in the 2017 Assembly polls, following 10 years of Akali rule in the State. The Congress had mustered a brute majority of 80 in the 117-member Assembly.

removed if he did not tender his resignation. Sensing the cal mood, he rushed to the Raj Bhavan and tendered the one-line resignation letter which said, “I hereby tender my resignation as Chief Minister, and that of my Council of Ministers.”

The political script in Punjab has an uncanny similarity with the one in BJP ruled Gujarat where not only the Chief Minister but the entire Cabinet was replaced to give the Government a brand new look ahead of the elections.

Cong's last-ditch effort to negate anti-incumbency; Amarinder to ‘explore options’

AMITABH SHUKLA ■ CHANDIGARH

Less than six months before the Assembly polls in the State, Congress changed Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh conceding that it was the best political alternative to dent the growing anti-incumbency against the two-time Chief Minister.

It was clear that the political script written by the Congress high command was unpalatable to the Punjab Chief Minister who submitted his resignation to Governor Banwarilal Purohit soon after 4pm before the meeting of Congress Legislature Party (CLP) to elect a new leader.

Citing continued humiliation by the Congress leadership over the past two months, Capt Amarinder made it clear that he would explore and exercise his future options when the time comes, “There is always an option, and I will use that option when the time comes. At the moment I am still in the Congress,” he said after submitting his resignation.

“I was humiliated three times by the Congress leader-

ship in the past two month. They called the MLAs to Delhi twice and now convened CLP here,” Amarinder said, adding that he had decided and informed Congress president Sonia Gandhi in the morning that he would resign.

“Apparently they (Congress

high command) do not have confidence in me and did not think I could handle my job. But I felt humiliated at the manner in which they handled the whole affair,” he told reporters at the gate of the Raj Bhavan after giving his resignation letter to the Governor.

“Let them appoint who they trust,” he remarked, taking a dig at the party leadership.

After the arrival of AICC general secretary incharge of the State Harish Rawat and Central observer Ajay Maken in Chandigarh, it was clear that Capt Amarinder would be

## Ram Lala jalabhishek: Water from 115 countries received

Water from remaining 77 nations would be procured before Ayodhya temple is constructed, hopes Rajnath Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday received water from 115 countries of seven continents for offering in the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. He termed it “innovative thinking” and underlined the message of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”.

He made these remarks at his residence here after receiving the water from rivers, streams, and oceans from these 115 countries. Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra general secretary Champat Rai and Ambassadors and High Commissioners from several countries including Denmark, Fiji and Nigeria were present on the occasion.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh receives holy water from 115 nations for Ayodhya Ram Mandir, in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

The water was procured by NGO Delhi Study Circle, which is led by BJP leader and former Delhi MLA Vijay Jolly. Lauding this effort, Rajnath said, “Procuring water from all the countries of the world replicates the thinking of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam of India. Bringing water from 115 countries is an excellent

work.”

He hoped water from remaining 77 countries would also be procured by the time construction of the temple is completed. “We will do ‘Jalabhishek’ of our Ram Lala from that water.” He further said construction of Ram Temple is a moment of pride for everybody.

## Supriyo joins TMC months after vowing to quit politics

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a blow to the saffron clan, Asansol BJP MP and former Union Minister Babul Supriyo on Saturday quit the party and joined the Trinamool Congress little more than two months after he was stripped of his ministerial status after which he had vowed to quit politics.

Supriyo joined the TMC in the presence of the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and its Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien.

While the State BJP called it an “act of revenge”, the Asansol MP said there is no vengeance in his mind and that he left his earlier party just because he was “feeling stagnated” and the “space for work was increasingly getting narrower.... I thought my effort to serve people for several years got a full stop... why... or how... is irrelevant”.

Supriyo's joining the TMC comes close on the heel of at



TMC national general Secretary Abhishek Banerjee with former Union Minister and sitting MP Babul Supriyo after the latter joined the Trinamool Congress in Kolkata on Saturday

PTI

least 5 MLAs, including former BJP national vice president Mukul Roy, quitting that party.

Soon after he joined the BJP, the Union Government on Saturday scaled down the armed security cover of Central paramilitary commandos given to the Asansol MP. His security cover was reduced from the second-highest level of Z to Y category, sources said.



Boats anchored along the swollen Ganga river following heavy rain, in Varanasi on Saturday

PTI

## Whopping 80 cr Covid vaccines administered

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has administered 80 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses so far, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday. A day ago, India administered the highest ever single-day vaccinations with 2.5 crore doses given in 24 hours, which Mandaviya had described as a golden chapter in world history.

In the meantime, India reported 35,662 new Covid-19 cases and 281 deaths in the last 24 hours. 33,798 got recovered in the same duration.

Kerala recorded 23,260 Covid cases and 131 deaths in the past 24 hours.

The countrywide vaccination drive against the coronavirus was rolled out on January 16 with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase.

“Standing tall against Covid-19. India administers 80 crore vaccine doses. Congratulations to the nation on this momentous feat,” Mandaviya tweeted using the hashtag “Worlds Largest Vaccination Drive”.

India took 85 days to touch the 10-crore vaccination mark, 45 more days to cross the 20-crore mark and 29 more days to reach the 30-crore mark, according to the Ministry.



A beneficiary receives a dose of Covid-19 vaccine in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

## Free LPG to 5L under PM Ujjwala Yojana-2: Shah

Union Home Min says Modi Govt tirelessly working for welfare of poor, downtrodden

PNS ■ JABALPUR

Union Home and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah said that today with the launch of the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, free gas connections are being provided to 5 lakh mothers in Madhya Pradesh. Under this scheme, poor women will now get freedom from smoke. He said that the development is picking up in the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Central Government is continuously working for the welfare of the poor, backward, tribal and downtrodden sections of the country. Since the first term of the Central Government in year 2014, the schemes made for the welfare of the poor are being implemented. Union Home Minister Amit Shah was addressing the launch program of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala



Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan pays tributes to Raja Shankar Shah and Kunar Ragunath Shah on their martyrdom day in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday

Pioneer photo

Yojana 2.0 to distribute free gas connections at Veterinary

College Ground, Jabalpur. Shah said that till 2014,

about 13 crore affluent families had gas connections. Poor

women had to cook food on the stove by collecting wood in the traditional way. The smoke from the wood caused problems with the lungs and eyes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi understood this pain very well and started the Ujjwala scheme. So far, free gas connections have been provided to the homes of about 9 crore poor families. In the year 2019, in the second term of the government, the work of providing one crore free gas connections was done. In Madhya Pradesh, 74 lakh people were given gas connections. Today five lakh people are being provided its benefit.

Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, bank accounts were opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and the amount of Government schemes was transferred directly into them.

Continued on Page 4

## CAPSULE

## CONG: TMC'S ATTACK ON RAHUL UNWARRANTED

**New Delhi:** The Congress on Saturday accused the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress of undermining the leadership of the grand old party and said its attack on Rahul Gandhi was “unwarranted and in poor taste”. The remarks of the Congress came after the TMC's Bengali mouthpiece ‘Jago Bangla’ ran a cover story, attacking Gandhi by saying he has failed to take on the BJP and Banerjee, who is the chief minister of West Bengal, should be the opposition's face now.

## SEVEN GIRLS DROWN IN JHARKHAND POND

**Latehar:** Seven girls aged between 12 and 20 years drowned in a pond at a village in Jharkhand's Latehar district on Saturday during ‘Karma Puja’ festivities, a senior official said. The tragedy occurred at Bukru village under Shregada within Balumath police station limits when the girls had gone to the pond for immersion after Karma Puja, a major festival in Jharkhand, Deputy Commissioner Abu Imran said.

## THAROOR CALLS FOR PERMANENT CONG CHIEF

**Kochi:** Senior Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor on Saturday called for a permanent president to head the party, which is ‘now at an interim stage’. He said all the Congress leaders have sought a permanent president for the party.



**HOME THEATRE**

# Engaging and interesting



**BELL BOTTOM**  
**Amazon Prime**  
**\*ing: Akshay Kumar, Lara Dutta, Vaani Kapoor, Huma Qureshi, Dolly Ahluwalia**  
**Rated: 6/10**

This movie released in theatres last month and all those who missed watching it in the cinema hall can now see it on the OTT platform in the safety of their homes. The film in 15 days of its theatrical released earned collected ₹26.50 crore at the BO. Directed by Ranjit M Tewari, *Bell Bottom* is based on true a event — hijacking of a plane that was first taken to Amritsar to Lahore to then Dubai. It is definitely an interesting and an engaging watch especially for those who read about the hijackings that were taking place in the 70s and mid-80s.

Tewari has done his best to bring the era alive by recreating the backdrop and

even give it the a retro effect. Since bellbottoms were very much in fashion back then, probably that is how the title came up. Of course, the younger generation would cringe in horror at the style but then the movie is not about fashion but about India giving a befitting reply to our nemesis — Pakistan. And any film where we come out looking heroes is a must watch. The fact there were instances where we didn't pander to their whims and fancies says a lot about the leadership even then. At the helm is Akshay Kumar. Off late, the actor has everything going for him. Whatever project that he does and has done appear to have been very carefully thought off. Probably that is why he is able to pull off the roles that he has done — be it *Padman*, *Laxmii* or *Mission Mangal*.

As a desk clerk with RAW and the go to person when a hijack takes place, he has given a great performance even though there were instances where he over-steps. Everyone knows that in bureaucracy this is a no-no. But one can give this slight missif given how he outwits Pakistan. Akshay Kumar does these kind of roles to perfection and that is what makes watching *Bell Bottom* interesting till the last frame. He has redefined what a hero is for sure. A special mention for Dolly Ahluwalia. Though her role is small, she has done a great job to play mother to Akshay Kumar. Lara Dutta as Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi may not look like her but does a good job as well. Overall, the movie is engaging to watch till the end with a twist that none saw it coming!

Shalini Sakseena

# The teenagers will love this

**NIGHTBOOKS**  
**Netflix**  
**\*ing: Winslow Fegley, Lidya Jewett**  
**Krysten Ritter**  
**Rated: 5.5/10**

One would think that a movie that has kids would definitely be kid-appropriate. But there have been a few exceptions to this rule. Take *IT* for example — a movie that had kids — but Oh boy! was it scary at least for the kids. *Nightsbooks* directed by David Yarovsky and written by Mikki Daughtry and Tobias Iaconis is no different. It is based on the 2018 horror-fantasy children's book of the same name by JA White.

There is something very creepy and scary when it comes to films that have kids with horror as its genre. The kids are sweet, cute and somewhat innocent; they get lured in by the witch and wham! Now they are trapped in the evil house forever. Sounds familiar? *Nightsbooks*, one can say is a modern twist to the Hansel and Gretel tale. However, there is nothing scary for the adults who love horror and scary movies. Strange, weird and even creepy would be some of the words to describe this one.

The only somewhat horrible looking

character in the entire film is the real witch. Yes, there are two witches! The bad witch is the good one as compared to the older one. This older one eats kids and is all bones and candy! She has been sleeping for years and what puts her to sleep? A scary story. But there is a twist; the scary story can't have a happy ending. Those unable to deliver this become little dolls.

But there are highs too. The CGI is great. If one can manage to get past the ugly looking witch, one can actually appreciate the effort that has gone into creating here. The kids are smart.

Another good is that this somewhat scary movie is something that young teenagers will love and enjoy. Who doesn't like to best a witch and here there are two!

And if one of the kids is smart enough to make a horror story on the go and outwit and outsmart even the witch, what can be better? For the teens, nothing gets them going than watching another teen with a streak of rebellion and yet never giving up or snitching of the friend. That is the underlining message here — make friends for life and never give up on them what the cost.

*Nightsbooks* has a whimsical touch to it that definitely has a happy ending — Shalini Sakseena



## Plan Your Sunday

### THE LAST POET



The Last Poet is an online interactive performance that brings together theatre, film, sound art, creative coding, and digital scenography. A poet has disappeared suddenly, leaving his city haunted. In this virtual city, you will meet several people who will tell you about the vanished poet and unravel the mystery behind his disappearance. While watching the show, you navigate this whirling

city yourself. You may choose to step into a floating room, stay back and listen, or travel to another one. Who you meet, what you see, how you listen is upto to you. This city will seek you, as you seek what is inside this unbuild world. **What:** Theatre and Arts **Where:** Online **When:** September 24, 2021 and September 26, 2021 **Time:** 7 pm and 8 pm

### MINDFULNESS WITH ART



Hello Everyone Color store Asian paints is organizing a one of its kind MINDFULNESS WITH ART session which is curated and Conducted by Savita Iyer from Urbankala- Art Of Gifting.

Mindfulness through art is a tool to steer your daily life towards joy. If you want to learn more about practicing mindfulness in your daily life, we recommend this insightful article, and here, mindfulness inspiration.

Mindfulness practice involves self-exploration and awareness of our minds, bodies, feelings and thoughts. Art making helps us to explore what we experience and discover in our mindfulness practice. Mindfulness is a valuable tool for increasing general well-being and psychological health. **What:** Theatre and Arts **Where:** Online **When:** September 19, 2021 **Time:** 5 pm

## TELLY TALE

### ‘TELEVISION CONNECTS TO ITS AUDIENCE ON A DAILY BASIS’

Vivian Dsena says the pandemic has been a great educator. These tough times have made us compassionate and health conscious. It has also helped in understanding the importance of staying close to your loved ones. "I think one of the essential lessons from these times is getting an understanding of our true friends and well-wishers. Social distancing is not just applicable to save ourselves from the virus but we should also do the same with people, who do not mean good to us," he says the actor who is in talks for a comeback soon. His last show was Shakti — Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki. He continues, "TV is growing in different directions. It's not about saas-bahu anymore. They are experimenting with new genres, stories and also exploring different concepts and presentations. OTT can't be compared with TV because it comes in seasons, while TV is for daily viewing, hence these daily soaps. The audience is completely different, so is the



reach. Yes a lot of people have smartphones these days, but more people have TV that came much before mobile phones. Television connects to its audience on a daily basis, for some the medium is a part of their daily regime." Like any other child, the actor too has grown up watching TV. "I watched a lot of cartoons. I have grown up watching

Aladdin, Tom and Jerry, Dexter's Laboratory. I also enjoyed watching Alif Laila," adds Vivian, who never imagined that one day he would be an actor himself. Unlike what many might say, he believes people still enjoy watching TV. The actor also shares how wonderful it feels to be working on a medium that takes you closer to the masses. "People belonging to different strata of the society watch TV, so when they see you daily, they form a special bond with the actors and the shows. Being recognised and loved by people from all walks of life is a different feeling altogether. Whenever I step out rickshaw puller, people working on the work or asking for help on the streets, those working in medical and general stores recognise me much like those stepping out of big cars or running to catch a bus or hire a taxi for office. This connection with all kinds of people makes working on TV worthwhile. I think that's the real reward," he concludes.

### PRIYANKA LALWANI LOVES BEING ON STAGE

Jamai Raja actress Priyanka Lalwani enjoys acting, but says that being on stage and hosting a show have a special place in her heart. "From corporate events to wedding events to fashion shows to interviews, you name it and I've probably done it all," she said. Asked which one she prefers — anchoring or acting, she said, "It's like asking a parent to choose between their kids who is your favourite. I love both because while I'm on stage, I get to be myself and I can do my own thing. When I'm in front of the camera, I get to be the character that I am playing." The Spotlight 2 actress didn't take any formal training in anchoring. "In my early modelling days, I was offered to host a saangate event and I was like why not. I remember taking my mom along with me. Since then there is no looking back. But it does require some different skills, most important is that you have to be impromptu unlike acting where a script is given. There are no retakes in anchoring," she said. Over the years, she has learnt that it's very important to be patient and not rush through



things when she is speaking on stage. "Be calm and always smile on," she suggested. Talking about her favourite anchor on TV, she shared, "Since the time I was a kid I used to really look up to Vishal Malhotra and never missed any of his shows on Disney. I have really grown up watching her on NDTV Good Times. I wanted to do what she did. I wanted to travel and do shows like she did. And some way or the other, I am doing that. Apart from them, I really admire Ellen DeGeneres, Jimmy Fallon, Manish Paul and Raghav Juyal."

### SHEENA BAJAJ LIKES GETTING PHOTOGRAPHED

Actor Sheena Bajaj recently did a photoshoot and the photographer is none other than her own sister, Riya Bajaj. The latter is a professional and her brand is called Riya Bajaj Photography. Sheena shares her experience and why it is essential to click new images every time. "Riya shoots with film stars and many other celebrities. She is quite good at her job. All my life, I had only shot with her and dad. I trust her skill and she knows me better than anyone else," says the actor, known for her show "Best of Luck Nikki". Sheena shot about three looks because she doesn't enjoy draining herself in one day. And, if she wants more, then she can do it later. "Riya has got a lot of options, different concepts, which I really like. I don't like continuously clicking pictures and doing photoshoots but since I am on Instagram and I have to maintain my profile, connect with my fans, do brand promotions and all of that, I do photo shoots every few months. I have to keep upgrading myself... In fact, I think actors should get photo shoots done every four to five months, it helps. But at the same

time it's also one's personal choice," she adds. Sheena shares that photo shoots are fun. And that she loves experimenting with different eye makeup, lip shades and creating



different looks. She adds, "I create different looks for my channel Sheena Bajaj Official on YouTube so I do different concept shoots and upload videos, BTS etc. It's fun, especially when you are shooting with someone you are very comfortable with, the person behind the camera is innovative and you know the result will be good."

# ‘Doing comedy is not easy’

SAPNA SIKARWAR who is all set to enter the sitcom Happu Ki Ultan Paltan is going to play a pivotal role. She speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her induction in comedy among other things

**■ What is your role?** My role is of a very sweet wife who likes dressing up and doing make-up. Talking about my nature in the show, I am a very fun loving person who enjoys it a lot. But it is not always smooth sailing. I do lose my temper at times, sometimes I am quite stubborn and get upset as well. I do not judge people and am a very broad-minded person, which obviously doesn't mean that I don't respect people.

**■ What is the best part of Bimlesh?** She might be very stubborn and grumpy at times but in the end she cares about her husband, who she loves the most.

**■ What was the attraction of playing the character?** To be honest, in real life I am a very moody person but I don't get angry or fight with people like Bimlesh does. Otherwise, Bimlesh's character describes me well and that is what attracted me. Moreover, it was the director's trust in me that I would fit the role and when you work with a particular production for a long time they know who can pull off the character well. It is definitely a very challenging role but I was finalised because I gave my 100 per cent to it.

**■ Happy Ki Ultan Paltan is an iconic show. What would you say is the reason for its success?** It is because people can relate well to the show, it is very realistic.

**■ How is Bimlesh different from what you did in FIR, May I Come In Madam and Excuse me Madam?** In *FIR* I had played many characters and in *May I Come In Madam* I was playing a housewife's role, who was very possessive, insecure and doubted her husband. In *Bimlesh*, it is totally the opposite, I don't doubt my husband or isn't insecure about things. I trust him and love him.

**■ How did you get into acting?** Since childhood I was very fond of acting. I always loved dancing and acted it and I also sing pretty well. My family also kind of psyched me and said I am a good actor and that is when I thought I should give it a try. Comedy was also something which interested me and that is why I have been doing back to back comedy roles.



**■ You have done a lot of comedy shows. Has that been a conscious decision?** When I worked for *FIR*, I played so many roles and as far as I know, to win your audience's heart is tough but when you do it makes you the happiest. It is a very big thing for every actor of course. I have made a place in my audience's heart with my work. They love me in comedy and like my timing. That is one thing which has always motivated me and that's

why I am constantly doing comedy roles. **■ What are the challenges that come with doing a comedy genre?** People who do daily soaps work hard, and people who do comedy also work hard. But I think comedy is quite tough because if you are not good with the timing, people would also not enjoy it. It is all in the timing, which is not very easy and not everyone can do it.



## VACCINATION MAHA ABHIYAN-3

# Over 27L jobs administered on Sept 17

CM thanks officials, docs, health workers, people of State

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh has again made a new record on September 17, by vaccinating 27 lakh 14 thousand 795 people in a day. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed his gratitude to public representatives, administration, doctors, health workers, voluntary organizations and citizens for the record

achievement made under Vaccination Maha Abhiyan-3. Chouhan has said that our target is to ensure that every eligible person should get the first dose of vaccine by September 26. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support, the state is getting free vaccine as per requirement. To achieve the set target, the work of vaccination will continue in the state.

Vaccination Maha Abhiyan-3 became such a big success due to the constant efforts of Chouhan and adoption of public-participation model of the state. A unique example has been set with more than 27 lakh people get-



ting vaccinated in the country in a day. In 16 districts of the state, more than 100 percent vaccination was done against the target. Out of the total vaccinations, 14 lakh 78 thousand 869 citizens were given the first dose of the vaccine and 12 lakh 35 thousand 926 citizens were given the second dose.

Chouhan said that our priority is to win over Corona.

Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that the arrangements made at all the vaccination centers under the vaccination campaign resulted in record vaccination in the state. People came forward with self-motivation and ensured their participation in the great campaign.

The Chief Minister said that in the Vaccination Maha Abhiyan, to and fro arrangements were made by the local administration for the elderly and the differently-abled to reach the center. In many areas, the elderly and differently-abled people played the role of motivator and also inspired people to get the vaccine. The

participation of different sections of the society has been important in the positive atmosphere created in the vaccination campaign in the entire state. Every citizen of the state is aware of Corona infection. Soon 100 percent people of Madhya Pradesh will come under the protection cover of vaccine.

Members of district, block and village and ward level Crisis Management Committees also played an active role in providing vaccine protection cover to the citizens of the state. The members performed the role of motivator at the vaccination centers in urban and rural areas.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and BJP State President VD Sharma goes through an exhibition of the women self-help groups at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday.

## Sudarshan Chakra Corps organises blood donation camp at Military Hosp

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to commemorate 75 years of Independence, a Voluntary Blood Donation camp was organised at Military Hospital, Bhopal under the aegis of Sudarshan Chakra Corps on Sep 16, 2021.

The camp was inaugurated by Major General VK Tripathi, General Officer Commanding, Paschim MP Sub Area in the presence of Commandant, Military Hospital, Bhopal. Maj Gen Tripathi later on met with the blood donors and motivated everyone present during the occasion to frequently organise and take part in such noble initiatives.

The camp was organised in association with GMC Blood



Bank, Bhopal with all necessary Covid precautions in place. An awareness lecture on importance and technical aspects of Blood Donation was also conducted during the camp.

There was an active participation from all ranks of Sudarshan Chakra Corps. A total of 116 units of blood was collected and subsequently handed over to GMC blood bank, Bhopal.

## Uma issues deadline for Shivraj Govt again to ban liquor in State

Will take issue to streets if goes unheard, she warns

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Former chief minister sadhvi Uma Bharti has again issued a deadline for Shivraj Singh Chouhan led BJP government for banning liquor in the State or else she will take to streets for the purpose.

Talking to the media persons here on Saturday, Bharti to a query affirmed that she will take to streets in favor of liquor ban may be its Narmada's riverbank, or Chambal's or Betwa's of on the sides of Taal Talaiya (read Bhopal). We will run an awareness campaign on the same seeking state government's support but if doesn't

work, I will jump into the campaign personally, affirmed the sadhvi saying she will remain at Gangasagar (Uttarakhand) till Makar Sankranti i.e. Jan 14.

Though she heaped praises on Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan calling him an elder brother and Guru who taught him several things. If such a person remains the Chief Minister he will run the state properly, claimed the sadhvi.

"I remain satisfied completely and keep my blessings, cooperation and best wishes with him (Shivraj)," added the former Jhansi MP.

Continuing, she also heaped praises on BJP state head VD Sharma calling him an excellent state head with virtues like decency, balanced and composed politician and makes an excellent team with

CM Shivraj. It will be great if liquor ban is imposed under both of them in MP, she added.

As far as the revenue loss is concerned, Bharti said she has a formula to make up for the losses in case of liquor ban but added that she will only the two senior leaders.

Praising PM M Modi, Yogi Adityanath and CM Shivraj, she said she is always with them and there is no alternative to BJP. However, I am firm on issues like liquor-ban and Ken-Betwa river link.

Bharti referring to lockdown had last year had demanded an absolute ban on liquor claiming none had died when liquor shops were closed. Later under party pressure, she had claimed that she was only referring to public awareness on the matter.

## 3 held for selling land with forged documents

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Ayodhya Nagar police have nabbed three persons involved in selling land by producing forged documents, with this arrest six persons including a woman have been nabbed in the fraud by the police.

According to the police, the accused Haseeb (61) of Gunga, Afsar Khan (50) of Ashoka Garden and Masrur Uddin (50) of Budhwar were nabbed. Police said that the fraud came to fore after several victims found that the fake documents were used to sell same property.

After the accused were arrested raw material, machines and other materials used to produce fake documents were recovered from their possession.

In the investigation three accused identified as Hem

Singh (40), Ajab Singh (35) and Leela Bai (62) who are residents of Manikhedhi Gunga and real of the land which was used to sell to several people using fake documents.

After the preliminary investigation the police registered a case under section 420, 467, 468 and 471 of the IPC and started further investigation. The documents of the property produced which were found in the investigation.

In the further investigation three other aides of the gang were arrested. Afsar Khan used to operate Harf Offset at Kotwali road which was used to print fake documents.

Among the arrested accused Masrur Uddin used to produce stamp and seal at his shop Top Art in Ibrahmimpura. The accused used to produce fake stamp and seal.

## Shahbaaz Division commemorates 56th Raising Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Saugor based 'Shahbaaz S Division' commemorated its 56th Raising Day on Saturday. The Division was raised on September 18, 1966 as a Mountain Division in Rangiya, Assam.

Since its Raising, over the last 56 years, the formation has carved out a special niche for itself as the bastion of professional excellence and proved its mettle in all spheres of military activities as the spearhead formation of Indian Army.

The Division has participated in all the major military operations since its raising. In 'Operation Cactus Lilly', the formation made significant forays in the Shakargarh Bulge whereas during 'Operation PAWAN', the formation performed with distinction and earned excellent reviews for its

high standards of professionalism and its role in ushering in peace and tranquility in its area of operations.

The foundation of the Division is built upon the invaluable contribution of its bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice for the country.

To honour such bravehearts, a solemn wreath laying ceremony was also organised at Shahbaaz War Memorial on the occasion of Raising Day.

Major General Bhavnish Kumar, General Officer Commanding, Shahbaaz Division, extended his greetings and best wishes to all ranks and their families on this occasion. He also exhorted everyone to maintain a very high state of operational preparedness for tackling any kind of security & operational challenge.



Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prabhuram Choudhary and BJP MLA Rameshwar Sharma inaugurate an oxygen generation plant at kolar locality in Bhopal on Saturday

## Speaker reviews expansion work of Shyamshah med college's infra

PNS ■ REWA

Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh State Assembly Girish Gautam reviewed the construction works of expansion of infrastructure along with health services and college management in the auditorium of Shyamshah Medical College, Rewa.

Addressing the meeting, Gautam said that the doctors posted in Sanjay Gandhi Hospital should do better treatment with full sensitivity and keep good behavior so that the patients and their families go completely satisfied.

Doctors did a good job and treated the patients better during Covid 19 second wave, which is being praised elsewhere as well.

The treatment of serious diseases should be done by specialist doctors of super specialty hospital.

In the meeting,

**In the meeting, Commissioner Anil Suchari assured the Speaker that arrangements would be made for better treatment and management in the hospital by ensuring that the instructions given were followed**

Commissioner Anil Suchari

told about the management of the medical college. He assured the Speaker that arrangements would be made for better treatment and management in the hospital by ensuring that the instructions given were followed. He expected the doctors to keep his work behavior good.

Collector Dr. Ilaiyaraaja T informed about the improvement being made in the hospital system in the meeting.

Dean Medical College Dr. Manoj Indurkar drew the attention of the Speaker regarding the construction of infra-

structure and other requirements.

Giving information about the beneficiaries of Ayushman Nirayam scheme in the meeting, it was informed that Rewa is second after Indore in the state in getting the benefit of this scheme. A claim of Rs 38.64 crore has been received under this scheme.

During this, MLA Gud Shri Nagendra Singh, Commissioner Shri Anil Suchari, Collector Dr. Ilaiya Raja T, Dean Dr. Manoj Indurkar along with doctors were present.

## BHEL celebrates Utkrishthta Utsav, confers 'Excel Awards'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) celebrated its annual Utkrishthta Utsav with great fervour, where the company's 'Excel Awards' were conferred on meritorious employees. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union Minister of Heavy Industries graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and presented the awards in a glittering ceremony Nalin Shinghal, Chairman & Managing Director, BHEL, Directors on the Board of BHEL, and other senior BHEL officials were present on the

occasion. All the manufacturing units, divisions and offices of the company were connected live to the event through Video Conferencing.

Pandey gave away Excel awards to 12 teams comprising 65 employees (including 3 women employees) from various units of BHEL. The awards included, Utkrishthta Puraskar - for all round excellence; Utkrisht Takniki Prakashan Puraskar - for publishing Technical Paper/ Booklet/ Book, Anusandhan Puraskar - for Research & Development, Grahak Santushti Puraskar - for Customer Satisfaction,

Utpadakata Puraskar - for enhancement of Productivity, Pratibaddhata Puraskar - for recognizing exemplary commitment to work under adverse critical conditions, and Samaj Seva Puraskar - for outstanding contribution to Society. The Minister also participated in the Vishwakarma Puja on the Shop-floor of the manufacturing plant on the occasion of Vishwakarma Diwas.

Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Minister said that BHEL has always risen to the occasion and demonstrated its commitment towards various programs of the Government,

whether it was by regularly imparting technical training to apprentices under the 'Skill India Mission' or by helping realise the vision of 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' under the 'Make in India' initiative.

Pandey said that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has outlined the strengthening of five pillars under 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' namely Economy, Infrastructure, System, Demography and Demand, and BHEL can play an important role in that. This is the 75th year of our independence and BHEL's active presence and wholehearted

participation in this 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is assured. In addition to national security, it is our responsibility to focus on the environment and strengthen ourselves in the area of clean energy. In this direction, I appreciate the contribution being made by BHEL in the area of developing non-conventional sources of energy.

The Minister also lauded BHEL's achievements towards realizing the 'Make in India - Make for the World' mission of the Hon'ble Prime Minister aimed at enhancing international relations and exports.

BHEL's Excel Awards

scheme is a unique PSU award scheme open to all employees in the company. The awards are given to recognize all-round excellence and contribution made by employees for the company's growth, profitability, customer satisfaction and Technological Development in addition to exemplary achievements made in sports, social or cultural work, etc. The award amount ranges from Rs 50,000 to Rs 2,50,000 for each team with a host of privileges for the awardees. The scheme has a rigorous internal screening process and the awardees are selected by an external jury.



A young woman rides a two-wheeler during heavy spell of rain in Bhopal on Saturday

## City buses to ply on Mhow route soon

PNS ■ MHOW

The city buses, under AICTSL Indore that is a part of Indore Municipal Corporation, running between Indore and Mhow and few of them that also go to Pithampur via Mhow have been on halt for 2 years.

More than 25 thousand people daily travel between Mhow and Indore for education, employment and other purposes. The city buses are long buses and comfortable for the travelers that maintained

**For want of city buses, the Mhow passengers have to travel in tightly packed overcrowded private mini buses that run at great speed**

Covid norms during Covid peak time.

For want of city buses, the Mhow passengers have to travel in tightly packed overcrowded private mini buses that run at great speed thus

risking the life of the passengers.

AICTSL in the previous years have started many buses including A/C buses and buses for women only, but surprisingly, after a big inauguration and, pomp and circumstance, the number of buses plying between Mhow and Indore decreases and the buses come to a halt later on.

According to the sources, the AICTSL city bus which is meant for the benefit of public transport is a joint venture of

World Bank Government of India and Government of MP.

CEO of Atal Indore city transport limited, Sandeep Soni told *The Pioneer* that after the lockdown we are opening all the routes gradually and the Indore Mhow route will be soon open and the buses will be again started for the benefit of the public.

It is to be noted that the women, old people, handicaps and children are most benefited by the city buses as it is spacious and comfortable.

## Drone Squad starts at Panna Tiger Reserve

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Taking an initiative to use state-of-the-art technology in wildlife conservation, Panna Tiger Reserve has started operating 'Drone Squad'. Monthly action plan for 'Drone Squad' operations is prepared every month.

Drone squads are helping in the search and rescue of wildlife, locating the source of wildfires and providing immediate information about its impact, avoiding the risk of potential human-animal con-

flict and ensuring compliance with wildlife conservation laws. The "Drone Squad", which became available in Panna Tiger Reserve a month and a half ago, is proving to be very useful.

Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR) has recently constituted a 'Drone Squad' for conservation, monitoring and management of wildlife. It is working successfully.

The Drone Squad consists of a drone, model 'DJI Phantom Drone'. It works with enough battery to operate it for

a long time. A vehicle has been specially kept for this. A drone operator is accompanied by an assistant. A monthly schedule is issued by the Drone Squad with clear guidelines regarding the operation and use of drones.

Currently, the use of drones is envisaged for law enforcement, surveillance, search and rescue of wild animals, forest fire detection and protection and reducing human-animal conflict. In the future, the use of drones will also be planned in the field of wildlife man-

agement, eco-tourism. It will also help in documentation of biodiversity.

Drone squad has proven to be capable of assisting the field staff in efficient control and monitoring of illegal activities in a short span of time. Drone operations have the advantage of being able to collect large amounts of data that need to be stored, processed and analysed. This will prove to be a new initiative in creating trained manpower using state-of-the-art technology in wildlife conservation.



# Shah pays floral tribute to tribal heroes at Jabalpur

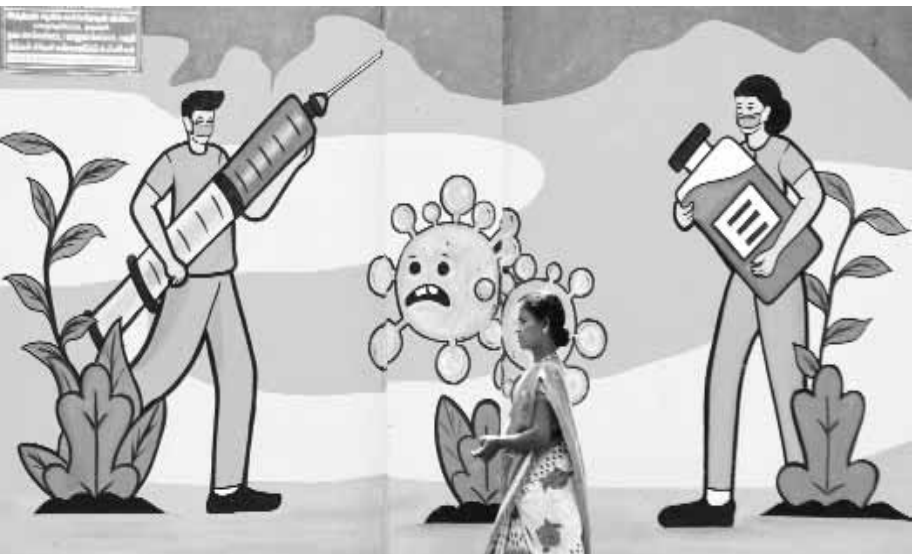
**Chouhan presents Union Home Min Rajstambh of Gondwana kingdom**

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, Union Home and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached Malgodam Chowk on Saturday and paid floral tributes at the statues of tribal hero Amar Shaheed Raja Shankar Shah and his son Kunwar Raghunath Shah on their 164th Sacrifice Day, who sacrificed their lives to protect the country and religion. Chouhan and Union Minister of State for Steel and

Rural Development Faggan Singh Kulaste presented to Union Home Minister Shah pictures of the holy birth place of independence movement hero Raja Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah in Mandla district and the Rajstambh of Gondwana kingdom established in Ramnagar Mandla. Under the 75th Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, Union Home Minister Shah and Chouhan remembered the sacrifices of Raja Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah of Gondwana kingdom. The royal family of the Gondwana kingdom has the distinction of being the first among the princely states of India in the first freedom struggle, who were tied with the mouth of cannon and executed. Union Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development

Faggan Singh Kulaste, Union Minister of State for Food Processing and Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Labor and Employment Rameshwar Teli, MP VD Sharma, Rakesh Singh, Home, Jail, Legislative Affairs, Law and Legislative Minister Narottam Mishra, Jabalpur district in-charge and Public Works, Cottage and Village Industries Minister Gopal Bhargava, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Bisahulal Singh, Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh, Tribal Affairs, Scheduled Caste Welfare Minister Meena Singh, Cooperative and Public Service Management Minister Arvind Bhadauria, Rajiya Sabha MPSampatia Uike and MLA Nandani Maravi were present.



People walk past a wall mural on Covid awareness in Chennai on Saturday

PTI

# Ultras looking for soft targets: J&K Police chief

**Srinagar:** Militants are looking for soft targets in order to create disturbance, Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh said on Saturday as he asserted that every attempt of anti-national elements to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in the union territory would be dealt with firmly. The DGP's comments came a day after a civilian and a policeman were shot dead in separate incidents in Kulgam district. Singh visited Kulgam in south Kashmir and Handwara area of Kupwara in north Kashmir where he led officers and relatives in paying floral tributes to Bantu Sharma and sub-inspector Arshid Ahmad Mir. While Sharma was

killed on Friday, Mir was shot dead in Khanyar area of the city on September 12. The DGP also chaired officers' meetings to review the security situation in these districts and directed the officers to keep a strict watch on the suspicious elements and over-ground workers (OGWs) of militant outfits who are providing any kind of support to terrorist activities, a police spokesman said. Senior officers of police, Army and CRPF were present in the meetings. He said Singh directed the officers to revisit the security plans as terrorists in order to create disturbance are looking for soft targets and stressed on counter strategies

and preventive measures. The DGP emphasised the officers to remain extra alert and ordered a series of counter measures to prevent incidents like the killings of a civilian and a cop in Kulgam. Singh said protecting the lives of people is prime concern and every attempt of anti-national elements to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in the UT would be dealt with firmly. The police chief directed the officers to intensify the operations against terrorists and terror support networks and stressed that terrorists involved in Friday's killings should be brought to justice very soon. **PTI**

# DGCA grants aerodrome licence to Chipi Airport

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Less than a month ahead of the launch of the flight operations at newly developed Chipi Airport in coastal Konkan region, Messrs. IRB Sindhudurg Airport Pvt. Ltd., a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd. has received an Aerodrome License from the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Armed with the Aerodrome License, the Company can now go ahead and launch flight operations from newly developed Chipi Airport in Sindhudurg district of coastal Konkan region, from October 7, 2021 as planned earlier. There was an informal announcement earlier that

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray would formally throw open the Chipi airport for air traffic on October 7. Initially, intra-state flights would be operated from this airport. Later on, the Chipi airport would offer inter-state connectivity to Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and a couple of other states. Announcing the grant of an Aerodrome License to Messrs. IRB Sindhudurg Airport Pvt. Ltd by the DGCA, a company spokesperson said: "The licence authorises the Aerodrome to be used as regular place of landing and departure to all persons on equal terms and conditions by aircraft requiring specifications of runway and associated facilities including granted exemptions equal to or less

than those indicated in the Aerodrome Manual." While commenting on the occasion, Chairman & Managing Director of the Company Virendra D. Mhaiskar said: "We are very happy to achieve yet another milestone in the current year and see the airport receive licence to operate after successful completion. With a concession period of over 90 years and a compelling regional proposition, it offers meaningful avenues of growth." "We express our sincere gratitude to all Authorities and Stakeholders for extending their valuable cooperation and support in bringing up this new facility. We now look forward to opening the facility for airline operators and the general public soon," Mhaiskar said.

Sindhudurg Airport with the cost outlay of approx. Rs.800 Crores and concession period of above 90 years is the first of its kind in the South Konkan Region, which is aimed at establishing and enhancing air connectivity of the region with Western Maharashtra, Mumbai, southern States Mumbai and subsequently to all regions of the country. The airport has a runway of 2500 metre length and 45 metre width, which can be extended by another 1,000 metres. The airport can handle up to 400 passengers or two flights per hour with an estimated annual capacity over a million passengers. The airport can handle aircraft like A-320 and B-737 which would give a huge fillip to tourism in Konkan, known

for its long and picturesque coastline, dazzling beaches, big and small rivers, creeks, abundant greenery and natural beauty, ancient temples, sea and land forts, a rich cultural heritage, unique lifestyle and major historical landmarks. "The Airport will not only generate the passenger traffic, but also it will be a boon for economic development of the region as it will facilitate and boost cargo transportation, generate direct as well as an indirect employment and other business opportunities for the local people," Mhaiskar said. "The airport has potential to become a cargo hub of the Western Region as there is ample space for handling the Cargo; and is expandable to meet the future growing needs," Mhaiskar added.

# Kerala to reopen schools from November 1

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Schools in Kerala would be re-opened on November 1, after 18 months of Covid-19 induced lock down. This was decided in the review meeting convened by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday. November 1 is the anniversary of the formation of the State of Kerala. The chief minister has instructed the authorities that primary schools and 10th, 11th and 12th standard classes should start functioning from November 1 and the remaining classes to be re-opened by November 15. Stringent measures are being taken by the Department of Health to ensure that the children are fully protected from Covid-19 attack. The State continues to be under the spell of the pandemic as 19,

325 out of the 1.21 lakh persons tested on Saturday were diagnosed with Covid-19. The Test Positivity Rate as on Saturday was 15.96 per cent while 143 patients succumbed to the pandemic. Though the situation in the State is far from satisfactory, the Kerala Government is going ahead with the reopening of schools and educational institutions. The review meeting held on Saturday decided not to allow dining in hotels and consumption of spirits in bars or pubs. The Kerala State Beverages Corporation, the State Government owned liquor outlets have made arrangements so that consumers could buy the spirits on line which would bring down the sufferings of the tipplers who had to stand in queues for hours.

# Covid: 889 new cases, 14 deaths in K'taka

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka on Saturday recorded 889 new Covid-19 cases and 14 deaths, taking the infection count to 29,67,083 and death toll to 37,587, the health department said. The day also saw 1,080 discharges, pushing the total number of recoveries to 29,13,713. Of the fresh cases, 263 were from Bengaluru Urban, as the city saw 222 discharges and 6 deaths. Active cases in the state stood at 15,755. While the positivity rate for the day stood at 0.63 per cent, case fatality rate (CFR) was at 1.57 per cent. Six deaths were reported from Bengaluru Urban, two each from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, followed by others. Apart from Bengaluru Urban, three other districts accounted for the maximum number of fresh infections today- Dakshina Kannada 133, Udupi 86 and Mysuru 74. **PTI**

# PORNOGRAPHY CONTENT CASE

# Raj Kundra seeks bail, court to hear plea tomorrow

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Three days after the Crime Branch sleuths of the Mumbai Police filed a comprehensive supplementary chargesheet against him in the in the alleged pornography content case, Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty's husband and businessman Raj Kundra on Saturday moved a bail application before a city court. Kundra's bail application – filed through his lawyer Prashant Patil – is expected to come up for hearing on Monday. Kundra, whose earlier bail applications have been rejected, hastold the court that after the first chargesheet was filed against nine other accused in the case, eight were released on bail. He went on to seek bail on grounds of parity with the other accused already released on bail. Kundra has made a case for his bail by saying in his application that since the Mumbai Police had already filed a charge-sheet, it was clear that the investigations against him were over and that he was now entitled for

bail. Among other things, he has told the court that he was associated with a company which owns the apps, HotShot and Bollywood fame for only 10 months. Kundra, who was arrested on the night of July 19 in connection with a complaint registered by the Crime Branch in 2021, has been booked under Sections 292, 293 (sale of obscene material) under the Indian Penal Code, Sections 66E, 67, 67A (transmission of sexually explicit material) under the Information Technology Act and provisions of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act. Kundra, who lives in Mumbai with his wife Shilpa Shetty and two children, had earlier told the court that there was no evidence to link him against the HotShot App and was being made a 'scapegoat'. He had submitted to the court that he had been falsely implicated in the case while the Cyber Cell was making an attempt to connect him with the crime. Kundra, who is the founder Viaan Industries Ltd, and his United

Kingdom-based brother-in-law Pradeep Bakshi, the Chairman of Kenrin Group, London, have been named masterminds of the porn content racket. In April this year, the police had filed its first charge-sheet in the case against nine persons originally accused. After subsequent investigations, the police arrested two more accused, including Kundra. Earlier, nine persons had been arrested. They comprised television actress Gehna Vashisht (32) Yasmin Khan (40) Monu Joshi (28) Pratibha Nalavade (33) Atif Ahmed (24), Dipankar Khasnavis (38), Bhanusurya Thakur (26) Tanvir Hashmi (40) and Umesh Kamat (39). The HotShots app --- described as the "world's first 18+ app" showcasing some of the hottest models and celebs globally in exclusive photos, short films and hot videos (implying soft-to-hard porn) – was removed from mobile platforms. Similarly, Apple and Google have removed the app because of the pornographic content in it. On his part, 46-year-old Kundra has denied any involvement

and has claimed that he had sold the "Hotshots" app to Pradip Bakshi. However, the police said Mr Kundra was kept in the loop about the finances of the app. The two Kundra-linked firms — Viaan and Kendrin — made available porn content on mobile apps, offering subscriptions akin to the mainstream OTT platforms, advertise them on social media, all of which were illegal as pornography in any form is banned in India. The laws against publishing and transmitting "obscene material" are considered illegal in the country, while watching pornography in private is legal. The modus operandi involved in the production and circulation of pornographic films was: the porn films were allegedly shot in India, transferred using WeTransfer to the UK and released as paid mobile apps there. The police said that Kundra had allegedly also set up a WhatsApp group on which matters relating to the production, distribution and selling of Hotshots clips were discussed.

# Scribe assaulted during temple demolition protest in Mysuru

**Mysuru:** A journalist from an Urdu daily was allegedly assaulted by some persons protesting against the demolition of a temple in Mysuru, police said on Saturday. The incident took place when Mohammed Safdar Kaiser, associated with Kausar news, was reportedly recording the speech of Hindu Jagarana Vedike leader Jagadish Karanth at the protest site on Thursday. They allegedly asked him to delete the video he had recorded despite him telling them he was a journalist and covering the event, police sources said. Police personnel present at the spot rushed to rescue him and he was taken inside a room near the Kote Anjaneya Swamy temple near the

Mysuru palace premises, they said. While Khaizer and a few journalists alleged that he was manhandled, the protesters claimed that they mistook him for an 'unknown' person trying to record proceedings at the protest venue. The Mysuru District Journalists Association has written to the city police commissioner, seeking action against the culprits. The scribe has also approached the police with a complaint demanding action against those who allegedly assaulted him. The protesters were opposing the demolition of an "illegally" constructed temple in Mysuru's Nanjangud recently by the administration. **PTI**



Tourists walk in the premises of Taj Mahal during rain in Agra on Saturday

PTI

# Free LPG to 5L under...

**From Page 1** Electricity was provided to every house. By the year 2022, arrangements for pucca houses and toilets are being made for all the eligible beneficiaries. Under the Ayushman card scheme, free treatment of five lakh rupees is being given to the eligible families. In view of the Corona epidemic, arrangements have also been made to distribute free food grains. The government has not made promises alone, but by fulfilling them, the work has been done to bring its benefits to the lower level. The goal of Prime Minister Modi is to make full inclusive development of 130 crore people of the country. Under this, Atma-nirbhar Bharat, Amrit Mahotsav of freedom, bringing a smile on the face of the poor, providing work to the unemployed, are the main priorities of the government. Shah also congratulated the women who got benefited in today's program. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a campaign to help poor mothers get rid from the smoke of stove. In this campaign, 5 lakh LPG connections are being made

available in Madhya Pradesh today. Out of the 17 lakh target that Madhya Pradesh got under the Ujjwala scheme, the remaining 12 lakh connections will be provided soon. The scope of the scheme has been increased in the second phase of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. He said that the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi is leaving no stone unturned for the welfare of the poor. Also working day and night to improve the standard of living of the poor. Chouhan spoke in detail about the schemes of the central government necessary for life related to roti (food), house, health. He informed that during the Covid crisis, free food grains for about 7 months are being provided to the poor by the Central and State Governments under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. Similarly, the Central Government has set a target to provide pucca houses to the poor by 2023 in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan informed that 8 lakh Pradhan Mantri Awas will be constructed in Madhya Pradesh this year. Now under the leadership of the Central Government, work is continuing on a war footing in the innovative Jal Jeevan Mission scheme for supplying water from door to door. The Central Government has set a target to provide pucca houses to the poor by 2023 in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

# Mumbai police on high alert ahead of last day of Ganesh festival



Municipal council workers carry an idol of Lord Ganesha on a boat to immerse in the Krishna-Koyna river during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in Karad district on Saturday

PTI

**Mumbai:** Mumbai Police is on high alert and security has been beefed up across the city for the 10th and last day of immersion of Ganesh idols on Sunday, especially in the wake of recent arrests of terror suspects, an official said. The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad on Friday nabbed one person from Mumbai in connection with an alleged terror plot unearthed by Delhi Police. The ten-day Ganesh festival will come to an end on Sunday. The celebrations have been subdued this year due to the restrictions imposed in

view of the coronavirus pandemic. Processions, the hallmark of immersion days, are banned. Anti-sabotage measures are being taken and security around vital installations has been increased, said deputy commissioner of police S Chaitanya, the Mumbai police's spokesperson, on Saturday. Apart from intensified patrolling in sensitive areas, there will be heavy deployment of security personnel at immersion points, he said. Extra lights, cranes, swimmers/life guards, ambulances and fire brigade teams would

be arranged to handle any eventuality, he added. As many as 100 additional officers and 1,500 personnel from the Local Arms and other branches will be deployed, the DCP said. Besides, at least three companies of the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF), one company of CRPF, 500 home guards and 275 constables from outside units will be stationed in the city. The police are also keeping tabs on known criminals and have increased surveillance at hotels, lodges, vital installations and sensitive locations. **PTI**

# Disruptions of proceedings contempt of House: Naidu



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a first of its kind observation by any presiding officer of the legislatures in the country and in the context of rising disruptions, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday unequivocally held that disruptions of proceedings amount to contempt of the House and disruptors can't claim it as their privilege to do so.

Delivering the second Ram Jethmalani Memorial Lecture on "Is disruption of parliamentary proceedings an MP's privilege and/or a facet of parliamentary democracy?" Naidu spoke at length on the intentions of various rules and other provisions requiring high standards of behaviour of MPs in the House and the scheme of privileges and argued that disruptions negate the objective of



effective performance by individual members and of the House collectively.

Speaking on disruptions in the Parliament, Naidu informed that the productivity of Rajya Sabha is being quantified since 1978 and during the first 19 years till 1996, the productivity of the House has been over 100% and has begun to decline since then. While the House clocked annual productivity of over 100% during 16 of these 19 years, it was so only in two years in 1998 and 2009 during the next 24 years and not even once in the last 12 years.

The Chairman further said that the productivity of Rajya Sabha during 2004-14 has been about 78% and it declined to about 65% since then. Of the 11 sessions that Shri Naidu presided over, four of them

clocked low productivity of 6.80%, 27.30%, 28.90% and 29.55% and during the year 2018, the Rajya Sabha recorded the lowest ever productivity of 35.75% under the impact of disruptions, he stated.

During the last monsoon session (254th), the Rajya Sabha lost more than 70% of the scheduled time including over 76% of the valuable Question Hour time, the Chairman noted.

Since the Rajya Sabha came into being in 1952, only 10 members were suspended for misconduct inside the House during the first 57 years while 18 were also suspended in the last 11 years including 9 in the last one year.

Giving this information, Naidu noted that these sus-

pensions do not reflect the gravity of the situation since such actions were not taken on all occasions for various reasons.

Seeking to answer in the negative, if disruption can be claimed as a privilege by MPs, Chairman Naidu argued that the Rules of the House, the Code of Conduct, the detailed Parliamentary Etiquette to be complied with by the Members of Rajya Sabha were clearly aimed at ensuring a high standard of behavior of members inside the House befitting the solemnity of proceedings of the House while the scheme of privileges granted to the Members are intended to enable effective performance of the Members individually and of the House collectively.

He asserted that accordingly, disruptions negate the principle of effective functioning of the House besides being against the wishes of the people.

Earlier in his speech, Naidu described Jethmalani as a rebel and radical thinker who brought innovation to legal inquiry and opened new vistas of interpretation and opportunities in every major case he argued during his 77 year long and successful career as a leading lawyer.

# Unforgettable moment: Modi on 2.50 cr shots on his b'day

**Panaji:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said it was an unforgettable and emotional moment for him as over 2.50 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses were administered in the country on his 71st birthday.

"With your efforts, India has created a world record of administering over 2.5 crore vaccines in a single day, a feat not even the most powerful nations have been able to achieve," PM Modi said during an interaction via video link with healthcare workers and beneficiaries in Goa.

"We saw how the nation kept looking at CoWIN dashboard yesterday. Over 15 lakh vaccinations per hour, over 26,000 vaccinations every minute took place yesterday. Over 425 people were administered vaccines each second," he said.

PM Modi said he appreciates all doctors, medical staff, and people in administration in the country for this effort. The huge effort and skilled manpower needed to accomplish this task show the might of India, he added.

"Birthdays come and go but I have been away from such

things. But yesterday was emotional for me. It has become an unforgettable occasion for me," PM Modi said.

Without naming any party, PM Modi said "a political party" developed fever after over 2.5 crore vaccine doses were administered on his birthday.

"People speak of fever as a side effect of vaccines, but a political party experienced fever after 2.5 crore vaccines were administered on my birthday," he said.

PM Modi praised Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and his government for overcoming challenges in accomplishing 100 per cent vaccination of the first dose of covid vaccines in the coastal state.

Goa is on way to becoming a leading state in India as far as vaccination is concerned, PM Modi said.

"Goa is playing important role in the success of the world's largest and fastest vaccination drive - 'Sabko vaccine, muft vaccine'. In the past few months, Goa fought bravely against heavy rainfall, cyclone and flood, under the leadership of Pramod Sawant," he said.

When they are aware that



# PM should daily celebrate his b'day, Cong takes a dig

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi should celebrate his birthday every day as some BJP-ruled states "performed" on the day and vaccinated many times the daily average, the Congress said on Saturday.

The party took a dig at Modi a day after India achieved the highest record of 2.5 crore Covid-19 vaccinations on a single day.

The Prime Minister's reaction came after senior Congress leader P Chidambaram tweeted asking

why we had to wait until the PM's birthday. "Happy and grateful that 2.5 crore vaccinations were administered yesterday But why did we have to wait until the PM's birthday? Suppose the PM's birthday was on December 31 then would the 2.5 crore vaccinations have been done only on the last day of the year? Vaccination is not like cutting a cake on a birthday," he tweeted.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said this is the pace of vaccination the country needs.

all people are vaccinated, tourists will also feel safe and

flock to Goa in more numbers, he said. PTI

# Taliban trying to sell leftover US weapons to overcome fin crisis

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Facing financial crunch, Taliban is negotiating with African countries to supply leftover American weapons. In lieu of the weapons, the outfit is seeking payments in diamonds to trade the same through white channels in the international markets.

The African diamonds are globally reputed to be of high quality and the Taliban is aiming to offset the financial crisis amid pending recognition of its regime from the international market and a staring drought in Afghanistan.

The crisis is such that the Taliban has started selling off seized properties of the political and ideological opponents. A number of such properties have already been sold off to the Pakistanis based in Kandahar. Several properties in other cities are also on the block.

In view of the financial mess the country is going through, the Taliban has sought aid from a number of countries like Germany and Iran as also from the international community.

In addition, the Taliban has already invigorated the drug cartel in collusion with the Pakistani military-ISI syndicate to the Al Qaeda affiliates in Africa like the Boko Haram and Al Shabab.

Founder President of the Afghanistan Republic Salvation Front and counter-terrorism expert Ajmal Sohail

said, "Taliban is essentially a terrorist or an insurgent organization that has been involved in drugs trade and smuggling of antiques and has also relied on funding from the Sheikhs of the Gulf countries. But such funds cannot sustain a government at the helm in Kabul. Running a government is an altogether different ballgame than operating a guerilla organization. Having realized the constraints of governance, the Taliban is already amplifying messages of an inclusive government and respect of human rights, all of which are aimed at seeking recognition for its regime and subsequently gaining access to international funding."

Meanwhile, attacks on Pakistani troops continue in Pashtun dominated areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) reportedly attacked a Pakistani military post in Bajaur late last night.

Quoting sources on the ground, Sohail said several Pak soldiers were killed and wounded in the attack by the TTP.

A spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban said in a statement that they had targeted a Pakistani military post in the Nawagai area of Bajaur, killing and wounding the militants.

The TTP is a breakaway faction of the Afghan Taliban active in Pashtun dominated areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

# SC favours disbursal of Maha's ₹25cr to Covid-orphaned kids



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is in favour of disbursing the over ₹25 crore deposited by the Maharashtra Government in the apex court registry five years ago to children who lost both parents during the Covid pandemic in the State.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna noted earlier this week that the state has about 19,000 children who lost a parent due to Covid-19 and 593 who lost both their parents.

Maharashtra, one of the worst affected states during the second wave of pandemic earlier this year, had deposited the money in the apex court registry in an old

matter related to medical college admissions.

The Supreme Court noted that the government of Maharashtra formulated a policy on June 17, 2021 envisaging that Rs 5 lakh be placed in fixed deposit for children who lost both their parents due to the pandemic and the money will be payable to them after they attain the age of maturity.

"The amount of ₹20 crores which was deposited (by Maharashtra government) in pursuance of the order dated December 2, 2016 stands enhanced to ₹25,53,25,548 as a result of accretions of interest," the bench said.

The top court said before it directs the disbursal of the

money to the State of Maharashtra, it wants that a concrete statement be placed on affidavit about the manner in which the money will be utilised for the benefit of children affected by the death of either or both parents due to the Covid pandemic.

"The Secretary, Women and Child Development of the State of Maharashtra shall file an affidavit within a period of three weeks. The Court shall thereafter pass an appropriate order after scrutinizing the proposal," the bench said in its order passed on September 13.

Advocate Sachin Patil, appearing for the Maharashtra government, submitted a note giving details on how the money would be utilized in the interests of the children.

# Courts can summon persons not accused only after cogent proof: SC



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said that courts can exercise their power to proceed against persons not accused but appearing to have committed an offence only when there is "strong and cogent evidence" against such individuals and not in a "casual and cavalier manner".

Under Section 319 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), when during the course of inquiry or trial of offence, it appears from the evidence that any person, who has not been made an accused, has committed any offence; the court can proceed against such individual for the offence which he appears to have committed.

A bench of justices K M Joseph and P S Narasimha while dealing with a criminal case said, "This is yet another case where summons issued purporting to invoke power under Section 319 of the CrPC has brought the newly summoned person to this court."

It said that the test as laid down by the constitution bench of this court for invoking power under Section 319 CrPC inter alia includes the principle that only when strong and cogent evidence occurs against a person from the evidence the power under Section 319 CrPC should be exercised.

"The power cannot be exercised in a casual and cavalier manner. The test to be applied, as laid down by this court, is one which is more than prima facie case which is applied at the time of framing of charges," the bench said in its September 13 order.

The top court referred to the 2014 constitution bench verdict in Hardeep Singh versus State of Punjab and others which dealt with the issue of applicability of Section 319 CrPC and said it will all depend upon the evidence which is tendered in a given case as to whether there is a strong ground to proceed against an individual, who has not been made accused.

# Dunzo Med Air consortium to conduct drone vaccine delivery trials



IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

Dunzo Med Air consortium will conduct drone trials for the 'Medicine from Sky' initiative of the Telangana Government from Monday.

Accordingly, drone delivery tech firm, 'Skye Air' that focuses on an end-to-end ecosystem for UAV based logistics will be conducting this as a part of the 'Dunzo Med Air' consortium led by the hyper local giant, 'Dunzo Digital'.

The trials will begin on September 20 in Vikarabad, Telagana and shall continue till September 25 during which several healthcare logistics related cases will be demonstrated.

On its part, Skye Air said it will conduct around 50 flights all delivering vaccines.

These BVLOS 'Beyond Visual Line of Sight' trials will deliver vaccines up to 12 km within an expected time frame of 18 minutes.

Each drone will carry vaccines in temperature-controlled boxes.

# India inks ₹230 cr deal with France to buy phased out Mirages



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to maintain operational readiness and increase the life of its Mirage jets, the IAF has signed an agreement with France to buy phased out Mirages flown by its air force. The deal is worth over ₹ 230 crores and the airframes of these planes will be brought to India in containers.

At present, India has a fleet of 50 Mirage planes procured in 1985. These versatile planes were used in the Balakot air strikes against terrorist hide outs in 2019.

All these planes are now in mid-life upgrade and the acquisition of the phased Mirages will ensure seamless availability of spares, sources

said here on Saturday. Moreover, this procurement will make sure maintenance cycle of these jets is adhered to thereby prolonging their operational life.

Incidentally, the IAF had inked a similar pact some years too and bought phased out Mirages from France. The Mirage fleet is based in Gwalior.

France is in the process of switching over to Rafale jets and has phased most of its Mirages.

The 36-jet deal with India for Rafales will be completed next year with the last batch of two planes arriving here. The IAF has placed these jets in two bases including Ambala in north and Hashimara in West Bengal in the east.

# Nadda gives tips to Dalit leaders for Assembly polls

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

With an eye on next year's crucial assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, BJP national president J.P. Nadda on Sunday gave tips to the Dalit leaders who had gathered in Varanasi, the Parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on how to win votes.

Referring to various schemes run by the Modi government -- Jan Dhan Yojna, Antyodaya, toilets, housing, education, Ujjwala, Ayushman Bharat, campaign to connect villages with electricity, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Samman Yojana, Mudra loan etc -- Nadda claimed that for the first time in the country the government is following the right path shown by Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Nadda said that the work that the Modi government has done for the Dalit members of the society in the last 7 years, the previous governments could not do even in 70 years.

In view of the number of Dalit voters in Uttar Pradesh, while virtually launching the two-day meeting of the BJP Scheduled Caste Front's national executive convened in Prime Minister Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi, the BJP President claimed that the Modi government has taken the steps



in the interest of Dalits which no previous government had ever taken. He asked the workers to take the facts along with the data directly to the Dalit voters.

Accusing the Opposition parties of using Dalits only as a vote bank, Nadda said that the Congress has always insulted Babasaheb and the BJP has only respect for him.

After OBC voters, the number of Dalit voters is very high in Uttar Pradesh. Out of 403 seats in the UP Legislative Assembly, 84 seats are reserved for the SC category. The population of Dalit voters in the state is about 21 per cent and out of this, more than half are Jatavs -- about 54 per cent. In 42 districts of the State, the population of Dalit voters is

more than 21 per cent. The history of the last three assembly elections shows that the political party which got more seats out of the reserved seats, was because of the Dalit voters.

The BJP wants to win the hearts of the Dalits of the state once again by holding a meeting of the National Executive of the SC Morcha in Varanasi. In the two-day meeting, the BJP will plan a strategy on how the Dalits of Uttar Pradesh should be told about the work of the government and how they have benefited from the various schemes. Dalits will be informed about not only the schemes of the government but it will also expose other opposition parties including the BSP and the SP over their hollow promises.

# CVC recommends implementation of 'Integrity Pact' in all Govt procurements



IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has made recommendation for implementing the of Integrity Pact (IP) in all public procurements by the various Ministries and the Departments.

IP helps government and companies to reduce high cost and maintain quality control.

IP adoption creates public confidence and trust in decision making process.

In its order issued on September 14, 2021, the CVC said that in order to enhance the transparency and probity in public procurement, it has provided the Standard Operative Procedure which also envisages the appointment of an independent external monitor.

"The IP will also envisage the appointment of Independent External Monitor who are eminent and experience person of high integrity, adequate experience, a person of high integrity and having unblemished service record are appointed as IEM in any organisation, the Commission is empanelling persons of integrity, after following due process to such person," the order said.

"The panel of such persons is updated at periodic intervals to ensure the constant availability of suitable person for nomination/appointment as IEM," it added further.

Realising the importance of IP as a vigilance tool in controlling corruption in public contracting and procurement, the CVC has, through its office

Orders recommended adoption of Integrity Pact to all the Secretaries to the government, all Chairman and Managing Director (CMDs) of Public sector Units, Public Sector banks and all Chief Vigilance Officers and provided them basic guidelines for its implementation in respect of major procurements in the government organisations.

On May 18, 2009, it issued Standard Operating Procedure spelling out all the details of the IP which has been revised as per the need basis and in its latest order on September 14 revised the SoPs and provided the appointment of IEM for all government procurements.

The CVC is an apex vigilance institution to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.



# Taliban replace Ministry for women

Afghanistan’s new rulers set up a Ministry for ‘propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice’ in building that once housed Women’s Affairs Ministry

AP ■ KABUL

Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers set up a Ministry for the "propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice" in the building that once housed the Women's Affairs Ministry, escorting out World Bank staffers on Saturday as part of the forced move.

It's the latest troubling sign that the Taliban are restricting women's rights as they settle into Government, just a month since they overran the capital of Kabul. In their first period of rule in the 1990s, the Taliban had denied girls and women the right to education and barred them from public life.

Separately, three explosions targeted Taliban vehicles in the eastern provincial capital of Jalalabad on Saturday, killing three people and wounding 20, witnesses said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists, headquartered in the area, are enemies of the Taliban.

The Taliban are facing major economic and security problems as they attempt to govern, and a growing challenge by ISIS insurgents would further stretch their resources.

In Kabul, a new sign was up outside the women's affairs



Ministry, announcing it was now the "Ministry for Preaching and Guidance and the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice."

Staff of the World Bank's \$100 million Women's Economic Empowerment and Rural Development Programme, which was run out of the Women's Affairs Ministry, were escorted off the grounds Saturday, said programme member Sharif Akhtar, who was among those being removed.

Mabouba Suraj, who heads the Afghan Women's Network, said she was astounded by the flurry of orders released by the Taliban-run government restricting women and girls.

Meanwhile, the Taliban-run education ministry asked boys from grades 7-12 back to school Saturday along with their male teachers but there was no mention of girls in those grades returning to school. Previously, the Taliban's minister of higher education minister, had said girls would

be given equal access to education, albeit in gender-segregated settings.

"It is becoming really, really troublesome. ... Is this the stage where the girls are going to be forgotten?" Suraj said.

"I know they don't believe in giving explanations, but explanations are very important."

Suraj speculated that the contradictory statements perhaps reflect divisions within the Taliban as they seek to consolidate their power, with the more pragmatic within the movement losing out to hard-liners among them, at least for now.

Statements from the Taliban leadership often reflect a willingness to engage with the world, open public spaces to women and girls and protect Afghanistan's minorities. But orders to its rank and file on the ground are contradictory. Instead restrictions, particularly on women, have been implemented.

Suraj, an Afghan American who returned to Afghanistan in 2003 to promote women's rights and education, said many of her fellow activists have left the country.

She said she stayed in an effort to engage with the Taliban and find a middle ground, but until now has not

been able to get the Taliban leadership to meet with activists who have remained in the country to talk with women about the way forward.

"We have to talk. We have to find a middle ground," she said. Also on Saturday, an international flight by Pakistan's national carrier left Kabul's airport with 322 passengers on board and a flight by Iran's Mahan Air departed with 187 passengers on board, an airport official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorised to speak to the media, said the two flights departed on Saturday morning. The identities and nationalities of those on board were not immediately known.

The international flights were the latest to depart Kabul in the past week as technical teams from Qatar and Turkey have worked to get the airport up to standard for international commercial aircraft.

A Qatar Airways flight on Friday took more Americans out of Afghanistan, according to Washington's peace envoy, the third such airlift by the Mideast carrier since the Taliban takeover and the frantic US troop pullout from the country.

## 3 dead as series of explosions hit Af's Nangarhar province



Taliban fighters and residents gather at the site of an explosion in Kabul on Saturday. A sticky bomb exploded in the capital Kabul

AP

AP ■ JALALABAD

Witnesses say a series of three explosions that targeted Taliban vehicles in the capital of Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province has left at least three dead and 20 wounded.

No one immediately took responsibility for the attack Saturday in Jalalabad, but the increasingly violent Islamic State group affiliate is head-

quartered in eastern Afghanistan and are enemies of Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Taliban officials were among the dead and wounded.

Also on Saturday a sticky bomb exploded in the capital Kabul wounding two people, said police officials.

The target of the Kabul bomb was not immediately clear.

## Fearful US residents in Afghanistan hiding out from Taliban

Kabul: Every night in yet another house in Afghanistan's capital, a US green card-holding couple from California take turns sleeping, with one always awake to watch over their three young children so they can flee if they hear the footsteps of the Taliban.

They've moved seven times in two weeks, relying on relatives to take them in and feed them. Their days are an uncomfortable mix of fear and boredom, restricted to a couple of rooms where they read, watch TV and play "The Telephone Game" in which they whisper secrets and pass them on, a diversion for the children that has the added benefit of keeping them quiet.

All of it goes on during the agonizing wait for a call from anybody who can help them get out. A US State Department official contacted them several days ago to tell them they were being assigned a case worker, but they haven't heard a word since. They've also been talking to an international rescue organisation.

"We are scared and keep hiding ourselves more and more," the mother said in a text message to The Associated Press. "Whenever we feel breathless, I pray."

Through messages, emails and phone conversations with loved ones and rescue groups, AP has pieced together what day-to-day life has been like for some of those left behind after the US military's chaotic withdrawal — that includes US citizens, permanent US resident green-card holders and visa applicants who aided US troops during the 20-year war. Those contacted by AP — who are not

being identified for their own safety — described a fearful, furtive existence of hiding in houses for weeks, keeping the lights off at night, moving from place to place, and donning baggy clothing and burgas to avoid detection if they absolutely must venture out.

All say they are scared the ruling Taliban will find them, throw them in jail, perhaps even kill them because they are Americans or had worked for the US government. And they are concerned that the Biden administration's promised efforts to get them out have stalled.

When the phone rang in an apartment in Kabul a few weeks ago, the US green card holder who answered — a truck driver from Texas visiting family — was hopeful it was the US State Department finally responding to his pleas to get him and his parents on a flight out. Instead, it was the Taliban.

"We won't hurt you. Let's meet. Nothing will happen," the caller said, according to the truck driver's brother, who lives with him in Texas and spoke to him afterwards. The call included a few ominous words: "We know where you are."

That was enough to send the man fleeing from the Kabul apartment where he had been staying with his mother, his two teenage brothers and his father, who was in particular danger because he had worked for years for a US contractor overseeing security guards.

"They are hopeless," said the brother in Texas. "They think, 'We're stuck in the apartment and no one is here to help us.' They've been left behind."

## After Afghanistan pullout, US seeks NATO basing, intel pacts

AP ■ ATHENS

Against the backdrop of the troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, the top US Military officer is meeting in Greece with NATO counterparts this weekend, hoping to forge more basing, intelligence sharing and other agreements to prevent terrorist groups from regrouping and threatening America and the region.

Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the meeting of NATO defense chiefs will focus in part on the way ahead now that all alliance troops have pulled out of Afghanistan and the Taliban are in control.

Milley, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and

American intelligence officials have warned that al-Qaida or the Islamic State group could regenerate in Afghanistan and pose a threat to the United States in one year to two years.

The US Military has said it can conduct counterterrorism surveillance and, if necessary, strikes in Afghanistan from "over the horizon" — meaning from assets based in other countries. But they have made it clear that surveillance flights from bases in the Persian Gulf are long and provide limited time in the air over Afghanistan.

So they have talked about seeking basing agreements, over-flight rights and increased intelligence-sharing with nations closer to Afghanistan, including some neighbours.

## Imran says he 'initiated a dialogue' with Taliban for inclusive Afghan Govt

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday said that he has "initiated a dialogue" with the Taliban for an inclusive Afghanistan government having Tajiks, Hazaras and Uzbeks, a day after the SCO members sought representation for all ethnic, religious and political groups in the new dispensation.

The Taliban, which seized control of Afghanistan in mid-August, had promised an "inclusive" government that represents Afghanistan's complex ethnic makeup, but there is no Hazara member and no woman in the interim 33-member Cabinet.

Taking to Twitter, Khan said: "After mtgs (meetings) in Dushanbe with leaders of Afghanistan's neighbours & especially a lengthy discussion with Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, I have initiated a dialogue with the Taliban for an inclusive Afghan govt to include Tajiks, Hazaras & Uzbeks". However, details of the "dialogue" were not shared by him or other officials.

After 40 years of conflict, this inclusivity will ensure peace and a stable Afghanistan, which is in the interest not only of Afghanistan but the region as well, Khan said in another tweet.

Addressing the Shanghai

Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit on Friday, he said: "the Taliban must fulfil the pledges made, above all for an inclusive political structure where all ethnic groups are represented. This is vital for Afghanistan's stability".

Khan said that it was also important to ensure respect for the rights while making certain that Afghanistan would never again be made a safe haven for terrorists.

The SCO leaders, in a joint declaration issued at the end of the annual Summit of the bloc in Tajikistan on Friday, voiced support for an independent, democratic and peaceful Afghanistan, free of terrorism, war and drugs.

## Yemen's Houthis execute 9 over senior official's killing

AP ■ SANAA

Yemen's Houthi rebels on Saturday said they executed nine people for their alleged involvement in the killing of a senior Houthi official in an airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition more than three years ago.

The public executions by firing squad were carried out in the rebel-held capital of Sanaa, according to the Iranian-backed Houthis who distributed photos apparently showing the executions. The executions took place despite repeated calls by rights groups and lawyers to stop the killings.

The public executions by firing squad were carried out in the rebel-held capital of Sanaa, according to the Iranian-backed Houthis who distributed photos apparently showing the executions. The executions took place despite repeated calls by rights groups and lawyers to stop the killings.

The nine were among more than 60 people the

Houthis accused of involvement in the targeted killing of Saleh al-Samad in April 2018. Former President Donald Trump was also accused, according to court documents obtained by The Associated Press. Also accused were top Western, Israeli and Gulf officials.

The Houthis accused the nine of spying for the Saudi-led coalition.

Al-Samad, who held the post of president in the Houthi-backed political body, was killed in an airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition in the coastal city of Hodeida.

The nine, including a 17-year-old boy, were arrested months after al-Samad's killing. They had been forcefully disappeared for months in undisclosed places where they suf-

fered inhuman treatment, according to Abdel-Majeed Sabra, a Yemeni lawyer representing one of the people executed.

Hundreds of people, mostly Houthis and their supporters, attended the executions, which were also broadcast on big screens early Saturday in Tahrir Square in the capital of Sanaa. The executions and their display cause outrage across the country, including Sanaa, where people refrain from criticising the rebels for fear of reprisals.

The nine wore sky blue prison garb with their hands bound behind their backs. Masked guards led them an open area and forced them to lie down on their stomachs. Another officer with a rifle shot them to death in their backs.

## North Korea expanding uranium enrichment plant

Seoul: Recent satellite images shows North Korea is expanding a uranium enrichment plant at its main Yongbyon nuclear complex, a sign that it's intent on boosting the production of bomb materials, experts say.

The assessment comes after North Korea recently raised tensions by performing its first missile tests in six months amid long-dormant nuclear disarmament diplomacy with the United States.

"The expansion of the enrichment plant probably indicates that North Korea plans to increase its production of weapons-grade uranium at the Yongbyon site by as much as 25 percent," Jeffrey Lewis and two other experts at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey said in a report.

The report said satellite

images taken by Maxar shows construction in an area adjoining the uranium enrichment plant at Yongbyon.

It said a satellite image taken on Sept 1 shows North Korea cleared trees and prepared the ground for construction and that a construction excavator is also visible.

The report said a second image taken on Sept 14 showed a wall erected to enclose the area, work on a foundation and panels removed from the side of the enrichment building to provide access to the newly enclosed area.

"The new area is approximately 1,000 square meters, enough space to house 1,000 additional centrifuges," the report said. "The addition of 1,000 new centrifuges would increase the plant's capacity to produce highly enriched uranium by 25 per cent." AP

## France recalls envoy protesting Australia-US submarine deal

AP ■ CANBERRA

France's ambassador to Australia described Saturday as a "huge mistake" Australia's surprise cancellation of a major submarine contract in favour of a US deal, delivering a final protest as the envoy was recalled from the country in an unprecedented show of anger among the allies.

Jean-Pierre Thebault delivered his comments as he left his residence in the pandemic locked down capital of Canberra.

"This has been a huge mistake, a very, very bad handling of the partnership," Thebault said, explaining that the arms agreement between Paris and Canberra was supposed to be based "on trust, mutual understanding and sincerity."

Paris recalled its ambassadors to Australia and the

United States on Friday to protest a deal among the United States, Australia and Britain to supply Australia with a fleet of at least eight nuclear-power submarines. Thebault flew out of Australia on a flight to Doha, Qatar, around 17 hours after the announcement from Paris.

The US deal scraps a 90 billion Australian dollar (\$66 billion) contract with French majority state-owned Naval Group, signed in 2016, to build 12 conventional diesel-electric submarines.

"I would like to be able to run into a time machine and be in a situation where we don't end up in such an incredible, clumsy, inadequate, un-Australian situation," the French ambassador added.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne's office earlier had issued a statement responding to the diplomat's

recall and noting Canberra's "regret" over its ally's withdrawal of its representative.

"Australia understands France's deep disappointment with our decision, which was taken in accordance with our clear and communicated national security interests," the statement said. It added that Australia values its relationship with France and looked forward to future engagements together.

Payne and Defence Minister Peter Dutton are currently in the United States for annual talks with their US counterparts and their first with President Joe Biden's administration.

 **Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Khatima**  
P'ilbhit Road, Near Allahabad Bank, Khatima (U.S. Nagar) E-mail : eecdktatima@gmail.com

E-Tendering/Tender Notice			
Letter No. 1396/Nivida/64    Date : 18.09.2021			
1. Name of Work :- Rising Main (DI Pipe), Over Head Tank, Pump House cum attendant Room, Boundary wall and all other appurtenant works etc.			
Name of Scheme		Estimated cost	Period of completion of work:
(A)	Nausar - Mohammadpur Bhudiya (MVS) W/S Scheme	Rs. 56.37 Lakh	06 months
(B)	Bhudiya Tharu (MVS) W/S Scheme	Rs. 56.64 Lakh	06 months
(C)	Bhagchuri (MVS) W/S Scheme	Rs. 51.06 Lakh	06 months
(D)	Mundeli (MVS) W/S Scheme	Rs. 54.39 Lakh	06 months
(E)	Tukari (MVS) W/S Scheme	Rs. 54.08 Lakh	06 months
(F)	Salmata (MVS) W/S Scheme	Rs. 50.07 Lakh	06 months
(G)	Pipaliya Pistaur (MVS) W/S Scheme	Rs. 51.99 Lakh	06 months
Key Dates-			
1	Date of Online Publication		21.09.2021 at 17:00hrs.
2	Document download : Start Date		22.09.2021 at 10:00hrs.
3	Document download : End Date		05.10.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
4	Pre Bid Meeting		27.09.2021 at 14:00 hrs.
5	Bid Submission : Start Date		22.09.2021 at 10:00hrs.
6	Bid Submission : End Date		05.10.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
7	Offline submission of documents (Cost of bidding document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the Supporting Documents in support of qualification).		06.10.2021 upto 17:00 hrs.
8	Date of Technical Bid Opening		07.10.2021 at 11:00 hrs
9	Date of Financial Bid Opening		To be announced Later
10	Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc. may be obtained at web site: <a href="http://www.uktenders.gov.in">www.uktenders.gov.in</a>		
Executive Engineer			

ICICI Bank

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Santosh Gusain & Pushpa Gusain/ LBFBD00002370675	House No- 91p, 1st Floor, Residential Scheme Surya Nagar Phase-2 Sector-91, Faridabad, Haryana/ Sep 14, 2021	March 25, 2021 Rs. 39,90,504/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : September 18, 2021  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower,  
New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005



# Cryptocurrency Hyper Fund under Govt scanner

■ NEW DELHI

The Government is keeping a close eye on cryptocurrency floating in the market based out of the country following alert that agencies responsible to check financial fraud are watching a company called Hyper Fund.

Sources said Hyper Fund, a DEFI by Hyper Tech Group has come under the radar recently. The Group claims to have launched the Hyper Fund to provide a decentralized financial infrastructure. Hyper Fund was announced in mid-2020.

As per the company website it is led by Ryan Xu, however, with the Multi-Level Marketing (MLM) model Hyper Fund has been luring investors with higher returns and such offerings, a common practice under Ponzi Schemes, that got the authorities alerted in the first place.

According to sources, complaints against such Funds have started pouring in several states. In India, the RBI, Union Finance Ministry and SEBI had warned people against cryptocurrency trading. The RBI is planning to launch India's official digital currency- E Rupee soon.

The Finance Ministry has



clarified that Virtual currencies are also not legal tender. Hence, VCs are not currencies. The RBI has also clarified that it has not given any licence/ authorization to any entity/ company to operate or deal with Bitcoin or any virtual currency.

In June 2018, Amit Bhardwaj was arrested at the Delhi Airport by Pune police along with his brother Vivek Bhardwaj in connection with an alleged Ponzi scheme. Bhardwaj, started his own bitcoin mining operations and allegedly cheated more than 8,000 people to the tune of Rs 2,000 crore from across the country.

He has lodged a complaint with the Delhi Police special cell, alleging that he received an extortion call and was asked to

pay protection money on September 6, 2021. He had setup multi-level marketing (MLM) scam by luring investors to give him Bitcoins in return for promised higher returns, police had alleged.

Regulators in UK have issued warning against such fund and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) have warnings issued for both Hyper Fund and Fund Advisor.

On its website, which was first published on in March 23, 2021 and later updated on August 31, the FCA said, "We believe this firm may be providing financial services or products in the UK without our authorisation. Almost all firms and individuals offering, promoting or selling financial services or products in the UK have to be authorised or registered by us.

## Opposition-ruled States demand extension of GST compensation regime beyond June 2022

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Ministers of Opposition-ruled states have demanded that the GST compensation cess regime be extended beyond June 2022.

Briefing reporters after the 45th GST Council meeting in Lucknow on Friday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said the regime of paying compensation to states for revenue shortfall resulting from subsuming their taxes such as VAT in the uniform national tax GST will end in June next year.

However, the compensation cess, levied on luxury and demerit goods, will continue to be collected till March 2026 to repay the borrowings that were done in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to compensate states for GST revenue loss.

In his speech at the meet-

ing, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister P Thiaga Rajan demanded continuation of the compensation mechanism, and deferment of a decision on this issue.

"While we are broadly, and firmly in favour of the continuation of the compensation mechanism, we are concerned by many of the details," he said.

Thiaga Rajan said all the Council Members will require some time to analyse and assess the features and consequences of the options presented during the 45th meeting, and hence expect that any decision on the way forward will be deferred to the 46th meeting at least.

"To be doubly sure, we formally place a request that no final decision be made on this most important issue without the benefit of the time needed to fully assess the options," Thiaga Rajan added.



## Deadline for PAN-Aadhaar linkage extended till March 2022

■ NEW DELHI

Centre has extended the deadline for linking Aadhaar with PAN by six more months, till March 2022.

The earlier deadline was till September 30.

Accordingly, the decision came as a relief measure for tax players during pandemic era.

"The Central Government, in continuation of its commitment to address the hardship being faced by various stakeholders on account of the Covid-19 pandemic, has, on consideration of representations received from various stakeholders, decided to extend timelines for compliances under the Income-tax Act, 1961," CBDT said in a statement late on Friday night.

"Time limit for intimation of Aadhaar number to the Income tax Department for linking of PAN with Aadhaar has been extended from 30th September, 2021 to 31st March, 2022."

Besides, the due date for completion of penalty proceedings under the IT Act has also been extended from September 30, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

## Come Jan 1, non-filers of monthly GST return to be barred from filing GSTR-1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Businesses that default on filing summary return and paying monthly GST will not be able to file GSTR-1 sales return of the succeeding month from January 1 next year.

The GST Council in its Lucknow meeting on September 17 has decided to take a host of measures to streamline compliance, including mandatory Aadhaar authentication for businesses to file refund claims.

These moves would help prevent revenue leakage due to

evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST), which was launched on July 1, 2017.

The Council decided to amend Rule 59(6) of the Central GST Rules with effect from January 1, 2022, to provide that a registered person shall not be allowed to furnish Form GSTR-1, if he has not furnished the return in Form GSTR-3B for the preceding month. Currently, the law restricts filing of return for outward supplies or GSTR-1 in case a business fails to file GSTR-3B of preceding two months.

## 'Telecom players' ARPU to grow even without tariffs hikes

■ NEW DELHI

The average revenue per user (ARPU) of the cellular industry could grow even without tariffs hikes as data usage and penetration zooms over the last 1-to-2 years.

As per India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra): "The sliding voice tariffs, growing data tariffs, increasing data usage per subscriber and increasing data subscribers in the overall subscriber base over the last one year indicate that the average revenue per user of the industry could grow even without tariffs hikes."

Besides, the ratings agency, cited that industry-wide subscriber base increased by 4 million subscribers on a month-on-month (MoM) basis in June 2021 to 1,181 million subscribers, as against a sharp decline of 6.3 million subscribers in May 2021. "Broadband subscriber base also grew in June 2021 by 11.7 million subscribers to 769 million subscribers." However, the visitor location register subscriber base, which shows active subscribers, reported a dip by 1.3 million subscribers mom in June 2021 to 985 million subscribers, the agency said.

# Covid might shift India's growth model

■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 pandemic could act as an inflection point to shift India's growth model from being consumption driven to investments-led.

In its Ecoscope report, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said: "With Covid-19 hurting India's 'Household' (HH) and 'Government' sectors adversely, the continuity of

strong consumption growth is in question."

"On the contrary, with listed companies' financial positions improving and an uptick in household investments in the Real Estate sector (called physical savings), the narrative of investment-led recovery is gaining momentum."

The report prescribed that various economic participants - households, governments, listed companies, and unlisted

corporates -- to increase their fixed asset investments in the immediate future based on their financial position.

At present, the listed and unlisted corporate sector accounts for only about half of total investments in India.

The 'HH' sector including unincorporated enterprises accounts for 35-40 per cent in India's investments, while the remaining 12-13 per cent is contributed by centre and states

governments. Besides, the report cited that demand environment is expected to remain subdued due to weak financial position of 'HH' and government sector. "Despite household investments picking up strongly in 2HFY21, given that Indian households bore the maximum brunt of Covid-led losses in CY20 (and CY21), we believe household spending would remain subdued over the next few years."

# Profit booking, global volatility to impact stock moves

■ MUMBAI

Sky-high valuations along with global tapering fears will impact stock market movements during the upcoming week.

Accordingly, market observers, pointed out high possibility of profit booking led slide on the back premium valuations and likely absence of positive domestic triggers.

Nonetheless, key indices - S&P BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 -- are expected to reach new intra-day record highs of 60,000 points and 18,000-mark, respectively.

Last Friday, the Sensex closed at 59,015.89 points after making an intra-day record high of 59,700, while Nifty ended the day's trade at 17,585.15 points.

It had breached the 17,790

## BRIEFS

**GM OFFERS SHRAMDAAAN AT NETAJI BHAVAN METRO STATION**



**Kolkata:** Metro Railway has been observing Swachhta Pakhwara from 16th – 30th September, 2021. As a part of this drive Shri Manoj Joshi, General Manager and other senior officers of Metro Railway offered Shramdaan at Netaji Bhavan Metro station today on 18.09.2021. Shri Joshi also inspected platform, mezzanine floor, staircases, Machine Room, dustbins of the station to check the standard of cleanliness being maintained. General Manager also urged all Metro users and staff to maintain the high standard of cleanliness of Metro premises and trains. At Noapara Car Depot Complex a special cleaning drive was also undertaken today to clean the Depot Complex. Officers and staff of the Depot took part in this activity.

**IRCTC DEDICATES A NEW FOOD PLAZA AT NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION**

**New Delhi:** The Indian Railway Catering And Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has been playing a pivotal role in revolutionizing the hospitality and catering business of Indian Railways across the country. In its latest drive, the company has recently dedicated a new Food Plaza – 'Pop n Hop' for the passengers at New Delhi railway station on Platform No. 16 towards Ajmeri Gate side. The 'Pop n Hop' Food Plaza is one of the most exquisite and extensive food and beverage facility created by IRCTC for the passengers and tourists to have wide variety sumptuous food offered in a hygienic and extremely comfortable environment. The passengers and tourists visiting New Delhi railway station will no more have to hunt for quality food or bring food along with from home as the new Food Plaza will promises to offer quality food to tantalize the taste buds at reasonable prices.

**AMIT SHAH PLANTS SAPLING AT CRPF TRAINING CENTER**



Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah planted 10 millionth sapling at CRPF Training Center in Nanded, Maharashtra under 'All India Tree Plantation Campaign-2021' being run by Central Armed Police Forces CAPFs have done the work of planting 10 million trees in more than 170 districts across the country. We had set a target that all the paramilitary forces together will plant more than 10 million trees and take good care of them till they grow to a height above our heads, and today we have accomplished this year's target of 10 million ahead of time.

**CLW JOINS RAIL KAUSHAL VIKAS YOJANA**

To empower the youth of vibrant India with industry-relevant skills, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) has joined the 'Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana', on 17.09.2021. Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Hon'ble Minister for Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, launched the 'Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana' on all India level in 75 Rly. Training Centres including CLW via video conference, on 17.09.2021. It is an integral part of Skill India Mission adopted by Indian Railways under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana as a part 75 years of "AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV".



**LIVE LEARNING PLATFORM IN REGIONAL LANGUAGES**

**New Delhi:** Taking ahead the National Skill Development Corporation's initiative to boost employability and enhance enhancement training and placements, Orion Edutech unveiled LearnHat, an interactive live learning platform that acts as a bridge between students and tutors primarily focusing on smaller towns. Its value proposition rests on delivering its sessions in a number of regional languages. "India is a diverse country, where regional language forms a comfort bond unlike any other. We therefore wanted to extend this to education as well, to make earning more fun, engaging and a meaningful experience," said Priyadeep Sinha, CEO of LearnHat.

### HOUSING BOARD HARYANA SECTORE-23, FARIDABAD PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the General Public that House No. 527/LIG, Sector -22 Faridabad was transferred / allotted in the name of **Smt. Pratibha Saxena** D/o Late Sh. A.P. Saxena R/o H.No. 527/LIG, Sector -22, Faridabad vide letter No. 4423 dated 22/12/89, Now above allottee / transferee Sale Deed Holder Sh. Girraj Prasad S/o Sh. Begraj has expired on 04/04/2018 Now Sh./Smt. allottee / transferee / Sale deed holder Sh. Raj Kumar Aggarwal and Sh. Lalit Aggarwal both S/o late Sh. Girraj Prasad R/o H.No. 527/LIG, Sector-22 Faridabad has submitted the documents for the transfer of the allotment of the above mentioned house due to the death of the allottee / Transfer being his her legal heirs.

Now by the present Public Notice, it is informed to all public in General that in case anybody has objection to the above said transfer of allotment of house, in the name of Sh. Rajkumar Aggarwal and Sh. Lalit Aggarwal. He/She can file the objection within 30 days from the publication of this notice after that Necessary action for the transfer of the above mentioned house will be taken by this office as per Rules and no objection will be entertained after 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Estate Manager  
Housing Board Haryana,  
Faridabad

WESTERN RAILWAY			
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. S/34/2021 Date : 16.09.2021			
S.N.	Short Description of item	Quantity	T.O.D
887	NAFTC sheet	1000 Nos.	01.10.2021
888	Amalgamated Transformer Rectifierunit	20 Nos.	05.10.2021
889	Cut Off Angle Cock	3674 Nos.	06.10.2021
890	Coronary Non Complaint Balloon	834 Nos.	07.10.2021
891	Blind Socket Assembly with Locking	90 Nos.	08.10.2021
892	MSDAC Transportation Install. Testing and Comm.	4 Set	08.10.2021
893	POH Kit	950 Set	08.10.2021
894	Membrane for Crowned Gear Coupling	225 Nos.	09.10.2021
895	Set of Suspension Tube	43 Set	11.10.2021
896	4.5 KW Understung	60 Nos	13.10.2021

Regarding detailed notice, EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and [www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in).

0422 For Principal Chief Materials Manager

Like us on : [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on : [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (PHE): WATER: ASSAM CUM**  
**ADDL. MISSION DIRECTOR, JAL JEEVAN MISSION ASSAM HENGGRABARI, GUWAHATI-36**  
 No. PHE-19/JJM/PB/2020-21/T-

**Notification**  
 It is for general information of all concerned those contractors who submitted their EOs against EOI No. 14 of 2021-22 of this office for "Empanelment of Non PHE contractors under JJM Assam" on or before 16:00 hrs. of 04.09.2021 but not considered for empanelment due to shortage of required documents as per EOI Document or submission of erroneous documents are requested to submit the requisite shortfall document(s) within 16:00 hrs. of 27.09.2021 for consideration for empanelment. Submission of such required documents after 16:00 hrs. of 27.09.2021 shall not be entertained under any circumstances. The detailed required documents to be submitted by such defaulting contractors may be seen from the Notification section in the web site [www.jimassam.in](http://www.jimassam.in) up-to 27.09.2021. This may be treated as a final intimation and no further communication after the closing date shall be made from this end in regards to the empanelment process after the closing date and time.
 

**Sd/-**  
**Chief Engineer (PHE) Water, Assam CUM**  
**Additional Mission Director, JJM, Assam**  
**Janasanyog/C/5686/21 Hengrabari, Guwahati-36**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**  
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Vijay Prakash** S/o Kapil Muni R/o WZ-783, Naraina Village, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case DD No. 44-A dated 13.04.2015 u/s 53/116 DP Act. P.S. Naraina, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Vijay Prakash** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Vijay Prakash** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Vijay Prakash** accused of DD No. 44-A dated 13.04.2015 u/s 53/116 DP Act. P.S. Naraina, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **21.10.2021**.  
**By Order :**  
**Sh. Himanshu Raman Singh**  
**Metropolitan Magistrate,**  
**Room No. 20, Main Building,**  
**Patiala House Court, New Delhi**

DP/553/WD/21

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**  
**E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 21/07** Dated:14.09.2021  
**E-Procurement Tender Notice**  
 On behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Material Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj invites the E-procurement tenders:

Tender No.	Description	Qty.	EMD (Rs)
19215445	Steel Bed with Box. Size-L-1980 mm. W-925mm. H-840mm, Ply 12mm as per drawing attached in PDF.	137 Nos.	₹ 29,600/-

**Tender Opening Date-07.10.2021.** Note:- 1- The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IREPS website i.e <http://www.ireps.in> 2-Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tender. For this purpose, Vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2008. 3-Rates entered into financial rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. 4- Documents being attached should be signed on their body. 5- Allocation for "Cost of Drawing" is 2-650 and for "Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)" is Deposit Misc. Stores-00844517. The above tender notice has been uploaded on <http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in>. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the IREPS website may be approached.
 

1012/2021 V  
 North Central Railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @CPRONCR

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL**  
**PUJA**

General public is here by informed that this girl **Name:** Puja, **D/o** Sh. Ramu, **R/o** R Block 118-19, Mangolpuri, Delhi. **Age:** 20 years, **Height:** 5 Feet, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Green Color Suit and White Color Salwar and Slippers in feet, has been missing/ kidnapped since 25.07.2021 from her house.  
 In this regard a DD No. 85A, dated 26.07.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Burari, Delhi.  
 Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far.  
 Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.  
**E-Mail:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO**  
**Website:** [cbi.nic.in](http://cbi.nic.in) **P.S. Burari, Delhi**  
**Fax:** 011-24368639 **Ph. 011-27616844, 8750870132**  
**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641** **DP/1381/N/2021**

### Public Notice

This is to inform that the Smt. Kamlesh W/o Shri Prem R/o 15/315, Dakshin Puri Extension, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, South Delhi, Pushpa Bhawan, Delhi is also the owner of property address D-137,138, 139, Sai Vihar, Phase-II, Bhupani Mor, Faridabad declares through this public notice that Smt. Kamlesh Disown her son namely Vinesh from her Property and he has no right towards her moveable and immovable assets and any reason is due to his and his wife nature and misbehavior towards her.

**Nishkarsh Gupta (Advocate)**  
**Mob No: 7011887119**

## THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

• **THANKSGIVING** •

Thank you Holy Spirit for Blessings Celine.

PD(9080)C

### LOST AND FOUND

This is to inform that I Sudhir Anand S/o Sudarshan Anand R. P-16 Sector 20 Noida 201301 have Lost the Sale Deed executed between Noida Authority and Mr. Shiv Nandan S. Ahluwalia S/o S.S. Ahluwalia Registered with Noida Authority via JdNo 749 Vd no. 11 Page no 4016 Dated: 24/08/91 and Original Transfer/ Permission Letter No. 13932 Noida/ Housing / 2005 dated 29.6.2005 between Mr. Shiv Nandan S Ahluwalia S/o. S.S. Ahluwalia and myself I E Sudhir Anand. I have Registered a FIR for the same with The Noida Police via FIR No.80 Dated 10.09.2021. This is To inform that I am the lawful owner of the property via Bahi no.1, Jld no 749/754, page no. 11/49/368, M.No.4016 Document no. 4015 Dated: 24.08.1991. There is no Change/Litigation/Mortgage or any kind of Dispute against the captioned property. That I am selling the property to Priya Sharma & Yogesh Kumar Sharma and that I stand to fully indemnify the buyer in case of any misrepresentation, fabrication, concealment of facts pertaining to property being sold by me.



# Bopanna and Ramkumar crack in must-win doubles match, India lose 1-3 to Finland

PTI ■ ESPOO (FINLAND)

Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan blew their chances in the must-win doubles match as India lost the World Group I tie 1-3 to hosts Finland in the Davis Cup, here on Saturday. Captain Rohit Rajpal changed the doubles combination by pairing Bopanna with Ramkumar instead of left-handed Divij Sharan but they lost the crucial match 6-7(2) 6-7(2) to Henri Kontinen and Harri Heliövaara in one hour and 38 minutes. Coming into the match down 0-2, Indians needed to win the doubles to stay alive in the tie.

Prajesh later beat Patrik Niklas-Salminen in the dead fourth rubber 6-3 7-5, while the fifth match was not played. India will now have to compete in the Play-offs next year to keep their place in the World Group I. Heliövaara was considered the most vulnerable of all four players on the court but he raised his game by several notches and created a huge impact on the outcome of the match with his fearless approach. The Indian, on the contrary, fumbled even when they had advantage as they up by a break and had four break-points in the eight game of the second set but squandered the chances.

After doing all the hard work, the Indians cracked at crucial junctures. Bopanna said the fact that the Finnish players have played together at a higher level made a difference to the match. "We were playing first time together at this level. In close points it did make a difference. But we played a great match, (considering) we were playing for the first time together," said the 40-year-old. Bopanna also backed the captain's call in changing the combination saying, he and Ramkumar were the right pair for today's match. He also said that India needs to do well in singles matches if the team has to win



ties in Davis Cup. "Four points are from singles matches, that's where we need to focus. It's been six years that an Indian singles player has beaten a higher-ranked player in Davis Cup. "We need to have good structure back home, good junior system. Cricket does well because there is a fantastic structure, so every sport needs something like that. You can't do it on your own. The Federation and the government has to come together," he said. In the opening set, at 3-3, the Indian pair attacked the serve of Heliövaara, going 30-all but the home player served big on the next two points to ensure the set stays on serve.

Eventually the opening set went to tie-breaker. Heliövaara found a stunning service return winner off Bopanna on the second point to get the mini break and also held his serve as Finland took a 4-1 lead. Then came Ramkumar's double fault and a volley error at the net that gave Finland players five set points. They converted the second when Ramkumar could not return Kontinen's serve. A forehand winner by Ramkumar at 30-all in the second game of the second set, set up the first break chance for India and they converted when Kontinen could not return Bopanna's backhand. However, the big-serving

Bopanna dropped his own serve in the next game when he made consecutive unforced errors. Bopanna's serve again came under attack but he managed to hold after going down to deuce points from 40-15 as India led 4-3. In the next game, the Indians went up 40-0 on Heliövaara's serve but blew away all three breakpoints and later one more to let the rivals hold for a 4-4 scoreline. Another tie-breaker followed. Heliovaara pulled off a sensational forehand winner at 5-2 to get to first match point and it was all over for India when Ramkumar could not return the ball in the next point.

## Extended NZ squad flies out of Pakistan on chartered plane



PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

An extended 33-member New Zealand cricket squad left for Dubai on a chartered flight from Islamabad on Saturday evening, a day after abandoning its entire tour of the country over security fears. The New Zealand players and officials had to undergo rapid COVID-19 tests at the airport and after all the reports came negative, they were allowed to board the flight amid tight security protocols. New Zealand Cricket (NZC) called off the series in Pakistan abruptly on Friday just before the first One-Day International at the Rawalpindi stadium, citing they had received a serious threat. Neither the New Zealand board nor their government has shared the nature of the

threat with the Pakistan government, security officials or the Pakistan Cricket Board. A clearly upset interior minister, Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed, said on Saturday that there was no threat to the New Zealand team and they just made up an excuse to leave for home as they didn't want to play the series. New Zealand had arrived in Pakistan on September 11 for a white-ball series after 18 years and were scheduled to play three ODIs and five T20 Internationals. They also held a few practice sessions at the Pindi stadium under tight security but on the day of the match, all hell broke loose when the two teams didn't leave the hotel before it emerged that the visitors had got a threat leading to their government advising them to abandon the tour.

## Channelise your anger, become a world class team: PCB Chairman Raja to his players

PTI ■ KARACHI

New Zealand's abrupt decision to pull out of their cricket tour of Pakistan has created "an unfortunate scenario" but the hosts know how to overcome such crises, the chairman of the country's cricket board Ramiz Raja said on Saturday. New Zealand abandoned the tour on the day of the

opening fixture on Friday citing a government security alert, while England are also reconsidering their men's and women's team visits to Pakistan next month. The tour was due to start with the first of three one-dayers in Rawalpindi but New Zealand did not travel to the stadium. "It's an unfortunate scenario," Raja, who took over as



Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman on Monday, said in a video posted on the board's Twitter handle. "But we've faced similar situations in the past and have always overcome them. We've tremendous resilience... it's a setback to staging international cricket in Pakistan but we'll overcome this crisis too." Several Pakistan players

took to Twitter to vent their anger and frustration at New Zealand's decision. Raja advised them to channel it into improving their performance. "My message to the team is -- vent your anger and frustration through your performance on the field. "If you become the best team in the world, others will queue up here to play you in Pakistan."

## Honey Baisoya ends title drought, lifts J&K Open trophy

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Delhi's Honey Baisoya on Saturday ended a three-year title drought by claiming a four-stroke win over Gurugram-based Veer Ahlawat at the J&K Open. Six-time PGTI winner Baisoya (67-69-66-68), who was struggling for form through the season, totalled 18-under 270 for the week following his classy final round of four-under 68 at the Royal Springs Golf Course. He thus skyrocketed from 85th to 22nd place in the PGTI Order of Merit. Ahlawat (67-71-70-66) also made his presence felt in the last round with a score of 66 to finish second at 14-under 274 in the Rs. 40 lakh event. Patna's Aman Raj (68-71-70-66) too shot a 66 on day four to take the third place at 13-under 275. Baisoya, the overnight leader by four shots, had a nervy start to the day as he made some tough par putts from five to six feet on the first six holes



even as the likes of Angad Cheema and Kartik Sharma piled on the pressure on the leader with early birdies. Baisoya almost found the hole with his chip on the seventh but eventually tapped in for his first birdie of the day. A 20-foot birdie conversion followed on the ninth as he made the turn with a two-shot cushion. He dropped his first bogey of the tournament when he three-putted on the 13th. That narrowed down his lead over

Veer Ahlawat to just two shots. Baisoya made a final push for victory with birdies on the 14th and 15th as a result of some long conversions thanks to his new putter. The 25-year-old landed his approach from 134 yards to within a foot to set up another birdie on the 17th that all but sealed the deal for him. "It still feels like a dream because till last week I was very low on confidence and not even sure of shooting an under-par score. So this win is all the more special," said Baisoya, who had just one top-20 from 10 starts in the season. "Normally I'm a very aggressive player but with the confidence not being up there I tried to play more conservatively than I usually do. I used the 2-iron a lot and struck it to perfection all week. "I also didn't make mistakes on the green like I had done in preceding events. The goal this week was to make the cut and I ended up winning. So it's still sinking in," added Baisoya, who took home the winner's cheque worth Rs. 6,46,600.

## Mohammad Hussamuddin enters quarterfinals at National Boxing Championships

PTI ■ BELLARY (KARNATAKA)

Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) stormed into the quarterfinals with a 5-0 win over Chhattisgarh's Sahil at the National Boxing Championships here on Saturday. Defending champion Hussamuddin, who is representing Services Sports

Control Board (SSCB), displayed smart and mature boxing and landed plenty of punches to secure a unanimous 5-0 win. He will face Rushikesh Goud of Maharashtra on Sunday. In the other round of 16 match in the 57kg category, Haryana's Sachin was up against Manipur's Jobison Yengkokpam.

## Mane reaches 100 goals for Liverpool in 3-0 win over Palace



AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Sadio Mane scored for the 59th straight time against Crystal Palace and reached 100 goals for Liverpool to set his team on its way to a 3-0 win in the English Premier League on Saturday. The Senegal forward got to the milestone at Anfield by converting from close range in the 43rd minute after Mohamed Salah's header from a corner was parried out by Palace goalkeeper Vicente Guaita. Of Mane's century of goals for the Reds, which have come in 224 games, 10 have been scored against Palace. Salah added the second in the 78th and that also came from a corner, with the Egypt international volleying in after a delivery from the left was deflected to him at the back post. Naby Keita scored the best of the lot in the 89th minute with a volley from the edge of the area after the ball was punched clear by Guaita. It proved to be a tough game for Liverpool, which was without its two attacking full backs because Trent Alexander-Arnold was ill and Andrew Robertson was rested, and there were some nervy moments before Salah's goal.

## Falcao scores in debut as Rayo beats Getafe 3-0

AP ■ BARCELONA

Radamel Falcao scored 10 minutes into his debut with Rayo Vallecano on Saturday, completing a 3-0 league win over Getafe in a derby between the Spanish capital's two more modest clubs. The veteran striker went on as a 71st-minute substitute with Rayo 1-0 ahead. Midfielder Pathe Ciss doubled the lead shortly before he set up Falcao with a pass for the Colombian to score from an angle. Oscar Trejo had put Rayo ahead with a penalty nine minutes into the match at Vallecas Stadium. Rayo goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski denied Getafe a late goal when he saved Enes Unal's penalty. Rayo has two wins, a draw, and two defeats in its return to Spain's top division. Getafe is



last after losing all five games. The 35-year-old Falcao signed with Rayo earlier this month as a free agent. "I had dreamed of being able to go out there and score a goal," Falcao said. "My team-

mates have given me a lot of support. I feel right at home." Falcao had two highly successful seasons with Atlético Madrid from 2011-13, when he helped it win the Europa League and the Copa del Rey.

## Lewandowski scores again as Bayern Munich routs Bochum 7-0

AP ■ BERLIN

Robert Lewandowski scored yet again in Bayern Munich's 7-0 rout of promoted Bochum in the Bundesliga on Saturday. Lewandowski stretched his scoring run to 19 consecutive games across all competitions for Bayern. The Poland star's second half goal also ensured he became the first Bundesliga player to score in 13 consecutive home games. Bayern was already confident after starting the Champions League on Tuesday beating Barcelona 3-0, while Bochum arrived in Munich after two league defeats. The visitors made a solid start until Leroy Sané opened the scoring with a brilliant free kick in the 17th minute. It was Bayern's first shot on target. Sané set up Joshua Kimmich in the 27th and Serge Gnabry picked the far corner for Bayern's

third in the 32nd. An own goal from Vasilios Lampropoulos completed a first half to forget for Bochum – though history showed an improbable comeback was possible. The clubs also met in the Bundesliga 45 years ago to the day, when Bochum – then playing at home – was four goals up against Bayern at half-time. Bayern fought back in the second half to win 6-5 with future club president Uli Hoeneß scoring the winner in the 89th. Lewandowski has his own history to write, however. The Poland striker made it 5-0 in the 61st to extend his club-record scoring run. He has scored in every game since Feb. 15. Kimmich got his second goal four minutes later and substitute Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting made it 7-0 in the 79th. It could have been worse for Bochum.

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा**  
**Bank of Baroda**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

Appendix-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6) & 6(2)]

**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) & 6 (2) 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 properties mortgaged/charged to Bank of Baroda the Secured Creditor the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is "basis for recovery of Amount mentioned below plus interest and other expenses due to Bank of Baroda the Secured Creditor from below mentioned Borrowers & Guarantors.

Sl. No	Name of Branch / Borrower/Guarantors/ Mortgagor	Description of Secured Assets (Movable/Immovable Properties)	Reserve Price	Date and Time of E-Auction	Demand Notice Date		
			EMD Bid Increase Amt.		Possession Date Outstanding Amount		
<b>Bank of Baroda, SARB Bhopal Mobile : 7247770078, Tel. 0755-4045435</b>							
1	<b>Borrower : Mrs. Jayshree Shrama</b> w/o Dinesh Kumar Sharma Co-borrower: <b>Mr. Dinesh Kumar Sharma</b> Guarantor : <b>Mr. Veereshwar Prasad</b>	1. EM of Residential House at Plot no. 288 admeasuring 1000 sq.ft., Maa Vaishnavi Nagar, on land survey no. 849/14, Ward no 15, Ashta, Tehsil ashta Distt sehore belongs to Mrs. Jayashree Sharma W/o Dinesh kumar Sharma. Boundaries: East : Plot No. 277, West : Colony Road, North : Plot No. 287, South: Plot No. 289	<b>₹ 1165000/-</b>	22-10-2021 2:00 p.m. to 06:00 p.m.	09/10/2018 ₹ 26,38,252.31 +Intt. & charges		
			<b>₹ 116500/-</b>				
			<b>₹ 10,000</b>				
<b>PHYSICAL POSSESSION</b>							
2.	<b>Borrower : Mrs Meera Singh Devi</b> w/o Rajkishore Singh Co-borrower : <b>Mr. Rajkishore Singh</b> S/o Mr. Udai Singh	Equitable Mortgage of one Residential Plot No.323, Ward no.15, Maa Vaishnavi Nagar, P.H. 49, Survey No. 849/13, 849/14, 849/15, Ashta Area- 1000 sq.ft. belongs to Mrs. Meera Singh w/o Mr. Rajkishore Singh Boundaries of property: Bounded: North :Plot No. 322, South: Plot No. 324, East : Plot No.310, West : C	<b>₹ 540000/-</b>	22-10-2021 2:00 p.m. to 06:00 p.m.	13.01.2017 02-06-2017 ₹ 1003771/- + Intt. & other charges		
			<b>₹ 54000/-</b>				
			<b>₹ 10,000</b>				
<b>PHYSICAL POSSESSION</b>							
3.	<b>Borrower : Mr. Mukesh Kumar Rathore</b> S/o Shri Ramchandra Rathore Guarantors : <b>Mr. Akhilesh Rathore S/o Mr. Ramchandra Rathore</b>	Equitable Mortgage of residential property Singlex at Plot No. 173, Ward No. 15, Ashta, Distt. Sehore, admeasuring 1250 Sq. Ft. in the name of Mr. Mukesh Rathore S/o Ramchandra Rathore. Boundries- East –plot no.155, West- 25 feet colony road North – 30 feet colony road, South – plot No. 172	<b>₹ 1300000/-</b>	22-10-2021 2:00 p.m. to 06:00 p.m.	21.01.2019 15.09.2019 ₹ 2775213/- + Intt. & other charges		
			<b>₹ 130000/-</b>				
			<b>₹ 10,000</b>				
<b>Symbolic Possession</b>							
4.	<b>Borrower : Mr. Pawan Kumar Sharma S/o Nandkishore Sharma</b> Co-Borrower: <b>Mrs. Jyoti Sharma W/o Pawan Kumar Sharma</b>	EM of Residential Property House at Plot No 337 area- 800 sq. ft. , Maa Vaishnavi Nagar, on land survey no 849/13, 849/14 & 849/15, wardno 15, Ashta Tehsil Ashta Distt-Sehore MP belongs to Pawan Kumar Sharma s/o Nandkishore Sharma. Boundaries: East: Colony Road North: Plot No 338, West: E.W.S. Plot South: Plot No 336	<b>₹ 865000/-</b>	22-10-2021 2:00 p.m. to 06:00 p.m.	21.01.2019 22.03.2019 ₹ 2294933.48 + Intt. & other charges		
			<b>₹ 86500/-</b>				
			<b>₹ 10,000</b>				
<b>PHYSICAL POSSESSION</b>							
5	<b>Borrowers : Mr. Rajendra Singh Umath s/o Mr. Balram Singh</b> Guarantors : <b>Mr. Gopal Singh Verma</b>	Residential property Duplex House at plot no. 183, Maa Vaishnavi Nagar Colony, ward no. 15, PH no. 49, Kh.No. 849/2, 849/4, Present Kh No. 849/13, 849/14, 849/15, Tehsil - ASHTA, Dist- Sehore (M.P.)Bounded: North : Plot No. 182, South : Colony Road, East : Road, West: Plot No. 184	<b>₹ 1140000/-</b>	22-10-2021 2:00 p.m. to 06:00 p.m.	13-01-2017 02-06-2017 ₹ 2738443/- +Intt. & charges		
			<b>₹ 114000/-</b>				
			<b>₹ 10,000</b>				
<b>PHYSICAL POSSESSION</b>							
6	<b>Borrower : Mr. Ramprasad Parihar S/o Hameer Singh Parihar</b>	Residential property - House no. 342, on land survey no. 849/2, 849/4 present kh. No. 849/14, 849/15 area of plot 1120 sq. ft. situated at ward no. 15, Shesh ward Maa Vaishnavi Nagar, P.C. no. 49, Tehsil – ASHTA, Dist. – Sehore (M.P.)Boundaries: East – Colony road North- Plot no. 343, West – EWS Plot South:-Plot no. 341	<b>₹ 750000/-</b>	22-10-2021 2:00 p.m. to 06:00 p.m.	02.11.2016 09-02-2017 ₹ 1322653/- + Intt. & other charges		
			<b>₹ 75000/-</b>				
			<b>₹ 10,000</b>				
<b>PHYSICAL POSSESSION</b>							
7	<b>Borrower : M/s Phool Singh Chain Singh</b> <b>Prop. Mr. Chain Singh S/o Labhmal Rathore</b> 1. Galla Mandi Prangan. Krishi Upaj Mandi , Kannod Road, Ashta, Dist- Sehore 2. Subhash Nagar, Ashta, Tehsil-Ashta, Dist- Sehore (M.P.) Guarantors – <b>1. Mr. Virendra Rathore S/o Labhmal Rathore</b> <b>2. Mrs. Bhagwati Bai W/o Devkaran Rathore</b>	1. EM of plot no Kh no 874-659/26 kha(oid), 874-649/27kha (new) PH No 27, ward no 15, Behind Madhav Saraswati Shikha Samiti, Malviya Nagar, Ashta, Tehsil-Ashta District- Sehore (M.P.) area 3315 sq. ft. Belonging to Mr. Chain Singh Rathore s/o Labhmal Rathore Boundaries: East: Kachha Rasta, West: Open Land of Manak Sahu, North: Open Land of Manak Sahu, South: Land of Khati Samaj	<b>₹ 17.20 Lacs</b>	22-10-2021 2:00 p.m. to 06:00 p.m.	02.07.2019 04.10.2019 as on 02.07.2019 ₹ 26774631.09 +unapplied intt +other charges		
			<b>₹ 1.72 Lacs</b>				
			<b>₹ 10,000/-</b>				
			<b>₹ 18.40 Lacs</b>				
			<b>₹ 1.84 Lacs</b>				
			<b>₹ 10,000/-</b>				
<b>PHYSICAL POSSESSION</b>							
		3. EM of plot situated at Kh no 656/1, ward no 15, patwari halka no 27, Malviya Nagar, Ashta, District-Sehore Area- 1500. Sq.ft belonging to Mrs. Bhagwati Bai Rathore w/o Devkaran Rathore Boundaries: East: Plot of Lalita Bai, West 12ft wide, North: Plot of Droupati Bai, South: Remaining land of Seller	<b>₹ 9.00 Lacs</b>				
			<b>₹ 900000/-</b>				
			<b>₹ 10,000/-</b>				
<b>PHYSICAL POSSESSION</b>							
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda website: <a href="https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm">https:// www.bankofbaroda.in / e-auction.htm</a> & <a href="https://ibapi.in">https://ibapi.in</a> Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on contact numbers as mentioned above in the table. <b>Date: 19.09.2021, Place: Bhopal</b>							
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda							



# the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE



## Taming the dragon

*Blinkers Off* serves as an important tool in understanding that the threat Beijing poses is multi-dimensional, & response to it should also be the same

2



4

## Turn Ahamkara into asset

How you negotiate the present, defines the way future may unfold, and which could stretch on even to the next birth

You have to be the best of whatever you are, but successful, cool actresses come in all shapes and sizes  
—Jessica Alba



# MAKING OTT PLATFORMS PROFITABLE IN INDIA



If streaming services are looking at making profits in India, they should adapt to regional realities, start thinking creatively and take a leaf out of what has worked globally, writes AJAYYA KUMAR

The Covid-19 induced lockdown might have given a shot in the arm for streaming services, but making substantial profits in the Indian market still remains an elusive dream for most of them. In the financial year 2020, Netflix India recorded a revenue of Rs 924 Crore and managed to eke out a marginal profit of Rs 9 crore. The streaming giant's overall profits globally for the same year stood at a whopping \$2.8 billion.

Disney+Hotstar in India, on the other hand, recorded revenue to the tune of Rs 1629 Crore with losses amounting to Rs 362 crore. Hotstar is currently India's largest streaming platform with a subscriber base of 300 million.

According to an analysis by Media Partners Asia, India's online video market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 26 per cent over 2020-25 to reach US\$4.5 billion. Another report by Boston Consulting Group notes that the OTT video streaming market alone in India is set to touch US\$5 billion by 2023. And for a share of this pie contend not just Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney+Hotstar, but around 30 streaming platforms including AltBalaji, Zee5, SonyLiv, MXPlayer, ManoramaMax, Neestream, and so on.

The right revenue model still remains an enigma, thanks to the uniqueness of the Indian market. There are no proven models in the Indian media industry to show that subscription-led growth is if at all possible. Be it the newspapers or entertainment channels, the advertisement brings in the lion's share of the revenue. While Netflix and Amazon Prime banks entirely on subscriber revenue, Disney+Hotstar which has a base of both paid and unpaid subscribers see its share of ad revenue coming in through the advertisements shown to the unpaid subscribers. While it is yet to be cracked which of these models would ultimately work, there are few things streaming platforms could work on meanwhile.

### EXPLORE THE UNEXPLORED

On June 1, 2021, a review of the Malayalam Movie *Joji*, starring Fahadh Fazil and directed by Dileesh Pothan, appeared in *The New Yorker* magazine. This wasn't the first time the international magazine reviewed an Indian movie. In fact, on April 15 it had published Richard Brody's take on *Duvidha*, the 1973 film by Mani Kaul. But *Joji* was different. For one it was a regional language movie. And rarely has international media recognised non-Hindi movies, probably with the exception of the works of Satyajit Ray, as Indian movies. To take a review seriously or not is one thing. But to me, it was the beginning of a change; Undeniably the world is starting to take note of Indian regional content, especially from the South. Now, this is a moment to be seized; not only by the language movie industry but also by the OTT players that are looking to turn profitable in the Indian market.

If *Joji* premiered on Amazon Prime, *The Great Indian Kitchen*, yet another Malayalam movie that garnered critical acclaim from across the world, made its first appearance on Neestream, a regional OTT platform. The movie later became available on Amazon Prime too. *Nayattu* and *Jagame Thandhiram* streaming on Netflix, *C U Soon*, *Kuruthi* and *Karnan* streaming on Amazon Prime and *Netrikam* streaming on Disney+Hotstar are some of the notable movies from regional productions that premiered on international OTT platforms during the pandemic season. Some of the other notable Malayalam films currently streaming include *Aarkkariyam* and *Santhoshathinte Onnam Rahasyam*, while the Tamil movie industry came together to produce the anthology *Navarasa* now running on Netflix.

Meanwhile what particularly stands out is the glaring absence of any noteworthy productions from the behemoth that is Bollywood. Clearly, it is the regional language movies that have helped the streaming platforms to offer a diverse range of content and cash in on the subscription surge during the pandemic. This is a signboard. The first step towards profitability for OTT platforms is to spot the industries that are nimble, agile, dynamic and quick to adapt to the changing socio-economic circumstances. But the efforts shouldn't stop at simply sourcing the content. Given the diversity of movie industries in India, streaming platforms are looking at a cornucopia of possibilities.

Let's start from the South. Given the high literacy rates in the Southern states, OTT platforms are looking at a large market for their English and international content. While *The New Yorker* might have reviewed *Joji* this year, what is to be noted is that there already exists an international audience for Malayalam movies and a Malayali audience for international movies, thanks to IFFK and various other film festivals.

Then there is the large Indian diaspora outside the country. According to a report by the United Nations, India has the world's largest diaspora population — 18 million — living outside the country. A large part of them is Malayalis, Tamils, and Punjabis. In other words, by exploring regional content, streaming platforms would be striking a goldmine.

### OFFER MORE DIVERSITY, LEARN FROM WHAT HAS WORKED INTERNATIONALLY

Streaming services in India should take a leaf out of what has worked internationally for their global counterparts.

According to news reports, French show *Lupin* streamed on Netflix held the number one spot in countries like Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Italy and Spain and the number two spot in the US. This only means one thing — out there, there seems to be a genuine and ever-increasing demand for premium non-Anglophone content. In this sense, India is a

“ACCORDING TO AN ANALYSIS BY MEDIA PARTNERS ASIA, INDIA'S ONLINE VIDEO MARKET IS PROJECTED TO GROW AT A CAGR OF 26 PER CENT OVER 2020-25 TO REACH US\$4.5 BILLION. ANOTHER REPORT BY BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP NOTES THAT THE OTT VIDEO STREAMING MARKET ALONE IN INDIA IS SET TO TOUCH US\$5 BILLION BY 2023. AND FOR A SHARE OF THIS PIE CONTEND NOT JUST NETFLIX, AMAZON PRIME, AND DISNEY+HOTSTAR, BUT AROUND 30 STREAMING PLATFORMS INCLUDING ALTBALAJI, ZEE5, SONYLIV, MXPLAYER, MANORAMAMAX, NEESTREAM, AND SO ON

goldmine for streaming services with its linguistic diversity.

But linguistic diversity alone doesn't serve the purpose. Barring a handful of shows or movies, Indian content has not been able to create much of a ripple in the international arena, owing to the relatively poor quality of the content.

Now here is something to consider. One of the features that have set Netflix a class apart from its competitors globally is its huge investment in original content. Reports suggest that in 2019 about 85% of its new spending was set apart for original content, more than any of its competitors dared to. In India too Netflix has taken a lead by setting up its first global post-production facility in Mumbai.

Producing original content of all hues and (Indian) languages with strict quality checks for a pan-Indian and international audience could work magic for Indian streaming services. Keep experimenting and do not hesitate to disrupt your own revenue/content models if need be. Because now this is a bus that OTT platforms cannot afford to miss.

**ROPE IN THE STALWARTS**

What streaming platforms should further aim is to bring traditional producers into their folds. If the initial focus of OTT platforms was to license existing content, the pandemic has changed their course of action to producing original content and premiering movies. But there is still a large section of producers who are wary of these platforms. These traditional producers have been deciding the ways of the industry for a long time. Many of them are actors and even superstars controlling production, distribution, and the overall dynamics of the industry. Alienating them or even appearing as a threat to their business would in no way bode well for the new-age players.

But if streaming platforms could come up with ways to accommodate them and make a business model around it, it would be a win-win for all. OTT services so far have more or less been working with the new crop of movie makers from the regional cinema and have been able to successfully give shape to new movie aesthetics and language. Roping in the traditional players would be the cherry on top and will help attract a wider segment of the audience. For example, consider streaming services tying up with AMMA, the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists. Such a partnership would mean that now the streaming services would get to enjoy the benefits of the clout wielded by the stalwarts of the industry, while the industry reaps the benefits of being in alliance with platforms that are international, sophisticated, and professional. If streaming services this way get a dip at the massive pool of talent, for artists and technicians it would mean more work even during crisis times like the pandemic and therefore more stability.

Such partnerships would also help to usher in a world where theatres do not view OTT platforms as a threat. It would open up a new world of complementary existence where theatres would still benefit from the rush during the initial release and for sustained viewing and wider reach, there would be the OTTs. And no doubt, the ultimate winner would be the movie itself which would get the grand release it deserves without worrying about 'running' days being cut short as new movies come in.

In a nutshell, being creative in the ways it associates with the movie industry and its stakeholders should be the way forward for OTT services.

**EXPERIMENT WITH DYNAMIC CONTENT**

While all that is said about static content, what still remains uncharted territory for streaming services is dynamic content. Exploring live content like music concerts and stand-up comedy will help the OTT players further their reach and bring in a new audience who have been deprived of live shows during the pandemic. It is in fact surprising that such programmes are still largely hosted on video communication platforms like Zoom given that the pandemic has been the perfect opportunity for the Netflixes and Amazon Primes of the world to experiment with it.

If you are further looking to expand your reach, ever thought of news and the popularity of news programmes in India? Sure, there may be regulatory issues for OTT channels to broadcast news as of now. But, learn from the radio. In India, All India Radio holds the right to broadcast news and current affairs programmes, and private broadcasting stations are prohibited from airing the same. But several FM stations have found workarounds in the form of programmes that are satirical takes on current affairs or other fun variations which are essentially not news programmes, but yet manage to pass on the news to the audience. To sum it up, be creative. If OTT platforms could come up with shows similar to that of 'Last Week Tonight with John Oliver' it is bound to capture the attention of a huge section of the audience.

There is also a growing audience for art and science content. Although streaming services have covered this to an extent, to make it a more balanced mix would be a welcome move.

All that said and done, ultimately the success and profitability of OTT platforms would depend on how well they can gel with our lifestyles. Movies and theatres succeeded by doing the same, by being our oases of entertainment and our weekly escape from reality. Streaming services should pull all stops to replicate the same and leave no stone unturned in this journey.

*The writer is an ethical Investor, start-up mentor, art curator and author*



Excerpted with permission from *Swimming Against the Tide: True Story of Para Swimmer* by Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu, published by SAGE Publications India



# Challenges before US in post-Taliban Af

With great power comes great responsibility. This age-old maxim is a pertinent poser before the American defence and strategic dispensation in a post-Taliban Afghanistan. Americans call their humanitarian and democratic zeal in Afghanistan part of their super cop and regulator stature imbued with yeomanly and philanthropic verve. Undeniably, there is an iota of value-laden foreign policy analysis premised upon what transpires in the larger global polity and the regional dynamics of South Asia. One can also cite, as an attendant strategic constraint, America's failure to justify the long war, as far as the American presence in Afghanistan after September 11 is concerned. President Joe Biden arranged for the American withdrawal from the twilight zone's battle stations but it is not his personal decision. The decision to make the exit had already been taken by President Donald Trump where-in, a deal was struck with the marauding Taliban that Afghanistan will not be deftly utilised as a springboard for terror attacks on the American homeland. President Biden has merely walked the talk as he persisted with the White House's decision to evacuate the American interests from Afghanistan as the culmination of a mission.

The question that we need to ponder over is that is it the kosher time to leave Afghanistan? And, are the detractors correct when they contend that when the United States of America could not neutralise the Taliban in a two decade-long "Long Occupation" and the attendant "Long War", could they have made a difference in the political and security scenario after the Kabul's state forces collapsed without waging any major semblance of aggression and resistance.

Now, in the aftermath of the IS Kohorasan machinated casualties of American marines at the Kabul Airport, will Washington carry out a mission as they had done in 2014 in Iraq as the power vacuum there had been surreptitiously occupied by the Islamic State and its novae dictum of territorial dominance. One opinion contends that the US could have negotiated with the Taliban in Qatar and also continued to aid and abet the battle in the twilight zone of

Afghanistan. American presence was required as it was hugely successful in diminishing the influence and the advent of the nefarious Islamic State (ISIS). American interests could have stayed on till the menace of the Taliban was completely eradicated. With the Pakistan strategic depth in the west of the contested Durand line, it was difficult for the US to topple the Taliban juggernaut. The excruciatingly high pace of a week within which the Mullah Baradar's men overtook the entire nation was not adequately forecasted by the American think tanks and the American Fourth Estate. The US denomination was expecting the fall of the Taliban in two to three months but the mind boggling one sidedness of the long war's culmination left even the most hardened analysts flummoxed by the high riding military spectacle of the Taliban vis-a-vis the defence strivings forwarded by the NATO aided and US backed ANSF.

Now, as the Taliban have emerged triumphant in Kabul and beyond the capital, what one can eke out for the role-play of the Americans? Though it would be too far-fetched to compare the American withdrawal with the dirty war, that is, the American intervention in Vietnam, still, the American resolve has not been so quintsessentially steely and stealthy as was expected when the outcome of the American nay-saying is there to be witnessed and captioned by all and sundry. America would either have to rebalance its ties with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the light of Prime Minister Imran Khan shamelessly wishing for the Taliban's ascendance along with his ISI chief's hobnobbing with the Taliban. As Pakistan has always enjoyed the status of a frontline state for the US, one can witness a re-run of the eighties and nineties when the Americans seldom quizzed Pakistan about their efforts in propping up the Taliban's fervid Frankenstein.

The US will have its task cut out as the New Delhi dispensation will point at the new camaraderie which has been spawned between the Taliban and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Since the last couple of years, a few Taliban negotiators have visited Beijing and it appears as the wraith of China-Taliban nexus rolls



out, the Taliban have promised China of not letting Afghanistan turn a springboard for anti-China forces. The Taliban's promissory note contends that Taliban will not let ETIM (East Turkistan Islamic Movement) foment insidious acts of separatism and insurgency in the turbulent province of Xinxiang in China and also the Taliban have expressed a desire to invite the OBOR and BRI initiative akin to the CPEC in Pakistan in order to take up the mantle of development and growth in Afghanistan. America can be assaulted with terror attacks as its widely believed that the Taliban have well delineated linkages with al-Qaeda which can utilise the Afghani space as a platform and rostrum for planning and executing ministrations against the American homeland as they had done twenty odd years back at the World Trade Towers behemoth as posited by the American Secretary

of State, Anthony Blinken. President Biden too dished out heady rhetoric when he vowed to avenge the death of American marines at the Kabul Airport as he declared, "We will not be inactive. The perpetrators of the American casualties will be dealt with assiduously, with alacrity and immediately".

C Rajamohan astutely declares and analyses in the *Foreign Policy* magazine that, "The withdrawal of all US troops from Afghanistan is likely to accelerate current trends in India's relations with the US, China, and Russia: greater cooperation with Washington, deeper conflicts with Beijing, and wider fissures in the traditional strategic partnership with Moscow. Reinforcing these structural shifts — and their mirror image — are Pakistan's changing relations with the US, China, and Russia."

Thus, it is bound to witness a splurge in the context of systemic and

structural modifications as far as India and the US are concerned. The proximity of the Indian State of Kashmir to Kabul and the rekindled Pakistan's ambition might bring the White House and New Delhi closer to each other as it's the very own dictum of the US, GWOT, (Global War on Terror), which is bound to take a new violent turn in the near future.

Also, the American strategy of containing terrorism originating from Rawalpindi might too become much more hoarse and strident leading to a further wedge in the relationship between Islamabad and Washington. The White House needs to realise that India will be impacted by the jihad from Taliban-occupied Afghanistan, though the Taliban have promised otherwise. The million dollar pertinent question is how can a terror group be venerated and relied upon when the US too has listed several of the members of

the Taliban Government as terrorists. Can the Americans trust a nation whose cabinet ministers ride in SUVs and carry guns in meetings in the Presidential house with the heady rolls of bullets hanging afire. It brings us back to the strivings of Jaswant Singh during the Indian passenger plane's hijacking to Kandahar.

The same game returns akin to the classical great game but it is very apparent that if the terror factory and enterprise goes awry in Afghanistan, then the US might have to rethink on a "re-surge" of intervention in order to stem a conflagration in South Asia. And is it a mission unaccomplished, as far as, the reconstruction and nation building responsibilities of the US go?

(The writer teaches at International Relations and International Organisations, IIPA, New Delhi)

The million dollar pertinent question is how a terror group can be venerated and relied upon when the US too has listed several of the members of the Taliban Government as terrorists. Also, the American strategy of containing terrorism originating from Rawalpindi might become much more hoarse and strident leading to a further wedge in the relationship between Islamabad and Washington



MANAN DWIVEDI

## PERSPECTIVE

# Abraham Accords for peace in West Asia a misnomer

Establishing normal ties among the nations is a positive development in international relations. However, the Abraham Accords do not promise any hope for normalcy between Israel and the rest of West Asia. The central point here is the establishment of the Palestinian state. The great peacemakers and the global governance institutions are mute spectators to one of the oldest boiling points of West Asia — Palestine. Unless the issue of a permanent Palestine is addressed, the Abraham Accords will simply turn into a footnote for sure



MAKHAN SAIKIA

The historic Abraham Accords completed one year this week. Hopes and fears, as expected, have continued in the West Asian region since then. The agreement has heralded no credible peace so far. But the pact has marked a fundamental shift in Arab-Israeli relations. Of course, the Donald Trump Administration then, amid all the chaos, had brought three warring nations — Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain — to the negotiation table.

Foreign policy experts across the globe are divided on the reasons for the signing of the Abraham Accords. This agreement, signed on September 15, 2020, by Israel, the UAE and Bahrain, and mediated by the US, has paved the way for normalisation of relations among three nations in West Asia. It was indeed an unprecedented move initiated by the Trump Administration. Basically, this 12-point agreement highlights the much-needed peace to be brought in among these rival nations in the region. In fact, the name "Abraham" was accorded to the treaty to honour the patriarchy of three most significant monotheistic religions on this earth — Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Known as the "Father of Faith", Abraham can well be regarded as the unifier of all the three religions as they all draw their origin from him only.

While signing the agreement, the UAE and Bahrain pledged to normalise relations with Israel. Interestingly, within a week of the signing of the accords, the two other Muslim nations from the African continent Sudan and Morocco followed suit. What was surprising was that the issue of Palestine was nowhere pegged to the accords by the signatories. Precisely, the unrest in Palestine has been the hornets' nest for decades now for which Israel has turned out to be the arch enemy of many of these Arab nations in the region. Another striking point was



that the UAE and other signatories to the agreement did not demand more critical concessions like the end of Israeli annexation of more territories or most importantly, the final establishment of a Palestinian state in the region. Truly, all these could have been set as preconditions for signing the historic pact.

It clearly shows how the parties to the pact and its high-profile mediator, Trump, were trying to push the vexed issues to the background. And, thus the understanding among all the three rival nations of West Asia seemed more like a business deal than a historic diplomatic milestone. Further, the international community must note here that the last year's deal demanded that Israel refrain from *de jure* annexation of territories in the most contested region. But then who could stop Israel today? Everyone knows how outgoing Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu pursued his larger goal to establish the legitimacy of the state of Israel. And for all practical purposes, he received full support of the Trump Administration. This accords, in fact, helped Netanyahu get some important benefits like: first, he proved himself as a world statesman among his voters and sympathisers when he was facing serious allegations of corruption back home; second, he managed to make peace with the Arabs during his reign, but not with the Palestinians; and finally, he was cleverly diverting the attention of the Israeli public from the mismanagement of the Covid crisis by his office. In all, Netanyahu tried to enhance his image and pushed back the Palestinian cause much farther.

All the signatories to the Abraham Accords are still enemies. But then why such rival nations wanted to come to the negotiation

table? Was it because of America's intervention, both for long-term business interest and for achieving another milestone in global peace and diplomacy? Many experts say that some of the Gulf States like the UAE, having a global ambition, rightly see business opportunities in the normalisation of relations with Israel. It seems Washington has already promised Abu Dhabi advanced weapons like the F-35 stealth fighter and the EA-18 G Growler electronic warfare aircraft. All these were once inconceivable for the UAE, and these armouries are needed both to demonstrate regional leadership and possibly to effectively counter Iran, its potential enemy on the other side of the Gulf. And the interesting point is that both Israel and the US are equally suspicious of the role of Iran like the way it is perceived by the Emiratis and Bahrain. Till 1969, Iran used to claim

Bahrain as a part of its territory. Therefore, even today, the restive Shia majority of Bahrain is regarded as the fifth column of Iran by the successive rulers of the country. The UAE and Bahrain can easily explore business opportunities in Israel, particularly in its most advanced high-tech sector. On the other hand, these two Gulf states can easily attract millions of Israeli tourists who are avid holiday makers.

Another significant impact of the deal is that Iran is now fully surrounded by all its enemies in the region — the Sunni regimes accompanied by an all-powerful Israel. This agreement has added pressure both to the clerics and to the political leadership of Iran. Besides the tough economic sanctions of Washington, Teheran is now facing a strong strategic pain. Clearly, once again Palestinians who have been waiting for a homeland are feeling betrayed by the accords. This agreement breaks the decades-long understanding among the Arab nations that the normal ties with Israel could be established only when an independent Palestinian state would be formed. Sadly, since 2020, Israel is coming closer to major nations of West Asia and Africa while continuing its occupation both in the West Bank and in the East Jerusalem.

Moreover, the accords have enhanced the status of Israel in the West Asian region. In a sense, it has clearly put an end to its isolation among the Arab nations. And definitely, America is celebrating after offering Israel a golden opportunity to establish its identity among the most powerful Gulf States of the zone.

Today, West Asia is trembling as paradigm shift is happening faster than expected. Stable peace still eludes West Asia. And the question is how far? Probably, chaos in this part of Asia is a never-ending process. Frankly speaking, estab-

lishing normal ties among the nations is a positive development in international relations, but when it comes to Abraham Accords, it could be a misnomer to say so. Nowhere does it promises any hope for normalcy between Israel and the rest of West Asia. The central point here is the establishment of the Palestinian state. And it is not happening and may not come to reality soon. This agreement was a great victory for Trump, the crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and the de facto ruler of the Emiratis Mohammed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman, and then Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. In fact, all of them needed the accords more than anyone else.

Today, the Joe Biden Administration is fully supportive of normalisation of relations between Israel and the rest of the Arab nations. But unfortunately, his regime is not able to offer the same inducements to Naftali Bennett, the new Prime Minister of Israel. And the situation in West Asia has remained the same as every single day new wounds are appearing both in West Bank and in East Jerusalem. The Palestinians are crying foul over the occupation of their land. The great peacemakers and the global governance institutions are mute spectators to one of the oldest boiling points of West Asia, i.e. Palestine. Finally, unless the Israeli occupation ends and the issue of a permanent Palestine is addressed, the Abraham Accords will simply turn into a footnote for sure.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)



