

**WORLD 7**YEMEN'S HOUTHIS EXECUTE  
9 OVER OFFICIAL'S KILLING**MONEY 6**CRYPTOCURRENCY HYPER  
FUND UNDER GOVT SCANNER**SPORT 8**BOPANNA, RAMKUMAR CRACK  
IN MUST-WIN DOUBLES MATCH**Established 1864****Published From**  
DELHI **LUCKNOW** BHOPAL  
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI  
RAIPUR **CHANDIGARH**  
DEHRADUN **HYDERABAD**  
VIJAYWADA**BHUBANESWAR, SUNDAY** SEPTEMBER 19, 2021; PAGES 8+4 ₹4**sunday pioneer**

www.dailypioneer.com



# ‘Humiliated’ Captain resigns

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



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

PTI

times by the Congress leadership in the past two months. 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 in charge of the State Harish Rawat and Central observer Ajay Maken in Chandigarh, it was clear that

## Amarinder blasts Sidhu, Congress

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.

Capt Amarinder would be removed if he did not tender his resignation. Sensing the calm mood, he rushed to the Raj Bhavan and tendered the on-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.

## 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”.

## No imminent flood threat in State

RIVER WATER LEVELS EITHER STABLE OR RECEDING



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even though the IMD predicted heavy downpours, the State Government on Saturday said there is no major threat of imminent floods in any river system.

Water Resources Department Engineer-in-Chief Dhiren Samal said the water levels in the basins of Mahanadi, Baitarani, Brahmani and other rivers are either stable or on a receding trend. So, there is little likelihood of escalation of the flood situation in these systems.”

Due to a gradual recession

in water inflow from the upper catchment areas, the Hirakud Dam authorities have now opened 18 sluice gates compared to 28 gates at the peak point.

The floodwater through Mundali was around 6.67 lakh cusecs at the peak time on Friday night. The trend would continue for some time and gradually the water level would recede, Samal said.

In case of the Brahmani, rainfall has decreased in the upper catchment region. Two gates of the Rengali Dam were opened to release excess water in the river, he said.

## 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.

The water was procured by



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

PTI

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 adding

## 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”.

## Kabul drone strike killed 10 civilians, admits US military

PTI ■ WASHINGTON



were associated with Islamic State-Khorasan or were a direct threat to US forces”.

The strike by a Hellfire missile in Kabul on August 29, which was launched in an effort to kill ISIS-K planners, instead killed 10 civilians, he said.

## Sonowal, Murugan BJP’s picks for RS bypolls on Oct 4

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

BJP on Saturday announced two candidates for the Rajya Sabha bypolls — Cabinet Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Minister of State L Murugan from Assam and Madhya Pradesh respectively. The polls would take place on October 4.

Sonowal is the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and Murugan is the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting.

Sonowal, who as Chief Minister led the BJP to the second successive victory in the Assam Assembly poll, was inducted into the Modi Cabinet

on July 7. He was compensated for leaving the Chief Minister’s post for Himanta Biswa Sarma in May this year.

Murugan was the BJP president of the Tamil Nadu unit. Both the leaders needed to be elected to the Upper House before the period of six months that would end early next year.

Total of six seats are vacant in the Upper House — two from Tamil Nadu, one from Bengal, one from Assam, one from Madhya Pradesh and one from Maharashtra.

The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) nominated Sushmita Dev, who in a surprise move recently quit the Congress and joined the TMC.

## Sonu Sood, aides evaded ₹20 crore tax, flouted FCRA, alleges I-T dept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CBDT on Saturday alleged that actor Sonu Sood and his associates evaded tax of ₹20 crore and claimed that after the Income Tax Department raided him and a linked Lucknow-based infrastructure group, it was found that he routed his “unaccounted income in the form of bogus unsecured loans from many bogus entities”.

It also accused Sood of violating the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) while raising donations from abroad.

It had launched searches against the 48-year-old actor and the Lucknow-based group of industries involved in the infrastructure sector on September 15 and the CBDT said the action was continuing.

## State adds 695 Covid-19 cases, 6 deaths

**83 children among infected**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State witnessed an upswing in Covid-19 cases with reports of 695 more persons infected in 25 districts and the State pool on Saturday. With this, the total tally surged to 10,19,621.

Among those infected were 83 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years.

In the last 24 hours, 65,512 samples were tested and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 1.06 per cent. The active cases stood at 5,876.

Notably, the State had reported 628 Covid cases on Friday and 580 on Thursday.

Out of the 695 new cases, 401 were detected from quarantine and 294 were local contacts.

Khordha district again reported the daily highest case-load at 323 followed by Cuttack with 90, Jajpur 39, Baleswar 30, Jagatsinghpur 25, Mayurbhanj

and Puri 18 each and Bhadrak 13.

The districts reporting below-10 cases were Kendrapada and Sambalpur eight each, Rayagada seven, Angul and Jharsuguda six each, Sundargarh five, Dhenkanal and Malkangiri four each, Nayagarh three, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kalahandi and Subaranpur two each and Deogarh, Kandhamal, Keonjhar

and Nabarangpur one each.

Besides, 76 cases were reported from the State Pool.

Six more patients succumbed to the disease in the State in the last 24 hours, with which the total death toll rose to 8,128. One death each was reported from Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Khordha, Koraput and Mayurbhanj districts. So far, 10,05,564 patients have recovered in the State.

## 218 new cases in BBSR

**1 more dies; 198 recover**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar on Saturday registered 218 Covid-19 positive cases. With this, the total tally in the State capital city increased to 1,10,671.

Out of the new cases, 162 were local contacts and 56 were from quarantine.

Notably, the city had detected 267 cases on Friday.

The active cases stood at 3,694.

One more patient succumbed to the virus in last 24 hours, pushing the total death tally to 1,114 in the city.

However, 198 more persons recovered from the disease, increasing the total recoveries to 1,05,942.



**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 release 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.



**DRDO SPY RING**  
**CB takes all 5 accused on 7-day remand**

**PNS ■ BALESWAR/ CUTTACK**

A court in Baleswar granted permission to the Crime Branch (CB) to take the five DRDO employees arrested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, on remand for a week in connection with the espionage case.

The CB had prayed before the Baleswar SDJM Court permission for a seven-day remand of the accused for thorough interrogation into the case.

With grant of permission for remand, a special team of the Crime Branch brought the accused to Cuttack from Baleswar district.

"The Crime Branch will investigate into the case from all angles. The arrested accused persons will be questioned to ascertain whether any other person was involved in the case. Besides, what are the financial transactions involved. The NIA can interrogate the accused persons in the case.

But though they are looking into the case they are not investigating into it, said Crime Branch ADG Sanjeeb Panda.

A Cyber police station Inspector and a Sub-Inspector would help the CB team in the investigations. If required more teams would be formed, added Panda.

When asked if the CB has identified the woman, who had honey-trapped the accused, the ADG said investigations are ongoing and it would not be possible to share all the details now.

So far, five employees of the DRDO have been arrested for allegedly leaking secrets to a foreign country agent. The accused are Basanta Behera (52), AC operator; Hemanta Kumar Mistri (52), diesel genset operator; Tapas Ranjan Nayak (41), employee at ITR main gate; Sk. Musafir (32), AC operator; and Sachin Kumar, a driver.

**FLOODWATER WOES**  
**Snakebite scare grips Kendrapada villages**



**PNS ■ KENDRAPADA**

The recent floods in the Brahmani and the Kharasrota rivers have affected the life of riverside villagers in Pattamundai, Aul, Rajnagar and Rajkanika blocks. To add to their woes, now a scare of viper bite has made the river side villagers spend sleepless night.

According Nirmal Chandra Jena, a resident of Singhagaon, the villagers are now scared of snakes at night with snakes of all sizes moving around the villages due to water submergence in farm land.

"In last three days, we have bitten to

death more than four vipers. During night hour, the poisonous snakes are generally entering several houses," said Puspita Jena, a housewife.

The Santasahi-Gandakhia road, Chhoti-Kandarpur road, Gulnagar-Indupur road and Ichhapur-Angulai road are now infested with snakes and the locals are not finding it safe to walk after nightfall, said Chiraranjan Jena, a resident of Mugabadi.

The Health Department has sounded an alarm for the villagers to remain vigilant about snakes. The CDMO has been asked to stock adequate anti-venom injections.

**ON MODI'S BIRTHDAY**  
**INTUC youths hold 'Unemployment Day'**



**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The INTUC youth wing, Odisha branch observed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birth day on Friday as "Rastriya Berojagar Diwas" (National Unemployment Day) and held a candlelight demonstration at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar.

The youths demanded employment to all jobless persons or provide adequate unemployment allowance to them.

The INTUC youth wing State president Satyabrata Nayak alleged that Modi made a hallow claim to provide employment to at least 2 core youths every year, but on the contrary to the utter dismay of many, lakhs of people have become jobless during his regime.

Nayak said that because of the wrong economic policies of the Modi Government at the Centre, youths in the country are living with an uncertain future and distress.

**More rains in 48 hours predicted in State**

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

Even as some parts of the State are facing a flood-like situation, the Regional Office of the IMD here on Saturday forecasted more rains due to cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal.

"The cyclonic circulation now lies over east-central and adjoining northeast Bay of Bengal extending up to 5.8 km above mean sea level. It is very likely to move west north-westwards and reach northwest Bay of Bengal of north Odisha and West-Bengal coasts during the next 12 hours," said the IMD in a tweet.

Many places over the districts of north Odisha and a few places over the districts of south Odisha would receive rainfall under its impact.

Yellow warning for heavy rainfall has been sounded in Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Khordha Puri, Nayagarh, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Kandhamal, Malkangiri and Koraput on Sunday.

For September 20, the warning has been issued in Sundargarh, Balangir, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Deogarh, Jharsuguda and Subarnapur districts, the IMD said.

**'Crimes against women rising in BJD regime'**



**State police have only 10% women's representation: Cong**

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The Congress on Friday alleged that Odisha is now in forefront in crimes against women with 113 women in every one lakh are facing all kinds of atrocities. The State police have only 10% women representation.

Addressing a Press conference here, party spokespersons Satya Prakash Nayak and Manoranjan Dash said the rates of investigation and conviction in these cases are very low in the State. Only during the elections, the ruling BJD recites 'Maa and Maa' but its Government has utterly failed to protect women.

They said the recent report of the National Crime Records Bureau has exposed the misuse of the Naveen Patnaik Government as Odisha tops for

continuous seven years in the crimes against women, especially making women undressed with criminal motive.

"In 2019 when the entire country witnessed a decrease in crimes against women because of the Covid wave, Odisha witnessed 10% spurt in such cases. Not only were women of the State cheated in cyber-crimes, they were also subjected to pornography and morphing of their images," said the Congress leaders.

**TRAGEDY OVER LOVE MATTER**

**Man stabbed to death in Gajapati**

**PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI**

A man was stabbed to death by a miscreant at the crowded weekly market of Jirango in Gajapati district on Saturday. The victim was Ranjit Kumar Dandia (35) of Rasibada.

This was fallout of a love matter, said the deceased's wife Suchitra. She said that one Bapuni Achary (30) was trying to have love relations with her, but later she married Ranjit. When she went with Ranjit to the market, suddenly Bapuni attacked Ranjit and stabbed him.

Bapuni was caught by the Jirango bit house police and forwarded to the Raygada police station. Ranjit's grandfather Ajambar Dandia filed a complaint at the police station stating that Bapuni belongs to Kankarada of Seragada in Ganjam district. SDPO Ramakrushna Pati started enquiry into the incident, said Raygada police station IIC Gobinda Gauda.

**Fire Service's '101' integrated with 'Dial 112'**

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

Odisha Fire Service Emergency Number '101' has been integrated with ERSS (Dial 112). Citizens can dial 112 for emergency needs related to fire service.

'Dial 112' service will be beneficial for all, especially women and elderly persons, as it would work for the safety, dignity and welfare of all by providing faster, prompter and immediate response during emergency, the Odisha Police said in a release.

With the introduction of 'Dial 112', the existing emergency numbers like Police-100 and Fire-101 have been completely integrated into the unified toll-free number 112.

People can also download 112 India Mobile App and register themselves as 112 Volunteers to help others in their locality during any distress.

**Learning, recreation centres at big dams planned**

**₹4 cr to be invested for each spot**

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra on Friday directed officials to take steps for developing big dams and adjacent lands into learning and recreation spots with museums, audiovisual shows and boating and camping facilities.

As the State is home to a sizable number of flood control and multipurpose dam projects, the Government has already initiated steps for development of the lands adjacent to big dams.

The proposal was discussed in a high-level meeting held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary wherein Water Resources Principal Secretary Anu Garg presented different aspects of the project.

The CS said, "Since the big dams are larger engineering marvels, they can be good spots for learning through

pleasure trip activities, more particularly for students."

He directed that a museum with audio visual equipment be set up for explaining students about the scientific knowledge and type of technology used in construction of the dam. The students should also be educated about different utilities of a dam including its ecosystem, the process of irrigation and power generation, he said.

He also directed to arrange guided tours of the students to the dams and its peripheries for giving them direct exposure to the practical outcomes of the dam projects. Garg said the projects like Lower Indra Dam in Kalahandi district, Salia Dam in Khordha district, Upper Jonk (Patara Dam) in Nuapada, Upper Kolab Dam in Koraput, Samal Barrage in Angul, Balimela Dam in Malkangiri, Harabhangi Dam in Gajapati, Kuanaria Dam in Nayagarh, Ghodahad Dam in Ganjam, Badanalla Dam in Raygada, Bahanjanagar Dam in Ganjam, Pitamahahal Dam in Sundargarh, Kanjhari Dam in

Keonjhar, Kansabahal Dam in Sundargarh, Salandi Dam in Keonjhar, Sanamachhakandana MIP in Keonjhar, Dhanei Dam in Ganjam, Khadkhai Dam in Mayurbhani, Indrvati Dam in Kalahandi and Hadagada Dam in Keonjhar district have the potentials to be developed to the learning-cum-recreation spots.

Development Commissioner PK Jena directed to select the dams closer to the towns and growth centres having more potential for attracting people.

It was decided to take up three to four such dams in the first phase and gradually expand the intervention to other popular dams based on the experience from the first phase. It was estimated that around Rs 4 crore would be invested for development of each spot.

The Forest and Environment Department was asked to finalise the modes of management of the boating facilities either through Van Suraksha Samitis or through tourism agencies.

**State's economy grows 5.72% faster than national**

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The State's Economy grew by 5.72% faster than the national economy of 5.01% during the period from financial year 2012-13 to 2020-21.

The size of the State economy has increased from ₹ 4 lakh crore in 2016-17 to ₹4.25

lakh crore in 2017-18 and ₹5 lakh crore in 2020-21 and nearly ₹6 lakh crore during the current financial year, sources said.

Similarly, the State Budget has also increased from ₹95,000 crore in 2016-17 to over ₹1 lakh crore in 2018-19 and ₹1.39 lakh crore in 2019-20 and ₹1.5 lakh crore in

2020-21.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the size of Annual Budget of Odisha in 2021-22 has increased by around 26% to ₹1.70 lakh crore. The public investment has also gone up even at a faster rate.

On September 17, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had

said the State economy is bouncing back from the adverse impacts of the pandemic and is back to track.

"Investors are expanding their existing projects in Odisha in spite of the impact of Covid pandemic. We have attracted investments to the tune of over Rs 4.5 lakh crore since the pan-

demie," the CM said.

The State has been consistently generating surplus revenue and containing fiscal deficit within the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) limit. The State's GST collection in July this year also registered a 54% growth over the corresponding period of the pre-

vious year.

In spite of the Covid-19 restrictions, the State recorded a growth of 72% in revenue collection till August 31 of the current financial year 2021-22. The State has collected revenue worth Rs 31,198.58 crore from various sources by the end of August while the collection during the same

period of 2020-21 was Rs 18,149.38 crore.

The revenue generation from own-tax sources grew by 32.64 and the non-tax revenue increased by 130.44% by August 31. The expenditure of the State has also gone up by 27.72% by August 31. The total expenditure till end of August was Rs 40, 299 crore

whereas the total expenditure up to the same period of last fiscal was Rs 33,769.84 crore.

Similarly, the debt stock of the State by the end of July 2021 stood at 17.6% against the FRBM limit of 25%.

The capital outlay is budgeted at Rs 25,788 crore, around 15% of the total budget of 2021-22, the sources said..

**Panda meets Rajnath on NCC revamp**



**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

BJP National vice-president and newly-appointed Chairperson of High Level Expert Committee to revamp NCC Baijayant Panda met Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Saturday to seek his guidance to revamp the NCC and achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to empower youths for national integration.

Panda has been appointed as Chairperson of the High Level Expert Committee constituted by

the Ministry of Defence for a comprehensive, objective, independent and thorough review of the National Cadet Core (NCC).

Besides Panda, the 15-member committee includes Vinaya Sahasrabuddhe, Major General (Retd.) Alok Raj, Col (Retd.) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathod, Anand Mahindra, Sanjeev Sanyal, Prof Vasudha Kamat, Prof Najma Akhtar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Anand Saha, Milind Kamble, Vedika Bhandarkar, Rituraj Sinha, Mukul Kantikar and Mayank Tewari.

**ACF DEATH**

**DFO Behera undergoes lie detector test**

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

One of the main accused in the Paralakhemundi ACF Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra death case, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sangram Keshari Behera underwent a lie detection test at the State Forensic Laboratory (SFL) here on Saturday.

According to sources, at least 100 questions were put to the DFO during the three-hour test in order to unearth the truth behind the death of Mohapatra.

The polygraph test is significant amid repeated demands of arrest of the DFO by the family members of the deceased, who alleged his direct involvement in the death of Soumya. The family members have also named Bidyabharati Panda, the widow of Soumya Ranjan, as a co-accused in an FIR lodged at the Paralakhemundi police station following the mysterious death of the officer.

Notably, the ACF had sustained burn injuries at his residential quarters on July 11. He succumbed to the injuries at a private hospital in Cuttack a day later.

The case was initially investigated by the Paralakhemundi police. However, The police failed to make much headway even after over one month of the probe.

Later, the Crime Branch took over the probe and questioned more than 14 people including the DFO, Bidyabharati and other officials, who are connected with the case.

**Manorama Mohapatra passes away**

**PNS ■ CUTTACK/ BHUBANESWAR:**

Eminent litterateur and former working editor of leading Odia daily 'The Samaja' Manorama Mohapatra passed away in Cuttack on Saturday. She was 87. Her husband Padarabinda Mohapatra, an IFS officer, had predeceased her.

She complained of chest pain and was rushed to the SCB Medical College Hospital. But she died at around 6.10 pm. She might have suffered a cardiac arrest, said SCB Hospital Emergency Officer Bhubananda Maharana.

Mohapatra was the younger daughter of former 'Samaja' editor late Padma Bhushan Radhanath Rath. She had won Sahitya Akademi Award and Sarala Puraskar for her writings. She has written more than 20 popular short story and poetry books.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and many other eminent personalities expressed deep grief over Mohapatra's demise.

**SIM swapping racket busted in BBSR**

**2 fraudsters held; SIM, Aadhaar Cards seized**

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The Commissionerate police busted a SIM swapping racket by arresting two former employees of a telecom operator from Cuttack on Friday night.

The cops seized several SIM cards, Aadhaar Cards and mobile phones from the duo's possession.

City DCP Umashankar Dash on Saturday said a private telecom company lodged a complaint that around 35 vanity numbers sold by it have been deactivated. During the investigation, it was ascertained that two former staffs of the company used the company mobile application to create fake documents of 35 persons and swapped their SIM cards. Then they allotted the number to people outside the State at high rates.

A complaint was regis-

tered at Infociy police station and the two have been arrested for illegally accessing the telecom company's mobile app, creating forged documents and swapping the SIM affecting the original subscriber. Further investigation was ongoing.

"SIM swapping often leads to major financial fraud as one can easily get all personal data of a person including his or her bank and social media account details of the victim. Authorities of the telecom company and those using the unique numbers presently will come under the purview of our investigation," the DCP added.

Police would take the two arrested persons on a remand for interrogation, he added.

Notably, SIM swapping also known as SIM splitting can be used to take over financial accounts. SIM swapping relies on phone-based authentication. In a successful SIM swap scam, cybercriminals hijack a person's cell phone number and use it to gain access to his sensitive personal data and accounts.

IN JHARSUGUDA

# Dead fish in large numbers found floating in pond

**RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA:**

Thousands of dead fish were found floating in the Puranabasti pond side near here on Wednesday triggering panic among the locals as residents of the area suspected water poisoning due to mixing of toxic chemicals from industrial waste.

Because of the incessant rain during the last two days industrial toxic water has got mixed with the pond at Puruna Basti. The dumping of untreated sewage and industrial waste into water bodies are some of the main reasons of pollution, particularly when there is heavy rainfall, said locals.

The residents also filed a formal complaint regarding the matter with the Regional Officer (RO) of the State Pollution Control Board, the Fisheries Department and the



district administration.

Though an inquiry on the spot was started by the District Fisheries Department by sending water samples from the pond to laboratory for test, the officials suspect mingling of any poisonous substance in the water, which will be clear on receipt of water sample test

report, said Additional District Fisheries Officer Bibek Soren.

Officials said a separate drain would be constructed as a permanent solution to ensure that industrial toxic waste emanating from industrial units don't mix up with the pond water.

# ₹ 6-cr subsidy fraud: 1 more accused held by EOW

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch arrested one more person on the charge of misappropriating Government subsidy of Rs 6 crore.

The accused was identified as Lenin Choudhury, a resident of Pakelpada under the Mahulpali police station in Sambalpur district.

Initially, a case was registered in connection with the fraud at the Bharatpur police station in Bhubaneswar on the basis of a complaint filed by KG Sree-Charan, director of Varushapriya Agrotech Private Limited, a Bangalore-based firm.

The complainant had alleged that one Srinath Rana, who was earlier working as regional manager wiof the company, had misappropriated subsidy amount of Rs 6 crore extended by the Odisha

Government by fraudulently using the company's login ID.

During investigation, it was found that Varushapriya Agrotech Pvt. Ltd, having its branch office in Bhubaneswar, was dealing with the supply of paddy transplanters to farmers and rendered its services and supplies to the State Government under various subsidised schemes in order to promote agriculture.

The EOW had earlier arrested Srinath Rana who was unauthorised to register the sale of machineries in Odisha and to facilitate subsidies to the beneficiaries and farmers by accessing the Odisha Government's (Agriculture Department website [www.agrisnetodisha.ori.nic.in](http://www.agrisnetodisha.ori.nic.in) by using the login id and the password meant exclusively for the company.

Rana, who was also the proprietor of Tarini Auto

Agency in Baleswar, allegedly entered into a criminal conspiracy with the accused Lenin Choudhury, the owner of Khushi Agrotech, Gobindpur in Sambalpur and others to fraudulently uploaded the details of more than 500 paddy transplanters with fake engine and chassis numbers of machineries (shown supplied or sold by their agencies).

"It has been ascertained that out of the above mentioned 500 paddy transplanters, 131 transplanters were shown to have been sold, supplied by M Khushi Agrotech. The owner Lenin Choudhury, along with Rana, had provided fake engine and chassis numbers of 131 transplanters shown issued in favour of 131 beneficiaries or farmers of Sambalpur and Jharsuguda district. The total misappropriation amounts to Rs 6 crore," the EOW said in a release.

# Jharsuguda farmers greet Min Naba Das

As crop insurance money released



**PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA**

On receipt of crop insurance On Friday, farmers of eight panchayats greeted Health Minister Naba Kisore Das on Saturday with gifts and flower bouquets. In reply, Das said that the State Government was always with the farmers.

Notably, after efforts of Das, Reliance Insurance Company had released the insurance money of the farmers. Under the leadership of Minister Das a meeting was held in the presence of Agriculture Minister Arun

Kumar Sahoo, Agriculture Director, Agriculture Secretary, Kirmira Block Chairman Tejraj Sahoo and farmers representatives. Later, a letter was given to Reliance Insurance Company to pay insurance amount to the farmers.

The farmers also met the district Collector and Chief District Agriculture Officer Pravat Kumar Martha with flowers to convey thanks. Kirmira Block Chairman Tejraj Sahoo, Susant Sahoo, Bhikari Charan Nayak, Sarat Kumar Patel and many farmers were present.

# Worker's death: Tension in Joda TPL

**PNS ■ CHAMPUPA:**

Tension gripped the camp Office of Tata Project Limited (TPL) over death of a worker whose body was seized in hanging condition in Tata Project colony situated in ward-9 under Joda Municipality.

After the news spread, TPL workers gheraoed the company office and locked it up while some officials were inside. They alleged that the incident was a pre-planned murder which is given the colour of a suicide case.

Deceased Ajaya Kumar belongs to Jorkhand of Uttar Pradesh and was working under Aneja Construction, a contract firm engaged by the TPL.

Sources said some years back, a worker had also died under mysterious conditions in the ferromanganese plant of Tata in Joda, but it was also allegedly suppressed.

# Ganjam's deceased scribes' kin get ex-gratia



**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR**

The family members of the seven working journalists of Ganjam who died of Covid-19 during the last pandemic, finally got justice from the State Government.

On the approval of the Chief Minister, Ganjam Collector Vijaya Amruta Kulange, distributed an ex-gratia payment of Rs 15 lakh through cheque to kin of each deceased.

Kulange hoped that the fiscal assistance would be of great help to the family members of the deceased scribes to meet their basic needs. A total amount of Rs 1.5 crore was released by the State Information and Public Relations Department out

of "Working Journalist's Welfare Fund" for the purpose, said the District Information and Public Relations Officer Rabinarayan Behera.

The deceased scribes are Gobinda Behera, who was Kukudakhandi Block Correspondent of Odisha Express, Naresh Kumar Behera, secretary of Odisha Files, Ratnakara Maharana of "Kalinga Jyoti" at Balipadar, Pradeep Kishore Sahu, the district Correspondent of Odia daily "Sambad" at Brahmapur, Kishore Chandra Das, correspondent of "Samaj" for Polasara, Karunakar Sahu, reporter of Odia daily "Anupam Bharat" for Sheragada and Nilaya Ranjan Pattnaik of Hinjili Block respectively.

# Khariar man's 2nd wife's body exhumed from ditch

**AJIT PANDA ■ NUAPADA:**

The Khariar police on Friday arrested the mother-in-law, father-in-law and husband of one Sumitra Dal (22), whose body was dug out of a ditch in Majhidungri hill of Rishigaon village under the Khariar police limits of Nuapada district on Thursday.

According to police, the arrests were made on the basis of prima facie evidence gathered through a preliminary inquiry and on a complaint lodged by Sumitra's father Bharat Dal, a resident of Bahalmunda village of Konabira GP under the Komna PS. Bharat has alleged that his daughter was murdered by his son-in-law Chitman Jani alias Dal (26) and his parents Drona (44) and Pune (42). The accused allegedly murdered the girl and buried her body to suppress the crime evidence.

"It has been ascertained so far that the accused persons committed the murder of Sumitra on 13.09.2021 afternoon and buried the dead in a nearby ditch in order to disappear the evidence," stated a Press release issued by the SDPO, Khariar, on Friday. "On 15.9.21, in the presence of an Executive Magistrate and with the help of a scientific team and a dog squad, the body was disinterred and, after inquest, sent for postmortem. However, the exact cause of death will be ascertained after getting PM opin-



ion report," the release added.

The accused persons have, however, denied the allegation of murder stating that Sumitra had an altercation with her mother-in-law and left home with Chitman two days before she was found hanging from a Palasa tree in Majhidungri hill by Chitman. "My son found her hanging and called us to the site. We became terrified and buried her in a ditch out of fear," said Drona.

Sumitra, who had eloped with Chitman eight months ago, was his second wife. The first wife is living with her parents since a few months. Though the second marriage got social sanction from the Dal Samaj a few months after their elopement, Chitman's mother could never accept her; and, according to information of the neighbours, the duo were having regular altercations.

# Baliapal locals happy to give land for rly corridor

**PNS ■ BALESWAR:**

The acquisition of land for a dedicated rail corridor has become a prime factor before beginning of the proposed Subarnarekha port work at Chaumukh, here.

Sources said for construction of rail from Amarda road to Chaumukh, a 40-km stretch, and widening of road between Jafrabad and Chaumukh, a stretch of 18 km, about 400 acres of private land is required.

But considering the importance of the projects, the locals are contributing their land voluntarily. "More and more people are volunteering to register their land for the cause. In fact, people want the port to be established here. For the port, the Government has already given land. The port

work will start soon after the land for the rail is acquired," said a senior official of the proposed port adding other infrastructure upgradation including electrical works, in the meantime, were in progress.

Notably, for the Rs 5,000 crore Subarnarekha port, to be established in Baliapal block( Chaumukh and Dagara), CM Naveen Patnaik had laid the foundation stone before the last general elections. Simultaneously, the CM had also laid foundation stone for the Haldia petrochemicals worth Rs 78,000-crore.

These projects when completed would prove boon for Baliapal block as they would not only provide employment opportunities but enhance economic activities in the district.

# CM Kejriwal inaugurates Delhi Metro's Grey Line

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday flagged off metro services on the Najafgarh - Dhansa Bus Stand stretch of metro. The inauguration of the stretch which will make the Grey Line Metro accessible to a sizable chunk of population living in Outer Delhi.

On the occasion, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Delhi's Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, Ambassador of Japan in India Shri Satoshi Suzuki and MD - DMRC Mangu Singh were present apart from other dignitaries and officials in the ceremony that was held virtually.

With the opening of this section, the Dwarka - Dhansa bus stand grey line corridor will become 6.1 kilometres long with four stations. With an interchange at Dwarka, the grey line will provide seamless connectivity from Najafgarh and Dhansa Stand to different parts of the city. The metro



connectivity to Dhansa Bus Stand will immensely benefit the residents of the interior areas around Najafgarh and Dhansa Bus Stand

Kejriwal said, "It is a moment of great delight for all the people of Outer Delhi, especially the residents of Najafgarh. Till now, the route of the Delhi Metro would end at Delhi Gate region in Najafgarh. There are about 50 such villages in the area from where a huge number of people come to inner Delhi to work. All these people had to cross the Phirni Road Chowk

to get to the Metro, which would result in a huge traffic jam at the Chowk. Now that the metro services have been extended to the Dhansa Bus Stand, people won't need to cross the Chowk and stand in traffic.

The route may be just 1.5 kms long but it is a very significant stretch for the residents. A large number of people come from Hajaraj, Haryana to work in Delhi. They too will get a lot of help from this service." "I remember how in February 2015, when I visited the region for election cam-

paingn, people would put forth a demand.

They asked us to make one more station on the stretch. We promised them that we'll get the Dhansa Station made. It was one of the first things we did when we came into power. The Delhi Government had put forth a proposal which the Centre approved, and we thank them for that. I want to congratulate the entire team of DMRC, all the officers, engineers and Shri Mangu Singh upon their success. I would also like to thank the Centre for always supporting the Metro Projects in Delhi," the CM said.

Gahlot took to Twitter to share his delight and said, "Congratulations Najafgarh!

Today is very important to me for two reasons. First as Transport Minister of Delhi - Expanding the existing metro network in Delhi and second as MLA of Najafgarh - a new metro station (Dhansa Bus Stand) is being added in the Najafgarh constituency."

# Children to take part in dengue campaign in Delhi on Sunday

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

All children of Delhi will participate this week in the "10 Hafte, 10 Baie, 10 Minute, Har Sunday Dengue Par Vaar" campaign being run by the Delhi Government against Dengue.

These children will attack dengue by checking clean water gathered in and around their houses and by calling their friends to inspire them to take part in the campaign.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal encouraged all the children to participate in this campaign vigorously and said that we have to do 10 minutes of homework every Sunday to save Delhi from dengue.

He said in this homework, we have to check whether clean water has been stagnated in our

houses and surroundings, if it is, then we have to drain it, change it or put oil in it.

The theme of this week's campaign against Dengue of the Delhi Government is 'Children of Delhi' and 'Come On Kids, Let's Give Dengue A Kick; 10 Hafte 10 Baie 10 Minute is the trick' is the tagline. "Dear kids, get ready to fight Dengue. Let's do a 10-minute homework every Sunday to protect Delhi from Dengue. For this, we need to check our homes and surrounding areas for any signs of stagnant water. If we do find water, let's drain it, replace it regularly or cover it with a small layer of oil. Let's also call up our friends and ask them to take part in this campaign. Come, let's save our Delhi from Dengue."

# INBRIEF

## NTPC'S TEWARI GETS PR HALL OF FAME AWARD

Bhubaneswar: Additional General Manager (Corporate Communication) NTPC Bhubaneswar Manjul Tewari has been presented the PR Hall of Fame Award by Goa Governor PS Sridharan Pillai at the 15th PRCI Global Conclave held in Goa on September 17 and 18. The award was presented to Tewari for his significant contribution to the profession.



## PEO IN KAKATPUR BLOCK HELD TAKING BRIBE

Puei: The Vigilance police on Friday arrested Kakatpur block's Patasundarpur Panchayat Executive Officer (PEO) Pratap Kumar Samal for taking a bribe of Rs 5,000 from a person for allotment of an IAY house in his favour. Samal was caught red-handed in front of the Chandan Restaurant at Nimapara. He was later forwarded to court.

## JSPL CELEBRATES VISWAKARMA PUJA AT ANGUL

Angul: The Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) observed Lord Vishwakarma Puja at its Angul plant premises. Executive Directors Damodar Mittal and Sabyasachi Bandyopadhyay and CHRO Pankaj Lochan attended Vedic puja rituals and prayed for the wellbeing of the workforce.



## 3 K'PUT KARATEKAS CHOSEN FOR STATE EVENT

Sunabeda: Three Karatekas of Utkal Karate School, Semiliguda branch have been selected to participate in the 33rd under-21 senior State championship being held in Bhubaneswar on September 18 and 19. They are coach Rajendra Samal, Sachin Biswakarma and Himanshu Panda, who represent Koraput district. District Karate Association president Manoj Patnaik congratulated them.



# Delhi records 41 new cases

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The national Capital recorded 41 fresh cases on Friday while the positivity rate stands at 0.06 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department on Friday.

According to the report, a total of 68,624 tests - 46734 RT-PCR tests and 21,890 rapid antigen tests - were conducted a day ago, the bulletin said.

The death toll due to the coronavirus infection in Delhi has increased to 25,085. The number of cumulative cases on Saturday stood at 1438469. Over 14.12 lakh patients have recovered from the virus.

Delhi battled a brutal second wave of the pandemic in April-May that claimed a massive number of lives, with the issue of oxygen shortage at city hospitals across the city adding to the woes. The Government has taken steps to increase the number of hospital beds and accommodate up to 37,000 cases a day and become self-reliant in terms of oxygen supply.

# PIC TALK



Police personnel rides motorbike in front of a wall graffiti, painted as Tokyo 2020 Paralympics medal winners athletes in New Delhi on Saturday

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

all people are vaccinated, tourists will also feel safe and

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.

# 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



IANs ■ 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

IANs ■ 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



IANs ■ 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 empaneling 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.



# Cryptocurrency Hyper Fund under Govt scanner

**IAN**S ■ 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 decentralised 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/ authorisation 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.



## 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

**IAN**S ■ 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."

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

**IAN**S ■ 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.

## 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.

### 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/-

### Notification

It is for general information of all concerned those contractors who submitted their EOs against EO 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.ijmssam.in](http://www.ijmssam.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  

www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in
 @CPRONCR

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL



PUJA

General public is here by informed that this girl **Namely:** Puja, D/o Sh. Ramu, R/o R Block 118-19, Mangolpuri, Delhi, **Age:** 20 years, **Height:** 5 Feet, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Build:** 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:** <http://cbi.nic.in> **P.S. Burari, Delhi**  
**Fax:** 011-24368639 **Ph. 011-27616844, 8750870132**  
**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641** **DP/1381/N/2021**

## Profit booking, global volatility to impact stock moves

**IAN**S ■ 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

level intra-day on last Friday.

"Broad market correction amidst high volumes gives the first hint of distribution," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

"An adverse US Fed meet outcome next week could accelerate the correction that is typical in September, especially in the US markets."

### 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**



### THANKSGIVING

Thank you Holy Spirit for Blessings Celine.

PD(9080)C

**LOST AND FOUND**

This is to inform that I Sudhir Anand S/o Sudashar Anand R/o, F-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 4016 Dated: 24.08.1991. There is no Original/ 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.



# 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 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 suffered 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.

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 suffered 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.

Before he was recalled, French envoy Thebault said on Friday he found out about the US submarine deal: "Like everybody, thanks to the Australian press."



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



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

**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/ LBFDD00002370675	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**



# 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.

Prajnesh 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. Helovaara pulled of 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.

Ahlawat posted his second straight runner-up finish on the PGTI to move up from fifth to third in the Order of Merit.

Raj’s 66 lifted him seven places to the third position. He made seven birdies and a bogey. Om Prakash Chouhan (66) of Mhow and Panchkula’s Angad Cheema (70) shared fourth place at 12-under 276.

Delhi’s Chiragh Kumar (67) finished a further shot back in sixth place at 11-under 277.

Kolkata’s Viraj Madappa shot the day’s lowest score of 65 to secure tied seventh along with Kartik Sharma (72) of Gurugram at 10-under 278.

## Mohammad Hussamuddin enters quarterfinals at National Boxing Championships

**PTI ■ BELLARY (KARNATAKA)**

Commonwealth Games bronze medallist 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.

World youth champion Sachin, who caused a huge upset on Friday by defeating

world championship medallist Gaurav Bidhuri, made light work of his opponent and won 5-0 to book his spot in the quarters. In 54kg, Goa’s Roshan Zamir produced a dominant show in the last round to outwit Suraj Bhan Singh of Rajasthan 3-2 in one of the closest bouts of the day.

Rajasthan’s Bhim Pratap Singh (51kg) and Delhi’s Rohit Mor (57kg) too progressed into the quarterfinals with identical 5-0 victories on the fourth day of the championships.

In the 60kg match, Tripura’s Parvinder Poonia beat Prabhu Murali of Tamil Nadu 5-0. Chandigarh’s Aman (67kg) and Sachin (71kg) impressed everyone with their attacking boxing as both of them won after forcing the referee to stop the contest (RSC) in the second round and sailed into the quarters.

## YOUNG, STACKED US TEAM FACES FAMILIAR BATTLE IN RYDER CUP

**AP ■ GOLF WRITER**

The Americans would seem to have a lot in their favor at the Ryder Cup.

They are on home soil at Whistling Straits along the Wisconsin shores of Lake Michigan. A full house is expected, along with louder than usual cheering for the Stars & Stripes because of COVID-19 travel restrictions for European-based fans. As for the players? Younger than ever, to be sure, but no less stacked. The Americans have eight of the top 10 in the world ranking — Europe only has Jon Rahm at No. 1 — on a team that has won twice as many majors.

This is nothing new, of course. With one exception, the Americans always bring a better collection of players to the Ryder Cup. They just rarely leave with the precious gold trophy.

“We have the best players this year,” said Paul Azinger, the lead analyst for NBC Sports who still uses pronouns as if it were 2008 when he was the U.S. captain. “And obviously, they (Europe) roll in with the most confidence and maybe the best team.”

The trick is getting the American players to realize that. At the last Ryder Cup in France three years ago, the U.S. was just as loaded, with nine major champions on the 12-man squad who had combined to win 10 of the last 16 majors.

They got smoked again. “I feel like on paper, from head to toe, the world ranking, I would say we’re a stronger team,” U.S. captain Steve Stricker said. “But I don’t think our guys feel we’re better. They know deep down how hard it is to beat them.” All that matters on paper are the results. Europe has won nine of the last 12 times in the Ryder Cup. And



while the U.S. still holds a 26-14-2 advantage dating to the start in 1927, that’s not the real measure.

Continental Europeans did not join the fray until 1979, and since then they are 11-8-1.

Europe, with Pádraig Harrington now at the helm of the juggernaut, tries to extend its dominance at the 43rd Ryder Cup, which was postponed one year because of the pandemic.

Three relentless days of matches Sept. 24-26 will be held at Whistling Straits, the cliffside course with 1,000 or so bunkers that has hosted the PGA Championship three times in the last 17 years. American players, it should be noted, have been runner-up in all three.

Why do the Europeans keep winning the Ryder Cup? They relish the role as underdogs. They seem to play with a chip on their shoulders, perhaps because the Americans don’t — and probably should — have one on theirs. “That’s our advantage, I guess, in a way, right?” Ian Poulter said in a SiriusXM PGA Tour Radio interview. “That we have delivered when perhaps we shouldn’t have delivered. And this is the magical question that gets asked all the time. That’s what has the American press scratching their head. That’s what has the American team scratching

their heads at times. On paper — on paper — the U.S. team should

have delivered.

“It’s for us to enjoy and for the American team to figure out,” he said. “There is a level of magic sauce which we’ve been able to create over the years.”


Europe is bringing winning experience to Wisconsin.

Lee Westwood ties a European record by playing in his 11th Ryder Cup at age 48. He joins Sergio Garcia, already with the highest points total in history, on a short list of those who have played in Ryder Cups over parts of four decades. Garcia has contributed 25 1/2 points, the same amount as this entire U.S. team combined.

Whatever experience the Americans bring are mostly bad memories. Their lone victory in the last decade was at Hazeltine in 2016 against a European team that had six rookies. Only one of them, Matt Fitzpatrick, made it back on another team.

The six rookies are the most for the Americans since 2008 when they won at Valhalla.

Those include Collin Morikawa, who was an amateur when the last Ryder Cup was played and since then has won two majors, a World Golf Championship and led the U.S. standings in his first year of eligibility.



**GOVT. OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER**  
**ANGUL DIVISION, ANGUL**

**e-Procurement Notice, ANGUL FOREST DIVISION**

**Bid Identification No.- 01 OF 2021-22**  
**e-mail ID- dfoangul@gmail.com**

1. Number of Works : 7 (seven) number of Building works

2. Approximate estimated cost : Varies from Rs.12.40 lakh to 16.14 lakhs

3. Period of completion : 04 (four ) Calendar months

4. Date & Time of availability of bid document : Dt. 21 09.2021 at 10.00 A.M.

5. Last date / Time for receipt of bid in the portal : Dt. 30 09.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.

6. Date of opening Bid : Dt. 01.10.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

7. Name and address of the Office Inviting Bid : Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Division, Angul

8. The bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

OIPR-08027/11/0002/2122

Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Division,



**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS, DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA.**

**Letter No.4599 Date:15.09.2021**

**e-Procurement Notice**  
**Bid Identification No: EERWBPT/Online-06/2021-22**

1. Name of works : Buildings work (As per Annexure-A)

2. Total No. of work : Building – 2 Nos

3. Estimated Cost : As per ‘Annexure – ‘A’

4. E.M.D : Not required But Bid security Declaration to be uploaded along with technical bid.

5. Cost of Tender document : As per ‘Annexure – ‘A’

6. Class of Contractor : Please refer DTCN & Annexure A

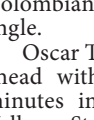
7. Other details : As per DTCN & [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

Procurement officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bhawanipatna	EERWBPT/Online-06/2021-22	18.09.2021 from 10.00 A.M	04.10.2021 Upto 5.00 P.M.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

OIPR-25070/11/0003/2122

Executive Engineer Rural Works, Division, Bhawanipatna



**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KARANJIA**

**E-mail ID:- eerwkaranjia@yahoo.com**

**O-706**

\*\*\*

INVITATION FOR BIDS

“e” Procurement Notice for Road works

**BID IDENTIFICATION NO.RWDKNJ-06/2021-22.**

**Letter No. 4937 /WE Date-09.09.2021**

1. Name of Work :- Road Signage work as per Annexure

2. Total Number of Works :- 13 Nos

3. Approximate Estimated Cost :- Rs. 4.23 lakh to 13.60 Lakh

4. Class of Contractor :- “D” & “C” Class

5. Period of Completion :- As per Annexure

6. Other details :- The details are as follows

Procurement Officer	Bid identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last date of& Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of Bid (Single Cover)
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Karanjia	RWDKNJ-06/2021-22	20.09.21at 11.30AM up to 5.00PM	27.09.21 up to 4.00PM	28.09.2021 at 11.00A.M.

7. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal “<https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>”

8. Any other changes/ Corrigendum may be seen only in website “[www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)”

OIPR-25086/11/0006/2122

Executive Engineer R.W.Division, Karanjia

# LOST

By virtue of an affidavit shown before Notary Public Bhadrak I Nesat Ahmed, aged 50 years, W/o- Md. Jamil Ahmed, Vill-Sekhsahi (Kuanshi), Po/Ps-Bhadrak (T), Dist-Bhadrak. I am the absolute owner of the landed property vide Khata No. 723/2334, Mouza- Kuanshi, Plot No. 1099/3137 and Plot No. 1100/3138, total area A0.0950 dec. kismam- Gharabadi. The above khatian has been lost at Bhadrak Court Premises on 16.09.2021 and I am unable to trace it; and I also filed station dairy at Bhadrak Town P.S. No. 17, dtd. 17.09.2021.



# 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



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)



