

WORLD 6

VOLCANIC ASH CLOUD
CLOSES LA PALMA AIRPORT

MONEY 7

CENTRE TO SOON ANNOUNCE
NEW COOPERATIVE POLICY: SHAH

SPORT 8

OSTRAVA OPEN: SANIA
MIRZA IN DOUBLES FINALPublished From
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BHUBANESWAR, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2021; PAGES 8+4 ₹4



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UN must ensure nations don't exploit Af: Modi

Ocean laws should not be abused, shun terror as state policy, says PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday targeted Pakistan and China in his address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by saying that Afghanistan should not be used by some countries for terrorism and that Ocean laws be used and not abused as he sought the world body to increase its relevance and effectiveness on issues like terrorism and proxy-war.

The Prime Minister addressed the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly at New York as the first speaker among the world leaders gathered there.

While attacking Pakistan without naming it, the Prime Minister sought to contrast the neighbouring country's "regressive thinking" of using "terrorism as a political tool" with India's scientific and progressive advancement that is not only helping it but also the world at large.

He said when Indian students in the 75th year of country's independence are readying up to send 75 satellites in space, the other side is going backwards and resorting to terrorism.

"Countries with regressive thinking that are using terrorism as a political tool need to understand that terrorism is an equally big threat for them. It has to be ensured that Afghanistan isn't used to spread terrorism or launch terror attacks..." said Modi, in a warning to Pakistan.

The Prime Minister who virtually took the UN body to task for not being pro-active said, "This needs to be ensured that the land of Afghanistan is not to be used for terrorism and the delicate situation of Afghanistan is not used as a tool by some country".

The Prime Minister in his speech delivered in Hindi interspersed with a "Sanskrit slok" of "Chanakya", the ancient Indian political scientist, and a quote of nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in Bengali to convey to the UN that it needs to take timely and effective steps to counter threats emanating from terrorism and regressive ideologies.

Focussing on Afghanistan, the Prime Minister referred to "Afghan women, children and minorities" saying "they need help" and "we will have to share responsibility".



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly at United Nations headquarters in New York on Saturday

AP

Modi said the entire world should use science-based rationale and progressive thinking as a medium of development.

Without mentioning Chinese attempt to monopolise the South China Sea and use its muscle to regulate it in its favour, the PM said ocean resources be used and not abused" and that they are life-time and belong to one and all.

"Our oceans are also our shared heritage. That is why we

have to keep in mind that we use our ocean resources, not abuse them. Our seas are a lifeline to international trading. We need to protect them from expansion and exclusion. World communities must unitedly raise their voice to strengthen rule-based world order," said Modi.

He spoke about "rule-based navigation" and urged the members of the UN body "to speak in one voice" about maritime security.

'Arsonist' in 'firefighter' guise, India retorts to Pakistan's slur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan and India sparred at the United Nations General Assembly in New York with terror, Jammu & Kashmir, and human rights figuring in the centre of an acerbic blame game.

While Pakistan called the Modi Government a "fascist" and responsible for unleashing Islamophobia in the region, India said its neighbour is an "arsonist" disguising itself as a "firefighter", and nurtures terrorists in its backyard.

Exercising its right of reply to Khan's statements at the United Nations session, India said Pakistan has an established history and policy of harbouring, aiding and actively supporting terrorists.

"Pakistan holds the ignoble record of hosting the largest



First Secretary Sneha Dubey

number of terrorists proscribed by the UNSC (United Nations Security Council). Osama Bin Laden got shelter in Pakistan. Even today, Pakistan leadership glorify him as 'martyr', First Secretary Sneha Dubey said on Friday.

The entire world has suffered because Pakistan nurtures terrorists in its backyard, she said.

"Regrettably, this is not the first time the leader of Pakistan has misused platforms provided by the UN to propagate false and malicious propaganda against my country, and seeking in vain to divert the world's attention from the sad state of his country where terrorists enjoy free pass while the lives of ordinary people, especially those belong-

ing to the minority communities, are turned upside down," she added.

This strong retort came following Prime Minister Imran Khan's "virtual" address, where he had raised the issue of abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 giving special status to Jammu & Kashmir as well as the death of separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Labelling the Modi Government as fascist, Khan also said, "It is unfortunate, very unfortunate, that the world's approach to violations of human rights lacks even-handedness, and even is selective. Geopolitical considerations, or corporate interests, commercial interests often compel major powers to overlook the transgressions of their affiliated countries."

CAPSULE

RIGHTS ACTIVIST KAMLA BHASIN PASSES AWAY

New Delhi: Eminent women's rights activist, poet and author Kamla Bhasin passed away on Saturday after a battle with cancer. She was 75.

MAJOR RESHUFFLE IN DELHI POLICE

New Delhi: In a major reshuffle in the Delhi Police, Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal on Saturday transferred 40 senior officers, including 11 Special Commissioners and 28 DCPs and additional DCPs, an official order said. The development came a day after a shootout took place inside a courtroom in Rohini court which left three people, including gangster Jitender Gogi, dead, triggering criticism over the security lapse.

DELHI REGISTERS 27 NEW CASES IN A DAY

New Delhi: The national Capital registered zero death due to Covid-19 and 27 infections in a day with a case positivity rate of 0.04 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department on Saturday. Three fatalities due to coronavirus have been reported this month so far — one each on Sept 7, Sept 16 and Sept 17.

PM to bring home 157 antiquities from US

Includes 12th CE
Nataraja to 10th
CE sandstone
panel of Revanta

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The USA has handed 157 artefacts and antiquities to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his ongoing visit to attend the United Nation's General Assembly.

The PM conveyed his deep appreciation for the repatriation of antiquities to India by the United States.

The list of 157 artefacts includes a diverse set of items, ranging from the one and a half metre bas-relief panel of Revanta in sandstone of the 10th CE to the 8.5 cm tall, exquisite bronze Nataraja from the 12th CE. The items largely belong to the period of 11th CE to 14th CE as well as his-



toric antiquities such as the copper anthropomorphic object of 2000 BC or the terracotta vase from the 2nd CE. Some 45 antiquities belong to Before Common Era.

While half of the artifacts (71) are cultural, the other half consists of figurines which relate to Hinduism (60), Buddhism (16) and Jainism (9).

Their make spreads across metal, stone and terracotta. The bronze collection primarily contains ornate figurines of the well-known postures of Lakshmi Narayana, Buddha, Vishnu, Siva Parvathi and the 24 Jain Tirthankaras and the less common Kankalamurti, Brahmi and Nandikesa besides other unnamed deities and divine figures.

India, US, Japan, Oz talk about combating terrorism in Af

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

Faced with growing assertiveness by China in the Indo-Pacific region, India, US, Japan and Australia resolved to resist any "coercion" and work together for ensuring peace and prosperity in the region and the world as a whole.

The four nations forming the Quad grouping also agreed to coordinate their policies towards Afghanistan and further deepen counter-terrorism and humanitarian co-operation in the months ahead in accordance with a UN Security Council resolution.

"We reaffirm that Afghan territory should not be used to threaten or attack any country or to shelter or train terrorists, or to plan or to finance terrorist acts, and reiterate the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan.

"We denounce the use of terrorist proxies and emphasised the importance of deny-



This handout photograph released by Press Information Bureau shows, from left, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison at the White House in Washington

PIB

ing any logistical, financial or military support to terrorist groups which could be used to launch or plan terror attacks, including cross-border attacks. We stand together in support of Afghan nationals, and call on the Taliban to provide safe passage to any person wishing to leave Afghanistan, and to ensure that the human rights of all Afghans, including women, children, and minorities are respected," the joint statement released after the summit said.

This was major outcome of first in person summit between the Quad countries comprising India, US, Japan and Australia in Washington on Friday. The heads of state of these countries including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held talks for more than two hours. The summit was hosted by Biden.

Biden reiterates support for India's permanent UNSC berth, NSG entry

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has reiterated America's support for India's permanent membership on a reformed United Nations Security Council and its entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group during his first in-person bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

President Biden, in his talks with Prime Minister Modi, applauded India's "strong leadership" during its UN Security Council Presidency in August 2021.

"In this context, President Biden also reiterated US support for India's permanent membership on a reformed UN Security Council and for other countries who are important champions of multilateral cooperation and aspire to permanent seats on the UN Security Council," it said.

President Biden's support provides a big boost to India's push for the reform of the powerful UN organ as India has been at the forefront of efforts at the United Nations to push for an urgent long-pending reform of the Security Council, emphasising that it rightly deserves a place at the UN high table as a permanent member.

'Cyclone Gulab' to trigger heavy rains, landslides in State 7 south dists to be hit most; ODRAF, NDRF teams deployed

Another low pressure to form on Sep 27

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal, which has turned into a cyclonic storm and named 'Cyclone Gulab', now lies over the northwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday evening.

The IMD also issued a cyclone warning for north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts and said it is likely to make a landfall at Singupuram in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday evening.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena said that already the State Government has alerted the Collectors of Ganjam, Gajapati, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal and Malkangiri districts in view of the possible cyclone as these districts are likely to experience heavy rainfall.

Already review meetings are being held at district levels to ensure full pre-



paredness owing to the IMD's forecast of squally winds, flash floods and landslides in these areas," said Jena.

He said the wind-speed is likely to be around 70-80 kmph gusting up to 90 kmph. All preparations are being made

taking into account past incidents of landslides which occurred in several parts of Gajapati and Rayagada districts during Cyclone Titli in 2008.

Anticipating heavy rainfall, the Government has been prepared to combat flash floods, landslides and water-logging. As many as 42 ODRAF and 24 NDRF teams would be deployed in seven districts. Apart from this, 102 fire services team would also be deployed in the vulnerable areas, the SRC said.

Besides, four NDRF teams would be kept ready in Nayagarh as a precautionary measure apart from other reserve teams in case of heavy rainfall situation in coastal districts. The water level of several reservoirs is being monitored as a precautionary measure, Jena said.

Meanwhile, the Regional Centre of IMD here said another cyclonic circulation is likely to emerge over northeast and adjoining east central Bay of Bengal around September 27.

"Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to develop over northeast Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood during the subsequent 24 hours," tweeted the weather office.

KIIT-KISS to have nation's first chess academy



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A first full-fledged residential National Chess Academy would be set up at KIIT and KISS, announced Sanjay Kapoor and Bharat Singh Chouhan, president and secretary of All Indian Chess Federation, respectively on Saturday.

A unanimous decision to this effect was made at the Central and General Council meetings of the federation held at Jaipur, Rajasthan.

While initially, the intake capacity of the academy would be 100 students, they would be transformed into Masters and Grand Masters after pursuing proper education and training.

Dr Samanta thanked president Kapoor and secretary Chouhan of Chess Federation for the decision. He also thanked Odisha Chess Association president Ranjan Mohanty as well as newly-elected joint secretary of AICF Debabratta Bhatta and secretary IM Shekhar Sahoo.

602 new Covid cases found in State

79 children among infected
NO DEATH REPORTED

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State on Saturday registered 602 new Covid-19 cases in 26 districts and the State pool, with which the total tally increased to 10,22,594.

Among those infected were 79 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years. Notably, the State had reported 539 positive cases on Friday.

Out of the 602 cases, 353 were detected from quarantine and 249 were local contacts. Khordha district reported the day's highest 266 cases followed by Cuttack with 74, Jagatsinghpur 34, Baleswar 24, Sambalpur 23, Mayurbhanj 19, Jajpur 16 and Puri 13.

The districts which recorded below-10 cases were Ganjam eight, Nayagarh eight, Bhadrak and Dhenkanal seven each, Angul and Gajapati six each, Sundergarh five, Rayagada four, Kendrapada, Kalahandi, and Subarnapur three each, Deogarh, Kandhamal and Koraput two each and Balangir, Boudh, Jharsuguda and Keonjhar one each.

Besides, 63 cases were reported from the State pool. The active cases stood at 5,930.

There was no official report of any deaths on the day. So far, 10,09,582 persons have recovered in the State.

'People asking me if I am from Haryana is a compliment'

ASHI SINGH who plays a lead role in the show Meet, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about the challenges of the character and how she got the Haryanvi accent correct

■ How did you come on board for this show?
I auditioned two months before I got selected. I really liked the character when I auditioned but I had no expectations that I would be selected.

■ What is the best part about playing Meet?
The best thing is that I get to do so much and I get to do so many new things which I haven't done before as Ashi. I still don't do those things as Ashi but Meet is quite different in that way. I get to do a lot of new experiments and get to learn a lot.

■ Despite negativity around her— from her grandmother— what keeps her motivated?
Here I relate to Meet a little bit because in my real life also I try to focus on positive aspects and ignore negativity. So, when I am playing Meet, it is like let grandma say whatever she wants to, I will be happy. I practice that a lot in my real life too. My friends, my whole street loves me so much and the memories I have with my parents, I spend my time cherishing them rather than Dadi. Of course I get hurt by what Dadi does but there are other things which Meet can focus on and move on.

■ What were the challenges to play Meet and get the Haryanvi accent correct?
I can give you a list of challenges. There were a lot! First of all, practicing riding a bike and body language were tough. Each and every scene that I am doing like climbing on a window or anything which involves some kind of stunt has been very challenging for me because I am not that adventurous in my real life nor have I done anything of that sort before. If I am scared of doing something, I cannot express that because my character is not that. I have never played cricket in my life, never ever held a cricket bat because I used to hate it. And if I talk about getting the Haryanvi accent, I am still not sure about my ability to speak it properly. Whenever I listen to my voice talking in Haryanvi, I never like it. But few people from Haryana asked me if I am from Haryana and that was like a huge compliment, which means I have achieved it. I have worked hard though.

The glamour industry has always attracted me even as a child. I always wanted to be an actor and destiny worked in my favour. My parents asked me to stop pursuing it but I didn't quit

■ I believe the track will lead to you— Meet marrying Meet. What happens next. Can you give us a sneak peek?
Yes that was the story. After that, it is like the guy doesn't love the girl. There are a lot of responsibilities on the girl after she gets married. Before she had only one family to take care of but now she has so much on her plate. You will for sure get to see some family drama but it would be in Meet's style. It would be different. Meet is not an innocent girl who would keep quiet if someone says something to her. She speaks back too and she has her own way to do things. You will see all that drama in Meet's way and it is a great story ahead.

■ How did you end up in acting?
I don't remember really liking anything else apart from acting and dancing. The glamour industry has always attracted me since I was very small. I always wanted to be an actress and stars

worked in my favour. I came to Mumbai for schooling, later my parents pushed me to do an acting course. But they also asked me to stop and I could not stop because they triggered my childhood wish and it was quite tough to lose all that. So, I just started giving auditions and stars worked in my favour.

■ You have done a fre music videos. How has this experience been? How much fun has it been?
It has been a good experience. In fact the shooting for music videos is a one day or two days shoot. I really like to meet people, I like to go out.

When I do music videos, I meet a lot of new people. It is not like shooting for daily soap where you meet the same set of people everyday, which is also a blessing in itself because they become your family. Only drawback is that you don't get to meet new people. While doing music videos, you go out, you explore more and you get to learn new things. So, it is like a life experience. Moreover, working for a music video you can experiment on yourself which you cannot always do in terms of your looks and character.

■ How much do you relate to Meet?
There are things where I do not relate to Meet at all. Meet is very different from me, whatever she does I never did or do that in real life. But yes, we think alike and I relate to her in that aspect a lot. I have realised that it is Ashi's character which I have given to Meet in terms of thinking positively.



BUDDY - ONLINE PUPPET THEATRE

A charming story of friendship between a lonely old man and a stray puppy dog. Told with String Puppets and Shadow Puppets. A lonely, friendless old man lives alone in a house. One day he meets a stray puppy dog in the garden where he goes for his regular morning walk. Every morning the puppy dog teases him and makes him uncomfortable. There develops a grudging friendship between them. One day a dog-catcher catches the dog, takes him away, and puts him in a cage. As usual the old man comes to the garden but the dog is nowhere to be seen. What ensues is the story of their separation, search for each other, and joyful reunion. This is a story that makes you smile and sigh. And shows you the wonder of puppet theatre.

What: Theatre and Arts
Where: Online
When: September 26, 2021
Time: 5 pm



SET
Delhi loves Kayan and warpcore loves Kayan so we had to have her behind the decks again for an encore. This time at the lovely Nehru Place SOCIAL, Sunday vibes, and yes this one is for everyone — it's ticketed so feel free to join in on the mayhem. We have the warpcore disco king N*Hilate opening for her and the awesome M3LD warming up the vibe. We share doing some cool production and there is going to be a sick sound system so that y'all can feel the bass. See you on Sunday because it's funday yaaa!

What: Music
Where: Nehru Place Social, Delhi
When: September 26 and September 27, 2021
Time: 8 pm and 1 am

TELLY TALE

'LOVE FREELY, SPREAD PEACE AND DREAM CRAZY'

Gulfam Khan says her character, Nalini Batra, in the show Ziddi Dil Maane Na is tailor-made. "I like my character. I am a very friendly person by nature. I love feeding people and I like people around me. Also, I truly and strongly believe in love, so this character is tailor-made for me or I was chosen for this character. Whatever you say, the universe has worked its magic," she said.

She is getting positive response for the show as well as for her character. "After a long time, I'm doing a show that involves youngsters and matters of the heart. Hence, it is a heartfelt warmth I feel," said the Laado 2 actress.

Ziddi is Sudhir and Seema Sharma's brainchild. "Sudhir and Seema of Sunshine are wonderful human beings. They are good producers no doubt, they are very creative no doubt but above all, they are gems. They are the kind of people you want to be friends with hence, I'm very glad that I got an opportunity to not only work with them but also know



them," said Gulfam. On how she was chosen for the show, she shared, "I got a call from

the casting department stating that they were interested in auditioning me for a character for the show. They gave me a brief about the show and it sounded interesting hence, I gave the audition and within a couple of days I got confirmation regarding the same." She is also bonding with her co-actors. "I had worked with Kunal Karan 20 years ago in a show called Remix, so I feel a bond with him. I have a very strong bond with Shaleen. He is a very warm, sensible, and a nice guy though he does not go about mingling, laughing too much or chatting up. He is very close to my heart. I get along with Diljot too. She is wonderful, she is talented, pleasant, kind and a lot of things that I like in a person. I get along with all the youngsters. They all are wonderful. It's a wonderful cast. I get along with the elders too," she said.

She finds everything about this show interesting. "It's quite adventurous given the physical activity that all the youngsters do," she said.

SALIM DIWAN ON HIS FATHER



Salim. There is also a multi-specialty hospital and research centre in Jhunjhunu in his dad's name. "We have a good team in our foundation members who are dedicated to serve the society's well-being. Dr. Salaudeen Chopdar Foundation served the best in corona time and Government of Rajasthan rewarded on August 15," he said.

Salim said, "He used to teach me the meaning of life, the value of people, time everything which I am having with me right now is all achieved with having him besides with me. He was more of a teacher to me than father who always taught something or the other which helped me to be a successful man. He was a very loving and caring father to me and always was a guide for me to choose the right path."

He always stood by me and supported me in my choices, also guided me where to step up and step back," said the Aliya Basu Gayab Hai actor. "My father is always alive in me. I'll always be in debt to him for all the learnings he gave me," he added.

SAVITA'S NAMKEEN SHOP AND LAABH

Sony SAB's thought-provoking show Shubh Laabh — Aapkey Ghar talks about a self-transformative journey as it takes a step forward by paving the way for the viewers to find a balance between devotion and spirituality in their daily lives. In the upcoming episodes, the audience will witness Savita (Geetanjali Tikekar) attempting different ways to save their namkeen shop, Sukh Sagar.

Every year, a business tycoon organises a food charity for the poor, this opportunity has a scope of bringing in new business and some much needed extra money for Savita. Her determination and conviction helps her bag the contract this year. Despite facing various obstacles during the process, she finds her way through and secures the order. The entire Toshniwal family excitedly starts with their preparation. While the arrangements are being made, at each step, every family member deals with a different vikaar residing within themselves. It will be interesting for our viewers to watch how Savita will face the multiple vikaar's - krodh, moh, lalach, irshiya, aalasya, abhimaan, kaam emerging from her family members and will this



order bring a new ray of hope in her life.

Will Savita succeed in saving Sukh Sagar? Will this new order solve all her problems?

Geetanjali Tikekar, essaying the role of Savita, said, "Playing Savita and being a part of a show like Shubh Laabh remains to be a surreal experience for me. Savita has bagged a great opportunity, and she puts her best foot forward and gives whatever it takes to fulfil this order. While facing issues due to her family members' bad habits and sins, will she be able to deliver this task ethically or will she succumb to her own vikaar too? Fans will have to wait and watch."

KUMKUM BHAGYA'S POOJA BANERJEE ON SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

Zee TV's popular fiction show, Kumkum Bhagya has been an audience favourite courtesy its intriguing plot and the authentic portrayal of relatable characters like Abhi (Shabbir Ahluwalia), Pragya (Sriti Jha), Rhea (Pooja Banerjee), Aaliya (Reyhna Pandit), Tanu (Leena Jumanji), Ranbir (Krishna Kaul) and Prachi (Mugdha Chapekar). Abhi – Pragya's contract marriage drama had kept everyone hooked over the last few weeks and now, the competition and drama between Rhea and Prachi has kept viewers at the edge of their seats. All the actors have been working round the clock to keep their audience entertained during this festive season. In fact, at times actors don't get to spend time with their family even during special occasions and how understanding parents and partners truly help them balance their work and personal life balance.

Pooja Banerjee aka Rhea also opened up about her personal life and mentioned how she and her husband, Sandeep Sejwal understand and respect each other and their respective careers, which helps them maintain a strong and healthy marriage, without any issues. The actress also reveals the key to a



successful marriage between two working individuals, while speaking about Sandeep and her relationship.

As Pooja Banerjee reveals, "Trust, love and attraction - all of these things come secondary, but if there is friendship between a couple, then they tend to share and understand everything about each other. I know Sandeep since I was in fourth standard. In fact,

we were friends for the longest period of time, after which we realised we can be life partners. Ever since I know him and we started dating, my mantra was very simple - honesty and sincerity. We don't put each other down and he never puts me in any embarrassing situation. It is same from my side too. He does not judge me too, and vice versa. The best part is that we give

ample of space to each other to grow and learn by ourselves in our careers. He never forces his views onto me and neither do I. Having said all this, I feel it is very important to give each other time as well because nowadays couples don't give each other time. So, Sandeep and I plan our schedules such that we have time for each other. Due to my tedious shooting hours, we are on different sleep cycles, but he understands me so well and does the smallest of things to help me live my life to the fullest and I help him with his. As I have been a swimmer for 14 years, I understand the fatigue he might be going through as an athlete due to his daily routine and I try to help him feel better and do my bit wherever I can. We respect each other's careers, and we support each other in our own way every day and I feel that is the key to a successful marriage."

While Pooja Banerjee is aching her off-screen relationship with her husband, her on-screen character - Rhea is planning some evil tactic to come between Prachi and Ranbir. What is she planning next? Will she be able to create a rift between Prachi and Ranbir? Or is Prachi and Ranbir's connection stronger?

VEER'S FATE LIES ON THE THREE SINS

Sony SAB's beloved Hero is set to take a new avatar. Our very own Hero aka Veer is faced with the biggest challenge in the show so far. This involves not just saving the world but saving himself from turning to his darker side and becoming evil. The upcoming episodes will shock the viewers with Veer (Abhishek Nigam) slowly falling prey to Shukracharya's (Ajay Gehi) biggest scheme against Veer. It will be interesting for the viewers to watch how Hero will withstand the effects of halahal, the mystical negative energy which is slowly taking him over while pushing him towards committing the three ultimate sins. This time the battle is fiercer as Veer is losing control over all his actions and is on a crossroad struggling to stand by his morals and conduct.

Abhishek Nigam, talking about this new development in the show, said, "I think this new phase in Veer's life will take the viewers on an adventurous and edgy ride as Hero is slowly unravelling his darker side. With

Shukracharya's ultimate plan of turning Veer into his strongest warrior is coming to play, the challenges Hero will be now facing will be unlike anything he has faced before. He is unaware of these three mistakes and while the effects of halahal will force him to commit these sins, it will be exciting for our viewers to watch if Hero is able to combat this effect or not. Once these sins are committed, Hero will fall into his darker side and turn evil."

Sharing his excitement on the new phase of his character, he said, "When I learned about the new developments on the show and the storyline that will follow, I was surprised and very excited. My thought immediately was I had found a perfect opportunity to show a new side of me as an artist. I



can promise that the upcoming episodes will keep the audience on the edge of their seats, and I am sure all Hero supporters will be rooting for Hero to not fall into darkness, and this new exciting storyline will take the fun and excitement quotient of the show up a notch".

Abhishek Nigam, talking about his preparations, said, "I am undergoing a series of changes and have been prepping as I want to explore every possible route to do justice to the character and this new journey of him. It will be a learning curve for me, and my fans will be able to watch me in a never seen before avatar."

CJI calls for raising legal literacy in people

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Referring to Odisha, where over 83 per cent people are living in rural areas and are often excluded from the formal justice delivery system, Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana on Saturday said, “Challenge of accessing justice gets magnified in States which pose significant hurdles like regional and economic disparity.”

Speaking here after inaugurating a new building of the Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA), he emphasised that guarantee of equal justice formed the core beliefs of the framers of the Constitution and people’s Constitutional aspirations shall never be achieved until the most vulnerable sections can enforce their rights.

Referring to the challenges faced by the Indian judicial system, he specifically focused on two aspects. First,



“Indianisation of the Justice Delivery System” and the second, he observed, is enabling the people to “Decode the Justice Delivery System by Raising Awareness”.

He said the concept of

“Access to Justice in India” is much broader than simply providing lawyers for representation before the courts. In India, he said, the task to facilitate access to justice to the poor and marginalised has

been conferred upon the legal services institutions such as OSLSA, whose activities include increasing legal awareness and legal literacy amongst such classes who have traditionally remained outside the

purview of the system.

Considering the gravity of the challenges, he said that if we need to retain the faith of people, it is needed to strengthen the outreach programmes. “We have decided to launch a country-wide robust legal awareness mission in the coming week,” the CJI said and urged the legal fraternity for cooperation and support to take the mission to the remotest corner of the country.

The CJI, who belongs to the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, said both Odisha and his State share the same history, culture, food and habits. He began his speech reciting a poem of legendary Odia poet, writer and philosopher Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Senapati and ended his speech also by reciting another poem written by social reformer Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das.

CJI prays at Jagannath Temple



PURI: Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, who was on a two-day visit to the State from Friday, went to the Jagannath Temple in Puri along with Justice Vineet Saran on Saturday morning and offered prayers to the deities.

Justice Ramana, who put on a traditional dress, spent about 45 minutes in the shrine. He had last visited the temple with his wife on January 25, 2020. **PNS**

BHARAT BANDH ON SEPT 27

State asks employees to come by 9.30 am

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of a Bharat Bandh called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha and supported by major non-NDA parties and trade unions on September 27 from 6 am to 4 pm, the State Government on Saturday issued a guideline for all its employees of all major offices in Bhubaneswar to join duty latest by 9.30 am.

Home Department Special Secretary Santosh Bala issued an advisory to all Secretaries to instruct their officers and employees working at the Lokseva Bhawan, Kharavela Bhawan, Rajiv Bhawan and the Heads of Department Building to reach office early on the Bandh day to facilitate their smooth entry.

The Government apprehends that the protestors may

stop movement of vehicles and picket before Government offices, banks and educational institutions and main thoroughfares of the city.

Bala further asked to close the front gate of Lokseva Bhawan latest by 10.15 am and allow passages by the rear gates. Entries of visitors to these office buildings would be restricted on the bandh day; only persons with prior appointments would be allowed.

The bandh call has been given by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha demanding scrapping of the three controversial farm laws. While the Congress and Left parties support the strike, trade unions, farmers’ organisations and bank employees’ forums also support the bandh call.

ODRAF BOAT CAPSIZE

Now, media to be prevented from any rescue op

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In the wake of the ODRAF boat mishap at the Mundali barrage in Mahanadi in which a TV journalist died, the State Government would soon issue an SOP barring civilian and media personnel from being included in any rescue operation.

The Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) informed it on Twitter while expressing grief over death of an ODRAF personnel, who had gone missing following capsizing of boat engaged in rescue operation of an elephant stuck at the Mundali barrage.

“I request Odisha DGP to review SOP and order no outsider, civilian or media, should be part of any rescue mission,” SRC Pradeep Jena said.

Notably, an ODRAF boat carrying eight persons includ-

ing two media personnel of a vernacular news channel was engaged in rescue operation of a tusker trapped in floodwaters in Mundali barrage in Cuttack district.

During the operation, the boat unfortunately overturned in the river and all drowned. Though journalist Arindam Das and video journalist Pravat Sinha were fished out of the water, the former was declared brought dead at the SCB Medical College Hospital.

Following the mishap, the ODRAF was in line of fire with many social media users questioning why the media personnel were part of the rescue operation.

Meanwhile, police began an investigation to ascertain under what circumstances the mediapersons were allowed to board the boat.

State Govt amends reservation cap to 50% Law Dept issues notification of Act

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has notified the amended Panchayat Acts to cap the reservation of seats in the three-tier panchayat system to 50 per cent for all the three categories comprising STs, SCs and OBCs.

On September 8 this year, the Odisha Legislative Assembly had passed the Bill. Governor Ganeshi Lal gave his nod on September 22 for converting the Bill into law. Accordingly, the Law Department has issued the notification of the Odisha Panchayat Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021.

The Act amended relevant provisions of the Odisha Grama Panchayat Act, 1964, the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act, 1959 and Odisha Zilla Parishad Act, 1991, said

The Act amended relevant provisions of the Odisha Grama Panchayat Act, 1964, the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act, 1959 and Odisha Zilla Parishad Act, 1991,

Panchayati Raj and Law Minister Pratap Jena while piloting the Bill.

The amendments in the three Acts have been made to fix the upper ceiling of reservation of seats for SCs, STs and OBCs at 50 per cent.

Now, maximum 50 per cent seats can be reserved for the SC, ST and OBC persons in the direct or indirect elections for Ward Member, Sarpanch, Samiti Member, Block Chairman, Zilla Parishad Member and Zilla Parishad President.

As per Article 243-D of the statute, the Government has the discretion of reserving seats for OBCs and, accordingly, the Odisha Grama Panchayat Act, 1964, the Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act, 1959 and Odisha Zilla Parishad Act, 1991 have been amended to provide 27 per cent of reservation for OBCs in the elections to Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Similarly, the quota for SCs and STs, as per provision of the Constitution, has been fixed in proportion to their populations.

The Government would first give priority to ST and SC populations in the reservation of seats for PRI election and the remaining seats, if left, would be reserved for the backward class citizens with a maximum ceiling of 27 per cent, sources said.

Aggressive mine bidding raises eyebrows

STATE TO LOSE ₹ 4,20,000 CR IN 15 YRS

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government had invited notice for tender documents for 11 mines, including a bauxite mine, in July, 2021. The auction commenced from third week of September.

The aggressive bidding for the Gandalpada iron ore deposits in Keonjhar district seems to have surprised the industry. Gadalpada has attracted a premium of 141.25%, which raises a question of rationality. Gandalpada is a virgin mine which can be operated only after obtaining forest and environment clearances.

The Tata Steel has been enjoying five iron leases in Odisha for almost 100 years holding more than 49 sqkm. The State Government extended these leases in 2015 free of cost, i.e., no premium would be paid by the company for fifteen years.

When the company is ready to pay 141% for a virgin

mine, it can pay at least the same amount, if not more, for the working mines under their operation.

Assuming that the company pays 140% of premium and average IBM price at Rs 5,000/tonne for a combined mining capacity of 40 MTPA of five mines, the State exchequer is losing a premium of Rs 28,000 crore annually (40 MT x Rs. 5,000/t x 100%). In 15 years, the total loss to Government’s exchequer is Rs 4,20,000 crore.

Knowledgeable circles like Jana Adhikari Parishad president Bijay Parida are of the view that the State Government must consider imposing the premium on the captive mines which were granted extension as per the MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2015. The present bidding is an eye opener for all.

The question is why the company concerned cannot be asked to pay the premium on the existing leases. .

DVF jawan electrocuted at Raighar

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

A District Voluntary Force (DVF) jawan died of electrocution at Raighar in Nabarangpur district on Saturday.

An 11-KV electric line passing over a tin house of the camp came in contact with the roof. The jawan was electrocuted while he touched the window of the house. Two other jawans sustained injuries.

The deceased was identified as Easak Harijan of Jatabal in Dabugam block in the district. The injured jawan Tanka Saura and Iswar Majhi were shifted to the Umakote CHC in critical conditions.

Police began investigating into the incident said the Umakote SDPO.

ESPIONAGE RACKET

Woman operative promised to visit Chandipur

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Crime Branch, which is investigating at the Chandipur DRDO wing in Baleswar district, on Saturday made some more revelations about the operative who allegedly honey-trapped the five accused.

The Crime Branch said the suspected woman handler in the espionage racket had promised to visit the residence of one of the accused in Chandipur.

Crime Branch ADG Sanjeeb Panda said the suspected woman operative had given marriage proposals to two of the arrested DRDO staffs and promised to visit the house of another accused in Chandipur.

“As per our investigation so far, the suspect woman had created seven profiles on Facebook by posting different display picture (DPs) and identities and contacted the accused,” Panda said.

“She used a UK SIM card and chatted with the accused through various

social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp. She used to speak in Hindi and also made video calls to two accused,” Panda said.

The ADG said further that investigation is underway to ascertain details of the suspect and the UK phone number she used.

“We are carrying out further investigation to ascertain her real identity and the place she belongs to,” the ADG said.

“Our efforts are also ongoing to find out details of the bank account from which money was transferred to the bank account of one of the accused. Besides, we are inquiring from what are the sources from which they received money,” he added.

The investigating agency had taken the five accused on a seven-day remand for further interrogation and produced them in a court on Friday after their remand period ended. The Crime Branch has not sought further remand of the accused.

‘BAN COW SLAUGHTER IN SAMBALPUR’

Hanuman Jayanti Samity holds fast

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

Demanding a ban on cow slaughtering, the Hanuman Jayanti Samanwaya Samity (HJSS) on Friday sat in a 12-hour hunger strike at Gole Bazar Chowk.

Members of HJSS along with BJP and VHP members took part in the stir. Former Chairman of Sambalpur Municipality Girish Patel, Manas Baksi, Sisir Bahidar, Kartik Bahidar, Siv Agrawal, Siv Diwan and many other leaders of the organisation warned the local administration that if cow slaughter was not stopped completely, they would go for Sambalpur Bandh.

“Even we will not hesitate to take law into hands if administration will fail to control the unruly elements engaged in cow slaughter,” threatened Girish Patel.

The agitators also demanded a modern Gosala for 2,000 cows, demolition of illegal slaughter houses in the city, and a judicial inquiry into the nexus of the Sambalpur SP and IIC Dhanupali with the crime syndicate.

The organisation brought a series of allegations against the district SP saying that he has joined hands with criminals. They further alleged that if the members of the organisation protested cow slaughtering, the local police were booking them in dacoity cases.

Contacted, Sambalpur SP B Gangadhar said all the allegations against him are baseless. “The law and order situation in Sambalpur is quite satisfactory. At the same time, we have also registered maximum number of cases as regards cow slaughtering and cow smuggling,” he said..

Samiti Member shot dead in Dhenkanal

PNS ■ DHENKANAL

A Panchayat Samiti Member was shot dead near Jamujhara village under the Tumusingha police station in Dhenkanal district late on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Deepak Mahunta.

Though the exact motive behind the crime was yet to be ascertained, family members of the deceased alleged that the incident was a political murder.

Locals found the body of Deepak lying in a pool of blood near his car at Jamujhara village on Saturday morning. He was immediately rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital. But doctors there declared him brought dead.

Presently, Deepak’s wife is the Sarpanch of Baruan gram panchayat. The deceased’s son Dibyadarshan alleged that his father has been murdered over political and business enmity.

The Kamakhyanagar police started an investigation into the incident.

“An investigation into the incident is ongoing. From the medical report, we came to know that the deceased has been shot. We would be able to reveal more details after investigation,” said Kamakhyanagar SDPO Ranjan Kumar Dey.

Salepur Samiti Member joins Cong



PNS ■ CUTTACK

Popular woman leader and Barigola Panchayat Samiti Member under Salepur block in Cuttack district Sujata Das on Saturday left the ruling BJD and joined the Congress in the presence of Cuttack District Congress Committee president Manas Choudhury.

She said that being attract-

ed to the ideology of Congress party and leadership skill of Manas Choudhury, she took the decision to join the Congress.

Choudhury admitted Sujata Das to the party by offering a flower bouquet.

Among others, Salepur block Congress president Benudhar Pradhan and party leaders Tukuna Sahu and Niroj Swain were present.

Municipal Premiere League: ULBs to boost rev

HUD Min Jena launches MPL 3.0

PNS ■ BHUBAESWAR:

The final results of two rounds of the Municipal Premiere League (MPL) –MPL 1.0 and MPL 2.0 undertaken by the Housing & Urban Development Department were announced on Saturday and the winners were felicitated by HUD Minister Pratap Jena at a function held at the Lokseva Bhawan here.

The Berhampur Municipal Corporation



(BeMC) and the Buguda NAC were adjudged as Best ULBs for MPL 1.0 and 2.0 editions,

respectively.

The MPL is a competition to motivate tax officials in

Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to improve their performances and enable maximum collec-

BeMC, Buguda NAC best ULBs

tions. For MPL 2.0, the BeMC was the Best ULB in the Corporation category, Paradeep in the Municipality category and Buguda in the NAC category.

Jena said it was satisfying to see the growth of revenue collections through the MPL in the last two years, especially considering the challenges faced during the Covid pandemic.

“When ULBs are able to generate funds from their own revenues, it ensures that they are getting financially stronger to cater to the

demands of citizens in providing them with more facilities like parks, play grounds, better roads etc.,” he added.

He also appreciated the ULBs for quick adoption of digital technologies in revenue collection. Digitisation is crucial in reforming ULB revenue management system for maintaining accurate record, tracking and building trust between citizens and civic bodies, he said.

The MPL 1.0 was initially launched in Odisha across nine larger cities in February 2020 for 214 tax functionaries. It was later scaled up as MPL 2.0 to all the 114 ULBs for 655+ tax functionaries. The Minister also launched MPL 3.0 for the coming year during the event.

NEXUS WITH MINING FIRMS

Aggrieved transporters burn Champua MLA effigy



PNS ■ CHAMPUA:

Thousands of protesters, who are sitting on a dharna since September 14, on Thursday burnt the effigy of Champua MLA Meenakshi Mahanta who is alleged to have joined hands with local mines owners to work against the interest of local dumper owners by cutting the transporting rate. They charged that previously there was one organisation, the Mining Area Truck Owners' Association (MATOA), formed in 1993 to look after the interest of the local dumper owners, but after Meenakshi Mahanta was elected MLA, Bhakta Mahanta, her

husband formed another parallel association to weaken the MATOA and started monopolising the mining trading and transporting business. It is further alleged that there is trading licence in the name of Bhakta's father, brother and other family members to deal with iron transporting business but other genuine licence holders are denied job by the companies. If anyone tries to protest against this, then he is attacked by the goons allegedly engaged by Bhakta because of his money power and political affiliation. If an FIR is lodged against Bhakta, police are remaining silent, the protestors alleged.

They demanded transfer of Barbil SDPO Himanshu Bhusan Behera alleging that he is in nexus with local mines owners and working as per direction of Bhakta. Their specific allegation was that an FIR had been lodged against Bhakta and his goons for attacking the protesters but the police were silent; on the contrary, they are targeting the protesters. The agitators before burning the effigy of the MLA took out a rally in Joda shouting slogan against Meenakshi and her husband and threatened to go for total Joda- Barbil mining area bandh if they were not given justice

Pharmacovigilance Week ends at MKCG



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR:

The ADR Monitoring Centre, Department of Pharmacology, MKCG Medical College and Hospital observed the National Pharmacovigilance Week which was concluded here on Thursday. A bunch of events were organised to sensitise different stakeholders. AMC coordinator Dr Y Roja Ramani and Dr Chinmaya Mahapatra coordinated the event under the supervision of Professor and HOD of Pharmacology Department Dr Jayanti Prava Behera. The prominent events include undergraduate quiz competition, besides a seminar for the students and faculty of the institution. Participating in the seminar, the speakers said that, the main objective is to disseminate

knowledge on diverse aspects of Pharmacovigilance in vulnerable population pertaining to the current and next-generation healthcare and sensitise them towards the importance of Pharmacovigilance in the healthcare sector. Dean and Principal of the college Prof (Dr) Abani Kanta Mishra graced the event as chief guest while Professor and Head of the Department Dr Behera chaired the scientific sessions. Several eminent speakers, namely Dr Nina Mishra (O & G), Dr Sadhana Panda (Pediatrics) and Dr D Shobha Malini (Community Medicine) of MKCG Medical College highlighted the importance of adverse drug reaction reporting and adverse events following immunisation. Later, an awareness rally was organized from the MKCG Medical College campus.

'Funds needed to provide social security'

Ex-MP Khuntia speaks at ILO East Zone talk

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former MP and trade union leader Dr RC Khuntia urged the State and Central Governments to make adequate budget provision if they want to properly execute the Social Security Code. First the Government should identify and register the workers and assure financial requirement for the scheme which could be shared both by the States and Centre, said Dr Khuntia, while participating as a panelist in the Eastern Zone seminar organised by the ILO and IHD jointly. In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, healthcare and social security is of paramount importance. Therefore, Dr Khuntia demanded that the Central Government must amend the Constitution to guarantee social security and healthcare to all the citizens as a fundamental right. Professor Alekhanath Sharma and ILO South Asia Director MS Dagmar Waltor participated in the meeting and gave opening



address. Chief Secretary of Bihar Tipurari Saran gave inauguration speech while Bihar Forest and Environmental Secretary Dipak Kumar Singh presided. Officials from eastern Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha, representatives of employers, West Bengal CITU secretary Debangana Mukharjee and 119 representatives participated in this meeting.

Inter-school 'Doha Recitation' held



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar here organised an inter-school "Doha Recitation" competition to mark the occasion of its silver jubilee year. More than 90 students from 23 DAV schools of Zone-1, Odisha participated in the event to showcase their talent and creativity. "Pandemic Covid-19 can be a barrier between us but can never stop us from unraveling

our talent and potential," said school Principal Bipin Kumar Sahoo. The meeting was followed by a recitation of dohas by different teams. DAV Public School, CDA, Cuttack and DAV Public School, Unit-8 jointly won the 1st position while DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur and DAV Public School, IFFCO, Paradeep bagged the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.

Jharsuguda Bhawan at VIMSAR soon

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kisore Das on Saturday said a separate 'Jharsuguda Bhawan' is under construction at the VIMSAR, Burla scheduled to be operational by October-end. It would help patients from Jharsuguda who are hitherto roaming here and there to find a suitable accommodation. Das was speaking at an official review meeting held here. He said that keeping in view the problems faced by the Jharsuguda people at VIMSAR, a Jharsuguda Bhawan was planned as each day patients of Jharsuguda district are referred to the VIMSAR. It was decided to deploy at least four persons, including a pharmacist, at the Bhawan 24x7 to provide necessary medical assistance to the referred patients for coordination with the VIMSAR authorities and doctors. VIMSAR Superintendent Dr Lal Mohan Nayak assured to provide all assistance for these patients.

Delhi Govt to collect 28k samples for sero survey

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to determine the prevalence of antibodies among the populace, as many as 28,000 samples will be collected from across the national capital for the seventh Covid serosurvey, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said on Saturday. Jain said "A total of 280 wards will be surveyed and 100 samples will be collected from each ward. This serosurvey will take around two weeks to complete, wherein the sample collection will take one week and the results will take another week to come." The samples will be collected in a week. It will take another week to prepare the report, Jain added. The survey got underway on September 24. A large segment of the city population has already received anti-coronavirus vaccine doses. The previous survey was conducted a few months ago when Delhi was reeling under the brutal second wave of the pandemic. Delhi has a population of over 2 crore spread across 11 districts. According to Delhi's vaccination bulletin issued on Friday, over 1.67 crore doses have been

administered to date and it includes over 1.1 crore first doses and over 51 lakh second doses. The fifth serosurvey which was conducted this year found that over 56% of Delhi's population was exposed to viral infection. According to the experts, high seropositivity is expected to be found in this serosurvey. Talking about Corona in Delhi, only 24 cases were reported on September 24, with a positivity rate of 0.03 per cent. Also, no deaths because of COVID were reported in Delhi on Friday. The first sero-prevalence survey conducted last year from June 27-July 10 by the Delhi government in association with the National Centre for Disease Control, had used 21,387 samples and found that around 23 per cent of the people surveyed had exposure to the novel coronavirus. The exercise in August 2020 showed 29.1 per cent of people had coronavirus antibodies. In the surveys of September and October last year the figures stood at 25.1 per cent and 25.5 per cent respectively. The exercises have been undertaken for a comprehensive assessment of the COVID-19 situation in Delhi and to formulate strategies based on its findings.

Excess fees collected from SC/ST students in TN refunded: Govt tells HC

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has told the Madras High Court that all the government and private colleges in the state have been told not to collect extra fees for issuing/processing application forms for admissions and the extra fees collected by the colleges had been refunded to the students. In a status report filed before the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice P D Audikesavalu on September 22, the government stated that following an earlier order of the bench, the education department had swung into action, as a result of

which the colleges had refunded the extra fees collected from the candidates, more particularly the SC/ST students. "In view of the instructions issued by the State for excess collection not to be made and even the refund having been tendered, nothing remains of the petition and the same is disposed of," the bench said. In its PIL, the Tamil Nadu Universities and Colleges SC/ST Teachers' Association in Ullagaram, represented by its secretary K Kannaiyan, contended the colleges had wrongfully collected fees in excess of the rates prescribed there for and

even when exemptions had been granted to the SC/ST candidates by a Government Order. It had prayed for a direction to the authorities concerned to initiate appropriate action against a city college in Velacherry for collecting the application fees from SC/ST students in gross violation of the GO dated September 2, 1998 of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare department and another one issued last year of the Higher Education department and consequently direct the institution to refund the illegal fees collected from the students in the name of application processing fee.

Delhi records 27 covid cases on Sat, positivity rate stands at .04%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 27 fresh cases of the Covid-19 reported in the national capital on Saturday while the positivity rate stands at 0.04 per cent, according to data shared by the health department of the Delhi government. According to the bulletin the total number of fatalities stands at 25,085, while the cumulative case tally has reached 14386885. At least 68,498 tests, including 46,555 RTPCR/CBNAAT/TrueNat tests, were conducted in the last 24 hours," it said. Three fatalities due to the coronavirus infection have been reported in the national capital this month -- one each on September 7, September 16 and September 17. As per the bulletin, out of 11,804 available beds in hospitals, 219 are occupied as on Saturday while the rest are vacant. As many as 1413221 people have either been discharged, have recovered or migrated out, it added. Forty eight cases were reported in Delhi On Thursday with a positivity rate of 0.07 per cent, while on Wednesday, 30 cases were logged with a positivity rate of 0.04 per cent. On Tuesday, 39 cases were recorded with a positivity rate of 0.06 per cent.

Dalit made to spend ₹ 11K on feast for entering temple in Karnataka

Koppal (K'tka), Sep 25 (PTI) Close on the heels of a Dalit family being penalised Rs 25,000 over their two-year-old son entering a temple in Kustagi, a Dalit man was forced to arrange a feast spending Rs 11,000 for entering a Lakshmi Devi temple in a village at Karatagi about 11 days ago, a police officer said. "Yes, it is true that the man spent Rs 11,000 to arrange feast for entering the temple. Our officers are investigating the matter," superintendent of Police T Sreedhara told PTI on Saturday. According to him, the incident came to

light only on Friday and since then the temple management led by the priest raised an alarm and forced the man to organise the feast. Sreedhara said a few months ago, a theft had taken place in the village and it was decided that no one should enter the temple except the priest. However, the Dalit man, whose identity has been withheld, entered as he had taken a vow to conduct some rituals. On September 14, he entered the temple ignoring the collective decision taken by the elders of the village. Other police sources

said eight people have been detained in this connection. The incident was a stark reminder of the September 4 incident when a Dalit family belonging to the Chenna Dasar community was harassed and asked to pay Rs 25,000 as penalty after their two-year-old son entered the temple in Miyapur village under Kushatagi police station limits in Koppal. Five people were arrested in connection with the incident and several awareness meetings were held to educate masses against the evil of caste based discrimination.

IN BARGARH Tension as youth dies in custody

PNS ■ BARGARH:

Alleging that a youth was tortured to death in a police station, irate locals vandalized a hospital and staged a road blockade in Bargarh town on Saturday. On Friday night, Bargarh Town police had brought deceased Govind Kumhar from Torra village to the police station on charges of involvement in a riot. According to police, Govinda was found ill on Saturday morning and was rushed to the Khedapali District General Hospital in critical condition. There the doctor pronounced him dead. However, the locals did not buy the story of police and went on a rampage at the hospital smashing whatever came their way. Later, they blocked the road at Bargarh Gandhi Chhak by keeping the body there. The police resorted to lathicharge to disperse the agitators.

Covid-19: Kerala reports 16,671 new cases, 120 deaths

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala reported 16,671 new COVID-19 cases and 120 deaths on Saturday, taking the infection count to 46,13,964 and the death toll to 24,248. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the state had tested 1,14,627 samples in the last 24 hours and there were 841 wards across 422 local self government bodies with a weekly infection population ratio above ten per cent. "Currently, there are 1,65,154 active COVID-19 cases in the state of which only 12.2 per cent are admitted to the hospitals," Vijayan told the media. The State health department said Ernakulam district recorded the highest number of fresh cases--2,500, followed by Thiruvananthapuram with 1,961 and Thrissur with 1,801 cases. "Of those found infected today, 110 reached the state from outside while 15,794 contracted the disease from their contact. The source of infection of 692 is yet to be traced and 75 health workers are also among the infected," the health department said in a release. Meanwhile, 14,242 persons recuperated from the disease on Saturday, taking the total cured to 44,23,772. PTI

BALANGA COLLEGE NSS HOLDS BLOOD DONATION CAMP Balanga: The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Balanga College organised a blood donation camp on Friday. College Principal Tapan Kumar Pattanaik inaugurated the camp. Total 31 units of blood were collected by the Bhubaneswar BMC Blood Bank. NSS Coordinator Bhaskar Muduli, Odia department head Ashok Mishra, Education HOD Dr Prados Kumar Pati, Commerce HOD Pravat Kumar Sahoo, college Youth Red Cross Coordinator Nilakantha Mishra and students Biswajit Pradhan, Chintu Baral, Milan Parida and Shrabani Maharana coordinated the programme.

FINANCIAL MGMT WEBINAR HELD AT BALANGA COLLEGE Balanga: A national-level webinar on future of financial management plan was held at the Balanga College on Friday. College Principal Tapan Kumar Pattanaik inaugurated the programme. Sanat Bharawaj, Financial expert of AWOKE India, who was main resource person, spoke about equity bond, debenture mutual fund and past and present financial scenarios. Over 70 students of the college participated in the live webinar. Commerce department head Pravat Kumar Sahoo explained the aim and objects of the webinar. Prof Gautam Mohanty of Business School Forum managed the technical system.

70 BLOOD UNITS COLLECTED AT BARUNESWAR COLLEGE Jajpur: A blood donation camp was held at the Baruneswar Mahabidyalaya under Binjarpur block in Jajpur district on Friday. Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Akshaya Kumar Malik inaugurated the camp, at which 70 units of blood were collected.

Cultivation of seaweed would boost eco, reduce impact of climate crisis, says Union Fisheries Secy

Kochi: Cultivation of seaweed, which is one of the natural methods to mitigate global warming, would help boost the economy and reduce the impact of climate crisis as well, Union Fisheries Secretary Jatindra Nath Swain has said. Speaking at an interactive meeting with scientists of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) held at its Headquarters in Kochi on Friday, Swain said the union government looks forward to developing a sustainable economy through highly prospective seaweed cultivation. PTI

Rajnath calls for united fight against terrorism



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cautioning against terrorism and citing the precedence of violent radical forces trying to gain legitimacy, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the need of the hour for responsible nations is to jointly fight the scourge of terrorism.

In this backdrop, Singh called for proactive synergy among the Armed forces in future military strategies and responses to safeguard the interests of the nation.

The defence minister said the bold approach of the Government on issues like border disputes and cross-border terrorism has made India stronger in the recent past and it has now assumed a greater global role and responsibility.

Making these observations in his address at the National Defence College(NDC) here, Rajnath said the world is witness the destabilising effects of terror and the especially dangerous precedence of violent radical forces attempting to gain legitimacy by creating new normal.

He said, now there is widespread realisation amongst responsible nations to come together against the menace of



terrorism.

Sharing his views on the situation in Afghanistan, Rajnath said the developments have highlighted the reality of our times. “The only certainty about evolving geopolitics is its uncertainty. Changes in state boundaries may not be as frequent today. However, the fast-transforming structure of states and the influence that external powers can have on it is clearly evident,” he said.

The minister emphasised on the need to draw lessons from the situation in Afghanistan, far beyond the immediate reverberations being felt in the region and beyond.

“When these events are viewed, it is tempting to believe that terrorism, fear, medieval thoughts and actions, discrimination drawn on the basis of gender, practices that are seeped in inequality and dogmatic thought, can sweep aside the wishes of the people, plural ideas and inclusive structures.

Nothing can be farther

from reality. And human history is a great teacher in this regard. Injustice, however powerful, cannot and will not defeat the collective power of the goodness that is inherent to human existence. This sentiment is evident from an increasing number of world capitals which have lent their voice in favour of liberalism, inclusivity and respect for international norms of governance and behaviour,” said Rajnath.

He reiterated that India is a peace-loving nation, but will give a befitting reply to anyone who threatens its integrity and sovereignty. “Threats to internal and external security will no longer be tolerated. Our actions in Balakot and Galwan are clear signals to all aggressors,” he said.

The NDC is the highest seat of strategic learning of the country. The prestigious and much sought-after international course at this college provides a trans-disciplinary and comprehensive approach to all aspects of national secu-

HM to hold meet with CMs of 10 naxal-hit States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will review the security situation in Naxal affected areas with Chief Ministers of 10 States on Sunday. Those who have been invited for the day-long physical meeting are the chief ministers of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala.

Majority of the Chief Ministers are attending the review meeting while some States are represented by their Home Ministers, said MHA officials.

The Union Home Minister will review with the CMs the security situation and ongoing operations against the Maoists in the 10 Naxal-hit States.

Another agenda of the meeting is a review of the development works like construction of roads, bridges, schools and health centres being carried out in the Naxal-affected areas.

The top officials from Union Transport and Highways Ministry and



Telecom Ministry will also appraise on the development works in these areas. According to the Union Home Ministry data, Maoist violence has reduced considerably in the country and the menace is prevalent now in just about 45 districts.

However, a total of 90 districts in the country are considered Maoist-affected and are covered under the Security Related Expenditure Scheme of the ministry. Naxal violence, also called Left Wing Extremism (LWE), was reported in 61 districts in 2019 and only about 45 districts in 2020.

About 380 security personnel, 1,000 civilians and 900 Naxals have been killed in different instances of violence in LWE-affected areas from 2015 till 2020.

A total of about 4,200 Naxals have also surrendered during the same period, according to the data.

rity and strategy.

Each course comprises of experienced one star rank and equivalent officers from the Armed Forces, Civil Services and also officers from friend-

ly foreign countries. The one-year course enables the officers to qualify for an M Phil degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from the University of Madras.

Govt committed to strengthening cooperative system: Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after creating the Union Ministry of Cooperation, its Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Centre will soon come out with a new cooperative policy and work in tandem with States to strengthen the cooperative movement to ensure that they play a crucial role in making India a USD 5 trillion economy.

Addressing the ‘National Cooperative Conference’, Shah said, “This is the 75th year of India’s independence, therefore, as a part of the Amrut Mahotsava, we will begin drafting the new cooperative policy.”

The existing National Policy on Cooperatives was introduced by the then NDA Government in March 2002.

The National Cooperative Conference is the biggest event since the formation of the Ministry of Cooperation on July 6 2021. It was organised by various cooperative organisations, including the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), National Cooperative Federation of India, Amul, Sahakar Bharti, NAFED and KRIBHCO.

Sharing plans of his Ministry, Shah also announced that the Centre will soon amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 to facilitate the functioning of the multi-state cooperative societies.

Observing that 63,000



Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) are not sufficient to cater the needs of six lakh villages, Shah said, “We will set a target to establish a PACS in every second village in the coming five years. To increase the number of PACS from 65,000 to 3 lakh, the Ministry of Cooperation will prepare a proper legal framework that will be advisory in nature. We will send it to the State Governments. States can make changes in their laws.”

Shah also sought to dispel apprehensions about the creation of the Ministry of Cooperation.

He said, “Many people say that this is a state subject. I don’t want to get into the Centre-state fight, a legal answer can be given easily. I only want to say that the Ministry of Cooperation, formed under the leadership of Modi ji, is not to fight with anyone but to cooperate with all the states.

“Therefore, there is no need to think whether it is a state subject or a central subject. We can help everyone; we will also help the states. we will

Shah also sought to dispel apprehensions about the creation of the Ministry of Cooperation

take everyone along and will take the movement forward,” he said. Shah, who is also the Union Home Minister, also announced that the number of primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS) will be increased to 3 lakh in the next five years. Shah said that today there is a need to set up a National Cooperative University.

He also said that cooperatives make an important contribution to the country’s development and the cooperative movement has to be taken forward by imbuing the spirit of cooperation in work

The path of development of crores of farmers, the deprived, the Backward, Dalits, the poor, the neglected and women can only take place through cooperation, said the Minister.

ED freezes ₹700 crore shares of KSBL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has frozen shares worth ₹700 crore of Karvy Stock Broking Limited (KSBL) CMD C Parthasarathy and others as part of a money laundering investigation against the firm and its promoters.

Parthasarathy is currently lodged in the Chanchalguda jail of Hyderabad after being arrested by the Telangana Police last month.

On September 22, the ED had conducted searches at six locations in Hyderabad and on various premises of Karvy group of companies, connected entities and the residential premises of C Parthasarathy, the agency said in a statement.

“Several incriminating evidences in the form of property documents, personal diaries, electronic devices, email dumps, etc have been seized and are being analysed,” it said.

“It is reliably learnt that C Parthasarathy is trying to off-load his shares in the group companies through private deals and thus, in order to preserve the proceeds of crime till further investigation, ED has



issued a freezing order on September 24 and the estimated value of these shares has been arrived at ₹700 crore as per the valuation for the year 2019-20,” it said.

These shares of the Karvy group are being held “directly and indirectly” by CMD Comandur Parthasarathy, his sons Rajat Parthasarathy and Adhiraj Parthasarathy, and their entities.

The ED case, filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), is based on a Telangana Police FIR alleging KSBL had “illegally pledged the securities of its clients and taken a loan of Rs 329 crore and diverted the same.”

“Another FIR has been registered by central crime station of Hyderabad Police for defrauding IndusInd Bank to the tune of ₹137 crore and one more FIR has been registered

by Cyberabad Police authorities for defrauding ICICI Bank to the tune of ₹562.5 crore,” it said.

The ED has clubbed all these FIRs as part of its probe and has also recorded the statement of C Parthasarathy in jail.

KSBL under the leadership of C Parthasarathy had committed “gross irregularities” and all the illegally taken loans have become NPA, the agency said.

The total loan proceeds taken from multiple banks using the same modus operandi is around ₹2,873 crore, it said, adding that the NSE and SEBI are also investigating the affairs of KSBL.

Prima facie, the ED said, a net amount of ₹1,096 crore was transferred by KSBL to its group company—Karvy Realty (India) Ltd— between April 1, 2016 and October 19, 2019, it added.

Cong extends support to ‘Bharat Bandh’ call by farmers’ unions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday extended support to the “Bharat Bandh” call given by farmer unions against the Centre’s three agri laws and demanded that discussions be initiated with the protesters.

Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said the Congress and all its workers will support the “peaceful Bharat Bandh on September 27, called by farmer unions and farmers”.

“We demand that the due process of discussion with the farmers should be initiated because they are sitting on the borders of Delhi for last more than nine months. We demand that these three black laws, which were imposed without any consultation, should be taken back,” he said at AICC Press conference.

The Congress leader also demanded that the MSP should be given as a legal right to every farmer “as they do not want only ‘jumlas’ (rhetoric)” and referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s promise to double the farmers’ income by 2022.

Extension of limitation period to file cases ends on Oct 2: SC

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has ordered the extension granted in connection with the limitation period to file cases in courts, in the backdrop of Covid pandemic situation, to end on October 2, 2021.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana and comprising justices L. Nageswara Rao and Surya Kant said: “In computing the period of limitation for any suit, appeal, application or proceeding, the period from March 15, 2020 to October 2, 2021, shall stand excluded. Consequently, the balance period of limitation remaining as on March 15, 2021, if any, shall become available with effect from October 3, 2021”.

The bench added that in cases where the limitation would have expired during the period from March 15, 2020 to October 2, 2021, notwithstanding the actual balance period of limitation remaining, all persons shall have a limitation period of 90 days from October 3, 2021. It further added that in the event the actual balance period of limitation remaining, with effect from October 3, 2021, is greater than 90 days, that longer period shall apply.



BJP president JP Nadda and other party leaders offer tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay on his birth anniversary Agency

IMD warns of low-pressure systems in Bay of Bengal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After what has been an unusually active period of activity in the Bay of Bengal—which saw the formation of as many as six low-pressure systems since the end of August 2021—the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday warned that a low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal, which intensified as a deep depression, will turn into Cyclone Gulab (named by Pakistan) by Sunday evening.

This will be the third cyclone of 2021 after Tauktae and Yaas that had formed in May this year. Odisha, West Bengal and coastal Andhra Pradesh have been put on high alert. The intensification of this system into a cyclonic storm is a highly unusual phenomenon, considering the temperature across the Bay of Bengal remains too low between the monsoon months of June to September to support cyclone formation.

Under the influence of Gulab and its remnant systems, In the wake of the approaching storm, the IMD has forecast light to moderate intensity (2.4mm to 644mm in 24-hours) over West Bengal, Odisha and coastal Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. On Sunday, the Met Office has warned of very heavy to extremely heavy rain (115.6mm to over 204.4mm in 24-hours) over south Odisha, north coastal Andhra Pradesh. Heavy rain is likely over Telangana, north interior Odisha, and Chhattisgarh. Due to rough sea conditions and intense winds, fishermen have been advised against venturing into the sea till Monday.

The National Crisis



Management Committee (NCMC) headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba reviewed the preparedness to deal with a cyclonic storm developing in the Bay of Bengal and directed authorities to take all necessary measures. It is likely to affect districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, and Ganjam and Gajapati in Odisha.

Gauba stressed that all preventive and precautionary measures should be taken by the concerned authorities of the State Governments and concerned agencies of the Centre, before the cyclonic storm makes landfall, as the aim should be to keep loss of lives to near zero and minimize damage to property and infrastructure.

The Cabinet Secretary assured the State Governments that all Central agencies are ready and will be available for assistance. The chief secretaries of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh apprised the NCMC of the preparatory measures being undertaken to protect the population in the expected path of the cyclonic storm as also measures being taken to ensure that there is minimal damage to infrastructure such as telecom and power in the aftermath of the storm.

Like most recent storms that have crossed Indian coasts, this system, too, is rapidly intensifying. In less than 48 hours, it intensified from a low pressure (wind speed less than 34kms/hr) to a deep depression (wind speed 51 to 61kms/hr).

Children less severely impacted by Covid, recover fast, says WHO scientist

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

World Health Organisation (WHO) chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan on Saturday said children have been less severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and their chances of recovery are very good, even as she asserted that the Coronavirus is going to become the next respiratory virus.

She, however, said SARS-CoV2 virus may not disappear, but it is not going to cause the kind of impact and panic it caused over the last two years.

Participating in a virtual session on ‘Priorities after Pandemic; What Young India wants?’- Indian Student Parliament, Swaminathan said the reason why people talk about children being susceptible is because vaccination programmes today in most countries are targeting people above the age of 18 and elderly as they are the most vulnerable.

“When you do that, you are left with younger, and younger people who are unvaccinated. And, therefore, when you have the virus circulating in the community, those people are basically the susceptible population,” she said in response to a question.

In many countries, it is seen that by vaccinating older people, the infection pattern shifts to younger people. “I want to assure you that children on the whole have been less severely impacted by this pandemic. Not that they don’t get infected. Yes, they do get infected as adults but they don’t get severely ill. Clearly, it is an age-related correlation with the severity,” she said.

“Even if they get infected, the chances are that they recover very well,” the WHO chief scientist said. Swaminathan added that many countries have third, fourth and fifth waves and hoped that India will not have a third wave.

Min bats for mandatory screening of infants for various ailments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Concerned at the health status of nine crore Indians who are suffering from various hearing disabilities, Union Minister of State for Health Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar has batted for mandatory screening of infants for various ailments and disabilities.

“While we are celebrating ‘Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav’, we should visit our villages and see if we can help children in screening them for various ailments,” she said, adding that early diagnosis and prevention of disability have huge benefits and prevention is better than cure.

Addressing the International Week of Deaf People 2021 at the Central Health Education Bureau recently, Pawar noted that India has proved to the world that it is a country which can produce its own medicine and can administer 1-2 crore vaccines on a daily basis.

The Directorate General of



Health Services under the Union Health Ministry is commemorating the International Week of the Deaf People (IWDP) 2021 with the theme of “Celebrating Thriving Deaf Communities” through various activities including the involvement of stakeholders.

Underlining the need to revive the old fashion of infant care, Pawar suggested preparing a pocket-book with QR codes having information about early screening and diagnosis of children as well as various

help lines.

“This pocket book can be shared with ASHAs, Aanganwadi workers, and other hospital staff. She also emphasised on the need to create awareness about various government schemes like Ayushman Bharat so that people can get maximum benefits,” she said.

The International Week of the Deaf People (IWDP) is celebrated annually by the global Deaf Community during the last full week of September.

GLOBE TROTTER

8 DEAD IN SOMALIA AS AL-SHABAB CLAIMS BLAST

Mogadishu: A vehicle laden with explosives rammed into cars and trucks at a checkpoint leading to the entrance of the Presidential Palace in Somalia, killing at least eight people, police said on Saturday. The checkpoint is the one used by Somalia's president and Prime Minister on their way to and from the airport in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu.

US TO CELEBRATE OCT AS HINDU HERITAGE MONTH

Houston: Several US states, including Texas, Florida, New Jersey, Ohio and Massachusetts, have proclaimed October as the Hindu Heritage Month, noting that Hinduism has "contributed greatly" to America through its unique history and heritage.

ICELANDERS VOTE IN VOLATILE ELECTION

Reykjavik (Iceland): Icelanders were voting Saturday in a general election dominated by climate change, with an unprecedented number of political parties likely to win parliamentary seats. Polls suggest there won't be an outright winner, triggering complex negotiations.

EU WARNS RUSSIA OVER CYBERATTACKS

Brussels: The European Union on Friday warned Russia against allowing hackers to attack data bases or spread disinformation in some of the 27 member countries just as Germans were preparing to go the polls for weekend parliamentary elections.

Under Taliban, thriving Afghan music scene heads to silence

AP ■ KABUL

A month after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, the music is going quiet. The last time the militant group ruled the country, in the late 1990s, it outright banned music.

So far this time, the government set up by the Taliban hasn't taken that step officially. But already, musicians are afraid a ban will come, and some Taliban fighters on the ground have started enforcing rules on their own, harassing musicians and music venues.

Many wedding halls are limiting music at their gatherings. Musicians are afraid to perform. At least one reported that Taliban fighters at one of the many checkpoints around the capital smashed his instrument. Drivers silence their radios whenever they see a Taliban checkpoint.

In the alleys of Kharabat, a neighbourhood in Kabul's Old City, families where music is a profession passed through generations are looking for ways to leave the country.

The profession was already hit hard by Afghanistan's foundering economy, along with the coronavirus pandemic, and some families now too fearful to work are selling off furniture to get by.



"The current situation is oppressive," said Muzafar Bakhsh, a 21-year-old who played in a wedding band. His family had just sold off part of its belongings at Kabul's new flea market, Chaman-e-Hozari.

"We keep selling them ... so we don't die of starvation," said Bakhsh, whose late grandfather was Ustad Rahim Bakhsh, a famous ustad — or maestro — of Afghan classical music.

Afghanistan has a strong musical tradition, influenced by Iranian and Indian classical music. It also has a thriving pop

music scene, adding electronic instruments and dance beats to more traditional rhythms. Both have flourished in the past 20 years.

Asked whether the Taliban government will ban music again, spokesman Bilal Karimi told *The Associated Press*, "Right now, it is under review and when a final decision is made, the Islamic Emirate will announce it."

But music venues are already feeling the pressure since the Taliban swept into Kabul on August 15.

Wedding halls are usually scene to large gatherings with

music and dancing, most often segregated between men's and women's sections.

At three halls visited by the AP, staff said the same thing. Taliban fighters often show up, and although so far they haven't objected to music, their presence is intimidating.

Musicians refuse to show up. In the male sections of weddings, the halls no longer have live music or DJs. In the women's section — where the Taliban fighters have less access — female DJs sometimes still play.

Some karaoke parlors have closed. Others still open face harassment. One parlour visited by the AP stopped karaoke but stayed open, serving water-pipes and playing recorded music.

Last week, Taliban fighters showed up, broke an accordion and tore down signs and stickers referring to music or karaoke. A few days later, they returned and told the customers to leave immediately.

Many musicians are applying for visas abroad.

In the family home of another ustad in Kharabat, everyone's go-bag is packed, ready to leave when they can. In one room, a group of musicians was gathered on a recent day, drinking tea and discussing the situation.

Roadside bomb hits Taliban car At least one person injured

AP ■ KABUL

A Taliban official says a roadside bomb has hit a Taliban car in the capital of eastern Nangarhar province wounding at least one person.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing Saturday. The Islamic State group affiliate, which is headquartered in eastern Afghanistan, has said it was behind similar attacks in Jalalabad last week that killed 12 people.

Taliban spokesperson Mohammad Hanif said the person wounded in the attack is a municipal worker.

An official at Nangarhar provincial hospital said the bomb killed a Taliban militant and wounded seven others, including four civilians. He spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not allowed to speak to media.

The Taliban have battled with IS since its emergence in Afghanistan in 2014. The burgeoning IS affiliate has claimed responsibility for most recent attacks, including the horrific bombing outside the Kabul airport that killed 13 US service personnel and 169 Afghans during last month's chaotic evacuations.

Minister: Iran will return to nuclear talks 'very soon'



In this photo provided by the United Nations, United Nations General Assembly President Abdulla Shahid of Maldives, right, meets with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, during 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Thursday at UN headquarters

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Iran's new Foreign Minister said on Friday the country will return to nuclear negotiations "very soon," but accused the Biden administration of sending contradictory messages — saying it wants to rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal while slapping new sanctions on Tehran and not taking "an iota of positive action."

Hossain Amir Abdollah said the Government, which took power last month, believes that President Joe Biden "keeps carrying close to his heart the thick file of the Trump sanctions against Iran, even while seemingly pursuing negotiations."

Former President Donald Trump routinely denounced the nuclear accord as the "worst deal ever negotiated" and withdrew from the agreement in 2018 after an ill-fated attempt to bring the other parties — Britain, France, Russia, China, Germany and Iran — on board with additional restrictions. After withdrawing, Trump embarked on what he called a "maximum pressure campaign" against Iran, re-imposing all the US sanctions that had been eased under the deal and adding penalties.

In a media briefing on Iran's new foreign policy, Amir Abdollah was very skeptical about the Biden administration's real intentions, stressing that actions are more important than "empty but beautiful words" and so is "the commitment" and "behavior" of the United States toward Iran.

Iran's top diplomat sharply criticised additional sanctions imposed by the Biden administration, as well as its refusal to give a green light for Iran to access millions of dollars of its money frozen in South Korea and Japanese banks to buy Covid-19 vaccines and medicine, and suddenly asking Britain to stop payment of 42-year-old debts.

While "standing up new sanctions against Iran," he said, the United States can't keep speaking of returning to the nuclear deal, even holding bilateral talks with Iran, and criticizing Trump policies. This includes telling Iran — through diplomatic channels — that Biden wouldn't have ordered the US airstrike that Trump did in January 2020 which killed Iran's top general, Qassem Soleimani.

Recalling that Iranians have a long, rich history and ancient civilization behind them, Amir Abdollah said "the United States of America must speak with a civilised tone and tongue with the people of Iran, not the language of threats, of pressure and sanctions." The past 42 years, since the Iranian revolution, have "made clear the language of threats will not work against the great people of Iran."

Biden and his team have made a US return to the deal one of their top foreign policy priorities. The deal was one of President Barack Obama's signature achievements, one that aides now serving in the Biden administration had helped negotiate and that Trump tried to dismantle.

Haiti's leader: Migration won't end unless inequality does

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Amid an outcry over the US treatment of Haitian asylum-seekers, the beleaguered island country's embattled Prime Minister pointedly said that inequalities and conflict drive migration, but he stopped short of directly criticising Washington over the issue.

"We do not wish to challenge the right of a sovereign state to control the entry borders into its territory, or to send back to the country of origin those who enter a country illegally," Prime Minister Ariel Henry said in a video speech to the UN General Assembly's annual meeting of world leaders.

But "human beings, fathers and mothers who have children, are always going to flee poverty and conflict," he added. "Migration will continue as long as the planet has both wealthy areas, whilst most of the world's population lives in poverty, even extreme poverty, without any prospects of a better life."

Moreover, "we believe that many countries which are prosperous today have been built through successive waves of migrants and refugees," he added.

Ariel spoke as his country reels from its president's assassination, an earthquake and the migration crisis — all in the last three months. And Ariel's government is facing increasing turmoil with presidential and legislative elections set for November. 7.

Ariel came under scrutiny by Haiti's now-former chief prosecutor, who asked a judge this month to charge the Prime Minister in President President Jovenel Moise's July 7 assassination. The prosecutor said Henry spoke to a key suspect twice in the hours after the killing.

Henry — who says he is striving to bring the culprits to justice, fired the prosecutor and the justice minister last week. Another top official resigned, accusing the Prime Minister of trying to obstruct justice.

Bodies of 9 suspected migrants found in Panama

AP ■ PANAMA CITY

Nine bodies of suspected migrants have been found near a remote community in the Panamanian jungle close to the border with Colombia, local prosecutors said on Friday.

The bodies, including one child, were found near the Tuqueza and Canaán Membrillo rivers in the Emberá Wounaan indigenous region, according to the Darien province prosecutor's office.

Chief prosecutor Julio Vergara said he believes they may be immigrants because a Haitian woman told authorities that on the Tuqueza river heavy rains had produced high waters that had swept away about nine people, who had remained missing. The recovered bodies did not have identification documents, the office said in a statement. It added that so far this year, the bodies of 41 migrants had been found along rivers in the jungle spanning the dangerous Darien Gap that connects Colombia and Panama.

Huawei executive returns as China releases 2 Canadians

Shenzhen: An executive of Chinese global communications giant Huawei Technologies returned from Canada on Saturday night following a legal settlement that also saw the release of two Canadians held by China, potentially bringing closure to a nearly 3-year-long feud embroiling Ottawa, Beijing and Washington.

Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer and the daughter of the company's founder, arrived on Saturday evening aboard a chartered jet provided by flag carrier Air China in the southern technology hub of Shenzhen.

Her return, met with a flag-waving group of airline employees, was carried live on state TV, underscoring the degree to which Beijing has linked her case with Chinese nationalism and its rise as a global economic and political power. Wearing a red dress matching the color of China's flag, Meng thanked the ruling Communist Party and its leader Xi Jinping for supporting her through more than 1,000 days in house arrest in Vancouver, where she owns two multimillion dollar mansions. **AP**

Under China pressure, Taiwan Opposition chooses new leader

AP ■ TAIPEI, TAIWAN

Taiwan's main Opposition Nationalist Party chose former leader Eric Chu as its new chairperson on Saturday in an election overshadowed by increasing pressure from neighbor China.

Four candidates, including incumbent chair Johnny Chiang, had competed for the leadership of the party that has advocated closer relations with Beijing. That means agreeing to Beijing's demand that it regard Taiwan as a part of China, something Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party has refused to do.

China has threatened to use force to bring Taiwan under its control and has increasingly mobilized military, diplomatic and economic pressure in an attempt to undermine the administration of President Tsai Ing-wen and sway opinion among the Taiwanese people, who strongly favor the status quo of de-facto independence. Mindful of public senti-

ments, the Nationalists have advocated a less acrimonious relationship with China, rather than direct moves toward unification between the sides, which are bound by close economic, linguistic and cultural ties.

Chu ran and lost in a landslide against Tsai in 2016, prior to which he had served as party chair and head of the region just outside the capital Taipei.

He may emerge as the party's candidate in the next presidential election in 2024, although that selection process has yet to begin. Tsai is constitutionally barred from running for a third term.

Under Chiang Kai-shek, the Nationalists rose to power in China during the 1920s and led the struggle against Japanese invaders until the end of World War II. Chiang relocated the government, still officially known as the Republic of China, to Taiwan in 1949 as Mao Zedong's Communists swept to power on mainland China.

Biden risks losing support from Democrats amid DC gridlock

AP ■ NEW YORK

President Joe Biden is losing support among critical groups in his political base as some of his core campaign promises falter, raising concerns among Democrats that the voters who put him in office may feel less enthusiastic about returning to the polls in next year's midterm elections.

In just the past week, the push to change the nation's immigration laws and create a path to citizenship for young

immigrants brought illegally to the country as children faced a serious setback on Capitol Hill. Bipartisan negotiations to overhaul policing collapsed and searing images of Haitian refugees being mistreated at the U.S.-Mexico border undermined Biden's pledge of humane treatment for those seeking to enter the United States.

Taken together, the developments threaten to disillusion African Americans, Latinos, young people and independents, all of whom played a

vital role in building a coalition that gave Democrats control of Congress and the White House last year. That's creating a sense of urgency to broker some type of agreement between the party's progressive and moderate wings to move forward with a \$3.5 trillion package that would fundamentally reshape the nation's social programs.

Failure to do so, party strategists warn, could devastate Democrats in the 2022 vote and raise questions about Biden's path to reelection if he decides to seek a second term.

Volcanic ash cloud closes La Palma airport

Madrid: The airport on the Spanish island of La Palma shut down on Saturday because of an ash cloud spewing out of a volcano that has been erupting for a week, and scientists said another volcanic vent opened up, exposing islanders to possible new dangers.

The intensity of the eruption that began Sept. 19 has increased in recent days, prompting the evacuation of three additional villages on the island, part of Spain's Canary Islands archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean off north-west Africa. Almost 7,000 people have been forced to abandon



their homes. The recent volcanic eruption is the first since 1971 on La Palma, which has a population of 85,000. **AP**



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Letter No. : 4377/ 41M 2/2020-21 Dated : 25/09/2021

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)

Superintending Engineer, 2nd Circle, Public Works Department Nainital on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites item rate e-tender (two bid system). For the following work in the anticipation for sanction of work. For further details please log on to <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 07.10.2021

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lakh Rs)	Cost of Tender	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Construction of Heliport work near Khurpatal in Vikaskhand Bhimtal, District Nainital under RCS (Udaan-2) Scheme. (Civil Work)	8.20	5000.00 + 18% GST	120 Days	8 Month	Category A/A+ for Building work in any state/ Govt. of India/ or Govt. undertaking.



Office of the Superintending Engineer
1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora
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Letter No. : 7449/ Nivida-01/2021 Dated : 24/09/2021

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)

Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE

The superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) in anticipation of Sanction on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 05/10/2021 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	Development of Existing Helipad to Heliport at Falsima - Tattrick Near District Head Quarter Almora Under RCS (Udan-2) Scheme.	5000.00 + 18% GST	4.25 Lakh	120 Days	6 Months	Category "A" & above in Building works



ICICI Bank

Whereas

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

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken 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.

Date : September 24, 2021
Place: Delhi/NCR

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

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.	Mugis Uddin Ahmad/ Shamim Fatima/ LBAL100001535664	Plot Pertaining To Khasra No. 172/1/2, 172/1/3/1 & 174/2/1/1, Doodhpur Mafi, Pargana & Tehsil Koil, Aligarh Uttar Pradesh/ September 21, 2021	June 19, 2021 Rs. 9,45,730/-	Aligarh/ Gurgaon/ Delhi
2.	Mugis Uddin Ahmad/ Fija Khan/ LBAL100002422767/ LBAL100003111979	Plot Pertaining To Khasra No. 172/1/2, 172/1/3/1 & 174/2/1/1, Doodhpur Mafi, Pargana & Tehsil Koil, Aligarh Uttar Pradesh/ September 21, 2021	June 19, 2021 Rs. 31,44,476/-	Aligarh/ Gurgaon/ Delhi

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.

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited



OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYPAL NIGAM
COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT. UDHAM SINGH NAGAR

Ref no. 1296/Nivida/184 E-Tender Notice Date: 25.09.2021

1. Name of the work- CONSTRUCTION OF REMAINING WORKS OF GOVT. BAL SAMPREKSHAN GRIHAT RUDRAPUR (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR).

2. Estimated Cost - Rs. 74.68 Lakh

3. Period of Completion:- 04 Month

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 25.09.2021 (17.00 hrs)

5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal:- 16.10.2021 (17.00 hrs)

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 19.10.2021 (11.00 hrs)

7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- Er. A.K. Tyagi, Project Manager, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udham Singh Nagar).

8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 04.10.2021 (11.00 hrs) Rudrapur

9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

Project Manager



JODHPUR BUS SERVICE LIMITED
Regd Office : Jodhpur Municipal Corporation Building Inside Polytechnic College, Gaurav Path, JODHPUR - 342001, RAJASTHAN, INDIA E-mail : jbsjodhpur@gmail.com CIM : U60210RJ2015SGC047304 I PAN : AACD/J4850D

Ref No. JBSL - 2021-22/65 Date : 15.09.2021

ONLINE NOTICE INVITING BIDS
UBN DLB2122RFP0039

Jodhpur Bus Services Ltd. invites online unconditional bids under Single stage Two Envelope System through e-procurement portal <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> from eligible/experienced bidders as per criteria mentioned in bid document, for "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Operation, Maintenance and Revenue Collection of City Bus Services in Jodhpur City under JBSL." Bids are to be submitted duly digitally signed in electronic format only on website <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>. The bid document is available for downloading on website <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in and www.mjnorth.raj.nic.in from 20.09.2021 at 6:00 P.M. and the last date and time of online submission of bid is 20.10.2021 upto 02:00 P.M.

Director JBSL & Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Jodhpur North

Raj./Sanwad/C/6521/2021-22

GST REFUND

Aadhaar authentication mandatory for taxpayers



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has made Aadhaar authentication of taxpayers mandatory for claiming GST refund. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has amended GST rules bringing in various anti-evasion measures, including disbursement of GST refunds only in the bank account, which is linked with same PAN on which Goods and Services Tax (GST) registration has been

obtained.

The notification also states that from January 1, 2022, businesses who have defaulted in filing summary return and paying monthly GST will not be able to file GSTR-1 sales return of the succeeding month. The notification follows the decisions taken at the meeting of the GST Council in Lucknow on September 17. AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said, "To arrest tax evasion, the

government has made Aadhaar authentication for proprietor, partner, karta, Managing Director, whole time Director, and authorised signatory compulsory before filing an application for revocation of cancellation registration and refund application." EY Tax Partner Abhishek Jain said with the objective of preventing revenue leakage, the government has made Aadhaar authentication mandatory for a taxpayer to be able to claim refunds. "The move will help in reducing cases of fraudulent refunds as only the verified taxpayers will obtain the refunds now," Jain added. With regard to taxpayers not bringing able to file their GSTR-1 if they have not filed their GSTR-3B of the previous month, Jain said this is a well thought restriction and a necessary control check to eliminate the cases

where taxpayers although report their supply invoices in GSTR-1 (due to constant follow ups from recipients' side) but they do not submit their corresponding GSTR-3B return through which tax is actually paid to the government. "Compliant taxpayers would appreciate this move as till now their input tax credit was also at risk in case vendors do not file their GSTR-3B even though such invoice is appearing in GSTR-2A," Jain added. 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. While businesses file GSTR-1 of a particular month by the 11th day of the subsequent month, GSTR-3B, through which businesses pay taxes, is filed in a staggered manner between 20th-24th day of the succeeding month.

CBIC extends re-export timeline for imported containers by 3 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To address the problem of shortage of containers for exports, the tax department has decided to give three more months for the re-export of imported vessels lying at domestic ports, according to an official circular. Currently, duty-free imports of containers are allowed with the condition of re-export in the next six months. However, keeping containers beyond six months is considered as deemed import and thus import duty is levied,

a policy aimed at ensuring faster turnaround of containers. To avoid such import duties, shipping lines export empty containers to evade duty payment on containers which are lying empty. However, such practices are aggravating the problem of shortage of containers for exports. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on Saturday asked its field officers to give three months more time for the re-export of imported containers lying at domestic ports.

Govt to focus on digitisation of 98,000 agri cooperatives for digital lending

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will focus on digitisation and modernisation of about 98,000 primary agriculture cooperatives (PACs) to ensure digital lending, said Devendra Kumar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, on Saturday. He was speaking at the first 'Sehkarita Sammelan' or National Cooperative Conference here. In the Union Budget 2021, the government had announced setting up of Ministry of Cooperation. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been given the additional charge of the ministry. Kumar said the government will also take steps to popularise the cooperative movement and quality products manufactured by cooperatives in the international market. The priority will be on "ease of doing business" in



cooperatives, the secretary said and added the cooperative manpower will be trained to bring professionalism. He applauded the contribution of cooperative bodies like IFFCO, KRIBHCO, Amul in strengthening the cooperative movement and achieving milestones. The conference at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium is being organised by cooperative bodies like, IFFCO, National Cooperative Federation of India, Amul, Sahakar Bharti, NAFED, and KRIBHCO.

Tourism sector heading for a comeback riding on large-scale vaccinations, new norms: Industry body

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the help of large-scale vaccination programmes and new norms rolling out, the tourism sector is inching its way back to recovery, and restart of tourism will help kick-start recovery and growth, the Confederation of Hospitality, Technology and Tourism Industry said on Saturday. It is also essential that the benefits this will bring are enjoyed widely and fairly, the industry body said in a statement. "The travel sector, especially domestic travel, appears to be heading for a comeback. Indian travellers are looking for quick getaways through road trips, weekend breaks and staycations that offer local stay experiences," Airbnb India, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and Taiwan General Manager, Amanpreet Bajaj said.

Travellers are also becoming increasingly aware of sustainable travel and are making environment-friendly choices when travelling, he added. "The pandemic has helped promote environmental awareness amongst travellers and today, it's encouraging to see people actively seeking sustainable travel choices," MakeMyTrip Co-Founder & Group CEO Rajesh Magow said. In a similar vein, EaseMyTrip CEO and Co-Founder Nishant Pitti said, "We have noticed that Indian travellers have started making more sustainable travel decisions as the pandemic has made everyone think about the kind of impact they are creating while travelling." They are now more aware of their choices as they reevaluate their plans keeping sustainability in mind, he added.

Centre to soon announce new cooperative policy: Amit Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that cooperatives will also play a crucial role in making India a USD 5 trillion economy, Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the Centre will soon come out with a new cooperative policy and work in tandem with states to strengthen the cooperative movement. Shah, who is also the Union Home Minister, also announced that the number of primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACs) will be increased to 3 lakh in the next five years. At present, there are about active 65,000 PACs. Further, the Government is working on setting up cooperative common service centres,



national database besides a national cooperative university, he added. Shah was speaking at the first Sehkarita Sammelan or National Cooperative Conference. The Ministry of Cooperation was formed in July this year. Addressing the gathering comprising over 2,100 representatives of different cooperatives and nearly 6 crore online participants, Shah said some people wonder why the Centre created this new ministry as the cooperative is a state subject. Shah said there could be a legal response to it, but he does not want to "get into this argument" to make it centre versus states.

Import duty norm relaxed to improve containers availability

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has relaxed import duty norm on empty export cargo containers to improve their availability. At present, keeping containers beyond a period of six months attracts an import duty. The policy was designed to discourage long dwell time of containers and to promote faster turnaround. However, an official communique, cited that the policy has been reported to "sometimes create perverse incentive among shipping lines to export empty containers to evade duty payment on containers which are lying empty". As per the communique, the problem was brought out in



stakeholder consultations held by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. "Working on one of the action tracks identified by the government to ease the problem, the CBIC has issued a guidance to field offices to extend this period by three months where the container is being taken out of the country

in laden condition provided the 6 month period falls before the end of FY22." "Extension is to be sought by the concerned importer." Accordingly, the move is expected to reduce the export of empty containers from the country on ground of imposition of import duty, thus, "increasing the availability of containers for the trade".

Semiconductor shortage to further impact PV sales in Sep

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Semiconductor supply shortage is expected to further impact passenger vehicles (PVs) sale volumes in September. Lately, a global supply chain shortage of semiconductors have badly impacted automobile production. The electronic component is used in variety of functions which play a critical part in the production of internal combustion engines. Besides, they are an integral part of all kinds of sensors and controls in any vehicle. At present, these shortages have forced several OEMs to slow down production, thus, further extending the waiting periods of popular, feature-rich and high-end models. According to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) report, the semiconductor shortage will further impact PV volumes in September. Furthermore, it said that '2W' volumes may remain tepid in September, although sequential recovery is expected to continue in 2HFY22, aided by demand coming from the reopening of educational institutes and offices.

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INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
E-TENDER NO. 2021RSI8741TC
Director, Railways Stores (W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 1,45,532 Nos. Low Torque Grease Seal to RDSO Specification No. WD-63-Misc-2020 of Oct 2020 or latest amendments, if any for AAR Standard Upgraded Class 'E' (6" x 11") Cartridge Tapered Roller bearings used in freight stock.
2.0 The Interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://lreps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.
3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.
4.0 Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 28.10.2021.
Director, Railway Stores (W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi. for and on behalf of the President of India.
2144/2021
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Reliance Infra to raise ₹750 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Infrastructure on Saturday said its board has approved raising up to ₹750 crore by issuing foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCBs) on a private placement basis. Reliance Infrastructure in a BSE filing also said that Sandeep Khosla has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the company. "We hereby inform you that the Board of Directors of the Company has authorised the issue of up to USD 100,000,000 unsecured foreign currency convertible bonds maturing in 2031 (FCCBs) with a coupon rate of 4.5 per cent on private placement basis. "The FCCBs shall be convertible into equity shares of ₹10.00 each of the Company in accordance with the terms of the FCCBs, at a price of ₹111 (including a premium of ₹101) per equity share," it said. The company will issue bonds within 30 days from the Issue closing date and the decision was taken by the board in a meeting on Saturday.

₹300cr undisclosed income detected by I-T at financing syndicates

FIANS ■ CHENNAI

The Income Tax (IT) Department has detected ₹300 crore of undisclosed income and seized ₹9 crore unaccounted cash during its search and seizure operation on two private syndicate financing groups here. The IT officials carried out their search and seizure operation at 35 premises on 23.9.2021. According to IT Department, the searches, so far, have resulted in the detection of undisclosed income of more than ₹300 crore. Unaccounted cash of ₹9 crore has been seized so far. The evidence found in the premises of the financiers and their associates revealed that these groups have lent to various big corporate houses and businesses in Tamil Nadu, a substantial portion of which is in cash, the IT Department said on Saturday. During the search, it was detected that they are charging high rate of interest, a part of which is not offered to tax.

Seaweed farming will help boost economy, reduce climate impact

FIANS ■ KOCHI

The Central Government is looking forward to developing a sustainable economy through highly prospective seaweed cultivation, said a top Central Government official, on Saturday. Fisheries Union Secretary Jatindra Nath Swain said that at a time when climate change is increasingly posing a major threat to human life across the globe, cultivating seaweed, which is one of the natural methods to mitigate the global crisis, would help boost the economy and reduce the impact of climate crisis. He said this while speaking at an interactive meeting with scientists of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), here. "The CMFRI should set up a seed bank of seaweeds to popularise the practice among the coastal region as it would be an additional livelihood option as seaweed farming will play a major role in the socio-economic upliftment of traditional fishermen during this difficult time," said Swain. He further pointed out



that the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has a special thrust for promotion of the seaweed farming. And on the ambitious plan in the marine fisheries sector, he said that India is eyeing doubling the seafood export in the next five years. "We are hopeful of achieving this target by exploring innovative ways to increase the production that will certainly upscale the country's per capita income. Technological development is crucial in this regard especially for areas such as seed production and other hatchery infrastructure for diversified mariculture activities," said Swain.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Name : Nazreen, **Husband's Name :** Kadir, **Age :** 22 years, **Height :** 5', **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Shallow, **Built :** Medium, **Wearing :** Grey Colour Sarara and Chappal in feet.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.
SHO P.S., Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22137761
8750870730
General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely Nazreen W/o Kadir R/o H.No. E-1/476, Nand Nagri, Delhi has been missing from her house since 25.08.2021. In this regard a DD No. 58-A, dated 26.08.2021 has been lodged at PS, Nand Nagri, Delhi. The description of missing lady is as under:

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE
The Executive Engineer, CD-I, Irrigation & Flood Control Department; GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi- 110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works:-

- NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/40 (ID No. 2021_IFC_208623_1) H.O.A:- 4217- Plan (MLALAD), **Name of Work:- Providing and fixing S.S. Dust bin and Blue & Green Plastic Dust bin at various locations in Bijwasan Constituency AC-36. E.C. Rs. 39,99,582/-** period of Completion 45 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 01.10.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M respectively.)
- NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/41 (ID No. 2021_IFC_208824_1)H.O.A:- 4217-Plan (MLALAD), **Name of Work:- Providing and installation of 40 Nos. Automatic Boom Barrier at various locations in Vikas Puri Assembly Constituency.(AC-31). E.C. Rs. 57,27,200/-** period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 01.10.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M respectively.)
- NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/42 (ID No. 2021_IFC_208625_1) H.O.A:- 4217-Plan (MLALAD), **Name of Work:- Providing and installing of 50 Nos. electromechanical swing type barricade/Automatic boom barriers at various locations in Bijwasan Constituency AC-36. E.C. Rs. 71,59,000/-** period of Completion 45 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 01.10.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M respectively.)
- NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2021-22/43 (ID No. 2021_IFC_208628_1) H.O.A:- 2217-Plan (MLALAD), **Name of Work:- Installation of Swings with Play Staion in the C5A, C2, A2 , A-1 and C-4 Block Janak Puri Assembly Constituency AC-30. E.C. Rs. 69,27,130/-** period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 01.10.2021 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M respectively.)

Note :- 1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
2. Amendment(s)/ alteration(s) / corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.

sd/-
Executive Engineer
Civil Division-I
Irr. & Flood Control Deptt.,
Govt. of NCT of Delhi

DIP/Shabdarth/0327/21-22

Office of the Superintending Engineer
3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh
Email: sepwdpth@rediffmail.com
Letter No. : 6304/984C-03/2021 Dated : 25/09/2021
National Competitive Bidding (E-tendering)
Short Term E-Tender Notice
The Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from date 27/09/2021 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Validity of Tender	Period of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Renewal work with SBDC of pithoragarh Jhulaghat motor road in km 6,7,8,13 to 16 and 19 to 22 under Annual Maintenance (Length 11.00 km)	4.00	5000.00 + 18% GST	45 Days	6 Month	Category 'A' and above for Road works in any State Govt./ Govt. of India/Govt. Undertaking

Wildlife Board clears PMGSY road projects in border areas

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has given clearance for the completion of a road construction project under the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) from Kirchi to Seoj Dhar in Udhampur district of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. This development project will benefit 661 people living here. A small cluster amid the hills surrounded by forests, including a wildlife sanctuary, Seoj Dhar has had no all-weather road and was included in the latest phase of the PMGSY. The only problem was that some stretches of the 31.05-km road, taking off at Kirchi village, were to pass through forest/wildlife areas. "Forest/wildlife cannot be avoided as the alignment proposed is the only feasible vital connectivity to the villages," said the 'Justification letter for forest/wildlife and diversion' when the proposal was sent for clearance from the NBWL as nearly 7 hectare of Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary was needed for the road.

OSTRAVA OPEN: SANIA MIRZA IN DOUBLES FINAL

IAN S ■ OSTRAVA

Sania Mirza and her Chinese partner Zhang Shuai stormed into the women's doubles final at the Ostrava Open WTA tennis championship, beating Japan's Eri Hozumi and Makoto Ninomiya in straight sets on Saturday.

Sania-Zhang, seeded second here, defeated the Japanese pair 6-2, 7-5 in an hour and 20 minutes and await the winner of the other semi-final between Pola'd's Magda Linette and Bernarda Pera of the USA, the top seeds, and the American-Kiwi team of Kaitlyn Christian and Rina Routliffe.

Sania and Zhang had reached the semi-finals by beating Anna Danilina of Kazakhstan and Lidziya Marozava of Belarus 6-3, 2-6 10-6.

In the semi-final clash, Sania and Zhang opened up a 4-0 lead and though they were broken in the fifth game, the Indo-Chinese pair maintained their serve after that as they won the set 6-2. The

Indo-Chinese pair converted all three break points while saving two of the three on their serve. They managed to put in 72.7 per cent of their serves while their rivals could only manage 58.3 per cent.

The Japanese pair put up a better fight in the second set as they surged ahead by breaking the service of the Indo-Chinese pair in the fifth game.

However, Eri Hozumi and Makoto Ninomiya surrendered their lead in the 10th game. Sania Mirza and Zhang Shuai took off from there to wrap up the match in straight sets.

Sania will be playing her second final of the season. Earlier, she had lost in the title match at Cleveland Championships last month with American Christina Mchale of the USA.

Sania and Zhang converted two of the six break points they earned while their rivals could convert only one of the two they had. They put in 73.5 percent first serve and had an ace while their rivals served two double faults,



New-look Indian team ready for Sudirman Cup challenge

PTI ■ VANTAA

An Indian team which is a nice little blend of youth and experience, will have to punch above its weight in what's going to be an arduous challenge in the Sudirman Cup mixed team championships here on Sunday.

India have been drawn in Group A alongside defending champions China, three-time semi-finalists Thailand and hosts Finland in the BWF tournament, which comprises two singles and three doubles matches in a tie.

With many of its star shuttlers missing, India team will have task cut out when it starts campaign against Thailand in the prestigious World Mixed Team Championship. With double

Olympic medallist and reigning world champion P V Sindhu excusing herself following a hectic Olympic campaign and former world no 1 Saina Nehwal also giving it a miss, the onus will be on the young shoulders of Malvika Bansod and Aditi Bhatt in women's singles.

In men's doubles, world no 10 Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy too withdrew at the last moment after the former suffered from muscle pull (Abs) and was advised a week's rest. In their absence, young Dhruv Kapila and MR Arjun will have to deliver the goods in men's doubles.

India, however, do have plenty of experience in men's singles and women's doubles with B Sai Praneeth, Kidambi Srikanth and



the pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy in the team.

First up for India will be

Thailand, who have reached the semifinals thrice — 2013, 2017 and 2019.

With 2013 World Champion Ratchanok Intanon withdrawing, the 17-member Thailand squad will be led by Asian Games (women's team) bronze medallist and world no 10 Pornpawee Chochuwong and world no 13 Busanan Ongbamrunphan in women's singles, while world no 18 Kantaphon Wangcharoen will be the top player in men's singles.

India will also have to get the better of World no 8 women's pair of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai, world no 3 Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattana Chai in mixed doubles among others.

After Thailand, India will

face China on September 27 and Finland on September 29.

China have won the title 11 times in the past, and has named a formidable team, including Olympic champion Chen Yufei and former All England champion Shi Yu Qi, for the event.

World no 21 men's doubles pair of He Ji Ting and Tan Qiang has also been named in the squad, which also comprises Lu Guang Zu, Li Shi Feng, He Bing Jiao, Wang Zhi Yi, Liu Cheng and Feng Yang Zhe. The third and final team in the group stage will be hosts Finland who have never never qualified for the knockout stage at the mixed team championships. The top two teams from each group progress to the knockout round (quarterfinals).

Young US team puts Europe in its biggest hole at Ryder Cup



Team USA's Xander Schauffele and Dustin Johnson fist bump during the opening session of the Ryder Cup, at Whistling Straits, in Sheboygan

AP ■ SHEBOGYAN

The Americans haven't opened with a lead this large in the Ryder Cup since Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino were playing, and before Tiger Woods was even born.

That didn't seem to be big enough to satisfy US captain Steve Stricker.

Dustin Johnson and Xander Schauffele each won two matches, Bryson DeChambeau smashed a drive that had everyone talking and the Americans were relentless Friday at Whistling Straits in losing only one match to build a 6-2 lead.

"It's a great start. We are happy with the start," Stricker said.

"But my message to the guys is tomorrow is a new day. Pretend today never happened, and let's keep our foot down and continue to play the golf that we know we can play."

Oh, how Europe would like to forget this day ever happened. Rory McIlroy never made it to the 16th hole in losing both his matches on the opening day for the first time. The lone bright spot was Jon Rahm, living up his No. 1 ranking by winning in foursomes with Sergio Garcia and keeping Europe in a tight fourballs match long enough for Tyrrell Hatton to birdie the last hole to at least salvage a half-point.

Europe has never trailed by four points after the first day since the Ryder Cup was expanded to include the continent in 1979, the modern era of these matches that Europe now dominates.

Go back to 1975 to find the last time the U.S. Had a four-point lead in the Ryder Cup. "No doubt, it was a tough day," European skipper Padraig Harrington said, attributing the difference to a putt here, there and pretty much everywhere.

"There's obviously still 20 points to

play for." Suddenly, though, there seems to be a sense of urgency. The Americans were delivering big moments and the big smiles, waving up hands to get the one-sided gallery to cheer even louder, cupping hands to their ears to urge them along.

They are looking for a fresh start after a quarter-century of losing, and its youngest team in history took a big step to creating their own memories.

"They fought hard every single shot out there, from what I saw," DeChambeau said after he and Scottie Scheffler earned a halve in fourballs.

"This is a great start, but the job's not over. We have two more days. A lot more golf. And we cannot lose our mindset to win."

The first point of the 43rd Ryder Cup, postponed one year by the pandemic, went to Europe and its new "Spanish Armada" of Rahm and Garcia.

The final match ended in a halve when Justin Thomas delivered a late eagle putt that allowed him and Patrick Cantlay to come all the way back from a 3-down deficit.

Through the morning chill, the mid-day warmth, a ferocious wind in the afternoon and even a little rain, the one constant was American red scores filling the boards across Whistling Straits.

"We can come back from 6-2," said

McIlroy, trying to summon calm and confidence after losing both matches.

Europe will have to do it without him. McIlroy is not part of the foursomes lineup Saturday morning, the first time he has sat in a Ryder Cup.

Both captains stuck to their plans, and it only worked out for one of them.

Even with a 3-1 start in foursomes, Stricker broke up all his American teams as planned and still won the afternoon fourballs session with two wins and two draws.

Tiger Woods' text helps inspire US team

AP ■ SHEBOGYAN

Tiger Woods isn't at Whistling Straits, but several US players say he helped inspire them to a big lead in the first day of the Ryder Cup.

Woods sent a group text through captain Steve Stricker to American players, saying he was behind them in their battle to regain the cup.

"The gist of basically what he said was I'm cheering you guys on, I'm right there with you and go fight and make us proud," Tony Finau said.

RYDER CUP



Weather could force Russian GP qualifying session to be moved today

IAN S ■ SOCHI

Heavy rain at the Sochi Autodrom on Saturday has led to the cancellation of Free Practice 3 for the Russian Grand Prix — with doubts remaining over the possibility of holding qualifying on later on Saturday.

"Free Practice 3 had been due to start at 1200 local time. But with heavy rain, along with thunder and lightning, having hit Sochi on Saturday morning, the decision was made to cancel the third practice session," a statement on formula1.com said. "For the purposes of the regulations and associated time limits, Free Practice Session 3 will be considered as having taken place, except where otherwise advised by the

Race Director."

The Russian Grand Prix weekend has already been subject to alterations, with the first Formula 3 race moved to Friday evening — where Norway's Dennis Hauger was crowned champion — definite delay of Saturday morning's F2 race. F1 qualifying is currently set to take place 1500 local time (5:30 IST) — but FIA Race Director Michael Masi touted the possibility of moving the session to Sunday morning if the weather persists, telling the media at the start of Saturday, "If qualifying isn't able to happen today, as we've seen a few times before in the past, then we will re-do a programme and hold qualifying on Sunday morning."

Lewandowski's scoring streak for Bayern ends after 19 games

AP ■ BERLIN

For once, Robert Lewandowski didn't score. The Poland star's club-record scoring streak for Bayern Munich ended at 19 consecutive games on Friday when he failed to get a goal in his team's 3-1 win at last-placed Greuther Furth in the Bundesliga.

Lewandowski, who hit the crossbar in the 40th minute, also missed out on equaling Gerd Müller's record of scoring in 16 Bundesliga games in a row. Lewandowski's 19-game run includes matches in the league, cup and Champions League going back to a 3-3 draw with Arminia Bielefeld on Feb. 15.

Furth, which hadn't won any of its opening five Bundesliga games since promotion, made a

reasonable start but was caught cold when Thomas Müller opened the scoring in the 10th minute.

Canadian international Alphonso Davies set off on a counterattack down the left wing and his cross took a kind deflection for Müller to dispatch the ball in off the right post from outside the penalty area.

Joshua Kimmich's second goal for Bayern in the 31st was similar, this time Leroy Sané providing the cross. Furth's defenders allowed the Bayern players too much space — though not enough for Lewandowski.

The home team was given a lifeline in the 48th when Benjamin Pavard was sent off for a bad challenge on American midfielder Julian Green, who

would have been through on goal.

But Bayern still had enough offensive power to extend its lead in the 68th, when Sebastian Griesbeck scored an own-goal under pressure from Lewandowski, who looked disappointed not to have scored himself.

Cedric Itten got a late consolation for Furth in the 87th.

Bayern consolidated top spot after taking the league lead with a 7-0 rout of another promoted team, Bochum, last weekend.

"We're happy with how it's going but we mustn't lose touch — it's about always taking the next step. That's the most fun, to keep improving," Müller said after scoring his second league goal of the season.



India claim two silver medals in Archery World Championships

IAN S ■ YANKTON

India suffered another setback as its archers had to settle for silver medals in Women's Compound Team and Compound Mixed Team competitions at the World Archery Championships here in South Dakota.

The Indian Women's Compound Team and the Mixed Team had reached the gold medal match and were up against Colombia in both finals. But both fell short in difficult windy conditions against opponents that were too strong and mastered the conditions better.

India had reached the final six times at the World Championships earlier but had failed to win the gold every time. They were aiming to claim their first World Championship title on Friday but their hopes were dashed by a strong performance by Colombia, who captured the gold medal for the first time after 2017.

In the Women's Compound Team, India comprising Jyoti Surekha Vennam, Muskan Kirar and Priya Gurjar lost to the Colombia team of Sara Lopez Alejandra Usquiano and Nora Valdez 229-224 and had to settle for the silver medal.

In the Compound Mixed Team final, the Indian team of Jyothi and Abhishek Verma lost to Colombia's Sara Lopez and Daniel Munoz 150-154. The Compound Women's Team final started as a close affair with both India and Colombia shooting 58 out of a possible 60 in the first end (set), the Indians shooting three 10s, one X,

and two 9s in six arrows while the Colombians came up with three 10sm two Xs and an 8.

A couple of 8s with two 9s and two Xs meant India could manage only 54 in the second end (set) and Colombia shot 55 to lead 113-112.

The Indians continued to struggle with the conditions and lost the third end 56-58, the gap widening to three points now (171-168). Their hopes of recovering ground in the fourth and final end (set) were thwarted by an 8 on the first arrow in this series. They shot two Xs, a 10, and two 9s in the remaining five arrows for 56 but the Colombians did not falter and shot 58 with three 10s, one X, and one 9 to win the gold medal, 229-224.

In the Compound Mixed Team final, Jyoti Surekha Vennam and Abhishek Verma got off to a good start as they took a one-point lead (39-38) after the first end, shooting three 10s and a 9 as compared to three 9s and a 10 by the Colombian pair of Sara Lopez and Daniel Munoz.

The Indians fell behind in the second end as they could manage only 36 (10, 8, 9, 9) as compared by a near-perfect 39 (10, 10, 10, 9) by the Colombians and trailed 75-77.

The Colombians managed a perfect 40 in the third end while the Indians could score only 36 (10, 9, 8, 9), the gap widening to six (111-117).

Jyothi and Abhishek tried their best in the fourth and final end and won it 39-27 but the gap was too wide to be bridged in one end and they had to settle for silver behind Colombia.

"We were able to do that and

if TW's watching, thanks for that text, brother, I think it helps us a lot." Several players talked about the text from Woods, who is recovering from serious injuries in a February car accident. The US went 6-2 on the opening day for its biggest first day margin since 1975.

"Tiger's not with us in person but I know he's watching and talking to Stricker a lot," Harris English said.

"We know he's got our backs, so that's really cool and we kind of used that energy today."

Xander Schauffele said the players were excited to hear that Woods was cheering hard for them from his home in Florida.

"We knew he was fist pumping from the couch," Schauffele said. "Whether he was on crutches or not he's as fired up as any back at home. So it's nice to have his support." Stricker said he got the text on Thursday and sent it out to the team on Friday. He said Woods wished players good luck and shared a few personal observations.

"He's a friend of a lot of these guys and these guys look up to

him and I lean on him a lot throughout this whole process," Stricker said.

"So it was great to hear from him and provide some words of encouragement to these guys."

Woods was an assistant captain in 2016, when the US last won the cup. He returned as a player in 2018, but did not win a point in his matches. In eight Ryder Cups, Woods earned 14.5 points but had an overall losing record and only played on one winning team — the 1999 team that won in a huge final day comeback at Brookline.

'Tokyo show changed our mentality, instilled self-belief'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian women's hockey team mid-fielder Neha Goyal says their inspirational performance at the Tokyo Olympics has changed the mentality of the side and instilled self-belief in players.

The team missed out on its first-ever Olympic medal but produced its best-ever show in the history of the quadrennial with a fourth place finish. "Our performance at the Tokyo Olympics has changed our mentality and given us the self-belief to compete with any team in the world. Our win over Australia in the quarterfinal brought about a shift in our mentality," the 24-year-old player said.

"Coming into that match, Australia had topped their pool by winning all their matches. Defeating them gave us a lot of



confidence, which we will carry with us going forward as we prepare to play more important tournaments in the future."

For Goyal, who made her Olympics debut in Tokyo, competing at the Games was a landmark moment of her career. "I was

nervous before the occasion, but very excited. It has always been my dream to play in the Olympics since I started playing hockey. This was my first time, so I did not take too much pressure upon myself and tried to enjoy the moment.

Durand Cup: Bengaluru FC overcome gritty Army Green to enter semis

IAN S ■ KOLKATA

Bengaluru FC (BFC) came from behind to beat Army Green 3-2 in the final quarter-final encounter of the 130th Durand Cup at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) on Saturday and set up a last-four clash with FC Goa on Wednesday. Wungngayam Muirang, Leon Augustine, and Namgyal Bhutia struck for BFC while Lallawmkima and Vibin T. V. struck for the Greens, both incidentally via penalties.

Ormy Green created pressure early on and were rewarded for that as Lallawmkima scored from the spot in the 9th minute to give them the lead. However, the Naushad Moosa-coached BFC did not take long to bounce back as Muirang scored the equalizer in the 20th minute, courtesy of a magical free-kick that curled into the back of the net, giving Green's keeper Sarath no chance whatsoever.

Ph. D Award in Culture Studies

The Utkal University of Culture, Bhubaneswar, Odisha has awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) degree in Culture Studies to Avijet Bhadra for his Thesis entitled "Cultural Context in Education of Tribal children: A study of Teaching Learning Practices in Government Elementary schools of Koraput district of Odisha" under the supervision of Dr. Laxmidhar Behera, Professor of Education, Regional Institute of Education, NCERT, Bhubaneswar. Dr Avijet Bhadra is the son of Sri Pravakar Bhadra and Smt Bichitra Bhadra from Anupara, Kendrapara The doctoral thesis has been evaluated and appreciated by Dr S.C. Subudhi, Associate Professor, Department of Education NEHU, Tura, Meghalaya and Prof S.C. Chauhan of NCERT, New Delhi. He is thankful to Chairman and SRC Members of Culture Studies of the University, family members and relatives for their support for this achievement.

the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

Attached to none

Renunciation is a critical part of the journey towards enlightenment. The way to look at it is what makes it different for all

2



4

Living in demanding mode

If you try to resolve you weaknesses, the indwelling potential will play out unhindered and help you live without stress

I think everybody has the right to a private life
—Keira Knightley



Active Parenting can help parents significantly in reducing stress, both for their children and for themselves, writes RAMG VALLATH, as he suggests strategies & age-appropriate techniques to tackle the challenges being faced by most

PANDEMIC: A TRIPLE-WHAMMY FOR PARENTS



The pandemic has delivered a triple-whammy to parents. First and foremost, the pandemic itself is an unprecedented, once-in-a-lifetime event. Even the best of scientists cannot predict where it is headed; who are safe, who are vulnerable; or what precautions — including vaccines — afford what level of protection. Secondly, children have been uprooted from their routines, confined inside the house, kept away from socialising and have even been forced by circumstances to become screen addicts. Parenting, which is a discovery process, even in normal circumstances, has become far tougher due to these added stressors. Thirdly, parents themselves have been uprooted from their routines and forced to reduce social interactions. Many have lost their jobs and many have work hours that have eaten up into personal time in an unprecedented blending of work and personal life.

And now, their world is going to be shaken up yet again, with schools reopening. Routines being practiced over the last 18 months will need to be unlearned and new routines re-established, with the sword of Damocles of a possible new wave always hanging on their heads. This is when the principles of Active Parenting can come to the rescue of parents.

WHAT IS ACTIVE PARENTING?

While every child is unique and every family and circumstances unique, the underlying principles, framework and strategies of Active Parenting can substantially help in every situation, for every child and every parent. Active Parenting can help parents significantly in reducing stress — both for their children and for themselves. In fact, it can even help in converting these uncertainties into learning opportunities for children and bonding opportunities for the family. The three key principles of Active Parenting are as below.

- Inculcate the right attributes and qualities systematically and proactively instead of fire-fighting when issues pop up
- Be mindful that every opportunity can be utilised to build these attributes and qualities and proactively use every opportunity to do that
- Provide high support, while empowering children to take ownership and responsibility for their own lives

Based on the above principles, there are several strategies and age-appropriate techniques that a practitioner of Active Parenting can use to tackle each of the challenges that school reopening presents.

CHALLENGES POSED BY REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

- First let us list out the challenges to be tackled.
- Both parents and children may have fear of

Covid. Even though most schools are taking utmost care in putting in place strict guidelines for ensuring there is no Covid outbreak, in a school with many children, implementation is unlikely to be perfect. This could lead to anxiety and stress for both parents and children.

- For both children and parents, reopening means changing routines drastically. For children, it means having to get up earlier by sometimes as much as 60 to 90 minutes, getting ready, giving up on snacking any time they want, coming back from school feeling tired etc. For parents, it again means having to get up earlier to get children ready, ensuring breakfast/snack is ready on time, sometimes having to drop and pick up children from the school or bus stop etc. These can induce stress and also create conflict between parents and children.

- For children, school reopening will create academic stress. After perhaps 18 months, they are going back into a formal classroom. While most schools had organised for online classes, in is a less-than-perfect mode of learning and it is likely that the topics covered in the last eighteen months haven't been absorbed well enough. Even worse, surveys have shown that there is even some slippage of concepts learned before the pandemic. Many children will feel overwhelmed by the workload in the first few months as schools try to cover lost ground.
- Social stress is another problem that some children will need to deal with, especially the more introverted children. Children who have been subjected to bullying in the past and who have had a safe cocoon at home in these eighteen months will be suddenly confronted with the prospect of facing their tormentors again. There could also be children who are apprehensive of certain teachers who would dread the prospect of facing them face to face again.

In children, these signs of stress could manifest in many ways. Reluctance to go to school, tantrums, unusual levels of obstinacy, subdued look, emotional meltdowns, headache, upset stomach etc. are few of the signs that parents can watch out for. On the other hand, stress can cause irritation, short-temper, frustration, and even anger in parents.

APPLYING ACTIVE PARENTING PRINCIPLES

With so much stress on themselves and on the children on various counts, the principles of Active Parenting can come to the rescue. First and foremost, parents need to extend unconditional support to their children by demonstrating deep love, compassion and trust. While it is understandable that parents, who are themselves under stress, might feel irritated, impatient and short-tempered when children show reluctance to go to school or otherwise act difficult, parents need to be understanding and empathetic.

In fact, they need to be proactive in bring-



IN CHILDREN, THESE SIGNS OF STRESS COULD MANIFEST IN MANY WAYS. RELUCTANCE TO GO TO SCHOOL, TANTRUMS, UNUSUAL LEVELS OF OBSTINACY, SUBDUED LOOK, EMOTIONAL MELTDOWNS, HEADACHE, UPSET STOMACH ETC. ARE FEW OF THE SIGNS THAT PARENTS CAN WATCH OUT FOR. ON THE OTHER HAND, STRESS CAN CAUSE IRRITATION, SHORT-TEMPER, FRUSTRATION, AND EVEN ANGER IN PARENTS



ing up the possibility of the above stress points and assure the children that they understand that there may be stress on them and that the parents are there to help them. What the child needs in a parent in a situation like this is a friend who they can share their apprehensions or worries with and not a pushy and aggressive master. To quote the famous model of the clinical psychologist, Diana Baumrind, parents need to be high on warmth and responsiveness during this turmoil.

BEFRIENDING

But the question remains — how can parents ensure that children share their apprehensions openly? This would depend a lot on the nature of the child. But one of the key strategies of Active Parenting — befriending — can help in unlocking some of the reluctance of children to share deeply personal stuff. The underlying principle is that children, like adults, feel more comfortable in sharing inner feelings when there is empathy and trust instead of judgment. For this, parents need to spend quality time with children. It will help if parents can share instances from their own childhood, when they faced stressful situations. This may give the confidence for children to open up their own fears.

Another technique would be to have a family team discussion: with each member sharing their own challenges and fears relating to the current situation. Then each member can share an action plan on what they intend to do to overcome the challenges. Finally, each member can request specific support from other members of the team. It can start with each of the parents sharing how the new routines could affect them and asking specific support from each other to help them cope with this. Then they could also ask for specific support from the children, such as 'taking responsibility for managing their own routine' or 'being patient when they come back home hungry, if their favourite food isn't available'. This could prompt the children to also share their challenges and expected support.

One of the aspects that can get addressed through the above 'team approach' is Covid appropriate behaviour. As someone who has been deeply involved with the pandemic response of a large philanthropic organisation, I would like to reassure the parents that there is very little chance of children catching a severe attack of Covid.

However, it is important to take all precaution and ensuring both children and parents follow Covid appropriate behaviour is critical. Parents need to impress upon children the importance of following the protocols such as masking, regular handwashing, and physical distancing. They need to spell these out and ensure children understand the reason behind these guidelines.

The children should know that their deviation from the protocols could affect the parents and other elders at home — if any — far worse than it would affect themselves. This is a great way to build a sense of responsibility. Let the children know that you trust them to adhere to the guidelines. Parents also need to role model Covid-appropriate behaviour when they themselves venture out.

RESPECT, TRUST AND EMPATHY

During this challenging transition period, the two traits that parents need to role-model are patience and empathy. With each other, as well as with kids. If the parents are biting each other's heads off at the drop of a hat, it would be unreasonable and impractical for them to expect a patient behaviour from their children. When children observe their parents facing stressful situations in a candid and humorous fashion, they are also likely to adopt the same behaviour. This includes unabashed apology from parents to each other and to the children when they lose their cool and making fun of their own such 'ridiculous' behaviour.

STORY-TELLING

Another key Active Parenting strategy that can come in handy in such situations is story-telling. There is no better way to inculcate the desired qualities (values and traits) in children than by telling them stories — of real life heroes and fictitious heroes who manifested the same qualities and succeeded because of them. Similarly, parents telling the children of times when they themselves demonstrated these qualities to their own advantage will also help in driving home the benefit of these qualities. Of course, it is important that these story-telling sessions do not appear to be sessions for the sake of building these qualities.

The primary purpose of stories should be entertainment as far as the child is concerned. The secondary and invisible purpose is inculcating the traits and values. The child should subconsciously absorb these deeper messages. In a stressful situation like this, the most desirable qualities to instil are self-discipline, sense of responsibility, ownership, sense of humour, respect, gratitude etc. remember that stories plant seeds in the mind and at the appropriate time, these seeds sprout.

Every crisis is an opportunity. If the above suggestions are embraced by parents wholeheartedly, they might find that this stressful situation was the best learning period for themselves and their children and that it offered a truly life-altering situation with family bonds becoming stronger than ever.

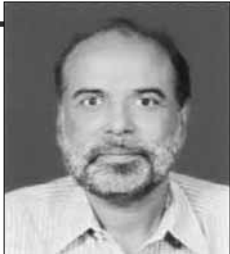
The writer is an IITian, a tech company co-founder, a motivational speaker & the author of Active Parenting: How to raise children with boundless potential, published by HarperCollins India

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OUTLOOK

Politics of caste census: From historical lenses

The current debate on the caste census gives an opportunity to the Indian state to be reminded about the core value of social justice enshrined in the Indian Constitution and its framework in order to assess the demands of caste census and its policies



SANJAY KUMAR

The census is not merely a head count. This gives an identity to one and all in the modern nation state. Not only this, the census broadly gives an opportunity to all communities as well as castes to assess the extent to which they have received their participation and share in the constitutional government institutions at the Central and State levels and in the development schemes and programmes in the present and past. This group identity also creates a measure for assessing the participation and share of the community vis-a-vis other groups, communities and castes through their enumeration in the census. This description of the salient features of the census in the Government documents and textbooks is rather value neutral.

At a deeper level, if we evaluate the census critically in history, this had been one of the factors for the identity politics, especially the caste-based representational politics since the inception of the enumeration of population of India in which political parties, social groups and the government remained the key players. The first all-India decennial census in the year of 1871 was based on the *varna* consisting of *jati* as the major indicator for classification of the enumerated data by the colonial administrators like Risley, Nesfield, Baines, etc. Subsequently, *jati* instead of *varna* remained one of the key indicators in the census of the years of 1881, 1891, 1901 till 1931 even while the nature and form of the classification of the enumerated data underwent change in multiple ways.

On the basis of the data and the impact of the enumeration, the colonial administrators deeply realised that reference to *jati* in the Indian society is central, and it is the root of the identity among different social groups. It is notable that Nicholas B Dirks, a Dutch scholar and the author of “*Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India*”, beautifully articulated the impact and implications of the caste census during late 19th century. He showed that the emphasis of caste in the decennial census had given rise to increasing agitation over caste denomination and the assignment of social status among the caste groups. The colonial census might have reinscribed a Brahminical idea of caste but, ironically, in doing so it gave rise to competitive politics that began to make caste the basis of political mobilisation on a new scale.

The caste census eventually turned out to be the foundation for the architecture of governance and administration of the colonial state during late 19th and the beginning of the 20th century as well. The colonial state presented itself in a neutral role among the people but it manipulated the competitive politics of castes cleverly for consolidating its hold on the administration and governance.

Against this background, Dr BR Ambedkar, a great icon of social reform in the 20th century, presented the caste census in a new perspective in colonial India. He made it a base for social mobilisation and politics. But soon, he identified the limitations of the representational politics and framed the issues and questions in the broader framework of social justice. Subsequently, the social justice became the core

value of the Indian Constitution which was manifested in the enactment of the provision of reservation for SCs and STs in proportion to their share in population as per the caste census.

Enactment of the provision of reservation for SCs and STs gave rise to the new kind of politics of social justice for the other backward castes led by Ram Manohar Lohia in post-independence India. In the 60s and 70s, the slogan of SANSOPA firmly exhorting that the Backwards must attain Sixty out of Hundred (*sansopa ne baandhi ganth pichda pawe sau mein saath*) became the major slogan of the mobilisation of OBC politics. Though this slogan emerged from the commonsensical statistics, its grounding was provided directly or indirectly by the census data. Not only this, this remained a central factor in the confrontation and negotiation between the governments and the political parties, especially the socialist parties. As a result, provision of reservation for the OBCs in the Central Government jobs became a milestone as an outcome of the politics of social justice.

The contradictory role and purpose of the caste census in colonial and post-colonial India that comes to fore gives an insight that the headcount of *jati* in itself does not have a special meaning. Indeed, on one hand, the underlying objectives and politics of the caste census had been crucial in shaping the caste-based identity politics in a narrow sense. In contrast, on the other hand, this shaped the idea of social justice and the constitutional provisions of modern India as well.

In this context, it is worth reiterating that caste is a hierarchical social institution which is based on heredity and its ideology and values get reproduced from generation to generation in the society. Not only this, mere invocation of caste identity has remained a barrier in development and governance of post-independence India. As a fallout of this, most who first and foremost became victims are those who are situated at the margins of the horizontal base of all caste groups.

The current debate on the caste census gives an opportunity to the Indian state to be reminded about the core value of social justice enshrined in the Indian constitution and its framework, in order to assess the demands of caste census and its policies.

Simultaneously, all political parties have an opportunity to take forward the legacy of social justice in their voices and opinions for the caste census if they are truly committed to the cause of empowering all situated at the margins. Otherwise, its implication would be for raising of voices and opinions which would generate confrontation and competition within and across the castes. In this sense, the future of the politics of the caste census is likely to be entrapped in the past legacy which was constructed by the colonial state in the late 19th century.

(The writer is founder of Deshkal Societ, Delhi, and co-editor of book “Interrogating Development: Insights from the Margins”, OUP, New Delhi)



Promising future of Central Bank Digital Currencies

The digital currency has so far managed to emerge as one of the strongest flavours within the current financial market. What makes digital currencies different from all their predecessors are the tremendous new functionalities they promise to offer. It's the financial equivalent of the leap from postal service to email.

Money basically performs three functions. As a medium of exchange, it enables transactions that otherwise would require difficult bartering (as in trading chickens for a car).

As a unit of account, it allows one to know whether one has saved or not over the past year. And as a store of value, money enables current income to finance future purchases.

According to the IMF, the opportunity for Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC) depends solely on its ability to improve upon these three core functions of money.

Interestingly, the idea of CBDC is gaining support from the financial establishments such as the Bank for International Settlements, known as the central bank of central banks. These financial gatekeepers are embracing CBDC because they can see that if they do not someone else will.

A recent survey by the Bank for International Settlements indicates that 86 per cent of the central banks are actively researching digital currencies. And almost 60 per cent of banks are in the testing phase.

According to some estimates, a fifth of the global population will be exposed to a central-bank digital currency within three years. By 2027, some \$24 trillion of assets around the world is expected to be in digital form.

Dollar & Changing Financial Landscape

Though the US dollar remains the world's dominant reserve currency, the downward trend in the global reserves of the US dollar to a 25-year record low of 59 per cent has managed to stump many.

Some cite a combination of



nations shifting away from the USD and the rising status of competing currencies like the euro, the Japanese yen, and the Chinese yuan as factors in the USD's slump. But others are of the opinion that the hegemony of the US dollar doesn't seem to be under any threat in the near future.

Russia and China have both stepped away from an uncertain and politically entangled US dollar in recent years, with the Central Bank of Russia (CBR) ditching over US\$101 billion in dollar-denominated reserves in early 2019. China on its part has loosened its grip on US government securities, with a reported 20 per cent decrease in these holdings over roughly seven years, according to US Treasury Department data.

Digital currency based on blockchain looks promising

Controversy about the benefits and drawbacks of CBDCs notwithstanding, governments around the world are increasingly exploring, researching, or testing the implementation of digital, programmable fiat. All eight central banks of the top currencies from the IMF report are either considering, researching, or actively developing a CBDC.

CBDCs based on transparency-enhancing blockchain are a promising way to achieve three objectives: liberating the payments' system from rentiers, guaranteeing unprece-

ented transparency regarding how much money is plucked from the money tree, and democratising access to the tree's fruit.

At the retail level, a CBDC would offer some obvious advantages. It would help the poor and others who are currently underserved by the banking system. It would also make it much easier for governments to administer social transfers like the household cash disbursements made during the pandemic. And a well-functioning international system of digital currencies would sharply reduce cross-border transaction costs.

However, in addition to various privacy concerns, CBDCs have complications of their own. One crucial question is where CBDC accounts would be held. If it is in the central bank, how will privacy for transactions be preserved? Equally unclear is what role would be left for private banks, which are currently the pre-dominant source of credit in most market economies. If banks no longer receive deposits, how will they issue loans?

For such an arrangement to function well, the CBDC would need to strike a difficult balance between anonymity (privacy) and control of the system. Otherwise, all the concerns regarding the government's unrestricted access to account holders' information

will start looking legitimate.

The viable alternative for the central bank is to allocate deposits to member banks, which would then continue to function as sources of credit. In this case, there would need to be strong fractional reserve requirements.

Regarding concerns about privacy, it is possible to anonymize central-bank accounts with digital tags that only an independent regulatory institution can trace to physical persons. After all, lest we forget, our current payments system (with the strict “KYC” rules) is managing well with illusionary privacy.

There are also complications at the international level. Would central banks be willing to accept payments in other central banks' CBDCs? Could countries retain control of their money supply once it has taken a digital form?

At present, it is very difficult to imagine a future scenario where the major central banks would be willing to underwrite the international financial system without a high degree of cooperation, coordination, and control.

The Road Ahead

These international questions are of particular importance for the United States because the dollar has served as an international reserve currency, a unit of account, and a means of payment for the past

CBDCs based on transparency-enhancing blockchain are a promising way to achieve three objectives: liberating the payment system from rentiers, guaranteeing unprecedented transparency regarding how much money is plucked from the money tree, and democratising access to the tree's fruit



PIYUSH KAMAL

75 years. For better or worse, the dollar's key role in the system has enabled the US to impose reasonably effective financial sanctions on countries such as Russia and Iran, and the US is in no mood to surrender this tool willingly.

No monetary system has ever functioned perfectly. But it is generally agreed that the current one has performed well over the past so many years, especially when compared to earlier systems such as the gold standard.

Although a CBDC could improve financial inclusion, most experts caution that it should not be inaugurated until there are assurances that credit allocation, payments systems, financial-stability safeguards, and other aspects of the new system would function at least as smoothly as they do under the current one. There is no doubt that the central bank digital currency will happen sooner rather than later. The question, then, is whether all the issues (both the identified and emerging ones) will be resolved before the transition is made.

(The writer is an economist, former IRS officer, and author of the upcoming book “The Current Perspective on Indian Economy”)

PERSPECTIVE

Abolishing retrospective tax law to boost economy

The Government had on August 5 scrapped the retrospective tax law by amending Finance Act 2012 and the IT Act 1961 which got presidential assent on August 13, 2021. It was amendment in Finance Act 2012 brought by the then Finance Minister which allowed the taxman to levy taxes claimed retrospectively on deals that were executed after 1962 that involved the transfer of shares in a foreign entity that has its assets in India. This archaic practice had pushed back India's taxation regime for corporates by 50 years and allowed authorities to slap capital gains levies wherever a company, with business assets in India, changed hands overseas.

Certainly, the new amendment by the Government of India will bridge the gap in international trade by providing a framework for resolving international arbitration cases that the Government has lost, namely Vodafone group plc and Cairn energy and 15 others. Needless to say that this amendment was a need of hour as focus point of India at the present time is to portray itself as an investment destination to investors across the world, which will eventually help India being depicted as country committed to abide by international treaties and laws.

The two big advantages of abolishing the retrospective tax are: boosting India's image among global investors (translating into increased FDI) and giving foreign firms a level-playing field vis-à-vis Indian corporate giants. In recent times, India's image took a big hit when energy explorer giant Cairn went ahead with seizing the Government of India's assets abroad and telecom giant Vodafone-Idea giving strong signals of winding up its India operation.

The Indian Government had slapped a tax demand of crores of rupees on Cairn and Vodafone. But both refused to pay taxes and chal-



lenged the decision of tax department and ultimately won the battle in the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Hague, Netherlands. The claim of Cairns was that the Government is violating the India-UK bilateral investment treaty. Considering all the facts, the international court ruled in favour of Cairns and awarded \$1.4 billion as damages, the Cairn then moved a French court which gave the order to freeze Indian assets in Paris to recover ₹8,897 crores. Definitely this stain on Indian taxing could be hazardous for development of long-term Indian economy. This sour episode tainted India's image like never before as it placed the country in the league of some disturbed economies whose assets are taken away for non-payment of arbitration award.

The Government's decision to discard the retrospective taxation law not only gave breather for Vodafone and Cairns, but also transformed India's image in global world. Along with repealing this tax and Supreme Court's recent verdict on honouring Singapore arbitrator decision that upheld US-based e-commerce company Amazon's plea against the ₹24,731-crore merger of Future Retail Ltd (FRL) with Reliance Retail might change things favourably for global companies.

Many in the corporate world have been silently claiming the Government is favouring handful homegrown com-

glomerates by tweaking laws that gave them undue benefits. India would very much want to shed this image, especially at a time when big businesses are looking beyond China to have a permanent base.

Overall, phasing out retrospective tax means restoring India's reputation as a fair and easy to predict regime which believe in putting an end to unnecessary and expensive litigation without spending crores in these never-ending legal tussles. The step will also promote cross-border merger and acquisition. Last but not least, the scrapping of such draconian law will be helpful in enhancing India's national ranking in World Bank Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index under 50 (it is presently 63).

In total, 17 entities would be benefited from this change to whom tax demand of ₹1.10 lakh crores was made. The Government has proposed to refund the amount paid in litigation by companies without any interest thereon. The total amount involved for all cases is about ₹8,100 crore, of which about ₹7,900 crore is related to the Cairn dispute. The effectiveness of axing this tax law now depends on whether the entities who have obtained an award that comprises interest component will take up the offer.

The Government stand, prima facie, appears to cost huge loss to the State exchequer, but in the long run it will benefit in terms of attracting foreign investment and achieving the target of USD 5 trillion economy by 2025. Definitely it has enhanced credibility of India in international domain and depicted India's commitment to follow international law and conventions governing international behaviour. The Government move also conforms to and promotes international harmony provided in Directive Principle of State Policy of the Constitution of India.

The Government stand, prima facie, appears to cost huge loss to the State exchequer, but in the long run its benefit in terms of attracting foreign investment and achieving the target of USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 cannot be denied



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Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Tuesday

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Saturday

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Rose Gold
Lucky day Tuesday

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday

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