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HEADSCARF DEATH**MONEY 6**INDIA ON TRACK TO ATTRACT
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Ankita murder fury engulfs U'khand

Protesters set resort on fire; BJP expels accused's father and former Min from party

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Public anger over the murder of 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari in Uttarakhand led local residents on Saturday to set part of the resort run by main accused Pulkit Arya, son of a BJP leader and former State Minister level position holder Vinod Arya, on fire after the Government earlier started demolishing it late on Friday.

Enraged over the development, residents also damaged the vehicle of BJP's Yamkeshwar MLA Renu Bisht when she reached All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh after Ankita's body, recovered from Chilla canal early on Saturday morning on the seventh day after she was reported missing, was brought there for post mortem.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami ordered a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) while the BJP expelled the former



An illegally built resort of Ankita murder accused Pulkit Arya after it was partially demolished by authorities overnight, in Pauri Garhwal district on Saturday

State Minister Vinod Arya and Ankit Arya, brother of main accused Pulkit, from the party with immediate effect. On Dhami's instructions, Ankit was also removed from the post of nominated vice chairman of OBC commission.

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel had started searching for Ankita's body on Friday after learning from the accused about the location where she was thrown into the canal. The personnel found her body early on Saturday morning. The body was taken to AIIMS

Rishikesh where a number of protesters had gathered demanding the death penalty for the perpetrators of the crime.

Bisht reached the institute only to be greeted by slogans by the irate crowd with one of the people also breaking the rear window of her SUV.

Meanwhile, Director General of Police Ashok Kumar in a telephonic talks with the father of the victim assured him of all possible action to ensure that the perpetrators receive the death sentence.

C'garh varsity video leak: Soldier held for blackmailing accused girl student

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police on Saturday arrested an Army personnel posted in Arunachal Pradesh in connection with the Chandigarh University case, in which it was alleged that a hostel inmate recorded several objectionable videos of girl students in the common wash-room, Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav said on Saturday.

The police had earlier arrested a girl student and two men from Himachal Pradesh. Identified as Sanjeev Singh, he is suspected of blackmailing the accused girl student.

Yadav said based on forensic and digital evidence, the police team from SAS Nagar was dispatched to Arunachal Pradesh to arrest the accused.

He said the accused Army personnel was arrested from Sela Pass in Arunachal Pradesh with the support of Arunachal Pradesh Police, Assam Police and Army authorities in Arunachal Pradesh. The police have also obtained a 2-day transit remand of the accused from the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Bomdila to produce him before the Magistrate, he added.

During the ongoing probe by the Punjab Police, it is revealed that a serving Army soldier is likely to have been involved in acts chargeable under sections of the IPC and IT Act, an Army official said.

BJD ZP Member Sahoo found hanging

His social media post leads to political suspense

SAROJ MISHRA

■ BHUBANESWAR

Mystery shrouded the death of BJD Zilla Parishad (ZP) member Dharmendra Sahoo, who was found hanging in his residence at Sishupalgarh on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar on Saturday.

Sahoo, who was found hanging from the portico of his house, was the member of ZP Zone 11 in Nimapada of Puri district.

While the exact circumstances leading to the death were yet to be ascertained, a Facebook post by him just four hours before his death has deepened the suspense.

In the post, he mentioned about some video clips stored in two mobile phones. "All the videos are in my two mobile phones. Please bring all those to limelight," Sahoo wrote in Odia.

Later, a police sniffer dog squad managed to locate the two mobile phones after much effort. The Commissionerate police sent the body for post-mortem and were investigating into the incident.

Sahoo, who originally belonged to Khandiakud village



under Gop block of Puri, lived with his family at Silupalgarh.

Sahoo's father-in-law said, "This (suspected suicide) is not the result of one day's quarrel. Rather, it was going on for the past three months. After quarrel, he used to leave home and stay in a hotel for some days.

He had gone to somewhere and was brought to home after a lot of persuasion. However, he attempted to end his life at home. I never filed an FIR because we wanted to unite the family, not break it. He often tried to extort money from me. But last night, he came home drunk and said "Either I will kill or die."

However, Sahoo's death took a political twist with the BJP alleging the role of Minister Samir Ranjan Dash in the case. BJP leader Pravati Parida

alleged that Dash is the main character behind the marital discord in Sahoo's family and demanded a high-level probe into the case.

"It does not appear like a suicide but a well-planned murder. In his social media post, Sahoo has urged to bring to public the videos stored in his two mobile phones. It implies that he might have suspected that he would be killed, for which he made the post. The way his body was found also hints that he might have been killed and hung from the balcony to make the case look like a suicide," Parida alleged.

However in his reaction Minister Dash said, "I have no knowledge of the matter. I can only speak about it after understanding the case."

CAPSULE

INDIA SLAMS PAK FOR KASHMIR RANT AT UNGA

New Delhi: Taking exception to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's comments on Kashmir in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), India on Saturday charged him with efforts to "obfuscate misdeeds in his own country and justify actions against India." New Delhi also blamed Islamabad for sponsoring cross-border terrorism.

INDIA 'STALLED' DURING UPA ERA: NR MURTHY

Ahmedabad: N R Narayana Murthy, co-founder of IT giant Infosys, has lamented that economic activities in India were "stalled" and decisions were not taken by the Manmohan Singh government in time in the Congress-led UPA era.

GUV SEEKS TO REMIND CM MANN OF HIS DUTIES

Chandigarh/New Delhi: The tussle between Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and the State's AAP Government over the convening of the Assembly session escalated further on Saturday with the former seeking to remind Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann of his duties.

JHULAN BIDS ADIEU, GIVEN GUARD OF HONOUR

London: Playing her last international match of an illustrious career, Indian women's team seamer Jhulan Goswami received a guard of honour when she walked out to bat against England in the third and final ODI here on Saturday. Jhulan will end her glorious, two-decade career as women's cricket's highest wicket-taker.

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To prevent violence against docs

CCTVs in all Govt hosps to be installed

Visitors' entry to be regulated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHUBANESWAR

For the safety and security of doctors and other medical staff, the State Government has asked all district administrations to instal CCTV cameras in all Government-run hospitals in the State.

Health and Family Welfare Secretary Shalini Pandit has written a letter to all Collec-

tors, SPs, CDMOs and Directors of Capital Hospital and RGH, Rourkela, in this regard on Friday.

She said violence, harassment and even physical assault to doctors and health officials on duty are being reported from different parts of the State. The State Government has "zero tolerance" towards violence against doctors. So, the district administrations take exemplary action against the miscreants, she said.

In view of the increasing

untoward situations in the premises of health institutions like manhandling of doctors and staff of the institutions, she suggested taking certain steps including installation of CCTV cameras at vital locations of the hospitals for monitoring of the activities in the hospital.

Pandit also asked to introduce a visitor's pass system for the indoor patients. Two entry passes are to be issued per patient for attending the patient during the official visiting hour and the attendants

entering the ward should be frisked out by the internal security guards, she said.

All the regular and contractual employees of the hospital will be provided with ID card. The entry of the general public and vehicles will also be regulated strictly.

Similarly, signage highlighting the Odisha Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage of Property) Act, 2008 will also be placed in front of the health

institutions.

The internal security will patrol the campus and take steps for removal of unauthorized vehicles and vendors. Two security hubs will be deployed to the crowded departments of the district headquarters hospitals. The telephone number of the two hubs will be made available through the display of signage.

Further, a public redressal system will also be developed in which the aggrieved attendants may approach the super-

intendent/head of office of the health institution at the time of need rather than taking the law into their hands. The same along with the phone number will also be displayed in conspicuous places of the campus of the health institutions.

In case any law and order situation arises, the SP of the concerned district will have to take immediate strict and appropriate action as per law against the miscreants in order to discourage people from such activities, she added.

Millet-based menu at BOCCA Café



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As part of its programme for the promotion of millets, the Odisha Millet Mission (OMM) under the State Agriculture Department has collaborated with BOCCA Cafe, Bhubaneswar, to promote millets and showcase many dishes that can be crafted from Bajra, Jowar, Mandia and other millets.

The BOCCA Café at Master Canteen, Bhubaneswar, has come out with an exclusive millets-based menu which was launched in the event. The

menu was prepared by the chefs at BOCCA and experts of Odisha Millets Mission. The idea was to create continental/ Mexican/ bakery dishes which will give millets a more up market identity, helping the current generation consume it and in the process help the farmers.

Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Dr Arabinda Kumar Padhee interacted with the RAO members and encouraged them to add millets-based dishes in their menu, which they readily accepted.

Rains predicted in 24 hrs in State

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A cyclonic circulation lies over west-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andhra Pradesh coast at 1.5 km above mean sea level, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday.

As per IMD, the trough now runs from cyclonic circulation over northeast Rajasthan and neighbourhood to north Chhattisgarh across south Uttar Pradesh and extends up to 3.1 km above mean sea level.

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur at a few places in the districts of coastal Odisha, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and at

one or two places in the rest districts of the State in the next 24 hours.

The IMD had earlier predicted heavy rainfall activities in several parts of Odisha on September 2

Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj till Sunday morning.

Light to moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at a few places in the districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Baleswar and Jajpur till Monday morning.

Cong targets 90 MLA seats in 2014: Sarat

'People disgusted with BJP, BJD Govts'

PNS ■ ROURKELA

During his maiden visit to Rourkela as PCC president, Sarat Patnaik interacting with the scribes said the people of Odisha are in a mood for change in 2024 as they understand both the BJD Government in the State and BJP Government in Centre are neck-deep in corruption.

The people are also disgusted with price rise, unemployment and poor law and order situation. So, people have made up their mind to consider Congress as the alternative in 2024, he said. He maintained that he has given



a target to the party cadres to increase the Congress strength in the Assembly to 90 from 9 MLAs now, in 2024.

Talking about the strengthening of the party in the State he said by October end the organisation election of the party will be completed. Accordingly various positions of the party and its mass organisations will be filled up from Panchayat to State level. He denied that there is any factionalism in party.

Pattanayak further said very soon the Rourkela DCC president post will be filled up which is lying vacant since April 2022 after George Tirkey quitted the post. Though Rourkela DCC has no regular chief but there is zeal among the leaders and workers to work together to strengthen the party, he added.

Mo-Parivar helps bring youth's body from Lanka

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With the arrival of a body of a 22-year-old youth of Kendrapada district, who had died on September 15 in Sri Lanka, his family members got a sigh of relief on Saturday.

While the family members were struggling hard to bring the body home, Odisha Mo-Parivar facilitated it. The family received the body at the Bhubaneswar airport.

Kamalakanta Swain had been working in a private company in Sri Lanka since last four years. On August 25, he informed over phone that he would come to his village soon. But on September 15, the family received a shocking call informing about his death. They wanted to bring the body to the village. They requested



Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak for his intervention. Nayak, a co-convenor of Odisha Mo-Parivar, engaged a Mo-Parivar team for the job.

Mo-Parivar sought support of the Indian Embassy in Sri Lanka and the body were brought.

Mo-Parivar secretary Durga

Samantray, State coordinator Mihir Ray and other team members coordinated the handing over of the body to the family.

E India conf on third space endoscopic surgery



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An Eastern Third Space Endoscopic Surgery Conference, a first of its kind in eastern India to spread awareness on the advanced technology for treatment of various GI diseases, was held here on Saturday.

The conference, organised by senior gastroenterologist Dr Manoj Kumar Sahu, witnessed the conglomeration of

experts from the country who shared their experiences on the issue. The third space endoscopic surgeries are considered as minimal invasive techniques leading to least pain to patients and faster recovery.

There was a demonstration of the surgeries performed live; and many patients were treated. Dr talked about the benefits of this technology and urged gastroenterologists to rope in the technique to help

thousands of patients living with complex gastro diseases.

The event was inaugurated by Dr Mohesh Goenka and Dr SP Singh.

Dr Sahu, who has conducted 87such surgeries since 2014, said, "Third space endoscopy is the most innovative and advanced technology where surgeries are performed inside the chest and abdomen very effectively and successfully without any cut from outside,

no requirement of blood transfusion, and the patient leaves home after a day or two. The technologies are from Germany and Japan, practised in few selected hospitals in India. We are performing these surgeries in Bhubaneswar and many patients were treated from the neighbouring States also." Dr Sahu asked doctors who were trained in the conference on this technique to use it in different parts of the country.

Ensure community rights over forests: Sunita

BIJAY MISHRA ■ BHUBANESWAR

As community right over forests is critical to sustenance of rural and forest communities and also for conservation of forests, Sunita Narain, DG, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), has urged the Government to expedite and ensure Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) provision in the Forest Rights Act (FRA) to people.

Addressing a media workshop here on "The fight over a right", Narain said, "The Government must expedite the process of democratising forest governance and enable communities in forest management by recognising community rights under the FRA to make standing forests productive for people."

She said the country is in a "deep crisis" when it comes to natural calamities and disasters and that green areas in the cities need to be planned. Forests need to be viewed as



a habitat of the tribal communities and forest conservation must be considered a way to build local livelihood. Forests should be used as a source to soak up fossil fuel emissions and build local livelihood.

Forest communities are using the Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) provision in the FRA to reclaim their ownership rights.

'Extend HSRP date to March 2023'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Samajwadi Party State president Rabi Behera in a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday requested him to extend the date of affixing of High Security Number Plates (HSRPs) to March 2023.

Behera mentioned that the date for affixing HSRP on vehicles with the number ending with the digits 1, 2, 3, 4 is ending on September 30. Many vehicle owners are not getting slots to book the

HSRP. The State Government has announced that those who do not fix HSRP by September 30 have to pay a fine of Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 from October 1. This is giving sleepless nights to the vehicle owners. They are standing in serpentine queues to get the slot which is very difficult to get.

As the mass festivals like Dussehra and Diwali are round the corner, the people are in the lurch on how to pay the fines. So, in greater interest of the masses the date should be extended, stated Behera.

222 new Covid cases in State

1 more death reported

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State on Saturday registered 222 new Covid-19 cases in 25 districts and the State pool, with which the total tally rose to 13,32,957.

Among the newly-infected were 36 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years.

Notably, the State had recorded 202 Covid cases on Friday.

Out of the new cases, 130 were from quarantine and 92 local contacts.

Khordha district recorded the highest 51 new cases followed by Sundargarh with 29,

Cuttack 23, Sambalpur 13, Puri 12, Baleswar 11, Kalahandi eight, Nayagarh and Bargarh six each, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj five each, Kandhamal four, Balangir, Nabarangpur and Ganjam three each, Nuapada and Deogarh two each and Bhadrak and Jharsuguda one each. Besides, 11 cases were reported from the State pool.

The active cases numbered 1,417

Meanwhile, one more person succumbed to the disease in Cuttack district, taking the total death toll to 9,198 in the State. So far, 13,22,299 persons have recovered from the disease.

Nadda's visit schedule announced

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

BJP national president JP Nadda is scheduled to visit the State on September 29 and 30.

After arriving at the Bhubaneswar airport at 10 am on September 19, he would be escorted to the party State office in a grand rally. At 11 am, he would address panchayat leaders at the Janata Madian in Bhubaneswar. Later, he would meet the party MLAs, MPs, office-bearers before proceeding to Puri.

After visiting the Jagannath Temple on September 24 morning, he would proceed to Bhadrak to meet the bereaved



family members of departed MLA Bishnu Sethi. In the afternoon, he would address the leaders of seven party Morchas and then return to Delhi.

Nadda's visit details were shared to the media by BJP State general secretary Golak Mohapatra on Saturday

Raid on Khordha IT Officer

PNS ■ KHORDHA

The CBI conducted a raid on the house of Khordha Income Tax Officer Suman Sundar Sahoo.

The raid took place when Sahoo was being paid Rs 5 lakh from the Santi Jewellery. Sahoo had had demanded Rs 40 lakh from the jewellery firm, which had already paid Rs 10 lakh.



He had again demanded Rs 10 lakh as Dussehra gift. A five-member CBI team conducted the raid.

‘Sign also linguistic identity of a person’

Int’l Sign Language Day observed at NIT

AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA

The NIT Rourkela observed the 'International Sign Language Day' with the students of the Rourkela School for the Deaf. The event was organized by the Humanities and Social Sciences Department. Sign language senior teacher, Rourkela School for the Deaf Rajshree Mohanty interpreted the addresses during the programme.

The event started with the Sign Language Nation An-



them. In his introductory remark Prof Ramkrishna Biswal said, "The United Nations General Assembly, in 2017, proclaimed September 23 as the 'International Day of Sign Language.' This year's theme by World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) is Sign Language Unite Us. There are approximately 72 million deaf people worldwide and 80% of them are from developing countries. Therefore,

to raise awareness about the importance of sign language in our lives, the NIT Rourkela has organized the event." On the occasion, Director, NIT Rourkela, Prof K Umamaheshwar Rao interacting with the students said, "Like other languages, sign language is also the linguistic identity of a person. It is the natural form of expression which can simply be observed

by mother-child behaviour. It is heartening to see these children have the ability to use this universal tool of communication to interact with the rest of the world effortlessly. Verbal communication might be limited but thoughts are not, so keep thinking and crafting the ways of expression through sign language."

Principal, Rourkela School for the Deaf Kalpana Mahanta shared the activities taken up by the school. With the efforts of research scholars of the Humanities and Social Sciences Department (HS), segments like the game, videos, talk, and expression quiz were organised. A mesmerizing dance was performed by children of the deaf school.

Focus on devt: Min Sahu all praise for CM



Hails 50.436-decimal land to Rajendra Univ

PNS ■ BALANGIR

A decision to allot 50.436 decimal land to Rajendra University free of cost for development of infrastructure is a welcome step and it shows CM Naveen Pattnaik's focus on development of Balangir.

Speaking to media persons here on Friday, Minister Tukuni Sahu said this and thanked the CM for the ini-

tiative. She also pointed out that a few months ago, the CM had also approved of a project for laying underground pipeline irrigation system in Lower Suktel worth Rs 634.14 crore to boost irrigation facility in the district.

Moreover, several lift water irrigation projects under the Parbati Giri Lift Irrigation Scheme has been approved for the districts of Balangir, Kalahandi, Bargarh and Gajapati over rivers Mahanadi, Tel, Indrabati, Long and Suktel, the Minister informed.

In Rourkela

Man hacks wife to death, hangs her; held

Incident fallout of domestic feud

PNS ■ ROURKELA

A man allegedly hacked his wife to death and then hanged her following a domestic feud in their house at Timber Colony Rourkela on Friday night.

The accused Bikas De, a resident of Burla in Sambalpur district, hacked his wife Basanti Hira to death and then hung her in a fit of rage after the couple had a heated altercation.

Sources said Basanti (24), used to live with her uncle's family in Sector 14 of

Rourkela. Last year, she got married to Bikas, As their financial condition was not sound, the couple shifted to Rourkela's Timber Colony in May and both started working for a living.

While Bikas worked as a contractual labourer, Basanti took up a job in a hotel. According to the neighbours, Basanti and Bikas got into an ugly fight which is believed to have led to the crime.

On getting information, Plant Site police reached the spot and started investigation. The body was seized for post-mortem and Bikas was arrested. A case has been registered basing on the complaint of family members of the deceased.

In Pallahara

Scribe held for blackmailing doc

PNS ■ PALLAHARA

The Khamar police on Friday arrested a journalist on the charge of threatening, blackmailing and harassing the Khamar Community Health Centre (CHC) Medical Officer.

The Medical Officer Shashikanta Behera in his complaint alleged that web portal and a daily vernacular newspaper reporter Khageswar Pingua was blackmailing him to expose the "corruption" in the CHC and demanding money.

He also harassed Behera over the phone. When he refused, Pingua abused him in filthy language and threatened



to kill him, Behera alleged in his FIR.

The police after lodging a case under Sections 294/384/353/506/34 of the IPC arrested Pingua and forwarded him to court. As the bail plea of the accused was rejected, he was sent to judicial custody.

In Rourkela

Maid found dead at hotelier's house

PNS ■ ROURKELA

A housemaid was found hanging at a hotel owner's residence at Udit Nagar in Rourkela on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Birasmani Badaika of the K Balanga area of Sundargarh district.

It was yet to be ascertained why she took the extreme step.

Birasmani was working as a maid at Hotel Amrut Sagar owner's residence for last several days. She was staying in a room at this employer's residence, sources said.

Birasmani was found hanging in her room Friday night. She was immediately rushed to the IGH Hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival.

"Birasmani talked to me over phone Thursday night. She was very much happy. I could not believe that she is no more with us," said the deceased maid's sister, who resides in Kuaramunda area near the incident.

The police have sent the body for postmortem and launched a probe into the incident.

Focus on hassle-free event

SAROJ KUMAR MISHRA ■ PURI

With Dussehra coming closer, the Puri district administration on Friday geared up for the event in the city. District Collector Samarth Verma convened a meeting to review the preparations, attended by all the line departments under his administration.

As less than two weeks are

left, so roads, drains and electricity which have suffered damages due to rains will be repaired fast with evictions of all encroachments from pathways.

Similarly, the municipality would make efforts for best management of sanitation issues inducting more workforce in the city, as crowd would be large in the city to watch the Durga Puja freely after two years of Covid restriction.

In this context, a circular was issued with a roadmap for

the upcoming 4-day-long festival. As per roadmap, all the statues of Goddess Durga being worshipped in various parts in the city would assemble on October 6 at the Lions' Gate for display for public devotees before being shifted to the immersion pond.

A makeshift pool meant for the statues would be developed with lighting arrangements. Fire brigade would remain on alert near major Puja pandals in the city.

On law and order, police would remain alert with addi-

tional forces deployment in the city. Besides, traffic management is in their main focus looking at the possibility of a footfall of thousands of tourists with their vehicles. To curb anti-social elements during the festival, CCTV cameras will be fitted across the city.

Among others, ADM (revenue) Kailash Chandra Nayak, ADM (protocol) Dilip Mahapatra and Sub-Collector Bhabataran Sahu were present, besides members of all puja committees.

In Jajpur

Students lock school as HM found drunk

PNS ■ JAJPUR

Students locked up the gate of Ratnagiri High School in Jajpur district after a video of the headmaster napping in an inebriated state went viral on social media on Friday. The students also demanded that the headmaster be replaced.

On getting information, Cluster Resource Centre Coordinator Tarakant Mallik reached the spot and brought the situation under control after pacifying the students. Accused headmaster Mallik was unavailable to give any clarification on this matter.

Sources said Headmaster



Prakash Mallik allegedly used to remain absent without informing higher authorities and often came to school drunk. After students and guardians complained and brought this to the notice of the District Education Officer (DEO), an

inquiry was initiated and ADEO Rajesh Swain along with Block Education Officer (BEO) Sudarshan Mallik visited the school in March this year. However, even after six months, no action has yet been initiated against the headmas-

ter.

In July, a video of the headmaster sleeping on the carton of a liquor company in a drunken state had surfaced fuelling resentment among locals about the state of affairs in the school. Three days back, another video made rounds in social media of the headmaster sleeping in an inebriated state during class hours and one of the guardians counselling him to refrain from such inappropriate conduct. The clip led to considerable outrage among parents and students with the latter resorting to locking up the school gate as a mark of protest.

Health Min urged for med college in Rourkela

Raghunathpalli BJD submits memo

PNS ■ ROURKELA

During the visit of Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kisore Das here, a delegation of Raghunathpalli BJD unit under the leadership of State council member Sudhir Sundar Ray handed over a memorandum demanding a medical college in Raghunathpalli Assembly segment.

In justification of the demand, they said that the State Government has been emphasizing on good health services to every citizen of the State. That is why in last one



decade many medical colleges and super specialty hospitals have been opened in different districts. Similarly, with

the support of WODC, a medical college (Hi-Tech Medical College) has been set up in Rourkela. But the MCH

has grossly failed to cater to the minimum health needs of the people.

That is why there is resentment among the people. Besides, the then SAIL Chairman had promised to the CM in 2012 and the Prime Minister had declared for upgradation of the Ispat General Hospital (IGH) to a medical college in 2015. But both the assurances have not been fulfilled as yet. Sources said there is no agenda of SAIL, RSP for the project. Even the health services in IGH are worsening day by day. So, a medical college in the Steel Township is badly needed, they argued.

Raghunathpalli MLA Subrat Tarai was also present with the Minister.

INBRIEF

MAN GETS 10 YRS IN JAIL FOR RAPING MINOR IN JSPUR

Jagatsinghpur: Jagatsinghpur Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Court Judge Ajaya Kumar Mohanty has sentenced a man to 10 years' imprisonment and a fine of Rs 30,000 on the charge of raping a 12-year-old girl of Naugaon five years ago. The accused Bisu Singh, a middle-aged man, of Khairabasta village under Naugaon block had on September 9, 2017 kidnapped the minor girl and raped her in a sugarcane field. Based on a complaint by the victim's parent, police arrested Singh and later filed a charge-sheet in POCSO Court. The judge also directed the District Legal Aid Authority to pay Rs 7-lakh compensation to the girl.

TWO PERSONS DROWN IN JAGATSINGHPUR

Jagatsinghpur: Two drowning incidents were reported in different locations in Jagatsinghpur district on Thursday. One Radhu Behera of Arana village in the Biridi area drowned in the Machhgaon Canal at Athanga when he slipped into water from a bridge. In another drowning incident at Jadilo village under Rambhadeipur panchayat, a middle-aged man, Rabindra Nath Mallick, fell into Number 19 Machhgaon Branch Canal while returning home.

PRINTING PRESS OWNER HELD FOR RLY E-TICKET CHEATING

Jagatsinghpur: The Paradip Railway police on Thursday raided the Radhakanta printing press office in Jagatsinghpur town and seized huge numbers of railway E-tickets and incriminating documents and picked up its owner Paramananda Mania charging him duplicating railway tickets. Acting on a complaint that the press owner was circulating fake e-tickets, railway police accompanied by their Jagatsinghpur counterparts conducted the raid.

CUTTACK, K'PADA TO BECOME SMART AGRI DISTRICTS

Cuttack: Global sustainable agriculture specialist organisation Solidaridad has joined hands with local SKAK (Sarat Kar and Anima Kar Foundation) and Idea-Vodafone Foundation to transform Cuttack and Kendrapada districts into climate- and digitally-smart agricultural districts. The project was launched at the ICAR- Central Institute for Women in Agriculture Bhubaneswar on Friday by Roopa Roshan Sahoo, IAS, in the presence of about 200 farmers. The project would directly benefit 50,000 smallholder farmers of these districts over the next three years.



'LET ODISHA ADOPT LAW FOR LAWYERS' WELFARE'

Brahmapur: Congress leader and Ganjam district president of INTUC Pitabash Panda has hailed the efforts of Congress led Rajasthan Government for passing the "Rajasthan Welfare Amendment Bill 2022" in the Assembly recently. As per the bill, now the lawyers of Rajasthan will be entitled to get Rs 15 lakh assistance soon after they retire from practice and Rs 8 lakh in the event of their death. Panda demanded that the Odisha Government also implement a similar law for the welfare of the practicing lawyers in the State.

NRITYAM INSTITUTE FETED AT INT'L FILM FEST

Brahmapur: Hinjili based Nrityam Institute of Ganjam district once again has been honored at "Nawada International Film Festival" held in Bihar recently. More than 2,000 films participated in the festival covering 81 countries. A number of film directors both from India and abroad also participated in the event. The dance artists of Hinjilicut's Nrityam Institute participated in the event and enthralled the audience with their high quality and flawless dance performance and rich artistic acumen.



PHARMACO VIGILANCE WEEK HELD IN BALANGIR (Pix)

Balangir: Regional Director, Centurion University of Technology and Management (JITM), Balangir, Pradeep Sarangi flagged off a rally of pharmacy students here on Friday on the occasion of National Pharmacovigilance Week, which aims



at responding to the drug safety problems. The rally was held to sensitise the people and students about the abuse of drugs, its adverse reaction and its treatment, said Sarangi. Moreover, pharmacy students should understand their role as healthcare workers, said he.

YOUTH'S BODY RECOVERED FROM A POND IN ATHMALLIK

Athmallik: Police recovered a dead body from a pond in Mahidharpur of Ambasara Munda panchayat under the Thakurgarh police station of Athmallik subdivision. The deceased was identified as Sipun Nayak (20) of Batimunda village in Sanjamura panchayat of Kishorenagar block. On September 21, Sipun had come to Athmallik for some work but didn't return to his village. On September 23 morning, his body was found floating in the pond.

SAREGAMA CARVAAN MOBILE AT BBSR

Great gift option to buy feature phone for parents and grandparent Bhubaneswar: Saregama, a leading player in the Indian music industry with decades of expertise, has launched its Saregama Carvaan Mobile at Bhubaneswar. It is the first feature phone of the country with 1,500 pre-loaded evergreen



songs which will allow music lovers of the region to enjoy music without any hindrances. Users can enjoy all songs without any internet connectivity.

Hubbies alive, but women get widow pension!

Sarpanch's mother-in-law, relative among illegal beneficiaries

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

The Indra Gandhi National Widow Pension (IGNWP) scheme has become a mess in Ekamania GP under Aul block as 17 women, whose spouses are alive, are getting the pension under the

scheme.

Surprisingly, the mother-in-law and the relative of the local Sarpanch are also among the beneficiaries despite not being widows. One Mukha Biswal, who is the mother-in-law of the local Sarpanch, is getting the widow pension though her husband Paramanada Biswal is alive. Ahalya Biswal, the Sarpanch of Ekamania GP, is the daughter-in-law of Mukha. Similarly, Saraswati Biswal, Ahalya's relative, is entitled illegally to the benefit, though

her husband, Ananda Biswal is alive.

The other illegal beneficiaries are Rambhabati Parida, wife of Rangadhar, Mandari Nayak, wife of Sankarshan, Abanti Rout, wife of Fakira, Basanti Das, wife of Raghunath, Hemalata Rout, wife of Natabar, Kanchan Sahu, wife of Dhusasan, Malati Nayak, wife of Baikuntha, Menaka Biswal, wife of Golekh, Rangalata Malik, wife of Kasinath, Ranjubala Biswal, wife of Adeitya, Sabitri Behera, wife

of Maheswar, Shova Jena, wife of Meghu, Srimati Barik, wife of Harekrushna, Surama Nayak, wife of Gourahari, and Jharana Nayak, wife of Kalandi. All these women belong to the Ekamania GP.

Widows belonging to BPL are eligible to get the pension. As per guidelines, to avail the pension scheme, one has to apply by submitting death certificate of her husband, income certificate, Aadhar card and photo online. Later, the Panchayat Executive Officer (PEO)

conducts an inquiry by visiting the house of the applicant and submits a report to the Block Social Security Officer. The Block Security Officer later verifies the documents and sends the same to the BDO for approval to enrol the woman in the widow pension scheme. The Sub-Collector sanctions pension in favour of the beneficiary on the recommendation of the BDO.

Though a lengthy procedure is maintained to ensure transparency, in these

women's cases, corruption and nepotism played a role, alleged the locals. The local Sarpanch's representative, Pramod Biswal, however, informed they were unaware about it. Meanwhile, an inquiry into matter and action against those found guilty has been demanded in the locality.

When contacted, Sub Collector Niranjan Behera stated that he is going to direct a probe into the case and take action against the errant as per the inquiry report.

PFI incite youth to join ISIS, LeT: NIA

Agency: Group conspired to establish Islamic rule in India by committing terrorist activities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has alleged that the radical outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) encouraged vulnerable youths to join terrorist organisations, including Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT), Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or Daesh and Al-Qaida, and also conspired to establish Islamic rule in India by committing a terrorist act.

The NIA has also claimed that the documents seized during the nation-wide searches conducted at offices of PFI and its leaders contain highly incriminating materials targeting prominent leaders of a particular community. In a remand petition submitted before the NIA special court in Kochi on Thursday seeking custody of 10 persons in connection with a case registered



by the agency's Kochi office, the agency alleged that the radical Islamist outfit conspired to establish Islamic rule in India by committing terrorist act as a part of violent jihad. It said the PFI spreads "dis-affection against India by wrongful inter-

pretation of government policies to the particular section of people" to create hatred against the state and its machineries.

"During the investigation, based on materials collected, it has been disclosed that the accused named in the FIR were actively involved in the organised crimes and unlawful activities repeatedly, to terrorise other religious sections of the society, besides creating fear in the mind of general public based on the larger conspiracy hatched among themselves and others," the report said.

In near simultaneous raids across the country, a multi-agency operation spearheaded by the NIA on September 22 led to the arrest of 106 activists of the Popular Front of India in 11 States for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country. "The seized documents also contain highly

incriminating materials related to targeting prominent leaders of a particular community. The Hit List seized clearly shows that the PFI, which is working through its leaders, members and associates have gone far ahead in creating atrocities among the community," the report said.

With an intention to disrupt public tranquility and propagating alternative justice delivery system, "the PFI encouraged youths to join terrorist organisation" including Lashkar-e-Taiba, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Al-Qaida and "also conspired to establish Islamic rule in India by committing terrorist act" as a part of violent jihad, it said.

"The case involves key players of the society and they are highly influential even to the effect of stalling the community and its progress by a mere call.

The common man stands threatened by the stand taken by the accused and their henchmen," the report added. The agency said the devices confiscated from the accused and from the offices of the PFI needed to be analysed at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) in Thiruvananthapuram. The probe agency had produced 10 accused before the court and sought their custody to "unearth larger conspiracy hatched by the accused/cadres and office bearers/leaders of PFI".

The agency said the Ministry of Home Affairs had on September 16 directed it to probe the matter following which a case was registered on September 19 under various sections of the IPC and the UAPA. The NIA court had remanded the accused to judicial custody.

Nitish, Lalu to meet Sonia today, may push for pre-poll alliance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, along with RJD patriarch Lalu Prasad and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, will call on Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Sunday.

The meeting assumes importance in the backdrop of discussions on Opposition unity. Both Nitish and the RJD are pushing for a pre-poll alliance ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election rather than a loosely tied-together front.

The Bihar leaders will be in the national Capital to attend a rally to mark the birth anniversary of former deputy Prime Minister and Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) founder Devi Lal in Fatehabad, Haryana, organised by INLD leader O.P. Chautala. A senior JDU leader said a formula is being worked upon similar to 2004 for a pre-poll alliance where alliances can be forged at the State level



amongst parties comfortable in sharing space like the one that exists in Bihar.

Such an alliance can be explored in five major States — Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, which together send 222 members to the Lok Sabha.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury asserted that Opposition unity at the national level is a chimera that no one should chase. "I have said it repeatedly, that alliances have to be formed at the State level keeping in mind the unique political factors of each State," he said.

In 2004 too informal alliances existed prior to the

election among the several of the constituent parties of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) at State level. The Congress for example was in alliance with Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in Jharkhand, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in Maharashtra, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Tamil Nadu and the RJD and the LJP in Bihar. The rally organised by Chautala will be attended by several Opposition leaders including NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, DMK leader Kanimozhi and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah.

Yechury too will be present at the rally. Chautala has also sent invitations to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and Telugu Desam Party chief (TDP) Chandrababu Naidu, for attending public meeting.

MEA warns Indians against fake job rackets in Thailand, Myanmar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Saturday asked all Indian nationals aspiring for jobs in foreign countries to be wary of dubious foreign companies and urged them to verify the credentials of foreign employers and antecedents of recruiting agents in view of many Indians lured to Myanmar as part of a scam.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said instances of "fake job rackets" offering lucrative jobs in Thailand by dubious IT firms have come to the notice of Indian missions in Bangkok and Myanmar.

"Instances of fake job rackets offering lucrative jobs to entice Indian youths for the posts of 'digital sales and marketing executives' in Thailand by dubious IT firms involved in call centre scam and cryptocurrency fraud have come to our notice recently by our missions in Bangkok and Myanmar," the MEA said.

"The target groups are IT skilled youth who are duped in the name of lucrative data entry jobs in Thailand through social media advertisements as well as by Dubai and India-based agents," it said in an advisory.

The MEA said the victims are reportedly taken across the border illegally, mostly into Myanmar, and held captive to work under harsh conditions. It advised Indian nationals not to get "entrapped" in such fake job offers being floated through social media platforms or other sources.

"Before travelling on tourist/visit visa for employment purposes, Indian nationals are advised to check/verify credentials of foreign employers through concerned Missions abroad, and antecedents of recruiting agents as well as any company before taking up any job offer," it said.

The Indian embassy in Myanmar recently rescued over 30 Indians out of 60 who were trapped in that country's Myawaddy area after falling prey to an international racket promising jobs in Thailand.

Myawaddy area in south-eastern Myanmar's Kayin state bordering Thailand is not fully under the control of the Myanmar government and certain ethnic armed groups hold sway over it.

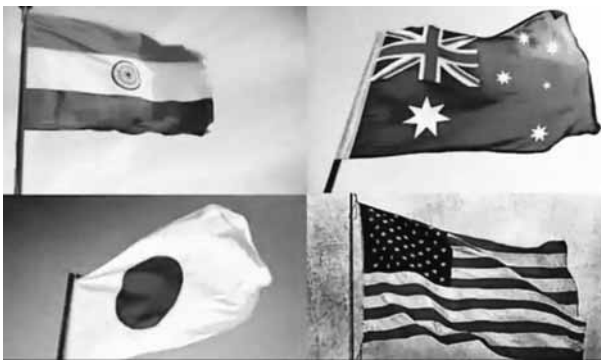
QUAD leaders vow free, open Indo-Pacific region

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/NEW YORK

With China asserting itself in the Indo-Pacific region, the Quad combine has said it is against any unilateral actions to change the status there or increase tensions and called for rules-based international order.

This caution was sounded by the foreign ministers of the Quad grouping, comprising India, Australia, US and Japan. The Ministers met late Friday on the sidelines of the ongoing 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The Quad grouping meet was held to deepen Quad multilateral cooperation in support of advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific, which is inclusive



and resilient, according to the joint readout of the meeting held here on Friday.

The meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterparts Penny Wong of Australia, Hayashi Yoshimasa of Japan and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"The Quad's vision is for a

region where the rules-based international order is upheld, and where the principles of freedom, rule of law, democratic values, peaceful settlement of disputes, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are respected," the joint readout released by the US State Department said. "We strongly oppose any unilateral actions that seek to

change the status quo or increase tensions in the region," the four foreign ministers said.

They reaffirmed their conviction that international law, peace, and security in the maritime domain underpins the development and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific," according to the readout.

"We also reaffirmed our unwavering support for ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) unity and centrality, ASEAN-led regional architecture, and practical implementation of ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific," it said.

China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installa-

tions in the South China Sea. China also has territorial disputes with Japan in the East China Sea. China and India are also involved in a protracted military standoff in eastern Ladakh. India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties.

In the meeting, they also underscored the Quad's unwavering support for the UN Charter, including its three pillars, and their steadfast commitment to strengthening and reforming the UN and international system.

"The Quad affirmed its support for a UN that solves the consequential challenges of our time and safeguards our shared and interconnected resources. This includes the full

implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals," the four ministers said.

The leaders said they are committed to advancing a comprehensive UN reform agenda, including through the expansion of permanent and non-permanent seats of the UN Security Council so that the Council reflects the current global realities and incorporates more geographically diverse perspectives.

The foreign ministers said they look forward to the counter-terrorism tabletop exercise being hosted by Australia later in 2022. They intend to meet in person for the next Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi in early 2023.

'Army capable to give befitting reply to enemy'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Army is capable of giving a befitting reply to any adversary and when it engages with China, it does so on an equal footing, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Saturday.

Asserting this point at an event to release a five-volume book on Deendayal Upadhyay in presence of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, he said, when China conducted first nuclear test in 1964, Deendayal Upadhyay was the first one who spoke in favour of India



conducting its nuclear test, the minister said. When India carried out its first nuclear tests in 1998 in Rajasthan under the leadership of then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the idea was not to use the weapon against any country but to maintain a deterrent, he said.

"Because of that deterrence, the Indian Army today has full confidence of self-defence. Today in 2022, when India's army engages with China, it does so on an equal footing. If any power looks towards India with evil intention, Indian soldiers have the capability to give a befitting reply," he said.

Rajnath said country's goal is not only to make items for its needs, but also to export defence items to other countries. "I can say we are moving fast towards fulfilling dreams of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay," he said.



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah during inauguration of five Border Outposts of 'Sashastra Seema Bal', in Fatehpur, Bihar, on Saturday

BJP panel indicts TMC for violence during Nabanna Chalo Abhiyan, submits report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The five-member delegation formed by BJP national president JP Nadda to probe the violence during 'Nabanna Chalo Abhiyan' on September 13 submitted its report to him at his residence on Sunday indicting the TMC leaders and the Government for allegedly allowing 'unprovoked violence' against the BJP workers and recommending a central probe into the incidents.

The delegation, which visited the state and met the BJP leaders and workers, injured in the incidents, took stock of the situation after the BJP's protest march in Kolkata that led to clashes with the police.

The report said the state police at the instance of the TMC made unprovoked brutal attacks and made arrests of peaceful BJP protestors who came under heavy stone pelted. The panel has recommended a central probe into the violence against the BJP workers.

Nadda had formed a party panel to investigate the violence that happened during the 'Nabanna Chalo' rally. The members of the delegation were asked to probe the situation on the ground level and investigate what led to the violence in Kolkata on September 13. The fact finding committee consisted of former Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police, Brijlal, MPs Colonel Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore



and Samir Oraon, Aparajita Sarangi and Sunil Jakhar. Among others, they visited injured BJP councillor Meena Devi Purohit. Central BJP leaders Sunil Bansal, Mangal Pandey and Asha Lakra also visited the affected party cadre in Kolkata. "The BJP workers were tortured by the police on the day of Nabanna Abhijana. Many were injured and are still suffering due to police atrocities," said Bansal.

According to Meena Devi Purohit, she had to get seven stitches in her head as she was attacked from behind by male policemen wielding lathis. "These were goondas in police uniforms." Earlier there were 34 years of left-rule violence and now there is TMC's violence, she said.

After meeting Meena Devi Purohit at her residence, one of the BJP panel member Sunil Jakhar said the force used by the police during the protest was a mere show of arrogance by the TMC.

"These atrocities show the barbarism of the TMC. Abhishek Banerjee said that he would have shot the party workers. This is sheer arro-

gance. The people of Bengal are observing this arrogance and the corrupt activities of TMC," Jakhar said. Former union minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore also criticised Abhishek Banerjee's comment and said the TMC leader's remark should be condemned by everyone.

TMC General Secretary and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee had earlier made controversial remarks saying that if he were in the police's shoes, he would have shot BJP workers during the 'Nabanna Chalo' protest march.

"Meena Devi is a senior lady. Look what they have done. Mamata said police used restraint? Does Abhishek Banerjee's comments show restraint? It is absolutely condemnable" said Rathore. Several police personnel as well as BJP leaders and workers sustained injuries as the party's "protest rally against corruption" in West Bengal turned violent on September 13. Visuals from Kolkata streets showed violent mobs pelting the police with stones and bricks as well as attacking them with lathis and setting fire to the Kolkata Police's cars also showing injured BJP leaders.

Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari, the party's Hooghly MP Locket Chatterjee and senior leader Rahul Sinha and several other leaders were detained by the police.

Mumbai's former Police Commissioner arrested in NSE phone tapping case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey in relation to the National Stock Exchange (NSE) phone tapping case. He was earlier arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and was presently in judicial custody.

The CBI has secured from a Mumbai court four-day custody of Pandey in connection with the alleged illegal phone tapping of NSE employees by his information technology firm. The CBI approached a special CBI court seeking his custody in connection with the tapping case.

The CBI will subject Pandey to custodial interrogation during his four-day custody. In addition to Pandey and former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of National Stock Exchange (NSE) Chitra Ramkrishna, the CBI has also named another former NSE CEO and MD Ravi Narain in the case.

It is alleged iSec Securities Pvt. Ltd. one of the firms that conducted a security audit of NSE, had illegally tapped phones of NSE employees during 2009-17, the CBI has alleged in its FIR. The company was incorporated by Pandey in March 2001 and he quit as its director in May 2006. His son and mother took over



charge of the company after Pandey's exit. On July 19, the ED Pandey in connection with a money laundering case linked to the alleged illegal phone tapping of NSE employees. The retired 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was arrested after two consecutive days of questioning in connection with the money laundering case.

Pandey is facing two connected FIRs by the ED and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of illegal interception of phones of NSE employees by iSec Services Private Ltd, a company founded by him, and violation of Securities and Exchange Board of India guidelines in conducting NSE's system audit.

In its FIR, the CBI had alleged that Ravi Narain and Ramkrishna, both former chief executives of the NSE, had roped in company founded Pandey to snoop on the stock market employees by illegally intercepting their phone calls.

India hits back at Pak PM for comments on Kashmir in UNGA

Sehbaz Sharif's remarks over Kashmir issue false, says India, reprimands Islamabad of indulging in cross-border terrorism

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Taking exception to Pakistan Prime Minister Sehbaz Sharif's comments on Kashmir in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), India on Saturday charged him with efforts to "obfuscate misdeeds in his own country and justify actions against India."

New Delhi also blamed Islamabad for sponsoring cross-border terrorism.

Giving this terse message while exercising its right to reply to Sharif's statements at the UNGA, First Secretary of Indian mission in UN Mijito Vinito the United Nations, termed Shehbaz Sharif's claims over the Kashmir issue false and accused Islamabad of indulging in "cross-border terrorism".

"It is regrettable that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has chosen the platform of this assembly to make false accusations against India. He has done so to obfuscate misdeeds in his own country and to justify actions against India," Vinito said. In an apparent ref-



erence to terrorist Dawood Ibrahim, he said the country that claims to seek peace with its neighbours, would never shelter conspirators of 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts. Vinito said such a country would not make unjustified and untenable territorial claims against its neighbours.

A polity that claims it seeks peace with its neighbours would never sponsor cross border terrorism. Nor would it shelter planners of the horrific Mumbai terrorist attack, disclosing their existence only under pressure from the international community," he said.

Shehbaz Sharif, in his address brought up the Kashmir issue and said India's "illegal and unilateral" actions on August 5, 2019, to change the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, further undermined the prospects of peace and inflamed regional tension.

He also said Islamabad

wants peace with all its neighbours, including India, but it is possible only after a "just and lasting solution to the Kashmir dispute." Sharif claimed that India's "illegal and unilateral" actions to change the special status of Jammu and Kashmir has inflamed regional tensions.

"I think it's high time that India understood this message loud and clear that both countries are armed to the teeth. War is not an option. It is not an option. Only peaceful dialogue can resolve these issues," he added.

Referring to the recent incidents of forced abduction and marriages of girls from Hindu, Sikh and Christian families in Pakistan, Vinito said it is ironic that the country which has committed "grave violation of minority rights" is speaking about minorities on a global platform. "The desire for peace, security and progress in the Indian subcontinent is real. It is also widely shared.

US steps up diplomatic efforts with China on Taiwan, Russia

AP ■ NEW YORK

The Biden administration on Friday ramped up its diplomatic efforts to press China to end provocative actions against Taiwan and warned it about any active support for Russia in its war against Ukraine.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken made both cases in a meeting with his Chinese counterpart on Friday in a meeting on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly in New York, according to US officials. The session was one of the few that Blinken kept on his schedule after the death of his father on Thursday.

The officials wouldn't describe the Chinese response, but said Foreign Minister Wang Yi was receptive to the messages and that the two men discussed the need "to maintain open lines of communication and responsibly manage the US-China relationship, especially during times of tension."

The talks between Blinken

and Wang come amid a period of intense tensions on both issues and ahead of an expected meeting in November between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping. Biden's recent comments about Taiwan and China's tacit support for the war in Ukraine are just two of the latest irritants in relations between Washington and Beijing.

State Department spokesman Ned Price said Blinken had affirmed to Wang the administration's commitment to "maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait" despite Biden's assertion earlier this week that the U.S. Would send troops to defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion.

China regards the self-governed island of Taiwan as its sovereign territory, has not ruled out force to reunify it with the mainland and has in recent months stepped up military activity in the area. That activity is at least partially in response to high-level U.S. Congressional visits to Taipei, including by



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and stepped-up American arms sales.

Blinken "stressed that preserving peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is critical to regional and global security and prosperity," Price said in a statement. It added that the

U.S. Remains committed to its "one-China policy" which does not support Taiwanese independence.

On Russia, U.S. Officials said Blinken underscored the damage that would be done to the Sino-U.S. Relationship should Beijing take a more

active role in supporting the war in Ukraine. U.S. Officials have said they are cautiously optimistic about recent comments from Chinese leaders about their concerns over the war and its consequences, and Blinken wanted to drive the point home.

Blinken "highlighted the implications if the PRC were to provide support to Moscow's invasion of a sovereign state," Price said in the statement. "PRC" refers to China's formal name, the People's Republic of China.

The US-China relationship has become increasingly fraught in recent years over multiple issues, including the persecution of Muslims and ethnic minorities in China's western Xinjiang region, clampdowns on dissent in Tibet and Hong Kong, aggressive Chinese actions in the South China Sea and against Taiwan, and the handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Nonetheless, Price said the US continues to be "open to cooperating with the PRC where our interests intersect.

Russia shells Ukrainian cities Amid Kremlin-staged votes

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces launched new strikes on Ukrainian cities as Kremlin-orchestrated votes took place in occupied regions of Ukraine to create a pretext for their annexation by Moscow.

Ukraine's presidential office said the latest Russian shelling killed at least three people and wounded 19.

Oleksandr Starukh, the Ukrainian governor of Zaporizhzhia, one of the regions where Moscow-installed officials organised referendums on joining Russia, said a Russian missile hit an apartment building in the city of Zaporizhzhia, killing one person and injuring seven others.

In the five-day voting in the eastern Luhansk and Donetsk regions and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south that began on Friday, election officials accompanied by police officers carried ballots to homes and set up mobile polling stations, citing safety reasons.

The votes are set to wrap up Tuesday, when balloting will be held at polling stations.

Ukraine and its Western allies dismissed the referendums as a sham with no legal force.

They alleged it was an illegitimate attempt by Moscow to slice away a large part of Ukraine, stretching from the Russian border to the Crimean Peninsula.

A similar referendum took



place in Crimea in 2014 before Moscow annexed it, a move that most of the world considered illegal.

"Half of the population fled the Donetsk region because of Russian terror and constant shelling, voting against Russia with their feet, and the second half has been cheated and scared," Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Ukrainians in occupied regions to undermine the referendums and to share information about the people conducting "this farce".

He also called on people to try to avoid the partial troop mobilisation Russian President Vladimir Putin announced on Wednesday or to sabotage and desert the Russian military if they ended up in the ranks.

"If you get into the Russian army, sabotage any activity of the enemy, hinder any Russian operations, provide us with

any important information about the occupiers — their bases, headquarters, warehouses with ammunition," Zelenskyy said.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said the voting "looked more like an opinion survey under the gun barrels", adding that the Moscow-backed local authorities were sending sending armed escorts to accompany election officials and to note the names of individuals who voted against joining Russia.

In the Ukrainian capital, about 100 people from the Russia-occupied city of Mariupol, which is part of the Donetsk region, gathered to protest the referendum, covering themselves in Ukrainian flags and carrying posters "Mariupol is Ukraine".

"They ruined the city, killed thousands of people, and now they are doing some kind of profanation over there," said Vladyslav Kildishov who helped organise the rally.



QUAD nations to assist each other in taking action against malicious cyber activities

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

In a stern warning to state-sponsored malicious cyber activities, the grouping of India, Australia, Japan and the United States — collectively called Quad — has said they would assist each other in ensuring the security and resilience of regional cyber-infrastructure.

A joint statement issued after foreign ministers Penny Wong of Australia, S Jaishankar of India, Hayashi Yoshimasa of Japan and US Secretary of State Tony Blinken met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York called on states to take reason-

able steps to address ransomware operations emanating from within their territory.

"We exercise responsibility to assist each other in the face of malicious cyber activity, including from ransomware, against critical infrastructure," it said.

The joint statement described this as a call to action.

The foreign ministers said that the Quad countries are committed to an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful cyberspace and support regional initiatives to enhance the capacity of countries to implement the UN Framework for Responsible State Behavior in Cyberspace.

L.69 group of nations commit to instilling 'new life' in efforts towards achieving UNSC reform

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The L.69 group of countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific have committed to instilling 'new life' in their efforts towards achieving reform of the UN Security Council.

The grouping also underlined that lack of progress in the process has serious implications not only for the continued relevance of global governance institutions but also for world peace and security.

A high-level meeting of members of the L.69 group and other invited like-minded countries on 'Reinvigorating Multilateralism and Achieving Comprehensive Reform of the UN Security Council' was held here Friday on the margins of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly.

The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister of St. Vincent and Grenadines Ralph Gonsalves and co-hosted by



India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

In a joint statement, the group reaffirmed that adapting the United Nations to the contemporary world realities necessarily requires "urgent and comprehensive" reform of the Security Council, the principal organ for international peace and security.

The L69 group reiterated that an expansion of the security council in both permanent and non-permanent categories, as well as reform in its working methods, is "indispensable" in making it more representative, legitimate and effective.

"We commit to instilling a new life in our efforts during the 77th session of the General

Assembly and urgently call on all members states of the United Nations to join hands to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council," the group said in a statement adding they affirm their commitment to making concrete progress on UNSC, including through a reenergized intergovernmental process.

"We further recognise that lack of progress in security council reform has serious implications, not only for the continued relevance of global governance institutions but also for global peace and security and delivering on the purposes, principles and promises of the United Nations Charter," the statement said.

Iranian women furious over headscarf death

AP ■ NEW YORK

The tears come quickly to Masih Alinejad when she talks about the messages she's received in recent days from women in Iran protesting against their government after a young woman died in police custody over a violation of the country's strict religious dress code.

They talk about the risks, possibly fatal ones, in facing off against government forces that have a long history of cracking down on dissent. They share stories of saying goodbye to their parents, possibly for the last time. They send videos of confrontations with police, of women removing their state-mandated head coverings and cutting their hair.

At least 11 people have been killed since protests began earlier this month after the funeral of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died in custody after



being detained by Iran's morality police.

"I feel the anger of people right now through their text messages," Alinejad told The Associated Press in New York City, where the 46-year-old opposition activist and writer in exile has lived since fleeing Iran following the 2009 election.

"They have been ignored for years and years," she said. "That is why they are angry. Iranian women are furious now."

Amini's death spurred this latest explosion of outrage. She had been detained September 13 for allegedly wearing her hijab too loosely in violation of strictures demanding women in public wear the Islamic headscarves. She died three days later in police custody; authorities said she had a heart attack but hadn't been harmed. Her family has disputed that, leading to the public outcry.

Protests started after her

September 17 funeral, and have taken place in more than a dozen cities. According to a tally by The Associated Press based on statements from state-run and semiofficial media, at least 11 people have been killed, while a state TV anchor said the number is even higher.

The Iranian government has pushed back, clashing with demonstrators and clamping down on internet access.

Alinejad shares the outrage of the protesters; for more than a decade she has been an outspoken critic of the theocracy that rules the country and its control over women through the required wearing of the hijab and other measures. In 2014, she started My Stealthy Freedom, an online effort encouraging Iranian women to show images of themselves without hijabs.

"Let me make it clear that Iranian women who are facing guns and bullets right now in the streets, they're not protesting

against compulsory hijab like just a small piece of cloth. Not at all," she said.

"They are protesting against one of the most visible symbols of oppression. They are protesting against the whole regime."

Alinejad, who grew up following the rules on religious coverings in the small Iranian town where she was born, began pushing back against being forced to don certain garments when she was a teenager.

But even she, who now displays her full head of curly hair as a matter of course, didn't find it easy to overcome a lifetime of conditioning.

"It was not easy to put it away, like overnight," she said. "It took three years for me, even outside Iran, to take off my hijab."

She said the first time she went out without a religious covering, in Lebanon, she saw a police officer and had a panic attack. "I thought the police are going to arrest me."

US terminates designation of Af as major non-NATO ally

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has terminated the designation of Afghanistan as a major non-NATO ally, more than a year after the Taliban captured power in Kabul.

In 2012, the United States named Afghanistan a major non-NATO (MNNA) ally, which cleared the way for the two countries to maintain a defence and economic relationship.

The designation gave several facilities and concessions to Afghanistan in terms of defence and security-related assistance and equipment.

"By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 517 of the



Foreign Assistance Act of 1961,...I hereby terminate the designation of Afghanistan as a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States for the purposes of the Act and the Arms Export Control Act," Biden said in a presidential memorandum to the Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The change in Afghanistan's status follows Biden's withdrawal of US troops from the

country last year, ending nearly 20 years of war.

Afghanistan swiftly fell back into the hands of the Taliban, which have repeatedly made assurances to the international community that they will protect the rights of women and girls, while simultaneously stripping away many of their freedoms and protections.

The MNNA status was first created in 1987. With Afghanistan's status rescinded, the US will have 18 major non-NATO allies, according to the State Department.

They are Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, South Korea, Thailand and Tunisia.

Abortion a matter of freedom for Biden, Democrats

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The way President Joe Biden sees it, the overturning of Roe vs. Wade was not just about whether a woman has a right to obtain an abortion.

"It's about freedom," Biden said at a private fundraiser in New York this past week.

Vice President Kamala Harris takes an even bolder approach when she talks about abortion.

"Extremist, so-called leaders trumpet the rhetoric of freedom while they take away freedoms," she told voters in Illinois this month.

That deliberate echo of "freedom" from Biden, Harris and other top White House officials shows how Democrats — eager to keep abortion front of mind heading into the November elections — at the



highest ranks are increasingly co-opting traditionally conservative rhetoric in a blunt appeal to a broad swath of the electorate.

White House aides think the message is a particularly potent one, especially when combined with repeated reminders about the GOP's proposals on abortion, which often do not include exceptions for rape or the mother's health that are popular with voters.

In Lebanon, boat tragedy kills 89 but others plan to migrate

AP ■ NAHR EL-BARED (LEBANON)

Thousands of Palestinians held prayers on a small soccer field in a refugee camp in northern Lebanon on Saturday, to mourn one of the scores of migrants who died after their boat sank off Syria's coast this week, even as others vowed to undertake the same perilous voyage.

Abdul-Al Abdul-Al, 24, kissed his father goodbye Tuesday before boarding a crowded boat leaving from a nearby town seeking a better life in Europe. It was his 14th attempt to flee the crisis-hit Mediterranean country, this time ending with the return of his dead body. He was to be buried in the camp where he was born, his father, Omar, told The Associated Press during the funeral procession.



The head of al-Basel Hospital in Syria's coastal city of Tartus said Saturday that the death toll has reached 89, adding that of the 20 others who were receiving treatment at the medical center, six were discharged.

The Lebanese army announced Saturday that troops have detained the man who allegedly organised the deadly trip.

The incident was the dead-

liest so far as a surging number of Lebanese, Syrians, and Palestinians have been trying to flee Lebanon by sea to Europe in search of jobs and stability. In Lebanon, tens of thousands have lost their jobs while the national currency has dropped more than 90% in value, eradicating the purchasing power of thousands of families and pulling three-quarters of the population into poverty.

‘India on track to attract \$100 bn FDI this fiscal’



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is on track to attract USD 100 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) in the current fiscal on account of economic reforms and ease of doing business, the government said on Saturday.

In 2021-22, the country received the 'highest ever' foreign inflows of USD 83.6 billion.

"This FDI has come from 101 countries, and invested across 31 union territories and states and 57 sectors in the country. On the back of economic reforms and Ease of

Doing Business in recent years, India is on track to attract USD 100 billion FDI in the current FY (financial year," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

It said that to attract foreign investments, the government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy wherein most sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route.

The reform measures include liberalization of guidelines and regulations, in order to reduce unnecessary compliance burden, bring down cost and enhance the ease of doing

business in India, it added.

FDI equity inflows in India dipped by 6 per cent to USD 16.6 billion during April-June period of the current fiscal.

It also said that to address the import of low-quality and hazardous toys and to enhance domestic manufacturing of toys, several strategic interventions have been taken by the government.

The import of toys in 2021-22 have reduced by 70 per cent to USD 110 million (Rs 877.8 crore). On the other hand, exports rose by 61 per cent to USD 326 million.



REITs can raise short-term debt at lower cost as Sebi allows issue of commercial papers: Industry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi's decision to allow Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) to issue commercial papers will help in raising short-term debt at a lower interest cost, according to real estate industry experts. REIT, a popular instrument globally, was introduced in India a few years ago to attract investment in the real estate sector by monetising rent-yielding assets. It helps unlock the massive value of real estate assets and enable retail participation.

At present, there are three listed REITs — Embassy Office Parks REIT, Mindspace Business Parks REIT and Brookfield India Real Estate Trust — on Indian stock exchanges, but all these are of leased office assets.

On Thursday, Sebi allowed

emerging investment vehicles, REIT, and Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT), to issue commercial papers, subject to certain conditions.

Commercial Paper or CP in market parlance refers to a short-term debt instrument issued by companies to garner funds generally for a time period up to one year.

Welcoming the decision, Vinod Rohira, CEO, Mindspace Business Parks REIT, said: "Sebi's move to allow REITs to issue commercial papers provides an additional avenue of financing through short-term debt instrument at comparatively lower costs and shorter timelines."

This would aid in bringing down the cost of capital for 'AAA' rated REITs, he said.

Vikaash Khdloya, CEO, Embassy REIT, said the global

REITs have long used commercial paper as a short-term financing option.

This will further reduce the cost of capital for REIT and deepen the available capital pools which already include banks, FPIs and insurers, he said.

"The introduction of commercial paper in India further validates the creditworthiness of REITs as they continue to transform commercial real estate sector in the country," Khdloya said.

Piyush Gupta, Managing Director, Capital Markets and Investment Services, Colliers India, said, the capital raising options for REITs have been opening up.

The Sebi's decision will provide an avenue to raise short-term debt at a lower cost and in a shorter turnaround time, he

said. Sebi's move came after Reserve Bank Commercial Paper Directions last month indicated that InvIT and REIT having net worth of at least Rs 100 crore are eligible to issue commercial papers.

REITs and InvITs need to abide by the guidelines prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for issuances of commercial papers and follow the conditions of listing norms prescribed by Sebi.

The issuance of listed CPs should be within the overall debt limit permitted under the REITs and InvITs rules.

While a REIT comprises a portfolio of commercial real assets, a major portion of which is already leased out, InvITs comprise a portfolio of infrastructure assets such as highways and power transmission assets.

No decision taken on oil refinery plant location in Maha, says Puri

PTI ■ CHANDRAPUR

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said the Centre has not taken any decision to set up an oil refinery project in any specific area in Maharashtra.

Speaking to reporters in Chandrapur, he said the state government will have to discuss the project's location with the Central government.

He alleged the erstwhile government (in Maharashtra) had allocated land for the project but later refused under the pretext of changing the location, which derailed the project.

"Following this, the state (Maharashtra) and the country faced huge economic losses in the last two-and-a-half years," Puri alleged.

Puri was apparently referring to the Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemical project, proposed to be built at Nanar village in Ratnagiri district in coastal Konkan, but it was scrapped before the 2019 polls at the insistence of Shiv Sena, the then alliance partner of BJP.

Establishing a 60-million metric tonne per annum oil refinery will be the biggest plant in the world, Puri said.

Amazon India customer base from tier 2, 3 cities jumps 2-fold during festive season sale

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce firm Amazon India on Saturday said it has recorded a two-fold jump in its customer base from tier 2 and 3 cities during the first 36 hours of its festive season sale.

Tier 2 and 3 cities accounted for 75 per cent of the total customer base of the e-commerce major during its 'Great Indian Festival' sale, an Amazon India spokesperson told PTI.

"75 per cent of the customers came from tier 2 and tier 3 cities. We saw 2 times more customers from Tier 2 and 3 cities compared to last year," the spokesperson said. The festive season sale of the company started from September 23 and will end before Diwali next month. The company gave 24 hours early access to Prime members.

Amazon claims to have recorded sale of 10 lakh unique products offered by small and

medium business and startups from its platform during the first 36 hours of its festive season sale.

The company said its Prime member sign ups grew 1.9 times than last year and 68 per cent of the total new sign ups were from tier 2 and 3 cities. Amazon charges a fee from Prime users for special services but sign-ups comprises both paid and non-paid users. "It is encouraging to witness small and medium businesses, startups, artisans, women entrepreneurs offer a wide selection of products to our customer across India," said Manish Tiwary, Vice President & Country Manager, India Consumer Business, Amazon.

According to Amazon, customers showed preference for television brands like Samsung, OnePlus, Mi, LG and Sony.

The company's Amazon Business segment recorded 50 per cent growth in customers during the present sale.



"Amazon Business saw around 50 per cent growth in customers, over 100 per cent jump in orders and more than 200 per cent jump in sales over last year along with a 2 times growth in customers placing bulk orders for their business or corporate gifting needs. The number of sellers getting at least one business order grew by 23 per cent over last year," the statement said.

Amazon India has expanded its same-day delivery service to more than 50 major cities and towns in India for Prime members. "Same-Day Delivery within hours is now available in 2.5 times more pin codes compared to last year, growing from 14 cities to 50 cities and towns this year, including Surat, Mysuru, Mangalore, Bhopal, Nashik, Nellore, Anantapur, Warangal, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Patna among others," the company said.



Meesho records 80% jump in sale with 88 L orders on day 1 of festive season sale

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Softbank-backed e-commerce firm Meesho on Saturday said it registered around 80 per cent jump in the business with close to 87.6 lakh orders on Friday, the first day of its five-day festive season sale.

Tier 2, 3 and 4 cities accounted for around 85 per cent of orders on day one, the company said in a statement.

"Meesho clocked a record around 87.6 lakh orders on the first day of its flagship festive sale event — the Meesho Mega Blockbuster Sale. This is the highest number of orders recorded by the company in a single day — up about 80 per cent from day one of previous year's sale," the statement said.

The company said that it has received orders from deep corners of the country such as Jamnagar, Alappuzha, Chhindwara, Davengere, Hassan, Gopalganj, Guwahati, Siwan, Thanjavur and Ambikapur.

"With a wide assortment of around 6.5 crore active product

listings at lowest prices, the sale exemplifies Meesho's mission towards democratising e-commerce for everyone," it said.

Fashion, beauty & personal care, home & kitchen, and electronic accessories were the top-selling categories on day one, while consumers bought everything from sarees to analog watches, jewellery sets, mobile cases and covers, bluetooth headphones, choppers and peelers in record volumes to fulfil their festive shopping aspirations, the company said.

"With around 85 per cent of orders and approximately 75 per cent of sellers coming from Tier 2 and beyond cities, we are humbled to have created a far-reaching impact in the deepest corners of the country.

"We will continue to fuel the discoverability of hyperlocal businesses and products, empower MSMEs and further boost accessibility and affordability for our heterogeneous base of consumers," Meesho CXO for Business Utkrishta Kumar said.

Byju's clears \$ 230 mn dues to Blackstone for Aakash acquisition

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Etech firm Byju's has cleared USD 230 million payment that was due to private equity investment firm Blackstone for acquiring a majority stake in test

preparatory firm Aakash Educational Services, according to sources privy to the development.

Byju's had acquired Aakash in April for around USD 950 million.

"Byju's paid USD 230 million to Blackstone for acquiring a stake in Aakash," the source told PTI.

While it cleared payments that were due to the founder of Aakash in July, the payment of Blackstone was deferred based on a mutual agreement.

Founders of Aakash and Blackstone continue to hold a minority stake in the firm.

Acquisition of Aakash has been positive for Byju's business.

Payment to Blackstone and non-closure of USD 800 million funding round due to non-payment of committed investment from Sumeru Ventures



and Oxshott have been two main issues that raised questions on Byju's business performance.

Byju's co-founder and CEO Byju Raveendran at the time of announcing the result had said that the contractual commit-

ment of the two investment firms is still there, but the fund has not come and these entities have not made any investment in the last six months.

Byju's booked a loss of Rs 4,588 crore for the fiscal year

ended March 31, 2021, 19 times more than the preceding fiscal.

The losses in the 2020-21 fiscal widened from Rs 231.69 crore in 2019-20. Revenues during FY21 dropped to Rs 2,428 crore from Rs 2,511 crore in FY20.

But in the following fiscal, ending March 31, 2022, the company said revenue soared four-fold to Rs 10,000 crore but it did not reveal profit or loss numbers for that year.

Byju's said the losses widened in FY21 mainly on account of deferment of some revenue and losses incurred from WhiteHat Jr.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Harinder Bhalla, Mr. Manu Bhalla, Mrs. Neelu Kapur are joint owners / mutates of Residential Flat Bearing No. 3402, on 4th Floor, (area measuring 1260 sq. ft.), in tower No. 03, (ATS Greens-II), at Plot No. A-38, Sector-50, Model, Udyt, Gurgaon Road Nagar, (U.P.) the said property by virtue of Mutation letter dated 20.10.2021, issued by Noida Authority, after demise of Late Mr. Harinder B. Bhalla, who was sole owner of the said property vide a transfer deed dated 18.03.2013. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners/Mutates want to sell the said property to Mr. Saurabh Samra/this nominee, who is taking loan for purchase the said property from ICICI Bank Ltd., if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mr. Harinder Bhalla, Mr. Manu Bhalla, Mrs. Neelu Kapur in respect of the said property to Sale, Mortgage, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, Unit No. 23, Shivaji Marg, Wazirpur, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-4112227-28, kumar.associates.advocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that Title Deed No. 2688 Dated on 22.05 '1981, Regd. with Sub Registrar Sub Division-III, New Delhi of Property situated at G-13, South Ext. Part-II, New Delhi owned by Sh. R.K. Arora S/o Sh. M.L. Arora has been lost by Punjab National Bank, Manav Chowk Branch, Ambala City on dated 09.08.2022.

Branch Manager, Punjab National Bank, Manav Chowk, Ambala City

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large Mr. Mahesh Pal S/o Mr. Mool Chand who is purchasing the FLAT NO.001, FRONT RHS (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS), AREA MEASURING 475 SQ. FEET, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 104MI, AT SIGNATURE APARTMENT-B, IN THE VILLAGE OF KHORA COLONY, PARGANA LONI TEHSIL & DISTT GHAZIABAD, (U.P.) from Mr. Suman Yadav V/o Mr. Sukhveer Singh & Mr. Pradeep Yadav S/o late Mr. Sukhveer Singh who had owners through revenue record, and same to be financed & mortgaged by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
B-93B, on Second Floor, Opp. SBI, Sector-2, Noida, UP - 201301 Contact # 0120-4269379

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large Mr. Vikram Solanki who is purchasing the FLAT NO. 204, (FRONT RHS) ON FIRST FLOOR, WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS AREA MEASURING 66.66 SQ. YARDS (i.e. 600 Sq. Ft.), OUT OF KHASRA NO. 104MI, AT SIGNATURE APARTMENT-B IN THE VILLAGE OF KHORA COLONY GHAZIABAD, (U.P.) from Mrs. Suman Yadav V/o Mr. Sukhveer Singh & Mr. Pradeep Yadav S/o late Mr. Sukhveer Singh who had owners through revenue record, and same to be financed & mortgaged by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 07 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien, disputes etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
B-93B, on Second Floor, Opp. SBI, Sector-2, Noida, UP - 201301 Contact # 0120-4269379

UJVN Limited

HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax- 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

दिनांक : 24 / 09 / 2022

Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (Generation) Chibro Power House, Chibro, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No.16/EE(G)/CPH/2022-23 for "Annual maintenance of the Coolers & Pumps including replacement of main pipe line of 4*69 MVA Generator Transformers at Chibro Power house"

Estimated cost: ₹ 12.51,376/- GST Extra.

Date of availability of tender on website: 26-09-2022 from 11:00 Hrs. Last date for submission of tender: 17-10-2022 up to 16:00 Hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvnl.com

EE(G), Chibro

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

‘Kalin nagari’ all set to host 4-day international carpet fair from October 15-18

PTI ■ BHADOHI (UP)

Carpet traders of Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi district, popularly known as "kalin nagri" for its exquisite weaving skills, are gearing up for a four-day international carpet fair to be held from October 15-18.

Weavers, exporters and all other stakeholders, anxiously waiting for a revival of the industry after Covid pandemic, are expecting to book a handful of overseas shipment orders during the fair to be held in this town for the first time.

Organised by the Carpet Export Promotion Council under the Union textile ministry, the biannual fair was earlier held either at New Delhi or Varanasi.

The fair is scheduled to be held at Bhadohi, less than 50 kilometres from Varanasi, from October 15-18, officials said.



Carpet Export Promotion Council chairman Umar Hameed told PTI that the council has sent invitations to 350 importers of 60 countries.

"Almost 300 importers have already registered for attending the fair. The importers who are coming are primarily from countries, including America, Australia, Brazil, Belgium, Germany and Italy," he said.

Haji Jalil Ahmed (91), a carpet manufacturer and exporter who has been actively involved

in organising carpet fairs for a long time, said, "The fair was first organised in Delhi 35 years ago. It has come a long way since then and is now being organised at Bhadohi. The medium and small traders of the district will benefit most from the trade fair."

General Manager of the All India Carpet Manufacturers' Union Aslam Mahboob said that the state government has taken several steps to facilitate the carpet fair in Bhadohi, which is well-connected with the Varanasi airport.

"Foreign importers will be able to reach the fair spot in 30 minutes after landing at Varanasi airport," Mahboob said.

District Magistrate Anil Kumar said preparations for the fair are in full swing and all aspects of the event are being looked into.

BPCL signs pact with Brazil's Petrobras to diversify crude oil sourcing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) on Saturday said it has signed an agreement with Brazilian national oil company Petrobras for sourcing crude oil from the Latin American nation as part of plans to diversify its sourcing needs.

BPCL imports a large volume of crude oil which is turned into fuel such as petrol and diesel at its three oil refineries at Mumbai, Bina in Madhya Pradesh and Kochi in Kerala.

The firm, which gets majority of its supplies from west Asian nations such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia, is looking to diversify its sources of supply in an attempt to cut down reliance on any particular region.

Company chairman and managing director Arun Kumar Singh and Petrobras CEO Caio Paes de Andrade signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Brazil. BPCL said in a statement.

Logiy Spaces, AA Holdings to invest \$ 37 mn to build logistic park in Karnataka

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industrial and logistic park developer Logiy Spaces has tied up with AA Holdings to build a new project at Narasapura, Karnataka with an investment of USD 37 million (around Rs 300 crore).

In a statement, AA Holdings, which has recently been formed by Abhijit Verma, said it has formed a joint venture with Logiy Spaces to invest USD 37 million for the development of 1 million square feet of industrial and logistics park.

The project is scheduled for completion by September 2023.

"In our endeavour to enable local landlords and aggregators to become successful micro entrepreneurs and fulfil the need for quality commercial spaces in the country, we floated AA Holdings to provide them the right guidance and mentorship," said Verma, the MD and CEO of AA Holdings.



"We will be developing 1 million square feet of industrial and logistics park in the suburbs of Karnataka at an investment outlay of USD 37 million. This project will be executed in a joint venture with Logiy Spaces," he added.

Narasapura is one of the biggest industrial regions in Karnataka, under the district jurisdiction of Kolar and is well connected to notable cities and highways of Kolar, Malur, Hoskote, Bangalore, Chennai, Chittoor and NH 4 among others.

INDIA WHITEWASH ENGLAND IN JHULAN'S LAST WALTZ

Record first ever clean sweep on England soil

PTI ■ LONDON

A fairy-tale ending befitting her glorious career marked Jhulan Goswami's last waltz as India Women beat England by 16 runs in the third and final ODI to record their first clean sweep in this country.

That the feat was achieved at the Mecca of Cricket — Lord's — made it doubly satisfying.

Sent into bat, India were all out for a paltry 169, and at that point it looked like the tourists may have fallen many runs short of making the match a memorable one for their legendary seamer, who is calling it quits after two decades of incredible service to the game.

However, the Indians managed to eke out a win as Charlotte Dean (47) was adjudged run out in controversial fashion, for backing up. Dean, who nearly pulled off a stunning win for the hosts after they were reeling at 65 for seven and then 103 for eight, was out of her ground and Deepti Sharma simply held the ball to remove the bails, leaving the English flabbergasted.



Recently, ICC while modifying the playing conditions had moved this kind of dismissal from 'unfair play' to 'run out'. The changes would come into effect from October 1. On expected lines, the day revolved around the 39-year-old warhorse Jhulan Goswami, who is leaving the scene as women's cricket's highest wicket-taker, having started her journey way back in 2002.

Harmanpreet Kaur, who let Jhulan call the toss in a touching gesture, was

unable to hold back her tears, even as the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) planned to name a stand at the Eden gardens after the 'Chakdaha Express'.

She finished with excellent figures of 2/30 in her full quota of 10 overs, including three maiden overs.

The competitive Indian has seen the game evolve during her long journey that was marked with some unforgettable moments and few unpleasant days.

While she was not expected to be at

her peak in her final series, Jhulan did enough on her own to go out on a high, having bowled tidily in her last three international matches.

She was lucky to have got her first wicket of the day with a short one, her second scalp came when the pacer bowled Kate Cross with her ball number 10,001 in ODIs, again something which no other player has achieved.

England captain Amy Jones's decision to field first seemed to have paid dividends as India kept losing wickets at regular intervals to be bundled out in 45.4 overs. India were in deep trouble at 29 for four pretty early into their innings, but them came the revival.

All-rounder Deepti Sharma top-scored for the visitors with an unbeaten 68 off 106 balls, while opener Smriti Mandhana was the second highest scorer, making exactly 50 runs in 79 deliveries. Barring these two, and Pooja Vastrakar (22), to some extent, none of the Indian batters could make any substantial contribution in the final game of the series, which the tourists had pocketed with wins in the first two matches.

Among England bowlers, medium pacer Kate Cross returned with excellent figures of 4/26, while there were two wickets apiece for Freya Kemp and Sophie Ecclestone.

She would spit fire even while bowling at me in nets: Mithali



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jhulan Goswami's commitment to the game was such that she would 'spit fire' even while bowling in the nets, and at the receiving end of it often was her longtime teammate and captain, Mithali Raj.

India's finest ever batter Mithali, who called time on a glorious career in July, on Saturday welcomed her contemporary and fast-bowling great Jhulan into the former cricketers' club.

Having shared the dressing room for close to two decades, Mithali and Jhulan saw the massive growth of women's cricket in India, shared many memorable wins and also some heartbreaking losses.

Speaking to PTI on Jhulan's immense impact, longevity and relentless hard-work over the years, Mithali began by talking about the 'Chakdaha Express' early days when she came into the Indian team as a 19-year-old.

"We are of the same age, so we have that comfort level and communication. It was always very easy to reach out to her and speak to her. Someone who

was always high on energy on the ground, may be because she is a fast bowler," said Mithali.

The 39-year-old became the leading wicket-taker in ODIs through sheer dedication. Though swing was not her biggest weapon, accuracy and use of the seam got her a bagful of wickets.

The competitive spirit in Jhulan was very much evident even in the nets, recalled Mithali. "In the nets, I would often ask her 'why are you spitting fire, you are my teammate only na'. Then she would say 'to get out is the toughest'. She always had the competitive streak including domestic cricket where we played against each other often. I enjoyed that rivalry as well."

A fast bowler is expected to have a tough exterior but Jhulan was also gentle at heart. Mithali recollected a game in domestic cricket that revealed Jhulan's softer side.

"We were playing in the semifinals (Railways versus Bengal). I did not carry my helmet during that domestic season. Jhulan was aiming right at my head and I did leave a lot of her bouncers.

CAB planning to name stand at Eden Gardens after Jhulan Goswami

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) is planning to name a stand at the Eden Gardens after legendary India seamer Jhulan Goswami, in recognition of her excellent services to the game.

Hailing from West Bengal's Chakdaha town in Nadia district, the 39-year-old Jhulan brought the curtains down on her glorious, two-decade career with the third and final ODI against England at Lord's on Saturday.

"We are planning to name a stand after Jhulan Goswami at Eden Gardens. She is a special cricketer and deserves to be with the legends. We will approach the army for the necessary permission. We are also planning a special felicitation for her on the annual day," CAB President Avishek Dalmiya said. "At CAB we give equal importance to women's cricket and hence we see so many talented cricketers. They are of course inspired by Jhulan's achievements. Though she has retired from international cricket we would love her to play in the woman's IPL," he added.

Women's cricket's highest wicket-taker, Jhulan, fondly known as 'Chakdaha Express', bids adieu to international cricket with over 350 wickets, a feat no bowler has achieved so far.



I don't practice too much but like to be specific: Karthik

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Specific practice and not 'too much of it' helps Dinesh Karthik come up with the big hits in extreme pressure situations.

One such case was on Friday night when he smashed a six and four to seal the game for India after nine runs were needed off the last six balls.

Asked about his process, the designated finisher in the team said creating scenarios in the nets helps him perform in the middle.

"Over a period of time, I've been practising for this, I've been doing it for RCB now and I'm happy doing it here. So it's a consistent routine for a period of time."

"I do a lot of scenario practices and also Rahul (Dravid) bhai and Vikram (Rathour) bhai has been accommodating of how I want to practice, what are the kinds of shots I want to practice."

"I have been very specific with it. I don't practice too much but I like to keep it as specific as possible," said Karthik after India levelled the series

against Australia.

In the first game, Karthik came to bat after Axar Patel while on Friday he was sent ahead of the left-arm spinner.

"I think it's something that we are trying, there are times when there could be a couple of overs where an Axar Patel could target a spinner and take them on."

"So that is the kind of logic at that stage and having a left hander and leg spinner bowling is a good matchup. So we try and use that option sometimes."

"So that's one of the reasons why we try and do it depending on how the game is unravelling at that point of time," said the 37-year-old.

Karthik played ahead of Rishabh Pant in the opener but a truncated game allowed the management to accommodate both in the playing eleven for the second T20.

"Today we required four bowlers to finish off the 8 overs as each bowled two but we actually had five options. So when you have five options, that's the luxury of having a world class all rounder in Hardik Pandya," said Karthik.

Harshal, Chahal's form in focus ahead of series decider against Australia

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India will be hoping their key bowlers, Harshal Patel and Yuzvendra Chahal, are back to their best when the hosts take on Australia in the series-deciding third T20 International here on Sunday.

India were able to plug the gaps in Nagpur to level the three-match series with a comprehensive win in the eight-over-a-side contest. But they will need their bowlers, especially Harshal and Chahal, to overcome their struggles ahead of the T20 World Cup.

India had got off to an electric start in the last game with Axar Patel bowling a fiery two-over spell that included a couple of wickets but they are struggling at the back end of the innings.

While Jasprit Bumrah is sure to carry the responsibility, senior seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's poor show at the death overs is a real concern. He struggled in the Asia Cup and in the opener against Australia.

He was dropped for the second T20, perhaps, because skipper Rohit Sharma felt he needed only four bowlers for the eight overs but Bhuvneshwar's form is worrisome.

Death overs specialist Harshal, who is returning from an injury, also hasn't inspired confidence and perhaps needs a couple of matches more to find his rhythm.

The right-arm medium pacer, who relies on his variations to be effective, has conceded 81 runs in his six overs at an economy rate of 13.50 and is the most expensive bowler in the series. He has struggled to get his lengths right, remaining



wicketless.

India rely on their spinners in the middle overs and while Axar has been a big positive, Chahal has faltered. He went for a lot of runs in the Asia Cup and the trend has continued against Australia.

India will, however, breathe a sigh of relief as Bumrah was his vintage best, showing no signs of rust after returning from his back injury.

In the batting department, the famed top order comprising Rohit, KL Rahul and Virat Kohli needs to be more consistent. The trio has not fired in unison for a while.

Suryakumar Yadav has also been patchy in the past few games with Hardik Pandya churning out match-winning performances.

Another chink in the Indian batters' armour is leg spin. The have continued to struggle against leggies and Adam Zampa has utilised this weakness well.

Dinesh Karthik, who played his role of a finisher to perfection in the previous game, is likely to get more game time. Skipper Rohit would also

like to give Axar, who is a like-to-like replacement for the injured Ravindra Jadeja, a go with the bat to see how the all-rounder performs in crunch situations. Additionally, he is the only left-hander in the side apart from Rishabh Pant.

The Australians, on the other hand, would also be concerned with their bowling.

After outplaying India in the first game, the Australians were at the receiving end in the second match, eventually losing by a massive six wickets. While Aaron Finch and Matthew Wade managed to put runs on the board, their bowling department failed miserably once again.

In the absence of the injured Nathan Ellis, pacers Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Daniel Sams leaked over 11 runs an over. All-rounder Cameron Green has also been expensive.

Wade has been brilliant with the willow but with a World Cup to defend in their backyard, the Australian team management would like the big-hitting Glenn Maxwell, who has scored just a run in two games, to pick up form.

David is versatile and adds to Australia's batting options: Finch

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Big-hitting Tim David is a "versatile and flexible" player and his presence only adds to the options that Australia possess going into the T20 World cup, feels skipper Aaron Finch.

The Singapore-born batter, known from his explosive knocks, made his debut for Australia in the first T20.

"What Tim brings to the table obviously is some great form in competitions around the world. In various batting positions I know in the PSL, he batted at 4 and had a great tournament, other tournaments, he batted five and six," Finch said.

"So we see him as a really versatile and flexible player and obviously his power speaks for itself."

"We've all seen how destructive he can be once he gets in and in terms of the order I think it just depends on the game situation, maybe, some matchups in the opposition as well."

Talking about David's batting position, he said: "Ideally, it'd be right towards the back



end because the top order has done a great job.

"But I think if you look down our World Cup squad, we've got some power there with Maxwell, Stoinis, David, Wade and Smith. We've got a lot of options there which is really good."

Australia suffered a six-wicket loss to India in the second T20 which was reduced to 8 overs a side due to wet outfield.

"It's important that you're always looking at ways to improve and obviously we were with Maxwell at three, Tim David at four. So we're trying to be a bit more aggressive up

front and yeah, we haven't played too many shortened games," Finch said.

"Especially leading into a World Cup, we've to put some thought into it over some time. Josh Inglis came out at the last minute, and Sean Abbott took his spot. That was just to give us an extra bowling option, not knowing how the wicket would play."

"So there's just a little bit of execution with bat and ball I think at times that probably just swung the momentum of the game. And obviously, the way the Rohit played was pretty special. And also Axar the way that he bowled, he was outstanding."

Bangladesh, Ireland qualify for 2023 Women's T20 World Cup

PTI ■ DUBAI

Bangladesh and Ireland have qualified for the 2023 Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa after winning their respective semi-finals at the qualifying event in Abu Dhabi.

Bangladesh completed a 11-run win over Thailand and Ireland beat Zimbabwe by four runs in matches played at the Zayed Cricket Stadium on Friday to book their berths, joining Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies, who have already made it to the 10-team tournament.

Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana Joty said: "We came here to qualify for the T20 World Cup, and we did it! We have been playing together for so many years, this is our time to show the world how good we are, how much we have improved as a side."

Ireland captain Laura Delany said: "It (qualification) is massively important for the



growth of the game in Ireland. We feel fortunate that Cricket Ireland have introduced full-time contracts and I think we are starting to see the benefit of that.

"It is a lot of relief that we won. They run us till the last ball, it was a very competitive game. We are thrilled to be there. We have tried to veer off from focusing on the World Cup. We weren't successful last time so wanted to do things differently. We are proud to have got over the line today."

Papua New Guinea (PNG), Scotland, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States of America (USA) were the other teams to compete in the eight-team tournament.

Duleep Trophy Final: West Zone have one hand on trophy

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

West Zone closed in on a memorable come-from-behind victory as they took out the South Zone top and middle-order after setting them an improbable victory target of 529 in the Duleep Trophy final here on Saturday.

Reeling at 156 for six at stumps on the fourth and penultimate day, South Zone were staring at a heavy defeat as they trailed by 375 runs.

West Zone put up a mammoth 585 for four in their second innings after conceding a 57-run first-innings lead to their opponents.

Prolific run-scorer Sarfaraz Khan recorded a fine, unbeaten century (127 off 178 balls) to continue West's charge after overnight double centurion Yashavi Jaiswal was dismissed for 265 at the SNR College Cricket Ground.

At the end of third day's



play, West Zone were 376 for three and Jaiswal was batting on 209 off 244 balls. Jaiswal began the day from where he had left last evening, adding seven more boundaries to the 23 he had hit by the end of third day's play.

Jaiswal eventually fell to off-spinner Krishnappa Gowtham, having faced 330 deliveries during his monumental knock and added 164 runs with Sarfaraz for the fourth wicket.

There was no respite, however, for the South bowlers as Sarfaraz went about his task with consummate ease to swell his team's overall lead and put them in a commanding position.

In all, Sarfaraz found the fence 11 times and cleared it twice, while also stitching together an unbroken partnership of 103 runs with Het Patel (51 not out) to compound South Zone's misery.

The declaration from West

skipper Ajinkya Rahane came after Sarfaraz completed his century on Duleep Trophy debut. Patel, coming off an excellent 98 in the first innings, scored his runs quickly, facing just 61 balls while hitting seven fours and a six.

Batting for five sessions, West left their opponents flattened, and the South Zone team did not quite recover from that. This was evident from their second innings batting as, with the exception of Rohan Kunnammall (93 off 100 balls), all batters failed to live up to the challenge.

Even as his colleagues left one after another, Kunnammall was able to bat fluently for the runs he scored with his team in an extremely difficult situation.

All of South Zone's experienced batters failed and fell to the pace duo of Atit Sheth and Jaydev Unadkat, who bowled very well and grabbed two wickets apiece.

PCB appoints foreign coaches for two domestic first class teams

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has appointed two foreign coaches for two of its domestic teams for the upcoming premier first class tournament and the national 50-over competition.

Nottinghamshire's Paul Franks and Leicestershire's Paul Nixon will be the head coaches of the Central Punjab and Sindh sides in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy and national 50-over competition this season.

Franks, who has worked as assistant coach under Peter Moores at Nottinghamshire county, has replaced Pakistan's Abdul Razaq as head of the Punjab side while Nixon, a former head coach with Leicestershire and England player, will be at the helm of affairs for the Sindh team.

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja has made his intentions clear to have more foreign influence in domestic and junior cricket. Apparently, it is his brainchild to have foreign coaches and trainers working with the six

domestic first class teams.

Also, this could be the first time that any foreign coach has been appointed to work with domestic teams in a full season.

In the inaugural Pakistan Junior League which begins next month, the PCB has appointed South Africa's Gordon Parsons, New Zealand's Nicholas Webb, England's Julian Fountain, Julian Wood, and Toby Radford to work with the six teams under the Board's pathways development programme.

A reliable source in the PCB said all the foreign coaches working in domestic and junior teams are being paid through sponsors working with the Board.

The local coaches working with domestic teams are also getting a good amount of money as they are paid monthly salaries of between five to six lakh rupees along with other benefits.

The Board has encouraged former Test, international and first class players to work as coaches.

FIERCE LIKE FIRESTORM YET SOFT LIKE MARSHMALLOW: FEDERER AND NADAL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Holding hands and crying together, while sitting next to each other, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, the two biggest sporting icons, unknowingly, produced yet another unforgettable moment that will be recorded for posterity.

There was not a single eye that wasn't moist at the O2 Arena in London, the place where Federer bid a tearful adieu to the game during the Laver Cup.

It was an unforgettable and emotional moment.

The players who appeared to be made of steel and were driven by an indomitable spirit, were melting. There was no inhibition, no shame. Such was the occasion.

Tears trickled down his cheeks, and the sobs were loud as Federer began thanking his companions, his fans and family after playing his last game.

It was simply overwhelming, it was human.

The two, without an iota of doubt, are the most fiercest of players to have stepped on the tennis courts. The ones who redefined the game and showed how much a human body can be pushed or can achieve.

And yet they showed, inside those steely bodies they possessed child-like pure hearts that knew more than just the exhilaration of victory, and the agony and torment that accompanies defeat.

They showed that despite being fierce rivals inside the sporting arena, off it you could be respectful to your competitors. That they are more than just incredibly skilful artists.

It is this adorable and inspiring human element that catapults Federer and Nadal to a different pedestal in today's world, when hurling insult in the garb of aggression has become fashionable.

The humility of these two legends is like a balm for the soul.

While what they did with racquets in their hand will always be priceless teaching lessons for budding players, their public conduct and the way they carried themselves, is equally invaluable and worth emulation.

Indian cricketing icon Virat Kohli, too, gushed over their statesmanship.

"Who thought rivals can feel like this towards each other. That's the beauty of sport. This is the most beautiful sporting picture ever for me," Kohli tweeted with the a picture of the two.



"When your companions cry for you, you know why you've been able to do with your god given talent. Nothing but respect for these 2."

While tournaments are public events, where people can choose to hide their real selves and rather create an image, Federer's genuineness and humility has been testified by his tennis colleagues.

Recently a player revealed how inside the locker rooms, Federer won't speak without "please" and "thank you".

It's not that they did not have moments where they faltered, but maintaining decorum, grace and humbleness for over two decades, is simply amazing.

He possesses the toughest of shots, found impossible-looking angles with ridiculous ease, and yet arrogance was miles away from him.

He would pull off a magical shot but won't yell after executing that. Wearing a sweet smile, he would simply go back to the baseline and get ready for his next shot.

In a brutal sport that the game of tennis has evolved into, a persona like Federer, who not just won 20 Grand Slams but also the hearts of his rivals and a legion of fans, will be missed sorely.



Indian team for FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup leaves for Spain to play friendly matches

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian team for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, to be held in the country from October 11, has left for Spain to play international friendly matches next week.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF), however, did not mention the teams the Indians will play against.

"These friendlies have been planned as part of the team's preparation for the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, which is scheduled to take place in India from October 11," the AIFF said in a release.

"The details of the

upcoming matches will be confirmed soon."

The Young Tigresses have been camping in Bhubaneswar. The 23-member squad, along with the support staff, travelled left for Spain on Friday night.

The Squad:

Goalkeepers: Melody Chanu Keisham, Monalisha Devi Moirangthem, Anjali Munda

Defenders: Astam Oraon, Gladys Zonunsangi, Kajal, Naketa, Purnima Kumari, Varshika, Shilky Devi Hemam, Nikita Jude

Midfielders: Babina Devi Lisham, Nitu Linda, Shailja, Shubhangi Singh

Forwards: Anita Kumari, Lynda Kom Serto, Neha, Rejiya

Devi Laishram, Shelia Devi Loktongbam, Kajol Hubert Dsouza, Lavanya Upadhyay, Sudha Ankita Turkey.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. 34-KUR-TRD-OT-2022-23

Name of Work: EXECUTION OF ELECTRIFICATION (OHE WORKS ONLY) OF PROPOSED PET COKE SIDING OF Ms INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LIMITED TAKING OFF FROM PARADEEP (PRDP) STATION ON DEPOSIT BASIS.

Advertised Value : ₹ 1,13,11,641.19, EMD: ₹2,06,600/-, Period of Completion : 180 days, Validity of Offer (Days): 60

Bidding Start Date : 26.09.2022, **Tender Closing Date & Time :** at 1300 hrs. of 10.10.2022.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete details & tender documents will be available at website <http://www.irops.gov.in>

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), **PR-531/N/22-23** **Khurda Road**

National Games TT: Harmeet, Sutirtha clinch men's, women's singles



PTI ■ SURAT

Gujarat's Harmeet Desai and West Bengal's Sutirtha Mukherjee clinched the men's and women's table tennis singles titles with dominating wins in the National Games here on Saturday.

Local hero Harmeet thrashed Haryana's Soumyajit Ghosh 4-0, while Sutirtha proved too good for national champion Sreeja Akula, with the Olympian winning 4-1 in the women's final.

Sutirtha ended the National Games with three gold medals — women's singles, doubles and team — while Harmeet and another Gujarat paddler Manush Shah won two each.

Gujarat men had won the team gold, with Harmeet and Manush playing stellar roles in front of home crowd. Manush also clinched the mixed doubles title, partnering wife Krittwika Sinha Roy.

West Bengal emerged as the overall champions in table tennis, bagging four gold, one silver and three bronze. Gujarat finished second with three gold and three silver. Maharashtra was third with one silver and four bronze medals.

The final day well and truly belonged to Harmeet and Sutirtha as they vanquished top seeds G Sathiyam and Manika Batra in their respective semifinals before dominating the gold medal matches.

Harmeet, who had won the silver medal in Kerala seven years ago, wasn't going to let go of another chance of standing atop the podium and began the match with an aggressive mindset. He kept Ghosh on the defensive by finding angles from both forehand and backhand shots to win 11-8, 11-4, 11-7, 11-8.

Sutirtha was equally clinical in quelling the attacking instinct of 2022 Commonwealth Games mixed doubles champion Sreeja, who had thrashed the likes of Ayhika Mukherjee and Diya Chitale on her way to the final.

Sreeja also ended up on the losing side in the mixed doubles final as she and partner FR Snehit were beaten in straight sets by Shah and Krittwika.

Earlier Sutirtha had teamed up with Ayhika to defeat Karnataka's Yashaswini Ghorpade and Kushi V in straight sets in the women's doubles final.

West Bengal's Jeet Chandra and Ronit Bhanja clinched the men's doubles gold, beating statemates Arjun Ghosh and Anirban Ghosh in straight sets.

Earlier in the day, Harmeet and Sutirtha came up with inspired performances to upset top seeds G Sathiyam and Manika Batra in the men's and women's singles semifinals.

Harmeet defeated Sathiyam 4-2 while Sutirtha got the better of Manika by an identical margin.

teams. "The arrears were their daily allowances and other fees from a national training camp and the Asia Cup and Commonwealth Games this year," the official said. The payments come on the eve of the national training camp being set up in Karachi for the Azlan Shah Cup in Malaysia in early November.

"At least now the players can focus on their skills and training instead of worrying about financial issues," PHF secretary Haider Hussain said.



CBC 22201/13/0117/2223

Antyodaya for welfare of the poor Antyodaya for empowered India

Antyodaya is our vision,
Antyodaya is in our policy and
intention. With the resolve of
Antyodaya, the nation is making
continuous progress.

- Narendra Modi -

Small farmers, street vendors, small entrepreneurs, auto rickshaw drivers and domestic helps form the largest segment of the society and are important partners in the developmental journey of India.

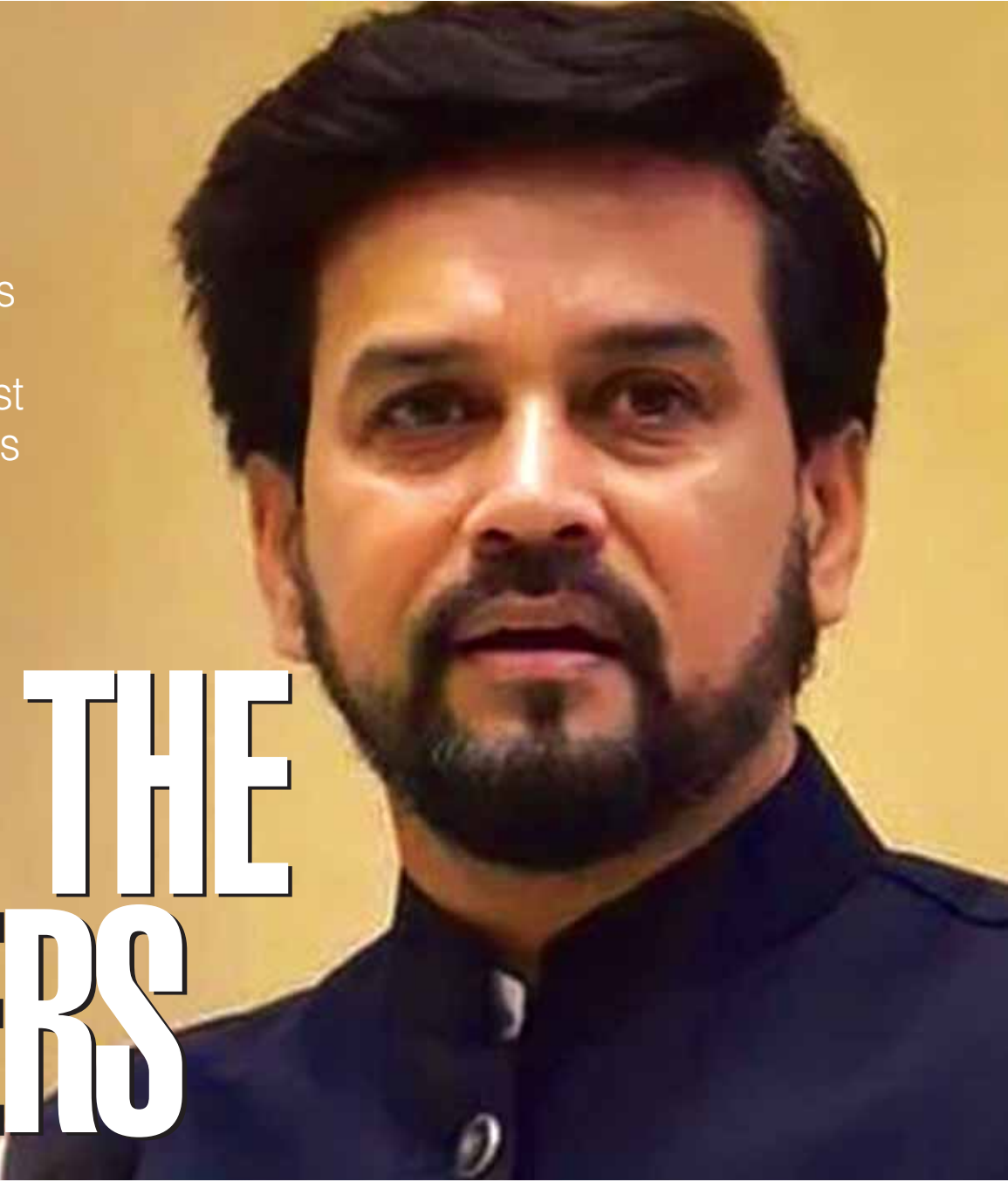
With the objective of the Antyodaya, poor is the central point of vision of Government of India. This largest segment of the society is getting strengthened with the continuous efforts of the Government.

- Major transformation in rural India through Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission and Self Help Groups (SHGs); number of SHGs increased **three fold** in last 8 years along with **four times** increase in Women's participation
- Easy access to **emergency loan** to more than **1.19 crore** beneficiaries under ECLGS scheme, loans amounting to **₹3.68 lakh crore** sanctioned till now
- Collateral free loans to over **32 lakh** street vendors under PM SVANidhi Yojana
- More than **36.5 crore** MUDRA loans amounting to **₹20 lakh crore** to small entrepreneurs
- Street vendors, retailers and small entrepreneurs brought under the ambit of MSME; getting benefitted under **priority sector lending**
- More than **11 crore** farmers getting **₹6,000** per year under PM-KISAN
- Kisan Credit Card issued to more than **3.13 crore** farmers under a special drive
- Total Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of **₹25 lakh crore** to beneficiaries
- Unprecedented boost to Khadi and products of village industries, business turnover exceeds **₹1 lakh crore**, lakhs of employment opportunities in the rural sector

“Life is tough; and if you have the ability to laugh at it, you have the ability to enjoy it.”
—Salma Hayek



Notwithstanding, the red flag raised by Minister Anurag Thakur and judges of the Supreme Court, TV debates continue to focus on polarizing topics. In many cases, the language and expression of the guests and anchors are both inflammatory and offensive. The media has played little heed to such counsel for sobriety in the past as well. In its blind pursuit of TRP sometimes it becomes a real source of threat to peace and harmony of the country, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY



TIME TO TAME THE RABBLE ROUSERS

The cat is out of the bag. Or it was always out in the open but everyone pretended to look the other way, till its low growl turned into a high-pitched roar and its threat menacing and imminent. No offenses to the canines, though; we are referring to the big cats of the TV screens.

Two back-to-back whistleblowing—first by Union Information and Broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur, and second by the Supreme Court of India—underline the threat posed by the TV anchors, to both the mainstream media itself and the peace and harmony of the country.

Notwithstanding, the red flag raised by the Thakur and judges of the Supreme Court, the TV debates continue to focus on polarizing topics. In many cases, the language and expression of the guests and anchors are both inflammatory and offensive. The media has played little heed to such counsel for sobriety in the past as well. In its blind pursuit of TRP sometimes it becomes a real source of threat to peace and harmony of the country.

Not for nothing, speaking at the 7th Annual Gathering and 20th Meeting of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD), Thakur focused his speech on the threat posed by such dangerous debates.

Speaking on the occasion Thakur has said that the biggest threat to mainstream media is not from new age digital platforms but from the mainstream media channel itself.

The minister said inviting guests who are polarizing, who spread false narratives and who shout at the top of their lungs damages the credibility of a channel. “Your decisions regarding the guest, the tone, and visuals - define your credibility in the eyes of the audience. The view may stop for a minute to watch your show, but will never trust your anchor, your channel or brand as a trusted and transparent source of news”, he added.

Turning to the audience, the Minister asked “Are you going to watch as the younger audience switches and sweeps through the shrill on TV news or are you going to bring back the Neutrality in NEWS and Discussion in DEBATES to stay ahead of the game?”

A day later, on September 21, the Supreme court expressed serious concern at the hate speeches in the media and hinted that it might put in some regulations/guidelines to check the menace.

Upset that the Government has done nothing to curb the propagation of hate speeches in the media, the Court asked the Government of India "why it is standing as a mute witness when all this is happening".

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy was hearing a batch of writ petitions seeking the Court's intervention to regulate hate speech.

"What are the provisions of law which relates to Hate Speech in India?", Justice Joseph asked when the hearing started.

This is the crux of the matter. Hate speech is not defined under any law, though there are

- specific provisions to check them.
- In its report submitted to then I@B minister Ravishanker Prasad in March 2017, the Law Commission of India underlined the following legislation to deal with hate speech.
- (i) *the Indian Penal Code, 1860* (hereinafter IPC)
- Section 124A IPC penalises seditious
 - Section 153A IPC penalises 'promotion of enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony'.
 - Section 153B IPC penalises 'imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration.
 - Section 295A IPC penalises 'deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs'.
 - Section 298 IPC penalises 'uttering, words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings of any person.
 - Section 505(1) and (2) IPC penalises publication or circulation of any statement, rumour or report causing public mischief and enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes.
- (ii) *the Representation of The People Act, 1951*
- Section 8 disqualifies a person from contesting an election if he is convicted of indulging in acts amounting to the illegitimate use of freedom of speech and expression.
 - Section 123(3A) and section 125 prohibit the promotion of enmity on grounds of religion, race, caste, community, or language in connection with an election as a corrupt electoral practice and prohibits it.
- (iii) *the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955*
- Section 7 penalises incitement to, and encouragement of untouchability through words, either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise
- (iv) *the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988*
- Section 3(g) prohibits religious institution or its manager to allow the use of any premises belonging to, or under the control of, the institution for promoting or attempting to promote disharmony, feelings of enmity, hatred, ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- (v) *the Cable Television Network Regulation Act, 1995*
- Sections 5 and 6 of the Act prohibit transmission or re-transmission of a programme through cable network in contravention to the prescribed programme code or advertisement code. These codes have been defined in rules 6 and 7 respectively of the Cable Television Network Rules, 1994.
- (vi) *the Cinematograph Act, 1952*



COMMENTING ON THE ROLE OF THE ANCHORS IN PROPAGATING HATE SPEECH, JUSTICE JOSEPH SAID - "THE ROLE OF THE ANCHOR IS VERY IMPORTANT. HATE SPEECH EITHER TAKES PLACE ON MAINSTREAM TELEVISION OR IT TAKES PLACE IN SOCIAL MEDIA. SOCIAL MEDIA IS LARGELY UNREGULATED. ...AS FAR AS MAINSTREAM TELEVISION CHANNEL IS CONCERNED, WE STILL HOLD SWAY, THERE THE ROLE OF THE ANCHOR IS VERY CRITICAL BECAUSE THE MOMENT YOU SEE SOMEBODY GOING INTO HATE SPEECH, IT'S THE DUTY OF THE ANCHOR TO IMMEDIATELY SEE THAT HE DOESN'T ALLOW THAT PERSON TO SAY ANYTHING FURTHER. UNFORTUNATELY, MANY TIMES SOMEBODY WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING HE IS MUTED, A PERSON IS NOT GIVEN PROPER TIME, HE IS NOT EVEN TREATED COURTEOUSLY"



- Sections 4, 5B, and 7 empower the Board of Film Certification to prohibit and regulate the screening of a film.
- (vii) *the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973*
- Section 95 empowers the State Government, to forfeit publications that are punishable under sections 124A, 153A, 153B, 292, 293 or 295A IPC.
 - Section 107 empowers the Executive Magistrate to prevent a person from committing a breach of the peace or disturbing the public tranquility or to do any wrongful act that may probably cause breach of the peace or disturb the public and tranquility.
 - Section 144 empowers the District Magistrate, a Sub-divisional Magistrate or any other Executive Magistrate specially empowered by the State Government on this behalf to issue an order in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger. The above offences are cognizable and thus have serious repercussions on the liberties of citizens and empower a police officer to arrest without orders from a magistrate and a warrant as in section 155 CrPC.
- The commission suggested amendment to the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 by adding new provisions on '**Prohibiting incitement to hatred**' following section 153B IPC and '**Causing fear, alarm, or provocation of violence in certain cases**' following section 505 IPC, and accordingly amending the First Schedule of the CrPC.
- The commission in its report said that hate speech has always been a live debate in India and the issue has been raised time and again before the legislature, the court as well as the public. In Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v. Union of India¹¹, the Supreme Court dealt with a case where the petitioners prayed that the State should take peremptory action against makers of hate speech, the Commission said, and added, the Court did not go beyond the purview of existing laws to penalise hate speech as that would amount to 'judicial overreach.
- "The Court observed that the implementation of existing laws would solve the problem of hate speech to a great extent. The matter was referred to the Law Commission to examine if it 'deems proper to define hate speech and make recommendations to the Parliament to strengthen the Election Commission to curb the menace of "hate speeches" irrespective of, whenever made', the commission said.
- Justice Joseph suggested that the government should come forward to put in place an institution to check hate speech. The court also asked the Government to clarify whether it proposes to act on recommendations of the Law Commission of India regarding amendments to deal with hate crimes.
- The Centre told the court that only 14 states have given their response to the Law commission's recommendation. The Sc

directed the remaining states to immediately file their replies and asked Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde to collate the responses of the States.

Commenting on the role of the anchors in propagating hate speech, Justice Joseph said - "The role of the anchor is very important. Hate speech either takes place on mainstream television or it takes place in social media. Social Media is largely unregulated....As far as mainstream television channel is concerned, we still hold sway, there the role of the anchor is very critical because the moment you see somebody going into hate speech, it's the duty of the anchor to immediately see that he doesn't allow that person to say anything further. Unfortunately, many times somebody wants to say something he is muted, a person is not given proper time, he is not even treated courteously".

Justice Joseph went on to add: Freedom of expression of the press, we don't have it separately unlike the US....there should be free debate no doubt about it but, you should also know where to draw the line because there is a huge influence, particularly with the visual media....they produce a very serious effect on your brain. Freedom is for the listener. The freedom of speech is actually for the benefit of the listener. How would the listener ever make up his mind after listening to a debate where it is just a babble of voice, you cannot even make out what is happening."

When Senior Advocate Sanjay Hegde stated that, "the industry is unregulated and there are no sanctions" one of the petitioners Ashwini Upadhyay countered, "Until hate speech is defined this will go on."

Asserting that hate speech poisons the very fabric, and can't be permitted, Justice Joseph said, "Political parties will come and go but the nation will endure the institution including press it is the important part, without an independent press no country can go forward, it is important that we have true freedom, there", Justice Joseph said.

"Stressing the need for a regulatory mechanism, Justice Joseph continued: "The problem is we don't have a regulatory mechanism for TV. I believe that all channels were fined heavily in England. We don't have that system here. Law means sanction, sanctions must be effected...the problem is that they are not being dealt with firmly. If sanctions are effected this will go... Any anchor will have his views, any anchor will not diverge from the view the channel is taking, they will all be intertwined, you can't divulge from it, but what is wrong is when you have people of different views you are calling them and you are not allowing them to express those views....in doing that you are bringing hate and your TRP is going up and you are driven by that and nobody is going to look into it and take care of it then it is very sad".

(The writer is Executive Editor, The Pioneer)

DECODE 'THOSE' GENES

In a healthy person, BRCA1 (BRest CAncer gene 1) and BRCA2 (BRest CAncer gene 2) are genes that produce proteins that help repair damaged cells. But when these genes carry mutations, they are responsible for higher risk of breast, ovarian and uterine cancers. At least, five to ten per cent of all cancer cases are estimated to be hereditary. Oncologists tell THE HEALTH PIONEER how the new tool, Genetic Testing, can be used in high-risk hereditary patients, to help them opt for risk reduction surgeries as a preventive measure, screening and, regular follow-up.

DR SVS DEO

Head of Surgical Oncology at AIIMS, Delhi and National Cancer Institute, Jhajjar, Haryana



LACK OF AWARENESS ABOUT THESE CANCERS AMONG PUBLIC, LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF GENETIC COUNSELLING AND TESTING SERVICES, THESE SERVICES ARE MAJOR ROADBLOCKS

nessed over the last 20 years. As many as 1.5 lakh new breast cancer cases are diagnosed in India every year.

Lack of awareness about these cancers among doctors and the general public, limited availability of genetic counselling and testing services, and reluctance to avail these services are major roadblocks to preventive health care in cancer treatment.

Genetic counselling before genetic testing for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer is important to determine whether you and your family are likely to have a mutation that is worth getting tested. Usually, genetic testing is recommended if you have:

- A strong family health history of breast and ovarian cancer.
- A moderate family health history of breast and ovarian cancer, and are of Ashkenazi Jewish or Eastern European

ancestry.

- A personal history of breast cancer and meet certain criteria (related to age of diagnosis, type of cancer, presence of certain other cancers or cancer in both breasts, ancestry, and family health history)
- A personal history of ovarian or fallopian tube cancer, or primary peritoneal cancer
- A known BRCA1, BRCA2, or other inherited mutation in your family

DR SUSHMA BHATNAGAR

Chief IRCH and National Cancer Institute (NCI) AIIMS, Jhajjar, Haryana



As this is a relatively new and fast emerging field in oncology, the draft guidelines will also have various modules focussing on increasing awareness among doctors, patients and the public.

FACT FILE

- The genetic factor can raise the breast cancer risk from 4 per cent to 80 per cent and ovarian cancer risk from 1 per cent to 40 per cent.
- On an average, 20% ovarian cancers, 4 to 5% breast cancers and 3 to 5% uterine cancers can be prevented through genetic testing.
- On an average, four in 100 women in a given population get breast cancer, while one in 100 gets ovarian and uterine cancers.

DR NEERJA BHATLA

Professor & Head, Obst & Gynaec & WHO CCR, AIIMS, Delhi. Head, Gynae Oncology NCI, Jhajjar, AIIMS



Genetic testing aids by revealing the risk of types of cancers for a woman carrying the mutation. If a breast cancer patient is found carrying a cancer-causing gene, she can be advised to have regular check-ups for timely detection of potential cancers. They have options of having risk-reduction surgeries in which we remove

the normal organ of the patient after the genetic tests reveal the organ is at high risk of malignancy. These tools may also help the patients learn how to manage their risks with personalized cancer screening, and identify preventive steps that they can take to reduce the cancer risk. For those expecting a baby, can look for oncofertility.

DR VAISHALI SHARMA

Senior Gynaecologist, Laparoscopic Surgeon and Infertility Specialist



the family, we do a PGD (Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis) test in the embryo before transferring it inside the woman's womb. In cases

GENETIC TESTS IS MOSTLY HELPFUL IN CASES OF COUPLES WITH RECURRENT MISCARRIAGES, FAMILY HISTORY OF GENETIC DISEASES, OR WOMAN IS ABOVE 40 YEARS.

where there is a higher risk of genetic diseases due to the woman's age or history of previous pregnancies with genetic disease like Down's Syndrome, we do PGS (Preimplantation Genetic Screening) test.

DR RANJIT MANCHANDA

Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist at Barts Health NHS Trust, and Clinical Senior Lecturer at Queen Mary University of London



Technology to undertake gene testing on a large scale is now available and needs to be used more for cancer prevention. Identification of women harboring genetic mutations that cause cancer, not only allows their optimum treatment with newly available drugs, but also helps identify unaffected at-risk relatives who can then access screening and preventive strategies.

Ovarian cancer (OC), breast cancer (BC), endometrial cancer (EC) and colorectal cancer (CRC) account for approximately 50% of cancers in women.

There are several effective preventive therapy options like risk-reducing surgery (mastectomy, risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy (RRSO) or hysterectomy), chemoprevention (e.g. aspirin or selective estrogen receptor modulators) and screening for women at high risk of breast cancer or CRC to reduce these CSG carrier-associated cancer risks.

In fact, changing the paradigm to population testing can address the limitations in the current clinical genetic testing model for CSGs across healthcare systems. It also provides a forward-looking strategy to maximise precision prevention.

Precision prevention encompasses a prevention strategy that incorporates individual variation in genetic, epigenetic and non-genetic (environmental, hormonal, reproductive and lifestyle) factors.

Genetic tests are available for cancers like:

Breast cancer/Ovarian cancer/Colon cancer/Thyroid cancer/Prostate cancer/ Pancreatic cancer/ Melanoma/ Sarcoma/ Kidney cancer/ Stomach cancer

PROS AND CONS OF GENETIC TESTING

PROS

- A sense of relief from uncertainty.
- In-depth knowledge about one's cancer risk.
- Awareness to help make informed medical and lifestyle decisions.
- Opportunity to help educate other family members about potential risk.

CONS

- Testing may increase anxiety and stress for some individuals.
- Testing does not evaluate a person's risk for sporadic cancers.
- Results in some cases may turn out to be inconclusive or uncertain.

DR NEENA MALHOTRA

Head, IVF Unit AIIMS, Delhi



Genetic testing has significant importance of preserving childbearing function as these women are young and keen to have pregnancies. The cancer treatments lowers the childbearing potential but with advancements in the field of IVF, it is now possible to share their gametes prior to treatment and freeze them to be used once treatment is over.

DR RAJIV SARIN

Professor of Radiation Oncology & In-Charge Cancer Genetics Unit at Tata Memorial Hospital & Advanced Centre for Treatment Research & Education in Cancer (ACTREC), Mumbai Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai



Our country reports over 15 lakh cancer cases annually of which more than half are women. About 5% of all breast cancers, 20% of all ovarian cancers and 5% of all endometrial cancers are hereditary or genetic in nature. At the Tata Memorial Hospital, we now register 1,200 families with

hereditary cancer every year, and a third of these families have breast, ovarian or uterine cancers.

There are several good private labs in the country that provide high quality and reliable genetic testing, but the cost, ranging from ₹ 5,000 - ₹ 40,000 is unaffordable for many families. We at TMC has provided free testing under research funded by the Indian Council for Medical Research to a few thousand families so far. The country urgently needs many more counsellors, oncologists as well as geneticists with expertise in handling hereditary cancer in families.

The cost of genetic testing also must be reduced for it to become more accessible to people.

NEWSBRIEF

Microrobots treat deadly pneumonia in mice

Nanoengineers at the University of California San Diego have developed microscopic robots, called microrobots, that can swim around in the lungs, deliver medication and be used to clear up life-threatening cases of bacterial pneumonia.

In mice, the microrobots—made of algae cells whose surfaces are speckled with antibiotic-filled

nanoparticles—safely eliminated pneumonia-causing bacteria in the lungs and resulted in 100% survival. By contrast, untreated mice all died within three days after infection.

The results are published in Nature Materials.

The work is a joint effort between the labs of nanoengineering professors Joseph Wang and Liangfang Zhang.

SUGAR-COATED POUCHES IN BODY FLUIDS TO DETECT CANCER

Detection of the cancer microenvironment may soon become much easier with the help of a new molecular biosensor recently developed by a team of India scientists. Cancer cells secrete small pouches, namely extracellular vesicles (EV) covered with sugar molecules, Hyaluronan (HA), which has a direct link to tumour malignancy and is considered a potential biomarker for early diagnosis of colon cancer.

These EVs are abundant in body fluids (blood, faeces, etc.), and all types of cells secrete these EVs into the extracellular matrix. Cancer cells secrete at least two times more EVs into the body fluids than normal cells). Therefore, these EVs could be isolated non-invasively from a patient's body for early cancer diagnosis.

Dr. Tatini Rakshit laboratory, supported by Inspire faculty grant of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), at Shiv Nadar Institute of

Eminence, Delhi, in collaboration with S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata and IIT Bhilai, Chhatisgarh has unravelled the contour lengths of HA on a single cancer cell-derived EV surface.

Their study showed that a single cancer cell-derived EV is coated with very short chain HA molecules (contour length less than 500 nanometers) using single molecule techniques and elucidated that these short-chain HA-coated EVs are significantly more elastic than the normal cell-derived EVs. This intrinsic elasticity of HA-coated EVs in cancer helps them to withstand multiple external forces during extracellular transportation, uptake, excretion by cells, adhesion to cell surfaces, etc.

The study has been published in Physical Chemistry Letters.

COVID-19 Pandemic: The Battles India Won

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India -- a country of 1.3 billion people --stood in unison to handle the pandemic.

The Prime Minister ensured that we not only tackled this pandemic, but also progressed firmly towards an inclusive, accessible and affordable healthcare system, becoming an example for other countries to follow, says Prof (Dr) BALRAM BHARGAVA

The COVID-19 virus continues to linger amidst us since the onset of the pandemic two and a half years back. During this period, India has worked proactively towards solving the complex problems we faced on daily basis.

Now that we can finally sit back and reflect on the learnings from the past challenges and losses imposed by the pandemic, as well as the collective gains made during this challenging time, we are reminded of the countless stories of immense courage, solidarity and enterprise in addressing such an unprecedented health emergency.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India -- a country of 1.3 billion people sharing several cultures, geographies and socio-economic backgrounds--stood in unison to tackle the pandemic. The Prime Minister ensured that we not only tackled this pandemic, but also progressed firmly towards an inclusive, accessible and affordable healthcare system. This has now become an example for other countries to follow.

The progress started with the collective efforts by India's researchers' and scientists' communities in streamlining the country's response towards an evidence-based approach to successfully tackle the pandemic.

They worked round the clock to study the virus, establish treatment protocols, create tools and technologies for managing cases and administering of vaccines, and build public awareness around COVID-19 appropriate behaviour. From the beginning of the pandemic, India defied all the odds to become one among the five

nations that successfully isolated the SARS-CoV-2 strain.

This was the first validation of our scientific vigour. Its' testing started during January 2022 with just 1 laboratory. Over months, this base has expanded to over 3,300 COVID-19 testing labs spread all across the country. In diagnostics, India swiftly became self-sufficient, as the brightest of India's scientific minds worked on indigenous solutions for devising affordable testing kits for antibody detection. This led to India's emergence as the world's cheapest provider of RT-PCR tests.

Our vaccination ecosystem has always been supported by a strong manufacturing and production capacity which made us one of the leading low-cost vaccine providers across the world.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we utilized the existing mechanisms to successfully develop effective indigenous vaccines. India's first indigenous vaccine 'Covaxin' was developed in a record period of 9 months. It was a testament to India's strategic focus on public-private partnerships which provided the best of products and benefits to people at home as well as abroad.

The next big challenge was vaccination of a large indigenous population, although this was tackled with relative ease: we have achieved the historic milestone of administering vaccines to over 90 per cent of Indian population.

To ensure that these vaccines were widely available, India developed a one-of-a-kind digital platform, Cowin, which ensured easy access to



At a time when other nations were galvanizing their local resources to address the COVID --19 healthcare emergency which was ballooning beyond their control, India came to their rescue by providing them with abundant and affordable life-saving vaccines, testing and treatment aids.

vaccines to people across the country. To make these life-saving vaccines accessible to remote and geographically challenging terrains in India, drones were used which made delivery of vaccines possible in a short time. Like this, there have been several other achievements that helped India ace the pandemic.

While we made progress in preventive healthcare by developing diagnostics and testing kit, we did not forget to share the fruits of our enterprise with other countries across the world.

At a time when other nations were galvanizing their local resources to address the precarious COVID--19 healthcare emergency which was ballooning beyond their control, India came to their rescue by providing them with abundant and affordable life-saving vaccines, testing and treatment aids, and even the safety masks. India also participated in global trials and provided evidence on multiple interventions utilized across the pandemic.

India's multifarious achievements towards addressing Covid-19 pandemic were acknowledged by global leaders who praised India for its 'Vaccine Maitry (Friendship)' initiative which provided over 2,544 lakh vaccine doses to over 100 countries around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic cemented our reputation as a country with compassion, commitment and capacity to provide effective solutions to the global challenges.

We must acknowledge the critical role played by the scientific and medical fraternities in India, as without their collective and dedicated

efforts, such a success would not have been possible. It is also important to appreciate the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who by his constant and holistic support to all the stakeholders in the pandemic situation, ensured things worked efficiently and round-the-clock, and that the morale stayed high even during the most challenging times.

Despite the vicarious nature of an unprecedented health emergency, the Indian Prime Minister took unprecedented measures to ensure people had access to preventive healthcare infrastructure as well as speedy and effective treatment facilities. Without his constant efforts, such a large number of people could not have been vaccinated in time, and many more lives would have been lost.

Every cloud has a silver lining. It is thus not surprising that something good came out of the Covid-19 global health emergency. During the pandemic, our nation -- led by an able Prime Minister and guided by its ancient philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' -- soared above the daunting challenges to serve people in India and across the world as one large family.

Thanks to our collective efforts to combat an unprecedented pandemic, we are now better prepared to overcome obstacles and function to the best of our capabilities under the guiding principles of hope, health and cooperation.

(The author is Chief, Cardiothoracic Centre, AIIMS, Immediate Past Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR))

Copyright falls prey to mighty Internet

Globalisation and post-glob-alisation have brought us ever closer to each other. This intricate journey was only made possible by a vast network of information and communication technologies (ICTs). As a result, we all have experienced a slew of modernisation, standardisation and deterritorialisation drives all around the world. At the heart of this colossal process lies a “superior and never seen before “brand new upheaval called “information revolution”. As this information is gone in the great internet machine, it has witnessed another global movement called the digital revolution. The information revolution accompanied by the digital revolution has pushed knowledge beyond the control of the sovereign nation-states.

Before moving into the problems and prospects of safeguarding the copyright laws, let us see what copyright is all about. Copyright is regarded as “author’s right”. In legal terms, it is meant to describe the set of rights that the creators or the owners have over their literary and artistic works. The very word “works” refer to books, music, paintings, sculptures, films, computer programmes, databases, advertisements, maps and technical drawings as specified by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). Regardless of the WIPO conventions and other relevant global covenants, the copyright law is territorial and national in scope. Therefore, wherever an author or a creator resides or his work is first published, the applicability of the copyright protection depends on the national laws of the country in which the particular author demands protection. The term of a copyright law depends on several factors such as whether the work has been published or if so, the date of its first publication. Once it is published, the copyright lasts for the life of the author and additional 70 years after his/her death. Under the US Copyright legislation, an anonymous work, a pseudonymous work or a work made for hire, the copyright is guaranteed for a period of 95 years from the year of its first publication or a period of 120 years

from the year of its creation, whichever expires first.

Precisely, there is nothing like international copyright law applicable to all the nations. Therefore, no single copyright law can protect an author’s work throughout the world with a single registration like the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) that allows patent filing in a multinational context. Nevertheless, nearly 180 nations have already ratified the historic Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works of 1886, administered by the WIPO. This convention sets a minimum standard for the protection of the rights of the creators of the copyrighted works across the nations. Besides, there have been serious efforts to bring copyright legislations under one single umbrella among the members of the European Union (EU). However, the biggest challenge to this harmonisation effort is emerging from a host of numerous national copyright laws currently existing in the EU nations. The Berne Convention, apart from calling for establishing minimum standards of protection, has two unique principles: “National Treatment” and “Automatic Protection”. The first principle of “National Treatment” underlines that works originating in one signatory nation are given the same protection in other signatory nations as each grant to works of its creators. The second principle of “Automatic Protection” refers to the idea that copyright inheres automatically in a qualifying work upon its fixation in a tangible medium and without any required prior formality.

Indeed, the origin of the global copyright governance system is very much linked to the invention of the printing machine by Johannes Gutenberg in Germany around 1440. By 1483, when printing machines reached England, various monarchs starting from the King Richard III to King Henry in 1553 shaped a new regime of copyright that later defined the international copyright governance. Then, the era from 1661 to 1911 witnessed the evolution of a detailed copyright law in Britain.

Now in India, we have a



defined copyright regime, and its roots lie in the long British colonial regime. The copyright legislation was first introduced in India in 1874 during the time of East India Company. This act was replaced by the Copyright Act of 1914 which was just a replica of the then existing Copyright Act of 1911 in Britain. When India became independent, we got our first Copyright Act in the year 1957 which came into practice in 1958. The new Act immediately replaced the colonial

copyright laws thereafter. The same Copyright Act was subsequently amended in 1983, 1984, 1992, 1994 and 1999. Again, the Copyright Act was amended in 2012. It was done to bring the Copyright law into compliance with the WIPO treaties such as the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT). Further it must be highlighted that the obligation under Article 11 of Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property

Rights (TRIPS) which came into effect under the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, Article 7 of the WCT and Article 9 of the WPPT are to provide for commercial rental rights for computer programmes and cinematograph films. This right was introduced in India by using the word “hire” in Section 14 of the current Copyright Act. Thus, the Indian Copyright Law is now capable of addressing both national and global concerns under the new global gover-

nance regime brought by the WTO-TRIPS.

In spite of having a globally effective IPR regime, the information revolution and digital revolution have pushed knowledge maintenance to the brink of a serious danger. We receive information so very easily that we don’t even realise the worth of the creator or the owner. Information superhighway is widely perceived as a modern-day colonial tool both to subjugate and exploit the massive resources from the Global South by the rich and technologically advanced nations from the Global North.

With connectivity growing at an unimaginable speed, people are increasingly becoming restless. Once powerful nation-states seem to surrender to market forces. What Karl Marx, the legendary German socialist thinker, prophesised in the 19th century about the “withering away of the state” (capitalist) is now turning right at the very heart of the capitalist nations. Nonetheless the bitter truth is that today the mighty western liberal nation-state is facing challenges from several points, and they are all multinational forces. These counterforces are not only transnational corporations and the gigantic markets controlled by them but also from civil and human rights movements, global civil society and international non-governmental organisations and at times from international terrorist organisations consistently backed by very strong radical religious movements. It is all spearheaded by the availability of knowledge networks accompanied by advancements in communication and technology networks. Super knowledge owners like Google, Microsoft, Facebook and a host of other electronic platforms have made learning available to all. And it is both a boon and bane. The information superhighway is now dominated by a large network of MNCs mostly based in advanced nations like the US, Japan, the UK, Germany, France, Canada, etc. The global flow is in their hands. The poor and developing nations are at the mercy of these gigantic corporations controlled by the developed countries.

The world is now at a crossroads. Knowledge has exploded. The owners of knowledge are finding it too difficult to protect their creations. The intriguing part of the TRIPS and post-TRIPS global IP regime is that they all have failed to address the pitfalls of the huge information revolution. Today no single person or enterprise is the sole owner of knowledge or any other technical knowhow. It is fully diffused. It is there everywhere. Then how to safeguard it and how the creators will be benefitted from their long hard work? The solution to this problem is too complex.

The global and national copyright legislations are facing an uphill task today. Nowhere the knowledge is safe. And there is no place to hide. Of course, there are stringent punishments awarded to law breakers, but then there is no end to predators till date. Frankly, the wide network of the transnational forces has weakened the long hand of the copyright law that used to be there much before the advent of the mighty Internet. Today the global knowledge economy is beyond the reach of the nation-state. Therefore, the knowledge networks that are supposed to aid all and share the benefits of innovations do not accord equal power to all. It further leads to a great digital divide between the countries of the North and the South. And this is creating an uneven world of knowledge. There is a large gap between access to knowledge and exploiting the benefits of the same in both sides of the globe. Today the global knowledge economy has gone beyond the arms of the copyright laws. It has long been Microsoftified. Thus the owners of knowledge are solely in the hands of the big corporations of the advanced nations.

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



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Tobacco ads: Celebrities shirk moral responsibility

Professional ethics entail a cluster of values and principles that guide the behaviour of the professionals concerning what is right and what is wrong based on loyalty, accountability, honesty, and respect for the law. Hence, the celebrities’ acts of promoting harmful practices like tobacco consumption certainly are incompatible with the professional moral principles that posit serving larger social interests

The “smoking zone” has been shifted from industrialised developed countries to developing countries. While eighty per cent of the 1.3 billion tobacco users belong to the third-world countries, India sees more than a million deaths due to tobacco consumption accounting for 9.5 per cent of all deaths. Going by a World Health Organization report of 2014, a scary health concern induced by tobacco consumption puts a heavy burden on India’s economy as around 53 per cent of the tobacco-related deaths are attributed to non-communicable diseases and 80 per cent of them include chronic respiratory diseases, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and diabetes. Accordingly, it is no surprise that the Indian state has been struggling to reduce tobacco consumption by 30 per cent by 2025.

At this juncture, promoting tobacco consumption by cinema celebrities is indeed not only depressing but also immoral, unsocial if not completely illegal. In a country like India, the cinema celebrities are often followed and imitated by the people passionately. Such fan following is often capitalised on by the big business and corporate bodies to further their business interests. It is not uncommon to see the people imitating the dressing and other

styles of the cinema celebrities in their daily life. Such imitations reflect upon the tremendous effect the celebrities have on the fans. While these celebrities are well within their rights to endorse a brand, the promotion of tobacco consumption invites criticism on moral and social grounds, for society demands a minimum amount of moral and social responsibilities from the public figures.

Accordingly, the general actions of the cinema celebrities and their acts of promoting tobacco consumption warrant moral scrutiny. These actions of promoting something as bad as tobacco that has negative implications on human health and societal integrity can be evaluated on various moral parameters. First, the performance of the action in the realm of restricted individual liberty (harm principle) can be employed. According to utilitarian philosopher John Stuart Mill, two types of actions are performed by humans: Self-regarding action (SRA); and Other-regarding action (ORA). The SRA is the one that influences the agent himself or herself. Explaining further, Mill says, an action ceases to be an SRA when it directly impairs others. However, the ORA is the one that affects others and thus it entails moral criticism.



This distinction, fundamentally, serves as a base for the broader horizon of individual liberty as well as serves as a reason to delimit individual liberty by justifying the state/country’s interference in it. The state’s interference in individual liberty is conditioned by the “Harm Principle” which says, “The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant”. It entails

that the harmful ORA of an agent morally permits others, including the state, to intervene in individual liberty. Thus, the state has the right to interfere in an individual’s liberty when it is required for the well-being of others/society. However, drawing a sharp line between SRA and ORA is difficult which leads to the claim that they both overlap each other and the act of promoting tobacco consumption is a good example in this regard.

Although the cinema celebrities do have their liberties to select the

roles to enact, the platform and the message they want to deliver through the act cannot be left unevaluated. With a clear knowledge that tobacco causes irrecoverable diseases and immense suffering, the action of the cinema actors’ promotion of tobacco consumption certainly influences the common people in many ways, eventually harming their bodies. Thus, these other-regarding actions of the celebrities fail to satisfy the condition which prevents the state to interfere and it is immoral as well since it ceases to bring maximum good in maximum number. While the state is taking major steps in the form of enacting laws to prevent tobacco consumption, those laws should include taking stringent actions against those who foster harmful practices like tobacco consumption despite their social position.

The second moral issue concerning advertising tobacco centres on the action itself. It violates the moral universal humanity principle that says, “act in such a way that you always treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, never simply as a means, but always at the same time as an end.”

In other words, this principle entails that an agent should act in

such a way that action never uses humans as means for any end. On the contrary, the cinema celebrities are using, though indirectly, other humans for their vested interests of making fortune ignoring their moral responsibility and respect towards other fellow humans and the society. Accordingly, these celebrities fail to satisfy the humanity principle since they are using others in the form of exploiting the passionate emotions of the common humans and thereby these celebrities lap into the sphere of immorality.

Moreover, it is pertinent to reiterate that the noble professions tend to serve the well-being of fellow humans and society alike. Professional ethics entail a cluster of values and principles that guide the behaviour of the professionals concerning what is right and what is wrong based on loyalty, accountability, honesty, and respect for the law. Hence, the celebrities’ acts of promoting harmful practices like tobacco consumption certainly are incompatible with the professional moral principles since it entails responsibilities to serve larger social interests.

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