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HEADSCARF DEATH

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IN JHULAN'S LAST WALTZ

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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 PTI

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.

CBI raids 59 spots in biggest crackdown on child porn in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In its biggest crackdown on child pornography, the CBI on Saturday carried out searches at 59 locations in 21 States and Union Territories in connection with two cases of circulation of online child sexual abuse material (OCSAM). The raids were part of the operation "Megha Chakra".

Dubbing "Megha Chakra" a painstaking and meticulous operation, the agency said it conducted nationwide searches at around 59 locations, including Faridabad and Fatehabad (Haryana); Dehradun (Uttarakhand); Kachh, Lunavada, Rajkot and Godhra (Gujarat); Maharajan, Hathras and Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh); Bardhaman and Murshidabad (West Bengal); Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Thane, Nanded, Solapur, Kolhapur and Nagpur (Maharashtra); Dhanbad and Ranchi (Jharkhand); Chittoor and Krishna (Andhra Pradesh); Bengaluru, Kodagu, Ram Nagar and Kolar (Karnataka); Raipur (Chhattisgarh), and New Delhi, the CBI said in a statement.

Likewise, the CBI also conducted the searches at Chelakkara and Mallapuram (Kerala); Dindigul (Madurai); Gurdaspur and Hosiarpur (Punjab); Chennai; Goa;



Hyderabad; Ajmer and Jaipur (Rajasthan); Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu); Guwahati, Dhimaji (Assam); Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh); Saran and Bhagalpur (Bihar); Agartala (Tripura); and Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) in two cases related to downloading/circulation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

The CBI has registered two cases under relevant provisions of the Information Technology Act based on information received from the Crime Against Children (CAC) unit of Interpol, Singapore, which had received the same from New Zealand police for sharing with the relevant country, the CBI said.

"It was alleged that a number of Indian citizens were involved in circulation/downloading/transmission of child sexual abuse material using cloud-based storage.

L-G orders FIR against DJB staff for siphoning off ₹20 cr water bills

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid an ongoing tussle with the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) dispensation, Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday directed Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to file an FIR against officials of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), bank authorities and private entities for allegedly embezzling ₹20 crore in water bills.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is the head of the DJB. Sisodia is already facing the heat in the alleged old excise policy and ghost teachers' scams.

The LG has also asked the Chief Secretary to identify the DJB officials or officers who had been allegedly siphoning off funds, fix responsibility and submit an action taken report within 15 days.

Later in a Press conference on Saturday, DJB vice-chairman and AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj welcomed the Lt Governor's move saying that Sisodia had also recommended this sort of investigation.

Sources at the Raj Niwas said that the matter had first come to light in 2019 with the allegation that ₹20 crore collected in water bills from consumers was not deposited in the bank account of the DJB.

Despite the allegations, the contract of the company involved in the collection of bills was extended.

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.

GUJ 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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Govt inks MoU with Azim Premji Foundation for setting up varsity

Establishment of Azim Premji University a milestone: CM

PNS ■ RANCHI

Higher and Technical Education Department, Government of Jharkhand and Azim Premji Foundation today signed an MoU in the august presence of Chief Minister Hemant Soren here for the establishment of Azim Premji University in Ranchi (Itki). On this occasion, Azim Premji Foundation Chairman-cum- Founder of IT Company Wipro, Azim Premji was present through video conferencing.

On this occasion, CM Hemant Soren said that today is a historic day for Jharkhand. Today, with the mutual coordination and cooperation of the State Government and the Azim Premji Foundation, a new beginning is being made in the field of education. "I have full faith that the establishment of a university in Jharkhand by an experienced organization like Azim Premji Foundation will not only raise the standard of higher education in the State, but also the talented students of the State will not have to migrate to other states for higher education. The establishment of Azim Premji University would prove to be a milestone in the all-round development of Jharkhand including the



Higher and Technical Education Department officials exchange documents after signing of an MoU with Azim Premji Foundation in presence of Chief Minister Hemant Soren at CM's official residence in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

students studying in the state," he said thanking the President of Azim Premji Foundation, Azim Premji and expressed his gratitude towards him.

On this occasion, the CM told the President of Azim Premji Foundation, "You, along with a well-known industrialist, have a sense of service for the upliftment of the society. Your experience and cooperation will bring better results for a State like Jharkhand. With your positive thinking and better guidance, Azim Premji University is being established in Itki, Ranchi. All of us are making efforts together for the benefit of your experience and cooperation with the people of the state. Azim Premji Foundation has worked to connect a large group of new generations with them. It is the effort of the State government that the further work for the

establishment of the university should be completed at a fast pace."

The CM said that by setting up a private university in Jharkhand, it would be possible to provide knowledgeable and employable education to the economically backward students living in rural areas, especially in their own state. It is the goal of the state government to provide quality, knowledgeable and employable education to the children here, efforts are being made rapidly in this regard. The CM said that world class educational facilities would be provided to the students in the Azim Premji University Educational Institute, which is going to be opened on the lines of Bangalore and Bhopal.

Soren said that there is a lot of potential in the youth of the State. The youth of

the state are also showcasing their talent in the field of sports and higher education, it is only necessary that a better platform can be provided to the youth power of the state to move forward. He said that with the establishment of Azim Premji University, the youth of here would move forward in the field of modern education along with research based education and would play an important role in the development of the state. On this occasion, the CM also extended a warm invitation to the President of Azim Premji Foundation, Azim Premji, to visit Jharkhand. On the occasion, Premji accepted the invitation of the CM and said that he would come to Jharkhand in the last month of 2022.

On this occasion, through video conferencing, Azim Premji Foundation's Chairman, Azim Premji said, "I want to work fully dedicatedly for the development and upliftment of the people of Jharkhand. The foundation would work in a planned manner by coordinating with the state government in many different areas along with the establishment of only universities in Jharkhand, qualitative improvement in the educational level. The Azim Premji Foundation is recognized as a charitable institution. Our organization will work with commitment for the uplift-

ment of every section in Jharkhand. Our organization is not working here in project mode but for long term mode. There is a need to plan and work for the creation of maximum employment in the State. Azim Premji Foundation will work step by step with the state government with the aim of all round development of the state."

Expressing his gratitude to the CM, he said, "The government led by you has fully cooperated in the establishment of Azim Premji University in Ranchi. I hope that the State government will continue to cooperate in the future also."

On this occasion Health Minister Banna Gupta, Mandar MLA Shilpi Neha Tirkey, Chief Secretary Sukhdev Singh, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Rajiv Arun Ekka, Secretary to Chief Minister Vinay Kumar Choubey, Secretary of Higher and Technical Education Department Rahul Purwar, Director Higher and Technical Education Suraj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Higher and Technical Education Department Abhay Kumar Sinha, CEO of Azim Premji Foundation Anurag Behar, State Head Kailash Kandpal, Chief University Establishment Officer Harish Shah and Education Head Rakesh Tiwari including other officials were present.

'BJP only party to connect directly with lower rung workers'

PNS ■ RANCHI

An introductory meeting of the newly appointed State in-charge, BJP chief whip in Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Laxmikant Bajpai was held with the state office-bearers, department and cell conveners under the chairmanship of state president MP Deepak Prakash in the BJP state office on Friday. State President and MP Deepak Prakash welcomed and felicitated Laxmikant Bajpai by giving him 'angavastra' and memento.

In his address, Bajpai said that BJP is a worker based party, in which the national president of the party communicates directly with the booth president. He said that the post of worker is paramount which has never happened before. The worker spirit is the asset of the party. He said that the workers in Jharkhand's organization are simple and devoted to the ideas of the party. "I will also do organization work in Jharkhand as a worker," he said, adding that with the cooperation and dedication of such workers, the party would win 14 Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand.

BJP State President and MP Deepak Prakash said that Jharkhand BJP has got an experienced guide like Dr. Laxmikant Bajpai under whose guidance the party will become stronger. He said that Bajpai has a long organizational and administra-



State BJP in-charge MP Laxmikant Bajpai, State BJP President Deepak Prakash along with others during a meeting at BJP office in Ranchi on Saturday. Pix by Vinay Murnu

tive experience; he was elected four times as a member of the Legislative Assembly, was a minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh and is today the Chief Whip of the BJP in the Rajya Sabha. He said that the BJP would continue on the path of progress under his leadership.

Welcoming the state in-charge, State Organization General Secretary Karamveer Singh said that Laxmikant ji is synonymous with ease and simplicity. He is also determined to have intentions and resolutions. While wishing for a successful tenure of Bajpai, he said that the BJP would become strong in the state till the booth level under his guidance.

Before the address, State General Secretary Dr. Pradeep Verma gave a detailed organizational introduction of Bajpai. The meeting started with garlanding the portraits of great men and singing Vande Mataran. The vote of thanks

was given by State Vice President Gangotri Kujur.

In the meeting, State Vice President Neelkanth Singh Munda, Sunil Singh, Pranav Verma, General Secretary and MP Aditya Sahu, State Minister Subodh Singh Guddu, Kajal Pradhan, Naveen Jaiswal, Sharmila Rajak, Rita Mishra, Mistry Soren, including Hemant Das, Suraj Chaurasia, Manoj Singh Suman Kumar, Pankaj Sinha, Rajshree Jayanti, Biranchi Narayan, Bhanu Pratap Shahi, Manish Jaiswal, Arun Oraon, Shivpujan Pathak, Pradeep Sinha, Pratul Shahdev, Saroj Singh, Avinash Kumar, Kunal Shadangi, Amit Singh, Yogendra Pratap Singh, Ashok Badaik, Ramesh Pushkar, Rajiv Tiwari, Ranjit Chandravanshi, Tariq Imran, Ravi Bhatt, Rahul Awasthi, Mrityunjay Sharma, Ravinath Kishore, Kislay Tiwari, Aarti Kujur, Anwar Hayat, including the department and the convener of the cell.

JMM counts achievements on completion of Govt's 1000 days

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) led coalition government in the State completed its 1000 days and on the occasion the party announced its achievements. The party said that the State Government conducted the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th JPSC Examination for 252 posts in a record 251 days, handed over appointment letters to 252 candidates in which 32 youth were from BPL families.

Addressing a press meet at the party headquarter on Saturday, JMM General Secretary cum Spokesperson, Supriyo Bhattacharya said that 64,000 para-teachers and 74,000 anganwadi workers- Sahayikas got the rights. "For the first time in 20 years, 39 players got direct appointment. So far more than 4,000 youth have benefited from the Chief Minister's Employment Generation Scheme. More than 5 lakh workers benefit-



JMM General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya addresses media persons at the party office in Ranchi on Saturday. Pix by Vinay Murnu

ed from the scheme, 75 per cent reservation for local in the private sector, New Jharkhand Industry Promotion Policy was implemented with the aim of promoting industries in the State," he added.

"Land was allotted to Dalmia Cement Bharat Limited for the establishment of a cement plant and construction work of the second unit started. Under this, investment of about 577 crores and direct and indirect employment was ensured. Recently, 11,000 people were provided employment in the private sector and 2,000 people in the textile industry. Of this, 85 per cent were women. Through

JPSC, 230 youth were made part of the Government, 600 doctors were appointed, 960 nurses got appointment letters, 24 DSOs, 200 girls brought from Tamil Nadu got employment. 150 people were given employment in the Urban Development Department," said Bhattacharya.

The party Spokesperson further said that under Mukhyamantri Pashudhan Yojana, about 1 lakh farmers were added, 13.84 lakh farmers were added under KCC, Kisan Loan Waiver Scheme to help 4 lakh farmers. "Constitution of 22 Fast Track Special Courts for POCSO Act cases, Phoolo Jhanno Ashirwad campaign started for the women involved in the sale and manufacture of liquor, more than 20 thousand women benefited. Palash brand launched to ensure rural women their moral rights and their contribution to the state economy. More than 2 lakh

women are joining the Palash brand and empowering the rural economy," he added.

Bhattacharya said that an initiative to provide free textbooks every year to all categories of students, Maral Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Pardeshi Scholarship Scheme launched, 7 ST students get free higher education opportunities in Great Britain. Under the Chief Minister's Critical Illness Treatment Scheme, the amount of medical aid grant from the departmental level was increased to Rs.10 lakh for the treatment of deserving persons," he added.

"Model schools to 4,416 government schools. Construction work started in 80, 220/132 Grid Substations Garhwa, Jasidih, Giridih and Godda and associated transmission line commissioned. In view of the importance of renewable energy, action was taken to develop Giridih of the State as a solar city. Out of 593 hos-

tels, the work of 234 has been completed. Now the Government will also provide food grains for the children in these hostels. For the first time after the formation of the state, on such a large scale, the foundation stone of 14 rice mills was laid simultaneously," said Bhattacharya.

The party General Secretary said that work on six mega lift projects is going on like Kanhar Barrage Scheme, Masalia Mega Lift Irrigation Scheme, Sikatiya Mega Lift Irrigation Project, Palamu Pipeline Irrigation Scheme, Tilaiya Mega Lift Irrigation Scheme and Bhognadih Mega Lift Irrigation Scheme. Jharkhand is the first State in the Country which brought the workers of the State by 8 airplanes and 50 trains from remote areas during the Corona period. Became number one in supplying oxygen to the Country during the Corona period and People," he added.

Natural resources' protection everybody's moral duty: Agri Secy

PNS ■ RANCHI

Secretary Agriculture, Abu Baqr Siddique said, on Saturday, that protecting natural resources for future generations is the moral responsibility of everybody because our ancestors took care of nature and mother earth for us. Healthy soil, water and overall environment is important for the well-being of not only human beings but for every living being who has the right to use and enjoy nature.

Siddique said social, economic and environmental damage expected from implementation of every project, programme should also be assessed in advance along with its benefits. He said that the State Government has a lot of money for promoting organic farming, natural farming and innovative projects but useful ideas, inputs, insight and innovative proposals can come from scientists and research institutions.

He was addressing the concluding session of a three-day national conference on 'Landscape management for preventing flood and reservoir sedimentation' at Birsu Agricultural University (BAU) on Saturday.

Siddique said we all should be aware of the United Nations-mandated 17-point Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for



Secretary Agriculture Abu Baqr Siddique addresses during a conference at BAU in Ranchi on Saturday. Pix by Ratan Lal

freeing the country from poverty, hunger, malnutrition and preserving the natural resources and environment. India is ranked 121 among 163 countries of the world in achieving the set goals. Jharkhand is further lagging behind on this front.

BAU Vice Chancellor Dr Onkar Nath Singh said scientists, policymakers should work in unison for the well being of natural resources and its beneficial use for all living beings. Conservation, storage and recycling of the 1400 mm annual precipitation received in Jharkhand is a major issue before the Conservationists and effective strategies need to be perfected for this purpose, he added.

Since a major area of eastern India remains inundated for several months, the conference recommended Integrated Farming System models for flood-prone areas based on the assessment of region specific aquatic production systems. NITI Aayog says there are five million

springs in India which could be gainfully used for aquatic production. Spring geo-tagging, springshed delineation and micro watershed plan at landscape scale was also required for spring rejuvenation.

The scientists also recommended training and capacity building initiatives for natural resource literacy, silt retention and management of resources in flood-erosion as well as flood-prone areas. The event also stressed on strengthening mutual respect and bonding between technologists and farmers by respecting farmers' traditional knowledge and wisdom. The conference recommended conducting more studies on use of geotextile based resources on high sloping land, considering the development of new material by industry. Organising secretary Dr Gopal Kumar presented these recommendations.

Over 300 scientists and officials from eastern states participated in the event.

'The Spiritual Battle and Ultimate Victory in Everyday Life'



Swami Ishwarananda Giri, a senior sannyasi of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS), addressing over 500 attendees in a satsanga on the Bhagavad Gita at YSS Ranchi ashram on Saturday. PNS

Spiritual Discourse on the Bhagavad Gita by Yogoda Satsanga Society of India Sannyasi

PNS ■ RANCHI

Wherever one is on the way back to God, the Gita will shed its light on that segment of the journey," said Swami Ishwarananda Giri, a senior sannyasi of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS), addressing over 500 attendees in a satsanga on the Bhagavad Gita at YSS Ranchi ashram on Saturday.

In this talk live-streamed to an audience of over 3,000 people via the YSS Online

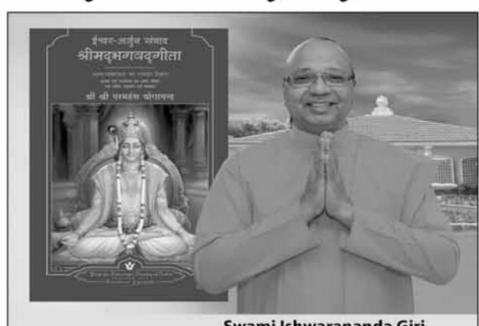
Dhyana Kendra, Swamiji presented an introduction to the book Ishwar-Arjun Samvaad (God Talks with Arjuna), a unique interpretation of the Bhagavad Gita by Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda. Yoganandaji is the author of the bestselling spiritual classic, Autobiography of a Yogi, and founder-Guru of YSS.

On this occasion, Swamiji also launched the e-book version of Yoganadaji's Ishwar-Arjun Samvaad. "The Bhagavad Gita has been revered by truth-seekers of both the East and West, yet its deepest meaning, cloaked in allegory, has remained obscure," Swami

Ishwaranandaji shared, adding, "In Ishwar-Arjun Samvaad, Yoganandaji offers a translation and commentary of unparalleled scope and vision."

How does the Bhagavad Gita guide us in the Spiritual Battle and Ultimate Victory in Everyday Life? "The entire knowledge of the cosmos is packed into the Gita. Supremely profound yet couched in revelatory language... the Gita has been understood and applied on all levels of human endeavour and spiritual striving," Swamiji quoted Yoganandaji in his talk.

In his satsanga, Swamiji elaborated upon Parama-



Swami Ishwarananda Giri

hansaji's commentary, explaining through analogies and anecdotes how the presence of Kauravas (bad tendencies) within us impedes our spiritual progress, and how nurturing the Pandavas (good tendencies) within us will eventually bring about the defeat of those Kauravas in the inner battle of Kurukshetra, thus leading to the attainment of the ultimate goal of Self-realization.

In conclusion, Swamiji reiterated the assurance for a true devotee as shared by Yoganandaji in his commentary: "Through steadfast practice of yoga meditation, renunciation of desires and attachments by loving dedication of all actions to God, repentance, and right resolution, not only can the righteous attain liberation, but even the wickedest of men may speedily emerge from sin into sanctity, from ignorance into the healing light of wisdom."

Paramahansa Yogananda-

ji, the author of the spiritual classic Autobiography of a Yogi, interprets the Bhagavad Gita with divine insight. In his interpretation, exploring its psychological, spiritual, and metaphysical depths — from the subtle causes of everyday thoughts and actions to the grand design of the cosmic order — Yoganandaji presents a sweeping chronicle of the soul's journey to enlightenment.

Clearly outlining the Gita's balanced path of meditation and right activity, Paramahansaji shows how we can create for ourselves a life of spiritual integrity, serenity, simplicity, and joy. Through our awakened intuition, we come to know the right course to take at every crossroad on the path of life, to determine what shortcomings are holding us back and what positive qualities are moving us forward, and to recognize and avoid pitfalls along the way.

IN BRIEF

CM pays tributes to Amit Mishra



Chief Minister Hemant Soren paid condolences on the sudden demise of Amit Mishra, senior journalist of the Capital city. The Chief Minister prayed to God to grant peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this hour of grief. Expressing grief, the Chief Minister said that the death of Amit Mishra is an irreparable loss to the journalism world. Amit Mishra was a well-settled experienced journalist. He expressed deepest sympathies to Mishra's family members. Mishra was suffering from a terminal disease for the last couple of months and took his last breath at a city based hospital on Saturday. He is survived by his wife and son.

IWCS continues social work

Innerwheel Club of Swamirekha Ranchi District 325 under the leadership of President Namrata Kumar and Secretary Sandhya Prakash provided financial help to the Vocational Training Center for Divyang 'Korish', under which raw materials were provided and paper bags made by them were purchased. Devjani Sanyal, Nishi Srivastava, Swati Rastogi participated in this programme.



ECR GM inspects rail sections

General Manager of East Central Railway, Anupam Sharma, conducted a thorough inspection of Arasaram and Sasaram-Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Junction railway section under Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Division on Saturday. During this, the GM thoroughly inspected various aspects related to safety on the railway section and took stock of railway tracks, bridges, culverts etc. After that, after reaching DDU Junction, the GM inspected the Electric Loco Shed located there and took stock of the repair and maintenance work of the locomotive and the facilities there. Along with this, the work of track machine organization was reviewed in the meeting room of the DRM's office. After this, a thorough inspection of various facilities including repair and maintenance work of wagons of goods trains was done at the Wagon Care Center located at DDU Junction. During the inspection, DRM and other officers of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Division were present.

DPS Ranchi student shines in Squash Tournament

Exhibiting excellent sporting skills, Devansh Agrawal, a student of Class V of DPS Ranchi emerged as 1st Runner up in HCL SRFI INDIAN TOUR 2022 - 23 Squash Tournament. He won this title in the Under-11 age category. The tournament was organised in Chennai. He was felicitated by Dayanidhi Maran, who is currently a Member of Parliament in Lok Sabha from Chennai Central constituency. It is worth mentioning that as per the Squash Rackets Federation of India, Devansh Agrawal is 3rd highest ranked Indian Squash player in Junior (Boys) Category. Principal, Dr. Ram Singh congratulated Devansh on his magnificent achievement and wished him best of luck for his upcoming endeavours.

Virasat-2022 at CPS

Elders are the pillars of our family and relationships. They are sources of heritage, experience and values for us. Where elders are not respected, that society and family disintegrates," said by Principal Dr. Neeta Pandey in the programme 'Virasat-2022' organized for Grand Parents at Cambrian Public School, here on Saturday. She said that elders are the source of happiness and blessings for us. Organized to preserve family values and inculcate values in children apart from curriculum based education, the programme started with the grandparents' welcoming and lighting the lamp. Students performed a play titled 'Dada Dadi Ki Chad' and the song 'Pyare Dadaji Hai Animol'. Apart from this the children presented many interesting games and programs for the elders present. Elders shared their experiences on this occasion.

Baghel seeks nod for 2G ethanol refinery in C'garh

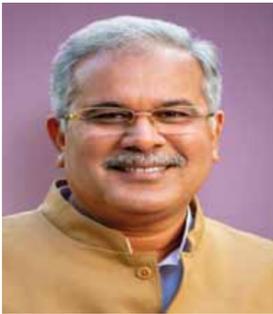
STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to give permission to set up a 2G ethanol refinery in the state.

Amit Shah is also Chairman of the Central Region Inter-State Council which is made up of Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh.

In his letter, Baghel sought permission for setting up a commercial and a demonstration project through oil marketing companies for the production of ethanol in the state.

Ethanol will be prepared from the residue of paddy crop. Apart from it, approval will be granted to establish a 2G (second generation)



ethanol refinery, an official communication said.

Citing the meeting of the Inter-State Council held on August 22, Baghel said the Union government was promoting the bioethanol production under the



Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana (Biofuel-Environmental Residue Redressal) for the prevention of crop residues.

Under it, a request was made for setting up a refinery by the oil marketing company of the Indian

government for lignocellulosic biomass-based bioethanol production, he said.

He said that Chhattisgarh's estimated annual production of agriculture crops especially paddy is 137 lakh tonnes (Kharif marketing year 2022-23).

All favourable environment prevails for the execution of biomass derived 2G lignocellulosic biomass-based bioethanol production, he said.

He said a strategic partnership can be done through Gauthans and the state's urban bodies to provide lignocellulosic biomass through backward linkage.

It would help minimize environmental pollution caused by burning of agricultural residues and ensure better solid waste management in urban areas.

CM for partial modification in Katghora-Dongargarh rail project

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday sought consent for partial modifications in the Katghora-Dongargarh rail project.

In a letter to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Baghel said the modifications will be in the interest of both the country and the state, an official communication said.

Baghel said the state government had on March 23 given consent to implement Option-1. The state government has not received any communication from the Centre on action taken.

The Chief Minister said the South East Central



Railway (SECR) in 2015 conducted a survey which aligned with Option-1. The project has to be implemented through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. The Katghora-Dongargarh rail project is 295 km long and will have 27 stations. Its cost is Rs 5,950 crore. The Chhattisgarh

Railway Corp Ltd (CRCL), a joint venture with Railways, will have 48 percent share.

Twenty-six percent share is each held by the Maharashtra State Power Generation Corp Ltd (MahaGenCo) and ACB (India) Ltd (ACBIL). The railways will supervise the work.

Vaccination is vital for children up to 16 years

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Every vaccine is important for the child from birth till the age of 16 as they protect him from many serious diseases, Chhattisgarh Immunization Officer Dr. V.R. Bhagat said on Saturday.

In an advisory to people, Bhagat said that children who were not vaccinated regularly can become infected with life-threatening diseases. The state is providing all vaccines free of cost.

He added that complete immunization acts as a



protective shield to protect the life and future of babies. Due to regular vaccination across the country, life threatening diseases like polio and small-pox have been eradicated.

Similarly, other diseases found in children are also on the verge of eradication. Therefore, it is necessary to get vaccinated from time to time, he said.

Bhagat stated that immunization protects infants from diseases like tuberculosis, polio, rotavirus diarrhea, whooping cough, tetanus, hepatitis-B, measles, Hib-pneumonia and meningitis.

If there is swelling in the vaccinated area, then a cold water bandage can be placed on it. In case of any allergy or fever after vaccination, a health worker or doctor must be consulted.

CM pulls up officers over poor condition of roads



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday pulled up Public Works Department (PWD) officers for the poor condition of roads in the state.

Holding a review meeting, Baghel expressed his displeasure and said even

after sanctioning funds to repair roads, the work has not been done. It shows sheer negligence, he said. He asked the officers to expedite the work of roads under construction.

The roads where patchwork is required should be done on top priority. Within a week another review will be held, he said

The officers stated that Chhattisgarh Road and Infrastructure Development Corp Ltd (CRIDCL) will complete 150 roads and 15 bridges by December 2022, 160 roads and 20 bridges by March 2023 and 74 roads and 25 bridges by June 2023. The other 34 roads and five bridges will be completed by December 2023.

Elephant kills woman



STAFF REPORTER ■ AMBIKAPUR

A 45-year-old woman was trampled to death by an elephant in Chhattisgarh's Surguja district, a forest official said on Saturday.

The incident took place in Bhakura village in the

Ambikapur forest range on Friday when Guddi and her husband were sleeping outside their house to guard their maize crop sown, Surguja Divisional Forest Officer Pankaj Kamal said.

"A herd of elephants had been roaming in the area for the past few days and villagers have been advised not to sleep in the open or venture into the forest," Kamal said.

The kin of the deceased was given interim aid of Rs 25,000 and the remaining compensation of Rs 5.75 lakh will be given after completion of formalities, he added.

As per Forest Department data, more than 200 people have been killed in elephant attacks in the state in the last three years.

Minister release poster on Agri Carnival 2022



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Indira Gandhi Agriculture University (IGAU) here and the Chhattisgarh Agriculture Department will host a five-day Agri Carnival

(International Agriculture Festival) from October 14 to 18 in Raipur.

Chhattisgarh Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey on Saturday released the poster and brochure of the event here.

Choubey said the

government was committed to develop agriculture and work for betterment of farmers in the state.

Appreciating the role of IGAU, he said it was playing an important role in agriculture development. It was working in tandem with

the state government for advanced agricultural technology development.

He said the Festival will provide a platform for farmers, students and common citizens.

They will be informed about new technology, new research, innovation, crop processing and value addition and entrepreneurship development.

IGAU Vice Chancellor Dr Girish Chandel said the event will see buyer-seller conference, workshop on innovation startups and entrepreneurship, seminar on processing and export of minor forest produce, and training for biodiversity conservation.

Man held for killing father

STAFF REPORTER ■ DHAMTARI

Chhattisgarh Police arrested a 27-year-old man for killing his father after he and his wife were taunted for not having child, police said on Saturday.

Dhamtari Superintendent of Police Prashant Thakur said Khelandas Gendare of Devpur village was taken into custody on Friday.

Gendare attacked his father Shivrinarayan with a spade on Tuesday. He died in a private hospital on Wednesday here.

He told the police that his father was constantly taunting him and his wife for not having a child even after 11 years of their marriage. A court sent him to prison.

CM for strict curbs on online gambling

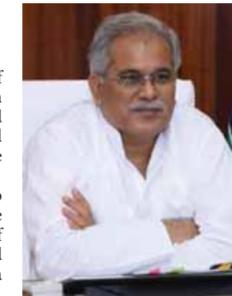
STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday called stringent steps and legal provisions to control online gambling.

In a communication to Director General of Police Ashok Juneja, the Chief Minister said gambling and betting were becoming a social menace in the state. There was an urgent need to curb it, he said.

Baghel underlined the need to bring a foolproof law to curb online gambling.

"Online gambling has become one of the fastest growing sectors today. However, due to the lack of any legal provision and clear course of action, it cannot be



effectively controlled. Taking a step ahead, the government will now draft necessary legal provisions and procedures to curb online gambling and betting," he said. As there was no legal framework, draft legal provisions and procedures for curbing various forms and platforms



of gambling and betting should be prepared, he said. Chhattisgarh had been taking proactive steps to curb gambling and betting across the state. But people have started to use online platforms for gambling and betting to avoid any legal action, an official communication said.

Covid may increase risk of type 1 diabetes in children

■ IANS

Testing positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, is associated with an increased risk of new-onset type 1 diabetes in children and adolescents, finds a new study.

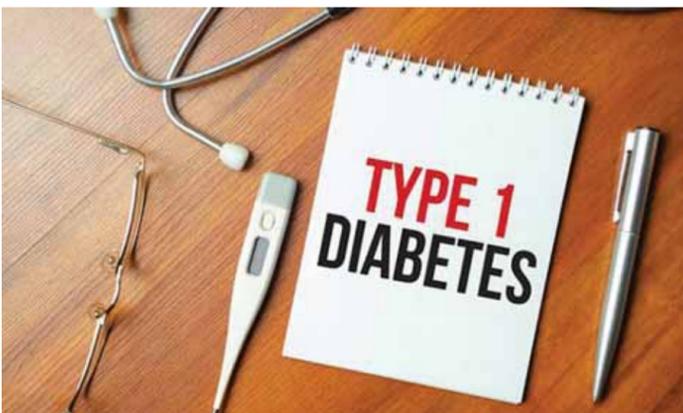
The study found that at least 0.13 per cent of children and adolescents, who contracted Covid-19, were diagnosed with type 1 diabetes a month or more after infection compared to 0.08 per cent in children without a registered infection.

"Our nationwide study suggests a possible association between

Covid-19 and new-onset type 1 diabetes," said researcher Hanne Lovdal Gulseth, lead author and Research Director at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

It has long been suspected that type 1 diabetes, which is usually diagnosed in younger people and is associated with the failure of the pancreas to produce insulin, is a result of an over-responsive immune reaction, possible due to a viral infection, including respiratory viruses.

For the study, presented at the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) Annual Meeting in Stockholm, the research



team linked individual-level registries for all children and adolescents in Norway (1,202,174 individuals). Children were followed from

March 1, 2020 (the start of the pandemic) until the diagnosis of type 1 diabetes, they turned 18 years old, death, or the end of the study (March 1, 2022), whichever occurred first.

The researchers examined the risk of young people developing new-onset type 1 diabetes within or after 30 days after PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV2 infection.

They compared this group with children and adolescents in the general population who did not have a registered infection, as well as to a group of children who were tested but found to be negative for the virus.

Over the 2 year study

period, a total of 424,354 children tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection and 990 new-onset cases of type 1

diabetes were diagnosed among the 1.2 million children and adolescents included in the study.

Table with columns for name, age, sex, and other details. Includes a section for 'कार्यवाही का विवरण' and 'आरोप'.

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-Tayyiba (LeT), Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or Daesh and Al-Qaeda, 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-Qaeda 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. Chandrababu Naidu 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.

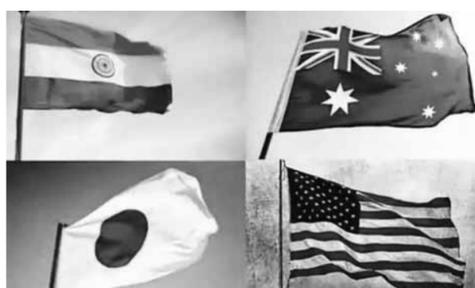
QUAD leaders vow free, open Indo-Pacific region

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. PTI Photo

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 pelting. 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, Brinjil, 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 Lockett 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

US 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 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.



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.

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.

84 protesters held for anti-Govt march in Sri Lanka: Police

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan police on Saturday arrested 84 protesters, including activists of the radical Socialist Youth Front, for taking part in a protest march against the government and its recent moves to use a controversial anti-terrorism law to detain people for exercising the right to democratic protest, police said.

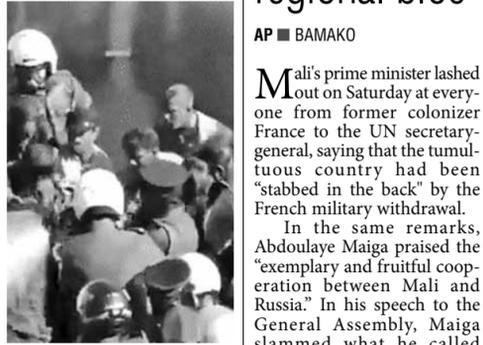
The police fired tear gas and water cannon at the activists of the Socialist Youth Front as they started to move from the central Colombo's Lipton Circus to the Colombo Fort railway station in a protest march.

The protesters said the government was using Prevention of Terrorism Act to detain people for exercising the right to democratic protest.

The police have arrested 84 protesters who had taken part in a street protest this afternoon against what they termed the state repression, police said.

Though the demonstration was planned for a long time, it came a day after the Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe through a special gazette notification declared several key government building areas as high security zones, prohibiting any kinds of protests in the location.

According to the notification, areas around Parliament, Supreme Court Complex, High Court Complex in Colombo, Magistrate Court Complex in Colombo and Attorney General's Department, Presidential Secretariat, President's House, Sri Lanka Navy Headquarters and Police Headquarters were declared as High Security Zones.



tion, areas around Parliament, Supreme Court Complex, High Court Complex in Colombo, Magistrate Court Complex in Colombo and Attorney General's Department, Presidential Secretariat, President's House, Sri Lanka Navy Headquarters and Police Headquarters were declared as High Security Zones.

In a statement, the powerful lawyers' body Bar Association of Sri Lanka said they would take legal action against the gazette order to ensure the Fundamental Rights of people are not violated.

The BASL stated that the order imposes stringent provisions in respect of bail by stating that a person arrested under the said orders shall not be granted bail except by a High Court.

Mali PM lashes out at France, UN, regional bloc

AP ■ BAMAKO

Mali's prime minister lashed out on Saturday at everyone from former colonizer France to the UN secretary-general, saying that the tumultuous country had been "stabbed in the back" by the French military withdrawal.

In the same remarks, Abdoulaye Maiga praised the "exemplary and fruitful cooperation between Mali and Russia." In his speech to the General Assembly, Maiga slammed what he called France's "unilateral decision" to relocate its remaining troops to neighbouring Niger amid deteriorating relations with Mali's two-time coup leader, Col. Assimi Goita.

While it was Goita and his allies who overthrew a democratically elected president by military force two years ago, Mali's prime minister repeatedly referred to a "French junta" throughout his speech Saturday. "Move on from the colonial past and hear the anger, the frustration, the rejection that is coming up from the African cities and countryside, and understand that this movement is inexorable," Maiga said.

"Your intimidations and subversive actions have only swelled the ranks of Africans concerned with preserving their dignity."

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."

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 semi-official 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.

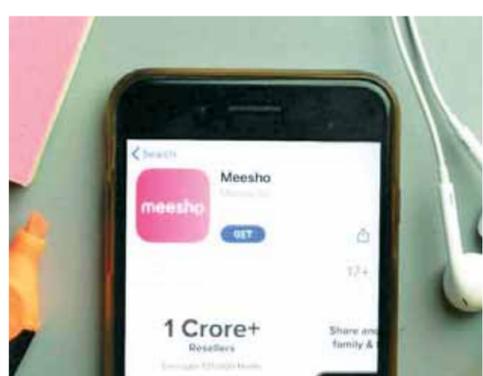
According to Amazon, customers showed preference for television brands like Samsung, OnePlus, Mi, LG and Sony.

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

E-tech 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 Bhalala, Mr. Manu Bhalala, Mrs. Neelu Kapur are joint owners / mutator of Residential Flat Bearing No. 3402, on 4th Floor, (area measuring 1260 sq. ft.), in tower No. 03, (ATS Green-III), at Plot No. 4-98, Sector-59, Model, Outer, Gurgaon Road, Gurgaon, (U.P.) the said property by virtue of Mutation letter dated 20.10.2021, issued by Noida Authority, after demise of late Mr. Harinder Bhalala, who was owner of the said property vide a transfer deed dated 18.03.2013. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners/Mutator want to sell the said property to Mr. Saurabh Samer/Mutatee name, who is taking loan for purchase the said property from ICICI Bank Ltd., if anybody has any objection upon the ownership of Mr. Harinder Bhalala, Mr. Manu Bhalala, 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, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, 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

UJVN Limited

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

फ़ोन नं. 695 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.ujvn.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.



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 bats, 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.

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 think 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.

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.

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 flattered, 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 Kunnammal (93 off 100 balls), all batters failed to live up to the challenge.

Even as his colleagues left one after another, Kunnammal 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 cricketer 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 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.

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 Krittika 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 Sathiyar 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 PR Snehit were beaten in straight sets by Shah and Krittika.

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 stametes 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 Sathiyar and Manika Batra in the men's and women's singles semifinals.

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



Injured Sindhu to miss National Games, will be present at opening ceremony

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu will not participate in the National Games as she has not recovered fully from an ankle injury, but the ace shutter will be present at the opening ceremony.

Sindhu, who is on the path to recovery after sustaining an ankle injury during the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, is going to be in Gujarat for the opening ceremony on September 29 along with other sports stars.

Badminton action begins in Surat on October 2.

"It is unfortunate that I will not be competing in the Games due to my injury. Had I been fit, I would have definitely represented my state (Telangana)," Sindhu said.

"The National Games is a great opportunity for all the

athletes and everyone I have spoken to is excited about it. I am sure the badminton matches will be very exciting."

Winner of silver medal in the 2016 Rio Games and bronze in Tokyo Olympics, Sindhu is the flag-bearer of Indian badminton.

"It is important that I take care of myself and focus on the challenges ahead in 2023 (Asian Games) and 2024 (Paris Olympics)," she explained.

Sindhu's father PV Ramana, himself a volleyball international, said it was unfortunate that she could not compete in the National Games.

"She was very keen to compete. Unfortunately, she cannot do so as her next review with the doctors and MRI will be in the first week of October," he said.

The injury on her left ankle has been described as a stress

fracture. The treatment protocol revolves around affording the ankle rest.

"I will be part of her rehab programme. Having been a volleyball player, I know what it is to make heavy landings. I will pass on my experience to Sindhu once she resumes training," said Ramana.

Sindhu had got injured in Birmingham.

"She did not talk about the injury and used conservative treatment to continue playing in the Commonwealth Games. It included icing, strapping the area on the advice of her coach, physios and doctors," said Ramana.

Sindhu could not compete in the World Championship recently as she was resting. As per her latest consultation with orthopaedic experts in Hyderabad, she has been advised to take further rest.

Dominant India held to 1-1 draw by Singapore

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH CITY

India dished out a dominating performance but failed to notch up a win, playing out a 1-1 draw against lower-ranked Singapore in their FIFA international friendly match in the Hung Thinh Tournament here on Saturday.

Ikhsan Fandi put Singapore ahead in the 37th minute when his free-kick from about 25 yards out took a deflection off the Indian wall and beat a diving goalie Gurpreet Singh Sandhu who could lay a hand on the ball but failed to stop it from entering the net.

Singapore's joy lasted just six minutes as Ashique Kuruniyan equalised in the 43rd minute off an assist from captain Sunil Chhetri.

Jeakson Singh made an interception in the Singapore half, passed the ball to Chhetri, who put Kuruniyan through on goal. Kuruniyan calmly slotted the ball home with a left-footed grounder which beat Singapore goalie and captain Hassan Sunny.

India are currently ranked 104th while Singapore are at 159th. The last time the two sides met each other in 2012, Singapore had won 2-0.

Singapore had lost 0-4 to hosts Vietnam in their first match.

As expected senior player Sandesh Jhingan and his defensive partner Chinglensana



Singh didn't feature in the match as they reached here only on Friday. They did not accompany the team which flew out of India on Tuesday night due to travel document related issues.

Singapore were the more attacking side in the early stages of the match and they had a good chance in the 15th minute. Ikhsan Fandi was played through behind the Indian defence, but his first touch off the high ball was too heavy and defender Anwar Ali cleared it for a corner and averted the danger.

India settled down nicely, and Liston Colaco was on target in the 19th minute, when he fired in a long range shot, only to see Singapore goalie Sunny

make a fine save.

Gurpreet made a fine save in the 25th minute as Fandi leaped high and headed a cross towards India goal.

Two minutes later, Kuruniyan was on to the Singapore goal but he could not make the final touch from near the post, even as Chhetri was waiting.

The second half saw India dominating the match with more attacks.

Kuruniyan's powerful left-footer in the 49th minute was somehow saved by the Singaporean goalie while Chetri's shot from just outside the box, two minutes later, missed the target by a whisker.

India play hosts Vietnam in their last match of the friendly tournament on Tuesday.



Superb finish ensures cut for Tvesa and Vani at Irish Open

PTI ■ DROMOLAND

Faced with the prospect of missing the cut with four holes to go, India's Tvesa Malik (69) and Vani Kapoor (70) moved into a different gear to safely get into the weekend at the KPMG Women's Irish Open.

At 2-under each for 36 holes, both, Tvesa (73-69) and Vani (72-70), getting ready for the Hero Women's Indian Open next month, were T-42.

The cut fell at one-under-par with 63 players making it through to the weekend.

Playing together, Tvesa was 1-over and Vani was 2-over with just four holes to go and the cut looked likely at 1-under. Coming off a disappointing bogey each on the 14th, Tvesa and Vani birdied the 15th.

Then on Par-5 16th, Tvesa birdied yet again but Vani went one better by landing an eagle. Then as Tvesa parred the Par-3 17th, Vani picked another birdie.

On the closing par-5 18th, Tvesa picked a birdie and Vani parred and both were well inside the cutline, which duly fell at 1-under.

However, Diksha Dagar (72-75) and Amandeep Drall (74-80) had a disappointing week as they missed the cut.

Sweden's Moa Folke fired an exceptional round of 10-under 62 and led by two strokes at the halfway stage.

It was a sensational day for the 27-year-old Swede who started with a birdie on the first and then added another on the third. Then came three more in a row from sixth through to the eighth to make the turn in 5-under 30.

A dropped shot on the 11th was overcome as Folke rolled in four birdies consecutively on holes 13 through 16 before finishing with an eagle on 18.

Three players sit in a tie for second place with Denmark's Smilla Tarning Soenderby, Spain's Carmen Alonso and Czechia's Klara Spilkova all on 10-under-par.

Two players share fifth place after 36 holes with Dutch golfer Anne Van Dam and Finland's Ursula Wikstrom on nine-under-par having shot rounds of 68 and 66, respectively.

Julius Baer Cup: Erigaisi to meet Carlsen in final



PTI ■ NEW YORK

Young Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi got the better of Liem Quang Le (Vietnam) to set up a final clash with world no.1 Magnus Carlsen in the Julius Baer Generation Cup online rapid chess tournament.

While the 19-year old Erigaisi had to fight hard to subdue the challenge of his Vietnamese rival, Carlsen won 3-1.

In the Erigaisi-Liem Le match, the first game ended in a draw before the Indian won the second to go ahead. A draw followed in the third before the Vietnam player drew level with a 32-move victory.

However, in the tie-breaker, it was Erigaisi all the way as he won two straight games to book a spot in the final, to be played

Carlsen was made to work hard for his passage into the final by the Keymer. The German teenager fought to stay in the match as both games 1 and 2 ended in draw before the World No.1 broke through to win the next two.

The USD 150,000 event's two-day final begins late on Saturday with the first match being a best of four games encounter. The second match will take place on Sunday when the winner will be crowned.

Earlier, Carlsen had topped the preliminary standings with 34 points followed by Erigaisi and Indian R Praggnanandhaa in fourth place.

The event features 16 players spanning three generations and is being held on a round-robin-cum-knockout format.

Pakistan hockey players get arrears, PHF releases 15 million rupees

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has finally cleared the dues of its players, distributing around 15 million rupees to 30 athletes, who had not been paid for the last five months. A player confirmed receiving the payment and said it was tough for all of them to survive without any daily allowances or fees from the PHF for the last six months as many of them had lost their jobs with their departmental hockey 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.



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 Tigrisses 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.

Junior men's trap team wins gold in Shotgun World Championship

PTI ■ OSIJEK (CROATIA)

India won a sensational gold in the junior men's trap team event at the ISSF Shotgun World Championship, beating Italy 6-4 in the final here on Saturday.

This was also India's first medal of the Championship. USA won the bronze.

It was no mean feat for the trio of Shaphath Bharadwaj, Shardul Vihan and Arya Vansh Tyagi as the Italians are long established powerhouses in the shotgun discipline.

Even more so as the Indians were trailing the Italian team of Edoardo Antonioli, Emanuele Iezzi and Gianmarco Barletta 0-4 before staging a remarkable comeback.

Earlier in the day, Shaphath, Shardul and Arya Vansh had shot a combined 205 in the qualification stage, where each member shot three rounds of 25 targets each, to finish second behind the Italians who shot 206, thereby making it to the gold medal match.

Nothing came easy for the Indians on the day as they tied



with team USA on the same score and then beat them 2-0 in a shoot-off to ensure a medal for themselves.

In the final, all the three Indians missed a target each in the first 15-shot shoot-off. The winner of each shoot-off is awarded two points and the first to six wins.

The Italians missed two and took the first two points. Luck kept eluding the Indians till the second shoot-off, where they missed two out of 15, only to find the Italians missing just one to take the round and go 4-0 up.

The Indians came back to win the third 13-12 to make the score 4-2. Arya Vansh shot a second consecutive perfect five to lead India's fightback.

For the Italians, it was Edoardo Antonioli who was doing the star turn with three perfect fives, and he eventually did not miss in the final to finish with five perfect fives. It got even better for the Indians as they shot a perfect 15 in the fourth shoot-out and Emanuele Iezzi missed the 13th target to help India draw level at 4-4.

Gianmarco Barletta then missed his first target in the fifth shoot-out and India went ahead 6-5, forcing the Italians into a time out. That did not help, as Iezzi missed the first shot after it and the Indians marched along for a 9-7 lead. They had not missed 24 straight targets. India made that 26 before Vihan missed the 27th but they were still ahead 11-9. The Italians finished strong, getting all three of their last birds but the Indians were equal to it, closing out 14-12 with Arya Vansh shooting four straight fives and an overall 24 out of 25 targets.

"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 India 11, 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 (BReast CAncer gene 1) and BRCA2 (BReast 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

nenced 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



Women with hereditary gynecological cancers are more worried about the fate of their babies in future. If yes, what they should do. At our Jhajjar institute we already have a dedicated infrastructure and a dedicated team of experts and researchers to work in this area as pre-test counselling and post-test counselling are very important.

Within a year or two, we will be ready with a detailed educational draft guideline to help the family members, including sisters and daughters of the patient know about the genetic testing, their risk of developing breast or ovarian cancer and whether they should or not go for this test.

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



Genetic Tests is usually helpful in cases of couples with recurrent miscarriages, family history of any genetic diseases, or when woman's age is more than 40 years. There are many types of genetic tests ranging from basic karyotype to detailed whole exome microarray. When only a number of chromosomes or any major genetic abnormalities are suspected, then we do karyotype. In cases where we are looking for any specific genetic disease localised to specific gene on any chromosome, we go ahead with detailed genetic tests like Microarray.

In cases where there is a known genetic disease in

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 (RSO) 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 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.

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 child-bearing 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.

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))

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 Bhubaneswar 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.

Copyright falls prey to mighty Internet

Globalisation and post-globalisation 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 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

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, prophesied 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 Microsifted. 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.)

Despite a robust IPR regime, the information revolution and digital revolution have pushed knowledge maintenance to the brink of a serious danger. We receive information so easily that we don't even realise the worth of the creator or the owner... 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



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.

(The writer is ethical consultant, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru)



NIBEDITA PRIYADARSHINI JENA

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

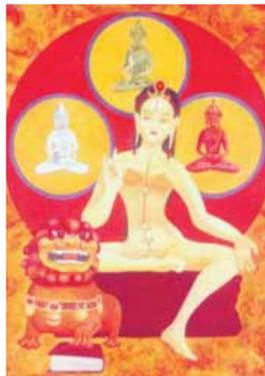
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

It is not advisable to deal with problems alone. Share your troubles with someone; it may help you relieve stress. Take care of yourself and the people you care about this week. You have a nurturing and generous personality, and, in this process, there are chances that you may neglect your health requirements. Do not jeopardise your health. You must strike a balance between your work and your relationships. You are unsure whether to leave your current work or establish your own business. Those deciding on a career path may not have a clear vision of where they want to go in the future. Constantly changing fields is a sign of insecurity and leads nowhere. Explore your interests and potentials. Think with your cool mind rather than your raging heart in your love life. Singles now is not the time to make rash decisions. Take your time judging the person.

Lucky number 21 | Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, you must exert control over your childish side. With utmost care, pay attention to your body. Overeating or becoming hungry are both detrimental to your health. Bringing balance to your eating habits not only helps you manage your weight, but it also offers you a confident attitude. You will feel calm, poised, and bright, which is a necessary requirement for a happy existence. Competitive exam results may not be promising. Expectations at work should be kept low because your stars are not in your favour. You may face disagreements and confrontations for no reason, which may cause you to lose your cool. It is recommended that you obey the organization's discipline and guidelines, or you will face disapproval from your superiors. Emotions and love will take a back seat. You may prefer solitude than being with the wrong people or partners.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week, you are determined to validate yourself and your abilities. You will be working hard to create a disease-free, happy family. It is time to think about just how entirely different and wonderfully impressive things could be. On the professional front, you are upbeat and want to infuse love and compassion in your job. This week, you are incredibly intuitive, and people will be amazed by your charisma. This is the time to concentrate on your goals and objectives. Being sensitive and emotional will not solve any problems. Maintain your attitude. Those in business must be careful. In terms of relationships, be aware of fake love. Those in committed partnerships may experience ambiguity; thus, clarify unwanted suspicions and avoid misunderstandings.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, you should concentrate on balancing your chakras, also known as your body, mind, and soul. You must pay close attention to all three. Meditation, Pranayama, and walks in nature all work quite well. The benefits are far greater than any effort you put in. On the job front, networking with new people, particularly those from different countries, will be advantageous. This is the moment to strike new business deals, undertake new initiatives, and take on new responsibilities. Your efforts will be recognised and appreciated this week. The stars are aligned in your favour. Those in service can expect a raise or promotion this week. On the personal front, innovative ideas and plans will undoubtedly assist you in reviving your relationships with loved ones. Love is in the air, and you are eager to communicate your feelings to the person you like. Singles may be able to meet their soulmate at one of the social gatherings.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Stress management is essential for maintaining excellent health. Face any challenges that arise and do not try to escape them. Make sure you get enough rest and avoid harmful habits like drinking or other vices. If you need healing, request it on both the literal and spiritual planes. On the professional front, others may not comprehend or support your fresh ideas or plans, but if you know you are correct, move ahead. You are enthusiastic, full of energy, and want to give your all, yet others are not impressed. Leave your simplicity behind and become smart and creative. The rest of the issues are manageable, and you should be able to handle them well. You are more inclined to be romantic this week. One-sided love or love at first sight may prove to be a waste of time.

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week, you must strike a balance between your health efforts and your personal and professional responsibilities. Prioritize your personal life, rest, and relax to recover yourself. Your health will undoubtedly suffer if you put yourself last on the priority list. Make sure you are getting enough rest and sleep. Those looking for work may have to wait a little longer. This week, you may encounter failure. Do not focus on your shortcomings and instead celebrate your successes. Accept that everyone has limitations and that no one can achieve everything. This is the time to reflect on your accomplishments. If there is no room for a raise or promotion where you are currently, consider looking for something where there is scope. Those who are already committed do not hesitate to express their feelings to their partner. You take a proud stance and convey your emotions. This is the moment to deepen your relationship with your loved one.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

It is recommended that you take a break from your typical daily activity. It is preferable to take a break from the intense pace of work and relax. Relax your nerves because pushing yourself when you are fatigued might lead to illness and damage. Meditation is excellent for regeneration and recharging your batteries. Take a brief break this week; it will do wonders for your physical and emotional well-being. On the professional front, previous investments are bearing fruit this week. You will reap the benefits of your efforts. You are in your boss's good graces, and you will be rewarded soon. Patience is required. On a personal level, you are confused and disturbed. Those seeking love should examine their emotional difficulties and try to resolve them. When you are confident in yourself, your relationship will enter a more relaxed and balanced phase.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You are a happy-go-lucky person who will experience a surge of optimism and creativity this week. This will be evident in your personality as well. It is a great moment to display your charm and enjoy the path to personal development this is finally opening before you. You are self-assured and ready to confront any hurdles in your career. This week, you may get success and accolades for your work. Now is the moment to achieve success through hard work. On a personal level, the mind, heart, and emotions are all moving in opposite directions. In love relationships, this is a very emotional moment. Situations can swiftly escalate. Take a break and treat your partner like a friend. Do not be in a rush to end or start a relationship.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You need to stay away from tension, worry and depression as this might take a toll on your health leaving you exhausted. If the load is too much to handle you should learn to say no. Conscious relaxation is important for your body and mind and it will further help you to deal with the stress. On the career front, you will be appreciated for your skills. Your communication will be good. Those doing their own business may acquire a secure position in terms of wealth, property, and position. This is the right time to invest in property. Those in service are likely to get assistance from their superiors and bosses, which will serve as a stepping-stone in your profession. Personality-wise, you will exude charm and positivity, winning your partner's heart. A new beginning in a relationship and higher ambitions are on the horizon.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You have been overworked and drained this week. Reduce your intake of nicotine and caffeine because they are both dangerous. Take some time for yourself, and your health will most certainly improve. Examine the situations that stress you and consider how you might handle them differently in the future. Learning ancient rites will deepen your spiritual awareness while assisting you in achieving balance. This week, your concentration on finances will keep you busy at work. There will be a lot of action, travel, and getting things done. Workaholicism is your passion, and you never get tired of it. Keep an eye on your behaviour; the chances of using angry words that create a hostile environment around you are high. Those looking for work, a job may come your way unexpectedly. Those who are in a committed relationship may attempt to advance the relationship.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, you may have a strong desire to change your mind about something. This is a warning: do not disregard whatever your doctor has advised you; rather, give it some serious thought. Those suffering from serious illnesses must be constantly monitored by doctors. Make sure you eat well and get enough sleep. As much as possible, avoid stimulants. On the work front, you must make fast decisions. Do not waste your time on conflicts; instead, use your intelligence and logic for good. A solution to a problem is already available or will be available soon. Long-distance or international business travel is on the cards. On an emotional level, there is hope and happiness, as well as a renewed sense of security, protection, and healing. You will enjoy the warmth, affection, and closeness with an old friend/lover this week.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You are suppressing your emotions, which is having an adverse impact on your body. You must exercise caution in how, when, and where you express your emotional reactions. Anything that reduces your stress level will be beneficial right now, even a five-minute walk. Maintain a pleasant attitude while being calm and connected. Otherwise, life is good. Tension is foreseen within the workplace. When dealing with stress, talking to a friend or co-worker might be beneficial. This is an excellent time for those looking for a job change. Making plans is not enough; you must also get up and carry them out. You could get the job you have been looking for a long time this week. It is a really good time for you and an amazing opportunity to strengthen all kinds of relationships.

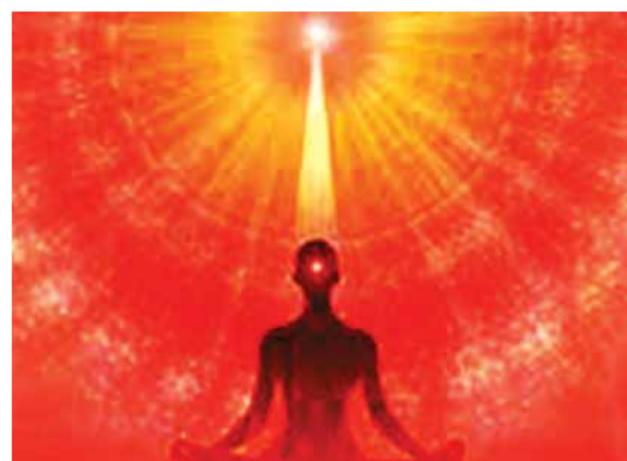
Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Address fault lines, Raja yoga will bear fruit



The indwelling human potential is immense. If unfolded in full, one would know no limits. The irony, however, is that because of our clouded vision, major part of the landscape of our mind remains unexplored, and therefore, remains dormant. Ordinarily, we have access to hardly 5 to 7 percent of our mind-space. The thought-seeds stored therein, which includes even destiny pointers, ordinarily drive our thought process, and thereby all actions on our part. No sooner congenial ground becomes available, they come into play. The question now is: Are we fully bound by our destiny indicators as the general belief runs, or do we have scope to make necessary amends through conscious efforts?

For the answer, we need to examine the premise on which destiny stands. All species but for human beings, are bound by the design parameters underlying their making and with no scope to make any exception. Human beings, on the contrary, enjoy the exclusive privilege to guide their actions by choice and discrimination. But whenever choice option comes into play, the probability of its use and misuse

becomes equal. And there is nothing like a free lunch in this world. We shall have to own up the consequences of good or bad choices we make. Evidently, the intent underlying the choices made, and actions thereto, define what we become due for in life – good or bad. That is what binds us into a cause-effect chain that runs in succession, even stretching to the next life.

So, apparently it appears difficult to evade the consequences of the Karmic carryover from the past, as they are reflection of our own doing and undoing. If, however, we probe little deeper, we may find that this is just half-truth. We forget that the same choice option would also enjoin upon us with the capacity to make conscientious choice to make necessary amends. Mind is a versatile instrument, which could self-reflect upon its own thought patterns. Should you dispassionately examine them, they may throw light on our desire and mind trends, with all their positives and negatives. We may then identify and acknowledge our potential and fault lines. Following which, we could make necessary amends through fresh

educative inputs. Also, hone our potential. Not simply that, having got over the limitations of mind, we could expand our vision and thereby our mind-power to come out with our best.

No wonder, swami Vivekanand used to say: "The history of the world is the history of few men who had faith in themselves. Faith calls out divinity within, you can do anything. You fail only because you do not strive

sufficiently to unfold immense power within."

It simply implies that if you fail in life, it is not necessarily because destiny would be so scripted. It is more for want of efforts necessary to unfold immense potential within, lying dormant thus far.

This I had to explain when someone could not understand how raja-yogas in the chart by themselves do not ensure a good fortune. Ground necessary for their fruition needs to be created by addressing the limiting tendencies of mind that stand in the way. The person had come seeking guidance on why his son's potential was not bearing fruits. His son's career had been subject to unwanted twists and turns and so had not settled down despite being in his late thirties. This, despite having a good academic background. A look into astrological pointers may throw further light.

9th lord Moon in the 10th house, read together with 10th lord Sun conjunct 5th lord Jupiter, form a very strong raja yoga. But limiting tendencies of mind have been playing spoilsport with his positives. Karmic Saturn

conjunct Ketu makes him an escapist. Habitually, he keeps pushing off his initiatives for tomorrow. Also, avoids meeting challenges head on. Moon placed adverse to Neptune makes him stuck to his fanciful dream perceptions, often distanced from ground realities, and not keen to look beyond for a reality check. He would not acknowledge truth on its first appearance. He rather continues passionately pursuing his beliefs on hope against hope till pushed to the wall. Venus placed adverse to Uranus and the Sun, make him too much touchy and sensitive. He, therefore, gets over exercised even on trivial issues, and keeps unnecessarily brooding and contemplating over them for long. Mars in the 4th house placed adverse to Uranus makes him temperamental. When things don't work his way, in the heat of moment, he may temporarily lose his sense of reasons. The result is there to see.

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