

Orissa TODAY

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THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

♦ Vol - 18 ♦ Issue-328 ♦ Bhubaneswar ♦ 04 July 2022 ♦ Monday ♦ Rs.2.00 ♦ Pages -8

Double-engine govt will come in Telangana: PM exudes confidence

Hyderabad, July 3 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday exuded confidence that the double-engine government will come in Telangana. He said the state would progress rapidly, if a double-engine government assumes power. Addressing a public meeting christened 'Vijay Sankalpa Sabha' at the sprawling Secunderabad Parade Grounds here tonight, the Prime Minister said the

presence of BJP has grown manifold in the state. Modi, who began his speech in Telugu to the delight of the vast crowd, said people in the state were laying track for the double-engine government in the state. He expressed happiness that in the last Lok Sabha elections, people of the state had supported BJP. Listing out various developmental schemes in the last eight years, the Prime Minister said the life qual-



ity of people has improved.

He said the government has undertaken several

developmental works in Telangana, including the setting up of Mega Textile Parks and laying of High-

ways, which had doubled. Modi said the Centre has fulfilled the dreams of Dalits and tribal people and also helped farmers in providing the Minimum Support Price (MSP). He said Telangana was a holy land and also expressed happiness on seeing the vast crowd, which had gathered in the ground. "It looks like people from the entire state have gathered at the Parade Ground," he added. Earlier several leaders, including BJP Na-

tional President JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who also spoke, underlined the need to bring BJP to power in the state in the next Assembly elections. Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and BJP National leaders, among others, attended the meet. After overnight stay at Raj Bhavan, Modi will proceed to Bhimavaram in the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh tomorrow.

Maha: Narvekar elected as Maharashtra state assembly Speaker

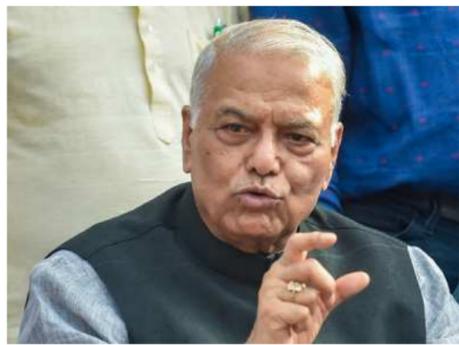


Mumbai, July 3 (UNI) Rahul Narvekar the BJP and Eknath Shinde group backed candidate was elected as Maharashtra State Assembly Speaker on Sunday. Maharashtra Assembly Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal declared the Narvekar elected as state assembly speaker. Narvekar defeated MVA backed candidate Rajan Salvi of the Shiv Sena. After the counting of votes Narvekar got 164 votes, while Salvi got 107 votes. While two Samajwadi Party MLAs including Abu Azmi and the lone AIMIM MLA abstained from voting. All in all eight MLAs absented themselves

during the voting process.. BJP's Chandrakant Patil put the motion to elect Narvekar as assembly speaker while Tupe put the motion on behalf of Salvi in the house. A special two-day assembly session was called by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari to elect the new assembly speaker and to allow the new government led by Eknath Shinde, who was sworn in on July 1 to under go floor test. Shinde became the CM after the previous MVA government led by Uddhav Thackeray collapsed after a rebellion led by Shinde switched sides. The motion for the floor test will be put up in the house on Monday.

MVA govt was toppled by kidnapping Shiv Sena MLAs: Yashwant Sinha

Bengaluru, July 3 (UNI) The Opposition candidate for Presidential elections Yashwant Sinha on Sunday said the central government has no respect for the federal structure of the Constitution as it toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi government by "facilitating the kidnapping" of Shiv Sena MLAs to Gujarat and Assam, both BJP-ruled states. "In Maharashtra, it toppled the coalition government of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress by facilitating the kidnapping of Shiv Sena MLAs to Gujarat and Assam, both being BJP-ruled states. The Centre has no respect for the federal structure of the Constitution. It is constantly encroaching upon the



powers of states," he said. Sinha, who was in Bengaluru to meet Congress MLAs to canvas support for the presidential polls on July 17, also said the central government has weaponised ED, CBI, Election Commission and even the Governor's office against Opposition parties, their leaders and

governments. In the past eight years, he said the ruling dispensation at the centre has launched repeated assaults on democracy and secularism, which form the founding principles of India's republic. It has unleashed a poisonous communal propaganda to divide India's multi-

religious society, Sinha said. "Day before yesterday, the Supreme Court made a stinging indictment of Nupur Sharma's remarks on Prophet Mohammed, saying "your loose tongue set the nation on fire." Regrettably, BJP supporters are trolling the Honourable Supreme Court for condemning her remarks," he added. In Karnataka, Sinha said the government has been attempting to communalise the minds of the young generation by introducing a new school curriculum coloured by the ruling party's ideological agenda.

India-EU conclude 1st round of negotiations for trade and investment agreements

New Delhi, July 2 (UNI) India and the European Union have concluded the first round of negotiations for India-EU trade and investment agreements, including the Geographical Indicators (GI), an official statement said here on Saturday. India's FTA negotiations were led by Chief Negotiator Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, and the EU was represented by its Chief Negotiator Christophe Kiener. The week-long negotiations were held in a hybrid fashion - with some of the teams meeting in Delhi and the majority of officials joining virtually. During this Round 52, technical sessions covering 18 policy areas of FTA and seven sessions on Investment Protection and GIs were held. The second round of negotiations is scheduled to take place in September, 2022 at Brussels.

Channel admits mistake, BJP leaders should also apologize: Congress

New Delhi, July 3 (UNI) Congress said that the TV news channel, which broadcast the fake video to malign the image of its former president Rahul Gandhi, has apologized, and the leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party, who forwarded the video, should immediately apologize or else legal action will be taken against them. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera told a press conference at the party headquarters here on Sunday that an attempt has been made to malign Gandhi's image through this fake video. The TV channel, which broadcast the video, has apologized and now BJP leaders, who shared the video, should also apologize or else legal action will be taken against them. It is surprising that this fake video was also shared by former information and broadcasting minister Rajyavardhan Rathore. The BJP leaders deliberately did this and now they will have to apologize for this act.

Order CB inquiry into student's death: RFCA tells Naveen

Bhubaneswar, July 3 (UNI) Ragging free Campus Abhiyan (RFCA), a voluntary organisation working to free the campus from ragging, on Sunday urged Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to order a Crime Branch inquiry into the death of a female college student here allegedly due to ragging. iRuchika Mohanty, a Plus 3 first-year student of History (Hons) at the n BJB Autonomous College, allegedly committed suicide on Saturday in the college hostel. Police found a suicide note purportedly written by her in which the girl had alleged that she was mentally tortured by three senior girl students forcing her to take the extreme step. However, she has not mentioned the names of the three senior girl students in the note. RFCA Convenor Tejeswar Parida told newsmen that the Chief Minister should personally intervene in deaths due to ragging in various educational institutions and announce zero tolerance for ragging. RFCA Co-Convenors Mir Ahmed Ali and



Nalinikanta Nayak who were present have requested all MLAs of the state to raise the issue in the ongoing session of the Assembly. The state, Parida said, should enact "The Odisha Prohibition of Ragging Act" along the lines of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir to check the rising incidents of ragging in the state. The RFCA demanded the state government constitute a state-level Anti-ragging Task Force and launch a 24-hour anti-ragging helpline in the Human Rights Protection Cell. Parida demanded the state government implement the Supreme Court

guidelines in 2001, Dr. R K Raghavan Committee recommendations and the Supreme Court judgement on ragging in 2009. He alleged that the anti-ragging committees formed in the educational institutions are not working and there is no accountability. Educational institutions are not admitting ragging in their institutions and suppressing it. The quantum of punishment in a ragging case is so light that it has failed to check the menace, Parida said. The educational institutions, he said, are not taking the ragging seriously. Despite proof of ragging, the murder of two students in Bimbohi Medical college in Bolangir was projected as suicide, he alleged.




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Pakistan: Rift within the PML-N deepens over Miftah's future

Islamabad, July 3 (UNI) Pakistan's Finance Minister Miftah Ismail finds himself at the centre of an intra-party rift of the PML-N, Express Tribune reported on Sunday.

While Miftah has found unequivocal support from party stalwarts on the one hand, he has also been facing criticism from within the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) amid speculations of ex-financial czar Ishaq Dar's return to Pakistan to replace him.

The support for the incumbent finance minister has come from Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan



Abbasi, saying that his understanding of economic issues is unmatched, and it is time to stand with him, especially, when he is feeling the heat from within the party.

Miftah has been at the receiving end of severe criticism from various quarters for repeatedly raising prices of petroleum and other products and over delay in the revival of the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, among other things. He himself admitted that he has ample support from party stalwarts but there are others who have been criticising and opposing him.

Expressing his gratitude to his supporters within the party, Miftah revealed that he is under immense pressure because of being the face of the ruling alliance's "unpopular decisions", adding that he

did not even want to hold the last press conference where he had to announce the increase in petroleum prices once again.

Asked if he will be willing to leave the finance portfolio for Dar, Miftah said that it is not about his willingness or unwillingness as it is the prime minister's discretion to keep him or anyone else as the country's financial czar.

He, however, emphasised that he will stay with the party and do whatever task he is given even if he is replaced or moved somewhere. "This has to be PM's decision; it is his discretion," he reiterated.

The debate about

Miftah's replacement escalated soon after speculations became rife about Dar's return and him confirming the same to BBC Urdu.

Dar's return and lobbying within the party circle built pressure on Miftah to the extent that he has since been repeatedly saying that he is ready to hand over the reins of the finance ministry to the senator-elect, who is in London since 2018 and faces a corruption reference wherein he had been declared a proclaimed offender.

Party's internal rifts over Miftah's future have not only aggravated but created a situation where stalwarts had to openly come out in his support.

China: Yellow alert renewed due to severe rainstorms

Beijing, July 3 (UNI) China's National Meteorological Center on Sunday renewed a yellow alert yet again after severe rainstorms hit several parts of the country, Khaleej Times reported. According to reports, between 8am Sunday and 8am Monday, rainstorms are expected in parts of Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan and Hubei, and heavy downpours up to 140 mm may lash parts of these regions., adding that accompanied by thunderstorms and gales, some of these regions are expected to experience short-term heavy rainfall with up to over 70 mm of hourly precipitation.



Parts of Henan, Anhui, Shandong and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region are also likely to see heavy rains, reports said. The meteorological center has advised local governments to make appropriate preparations and check the drainage systems in cities, farmland, and fishponds. The centre has also suggested taking traffic control measures

in road sections hit by heavy downpours, guiding traffic in waterlogged streets, and halting outdoor operations in hazardous areas.

China has a four-tier, colour-coded weather warning system, with red representing the most severe warning, followed by orange, yellow, and blue.

Australia: Thousands told to evacuate before 'life-threatening' Sydney flood

Australia: Thousands told to evacuate before 'life-threatening' Sydney flood

Canberra, July 3 (UNI) Thousands of people in Australia's biggest city Sydney have been ordered to evacuate their homes as torrential rain battered the country's largest city and floodwaters inundated its outskirts, Khaleej Times reported on Sunday.

Roads across the city were cut off and authorities said at least 18 evacuation orders were in place in western Sydney, an area that was inundated with severe flooding earlier in March.

Australia has been at the sharp end of climate change, with droughts, deadly bushfires, bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef and floods becoming more common and intense as global weather patterns change.

With more wild weather expected in the coming days, authorities described the floods as a "rapidly evolving situation" and warned that people should be "prepared to evacuate at short notice".

The city's Warragamba Dam began to spill in the early hours of Sunday morning, well ahead of

authorities' predictions. While in Camden, a southwestern suburb of Sydney home to more than 100,000 people, local shops and a petrol station were inundated by floodwaters.

Cooke asked those living along a 500-kilometre (310-mile) stretch of Australia's east coast, both north and south of Sydney, to consider cancelling their school holiday travel plans because of the weather.

Emergency services conducted 29 flood rescues and were called out more than 1,400 times in the previous 24 hours, she said.

3 killed as explosions jolt Russia's Belgorod



Moscow, July 3 (UNI) Three people were reportedly killed after explosions heard in Russia's Belgorod city, near the Ukrainian border.

BBC quoted regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov as saying that at least three people have died in explosions in the Russian city of Belgorod. He said that the blasts

have partially destroyed nearly 50 buildings.

Since the Ukrainian-Russian conflict began on February 24, thousands of civilians and combatants have been killed or wounded, while at least 12 million people have fled their homes, according to BBC.

Senior Russian politician Andrei Klishas accused

Ukraine of the attack on Belgorod and sought a military response, The Independent reported.

"The death of civilians and the destruction of civilian infrastructure in Belgorod are a direct act of aggression on the part of Ukraine and require the most severe - including a military - response," Klishas was quoted as saying on Telegram.

Pakistan: 19 killed after bus plunges into ravine in Balochistan's Shirani

Islamabad, July 3 (UNI) At least 19 people were killed and 12 others injured when a Quetta-bound bus fell into a ravine in Shirani district of Balochistan, Geo News reported on Sunday.

According to the rescue officials, the ill-fated passenger bus was heading to Quetta from Rawalpindi when it plunged into a deep ravine near Danasar area of Shirani district. However, Shirani district's assistant commis-

sioner, said the incident took place within the limits of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. After being informed, the police and rescue officials rushed to the scene and shifted the bodies and injured to the hospitals in Zhob and Mughal Kot.

It was not clear as to what caused the accident and the deceased have also yet to be identified.

UN Secretary-General warns against destabilization in Libya

United Nations, July 3 (UNI/Sputnik) UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed concern over the protests held in Libya and has called for peaceful demonstrations.

Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General said. Mass protests against deteriorating living conditions erupted in several major Libyan cities on Friday. The demonstrators stormed the building of the Libyan parliament in Tobruk. A protest was also held near the government building in Tripoli.

"The Secretary-General

is following with concern the demonstrations that were held in several cities in Libya, including Tripoli, Tobruk and Benghazi, on 1 July," Dujarric said in a Saturday statement, adding that Guterres "calls on all protesters to avoid acts of violence and on the security forces to exercise utmost restraint."

Dujarric reiterated that the United Nations and the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Libya, Stephanie Williams, can act as mediators between rival political forces in Libya in order to find a way out of the political

deadlock through the organization of elections. "The Secretary-General calls on all actors to refrain from any actions that could undermine stability. The Secretary-General urges Libyan actors to come together to overcome the continued political deadlock, which is deepening divisions and negatively impacting the country's economy," the spokesperson said.

The Libyan General Staff said on Saturday that the armed forces support the will of the people and the protesters' demands that are "legitimate" in light of

the deepening Libyan crisis and declining living standards. Nonetheless, the general staff called on the demonstrators not to inflict damage on government and private buildings and infrastructure and to protest peacefully. The armed forces also pledged to take "necessary measures" to protect "an independent Libyan solution."

On March 1, the Tobruk-based Libyan House of Representatives voted for a new cabinet headed by Prime Minister-designate Fathi Bashagha, who previously served as the interior minister of the

Government of National Accord (GNA). The incumbent interim Government of National Unity headed by Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, who was appointed last year in a UN-backed process, refused to cede power. Dbeibeh has said that he does not intend to transfer power in the country before the presidential elections, thus the country currently has de-facto two prime ministers.

Dbeibeh has expressed support for the ongoing demonstrations in Libya, saying that the only way out of the crisis is holding elections.

Argentina's finance minister resigns

Buenos Aires, July 3 (UNI) Argentina's economy minister, Martin Guzmán, has resigned even as the country's economic crisis intensifies, and leaving a big question mark over Argentina's future economic policy, BBC reported on Sunday.

Guzman who had been in office since late 2019 had been leading his country in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over the restructuring of Argentina's debt.

Argentina is struggling with 60 per cent inflation and a weak currency, in the midst of a global food and energy price rises.

In a letter to President Alberto Fernandez, Guzmán hinted at internal divisions within the government and called for "a political agreement within the governing coalition" to choose his successor.

But it is no secret that President Fernandez is at odds with his deputy, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, over how to tackle the country's economic problems.

Baghdad airport suspends flights due to sandstorm

Baghdad, July 3 (UNI/Sputnik) Baghdad International Airport has suspended all Sunday flights due to poor visibility caused by a sandstorm.

"We notify all passengers and airlines about the suspension of flights on Sunday due to weather conditions and visibility of 450 meters," the airport's press office said in a statement obtained by Sputnik.

Sandstorms have been hitting Iraq since March, causing severe health problems among population. After one of the most powerful storms in early May, over 5,000 people reported breathing troubles, which included suffocation, one patient died. The country's airports are occasionally forced to suspend operations due to poor visibility, with government agencies and educational institutions announcing extra days off.

Israeli military takes part in military drill in Morocco

Jerusalem, July 3 (UNI/Sputnik) The Israel Defense Forces and representatives of the Ministry of Defense have participated in military exercises in Morocco for the first time, the defense ministry's press service informs.

The African Lion annual military exercise was held throughout last month. Military personnel from 10 different coun-

tries participated in the drill.

"Officials from the IMoD and the IDF participated in an international military exercise in Morocco for the first time this past week: 'African Lion 2022', led by AFRICOM (US Africa Command) and the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces," the Israeli defense ministry said on social media on Saturday.

According to the ministry, the head of the Middle East and North Africa division of its Policy and Political-Military Bureau, who also serves as the defense attache to Morocco, as well as two IDF officers, took part in the African Lion drill.

The defense ministry specified that Israel's participation in the drill in Morocco aimed to strengthen security relations between the two countries.

One killed, several injured in migrant conflict in Serbia

Belgrade, July 2 (UNI/Xinhua) One migrant was killed and several were injured on Saturday in a conflict between two migrant groups at the Serbian-Hungarian border, the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs confirmed in a press release. The conflict, between groups of migrants coming from unspecified countries, took place in the early morning in a Serbian forest bordering Hungary, near the city of Subotica, the press release

said. "Members of the ministry of internal affairs are working intensively to establish all the circumstances and identify the perpetrators of the conflict between two groups of migrants," it stated. "Several migrants were brought to the police department in Subotica, with whom interviews will be conducted in order to determine all the circumstances of this incident," the press release added. For almost a decade,

Serbia has been traditionally on the route of migrants coming from conflict zones in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, looking to reach some European Union countries. According to Serbian public broadcaster RTS, among the seven injured migrants who were treated at the local hospital in Subotica, the life of a 16-year-old girl is in danger.

The ministry confirmed that no Serbian citizens participated nor got injured in the incident.

Dry, hot & humid weather to remain in Kashmir

Srinagar, July 3 (UNI) Weather remained dry, hot and humid in the Kashmir valley with partial clouds but no rain in sight on Sunday.

However, one can expect slight respite from heat and humidity, while the sky will be mainly clear officials said.

However, an independent weather observatory, Kashmir weather, said mostly dry weather is expected in Kashmir region during the next 48 hrs. However, a very short shower is possible at one or two places.

Between Tuesday and Thursday, rain showers can occur at many



places, with maximum possibility on Wednesday and Thursday which could dip the temperature considerably in the Kashmir valley, he said.

Srinagar is experiencing humid and hot weather conditions for the past one week disrupting normal activities. Children were seen beating the heat by taking a dip in the Dal

Lake. The minimum temperature has been running above normal from 5-7 degree Celsius in the Kashmir valley for the past few days, Kashmir weather said.

Srinagar recorded a low of 23.6 degree Celsius, Pahalgam 17.6 degree Celsius, Gulmarg 13.8 and Kupwara 20.6 degree Celsius on Sunday.

Tiger Shroff shares old training video of his grind for action

New Delhi, July 3 (UNI) India's youngest action hero Tiger Shroff is quite popular for performing his own action sequences in his movies.

The talented actor is continuously motivating his followers and his fans through his social media posts. There's no one else who can do what Tiger does he is in a league of his own.

Taking to his social media on Sunday, Tiger uploaded a video of himself grinding and twisting and performing some amazing stunts. In the caption, he wrote "Man the struggle and grind was real! Found some old training footage of little me with not so little dreams and my quest to



become an action hero". Recently, the star was praised by Shah Rukh Khan and the legendary Amitabh Bachchan for his kickass performances as an action hero which has inspired them to do better in terms of action. The actor has many films lined up like 'Ganapath: Part 1' along with Kriti Sanon. He will also be seen in 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan', in which he will share screen space with Akshay Kumar.

Aaditya Thackeray slams heavy security for rebel MLAs

Mumbai, July 3 (UNI) Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray on Sunday slammed the Maharashtra government for deploying heavy security both outside and inside the Maharashtra Vidhan Bhavan during the Assembly Speaker's election in which the rebel Sena MLAs participated.

Police has already maintained its section 144 of the CrPC order issued earlier in June, banning the assembly of five or

more persons. Political party workers were not allowed to gather near the Vidhan Bhavan and surrounding areas in south Mumbai. Targeting the stringent security arrangements in place for rebel Shiv Sena MLAs as they entered the Vidhan Bhavan premises from a nearby luxury hotel Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray said, "We have not seen such security before in Mumbai. Why are you scared? Is

someone going to run away? Why so much fear?"

The rebel MLAs supporting Shinde had returned to Mumbai from Goa on Saturday evening ahead of the Assembly session and were lodged in a luxury hotel in south Mumbai near the Vidhan Bhavan.

The four-day old Shiv Sena-BJP government will face the floor test on July 4 during the Assembly session.

Manik Sarkar calls CPM cadres to unite against BJP

Agartala, July 3 (UNI) Calling upon the people to unite against the ruling BJP for addressing peoples' issues and anti-democratic activities of the Tripura government, veteran communist leaders and leader of opposition Manik Sarkar alleged the ruling party set an instance by 'looting votes' in just concluded by-elections to the four assembly constituencies.

Addressing party workers here in a protest demonstration against BJP's alleged terror tactics and violence, Sarkar said, "The ruling party won votes by hatching terror tactics and throttling the voice of democracy. The BJP is slaughtering democracy in Tripura."

Despite all odds and falling prey into the BJP's terror, a major section of people managed to cast their vote in this by-election. They were restricted many times from casting their vote starting



from the day before the polling," Sarkar alleged. "When the BJP could realize that people of this state are getting detached from the government and the party, they had to change the face of the Chief Minister, but then nothing changed and people's distrust against BJP remained the same," he observed.

Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha won the poll from the seat against the opposition in the by-election by massive poll ragging, obstructing the voters except those belonging to

BJP party and made the entire voting process turn into a farce like all previous elections including the Lok Sabha poll.

Sarkar advised his party cadres to start activities in their respective areas with the common people and motivate the people to resist the terror mongers and vote snatchers in the coming election and added, "If BJP again come to power Tripura will be ruined and it's economy and culture would not able to stand back."

Railway Minister Danve to flag off Nanded-Pune express on July 4

Hyderabad, July 3 (UNI) Union Minister of State for Railways, Coal & Mines Raosaheb Patil Danve will flag off the inaugural service of Train No 17630 H.S Nanded - Pune daily Express service on July 4 at Jalna Railway station in the august presence of Public representatives and Senior Railway Officials. To increase the connectivity of the Marathwada region with the Pune City, the frequency of H.S Nanded - Hadapsar - H.S Nanded Bi-weekly Express train has been increased and will be run as Daily service. The Train No. 17630/17629 will commence its regular service with effect from July 5. The train will provide a convenient evening/night journey facility to suit the needs of the public so that they reach Pune station early in the morning, a South Central Railway statement here said on Sunday.

UP CM offers pooja at Bhagya Lakshmi temple in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, July 3 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the Bhagya Lakshmi temple located near the historic Charminar here on Sunday.



Yogi who is in the city to attend the ongoing BJP's national executive meeting offered special pooja and personally performed "aarthi" to the deity. BJP's Telangana unit President Bandi Sanjay Kumar Laxman MP and Raja Singh, MLA were among those who accompanied Yogi to the temple. Police made elaborate security arrangements in view of Mr Yogi's visit to the temple.

Tripura TET qualified teachers warn agitation if govt fails to recruit

Agartala, July 3 (UNI) The Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) qualified job aspirants on Sunday threatened to launch statewide agitation seeking immediate recruitment in the schools, as announced by the government.

Over 3600 TET qualified youths demonstrated in front of Ratan Lal Nath's house in the city, demanding timely action from the government.

Unless they are employed within two years, they will be disqualified and have to take TET again, and a large segment of them would cross the upper age limit set for government jobs. Barely six months before



the assembly election, the BJP-led government in Tripura has been facing public outrage, especially from the unemployed youths, which constituted over 45 per cent of the total eligible voters in the state.

Besides, the promise of 50,000 annual jobs by the BJP in the 2018 assembly elections, the state government had repeatedly announced to recruit all TET qualified candidates in the government schools, as around

13000 posts in the education department have been lying vacant for the past many years. However, Nath claimed that the government is contemplating recruitment of teachers as soon as possible and said,

"Recruiting all the qualified aspirants together is impossible for any government. He will sit with the Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha and Deputy Chief Minister holding Finance portfolio Jishnu Dev Varma to finalize the process of filling up 600 posts of teachers."

The agitators alleged, "The minister took U-turn from his statements repeatedly and failed to keep his promises like 14,000 teachers' recruitment after qualifying TET". Despite an acute shortage of teachers in schools across the state, they are not recruited into service by the government.

Patna, July 2 (UNI) In an apparent bid to give a strong message to BJP leaders recently targeting Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over handling of the agitation of Army aspirants protesting against the Agnipath scheme, chairman of JD(U) parliamentary board Upendra Kushwaha on Saturday said, "Nitish is NDA and NDA is Nitish in Bihar".

Kushwaha told media persons here that Chief Minister Kumar would remain the face of NDA, so long the alliance continues in Bihar. Kumar had been the face of NDA in Bihar since it came into existence, he pointed out.

The JD(U) leader while making an oblique reference to some BJP leaders, said there should not be confusion in anyone's mind over the face of Chief Minister Kumar. Infact, "Nitish is NDA and NDA is Nitish in Bihar", he remarked.

Kushwaha advised leaders creating confusion on the issue, that they should desist from doing so, as such behaviour also caused confusion among the rank and file. Without Nitish Kumar, it was even difficult to imagine the existence of NDA in Bihar, he noted. The JD(U) leader, while re-

sponding to a query regarding recent political development in Maharashtra, said both BJP and Shiv Sena had the same ideology. There was a difference in the ideology of BJP and JD(U), he further said adding that JD(U) was close to the ideology of RJD in principle but the mode of its application was different for the two parties.

JD(U) and BJP leaders had earlier expressed divergent views on the Agnipath scheme rolled out by the Centre for the recruitment of Jawans in the Armed Forces. While BJP leaders including state party chief Sanjay Jaiswal had defended Agnipath scheme, saying it was good for youths aspiring to join Army but JD(U) president Rajeev Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh had demanded a review of the Agnipath scheme, taking into consideration of concerns raised by agitating youths. Jaiswal had also alleged that the administration failed to discharge its responsibility to protect BJP leaders and party offices in various parts of Bihar. JD(U) president Singh had responded to charges levelled by Jaiswal, saying the administration discharged its responsibility with full

sincerity and dedication. Singh had also asked Jaiswal why he was not suggesting BJP-ruled states open fire on agitating youths there. Chief Minister Kumar knew how to run the government and he did not need to take lessons from others.

RJD leaders had also echoed similar sentiments on the Agnipath recruitment scheme as was expressed by JD(U) leaders. Leader of the opposition Tejaswi Prasad Yadav had also demanded roll back of Agnipath recruitment scheme saying it was detrimental to both future of the youths and defence of the country.

Amid divergent views being expressed by JD(U) and BJP leaders, Human Resources Development Minister and senior BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan had air dashed to Patna from New Delhi and called on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar while the Monsoon session of Bihar Legislature was in progress. After his meeting with Kumar, Pradhan had announced that Kumar would remain Chief Minister of Bihar till 2025. He had also asked BJP leaders not to make statements against JD(U). UNI KKS SSP

Manipur landslide toll climbs to 29

Imphal, July 2 (UNI) The toll in Manipur landslides went up to 29 with the recovery of nine more bodies in the Noney district as rescue operation was still on, officials said on Saturday.

Among the dead are 20 Territorial Army personnel, six construction workers, an engineer and two civilians. The landslides began on the intervening night of June 29 and 30 at Tupul, where 34 persons are still reported missing. The authorities have asked people in low-lying areas to evacuate as the weather has not improved. Meanwhile, the mortal remains of 14 Territorial

Army personnel were sent to their respective homes after giving full military honours at the Imphal International Airport.

Thirteen Territorial Army personnel and five civilians have been safely rescued so far. The search for the missing persons was continuing for the third consecutive day with Manipur Police, Indian Army, Assam Rifles, Territorial Army, SDRF and NDRF personnel working at the incident site at Tupul. Among the missing are 12 Territorial army personnel, 12 construction workers, three Railways staff, two Bharat Infra

pvt Ltd staff and five villagers.

The rains slightly disturbed the operations, an official said.

A landslide also occurred near the site but it did not affect the operations or cause any casualties or major damage.

A Defence official said so far the mortal remains of 1 JCO and 12 Other personnel of the Territorial Army were sent to their respective home stations by two IAF aircrafts and an Indian Army helicopter.

The mortal remains of one Territorial army trooper was sent to Kangpokpi district of Manipur by road.

Grieving for Teesta

I had great faith in the judiciary. Alas, I have lost it. Like other institutions, the media in particular, it has caved in or is in the process of doing so. I did not expect the court to swim against the tide and hold our powerful PM complicit in the attack on Zakia Jafri's husband, but no sensible Indian expected the topmost judicial authority to make extremely disparaging remarks against Teesta Setalvad and RB Sreekumar and accuse them of a pre-planned conspiracy to harm PM Modi! These remarks were immediately picked up by BJP stalwarts and a politicised Gujarat Police to register an FIR against these two for conspiracy to harm an innocent man, who incidentally had not received the clean chit from his own senior at that time — PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a man of principles. I have known Teesta and Sreekumar for many years. Teesta was responsible for the conviction of a BJP minister in fomenting the riots in Ahmedabad in 2002. Another one jailed for leading the mobs was Babu Bajrangji, a notorious Muslim baiter from the Hindu far-Right. Teesta went about her mission relentlessly and succeeded. The courts, especially the Supreme Court, saw the justice in her pleadings and helped the process of delivering it.

Perhaps the steady support of the courts had made her believe that she would succeed again but this time the target was one that even the most intrepid of today's judges would hesitate to touch. But to pass those unnecessary strictures that an eager leadership was bound to pounce on to extract revenge was not expected. I have known Teesta and Sreekumar for many years. Teesta was responsible for the conviction of a BJP minister in fomenting the riots in Ahmedabad in 2002. Another one jailed for leading the mobs was Babu Bajrangji, a notorious Muslim baiter from the



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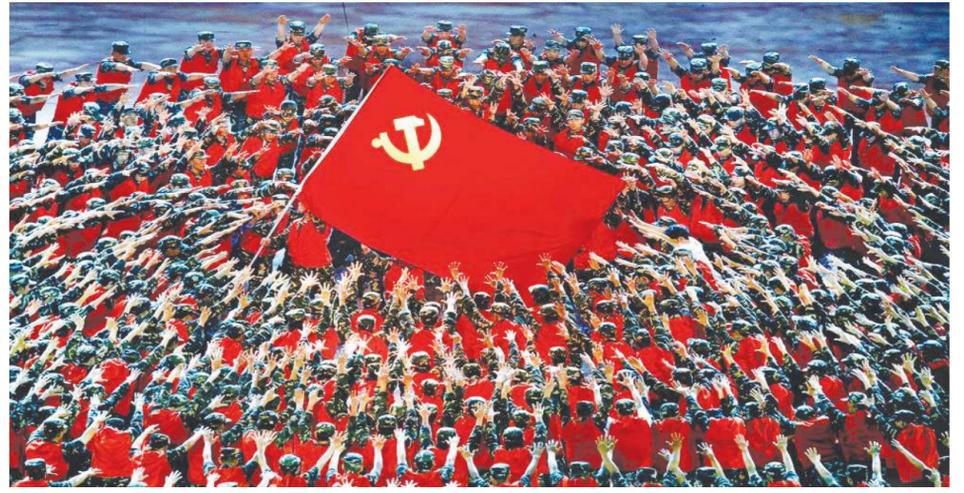
Perhaps the steady support of the courts had made her believe that she would succeed again but this time the target was one that even the most intrepid of today's judges would hesitate to touch. But to pass those unnecessary strictures that an eager leadership was bound to pounce on to extract revenge was not expected. Just as I believe that Teesta's campaign for justice for a beleaguered minority has its origin in compassion, the Gujarat Police's swift action against their own one-time senior surprised me. Sreekumar, the son of a freedom fighter from Kerala, spent more than a decade in the Intelligence Bureau before reverting to the state. He was promptly made head of the state's Intelligence apparatus, for which he was eminently suited.

When the Godhra train burning took place, Sreekumar was on leave. Otherwise, as a senior officer in charge of Intelligence gathering and analysis, he would have been present at the meeting called by Modi at the CM's residence that night. His assistant, Sanjeev Bhat, was too junior to be given access and had to wait in another room till the instructions were handed down to him by the DGP. A contingent of the Army requisitioned in aid of civil power, led by a Lt General, was kept twiddling its thumb on the tarmac as no instructions for deployment were given to the General, despite his personal call on Modi at his residence. I learnt that the instructions were to go slow for a day. This piece of information was enforced by the non-deployment of the Army contingent. Any expectation that riots will stop at a given signal is misplaced. Once the mob assumes an identity of its own, separate from that of the individuals that compose the mob, there is no way to control the insanity till, like the eye of a storm, it dissipates.

Lessons from China's war-preparedness drill

The leaked video reveals interesting details, which will undoubtedly be carefully analysed by China's neighbours and competitors to help them better discern war indicators. China's neighbours will pay special attention to the planning sequence and its essential elements, which will be replicated in all provinces involved in military operations.

Militaries around the world conduct simulations and war games to hone their war-fighting capabilities, ensure operational readiness and improve logistics. At times, the names allotted to the war games are designed to indicate intent to an adversary. China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) also conducts war games, often in localised areas. Recently, and in the backdrop of enhanced threats directed towards Taiwan, China conducted a major war game which it termed a 'War Preparedness Mobilisation Exercise'. It was centred around Guangzhou in the PLA's Eastern Theatre Command and the named adversary was Taiwan. Very unusually, a video of the proceedings of this exercise convened by the Guangdong Province Communist Party Committee on May 14 was 'leaked'. It is yet unclear whether this was part of psy-war against Taiwan, or an unauthorised recording of the meeting by a disgruntled PLA officer. The recording nevertheless reveals interesting details, which will undoubtedly be carefully analysed by China's neighbours and competitors to help them better discern war indicators. China's neighbours will pay special attention to the planning sequence and its essential elements, which will largely be replicated in all provinces directly involved in military operations. The hour-long video, at the outset, details the importance accorded by the Chinese to ideological preparation, or indoctrination. This is followed by the interplay of civil and military, roles of the PLA Military Commander and Political Commissar, roles and responsibilities of the central and provincial CCP organisations and tasking and utilisation of the defence-related assets in the Guangdong province and the region. It specifies the pre-eminent authority of the Provincial Party Secretary who heads the provincial military-civilian joint command with the Military Region Commander and Political Commissar as members. The Provincial Governor is responsible for implementing the mobilisation while the provincial military district commander is responsible for military activity before the commencement of the war. Next in priority in the preparations, after efforts to raise the morale and ideological awareness of troops, is civil-military coordination. The provincial leadership stressed on the need to "quickly set up a joint military-civilian command party committee". It simultaneously identified the importance of self-defence, focussing on "super-dense cities", important military and livelihood targets and good air defence of military targets and people's lives and properties. Specific responsibilities were assigned to the available forces and resources for radiation environmental monitoring, nuclear, biological and chemical support, and biochemical medical testing were marshalled. The recommendations of the military commanders, PLA Major-General Zhou He, Commander of the Guangdong Military Region, and Major-General



Wang Shouxin, Political Commissar of the Guangdong Military Region, were more specific. They said: (i) provincial industry must obey the unified command of the joint command; (ii) military-civilian departments at all levels should accomplish their duties and ensure coordination; (iii) the needs of the troops to support frontline operations must be fully ensured; (iv) the lives of the masses and stability of the rear (of the battlefield) must be ensured; (v) mobilisation of the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea must be simultaneously coordinated; (vi) all resources in the Taiwan Strait area need to be pooled; (vii) since there are a large number of migrant workers and a large number of factories and enterprises, precautions require to be taken to prevent a run on banks, evacuations by factories, and exodus of migrant workers wanting to go home; (viii) roads and targets must be well protected; (ix) because of China's proximity to Hong Kong and Macao and the long coastline, it is essential to prevent infiltration and sabotage by the enemy; and (x) Hong Kong must not be used as a base by the enemy to create chaos to disrupt the war. Communications were accorded a lot of importance. This is not surprising, considering China's efforts to develop quantum communications and its apprehensions about the US and West's ability to disrupt and jam signals and communications. The importance of military and civilian links was underscored. While information data security centres and information rooms were established at all command points, a battalion-level information and communication force was deployed in

the province and company-platoon-level forces at subordinate administrative units. Revealed were the existence of a 'confidential information remote delivery system' capable of integration into the joint command system; a national defence mobilisation task information command system; command communication links down to the county level military-civilian joint commands and below relying on ultra-short wave, Tiantong-1 satellite phones; and an 'integrated confidential password system' on the 'Acer government intranet'. The Chinese emphasis on dual-use is visible in its ability to have the capacity to integrate military and civil communications systems. It also reveals that the Chinese will first target communications networks. The exercise disclosed the authority of the Civil-Military Command to marshal resources and accelerate the production of drones, ships and aircraft. It revealed, too, that the PLA and tech companies like Huawei, Tencent etc are intertwined. For India, specifically, the provinces in the Western Theatre Command that will be mobilised are: Tibet (Xizang), Sichuan, Xinjiang, Chongqing, Gansu, Ningxia and Qinghai. Sichuan, particularly, has a concentration of defence manufacturers, including aircraft and drone companies. Lanzhou, Lhasa and Chengdu will be the mobilisation headquarters. Chengdu is, in any event, the headquarters of the Joint Operations Command to be set up in times of war or crisis. In the actual preparatory phase, posters for recruits and guidance for civilians will appear in these areas.

Single-use plastic

Ban's efficacy hinges on availability of alternatives

The Centre is set to implement a ban on single-use plastic (SUP) across the country from tomorrow. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has prohibited the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of identified SUP items that have 'low utility and high littering potential', such as plastic wrappings used for packaging, earbud sticks and disposable cutlery. National and state-level control rooms will be established in an effort to ensure strict enforcement, while states and union territories have been told to set up border checkpoints to prevent inter-state movement of banned items. The Union Government, which issued a notification to ban SUP in August 2021, claims that it has given ample time to the manufacturers to make a switchover and is also helping them produce the alternatives.

It is inevitable that the ban will encounter teething troubles, such as resistance from a section of the trader community as well as the industry. The end-users will also feel the



pinch if the substitutes (paper/cloth bags) are not easily available or lack affordability and durability. Several states have imposed a complete or partial ban on single-use plastic over the years, including Karnataka,

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh. The implementation has been patchy in general, with the authorities often adopting a lax attitude and things eventually returning to business as usual. The planet is choking on plastic — only 9% of the plastic trash is recycled. The volume of global plastic waste is estimated to almost triple by 2060. India accounts for over 20% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste, which is neither recycled/incinerated nor buried in landfills and ends up mostly in sewers and water bodies. It needs the participation of all stakeholders to reduce and avoid dependence on SUP. Innovative initiatives can make a difference, such as Himachal's buyback scheme under which the government will pay students Rs 75 for every kg of single-use plastic items they deposit with their school/college. The nation and society as a whole must wage a war against the menace that poses grave environmental and health hazards.

It's time drug regulation system is reviewed

In 2013, a parliamentary panel which investigated the functioning of the regulatory system had found that the Subject Expert Committee set-up was a sham. Many approvals were given for the waiver of clinical trials and some files were not traceable. The panel found that most recommendations were based on 'personal perception without giving any hard scientific evidence or data.'

Amidst the public glare on the Agnipath scheme and the political crisis in Maharashtra appeared a report of alleged corruption involving India's much-celebrated pharmaceutical sector and the country's drug regulatory system. This case of bribery is different from such cases reported routinely and those involving much higher sums of money because it has implications for people's health. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a top official of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) — the regulatory body for drug approvals in India — and a senior official in charge of regulatory affairs of a Bengaluru-based pharmaceutical firm as well as officials of a company acting as middlemen on behalf of the pharma company.

According to the report, the company officials bribed a joint drug controller to speed up clearance for one of its flagship products — the injectable insulin. Those involved in bribing the official were caught red-handed and arrested and 11 locations were raided in Bengaluru, Delhi and Gurugram.

The process of marketing new drugs — those developed in India and elsewhere — in the Indian markets is quite elaborate, involving multiple steps and players. Starting with pre-clinical studies to establish the safety and efficacy in animals to clinical trials in humans to ensure safety, efficacy and dosing, a new drug has to undergo extensive testing. Data from each stage has to be presented to the drug regulator before the start of the next phase. If all goes well, marketing approval is given. In the case of drugs already approved by the regulators in mature markets such as America and Europe, the Indian rules allow bypassing some stages of approval, provided the results of all clinical data gathered elsewhere are presented and the regulator is satisfied with it.

In the case of emergencies like a pandemic, the drug regulator may permit the simultaneous conduct of

different clinical trial phases. Assisting the regulator in the technical approval process is a mechanism called the Subject Expert Committee (SEC), consisting of external experts. Given the high stakes involved in drug development and competitive pressures, drug companies always seek to speed up the regulatory process. They hire middlemen and companies that handle paperwork relating to the approval process, just as they outsource clinical trials to third parties. In the present case, the drug had undergone clinical trials in other markets and the company was seeking a waiver of phase III clinical trials in India. If all its data was in order, it would have gotten the approval in any case. The CBI has alleged that the company bribed the CDSCO official to get a favourable response from the SEC for its application. The officer attended the SEC meeting held on May 22, 2022, and tampered with its proceedings by replacing the word 'data' with 'protocol'. This has serious regulatory implications. The company or persons acting on its behalf tried to influence a critical regulatory procedure in connivance with an insider. It also exposes malfunctioning in the CDSCO division which handles the SEC. The conduit company, which counts several large pharma companies among its clients, also needs to be investigated thoroughly.

Above all, the probity of the SEC members becomes suspect. While the company, Biocon, has denied any wrongdoing, the CDSCO and Health Ministry have kept mum. As a follow-up, the CBI should investigate not only all the cases handled by the compromised CDSCO officials but also the approvals given by this particular SEC as well as other SECs. A parliamentary panel in 2013, which investigated the functioning of the regulatory system, had found that the SEC set-up was a



sham. Many approvals were given for the waiver of clinical trials in India, and some files were not even traceable.

The panel which reviewed the approvals given by the SECs found that 'an overwhelming majority are recommendations based on personal perception without giving any hard scientific evidence or data. Such opinions are of extremely limited value and merely a formality'. Still worse, the panel found documentary evidence to conclude that many opinions were written by 'the invisible hands of drug manufacturers and experts merely obliged by putting their signatures'. The language used in the opinion given by different experts was identical, confirming the suspicion that they were all written by the manufacturers concerned. The parliamentarians suspected that drug companies even

suggested the names of the so-called experts to the CDSCO so that they could have a pliant SEC. Moreover, the decision to seek expert opinion was with the non-medical functionaries of the CDSCO, which left 'the doors wide open to the risk of irrational and incorrect decisions', with the potential to harm public health. Experts connected with the regulatory process must be made to declare 'conflict of interest' outlining all past and present pecuniary relationships with drug companies that stand to benefit from their recommendations. Even such basic precautions were not taken.

Based on the evidence that emerged from examining the files of the CDSCO and testimonies of experts, the panel was unequivocal in concluding that "there is sufficient evidence on record to conclude that there is a collusive nexus between drug manufacturers, some functionaries of CDSCO and some medical experts."

Has the situation changed since 2013? No, as shown in the latest case involving the SEC that waived the clinical trials for the insulin shot developed outside India. Experts have questioned the approvals granted to some Covid drugs by the SECs during the pandemic. It has been almost a decade since the last investigation into the functioning of the drug regulatory authority in India took place. The government and Health Ministry owe an explanation if any corrective steps have been taken since then to reform the regulatory system and make the process of drug approvals evidence-based and transparent. The present case provides an opportunity for another exercise to clean it up.

The review should not only cover the CDSCO but also the functioning of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). In the name of 'ease of doing business', it is unethical for the government to let the regulators sleep with the regulated, and in the process, compromise people's health and food safety.

District-level running competition held



Susil Ku. Aich
Angul, July 03 : A district-level sporting event was held at Angul Stadium to select sports talent. It was attended by 44 contestants from different blocks of Angul district and 3 contestants from Boudh district. The sports talent search was conducted by District Physical Education Officer Shri Prashant Kumar Sinha, District Sports Officer Shri Akshay Kumar Sith, Sports Teacher Shri Dusmanta Kumar Sahu, Shri Manas Kumar Sahu, Shri Binod Chandra Dehuri, Shri Amiya Kumar Sahu, Shri Ashish Kumar Behera, Elizabeth sahu, & Nivedita Samal officiated.

It has been revealed that kabaddi will be selected on the 4th of this month, volleyball on the 6th, khokho on the 5th and swimming on the 9th. According to the district sports official, those who perform best will compete in state-level sports selection competitions.

Over 20 Hurt As Bus Skids Off Road Near Khurda's Baghamari



Khurda, July 03 (TNB): Over 20 people sustained injuries as the bus carrying them skidded off the road near Simor at Baghamari in Khurda district on Sunday morning. According to reports, the bus named Shri Lingaraj, was en-route to Bhubaneswar from Banki, when the driver lost control over the wheels and the vehicle skidded off the road. Following the incident, as many as 20 passengers suffered injuries.

They were immediately rescued by locals and admitted to Khurda hospital, said sources. Of them, five passengers, who sustained critical injuries, have been admitted to Bhubaneswar hospital, it added

Police investigation is going on BJB student suicide case

Bhubaneswar, July 03 (TNB): The suicide case of a Plus 3 girl student of BJB Autonomous College in Bhubaneswar is set to echo in the Odisha Assembly with the Opposition planning to raise the issue in the ongoing monsoon session. Opposition Chief Whip in Odisha Assembly, Mohan Charan Majhi said, "Prior to the recent suicide of a girl student at BJB College, two similar incidents had happened in the past."

"Frequent occurrence of such incidents and silence of the government and no

probe by the Home department demonstrate the failure of the government in controlling the law and order situation," he added. On the other hand, the State unit of Congress party demanded a thorough investigation into the matter and arrest of the culprits. "The girl was subjected to torture which drove her to suicide. A probe must be conducted into the matter. We will raise the issue in the Assembly. The culprits must be arrested and handed down stringent punishment so that no one dares

ED Attaches Rs 8.52 Cr Of Odisha's Serajuddin & Co Under Money Laundering Case

Bhubaneswar, July 03 (TNB): The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has attached Rs. 8.52 crore kept in the bank account of the Directors of Serajuddin & Co., under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on charges of illegal mining of iron and manganese ores. In a press note, the ED said that the money lying in the bank accounts of Seraj Yusha,

Meraj Yusha and Yazdani International Pvt. Ltd (part of Serajuddin & Co) were frozen under the provisions of PMLA in connection with an investigation being conducted under the provisions of PMLA related to the generation of the "Proceeds of Crime" by M/s Serajuddin & Co. from the illegal mining of Manganese & Iron Ores in the State of Odisha.

The ED said the company obtained the mining



lease without satisfying the conditions as prescribed and has accordingly extracted manga-

nese ore illegally from Guruda Manganese ore mines to the tune of 14,73,697.99 MT from the

DLC and forest area without having approved the De-Reservation proposal.

Further, M/s Serajuddin & Co. has also produced more iron ore during different year in comparison to the approved quantity of iron ore by the Indian Bureau of Mines. ED has already attached Proceeds of Crime held in the form of movable properties amounting to Rs. 622 Crore of M/s Serajuddin & Co. under the provisions

of PMLA which has already been confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority. Subsequently, a Prosecution Complaint has also been filed before the Ld. Special Court under PMLA, Khurda at Bhubaneswar praying for confiscation of the said properties. The cognizance of the offence of money laundering has been taken by the Ld. Special Court. Further investigation in the matter is under progress.

IFFCO donated battery driven vehicle to Sri mandir for pilgrimage

Puri, July 03 (TNB): IFFCO has once more offered to support those in need and provide assistance. Battery driven vehicle donated by IFFCO to Sri Mandir, Puri and managed by one social organization Center For Action, Puri for visitors who are elderly, disabled, or handicapped persons. For their hazel-free and pleasant darshan, these amenities will be offered without any fees.

These vehicles operating with batteries will be in service to make the facilities more accessible to these devotees visiting the pilgrimage. In



collaboration with the centre of action if go has been providing free cooked meals to devotees visiting The Pilgrimage for Rath Yatra. This service started a day before Rath Yatra and will continue till

augurated by Sh K J Patel, Director of IFFCO, Paradeep Unit, Smt Mamtaben Patel, President, IFFCO Jyoti ladies club, President Mamta Patel in presence Sh Suresh Goyal, Sr. General (Finance), Mrs Sashi Goyal, Lord Balabhadra's badagrahi, Daitapati Binayak Das Mahapatra, Daitapati Anant Das Mahapatra, Puri Administration and Police Sh Jugal Kishore Swain, Sh Sushil Kumar Pradhan. This initiative is being coordinated by Mr. Prasanna Kumar Beura, Assistant Manager (Administration), IFFCO, Paradeep Unit.

NTPC Dulanga committed to serve people through mutual discussion with Govt

Sunil Sinha Sundargarh, July 03 : NTPC Dulanga is steadfastly committed to serving the people of Odisha State. It strives to empower the women in the peripheral repeatedly with various initiatives relating to health, education, and skill enhancement. However, over the past few months, married daughters have attempted to unlawfully shut down its efforts. The district administration has been actively looking into the situation while NTPC has been working constantly to inform this group of protesters that the state's policies do not permit R&R benefits to these married daughters.

attempted to serve as a liaison between them and the administration so that the concerns may be settled legitimately. However, these protestors have repeatedly attempted to halt mining operations illegally regardless of the fact that they result in substantial losses for the entire nation as well as the State of Odisha. Given the status of the country's Power supply, the availability of coal is extremely important. All of these married daughters are once again urged by NTPC Dulanga to be optimistic in the District Administration's efforts and carry out their demands through mutual discussion at proper level.

Rotary Club of Paradip observed National Doctors' Day

Paradip, July 03 (TNB): Rotary Club of Paradip observed National Doctors' Day on 1st July 2022. On this occasion the members of the said club discussed the importance of Doctors and realised immense contribution of doctors to the nation. The meeting was presided over by Mr Dipak Sarangi, the president of Rotary Club of Paradip. Mr Ganeswar Patra, Secretary of the club spoke briefly on the occasion. Rotarians including Dr Kailash chandra Moharana, Capt. Alekha chandra Sahoo, S. Ranjit Mishra, Mr Akshaya Chandra Mishra and many other were present on the occasion & extended their active cooperation for the said programme. The club also felicitated Dr. Durga prasad Sethy, Port Trust Hospital, Paradip, Dr. Diptikanta Bastia, Port Trust Hospital, Paradip, Dr Alok Lenka, Dentist Paradip & Dr. Prasant kumar Mohapatra, Paradip. It was a proud moment for the physicians concerned. The event was also memorable.

Mahaprasad At Puri Gundicha Temple starts

Puri, July 03 (TNB): Provision of Mahaprasad of Lord Jagannath will begin at Puri Gundicha temple on Sunday. Devotees can have the Mahaprasad at the Adapa Mandap till the Bahuda Yatra. According to the Shri Jagannath cult, preparation of the Mahaprasad at the Roshaghara (kitchen) inside the Jagannath temple is postponed from the Rath Yatra as the Trinity comes out from the Jagannath temple and



stays almost seven days at the Adapa Mandap. During the stay, the Mahaprasad for the deities is prepared from the Kitchen of the Shri Gundicha temple. Devotees are allowed to have it or to take away after the Kotha Bhog is offered to Lord Jagannath and his siblings after the noon.

Lord Baladevjew's Chariot Suffers Damage In Kendrapara



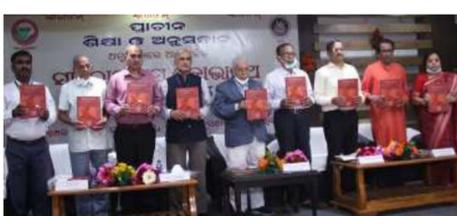
Kendrapara, July 03 (TNB) : Brahma Taladhwa chariot of Lord Baladevjew in Kendrapara will be pulled to Mausima temple on Sunday. The pulling of the chariot was extended for another day as it suffered damage due to an accident. As per reports, the chariot was hit with a light post along the roadside due to faulty driving by the charioteer. However, the servitors alleged that the accident happened due to neglect by the district administration.

The chariot could be pulled to a distance of 100 metres only as it met with the unfortunate accident. Following the development, the servitors, Endowment Department and the district administrations decided to stop the pulling of the chariot. The chariot will be pulled again today at 11 am. It has also been decided that not more than 35 servitors will be present on the chariot during pulling. Adapa Mandapa Bijje ritual of Lord Trinity will be performed after the chariot reaches Mausima temple.

Critical edition of ten 'Parvas' of Sarola Mahabharatha released by SOA

Bhubaneswar, July 03 (TNB): Enabling and empowering the masses with their timeless classics, works of saint poets like Saroladasa have enriched different Indian languages by bringing in new imageries, similes and metaphors from other cultures. Dr. Chandrashekhara Kambara, eminent writer and President of the Shitya Akademi said here on Saturday. "These newly brought imageries, similes and metaphors provide the writers and poets of different languages newer avenues to express their thoughts in diverse ways, away from the old beaten path," Dr. Kambara, who released the critical edition of ten 'parvas' of the works of Saroladasa — 'Saroladasa

Mahabharatha' — at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), said. "Each region, language and community had acquired and assimilated the best of other cultures and languages of the land. To reduce the alien elements, to make highest philosophical truths easier to understand for the masses and to reduce the cultural shocks, the scholars and pundits of the bygone centuries used adaptations wisely," he said. The book, both in prose and verse, had been painstakingly put together by an editorial team and published by Centre for Preservation, Propagation and Restoration of Ancient Culture and Heritage of India (PPRACHIN), the literary and cultural arm of SOA.



A critical version of two 'parvas' of 'Saroladasa Mahabharatha' containing the 'musoli' and 'swargarohan' parvas authored by Saroladasa had been brought out by SOA in April last year. Dr. K.S.Rao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Prof. Dasarathi Das, writer, Dr. Pradipta Kumar Panda, member of the editorial team and Dr. Gayatribala Panda, Head of PPRACHIN, also addressed the special function which was presided over by Prof. (Dr.) Ashok

Kumar Mahapatra, Vice-Chancellor of SOA. Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) conducted the program. Eminent litterateur Ramakant Rath's recorded message for the occasion was played during the release function. In his message, Rath said Odia, which was a spoken language, turned into a script only after Saroladasa wrote the 'Mahabharatha'. Stating that Saroladasa and Kumara Vyasa of Karnataka, who were contemporaries, had adapted

the epics of India to varying degrees to suit the local cultural milieu, Dr. Kambara said the works of the Odisha saint poet were not merely literary, religious or philosophical in nature but served to educate and enhance the awareness of the masses. Equally importantly, they brought into the local culture vast elements from other cultures while increasing the understanding and acceptance of other cultures too, he said. Indian literature, Dr. Kambara said, was far ahead of others when it came to translations and adaptations. "Indians, at least during the past 2000 years, have gone one step further and not only translated the classics from other languages but adapted them to suit the local cul-

tural milieu," he said adding Kumara Vyasa's Gadugina Bharata had enriched Kannada literature by concisely presenting the philosophy of Mahabharata to the Kannada people. Dr. Kambara said works of Saroladasa and other saint poets were also repositories of cultural information of the given societies. "They are not only path breakers but also guide posts for the past which in turn act as the measuring yardstick to gauge the progress made by society," he said. Dr. Rao said parallels had been drawn in the past between Saroladasa and Kalidasa and there were number of similarities in the end product of Sarala Mahabharatha and Raghuvamsa. Both Dr. Kambara and Dr. Rao

praised SOA and PPRACHIN for the work undertaken to enrich literature. "The work done by PPRACHIN is most welcome and I hope the good work continues in the years to come and should go beyond the borders of Odisha," Dr. Rao said. A team comprising Dr. Gouranga Charan Dash, Dr. Pradipta Kumar Panda, Ms. Bhagyalipi Malla and Dr. Fanindra Bhushan Nanda had edited the volumes. The newly published volumes were discussed afterward with the participants including eminent linguist Dr. Debi Prasanna Patnaik, Asit Mohanty, Kailash Chandra Dash, Baishnab Charan Mohanty, Dipti Ranjan Patnaik, Phanindra Bhushan Nanda, Hrushikesh Mallick, Santosh Kumar Rath and Dr. Nachieketa K. Sharma.

Gold price Gold rates go up by Rs 930, Check gold rate in Delhi, Patna, Lucknow, Kolkata, Kanpur, Kerala and other cities

New Delhi: Onhe price of gold in India jumped by Rs 930. As of Saturday, the price of 24 carat gold (10 grams) in India is Rs 51,790, while 22 carat gold (10 grams) is Rs 47,440. Yesterday, the price of 24 carat gold (10 grams) in India was Rs 50,860, while 22 carat gold (10 grams) was Rs 46,590.

Gold prices have fluctuated in major Indian metro cities over the last 24 hours. Today's gold price in Chennai is Rs 52,285 for 24 carat (10 grams) and Rs 47,927 for 22 carat (10 grams). Read More:

The gold prices in the national capital is Rs 52,200 for 24 carat (10 grams) and Rs 47,850 for 22 carat (10 grams). In Kolkata, the price of 24 carat (10 grams) gold is Rs 52,200, whereas 22 carat (10 grams) gold is Rs 47,850. In Mumbai, however, the price of 24 carat gold (10 grams) is Rs 52,200, while the price of 22 carat gold (10 grams) is Rs 47,850. Read More:

On June 30, the Central government increased the customs duty on gold from 10.75% to 15% to curb gold imports, noting that there has been a sudden surge of gold imports. In May, a total of 107 ton of gold was imported and the import volume last month was also significant, it said.

Internationally, Gold fell on Friday en route to a third straight weekly dip as a firm dollar and looming rate hikes soured appetite for the non-yielding asset, while India's import tax hike on bullion also dampened its demand prospects. Spot gold fell 0.1% to \$1,804.81 per ounce by 1:52 p.m. ET (1752 GMT), and declined 1.2% for the week. US gold futures settled down 0.3% to \$1,801.5.

Its a jackpot! Truck driver goes to take Rs 1.5 lakh lottery prize, ends up with Rs 7.5 crore

New Delhi: A US truck driver who first believed his lottery ticket would win him Rs 1.5 lakh could not believe his good fortune after winning \$1 million (about Rs. 7.5 crore) on it. While travelling through Michigan, the 48-year-old Illinois resident purchased the lotto ticket from a petrol station in Mattawan. "As soon as I bought the ticket, I scratched the barcode and scanned it. I thought I had won one of the \$2,000 prizes when I got the notice to submit a claim," he told mlive.com. He was thrilled to win the lottery, but when he looked again at the ticket, he received the biggest surprise of his life. When he scratched the ticket after getting back into his truck, he exclaimed, "I couldn't believe it when I realised I'd won \$1 million." After calling the lottery office to confirm the win, the man, who wished to remain unnamed, hung up. He recently received a settlement of \$693,000, and he plans to buy a new truck with it. Additionally, the man wanted to save some money for later. However, this is not the first time a story about an unexpected lottery win has appeared online. Earlier this month, a US man mistakenly believed he had won \$600 before winning a jackpot worth \$585,949 (Rs 4.5 crore) (Rs 46,000). After seeing the big jackpot amount of \$585,949, the North Carolina citizen purchased his \$10 50X The Cash Fast Play ticket at a nearby Pembroke Mini Mart (roughly Rs 4.6 crore). When the man went to the lottery office to pick up his \$600 award, he was informed that he had actually won the jackpot. The man reacted to the unexpected jackpot by saying, "There's no way I actually hit the jackpot," when he first received the news. He had plans to purchase a home and a vehicle with the prize money. He also intended to donate a portion of his award to the neighbourhood.

Ola Electric slips to 4th spot as EV registrations fall amid fire fears

New Delhi: As customers delay purchasing electric two-wheelers amid fire incidents, Ola Electric again saw its registration dipping in the month of June, taking the company to fourth place in the overall category. Bhavish Aggarwal-run Ola Electric saw 5,869 electric scooters' registrations (as of June 30), according to the VAHAN data. The June tally for EV two-wheelers was led by Okinawa Autotech, at 6,976 vehicles, followed by Ampere Vehicles Pvt Ltd at 6,534. Hero Electric came third with 6,486 EV 2-W registrations across the country. Ather Energy moved up from May to reach 3,797 vehicles, along with Revolt that saw a big leap in registrations to reach 2,419 vehicles for June. Ola Electric was the top EV player in the country in April and since then, it has seen its position sliding continuously. Ola's registration numbers fell by more than 30 per cent on June 30, compared to May 30. Okinawa had sold 9,302 electric scooters in May and Ola Electric delivered 9,225 units of the S1 Pro electric scooter. According to Ola Electric, they were prepared to see the impact of supply chain constraints, especially on cell shortage in June. We calibrated our business priority for the month to focus on bettering our customer service and brought our TAT (turnaround time) to within 48 hours. Come July, we are confident that supply chain issues will start fading out and our strong order book will be fulfilled," the company said in a statement.

Capex is the route to economic revival, says FM Nirmala Sitharaman

In an exclusive interview with BS, Sitharaman says spend on capital assets may work better than sector-specific fiscal steps

New Delhi: In an exclusive interview with BS, Sitharaman says spend on capital assets may work better than sector-specific fiscal steps. The government would depend on its public capital expenditure programme to revive demand in the economy and might not go for sector-specific fiscal measures. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Business Standard on Friday. In a wide-ranging interview, Sitharaman said the Centre would finalise the privatisation of a public sector bank soon. Also, the fiscal deficit and growth situation were very comfortable this year in spite of continuing external headwinds, she added. "The route we have chosen and the one we are sticking with is capex. Even during the pandemic, we adopted this method of spend on capital assets to ensure economic revival. And states really showed that they had the absorptive capacity," Sitharaman said.

The Centre's capex outlay is estimated at Rs 7.5 trillion in FY23. Of that, Rs 1 trillion will go to states as a long-term, interest-free loan for their capex needs, according to the FM.

The entire Rs 1 trillion could be given to states in the July-September quarter itself. "Many states are ready with their plans to spend the capex on greenfield or brownfield projects. The rules for distributing the Rs 1 trillion loan were framed by late April and states brought their projects for evaluation in May." Sitharaman said she was confident that the amount (Rs 1 trillion) would be picked up by states before the end of the second quarter.

Speaking on the biggest challenge for fiscal and monetary policymakers — inflation — Sitharaman said the 6 per cent upper limit of the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC's) medium-term inflation target was a 'sacred' number. "The challenges are all external. Our inflation is nowhere near what countries have experienced. But even this will be burdensome on our people, because we have people with very low income who can't afford to have that kind of burden on themselves," she said.

Headline retail inflation for May 2022 cooled down from the 8-year high of the previous month to settle at 7.04 per cent. It was still a fifth straight month of headline retail



inflation staying above the MPC's medium-term target of 4 (+/-2) per cent. The Reserve Bank of India expects inflation to average above the 6 per cent mark till the October-December quarter. Sitharaman said the economy recovered strongly from the three waves of the Covid-19 pandemic because the Centre took a "variegated approach" for different sectors rather than opting for "one size fits all" measures.

We had our way of handling the pandemic and that was very much tailored to the uniqueness of the Indian economy. In that, you have a large number of medium and small-scale industries spread across so many sectors. You

had to have one kind of solution for one area," she said. The government is going on with its plans of bank privatisation, the FM pointed out. "We'll keep going. The plans are almost ready and we will bring amendments to the Banking Regulation Act soon." Referring to banking as a "strategic sector", she said the Centre would continue owning some banks. However, in the banks which the government decides to exit, it could do so completely.

"I can exit some banks completely. But whether we do that or we keep some stake is all part of the decision-making process," she said. While there has been no official confirmation from the government, Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank are said to be the candidates for privatisation. On extension of compensation to states after the recent GST Council meeting, the FM said the trust between the Centre and states was intact because the Centre had not failed on its promises. "I have heard the states. The two Covid-hit years cannot be taken to measure any kind of revenue growth percentage. And after that also, when revival is taking place, about 8-9 per cent is the most that the best-performing states have reached," Sitharaman said.

Mark Zuckerberg's WARNING for Facebook employees: 'Get ready for intense performance appraisal'

New Delhi: Meta has issued a warning to its staff, telling them to prepare for "difficult times" ahead. Meta is actively reducing its hiring. CEO Mark Zuckerberg of the firm disclosed a nearly 30% reduction in the company's planned engineering hiring. During a weekly employee Q&A, Zuckerberg also stated that the company is "turning up the heat" on performance management to remove employees who are unable to fulfill their goals.

Actually, a lot of the employees at the company definitely shouldn't be there, according to Zuckerberg. I think some of you might think that this place isn't for you, and that self-selection is OK with me, so that's part of my hope for raising expectations, having more aggressive goals, and just sort of turning up the heat a little bit," he was cited by Reuters as saying. Employees were informed by Zuckerberg that the current economic crisis in



corporation had intended to bring on approximately 10,000 new engineers, but things have changed. Chris Cox, the chief product officer of Meta, recommended in a message that the business run leaner, meaner, and better-executing teams. "I must stress that the situation is dire and that there are strong headwinds. We must perform flawlessly in a slower-growth environment where teams shouldn't anticipate massive influxes of new engineers and funding," Cox said.

The largest social network firm in the world, Meta, had a loss in daily active users recorded by Facebook this year, which caused Meta to lose approximately half of its market value. The popularity of Instagram Reels is growing, though. Users in the US and other markets were spending a lot of time on Reels, according to Cox.

7th Pay Commission: DA hike of 5% expected in July; Here's how much your salary will increase, check latest update..

New Delhi: The central government is likely to provide relief to its employees and retirees at a time when India's inflation rate has consistently exceeded the Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone of 2-6%. The CPI inflation rate has already surpassed its eight-year high, and a variety of commodities are seeing rising costs. The government is anticipated to announce another DA increase for central government employees under the 7th pay commission in order to counteract the effects of inflation.

In July, the government may take into account raising the DA by up to 5%. If the claim is to be believed, central government employees will receive a DA of 39%. Government workers currently receive a DA of 34% of their base pay. They will receive a 39 percent dearness allowance in addition to their base salary if the DA raise of 5% is enacted. Government employees receive the dearness allowance (DA), whilst pensioners receive the dearness relief (DR). Read More: Airtel Plans: Rs 499 postpaid plan, Rs 999 postpaid plan, Rs 1,199 postpaid plan, Rs 1,599 postpaid plan offer Disney+Hotstar subscription

Based on changes in the All India Consumer Price Index, the DA is updated (AICPI). The likelihood of government employees receiving an increase in their dearness allowance is very strong due to the high AICPI. Retail inflation for May was 7.04 percent, exceeding the RBI's



target range of 2 to 6 percent. Read More: Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos lose \$60 billion of their wealth in first 6 months of 2022. Rumors that the government may consider a DA hike of 5% in July have been fueled by the April

AICPI. In light of the extraordinary situation brought on by the Covid-19 outbreak, the central government had withheld three payments of DA and DR for January 1, 2020, July 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021. Nirmala Sitharaman, the finance minister, stated in a written response to a query in the Rajya Sabha in August of last year that the withholding of DA and DR saved around Rs 34,402 crore.

According to a notice from the department of expenditures, following the most recent increase that went into effect in April, an employee whose basic pay is Rs 18,000 will receive a Dearness Allowance of Rs 6,120. The employee was receiving DA of Rs 5,580 at the earlier rate of 31%. This will imply that following the most recent DA hike, there has been an increase of Rs 540. The DA will be Rs 7,020 if the DA is enhanced by an additional 5%, or if the employee receives 39% DA on a basic salary of Rs 18,000 instead. This indicates that if the DA raise of 5% is applied, the salary will rise by Rs 900.

Centre makes FCRA stricter, amends 7 pts in 2011 rules; MHA issues notice

New Delhi: The Central government has made seven key amendments to existing rules of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) rules 2011 that aim at prohibiting acceptance and utilization of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest.

The new rules, now renamed as Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2022, came into effect on Friday (July 1) with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issuing a notification and its publication in the Official Gazette. The new rules are an amendment to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011. "In exercise of the powers conferred by section 48 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (42 of 2010), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011. These rules may be called the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2022," stated the notification. In the new rules, there are about seven amendments. Among those, there are two amendments in rule 6 by substituting the words "one lakh rupees"; and the words "ten lakh rupees"; and the words "thirty days" with the words "three months". There is also an amendment in rule 9, in sub-rule (1), in clause (e), for the words "fifteen days", the words "forty-five days" shall be substituted; and in sub-rule (2), in clause (e), for the words "fifteen days", the words "forty-five days" shall be substituted. Clause (b) of rule 13 has been omitted from the fresh rules; and in rule 17A, for the words "fifteen days", the words "forty-five days" shall be substituted. The last amendment is done in rule 20, and it mentions that for the words "on a plain paper", the words "in such form and manner, including in electronic form as may be specified by the Central Government" shall be substituted.

Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos lose \$60 billion of their wealth in first 6 months of 2022

- ▶ According to the index, the world's 500 wealthiest people lost \$1.4 trillion in the first half of 2022.
- ▶ According to the index, governments and central banks released unprecedented stimulus measures in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- ▶ Tesla Inc suffered its worst quarter ever in the three months ending in June, while Amazon.com Inc fell by the most since the dot-com bubble burst.



New Delhi: According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Tesla founder Elon Musk's fortune fell by almost \$62 billion, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos' money fell by around \$63 billion, and Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg's fortune fell by

more than half in the first half of 2022. According to the index, the world's 500 wealthiest people lost \$1.4 trillion in the first half of 2022, the largest six-month decrease in the global billionaire class's history. According to the index, governments and central banks released unprecedented

stimulus measures in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak, boosting the value of everything from tech companies to cryptocurrencies that struck their industries. As countries and governments raise interest rates to battle rising inflation, the highest-flying stocks and the billionaires

who hold them are rapidly losing altitude. According to the index, Tesla Inc suffered its worst quarter ever in the three months ending in June, while Amazon.com Inc fell by the most since the dot-com bubble burst. Despite losing more than \$60 billion in wealth, Tesla's co-founder has the world's largest fortune, valued at \$208.5 billion, with Amazon's Bezos ranking second with a net worth of \$129.6 billion. The ranking also places France's richest individual, Bernard Arnault, in third place with a fortune of \$128.7 billion, followed by Bill Gates with \$114.8 billion. Musk, Bezos, Arnault, and Gates are the only four people with fortunes above \$100 billion at the start of the year. While ten persons in the globe eclipsed that amount, including Zuckerberg, who is now ranked 17th on the list with \$60 billion.

Changpeng Zhao, the crypto pioneer who debuted on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index in January with an estimated worth of \$96 billion, had his fortunes plummet by about \$80 billion this year due to the upheaval in digital assets.

NEWS BOX

Pat Cummins on Australia striving to become No. 1 Test team in the world: You've got to be winning overseas

Colombo Australia won their first Test match against Sri Lanka in the Galle International Stadium by a mammoth margin of 10 wickets. The Pat Cummin-led team continued its rise in the World Test Championship cycle, clinching crucial points in the sub continent, their second overseas tour in the last few months.

Cummins was aided by the batting of Usman Khawaja and Cameron Green and then by the off spin bowling of Nathan Lyon and Travis Head. Lyon entered the list of top 10 wicket-takers in the history of Test cricket, surpassing Indian great Kapil Dev. He now has 436 wickets to his name from 109 Test matches. After the match, the captain spoke about eking out wins in overseas conditions and the need to be proactive in the subcontinent. "A couple of new words we're using about our approach is being proactive and brave. We saw some really clear methods from all the batters. They might have been individually a bit different, but you saw everyone being really proactive and putting pressure back on the bowlers. You'd normally talk about it in one-day or T20 cricket. But I think that's the style over here that's needed," Cummins said after the match. "Embracing everything about the conditions, that's been a big one for us. In the past, you can get caught up in conditions that aren't like Australia, but if you want to be the number one Test team in the world, you've got to be winning overseas," he further added. "So I think everyone - the experienced guys finding new shots, Mitchell Starc working on the reverse swing, Nathan Lyon coming up with a few new balls. There is so much appetite to learn and be successful on these wickets," the leader of the pace attack said. Nathan Lyon's distinguishable performances continued in the first Test match which made Cummins hail him as one of the all time greats to have played for the country. "I wouldn't change Lyon for anyone. He's gone into the top 10 wicket-takers of all time.

Deepak Hooda half century helps India breeze past Derbyshire in T20 warm-up game

Derby Sanju Samson and Deepak Hooda joined hands once again as India breezed past Shan Masood's Derbyshire with a seven-wicket victory in their first T20 warm-up in England. Chasing 150 runs from 20 overs, opener Samson and number three Hooda put together a 51-run partnership after losing Raturaj Gaikwad early in the second innings, from there, Hooda combined with Suryakumar Yadav to take India close to victory. The middle order duo, who have been in stunning form in the recent time have been knocking the door of the Indian team. While Surya broke through after much anticipation, Hooda utilised his chances to become India's fourth T20I centurion recently in the Ireland tour. Hooda hit five boundaries and a six in his 59-run innings while Surya scored 36 runs aided by four boundaries and a six.

Earlier in the day, Arshdeep Singh showed his talents, picking up two wickets for 29 runs. Arshdeep picked the prized wicket in the powerplay, of Pakistan's Masood, who has been in good touch in County and the Vitality Blast and then later returned to remove Alex Huges at the death. There has been an outcry in a section of the fans that Arshdeep should be included as a death over specialist in the Indian team and this performance certainly makes a case for the same. Barring Arshdeep, Umran Malik picked two wickets as well for 31 runs from his four overs. Barring these two, the likes of Venkatesh Iyer and Axar Patel were economical and picked one wicket each.

India are going to play one more warm-up game before heading into the T20I series, that starts on 7 July after the commencement of the Test match.

Sri Lanka Tests can help develop and fast track our batters for big series next year in India: Pat Cummins

'New Delhi Australia Test captain Pat Cummins believes that the ongoing series in Sri Lanka can "help develop and fast track batters" for the much-awaited series next year in India.

Australia last toured India for the Test series in 2017, which India won 2-1. Australia have won the Border-Gavaskar Trophy only once in their eight tours to India. According to cricket.com.au, Australia are expected to travel to India in February-March next year.

"We have a big series next year in India, so this (Sri Lanka Tests) can really help develop and fast track our batters," Cummins was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

Australia are currently in the island nation, playing the two-test match series.

The Down Under side defeated Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the first Test at Galle. Nathan Lyon took nine wickets, including a five-wicket haul, while Usman Khawaja scored 71 and Player of the Match Cameron Green made 77. Australia are currently the World No. 1 Test team, followed by India and South Africa in second and third place respectively. Cummins added, "If you want to be the number one Test team in the world you've got to be winning overseas."

Australia will take on Sri Lanka in the second Test, which begins on July 8 at Galle. Earlier, Australia won the T20I leg, while Sri Lanka secured the ODI leg in the ongoing tour.

Bangladesh Test team faces huge criticism but T20I captain Mahmudullah backs players to come good

- **Bangladesh lost back to back Test series**
- **Bangladesh changed captaincy but results did not improve**
- **Mahmudullah backed players to come good but requested for more time**

Roseau (Dominica) Bangladesh will hope to get over their disastrous Test outing against the West Indies as soon as possible as they play West Indies in a three-match T20I series under the captaincy of Mahmudullah. Bangladesh have been severely criticised for their outings in the long format of the game, after their back to back series losses at home against England and then against West Indies away from home.

T20I captain Mahmudullah ahead of the T20I on June 2 has backed the Shakib Al Hasan-led side to come good and stated that the youngsters need time to settle into the squad. "Munim (Shahriar) is still new and



Bijoy (Anamul) is just coming in. They will have to be given the right opportunity and at the same time, me and the team management must ensure that they can play with peace of mind and get their opportunities in the correct way," Mahmudullah was quoted by Cricbuzz. "In home conditions, I think we're consistent

but we lack improvement in away conditions. Many of the players are still young and inexperienced and will have to be given time," he elaborated on the Test squad. Speaking on the T20I side of things, the captain said that Bangladesh will have to assess the conditions as quickly as they can before playing an aggressive game. "In

T20Is, you have very little time in the game, so you need to be very much aware of the conditions that will be provided. The game sense has to be applied. Our motto will be to be very positive and aggressive at the same time," he said. Bangladesh were poor in their last World Cup outing, with the majority of the blame pushed to Liton Das for his failures with the bat and in the field. However, the batter has been in brilliant form since then and has amended to become one of the best batters in the world in current form. "Shakib is there, Liton too. Me, Afif, Sohan and Mosaddek are there. Sheikh Mahedi too. I think we've got very good batting depth and our bowling attack is good with variety." The captain drew inspiration from their win against West Indies in their last tour which was hosted in the United States of America.

"I was talking to Shakib while travelling in the bus to arrive here. When we entered the dressing room, we were recalling how we played and won during that tour," he said.

"It feels good to think about it but that was a long time ago. It's a new venue for us and we've to be mentally ready to have that adapt," he concluded.

It is like I have a wall and it kind of acts as a memoir: World No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas on his tweets

New Delhi World No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas is strongly marching in the ongoing Wimbledon, but off the court the Greek is own for his relaxed demeanour. The 2021 French Open finalist has reached the third round, where he will meet Australian Nick Kyrgios on Saturday (July 2). Tsitsipas regularly tweets a mixture of humorous, philosophical, and heart-warming messages. When asked about it, the Greek said: "They are mostly meant to be fun.



"It's like I have a wall and I write different things, and people can say their stuff. It's just such a fun thing to do. I like the fact that I can look back to them in one or two years and I have a feed where I can preview all my past quotes and opinions I might have had. It kind of acts as a memoir," he told ATPTour.com. Tsitsipas, who has won a Tour-leading 42 matches this year, said that his ability to keep calm under pressure has played a crucial role in his

success. "I think sometimes you just need to... listen, absorb as much information as you can, and you can always just pick whatever you want. You're always allowed to pick your information that you want to keep for yourself." It kind of came to my mind during practice. There are times when you really feel like talking and analysing everything, and once you start becoming a little bit

- **Stefanos Tsitsipas will meet Nick Kyrgios in Wimbledon 3rd round**
- **Tsitsipas was the semifinalist at the Australian Open in 2022**
- **Tsitsipas crashed out of the 2022 French Open in the 4th round**

quieter, you can process information much more fluidly and much faster, and just everything works better." The fourth round exit at the 2018 Wimbledon is Tsitsipas's best finish at the grasscourt major. In 2019 and 2021, he crashed out in the first round. The Greek made it to the semifinal of the Australian Open 2022 and was knocked out of the French Open 2022 in the fourth round.

Rishabh Pant is India's best-ever wicketkeeper-batter in Tests: Former cricketer Aakash Chopra



'New Delhi Cricket commentator and former cricketer Aakash Chopra lauded the heroics of Rishabh Pant, saying he is the best-ever India wicketkeeper-batter in the longest format of the game.

The 24-year-old Pant played a sparkling knock of 146 off 111 balls. His innings saw 19 boundaries and four maximums. He, along with Ravindra Jadeja (83 not out), helped

India recover after an early collapse with their 222-run partnership for the sixth wicket. "Rishabh Pant is India's best ever wicket-keeper batter in 'Tests' and he's not even 25 yet. The number of Test match defining innings he's played in just 30 matches is simply sensational," Chopra said. India were reduced to 98 for the loss of five wickets in 27.5 overs on rain-hit Day 1

- **India were reduced to 98/5 on rain-hit Day 1**
- **Rishabh Pant scored 146 off 111 balls on Day 1**
- **Ravindra Jadeja is currently on 83 not out**

before the pair of Pant and Jadeja rebuilt the team's innings. Although Jadeja played the second fiddle to Pant, he kept the scoreboard ticking with 10 boundaries.

Chopra added that Jadeja's growth as a Test cricketer is admirable. "Sir Jadeja is at the peak of his powers as a batterhangs in therewilling to fight and trusts his technique to see him through the tough phases. His growth as a Test cricketer is admirable. Well played, Jaddu. "India are currently on 338 for the loss of seven wickets at stumps, with Jadeja and Mohammed Shami as the overnight batters. For England, veteran fast bowler James Anderson took three wickets and Matthew Potts got two. Ben Stokes and Joe Root picked up one each after putting India to bat.

It is very important to disturb the bowler: Rishabh Pant provides glimpse in his method to madness vs England

- **India were on 98/5 inside the first 30 overs of the day**
- **Rishabh Pant hit 146 off 111 balls before getting out to Joe Root**
- **India scored 338/7 in a rain curtailed day one**

Edgbaston India were rescued by a stunning 222-run partnership from Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja for the sixth wicket on day one of the fifth Test match between India and England. Playing the role of an aggressor, Pant, the dominant player in that partnership ripped into the England pace attack stepping out of the crease and hitting them through his arc. This ended England in changing his strategy and putting in Jack Leach, who got hammered by the youngster, leaking close to eight runs per over. India recovered after their early setback of 98/5 in the first 30 overs and went on to put a mammoth 338/7 at the end of day's play where 73 overs were bowled. Pant, who got out for 146 off 111 was the entertainer of the day, taking on the bowling attack, at a point, when England were all over India at Edgbaston. Speaking after the game, Pant said



that the idea was to disturb the rhythm of the English pacers so that they could not bowl at the same spot throughout the day. "In a condition like England, if you know that the bowler is bowling at the same spot and troubling the batsman, I feel that it is very important to disturb him," Pant spoke about

attacking James Anderson. What I try out there is not to play the same type of cricket, sometimes stepping out of the crease and sometimes going to my backfoot. I keep on using the crease well, I try to give a little effort from my side and things happen," he further added on his method.

Asked about the unconventional nature of his shots, Pant said that the idea was to give his full commitment to the shot. "As a player I look to give my 100 percent. Yes, I might play some different shots at some time but I try to play my percentage so I feel if it is there for me to hit the ball or try a different shot I tend to hit it," he said.

India will hope that Ravindra Jadeja scores a century with the tail and provide India a good total in their first innings. The visitors are playing a combinations of four pacers and Jadeja as the only all-rounder in the team.

Kharavela: the gifted Monarch and other Emperors

The name Kharavela speaks so much of his quality of excelling that it is impossible to think of another emperor comparable to him. During his rule the kingdom of Kalinga got back its lost glory by defeating Magadha. It felt proud of its brave warriors, happiness of its citizens, spirituality of its saints and the impeccable architectural wonder of its sculptors: 'a kind of renaissance that blossoms very rarely on earth'. While Emperors like Ashok, Alexander, Changis Khan and Napoleon had striking inequality between them and morality and wasted their precious time in miserable struggle for their mundane existence, Kharavela by his own loving resurrected the dormant life of his subjects into experiencing an enviable grade of living.

Solomon and Kharavela: their Wiseness

God granted wisdom to Solomon to discern between good and evil. But he disobeyed God and sinned by acquiring 700 wives and 300 mistresses. To take princess Sindhula as his second wife that to for diplomatic gains, Kharavela had to take the

consensus of his counselors. He ruled his kingdom with great understanding which he had learnt from his Jain masters. At the peak of his glory, he abandoned his throne and invested his precious life in spirituality. Undoubtedly both Emperors were great but Solomon's reputation was tainted towards the end. His kingdom was the wealthiest but he misused this wealth for his personal comforts which invited disaster.

Kharavela brought back entire taxes from Magadha which had been forcibly collected from his subjects for years and exempted his citizens from paying taxes. Solomon made his subjects unhappy under the burden of ever-increasing taxation. After his death, his people revolted against heavy taxes and Israel was swiftly divided into two pieces. The world knows Solomon for his famous judgement: the baby would be cut in two, each woman claiming it to receive half. But Kharavela exhibited deep wisdom throughout his life even he did not have harsh terms for his embittered adversaries he defeated.

Alexander, the Great and Kharavela, the Gifted.

Alexander was a great General. While travelling in a desert, his whole army was terribly thirsty. Water was not found anywhere. Alexander was offered water by one of his officers. But he spilled it in front of his army to boost the morale of his soldiers. And the way he tamed the wildest horse in his adolescence are two of his great deeds known to the world during his thirteen years of rule which was mostly spent in the battlefields. To take revenge against Persians burning the Greek temples in Athens, Alexander burnt their city of Persepolis. He allowed his troops to loot its treasure, kill its men, rape and enslave its women. In 261 BC Ashoka butchered lakhs to subjugate the kingdom of Kalinga. Kharavela was in the same position of taking revenge against Magadha as Alexander in Persepolis. But Kharavela knew that the citizens of Magadha were not responsible for what their blood thirsty ruler had done. This quality of understanding gives Kharavela a status greater than any of the victorious Emperors in the world. Bruhaspati Mitra, the then ruler of Magadha peacefully surrendered and was



Rajendra Prasad Samal

given the dignity due to a king.

When Kharavela was about to enter Magadha from East, Demetrius the Yavan king had simultaneously attacked Magadha from the West to loot and flee with its treasure. After knowing this Kharavela reiterated, 'Enemy's enemy is a friend' may be true but not applicable here when the Yavan, the outsider had attacked an Indian territory. He instantly diverted his military and drove Demetrius away from the soil of India thereby winning the affection of Magadha citizens, an example nowhere else to be found in history. Alexander had the habit of executing his own men periodically to intimidate the rest to ensure their commitment of absolute loyalty. He had the doctors killed who could not cure him and himself died as an unedited primitive

man. The day he had failed to see the light shown by Diogenes, he allowed himself to be a prisoner in the dark cell of his Over Ambition.

Napoleon the War Machine: Kharavela, the Alliance Maker.

Russia's refusal to stop selling grains to Britain might not have been the reason enough to get 70,000 military personnel killed in a six hours battle against Russia at Borodino on September 7, 1812 which was utterly inhuman. No doubt Napoleon was a skilled military strategist and had revolutionised his army but sadly, the dead also included 28000 French. When Victorious Napoleon entered the vanquished Moscow, it was burning. Fire was set by Russians to make it homeless and foodless that forced him to leave after 35 days of waiting for peace offer that never came. During hasty retreat, his hungry and battle fatigued army was exposed to killer Winter Storms and ambushed by Russian patriots commanded by Kutuzov. He had started his Moscow campaign with six lakh men in June and returned to Paris in December only

with one lakh. Napoleon's invincibility was shattered by this ill-planned campaign which paved the way for his Waterloo moments.

In case of Kharavela every campaign was intuitively planned and meticulously executed. People of the vanquished kingdoms welcomed him with affection because the processes to his Victory were without bloodshed and death. Kharavela's Grand Military marched through Mathura, Avanti, Kashi, Koshal, Kuru, Malla, Surasena, Panchal and many other Janapadas, freed their Kingdoms from the fetters of Javan invaders like Demetrius. He found no resistance from the joint forces of Satavahan, Rathika and Bhojak whose rulers peacefully surrendered and respectfully treated. He could dismantle thirteen hundred years old Tamil Confederacy in South and made each one of them friendly kingdom of Kalinga to be integral part of greater Bharatvarsha. At the height of his glory, he turned to spirituality but Napoleon who once said, 'War is a business of barbarians' went on to fight 60 battles. Even after win-

ning first 51 battles, he could not change the direction of his life.

Pharaohs of Egypt and Kharavela.

Kharavela was more advanced in his insightful thinking. While the rulers of Egypt, mummified their dead bodies to be remembered, Kharavela engraved the fragrant feelings of his heart, the noble thoughts of his mind, the shape of his soul and good deeds of his times on the rocks, turning the monotony of stones into ever vibrating pages of history manifesting the characteristics of the renaissance of his golden age.

The Unique Emperor.

Compassion with Kharavela was not merely an inner virtue but it overflowed from the flow of his life for the enemy and friends alike. He knew how to conquer the unconquerable kingdoms but he had realised the futility of this achievement. He was no less equal to Alexander as a war strategist but had the profound insight of Diogenes in understanding the operational aspect of this mysterious existence. He abandoned his throne and lived like Diogenes in a cave to meditate even when his son, the heir apparent, was only eight years old.

While Solomon's kingdom collapsed immediately after his death because his son could not patch up his father's tattered authority, Kharavela's kingdom continued with peace and prosperity. It was because Kharavela did everything with love, binding himself with his subjects, binding his subjects with one another and everyone with oneness of love.

Kharavela was full of bliss. He gave bliss to the world. Other emperors were full of violence. They gave violence creating horrible things on this planet and preferred primitive, combative and unconscious life of their own. Kharavela had a kind of moral superiority which no other emperor had. He was the Philosopher King that Plato had dreamt of which the great historians could take no notice of because mostly Failed Lives succeed to be prominent and long lasting in the pages of history.

(The author is an international award winning poet and a visiting faculty to Mumbai University.)

Currently, the author has shown his keen interest by supporting the movement in rewriting Indian history.)

From Agnipath to Cyberpath and after

Dr. Kailash Chandra Mishra needs no introduction. A brilliant scientist, a noted management guru, a well-known think tank of the country, a vedic scholar, a Professor Emeritus, he is known for his erudition and scholarship. In this commentary on recently launched Agnipath project of GOI, his opinions of much value and interest will certainly enhance the awareness of our people. As son of a soldier or otherwise, I like the concept of Agnipath, assuming that it will be well executed unlike other government grand announcements.

But as a citizen of India with multi country global exposure coupled with knowledge of military post modernism, I consider the effort good for a glorious time in past or gone by era. Modern citi-



Prof. Dr. Kailash Chandra Mishra

zen involvement, particularly youth involvement in country's militancy requires different focus. Recently I wrote an article on weaponization of commodities. There I touched upon new post modernism of weaponization by way of cyber attacks, artificial intelligence, virtual realities, augmented realities, robotics, internet of things, drones, hobbles, stereo camera, g-sats, remote sensing, military ballooning, out of band sprays, holography illusion and neutrino carrier

information bundles. No body, not even super powers can win or even defend a post modern warfare by front line brave manpower and devices in land, air and water.

Like Agnipath, India may do best to create and nurture a cadre of Cyberpath. To circumvent public fury and own citizen conscience, even weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons, chemical weapons or biological weapons may be rarely used till some humanity is left with emerging power all alpha leaders in shades of militant countries. But innocuous weaponization is the ruling strategy as is well known by now. India will do well by backward integration of the trend in mostly cyber space and real space. Neutrino war is a sure future military possibility.

Growing resentment among intelligentsia against corruption in SVNIRTAR

Cuttack, July 03 (TNB): Growing discontentment among intelligentsia is gaining momentum over rampant corruption, gross anomalies and discrepancies encircling the Swami Vivekananda National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Olatpur, Cuttack. The institute, which is named after the greatest patriot saint of India, is getting sullied over the increasingly alleged corruption that is an insult to the lily-white image of the saint. The department of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment remains as a mute witness with the intent to hush up the issue rather

than bringing the cat out of its bag. Understanding from confirmed sources regarding corruption, social activist Sanjay Kumar Routray had complained to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI regarding wide spread corruption relating to educational qualification and promotion of one of the senior faculties in the institute named Dr. P.P. Mohanty.

Since the documentary evidence bears the tell-tale evidences, the Ministry had issued a show cause notice to the accused incumbent. Much water has flown meanwhile in the river Mahanadi, but the Minis-

try had done worth little to nab the culprit. The Ministry of Social Justice, which is the apex body in control of the organisation remained satisfied only after directing the Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI to take appropriate action vide its letter no. 7-1/2020/FCPG/430 and the Ministry of Home Affairs in its letter no. 1833116/2020/CIC-C (II) had also ordered for inquiry followed by appropriate action. The complaint letter was issued by social activist Routray on 27/02/2020 to the office of the Prime Minister, to the Secretary and Joint Secretary of Ministry of Social Justice, New Delhi. When nothing

concrete happened, the complainant Routray had appeared before the Orissa High Court filing a writ petition to the effect. There after Routray appeared before the Hon'ble OHC seeking leave to withdraw the writ petition with liberty to make a fresh representation to the opposite parties. The court has directed that appropriate proceedings shall be taken up in accordance with law after hearing all the affected parties in the special leave petition.

In the meanwhile, the concerned department of GOI has conducted an enquiry in hot haste allegedly with a view to protecting the erring incum-

bent in the following observation mentioned as under: "Allegation/charges made against Dr. P.P. Mohanty have not proven as per available records." It is understood from reliable sources that the incumbent Dr. P.P. Mohanty with an allegedly questionable integrity is getting readied to occupy the position of the Director of the Institute, that has generated a wave of anger and discontentment against the concerned Ministry of GOI, which has hushed up the matter without proper investigation and inquiry, alleges Sanjay Kumar Routray the social activist.

Covid test facility provided at 25 centres in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, July 03 (TNB): As Odisha's capital sees a significant surge in Covid-19 cases, The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Sunday announced that the Covid test facility has been made available for people in 25 urban primary health centres (UPHCs) and urban community health centres (UCHCs) in the city. According to BMC sources, citizens can avail the testing facility at the centre every day between 9 am and 11.30 am and 5 pm and 7 pm. Besides, the Covid test facility is also available between 8 am and 2 pm in Capital Hospital.

Second convocation KISS Deemed to be University

Bhubaneswar, July 03 (TNB): The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Deemed to be University will be holding its second convocation on 4 July 2022. The Convocation will be attended by His Holiness Gyetrul Jigme Rinpoche, master of Tibetan Buddhism and Spiritual Director of the Ripa International Centre will deliver the Convocation Address. Over 400 students will get degrees for completing their Masters, M. Phil and PhD programs successfully. The brightest and the most promising graduates will be conferred with Founder's Gold Medal, Chancellor's Gold Medal and Vice Chancellor's Silver medal at the ceremony.

At the convocation, Honoris Causa degrees will be conferred upon Ricky Kej, Eminent Music Composer and Environmentalist; Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Former Vice Chairman, NITI AAYOG; Erik Solheim, President, Green Belt and Road Institute and Pavan Sukhdev, Special Adviser and Head of UNEP, Green Economy Initiative Eminent Environmental Economist. They would be conferred in recognition of their immense achievements and remarkable dedication.

"We remain extremely grateful to his Holiness, the revered Gyetrul Jigme Rinpoche, master of Tibetan Buddhism and Spiritual Director of the Ripa International

Center, who will deliver the convocation address," said KIIT-KISS Founder Dr Achyuta Samanta. Dr Samanta said that the convocation will be a major milestone not only for the students in their quest for achieving academic and professional excellence but for KISS as well in its collective endeavour to empower tribal boys and girls through the impart of quality education. Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, popularly known as KISS, is a true reflection of how an indomitable passion ushers in an innovative idea; how that transformative idea is executed to bring forth an impactful action and gives birth to a revolutionary institute that is sustainable and scalable.

ASI Team Inspects Srimandir's Sanctum Sanctorum

Puri, July 03 (TNB): A technical team of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Sunday reached the Puri Srimandir to inspect the 'Garbhagruha' (sanctum sanctorum) of the 12th-century shrine as the three presiding deities are on a nine-day-long sojourn to Gundicha temple on the occasion of Rath Yatra. Officials including IIT Chennai Professor Arun Menon, Delhi Conservation Superintendent Engineer Bhima, ASI Odisha



Chief Arun Mallick and other officials were also present. After inspection, Odisha ASI Chief Arun Mallick told media persons that the repair works of Srimandir 'Roasgahara' (kitchen) floor will be com-

pleted within 10 days.

"The condition of Jagamohan and Nata Mandap is good and permission has been sought from the ASI DG to install CCTVs because of the security of the Shree

Jagamohan Temple," Mallick added. Every year during the Rath Yatra, the team inspects the sanctum sanctorum and makes the necessary repairs. State of Public Works Department officials, including Ranjana Puskar, a Chemical Engineer were also present during the inspection. According to reports, the team inspected the structural condition of Garbadgruha. Ventilation, chemical washing of walls and other activities will

be carried out at the sanctum sanctorum, the officials said.

In particular, silver plating of Kalahata Gate will be carried out and a special team from Mumbai has arrived in Puri for the same. "In the presence of the ASI and the technical committee, work will be done inside the temple during the Rath Yatra of the Holy Trinity," said NC Pal, chairman of the core committee. Also, a review meeting will be held today inside the temple premises.