

Shinde wins confidence vote



Mumbai, July 4 (UNI) New Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday won the vote of confidence in the Assembly with the help of the BJP and others. Shinde leaped past the majority with 164 votes in favour and only 99 votes in favour of ousted Chief Minister Uddav Thackeray. Apart from MLAs of BJP, Shiv Sena, smaller parties and Independents, the ruling coalition also secured the votes of Uddhav camp MLA Santosh Bangar and PWPI legislator Shyamsundar Shinde. This implies that 40 out of 55 Sena MLAs are now with the government. The opposition secured 99 votes -- eight less than what it bagged in the Speaker's election a day earlier.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party MLAs Abu Asim Azmi and Rais Shaikh and AIMIM MLA Shah Faruque Anwar abstained. On July 3, BJP's Rahul Narwekar was elected the Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly. He polled 164 votes. A total of 107 MLAs voted in favour of MVA candidate Rajan Salvi. A total of 11 MLAs including seven NCP legislators were not present during the Assembly session when the voting took place. Earlier, Speaker Narwekar reinstated the Maharashtra Chief Minister as the Sena's Legislative Party leader and approved the appointment of Bharat Gogawale as the party chief whip in the place of Sunil Prabhu.

PM to inaugurate and lay foundation of projects worth over Rs 1800 crores in Varanasi

New Delhi, July 4 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Varanasi on Thursday to inaugurate and lay foundation stone of multiple development initiatives worth over Rs 1800 crores. At around 4 PM, the Prime Minister will reach Dr Sampurnanand Sports Stadium, Sagra where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of these projects, the PMO informed. The PMO said that the Prime Minister has put a lot of focus on infrastructure development in Varanasi in the last eight years to enhance ease of living for the people. Taking another step in this direction, during the programme at Dr Sampurnanand Sports Stadium, Sagra, Prime Minister will inaugurate projects worth over Rs 590 crores, the PMO added. "Among these are multiple initiatives under Varanasi Smart City and Urban Projects, including re-development of Namohat in Phase-I along with

construction of bathing jetty; conversion of diesel and petrol engines of 500 boats into CNG; redevelopment of Kameshwar Mahadev ward of Old Kashi and over 600 EWS flats constructed in village Harhua, Dasepur; new Vending Zone and urban place prepared under Lahartara-Chowka Ghat Flyover; tourist facility and market complex at Dashashwamedh Ghat; and 33/11 KV Substation at Nagwa under IPDS Work Phase-3," the PMO added.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate various road projects including construction of Four Lane Road over bridge (ROB) on Babatpur-Kapsethi-Bhadohi Road; Bridge on Varuna River on Central Jail road; widening of Pindra-Kathiraon Road; widening of Phoolpur-Sindhaura Link Road; strengthening and construction of 8 rural roads; construction of 7 PMGSY roads and widening of Dharsauna-Sindhaura

road.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate various projects related to improvement of sewerage and water supply in the district. These include rehabilitation of Old Trunk Sewer Line in Varanasi City through trenchless technology; laying of sewer lines; over 25000 sewer house connections in Trans Varuna area; leakage repair works in Sis Varuna area of the city; rural drinking water scheme at Taatepur village, etc, the PMO said. Various social and education sector related projects will also be inaugurated which include ITI at Village Mahgaon, Phase-II of Vedic Vigyan Kendra in BHU, Government Girls Home at Ramnagar, Theme Park in Government Old Age Women Home at Durgakund.

Prime Minister will inaugurate synthetic athletic track and synthetic basketball court in Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Sports Complex, Bada Lalpur and



various police and safety fire projects including non-residential Police Station building at Sindhaura, construction of hostel rooms, barracks in Mirzamurad, Cholakpur, Jansa and Kapsethi police stations and building of Fire Extinguisher Centre in Pindra. During the programme, he will also lay the foundation stone of projects worth more than Rs 1200 crores. Among these are multiple road infrastructure projects including six lane widening of road from Lahartara - BHU to Vijaya Cinema; four lane widening of road from Pandeypur Flyover to

Ring Road; Four lane of road from Kuchaheri to Sandaha; widening and strengthening of Varanasi Bhadohi Rural Road; construction of five new Roads and four CC roads in Varanasi rural area; construction of ROB near Babatpur railway station on Babatpur-Chaubeypur road, the PMO said.

These projects will significantly help in reducing the traffic load on city and rural roads. In order to give a fillip to tourism in the region, the Prime Minister will lay foundation stone of multiple projects including development work of Sarnath Buddhist

Circuit under World Bank aided UP Pro-Poor tourism development project, construction of Paavan Path for Asht Vinakaya, Dwadash Jyotirling Yatra, Asht Bhairaw, Nav Gauri Yatra, Tourism Development work of five stoppages in Panchkosi Parikrama Yatra Marg and Tourism development various wards in Old Kashi. "At around 2 PM, Prime Minister will inaugurate the Akshay Patra Mid Day Meal Kitchen at LT College, Varanasi, which has a capacity of cooking mid day meals for around one lakh students. At around 2:45 PM, Prime Minister will visit the International Cooperation and Convention Centre-Rudraksh, where he will inaugurate Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam on implementation of the National Education Policy," the PMO said.

The Shiksha Samagam to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, is being organised by the Ministry of Education from July 7

to July 9. It will provide a platform to eminent academicians, policy makers and academic leaders to deliberate and share their experiences and to discuss the roadmap for effective implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The event is being organised as part of capacity building of more than 300 Academic, Administrative and Institutional Leaders from Universities (Central, State, Deemed, Private), Institutes of National Importance (IIT, IIM, NIT, IISER) from all over the country, the PMO said. Various stakeholders would present progress of implementation of NEP in their respective institutions and would also share noteworthy implementation strategies, best practices and success stories. During the three day Shiksha Samagam, panel discussions on nine themes identified for Higher Education under NEP 2020 will be conducted.

OHRC takes suo motu cognizance on death of college girl student due to ragging, seeks report

Bhubaneswar, Jul 4 (UNI) Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) on Saturday took suo Motu cognizance over the issue of death of a college girl student of BJB Autonomous College due to ragging by seniors. The OHRC issued notice to the Commissioner of Police Bhubaneswar- Cuttack to submit a report on the issue. Taking a serious view of the matter, the Commission asked the Commissionerate of Police to submit a status report of the inquiry along with the report in a sealed cover by the next date of hearing on July 19 next. The Commission said it has come across news report in electronic and print me-



dia about the suicide of a plus three Arts first year girl student in BJB Autonomous college Bhubaneswar.

It appears from the suicide note that the death occurred due to ragging in hostel inside the BJB Autonomous college campus, the Commission said and took suo Motu cognizance.

It said Tejeswar Parida has filed a letter in March last year on behalf of Ragging Free Campus ABHIYAN organisation Parida submitted that another case has been filed by RFCA before the Commission in 2021 where the Commission has called for a report from the Chief Secretary to the Odisha government.

I-T Dept raids business group in Chhattisgarh Seizes Rs 9.5 Cr cash, jewellery

New Delhi, July 4 (UNI) Income Tax Department has carried out search and seizure operations on a group engaged in business of coal transportation and other allied activities in Chhattisgarh and claimed to have seized Rs 9.5 crore and jewellery worth Rs 4.5 crore, an official statement said on Monday. The premises of a senior government officer was also covered in the search action. The search and seizure operations carried out on June 30, 2022, covered more than 30 premises spread over Raipur, Bilai, Raigarh, Korba, Bilaspur, Surajpur etc. During the course of the search op-



eration, numerous incriminating documents, loose sheets and digital evidences were found and seized.

The modus-operandi followed by the group included unfair regular collection on coal transportation throughout Chhattisgarh leading to

generation of huge unaccounted income.

'Evidence of such a collection of more than Rs. 200 crore during a short time period has been found. The same has been corroborated by the key trusted associates of the group. Instances of certain cash payments made

to government officials have also been identified,' the statement said. The seized evidences also indicated that the group had allegedly made unaccounted cash payments of approximately Rs 45 crore in purchasing coal washeries. Further, evidence revealed that cash expenditures were allegedly incurred by the group during the recently held elections. 'During the search, a large number of property agreements have been found, which reveal that huge undisclosed investments have been made in acquisition of immovable properties, which appear to be benami in nature.

BJP stages walk out in Odisha Assembly over failure in power reform

Bhubaneswar, Jul 4 (UNI) Opposition BJP members on Monday staged a noisy walk out in Odisha Assembly alleging that the reform in Power sector in the state has failed to yield desired result. The house was discussing a debate on the admissibility of an adjournment motion on reform in power sector. The BJP members expressed their dissatisfaction on the reply of the minister and walked out of the house. Participating in the debate, BJP Chief Whip Mohan Majhi said though the government had claimed to have spent Rs 20,000 crore for reform in the power sector it failed to yield the desired result. The government, he said,

should inquire where the money for the reform in the power sector has gone. In the name of reform and upgradation, crores of rupees were looted and there has been mismanagement in power generation and supply. Majhi said. People in the state, he further said, faced untold miseries due to repeated power cuts during the summer. Students suffered the most as they could not read due to frequent power cuts before and during their exam. The government, the BJP Chief Whip alleged, did not show the expediency as it should to enhance the power generation during the crisis. Majhi said the government failed to create alternative power generation

like solar power to tide over the situation during the crisis.

He said despite spending crores of rupees, the government failed to bring down the AT & C loss. The per unit tariff in Odisha, Majhi said was higher than states like Telangana, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and alleged that the state government is exploiting the consumers. The OERC instead of protecting the interest of the consumers was protecting the interest of the power distribution companies, he stated. The government also failed to realise crores of electricity dues pending on various



companies. His party colleague Mukesh Mahaling and Sanatan supported him and demanded the government to ensure 24hour uninterrupted power supply across the state. Santosh Singh Saluja and Adhiraj Panigrahi (Congress) also came down heavily on the government for the power crisis. Saluja said had the government brought down

the AT&C loss by 1 percent every year it would have been reduced by 22 percent by now. But the government failed to achieve it.

State Energy Minister Pratap Deb described the allegation made by the opposition as baseless. He said during the last 22 years the state has been changed to a power surplus state from a power

deficit state earlier. Deb said the government resorted to temporary power cut for half an hour to one hour during peak hours in some areas for 5 to 8 percent consumers for around 12 days beginning from April 2022. It happened after a forced outage of a unit of the NTPC Darlipali supercritical plant for more than 50 days on a rotational basis. During this period the country was also facing the power crisis. The state government, he said, wanted to purchase 400 to 600 MW through power exchange but was given only 40 to 60 MW. He however claimed that there was no power cut after April 25. The government has directed the power distribu-

tion companies not to resort to power cut during summer due to heat waves and also during the exam period in the interest of the students.

Mr Deb further said the per unit tariff in Odisha was far less than the national average and said the AT & C loss was reduced from 57 per cent in 2000 to 26 percent now due to reform in power sector. He said some states are giving revenue subsidies to consumers. But after power reform, the state government has taken a decision not to give subsidies to the consumers directly. The government, the minister said, has spent around Rs 1200 crore under different schemes for infrastructure

development for power transmission. He claimed that the number of consumers in the state has increased six fold from 16 lakh earlier to 96 lakh now due to power reform. The capacity of additional high voltage transformers has been increased from 4,235 MVA to 24,420 MVA and the number of distribution transformers from 40,100 to 2.5 lakh. Deb said the peak demand and energy requirement has increased by around three percent and the number of grid has increased from 58 to 178. The government, he said, has already set up some solar power plants and plans to generate alternate power in collaboration with Tata Power at a cost of Rs 800 crore.

Denmark: Gunman kills three in shopping mall

Copenhagen, July 4 (UNI) A gunman opened fire at one of Denmark's biggest shopping malls and killed three people and wounded several others, three of them critically, BBC reported on Monday.

Police said they have arrested a 22-year-old man and charged him with the attack which sparked panic among shoppers at Field's mall in south

Copenhagen.

Police chief Soeren Thomassen said the motive for the attack was as yet unclear and he said they could not rule out an "act of terrorism".

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Denmark had suffered a cruel attack.

Sending condolences to those who had lost loved

ones, she said she wanted to encourage Danes to stand together and support each other in this difficult time.

Denmark's royal family said their "deepest sympathy" was with "the victims, their relatives and all those who are affected by the tragedy".

The shopping mall attack suspect was in possession of a rifle and ammu-

munition when he was arrested, police said.

The suspect, described by police as an "ethnic Dane", will face questioning by a judge on Monday.

Police say they have no indication that other attackers were involved and urged shop owners to preserve any video surveillance footage they might have.

Ukraine loses eastern city of Lysychansk to Russia

Kyiv, July 4 (UNI) Ukraine's military confirmed that they have lost the eastern city of Lysychansk to Russian forces, BBC reported on Monday.

"After heavy fighting for Lysychansk, the defence forces of Ukraine were forced to withdraw from their occu-

piated positions and lines," the army general staff said, adding that the move was carried out "in order to preserve the lives of Ukrainian defenders".

Earlier Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said his forces had captured Lysychansk and taken full control of

Luhansk region. He admitted that the Russians had multiple advantages in artillery, aircraft, manpower and other forces and his forces were completely outgunned.

President Volodymyr Zelensky pledged that Ukrainian forces would return to Lysychansk

thanks to their tactics and "thanks to the increase in the supply of modern weapons".

Earlier, the head of Russia's Chechen Republic, Ramzan Kadyrov, published video apparently showing Chechen fighters in the centre of Lysychansk.

Russia tries to press its offensive into Ukraine's east

POKROVSK, Ukraine, July 4: Russian forces tried Monday to press their offensive deeper into eastern Ukraine after taking control of a key stronghold.

The Ukrainian military confirmed that its forces had withdrawn from the city of Lysychansk, the last bulwark of Ukrainian resistance in the Luhansk province, one of the two regions that make up the country's eastern industrial heartland of Donbas. The Russians also control about half of Donetsk, the second province of Donbas.

Luhansk governor Serhii Haidai said Ukrainian forces retreated from Lysychansk to avoid being surrounded.

"There was a risk of Lysychansk encirclement," Haidai told the Associated Press, adding that Ukrainian troops could have held on for a few more weeks but would have potentially paid too high a price.

"We managed to do centralized withdrawal and evacuate all injured," Haidai said. "We took back all the equipment, so from this point withdrawal was organized well."

Then Ukrainian General Staff said Russian forces

were now focusing their efforts on pushing toward the line of Siversk, Fedorivka and Bakhmut in the Donetsk region. The Russian army has also intensified its shelling of the key Ukrainian strongholds of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, deeper in Donetsk.

On Sunday, six people, including a 9-year-old girl, were killed in the Russian shelling of Sloviansk and another 19 people were wounded, according to local authorities. Kramatorsk also came under fire on Sunday.

An intelligence briefing Monday from the British Defense Ministry supported the Ukrainian military's assessment, noting that Russian forces will "now almost certainly" switch to capturing Donetsk. The briefing said the conflict in Donbas has been "grinding and attritional," and is unlikely to change in the coming weeks.

While the Russian army has a massive advantage in firepower, military analysts say that it doesn't have any significant superiority in the number of troops. That means Moscow lacks resources for quick land gains and can only advance slowly, relying on heavy artillery and rocket barrages to soften Ukrainian defenses.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has made capturing the entire Donbas a key goal in his war in Ukraine, now in its fifth month. Moscow-backed separatists in Donbas have battled Ukrainian forces since 2014 when they declared independence from Kyiv after the Russian annexation of Ukraine's Crimea. Russia formally recognized the self-proclaimed republics days before its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

Putin's defense minister reported to him Sunday that the Russian army and its separatist allies now hold all of the Luhansk region after taking "full control" of Lysychansk.

In his nightly video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy acknowledged the withdrawal, but vowed that Ukrainian forces will fight their way back.

"If the command of our army withdraws people from certain points of the front where the enemy has the greatest fire superiority, in particular this applies to Lysychansk, it means only one thing: We will return thanks to our tactics, thanks to the increase in the supply of modern weapons," Zelenskyy said.

Since failing to take Kyiv

and other areas in Ukraine's northeast early in the war, Russia has focused on Donbas, unleashing fierce shelling and engaging in house-to-house combat that devastated cities in the region.

Russia's invasion has also devastated Ukraine's agricultural sector, disrupting supply chains of seed and fertilizer needed by Ukrainian farmers and blocking the export of grain, a key source of revenue for the country.

In its Monday intelligence report, Britain's defense ministry pointed to the Russian blockade of the key Ukrainian port of Odesa, which has severely restricted grain exports. They predicted that Ukraine's agricultural exports would reach only 35% of the 2021 total this year as a result.

As Moscow pushed its offensive across Ukraine's east, areas in western Russia came under attack Sunday in a revival of sporadic apparent Ukrainian strikes across the border. The governor of the Belgorod region in Western Russia said fragments of an intercepted Ukrainian missile killed four people Sunday. In the Russian city of Kursk, two Ukrainian drones were shot down, according to the Russian Defense Ministry.

behind the bars on cooked up cases.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said he along with other MNAs said that would request the NA speaker to forward a reference (as per resolution) to the government against Imran Khan under Article 6 for maligning the state institutions.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan, said the IMF had 'red-marked' the country when Imran Khan was the prime minister for violating the agreement with the world donor.

Asif said Imran Khan was closing all avenues to return to power due to his bad attitude and conduct.

Sydney floods forces tens of thousands to evacuate

Canberra, July 4 (UNI) Floods in Australia's biggest city Sydney has so far killed one man and forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes amid continuing torrential rain, BBC reported on Monday.

Roads have been cut off, with 18 evacuation orders in western Sydney alone and warnings of more to come.

Australia had been hit by major flooding in March, killing 20 people, many in NSW.

"This is a life-threatening emergency situation," Stephanie Cooke, emergency services minister for the state of New South Wales, said adding "We are now facing dangers on multiple fronts - flash flooding, riverine flooding and coastal erosion".



Her warning came as the Bureau of Meteorology said up to 350mm of rain had hit certain areas, risking flooding along the Nepean river.

Sydney's main dam had also started to spill overnight - a cause of further concern for the authorities.

There had been 83 flood rescues by emergency services in the past 24

hours alone, Cooke said. Her warnings come as an unnamed man was killed after falling out of a kayak on the Parramatta River in western Sydney. Emergency officials attempted to revive the man after he was spotted struggling in the water by a member of the public, but he died at the scene.

Experts say the flooding emergency has been

worsened by climate change and a La Niña weather phenomenon. A La Niña develops when strong winds blow the warm surface waters of the Pacific away from South America and towards Indonesia. In their place, colder waters come up to the surface.

In Australia, a La Niña increases the likelihood of rain, cyclones and cooler daytime temperatures.

Airlines cut seats to Sri Lanka

Colombo, July 4 (UNI) Driven by the jet fuel shortage and fund repatriation issues as a result of a foreign exchange crisis, airlines have cut their seat capacity to Sri Lanka by 53 percent in recent months, presenting yet another challenge to the struggling tourism industry.

The Daily Mirror on Monday quoted an unnamed representative of a leading airline as saying that airlines were forced to undertake these reductions in frequencies while a few airlines have pulled out of Sri Lanka amid an unprecedented economic crisis.

According to Aviation Worldwide Limited's Airline Frequency and Capacity Trend Statistics Report, air seat capacity to Sri Lanka declined by 27.6 percent YoY to 313,358 seats in June.

Due to the shortage of foreign exchange in the market, local airline represen-



tatives have been struggling to remit funds collected via ticket sales owed to their principals through banking channels over the past six months. This has grown to \$150 million as of now, the daily reported.

Airline representatives have requested the government to provide two per cent of export proceeds collected by the Central Bank to source required forex to remit funds to their principals. Further, they have urged the government to allow

airlines to pay ground handling charges, which remain one of the highest in the region, in rupees until further notice.

The government is yet to positively respond to these suggestions.

Jet fuel shortage since May has also forced airlines to cut their flight frequencies. Since June 28, the Civil Aviation Authority has urged airlines to carry fuel for their return journeys as the jet fuel stocks in Colombo had dried up.

"This is impacting the profitability of airlines. By carrying full stock of fuel, airlines have to cut down number of seats offered to passengers while limiting cargo, in addition to incurring additional costs for making fuel stops on the route. Airlines are worried," the source told the Mirror.

If the current challenging environment prevails, airlines will be forced to cut their frequencies drastically with some completely pulling out from Sri Lanka, the report added.

Pakistan: Ministers warn Imran of reference under Article 6

Islamabad, July 4 (UNI) The top ministers of the PML-N-led coalition government and senior leaders took on former prime minister Imran Khan for criticising of the state institutions and warned they may take him to the Supreme Court of Pakistan through a reference under Article 6 of the Constitution, Dawn reported on Monday.



Faisalabad and Narawal, respectively.

"On the one hand, he (Imran Khan) violates the Constitution and law and, on the other hand, abuses the judiciary and the establishment, especially its chief, over his ouster. Mentally, he is not a balanced personality and the country cannot be run as

per his desires," Saad Rafique said at a press conference at the railways' headquarters on Sunday.

He termed the PTI chief as a selfish and untrustworthy man who used to run the country through 'magic', labeling his opponents as thieves and traitors and putting them

Sri Lanka to buy 500 buses from India

Colombo, July 4 (UNI) The Sri Lankan government plans to import 500 buses under the Indian line of credit to be deployed under 'the park and ride system' in Colombo, it was reported on Monday. The Daily Mirror quoted Transport Minister Bandula Gunawardana as saying that these buses would ply on the busy Colombo roads so that pas-



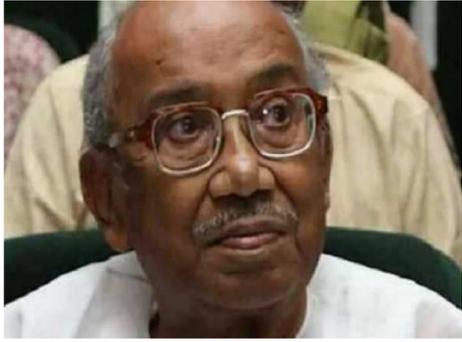
sengers can park their private vehicles and use the public transport system. Three such spots have been established in

Makumbura, Kadawatha and Katubedda to reduce the entry of private vehicles into Colombo. Besides, the

Minister said 100 buses would be hire-purchased from Lanka Ashok Leyland Co to ferry school children in Colombo district.

Eminent Bengali film director Tarun Majumdar passes away

Kolkata, July 4 (UNI) Famous Bengali filmmaker Tarun Majumdar, storyteller par excellence known for his sensitive portrayal of middle-class life and human relationships, died at a state-run hospital here on Monday, following old-age complications, family sources said.



Majumdar, 91, breathed his last at the SSKM Hospital where he was admitted on June 17 with a chest infection, and kidney and heart ailments. The end came at 11.17 AM after a massive cardiac arrest.

He was put on ventilation support on Sunday after his condition worsened.

Majumdar, who churned out a large number of tastefully done films with evergreen box office appeal over a span of more than half a century, straddled both commercial and art-house cinema with effortless ease, picking up five national awards.

He was given India's fourth-highest civilian honour Padma Shri in 1990, besides winning

five Filmfare East awards. Majumdar directed blockbusters such as Balika Badhu (1967), Kuheli (1971), Shriman Prithviraj (1973), Fuleswari (1974), Dadar Kirti (1980), Bhalobasa Bhalobasa (1985) and Apan Amar Apan (1990).

Some of his other critically acclaimed movies are Palatak (1963), Nimantran (1971), Sansar Simante (1975) and Ganadevata (1978).

Majumdar also remade two of his hit films (Balika Badhu, 1976) and Rahgir (1969, adapted from Palatak) in Hindi, but with limited success. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described Majumdar's death as an "irreparable loss" to the film world. "He has left behind a glorious collec-

tion of tastefully done social films of a different genre," Banerjee said in her condolence message.

Born on January 8, 1931, in Bagura (now in Bangladesh), Majumdar made his filmmaking debut as a member of the directorial team Yatrik - that also included Sachin Mukherji and Dilip Mukherji - with the 1959 Bengali movie "Chaowa Pawa" which starred Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen in lead roles.

In 1962, the troika came up with "Kancher Swarga", which won the national award as the best feature film in Bengali.

After directing two more films, including the classic "Palatak", with Team Yatrik, Majumdar decided to go solo, and

never had to look back, in the process etching his name in the history of Bengali cinema with his soulful representation of the culture and society of the linguistic community.

Many of his celluloid ventures were successful recreations of Bengali literary classics penned by eminent writers like Bimal Kar, Sharadindu Bandyopadhyay, Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay and Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay. They got both flourishing box offices and praise from the discerning cine-goers.

Majumdar married celebrated actress Sandhya Roy, who played vital roles in 20 of his films. The couple, however, got estranged later.

He also introduced Moushumi Chatterjee, Mahua Roychoudhury, Ayan Banerjee and Tapas Paul to the silver screen.

A salient feature of Majumdar's films is the apt selection and aesthetic picturisation of songs, particularly Rabindra Sangeet, which are popular even to this day.

Throughout his career, Majumdar delved into multiple film genres including thrillers, drama and romantic comedy, and left his mark in each of them, with his mastery of storytelling.

The daily lives, emotions, the ebb and tide of relationships and struggles of the middle and lower-middle classes featured in a big way in his creations.

He also made a docu-feature on the issue of afforestation "Aranya Aamar" in 1984 that bagged a national award.

Among his later movies, "Alo" (2004) and "Bhaobasar Anek Naam" (2007) won the Bengal Film Journalists Association awards.

His swansong was a docu-feature "Adhikaar" (2018) that brought out the struggles of the teeming millions working in the country's unorganised sector in pitiable conditions. Majumdar's autobiography in Bengali "Cinemapara Diye" is a treasure trove in understanding the journey of Bengali films.

Heat wave to continue in Kashmir valley, rainfall from Wednesday

Srinagar, July 4 (UNI) Heat wave to continue in Kashmir valley even as the Meteorological Department forecast of isolated very light rain, traces in Kashmir division and scattered to moderate rain, traces in Jammu division during the next 24 hours.

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

He said the people can have a sigh of relief from the present heat wave as there are fair chances of intermittent

rainfall from Wednesday-Thursday at most of the places in Kashmir valley which could bring down the maximum temperature across considerably.

Hot weather conditions with humid atmosphere and partially cloudy sky continue in Srinagar. The maximum temperature in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, was recorded at 33.7 degree Celsius against the 29.1 degree Celsius which was 4.6 degree Celsius above normal during this period of the season.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar on Monday was recorded as low of 23.6 degree Celsius

against 17.1 degree Celsius which was 6.5 degree Celsius above normal.

The minimum temperature across the Kashmir valley was also recorded above normal from 5-7 degree Celsius except the Ski resort of Gulmarg where it was 2.9 degree Celsius.

Resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir has a low of 17.6 degree Celsius against 10.8 degree Celsius which was 6.8 degree Celsius above normal during this period of the season while Kukernag recorded a low 19.8 degree Celsius and Gulmarg 13.8 degree Celsius Monday, MeT office said.

RJD chief Lalu Prasad hospitalised

Patna, July 4 (UNI) RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, who sustained injuries after slipping from the stairs on Sunday night, was admitted to a local private hospital on Monday as his condition deteriorated.

Leader of the opposition in Bihar assembly Tejaswi Prasad Yadav, the youngest son of Lalu Prasad admitted him to the hospital where his blood sugar was found to be high.

The doctors were also treating the bone fracture in the right shoulder of Lalu Prasad who had slipped from stairs at 10 circular road residence of his wife and former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi.

The RJD Supremo is already facing several health issues including diabetes and kidney-related ailments.

Sufficient training important for CEOs by CBBOs to get the success of FPOs in Tripura

Udaipur (Tripura), July 4. In order to do development, it is important to improve agricultural condition in the country as about 66 per cent people in the country India and also about 42 per cent people are directly involved for doing agricultural activities in the north-eastern state Tripura.

Keeping this in mind, Government of India has launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)" with a clear strategy and committed resources to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs in the country with budgetary provision of Rs 6865 crore.

A total of seven numbers Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) empanelled under the Central Sector Scheme for Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs) in the State of Tripura followed by Basix Krishi Samrudhhi Limited, Sesta Development Services, International Competence Centre for Organic Agriculture, NH Consulting Private Limited, Sikkim State Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation Limited, Consortium For Training Research And Development and Qseal Agritech Private Limited.

A total of 37 numbers FPOs to be formed in 58 blocks of eight different districts areas in Tripura

in accordance with government decision under the scheme. According to report, a total of twenty seven FPOs are being formed in the state at present but the training programme for CEOs are not being trained by CBBOs from different institution in view to continuing the activities of FPOs with profitable business plan on different agricultural based productions those are produced by farmers in different areas of the state to increase farmers income as double.

There is a successful FPO guided by NABARD called Bagma Agri Producer Organisation (BAPCL) here at Bagma area under Tepaniya R.D Block of Gomati District

in which the concern CBBOs might come and take an initiative for getting training with experience from BAPCL in Tripura.

There was a meeting at ICAR Tripura Regional Centre where Kailash Choudhary, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare had instructed all the high officials and other concern persons for taking proper initiative in the consideration of training programme for CEOs appointed for different FPOs in the state Tripura to get success of the schemes launched by government of India "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)".

Bihar political heavyweight Narendra Singh passes away

Patna, July 4 (UNI) Bihar political heavyweight and former minister Narendra Singh breathed his last at a private hospital here on Monday morning. He was 77.

Narendra Singh is survived by his wife and two sons, family sources said.

Narendra Singh, ailing for the past several days,

was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in this state capital.

His son Sumit Singh is a minister in Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Cabinet. His father Shrikrishna Singh was also a minister in the Bihar government in 1967 and Lok Sabha member in 1977 from Munger Parliamentary constituency.

Ajay Pratap and late Abhay Pratap, sons of Narendra Singh, were also members of the state legislative assembly.

Narendra Singh, belonging to the Jamui district, joined politics during the JP movement and became a minister in the cabinet of Lalu Prasad Yadav as well as in the Nitish government. Later he joined former Chief

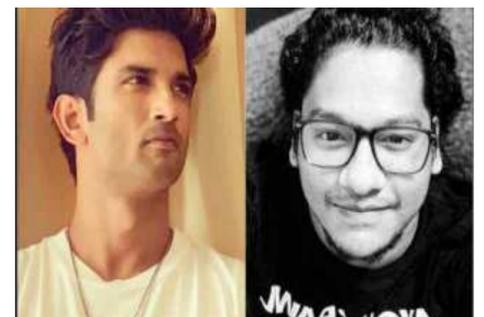
Minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha president Jitan Ram Manjhi.

In his condolence, Jitan Ram Manjhi said he was deeply aggrieved with the death of Narendra Singh.

Acting chairman of Bihar Legislative Council Awdhesh Narayan Singh also expressed his deep sorrow over the death of Narendra Singh.

Sushant Singh Rajput friend gets bail

Mumbai, July 4 (UNI) The Bombay High Court on Monday granted bail to Siddharth Pithani, a friend of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput who was occupying a flat with him, for his alleged involvement in an illicit drug probe. Justice Bharati Dange directed Pithani to furnish a personal release Bond of Rs. 50,000 and warned him not to temper with the evidences against him. Pithani was recently chargesheeted by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). In his bail plea he contended that he had been in judicial custody from a long period. Pithani was arrested by the NCB on May 28, last year.



'Vikram Vedha' shot extensively in India: Makers

New Delhi, July 4 (UNI) The Reliance Entertainment on Monday issued a clarification regarding the shooting locations of Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan starrer 'Vikram Vedha', saying that the movie has been extensively shot in India.

Reliance Entertainment took to their social media handle and said, "We have been noticing a lot of misleading and totally unsubstantiated reporting on Vikram Vedha shooting locations. We clearly want to state that Vikram Vedha has been shot extensively in India, includ-

ing Lucknow.

"A portion of the film was shot in United Arab Emirates in October-November of 2021 since it was the only location providing the infrastructure for a bio-bubble that accommodated crew of such scale, also allowing building of sets in a studio during the preceding months of the shoot.

"We chose to do that out of health and protocol concerns. Any attempt to twist these set of facts are clearly mischievous and untruthful," the statement read.

"Also we would like to emphatically state that at Reliance Entertainment while we welcome suggestions from creative talent, the production and budgetary decisions are a centralised prerogative", the statement further added.

'Vikram Vedha' based on the Indian folktale, 'Vikram aur Betal', is said to be an edge-of-the-seat action crime thriller which tells the story of a tough police officer who sets out to track down and hunt a menacing gangster. The film is undoubtedly one of the most



anticipated movies as it marks the return of two superstars collaborating in a high-octane action film after two decades.

'Vikram Vedha' is presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series Films and Reliance Entertainment in association with Friday Filmworks and

YNOT Studios. The film is directed by Pushkar & Gayatri and produced by S Sashikanth and produced by Bhushan Kumar. Besides Hrithik and Saif, it also stars Radhika Apte, Rohit Saraf, Yogita Bihani, Sharib Hashmi and Satyadeep Mishra. 'Vikram Vedha' com-

menced filming in October 2021, and after various schedules the film's principal photography has been successfully completed.

Post-production works are now in full swing and the film is set for a worldwide theatrical release on September 30.

Freedom fighter S N Singh's 29th death anniversary celebrated



Bhubaneswar, July 4 (TNB): The 29th death anniversary of late freedom fighter Samant Natabar Singh held at Smrutivana, Patrapada, Bhubaneswar by the Presidentship of Dr Aryakumar Jnanendra, eminent Social activist Sittaballav Mahapatra was the Chief Guest. Among others former dean OUAT Prof. Dr Buddhadeb Mishra and Dushashan Swain, former PS Chairman attended the function. The in charge of Smrutivana Smt Rasmirekha Parida looked over all the arrangements. Floral tribute was given by Pusparaj Pradhan and Projnara Pradhan.

Pollution, climate crisis are choking the oceans

The oceans have never spurned our offerings, be it sludge, sewage, toxic waste, industrial effluents, plastic and other garbage. Things got really serious when the poisons got into the systems of aquatic life, and found their way into our dinner via seafood. Untold damage has been done to rivers, lakes, ponds, seas and oceans, despite us knowing that 50 per cent of oxygen on earth is from the oceans. Why are we choking off our own life-breath? The United Nations Ocean Conference (June 27-July 1), held in Portugal, highlighted these challenges and more and sought solutions that could be taken up globally. And there is a need to create wider public awareness on the need to preserve the sanctity of water bodies everywhere. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has made an 'Ocean Promise' to support the recovery of \$1 trillion in annual socio-economic losses caused by ocean mismanagement. In his opening remarks, UN Secretary General António Guterres said, "When we see the earth from space, we truly appreciate that we live on a blue planet. The ocean connects us all. Sadly, we have taken the ocean for granted, and today we face what I would call an 'Ocean Emergency'". The gloomy scenario, presented by the UN, is that global heating is pushing ocean temperatures to record levels, creating fiercer and more frequent storms. Sea levels are rising. Low-lying island-nations face inundation, as do many major coastal cities in the world. The climate crisis is also making the ocean more acidic, which is disrupting the marine food chain. Ever more coral reefs are bleaching and dying. Coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves, sea grasses and wetlands, are being degraded. Pollution from land is creating vast coastal dead zones. Nearly 80 per cent of waste water is discharged into the sea without treatment. And some eight million tonnes of plastic waste enter the oceans every year. Without drastic action, this plastic could outweigh all the fish in the oceans by 2050. Indisputably, a healthy and productive ocean is vital to our shared future. It is 40 years since the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was adopted. A new Treaty of the High Seas is being negotiated to address the global plastic crisis that is choking our oceans. Despite conferences and treaties, our desecration of the oceans has continued unabated over decades, pushing the waters to the brink, since there is no overall legal framework governing what is being described as the largest unregulated area on the planet, as it covers 70 per cent of the earth's surface. The UN conference made four recommendations to save the oceans and by doing so, save ourselves too. For, it is the ocean that is perceived as the source of all life and it is the ocean that has been helping us breathe and sustain ourselves since millennia.

First, we need to invest in "sustainable ocean economies for food, renewable energy and livelihoods. This would require long-term funding and commitment to encourage sustainable practices in the seafood industry."

Secondly, "the ocean must become a model on how we can manage the global commons for our greater good". This would entail preventing and reducing all kinds of marine pollution and create measures to conserve the waters and execute good coastal management. Thirdly, "we must protect the oceans and the people whose lives and livelihoods depend on them, from the impacts of climate change". The way forward is to protect the marine ecosystems including mangroves, wetlands and coral reefs, and make shipping greener than it is currently. And avoid oil spills that have dangerous effect on aquatic life. Early warning systems in coastal areas will alert communities to be forewarned and prepared for any eventuality. Fourthly, the UN advises more of science and innovation "to propel us into a new chapter of global ocean action". As far as India is concerned, its 5,000-km-long coastline makes it an important security issue. Maritime security is a priority, but so too the importance of conserving the oceans as vital sources of sustainability and livelihood. More than three decades ago, the French underwater explorer and photographer, inventor of the aqua lung for scuba divers, Jacques Cousteau, warned us of the sully of the Indian Ocean, and pleaded that the area be protected from pollution.

FDI, economic security should be in sync

It has been estimated that as a result of India's efforts, the per capita foreign direct investment is about \$60. This is good and India is probably registering the highest growth. But to generate many millions of new jobs, overcome poverty and address the multiple issues the country has at hand, \$100 per capita FDI would put India at a much higher place in the world.

It has been estimated that as a result of India's efforts, the per capita foreign direct investment is about \$60. This is good and India is probably registering the highest growth. But to generate many millions of new jobs, overcome poverty and address the multiple issues the country has at hand, \$100 per capita FDI would put India at a much higher place in the world. Competition is the spice of life. It creates pressures and gives rise to creative ideas and strategies. India can thrive!

First, the issue of eligibility for foreign investors to have more than 50 per cent equity in a company. This is largely permitted today. It was a major issue earlier, a non-issue now. Even defence industries and insurance allow 74% foreign equity holding in a joint venture. India has crossed a "mental" bridge in allowing over 50% foreign equity holding, having realised that equity is only one aspect of "control" and "regulation". Second, the processes and procedures, which are never quick or time-bound in India. There is no "single-window" clearance in reality, especially where the Federal/Central Government and State Government are both involved. This has to change. Many countries have an "empowered" Board of Investments (BoI) for promotion as well as clearances. Recognising the hierarchy of bureaucracy and the reality of decision-making, the "BoI" should be provided the Secretariat by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). This was so in 1991-96 when the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) operated. The BoI or FIPB needs to be headed by a Secretary to the Government of India who has the seniority to command respect. Proposals should be cleared or returned within 90 days. There is an organisation, "Invest India", but to get to \$100 per capita FDI, the Prime Minister's Office needs to get in on the act in greater measure. Third, India needs to frame a dynamic strategy and plan for an outreach to the top 500 companies of the world to invest in the country. Much is written about change in supply chains and relocation of industries, but India has seen little benefit of these ideas. Vietnam and Thailand in Asia are the real beneficiaries. And, their BoIs follow an aggressive promotion strategy as well as an efficient approval process. The top 500 companies have significant supply chains across several countries and their partnership would be critical.

Fourth, many policies are worded vaguely. This leads to lack of clarity and delayed decision-making. Policies must be specific in wording and clear to all readers. This is a challenge for the Indian policy and process making authors. Every time something is drafted which is subject to different interpretations, there is delay and there is scope for corruption. Delay is equal to disaster. Fifth, stability and continuity of policy, of procedures. No U-turns, no surprises! No retrospective actions. These issues haunt the foreign investors where India is concerned. India has been known to follow stop-go policies, change



procedures at will and consistently failed to give confidence of continuity. This is a big issue for all foreign investors. The only real assurance can be provided by law and legislation passed in Parliament as done to do away with retrospective action. Sixth, India is known to be a difficult place to find reliable joint venture partners. These are companies in the public and private sectors. The tendency of foreign investors is to focus on a few Indian companies for partnerships because of their reputation for reliability and trustworthiness. The government cannot resolve this issue. It is a private sector issue and there have been many joint ventures (JVs) which break up because of "cultural" mismatch. Both sides act in haste to conclude a JV without thinking through every detail. Caution is the best way forward and the perspective must be long-term, not short-term. Seventh, there is a constant need to "educate" foreign investors on India. It is one country, but not one market. It is one country, but almost every state is different from every other state. Huge differences exist in terms of customs, cultures, languages, from state to state. State governments have a five-year life and change happens, bringing new policies. These are some of the issues which must be hammered into the minds of foreign investors so as to help them avoid mistakes and then blame India. Investment education is in India's best interests. Eighth, whilst Indian strategy is focused mainly on the large economies of the USA, Japan, South Korea, UK, France, Germany and Italy, there is a need for

country-specific strategies and plans so as to have the right focus in terms of technology and company. And, smaller economies are equally crucial, such as Israel, UAE, Singapore, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark with specific strategies for niche technologies. The Indian government has understood this and their foreign and trade policies reflect this reality. Indian industry needs to adapt and adopt.

Ninth, India needs to have a Foreign Investment War Room using advanced digital technologies to have the most up to date data of trade, investment, companies, technologies, sectors, personnel, diaspora role etc. The FDI War Room is an essential strategic piece of the FDI plan because data is critical and, in today's age, data is constantly changing. These are some key issues to raise the FDI level to \$100 per capita. India's global position would then be far more significant. Also, the positive impact on employment, development and growth considerable! At the same time, the national economic security interest must be taken care of. It can be ensured in a variety of ways, even learning from the structures and practices of several other countries. The National Security Council Secretariat is the right organisation to ensure this. In the last couple of years, India has actually taken some long overdue and essential steps relating to economic security. This process and policy need to be sustained.

Funds go down the drain

Punjab schemes to conserve water, soil fail

IN an indictment of successive Punjab governments and their departments responsible for ensuring sustainable agriculture in the state, the CAG report tabled in the Vidhan Sabha points to irregularities in the use of funds earmarked during 2014-19 for the implementation of guidelines to conserve soil and water. Hundreds of crores of rupees have been spent on these much-needed efforts during this period but, shamefully, the problem has only exacerbated. Though Rs 274 crore was spent on the crop diversification scheme — which has for long been touted by experts as an antidote to the water-guzzling paddy — the area under paddy cultivation has alarmingly increased by over 7 per cent. Similarly, the expenditure of Rs 699 crore on improving the soil quality and water availability seems to have gone down the drain.

What is worse is that nobody has been held accountable for the sharp groundwater depletion or soil degradation and



the apparent misuse of funds. While the governments have been resorting to competitive vote-catching measures, the agriculture department unjustly lays the

blame on the absence of a concrete policy. The lack of political will to confront the problem is best reflected by the fact that the authorities have been sitting on a draft submitted by experts nine years ago rather than studying it and formulating an appropriate agriculture policy to reap benefits.

The ground situation continues to deteriorate. Recently, the agriculture department found itself red-faced as it came to the fore that the 8,000 quintals of dhaincha seeds supplied to farmers were of poor quality. These seeds are sown after wheat is harvested and serve as green manure to restore fertility of the soil. The department was earlier in the dock when in 2019,

The Tribune highlighted a crop residue machinery scam that had snowballed into a Rs 1,178-crore fraud over a three-year period. While the state government kept receiving 80 per cent Central subsidy for setting up 34 farm machinery banks in Bathinda, the banks remained only on paper.

Time to plug loopholes in anti-defection law

At times, the partisan role played by some Speakers due to a conflict of interest is very visible. On several occasions, their bias in favour of a political party has led to malpractices, violations of the Constitution and prolonged political instability in a state, impacting administration in general. A major weakness of the Anti-Defection Act is that no time limit has been prescribed for the Speaker to take a decision.

The political developments in Maharashtra have turned the spotlight on the Anti-Defection Act. Enacted in 1985, this Act was considered important enough to be included in the Constitution and was appended as its Tenth Schedule. Ever since its enactment, some of the manoeuvres concerning MLAs have brought the Speaker's role into sharper focus. A Speaker occupies a pivotal position, being the guardian of rights and privileges of the House and at the same time, he is also responsible for administering the Act. It is the Speaker who has to decide on defections, splits or mergers. This also explains the widespread clamour amongst the coalition partners to first secure the office of the Speaker for their own party. Over a period of time, some of the occupants of this chair have hardly done justice to the exalted office they occupied.

This compelled the Supreme Court, while delivering a judgment, to ask Parliament, "Have a rethink whether disqualification petitions ought to be entrusted to a Speaker, as a quasi-judicial authority, when such a Speaker continues to belong to a political party de jure or de facto." In this context, the prophetic words of BR Ambedkar at the time of dedication of the Constitution to the people, on the last day of the Constituent Assembly, are still relevant. He had said, "Howsoever good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad if the people who work it are a bad lot. On the other hand, howsoever bad it may be, if the people who work on it are good, it may still turn out to be good." The current state of proceedings in some of our Assemblies may be a manifestation of these prophetic words.

At times, the partisan role played by some Speakers due to



a conflict of interest is very visible. On several occasions, their bias in favour of a political party, has led to malpractices, violations of the Constitution and prolonged political instability in a state, impacting administration in general. A major weakness of the Act is that no time limit has been prescribed for the Speaker to take a decision. Exploiting this loophole and not deciding on the petition, the Speaker can allow a defector to enjoy the fruits of defection, besides giving a reprieve to the party in power. In one such case from Manipur, the Speaker had not decided the petition for over two years, where upon the Supreme Court intervened and passed an order removing the defector from the Cabinet and also barring his entry to the Assembly for a brief period. While the law is the same, its application keeps changing from time to time and from one Speaker to the other. In

the Manipur case, the Speaker had kept sitting over the petition while in another case, the Speaker decided the matter in a great hurry without following the procedures, leading to an adverse comment of "hot haste" from the Supreme Court. In yet another case, a Speaker who happened to be from a different political party, offered to review the order of the previous Speaker, which was against the letter and spirit of the apex court judgment, according to which the Speaker had no power of review, once the order was issued. Such orders could be reviewed only by a judicial authority. Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu and others was the first case decided by the Supreme Court under the Anti-Defection Act in which high standards were set for the Speaker to enable him to take far-reaching decisions for the functioning of the parliamentary democracy. While a section of this law was declared ultra vires, the judges, in minority, perhaps could perceptively foresee the future state of affairs and went on to say, "Giving the power of adjudication to the Speaker was against the basic structure of the Constitution, being against the separation of powers between the legislature, judiciary and the executive." It was contemplated that such disputes should be referred to an independent authority. Later, this view was supported by the former CJI Venkatchaliah, while chairing the commission to review the working of the Constitution. On the other hand, while deciding this very case as the CJI, he was on the other side. Clearly, he had changed his mind, having observed some unsavoury goings-on in state Assemblies.

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha as well as of the state legislatures are elected on tickets and symbols of various political parties. Unlike the House of Commons, from where our Parliament has drawn inspiration, our

Speakers continue to retain links with their parent parties. Such retention of affiliation does not impact their routine working but is quite often reflected in their decisions on the anti-defection law. A way out of such a situation has been provided for within the law itself. There is an exemption clause in Section 5 of the anti-defection law, whereby the Speakers can voluntarily give up their party affiliation, without attracting the penalties, but embarrassingly, to date, not a single presiding officer of the House has ever made use of this provision. Another very interesting suggestion came in from the conference of presiding officers held as early as 1951. According to this, to enable the Speaker to stay neutral, a convention was to be established reserving the constituency of the Speaker so that in the subsequent elections, he could be returned unopposed, and further he should not take part in party politics. Even before Independence, Vithalbhai Patel had set an example by following this principle in letter and spirit. When enacted, this law was expected to prevent the malaise of defections, but loopholes have been found to circumvent its provisions as the law has been found to be somewhat pliant towards group defectors. While individual defectors face penalties, group defections with a minimum number can be recognised as splits or mergers. In case the numbers do not match, some members resign to bring down the strength of the House. For such situations, it was suggested that even if the member after defection gets elected from a different party, he should be denied the benefit of office for the remaining duration of the House. The anti-defection law was amended in 2003, but it has singularly failed to meet its objectives. Instead, it is often being used to regularise defections. Considering the overall situation, we have no further time to lose. After a wider public debate, a comprehensive change in the law is the need of the hour.

Second Convocation of KISS Deemed to be University

Warm-heartedness is key to solving most of the world's problems: His Holiness Gyetrul Jigme Rinpoche

Bhubaneswar, July 4 (TNB): Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, celebrated its second annual convocation ceremony on 4th July 2022. "I have been profoundly touched during my visits to KISS and I get a feeling that the voice of the tribal community of India is here", stated His Holiness Gyetrul Jigme Rinpoche, Master of Tibetan Buddhism and Spiritual Director of the Ripa International Center in his convocation address.

Congratulating the graduates, His Holiness Gyetrul Jigme Rinpoche urged them to carry a sense of gratitude for the rest of their lives as so many people have contributed to their success. "From ecology to economy, real life is challenging and one can suc-

ceed only by accepting diversity. Warm-heartedness is the key to solving most of the problems the world is facing today", he told a packed auditorium. The real meaning of education is to help others, he said, while advising students to contribute to the overall good of humanity. The University conferred Honoris Causa Degrees of D.Litt. upon four personalities of international repute - Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune; Mr. Pavan Sukhdev, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, Founder and CEO of GIST Advisory Switzerland SA; Dr. Ricky G. Kej, Internationally Renowned Indian Music Composer and 2 Times Grammy Award Winner; and Mr. Erik Solheim, President, Green Belt and Road Institute.

"What KISS does and what KISS focuses on, make this recognition very special", said Dr. Rajiv Kumar in his acceptance speech. KISS has the transformative potential for the country, he said, while congratulating Dr. Samanta. It is essential to focus on human capital, natural capital and social capital, along with GDP, which merely conveys a notion of produced capital, remarked Mr. Pavan Sukhdev, while commending the role of KISS in developing human capital. KISS is developing human capital, taking those who need development the most, he added. Thanking KISS for the recognition, Dr. Ricky G. Kej said, the planet is facing a serious environmental crisis and the only way to make a difference is to change



ourselves. The world is facing a triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, said Mr. Erik Solheim, adding that institutions like KISS have an important role to play in averting the crisis. Congratulating the degree recipients, he expressed gratitude to His Holiness Gyetrul Jigme Rinpoche for inspiring the academic community at KISS with his

words of wisdom and to Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Mr. Pavan Sukhdev, Dr. Ricky G. Kej, and Mr. Erik Solheim for accepting Honoris Causa Degrees from the University. This is not only a matter of pride for the institute, but for the entire tribal community, Dr. Samanta added. Addressing the graduating students, Shri Satya S. Tripathi, Chancel-

lor, KISS Deemed to be University, said, "As you transition from knowledge-seeker to change-maker, please remember that your alma mater is extremely proud of your accomplishments and it is on your shoulders to carry forward its unique legacy and tradition of selfless service - exemplified by our founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta - in support of

those that need it the most". The manner with which the entire KISS community rose to the challenge posed by the pandemic testifies to its resilience and ability to cope with the worst of challenges in the most creative of ways, said Shri Tripathi, who is the former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. In his report, Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice-Chancellor informed that KISS-DU has revamped its course curricula and redefined academic as well as research programs largely within the framework of NEP-2020. It has incorporated nineteen innovative value-added courses on topics such as tribal ecology, arts, cuisines, sports and games to help the students stay rooted in their cultures, he added. Dr. Prashanta Ku.

Routray, Registrar proposed the word of thanks. Three research scholars - Hisi Soren, Rashmi Murmu and Juthika Priyadarsini Naik - received Ph.D. degrees at the convocation ceremony. Lalbahadur Singh (2019 admitted batch), School of Indigenous Knowledge, Science & Technology and Chandrakanta Pradhan (2020 admitted batch), School of Indigenous Knowledge, Science & Technology won the Founder's Gold Medal for securing the highest CGPA in the whole University across all Post Graduate programs. Similarly, 14 students were awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal, while another 14 students got the Vice Chancellor's Silver Medal for their outstanding academic performance.

District Administration Holds Joint Public Hearing Programme at Sundargarh

Sundargarh, July 4 (TNB): The Sundargarh District Administration has been organising joint public hearing programmes to redress the complaints and grievances of the people in the district. In continuation of the initiative, a joint public hearing programme was organized at the Sadbhavna Bhavan in Sundargarh on Monday. At the programme, Sundargarh Collector Dr. Parag H. Gavali heard the grievances of residents who had come from various blocks and issued necessary directions to



the concerned departmental officials for their swift redressal. A number of community and personal grievances were taken up at the public hearing. The issues ranged from health, agri-

culture, irrigation, benefits of various social pensions to ration card and drains. The Collector gave a patient hearing of the grievances directly from the citizens and directed officials for a

quick redressal. Additionally, the plea for financial assistance to open a shop made before the District Administration by a visually challenged resident of Lathikata block was also taken up during the programme. The request was considered and a financial assistance of Rs 25,000 was extended to the concerned person. Earlier, some beneficiaries had applied for financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for medical treatment. Twenty-two such recipients were

given away the monetary help received from the CMRF. SP Sundargarh Smt Sagarika Nath, ADM Shri Shiv Shankar Toppo, ZP CDO&EO Shri Bhairab Singh Patel, Deputy Collector (Emergency) Smt Kuntirani Naik, Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Dr. Saroj Kumar Mishra, PA ITDA Shri Ramkrishna Gond, CEO DMF Sundargarh Smt Rita Dang, DSWO Smt Prabasini Chakra and officials from various departments were present on the occasion.

Motivational Talk by IAS Topper Mr. Karthik Panigrahi for student of Rourkela

Rourkela, July 04 (TNB): A Motivational Talk with Mr. Karthik Panigrahi, IAS topper of Odisha was organised for students of Rourkela at Ispat English Medium School, Sector - 20 on 3rd July 2022. Mr. P K Dash, GM In-charge (Town Services) was the Chief Guest while Mr. M K Agarwal, GM (Town Services) was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. Around 350 students of Class - X, XI and XII from 17 different schools of Rourkela took part in the session. Addressing the students Mr. Dash appreciated the efforts of the



Education Department in holding such motivational talks and encouraged the students to pursue their goals with single minded devotion. Citing vivid examples from his life, Mr. Panigrahi talked about the importance of vision, discipline, ways of studying and preparing for various examinations, proactiveness

and ways of handling failure and success. He urged the students to be focussed towards the goal and work towards it and consider failure as the pillar of success rather than the end of a career. In the interaction session, that followed the talk, the students came up with inquisitive questions about the life, purpose and journey of Mr. Panigrahi. The discussions brought about interesting facts, insights and tips for the students to emulate. At the outset Dr Banmali Kar, Senior Manager (Education) and Principal, IEMS, Sector-20 delivered the welcome address and spoke about Rourkela Steel Plant and the glorious history of the school. Mr. Kangar Naik, AGM & Principal (IVM) proposed a formal vote of thanks. Ms. Aradhana Pattnaik, student of Class - XII (IEMS, Sector - 20) anchored the programme.

BMC took attempt to bury Majhalibandha Pond instead of restoration

Asutosh Ratha Bargarh, July 04: As the population of Bargarh town continues to grow, so does the need for water. However, the city's concious people have long called for the restoration of multiple ponds that meet the city's water needs, while the municipal administration has been embroiled in controversy over the dumping of ponds. Pradeep Mohapatra, resident of Talipada, a lawyer, objected, while the Bargarh Municipal Council was leveling the dumping garbage on the side of the road connecting Hatpada to Talipada. Instead of trying to recover. While the road was leveling, Mr. Mohapatra called the municipal executive and objected. Now that the lion's share of the Majhalibandha has been buried in the rubble, there has been a backlash among the people of Bargarh as it has been leveled. Mr. Mohapatra, a senior member of the Bar Association and a senior member of the Samaleswari Mandir, said that despite the earlier notice to the municipal council, the law would be taken into account as the pond was still being buried without starting the restoration work.



The municipality, which has been collecting garbage for a number of years, has been dumping garbage in the basement for several years, taking advantage of the growing number of encroachments around the dam. While municipal garbage trucks are transporting medical waste, such as PPKit, and dumping it in the garbage dumps, locals are still protesting, but now the municipal council is trying to dispose of the garbage by throwing garbage again. Asked by Bargarh executive officer Narayan Dansana, he clarified that the municipal department was making efforts to remove roadside debris during the ongoing clean-up operation for the Rath yatra by denying the allegations of embezzlement. The mayor, Kalpana Majhi, said in a statement that the decision would be taken "tomorrow" and promised to take immediate action.

FAMILY BLOOD DONATION CAMP TO CELEBRATE 31st MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY

Bhubaneswar, July 4 (TNB): Donation of blood is the biggest virtue" this proverb is just a mere proverb for many people but it inspired exceptionally a person so much that within a span of 45 years he donated his blood 166 times. Seeming unbelievable but it is absolutely true for a legendary 66 years old Gopi mohan Pattanayak. Many cases people were died due to shortage of blood and ironically enough blood are available in our insensitive society, this fact inspired Gopimohan so much that he plunged into this mission when it wasn't at all a social

movement. In the year 1978 when he was in his early youth, hardly 21 years started donating blood for the first time. Since then he never looked back rather he put his best endeavor to make it a mass movement. In this unique journey he inspired many people by setting himself as a leading example. He left no stone unturned to make blood donation as a mass movement, he travelled several parts of Odisha and organized blood donation camp of various magnitude and garner more than 1 lakh units of blood within a mere 44 years of time. As charity starts from home he initiated a unique movement called Family Blood dona-



tion camp in 2004 and invite and influence all his friends, relatives, neighbors, family members to be a part of this movement. To spread this mission he organized BDC in every personal and family ceremonial occasion like marriage anniversary, and cre-

ate ancompetitive comparison among the invitee by donating blood by himself. Recently on 4th July 2022, 65 year old Mr Gopi mohan Pattanayak and his wife Ashalata celebrated their 31st marriage anniversary in Ganga Nagar community hall where he

donated his blood for the record 166th time in front of many eminent persons like Dr. Debasish Mishra, Director of Blood Bank, Mr. Sushanta Sahoo a popular social worker and local corporator Sridhar behera, Basanta samal, Kailash patra, Ranjan Dash, Trilochan Beura others. Mr Gopi mohan Pattanayak hailed from an ordinary family from Paralakhemundi Odisha has set this unmatch hemile stone and become a source of inspiration for his contemporary as well as upcoming generations. His commendable work in this direction has been saving many anonymous life.

Iconic Week observation at RSP commences with flagging off Exhibition Tableau

Rourkela, July 04 (TNB): The Iconic Week observation as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava commenced at SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) with Mr. Atanu Bhowmick, Director Incharge flagging off a mobile exhibition tableau with Audio visual facility at Civic Centre on 4th July 2022. Mr. A K Kundu, ED (Mines), Mr. S R Suryawanshi, ED (Works), Mr. P K Satapathy, ED (P&A), Mr. P K Sahoo, ED (Projects), Mr. Somnath Tripathy, ED

(MM), Dr. B K Hota, ED (M&HS), Mr. A K Behuria, CGM Incharge (F&A) and a large number of other Senior Officers and employees were present on the occasion. The programme commenced with the rendition of the SAIL Anthem. Speaking on the occasion the DIC described the Iconic week celebration as an occasion to showcase the convergence of the values and glories of the freedom struggle of the past with the aspirations and dreams of a young, new and iconic In-



dia. He also highlighted the contribution made by SAIL and RSP in strengthening the economy of the nation and reiterated the commitment of the company to the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Make in India. The tableau highlighted themes like 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Circular

economy' as well as of products of SAIL and their usage in major projects of national interest. The tableau moved to various schools and market places of Rourkela on 4th July. In the coming days, it will cover mines areas under the Odisha Group of Mines and peripheral villages. The inaugural function was anchored by Mr. Subendhu Garud, Manager (Town Services). It is worth mentioning here that India is celebrating 75th year of its freedom as Azadi

Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Several programmes are being organized to commemorate the monumental occasion and various Ministries are hosting a set of activities for a resurgent, Aatmanirbhar Bharat. One such event is the observation of 'Iconic week' by different ministries. Ministry of Steel and all the companies under it are celebrating Iconic Week from 4th to 10th July 2022 as a Jan Utsav in the spirit of Jan-Bhagidari.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 10/ET/SPB/ENGG/2022-23, Dated : 29.06.2022
(1) e-Tender No. 14-eT-SDENW-SBP-22
NAME OF WORK : EXECUTION OF CIVIL ZONAL WORKS IN NAWAPARA ROAD (EX) SECTION FOR THE PERIOD ENDING ON 30.06.2023 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF A ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER MAHASAMUND.
Approximate Cost of the Work : ₹ 1,07,90,656.33, Bid Security : ₹ 2,04,000/-
(2) e-Tender No. 15-eT-SDENW-SBP-22
NAME OF WORK : EXECUTION OF CIVIL ZONAL WORKS IN NAWAPARA ROAD (IN)-TITLAGARH (EX) SECTION FOR THE PERIOD ENDING ON 30.06.2023 UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF A ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER KANTABANJ.
Approximate Cost of the Work : ₹ 1,03,07,562.41, Bid Security : ₹ 2,01,600/-
Completion Period for the Work : 30.06.2023 (for both Tenders).
Tender Closing Date and Time (for both Tenders) 29.07.2022 at 1500 Hrs.
No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/ Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./PR-257/N/22-23) Sambalpur

Three of top 10 firms lose Rs 73,630 cr in m-cap; RIL biggest loser

New Delhi The combined market valuation of three of the 10 most valued domestic firms eroded by Rs 73,630.56 crore last week, with Reliance Industries Limited taking the biggest hit. While HUL and ICICI Bank were the other laggards from the top-10 pack, TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, LIC, SBI, HDFC and Bharti Airtel were the gainers. However, the combined gain of the seven firms at Rs 49,441.05 crore was less than the total loss suffered by the three companies. Last week, the Sensex climbed 179.95 points or 0.34 per cent, while the Nifty gained 52.80 points or 0.33 per cent.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) declined by Rs 62,100.95 crore to reach Rs 16,29,684.50 crore.

ICICI Bank's valuation fell by Rs 6,654.2 crore to Rs 4,89,700.16 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) dipped Rs 4,875.41 crore to Rs 5,36,364.69 crore.

Among the gainers, the market valuation of Infosys jumped Rs 15,172.88 crore to Rs 6,21,907.38 crore. The market capitalisation (m-cap) of State Bank of India (SBI) climbed Rs 11,200.38 crore to Rs 4,16,690.11 crore. The valuation of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) went up by Rs 9,519.12 crore to Rs 4,28,044.22 crore and that of TCS advanced Rs 8,489 crore to stand at Rs 12,13,396.32 crore.

HDFC added Rs 3,924.46 crore to its valuation to reach Rs 4,01,114.96 crore.

The m-cap of Bharti Airtel gained Rs 1,043.49 crore to Rs 3,69,833.12 crore and that of HDFC Bank went up by Rs 91.72 crore to Rs 7,51,892.03 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries retained its top slot, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Infosys, HUL, ICICI Bank, LIC, SBI, HDFC and Bharti Airtel.

Udaipur murder casts shadow on tourism; advance hotel bookings cancelled

More than half the hotel bookings made for the next two months in Udaipur have been cancelled as a fallout of the gruesome killing of a tailor, stakeholders claimed.

This has come as a major setback for the tourism industry, which is the main source of livelihood for a majority of people in the city. They fear the incident, which has deeply hurt the image of the city on a large scale, will have a negative impact on the tourism season beginning September.

"Immediately after the incident and curfew, guests started cancelling the advance bookings. I had a good number of visitors for weekends during the monsoon season in July and August, but more than 50 percent bookings for the next two months have been cancelled in the last five to six days," Sudarshan Dev Singh, senior vice president of Hotel Association of Udaipur and owner of Karohi Haveli told PTI. He said the tourism industry has suffered for two years due to COVID-19 and the stakeholders were expecting good business this year, but the murder dented such prospects. "Udaipur has been a very peaceful city and no such hate crimes have happened. This is a setback not only for Udaipur but for entire Rajasthan where tourism is a key industry," Sanjay Kaushik, secretary of Rajasthan Association of Tour Operators, said in Jaipur. "Many of the tourists who had done advance bookings for Udaipur have cancelled their visits in view of the incident. Apart from attractive places, peaceful environment is one of the key reasons that attract tourists, but this incident has created a negative impression," he said.

Maruti Suzuki looks to deploy strong hybrid tech across model range



Betting big on green technologies, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) plans to have strong hybrid technology across its model range in the next 5-7 years, as per a senior company official.

The auto major aims to have strong and mild hybrid technologies as part of an initiative to have environment-friendly technology elements in each of its models, enabling better fuel efficiency and reduced carbon footprint.

Battery electric vehicles, CNG cars and greater focus on ethanol and bio-CNG compliant engines would also be prioritised going ahead.

"In the next five to seven years, every model will have some element (of green technology) or the other. There will be no pure petrol powertrain across the range," MSI Chief Technical Officer C V Raman told PTI. Only the headline and picture of this report may have been reworked by the Business Standard staff; the rest of the content is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

Boss gets offended over employee's 'Hey' on WhatsApp, calls it unprofessional, netizens react

► **When Shreyas said 'hello' to the boss, the superior was offended.**

► **It seems that there was either a linguistic barrier or an ego issue.**

► **The post received over 53.5K upvotes and 6,600 comments.**



New Delhi: We've all had bosses who were unreasonable beyond belief at some point in our lives. They say things that are absolutely nonsensical and occasionally demand respect when they don't deserve it. When someone asks for respect, though, all of that is lost.

That's what happened to a worker who revealed a WhatsApp discussion he had with his boss. A Reddit user recently uploaded a screenshot of his WhatsApp conversation

with his boss, and the post has now gone viral. Shreyas, a Reddit member, was warned for saying "hello" to his boss on WhatsApp message, according to the screenshot. "Hi Shreyas, my name is Sandeep," the boss says after texting to ask a question. "Please don't [use] the word 'hey.' It's offensive for me. If you can't remember my name, simply use 'Hi.'" The boss then asked Shreyas not to use

certain phrases in a professional setting, like "dude, man chap, and chick." Unless addressing a large gathering, he considered the phrase "hello" to be unprofessional.

by Taboola Sponsored Links You May Like Bhuj citizens are taking advantage of this benefit in his defense, Shreyas said, "Well, considering that we are having a

conversation over WhatsApp and not over LinkedIn or a mail chain. I'm just being casual as you are texting me on my personal number. And coming to being professional I'm not the one being offended." In response, the CEO stated that WhatsApp is "no longer a personal area." He stated that the messenger is used for economic purposes and added, "I am not forcing my philosophy on you." If you grasp it, great; if not, you will sooner or later. "The post has ignited a debate about professional norms since it was shared online. Several internet users voiced their opinions on the matter. The post received over 53.5K upvotes and 6,600 comments. A user said, "Seriously. 'Hey' especially with a colleague/team member with whom you've had ongoing conversations with is more than acceptable, almost preferable, to keep the convo as open as possible." "I'd be calling him 'chap' in every communication," another said. A third user stated that they would write, "Should I be permitted to greet the warmest welcome to this right and honourable person and extend my compliments to his spouse and close and more distant family and circle of acquaintances, might all their livestock breed well" and such nonsense. Fourth wrote, "I appreciate how unprofessional but emojis are fine."

PNB hikes interest rates on fixed deposits from July 4: Details here

► **The bank will continue to offer a 3% interest rate on fixed deposits maturing in 7 to 45 days.**

► **Fixed deposits maturing in 180 days or less continue to receive 4.50 percent interest.**

► **PNB will now offer an interest rate of 5.30 percent on deposits maturing in one year and up to two years.**



The bank will continue to offer a 3% interest rate on fixed deposits maturing in 7 to 45 days, while PNB will continue to offer a 3.25 percent interest rate on deposits maturing in 46 to 90 days. Read More: Boss gets offended over employee's 'Hey' on WhatsApp, calls it unprofessional, netizens react

Fixed deposits maturing in 180 days or less continue to receive 4.50 percent interest, while deposits maturing in 91 to 179 days continue to pay 4.00 percent interest. PNB will now offer an

interest rate of 5.30 percent on deposits maturing in one year and up to two years, up from 5.20 percent, a 10 basis point increase. PNB has raised the interest rate on deposits maturing in two to three years by 20 basis points, from 5.30 percent to 5.50 percent. For senior citizens, PNB has mentioned on its website that "The Senior citizens shall get an additional rate of interest of 50 bps over applicable card rates for all maturities on domestic deposits of less than Rs. 2 Crore. In case of staff members as well as retired staff members who are also Senior Citizens, maximum rate of interest to be allowed over applicable card rate shall be 150 bps except in case of PNB Tax Saver Fixed deposit scheme, where the maximum rate of interest to be allowed over applicable card rate is 100 bps." PNB Uttam Fixed Deposit Program, a special deposit scheme given by the bank, allows investors to deposit more than Rs 15 lakh. The term of this deposit scheme spans from 91 to 1111 days, with interest rates ranging from 4.05 to 5.55 percent.

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) has raised interest rates on fixed deposits under Rs 2 crore. According to the bank's official website, the new interest rates will go into effect tomorrow, July 4, 2022. Following the change, the bank increased interest rates on fixed deposits maturing in one to two years and up to three years by 10 to 20 basis points.

Discoms outstanding dues to power producers rise 4% to Rs 1.32 trn in June

New Delhi Total outstanding dues owed by electricity distribution companies (discoms) to power producers rose by 4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,32,432 crore in June 2022. Discoms owed a total of Rs 1,27,306 crore to power generation firms in June 2021, according to portal PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification And Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators). On a sequential basis, total dues in June increased from Rs 1,30,139 crore in May 2022. The PRAAPTI portal was launched in May 2018 to bring transparency in power purchase transactions between generators and discoms. In June 2022, the total overdue amount, which was not cleared even after 45 days of grace period offered by generators, stood at Rs 1,15,128 crore as against Rs 1,04,095 crore in the same month a year ago. The overdue amount stood at Rs 1,07,636 crore in May 2022. Power producers give 45 days to discoms to clear bills for electricity supply. After that, outstanding dues become overdue and generators charge penal interest on that in most cases. To give relief to power generation companies (gencos), the



Centre enforced a payment security mechanism from August 1, 2019. Under this mechanism, discoms are required to open letters of credit for getting power supply.

The Centre had also given some breathers to discoms for paying dues to gencos in view of the COVID-19-induced lockdown. The government had also waived penal charges for the late payment of dues.

In May 2020, the government had announced a Rs 90,000-crore liquidity infusion for discoms under which these utilities got loans at economical rates from Power Finance

Corporation (PFC) and REC Ltd. This was a government initiative to help gencos remain afloat. Later, the liquidity infusion package was increased to Rs 1.2 lakh crore and further to Rs 1.35 lakh crore. Discoms in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan account for the major portion of dues to gencos, the data showed. Overdue of independent power producers amounted to 53.17 per cent of the total overdue of Rs 1,15,128 crore of discoms in June 2022. The proportion of central PSU gencos in the overdue was 22.4 per cent.

Among the central public sector gencos, NTPC alone has an overdue amount of Rs 5,441.95 crore on discoms, followed by DVC at Rs 3,885.19 crore and NPCIL at Rs 3,272.24 crore, in June, 2022. Among private generators, discoms owe the highest overdue amount of Rs 21,625.02 crore to Adani Power in the month under review. The overdue of non-conventional energy producers like solar and wind stood at Rs 22,432.27 crore in June, 2022.

► **The new law permits relatives to send up to Rs 10 lakh without telling the government.**

► **If the sum is exceeded, individuals will have three months instead of 30 days to notify the government.**

► **The government has replaced the words "fifteen days" with "forty-five days"**

New Delhi: The Centre has amended the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) rules to allow relatives to send more money under foreign funding and to give organisations more time to notify the government about bank accounts for the use of funds received under the "registration" or "prior permission" category. The government has also abolished a

requirement that an organization/individual receiving foreign cash declare such contributions on its official website every quarter. The new rules, titled Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2022, were published in the gazette on Friday by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). In Rule 6 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011, the terms "one lakh rupees" shall be substituted for "ten lakh rupees," and the phrases "thirty days" shall be substituted for "three months," according to the announcement. Rule 6 addresses the possibility of obtaining foreign donations from relatives. It previously stated that "any person receiving foreign contributions in excess of one lakh rupees or equivalent thereto in a fiscal year from any of his relatives shall notify the Central government (details of funds) within 30 days of such receipt." The new law permits relatives to send up to Rs 10 lakh without telling the government. If the sum is exceeded, individuals will have three months instead of 30 days to notify the government. Similarly, the new regulations give people and organisations 45 days to inform the MHA about bank account(s) that are to be utilised for utilisation of such monies, making



amendments in rule 9, which deals with application of obtaining registration or prior approval under the FCRA to accept funds. This time limit was previously set at 30 days. by Taboola Sponsored Links You May Like The Centre has also removed paragraph 'b' from Rule 13, which dealt with declaring foreign funds on its website every quarter, including details of donors, amount received, and date of receipt. Anyone receiving foreign funds under the FCRA will now be required to follow the existing provision of posting the audited statement of accounts on receipts and utilisation of the foreign contribution, including income and expenditure statement, receipt and payment account, and balance

sheet, for each fiscal year beginning on April 1st, within nine months of the financial year's close, on its official website or on the website specified by the Centre. The government has replaced the words "fifteen days" with "forty-five days" in clause (e) of sub-rule (2) of rule 9. In the event of a change in bank account, name, address, goals, or key members of the organization(s) receiving foreign cash, the MHA now allows 45 days to notify it, rather than the prior 15-day limit. In a separate letter issued on Friday, the MHA declared five more FCRA offences "compoundable," making 12 such offences compoundable rather than immediately prosecuting the organisations or persons. Previously, just seven FCRA offences were compoundable. "The modifications are being made to ease the compliance load," stated an unnamed senior MHA official. Failure to notify about receipt of foreign funds, establishment of bank accounts, failure to put information on a website, and other FCRA offences have now become compoundable. Previously, offences such as accepting hospitality from a foreign entity without informing, using foreign funds for administrative purposes beyond the legal limit, receiving money in an account other than the one designated for foreign funds.

Global factors, crude oil, macro data to drive stocks this week: Analysts

New Delhi: Stock markets would be driven by domestic macroeconomic data, global trends, crude oil movement and FII activity this week and may remain volatile ahead of the start of the quarterly earnings season, analysts said. Tepid global cues and nervousness ahead of the earnings season have impacted sentiment, they said. "There is selling exhaustion at lower levels as market is bouncing back from every intra-day dip amid headwinds like fall in global markets, rupee weakness, and windfall tax on domestic refineries." FII's are still selling but the momentum has come down significantly, therefore, bulls will look for a relief rally if global markets remain stable," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

Crude oil prices, dollar index and rupee movement will be other dominating factors, Meena added.

"This week marks the beginning of the earnings season and IT major TCS would announce its numbers on July 8. Participants will be closely eyeing its results for any change in the guidance amid fears of a global slowdown." Besides, performance of global indices, crude movement and updates on the ongoing tussle between Russia and Ukraine will be in focus," Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. From macroeconomic data announcement, Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) services sector data on Tuesday would also influence trading. Yesha Shah, Head of Equity Research, Samco Securities, said, "Market is expected to remain volatile due to a slew of market-moving events. On the macroeconomic front, investors will be watching the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes to see where the economy is headed. Furthermore, global markets would be influenced by China's inflation figures, which are due this week."

NEWS BOX

SL vs AUS | I've never played on a pitch like this: Travis Head trying to be clear amid poor patch of form

Colombo Australia's middle order dynamo Travis Head has said that he will not be changing his methods in the final Test match against Sri Lanka. Head has been suffering from a lean patch in the longest format of the game, however, he did contribute to Australia's win in the first Test match, picking four wickets in the second innings alongside Nathan Lyon. "A few people I spoke to during the last series, (said) when you second-guess yourself or try to change things for the next Test, you get yourself in more trouble," he said. "So be nice and clear, couple of days of training and make sure I come in best prepared to play my role and there's no doubt that is to bat." "It's amazing all the work you can do in the nets and feel good and prepare the best way and talk about it, but it's about going out and emulating that. "So double down on those plans, watch(ing) how (his teammates) went about it, they did it really well for the Test," he said.

The left handed batter faced 16 balls in the first innings of the game, the only time he came out to bat in the Test match. He chipped the ball back to spinner Dhananjaya de Silva and conceded that he should have swept the ball instead. "I thought in general the way I eyed the ball up, the way my hands were working was good. It's just you make one mistake, and you sit in the sheds. The pitches in Sri Lanka were expected to be a challenge for the Australian batters, and it was for the most of them. If it were not for Usman Khawaja and man of the match Cameron Green, Australia too would have bundled out cheaply.

"These are different I've never played on a wicket like that so another one to take into consideration," Head spoke about the conditions on the visiting tour.

The second and the final Test match begins on July 8 at the Galle International Stadium, where Australia will be hoping for a cleansweep

If they want to boo, they can do that: Max Verstappen bullish ahead of Silverstone Grand Prix

Silverstone Reigning Formula One champion Max Verstappen dismissed the boos from the crowd after qualifying second for the race at Silverstone Grand Prix. One of the most anticipated races of the year, Silverstone has history with Verstappen after he crashed at the race in 2021 during an intense battle with Lewis Hamilton, the home favourite.

Their cars collided against each other during a high speed overtake attempt at the Copse which resulted in a 52G crash for Verstappen. The season ended in huge controversy in Abu Dhabi after a late change to the safety car procedure that took out the entire advantage from Mercedes, who led the race for the majority of the time.

"If they want to boo, they do that. For me it is not going to change anything," said Verstappen, after the qualifying rounds.

A section of the crowd cheered when Verstappen spun in the track, but it subsequently changed to boos after he was able to save his car and keep the nose straight. Incidentally, his crash in 2021 was cheered by the crowd as well.

"I am happy to always be here. It is a great track, a great atmosphere in general. Maybe some of them don't like me. That is fine. They all have their own opinions and I don't care," he added. Verstappen's main championship rival last year, Hamilton, was booed by Verstappen fans in Hungary last year. Hamilton took the high road by stating that the fans did not need to do that, unlike Verstappen, who had said that it was not up to him to control the actions of the crowd. We don't need to do that. We should be here pushing everybody," the Briton told reporters. "But I really do appreciate the support I have here, and maybe some of them are still feeling the pain from last year. So either way I appreciate it." Team boss Toto Wolff said booing was abusive.

Mitchell Starc on skipping IPL and BBL: I will always keep Australian cricket over franchise cricket

New Delhi Fast bowler Mitchell Starc opened up on not returning to the Indian Premier League (IPL), saying he will always keep Australian cricket over the franchise cricket.

Royal Challengers Bangalore added Starc to their squad in 2014. The speedster played a crucial role for RCB in the 2015 edition before eventually parting ways with the franchise to focus on international cricket.

In early 2018, Starc joined Kolkata Knight Riders but was ruled out due to an injury. He then opted out of the 2022 IPL mega auction, citing bubble fatigue as a reason.

After the IPL, Starc has now confirmed that he will not play in Australia's Big Bash League (BBL). The 32-year-old last played for Sydney Sixers in 2014-15. Starc took the decision as Australia have a busy international schedule and the fast bowler wants to keep himself fit for the upcoming matches. "I have always enjoyed the BBL when I have played it ... but my approach with all franchise cricket hasn't changed over the last seven years," Starc told AAP. My approach to the IPL, BBL, I have looked at the Australian schedule and wanting to be as fit and well-performed for that as I can. And franchise cricket has taken a back seat. "The schedule in the next 18 months is ridiculous. I will always keep Australian cricket front of mind, and then franchise cricket (second). I also like spending time at home and seeing my wife (Australia wicket-keeper Alyssa Healy)."

BAI suspends two players after parents call out association for age-fraud in All India U13 tournaments

- ← **The BAI deactivated IDs of two players on Saturday, 2 June**
- ← **6300 players were suspended in 2018 over the same issue**
- ← **BAI were forced to delay the competition by a day due to protests**



The Badminton Association of India (BAI) took cognisance on Saturday by deactivating the IDs of two players after many parents protested against age-fraud. The association had seen a tremendous amount of pushback from the parents who had come to see their children participate in the All India U13 tournaments, but said that

their quantum of punishment will be decided later by the Age Fraud Committee. Age-fraud, quite common in the junior levels of sports in the earlier days, saw the light of day once again with multiple cases being reported from several venues. Things escalated after parents protested against the

association for not taking immediate action. They forced the tournament to be stopped, which though was resumed after a day. The parents had even written a letter to the association on Wednesday, 29 June, but had no response from the association. "There were complaints against two players

from Rajasthan and after getting proof of age fudging we have deactivated their IDs. Further decision on punishment will be taken by the Age Fraud Committee," BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra told PTI.

"These two players had submitted false birth certificates while making their IDs and after we were made aware of the real documents and verified by the corporation, we decided to take the step." The parents wanted medical tests to be done for the doubtful cases and FIRs to be lodged but I tried to reason with them that even medical tests can be challenged on court as these kids got their IDs after doing medical tests."

After multiple age-fraud cases emerged in Hyderabad, Sandeep Heble, a member of the Age Fraud Committee, had written a letter to the BAI, urging it to look into the matter. "I told them that we can't freeze ranking points or immediately ban anybody, we have to follow a process and they understood. I also apprised them of the steps that BAI will take. So overall things have been smooth," Mishra said.

The BAI on Thursday had said that it will be forming a panel to conduct a thorough investigation and will impose a ban of minimum two years on the guilty.

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek after crashing out of Wimbledon: Didn't play good tennis, was confused about my tactics

New Delhi World No. 1 Iga Swiatek had no qualms in accepting that she did not play good tennis and was confused about her tactics at Wimbledon. Poland's Swiatek crashed out of the Championships after losing to France's Alize Cornet in straight sets 4-6, 2-6 in the third-round match on Saturday.

"What can I say? I know I didn't play good tennis. I was pretty confused about my tactics," Swiatek said in the press conference. "As a solid player, she (Cornet) used that pretty well. It wasn't good performance for me." "Usually when I'm coming back, I have some kind of a plan and I know what to change. Here I didn't know what to change. I was confused. Basically the thing that I changed this season is I started being more and more aggressive. It was really comfortable for me to have the initiative and be proactive.

"But here I couldn't control the ball. So I needed to slow down a little bit. Then in the



second set, I kind of made few attempts to speed up again, and it didn't work out." Swiatek was trailing 0-3 in the opening set but found her way back, taking an early lead in the second set 2-0. However, she lost six successive games and got knocked out of the tournament. The two-time French Open champion had not played on the grass surface in the build up to Wimbledon. Swiatek also admitted that the surface is still

- ← **Alize Cornet snapped Iga Swiatek's match winning streak at 37**
- ← **Swiatek didn't play on grass surface in the build up to Wimbledon**
- ← **Swiatek won the French Open for a**

puzzle for her to solve. On grass court everything happens so quickly. I tried many things to feel better on court, on grass courts, but it didn't really work out," she said.

"That's why I'm not even hard on myself because, it's kind of logic that if I couldn't find it even on practices, I'm not going to find it in a match." With the defeat, Swiatek's 37-match winning streak also came to an end. She matched Martina Hingis's 1997 season. "Right now even I am satisfied with this streak, so I'm happy that I was able to do that," Swiatek said.

ENG vs IND | James Anderson calls for aggressive approach with the bat: Our best line of defence is to attack

Edgbaston England were left in a tough position at the end of day 2 at Edgbaston after India's brilliant day out with both bat and ball. Jasprit Bumrah started the day by hitting veteran pacer Stuart Broad for a record 35 runs in an over, of which 29 came off his own bat. He broke Brian Lara's long standing record of 28 runs off South Africa spinner Robin Peterson.

After the bottom order's exploits, India put together a total of 416 runs in the first innings, rescuing their top order from a debacle. With cloudy conditions and a lot of rain disturbing the momentum in the second day, Jasprit Bumrah's India kept at it whenever the came out in the ground, picking up five wickets after bowling 27 overs.

The captain led from the front picking up wickets at the top, first going through the defence of left-hander Alex Lees and then edging Zack Crawley to the third slip. He also picked up the wicket of Ollie Pope.



Ahead of the game on Sunday, veteran England pacer James Anderson said that England batters would need to come out aggressively against the Indian side and try to get some ground back after getting hammered in the second day. The way we've got out of sticky situations is trying to put pressure back on the opposition," Anderson told reporters on Saturday. "I've got a fair feeling our best line of defence tomorrow will be attack. Our batters are naturally aggressive." "We've got to try to work our

- ← **Jasprit Bumrah had a tremendous outing on Day 2**
- ← **Stuart Broad got hit for 35 runs in a single over**
- ← **Jasprit Bumrah broke Brian Lara's long-standing record in Test cricket**

way back in and put some pressure back on them," he added. "We're up against it, but we've been in this position before this summer." The leading wicket-taker for England also spoke about his partner Stuart Broad, who now has the unwanted record of conceding the most number of runs in Test and T20s. "Stuart's an experienced player and I don't think it will affect him," Anderson said. "I thought he was a bit unlucky, with top edges flying everywhere." "On another day one of those top edges goes straight to hand. There was a chance down at fine leg. If that gets taken, then no-one talks about the over."

We have no intention of selling Frenkie de Jong: Barcelona set record straight amid Manchester United interest

Manchester United have been pushing hard for de Jong
The Dutch midfielder has gone on record to say that he doesn't want to leave
It was reported that Barcelona were looking to cash in on de Jong

Barcelona FC Barcelona president Joan Laporta has set the record straight in the matter of Frenkie de Jong that the club will not be selling him this season. De Jong, one of the best midfielders in the world at the moment, has been going through a tough period of time in the off season, with Barcelona allegedly trying to cash in on him. The Dutch player has seen persistent interest from Manchester United, who are currently being coached by former Ajax manager Erik ten Hag. Barcelona were reportedly going to sell him to United for a sum close to 80 million euros, but received pushback from the player himself who wanted to stay at Barcelona, which he called his favourite club in the world. Laporta,



talking to Mundo Deportivo, said that many clubs are interested in de Jong, but Barcelona do not plan to sell him. "There are many clubs that want him, not just Man United. We have no intention of selling him, he wants to stay,"

Laporta said. "I'm going to do everything to keep Frenkie, but there's also a salary issue and that would have to be adjusted." Laporta said about the slight issue with de Jong's contract. Barcelona in their original offer to de Jong had penned that the player's salary is going to exponentially increase, in case he completes fourth year with the club, which is going to come to pass once the season begins. De Jong last month declared Barcelona the 'biggest club' in the world when asked about a potential move elsewhere. "You are always flattered when teams show interest in you as a player," he said. "But I think I am at the biggest club in the world at the moment, I feel fine there, so no news," he had further added.



in his Red Bull, but that turned to applause after the 24-year-old managed to keep the nose of the car straight. This is the racer's return to Silverstone after the infamous incident between him and Lewis Hamilton in the 2021 season where the Dutch driver had a 52G crash at the high speed corner of Copse. Verstappen was trying to overtake Hamilton from the outside at close to 300kmph when the British driver forced him out of the racing line. The two cars touched each other which ended up in Verstappen getting thrown out of the track, through the gravel and straight into the barricades. Verstappen will be hopeful of a victory this time around in the British Grand Prix, however, he should face steep competition from Carlos Sainz, should the wet conditions continue at the Silverstone. This is Sainz's first ever pole at Silverstone and he is expected to do well if his Ferrari holds out.

Odisha bags "Top Performer" in DPIIT State's Startup Ranking 2021

Bhubaneswar, July 4 (TNB): Odisha sets the tone of commitment to the startup ecosystem in the state with securing the "Top Performer" in the third edition of DPIIT State Startup Ranking 2021, released by Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles on 4th July 2022 in a felicitation ceremony held at The Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) conducted the 3rd edition of the State Startup Rank-

ing exercise with the key objective to strengthen the support of States and UTs who converge their efforts to holistically build their startup ecosystems. State Startup Ranking Framework 2021 was developed as a robust and outcome-oriented exercise that targeted to achieve large scale progress across each State and UT. The evaluation carried out a detailed assessment of responses across 26 parameters and feedback was received from various stakeholders.

The framework encouraged 31 states and union territories to work



towards reducing regulations for the expansion of startups and strengthening support for the startup ecosystem. This exercise having launched in 2018, awarded Odisha for being the "Leader State" for its support to the Startup

Ecosystem in 2019 and in this State Startup Ranking-2021, Odisha took a leap to be accorded with the Top Performer position for instituting inclusive and holistic policies and schemes to develop entrepreneurs across every

corner of the State. Odisha has left no stone unturned to nurture and promote the startups in the state and has always taken progressive initiatives for empowering the young talents who aspire to become entrepreneurs.

"Currently, we are working out on the new Odisha Startup & Innovation Policy-2022 which will be the best policy in the country adding support system for Student Innovation, Women Entrepreneurship and Grassroot/Rural Innovation. We are focusing on creating a conducive environment for startups to grow and build a world-

class startup ecosystem for the young entrepreneurs/innovators of Odisha." said the Executive Chairman, Dr. Omkar Rai on the achievement of Odisha in State Startup Ranking 2021. Startup Odisha has so far recognised more than 1300 startups out of which more than 40% are led by women. To support the startups there are 15 nodal institutions, 24 incubators and 150 mentors onboarded with Startup Odisha. The multifaceted growth of startups in the state shall see further growth in coming years and contribute to the nation's economical progress.

Odisha establishes 18 marine police stations to check illegal intrusion, terror attack - Minister



Bhubaneswar, July 4 (UNI) Odisha government has set up 18 Marine Police stations to counter any possible terror attack, prevent illegal intrusion and entry of unsocial elements into the state, Minister of State for Home Tusharkanti Behera told the state Assembly on Monday. Replying to a question of Sanjeev Kumar Mallik, the Minister said, the government has also agreed to recruit 280 boatmen retired from the Indian Navy and Coast Guard to operate the marine boats.

He said the employees of the marine Police stations are being imparted training in phases by the Coast Guard and Navy at Rashtriya Coast Guard Academy, Okha, Gujarat. Indian Coast Guard and Marine Police stations are regularly checking the fishing boats and boats plying in the sea, the minister said adding Plan is on to provide HF and VHF to marine police stations and the boats in the coming days.

Four injured as private bus catches fire in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, July 4 (UNI) Four private bus passengers were injured when the vehicle caught fire near Baramunda bus stand here on Monday. Sources said one of the tyres of the bus coming from Berhampur in Odisha's Ganjam district burst and the vehicle collided with the

bridge leading to a fire in the engine.

The panicky passengers soon alighted from the bus and ran for shelter. The firemen rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze. However, four passengers sustained minor injuries in the mishap and were admitted to a nearby hospital.

Man get lifer for killing elder person

Nareish Ch. Pattanayak Keonjhar, July 04 : District and session Judge Chitranjan Mohapatra, on Monday sentenced Padmalochan Mohakud (32) a man of Ghatagaon police station area for life imprisonment and imposed a fifty thousand fine for allegedly killing a 65 year old man Bidyadhar Mohakud in a land dispute. The incident took place on Oct,5 2018, near Dumuria village under Ghatagaon block when the deceased was returning from the weekly market after selling vegetables.

Padmalochan who was waiting on the way allegedly stabbed Bidyadhar with a sharp knife on the road where he died on the spot. On the basis of complaints from family members of Bidyadhar police arrested the accused and sent to jail. After hearing witnesses of 14 persons and going through the police report, has sentenced to life imprisonment and imposed the fine, sources said.

DOCTORS NEED TO SERVE SOCIETY WITH PASSION: IMS DEAN

Bhubaneswar, July 4 (TNB): Doctors should serve the society with passion which will go a long way in avoiding unsavoury incidents of attacks on medical professionals, Prof. (Dr.) Sanghamitra Mishra, Dean of Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, said on Monday. "Doctors have a special place in society and such happenings should not occur and will not occur if society accepts them better for providing better commu-

nity level medical care" Prof. (Dr.) Mishra said while addressing a function organised to mark the Doctor's Day.

Doctor's Day, she said, was observed on July 1 every year which was also the birthday of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy who was also former Chief Minister of West Bengal. Dr. Roy had played a crucial role in the establishment of Indian Medical Association and Medical Council of India which is now known as the National Medical



Council, she said.

Referring to the theme for this year's Doctor's Day- 'Family doctors on the frontline', Prof. (Dr.) Mishra told medical stu-

dents that they should aim to involve themselves with the family members of the patient for more effective health care at community level. Medical students in

their third year, as per the National Medical Commission draft bill proposal have to adopt 7-8 families in a village to understand their health care problems at family level, which will go a long way towards holistic care of patients. Prof. (Dr.) Pusparaj Samantasinghar, Medical Superintendent of the hospital, and professors of different departments also spoke on the occasion. Students held stage show to depict different roles of a doctor in society.

Talcher Medical Action Committee did 72 hour economic blockade to run the medical college soon



Susil Ku. Aich Angul, July 04 : A long-running Talcher Medical College building has been set up in Anugol district's Talcher sub division, but it has yet to be operational, prompting a 72-hour economic blockade by the Talcher Medical Action Committee today. According to

the Talcher Action Committee, the state government has agreed to pay MCL to run the medical college, but a month later, no progress has been made and the enrollment process has not started. The executive committee today called for an immediate action to start the enrollment process and continue the crackdown, which has been supported by various unions in Talcher. Hence in Talcher shop, bus service and Coal transportation is closed today.

Rathayatra Special Handloom Expo-2022 Inaugurated

Bhubaneswar, July 4 (TNB): As per the revised annual calendar approved by the Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Department, Govt. of Odisha, the Special Handloom Expo-2022 is being organized by Directorate of Textiles, Odisha, Bhubaneswar on the occasion of Ratha Yatra under POHI-2022-23 funds to boost up the sales and provide regular employment to the weaver members of the PWCS/SHGs. Today evening, the Special Expo is being inaugurated by Smt. Rita Sahu, Hon'ble Minister,



Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Department, Govt. of Odisha. In the inaugural function Smt. Subha Sharma, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, HT&H Department, Sri

Sushant Kumar Dash, Director of Textiles & Handlooms, Odisha, were also present. The Special Expo will continue up to dt.20.07.2022. Here 34 nos. of stall has been erected

in which PWCS of Baragrh, Cuttack, Sonepur, Athagarh, Baripada, Khurda, Nayagarh, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Boudh Zone for showcasing and sale their products.

The stalls are allotted to the participant on free of cost. In this Ekambra Haat from dt.02.10.2021 to 30.06.2022 there are 994 nos. of weavers/organization and handicrafts artisans were participated in the fair being organized by the Handlooms, Textiles and Handicraft Department, Govt. of Odisha and able to achieve sales of

Rs.1028.65 lakh. Besides, Food stall in the fair sold Rs.179.82 lakh and 15 nos of cultural programs also organized during the aforesaid period. This is a common platform where customers will get handloom products of all over the state in a reasonable price with 10% Govt. rebate. Customers are requested to avail the opportunity. The program was co-ordinated by the Member Secretary & CEO of State Agency for Development of Handloom Clusters (SADHAC), Bhubaneswar to make it a grand success.

Plastic pollution is one the biggest Environmental threats we are facing today

Akshya Rout JAJPUR, July 4 : Plastic pollution is one the biggest environmental threats we are facing today. It has infiltrated our lives and we've become so dependent on it that we ignore the negative effects it has on us Said Writer Engnieer Tara prasad Mishra. Plastic is everywhere nowadays. People are using it endlessly just for their comfort. However, no one realizes how it is harming our planet. We need to become aware of the consequences so that we can stop plastic pollution. Kids should be taught from their childhood to avoid using plastic. Similarly, adults must check each other on the same. In addition, the government must take stringent measures to stop plastic pollution before it gets

too late. Plastic has become one of the most used substances. It is seen everywhere these days, from supermarkets to common households.

Why is that? Why is the use of plastic on the rise instead of diminishing? The main reason is that plastic is very cheap. It costs lesser than other alternatives like paper and cloth. This is why it is so common. Secondly, it is very easy to use. Plastic can be used for almost anything either liquid or solid. Moreover, it comes in different forms which we can easily mold. Plastic Pollution is affecting the whole earth, including mankind, wildlife, and aquatic life. It is spreading like a disease which has no cure. We all must realize the harmful impact it has on our lives so as to avert it

as soon as possible. Plastic pollutes our water. Each year, tonnes of plastic are dumped into the ocean. As plastic does not dissolve, it remains in the water thereby hampering its purity. This means we won't be left with clean water in the coming years. Furthermore, plastic pollutes our land as well. When humans dump Plastic waste into landfills, the soil gets damaged. It ruins the fertility of the soil. In addition to this, various disease-carrying insects collect in that area, causing deadly illnesses. Most importantly, plastic pollution harms the Marine life.

The plastic litter in the water is mistaken for food by the aquatic animals. They eat it and die eventually. For instance, a dolphin died due to a

plastic ring stuck in its mouth. It couldn't open its mouth due to that and died of starvation. Thus, we see how innocent animals are dying because of plastic pollution. In short, we see how plastic pollution is ruining everyone's life on earth. We must take major steps to prevent it. We must use alternatives like cloth bags and paper bags instead of plastic bags. If we are purchasing plastic, we must reuse it.

We must avoid drinking bottled water which contributes largely to plastic pollution. The government must put a plastic ban on the use of plastic. All this can prevent plastic pollution to a large extent. Plastic Pollution is on the rise because nowadays people are using plastic end-

lessly. It is very economical and easily available. Moreover, plastic does not dissolve in the land or water, it stays for more than hundred years contributing to uprise of plastic pollution. Plastic pollution is impacting the earth in various ways. Firstly, it is polluting our water. This causes a shortage of clean water and thus we cannot have enough supply for all. Moreover, it is also ruining our soils and lands. The soil fertility is depleting and disease-carrying insects are collecting in landfills of plastic. Engineer Arun Pattnaik Said "If we pollute the air, water, and soil that keep us alive and well, and destroy the biodiversity that allows natural systems to function, no amount of money will save us."

EDUCATION IS THE BEDROCK OF CIVILISATION JAGADGURU RAMANANDACHARYA

Bhubaneswar, July 4 (TNB): Education is the bedrock of civilization and no progress can be thought of without acquiring wisdom, Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Ramabhadracharya of Chitrakoot said here on Sunday. Jagadguru Ramabhadracharya, who was delivering the annual lecture at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) here, said students should be 'karmayogis' which would lead to enlightenment of the world. He also explained the meaning behind the name 'siksha' and 'anusandhan', given to the Deemed to be University, to the audience. Urging the youth to draw inspiration from the slogan 'Atmanirvar Bharat', the Swami stressed on students' discharging their responsibility honestly while leaving the outcome in the hands of the almighty. "Our country has two names, India and Bharat, but the sec-



ond one should be adopted for use as hardly any nation in the world has two names. The necessary change should be made at the appropriate level," he said. The Swami, who had lost his eyesight while he was hardly two month old, had turned a university topper earning nine gold medals and acquiring Ph.D and D.Litt degrees. He can speak in 22 languages and has set up a university for those with disability.

Arguing in favour of use of hindi for education, he suggested that SOA should include hindi as one

of its medium of instruction. SOA Vice-President Ms. Saswati Das was present in the function which was attended by senior functionaries of the university. Dr. Basanta Kumar Pati of the Institute of Medical Education and SUM Hospital welcomed the Swami while Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) conducted the proceedings. The meeting was also addressed by Dr. K.S.Rao, Secretary of Sahitya Akademi and Prof. Bijay Kumar Sahu, Dean, Institute of Agricultural Sciences.