

Union Ministers On District Tour Lok Seva Bhawan Allows Public Entry

Bhubaneswar: As many as 10 Union Ministers including Dharmendra Pradhan

iting Koraput on Tuesday. Education Minister Mr.Pradhan will visit

Processing Industries and Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel – Gajapati, MoS Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shobha Karandlaje – Nabarangpur, MoS Commerce and Industry Som Prakash – Rayagada and MoS Education Subhash Sarkar – Kandhamal. After visiting the Aspirational Districts by April 20, these Union Ministers will submit their report to the Union Government.

The State Government has already appointed Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, Ashok Kumar Meena as State Nodal Officer for smooth implementation of the Program.

The State Government has also appointed senior officers as in-charge of the 10 Districts while the

Union Government has also appointed Central Prabhari Officers for the Aspirational Districts who regularly visit the districts and present their reports to the NITI Aayog. It may be mentioned that the Centre had launched the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' initiative in January 2018 to improve India's ranking under Human Development Index, raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth of all.

A total of 117 Aspirational Districts across India including 10 from Odisha have been identified by NITI Aayog based upon composite indicators from health & nutrition, education, agriculture & water resources, financial inclusion and skill development and basic infrastructure.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Government has decided to allow public for entry in Loka Seva Bhawan, Kharavel Bhawan and Rajiv Bhawan from April 18.

OSD-cum-Special Secretary, Home Department, P.C. Pradhan has informed all Departments about this decision of the Government on Tuesday.

The three State Headquarters offices will reopen for the public after a gap of two years. The offices were closed down for the public and journalists following the



outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020.

"Keeping in view of the recent pandemic situation and relaxation of Covid related restrictions, the Government has been pleased to inform that the reception counter at the Loka Seva Bhawan, Kharavel Bhawan and Rajiv Bhawan will be made

fully functional from April 18, 2022 for allowing general public for their grievances and other official work in the Secretariat," Mr.Pradhan said in the letter. The public/others will be able to apply for passes through online via link <http://epravesh.odisha.gov.in/> or through mobile app (e-Pravesh).

Further, the OSD informed that only accredited journalists will be allowed to enter into the Secretariat from the said date.

However, earlier, all journalists authorised by the State's Information and Public Relation Department were allowed into the Secretariat buildings. Notably, Opposition BJP and Congress members had demanded entry of journalists into the Secretariat during the recently concluded Budget Session of Assembly.



and Ashwini Vaishnaw will visit 10 Aspirational Districts of Odisha to review developmental works undertaken at the ground-level in the districts.

As many as 10 Districts of Odisha are covered under the Programme. The Districts are—Nuapada, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Bala-ngir, Dhe-nkanal, Koraput and Gajapati.

As per schedule, Minister of State (MoS) for Agriculture and Food Processing, Sanjeev Kumar Balyan is vis-

Dhenkanal, while Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will inspect developmental projects in Malkangiri district. According to sources, Mr.Pradhan is scheduled to attend different programs in Dhenkanal district on April 13, 14 and 15 and in Bhubaneswar on April 16.

Similarly, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda will be visiting Aspirational District Kalahandi, MoS Rural Development Niranjana Jyoti—Balangir, MoS Law and Justice Satya Pal Singh Baghel – Nuapada, MoS Food

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen unveils Shri Jagannath medical college

PURI(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated

he said. In the current academic session, 100 students includ-

implement the Central government's Ayushman Bharat -



the Shri Jagannath Medical College and Hospital (MCH) here on Monday. On the occasion, Naveen welcomed the first batch of students and interacted with them. At least 15 per cent seats in all medical colleges of the State are reserved for qualifying students coming from government schools and colleges,

ing 30 girls are enrolled in the new MCH.

Attending the event virtually, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya praised Naveen for successfully implementing various healthcare schemes for people of Odisha. He also urged the Chief Minister to

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme in the State.

"The Union government is establishing a number of medical colleges and hospitals in Odisha including the one at Sundargarh (NTPC) and another at Talcher. Seats in these medical colleges are being increased every year,"

Fighting for seven years, gangrape survivor from PoK seeks PM Narendra Modi's help

MUZAFFARABAD (KCN): A gang rape survivor from Paki-

for justice for the past seven years. The PoJK police, the gov-

kill me and my children. I wish to request PM Modi to provide us shelter and protection".

Maria has been running from pillar to post to seek hard punishment for those involved in the heinous crime in 2015. In her earlier video, she narrated the incident. She said, "Haroon Rashid, Mamoon Rashid, Jameel Shafi, Waqas Ashraf, Sanam Haroon and three

more were involved in crime against me". She approached the police and local politicians but failed to get justice. She even wrote several letters to local authorities including the Chief Justice of Pakistan occupied Kashmir and got the humiliating response that she is a married woman. Many rape survivors and their families in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir



children face a life threat.

In an emotional video message, Maria Tahir said, "I am a gang rape victim fighting

how as to come to media. My children are facing life threats. The local police and a senior politician, Choudhary Tariq Farooq, will anytime

BJP activists demonstrate before Raj Bhawan demanding President Rule in Bengal

KOLKATA(KCN): A group of BJP workers on Tuesday demon-

About 20 demonstrators, led by BJP leader and councillor

Rastrapatir Sashon jari korte hobey'(demand im-

from the spot. The activists staged the agitation in front of the Raj Bhawan despite the issuance of Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code in the high-security area.



strated before Raj Bhawan here to demand the imposition of President's Rule in the state citing the "collapse of law and order" in the state.

of Kolkata Municipal Corporation Sajal Ghosh, raised slogans 'ei Trinamool aar noy' (not this TMC-run government anymore), obilombe

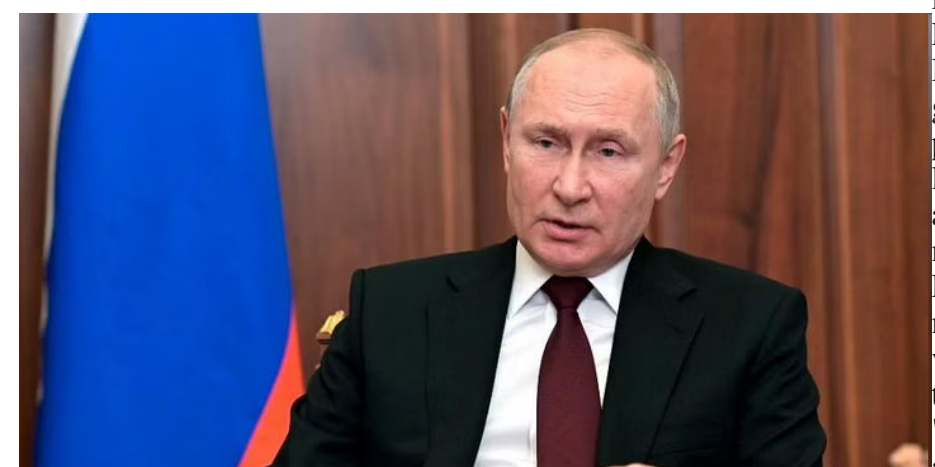
mediate imposition of President's Rule), and also tried to squat on the road in front of the Main Gate of the Raj Bhawan before they were removed

"From Anis Khan murder to the incident at Bogtui where nine people were burnt to death, gang rape and death of a 14-year-old girl in Hanskhali to the attack on Ram Navami processionists in Howrah, this government under Mamata Banerjee has miserably failed to prevent

Russia successfully resisted new sanctions 'blitz': President Vladimir Putin

MOSCOW(KCN): Russian President Vladimir Putin says the Russian economy has successfully resisted new Western

Putin argued that the sanctions will backfire against the West. For example, he said that Western restrictions on fertilizer exports from Russia and ally Belarus will drive up global fertilizer prices, eventually leading to food shortages and increased migration flows.



sanctions over Ukraine.

Speaking on Tuesday on a visit to the Vostochny space launch facility in Russia's Far East, Putin said that Russia's economy and financial system withstood the impact of what he called the Western sanctions "blitz" and the ruble has recovered its losses.

Putin said that "common sense should prevail" and added that the West should "come back to reason and make well-balanced decisions without losing its face". He contended that "they won't be able to shut all the doors and windows". He argued that new Western restrictions on high-tech exports will encourage Russia to move faster to develop new technologies, opening a "new window of opportunities".

Get Back to Nature opens exclusive store in Dumduma, Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): An organic food brand, Get Back to Nature, opened its first exclusive store at Cosmopolis Apartment in Dumduma area of the City. The firm founded by software professional Poonam Mohapatra is offering chemical and residue free food products to the customers. Get Back to Nature's store was inaugurated by former MP Prasanna Kumar Patasani. "I am glad to inaugurate Get Back to Nature store. Qual-

ity and purity of the food we consume is very much vital for our health. Organic foods are highly nutritional as they contain no chemicals. I urge people to opt for more organic food products because if we take care of our health, our health will take care of us," he said. "Initially, we are planning to open our outlets in residential apartments. Soon, we will have 10 more outlets in Bhubaneswar and subsequently we will open stores across Odisha," said Get Back to Nature's Founder, Poonam Mohapatra. The brand is offering food products like lentils, honey, nuts, cooking oil, spices, fruits, vegetables, among others.

Fame Forever by Lifestyle launches their latest campaign

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Lifestyle, India's leading fashion destination for the latest trends, launches their newest campaign for Fame Forever- 'Wear it. Pair it. Anywhere it.' The collection features functional pieces that are essential for men, women and kids at affordable prices. The collection offers a

right assortment of colours, prints and silhouettes. For women, modern silhouettes and trends like soft, ultra-comfort graphic tees, and fashionable tops

CEO, Lifestyle said, "We are excited to launch the new collection from Fame destination for the latest trends. Part of Dubai based retail and hospitality

conglomerate - The Landmark Group, Lifestyle brings multiple categories including men, women and kids'

Fame Forever offers vibrant, young and versatile everyday clothing for men, women and kids



range of versatile creations that can be styled in different ways to create countless looks. Consumers today, are seeking fashion as a form of self-expression and prefer clothing that is high on utility while shopping for their everyday needs. The campaign highlights the idea of versatility by showcasing how every individual has different style preferences and Fame Forever fulfills each individual's requirements. Fame Forever by Lifestyle has unique pieces that can be adapted in many ways at great prices. Whether it's working from home or office, or just chilling out with friends and family, the new collection has got you covered. The attractive price points make it even more desirable as customers get to transition into vibrant, feel-good fashion with trendy styles for the whole family. Fame Forever by Lifestyle's newest range perfectly captures the vibe of the season with the

go perfectly well with breathable stretch denim while keeping the style up-to-date and available at desirable prices starting at just 299. The category for men is led by colourful polos, slim fit shirts, and super comfortable printed tees that can be paired with knitted shorts that offer all-day comfort starting at 499. For kids, quirky graphic tees with comfy everyday shorts for boys and chic summer dresses for girls at attractive price points starting at just 299. **Speaking on the occasion, Mr Devarajan Iyer -**

value while apparel, footwear, handbags, fashion accessories and beauty under the convenience of a single roof. Lifestyle provides seamless and hassle-free shopping, offering leading national and international brands along with the convenience of a true omni-channel experience with its online store lifestylestores.com. The company is recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including Most Admired Fashion Retail Destination of the Year at Images Fashion Awards for 5 consecutive years; No. 1 India's Best Company to Work for in the retail industry for 2 consecutive years and Top 10 Best companies to Work for in India in 2015 - Great Places to Work Institute®. Currently, Lifestyle has a network of over 80 stores, over 40 cities and delivers to over 19000 pin codes. Lifestyle is a true omni-channel player with its online store lifestylestores.com.

and Khordha Special Squad arrested four robbers and recovered stolen property of more than thirty lakhs. In a press meet at Model PS khordha, Superintendent of Police, Alekha Chandra Pahi said that " Baghamari

Inter CG/BN (Adm/OPS) Yoga competition - 2022 of Manipur & Nagaland sector concluded today at G.C. CRPF Imphal

Imphal (KCN): GC CRPF Imphal hosted Inter GC/BN (Adm/Ops) Yoga Competition-2022 of Manipur & Nagaland, Sector. The closing ceremony of Inter GC/BN (Adm/Ops) Yoga



Competition-2022 of Manipur & Nagaland, Sector was held at GC CRPF, Langjing, Imphal today i.e on 12/04/2022. Total 09 teams of Sector i.e GC, Imphal, 32 BN, 69 BN, 86 BN, 78 BN, 87 BN, 109 BN, 143 BN and 173 BN participated in this competition. Shri Dinesh Commandant, GC CRPF, Langjing, Imphal was

the chief guest of the Closing Ceremony. All senior officers, SOs and jawans were also present on the occasion. The final competition was conducted between 173 V/S 143 BN. 173 BN BN secured first position and 143 Bn secured second position. Shri Dinesh Commandant, GC CRPF, Langjing, Imphal distributed trophy and medals to runner and winner teams. CT/GD Chhajuram Yadav of 173 Bn was declared "The Best Yoga Player of the Competition-2022". This competition was started from 11/04/2022 on knock out basis and concluded today. The Chief Guest Shri Dinesh Commandant, GC CRPF, Langjing, Imphal congratulated the winner and runner up teams. Also he congratulated all the participating teams of Sector for making this competition grand success. He also asserted that the team of 173 Bn and 143 Bn played in a very professional manner that they would bring laurel to the organization at the inter force level like all India Police meet and national level. The Chief Guest declared Inter GC/BN (Adm/Ops) Inter GC/BN (Adm/Ops) Yoga Competition-2022 closed.

HITK student secured All India Second Rank in TCS CodeVita 2022 Season 10

Kolkata (KCN): Proud to state our student of Heritage Institute of Technology, Srinjoy Ray from B.Tech- Computer Science & Engineering, Batch-2024, secured All India Second Rank in the World Largest Programming Competition TCS CodeVita 2022 Season-10 Round -1. The results were out recently in the previous week and it's a matter of pride not only to the Institute but also to the state of West Bengal and that too from a private engineering college. Srinjoy had also earned Candidate Master title from CodeForces and he loves to do coding and is very much passionate about it. "I am sure that I will move to the finals and I am thankful to the teachers who have helped me a lot," said Srinjoy. "Later in the previous month one of our stu-

dent secured third rank in GATE 2022 and now 2nd rank in TCS CodeVita which shows that we are successful in inculcating the right knowledge to the students," said Mr. P.K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata. "It's a proud moment for our Institute and we love to showcase such bright talents like Srinjoy," said Dr. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata. "Srinjoy is a hardworking student and he is very much passionate about coding. He actively participates in various programming competitions and wins awards for our Institute. We feel proud for Srinjoy," said Prof. Subashish Majumder, HOD, Department of Computer Science Engineering, Heritage Institute of Technology.



Police Arrest Four Robbers, Stolen Goods Recovered

Khordha(KCN): Kumar Gouda from Baghamari Police Karachuli, Buguda,



and Khordha Special Squad arrested four robbers and recovered stolen property of more than thirty lakhs. In a press meet at Model PS khordha, Superintendent of Police, Alekha Chandra Pahi said that " Baghamari

Baghamari PS, case no-37/2022, under sections -379/34 IPC turned to 395 IPC was registered and investigation was set into motion. Acting swiftly on the complaints a special police team headed by SDPO, Nayak, Debasish Swain, Biswajit Parida and Santosh Kumar Routray. Several case registered against the name of accused Prafulla Kumar Nayak, Debasish Swain and Biswajit Parida. More than



police station received a complaints from Santosh

Khordha, Sushil Kumar Mishra, Inspector Archana Mallick, SI, Rashmi Ranjan Das, Brahmananda Swain, Padmalochan Behera, Sukanta Kumar Dalei and Khordha Special Squad swung into action and arrested the accused persons identified as Prafulla Kumar thirty lakhs stolen property have been recovered from the accused. Community members have applauded the efforts made by the police and special squad in solving the case. We assure community members that police have resolved to act tough against individuals involves in criminals activities.

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Phenomenal experience: Riteish Deshmukh praises Anil Kapoor, Anurag Kashyap's 'AK vs AK'

NEW DELHI(K-CN): Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the

blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted

only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor_has outdone your entire performance in one

movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kidnapping the actor's



Netflix based film "a phenomenal experience". Deshmukh took to Twitter to share a poster of the movie, which features Anurag Kashyap and Anil Kapoor in lead roles. "Mind has been

Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

scene." the 'Housefull' actor's tweet further read. While Kapoor essays the role of a yesterday actor, Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. 'AK vs AK,' revolves around the story of a

daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed book



NEW DELHI: Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered

them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a

candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I

like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book

Warner Bros announces Chocolate Factory prequel titled 'Wonka' to release on March 17, 2023

(GNS Bureau) Moving ahead with

The project, which has a script from

Based on Roald Dahl's popular



"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" prequel, titled "Wonka", Warner Bros has declared the release date of movie. As per media reports, Paul King of "Paddington" fame will tackle the movie, which will debut in theatres on March 17, 2023.

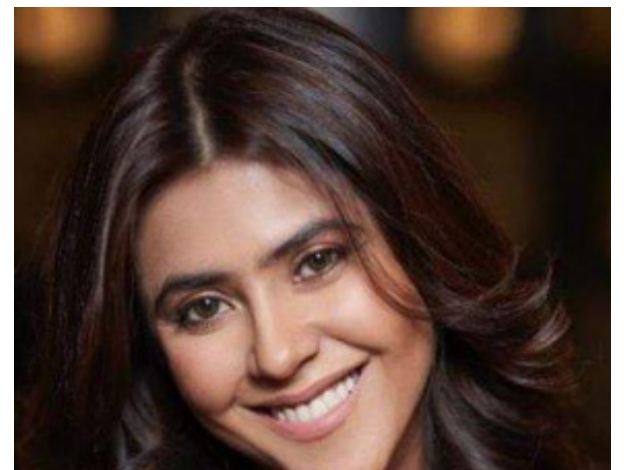
Simon Rich, will follow "a young Willy Wonka and his adventures prior to opening the world's most famous chocolate factory." David Heyman, whose credits includes the "Harry Potter" franchise and "Paddington", is backing the movie.

children's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", the classic story follows a poor boy named Charlie, who is one of five youngsters to win a golden ticket to tour the world-renowned, yet highly secretive, chocolate factory run by Willy Wonka.

SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The Su-

terim protection to Kapoor.



preme Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for alleged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted in-

She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her. The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.

#YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the caution, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon.

Katrina's sister Isabelle Kaif to feature opposite Pulkit Samrat in 'Suswagatam Khushaamadeed'

(GNS Bureau) Isabelle Kaif to feature opposite Pulkit Samrat in Suswagatam Khush-aamadeed. Its a social entertainer with an

sister of actress Katrina Kaif, she took to Instagram to announce her upcoming project. She wrote, "Namaste - Aadaab Ab hogi

our chemistry is quite dhamakadaar. People on the set say that we look like a patakha together. Isabelle has brought fresh



underlying message on social harmony. In this film, Pulkit will essay the role of a Delhi boy, Aman, with Isabelle playing the role of Noor who hails from the city of Agra. Isabelle Kaif is a

jaldi aapse mulaqaat! So excited to share with you guys the first look of Suswagatam Khushaamadeed." Actor Pulkit Samrat said that, "I must say that

energy on the set. She's extremely hard-working and has impressed everyone on the set. She is stunning and brings a streak of innocence to her character. She has left me mesmerised."

Significance of the First Information Report

Section 154 Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 is substantially the important document that moves forward to initiate the criminal proceedings under the law to try the offence alleged by any person and the offence is



determined on the unveil of the trial after examining the evidence under the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The Section 154 contemplates that if there is an information

relating to the commission of a cognizable offence is received orally to an officer incharge of the police station shall be reduced to writing by him or under his discretion and be read over to the informant and every such information whether given in writing or reduced to writing as aforesaid shall be signed by the person giving such information and the substances thereof shall be entered into a book to be kept by such officer in such form as the State Government may be prescribed in this behalf. The principal object of the First Information Report is to set a criminal law in motion from the point of view of the investigating authorities has to obtain an information and thereafter the investigating authorities will be able to take a suitable steps for tracing and bringing to book the guilty person. However the first information report does not constitute an indefensible evidence though its importance is conveying the earliest investigation relating to the occurrence of an offence cannot be questioned. The statement of the First Information Report should be corroborated to its maker under Section 157 of the Indian Evidence Act or contradicting him under Section 145 of the Evidence Act.

Section 145 of the Evidence Act contemplates in regard to the cross examination as to the previous statements in writing. Section 157 of the Evidence Act contemplates that formal statement of the witness may be proved to corroborate the later testimony as to the same fact. The Supreme Court of India in the case of '*Parvati Devi Versus State; AIR 1952 SC 831*' has held that a previous statement of witness is admissible under Section 157 of the Evidence Act which can be used either to corroborate or to contradict him. Therefore the statement of the girl in a rape case is immediately recorded for admissibility after the occurrence under Section 157 or under Section 8 of the Evidence Act.

"8. **Motive, preparation and previous or subsequent conduct.- Any fact is relevant which shows or constitutes a motive or preparation for any fact in issue or relevant fact.**

The conduct of any party, or of any agent to any party, to any suit or proceeding, in reference to such suit or proceeding, or in reference to any fact in issue therein or relevant thereto, and the conduct of any person an offence against whom is the subject of any proceeding, is relevant, if such conduct influences or is influenced by any fact in issue or relevant fact, and whether it was previous or subsequent thereto."

The substance of an FIR has to be entered into a book to be kept at every police station in such a form as the State Government may prescribe and the said book is called or known as "General Diary". It is also called "Station Diary" or the "Station House Register". The FIR contains (i) the name and address of the victim; (ii) The exact date and the time of the offence that has occurred and is being reported; (iii) Accurate facts of the offence that has occurred; (iv) Detailed particulars of the persons or person involved in the offence; (v) The location or the place of the offence so committed. Therefore the registration of a FIR provides a basis in criminal proceedings and the same be registered promptly or without any delay after the occurrence of the offence. The cognizance on the basis of the FIR is the duty of the State or the investigating authorities so that the victim would get justice without any negligence.

In the case of '*Surjeet Singh & Gurmeet Singh Versus State of Punjab (1993)*

Suppl. (1) SCC 208', the Hon'ble Supreme Court

on the First Information Report has held that it is not an encyclopedia of the entire case and has even not a substantive piece of evidence. Its value no doubt but for the purpose of corroborating or contradicting the maker.

In the case of '*Madhusudan Singh & Anr. Vs State of Bihar; (1996) 11 SCC 248*', the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held FIR by itself not a substantive piece of evidence, the same can be used to contradict or corroborate the maker thereof in the manner provided under the Evidence Act. (Para 5).

"5. **The High Court has dealt with the case of Madhusudan Singh in para 23 of the judgment. A perusal of the said paragraph shows that for coming to the conclusion, that he was responsible for misappropriation of 19 qtls. of wheat, reliance has been placed only on the allegations contained in the FIR. FIR by itself is not a substantive piece of evidence. It can be used to either contradict or itself is not a substantive piece of evidence. It can be used to either contradict or corroborate the maker thereof in the manner provided under the Evidence Act, 1872. Nothing has been brought to our notice from the record from which it may be possible to hold that the allegations made in the FIR regarding Madhusudan Singh, A-7 were at all substantiated at the trial by any oral evidence. The allegations contained in the FIR have, thus, not been proved at the trial. That being the position, we do not find it possible to uphold the conviction and sentence of Madhusudan Singh, A-7 for any of the charges."**

Delay in lodging the FIR..... is not sufficient to draw the adverse inference against the prosecution case. Facts and circumstances of each case to be considered as held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of '*Amar Singh Versus Balwinder Singh & Ors., (2003) 2 SCC 518*'.

In the case of '*Srinarayan Saha Versus State of Tripura; (2004) 7 SCC 775*' the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held mere delay in lodging the FIR is really of no consequence, if the reason is explained (para 5).

"We wish to first deal with the plea relating to the delayed lodging of the FIR. As held in a large number of cases, mere delay in lodging the FIR is really of no consequence, if the reason is explained. In the instant case, the evidence of PW 3, the victim and that of her husband, PW 4, clearly shows that there was initial reluctance to report the matter to the police by PW 4. He, in fact, had taken his wife to task for the incident and had slapped her. In *Karnel Singh v. State of M.P.* it was observed that a woman who was a victim of sexual violence, is not an accomplice to the crime but is a victim of same amount of suspicion as that of a culprit. Therefore, the rule of prudence that her evidence must be corroborated in material particulars, has no application. At the most, the court may look for some evidence which lends assurance."

Registration of FIR:- In the case of '*Lalita Kumari Versus State of U.P. (2008) 7 SCC 164*', the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed a comprehensive order expressing its deep anguish on non-registration of the FIR even in a case of cognizable offence. Pursuant to the said order, the batch of criminal appeals including the writ petition filed by Lalita Kumari were heard by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and pronounced the judgment on 27.02.2012 and referred vide the said judgment to the Constitution Bench for resolving the divergent views in various cases in public importance. (Paragraphs 93 to 100)

"93. **The Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System headed by Dr. Justice V.S.**

Radha Shyam Jena

Malimath also noticed the plight faced by several people due to

non-registration of FIRs and recommended that action should be taken against police officers who refuse to register such information. The Committee observed:-

"7.19.1 According to the Section 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the officer incharge of a police station is mandated to register every information oral or written relating to the commission of a cognizable offence. Non-registration of cases is a serious complaint against the police. The National Police Commission in its 4th report lamented that the police "evade registering cases for taking up investigation where specific complaints are lodged at the police stations". It referred to a study conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Opinion, New Delhi regarding "Image of the Police in India" which observed that over 50% of the respondents mention non-registration of complaints as a common practice in police stations.

7.19.2 The Committee recommends that all complaints should be registered promptly, failing which appropriate action should be taken. This would necessitate change in the mind - set of the political executive and that of senior officers.

7.19.4 There are two more aspects relating to registration. The first is minimization of offences by the police by way of not invoking appropriate sections of law. We disapprove of this tendency. Appropriate sections of law should be invoked in each case unmindful of the gravity of offences involved. The second issue is relating to the registration of written complaints. There is an increasing tendency amongst the police station officers to advise the informants, who come to give oral complaints, to bring written complaints. This is wrong. Registration is delayed resulting in valuable loss of time in launching the investigation and apprehension of criminals. Besides, the complainant gets an opportunity to consult his friends, relatives and sometimes even lawyers and often tends to exaggerate the crime and implicate innocent persons. This eventually has adverse effect at the trial. The information should be reduced in writing by the SH, if given orally, without any loss of time so that the first version of the alleged crime comes on record.

7.20.11 It has come to the notice of the Committee that even in cognizable cases quite often the Police Officers do not entertain the complaint and send the complainant away saying that the offence is not cognizable. Sometimes the police twist facts to bring the case within the cognizable category even though it is non-cognizable, due to political or other pressures or corruption. This menace can be stopped by making it obligatory on the police officer to register every complaint received by him. Breach of this duty should become an offence punishable in law to prevent misuse of the power by the police officer."

94. It means that the number of FIRs not registered is approximately equivalent to the number of FIRs actually registered. Keeping in view the NCRB figures that show that about 60 lakh cognizable offences were registered in India during the year 2012, the burking of crime may itself be in the range of about 60 lakh every year. Thus, it is seen that such a large number of FIRs are not registered every year, which is a clear violation of the rights of the victims of such a large number of crimes.

95. **Burking of crime leads to dilution of the rule of law in the short run; and also has a very negative impact on the rule of law in the long run since people stop having respect for rule of law. Thus, non-**

registration of such a large number of FIRs leads to a definite lawlessness in the society.

96. **Therefore, reading Section 154 in any other form would not only be detrimental to the Scheme of the Code but also to the society as a whole. It is thus seen that this Court has repeatedly held in various decided cases that registration of FIR is mandatory if the information given to the police under Section 154 of the Code discloses the commission of a cognizable offence.**

Is there a likelihood of misuse of the provision?

97. **Another, stimulating argument raised in support of preliminary inquiry is that mandatory registration of FIRs will lead to arbitrary arrest, which will directly be in contravention of Article 21 of the Constitution.**

98. **While registration of FIR is mandatory, arrest of the accused immediately on registration of FIR is not at all mandatory. In fact, registration of FIR and arrest of an accused person are two entirely different concepts under the law, and there are several safeguards available against arrest. Moreover, it is also pertinent to mention that an accused person also has a right to apply for "anticipatory bail" under the provisions of Section 438 of the Code if the conditions mentioned therein are satisfied. Thus, in appropriate cases, he can avoid the arrest under that provision by obtaining an order from the Court.**

99. **It is also relevant to note that in *Joginder Kumar vs. State of U.P. & Ors. (1994) 4 SCC 260*, this Court has held that arrest cannot be made by police in a routine manner. Some important observations are reproduced as under:-**

"20...No arrest can be made in a routine manner on a mere allegation of commission of an offence made against a person. It would be prudent for a police officer in the interest of protection of the constitutional rights of a citizen and perhaps in his own interest that no arrest should be made without a reasonable satisfaction reached after some investigation as to the genuineness and bona fides of a complaint and a reasonable belief both as to the person's complicity and even so as to the need to effect arrest. Denying a person of his liberty is a serious matter. The recommendations of the Police Commission merely reflect the constitutional concomitants of the fundamental right to personal liberty and freedom. A person is not liable to arrest merely on the suspicion of complicity in an offence. There must be some reasonable justification in the opinion of the officer effecting the arrest that such arrest is necessary and justified. Except in heinous offences, an arrest must be avoided if a police officer issues notice to person to attend the Station House and not to leave the Station without permission would do."

100. **The registration of FIR under Section 154 of the Code and arrest of an accused person under Section 41 are two entirely different things. It is not correct to say that just because FIR is registered, the accused person can be arrested immediately. It is the imaginary fear that "merely because FIR has been registered, it would require arrest of the accused and thereby leading to loss of his reputation" and it should not be allowed by this Court to hold that registration of FIR is not mandatory to avoid such inconvenience to some persons. The remedy lies in strictly enforcing the safeguards available against arbitrary arrests made by the police and not in allowing the police to avoid mandatory registration of FIR when the information discloses commission of a cognizable offence."**

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Audit Study on Road Safety

Bhubaneswar(KCN): To ensure proper implementation of its recommendations, the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCoRS), has appointed an agency to conduct an audit study on road safety. The Committee has appointed Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Ltd., Delhi (DIMTS) to assess the extent and quality of the actions taken by the States to implement the directions by the SCCoRS. DIMTS will carry out this assessment of three States i.e. West Bengal, Odisha and Goa. The SCCoRS will hold a project initiation meeting on April 19, 2022 at 11 AM through VC for Odisha wherein the agency will make a presentation on audit process and information requirements from each stake holding Departments and other support required as part on ground data collection and verification. Principal Secretary Transport, Bishnupada Sethi has urged concerned line



departments to facilitate required information support to the DIMTS for the audit. Sethi asked the Housing and Urban Development Department to instruct the Municipal Commissioners to attend the meeting. Joint Commissioner Transport (Road Safety), Sanjay Kumar Biswal has been nominated as Nodal Officer to facilitate and connect the Consultant's Team with the officials of the state Departments to carry out the audit study on

Road Safety. Other Departments have been requested to share the name, designation and con-

tact no. of authorized persons with whom DIMTS will interact. Departments were also requested to provide the action taken report of the letter of SCCoRS by April 14 to the Transport Commissioner for compilation by the lead agency. The lead agency will submit the compiled report to the Transport Department by April 16, the Principal Secretary said in a recent

letter. As reported by the Crime Branch, during the year 2021 there is an increase in fatalities by about 7.24% compared to 2020. During 2021, a total 10,984 road accident cases were reported in the State in which 5,081 people died and 9,782 people were injured. In the year 2020, 10,984 road accident cases were reported in the State in which 4,738 people died. There has been a steady increase in the number of fatalities in Odisha due to road accidents from 3,931 (year 2014) to 5,081 (year 2021), an increase of about 29% during the period. It was the direction of the Supreme Court Committee to reduce fatalities by 50% by 2020 taking the year 2014 as base. However, instead of curbing down the fatalities, the numbers go on increasing. Therefore, the Road Safety Audit will be conducted on some major and accident-prone roads of the State, sources said.

Odisha Exports Touch \$17 Billion

New Delhi: Odisha has been able to export more than US \$ 16,880 Million of materials during Financial Year 2021-22, while achieving robust growth, officials say. Santosh Sarangi, Director General Foreign Trade (DGFT) reviewed State wise export during FY 2021-22 here on 11 April. While India's merchandise exports touched a record \$418 Billion in 2021-22, exceeding the Union Government's target by about 5 Percent and recording a 40 Percent growth over the previous year, said he. From Odisha Engineering Goods, Iron Ore, Coal, Minerals, Petroleum and Marine Products topped the list of merchandise of exports. On Engineering Goods front Odisha has exported \$11,578.3 Million during FY 2021-22. Mostly aluminium ingots were exported from the state, which constitutes the lion share of engineering goods, officials say. Iron Ore export to several countries crossed \$1840 Million and Petroleum Products export fetched \$1679 Mil-

lion for the country, officials say. Iron ore, iron & steel mica, coal, and aluminium & aluminium products accounted for a majority share in the overall exports from the state, said the official. Marine Products export touched \$ 596.6 Million, which is on rise and more and more countries are opting for marine products from Odisha. Seafood products exports from Odisha are on rise every year, officials admit. Ceramic Glassware, Organic and Inorganic chemicals, cereals, textiles, are being exported and these merchandise are gaining currency in foreign countries, officials admit. Rice export fetched

\$25 Million. Odisha is sending Non Basmati rice to various countries and Paradip Port is facilitating the export in a big way. Even electronic goods are being exported from Odisha, said a senior official in DGFT. Union Government is taking several steps to promote exports from the States. The Union Government started implementing a Niryat Bandhu Scheme with an objective to reach out to the new and potential exporters including exporters from Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). MSMEs are being mentored through orientation programs, counseling sessions, individual facilitation, etc., on various aspects of foreign trade for enabling them to get into international trade and boost exports from India, said an official. Districts as Export Hubs has been launched by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/manufacturers to generate employment in the district, said he.



India Leads IP Innovations

New Delhi: India passed the number of



achieved yet another milestone in context of IP innovation ecosystem, wherein for the first time in the last 11 years, the number of domestic patent filing has sur-

passed the number of against 9090 by non-Indian applicants. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal appreciated the consistent efforts made by DPIIT on strengthening the IPR regime in India by fostering innovation, and reducing compliance burden. The coordinated effort by DPIIT and IP office has led to increased IP awareness among all strata of society. These efforts have on one hand led to increase in the number of IPR filings, on the other hand has reduced the pendency of patent application at IP offices. He also mentioned that this will take India a step closer to the India's ambitious target of being in the top 25 nations of Global Innovation Index. Some of the key initiatives taken by the Government over the years that has bolstered India's IP regime includes fee concessions like 10% rebate on online filing, 80% fee concession for Start-ups, Small Entities and educational institutions, and provisions on expedited examination for Startups and MSMEs along with other categories

CES Leads Plastic Curb Campaign

Bhubaneswar: While State Government is making determined efforts for elimination of Single Use Plastic in Odisha, Center For Environmental Studies(CES) has extended its support for such a green endeavor in a big way. CES is taking proactive steps in this regard, thanks to a well laid out strategy by Team CES headed by veteran IFS Officer, Rajiv Kumar Director CES. Mr.Kumar is known for his love for nature and green efforts. CES has conducted massive awareness campaign across the State, which has resulted in a positive way leading to awareness on dangerous effects of Single Use Plastic, said a senior official in Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change. While CES is organizing pledge taking by school students in Ganjam, Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Sambalpur and Balangir in a big way, it is taking up such initiatives in major City Centers including Bhubaneswar. District Education Officers (DEO) are mobilized for awareness and sanitation campaign for curbing use of Single Use Plastic across the state, students are joining the campaign with motivated spirit.

Dangerous aspects of Single Use Plastic are being presented through banners and posters, which are highly motivating as these are innovative ones, admit students. While there are 15,000 Eco Clubs in the Schools of Odisha, managed by CES, these centers are being motivated to make the areas free of Single Use Plastic. Making these schools as 'Plastic Free Zones' is the prime agenda of CES, said an officials while adding that the Organization is working in a systematic way, said sources in the Department of Forest Environment and Climate Change. In this effort, Odisha State Pollution Control Board(OSPCB) has joined hands in an effective way, thanks to the Member Secretary OSPCB, K Murugesan. Dr.Murugesan is helping out CES in this regard as OSPCB is the Nodal Agency for curbing Single Use Plastic. OSPCB is coordinating the green efforts with District Collectors, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, School & Mass Education Department as well as Housing & Urban Development Department. While CES is taking up the awareness campaign in schools, it has been advised to take up Guided Tours for senior citizens, Lion Club, Rotary Club and other leading organizations.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Shri Jagannath Medical College and Hospital (MCH) here on Monday

PURI: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Shri Jagannath Medical College and Hospital (MCH) here on Monday. On the occasion, Naveen welcomed the first batch of students and interacted with them. At least 15 per cent seats in all medical colleges of the State are reserved for qualifying students coming from government schools and colleges, he said. In the current academic session, 100 students including 30 girls are enrolled in the new MCH. Attending the event virtually, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya praised Naveen for successfully implementing various healthcare schemes for people of Odisha. He also urged the Chief Minister to implement the Central government's Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme in the State. "The Union government is establishing a number of medical colleges and hospitals in Odisha including the one at Sundargarh (NTPC) and another at Talcher. Seats in these medical colleges are being increased every year," Mandaviya said. The Union Health Minister also interacted with a number of students and advised them to be diligent in studies and serve

the needy, particularly in remote areas. Dean and principal of the MCH Dr Maya Padhi administered oath to students. Among others, Odisha Health Minister Naba Kishore Das, Education Minister Sameer Dash, Sports Minister Tusarkanti Behera, former minister Maheswar Mohanty, Puri MP Pinaki Misra, Jagatsinghpur MP Rajashree Mallick, MLAs of Puri, Pipili and Satyabadi besides Collector Samarth Verma and SP K Vishal Singh were present. Adequate security arrangements were made by the district administration for the Chief Minister's visit. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has provided 25 acre of land near Baliguali village on the outskirts of Puri town for the medical college. Similarly, the district administration has allocated 10 acre of adjoining government land for construction of the hospital. While construction of the hospital is underway in full swing, the district headquarters hospital has been developed to facilitate practical training of students enrolled in the MCH. Naveen had laid the foundation stone for the MCH on June 30 in 2015.



Complaint lodged against authorities over Jharpada haat demolition in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR: Public resentment over the "arbitrary" early morning evic-

(GA) department. Around 64 shopkeepers went to the police station and

tion drive was carried out at the behest of BMC Commissioner and secretaries of BDA and GA department.

Corporator of Ward no 33 Dharitri Jena and BJP leader Jagannath Pradhan along with party workers accompanied the shopkeepers and vendors to the police station with them. Gangadhar Barik, a differently-abled person, who had a grocery shop in the haat, claimed that the eviction inflicted a loss of around `9 lakh on him as he didn't get sufficient time to vacate the place. He stated the BMC had issued vendor card to him for running his business in the haat and had also

provided compensation during cyclone Fani and Covid-19 pandemic. But, his shop was demolished without any notice or sufficient time. Satyabrata Kuanr, another affected small businessman, also claimed that he suffered a loss of `3.5 lakh due to eviction. Meanwhile, based on the complaint, a station diary entry has been made by the police. However, there has been no FIR in this matter so far, cops confirmed. BDA sources, meanwhile, said meetings will be held with BMC and vendors' association to discuss compensation and rehabilitation issues.

tion at Ganesh Bazaar haat in Jharpada on Friday continues to simmer even as affected traders and vendors on Sunday filed a complaint at Laxmisagar police station seeking action against authorities of Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and General Administration

lodge their grievances seeking measures for their rehabilitation and adequate compensation from the BDA, BMC and GA authorities for their losses in the eviction drive. Alleging loot of their shops in the name of eviction, some shopkeepers also sought probe and appropriate action in this matter. The shopkeepers alleged that the evic-

State Excise Creates Record in 2021-22

Cuttack: Directorate of Excise in Odisha has created a record on seizure of illegal excise materials and arrest on such cases during the financial year 2021-22.

dent of Excise, Enforcement Cell were attended from different offices. The number of excise cases has been increased from 25070 in 2020-21 to 39,741

more than 200 per cent while over seizure of illegal beers increased by 188 per cent. The Excise officials seized 30136.523 kg of Ganja in 2021-22

District of Koraput, Gajapati, Malkangiri and others district for identification of hemp plant areas, officials said. Further, two interstate rackets of duplicate IMFL & NDP

IMFL cases have been detected in which 9223 Litres Non duty paid IMFL (sale in Arunachal Pradesh only) and 2 lakh duplicate caps, 80 thousand fake EAL and Company labels have been seized.

During the meeting, the Excise Commissioner Mr. Singh appreciated the performance and achievement of the Excise Officers during the year 2021-22.

He instructed all Superintendents of Excise & EIEB Units to strengthen and enhance the enforcement measures in the year 2022-23 and to conduct frequent raids against the illegal manufacturing, distributing and sale of ID Liquor/ duplicate IMFL / Non duty paid IMFL / NDPS items.

The Directorate of Excise has formulated a Plan of Action and strategy for enforcement work in the year 2022-23 during the meeting, said a senior official.



The Team Excise headed by Ashish Kumar Singh, Commissioner of Excise have seized excise materials including drugs worth Rs 133 crores in the year 2021-22, while such materials of Rs 71 crores were seized during the previous fiscal 2020-21. State Excise Commissioner Mr. Singh held the Annual Excise Review meeting through virtual mode on Tuesday, wherein Deputy Commissioner of Excise (CD, Cuttack)/ Headquarter and Superinten-

in 2021-22, registering a growth of 58.50 per cent. Similarly, the number of arrests has increased by 70 per cent in the last fiscal in comparison to the year 2020-21. While 19,243 were arrested on excise cases in 2020-21, it has been increased to 32,770 in 2021-22. Similarly, the detection of cases and arrest under NDPS Act has also increased by 73 per cent and 98 per cent during the last fiscal. The seizure of OS liquor and country liquor has increased by

against the seizure of 16962.157 kg Ganja in 2020-21. The seizure of Opium and brown sugar has been increased by 927 per cent and 219 per cent, respectively. During the year (2021-22), 3,29,14,032 numbers of hemp Plants illegally cultivated in Kandhamal, Boudh, Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput, Angul and Sambalpur Districts have been destroyed. During destruction Drone Camera have been utilised in the

Row Over Medical College

Puri: Shri Jagannath Medical College inauguration on Monday witnessed a row between the Governing BJD and Opposition BJP.

BJP National Spokesperson Sambit Patra in a tweet on Sunday, "I humbly believe that without getting into the 'Credit War' the Honourable CM Odisha should have made a courtesy call to the Honourable PM to inaugurate the Medical College in Puri." Dr. Patra also objected to the unilateral decision of the Odisha government to inaugurate the medical college developed under a central scheme. He shared a letter the Health Ministry wrote to states in January, highlighting the centrally sponsored scheme.

BJD Vice President, Debi Prasad Mishra rejected Dr. Patra's allegation and said, "Who will come and what will happen depends on availability and the state government will take the decision on it. The BJD never believes or indulges in credit politics." Ahead of the

medical college inauguration, Dr. Patra on Monday in another tweet said: "It is good to learn that finally the Odisha government

inauguration of the SJMCH, all 5 Medical Colleges have become functional now. Overall, there has been a 55% increase in

Government medical colleges in Odisha. Under the scheme for 'Upgradation of existing State Government/ Central Government



called the Union Health Minister Shri @mansukhmandviya ji to attend the inauguration of "Shri Jagannath Medical College" in Puri scheduled for today. The Union Minister too has agreed to join & address the session virtually!" The SJMCH is part of 5 medical colleges built under Phase I of the scheme for 'Establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/ referral hospitals'. All the hospitals under the scheme have been built at an approved cost of Rs 945 crore with 60% of the contribution (Rs 567 crore) from the Union Government. With the

Medical Colleges in Orissa from 387 MBBS seats in 2013-14 to 596 seats in 2020-21. Under Phase II and III of the schemes for 'Establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/ referral hospitals', two more hospitals in Jajpur and Kalahandi in Odisha has been approved and Central share of Rs 150 Crore and Rs 100 Crore respectively has been released to the State Government, an official said. The Union Government and the Odisha Government is also working towards increasing MBBS and PG seats in State Government and Central

medical colleges to increase MBBS seats in the country', an amount of Rs. 144 crore has been released by the Union Government to the State Government for increasing 200 MBBS seats in VSS Medical College, Burla and MKCG Medical College in Berhampur. Similarly, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 'Strengthening and up-gradation of Government Medical Colleges for Increase of PG Seats', a total of 107 Seats are proposed to be created in VSS Medical College, Burla, MKCG Medical College, Berhampur and SCB Medical College in Cuttack, they said.



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Hero Electric ties up with ElectricPe to set up charging infrastructure

NEW DELHI: Hero Electric on Tuesday said it has joined hands with EV charging platform ElectricPe to set up charging points

across India for its customers. The collaboration entails Hero Electric riders to access ElectricPe's charging network.

The charging points would come up at residential complexes, offices, malls, and other establishments.

The alliance will help

strengthen the charging network and propel EV adoption across the country, Hero Electric said in a statement.

"A robust charging

Bharat Serums to set up Rs 200 crore vaccine facility in Telangana



HYDERABAD: Bharat Serums and Vaccines Limited (BSV) will be investing Rs 200 crore in setting up a vaccine and injectables making facility in Telangana, an official release said on Tuesday.

BSV's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sanjeev Navangul, met with Telangana Industries Minister K T Rama Rao at Pragati Bhavan, it said. The investment will

be used to set up a vaccine and injectables manufacturing unit with international standards in Genome Valley here. The facility will manufacture women's health products, rabies vaccines and other hormone-related products, it said. Welcoming the company's investments in the state, Rama Rao said the government will extend the required cooperation to the firm for setting up the facility.

Coal India's capital expenditure grows 12 per cent to Rs 14,834 crore in FY22

NEW DELHI: State-owned CIL on Tuesday said its capital expenditure registered a growth of 12 per cent to Rs 14,834 crore in FY'22. Coal India's capital expen-

base," the statement said.

The capex boost of Coal India was to catalyse the output growth and align it with evacuation outlets.

3,262 crore in 2021-22.

Acquisition of land is important for CIL to augment its output from opencast (OC) mines.

Land procured for

Replacing the old fleet with the modernized equipment to be deployed in OC mines especially in SECL and NCL is essential for output ramp up.



diture was at Rs 13,284 crore in FY'21.

Stating that the capex growth in FY'22 came on the back of a strong base, Coal India (CIL) in a statement said the entire capital expenditure was met through internal accruals.

"CIL's FY'21 capex doubled in a year from that of Rs 6,270 crore of FY'20. This means, FY'22 capex growth came on the back of a strong

Most of the capital expenditure was spread on land, procurement of heavy earthmoving machinery, setting up coal handling plant (CHP), silos and creation of rail infrastructure for coal transportation.

Land and heavy earth moving machinery combined accounted for 40 per cent of the total capex at Rs 5,867 crore and capital expenditure under land was Rs

two projects -- Searmal and Talcher -- of Coal India arm Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) would help the PSU further widen its mining operations.

The centralized procurement of HEMM for Coal India subsidiaries -- Eastern Coalfields Ltd (ECL), Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) and South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) -- amounted to Rs 2,605 crore.

The other important head of capex spend, at Rs 2,322 crore, was for setting up coal handling plants/silos with a major share taken up by NCL, SECL and MCL. Strengthening of evacuation infrastructure through rail sidings and corridors accounted for Rs 2,307 crore of total capex.

Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output.



network is crucial for the growing EV sector for faster adoption of EVs across the segment. This association will provide a seamless charging and EV riding experience to customers by easing the accessibility through ElectricPe's charging

points that are getting installed on a large scale across the country," Hero Electric CEO Sohinder Gill noted.

With the company's vision and commitment to advancing the growth of EVs, it is working rigorously to scale up the charging infrastructure, he added.

"We are confident that the partnership will aid in sustaining the push towards EVs and facilitate a smooth transition towards clean and green mobility solutions," Gill said.

ElectricPe Co-Founder & CEO Avinash Sharma said the association with Hero Electric will further its goal to bring clean and affordable access to charging to a billion Indians, right at their doorstep.

India, US to restart commercial dialogue, CEO forum later 2022 as artificial intelligence comes under focus

WASHINGTON: India and the US are restarting their bilateral commercial dialogue and the CEO's forum later this year to deepen their bilateral trade and investment relationship, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has announced. Blinken made this announcement at a joint news conference with Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin along with their Indian counterparts -- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh after the 2+2 Ministerial here on Monday.

During the 2+2 Ministerial, the two sides discussed their goal of driving inclusive economic growth in the two countries and across the region, said the secretary of State.

India and the US already trade to the tune of more than USD 150 billion each year, he said.

"We are deepening that relationship by restarting the US-India commercial dialogue and the US-India CEO forum later this year, where our private sector partners can offer recommendations to strengthen even more our trade and investment relationship," Blinken said.

Earlier during a virtual meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed President Joe Biden's Indo-Pacific Economic Framework Initiative.

"It can allow us to increase our collaboration across more issues including digital trade, supply chain resilience, infrastructure, and tax policy," Blinken said.

The last meeting of the India-US Commercial Dialogue was held on July 2020 through a telephonic conference.

The CEO forum also last met virtually in July 2020.

The forum is an effective platform to highlight key issues that affect business entities and to identify areas for closer collaboration for mutual benefit of both economies.

"And our countries are working together to tackle the climate crisis. The United States is supporting India's ambitious COP26 clean energy commitments by investing in renewable energy projects and mobilising private sector financing," Blinken said.

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference is commonly referred to as COP26. The two countries also have agreed to hold a dialogue on artificial intelligence to harness opportunities for joint innovation and cooperation in new domains, the two countries announced after the 2+2 ministerial.

Secretary of State Tony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin hosted the fourth 2+2 ministerial dialogue with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Jaishankar.

The Dialogue was preceded by a virtual meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joseph Biden.

"They decided to hold an inaugural AI Dialogue this year to harness opportunities for joint innovation and cooperation in new domains," according to a joint statement issued by India and the US after the 2+2 ministerial dialogue on Monday.

They also discussed additional training opportunities for the respective militaries, and the United States welcomed enhanced Indian participation in advanced courses across these emerging domains.

During the meeting, the Ministers acknowledged the importance of deepening collaboration in science and technology in the US-India Joint Technical Group (JTG), and in evolving new defence domains, including space, artificial intelligence (AI), and cyber.

They underscored the importance of cooperation in space and welcomed plans to conduct an inaugural Defence Space Dialogue in 2022.

Fighting for seven years, gangrape survivor from PoK seeks PM Narendra Modi's help

Continued from page-1

Kashmir are afraid to come forward to publicly confront perpetrators because they fear being shunned by their community.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen unveils Shri Jagannath medical college

Continued from page-1

7present. Adequate security arrangements were made by the district administration for the Chief Minister's visit.

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has provided 25 acre of land near Baliguali village on the outskirts of Puri town for the medical college. Similarly, the district administration has allocated 10 acre of adjoining government land for construction of the hospital. While construction of the hospital is underway in full swing, the district headquarters hospital has been developed to facilitate practical training of students enrolled in the MCH. Naveen had laid the foundation stone for the MCH on June 30 in 2015.

BJP activists demonstrate before Raj Bhavan demanding President Rule in Bengal

Continued from page-1

such incidents," Ghosh claimed. Demanding Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar's intervention, Ghosh said "Article 365 should be immediately promulgated in West Bengal to put an end to this lawlessness".

Under Article 365 of the Constitution, if a state government is unable to function according to Constitutional provisions, the Centre can take direct control of the State machinery.

A police officer said around 20 BJP activists were taken to Lalbazar, Kolkata Police headquarters, for violating prohibitory orders. They were, however, released on personal bond.

Trinamool Congress state spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said "the BJP is yet to accept its humiliating defeat in the last assembly polls and is now conspiring against a democratically elected government." However, the game plan of the saffron party will not succeed, he added.

FIFA rivals Netflix and Amazon Prime with own soccer streaming platform

LONDON(KCN): FIFA is getting into the streaming platform business with a soccer version of Netflix and Amazon Prime. The service is free and largely featuring documentaries and some live games at the launch but it could eventually be a way for FIFA to broadcast World Cup matches itself at a cost. While increasingly positioning itself as a rival to existing media companies,

FIFA+ will also be used by the governing body to promote its sponsors. "There is no plan to charge a subscription fee for the service, that doesn't mean to say that we may not evolve over time should there be a value proposition that allows us to charge subscription if we step into premium rights or adopt other kind of models. But there will always be a free experience on FIFA+," FIFA direc-

tor of strategy Charlotte Burr said. Geo-blocking can be used to limit matches broadcast on FIFA+ to specific territories. FIFA was less clear if the platform will be an accessible means of watching World Cup qualifiers that are often not available to view widely as each confederation owns those rights. FIFA said the live matches would be from competitions previously lacking coverage, initially

with 1,400 games streamed each month. The launch could see FIFA shift content off YouTube that it has previously used to broadcast classic matches and sports politics events. The recent FIFA Congress in Qatar was not streamed on the long-standing video sharing website unlike previously. FIFA chief commercial officer Kay Madati said "we're a bit more strategic about what goes where and when".

Monte Carlo Masters: Alexander Bublik cuts short Stan Wawrinka's return to tour after injury

M O N A C O : Alexander Bublik cut short Stan Wawrinka's return to the tour, defeating the Swiss 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 in the first round of the Monte Carlo Masters on Monday in his first singles in 13 months. Wawrinka started off confidently against the Kazakh, winning the first set with ease. He staved

difficult recovery. "I'm still far away from where I want to be, but I think I'm in the right direction," Wawrinka said. Despite "a tough loss" to No. 35-ranked Bublik, the Swiss said it felt good to be on the court, packed with spectators, and playing for real points. "It was much better than what I

Marin Cilic of Croatia overwhelmed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 6-2, turning the Frenchman's opening match in Monaco into his final clay-court appearance in a Masters event. Tsonga, 36, announced last week he will retire after the French Open, hoping to put the final touches on an injury-plagued

said. "Maybe I have been on the tour for too long, but I do have some experience." The French Open starts on May 22 in Paris. Tsonga reached a career-high ranking of No. 5 in 2012, but has dropped to No. 220 following his latest lengthy injury layoff. That means he can't



off three set points in the second to hold for 5-5 but appeared tired. In the decisive third, Bublik pulled ahead early and wrapped up the match in just over two hours. Wawrinka, 37, last competed on tour in March 2021 when he lost his opening match at the Qatar Open. He's had two surgeries on his left foot since then and months of dif-

was expecting," Wawrinka said. Still, the physical and mental fatigue made him consider he might have returned to the tour too soon. He has not lined up other tournaments but intends to spend more time on practice. "I need a lot more ... and I need to work hard on my tennis and my physical condition," Wawrinka said.

career in front of his home crowd. A crowd of Tsonga's loyal fans cheered him on in the principality but he was no match for the No. 22-ranked Cilic, who breezed to victory. Tsonga was disappointed he wasn't more competitive. "I'm sad because it was my last Monte-Carlo. It's not always easy, but that's it," he

enter the main draw at Roland Garros automatically through his ranking, and will have to rely on being granted a wild card by organizers. Other winners included Sebastian Korda of the United States, Fabio Fognini and Jannik Sinner of Italy, Albert Ramos-Vinolas of Spain and Hubert Kurkacz of Poland.

Saina Nehwal decides to skip selection trials for CWG, Asian Games

NEW DELHI: Saina Nehwal's chances of defending her title at the Commonwealth Games looks bleak as she has decided to skip the selection trials for the upcoming multi-sport events. The big-ticket events include the Common-



wealth Games in Birmingham and the Hangzhou Asian Games. The selection trials are scheduled here from April 15 to 20. The 32-year-old Hisar-born shuttler, a two-time CWG gold medallist and 2012 London Olympics bronze medallist, has informed the Badminton Association of India (BAI) about her decision to skip the trials. "Saina has written to BAI, informing her decision to not play in the trials which will be the only tournament to pick players for CWG, Asiad and Thomas and Uber Cup," a BAI source told. The CWG squad will consist of 10 members with equal number of men and women, while the Asian Games and Thomas & Uber Cup con-

tingents will have 20 members each, including 10 men and 10 women. The BAI has made it clear that players inside the top 15 in the BWF rankings will be picked directly, while the rest will be chosen from the trials which will see participation of shuttlers ranked between 16 to 50 in the latest world rankings, released on March 29. The national governing body will also be "finalising probables for the senior core group for the 2024 Olympic Games" during the trials. Injuries and recent form A former world number one, Saina has been battling a series of injuries and poor form for the past couple of years, which saw her ranking slip to 23rd. Saina, who had won gold medals at the 2010 and 2018 CWG, had suffered a career-threatening knee injury ahead of the Rio Olympics. She had hurt her groin during the Thomas & Uber Cup Final in Aarhus, Denmark in October last year, and she was also forced to withdraw midway in the first round match at the French Open due to a knee injury. Her return to the circuit at the India Open ended in the second round when she lost to the fast-rising Malvika Bansod. After a gap of few weeks, she played three events last month -- German Open, All England and Swiss Open -- but failed to cross the second round. A semifinal finish at 2021 Orleans Masters Super 100 and quarterfinals at Barcelona Spain Masters Super 300 and Malaysia Masters in 2020 have been Saina's highlights in recent years.

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