



Chief secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra along with Government officials reviewing various Projects and Developmental Works in Malkanagiri District

## MP Aparajita writes to CM over being denied invitation to 74th Capital Foundation Day function

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): Bhubaneswar MP and BJP national spokesperson Aparajita Sarangi on Wednesday wrote to the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik seeking an inquiry into why she was not invited to the 74th Capital Foundation Day function organised by the State government. Sarangi, who has been elected to the Lok Sabha from Bhubaneswar Parliamentary constituency, said as a public representative it is her 'right' to be invited to the public function organised by the State government to celebrate the formation of the Odisha capital. "Our political ideologies may be different, but you may kindly agree with me that the State government needs to learn to extend the minimum courtesy to the people's representatives," she wrote. The Bhubaneswar MP said she was deeply pained to know that the invitation for the function organised by the State government, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation and Capital Day Celebration Committee has been sent to all (public representatives in the city) except her. "I am extremely respectful to all those among us who hold Constitutional po-



sitions and I expect the same kind of behaviour to be displayed towards the seat of the Member of the Parliament, which you will appreciate, is a Constitutional post," she wrote.

Stating that it does not seem to be an 'innocuous omission', she wrote that she expects the Chief Minister to direct the State authorities concerned to inquire into the matter and find out the individuals responsible for it. Sarangi also said that the move has hurt all the people of Bhubaneswar who had elected her. "They would all like to know about the reason behind the omission of my name and the person/s responsible for it," she said.

Sarangi shot off the letter to the Chief Minister hours after she took to micro-blogging site Twitter seeking to know the reason behind not being invited to the function. Minister and Bhubaneswar Ekamra MLA Ashok Chandra Panda who urged all not to drag the event into controversy, however, agreed that the Capital Foundation Day event should be organised in a more disciplined manner involving everyone.

## BJP questions non-utilisation of Rs 21 crore NFSA aid to Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The BJP on Wednesday targeted the State government over mismanagement in distribution of rice under the National Food Security Programme during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the first phase of the pandemic, the government had released over Rs 955.16 crore to the districts for distribution of Rs 1,000 each to 95.51 lakh beneficiaries of the State.

The district civil supply officers have submitted utilisation certificates amounting to Rs `934 crore to the government which means Rs 21 crore remained unutilised at a time when people had nowhere



to go and majority of the migrant labourers returned to their homes. Over two lakh beneficiaries did not receive the government assistance. "We seek an explanation from the State government why this money could not be distributed," said State BJP OBC Morcha president Surath Biswal. After the Covid-19

outbreak, the Centre has been providing free ration to the people in six phases

appropriating funds under all the Central schemes, the BJP leader said the State government announced to provide 5 kg rice free of cost to NFSA beneficiaries during the pandemic. The government must explain if it has provided 10 kg rice including the rice provided by the Centre to all the beneficiaries, he added.

to ensure that not a single poor family starves. Biswal said a large number migrant workers are deprived of ration due to non-implementation of 'One Nation One Ration' scheme of the Centre. Accusing the State government of mis-

## BR Ambedkar's statue disfigured in Noida on birth anniversary, cops launch probe

NOIDA(KCN): A statue of BR Ambedkar, the key architect of India's Constitution, was found disfigured in Uttar Pradesh's Noida on



his birth anniversary Thursday, prompting police to launch a probe into the matter. The disfigured statue is located in Chhijarsi village under the Sector 63 police station limits area and the incident was reported by locals in the morning, officials said. A police spokesperson said a new statue was being installed to replace the disfigured one with the help of residents. "Police force has been deployed in the area and the matter is being investigated. All angles are being probed and action will be taken accordingly," the spokesperson said. There was no law and

CONTINUED ON: P-7

## BJD-BJP launch into 'aspirational' fight

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The ruling BJD on Wednesday got into a war of words with the Opposition BJP over alleged non-cooperation of the State government with Union ministers visiting the aspirational districts. After Union Minister of State Sanjeev Balyan expressed his displeasure over the absence of Koraput Collector and local MLA in the review meeting there on Tuesday, BJD Raja Sabha MP Amar Patnaik on Wednesday said the visit of the ministers to aspirational districts has nothing to do with development as the motive is political. "The Centre is not providing any special assistance to the aspirational districts of the State. It has been constantly ignoring our demand for more funds over and above the normal assistance," Patnaik said in a tweet.

He further said the State government has been demanding revision of funds sharing between the Centre and State for all Centrally-sponsored programmes from the existing 60:40 to 90:10 in view of the special economic needs of Odisha. "If the Centre is really concerned about rapid transformation of the aspirational districts of the State, it should immediately change the funding pattern to 90:10 for these districts," he added. In response to the BJD MP, State BJP spokesperson Golak Mohapatra said the



UK PM Boris Johnson's India visit likely to propel free trade talks LONDON(KCN): dia next week, soon British Prime Minister after the long Easter



Boris Johnson is expected to arrive in India next week, soon after the long Easter break in the UK, with

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Centre is providing adequate funds for the aspirational districts but the State government has not been able to utilise them in time. "Patnaik's attribution of political motive to the visit of Union Ministers is not with the spirit of true federalism. The State and the Centre have the joint responsibility to remove regional imbalance through focused attention to backward districts. What is wrong in an Union Minister taking a review of the schematic progress and fund utilisation in identified areas," Mohapatra wondered.

The BJP leader said that the visit of the ministers to the 10 aspirational districts has not gone well with the State government because the latter's progress card is not up to mark. The BJD has become de-

fensive as the BJP has been exposing the government's misdeeds and mismanagement in the implementation of all welfare schemes. The acrimony of the two parties was in full display in the monsoon session of the Parliament where BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi and BJD MP Pinaki Mishra were engaged in a verbal duel over the Srimandir Parikrama Project at Puri. Besides, national BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra had put the BJD on the spot for not inviting the Union Health Minister to the inauguration of Shri Jagannath Medical College and Hospital at Puri recently.



## Er.Ashok Kumar Biswal received Kousal Balam Sanman - 2022

Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : Cuttack Sadar based leading cultural organization Saraswati



Kalaparidas(SK) Kalabihar, Kandarpur organize one felicitation program with literary discussions etc. In this program eminent social worker,good speaker, social refermer

Er.Ashok Kumar Biswal(Father - Eminent Farmer Late Batakrushna Biswal,Mother - Pious Lady Late Saraswati Biswal) awarded in presence of Sangrahaka Narayan Chandra Biswal, Politicians Binod Behera,Sahitika Rudra Narayan Das,Poet Saroja Nalini Parija,Corona Warriors Aviram Sahoo,Daiatri Pradhan, Senior Member Upendra Barik, Social Worker Bulei Behera, President SKP Pratibha Satapathy,Secretary SKP Ashok Kumar Pattanaik, All member & students etc. Moreover Er. Ashok Biswal(Communication Engineer) for his great achievement, dedication to society and Village, dedication for the betterment of arts, Odia Literature, tradition etc he was awarded by The Muhana Sahitya Sansad Mumbai, Adarsh Yuva Sangha Cuttack branch,UVP cuttack sadar, Utkal Yuth TRust Bangalore etc. Now he is working as senior advisor of 42 Mouza Bikash Parisad,42 Mouza Santi Committee, President of Dayanidhi Pratibha Bikash Pratistan, 42 Mouza, Bantunia Village Committee etc.

## Obesity kills more people worldwide than underweight, says WHO

Kolkata(KCN): Obesity is neither a choice nor a lifestyle people want to embrace. Obesity is a serious health problem. As per the World Health



Organization, overweight and obesity kills more people worldwide than underweight. Most of the world's population lives in countries where overweight and obesity kills more people than underweight. Globally there are more people who are obese than underweight except parts of sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

To create awareness about the ill effects of overweight, Manipal Hospitals Bangalore recently organized an interactive session on "Evil Effects of Obesity" with Dr. Sumit Talwar, HOD & Consultant - Bariatric Surgery, Old HAL Airport Road, Manipal Hospitals Bangalore at Manipal Hospitals Outreach Clinic in Kolkata.

The Interactive Session focused on the current healthcare scenario and aimed at creating awareness in combating the evil effects of

obesity which lead to major risk for chronic diseases, which includes diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, stroke, musculoskeletal disorders and certain forms of cancer. As per WHO, the worldwide prevalence of obesity nearly tripled between 1975 and 2016, more than 1.9 billion adults, 18 years and older, were overweight. Of these over 650 million were obese. 39 million children under the age of 5 were overweight or obese in 2020. Over 340 million children and adolescents aged 5-19 were overweight or obese in 2016. Rates of overweight and obesity continue to grow in adults and children. From 1975 to 2016, the prevalence of overweight or obese children and adolescents aged 5-19 years increased more than four-fold. Dr. Sumit Talwar is an expert in Minimally Invasive (Laparoscopic or Key-hole Surgery) Gastro-Intestinal Surgery and has performed thousands of laparoscopic surgeries to date. He performs Laparoscopic Gastric Bypass, Mini Gastric Bypass, Sleeve Gastrectomy and other operations for the treatment of Morbid Obesity. He has pioneered Gastrointestinal Cancer Surgery with a special emphasis on Minimally Invasive (Laparoscopic) treatment of G I cancers including Colo-rectal, Upper GI, Hepato-biliary and Pancreatic cancers. He has also developed a new technique of Single Incision Laparoscopic Surgery (Scarless Surgery) for gall-bladder, appendix, hernia, etc. using routine instruments and equipment thereby reducing the cost involved in the technique.

## International Conference on the occasion of Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers at Heritage Institute of Technology

Kolkata (KCN): Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers



(IICHe) in association with Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata (HITK), National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar and Osmania University College of Technology, Hyderabad, organized an International Conference on 'Advances in Chemical and Materials Sciences (ACMS 2022) on 14-16th April 2022 at the Swami Vivekananda Auditorium of the HITK campus on the occasion of Platinum Jubilee Celebration of IICHe. A special trib-

ution was given to Dr. Hira Lal Roy, the great visionary and pioneer of Chemical Engineering education in India on this momentous occasion. The Inaugural session of the Conference organized on 14th April at HITK campus was graced by Shri Rameswar Teli, Minister of State, Petroleum & Natural Gas and Labour & Employment, Govt. of India as the Chief Guest followed by Smt. Annapurna Devi, Minister of State for Education, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Padma Shri Prof. (Dr.) G. D. Yadav, National Science Chair, Govt. of India, Former J. C. Bose National Fellow, Former Vice Chancellor, ICT Mumbai, Former President IICHe and President, Indian Chemical Society & Mr. Subhasendu Chatterjee, Whole time Director, Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd. as the Guests of Honour. The inaugural session started with a lamp lighting ceremony followed by a welcome address by Shri D. M. Butala, President, IICHe and Dr. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata. During his address, Shri Butala spoke about how IICHe had organized such a Conference and the various research papers

## Special Programme on one Year of NEP 2020

Kolkata(13/4): Principal of the Heritage

leaders from Kolkata participated to discuss



School, Kolkata Mrs. Seema Sapru was



and share their views on 01 year of National



recently invited at IPN Manthan Nationwide School leader's Dialogue where all the School



Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation. It was organized by IPN Foundation Kolkata

## Excise Squad Seized 50 litres of ID Liquor. Two arrested

Khordha (KCN):



Excise Squad raided

in the village of Kaipadar under Khordha Sadar PS and seized 50 litres of ID Liquor and arrested two local Liquor dealers. A team led by Khordha range Excise Inspector Bhairab Sahoo spotted on Kaipadar village the

two local dealers to sell ID Liquor when they were apprehended by the Excise Squad of Khordha. The two accused identified as Maheswar Gajendra and Girish Samantaray of Kaipadar village. Excise Squad seized

one splendor plus motorcycle bearing registration no-OR02AG-3890 including 50 litres of ID Liquor from them. In this connection case has been registered at Khordha Excise range vide PR.NO-02 & 03/2022-23.

## BMC to complete drainage desiltation in city by June

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): With drainage desiltation work remaining sluggish for the last few months due to Covid-19 pandemic and two successive elections, Mayor Sulochana Das on Wednesday instructed officials of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to complete clearing of natural drains and desiltation of internal drains by June to prevent waterlogging and urban flooding in the city during monsoon. Chairing her first review meeting on drainage issues,

the newly elected Mayor asked officials of the drainage division of the civic body to ensure clearing of the natural drains twice a year from this year onwards. Das also instructed officials to give special attention to 10 wards through which the natural storm water channels pass to prevent waterlogging in the areas. She also instructed officials to strengthen the grievance redressal system to ensure that people are able to raise grievances related to drainage issues in their wards.

the students of various colleges in Chemical Engineering," said Dr. Chaudhuri during his address. The programme also witnessed the address of Dr. Avijit Ghosh, Honorary Secretary, IICHe, an alumnus of HITK and secretary of ACMS 2022 who spoke about the theme of ACMS 2022. The inaugural session was further addressed by Shri Vikram Swarup, Vice Chairman, Kalyan Bharti Trust and MD, Paharpur Cooling Towers Ltd, and Prof. (Dr.) A.S.K.Sinha, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology (RGPT). The session also included signing of MOU between IICHe & RGPT and felicitation of the former presidents invitees of IICHe. During the inaugural session, Padma Shri

Prof. G.D.Yadav said, "The future of India will be Hydrogen Economy and the Government of India should adopt it to become self-sufficient." He also stressed on the fact how chemical engineers are contributing towards 8 percent



of the GDP of the Country. Minister Shri Rameswar Teli spoke about the developments Government of India is undertaking to reduce the imports of petrol from other countries. "We are investing a lot on green

energy through which pollution can be reduced and for this we are creating more innovations and launching electric and CNG vehicles in the Country," said Shri Rameswar Teli during his inaugural address. Smt Annapurna Devi

of Chemical Engineering. In the end the vote of thanks was given by Dr. Madhu Agarwal, Joint Organizing Secretary, ACMS2022 and Professor, NIT-Jaipur. Nearly 500 delegates from various educational institutions and industrial houses attended the conference. "We are glad to organize such a conference in association with the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers. Our students and faculty members are actively involved in this conference and after the Covid-19 pandemic, such International Conference in the city of joy is something which will be cherished by us in the long run," said Shri P.K.Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions Kolkata.



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# Ram Gowda turned film hero from driver

Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): Ram Gowda, a young and versatile genius from a



farming family in Bangalore Karnataka village, started his career as a driver 15 years



ago then entered the film industry after a lot of struggle where he worked as an assistant, director, co-producer and producer, etc. He

## OTT platforms a melting pot for best creative minds, say Zoya Akhtar, Reema Kagti

MUMBAI: The past 10 years have seen a massive upswing in clutter-breaking stories that refused to bow down to market forces. The meteoric rise of such stories has been driven mainly by OTT platforms which gave filmmakers and writers with a unique voice an outlet to tell their stories and organically find their audience.

Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti are two such writer-filmmakers, who are also founders of Tiger Baby Films. They have brought unique stories on screen with films such as 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara', 'Talaash', 'Made in Heaven' and 'Gully Boy'.

'Made in Heaven' found its way into Prime Video and now, Zoya is working on her next project with Netflix, an OTT adaptation of 'The Archies' comics, which were set in an American high school in the 1960s. The series will see the launch of Bollywood's Gen Next, with Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana, Sridevi and Boney Kapoor's younger daughter Khushi, and Amitabh Bachchan's grandson (and Shweta and Nikhila Nanda's son), Agastya Nanda.

From their vantage, Zoya and Reema spoke to IANS about the changes triggered by streaming platforms, the world becoming a more inclusive space and a melting pot of stories, and the undercurrents of change in the Indian content industry.

Zoya calls the process of working in the OTT space "very liberating". Furnishing the principal reason for this, she breaks it down saying: "A: It lends itself to long-format storytelling, so certain ideas can be explored well. B: It doesn't have rigid censorship, so one can have content that was earlier not accepted in the mainstream. And because we are on a world stage, filmmakers are being enabled to connect with a larger audience."

More importantly: "C. There is no box-office pressure, so the audience reacts purely to what they like and what they don't. And D: One need not have to cast stars to have her project green lit." Having been Zoya's creative partner for more than 15 years, and directed films such 'Honeymoon Travels Pvt. Ltd.', 'Talaash' and 'Gold', Reema can understand what it is that OTT platforms have changed. OTT, she says,

worked in almost every department of film from films of all languages like Kannada,

### Ram Gowda's first film as a hero, "Dilmaar" from the village of Bangalore

Tamil, Telugu and Bengali, etc. Then fate worked and miracles happened as he got the first film "Dilmaar" as a hero. Which is going to be released soon in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and Hindi. The dialogue writer of the superhit films KGF1, KGF2 and SALAR M Chandramouli has directed this film.



Ram Gowda says about his first film 'Dilmaar' as a hero, "It is an out and out action, love and Family-filled film. I am playing a little tappori type role, who doesn't have any parents. Telugu film's famous heroine Dimple Hayathi has worked with me. It is going to release soon." Talking about the journey from driver to film hero, actor Ram

Gowda says, "I always like to be busy with work. I don't consider work as small. That's why I did all kinds of work and luck supported me. Luck must be combined with hard work then you might get successful. With right effort and hardwork we can definitely achieve success. I thank everyone who helped me reach this point."

Apart from this, Ram Gowda has signed few more films. Out of which Freedom at Mid Night' (Director Chandra Mouli) and 'Operation Khiladi' (Director Sanjeev



Krishnamurthy) are being produced by Time Films, NH Studio, Triflix, Ninjoor Pictures being done. These will be made in Hindi, Kannada, Tamil and Telugu languages. Regarding this, Ram Gowda says, "I thank Chitah Yajnes Shetty, who got these films and also got entry in Bollywood. Also I thank Pravin Shah, Sagoon Wagh, Rajat Bedi Shridevi and their entire team of Time Video. Grateful to those who gave me a chance in Bollywood."

is "already on its way" to blur the lines between different film industries in India. "We've seen that happen with international cinema. We've seen changes in the length of formats, from feature films to short films and anthologies."

She maintains that OTT platforms give flexibility to the audience to consume content according to their inclination at a time that is convenient. "We've also seen talents from dif-



ferent regional cinemas collaborate on projects, and we've seen people from different time zones consume that content, so OTT platforms enable you to transcend the limitations of language, space and time."

Pointing to the examples of 'Money Heist' and 'Narcos', which are, in essence, regional projects that found takers around the world, Reema said it is happening with Indian content too. "The only line that will remain will be the one separating good and bad content," she said.

"Freedom is one thing that lies at the heart of OTT: freedom for the storyteller to tell a story of her choice, freedom for audiences to choose from the vast sea of content and freedom for content creators to transcend physical boundaries as content pieces are available for streaming across countries at the same time," Reema added.

Picking up the thought, Zoya said: "OTT platforms make room for all kinds of stories. Just the volume and diversity of content one sees across platforms is a source of constant disruption and reinvention. It is forcing filmmakers to go beyond formulaic tropes and actually focus on telling engaging and impactful narratives."

She continued: "It is also allowing the audi-

ences freedom and giving them a varied choice they did not have before. Our content is no longer bound by geography, the streaming platforms have seamlessly allowed Indian cinema to travel and transcend borders."

More than often a boom settles down in the confines of rabid monetisation. Does Reema believe the same fate awaits OTT platforms? She said: "It would be hard to tell that at this juncture. One can only hope that it preserves the uniqueness of not having to be influenced by consumer engagement or numbers."

She concluded on a note of hope: "The content on OTT platforms always finds takers. How the platform chooses to monetise it is left to be seen. I do believe that OTT platforms come with the promise of a content revolution, making them a melting pot for the best creative minds in the business."

'What you make of Kuthiraivaal is what it is'

'What you make of Kuthiraivaal is what it is' Kuthiraivaal has convinced many and co-founded many more. Here are the directors, Shyam Sundar and Manoj Jason, and the film's writer, Rajesh, in conversation about this fascinating film

What's the order of events in Kuthiraivaal?



Is there a time-travel element in it? Does the protagonist really grow a tail or is it all in his mind? While you are left to make up your mind about these details, what's clear is that Kuthiraivaal is a film that's quite unlike anything you might have experienced in Tamil cinema. The story is almost indecipherable, and yet, this doesn't come in the way of the film's sensory, soulful pleasures.



## Sanskrit and its fading prestige

The Union Government's push for 'more focus' on Hindi in the country has created much uproar as various opposition parties came out with their disagreements. The linguistic diversity that India is known for was feared to be in danger with the government's move. The push for Hindi being used as a link language was termed as 'Hindi imperialism' by the opposition. This move, according to them, would create an emotional divide between the Hindi region and the non-Hindi speaking areas.

Linguistic Diversity has the beauty and power to essentially strengthen the area of communication and education that people from different backgrounds can conveniently choose from. Languages go back to the origin of civilizations. Existing in various forms, communication came to the collective consciousness of people and languages became the attire of thoughts and flourished across the globe. Traditions and practices are preserved in every society in their originality mostly encrypted in the language or dialect that they used for communication. Existence of ethnic societies was mainly based on the existence of their languages and with the death of the language, any society for that matter, falls into a state of oblivion, totally forgetful of their past. Many languages and dialects became extinct mainly due to their unjustifiably perceived notion of incompatibility in the eye of modern discourse. Colonial onslaughts on cultures were brutal by dominating the spirit of cultural vitality of societies and dismantling their ethnic essence, invalidating and demonizing their power to fight and survive in a multilingual setup. India's situation was not different. Though the country is witnessing a serious debate on Hindi being moved into a national framework of importance; the merit of the oldest language Sanskrit is almost a lost and forgotten affair. On a multidimensional analysis, Sanskrit is one of the languages that lost its

credit and stature beyond imagination in its birthplace. Diversity

being the essence of every society, multilingual and multicultural acceptance among societies strengthened them perceivably articulative on every difference that came on their way of congenial coexistence. Languages played their role to stitch differences into acceptance while finding common cause for shared interests to flourish.

Sanskrit is known to be the mother of all languages. Despite its being the most communicated language of the ancient times, in India it lost its glow as a language in a post independent establishment. When languages united people across the globe, Sanskrit for various reasons could not flourish in India. With a large number of people choosing English as their spoken tongue, Indians have as much claim on it as any native speaker in America or England. The reach of Sanskrit as a medium of communication got limited among a handful of elite people in India, probably giving it the recognition of the language of the spiritual elite, the pundits. Away from the reach of the common man, Sanskrit is dying in India. There should not be boundaries in embracing languages as they are meant to break boundaries naturally and bring people closer. Interestingly, many books which are known to be not available in their original Sanskrit manuscripts are now available in Persian and many other European languages. Many vernaculars grew from the linguistic expression of Sanskrit and flourished gaining popularity, while Sanskrit depleted to the level of insignificance. Spirituality in India was defined and propagated in it but subsequently got sidelined as the essence of Bhakti or devotion got disseminated to the populace in local languages too. With its treasure of knowledge remained heavy and probably inaccessible to the common man, spiritual texts from Sanskrit got translated into vernaculars helping the common man to delve deeper into them without being dependent on Sanskrit.

Research reveals the geographical influence of

M. R. LALU

Sanskrit in various global languages. Most of the Asian languages are seen to be impacted by the influence of Sanskrit. Interestingly, countries like Germany have understood the intellectual and linguistic depth that Sanskrit holds and began to popularize the language in their universities. Iranians, Arabs and even the British found merit and power in Sanskrit and translated great classics into their languages. Governments in India kept away from initiatives to strengthen the mother of all languages for the fear that such a decision might topple India's secular social engineering and invite the wrath of some sections. Schools adopting a three-language formula in their curriculum can teach Hindi, English and an Indian language to the students. Many universities in the U.S teach Sanskrit as an Indo-European language. Interestingly, there is no language which has a vocabulary as abundant as that of Sanskrit. To present an example, the English word 'sun' has 12 equivalents in Sanskrit. But English does not possess this vocabulary power and to fix this lacuna, it borrows new words from other languages including Sanskrit. An estimate says that of an approximate 6800 languages, about 200 languages in the world enjoy speakers more than a million each. Remaining languages have a meager number of speakers. With a huge number of people speaking it, Tamil enjoys a large acceptance in India and some other Asian countries.

With the National Education Policy coming into force, as part of its trilingual policy, states are authorized to take Sanskrit as a language through primary and secondary education. The policy is expected to bring a revamp in the education sector. India, a cultural diversity, despite its being a geographical unity, remained a single spiritual entity for ages as the language Sanskrit could bind the landscape through the spiritual aphorisms in texts that even today are monumental evidence of references that the world is appreciative about. The laxity with which the post independent India treated Sanskrit was ruthless. To pursue Macaulayism, the idea of the

English education system, we committed the biggest sin by burying the significance of the language of all languages. It was also due to the hypocritical secular track the country constitutionally decided to travel on, finding reasons to give Sanskrit a back seat. The fear of a probable backlash from the minority vote bank, if Sanskrit was favored, was the main reason for the denial.

Societies with genetic, social and linguistic diversities survive and flourish to their fullest potential, making intercultural assimilation of humanity, proclaiming the essential Indian Vedic idea of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which means world is one family. Indeed, Sanskrit is the only language in which we can find such thoughts of unparalleled ancient wisdom on universal brotherhood. Hypocrisy is what is the gesture of the Indian conscience these days. We carefully, in a surreptitious manner, killed a language that our ancestors cherished, nourished and flourished with for generations. All credit as to why it is going to be extinct in this large subcontinent will come to us. Boundless knowledge is confined in books, unable to be perceived in its real sense as translations fail to give the real joy of reading the original texts. Cities like Haridwar and Rishikesh are known to be the seats of Sanskrit learning and research. Aspirants from across the globe flock to these cities to learn Sanskrit. Mattur village of Shimoga in Karnataka is famous for its Sanskrit speaking families. About 5000 residents of this village communicate in Sanskrit. More conscious efforts from various corners should be taken in the direction of reviving Sanskrit. The government has reasons to justify its move to lift Hindi to an elevated platform. But does it have reasons to not support a language that housed great cultural treasures for long. India should continue to survive as a multilingual entity with Sanskrit also finding a place to progress.

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## COP26 Commitment, Climate justice, and beyond: Yes, India can deliver

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made very generous assurances on what India would do to safeguard the globe from the threats of climate change when speaking at the 26th



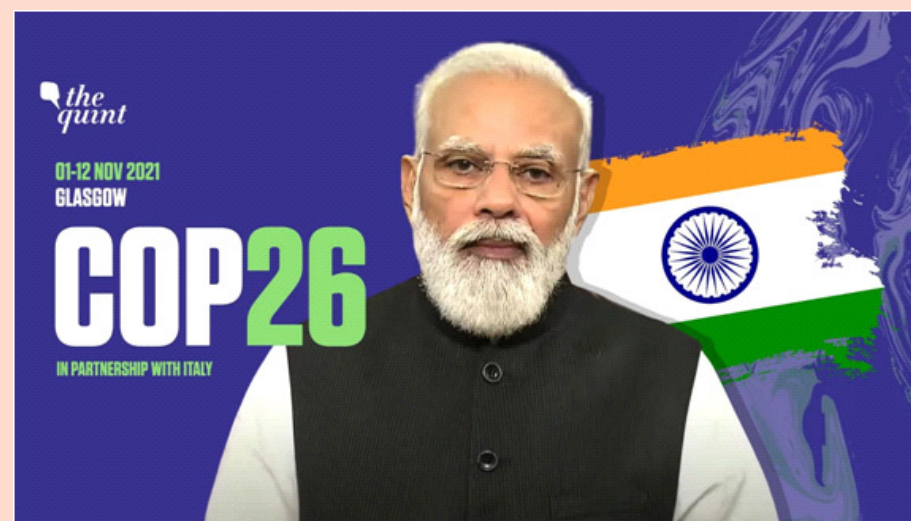
Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow. By 2070, he pledged to develop 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electrical production capacity, source 50% of India's energy needs from renewables, save 1 billion tonnes of anticipated emissions (from present emissions), and achieve a 40% decrease in carbon intensity over 2005 levels. India is not to blame for the difficulties caused by climate change, and it faces urgent growth challenges today. Its per capita income is low, urbanization is accelerating, and energy consumption is increasing at the same time. The Indian government has stated that it wants to roughly quadruple the size of its economy by 2030, from around \$2.75 trillion currently to around \$10 trillion. Enabling this growth will be a mammoth effort in and of itself, but doing so while adhering to our climate pledges will be even more difficult.

[\* File contains invalid data | In-line.JPG \*]Mr. Modi's undertakings have been generous in light of this perspective. While the western world has been quick to criticize India, professionals with a more balanced perspective have recognized that India has gone above and beyond in its efforts to save the world. Mr. Modi was correct in criticizing wealthy countries for failing to follow through on their promises to fund necessary initiatives. Given the size of the investment requirements, he asked them to increase the climate financing target from \$100 billion to \$1 trillion. While 2070 may appear to be a long way off in terms of India's obligations, action must begin now. In many areas, major changes will be required. To cut carbon emissions, cities will need to adopt several, coordinated initiatives. Buildings must be constructed in such a way

that they consume less energy. Large

manufacturers, as well as their supply chains, must increase their usage of clean energy and become more energy efficient. Farming must begin to adopt more sustainable practices that make better use of natural resources.

These acts would not be simple, and they would require the leadership of thousands of champions around the country. There will be a minimum of three separate capabilities required. One, elected representatives in urban



local bodies, Panchayati Raj institutions, city engineers, agricultural extension workers, transport system operators, architects, plant-level supervisors, and a host of other such ground-level, action-oriented leaders who understand climate issues and have the ability to design, develop, and implement climate solutions on the ground. Secondly, a category or group of professionals with requisite capabilities and qualifications needs to be developed and they should be given space and opportunities to provide climate-related solutions in each sector. Thirdly, it is high time that the national government, state government, and even the start upscale the importance of climate solutions and climate justice as the cutting edge parameters of development. Just recall the buzzword of "gender budgeting" and "gender mainstreaming" in all the fields. The climate

Pratap Kishore Mohanty

solutions leading to climate justice protocols need to be a barometer for all the start-ups and new ventures in the country in each and every sector in the years to come. Thereby, we might achieve the goal of zero emissions by 2070.

Even at the individual level also we need to work more towards reorienting our future generations to become closer to nature and use natural products. We as parents need to ensure that our children know a little more about the climate scenario that our mother earth is encountering on a daily basis. The informal education and socialization in the society take place in a manner that the youth today get to know the conservation ethos and leads their life accordingly without disturbing the natural world. Our carbon footprint is the number of greenhouse gases—including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, fluorinated gases, and others—that you produce as you live your life. A Report by the "Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project" determined that in order to hold the global temperature rise to 2°C or less, everyone on earth will need to average an annual carbon footprint of 1.87 tons by 2050. Currently, the average U.S. per capita carbon footprint is 18.3 tons. By comparison, China's per capita carbon emissions are 8.2 tons. We all have a ways to go to get to 1.87 tons.

There are multiple ways where we as citizens and individual members of this earth can contribute towards reducing our carbon footprint. We need to mend our ways from fooding to clothing and from transportation to shopping. One might laugh at it but very small habits can lower your carbon footprint and ensure greener earth. Eat low on the food

chain. This means eating mostly fruits, veggies, grains, and beans. Livestock—meat and dairy—is responsible for 14.5 percent of manmade global greenhouse gas emissions, mainly from feed production and processing and the methane (25 times more potent than CO2 at trapping heat in the atmosphere over 100 years) Don't buy fast fashion. Trendy, cheap items that go out of style quickly get dumped in landfills where they produce methane as they decompose. Do an energy audit of your home. This will show how you use or waste energy and help identify ways to be more energy-efficient. Change incandescent light bulbs (which waste 90 percent of their energy as heat) to light-emitting diodes (LEDs). Though LEDs cost more, they use a quarter of the energy and last up to 25 times longer. They are also preferable to compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs, which emit 80 percent of their energy as heat and contain mercury. Switch lights off when you leave the room and unplug your electronic devices when they are not in use. Because electricity increasingly comes from natural gas and renewable energy, transportation became the major source of India's CO2 emissions in 2019. An average car produces about five tons of CO2 each year (although this varies according to the type of car, its fuel efficiency, and how it's driven). Making changes in how you get around can significantly cut your carbon budget. Drive less. Walk, take public transportation, carpool, rideshare, or bike to your destination when possible.

Reducing carbon footprint should not be viewed from the COP 26 obligation point of view only, rather this is the only way out not only for India but for the entire globe. Given our kind of country having a long history and experience of believing in simple living nurtures many virtues which in itself inculcates habits that ensure lower carbon footprints. The only thing is how seriously we are ready to accept the reality.

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# Kalajyoti – Odissi Gurukul ,:About Kalajyoti and the Founder Guru

Kolkata (KCN): Kalajyoti – Odissi Gurukul , cradled by nature, is a paradise for learners of any stream of Indian culture , surrounded by serenity was established in the year 2003. It is



developed with love and dedication step by step by Guru Monalisa Ghosh and her team. Here you are convinced that art is for all – irrespective of creed, caste , financially challenged or affluent.

Monalisa Ghosh has spent her formative years in Cuttack, Odisha and since then she dedicated herself to Odissi. Groomed under Late Guru Ramani Ranjan Jena, Guru Raghunath Dutta attending specialization under Padmavibhusan Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra, and Padmasree Sanjukta Panigrahi. Her thirst for learning motivated her to get training from Guru Giridhari Nayak, and attended workshops under Guru Ratikanta Mahapatra and Guru Bishnu Sasmal.

Kalajyoti is a dream child of Guru Monalisa Ghosh, who believes dance is an inner expression of devotion, joy, love, and spiritual ecstasy and when these are in harmony with utmost dedication – a star dancer is believed to have arrived on earth. It is one of the rare dance institution of Kolkata which functions as per ancient Gurukul system in a campus with natural ambience drives foreign and Indian students from different parts of the World to live and learn from the Guru Indian traditional Art and Culture.

A loving Guru, a dynamic performer and an excellent choreographer - Guru Monalisa Ghosh has mesmerized the National and Gobar audience since last 3 decades. She has established Odissi dance training curriculum in Germany, Austria , UAE, and The Netherlands. Guru Monalisa Ghosh has widely performed in several cities of Europe during her visit twice a year, receiving huge critical acclaims and accolades. She has presented her choreographies with her ensemble in important festivals in India and has been felicitated by famous Organisations.

Monalisa's 25 years visit to European countries twice a year as a visiting Guru and performer has served as a huge contribution in popularizing the beauty, philosophy and spiritual aspect of Odissi Dance to the West. Her humanitarian contribution stretches further –

in partner with Art Vision Quest of Gabrielle Poendl in Uttenweiler, Germany, Monalisa Ghosh conducts workshop for the refugees of the war stuck countries.

Kalajyoti Mahotsav 21-22 Since 2020 , Kalajyoti established it's own ethnic Theatre – Kalamandap, the ambience attracted maestros to perform on this stage.

Kalajyoti made a grand celebration of 75 years of Bharatiya Azadi , as Kalajyoti Mahotsav 21-22, supported by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

While it is difficult to get 50 percent audience at the renowned performance halls of the city, Kalajyoti attracts a full house audience in the Kalajyoti Mahotsav at Rajpur, South 24



Parganas. Kalajyoti Mahotsav 21-22 began with ' Prativa Anwesana', a National competition on virtual medium in different fields of Culture. On 25th , 26th and 27th March at least 250 dancers and musicians were staged. Curtain opened on to Guru of Kalajyoti Smt. Monalisa Ghosh making an auspicious beginning leading her disciples in Jagannath Arati in Odissi Style a Kalajyoti presentation where Guru lead the way to a spiritual homage with all disciples – true to the meaning of Gurukul. The were accompanied by melodious and rhythmical supports. Senior disciples brought the arati to the

honoured guests -a perfect Devotional atmosphere.

On the 25th of March a shradhanjali to Odissi Guru Giridhari Nayak, who recently passed away , was performed by observing one minute silent, and offering flower. The torch bearer of Guru Giridhari Nayak, his daughter



Sujata Nayak's graceful Odissi recital marked the beginning of the program.

The guest of honors for the evening were Dr. Professor Pushpita Mukherjee, HOD Dance, Rabindra Bharati University, and Sri Kalayan

dents of Sahaj Path, encouraging and bringing a ray of light into the life of specially abled children.

For the 26th March, The highlight of the evening was 'Nirvaan' performed by senior exponents of Kalajyoti groomed under Guru Monalisa Ghosh. This dance is dedicated to Dev adi Dev Mahadev, a transcendent state in which there is neither suffering, desire, nor sense of self, and the subject is released from the effects of karma and the cycle of death and rebirth. Nirvaan has received standing ovation from audience not only in India but in Western countries. An unique composition of Guru Monalisa Ghosh combining Odissi and Gotipuo stance. Performed by Senior disciples - Suvojit Dutta, Atasi Biswas, Tanusree Neogi, Suchetana Das, Sanghamitra Jana, Meghomala Ghoshal, Afrina Nasrin 27th was the grand Finale and the last day of Kalajyoti Mahotsav 21-22.

Executive members of Kalajyoti extended a hearty felicitation to Sri Vabhav Tiwari, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Baruiapur as the Guest of Honor.

The last presentation of the Mahotsav which stole the heart of the audience was melodious Flute recital by Sri Indrajit Basu, IPS, Additional Superintendent of Police, Baruiapur. It is not very often that a police officer entertains city's elite music aficionados. But Indrajit Basu, enthralled the audience with his flute recital. He was accompanied by eminent table maestro Sri Ujjwal Bharati.

It is a matter of pride and honor for Kalajyoti that Eminent personalities of Kolkata and Maestros enjoyed being present at the Mahotsav.

Hence Kalajyoti moves forward climbing the ladder of success keeping balance between the East and West – by Online training by Guru Monalisa Ghosh to students from Canada, USA, Europe and UAE.

The effort of the Kalajyoti Team needs appreciation as over 70 Dancers participated at the 2 days Festival, the fact which impressed was all dancers were presented professionally and all received felicitation by eminent guest of honors.

Kalajyoti's venture found success in fulfilling it's aim of providing stage to such large number of talented performers. All credit goes to the dedicated effort of Monalisa Ghosh and Kalajyoti Team, comprising of President Smt. Sarbari Das, Secretary Sri Amit Biswas, Vice President Sri Indraneel Das.

We look forward to more such presentations by Kalajyoti in future for cultural inspiration to the society.

## Pension Payment Orders on DigiLocker

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As part of 5T and Mo Sarkar Initiative, the Department of Finance (DOF) has issued Pension Payment Orders (PPO) on DigiLocker.

Principal Secretary, Finance, Vishal Dev has issued notification, which says that the PPO contains the authority for disbursement of pension.

Details of the pension disbursed are also recorded in the Pension Payment Order. It is undoubtedly the most important document for any pensioner.

"Many a time pensioners face difficulty as the Pension Payment Order gets soiled over a period of time or is lost / misplaced. Particularly, after the death of the regular pensioner, if the Pension Payment Order is not traced, the family pension conversion gets delayed causing extreme hardship for the family pensioner," Mr.Dev said.

Considering the above difficulties, the State Government is now pleased to use the services of DigiLocker, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India to store the Pension Payment Orders in digital format, pointed out Principal Secretary Finance.

The pensioners can download and view the Pension Payment Order as and when required, Mr.Dev said.

The digital format available in the DigiLocker will be treated at par with the physical Pension Payment Order for the purpose of pen-

sion disbursement and other administrative requirements.

In this regard, the Integrated Financial Man-



agement System (IFMS) Odisha has been integrated with the DigiLocker portal of Government of India for sharing and retrieval of electronic Pension Payment Order (PPO) and

PPO Verification Report, added the Principal Secretary.

The facility will be made available to all pensioners/family pensioners in phase-wise manner.

It is understood that pensioners being senior citizens require handholding support and help in using the above facility. Therefore, the Directorate of Treasuries & Inspection, Odisha will prepare a video-based tutorial which will be uploaded in the IFMS portal as well as in other social media such as YouTube etc. to help the pensioners in accessing the DigiLocker for retrieval of their Pension Payment Orders.

All Treasuries will also provide necessary handholding support to the pensioners for using the DigiLocker facility, Mr.Dev told concerned officials.

The telephonic support through Toll free No. 18003456739 will be available for the pensioners in all working days through the IFMS Helpdesk in the Directorate of Treasuries & Inspection, Odisha, he announced.

The pensioners can also submit their grievance, in case, if the data available in the DigiLocker mismatch with the original Pension Payment Order issued to them.

These grievances can be submitted electronically through IFMS portal or physically to the concerned Treasury Officer / Bank. The Directorate of Treasuries & Inspection, Odisha will centrally monitor the resolution of such grievances in a time bound manner, he added.

## Transgenders take charge of Watco-run treatment plant in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR : In a first, transgenders will now manage the operation and maintenance of a water treatment plant (WTP) in the State. In a bid to encourage participation of transgender community in governance, the



Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) on Wednesday handed over operation and maintenance of its Pratapnagari WTP in Cuttack to a transgender SHG.

Members of Bahuchara Mata Transgender SHG will be responsible for day-to-day operation and maintenance of the 8 MLD water treatment plant. Officials said 31 members of the SHG have been trained thoroughly on leadership as well as technical aspects of operation and maintenance of the plant including the intake well. Housing and Urban department secretary G Mathi Vathanan said the department will continue to engage more people from vulnerable sections in such activities in future. WATCO officials said they will continue to provide hand-holding support to the SHG for a fixed period.



# 128 Crore Proposals Cleared For Mo School

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary School & Mass Education has said that the selected volunteers of the State Government's Mo School Abhiyan will work towards the development of government and government-aided schools of the state.

Mr.Sethi was chairing the 33rd Executive Council meeting of Mo School Abhiyan, held virtually on Wednesday in view of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

To give emphasis on the academic enrichment and holistic development of students, Mo School will work closely with these volunteers at school and block level.

Officials of Mo School have visited 69 blocks of 20 districts with the objective to form block level alumni committees to filter out alumni volunteers whose support will be sought in learning recovery programmes of children. In this connection, school and block level trainings will be given to the volunteers and different scholastic activities will be undertaken for students of classes 1 to 10 during summer vacations.

Chairing the Meeting, Principal Secretary, School & Mass Education, Mr.Sethi put forward the proposal of utilising the modes of financial monitoring systems such as PFMS and SNA to keep tabs on financial transparency.

Mr.Sethi also proposed the office of MSAPS

to look into the prospects of collaborating with Odisha Bigyan Academy and such other organisations to boost the scientific temperament of the students. Proposals worth Rs.128.32 Crore from 27 districts were approved. In the last one month, more than



18,000 alumni have joined hands with Mo School Abhiyan. The alumni have contributed financial assistance of Rs.6.45 Crore for the development of their respective alma mater.

Mo School has received a financial assistance of Rs.36.24 Crore from various CSR entities. Coupled with a 2X matching grant for the alumni contribution and CSR contri-

bution, proposals worth Rs.128.32 Crore were approved. Alumni have contributed the highest in Balasore (Rs.1.80 Cr), followed by Khordha (Rs.52.59 Lakhs), Angul (Rs.31.72 Lakhs), Ganjam (Rs.30.11 lakhs) and Bargarh (Rs.27.87Lakhs).

Till date, a total of 6.61 Lakh alumni have contributed financially to Mo School. In a first, 100 Percent schools have been covered under Mo School in Boudh district. Earlier, all high schools of Angul districts have been covered under Mo School.

Under the '100 Schools' Project of Mo School, focus is being laid on the infrastructural and academic upliftment to transform these 100 schools into aspirational schools. Virtual interactions in two phases with the Head Teachers and alumni of 100 Schools have been completed with the vision to set examples of these schools among the others in the district. In this regard, 98 Head Teachers from 100 Schools have been trained on Head Teacher Leadership Devel-

opment Programme at three Revenue zonal levels, 618 secondary teachers have been trained from 100 schools at the district level in all 30 districts on Effective Integration of smart Classroom, E-Library and science Lab and use of utilities. In the next days, interactive sessions with the Head Teachers, Teachers, Alumni, SMC/SMDC members of the 100 selected schools will be conducted under the chairpersonship of Chairperson, Mo School. Keeping in view the analysis of last three years high school exam results, it has been decided to necessitate steps for the academic enrichment of the students.

A special guidance note for Head Teachers on suggestive activities to enhance student aspiration along with a letter from Chairperson, Mo School has been disseminated to 100 schools covered under School Adoption Programme. Mo School will be extending its 'Code Club' activities to 1,000 schools under the High School Transformation programme to promote digital skills in students. The meeting was held in the presence of State Project Director- OSEPA, Director, Higher Secondary, Director, Secondary Education, Director, Primary Education, Director, TE & SCERT, Additional Secretary, S&ME department, Financial Advisor, S&ME department, Chief Operating Officer and Officer on Special Duty, Mo School.

## Pradhan thrust on timely distribution of rice to poor

DHENKANAL(KCN): Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday



laid stress on transparent and timely distribution of rice and foodgrains under various government schemes to the poor. Addressing a public meeting at Saptasajya here, Pradhan

said of the total population of 130 crore in the country, 80 crore people are being provided Rs 5 kg rice free under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY). The unique scheme has been lauded by global organisations. On the day, the Union Minister visited a retail shop and distributed 5 kg rice to beneficiaries.

Pradhan, who is on a three-day tour to Dhenkanal to take stock of the progress of various welfare programmes of the Centre in the district, also said Rs 3.5 lakh crore has been spent under the Yojana. "The scheme has been implemented in the country since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. It will continue for another six months as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

Pradhan said he has come to Dhenkanal after being deputed by the Prime Minister to review implementation of Central schemes in areas covered under the Aspirational Districts Programme. Launched by the Prime Minister in January 2018, the programme aims to bring rapid transformation in most under-developed districts of the country. From April 6 to 20, Pradhan said, Union Ministers are visiting various parts of the country to review the progress of various welfare programmes

launched by the Centre. Speaking to mediapersons later on the day, the Union Minister condemned the recent attacks on Dhenkanal municipality chairperson Jayanti Patra. "What is worrying is the silence of law enforcing agencies in dealing with the post-poll violence. In a democracy, defeat and victory are part of elections. Violence has no place in democracy," he added. Pradhan also visited the Central school and BJP office in Dhenkanal before leaving for Talcher.

## Odia Naba Barsh observed at DAV Kalinga Nagar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odia Nababarsha is



observed at DAV Public School, Kalinga



Nagar with colorful programmes in order to inculcate the rich odia culture &

conducted. The Principal of the School Shri



Bipin Kumar Sahoo, Madam Minakshi



Sahoo were joined as the guest of the occasion where as the supervisors, teachers, par-



tradition.To mark the occasion the puja, chorous, Group Dance, Speeches are being

ents were attended the programme and encouraged the students.

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## MSME federation cautions members on relationship with Kotak Mahindra Bank

MUMBAI: The Federation of Indian Micro And Small & Me- services and poor service delivery," the Federation's advisory etc. "...members are urged to protect their inter- bank," said Rohit Rao, Spokesperson, Kotak Mahindra



dium Enterprises (FISME) has cautioned its members who are either existing customers of or those who want to switch to or from Kotak Mahindra Bank that a relationship with the bank comes with "hidden costs."

"Often a relationship with Kotak is seen to come with hidden costs, higher interest rates, excessive forex commissions, overcharging for routine

to its members' claims. The claims have been denied by the bank.

The Federation alleges harassment of MSME borrowers who intend to switch to other banks, raising exorbitant demands for foreclosure charges ranging from 2 to 4% of the sanctioned limits from MSME customers who wish to exit Kotak, not releasing securities nor issuing no-dues clearances,

ests with the help of expert legal assistance to fully understand the risks that may arise in dealing Kotak," the advisory adds.

However, a Kotak Mahindra Bank spokesperson denied all the allegations. "The Federation of Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' (FISME) letter, that you have shared over email, makes unfounded allegations against our

Bank. "FISME has concealed and misrepresented vital facts. We vehemently deny each and every allegation. Kotak Mahindra Bank never indulges in practices that are either against banking norms or are immoral or illegal. The bank serves numerous MSME customers across India and has always endeavoured to provide high-quality service to its esteemed customers."

## RBI may hike repo rate by 25 bps in June: Report

MUMBAI: With the Reserve Bank of India prioritising inflation overgrowth, the repo rate is likely to be hiked by at least 25 basis points in June, SBI's Ecwrap report said on Wednesday. In its monetary policy announced last week, the RBI had left the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent.

The six-member monetary panel also decided to remain accommodative while focusing on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going for-

tween WPI and CPI food inflation with WPI food prices being higher than CPI food prices, which indicated incomplete pass through of prices. The gap was 4.7 per cent in January 2022 and it has now reduced to 2.3 per cent.

"We have already taken the impact of this pass through of WPI food inflation to CPI food inflation while estimating our average CPI of 5.5-6 per cent (oil price of USD 95-USD 100 per barrel)," the report said. The report's estimates show that one per cent increase in the Minimum



ward, while supporting growth.

"We now expect a 25 basis point (bps) rate hike each in June and August, with a cumulative rate hike of 75 basis points in the (interest rate hardening) cycle," the report said on Wednesday. Retail inflation, as measured by Consumer Price-based Index (CPI), surged to 6.95 per cent on yearly basis in March 2022 as compared to 6.07 per cent in February 2022 mainly on account of spiralling food prices.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has significantly impacted the trajectory of inflation.

The March 2022 inflation print shows wheat, protein items (chicken in particular), milk, refined oil, potato, chillies, kerosene, firewood, gold and LPG contributing to the overall inflation in a substantive manner. The conflict has pushed up prices of chicken abruptly as chicken feed imports from Ukraine are getting disrupted. The pressure on sunflower oil supplies from Ukraine has led to changes in export policy from Indonesia, thereby leading to lower palm oil imports, the report said. There was a huge gap be-

Support Price (MSP) leads to a rise of four basis points in CPI inflation.

"Thus, overall higher MSP should lead to upside risk to CPI inflation of 48-60 bps over our earlier inflation forecast of 5.8 per cent. Thus, taking the impact of MSP on inflation, CPI inflation could be pushed above 6 per cent in FY23. This is higher than RBI inflation at 5.7 per cent," the report said.

Inflation prints are now likely to stay higher than 7 per cent till September, it said, adding that beyond September, inflation prints could hover in the range of 6.5-7 per cent.

"Our FY23 inflation forecast is now closer to 6.5 per cent, taking into account the possibility of an extended food price shock," the report said. It further said given that the spread between G-sec (Government Securities) yields and repo rate jumps in an increasing interest rate cycle, G-Sec yields could touch 7.75 per cent by September. "We believe, RBI will keep the G-Sec yields capped at 7.5 per cent through unconventional policy measures," it said.

## Ukraine effect? Infosys to move its business out of Russian market

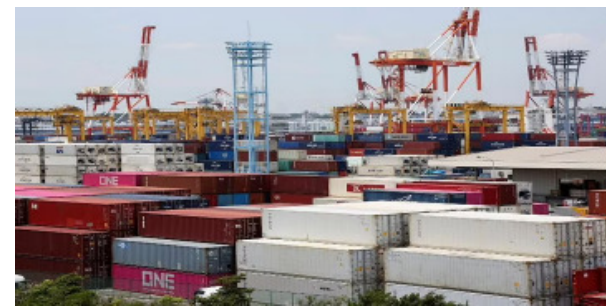
BENGALURU: IT giant Infosys, which has less than 100 employees in Russia, on Wednesday said it was transitioning out of the Russian market.

This move comes against the backdrop of the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Infosys said that they are not working for any Russian client, and have no plans to work for Russian clients in the future.

"Infosys as a company very much would like to see the two sides (Russia and Ukraine) come together and come to some agreement on peace...we have started transitioning all of our work in Russia to centres outside Russia. We work with no Russian clients. At this stage, we have no impact

## India achieves export target for FY22

NEW DELHI: India has achieved the export target of more than \$419 billion for the financial year ending March 2022 against the target of \$400 billion, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said Wednesday. In addition, he said that the actual exports also surpassed the target of \$200 billion, as per the provisionals numbers.



"We had set a target of 200 billion dollars for the services sector. Till March 31, we have achieved a target of 240 billion dollars in the services target. It happened when the tourism and aviation sectors were closed. This is a big achievement for India," Goyal said.

"There are a lot of employment opportunities in the sectors like textile, pharmaceutical industry, gem, and jewelry etc. The trade deal with Australia will help in creating about 10 lakh jobs.

within our business from an Infosys perspective," Salil Parekh, CEO of

eastern European countries. Parekh also said that they would be pro-

co-founder Narayana Murthy, Parekh said he could not comment on individual



Infosys, said in a press conference.

For IT companies, the US, UK and Europe are the largest markets and the firms have been expanding their presence in Eastern Europe.

Apart from Russia, Infosys has a presence in Hungary, Lithuania and Slovakia. Infosys might move its work from Russia to other

Agreements with UAE would also create another 10 lakh jobs," Goyal added.

Responding to a media query related to the import of sunflower oil amid the Russia-Ukraine crisis, Goyal said the Government is exploring alternate ways to fulfil the country's needs. He added that India's export to Russia and Ukraine

providing assistance for reskilling individuals that are displaced. When asked about travails being faced by Akshata Murthy, daughter of Infosys

shareholders. Akshata Murthy and her husband Rishi Sunak have been facing a raging controversy over tax status in the UK.

## UK PM Boris Johnson's India visit likely to propel free trade talks

Continued from page-1

a state visit that highlights a successful India-UK partnership on the agenda besides a wide-ranging schedule in New Delhi, according to highly-placed Indian government sources.

The visit next week, which is yet to be formally announced by Downing Street, follows the successful completion of four out of 26 chapters in the ongoing India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Johnson are expected to take stock of the negotiations and mandate a timeline for the possible completion of the process, initially set for the end of this year.

According to officials close to the discussions, there has also been "significant progress" in the remaining 22 chapters of the FTA at the end of the first two rounds of official negotiations, with the third round of talks scheduled for later this month.

The focal point of Johnson's India visit is expected to be on April 21 and 22, when bilateral discussions and interactions with Indian business leaders are on the cards.

A joint statement, being worked on by both sides, is likely to cover agreements across a variety of sectors, including defence and security and education.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict is likely to feature strongly during the meeting, but officials pointed out that other regional matters such as the situation in Afghanistan and the UK's Indo-Pacific tilt will be high on the agenda of the bilateral visit.

The officials maintain that discussions with the UK over India's stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict have remained "cordial", with a respect for New Delhi's hopes of a peaceful resolution through diplomatic means.

Closer defence ties that overcome some "legacy issues" around technology transfer and make use of the 'Make in India' initiative are seen as an important aspect of future India-UK relations, against the backdrop of India's historic defence equipment ties with Russia.

Modi and Johnson last met in person on the sidelines of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow in November last year, when their talks during the World Leaders' Summit focussed on the India-UK climate partnership as well as a review of the 2030 Roadmap the pair had signed during a virtual summit in May 2021.

The Roadmap, which aims to at least double bilateral trade between India and the UK by 2030, has been dubbed a comprehensive agreement that prioritises areas where the two countries are "natural partners".

Johnson's expected visit next week is seen as long overdue, having been cancelled twice before – first when he was invited as a chief guest for Republic Day celebrations due to a COVID-19 spike in the UK in early 2021 and then cancelled again as a result of the pandemic situation in India around this time last year.

## BR Ambedkar's statue disfigured in Noida on birth anniversary, cops launch probe

Continued from page-1

order-related situation in the area due to the incident, the police added. Born in a Dalit family in Maharashtra in 1891, Ambedkar, a Bharat Ratna, was a jurist and economist who played an important role in India's freedom movement and became the country's first law minister.

Ambedkar championed the cause of the Dalit community which faced deep-rooted discrimination. He is regarded as a Dalit icon for his relentless work for social reforms and the empowerment of the disadvantaged sections of society.



## International Olympic Committee member Alex Gilady of Israel dies at 79

JERUSALEM: Alex Gilady, an Israeli media pioneer and longtime International Olympic Committee member, has died. He was 79.

Gilady was a former sports executive at U.S. network

NBC and was the first Israeli journalist to report from Egypt in 1977 ahead of the signing of a landmark peace treaty with its Arab neighbour. He received the Israeli Broadcasting Association's "Man of the Year" award

that year. He died at a hospital in London from cancer late on Thursday, according to the Israeli business paper The Marker. In 1993 he founded Keshet Media Group, which grew into one of the country's major media pro-

duction companies. Gilady was also elected as an IOC member in 1994. He served on the commissions organizing each of the games from Athens in 2004 until Paris in 2024, according to the Olympic Committee.

## Rohit Sharma reaches milestone of 500 fours in IPL



PUNE: It was yet another milestone for Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma as he became the fifth batter to achieve this feat.

Rohit Sharma achieved this feat against Punjab Kings here at the

Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium on Wednesday. He also became only the second Indian batter after Virat Kohli to complete 10,000 runs in the T20 cricket.

However, other than Rohit Sharma's achievements of hit-

ting 500 fours in the IPL and 10,000 runs in T20s there was nothing much to celebrate for Mumbai Indians as they lost to Punjab Kings by 12 runs, which was their fifth defeat of the season in as many matches.

Mumbai Indians failed to chase a 199-run target against Punjab Kings as they could only manage to score 186/9 in 20 overs. Post-match Mumbai Indians were also fined Rs 24 lakh for a slow over-rate.

## Royals opt to bowl against Titans, Boult out with a niggle



NAVI MUMBAI: Rajasthan Royals won the toss and opted to bowl against Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Royals' lead pacer Trent Boult was unavailable for selection due to a niggle,

said skipper Sanju Samson at the toss. Fellow New Zealander Jimmy Neesham replaced him in the playing eleven.

Titans made two changes, bringing in Yash Dayal and Vijay Shankar in place of Darshan Nalkande

and Sai Sudarshan. Teams: Rajasthan Royals: Jos Buttler, Devdutt Padikkal, Sanju Samson (w/c), Rassie van der Dussen, Shimron Hetmyer, James Neesham, Riyan Parag, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Sen, Prasidh Krishna,

Yuzvendra Chahal. Gujarat Titans: Matthew Wade (w), Shubman Gill, Vijay Shankar, Hardik Pandya (c), David Miller, Abhinav Manohar, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid Khan, Lockie Ferguson, Mohammed Shami, Yash Dayal.

## Eliminated by Manchester City, Atlético must ensure return to Champions League

BARCELONA(KCN): Despite being reduced to 10 men and stymied in attack, Atlético Madrid still had a last-gasp chance to send its ill-humoured Champions League quarterfinal against Manchester City into extra time. But when the ball fell to Ángel Correa in the area, the forward steered his injury-time shot

Liga — its best run of the season — until it was upset at lowly Mallorca 1-0 last weekend. Together with the series against City, Atlético has gone scoreless in three consecutive games.

So, while Atlético succeeded in limiting City's vaunted attack to a single goal in 180-plus



right at the gloves of Ederson. City's goalkeeper ensured a scoreless draw in Madrid on Wednesday and made good on the English side's 1-0 first-leg win.

Atlético can't linger in disappointment for long. It must salvage what it can from the dwindling season by making sure it returns to Europe's top club competition with a top-four finish in the Spanish league.

"We are hurting for how this Champions League ended, and we are never going to stop believing," Atlético midfielder Koke Resurrección said. "We have to finish the season well to play in the Champions again and be able to play games like this next season." Atlético hosts Espanyol on Sunday. The Liga titleholder enters the round in fourth place, but fifth-placed Real Betis is one point behind before playing sixth-placed Real Sociedad on Friday. Sociedad is also in striking distance at only three points behind Atlético.

With Real Madrid running away with the title race in Spain, the biggest contest is for those other three Champions League spots. Barcelona and Sevilla, level on points in second and third, are just three points ahead of Atlético.

Diego Simeone's side won six in a row in La

minutes, it failed to generate enough danger despite having added Antoine Griezmann and Matheus Cunha to an attack that already featured Correa, Luis Suárez and João Félix.

Espanyol offers Atlético a good opportunity to rediscover its finishing touch. The 11th-placed Espanyol is winless in its last five games on the road, with its last away victory coming in December.


Real Madrid is 12 points clear before visiting third-placed Sevilla on Sunday. The Sevilla game and the game at Atlético next month are the biggest hurdles left for Madrid to add to its record 34 league titles.

Karim Benzema and his league-high 24 goals will again lead Madrid in Seville. Goal No. 38 in all competitions on Tuesday clinched a 5-4 aggregate victory over Chelsea in their Champions League quarterfinal.

Madrid will be without holding midfielder Casemiro, serving a one-game suspension for an accumulation of yellow cards.

Sevilla's 4-2 win over Granada last weekend was its first victory in five rounds.

Barcelona hosts Cádiz on Monday after winning its last six league games by the combined score of 22-5. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has scored eight times in that period.

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