

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan attacks West Bengal government over not implementing NEP

KOLKATA(KCN): Union Education Minister Dharmendra

Pradhan who also wondered whether

local languages. The West Bengal government has said

tries to centralise the entire higher education system, obliterating the current mechanism which gives leeway to universities to have their own Syllabus.

Pradhan said, "It (NEP) was done in a spirit of consultative mechanism in a scientific manner. Does West Bengal oppose that very spirit? Are they opposed to a committee helmed by a scientist like K Kasturirangan for reasons other than academics?" The Union minister, who was talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event at a city hotel, said that

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Pradhan on Sunday attacked the West Bengal government for its opposition to the New Education Policy unveiled in 2020, wondering whether the opposition stemmed from "political consider-

the opposition stemmed from "political reasons" tried to defend the NEP which has been attacked by many non-Hindi speaking state governments by claiming that it gave equal importance to

it is opposed to the NEP claiming that the policy seeks to impose Hindi and bring curriculum changes in the name of uniformity which went against federalism. The government also alleged that the NEP

Hong Kong bans Air India flights till April 24 after three passengers found COVID-infected

NEW DELHI(KCN): Hong Kong has banned Air India services till April 24 after three passengers on one of its flights tested positive for COVID-19 post arrival on Saturday, a senior government official has said. Passengers from India can arrive in Hong Kong only if they have a COVID-19 negative certificate from a test done 48 hours prior to the journey, according to rules issued by the Hong Kong government, said the official on Sunday. Moreover, all interna-

tional passengers are required to take a

tested positive for COVID-19 post ar-

did not respond to the PTI's request for a



post-flight COVID-19 test at the airport premises in Hong Kong. "The three passengers on Air India's AI316 Delhi-Kolkata-Hong Kong flight on April 16

rival," the official said. Air India flights from New Delhi and Kolkata have been banned till April 24 by the Hong Kong government, the official added. Air India

statement on this matter. Regular international flights resumed in India on March 27 after a two years' hiatus induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Naveen Opens DN Wisdom

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday inaugurated

the DN WisdomTree Global School at Sunderpur in Chandaka near Bhubaneswar.

model to the students. Apart from the normal education, the

Wisdom Finishing School programme. Secretary to Chief Minister (5-T) Shri



the DN WisdomTree Global School at Sunderpur in Chandaka near Bhubaneswar. He interacted with the students and encouraged them to ex-

on the campus. The school was established in 2018 and will now function at its sprawling Sunderpur campus which provides a unique education

school aims at upgrading the communication skills, enhancement of personality and character building through its unique model of education called

V.K. Pandian was also present on the occasion. Chairman of the school Jagdish Prasad Nayak, Principal, teachers and students were present.

PM Shehbaz Sharif pitches for meaningful India-Pakistan engagement

NEW DELHI(KCN): Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has written a letter to his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, pitching for "meaningful" engagement between the two countries, people familiar with the development said on Sunday. Sharif's communication on Saturday came in response to a letter sent by Modi to the Pakistani leader congratulating him on becoming the prime minister, they said. In his letter a few days ago, Modi conveyed to Sharif that India desired constructive ties with

Pakistan. On April 11, the Pakistan parliament selected Sharif as the 23rd prime minister of the country, a day after

game' In a Twitter post, Modi congratulated Sharif on becoming the prime minister of Pakistan and said In-

as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. India desires peace and stability in a region free of terror, so that we can focus on our develop-



Imran Khan was ousted from power in a no-confidence vote. Imran Khan claims Shehbaz Sharif led government trying to push him 'out of the

dia desires peace and stability in a region free of terrorism. "Congratulations to H.E. Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on his election

ment challenges and ensure the well-being and prosperity of our people," he tweeted on April 11. In his response, CONTINUED ON: P-7

Five dead, 13 injured after series of strikes in Ukraine's second largest city of Kharkiv

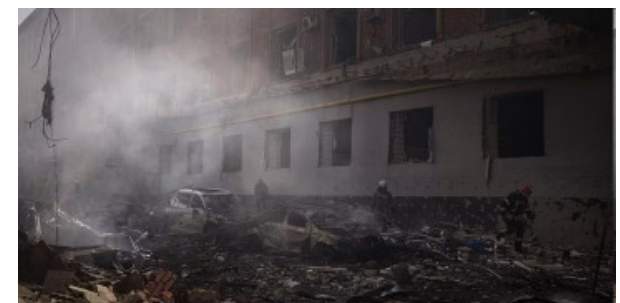
KHARKIV(KCN): A series of strikes Sunday in Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv in the north east of the war-scarred country left at least five dead and 13 injured, a regional health official told AFP.

Maksym Khaustov, the head of the Kharkiv region's health department, confirmed the deaths following a series of strikes that onlookers said had ignited fires throughout the city and torn roofs from

buildings hit in the attacks. They heard two incoming salvos and witnessed five fires spread over resi-

In the moments after the strikes, there was a sense of panic in the street, with pedestrians fleeing and cars speeding

strike. The roofs of some homes had been torn off by the force of the blasts, showering debris onto the road below.



dential areas in central Kharkiv. Fire engines raced in every direction across the city centre and deployed ladders to reach smouldering apartments on the top floor.

from the scene. At one site, a spectator saw a blood-stained coat next to a pool of fresh blood on the ground. A local reported hearing between six and eight missiles

Since pulling back from its northern offensive to capture the capital of Kyiv, the Kremlin has scaled up attacks on Ukraine's eastern flank, including Kharkiv just 21 kilometres (13 miles) from the Russian border. On Friday, shelling of residential areas of the city killed 10 people. On Saturday, a strike claimed two more lives.

Congress needs New Face

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) President Niranjan Patnaik could be the first PCC Chief of any state to side with the critics' demand for a change of guard in the party. Niranjan, a veteran politician, has meekly ceded that the OPCC President needs to be changed. This is not all; Niranjan would prefer the change to happen sooner rather than later. This is probably for the first time in the history of Congress in Odisha when a PCC President himself favours his removal. His statement itself reflects the state of affairs in the party and its future.

Why does Niranjan offer to quit and beg for the early acceptance of his resignation?

Though he did not speak in many words, Mr.Patnaik admits that the grand old party has crushed to third position after losing the status of the principal opposition party in the state under his leadership. The party's dismal standing has been exposed in the recent rural and urban polls. The Congress candidates have also miserably failed in all the by-elections held after 2019 general elections under the leadership of Niranjan. While political analysts conclude the party's downturn is the result of constant infighting, lack of resources, and a weakening organization,

the fact remains that the oldest party has been losing its credibility among the people in general and youths in parti- CONTINUED ON: P-7



Spread Happiness Foundation has become the backbone of Dadan workers

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In Kerala, the body of a dead Dadan worker was taken to his ancestral village in Sorada block on 15th Apr 2022. The current Dadan problem is a major problem. Immigrants who leave their homes and live abroad to work for their livelihoods are sometimes tortured and their lives are lost in accidents. At such a critical juncture, Spread Happiness Foundation an expatriate Oriya voluntary organization formed by the efforts of Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra, a young man from Bellguntha, stood by the Dadan workers and repeatedly extended a helping hand to both the state government and the district administration.

The body of Kalu Nayak, a resident of Badbadangi village in Sorada block, who lost his life in a road accident on 20th February 2022, with the help of our organization, was transported to his hometown from Ernakulam, Kerala.

According to sources, a 23-year-old man named Gandhi Patra of Asurbandh Panchayat in Sorada block was seriously injured when he fell into a pouring machine while working as a day laborer in Kerala and died while undergoing treatment.

Gandhi's body was flown from Kerala to Bhubaneswar by air with the help of the Odisha government and the Ganjam district administration. Many members, including Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra, Chairman of Spread Happiness Foundation and Janakiballav Patnaik a young volunteer from Sorada, were helped in depart the body of late Gandhi and offered condolences to the bereaved families.

The efforts of the Government of Odisha and the Government of Kerala and Spread Happiness Foundation, which brought the dead body of the deceased to their ancestral village in such a tragic state, have been widely praised.

Vishwa Shanti Homyagna on Maha Vishub Sankranti

Cuttack(KCN): On the auspicious occasion of Maha Vishuba Sankranti and Odia Nav Varsh, 14th April 2022 Thursday, Anandam Foundation organised a "Vishwa Shanti Homyagna" at Varandihura (Tribal Village), Agrahat,

Choudwar, Cuttack district of Odisha. It started on 10a.m. with Vedic mantras followed by Bhajan with the coordination of Gayatri Parivar, Choudwar Branch. The locals joined us merrily and contributed in the programme. Local residents Shri

Shankar Hembram and his wife Smt Sapani Hembram performed the Yagya as hosts (yajmaan). It was concluded with Purnahuti & Prasadam at 3pm. Shri Janmajey Sahoo (Joint Secretary), Shri Ashok Kumar Nayak and

Shri Sagar Hembram (Karyakarta) coordinated the whole programme. Along with the villagers, other 26 people (invitee) attended the ritual. Shri Manoj Das, General Secretary of Anandam Foundation was also present on this occasion.

Programme commemorating Pranakrushna concluded with the release of books

Kolkata(KCN): Pranakrushna charitable Trust organised the anniversary of Pranakrushna and opening ceremony of an anthology of Odia poems by Nalinikanta Padhi under the title 'Suryastara Sesh Kotha' in the premises of Padmalochan High School yesterday. This programme was presided over by Dayanidhi Sahu, lect in Odia at Pipli Mahavidyalaya. Bipin Bihari Biswal, veteran professor, man of letters

and secretary of Dinakrushna Smruti Porishad, was invited as chief guest to this arena. Former Lecturer in Odia Rabindra Biswal was accorded as the chief speaker. Among other signing stars mention may be made of an academy awadee Bimal Jana, Kali Kinkar Das, Brajendra Giri, Surendra Parida and Shishir Hazira. Narayan Biswal highlighted on the biography and the book 'Suna jhio' of Pranakrushna Biswal. International

ally acclaimed poet Dr Manorama Biswal Mahapatra focused on her father's key issues relating to life and works. Nalinikanta Padhi uttered opening words while Damyanti Jana recited hymns from The Veda. The chief guest uncovered Shisir Hazira's book of English poems entitled 'The poem of real thought'. Bimal Jena and Kalikinkar Das was awarded Pranakrushna Smruti Samman for their contribution to literature and literature for

children respectively. With active participation and co-operation from Kapil Das, Ardhendu Panigrahi, Snehalata Nayak, krushna Kalyani Nayak, Dibakar Behera, Rabindra Dutta and others, the two and half hours long programme came to an end with the note of thanks from Nalinikanta Padhi. That programme could not be a grand success but for the whole-hearted assistance of students from Jagai Mahavidyalaya.

Dr. Anil Kumar Pattnaik received State Green Commandant Award

Khordha(KCN): Perna International Green Army felicitated Principal Sudhananda Educational Institution, Dr. Anil Kumar Pattnaik in "State Green Army Award" for activities that lead to the protection of the natural environment. In a special occasions organized by Perna International Green Army former Chief Secretary of Odisha Bijaya Ketan Pattnaik felicitated Dr. Anil Kumar Pattnaik in this award. The chief speaker of the occasions



Perna International Green Army Commandant-in-Chief Dr. Dillip Srichandan said "Educational Institutions and Environment both are co-related each other. Education increases awareness and concerns for the environment. People with more education tend not only to be more concerned about the environment, but also to engage in actions that promote and support political and support political decision that protect the environment.

Ministers and MLA of Odisha Assembly Witness Naval Training During One Day Visit to INS Chilika

Khordha(KCN): A one day visit to INS Chilika for members of Odisha Legislative

of Indian Navy to the peoples representatives of Odisha states. A delegation of 82

cruitment and training of sailors visit to training facilities and living spaces of trainees as well as witnessing boot camp training activities conducted at INS Chilika. The aspects related to coastal security, civil military liaison with emphasis to HADR operations were also discussed during the presentation. Cmde NP Pradeep Naval Officer-in-Charge and Commanding Officer INS Chilika later apprising the distinguished guests about the recruit technological developments in the Navy towards

ensuing maritime security of our nation. The honourable members also witnessed a cultural programme conducted by the trainees of 01/22 batch. The speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly also addressed the gathering and thanked INS Chilika for the Yeomen efforts to impart ab-initio training to the naval sailors. He also said that Odisha is proud that the premiere training establishment located in the state. He also highlighted that the bedrock of the sailors journey in the Navy is laid here.



Assembly was conducted to Indian Navy's Premiere training establishment INS Chilika. The event was organized as part of units initiative towards introduction of maritime domain and training philosophy

MLAs along with officials from the state and district administration headed by Dr. Surya Narayan Patro, Speaker Odisha Legislative Assembly visited INS Chilika. The day long visit include presentation on aspects related re-

Dr. Prakash conferred with "Odia Sanskruti Purusha Samman"

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Working untiringly for the upliftment and spreading of Odia Language, Literature, Culture &

eran freedom fighter Shri Hatanath Mangaraj, Former Minister Dr. Damador Rout, Shri Bijaya Mohapatra,

organization in 1994 and continuously working till now for the cultural upliftment and social work. Along

ment from that time and after working at D A V Chandrasekharpur for 23 years is now posted as the senior



Tradition for last three decades the President of leading social and cultural organization of the state Niladri Vihar Youth & Cultural Association (N Y C A) Dr. Prakash has been conferred with "Odia Sanskruti Purusha Samman" during the observation of Odia New Year. In a glittering function organized for the purpose by Odisha Nagarika Mahamancha & the watch guard body of odia Language, Literature, Culture & Tradition Namami Mandakini at Rabindra Mandop Dr. Prakash is being felicitated with shawl, memento, bouquet in the glorious presence of vet-

Veteran MLA Shri Prafulla Samal, Eminent Literati Jitendra Narayan Das, Dash Benuhur, member of Lokseva Ayoga Niranjan Sahoo, Prof. Kailash Chandra Tikayat and Arya Kumar Gyanendra. To note

with this to extend a helping hand in the formation of new social and cultural organization along with the cultural activities is a long time hobby of Dr. Prakash. The association is hosting the social play (Jatra)

faculty at DAV, Kalinga Nagar. In replay to the felicitation Dr. Prakash urged that the development of the Community lies only on the development of the Literature, Language, Culture & Tradition and its safe guard is badly necessary and we all should work upon this and gives all credit to his team members for staying together for this long time. He also emphasizes to carry out this activities for the time to come and seek every bodies help & cooperation in this regard. The intellectuals of the locality applauds the effort & work of Dr. Prakash and the association.



in order to unite the youth mass and to keep them away from the bad habits and peers and to utilize them in constructive fields Dr. Prakash started this

for two consecutive nights for last 27 years is another remarkable achievement under his leadership. Dr. Prakash is also associated with the DAV mo-

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Anil Kapoor celebrates 30 years of 'Beta'

MUMBAI: Actor Anil Kapoor on Sunday marked 30 years of his hit Dixit-Nene commented, "Absolutely agree with you".



"Beta" and recalled how the 1992 film was the "biggest blockbuster" of the year. Directed by Indra Kumar, the drama also starred Madhuri Dixit-Nene, Aruna Irani, Anupam Kher and Laxmikant Berde. Kapoor took to Instagram and shared the film's poster, along with pictures from an award ceremony. "It was a great feeling for us as actors when our film was the biggest blockbuster of the year 1992 and received so much love and all the accolades! Celebrating 30 years of 'Beta,'" the 65-year-old actor wrote.

The film's soundtrack, composed by Anand-Milind, featured chartbusters like "Dhak Dhak Karne Laga" and "Koyal Si Teri Boli". "Beta" was Kumar's second collaboration with Dixit-Nene after their 1990 hit "Dil". The actor-director also worked in the 1995 drama "Raja" and the 2019 comedy "Total Dhamaal". Kapoor and Dixit-Nene were already a hit onscreen pair courtesy films like "Parinda", "Tezaab" and "Ram Laxhan", when they delivered blockbuster "Beta". The duo last appeared together in "Total Dhamaal".

Mrunal Thakur: My parents and cat give me a sense of belonging

MUMBAI: Mrunal Thakur who recently appeared in the short film 'Jahaan' and is now gearing up for the feature 'Jersey' opposite Shahid Kapoor, says despite all the fame, success, and multiple professional commitments, her only way to maintain her sanity is living with her parents and pet cat. Starting her career with the television show 'Mujhse Kuchh Kehi... Yeh Khamoshiyaan', the actress gained her visibility with films including - 'Love Sonia', 'Super 30', 'Ghost Stories', 'Toofan', 'Dhamaka'. While the short film 'Jahaan' talks about belonging, asked about her sense of belonging as an artist, in conversation with IANS, Mrunal opens up. Mrunal told IANS: "As artists, we are living with different characters because we are acting them on-screen. The process is quite overwhelming because we are getting into the skin of the character. Then a day comes when the filming

gets over and we leave the character. At times that hurts too, emotionally, because sometimes a character impacts the actor." She continued, " It might just sound insane...the only way to maintain sanity for me is to go back to my home, cutting off from that world. Now that I am doing good work, more than often I am asked why do I still live with my parents, far away from the city, instead of living independently." "It is only my parents, sibling and my pet cat that gives me a true sense of belonging. I still love playing with my cats and my brother. I still am my father's daughter first, then a celebrity," Mrunal signed off. 'Jahaan' is streaming on Amazon miniTV.



'What you make of Kuthiraivaal is what it is'

'What you make of Kuthiraivaal is what it is' Kuthiraivaal has convinced many and confounded 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 any-

thing 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. The film is rich with inventive imagery and sound complexity, and the material is deep in how it speaks of the nature of dreams without ever spoon-feeding information or intent. The ideas Kuthiraivaal handles aren't easy to execute for the big screen, and when you consider that the filmmakers—Shyam and Manoj—have made their debut,

the more impressive. Here are the film's directors, Shyam and Manoj, and the writer, Rajesh, in a casual, open conversation about the film's themes and what they believe the audience should support this film: What is your motivation for straying away from conventional storytelling? Rajesh: German philosopher Nietzsche famously declared that god is dead. I view god and stories to be the same. So, in a sense, stories are dead too. We don't need to tell stories anymore. It's enough if our storytelling contains fragments of stories—that's all they can be anyway. I realise that people have trouble when the three-act structure gets broken; I get that they are used to a certain pattern in cinema. We wanted to change these perceptions with this film.



Relevance of Digital Evidence Part 4

Contd from article published on 11th April 2022)
16. Some decisions regarding the admissibility of digital evidence:

a) The Supreme Court in *Anvar P.V. v. P.K. Basheer and others*, AIR 2015 SC 180, clarified the law regarding the admissibility of digital evidence in India. In this case, departing from its earlier ruling in *State (NCT of Delhi) v. Navjot Sandhu*, AIR 2005 SC 3820, the importance of Section 65B was recognised. Supreme Court observed that, "any documentary evidence by way of an electronic record under the Evidence Act, in view of Sections 59 and 65A,

can be proved only in accordance with the procedure prescribed under Section 65B, which deals with the admissibility of electronic record. The purpose of these provisions is to sanctify secondary evidence in electronic form, generated by a computer. The Section starts with a non obstante clause. Thus, notwithstanding anything contained in the Evidence Act, any information contained in an electronic record which is printed on paper, stored, recorded or copied in optical or magnetic media produced by computer shall be deemed to be a document only if the conditions mentioned under Section 65B(2) are satisfied, without further proof or production of original. The admissibility of such document, i.e., electronic record which is called as computer output, depends on the satisfaction of the four conditions under Section 65B(2) of the Indian Evidence Act. The Court also pointed out, "only if the electronic record is duly produced in terms of Section 65B of the Evidence Act, the question would arise as to the genuineness thereof and in that situation, resort can be made to Section 45A – opinion of examiner of electronic evidence".

b) In *Abdul Rahman Kunji v. State of West Bengal*, in C.R.A. Nos. 454 & 624 of 2009 decided on November 14, 2014, the Calcutta High Court has dealt with the issue of admissibility of emails as evidence. The Court pointed out that such evidences in connection with an email can be admitted as evidence only if it satisfies the conditions mentioned under Section 65B of Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

c) In *Rakesh Kumar and Ors. v. State*, Criminal Appeal No. 19/2007 decided on 27.08.2009, Delhi High Court while appreciating the reliance placed by the prosecution upon the

Call Records, observed that computer generated electronic records is evidence, admissible at a trial if proved in the manner specified by Section 65B of the Evidence Act.

d) In *Dharmbir v C.B.I., 148 (2008) DLT 289* before Delhi High Court, the question was whether a hard disc can be considered as an electronic record or not. The Court pointed out, "While there can be no doubt that a hard disc is an electronic device used for storing information, once a blank hard disc is written upon it is subject to a change and to that extent it becomes an electronic record. Even if the hard disc is restored to its original position of a blank hard disc by erasing what was recorded on it, it would still retain information which indicates that some text or file in any form was recorded on it at one time and subsequently removed. By use of software programmes it is possible to find out the precise time when such changes occurred in the hard disc. Therefore, when Section 65B talks of an electronic record produced by a computer (referred to as the computer output) it would also include a hard disc in which information was stored or was earlier stored or continues to be stored.

e) In *Jagjit Singh v. State of Haryana (2006) 11 SCC 1*, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Haryana disqualified a member for defection. The Supreme Court considered the digital evidence in the form of interview transcripts from Zee News, Aaj Tak television channels and Haryana News of Punjab Today television channel. The Court held that, the electronic evidence placed on record was admissible and upheld the reliance placed by the Speaker on the recorded interview when reaching the conclusion that the voices recorded on the CD were those of the persons taking action.

f) In *State of Maharashtra v. Dr. Praful B. Desai AIR 2003 SC 2053*, the Supreme Court dealt with the use of Video Conferencing and the legality of evidence obtained therein in a criminal case was discussed, the Court observed that, "in cases where the attendance of a witness cannot be procured without an amount of delay, expense or inconvenience, the Court could consider issuing a commission to record the evidence by way of video conferencing".

g) In *Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation v. NRI Film Production Associates (P) Ltd., AIR 2003 Kant. 148*, Karnataka High Court laid down several safeguards for recording evidence through audio-video Link. These are:

Narayan Jain

(i) Before a witness is examined in terms of Audio-Video Link, witness is to file an affidavit or an undertaking duly verified before a notary or a Judge that the person who is shown as the witness is the same person as who is going to depose on screen. Copy of Identification affidavit is to be made available to other side.

(ii) The person who examines the witness on the screen is also to file an affidavit/undertaking before examining witness with copy to other sideregarding identification.

(iii) Witness has to be examined during working hours of Indian Courts. Oath is to be administered through the media.

(iv) The witness should not plead any inconvenience on account of time difference between India and USA.

(v) Before examination of the witness, a set of plaint, written statement and other documents must be sent to the witness so that witness has acquaintance with the documents and an acknowledgement is to be filed before the Court in this regard.

(vi) Learned Judge is to record such remarks as is material regarding the demur of the witness while on the screen.

(vii) Learned Judge must note the objections raised during recording of witness and to decide the same at the time of arguments.

(viii) After recording the evidence, the same is to be sent to witness and his signature is to be obtained in the presence of a Notary Public and thereafter it forms part of the record of the suit proceedings.

(ix) The visual is to be recorded and the record would be at both ends. The witness also is to be alone at the time of visual conference and notary is to give certificate to this effect.

(x) The learned Judge may also impose such other conditions as are necessary in a given set of facts.

(xi) The expenses and the arrangements are to be borne by the applicant who wants this facility.

h) In *Amitabh Bagchi v. Ena Bagchi AIR 2005 Cal. 11*, Calcutta High Court held that, "it is to be remembered that by virtue of an amendment and insertion of Sections 65A and 65B of the Evidence Act, a special provision as to evidence relating to electronic record and admissibility of electronic records has been introduced with effect from 17th October, 2000. Consequential amendments are also made therein. Therefore there is no bar of examination of witness by way of Video Conferencing being essential part of electronic method".

i) In *Bodala Murali Krishna v. Smt. Bodala Prathima 2007 (2) ALD 72*, Andhra Pradesh High Court, dealt with the question of use of video conferencing in a civil case. Court observed, "When such facility is accorded in criminal cases, there should not be any plausible objection for adopting the same procedure in civil cases as long as the necessary facilities, with assured accuracy exist".

j) *Arjun Panditrao Khotkar v. Kailash Kusahanrao Goryantal MANU/SC/0521/ 2020 (SC)*, Supreme Court held that the required certificate under Section 65B(4) is unnecessary if the original document itself is produced. This can be done by the owner of a laptop computer, computer tablet or even a mobile phone, by stepping into the witness box and proving that the concerned device, on which the original information is first stored, is owned and/or operated by him. In cases where the "computer" happens to be part of a "computer system" or "computer network" and it becomes impossible to physically bring such system or network to the Court, then the only means of providing information contained in such electronic record can be in accordance with Section 65B(1), together with the requisite certificate under Section 65B(4). It was observed that law declared by this Court in *Anvar P.V. (supra)*, is the law on Section 65B of Evidence Act. The Apex Court ruled that judgment in *Tomaso Bruno (supra)*, being per incuriam, does not lay down the law correctly. Also, the judgment in *SLP (Crl.) No. 9431 of 2011 reported as Shafhi Mohammad (supra)* and the judgment dated 03.04.2018 reported as (2018) 5 SCC 311, do not lay down the law correctly and are therefore overruled.

17. **Conclusion: Digital frontier is rapidly changing and it is an evolving environment. Further, in order to keep the integrity of data in secured condition, it is essential that no changes should be made while handling digital evidence. Moreover, due to the bar of self-incrimination under Article 20(3) of the Constitution of India, accused cannot be made a witness against himself. Hence, in such situation the question of admissibility of such electronic record is in peril. In future through judicial intervention, our judiciary may find a solution for this dilemma. Concluded)**

(Narayan Jain is former Secretary General of AIFTP and author of the books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice" with CA DilipLoyalka).

BIJU PATNAIK : The Legendary Administrator

Biju Patnaik had a brief tenure in office as he was 'Kamarajed' (A legendary Administrator) out in October, 1963. But during this period he injected a rare dynamism into the administration and lifted the "featureless and futureless" people of Orissa out of despondency. He acutely felt that Orissa mirrors the paradox of all backward areas – poverty amidst potential plenty. Orissa has a wealth of natural resources and yet it is the poorest and most backward state of India. Therefore for him any plan for the development of these vast natural resources, which shall help transform poverty into plenty may well serve as a model for other similarly situated areas in India.

Within that short period during which he took the stewardship of the State administration, Biju Patnaik laid the blue print for Orissa's development and the State was on the threshold of a new of industrial revolution. He not only accelerated the process of development, but was able to locate a number of new industries in the State – the MIG factory at Sunabeda, Balimela Dam, Public Corporations, Panchayat Industries, the Express High way and a lot many. His ambitious projects, which he named as "Decade of Destiny" was meant to elevate the State to a new height.

Biju could not tolerate red-tapism. He would have a thing done immediately and not suffer any delay. Result he was charged with administrative impropriety. To the officials his advise was, "be loyal to me not to the government but to the destinies of this State, to the prosperity of the people". There is a story that once when a speeding motor truck carrying stones for the Paradeep Port was stopped by a traffic policeman, the driver humorously replied that the speed suggested by the policeman would delay the port work by several years, when Biju Patnaik wanted everybody to work at top gear. The importance that Biju attached to Orissa's industrial development was reflected in his speech which he delivered at the inauguration of the Orissa Planning Board on June 15, 1962. He had said – "A people cannot grow unless the industries were developed and established here". Calling upon the bureaucrats to change their work-style, Patnaik said, "In the new set-up in the new adventure which we are going to embark upon, I would expect my officials to become thinkers and administrators in turn. I would expect them to collectively and

willingly push the State towards the goal of prosperity. I would expect them to become leaders of men and not leaders of the longest notes on the files".

At the invitation of Biju Patnaik, Internationally known Biologist, Scientist and Philosopher Prof. J.B.S. Haldane accepted the post of the Director of the Biometry and Genetics Laboratory at Bhubaneswar, which was set up by the Government of Orissa. Prof. Haldane, who imparted to the Indian scientific scene a certain colour and character, became an Indian citizen in 1960 and devoted himself to assisting development of science in this rapidly developing country. He accepted Biju's offer because he (Biju) was 'capable of displaying great respect towards individuals whom he considered to be performing worthwhile work'. This genius died in Bhubaneswar on 1st December, 1964. After Biju Patnaik took the rein of the State administration, Orissa witnessed rapid strides in education. The period between 1961-67 is aptly described as the golden era in the history of education of the State. At his initiative the Regional College of Education was set up at Bhubaneswar. The Regional Engineering College at Rourkela was established in 1961, the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology was set up and during the Chief Ministership of Biren Mitra (when Biju was the Chairman of the State Planning Board), Universities were established in Berhampur and Sambalpur. Thus Biju is responsible for the giant leap forward of education in Orissa. When the Union government refused to construct the Paradeep Port, as the Chief Minister of Orissa he took upon himself to mobilize resources from within the State and built the Rs.14 Crore Port when the Centre did not show much interest in the project Patnaik's strong stand on the issue was vindicated when the Centre took over the Port after some years. Biju Patnaik proved his extraordinary organising ability by successfully holding the Congress Session in 1964 at Bhubaneswar. His dream was fulfilled when on 12th March 1966, the Paradeep Port was commissioned. A close confidant of Pandit Nehru, Biju enjoyed free access to Teen Murti Bhawan, the P.M.'s official residence. Nehru had entrusted him with the additional responsibilities of advising him on defense matters during the Chinese aggression and Patnaik was allotted an office near P.M.'s office in North Block. Pandit Nehru had asked him to visit the United States as an Advisory to the Ministry of External Affairs and discuss sensitive defense issues with the U.S. administration. During his stay in Washington. Biju gave interviews to 'Baltimore

Uma Sankar Prasad

Sun' and 'Washington Post', in which he said that he had come to seek both ground to ground and air to air missiles along with radars, which could conceivably be tied to a network of the South East Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO). US newspapers also portrayed the Orissa Chief Minister as the coming defence Minister as the coming defence Minister, who will replace Y.B. Chouhan. The opposition charged Biju Patnaik with 'impropriety of revealing defence secrets, including details of the strength of the Indian Army'. There was a furore in Parliament and even the Lok Sabha Speaker Sardar Hukum Singh ruled that- 'it is not proper to disclose such information which is denied here'. But the Prime Minister strongly supported Biju and declared in the Parliament that whatever has been said by him to American newspaper 'did not harm us in any way'. This controversy highlighted how close Biju was to Pt. Nehru. The Indian National Congress has split in 1969. In May 1970 Biju Patnaik and his followers left the Congress (R) in protest against "naked bossism" and central imposition after he had been denied a ticket to Rajya Sabha by the Congress High Command; although his case was sponsored by the Provincial Congress Committee. In 1970 he resigned from Congress Party and subsequently formed a regional party Utkal Congress. In the 1971 election, no party came out with a clear majority. Biju Patnaik and the Swatantra leader R.N. Singh Deo joined hands. This came as a surprise to political observers, as Singh Deo was a bitter critic of Biju. And with the support of the Jharkhand Party, they formed a United Front. Biju successfully persuaded the 82 years Old veteran Politician Biswanath Das to become the Chief Minister, after his long spell of Political retirement.

A Biju critic says that he functioned in an arbitrary and autocratic manner "I am the party and I am the government" – he used to say "Am I not enough ?" What was his reaction when immediately after being sworn in as Chief Minister in 1990 he was asked, how long it would take for him to choose other members of the cabinet. Biju has a painful feeling that in spite of being so rich in natural resources. Orissa has remained one of the poorest and most backward states in India. The quality of its administration has steadily to the disgust of the voters. The final phase of Biju's political career was perhaps an unhappy chapter to his long, checked political career.

A long illustrious career came to an end on 17th April, 1997 when Biju Patnaik passed away at Delhi. His death one of the worst tragedies that had

ever happened to the State of Orissa and removed the greatest figure of our time at very climax of his career. Grief and shock swept across Orissa as news of his death spread. It was perhaps a tryst with destiny that Patnaik was cremated at Swargadwara, Puri. He was to rest in peace close to the abode of his Kalia (Lord Jagannath). Though he was not religious in the traditional sense, he had a sentimental attachment to Lord Jagannath. While addressing public meeting in front of the Puri Jagannath Temple, he used to enter into a monologue with the Lord.

"It may not be exaggeration to say that Biju Patnaik was the tallest among all leader from Orissa, who made their mark in national politics. A major reason why he acquired his status was undoubtedly his romantic, impulsive nature, which made him stand out even at a time when, with Nehru and J.P. at the height of their power and there was no death of colourful politicians in India". According to the veteran journalist, there is no epithet that is not used about him. "Why, volatile, flamboyant, dynamic, reckless, daredevil, damn efficient" and what not ? Perhaps all these suit him in one context or the other. But in the jungle of attributes his essential human qualities, his deep love for the people, are often missed. Once Patnaik is deeply moved by the peoples' distress, he will move mountains to give succour. When Government at the State and the centre were busy doing maths on relief expenditure. Biju pressed into service a private aircraft and himself started dropping food packets to the marooned thousands who would have perished, but for this prompt step.

Tales and anecdotes about him are a legion. There is a story that Pt. Nehru once asked Dr. B.C. Roy – "Have you met a man called Biju Patnaik". "I have heard about him : but not yet met him", was the reply of the Bengal Chief MINISTER. Nehru said, meet him sometimes. I like such forward-looking, brave people. The only difficult is that sometimes you don't know where he will land you. A giant transference of energy had taken place between him and his people. He delighted the people by his youthfulness of spirit and body and the people were attracted to his spontaneity and utter freedom from pompousness. In the end, his great strength far outweighed his weakness. Therefore when he died, even his most partisan adversaries felt compelled to acknowledge the immensity of the man they had opposed.

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Punjab National Bank celebrates 128th Foundation Day

Hyderabad(KCN): Punjab National Bank celebrated its 128th Foundation Day on Tuesday. "The Bank was experience for customers. We are India's second largest public sector bank. We brought in innovative digital products on offer and



Hyderabad. It also distributed fans and other items to an orphanage under its corporate social responsibility. "We reiterate our commitment to ensure highest standard of quality and service for our customers. partnerships with fintechs for using AI-driven automation, PNB is at the forefront of digital banking revolution in India," said Hyderabad Circle Head NVS Prasad Reddy. All branches felicitated customers, he added.

Jazba Hashim Abdullah Trust distributes dry ration to the poor people in Bhubaneswar in the month of Holy Ramjan



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Jazba Hashim Abdullah trust distributed dry ration food packets consists of essential commodity like Rice, Dal, Sugar, Tea, Salt, Guda, Atta, Biscuit, Chuda and cooking oil etc. to the poor and needy minority people of Bhubaneswar on Sunday due to C O V I D - 1 9 pandemic at free of cost in the holy Month of Ramjan. Sj. Sushant Kumar Rout, MLA, Bhubaneswar (Uttar) joined as a chief guest and praised this type of work of the trust and also distributed food packets to the poor and destitute people of the Bhubaneswar slum. The Chairman of the Trust Sj. Safdar Hashim presided over the programme and told that, our trust already has distributed Mask, Sanitizer, dry food and winter clothes in the different places of Odisha due to the C O V I D - 1 9 pandemic in previous year.

Experts Worry Hindi Imposition

Bhubaneswar: Language experts across the State of Odisha have raised a strong voice against Union Home Minister's controversial statement on imposition of Hindi language on non-Hindi speaking states. Presiding over the 37th meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee in New Delhi recently, Minister Home Affairs, Amit Shah had said that Hindi should be the alternative to English for communication among Indians drawing ire across the country. This statement from a tall leader like Mr. Shah has left the people of Odisha in a worried state, as they have an emotional attachment with Odia language and feel proud of it. The roots of Odisha begun from the Odia language. Odisha was declared as a separate state on 1 April, 1936 (pre-independent) for

its language. In fact, Odisha is the first state, which has been declared as a separate province on linguistic basis.



"We strongly oppose the forceful imposition of Hindi on us. We had raised our voice in the past and we will never allow imposition of Hindi language on the Odia people," said Dillip Dashsharma, from Utkal Sammilani, which had played a major role in the formation of Odisha. In the National Education Policy (NEP), the Union Government says that the medium of teaching at primary level will be in the mother

tongue. However, the union home minister is contradicting the policy, he said. Similarly, Tathagata Satpathy, a former

to decide what their language of communication should be. There cannot be a fiat from the Centre not to use English. There is no doubt that English is a foreign language but it is equally foreign for all citizens," the former Parliamentarian said. Stating India too is a very diverse country, he said any use of force today could possibly result in unforeseeable disasters tomorrow. Hrushikesh Mallick, President of Odisha Sahitya Akademi, too expressed his displeasure over Mr. Shah's controversial statement. Mallick said he is not against the Hindi language. However, it should be forcefully imposed on all, he said. "Hindi should be an optional language. Mother tongue, in Odisha, it is Odia, must remain the first language for the people of our state," said Mr. Mallick. MP from Odisha, has also strongly opposed this statement of Mr. Shah. Writing an editorial titled "Hindi Again" in his English daily newspaper, Orissa Post, Mr. Satpathy said forcible imposition of Hindi will squeeze other regional languages and probably the present political leadership hopes fluent Hindi speaking leaders will then seem more appealing to voters all across the country. "It is up to the states

Santosh Lauds Swadha

Nuapada: Central Prabhari Officer Santosh Sarangi has appreciated Nuapada District Administration for scaling up activities in the Aspirational District. Swadha Dev Singh, District Collector Nuapada is taking lot of initiatives on development sector, say senior officials. The NITI Aayog is monitoring the development process in 118 Aspirational Districts in the country and Odisha has 10 such backward districts. Sarangi, Director General Foreign Trade (DGFT) has been designated as Central Prabhari Officer for Nuapada, and Director Tourism Sachin Jadav is the District Prabhari Officer. Mr. Sarangi visited

the district and reviewed the progress on various points including the Educational Initiatives. The Central Prabhari Officer has appreciated efforts of Collector Swadha Dev Singh for making determined efforts to take the district to a higher level of improvement. NITI Aayog has re-

cently appreciated the efforts of Nuapada District in the education sector. While NITI Aayog is keeping a tab on the acceleration of developmental process in the Aspirational district, the State Government is also equally concerned about the overall development of these backward areas. Accordingly, the State Government has appointed a State Nodal Officer for all the Aspirational District and District Prabhari Officers for each district. Principal Secretary Panchayati Raj Ashok Kumar Meena is the State Nodal Officer for the Aspirational Districts and he is coordinating with the District Administrations.



Myanmar political prisoners not among 1,600 freed in new year amnesty

YANGON: Families of detained Myanmar protesters had their hopes dashed Sunday af-

year -- an annual tradition that last year saw 23,000 prisoners freed. A prisoner released from Yangon's Insein prison told AFP that "political cases and protesters were not among those released", with authorities only freeing criminals. Crowds in front of the prison slowly left on Sunday afternoon. More than 100 people had gathered hoping to be reunited with loved ones, AFP correspondents said. Among them was a woman waiting for her 19-year-old nephew, sentenced to three years imprisonment for incitement against the military. "He was young, and he may have some feeling to fight," she said, declining to give her name. "I wish all young children will be released including my nephew. They all were innocent." Aye Myint, whose 19-year-old daughter was serving three years on a political charge, had hoped she would be released. "Now, she has been more than one year in prison," Aye Myint said. Subdued holiday



ter political prisoners were not included in some 1,600 people released by the junta to mark the Buddhist new year. The Southeast Asian country has been in turmoil since Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government was ousted last year in a military coup, which sparked huge protests and a deadly crackdown. State television announced that 1,619 prisoners, including 42 foreigners, had been "pardoned" and will be released to mark the new

Hanuman Jayanti procession pelted with stones in Uttarakhand's Bhagwanpur area

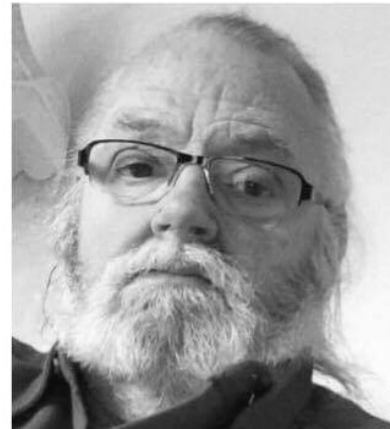
DEHRADUN: A Hanuman Jayanti procession was pelted with stones while it was crossing through a village in Bhagwanpur area near Roorkee in Haridwar district on Saturday evening leaving four persons injured. Tension mounted in the area as people from adjoining villages gathered at the spot but a timely intervention by police brought the situation under control, DIG Garhwal range K S Nagnyal said. Nine persons were arrested and an FIR against 13 was lodged in connection with the inci-



dent. Four persons who were part of the procession also sustained minor injuries, he said. The official also visited the spot on Sunday to instill confidence among people in the area. Stones were hurled at the procession from rooftops when it was passing through Dada Jalalpur village. It triggered a stampede like situation as people in the procession began to run for cover but police was informed immediately and the situation was brought under control with deployment of police and PAC personnel, Haridwar's SP (rural) Pramendra Dobhal said.

Motivational strips and Gujarat Sahitya Academy resumes golden badge honours

Bengaluru(KCN): After a short break, had always been the most popular amidst meant serious evaluations and subsequent Honours worldwide. He added that Golden



Shiju H Pallithazheth
Founder – Motivational Strips

Dr Vishnu Pandya
Chairman – Gujarat Sahitya Academy

From Top Left:
William Thomas Fearby (UK), Mary Lynn Luiz (USA)
Carolyn Stransky (USA), Yanita Ismail (Indonesia)

during this month, Motivational Strips, the world's most active writers forum resumed the popular and world acclaimed 'Golden Badge Honours' for writers who exhibit exceptional literary skills in forms of essays, articles, poetry, quotes, books etc. An exhaustive evaluation to derive script value is considered before honoring or awarding the recipient. Thus the Golden Badge

literary enthusiasts worldwide. It is a much respected accolade and collectible testimonial for a lifetime, within the writer's literary career. Gujarat Government managed prestigious literary institution 'Gujarat Sahitya Academy' is also a joint associate with Motivational Strips to endorse this honor. The founder of Motivational Strips, Shiju H. Pallithazheth stated that the award

recognition of a poet or writer. He added that the honour covers works of writers from all continents. An unbiased opinion is reached before awarding the final recipient. Dr Vishnu Pandya, chairman of Gujarat Sahitya Academy stated that GSA would work jointly with Motivational Strips to make sure the deserving candidates are conferred with the Golden Badge

Badge honour is a testimonial of literary excellence. William Thomas Fearby (UK), Carolyn Stransky (USA), Mary Lynn Luiz (USA) and Yanita Ismail (Indonesia) were conferred with this respectful honor last week for their outstanding poems. The Golden badge award keeps no national boundaries and covers literary scripts of all global languages.

Children attend classes in paddy fields, parents protest incomplete road

JAGATSINGHPUR: Nearly 20 students of Rahadinga village in Raghunathpur block have been restricted by their parents to go to school protesting non-completion of a road construction work for over a week now. These children are being taught by a private teacher in an open field. Sources said, a 400-metre narrow road linking

Rahadinga chowk of Jaipur- Jagatsinghpur with ward no 11 of Rahadinga village was in a dilapidated state. In rainy season, the road condition got worse posing difficulties for locals as well as children going to the nearby primary school. Many students, they said, even had near fatal accidents on the road while going to school.

Fact finding team of BJP visits riots place of Joda



Barbil(KCN): The situation in Joda town of Keonjhar district in Odisha became tense after an Akhada procession on the occasion of Ram Navami by Hindu devotees came under attack by some local Muslims. The district administration has

imposed section 144 in the area following the violence. However the situation is getting calm day by day. However police too arrested 11 accused. A fact finding team of BJP consist of four MLA from BJP party namely Mohan charanMajhi,Naba

Kishore Majhi, NauriNaik and BudhanMurm u including Sonali Sahu, state spokes person of BJP and Dr Murali Manohar Sharma, senior leader of BJP visited Joda area in this connection.They have aleged that the riot outraged due to

inefficiency of police administration which they would convey to higher authority of the concerned department. However large number of police personnel have been deployed and administration is vigilance to the situation on daily basis.

11 accused arrested in Joda riot case

Barbil (KCN): Police arrested 11 person involved in riot held on 11th April during Ram Navmi celebration. As per information the situation in Joda town of Keonjhar district in Odisha became tense after an Akhada procession on the occasion of Ram Navami by Hindu devotees came under attack by some local Muslims. The district administration has imposed section 144 in the area following the violence. The Hindu devotees had wanted to conduct an Akhada procession on Sunday on the occasion of Ram Navmi. The devotees had sought administrative permission to carry the religious flag to every Hindu temple in line with the Ram

Navmi rituals followed every year. But administration has restricted large number of devotee to march in ward number 4 expecting a disturbance. But devotees with religious flags reached the temple of Lord Shiva where they were protested from the Muslim community. The story begun with an argument and latter outraged into violent clashes. In that accident many locals including police person and journalist were injured. The Police was compelled to open fire in the air

to disperse the violent crowd. Reportedly, the clashes between the two communities continued for more than 4 hours. Police officers including SP Mitrabhanu Mohapatra, Champua Deputy Collector Pratap Pritimay, Barbil SDPO Himanshu Bhushan Behera, Barbil Tehsildar Alok Patel, Joda BDO Jagannath Hanuman were present at the spot to control the situation. The Police officers later imposed propitiatory orders

under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code in the town till Tuesday 10 am. After due investigation and prima facie evidence 11 accused were arrested said Padmalaya Das, IIC, Joda. Rakesh Mohanty, Biswajit Sharma, Vijay Mahakud, Chandan Gupta, Mukesh Barik, Aman Karua. All the accused have been arraigned under Case No. 65 respectively, while MD wakil, MD Dilsad Alam, MD Babu, MD Barkat, MD Mudsar Ansari and MD Iqbal, have taken in to custody and forwarded to court under case no 66 of Joda police station. As per information no bail granted to any one involved in the case.





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Okinawa Autotech recalls 3,215 electric vehicles to fix battery related issues



NEW DELHI: In a electric vehicle first instance of a voluntary recall by any manufacturer in India, Gurugram-based Okinawa Autotech on Saturday said it will voluntarily recall 3,215 units of its Praise Pro scooters to fix any issues related to the battery in the vehicle.

Continued from page-1

most of the state governments were not opposed to the NEP irrespective of their political leanings.

"Local language is given utmost importance in the NEP. Does this government look at things in a different way? Doesn't the Bengal government wish to raise employability of its people? NEP 2020 stands for knowledge-based employability," Pradhan said. He said that the state government is welcome to add more value to the NEP, which is a "basic document". "I hope this decision (opposition to NEP) is not prompted by political considerations," Pradhan added.

ALSO READ! Murder of Sagar Pradhan was Political, says Dharmendra Pradhan

The Union minister said he has learnt that the West Bengal government has recently formed a panel to look into aspects of the NEP. "It is unfortunate if they are opposed to the spirit of the draft. There is a growing perception that the West Bengal government wants to oppose every move by the Centre," he said.

West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu recently said education is on the concurrent list and the TMC government will never accept imposition of the NEP as the state has its own culture and education system.

The state government has formed a 10-member committee comprising experts in various fields to get feedback about the NEP and formulate an education policy tailored to the needs and interests of students of West Bengal.

A top educationist told PTI that the new policy underscores teaching all subjects, including technical ones, in the mother tongue which is impractical.

After the NEP was unveiled two years back, former state education minister Partha Chatterjee had said that it is the agenda of the RSS to give importance to subjects related to Vedic philosophy and ancient Indian tradition. He had said this will encourage corporatisation of the education system and destroy the state-funded education sector from school to university levels.

In a vast country like India, which has a diversified socio-economic condition, a common yardstick cannot be applied to all states, especially at the primary and secondary levels of education, Chatterjee had said.

The NEP replaced the National Policy on Education framed in 1986. It is aimed at paving the way for transformational reforms in school and higher education systems to make India a global knowledge superpower.

On the CBI probe ordered by the Calcutta High Court into alleged irregularities in state government aided schools, Pradhan said, "Though education is on the concurrent list, the issue you are raising is in the domain of the state. I can only say that for future citizens of the country, there should not be any irregularities in teacher recruitment....Law will take its own course."

Pradhan said he has asked IIT Kharagpur authorities to turn its research and development centre at Rajarhat near here into a Start-Up Incubation Centre. "Kolkata is the natural point for economic activities in eastern India. The start-up incubation centre will help not only IITians but also other entrepreneurs to float start-ups," Pradhan said.

Okinawa Autotech on Saturday said it will voluntarily recall 3,215 units of its Praise Pro scooters to fix any issues related to the battery in the vehicle.

The recall, according to Okinawa, is part of comprehensive power pack health check-up camps, where the batteries will be checked for loose connectors or any damage and be repaired free of charge at any of the Okinawa authorized dealerships pan India.

This move comes weeks after when an Okinawa EV was involved in a fire incidents which claimed life of a father and his daughter in Vellore, Tamil Nadu. Following this and spate of other incidents of EVs bursting in flames, the Central government ordered an independent investigation into the matter with Union Road and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari saying that the government will take appropriate action against the manufacturers if they are found to be at fault. "The electric 2W maker is working closely with the dealer partners to ensure that the repair experience is as per the convenience of its customers, for which the vehicle owners will be contacted individually. This voluntary campaign is in the wake of the recent thermal incident and in line with the company's longstanding commitment to customer safety," said Okinawa in a statement.

PM Shehbaz Sharif pitches for meaningful India-Pakistan engagement

Continued from page-1

Sharif said Pakistan desires peaceful and cooperative ties with India.

"Thank you Premier Narendra Modi for felicitations. Pakistan desires peaceful & cooperative ties with India. Peaceful settlement of outstanding disputes including Jammu & Kashmir is indispensable. Pakistan's sacrifices in fighting terrorism are well-known. Let's secure peace and focus on socio-economic development of our people," the Pakistan prime minister tweeted.

'For peaceful ties with India' - Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif thanks PM Narendra Modi for felicitation

It is learnt that Sharif, in his reply to Modi's letter, also sought resolution of the outstanding issues, including that of Kashmir, while maintaining that Pakistan favours peaceful and cooperative ties with India.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such an engagement.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack. The relations further deteriorated after India in August 2019 announced withdrawing special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the state into two union territories.

"The government's consistent position has been that India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan and is committed to addressing issues, if any, bilaterally and peacefully in an atmosphere free of terror, hostility and violence," Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said in Parliament on April 7 while replying to a question.

"The onus is on Pakistan to create such a conducive atmosphere," he added.

Fuel sales fall in first half of April amid record rise in prices

NEW DELHI: India's fuel sales fell in the first half of April as a record rise in prices in a short 16-day period dented demand, preliminary industry data showed on Saturday. Petrol sales fell almost 10 per cent in the first half of April when compared with the same period in the preceding month, while diesel demand slid 15.6 per cent. Even cooking gas LPG, which had consistently shown growth even during the pandemic period, saw a 1.7 per cent month-on-month fall in consumption during April 1-15.

State-owned oil firms on March 22 ended a 137-day hiatus in rate revision and began passing on a USD 30 per barrel increase in cost of raw material (crude oil) during that period when five states including Uttar Pradesh went to polls. Petrol and diesel prices rose by Rs 10 per litre between March 22 and April 6 -- the highest ever increase during a 16-day period since fuel prices were deregulated two decades back.

On March 22, cooking gas prices too were hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder to Rs 949.50 -- the highest-ever rate for the subsidised fuel. Jet fuel prices too climbed to the highest-ever Rs 1,13,202.33 per kilolitre, resulting in a 20.5 per cent fall in sales month-on-month.

In the first two weeks of March, dealers as well as the public topped up their tanks in anticipation of an increase in prices that had been on hold in the run-up to the elections in states like Uttar Pradesh. While daily price revisions restarted on March 22, the increases were calibrated. The price increases moderated the consumption.

Petrol sales by state-owned fuel retailers, which control roughly 90 per cent of the market, at 1.12 million tonnes during April 1-15 were nearly 12.1 per cent higher than the same period last year and 19.6 per cent higher than the period in 2019, preliminary industry data showed.

However, the consumption was 9.7 per cent lower than the 1.24 million tonnes sales in the same period in March 2022.

Diesel, the most-used fuel in the country, saw sales jumping 7.4 per cent year-on-year to almost 3 million tonnes. This was 4.8 per cent higher than sales in March 2019, but 15.6 per cent lower than 3.53 million tonnes consumption during March 1-15.

Congress needs New Face

Continued from page-1

ular. Probably, the traditional supporters of Congress have already changed their minds and find no point in wasting their precious votes

In the civic elections, the party managed to win only seven of the 108 urban local bodies (ULBs), down from 13 in the 2013-14 polls. It failed to open its account in the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation election, won 01 of the 42 Corporator posts in Berhampur Municipal Corporation, and 08 of the 59 posts in the Cuttack Municipal Corporation. Of the total 1,716 Councilor posts across the state, the party bagged only 134.

Similarly, in panchayat polls, the Congress ended up as a poor third winning just 37 of the 853 Zilla Parishad seats. In the 2017 elections, the party had won 60 seats. The grand old party has remained out of power in the state since 2000. In the 2014 state polls, it won 16 of the 147 Assembly seats. The tally plummeted in five years as the party bagged only nine constituencies. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress won just one (Koraput) of the 21 parliamentary constituencies.

Since 2000, the party's vote share in Odisha has nosedived from 35 per cent to below 20 per cent. In the 2019 Assembly polls, the party received 16.12 per cent votes, a drastic decline from the 25.7 percent votes it secured in 2014. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress got 13.81 per cent of the votes, down from 26.38 percent five years earlier.

Since 2000, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) has had nine Presidents. Patnaik is among the three OPCC chiefs to have led the state unit twice in this period. He first led the party from 2011 to 2013 while his current tenure began in April 2018.

Now that Niranjana is all set to relinquish the top post in the OPCC, the party has started looking for a better alternative. Former OPCC President Sarat Patnaik, Member, Congress Working Committee Bhakta Charan Das, and INTUC Leader Ramachandra Khuntia are in race. However, Cuttack-Barabati MLA Mohammed Moqim has also expressed interest to take the reigns of the party while Jaydev Jena and Chiranjib Biswal have kept themselves away from the race. It is believed that Mr. Jena and the Mr. Biswal believe that it needs a lot of money to run the party and manage 2024 General Elections for Lok Sabha and the State Assembly. As such, the AICC has

Petrol and diesel sales had risen 18 per cent and 23.7 per cent respectively in the first half of March when most of the hoarding on price hike expectations took place. Diesel sales during March were the most in any month in the last two years and more than the total volume of diesel sold in April 2020 when the country was under a complete lockdown.

Industry sources said while there was panic buying by individual vehicle owners in the first half of March, petrol pump dealers topped up not just their storage tanks but also any mobile browser or tanker truck they had.

The dealers hoped to make a quick buck by buying fuel at a lower rate and selling at revised higher prices. As prices were raised, consumption fell. Petrol and diesel prices hit the freeze button just as electioneering in five states including Uttar Pradesh picked up in early November 2021.

The record 137-day freeze ended on March 22. Jet fuel (ATF) sales rose 9.8 per cent to 231,400 tonnes in April 1-15 but were 25.9 per cent less than pre-COVID levels of 2019. However, the sales were 1.7 per cent less than 235,400 tonnes sales in the first half of March 2022.

ATF sales are expected to pick up with the complete opening up of air travel last week. India went in for a complete lockdown, stopping flights, halting rail and road movements and shutting businesses, in the last week of March 2020 to contain the spread of coronavirus.

The March 2020 period was near normal as COVID restrictions were just kicking in. The government gave free LPG cylinders during 2020 to help poor fight the fallout of the stringent lockdown. This helped state oil firms register growth month after month even as other transport fuels saw severe demand contraction. But in the first half of April, LPG consumption fell 0.7 per cent year-on-year to 1.02 million tonnes. This was 4 per cent lower than April 2020 and 20.5 per cent lower than 1.3 million tonnes demand in March 1-15, 2022.

Cooking gas sales moderated after a Rs 50 per cylinder hike in prices on March 22. LPG sales had risen by 17 per cent in the first half of March. But compared to the first fortnight of April 2019, the sales were up 16.5 per cent, the data showed.

not been funding for the OPCC leaving everything to the OPCC President. Therefore, many people who were once fighting for the coveted post, are not ready to take the responsibility.

Will a new OPCC Chief help change the fate of Congress in Odisha? If the new President is Sarat Patnaik, Sarat Rout, Bhakta Charan Das, Rama Chandra Khuntia or Md. Moqim, will they be accepted by the party workers, leave alone the people of Odisha in general? All the existing leaders in Odisha Congress have been tested many times and none of them has proved their mettle. Therefore, changing the OPCC President for the sake of change may not solve the problems.

Amid so many hurdles and set-backs, the Congress, however, sees a ray of hope. The party, if managed properly, can reap benefits from the BJD and the BJP quarrel. Across the state, there is an impression that BJD and BJP fight during elections while helping each other after the polls.

The Congress now needs to highlight this weakness of the two parties to garner support from among the people. The voters across the state need to realize that Congress could be an alternative to the two symbiotic parties. This tough job can only be handled by a new leader, having face value and credibility. If the Congress leadership is really interested to bring change in Odisha, it has to find a leader, who has charisma and acceptance among the people.

If required, there is nothing wrong to rope in a leader from some other party and make him/her the OPCC President giving full authority. All the Congress leaders are neck deep in personal business affairs without having politics as their prime occupation.

Former Chief Minister J B Patnaik was probably the lone politician in Congress who did not have business interest like BJD President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Only a pure political person can do the top job and not anyone else now available in Congress.

Anyway, going for a change in the OPCC top post for change's sake will not solve the problems, rather than aggravate it. This is high time for Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to think seriously about Congress in Odisha which remains out of power for more than two decades. Ace political strategist Prashant Kishor once suggested to Sonia Gandhi on this line, when he was being consulted for restructuring Congress, which could not be worked out.

SPORT IT 2022: Convergence Of Ideas, Knowledge & Innovation

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Celebrating the spirit of innovation, effectuation and inclusion, XAVIER-EMLYON business school, a one-of-its kind Indo-French collaboration between XIM University, Bhubaneswar and emlyon business school, France and the only academichigh



performancecenter of excellence in sports industry management of Odisha organised the second edition of SPORT IT virtually on April 15 and 16, 2022 in a grand manner.

The event organized in collaboration with the Sports and Youth Services Department, Tourism Department, Start-Up Odisha and FICCI witnessed participation of over 30 start-ups, investors and industry experts from different parts of the country. The event took place on an exclusively curated platform of FICCI and the theme this year was 'Sports, Tourism and Technology'.

The inaugural session was attended by Additional Secretary, Tourism, Durga Prasad Mohapatra; Joint Secretary, Sports and Youth Services, Department, Government of Odisha, Ranjit Parida, Managing Editor, Sports, AajTak, Vikrant Gupta; Secretary General, Wrestling Federation of India, V N Prasad; Founder Sports App, Shashank Mishra; Dean, XEBS, Prof Arun Kumar Paul; Chairman, XEBS, Ashley Fernandes and was moderated by Senior Manager, Operations, XEBS, Diksha Tiwari. Although Minister, Sports and Youth Services, Government of Odisha, Tusharkanti Behera, could not attend the session but he shared a message through which he welcomed the entrepreneurs and industry experts participating in the unique event and appreciated the efforts put in by XEBS to promote an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit within the sporting community.

This was followed by the kicking off by the Startup Mashup which was a virtual exhibition for startups working in the sports, technology and tourism domains. The first day also saw students and entrepreneurs participating in the National Innovation Challenge that was organised in collaboration with Start-up Odisha and AIC Nalanda. The contest was opened a month back on predefined themes for ideas/prototypes in sports and tourism sectors and the finale saw the participants pitching in for the same.

Later in the evening there was a panel discussion on the subject 'Sports and Tourism: Responsibilities and Opportunities'. The panelists included CEO, Hockey India, Elena Norman; MD QTT Adventure Sports Academy Pvt Ltd and General Secretary, Surfing Federation of India, Jehan Driver; Rajya Sabha MP, Dr.Sasmit Patra; MD (India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal operations), Atmosphere Hotels and Resorts, Souvagya Mohapatra; Co-chair, FICCI Sports Committee and Founder, WordsWork Communications Consulting, Neha Mathur Rastogi and Entrepreneur, Fitness and Wellness Expert, Franchise Owner of IRONMAN India, Deepak Raj. Moderated by Diksha Tiwari, the session threw light on how sports and tourism are becoming increasingly interlinked and the immense opportunities it holds. When big marquee sports events take place, they provide a big boost for the local economy and are an important driver of tourism, the 2018 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup Bhubaneswar being a prime example.

The second day began with an 'Investor's Corner', an exclusive interaction session where emerging entrepreneurs got the opportunity to pitch before investors, which included ah! Ventures, Kolkata Sports Ventures and thinQbate.

This was followed by a panel discussion on 'Sports Industries in India: Management and Mindset Challenge'. The panelists included, Founder, SportsCourses.com, Arup Soans; Project Director, Odisha Naval Tata Hockey HPC, Rajiv Seth; Digital Marketing and Communications Head, Decathlon Sports India, Gaudham Ganesh; President, JUM Consulting, Paris, Julien Montel and COO, Marwah Sports, Aritra Chatterjee and XEBS Chairman Ashley Fernandes was the moderator. The panelists were optimistic about how far India has come when it comes to the management of sports in India in the last decade and with the public-private partnership growing stronger with each day, they spoke about a bright future for the

sporting industry.

The day also saw the Tourism Department and the Sports Department giving a window to the entrepreneurs to pitch about their start-ups/products. While Additional Secretary, Tourism heard the tourism-based entrepreneurs, Secretary, Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha R Vineel Krishna and CEO, Hockey India, Elena Norman were all ears for the sports-based entrepreneurs. These sessions were highly appreciated by the entrepreneurs from different parts of the country because of the sheer will and intent of the Odisha Government, particularly the Sports Department (since many of the participants were from outside Odisha for the pitching session) to encourage and support young talents.

This was followed by a panel discussion on 'Sports and Entertainment: Getting the Model Right'. The panelists for this discussion were, President, Delhi Football Association, Shaji Prabhakaran; Bollywood Singer and IPL Performer, Shibani Kashyap; Indian National Hockey Player, PR Sreejesh; COO, IOS Sports and Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., Rahul Trehan and CEO and Co-Founder, The Bridge, Arshi Yasin. The session was moderated by Diksha Tiwari and panelists discussed the evolution of sports into entertainment, the revenue that comes from it, how it benefits the ecosystem while also stressing on the fact that the most important aspect is the sport and the performance of the sportsperson itself. The panel also stressed on inclusion and the need to turn to other sports apart from cricket.

The concluding panel discussion focused on 'Future of Global Sports: Technology, Innovation and Inclusion' and the panelists were CEO Marwah Sports, Pranav Marwah; Head - Investor Relations and Strategic Alliances, ah! Ventures, Harsh Deodhar; Co-Founder, JOIN and Yakar, Jonathan Szwarc; Former Cricketer



and Entrepreneur, Jaya Sharma and Head of Student Affairs and Recruitment, Tony Parker Adequat Academy, Maureen Reat. The session was moderated by Arup Soans and panelists deliberated on the growing need of technology by sports teams and associations which has fuelled several start-ups and innovators. Data-driven technology has become crucial in assessing team performances, fan management and stadium engagement experience.

The concluding ceremony of the event, sponsored by OMC and supported by the Industries Department, witnessed the announcement of all winners. For NIC, in the student category, the first prize, a cash award of Rs. 30,000 went to Prajukta Mohanty of SAI International School, Bhubaneswar and the runners up prize, a cash reward of Rs. 20,000, was given to Spandan Srinivas and team, of XEBS. In the entrepreneur category the prizes went to Jaydev Mahapatra, Founder of ARDOR FOOTBALL ACADEMY LLP and Zahid Akhtar, Founder of BHIMKUNDECOTOURS. They were awarded Rs 50,000 and Rs 30,000 respectively, all sponsored by Start-Up Odisha. The winners of Start-up Mashup were Sujit Panigrahi and his Haryana based Sequoia Fitness and Sports Technology Pvt. Ltd. and Ananta Prasad, Founder of Mutt Hospitality Ventures Pvt. Ltd. Both were awarded cash prizes of Rs 2 lakh each on behalf of the departments.

The event was a great learning and networking platform for the entrepreneurs. Both the investors and the government have already evinced interest to have a second round of discussion with some of the participants.

"XEBS has been challenging the status quo and trying to offer a unique value proposition. In difficult times, more than ever we have been reminded that we had to share, care and dare. Now in the process of recovery, SPORT IT is just another expression of this drive- sharing information, caring for all stakeholders by providing them with new opportunities and daring them to make a better and inclusive future. The innovative public-private partnerships, the cross fertilization between sports and tourism, sport as an inclusive and impactful social model are all signs of the very forward thinking of the Odisha government and administration," shared Ashley Fernandes, Chairman XEBS and hoped for a brighter and better future.

Billie Jean King Cup: Iga Swiatek powers Poland to finals, Romania's Andreea Prisacariu? loses

RADOM (POLAND) (KCN): Poland reached the Billie Jean King Cup finals for the first time after top-ranked Iga Swiatek overpowered Andreea Prisacariu of Romania 6-0, 6-0 on Saturday.

to show even more progress. I'm really proud of us," the 20-year-old Swiatek said in an on-court interview. Swiatek's victory made it 3-0 for Poland in the best-of-five qualifier for the finals in November.

Elena Rybakina made it three in a row for Kazakhstan over Germany by beating Angelique Kerber 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. In Prague, Marketa Vondrousova routed US Open champion Emma Raducanu 6-1, 6-1 to give the Czech

Vondrousova, a former French Open finalist playing on her home court, needed just 62 minutes to beat the 19-year-old Raducanu, who took a medical timeout after the first set. The Czechs have won



Swiatek needed just 52 minutes to extend her singles winning streak to 19 in her second competitive match since becoming world No. 1. "It took us a few years, step by step, to progress and qualify finally. Hopefully in the finals we're going

The 2020 French Open champion beat Mihaela Buzarnescu 6-1, 6-0 on Friday. Italy and Kazakhstan also advanced on Saturday. Camila Giorgi beat Harmony Tan of France 6-2, 6-0, giving the Italians their third straight win.

Republic a 2-1 edge over Britain. Raducanu, slowed by a blister on her foot, had debuted in the competition with a victory over Tereza Martincova on Friday but struggled against Vondrousova on a cold morning at the outdoor clay court.

the Cup six times since 2011 though they are without their three highest ranked singles players - No. 2 Barbora Krejckikova, No. 7 Karolina Pliskova, No. 28 Petra Kvitova - and No.1-ranked doubles player Katerina Siniakova.



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