

## Why is PM Narendra Modi silent on communal violence, incidents of hatred: Congress

NEW DELHI(KCN): Hitting back at BJP president JP Nadda over his attack on opposition parties, the Congress on Monday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence over the recent communal violence in some parts of the country and asked why he has not yet denounced the incidents of hatred.

Congress general secretary and party chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala also asked why "perpetrators of hate were getting political patronage". Accusing the BJP of launching a vicious attack on the Constitution and its ethos, and the institutions built to safeguard democracy, he said that it and its government are at war with its own people.

Surjewala's attack came after Nadda, in an open letter to Indians, accused the opposition of waging a "direct onslaught on the spirit of our nation and casting aspersions on our hardworking citizens". The letter was in response to leaders of rival parties issuing a joint



statement attacking the government over incidents of hate speech and communal violence in the country.

ALSO READ| Jahangirpuri clashes: VHP, Bajrang Dal members booked for taking out religious procession, one held

Nadda said the opposition parties "tried, tested, or I should say dusted and rusted approach of vote bank politics, divisive politics, and selective politics is no longer working".

Unfortunately, this thrust towards development politics is being bitterly resisted by the rejected and dejected parties which are once again taking refuge in vote bank and divisive politics, the BJP chief said in his letter. Responding to the open letter, Surjewala accused the BJP government of systematically weakening the Indian Constitution. "Your party and government continue to feed the masses the opium of communal polarisation by inciting violence

CONTINUED ON: P-7

## West Bengal: BJP hit by resignation spree after by-poll setback

KOLKATA(KCN): The BJP's poor show

state-level and lower tier of organisational

district-level functionaries have tendered their resignations. The unhappy functionaries alleged that "incompetent leaders" are getting priority while the party's loyal faces are being ignored or sidelined.

After two MLAs stepped down from the state-level hierar-

chy one day ago, another state committee member, Bani Gangopadhyay from Murshidabad district, tendered his resignation on Monday.

The BJP's Bengal unit started feeling the impact of discontent on Sunday, a day after the by-elections results were declared, CONTINUED ON: P-7



in the by-elections seems to have left an impact on the party's

structure. Reflecting this is the fact that in the past 24 hours, 14

## Legendary musician Prafulla Kar passes away

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Legendary music director, singer and lyricist Prafulla Kar passed away at the age of 83 in the Capital city on Sunday. Kar was ailing for the last two days and suffered a cardiac arrest at around 9.30 pm, family sources said. Born on February 16, 1939, Kar started singing in his college days but made debut as a professional singer in the Odia film industry in 1962 with 'Shri Shri Patita Pabana'. Thirteen years later in 1975, he began his journey as a music composer in the film 'Mamata' and went on to become a household name. Having directed music for over 60 Odia and four

Bengali movies, Kar was honoured with the Padma Shri in the

Srabana', 'Bandhu Mohanty', 'Sati Anasuya', 'Sita

ferred upon him. Apart from singing and composing



year 2015 in the field of art. Besides the prestigious Jaydev Puraskar in 2004, the State government had conferred him with the Best Music Director Award on six occasions for his outstanding contribution to the Odia music industry. The six films are 'Mamata', 'Sesa

Labakusa' and 'School Master'. He had also composed music for numerous Odissi dance dramas and music CDs for the Government of Odisha. In 2009, the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi's highest honour - Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja Award - was con-

songs, Kar had also played small roles in two Odia films 'Mukti' and 'Thukool'. People from different walks of life condoled his demise. Family members said the mortal remains will be consigned to flames at Swargadwara in Puri on Monday.

## Will launch 'battle' against Delhi Police if any action is taken against our activists: VHP

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Monday threatened to launch "a battle" against the Delhi Police if any action is taken against its activists in connection with the violence during a Hanuman Jayanti procession in Jahangirpuri.

This came after police said it has registered an FIR against the organisers for taking out the procession without permission, and ar-

rested a person, identified as Prem



Sharma, who is a local VHP leader. However, the state-

ment was later withdrawn by the police, citing that Indian Penal Code section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) is a bailable offence and the person who had joined the investigation was let off after questioning. The revised statement is CONTINUED ON: P-7

# State assures agitating Drivers

Bhubaneswar (KC-N): Odisha Government has assured the

Monday. The decision was taken after a discus-

ensure that no driver faces any harassment at his work place while all RTOs have been directed to cooperate with the drivers when they go for renewing their license to get new licences.

"The State Government will constitute a high power committee to study the issues

and Labour department will be members in the Committee," Minister said. Mahasangha's Secretary Chaitanya Pradhan said that the Organization had carried out a padayatra from various districts to Bhubaneswar on 21 October over a 10-point charter of demands which had not

their demands, the government kept stalling it on the pretext of election and other reasons. In view of this, the Mahasangha decided to take to the street again," he said. Their demands include enacting a special law for the protection of drivers, construction of

ways, and pension for drivers after attaining the age of 55. Mr.Pradhan said that the State Government had earlier considered their demands of providing compensation to drivers in the case of accidental death or disability. The government had agreed to provide Rs 4 lakh in case of death

include health insurance of Rs 5 lakh, fixed salary, higher education facility for children, housing facilities, etc. Traffic Movement came to a grinding halt in some areas as the drivers from several sectors under the aegis of the Odisha Drivers' Mahasangha held massive rallies

districts of the state. With flags and banners on their hands and slogans on their lips, the drivers alleged that the government was dilly-dallying on the issue even after the union held a rally in the capital last year and submitted a memorandum to it. Due to the rally by the Mahasangha, the 'MoBus' service was



agitating members of Odisha Driver Mahasangha, who took out a massive rally in the capital city, to fulfil their demands within three months.

The State Government is to form a committee to look into the demands of Odisha Driver Mahasangha and necessary action will be taken within three months, said Commerce & Transport Minister Padmanabha Behera on

sion with the drivers who are staging a protest in Bhubaneswar as the government had not fulfilled their demands.

The Minister said that the committee will assess what steps have been taken by other State Governments for the drivers. Any future course of action will depend on the findings of the committee.

The Minister said that the District Police have been directed to

be faced by the drivers. Officials of Home, Transport, Finance

yet been fulfilled. "Even after giving assurance to fulfill

restrooms every 100 kilometres on National and State High-

and Rs 2 lakh in case of disability. The other demands

and converged at the Master Canteen Square from all the

disrupted across several routes in Capital City and nearby areas.



## ACMS 2022 & IChE Platinum Jubilee Celebrations concluded with the release of Commemorative Stamp

Kolkata (KCN): On 16th April 2022, International Conference ACMS 2022 & the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers concluded at Heritage

Prof. Saikat Maitra, Vice Chancellor, MAKAUT as the Chief Guest followed by Mr. Sreejit Banerjee, Chief Operating Officer, Balmer Lawrie, Prof. B.K.Kanaujia, Direc-

Heritage Institute of Technology, Shri P.K.Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Mr. D.M.Butala, President, Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers, Prof.

of Chemical Engineers. During the International Conference ACMS 2022 which started from 14th April and concluded on the 16th April, 2022, 583 research



Institute of Technology with the release of Commemorative Stamp approved by India Post to mark the importance of the glorious 75 years of journey of the Institute since 1947. The event was graced by

tor-NIT Jalandhar and Mr. Niraj Kumar, Postmaster General, Kolkata Region, India Post as the Guests of Honour. The event also witnessed the presence of Dr. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal,

C.Karthikeyan, Vice President, Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers, Dr. Avijit Ghosh, Honorary Secretary, Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers and Prof. M.V.Rao, Vice President, Indian Institute

papers were presented by various scientists and research scholars from well known Institutions and corporates across the globe with 35 invited talks delivered by various experts from the world.

## Athoragada Rajak Association Celebrate Annual Day

Khordha (KCN): Athoragada Rajak

come the members of the association. Gen-

Rajak family were felicitated in the function. The highest award of the association "Athoragada Gourav -2022" were

bearers of Utkal Rajak Mahasangha Manoj Sethi, Rabindra Kumar Sethi, Govinda Chandra Sethi and



Association celebrated their annual day in Maa Barunei Pitha, Khordha. President of the Association Bhagirathi Sethi preside over the meeting. Cashier of the association Ajaya Kumar Sethi wel-

eral Secretary Jayadev Sethi read the annual memorandum of the association. About Four Assembly Constituency including 34 Gada Behera and the newly elected PRI and ULB members of



felicitated to Laxman Sethi and Paramananda Sethi for their outstanding contributions of the society. The office

others were present. Legal Advisor of the association Ajaya Kumar Sethi gives vote of thanks.

## An accident occurred near Bileipada at no man label crossing

Barbil(KCN): An accident in no man label crossing

collision with a tower car train and the driver of the

traveling from Bileipada to Bhagalpur and get

van overturned and the train derailed. Fortunately, the driver of the pickup truck got out of the car and was escaped.. Rail services were disrupted after the accident, and repairs were being made by the railways. Without this gate, there have been frequent accidents at this no man label crossings. However, according to the Department of Railways, this is not an official label crossing and there is a plan to construct an under pass to avoid such incidents.



occurred last evening at Bileipada of Keonjhardistrict.As per information, a pickup truck overturned in a

pickup truck was slightly injured when the accident took place last evening. The OD 05 AQ 7848 pickup truck was

stuck for a while and a tower train from Danguaposhi came up and suddenly hit the pickup. As a result, the pick up

## BJD Khordha Assembly Constituency Observe 25th Death Anniversary of Biju Pattnaik

Khordha (KCN): The ruling Biju Janta Dal (BJD) Khordha Assembly Constitu-

workers of BJD took parts in the programme. Fruits distribution

and Odias. Development, empowerment and Odia pride was always focus. He had never compromised on these issues. He was more popular as the leader of the masses than a politician. He too has undertaken several steps for the empow-

Odisha BJD, Women Wings Vice-president, Basanti Mohapatra, Khordha District BJD, Women wings President Geetanjali Patsani, Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Panchayat Samiti, Khordha and Tangi, Members BJD, Zilla Parishad, Khordha



ency observed 25th death anniversary of legendary leader and former Chief Minister of Odisha, Biju Pattnaik. Several programme were organised at Biju Pattnaik park Khordha to commemorate the day. MP, Rajya Sabha, Odisha, Muna Khan, MLA Khordha, Joytrindra Nath Mitra among other leaders and party

programme in District Head Quarter Hospital Khordha also organized in this occasions. In the evening MLA, Khordha, Joytrindra Nath Mitra addressed a programme organized by BJD Khordha Assembly Constituency at Jayee Rajguru Town Hall, Khordha. He said "Biju Babu only aims was the development of Odisha



ement of women.. The other leaders of BJD, President Zilla Parishad, Khordha, Rupa Shree Rani Gumansingh, Chairman Khordha Municipality, Kanaka Lakshmi Mohanty,

among others BJD leaders and party workers were present and paid floral tribute to Biju Babu. Khordha Youth BJD, President Rajesh Parida Co-ordinated the programme.

## HITK student selected for SRFP 2022 at Indian Academy of Sciences

Kolkata (KCN): Proud to state that our

results were declared recently and Soumik

to expand his horizon in further research

tage Institute of Technology.



student Soumik Roy Choudhury, B.Tech-Applied Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering, Batch-2024, got selected for the Summer Research Fellowship Programme (SRFP) 2022 at Indian Academy of Sciences. The

was the only student from a Private Engineering College from West Bengal to get selected in the final list of Indian Academy of Sciences. He will pursue his fellowship at IIITDM, Jabalpur which will help him

and development. "Soumik is a hardworking student. I wish him all the best for his future," said Professor Madhurima Chattopadhyay, Head of the Department, Applied Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering, Heri-

"Every year many of our students get selected for the prestigious SRFP programme. This year Soumik has made us proud," said Mr. P.K.Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

## A transport company robbed at gun point in Barbil

Barbil.18th April (KCN).One transport company namely KP transport at Thakurani under Barbil police station of Keonjhardistrict was robbed by three men who fled with over Rs 1 lakh cash after holding the staff at

gunpoint. As per one staff statement, they threatened all staffs at gunpoint and fled with

the money. Though they threatened them using Hindi language, but usually they were speaking each other through tribal language. "It happened very quickly. Three person came in one motor cycle carrying AK 57 type gun,another witness commented .The KP company is engaged for the transportation activity of Arcelor Mittal Nippon company .However Barbil police had come on the spot and investigating the matter.



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## 'We can be heroes' movie review: Super-kids save the day

Just last week, Robert Rodriguez was being lauded for being part of what is

Jonas), the director of the Heroics programme. But then, when did any

gets, the colours... But it isn't all for children. The film takes pot-



considered one of the best things to happen to the Star Wars Universe: The Mandalorian. This week, after dabbling with big budgets, he comes up with We can be Heroes, a spiritual sequel to his own film, The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl.

It's a Spy Kids-meets-Avengers film. Aliens attack Earth. The superheroes (led by Pedro Pascal), known as the Heroics in this film, come a cropper. Nepotism comes into the picture, with the children of the Heroics getting pushed to the forefront. There is an Avengers-inspired spaceship that spits out smaller space-ships with which the superheroes get kidnapped. They are kept safe in a bunker by Ms Granada (a superbly hammy Priyanka Chopra-

film kid ever listen to the adults and stay put? Each of the superkids use their superpower under the able guidance of Missy Moreno (Ya Ya Gosselin), who interestingly is the muggle among wizards and yet, the leader. We can be Heroes is a film made for kids, and the message is that anyone can be a hero, superpowers notwithstanding. Just like his Spy Kids films, Rodriguez paints this film with dreamy colours like pink and perky purples, and shoots it as if the scenes were pages straight out of a kids' comic. In one scene, a super-kid even comments that the villain's lair feels made for kids. This is a film that is designed for kids, and this audience segment is best suited to enjoy the gags, the highs, the charades, the gad-

shots at the big-ticket superhero films, for being needlessly destructive. Missy and her friends express their unhappiness about their superhero-parents fighting villains in crowded areas. In some ways, Rodriguez tries to level up the film for the not-so-young audience members, but the saccharine ending, and the overall simplicity makes it quite clear who he's targeting with this film. Growing up, we didn't ask logical questions of Spy Kids or The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl, and simply took in the sights and sounds created by this whimsical filmmaker. For this generation of kids, Rodriguez has created We can be Heroes. The kids are safe, so long as this filmmaker is around. The adults may want to wait for a version of Sin City though.

## Shooting for third season of 'Four More Shots Please' to begin soon: Kirti Kulhari

**MUMBAI(KCN):** Bollywood actor Kirti Kulhari on Thursday said shoot for her series "Four More Shots Please!" is set to commence in coming days. The Amazon Prime

Taking to Instagram, Kulhari shared her excitement to team up with her co-actors again for the new season. "And we are back #fourmoreshotsplease #season3 shoot begins su-

tions, the show was recently nominated in the best comedy series category at the 48th International Emmy Awards. On the film front, Kulhari is currently awaiting the release



Video series, which also features Sayani Gupta, Maanvi Gupta and Bani J, follows a quartet of friends who deal with their relationships, work-life conflicts, ambitions and anxieties in a male-dominated society.

per soon. Lovely to be back with the crazy 3," Kulhari wrote alongside a series of candid photos with Gupta, Gagroo and Bani. Created by Rangita Pritish Nandy and produced by Pritish Nandy Communica-

of the Hindi remake of Hollywood blockbuster "The Girl on the Train", starring Parineeti Chopra. The movie, which premiere on streamer Netflix on February 26, will feature Kulhari as a British cop.

## Richa Chadha drops first look poster of her political drama 'Madam Chief Minister'

**NEW DELHI:** Actor Richa Chadha on Monday dropped the first look poster of her upcoming political drama 'Madam Chief Minister.' The Subhash Kapoor

directional revolves around the story of an "untouchable" woman who rises to the top. The poster that Chadha shared on Instagram sees her sporting a pixie cut

hairstyle with bruises on her face. She is also seen holding a broom. The background of the poster features Manav Kaul and Saurabh Shukla, who play pivotal roles in the film.

## Priyanka Chopra Jonas to star opposite Richard Madden for 'Citadel' Amazon series

**Washington DC:** In a recent series of tweets, Priyanka

content. More soon. @AmazonStudios @AGBOfilms"

wood Reporter. Josh Appelbaum, Andre Nemece, Jeff



Chopra Jonas made the announcement that she would be starring alongside Richard Madden in 'Citadel,' a Russo brothers drama series that'll be launched on Amazon. Tweeting a screenshot of an article from the Variety website, Chopra wrote: "Cannot wait to work with the talented @\_richardmadden and incredible @Russo\_Brothers on CITADEL... A multi-layered global franchise with interconnected local language productions from India, Italy and Mexico. It will truly be global

Furthermore, she also posted two online article links about this latest development, one from Deadline, and another from The Hollywood Reporter. According to Variety, the producers have till now remained secretive about 'Citadel's' plot. The show would also be released in various local languages. As announced at the recent Television Critics Association's winter press tour, a separate version for Mexico is also in the works along with local productions in Italy and India, reported The Holly-

Pinkner, and Scott Rosenberg would be the executive producers and writers of this series. Apart from the aforementioned, Patrick Moran, Mike Larocca, and Joe and Anthony Russo would also be among the executive producers. The Italian series will be co-produced with Amazon Studios and Cattleya, part of ITV Studios, and the Indian series will be developed by Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D.K. and produced with Amazon Studios.

## Vijay Sethupathi, Katrina Kaif in Sriram Raghavan's next?

It was recently revealed that Sriram Raghavan's upcoming film, Ekkis, has been put on hold. A big-budget military drama starring Varun

Santosh Sivan, is a Hindi remake of Maanagaram (2017). He is also rumoured to star in an upcoming web series directed by Raj and

Sriram Raghavan's last film was Andhadhun (2018) with Ayushmann Khurrana and Tabu. The film is getting a Tamil and Telugu re-



Dhawan, the film was delayed due to Covid-19.

DK. The unrevealed series will also star Shahid Kapoor.

make with Prashanth and Nithiin, respectively, in the lead.

Now, rumour has it that Sriram has signed Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi for his next. If true, this is the latest Hindi project Vijay Sethupathi is attached to — the others being Laal Singh Chadha and Mumbaikar. The latter, directed by

Banita Sandhu clarifies on COVID-19 diagnosis, says she 'continues to test negative' **MUMBAI(KCN):** "October" actor Banita Sandhu on Thursday said she has continued to test negative for COVID-19 since her arrival to the country in January 3, contrary to what is being reported in media.

According to health department sources, Sandhu had tested positive for COVID-19 on January 4 in Kolkata after flying from United Kingdom and was admitted to a private hospital after she refused to be treated in a government facility.

# Remembering the anonymous loyalists of Babasaheb

Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar resigned from the central cabinet of Jawaharlal Nehru on 27th September 1951. Both of them locked horns on Hindu code Bill. Baba Saheb informed about his resignation through a historic speech given in parliament. He returned to his

government residence at 22 Prithviraj Road around 1600 hours. He shifted from 22 Prithviraj road to 26 Alipur road a house of his friend next very day, after leaving cabinet, most of his time was spent on study and writing. While residing in 26, Alipur road he wrote his last book "The Buddha and his Dhamma". In his writing, he elaborated the teachings of Gautam Buddha. His work was translated in many languages like Hindi, Gujarati, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Japanese etc. He breathed his last in 1956 in his residence 26, Alipur road itself. Actually, from 1951 to his last moment he was accompanied by his 3-4 associates and close disciples. They had a firm faith in Babasaheb and his belief. One of them was Bhagwan Das. The contribution of Bhagwandas in spreading the thoughts of Babasaheb among the masses was incredible. He often met Babasaheb in his 26 Alipur residence. Born in 1927 Shimla, Bhagwandas permanently settled in Delhi after meeting Babasaheb. He edited the compositions and speeches of Babasaheb and wrote books on it. His work "Thus Spoke Ambedkar" written in four volumes is the only book in the world that impart the thoughts of Babasaheb to intellectuals and the general public. He was interested in Dalit unity and he tried to unite many castes including Dhaanuk, Khateek, Balmiki, Hela, Koili etc.



to bring in Ambedkarites revolution. Working on ground level he wrote on various issues of dalits which were published in many magazines and newspapers. Bhagwaan Das wrote four books on sweepers and one small book also on washermen. His

**R.K. Sinha**

passage of time, he wrote an important book named "Dr. Ambedkar Ki Charcha". It has many important information. He narrated in his book that on 30th December 1948 what was the reaction of him after Gandhiji was assassinated." After hearing the news of Bapu,

leaders and common people, like present times. Rattu hailed from Hoshiarpur of Punjab. He also lived like the shadow of Babasaheb. He used to preserve a carbon copy of all the matters dictated by Babasaheb. He used to study and job simultaneously. After resigning from Nehru's cabinet Babasaheb called Rattu



famous book "Main Bhangi Hoon" was translated in many Indian languages and it is like a paper of Dalit history. Once Dalit thinker S.S. Darapuri said Bhagwandas ji worked for the welfare of the downtrodden through out his entire life. He wrote 23 books. Bhagwan Das took historical steps by raising the issues of untouchability and discrimination in India towards the Dalit on International stages. He died in 2010 at the age of 83. The Library of Babasaheb was a collection of thousands of books. Babasaheb loved his library. DeviDayal was the bookkeeper there. DeviDayal was with Dr. Ambedkar since 1943. Whenever Babasaheb spoke in public on any issue used to write it down as a duty. It is hard to say from where did he get this inspiration. He used to preserve all the clippings of articles and public comments of Babasaheb published in newspapers and magazines. Under his patronage he became a good reader also. He became a close associate of BabaSaheb. With

he got shocked. He got totally upset and disturbed for 5 minutes. After regaining his normal condition, he said. "Bapu didn't deserve to meet such violent ent". DeviDayal was greatly helped his wife in taking Dr. Ambedkar during illness, because after the illness of her husband she wrote better words about DeviDayal on the pages of diary. DeviDayal breathed his last in 1987. Naanak Chand Rattu also used to be with Babasaheb as a shadow. Babasaheb came to Delhi in 1942 as a member of Viceroy's executive council. He was allotted government residence at 22 Prithviraj road. Thereafter 20 years old Rattu joined him. He also knew typing. Rattu was aware about the works and struggles done by Babasaheb towards the welfare of vulnerable groups of society. Babasaheb accepted enthusiastic and energetic Rattu as his close companion. At that time there did not exist a big communication gap between

and told him to vacate the government residence the next day. This was unprecedented. Rattu started hunting for a new home. Luckily a friend of Babasaheb gave a proposal to shift in 26 Alipur road house. Babasaheb agreed. Rattu ji made Babasaheb shift to his new house the very next day. Means he had a real management qualities. Health complications of Babasaheb began to be seen in 1956. 24 hours, Rattu ji took care of him and accompanied him. After his death Rattu ji toured though out India to spread the thoughts of Babasaheb. Before his death in 2002 he wrote a book on the last years of Babasaheb. All these associates of Babasaheb should also be remembered. They joined Babasaheb selflessly. Where can we find such angels these days!

(The author is a senior editor, columnist, and former MP)

# Secularism has become a chimera in India

Secularism has died in India rendering the preamble of the Constitution a chimera. This has come to the fore with the demand of a politician known for his anti-Muslim



hate speeches demanding that the azan (call for prayer broadcast from the loudspeakers) should be stopped throughout Maharashtra and threatening to broadcast the Hanuman Chalisa outside the mosques within the state from May 3 if the azan is not stopped. Meghalaya, which has over 74 per cent Christians, and 130,399 Muslims, had better stop believing in a make-believe world that secularism is alive when in fact, it is not. That secularism has died is proved by the joint statement issued by 13 Opposition leaders of the country questioning the "deafening silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the hate-speeches of the saffron brigade. Those who questioned the Prime Minister's silence were West Bengal chief minister, Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu chief minister, M.K. Stalin, Congress president, Sonia Gandhi and Farooq Abdullah of the National Congress. "We are shocked at the silence of the Prime Minister, who has failed to speak against the words and actions of those who propagate bigotry and those who by their words and actions incite and provoke (minorities) in our society," they said. Time changes governments and those who represent the majority do not espouse the values enshrined in the Constitution. This

is why hate speech is punished symbolically while in private, those who govern us, espouse the same values as the bigoted radical at the DharamSansad in December 2021 who hailed Nathuram Godse for assassinating Mahatma Gandhi. These issues are vital for Meghalaya which has a Christian population of 74 per cent who are the descendants of those who converted from the indigenous tribes to Christianity in the 1830s when the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society began its work which was later taken over by the Welsh Presbyterian Mission. Meghalaya's tribal peoples followed the Animist religion and is largely untouched by hate speech with few exceptions. But throughout the rest of India, those who use religion to inflame religious passions have entered Parliament and the state legislative assemblies to enact laws which do not espouse Constitutional morality. Constitutional morality is at sharp variance from religious morality which is derived from the holy texts and subjugates women to men. Meghalaya, with Nagaland and Mizoram, is no stranger to violence. Stones have been thrown at the former Governor Satyapal Malik. A former editor, Patricia Mukhim who is a Padmi Shree awardee, had an FIR registered against her and an alleged rebel leader was shot dead in Meghalaya. This is why after the 131st birth anniversary of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, we need to dissect why religion is used as a ploy to divide people. There is no doubt that Hinduism is professed by over 80 per cent of Indians but quixotically, Ambedkar who was born a Hindu, declared he would not

**Dr Olav Albuquerque**

die one. He was worried that "if Hindu Raj does become a fact, it will, no doubt, be the greatest calamity for this country." Ambedkar realized that the concepts of liberty, equality and fraternity were antithetical to the Hindu ethos which is why he embraced Buddhism. Ambedkar pointed out in his preface to his scholarly diatribe titled: "The Annihilation of Caste" that Mahatma Gandhi's view of what we today call as Varna not only made nonsense of the Vedic Varna, but converted it into an abominable thing. Varna and Caste were two very different concepts, Ambedkar pointed out. Varna was based on the principle of each according to his worth, while Caste was based on the principle of each according to his birth. "If the Mahatma believes, as he does, in everyone following his or her ancestral calling, then most certainly he is advocating the Caste System, and in calling it the Varna System he is not only guilty of terminological inexactitude, but he is causing confusion worse confounded," Ambedkar wrote. Ambedkar was calling the saintly Mahatma a hypocrite which would be in line with a radical like Kalicharan who has had an FIR registered against him. There is arguably no Westerner with the exception of Wendy Doniger who has studied Hinduism as thoroughly as Ambedkar. He argued that the Hindu religion ceased to be a missionary religion when the caste system grew up among the Hindus. Caste is inconsistent with conversion which is what the Hindu radicals accuse Christian missionaries of engaging in. "Unlike a club, the membership of a caste (in Hinduism) is not open to all and sundry.

The law of caste confines its membership to persons born within the caste. Castes are autonomous, and there is no authority anywhere to compel a caste to admit a newcomer to its social life. Hindu society being a collection of castes, and each caste being a closed corporation, there is no place for a convert." Ambedkar went on to observe, "Thus it is the caste which has prevented the Hindus from expanding and from absorbing other religious communities. So long as caste remains, the Hindu religion cannot be made a missionary religion." Ambedkar was worried that democracy in India would give way to electoral autocracy which is why he wrote: "It is quite possible for this new-born democracy to retain its form but (later) give place to dictatorship. If there is a landslide of popular support, the danger of that possibility becoming an actuality is much greater." What Ambedkar was afraid of, has become a reality today with global watchdogs like Democracy Index published by the Economic Intelligence Unit and the US-based non-profit research agency, Freedom House, having downgraded India from a free democracy to a "partially free democracy". Religion is regarded by Indians as true, by Marxists as false, and by those who govern us as useful to divide and rule the country.

Dr Olav Albuquerque holds the M.Sc, LL.M (silver medallist) and a Ph.D in media law. His degrees are from the University of Mumbai. He is a senior journalist-cum-advocate of the Bombay high court. He is an honorary member of the Goa Union of Journalists and a Vice President of the National Lawyers Campaign for Judicial Transparency and Accountability.

# Odisha to produce 2500 doctors a year by 2030, add five new MCHs by 2025

BHUBANESWAR: In tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that India will produce a record number of

mission (NMC) has already inspected the newly built infrastructure at Keonjhar and Sundargarh along with the exist-

next session. The construction of other three will be completed by mid-2023," he said. Apart from the five

facility is operationalised soon. The State has an increment of around 550 seats in last four years as the number



doctors in next 10 years, Odisha is expected to produce around 2,500 doctors a year by 2030 with the State adding five more government medical colleges by 2025. The colleges are coming up at Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Bhawanipatna, Jajpur and Phulbani. While the construction of administrative buildings for the medical institutions has been completed at Keonjhar and Sundargarh, others are at various stages of construction. A team from the National Medical Com-

ing hospitals for approval. Additional Director of Medical Education and Training (DMET) Dr Umakanta Satpathy said the new medical colleges will be made operational in phases. The colleges at Keonjhar and Sundargarh will be opened in the first phase next year, Bhawanipatna and Jajpur in the second and Phulbani the last. "The NMC inspection has been completed recently and the team is satisfied with the infrastructure. We are expecting approval for admission from the

government medical colleges, one more 500-bed medical college and hospital with a capacity to admit 100 students has already been developed by Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited (MCL) at Talcher as part of its CSR commitment. The Mahanadi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (MIMSAR) was to be operationalised in 2020-21, but the process was delayed as no agency came forward to manage the MCH. The State government has requested the Coal Ministry to ensure the

of government medical colleges went up to eight from three. With Sri Jagannath Medical College at Puri starting admissions from the current academic session, the total number of seats in the government institutions rose to 1,250. This apart, 400 doctors are graduating from private medical colleges in the State every year. "Once all the proposed medical colleges get the NMC approval, the State will produce 2,500 doctors a year from 2030 onwards," Dr Satpathy added.

# Ukraine returnee students meet Union Education Minister Pradhan, seek help for admission

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): Uncertain about their future, Odisha medical students who returned from war-torn Ukraine last month, have urged the Union Education Minister Dharmendra

students said uncertainty looms over completion of their degrees. After their return to India, the Poland and Hungary governments had allowed the students to continue their medical

countries, we will again have to learn the local language and affording the medical fees is next to impossible now having already spent a lot of money in Ukraine," they said in the memo-

to formulate a special strategy for the Ukraine returnee students. There are 605 medical colleges in India, of which 325 are in the private sector. He urged the Prime Minister be-



Pradhan to accommodate them in Indian medical colleges on humanitarian grounds. Around 100 of the students met the Union Minister during his visit to the Capital City on Saturday and submitted a memorandum to him seeking admission to medical colleges in India. Stating that their studies have been affected due to the ongoing war, the

education in their countries till things normalise in Ukraine. In the memorandum, the students said that medical fees and cost of living in Poland, Romania, Hungary, and Czech Republic are more than double of that in Ukraine. "The quality of medical education in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan is not good. In the European

randum. Of the 22,000 medical students that India brought back from Ukraine after the Russian invasion since February 24, around 500 are from Odisha studying in various medical colleges including those in Kharkiv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Sumy. Earlier, Kandhamal MP Achyuta Samanta had urged the Centre

sides the Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to come up with a concrete policy for distributing the students to different medical colleges in India. So far, the students who have graduated from medical colleges in Ukraine are allowed by the National Medical Commission to complete their internship in India provided they clear the Foreign Medical Graduates Examination.

# Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury writes to Amit Shah for early resolution of Naga issue

NEW DELHI: Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday urg-

two official agreements between the central government and Naga insurgents -- the framework agreement signed at the residence of

ation of the agreed points, are demanding for implementation of the agreements. In view of the above, I request you to kindly implement

demanding resumption of talks instead of endorsing the implementation of agreements. This is what we call a flip-flop," the Congress



ing him to implement the two agreements signed between the central government and the Naga groups for resolving the Naga issue. Chowdhury said the late Rajiv Gandhi had offered to hold unconditional talks with Naga insurgents over three decades ago and the negotiations started in 1997. "At present, we have

Prime Minister on August 3, 2015 between R N Ravi, Interlocutor, and Th. Muivah, General Secretary of NSCN (IM), and the agreed points signed between R N Ravi and the working committee of six factions of Naga Nation Political Groups (NPPGs) on November 17, 2017," he said. "Stakeholders, after consider-

the above mentioned agreements so that the Nagaland issue is resolved," Chowdhury said in his letter to Shah. He also said that Governor Ravi, in his address to the Nagaland Assembly in February 2021, had declared that the talks have concluded. "Thereafter, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio moved a resolution

leader alleged. The Naga issue has been pending for long and peace talks have been stuck over some matters. The Centre has been holding peace talks with various factions of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) and the Naga National Political Groups for resolution to the Naga issue and bringing peace to Nagaland.

# Biju Babu Fondly Remembered

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday said women are the real drivers of 'New Odisha' so efforts for their empowerment is a big tribute to legendary leader Biju Patnaik. CM Mr. Patnaik said this while addressing the state level function on virtual mode held on occasion of the 25th Death Anniversary of former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik. "Women empower-

nized in a graceful manner. Earlier in the day, Naveen paid floral tribute to Biju Patnaik, also a freedom fighter, on the premises of Odisha Legislative Assembly. Taking to Twitter, he wrote, "A humble tribute to Biju Patnaik, the Bara Putra and People's Leader of Odisha, on his death anniversary. The path he has shown has now



made Odisha a leader in various fields of development. His principles and ideology will always inspire us to serve the people."

The Governing BJD also organised several programmes across the state remembering the legendary leader after whose name the

ment was the most favourite programme of Biju Patnaik", the Chief Minister, who is also the legendary leader's younger son, said.

He said that Biju Babu would have been very happy now on seeing the huge participation and success of women in the recently concluded Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies elections.

The women are the real drivers of the New Odisha, he said. On his father's uniqueness, Mr. Patnaik said Biju Babu was different from all and his style of functioning was also altogether separate from others.

His only agenda in life was progress of Odisha and development of Odias. All his programmes were based on empowerment, development and Swabhiman (self pride). He never comprised on these three aspects of life, Mr. Patnaik said. Biju Babu is fondly remembered across the State.

Minister Information & Public Relations, Raghu Nandan Das chaired the meeting. Mayor Bhubaneswar Sulochana Das, Former Minister and Senior Lawmaker Prafulla Samal, Lawmakers, Ananta Jena, Susanta Rout, Utkal Prasanga and Odisha Review Editor Lenin Mohanty, Principal Advisor to CM Upendra Tripathy graced the occasion. Principal Secretary Information & Public Relations, Bishnupada Sethi graced the occasion. Director Information and Public Relations Indramani Tripathy coordinated the entire ceremony, which was orga-

ruling Biju Janata Dal is formed and in power in Odisha since 2000.

Internationally acclaimed sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has also created a sculpture at Puri sea beach remembering the legend on his 25th death anniversary. Biju Patnaik, the tallest politician in Odisha and India as well, had passed away on April 17, 1997. Apart from being a reputed politician, Biju Patnaik was also an ace pilot and flying Dakota (VT-AUI) aircraft of the Kalinga Airlines, founded by him.

He scripted a history when he rescued former Indonesia Vice-President and then Prime Minister Sutan Sjahrir from the Dutch military back in 1947 using the aircraft. Biju Babu was elected uncontested to Odisha Legislative Assembly in 1946 from North Cuttack Constituency. In 1952 and 1957, he won from Jagannathprasad and Surada respectively in Ganjam district. In 1977, he was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time from Kendrapara and become the Union Minister for Steel and Mines in Morarji Desai and Charan Singh governments until 1979.

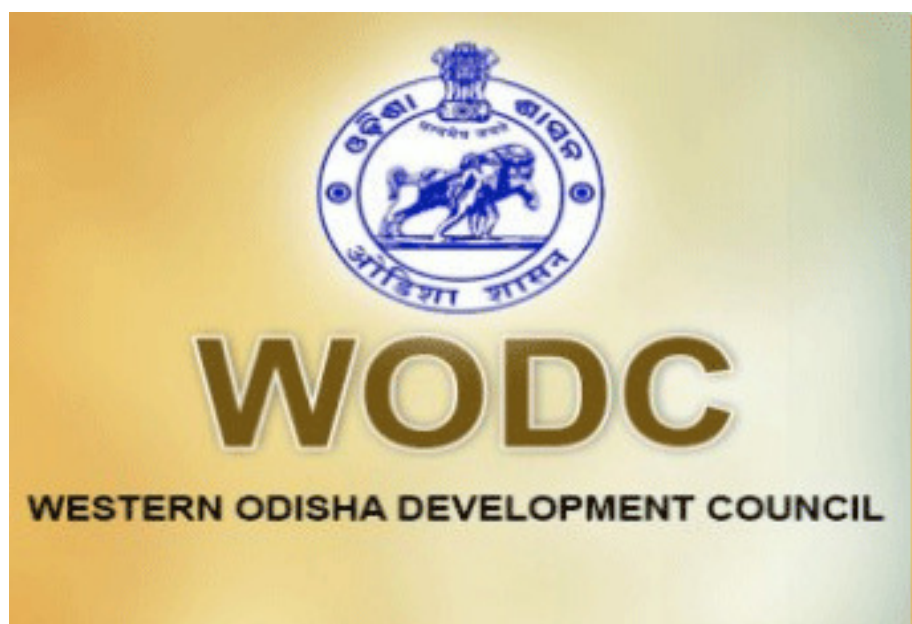
He was also re-elected to Lok Sabha in 1980 and 1984 from Kendrapara as Janata Party candidate.

Biju Patnaik was Chief Minister of Odisha twice for 7 years and 111 days. His first terms was from 23 June, 1961 to 2 October, 1963 and the second term from 5 March, 1990 to 15 March 1995.

## MLAs Asks More WODC Funds

Bhubaneswar: The Lawmakers of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from Western Odisha districts have demanded the State Government to enhance the allocation of fund from WODC to Rs 5 crores per year. All the BJP Legislators including Jayanarayan Mishra, Bhabani Shankar Bhoi, Kusum Tete, Mukesh Mahaling, Nauri Nayak, Subash Chandra Panigrahi and Shankar Oram have written a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik recently.

Seeking the attention of the Chief Minister about Western Odisha Development Council (WODC)



funding, the MLAs said they have been allowed to submit project proposals amounting to Rs 1 crore each per year, when the budget of WODC was Rs 100 crore per annum. Subsequently, the

Government has been pleased to allot double the budget of WODC as compared to the last year which is amounting to Rs 200 crores, they said. "It is therefore requested that each MLAs of WODC

area may be allowed to submit project proposals of Rs 5 crores per year so that we can give sustainable proposals for the benefit of people of our area (WODC)," the Lawmakers demanded.

## Summer Vacation Curtailed

Bhubaneswar: The Department of Higher Education has curtailed the summer vacation for colleges and universities for the academic session

sities, Principals of Government/ non-government degree colleges and Government Teacher Education Institutions coming on this purpose on

curtail the ensuing summer vacation for all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), including all State Public Universities, coming under Higher

said. "With such curtailment of summer vacation, HEIs are expected to complete all academic activities in time. If need be, extra classes should be held on holidays and working days by suitably extending teaching hours," said the Principal Secretary.



2022-23. Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Saswat Mishra has written a letter to the Vice-Chancellor of all State Public Univer-

Monday. In order to compensate for the academic days lost on account of Covid-19 related dislocation, the State Government has now decided to

Education Department, Mr. Mishra said. The summer vacation will now be allowed for a brief period from June 1 to June 16, 2022, he

He further informed that teachers and other employees will be entitled for additional proportionate Earned Leave (EL) in lieu of such curtailment of the summer vacation, which will be communicated in due course of time.

Notably, the Department of School and Mass Education has curtailed the summer vacation for 11 days from June 6 to June 16, 2022.

## Capacity Building In Cyber Security

New Delhi: Shri Ajit Doval, KC, National Security Advisor, today inaugurated the National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise alongside Lt General Rajesh Pant, National Cyber Security Coordinator and Dr Sathesh Reddy, Secretary DRDO. National Cyber Exercise (NCX) India will be conducted as a hybrid exercise over a period of ten days from 18 to 29 April 2022 with the aim to train senior management and technical personnel of Government/ Critical Sector organisations and agencies on contemporary cyber threats and handling cyber incidents and response.

The program is being conducted by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Govt. of India in association

with Data Security Council of India (DSCI) as the Knowledge Partner and supported by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The platform for training is being provided by CyberExer Technologies, an Estonian cybersecurity company accredited for globally conducting several large cyber exercises.

More than 140 officials will be trained through training sessions, Live Fire and Strategic exercises. The participants will be trained on various key cyber security areas such as Intrusion Detection Techniques, Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP), Vulnerability Handling & Penetration Testing, Network Protocols & Data Flows, Digital Forensics, etc.

NCX India will help strategic leaders to better understand cyber threats, assess readiness, and develop skills for cyber crisis management and cooperation. This will also help develop and test cybersecurity skills, teamwork, planning, communication, critical thinking, and decision-making.

Shri Ajit Doval, KC, National Security Advisor, in his keynote address highlighted the Digital Revolution taking place in the country and the launch of a large number of digital services by the Government. He went on to say that Cyber Security remains the foundation of any successful Digital Transformation. Any threats in cyberspace directly impacts our social, economic and National Security and therefore we need to

safeguard our Cyberspace.

Lt. General Rajesh Pant, National Cyber Security Coordinator, brought out the importance of Indian cyberspace and the necessity of keeping it secure and safe for the citizens, businesses and Governments. He talked about the increase in Ransomware and Supply Chain attacks taking place in the world and in our country and how it was very vital to achieve synergy amongst all organisations for effectively countering these attacks. He also highlighted the recent ransomware attack on Oil India Limited and the importance of cyber warfare in the global scenario. Government of India is taking various steps to build capacities and enhance skills in Cyber Security.

## Temp. Permit For 15 Yrs + Vehicles

Bhubaneswar: With the Centre all set to put restrictions on use of vehicles above 15 years, the State Government has asked all transport authorities to give temporary permits to such ve-

period not more than four months. "As provided under clause (d) of subsection (1) of section 87 of the Act, STA and RTAs without following the procedure laid down in section 80,

letter to the Transport Commissioner. As per the MV Act, a permit (other than temporary permit) shall be given for a period of five years from the date of issuance/ renewal. The State Transport

State Government under the Act, the Department of Commerce & Transport has issued this direction, sources said.

In August last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had



hicles. Department of Commerce & Transport, Joint Secretary, Kishore Chandra Das has asked the State Transport Authority (STA) and Regional Transport Authorities (RTAs) to grant temporary permits to the stage carriers above 15 years for a

may grant permits to be effective for a limited period which shall not in any case exceed four months at a time pending decision on an application for renewal of a permit and may attach to any such permit such condition as it may think fit," Das said in a

Authority/ RTAs are the competent authorities for granting permits. The State Government may not go beyond the provisions of MV Act and issue any directions in this regard. However, considering the present situation and certain power conferred to the

launched the National Automobile Scrapage Policy, under which fitness tests have been made mandatory for heavy commercial vehicles from 1 April, 2023. Similar measures are expected to be put in place for other vehicles from June 2024.



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## Investor wealth tumbles by over Rs 2.58 lakh crore as markets plunge

NEW DELHI: Investors' wealth tumbled over Rs 2.58 lakh crore on Monday as equity markets suffered a heavy sell-off, with the Sensex plunging 2 per cent. The BSE benchmark tanked 1,172.19 points or 2.01 per cent to settle at 57,166.74 after a weak opening.

During the day, it had plummeted by as much as 1,496.54 points or 2.56 per cent to 56,842.39 at its lowest.

Tracking the weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms tumbled by Rs 2,58,855.59 crore to stand at Rs 2,69,44,207.98 crore. "Sentiments in domestic markets continued to be negative on account of weak global cues, acceleration in WPI inflation and below expectation results from

heavyweights Infosys and HDFC Bank," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Ser-

In contrast, NTPC, Tata Steel, Maruti and Titan were among the gainers. ALSO READ | SAT admits Chitra

enthuse investors. HDFC Bank declined 4.53 per cent to Rs 1,398.50 even as the largest domestic private sector lender on

Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo settled lower. Hong Kong was closed for a holiday. International oil benchmark Brent

worth a net Rs 2,061.04 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Stock markets were



vices Ltd. From the 30-share pack, Infosys, HDFC, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra, Wipro and TCS were the major laggards.

Ramkrishna's plea against Sebi; directs NSE, her to deposit money Infosys plummeted over 7 per cent after its Q4 results failed to

Saturday posted a 22.8 per cent jump in its standalone net profit at Rs 10,055.2 crore for the quarter ended March 2022. In Asia, markets in

crude dipped 0.07 per cent to USD 111.6 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors remained in selling mode, offloading shares

closed on Thursday for Mahavir Jayanti and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti, as well as on Friday on account of Good Friday.

## Shares in Chinese pharma firm tank as Covid medicine gets questioned

BEIJING: Shares in one of China's largest traditional medicine producers plunged on Monday after reports questioned the efficacy of pills approved by the

Sicong, an influencer and son of one of China's wealthiest scions, ignited a debate about the drug on Weibo when he reposted a social media video question-

Shanghai, which are struggling to quash fast-spreading Omicron-fuelled surges, boxes of Lianhua Qingwen tablets have been included in government care packages.

tional Chinese medicine may be more effective than Western medicine at preventing Covid and accelerating recovery. Shanghai, China's largest city, has been locked down since

world now living with the virus, but virtually unheard of under China's "zero-Covid" strategy. At the peak of its

Omicron-driven outbreak last month, Hong Kong was recording one of the world's highest mortality rates from the virus.



government as a coronavirus treatment.

Shanghai authorities have joined their Hong Kong counterparts in handing out 'Lianhua Qingwen' - a herbal remedy marketed for fever and sore throats -- as the cities battle their worst Covid-19 outbreaks since the pandemic's start.

But on Sunday, popular Chinese health platform Dingxiang Yisheng said the capsules, made by Shijiazhuang Yiling Pharmaceutical, could not prevent cases of the virus, in a report then picked up by state media.

Monday's share dump sent them falling to 32.39 yuan (\$5) with the stocks hitting the daily limit of 10 percent on the Shenzhen exchange. ALSO READ | Centre comes down heavily on Kerala for reporting Covid data after gap of five days Last week, Wang

ing whether the World Health Organization had ever recommended it for use against Covid-19.

The United States and other countries have warned there is no evidence the medicine works to prevent or cure coronavirus, even as it has increasingly been promoted by government authorities in China and Hong Kong. The US Food and Drug Administration has said it has not approved Lianhua Qingwen, and that coronavirus-related claims about it were "not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence".

In 2020, Beijing approved the remedy - initially developed for SARS and made up of ingredients like honeysuckle and apricot seeds -- as a coronavirus treatment.

In financial centres Hong Kong and

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam even claimed last month that tradi-

Will launch 'battle' against Delhi Police if any action is taken against our activists: VHP

Continued from page-1 sued by the police did not name the VHP and the Bajrang Dal.

DCP (Northwest) Usha Rangnani said that an FIR was registered against organisers for carrying out a procession on Saturday evening in the area without permission and one accused person has joined the investigation. Reacting sharply to the police action, VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal told PTI, "We have learnt that an FIR has been registered against VHP and Bajrang Dal activists, and one of the activists has been arrested as well. They (police) have done a big blunder." He rejected as "absurd" the police claim that the procession was taken out by the organisers without permission and said it seems police have bowed down before "Islamic jihadis". "If there was no permission, how police personnel in such a large number were accompanying the yatra (procession)?" he asked.

ALSO READ | Jahangirpuri clashes: Scrap dealer who supplied bottles for pelting arrested, says Delhi Police Bansal said the VHP is "a law-abiding organisation" and levelling such an allegation against it and its activists raises many questions on the functioning of the police. The VHP will not "tolerate such things" he said "VHP will launch a battle if they (police) try to lodge a false case or pick any of its activists," Bansal warned.

Bansal accused the Delhi Police of "high handedness", saying "all of a sudden, it withdrew a permission granted to a procession which was scheduled to be taken out on Monday". "Also, yesterday in the morning, police forcefully stopped a yatra (procession), taken out from Bhalsawa village, about 100 metres before the point where it was scheduled to conclude," he alleged and asked, "What is this?"

March as cases have topped 25,000 a day -- low compared with parts of the

Will launch 'battle' against Delhi Police if any action is taken against our activists: VHP

Continued from page-1

Continued from page-1

## Why is PM Narendra Modi silent on communal violence, incidents of hatred: Congress

Continued from page-1

and hatred. You actually do so to distract people away from the main issues that threaten their existence - price rise, unemployment and a shattered hope for the future," he said attacking Nadda.

"While parts of India are ravaged by riots and violence why is the prime minister so conspicuously silent? Why does he not denounce hatred no matter where it comes from? Why do perpetrators of hate get political patronage? Why are those who incite violence rewarded and most of all why are youth being incentivised to attack and abuse," he asked in a statement.

ALSO READ | MP Ram Navami violence: First victim is a Muslim youth brutally murdered by miscreants

Accusing the BJP of "distorting the nation's fabric, he said, "Your attempts to perpetuate hate, stoke communal tension and divide are dangerous for our nation and our people." Surjewala claimed that the "lies" of the BJP chief stood exposed as its quest to seek revenge against India's glorious history and hard fought freedom by "half truths and post truths" cannot be the bedrock of a nation aspiring to lead in the 21st century.

"The last eight years will be marked in India's history for a vicious attack against the Constitution, its ethos and every institution built to safeguard our democracy. The BJP and its government have been and are at war with its own people, be it the youth, the women, the poor, the scheduled tribes, the scheduled castes, backwards and the minorities," he said. Noting that there has been an "abysmal decline in core indices" under the eight years of the Modi government, the Congress leader claimed that there is growing income inequality in the country with the income of 84 per cent Indians declining.

He said that there has been a 53 per cent drop in income for the 15 crore poorest households and in contrast, the wealth of the 100 richest Indians has surged from Rs 23 lakh crore to Rs 57 lakh crore in two years.

Surjewala also attacked Nadda over the issue of rising inflation and said Wholesale Inflation (WPI) is raging at over 14.5 per cent and prices of daily items are breaking the back of the people. The Modi government has "robbed" people of Rs 26 lakh crore through fuel taxes, he alleged.

Alleging that there are over 8.7 lakh vacancies in the central government alone and over 30 lakh in states and the centre combined, he said, "Your government is turning India's demographic dividend into a disaster. And, it is these unemployed youths who are being drawn into violence and hate by the lunatic fringe elements."

Surjewala also accused the BJP government of "cheating" farmers, saying Prime Minister Modi had promised to double their income by 2022 but their production cost only got doubled and the average income of farmers got reduced to a paltry Rs 27 per day.

The Congress leader also attacked Nadda over the silence of the prime minister on the border issue with China and said he refused to even name China while addressing the opposition. He also attacked the BJP government of "compromising" national security and claimed there has been a rise in terrorist attacks in the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir, under its rule.

Alleging that the BJP had an "anti-Dalit mindset", the Congress leader said of the 17 BJP chief ministers not one was a Dalit and accused it of having reduced the budget for Dalits as the percentage of targeted schemes for scheduled castes out of the total central schemes and centrally-sponsored schemes was just 4.4 per cent.

"Why has your government not released the OBC report, which would benefit them? Why are minorities under constant attack. Your hollow, empty promises and blatant lies continue to haunt our people. The country awaits Rs 15 lakh in every Indian's bank account, 16 crore jobs over the last eight years with two crore annual jobs, doubling farmer incomes by 2022 and MSP at cost +50 per cent, 100 smart cities by 2022 and a house for everyone by 2022," he said.

## Manchester United star Bruno Fernandes involved in car crash, escapes unhurt

MANCHESTER: Manchester United star midfielder Bruno Fernandes was involved in a car crash, revealed Ralf Rangnick. Despite

midfielder Bruno Fernandes, who was involved in a car accident on his way training on Friday morning, as per manutd.com.

okay, and that's why I think he will also be ok for tomorrow (vs Liverpool)." Ralf Rangnick further confirmed that Manchester United

defeat at Everton and Saturday's victory over Norwich City. Fred was forced off in the first half at Goodison Park and joined the aforementioned



the incident involving his Porsche, the Portuguese managed to avoid serious injury. Interim manager of Manchester United Ralf Rangnick on Monday provided an update on United

"The accident happened on the way to Carrington," said the German, during the pre-match press conference at Carrington. "But as far as I know, nobody was injured. He trained with the team and he was

will be without five players for Tuesday's clash with Liverpool at Anfield. Edinson Cavani, Scott McTominay, Luke Shaw and Raphael Varane all missed United's previous two fixtures; last week's

tioned Reds on the sidelines for the weekend win over the Canaries. Speaking in a press conference on Monday afternoon, Rangnick revealed that all five remain unavailable and will miss the trip to Liverpool on Tuesday.

## IPL 2022; KKR vs RR: Jos Buttler scores ton to take Rajasthan Royals to 217-5

MUMBAI: Jos Buttler's dream season just got a bit better after he knocked the stuffing out of a quality Kolkata

many as seven fours and a six, bulk of them by the dashing England keeper-batter. Buttler added 97 runs

Chakravarthy (0/30 in 2 overs) is getting from bad to worse during the season as neither there is bite nor any mystery in his

Umesh, who had started the tournament on a bright note, got back to his old self of being erratic as Buttler lofted him for



Knight Riders attack with a magnificent second IPL hundred to power Rajasthan Royals to an imposing 217 for five here on Monday. Buttler's 61-ball-103 had nine fours and five sixes, some of which were out of the ordinary, including one off Umesh Yadav (0/44 in 4 overs) which landed into the adjacent tennis courts of Cricket Club of India. When he finally got out trying to hook Pat Cummins (1/50 in 4 overs), Royals had crossed 180-run mark and by then the Australian Test captain was hammered for as

for the opening wicket stand with Devdutt Padikkal (24 off 18 balls), who only faced deliveries worth three overs in the first 10 overs. He was then joined by skipper Sanju Samson (38 off 19 balls), who was equally destructive in their 67-run second wicket stand in just 5.4 overs. None of the KKR bowlers save Sunil Narine (2/21 in 4 overs) looked like posing any threat to Buttler, who seems to be walking away with the Orange Cap with an aggregate of 375 runs in six games so far. Varun

deliveries and it was like cannon fodder on a Brabourne batting beauty. The fifth bowling option turned out to be a nightmare as Andre Russell (0/29 in 2 overs) completed Chakravarthy's quota as they cumulatively gave away 59 runs in 4 overs. Shivam Mavi (1/34 in 4 overs) and Umesh started off well during the first two overs primarily because Padikkal is out of sorts. However, showing cricketing smarts, Padikkal gave Buttler bulk of the strike and that changed the course from the third over of the match.

a four and a six off successive deliveries. The floodgates opened after that as he literally toyed with Chakravarthy, whom he hit for a six by rocking back and having enough time to send him into the orbit. If there was a wide yorker, he would steer past third-man, short deliveries were pulled and those on the legs were tucked behind square. Brief Score: Rajasthan Royals: 217 for 5 in 20 overs (Jos Buttler 103, Sunil Narine 2/21) vs KKR

## Danish Open: Vedaant Madhavan adds a shade of gold

NEW DELHI: Continuing his splendid run, fast-rising Indian swimmer Vedaant Madhavan added a second medal to his kitty, a gold in the men's 800m freestyle

a gold at the meet, it is a long way from international standards. USA's Robert Finke had won the gold at the Tokyo Olympics in the event last year

the silver medal in the 1500m freestyle event on Friday before bettering his 200m freestyle time to finish 12th overall in the event. Ace Indian swimmer

The 28-year-old Prakash, who is preparing for the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, had won a gold in the 200m butterfly, his



at the Danish Open in Copenhagen. The 16-year-old bettered his personal best time by a whopping 11:48 to stop the clock at 8:17.28, edging past local swimmer Alexander L Bjorn by 0.10 to stand atop the podium on Sunday night. While Vedaant's performance was good enough to fetch him

with a timing of 7:41.87, while the world record for the event stands at 7:32.12. However, Vedaant, son of Indian actor R Madhavan, has shown immense improvement. He has bettered his personal best times in all three events he has participated in in the ongoing meet. He had won

Sajan Prakash finished fifth in the 'A' final of the men's 100m butterfly with a timing of 54.24, while Tanish George Mathew topped the 'C' final by stopping the clock at 56.44. The top eight swimmers in the heats qualify for the 'A' final, the next eight for the 'B' followed by the 'C' final.

pet event, on the opening day. In the women's event, Shakthi Balakrishnan finished 34 out of 42 swimmers with a time of 2:14.27 in 200m freestyle. India now has a haul of three medals in the ongoing meet including two golds and a silver.




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