



18th Annual day Celebration of Ashapradeep newspaper inaugurated By Former Bhubaneswar MP Prof Dr prasanna Pattsani ..Bhubaneswar Municipal corporation Mayor Smt Sulochna das, Utkal Sambadik sangh president Bibhuti bhusan kar,Jaydev MLA Dr Arvind Dhali, Paryabekhyak and The Kalinga chronicle Editor in chief Dr Pabitra mohan samantaray,Nandighosh TV chief Editor Sisir Bhatmishra,Organization of united working journalists Sanjay das, ouwj chief Coordinator Rajnikant samantatay, Social activist Mamata Biswal, Ashapradeep newspaper Editor Brahmipriya samantaray were present on the occasion as Chief guest, Chief speaker and guest of honour respectively

Sarat front runner for PCC chief

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Congress is likely to appoint a President for its Odisha unit within a week, said the party's state in-charge A Chellakumar who on Tuesday held a series of meetings with senior leaders in Bhubaneswar. It seems Sarat Patnaik is front runner for the PCC Chief job. Mr.Chellakumar met party lawmakers, former MLAs and MPs, former State Congress Presidents and Chiefs of different frontal organisations throughout the day. "As incumbent State Congress President



Niranjan Patnaik has submitted his resignation, it is my duty to hear the views of

all the leaders, including lawmakers, for selecting someone to lead the party," he told reporters. "We want a leader who can take all the party leaders together and perform. The objective of making the change of guard in the state Congress is to rejuvenate the party and bring it back to power," he added. After a series of dismal electoral performances, including the recently-held panchayat and civic polls, the state Congress is saddled with growing resentment. "I will submit a report

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'Constantly depressing': Ukrainian town watches war close in

TORETSK(KCN): War has again drawn near to Toretsk in eastern Ukraine. Even the sudden crackling of a plastic water bottle puts residents on edge. "Anything that



Cheromushkin. "You feel

is happening, any noise, if our neighbors bang the door, a metal door, you are shocked," said resident Andriy

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KISS Foundation will fulfilled Meenakshi's Dream:Said KDML M.P

Phulbani(KCN): Nuaga block, The Kiss Founda- Kandhamal district.



tion will make the dream of Kandhamal's daughter Meenakshi Mallick come true. Meenakshi, a student of Gaibandha village under K

her matriculation pass. Due to her financial problem difficulties she was hopeless. Her father when Dr. Samant heard her Aim is to be a Doctor he was so happy . Meenakshi's dream of studying medical came to the notice of Achuth Samantha, founder of KIT and KISA, and Kandhamal MP, who promised to provide all possible assistance to her. According to the promise, Meenakshi was

named in two sciences combined with Kiss. Meenakshi, who is taking two science exams this year,and is preparing for the All India Medical Entrance Examination 'NIT'. That's why Kiss's professors are guiding him. The Kiss Foundation will take full responsibility for Meenakshi's medical education after her success at NIT.The Jagrat kandhamal founder Satya naraayan praised Dr.Samant KDML M.P for his great deeds.

Plan for Maa Sarala Shrine

Jagatsinghpur(KCN): Secretary to CM, VK Pandian on Tuesday visited the Jhankad Peetha Maa Sarala Temple in Jagatsinghpur and discussed with stakeholders on the issues for the development of the shrine. An ardent devotee of Adi Shakti,



Mr.Pandian went round the temple pre-

mises and reviewed the facilities available for devotees. He also held discussions over various issues with the temple servitors and district administration. Secretary to CM Mr.Pandian directed the district administration to immedi

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Slugfest over Corridor Project

Puri(KCN): In an aim to develop Shree Jagannath Temple area as a world heritage site, the Odisha Government had launched the ambitious Heritage Corridor Project around the Puri temple based on the recommendations of the Justice BP Das Commission. Now, the fate of the mega heritage project of Odisha has been hung in the balance due to a political slugfest between a group of BJP leaders and BJD Government. The issue has reached the Orissa High Court, which is yet to give any order about the project. Senior BJP leader and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi had raised the issue in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session and alleged illegality in the implementation of this ambitious project being undertaken by the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD Government. She also claimed that the State Government carried on with its construction work in prohibited areas near the Shree Jagannath temple despite the Archaeological Survey of India

(ASI)'s letter asking the Government to stop it. The BJD's Puri MP Pinaki Mishra reacted to this plea of Ms.Sarangi in the Parliament and



said, "The work is being carried out after getting an NOC from the NMA (National Monument Authority) and ASI is also a part of the

project." Taking a swipe at Ms.Sarangi, Mr.Mishra had also said, "Many people have a crab mentality. Neither will they do anything nor will they let anyone else do anything." Since then, Ms.Sarangi has strongly opposed the project citing ASI and NMA had not approved the project, which is against the prevailing laws in this land. She had announced to join the protest march of Srimandir Banchao Andolan Committee to be organised in Puri from Saradha Bali to the Srimandir on April 27. However, the District Administration has denied permission to

the rally in the holy town. Now, all eyes are on the next move of the BJP MP. Ms.Sarangi was backed by Saffron party's senior leader Sambit Patra, who unsuccessfully fought from the Puri Lok Sabha seat in 2019. Dr.Patra is also criticising the BJD Government over the issue. In a Facebook post, Dr.Patra on Tuesday demanded the State Government to stop the on-going construction work near the temple. "Without any Politics and for the sake of #OdiyaAshmita the least that can be done is to stop any on-going construction till further orders from the Odisha High Court," he demanded. "Allegations of indiscriminate digging, rules being flouted, safety of the temple is being compromised have been made by various sections of the society. We in BJP always stand for growth and development for extension of facilities to the devotees of Lord Jagannath," he said. CONTINUED ON: P-7

Moj to help content creators earn INR 3,500 crore by 2025

Kolkata (KCN): Moj, India's number one short video app, model for creators and driving engaging content on the



announced its plans to facilitate creator earnings worth INR 3,500 crore (over USD 450M) through the 'Moj For Creators' program. This program is Moj's flagship creator initiative that builds a path for accelerated growth for Moj creators at different stages in their journey. Targeting creators from every region of India, the program is an ambitious step towards building a robust monetization

platform in the long term. Commenting on Moj's vision for creators, Ankush Sachdeva, CEO and Co-founder, ShareChat and Moj, said, "Our creators are the heart and soul of Moj, and it has been our constant endeavor to encourage them and celebrate their talent. We acknowledge the value and potential of Indian creators, and 'Moj For Creators' represents our commitment to their

success. Our investment will provide equal opportunity to every creator and help to not only fully discover their talent but also help them monetize it. By 2025, we envision having over one million superstar creators on Moj through this program and, at the same time, create India's widest range of most engaging multi-lingual short video content." Moj For Creators will help creators monetize their talent and provide avenues to make it a viable career option. To create a sustainable revenue stream for creators, Moj is introducing Virtual Gifting, Commerce Earnings, and even Creator Referral Programs. Furthermore, Moj rewards creators for

participating in and winning various challenges, contests, and trends on the platform. Popular creators have the opportunity to be a part of music videos, films, web series, and other large-scale properties where they will be able to showcase their talent to a larger audience. Creators get a direct monetary benefit for creating engaging content on Moj. Moj also plans to launch 'Creator Studio' in all major cities to provide real-time training for scripting and content production support. The investment will also include scouting and supporting new short video superstars across different genres and languages, creating a conducive platform, and effectively leveraging their reach.

Dr. Prakash conferred with "Birupa Kala Jyoti Samman" - 2022

Bhubaneswar(KCN): For doing a research to reach the people of the rich culture & tradition of Utkal for last three decades the President of leading social and cultural organization of the state Niladri Vihar Youth & Cultural Association (NYCA) Dr. Prakash has been conferred with "Birupa Kala Jyoti Samman"-2022 during the celebration of the 10th Birupa Mahostav. In a glittering function organized for the purpose by Aanchalika Samajika & Sanskritia Unnayan Trust & Bijayananda Yuva Parishad under the Culture lover Er. Dillip Das Dr. Prakash is being felicitated with shawl, memento, citation, bouquet in the glorious presence of the Director

of Central Blood Bank Dr. Chandrika Prasad Das, Retd. Chief Engineer of Water Resources Er. Kabi Prasad Mishra, District Welfare Officer of Balasore Biswadarshi Sahoo.

culture by organizing two whole night play for last 27 years among the general public. In reply to the felicitation Dr. Prakash urged to keep alive the culture and tradition is

Lalitendu Mohanty, The officer from Culture deptt. Of odisha Trilochan Baral, Electrical Engineer Chandrasekhar Sahoo, Secretary of Mahostav Biswaranjan Sahoo, Asst. secretary Suresh Kumar Rout, Members of both the committees, Members of Dr. Prakash's

To keep alive the culture and tradition is a mega celebrations - Dr. Prakash

To note Dr. Prakash a mega celebrations



giving a shape to this organization in 1994 and trying relentlessly to reach the rich culture & tradition particularly to spread the Jatra

and it is the duty and responsibility of everybody to take care of this. Among others the Additional DCP of Bhubaneswar

association were present on the occasion. The intellectuals of the locality applauds the people oriented response of Dr.Prakash.

Women Self-defense Workshop Organized by Sri Jagannath Mahavidyalaya

Khordha(KCN): Motivated by sev-

defense. The event was inaugurated by

society and it is our moral responsibility

forever. Principal Sri Jagannath Mahavidyalaya Kaipadar Preside over the workshop and other guest were Ex-Sarapancha Kaipadar G. P. Bijaya Kumar Arisal, Vice-Principal Tarunkanti Ray, Lecturer Pratap Kumar Chhotray, Sugyani Bhanja Samanta, Digambara Baliarsingh were present and give their opinion. The workshop was Co-ordinated by Dr.



eral instances of violence against women and as a part of awareness programme, Sri Jagannath Mahavidyalaya Kaipadar organized a self-defense workshop in order to prepare them to fight the menace and generates awareness among young girls to face challenge of society, while keeping up their own safety. The aim behind organising the workshop, which was tag lined as look like a beauty and kick like a beast was in lieu of the situation of women. When it comes to their safety and thus making girls / women mentally and physically ready for their self

the Chief Guest to treat them equally and respectfully. Colonel Sonali Rath, in her address she motivated the girls to become self-dependent in every situation and place and highlights the core point by saying "Women are the important part of our

and respectfully. And I am glad that girls and women took interest and learnt new ways of self-defense through this workshop which is going to be helpful for them in their safety

Sanjukta Pattnaik. All the students and lecturer shown their keen interest in the workshop and they were happy to learn the ways of self-defense. Lecturer Sachala Samantaray give vote of thanks.



Kolkata girl dreams to be world's top programmer after qualifying for the Grand Finale at TCS CodeVita 2022

Kolkata : TCS CodeVita 2022 is a prestigious event that was held from 11th March. A global coding challenge that has been designed by TCS to promote skill development and the spirit of innovation among the students, every year the competition witnesses participation of more than 350000 students worldwide. A student of Heritage Institute of Technology (HITK), Rituparna Padira from B.Tech- Computer Science Engineering, Batch-2023, qualified for the Grand Finale at TCS CodeVita Season-10 after clearing Round -2 whose results were declared on 21st April.

Grand Finale. Around 2000 students across the world had ap-

TCS and could not believe my eyes that I am among the top

"Rituparna is a hard working girl and very much passionate



Rituparna is now among the top 30 candidates who have been selected for the Grand Finale which will be organized in the first week of May. In Round -2 she had secured a global rank of 28 and the top 30 rank holders only had qualified for the

appeared for Round-2 at TCS CodeVita. Passionate about coding, Rituparna sees herself among the top programmers in the world. "I love coding and this competition has boosted my confidence a lot. I was really surprised when I officially received mail yesterday from

30 finalists in the world," said Rituparna. "A proud moment for HITK as it shows how well the students of the Institute are performing at such international events," said Shri P.K.Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

about software programming," said Dr. S.Majumder, Head of the Department, Computer Science Engineering, HITK. Earlier this month, Srinjoy Ray, a student of HITK from the same Department, secured All India Second Rank in Round-1 at TCS CodeVita Season-10, 2022.

Eminent Social Worker Bulei Behera felicitated by Akhil Bhartiya Yadav Mahasabha

Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : Akhil Bhartiya Yadav Mahasabha observed 98th national working meeting at Cuttack Sadar 42 Mouza Yosodha garden with felicitated to Utkal Yadav Mahasabha Honorable office Secretary Social worker, Sahitika Bulei Behera. In this meeting held presence of Utkal Yadav Mahasabha Honorable President Ashribad Behera, Akhila Bharatiya Yava Yadav Mahasabha Rastriya adhakhya social worker Er.Pradip Kumar

Behera, Utkal Yadav Mahasabha Chief Advisor Dharmananda Behera, working president Subash Chandra Behera, Eminent social worker Abhimanyu Behera & all members. Moreover Mr. Bulei Behera for his greatness, good work, dedication for betterment of society, Seva to literature development in rural areas, development of Village Library, Pujyapuja with all traditional festival observation etc, felicitated by many organizations like Saraswati Kala Parisad (SKP) Kandarpur, Dayanidhi Pratiba Bikash Pratistatan 42 Mouza, Adarsha Yuva Sangha Cuttack Branch, Muhan Sahitya Sansad Mumbai and became the pride of 42 Mouza.



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Best Film Award in the 'Livelihood and Sustainable Technologies' category for the short film 'Sani' at the "11th CMC Vatavaran Film Festival & Awards"

Bombay (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): The

prize of Rs 50,000, trophy and certificate.

short film 'Mask' directed by him won many national and international awards.



Director Dr. S K Das says, "The short film 'Sani' is based on the Mahanadi river and the livelihood of fishermen in Odisha. This film

Production' and directed by Dr. S K Das was presented with the Best Indian Film in 'Living and Sustainable Technologies' category at the '11th CMC Vatavaran Film Festival and

Dr. Sweta Kumar Das (S K Das) pursued a career in Odisha Administrative Service after



festival committee and the jury.



Awards' held in Chandigarh on 23 April 2022. This year a total of 21 National and International Films were Awarded in 10 categories. It was judged by many veterans like film maker Shyam Bagegal, Dr. G. B. K. Rao, directors of the festival, etc. S K Das was given

completing MA, M.Phil and PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has a special interest in making films based on social issues like women empowerment, farmer suicides, caste system, disaster management and current social superstition. The

is made in Odia language. River Mahanadi is considered as the mother of Odisha. The river is closely associated with the livelihood of the people. It is shown in this movie how the fishermen community have to face the water dispute between the two states."

Vikrant Massey's 'Cargo' to be screened at South by Southwest festival in US



MUMBAI(KCN): Vikrant Massey-starrer "Cargo" will have its North American premiere at the 2020 edition of South by Southwest (SXSW) festival. The science fiction film, written and directed by Arati

Kadav, also features Massey's "Mirzapur" co-star Shweta Tripathi and actor Nandu Madhav. The story revolves around a lonely demon Prahastha who has been working on a spaceship for years for the Post Death

Transition services with the help of a female astronaut where dead people are recycled for rebirth. "Cargo" will be screened under the Global section of the film festival which will run from March 13 to 21.

Vikrant, who most recently featured alongside Deepika Padukone in "Chhapaak", said it makes him "proud" that the film has been chosen for the prestigious film gala. "Cargo" is one of the first Indian sci-fi

films to be there. And I feel blessed for receiving so much applause not just from the country but across the world. People have loved Chhapaak, they have embraced it with open arms and now 'Cargo' being selected at this big a platform, I feel really fortunate," the actor said in a statement. "Cargo", which had its India premiere at the 2019 MAMI Film Festival under the spotlight section, is produced by Arati, Navin Shetty, Shlok Sharma and Anurag Kashyap.

Politically bulldozed polity

India in the recent days witnessed and discussed violence aplenty. No country, for that matter, would appreciate the enormity of violence into which it sinks. What makes India the most vulnerable is its multitude of cultural expressions which are, if not often, but in conflict at different levels these days. Multiple religious ideas are sure to remain a reality in a secular country like India. What makes them conflicting is the way we approach them. With different religious ideas weaving the garment of diversity in India, we must have enough space for a hearty laughter and a reason for congenial coexistence. What derails such a coexistence is the exclusive ideals that we hold on to be true and deliberately authorize to mar the essence of collective humanitarian wellbeing. India has a long story to tell about invasions and their inimical scars that are still engraved in the minds of generations. Its acrimony, mistrust and gruesomeness stay for long and take generations of efforts to eradicate completely. Post-independence, the political welfarism with which the country moved taking a one-sided appeasement approach also contributed to the collateral damage. India was communally divided and emotionally dampened, which was an outcome of a colonial intervention that, when the British vacated the country, left it with deep cuts and bleeds. Religious affinity in India was a personal matter for a long period. But it came to the forefront recently as a political tool capable of collectively

enticing a large cohort for electoral gains. The role of religion in a person's life is spiritual upbringing at a personal level. What made it acrimoniously outrageous was when it was tightly tied to the ugly intentions of politics. Of course, the communal violence erupted in different states at small localities should make us ponder seriously on the damage that it can cause to what we call, the national conscience of the country. We have umpteen historical evidences for small skirmishes subsequently turning into volatile riots causing severe damage and bloodshed. Exclusive behavior of religions has always caused danger to societies. Bloodshed in abundance across the globe was not only due to the hostile behavior of politics, but the politics in religions or religions being made into political tools. This was also due to certain religions being incapable of either abandoning or renovating their exclusive ideals in the direction of strengthening humanitarian values. Friction to the level of severe commotion and destruction was the result of such ideals. Constantly questioning the reliability of other religious views and being in scrimmage with them, exclusive religious beliefs always made the human endeavor of spiritual progress calamitous. Certainly, no religion holds the spiritual power to claim to be completely apolitical without a dark spot in its integrity. Bulldozing the dreams of ordinary people may be a temporary solution to the tumult that the repulsive elements in each religion creates. But such administrative actions are incapable of stopping the fire of hatred. Of course, bulldozers may temporarily douse

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the discontent. Political parties have probably understood that religious beliefs are the weakest chain link that in India the societies are impulsively fastened on. And to break the link by divisive political intentions is the easiest task and the only solution is to go beyond the self-styled unambiguous exclusive mindset and the confinements of religions. Situation in India is so precarious that a person with an impartial perspective on the current social atmosphere is sure to get perplexed, unable to distinguish between a religious and political procession in the streets. This is because the slogans raised in all these processions are almost the same, putting religion and politics in the same casket. Undoubtedly this trend needs to change. Names of Gods dragged into political platforms appears to be the easiest way to get public support. Violence becoming a new normal with religion and politics accelerating discontent among people is horrific. Processions in the name of religious ceremonies with names of divinities shouted should not be disputed with acrimony. India has a variety of religious forms offering multiple practices significantly capable of diluting disagreements. Unlike the Islamic republics in our neighborhood, India offers a congenial impetus to everybody to be appreciably expressive. This does not mean that religions motivated by radicalized beliefs can pounce on one another aggressively with sufficient political patronage jumping into their rescue. The distance with which the Indian state has drifted from the universal spiritual ethos that it once preserved and propagated is

ghastly irrevocable. The question relevant at this juncture is, can India survive and progress as a powerful nation when trifling frictions easily shake the country with volcanic violence erupting across the length of it. Bigotry of religions is probably hijacking the collective conscience of people. The Sanatana Dharma which has nothing to do with the saffronised political motives of the BJP, is purely inclusive and that held the power to bind the country together when it was shattered by the brutality of invasions. Political ideologies intellectually invade the people's mind by moulding them to be submissive to their dubious intentions, undoubtedly define the present context of political discourse. It is time for India to decide the course that it has to take helping the diversity to remain unified and unperturbed. But unfortunately, it seems to be a tough task. Political parties need to stop the euphoria that they have so far been successful in injecting in the polity. Instead of bulldozing the fortunes of people, the administration should find ways to curb aggressive agitations. It appears that a trend of political bulldozing in the BJP ruled states is politically countered by the same bulldozing in the Congress ruled states. The only difference is that the communities that got bulldozed were different. Parties politically strategize to satisfy the vulnerability into which the polity is plummeting and the dividend is sure to bounce into their electoral exchequer. But does the nation have the patience to suffer more?

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The Saga of Azad Hind Radio

The tide of the war was turning in favour of the Allied powers. Germany's warship was sunk off the coast of North Africa and General Rommel was defeated conclusively. Mussolini in Italy was cursing his own government for the setbacks. On the other side, the attack made by Germany on Soviet Union had proved futile and the Soviet was mounting massive counterattack. Operation Barbarossa was launched on 22 June of 1941 with an aim to conquer a portion of the western side of Soviet Union and build up a colony of German settlers. The expectation was that the fertile farmlands of the Soviet will supply required food for the Germans and the rich oil reserves in the Caucasus region will fuel the war machine. But the scenario that emerged in the beginning of 1943 saw the Germans retreating in a rush. They conceded defeat in February in the battle of Stalingrad. The other members of the Allied group were enjoying the clash from a safe distance. Though they didn't come forward to support the Soviet forces yet the British and American leaders wasted no time in capitalising on the hard-earned victory of the Soviet. In a meeting of the Allied state-heads in Casablanca, American President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill demanded unconditional surrender by Germany. But Hitler was in no mood to surrender, he was willing to carry on with the war till the last bullet was spent. Paul Joseph Goebbels, the propaganda minister of the Reich started a fresh campaign to implement Hitler's plans. He delivered a fiery speech at a large gathering in Berlin to declare the resurrection of the German national power. The audience was chosen very carefully and included thousands of Nazi party workers, war veterans, labourers working in factories and women. The speech of Goebbels reached millions of homes through radio broadcast. All

the radio channels in Germany were used for the purpose and that was the only day when Azad Hind Radio did not carry its regular programmes. That was the only exception in the broadcast of Azad Hind Radio, which continued uninterruptedly from October of 1941 to 9 April of 1945. On 17 January of 1941 Subhash Chandra Bose had escaped from his house where he was put under arrest by the British. He reached Afghanistan and then carrying a forged Italian passport Bose reached Berlin via Moscow in the first week of April. He was received by Dr Woermann, Under Secretary in the German government. Bose concentrated on drawing up a neat proposal about the help that he expected to receive from the Axis powers. He wanted to form a free Indian government in exile and sought the recognition of the German government. But Hitler, the leader to say the final word on this issue, was not favourable to Bose's plans. Bose did not receive this recognition till the last day of his stay in Germany. But he had placed some other demands as well. Establishing a Free India Centre and mounting radio propaganda against the British rulers in India from German soil was important among those. The Foreign Minister Ribbentrop had surveyed the situation and permitted these activities. As a result the Free India Centre started its activities towards the end of that year and Azad Hind Radio started broadcasting almost at the same time. The level of importance that the German government attached to this radio broadcast could be gauged from the speech of Alexander Werth. He had come to India in 1969 to deliver the Netaji Memorial Lecture and he compared the German broadcasts at two different periods of time. Germany was generating 140 minutes

Dr Manas Pratim Das

of radio programmes daily in 1969 for broadcast to independent India. Compared to this the Azad Hind Radio was allowed to broadcast for 230 minutes daily at the height of fierce fighting and bloodshed during the Second World War. In fact, Adam von Trot and Alexander Werth jointly headed the division of the German government that oversaw matters related to the British occupied colonies. Thus they naturally came in close contact with Bose. They were fully aware about Bose's expectations from the German government as well as his satisfaction and disappointments about the same. Hence Werth had a natural right to comment on the details of the functioning of Azad Hind Radio. In his speech Werth was able to prove the great importance attached to the broadcasts of Azad Hind Radio. The Listening-in service of Azad Hind Radio collected relevant information from all foreign broadcasts including that by All India Radio. They did the groundwork before preparation of propaganda scripts could be undertaken. The Listening-in service was manned by Dr Girija Kumar Mukherjee, Suresh Chandra and Behan Jhowry. The scripts, written after keeping all related political issues in mind, was done by M R Vyas, Binu Banerjee, Promode Sen etc who were apparently novices in broadcasting. Bose kept a tight watch on the day-to-day work of Azad Hind Radio and held regular meetings with all concerned. There were several items in the broadcasts but Bose's speeches were at the centre of all attractions. Bose resisted the temptation of speaking over radio and hastily revealing his identity to the world. He carefully chose the time to come out of disguise and when Japan became victorious over the British forces in the far east, he decided to speak. After Japan defeated the

British in the battle of Singapore Bose had a meeting with the foreign office in Germany and delivered his first radio speech on 19 February of 1942. He was heard in India over the shortwave as he opened his speech with the line - This is Subhash Chandra Bose speaking to you over the Azad Hind Radio. The British rulers had of course declared before his first broadcast that Bose had joined the Axis camp. However, the voice of Bose, the relentless hero fighting for India's independence, created a unique inspiration in the minds of people in India. Was there any doubt in the minds of powerful people in the German government about the success of this broadcast? A few of them definitely harboured such doubts as there were very few shortwave receivers in India at that time. But the mission headed by Stafford Cripps and Bose's radio speech against it put an end to all doubts. Werth, while speaking at Kolkata, had recollected that the Germans became convinced of the effectiveness of Bose's speech in effecting the rejection of Cripps' mission by the politicians in India. Returning to the single day discontinuity in the broadcast of Azad Hind Radio, it has to be mentioned that the break happened at a time when Bose had made up his mind to leave Germany. He left the country in a submarine with Abid Hasan on 8 February of 1943. He had recorded two speeches before his departure. Those were broadcast over Azad Hind Radio after he was far off the coast. As a consequence, till a long time after his departure even his close associates had no inkling of the fact that he was no more in Germany. The two speeches were also useful in keeping Bose's journey secret to the British spies.

The author is an independent scholar researching the history of science and the interface between science and society. He is a Programme Executive in All India Radio.

Russia an acute threat; China a competitor and challenge: British armed forces chief

NEW DELHI: British Chief of Defence Staff Admiral Tony Radakin Tuesday said

clusions in terms of China." ALSO READ | Russia-China 'no limits'

"When you transgress international rules, it leads to all kinds of consequences," he

dia and China have been in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh for the past



his country sees Russia as an acute threat but China as a competitor and a challenge. When asked at the Raisina Dialogue-2022 if the Ukraine-Russia war is to China's advantage as the West is distracted from the China question, Radakin responded, "I think we have to be really careful about these con-

friendship will have impact on Europe, Asia: EU chief "This is a conflict with Russia. The UK's position is very different. In our integrated review, we declared Russia as an acute threat, and we made a clear distinction about the language in terms of China -- as a competitor and a challenge," he added.

said. He said when somebody invokes a war which according to him is an ugly and unpredictable beast, it leads to a whole series of other consequences. "If you are another nation contemplating an illegitimate use of force, Russia's current situation is a cautionary one," he said. The militaries of In-

23 months following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas on May 5, 2020. Each side currently has around 50,000-60,000 troops deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier foreign policy conference. This year it is being held between April 25 and April 27.

Pratibha Singh appointed President of Himachal Pradesh Congress

CHANDIGARH: Lok Sabha Member of Parliament from Mandi, Pratibha Singh has been appointed as the President of Himachal Pradesh Congress, she is wife of former Chief Minister

Himachal Pradesh President and Nadaan MLA Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu has been appointed as Chairman of the campaign committee and a member of the screening committee. "It is for the

said, the Rajput factor will work in her favour and the most important the sympathy wave given how after the death of former CM Virbhadra Singh last year the state Congress has been a divided lot.

Meanwhile, Jagat Singh Negi is the chief whip and Dr Rajesh Sharma is the treasurer. Also, former union minister Anand Sharma has been appointed as Chairman of the steering committee and Asha Kumari



Virbhadra Singh. Besides appointing Pratibha Singh as Himachal Pradesh Congress chief, the party has appointed four working presidents, Harsh Mahajan, Rajinder Rana, Vinay Kumar and Pawan Kajal. Meanwhile, Mukesh Agnihotri will stay as Himachal Pradesh Legislative Party leader and Harshvardhan Chauhan is deputy CLP leader. Former

first time working presidents have been appointed by the party in the state congress," said a senior leader. A few state party leaders are of the opinion that appointing Pratibha Singh as state Congress chief would strengthen the party and the factionalism might come to an end as the dominant group within the party is the former CM's family. Moreover, they

"To win the elections, the Congress with this move has tried to put a united face despite its internal differences," said a party leader. Sources said that the Congress would not declare a chief ministerial face for the upcoming assembly polls scheduled for later this year as the ruling BJP has already declared sitting Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur as the face of the party.

convenor. Meanwhile Dhaniram Shandil will be the chairman of the Manifesto Committee, Ashish Butail will be the vice-chairman and Rohit Thakur convenor. Adjusting other leaders Kaul Singh Thakur has been named as the Chairman of the coordination committee and Ram Lal Thakur Chairman of the Election Management Committee.

Over 100 ex-bureaucrats request PM to call for end to 'politics of hate'

NEW DELHI: Over 100 former civil servants have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a hope that he will call for an end to what they termed as "politics of hate" allegedly practised "assiduously" by governments under BJP's control. In an open letter, they said "we are witnessing

minority communities, particularly Muslims, in the last few years and months across several states - Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, all states in which the BJP is in power, barring Delhi (where the union government controls the police) - has acquired



a frenzy of hate filled destruction in the country where at the sacrificial altar are not just Muslims and members of the other minority communities but the Constitution itself". Former Lt Governor of Delhi Najeeb Jung, former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon, ex-foreign secretary Sujatha Singh, former home secretary G K Pillai and former prime minister Manmohan Singh's principal secretary T K A Nair are among the 108 signatories to the letter. As former civil servants, it is not normally our want to express ourselves in such extreme terms, but the relentless pace at which the constitutional edifice created by our founding fathers is being destroyed compels us to speak out and express our anger and anguish, the letter said.

a frightening new dimension, it said. The former bureaucrats said they believe that the threat is unprecedented and at stake is not just constitutional morality and conduct; it is that the unique syncretic social fabric, "which is our greatest civilizational inheritance and which our Constitution is so meticulously designed to conserve, is likely to be torn apart". "Your silence, in the face of this enormous societal threat, is deafening," the letter said. "We appeal to your conscience, taking heart from your promise of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'," it said. "It is our fond hope that in this year of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', rising above partisan considerations, you will call for an end to the politics of hate that governments under your party's control are so assiduously practising," said the letter.

Newly elected members of UP Legislative Council take oath

LUCKNOW: The 36 new members of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, who were recently elected from local authority constituencies, took oath here on Tuesday. UP Legislative Council chairman Kunwar Manvendra Singh administered the oath of office to the newly elected members. All the members took oath in Hindi, while some of them raised the slogan of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai" after the oath-taking ceremony. Prominent among those who took the oath are Minister of State (independent charge) Dinesh Pratap Singh, who was elected from Rae Bareilly constituency. Two independent MLCs and MLC

According to the results declared on April 12, the BJP won 24 of the 27 seats, where polling was held last week. In addition, the BJP had won nine of the 36 seats unopposed. Two independents and a candidate from the Jansatta Dal (Loktantrik) emerged victorious in the elections. The results take the BJP past the halfway-mark in the 100-member House. Now, it will have 67 members in the Upper House of the state legislature. Before the polls, the BJP had 34 members in the House. In the 100-member Legislative Council, the BJP will now have 67 MLCs, Samajwadi Party (SP)



of Jansatta Dal (Loktantrik) from Pratapgarh, Akshay Pratap Singh also took oath on the day. Rest of the winning legislators are from the BJP. A court in Pratapgarh had recently cancelled the bail of Akshay Pratap Singh and ordered his arrest in a case of getting arms licence on a fake address, a government counsel said on Saturday. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, UP BJP chief and cabinet minister Swatantra Dev Singh were also present on the occasion. A month after its resounding victory in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the BJP swept the biennial polls to the state's legislative council by winning 33 out of 36 constituencies. One of the three local authority seats it failed to bag was in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, where it stood a distant third.

17 and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) four. The Congress, Apna Dal (Sonelal) and the NISHAD party have one member each in the House. The teachers' group has two MLCs, while the independent group (Nirdal Samooh) and Independents have one MLC each. Meanwhile, Adityanath had vacated his council seat recently, while former leader of opposition Ahmad Hassan of the SP died in February this year. The voters in this biennial election are village pradhans, members and chairmen of block development councils and zila panchayats, and corporators in urban areas. Members of legislative assembly (MLAs) and members of parliament (MPs) also vote. The Congress and the BSP did not field any candidate in the legislative council elections, making it a direct fight between the BJP and the SP.

Special Enforcement Drive to Control NDPS Crime

Khordha (KCN): Special Enforcement drive was conducted

cases followed by the Cuttack District with 11 NDPS cases.

and one twelve Wheeler Truck. On 23.04.2022, Rayagada

Flowers, 4704.32 kgs of Ganja & 1318.5 grams of Brown Suga



by Excise Department for the period from 19.04.2022 to 25.04.2022 to control NDPS Crime in the state and the filed functionaries have detected 184 nos. Of NDPS case's with ar-

Some of major cases during last one week are, on 20.04.2022 Ganjam Excise team detected one NDPS (Ganja) case with seizure of 265 kgs Ganja and one pick up van. One accused person

Excise team detected 3 NDPS Ganja case with seizure of 465 kgs Ganja and arrested three accused person. On 24.04.2022 Sambalpur EI & EB Unit detected one NDPS (Ganja) Case with seizure of 21 kgs Ganja and cash/sale proceed of Rs. 13 lakhs rupees. In the month of April-2022, 2955 Nos of cases detected, 2525 person arrested and 68039 litres ID Liquor, 557195 kgs of ID

& 178 nos of vehicle including bike, four Wheeler and trucks were seized and the approximate seizure is value of Rs. 13.45 Crores. Excise Directorate is having close watch in the enforcement activities of field functionaries. The monthly and fortnightly review of all District and EI & EB Units are being made regularly by the Excise Commissioner Sri. Ashish Kumar Singh, IPS, to



rest of 188 accused persons and 2642 kgs of Ganja, 1028 Grams Brown Sugar, 165.8 litres of codeine's based cough syrup, cash of Rs. 13 lakh and 19 nos of vehicle were seized. The total seizures value of seized materials is Rs. 2.86 Crores. During the period the field Officers are regularly monitored from the Excise Directorate. The Ganjam District detected highest nos. of cases i.e. 14 NDPS

arrested. On 20.04.2022, EI & EB Unit -II, Cuttack detected one Brown Sugar (Heroin) case in Bhubaneswar and seized 200 grams of Brown Sugar. 22.04.2022 State flying squad, Cuttack detected one NDPS (Ganja) case and seized 250 kg Ganja and one pick up van. On 23.04.2022, EI & EB unit -II, Cuttack detected one NDPS (Ganja) case in Cuttack District and seized 130 kgs Ganja



wash, 1245.4 kgs of Bhanga, 68.7 Litres Spirit, 23.25 litres of Non duty paid IMFL, 464.7 Litre's of duplicate IMFL, 1298 QTLS of Mahua

strengthening the enforcement activities. To have a control over Excise & NDPS crimes in coming days.

Woman in Odisha ends life three days after fiance's murder

BERHAMPUR: Tension prevailed in Hansapur village within Chhatrapur police limits on Monday after a woman allegedly died by sui-

May 13. Sources said Krushna, a cement trader, used to visit the village temple every night after closing his shop to feed stray

Krushna's murder, they failed to arrest the killers. Upset over police inaction, the woman went to the village temple on the day and reportedly

to pacify the irate villagers. However, the agitators allegedly pelted stones at them. While the IIC suffered injuries, two police vehicles were damaged in the attack.



cide at the same spot where her fiance was murdered three days back. The woman consumed poison near the village temple in Hansapur, the place where her fiance Krushna Chandra Parida was brutally killed by unidentified miscreants on April 22 night. She was reportedly upset over the failure of police to nab Krushna's killers. Her marriage with Krushna was scheduled to take place on

dogs. On April 22, he reached the temple as usual and fed the dogs. Krushna received a call from his fiancee and was talking to her over phone when he was attacked by a group of miscreants with sharp weapons. Krushna sustained critical injuries and was rushed to hospital but the doctors declared him brought dead. Though police picked up several persons for questioning in connection with

consumed poison. She was immediately taken to MKCG Medical College and Hospital but she succumbed during treatment. As news of the woman's death spread, villagers of Hansapur blocked the road connecting Chhatrapur demanding immediate arrest of Krushna's killers. On being informed, Ganjam IIC Satya Ranjan Pradhan along with a police team reached the spot

Biker killed by bus accident at Champua



Champua (KCN): One biker killed by an bus accident at Panchpokhria village road under Champua police station. As per source the said bus Parbati' which was

coming from Joda towards Tata collided with a biker and the biker died on the spot. The bus was running so fast that got collided with high tension electric pole

after the accident. It came to notice too one place closer to pool get blazed due to electric fire. Fire brigade arrived the place to extinguish fire. The deceased is

identified Binu Mahkud from Basira village. Police has recovered the body and sent to champua sub division hospital for post mortem and investigating the matter.

Poles in middle of road in Odisha pose risk to commuters

ROURKELA: The Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) seems to have no immediate plan for underground cable ducting even as erratic positioning of electric and telephone poles continues to cause public nuisance and accidents. While hanging overhead power wires present an ugly picture, there is a constant fear

of charged power wires getting snapped. Sources said provisions are being made for underground cable ducting under the Smart City Phase 2 project for the remaining five km stretch of the Rourkela main road from UditNagar to Bisra Square. Work on 27 other roads with total length of 22 km is underway.

Underground cable ducting, they said, is getting laid for important roads of the posh Civil Township, Hanuman Vatika bypass road, Mahtab Road and connecting roads between the main road and Mahtab Road, but there is no immediate plan to implement the underground cabling project as it involves huge cost

factor. Former chairman of the erstwhile Rourkela Municipality Ramesh Chandra Bal said, these poles were erected haphazardly decades back and with widening of roads, some posts now stand almost on middle of the roads at many places to permanently block the passageway and increase accidents.

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Elon Musk makes the right noises but critics worry about his motive for buying Twitter

It's bonus season on Wall Street and the world's richest man, Elon Musk, is perhaps rewarding himself to an expensive treat -- buying Twitter. His \$44 billion bid

bypassing the board, otherwise called a tender approach, to win over shareholders. For a moment, it appeared as though we were about to witness a fierce takeover battle, but then

Street,' but it'll be interesting to see how Twitter will break the buck under Musk, who spends zilch on advertising. This, at a time when the world's top brands

cryptocurrencies. Musk being one of the votaries of crypto assets, it prompted speculation that he could revisit Dorsey's unfinished agenda of



for the social media platform is the biggest acquisition financing ever put forward by one person, according to Reuters. Musk has promised to cut a \$21 billion personal cheque, but finding those billions shouldn't be hard, as his wallet is about to be bumped up with \$23 billion, as part of his 2018 performance-linked remuneration at Tesla Inc. The bonus payout is yet to be signed off by the Tesla board and neither did Musk mention if the windfall will fund his latest acquisition. Still, the Twitter purchase, coming five years after he first casually showed interest in buying the microblogging site, puts him in the catbird seat from where he can strike an item off the bucket list.

ALSO READ: Don't know what direction Twitter will go in: CEO Parag Agrawal tells anxious employees
The deal stands out for several reasons. The most surprising is the suddenness with which it went from a hostile bid to a takeover sealed with the board's blessings. Just weeks ago, Musk was an unwelcome bidder prompting the Twitter board to take a poison pill in an attempt to block Musk from increasing his stake by more than 15% without its approval and instead allowing existing investors to buy shares at a heavy discount. As it turned out, Musk went well prepared with plan B, and was considering

the board backed off and everything was settled magically with a precision only Harry Potter can conjure at Hogwarts. It's now over to the regulators to pore over the proposal with a spyglass in hand.

Critics point to the glaring shortfall in regulatory disclosures and how Musk's 9.2% stakeholding in Twitter was made public weeks later than the norms stipulated by the US SEC. If the deal does pass muster, Twitter will go back to being a private entity, which means it'll be subjected to less regulatory oversight. This will irk transparency crusaders concerned about the power of social media platforms that are increasingly wielding influence and shaping public opinion, yet are difficult to regulate as it is.

ALSO READ: Elon Musk's 'free speech' push for Twitter: Repeating history?
Musk did utter the right words such as concerns about censorship, content moderation and politicisation of the platform, but critics warn that the billionaire's motive could be to actually seek 'freedom from accountability' and operate unconstrained by laws, regulations and shareholder scrutiny. If so, Twitter's purpose of being a 'public good at a protocol level,' stands no earthly chance.

Twitter founder Jack Dorsey endorsed Musk's offer to take it 'back from Wall

like Coca Cola, Starbucks and Unilever are freezing advertising on social media platforms for reportedly profiting from hate speech and promoting problematic content.

Lastly, one must closely watch out for the future of

'Constantly depressing': Ukrainian town watches war close in so helpless.'

Half of the more than 32,000 residents have fled. Many who remain lack money and basic resources. Depression is growing, along with anger.

"I collect rainwater. Yes, and I do the dishes with this rainwater. I cook the food for my dog with this water. I clean the floors with this water. I do the washing with this water. Clean the house with it. Is it normal? It is the 21st century. The nuclear power century!" said resident Irina Anatoliievna.

She waited in a long line with other exhausted residents on Monday for a water distribution now that running water has disappeared. As people walked away with bottles, they passed monuments to World War I and World War II. Before Russia's invasion, conflict last gripped Toretsk in 2014, when it was captured by pro-Russian separatists. Ukrainian forces retook it later that year.

Now the mining town is just a few kilometers from the separatist-controlled Donetsk region. Not so far away, Ukrainians forces are trying to stop the advance of Russian ones.

The explosions and sounds of artillery are loud, residents said.

But it is not so easy to leave. Some are elderly. Some have small children. Some, like Cheromushkin, have no job.

"You don't know what will happen tomorrow, let alone the next minute," Cheromushkin said. His wife, Tatiana, called the situation "constantly depressing."

It is also a constant source of worry for Vasyly Chynchyk, the head of civil and military administration of Toretsk.

"The enemy is cunning. The enemy doesn't care about infrastructure, doesn't care about civilians," he said. "The enemy acts deliberately, using intimidation, conducting mass shelling."

The most important task now is evacuating residents while the town is more or less calm, he said.

But evacuation takes energy, and Tatiana says she has none left.

"I want to believe that it will come to an end soon," she said. "They will come to some kind of an agreement."

Government likely to launch IPO of LIC on May 4

NEW DELHI: The government is likely to launch the much-awaited initial public offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) on May 4, according to sources

firmed by the sources in Department of Financial Services (DFS) as well. Currently, the Government of India holds 100 per cent stake in LIC. Its valu-

Explaining why the government has decided to sell a smaller portion of the equity in the insurance behemoth, one of the sources said, "We can't take a risk of

country." Notably, the government will have to file the fresh documents with the markets regulator the securities exchange board of India (SEBI), in



in the Finance Ministry. It will dilute 3.5 per cent of its stake instead of 5 per cent as planned earlier in LIC through listing. It is hoping to garner Rs 21,000 crore from this IPO, the sources said.

"If everything goes as per the plan, the LIC IPO will hit the market on May 4 and close on May 9," a source in DIPAM, Finance Ministry told TNIE. A formal announcement to this effect will be made today.

The dates were con-

Sarat front runner for PCC chief

Continued from page-1

to the AICC President and the party will announce the name of the new state Congress President soon. The name may be announced in three-four days or a week," said Mr.Chellakumar, the AICC general secretary. Mr.Patnaik had submitted his resignation as the State Congress President after the 2019 elections, but is yet to be relieved from the post.

On the suggestion by the party's Jeypore MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati that a sitting Legislator be made the President, Mr.Chellakumar said that different names are being considered. However, he dismissed the speculation about the resignation of Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra. "In politics, rumors do make rounds."

Mr.Mishra, who had a one-to-one meeting with Mr.Chellakumar, said, "I had a discussion on different important issues. I may say something when the time comes."

Congress MLA from Kantabanji in Bolangir SS Saluja said some MLAs have sought a change of the CLP leader as well.

Meanwhile, Mr.Patnaik said that he was happy that the AICC started the process of selecting a new state president. "I will support any leader chosen by the party's high command," he said. Among the names doing rounds for the post are former State Congress President Sarat Patnaik is the front runner and AICC General Secretary Bhakta Charan Das is also in the reconing.

However Sarat Patnaik is the most favorite of AICC and his loyalty to Gandhi Family is his tump card, said a AICC Secretary.

"We will support whoever the AICC chooses for the post," Mr.Moquim said.

Mr.Das said that he has the experience of serving as the party's in-charge of Bihar, Manipur and Mizoram.

"I do not think that party will spare me. Anyway, Odisha is my native place and I will not hesitate to any responsibility given by the AICC," he said.

ation would be Rs 6 lakh crore with 3.5 per cent dilution, 1.1 times of its embedded value of Rs 5.4 lakh crore. Embedded value is a measure of the consolidated shareholders value in an insurance company.

The LIC board had met on April 23 to approve the issue size of Rs 6 trillion with 3.5 per cent dilution. Reservations, discounts, issue dates and issue price will be known by Wednesday morning, as per sources.

selling a larger share to the public as it would suck liquidity from the market. Situation is already very volatile in view of Russia-Ukraine crisis and resurgence of Covid cases in many parts of the

case it fails to roll out the IPO before May 12. The Finance Ministry had previously planned to launch the IPO of LIC by March this year but it had to postpone the roll-out on account of tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

Plan for Maa Sarala Shrine

Continued from page-1

ately prepare a master plan for development based on the needs of the temple.

It will be implemented in the 5T model after the approval of the Chief Minister.

Jhankad Sarala shrine is a famous Shakti Peeth in the state as well as in the country. With the blessings of Maa Sarala, Adikabi Sarala Das composed the Sarala Mahabharat from this pedestal. Devotees from all over the places come to the shrine every day to visit their Goddess mother.

During the visits, Jagatsinghpur District Collector Parul Patawari, SP Akhileshwar Singh and senior district officials were present.

Slugfest over Corridor Project

Continued from page-1

No one in the wildest dream can think of opposing any construction that provides any benefit to the Bhakta of the Bhagawan, Dr.Patra added.

On the other hand, BJP MLA from Puri, Jayant Sarangi has also voted in favour of the project appealing the protesters to refrain from politicising the issue.

No one should do politics over Lord Jagannath. If there are concerns over the safety of Srimandir due to digging, it should be addressed in a proper manner and forum by the experts," said senior BJP leader Krushna ChandraJagdev.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Servitors also submitted a memorandum to the District Administration demanding timely completion of the important project.

Breaking his prolong silence over the project, Puri King Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb yesterday strongly supported the project and said the Jagannath temple is totally safe and everyone should extend hands for execution of the project.

"Mahaprabhu's work doesn't belong to any individual, group, party..it belongs to all. Everyone's cooperation is needed for projects being undertaken for the benefit of devotees. And it is not proper to oppose the project through demonstration and protests," Gajapati Maharaj said.

If there is any issue or problem, it should be resolved through dialogue and mutual understanding, he suggested.

In such a situation, all are now eagerly waiting to hear from the High Court. The court is waiting for an affidavit to be filed by the ASI. Most probably, the judgement would be based on the affidavit of ASI, which is yet to open up on this controversy.

Santosh Trophy is good platform to grab attention of big clubs: Indian football legend IM Vijayan

MALAPPURAM: IM Vijayan catapulted into instant stardom with his exploits in Santosh Trophy more than 30 years ago and the legendary former India captain wishes the same for the players of semi-finalists taking part in the 75th edition of the National Football Championship. Hosts Kerala will play Karnataka in the first

tournaments in India, and they will be trying to prove themselves and catch the eyes of the top clubs," Vijayan, the greatest Indian footballer to have emerged from the state, told aiff.com. In fact, East Bengal club has sent its former stars Alvaro D'Costa and Sasthi Duley as talent spotters. Santosh Trophy has

first time. Kerala fans are different, they are special. "I have seen them support me even when I played for Mohun Bagan against Kerala Police. I have also played for Bengal and missed a penalty in a tie-breaker against Kerala back when late VP Sathiyam was the captain. Kerala lost that match, but fans here still recall that

Government, the KFA and the AIFF have given a wonderful platform to young players and coaches," said Gift Raikhan, whose side Manipal is set to face West Bengal in the semifinal. "It's professional and punctual, and the infrastructure in Kerala has been spectacular." Bengal coach Ranjan Bhattacharjee was amazed by the recep-



semi-final on Thursday while Bengal is pitted against Manipal in the second semi-final on Friday. "All the players have a chance to prove themselves, especially the ones that have made it to the semifinal so far. This is one of the most prestigious

been a big hit in Kerala with hosts game against Bengal being watched by a capacity crowd. "There have been so many fans that have come to enjoy the matches as Santosh Trophy is being held in Malappuram for the

game." The coaches at the Hero Santosh Trophy also heaped praises on the organisational aspect of a tournament that has seen fans thronging the stands. "I was very surprised at the way the tournament has been organised. The Kerala

tion his side received in Kerala. "I think it's been wonderfully organised. From the very first day we came to Kerala, the way the accommodations have been made and the way we were received by the hotel staff, left an impression," he said.

After seven years at the helm of Team India, Ravi Shastri not interested in England job

MUMBAI: Former India men's cricket team chief coach Ravi Shastri has categorically said that he is not interested in

their own backyard - had taken its toll. Asked in an interview by The Guardian if he would be interested in filling the vacant

performance on the field. "The adrenaline of captaincy -- not that he needs it -- could fire Stokes up to be

England need to bring out-of-favour pace bowlers James Anderson and Stuart Broad back into the side, as "there



filling the vacant position of England men's head coach after Chris Silverwood stepped down in the wake of the 0-4 Ashes thrashing in Australia. The 59-year-old former India cricketer added that seven years at the helm of affairs -- which saw India win 10 Test series out of 14 and rose to No. 1 in the rankings, beating Australia twice in

England post, Shastri said, "Oh no, no, don't go down that route. Seven years with India -- a full-time job, 300 days a year, 1.4 billion people judging you every day -- that takes its toll. Good luck to anyone who lasts that long." Shastri also felt that if Ben Stokes decides to take up England captaincy, it could "fire up" the all-rounder to give an even better

something even more than the incredible player he is now. The important relationship is with the captain -- the moment there is friction, things go downhill. But they will be fine because the England I saw last year, they have enough talent and skill to compete. There's no doubt about that in my mind. It's all about their mindset." Shastri is convinced

is no substitute for experience". The most successful England bowling pair has aggregated 1177 Test wickets so far. "Test cricket is the purest form of the game and, if the guys are fit, hungry, you jolly well look in that direction. Every country makes this mistake, looking too far ahead. It's too easy to look 100ft away and lose the plot by not backing the guys who have been there and done it."

Novak Djokovic can play at Wimbledon; no vaccination required

LONDON: Novak Djokovic will be allowed to defend his title at Wimbledon, despite not being vaccinated against COVID-19, because the shots are not required to enter Britain, All

at Indian Wells and Miami because he couldn't travel to the United States as a foreigner who is unvaccinated.

The U.S. Tennis Association has said that it will follow whatever governmental rules are in place regarding COVID-19 vaccination status when the U.S. Open is held starting in late August. Djokovic - who has said he got COVID-19 twice, once each in 2020 and 2021 - owns 20 Grand Slam singles titles, tied with



England Club chief executive Sally Bolton said Tuesday.

Djokovic, a 34-year-old Serb who is ranked No.1, missed the Australian Open in January after being deported from that country because he was not vaccinated against the illness caused by the coronavirus that has led to the deaths of millions during the pandemic that began in 2020.

During the annual spring briefing ahead of Wimbledon, which starts on June 27, Bolton said that "whilst, of course, it is encouraged" that all players get vaccinated, "it will not be a condition of entry to compete" at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament this year.

Djokovic, in addition to being unable to defend his championship at Melbourne Park after an 11-day legal saga over whether he could remain in Australia, had to sit out tournaments

Roger Federer for the second-most for a man. They trail Rafael Nadal, who won his 21st at the Australian Open.

Six of Djokovic's trophies came at Wimbledon, including victories each of the past three times the tournament was held - in 2018, 2019 and 2021.

It was not held in 2020 because of the pandemic.

After what happened in Australia, Djokovic said he would be willing to sit out other Grand Slam tournaments if getting vaccinated were a requirement to compete.

The next major event is the French Open, which begins on May 22, and tournament director Amelie Mauresmo said last month there was nothing preventing Djokovic from defending his 2021 title in Paris.

The Italian Open, a clay-court tune-up for Roland Garros, also has said Djokovic can play there next month.




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