

Dear fellow citizens, Our aim should not be confined to AIJS. That is certainly a worthy cause. But we must fearlessly enter the larger battle field. Dismantling of Collegium. Come what may, I have decided to pursue the cause marshalling all my resources. I may not see any definite success. But I will have the satisfaction that I did what I can. The defeat is going to be only temporary. The judges may harm me personally in many ways as they did in the past. But that is not going to dissuade me from the path of judicial reforms I have embarked upon. Am only 63. If God gives me the health and the strength to fight for the cause of reforms nobody can stop me. There is light at the end of the tunnel. Success is a certainty. I request you one and all to support me in this larger public cause. The judiciary is destroyed by the Bombay lobby. Palkiwala and his ilk. They are anti democratic. They represent the elite. They could successfully demonize the political executive. In the name of precedent they rewrote the constitution. Reduced judiciary into an oligarchy. By dividing lawyers into two classes the elite and untouchables they further cemented the feudal system. Reduced the legal profession as a means of unjust enrichment. The judges of the Supreme Court (not all) behave like emperors. Some of the CJs of the HCs are even worse. Without abolition of designation system no reform is possible. That is the root cause of all. Mrs. Indira Jai Singh is the only lawyer who has taken a stand in the public domain in support of abolition of senior designation. But she has not done enough. She has only given up the "square gown". That is not enough. She has to take a clear stand, in favor of abolition of senior designation and Collegium. And she can certainly do so quite profitably. Because she doesn't need the designation. She will only enhance her stature by renouncing it.

Mathews J. Nedumpara

'Consul of the Year Trophy' for Suresh Chukkapalli, Hony Consul General of Republic of Korea

NEW DELHI(KCN): Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Telengana has



been adjudged as the 'Consul of the Year' by the Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatic (HCCD) - India.

Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State Foreign External Affairs & Culture gave away the Consul of the Year trophy to Mr. Chukkapalli along with Mr. Mohan Suresh, Honorary Consul of Rwanda during a glittering Consular Day celebration event held in New Delhi on March 30.

L - R (Padma Bhushan Mrs. Suchitra K. Ella, Mr. K.L Ganju, o.c.v.c (cdr.), Consul General, MOS Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Dr. Krishna Ella, Founder and CMD of Bharat Biotech International Ltd, V C Burman Dabur, Vikramjit Sahney.

On this occasion, the winner of the "Vivek Burman (Dabur) Peace Prize" was announced and was conferred on Padma Bhushan Dr. Krishna Ella, Founder and CMD of Bharat Biotech International Ltd. and Padma Bhushan Mrs. Suchitra K. Ella, Co-Founder and Joint Managing Director of Bharat Biotech International Ltd., the producers of Covaxin for Covid-19. Recently, the South Korean government conferred Mr. Chukkapalli with its country's prestigious "Trade Day" award for promoting bilateral trade between the two countries.

A reputed business leader and philanthropist, Suresh Chukkapalli, is the Chairman Emeritus, Phoenix Group, Hyderabad, and also an honorary member of ACN Editorial Advisory Board - a Think Tank comprising industry leaders, management gurus, academicians, and intellectuals from South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and India. On March 30, Mr. K.L Ganju o.c.v.c (cdr.), Consul General (Hy.) and Advisor to the Foreign Minister, Union of Comoros, said that the Honorary Consuls in India are playing a very important role in providing consular services and also developing economic and bilateral relations between the sending and the receiving countries.

The Chief Guest for the event was Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, and Padma Vibhushan Dr. Sonal Man Singh, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) was the Guest of Honour. Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Hony. Consuls from all over India participated. Officials of the Ministry of External Affairs and who's who of Delhi also joined to celebrate.



Dr. Bhai Mohan Singh Trophy was jointly awarded to Mr. Vijay Kalantri and Mr. Purrshottam Bhageria.

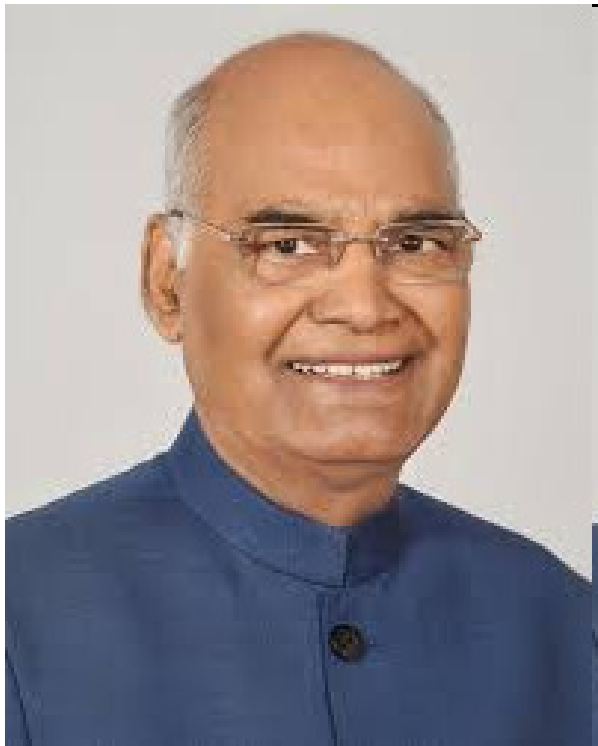
Mr. Ramavtar Goenka, Mr. Ramanathan Muthu, Mr. Meiyappan Balasubramanian, Mr. C.S. Prakash, Mr. Raghu C. Rajjappa, Mr. N. Kumar, Mr. Madhusudan Agrawal, and Mr. G.V. Prasad were awarded the Medal of Honour.

The Certificate of Appreciation was given away to Mr. Sunil Kunj, and Ms. Ritu Manchanda.

Prez, PM, CM greet people

Bhubaneswar(KCN): President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Congress veteran Rahul Gandhi greeted the people of Odisha on Utkal Dibasa. Taking to his twitter handle, President Ram Nath Kovind said, "On Odisha Day, my greetings to the people of the state. The land of the temples of Jagannath, Lingaraj, Konark and other rich heritages, Odisha gave the world a message of peace and love, shunning violence. My best wishes for the progress of the state." The Prime Minister, through his twitter handle, wished the people of Odisha this

special occasion. Stating Odia people are making landmark contributions to India's



progress and Odia culture is globally admired, Mr. Modi prayed for Odisha's

development in the times to come. Similarly, Vice President M. Venkaiah

Naidu greeted the Odia people and said the state is renowned for its iconic temples,

vibrant culture & picturesque places.

"The industrious people of Odisha have contributed immensely to the growth of the nation. My best wishes for the state's continuous growth," Mr. Naidu tweeted. Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnav, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and many other personalities of Odisha wished the people on this day. On this occasion, Patnaik paid his tributes to the great personalities, who have struggled for formation of a separate state of Odisha. "Let us continue to strengthen our joint efforts for the prosperity of Odisha while maintaining the

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Russia-Ukraine talks resume via video link; Australia to send armoured vehicles to war-torn country

LVIV(KCN): Talks between Russia and Ukraine have resumed via video link. Russian delegation head Vladimir Medinsky published a picture of the talks under way Friday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's of-



fice confirmed to The Associated Press that the negotiations had resumed. Friday's talks came three days after the last meeting, in Turkey, between Russian and Ukrainian delegations. Medinsky, the Russian lead negotiator, said "our positions on Crimea and the Donbas are unchanged." Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in southern Ukraine in 2014.

The Donbas is the predominantly Russian-speaking industrial region where Moscow-backed separatists have been battling Ukrainian forces since 2014.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Friday that Australia will send armoured Bushmaster vehicles to Ukraine after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy specifically asked for them while appealing to Australian lawmakers for more help in Ukraine's war against Russia. Zelenskyy addressed the Australian Parliament on Thursday and asked for the Australian-made, four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Morrison told reporters the vehicles will be flown over on Boeing C-17 Globemaster transport planes.

He didn't specify how many would be sent or when.

"We're not just sending our prayers, we are sending our guns, we're sending our munitions, we're sending our humanitarian aid, we're sending all of this, our body armor, all of these things and

CONTINUED ON: P-7

End Ukraine violence, India ready to contribute to peace efforts, Modi to Lavrov

NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday reiterated his call for early cessation of violence in Ukraine during a meeting with Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, and conveyed India's readiness to contribute in any way to peace efforts.

The Indian side has repeatedly called for respecting the UN Charter and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states. In his phone conversations with Russian and Ukrainian presidents in recent weeks, PM Modi has called for an end to the hostilities and a return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

Modi repeated his call for an end to violence when Sergey Lavrov met and briefed him on the situation in Ukraine, including the ongoing peace negotiations, according to an official statement. "Prime Minister reiterated his call for an early cessation of violence, and conveyed India's readiness to contribute in any way to the peace

efforts," it said.

Ukraine crisis: India secured its interests Lavrov met PM Modi after his talks with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar. The interaction with the prime minister was significant as Modi has not met any of the Western leaders or senior officials who have travelled to New Delhi in the past two weeks for consultations on the Ukraine crisis.

Addressing a news conference, Lavrov said no pressure can affect Russia's partnership with India, whose foreign policy reflects the country's independence and focus on legitimate national interests. He said his talks with Jaishankar too reflected the specially privileged



strategic partnership forged with India over many decades and bilateral cooperation in many areas, ranging from defence to investments.

"I believe that India's foreign policy is characterised by independence and the concentration on the real national legitimate interests," he said, adding that Russia has a similar policy and "this makes us...good friends and old partners". The two countries always respect each other's interests and try to accommodate such interests, he said.

"I have no doubt that any pressure will affect our partnership, but you know that others have been trying to suppress the relationship between

India, Russia and China...and they are forcing others to follow their politics," he added.

Earlier, in his opening remarks at his meeting with Jaishankar, Lavrov said: "Our Western colleagues like to reduce any meaningful international issue to the crisis in Ukraine. You know our position, we do not hide anything and we appreciate India is taking this situation in the entirety of facts and not just in a one-sided way." India has so far abstained on all Ukraine-related votes at UN bodies and has not joined the West in condemning the Russian invasion. Most of the Western leaders who visited India in recent days have strongly criticised Russia's actions and emphasised the need for democracies to stand together against challenges to the rules-based international order.

Lavrov, who came to New Delhi days after a visit by Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi, noted during the news

Duroflex released another soothing lullaby Aye Ghum in Bengali for Sounds of Sleep 2.0

Kolkata (KCN): India's leading sleep solutions brand, Duroflex, has launched their second season of its digital music series Sounds of Sleep on the occasion of World Sleep Day. With the release of their second original composition sung

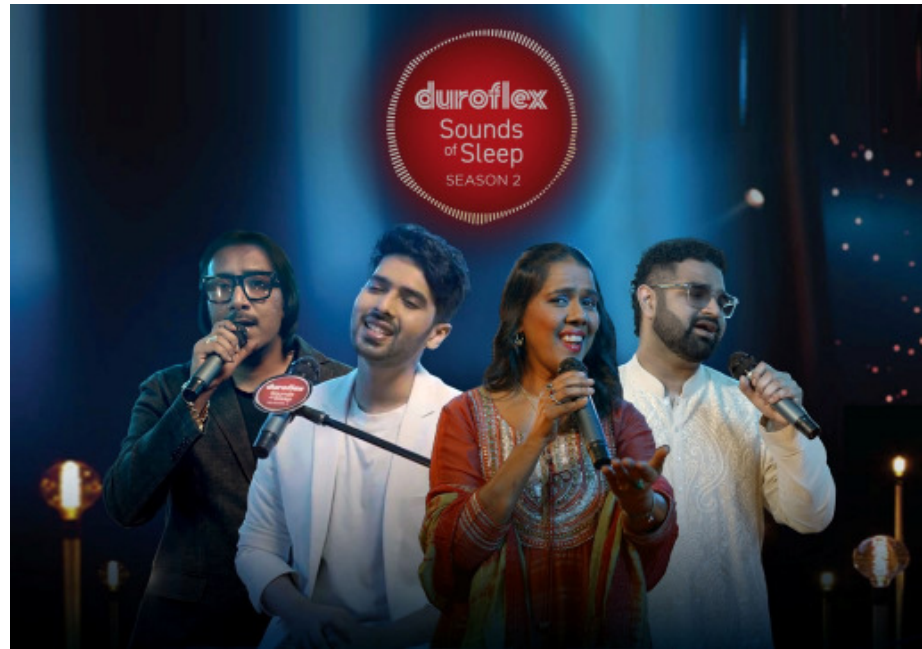
Arko Mukherjee. Pravo Aye Ghum is a melodious lullaby that is a true musical melody composed to soothe your senses just before sleep time. Inspired by Bengali folklore, it romanticizes the nightfall in the ever so sweet lan-

on a mission to help people get peaceful sleep while also helping new-age parents soothe their kids to sleep with calming tunes, along with the top quality sleep products and services offered by the company. Commenting on the

Continuing the series, we have launched our second lullaby of the season which is inspired from Bengali folklore and describes the journey of falling asleep. It describes about how every element of sleep is beautiful and how charmingly we can call upon sleep." Commenting on the association, popular music artist, -Arko Pravo Mukherjee said, "Duroflex Sounds of Sleep is such a unique concept. 'Aye Ghum' took me back to the time when I was lulled to sleep by my grandmum. I want you all to experience the same nostalgia and calmness, as I did while singing it."

The Sound of Sleep music property is a contemporary ode to the oldest known sleep aid - lullabies. The vocabulary of the lullabies is a blend of a modern and nostalgic sound. Apart from the brand's channels it can also be seen on an OTT platform, Sony Liv.

The property includes four lullabies sung in different regional languages of India namely, Hindi, Tamil, Bengali & Telugu.



in Bengali, the brand is once again set to explore the role of music as a sleeping aid. The first Hindi lullaby, "Nindya Re" sung by award winning artist, Armaan Malik who also made his lullaby debut with this song, has already garnered over 1Mn views. The second lullaby of the series, Aye Ghum is a Bengali composition sung by one of India's beloved music artists,

guage - Bengali. Arko's tuneful rendition makes this lullaby an unmissable part of your sleep routine. With this masterpiece, Duroflex aims to popularize the use of sleep aid of lullabies - something the country abides in and has a plethora of it. The brand has constituted originals this time to that rich collection. With their lullabies, the brand is

property, Smita Murarka, Chief Marketing Officer, Duroflex said, "We are excited to announce the second season of Duroflex Sounds of Sleep where we've gone a step ahead to bring original compositions of lullabies to the masses. The lullabies have been created in association with some of India's renowned artists from the music industry.

"UtkalDiwas" celebration held at Barbil

Barbil (KCN): "UtkalDiwas" was celebrated in the Barbil area of the Kendujhar district. The ceremony was held



at Vikas Mahal. The newly elected chairman Lakshman Mahanta joined as chief guest while Dilip Mishra, the former chairman and Abhisek Panda, executive officer of Barbil municipality attended the function as guests of honour. The flag was hoisted after garlanding the Gandhi statue with the rhythm of the "Bande Utkal Janani" anthem. Many other dignitaries including many organisations and residents have witnessed the occasion. Later the guests garlanded the statue of legend Madhubabuan Subah Chandra Bose at Madhudan square and Nalda respectively. This year, as every year, the National Day celebration Committee has organised the Celebration under due guidance of Pratap Das. In the evening, a

variety of entertainment events have been organized, including a traditional 'Pitha' competition based on the Odia recipe. On the other hand the Regional Media Forum, Barbil celebrated the UtkalDiwas with the local resident of Nalda area. Nalda comes under Barbil municipality and a border place of the Jharkhand state. During the celebration, they interacted with the people. "Nalda being a boarder has been deprived of all government services," they alleged. According to them, roads, public transportation facilities, drinking water, and community toilets are not provided in the area. They are being ignored under the Prime Minister's Housing and the Biju Pakaghar Scheme. The sanitation contractor appointed by the municipal council hardly seen there, leaving many areas in the slums in a state of disrepair. They complained that drainage work was of poor quality and not cleaned since many months. Due to lack of interest of the administration and political will, the government lands in the region are now in the hands of the people of the neighboring state of Jharkhand. The infiltration of anti social people are in rise and even they can't take shelter at the police station despite being tortured repeatedly. One police post was closed since 2008 and no initiation has been taken by the police administration to reopen the post after repeated request. Unlike other boarder area of Odisha, this area is too under the verge of extinct unless State Government act on their issue, intellectual comments.

Orientation Conference of NYK & NSS Volunteers of Puri District on Care & Protection of Children

Kolkata (KCN): An Orientation to NYK & NSS Volunteers was held on 31st March 2022 at Conference Hall, Youth Hostel, Puri. The programme was organized by District Child Protection Unit and District Administration, Puri and the District Child Protection Officer, Puri Mr. Manoj Kumar Tripathy welcomed all participants and dignitaries on dice. Total 78 youth volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra, National Service Scheme volunteers of various College, Students of GM Law College were participated in the meeting. The resource persons and the invited guests imparted thoughts and values of Child Protection System and related laws like; Juvenile Justice Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Prohibition of Child labour act, Integrated Child Protection Scheme, friendly environment for children at family, community and role of volunteers etc. Mr. Pradip Kumar Sahoo, Addl District Magistrate was joined as Chief Guest in the conference and deliberated

about smooth working child protection system in district. He was emphasized to create such kind of awareness among all college and school students in a preventive manner so that abuse, maltreatment, neglect towards children shall be reduced. Mr. Mahavir Rudra Narayan Sahu, Chairperson, CWC, Puri, Mr. Jayasahanakar Joshi, Programme Coordinator NYK, Puri, Mr. Sukant Kumar Mohanty, NSS Officer, SMS College, Puri, Mr. Ramashankar Patra, Member, CWC, Mr. Sakhtipad Mishra Member, CWC Mr Subhanarayan Satapathy,, POIC, DCPU were joined as Hon'ble Guest and deliberated on child laws, schemes, role of the volunteers in detail for care & protection of children residing in society as well as in institutions and the resource persons were answered every questions of the volunteers and students also. All the staff of DCPU including Ms. Rojalini Patra, Counselor, Mr. Bijay Kumar Parida, SW, Mr Santosh Kumar Sahu, LPO were extended their cooperation and support for smooth management of the programme.



Fruits Distribution and DHH Campus Clean Programme Organized by OUWJ

Khordha(KCN): On the occasions of Utkal Divas the Leading Journalists Association of

Dr. Binayak Panigrahi & Sangeeta Swain, OUWJ, State President Bhagabat Tripathy, OUWJ must be proud of Utkal Divas on Ist April every year. Because on this day in 1936 our state got its



Odisha Organization of United Working Journalists (OUWJ) Khordha District Unit organized fruits distribution and District Head Quatre Hospital (DHH) campus cleanness programme here today. The guest of the occasions MLA Khordha Joytrindra Nath Mitra, Chairman Khordha District



Parishad Rupa Shree Rani Gumansingh, Chairman Khordha Municipality Kanaka Laxmi Mohanty, Councillor Sourya Ranjan Mohanty, ADM, Khordha, Manoj Kumar Padhi, CDMO, Khordha, Dr. Artabandhu Nayak, ADMO (F&W) Dr. Raghunath Nayak, Hospital Manager, State Organization Secretary Arjuna Muduli, OUWJ Khordha District Unit Prakash Kumar Hati, District Secretary Dillip Kumar Pattnaik and other members of the organization, media persons Khordha were present. The guest of the occasions said " As an Odia everyone

Crime Branch mum on motive behind Manas' murder

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Even as Crime Branch continued to interrogate the four accused in cameraman Manas Swain's murder on Wednesday, it is tight-lipped about the motive behind his killing and the contents of the memory chip that he was in possession of. Crime Branch officers interrogated prime accused Sarmistha Rout and

her three associates Jhuna Bhoi, retired Odisha Information Service (OIS) officers Niranjana Sethi and Ranjan Nayak on the day. They were questioned together. Sarmistha, the editor of Bhubaneswar-based web-channel Sampurna and her associate Jhuna revealed before the investigators that to evade arrest they frequently changed their locations. They might also be taken to Dayal Ashram, a shelter home for elderly people in the Capital city run by Sarmistha, before their four-day remand period ends. Meanwhile, Manas' postmortem report revealed that he was thrashed with blunt objects and his ribs were fractured due to the brutal assault.

"The doctors at SCB Medical College and Hospital's Forensic Medicine and Toxicology Department have opined that Manas died due to thoracic injuries (chest trauma) and the complications thereon," said a senior Crime Branch officer. His autopsy report has also revealed he sustained other external and internal injuries.

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'The Lemonade' Author Kankane Rakhi Surendra Releases Second Part of Story Collection '2nd Serving of The Lemonade - A collection of sweet, salty, and sour stories!'

Mumbai (KCN): Kankane Rakhi Surendra reveals that



Surendra, author of Amazon #1 bestseller in short stories 'The Lemonade' has come up with the second book of her series '2nd Serving of The Lemonade - A collection of sweet, salty, and sour stories!', which is a collection of fictional stories with a non-fictional motive.

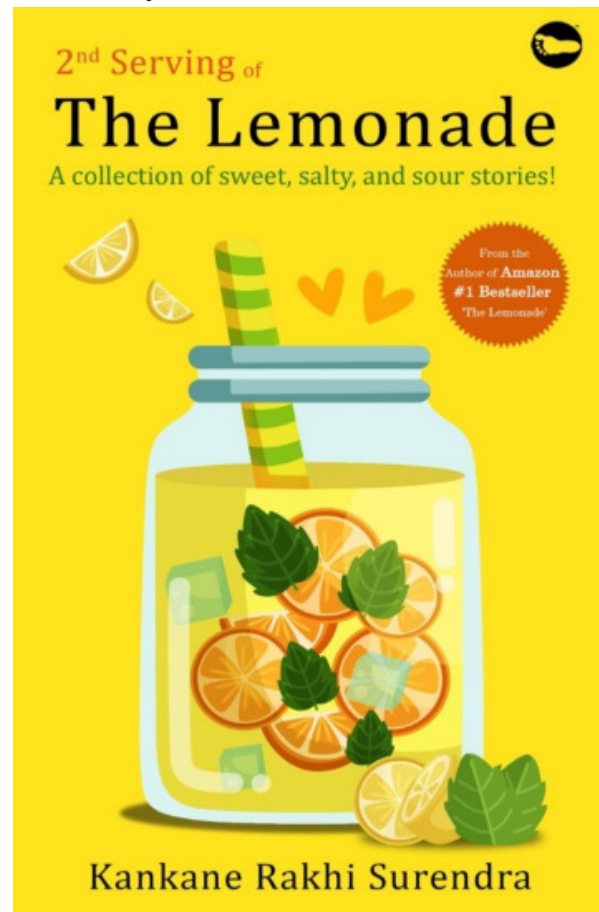
Rakhi, with her series 'The Lemonade', brings a collection of short stories that are about life's challenges, relationships, and one's approach towards life. They talk about accepting whatever the situation is at the present moment and deriving something positive out of it.

Talking about her latest book, author

the base of her book is a very famous

gives you lemons, make lemonade.' Rakhi says, "Not all days of life are same. Life is full of sweet, salty, and sour experiences. So, on the days when we face adversity or misfortune, accepting it and finding something positive in it, is the best way to deal with it. I feel this is the secret of leading a good life."

Stories by Rakhi in her book drive us to think and tackle the problems of life more maturely. The book is available for readers



quote by Dale Carnegie, 'When life

on Amazon, Kindle, and Flipkart

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

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

Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan

Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. 'AK vs AK,' revolves around the



Netflix based film "a phenomenal experience".

Deshmukh took to Twitter to share a poster of the movie, which features Anurag Kashyap and Anil Kapoor in lead roles.

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

Kapoor who has a cameo in the film.

"@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir, only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor_has outdone your entire performance in one scene," the 'Housefull' actor's tweet further read.

While Kapoor essays the role of a yesteryear actor,

story of a movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kidnapping the actor's daughter and films the search for her in real-time.

The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

CHENNAI (KCN):

Actress Kajal Aggarwal, who teams up with actor-filmmaker Kamal Haasan for the first time in the upcoming Tamil film "Indian 2", says signing the project has been a step up in her over a decade-long career.

Last seen on screen in Telugu film "Kavacham", Kajal has already begun prepping for her role in

"Indian 2".

"I'm really thrilled to be part of the project. I'm quite excited about my role and the skills I will get to learn on the job. I see signing 'Indian 2' as a step up in my career," Kajal told IANS along the sidelines of the launch of beverage brand 7Up's new campaign, 7Up Ponneram.

Ponneram translates to golden times in English. Kajal said her

career's golden times started when she signed S.S. Rajamouli's "Magadheera". "My golden times started when I signed 'Magadheera'. I have seen many ups and downs in my profession but it was only after I did 'Magadheera' did my career catapult to the next league. It earned me a lot of recognition which I enjoy even today," she said.

Social Worker Kiritbhai Chavda honored by Shri Desai Sai-Sutar Gyati Mandal Mumbai

Mumbai (KCN, Raj): On the anniversary Pujya Sant



S a n j a y occasion of



S h a r m a 45th death of Param

Shiromani President of Bajrangdas Bapa, a program of devotional songs and bhajans was organized by Shri Desai Sai-Sutar Gyati Mandal Mumbai on 22 January 2022 at Desai Sarvaiya, Darji Wadi, Kandivali (East), Mumbai. On this occasion, social worker Kiritbhai Amritlal Chavda was honored by the organization. He was honored for his contribution to the society and for being appointed as the editor of the Mumbai Tarang Gujarati edition. On this occasion, the

President of the organization Shri Kantilal Keshav Lal Mistry, Vice President Chhotubhai Kalabhai Gohil, Trustee Shri Bachubhai Nanjibhai Sarvaiya, General Secretary Sunilbhai M Gohil, joint secretary Shri Rohitbhai Parsotamdas Rathod, Dilipbhai Patel etc. participated in the program and became engaged in devotion. Remembering the revered Shiromani Bajrangdas Bapa from the heart.

One bitten by love, or twice, or thrice, continue loving

Suchitra Pilla of Dil Chahta Hai and Page 3 fame, talks about love, marriage, and her latest show streaming on Netflix, Eternally

experience, and also instil the right values in them.



Confused and Eager for Love, which resonates with today's youth and has received



rave reviews.

Suchitra plays mother to Ray [Vihaan Samat] who, despite having understanding parents and a privileged home life, suffers from a crisis of confidence.

As we see in ECEL, should parents try to boost the confidence of their children?

Definitely, as parents we do have to inculcate confidence in our children. You can't assume that in the modern age, everyone is liberated or confident. There are varied personalities. Some may be extroverts, others introverts. I feel it's very important for parents to teach their children from their own

experience, and also instil the right values in them.

Why India needs tech for the common good

Government spending on innovation has contributed to some of the world's most used applications across a range of fields, including technology and healthcare. For instance, most



of the promising new drugs we see today are a result of research done by the National Institutes of Health. The internet actually originates from ARPANET, a programme funded by the Defence

Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). The current global positioning system (GPS), originally Navstar GPS, began as a 1970s US military project. The iPhone's touchscreen technology was created by a professor and his doctoral candidate at the publicly funded University of Delaware. Even Siri, Apple's digital personal assistant, is a spin-off of DARPA's project PAL (Personalised Assistant that Learns).¹ The Satellite Instructional Television Experiment by ISRO and NASA made available 2,400 black-and-white community TV sets across several villages in six Indian states for the first time in 1975 (when most urban homes didn't have a television).

Since the 1970s, a multitude of factors—including the rise of capitalism, targeting of public debt in the wake of the global financial crisis, and calls to spur private investment by cutting down government spending—have increasingly reduced the government's role in facilitating the private sector. In India, the R&D spending as a percentage of GDP has been decreasing. It is now approximately 0.66 percent of the GDP, almost equal to what it was in the 1990s (it spiked from 0.8 percent in 2004 to its highest—0.86 percent—in 2008, after which there's been a continuous decline).

The trend has more or less been the same in many countries. For instance, budget sequestration in the US (which entails the withdrawal of funding in certain areas) has led to cuts worth USD 95 billion in the federal R&D spending between 2013 and 2021, and the European fiscal compact is squeezing educational and R&D spending.² These moves are based on the assumption that market forces, when facilitated, regulated, and administered by governments,

will themselves efficiently allocate resources. However, as we have seen over the years, market forces are blind to societal and environmental concerns. Governments need to reconsider their role when it comes to public interest innovations and move beyond just facilitating.

Therefore, governments cannot afford to remain facilitators when it comes to addressing challenges such as climate change, hunger, and inequality; they must go beyond fixing market failures, and create markets. Because, these deep-rooted multidimensional issues require long-term risky investments, innovation, and equitable solutions that neither give good returns in the short term nor yield the kinds of profits that venture capitalists seek. Therefore, governments need to fundamentally reconsider their role when it comes to public interest innovations and move beyond just facilitating.

The government must step up efforts to reap rewards on taxpayers' money through public investments. In this era powered by technological advancements, it means envisioning tech interventions for the public good and creating markets for their sustainability; it means looking beyond evaluating public spending by mere disbursement, and taking an active role to measure the impact.

Though in its infancy, public interest technology broadly means advancing equitable tech-enabled interventions for the common good. If not done well, these tech-enabled interventions will fall short of addressing equitability. For instance, VI-SPDAT, a data tool designed to help homeless people find housing facilities, ended up unintentionally improving white people's chances of getting housing over people of colour in the United States. This happened because many of the questions this application asks the users do not reflect vulnerabilities that people of colour are likely to say they experience. The United States Electronic Immigration System had similar faults. Software designers failed to collaborate with civil servants while developing the programme, and as a result they could not tailor the technology to make it accessible for all.³

Those developing public interest technology

How do you think the idea of Love has changed from your generation to the present one?



wards when they go through such important life experiences, we should be able to give them the right advice.

My daughter can share everything and anything with me. Unlike our generation, when



we were young, we as parents build a close

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rapport with our children. We feared being judged when we were young, but with experience, we have understood the process of growing up, and that it is important to be accessible to our children. I don't remember being able to sit with my parents and tell them, I have a crush on so-and-so. We had to hide things from our parents. But between us and the next generation, there's no need

to hide anything, that's a huge difference.

What is your message to people of the present generation and older generation? No relationship can work if there is no respect. I think no girl or a boy should stay in a relationship of disrespect. For me, love and respect are what makes a relationship strong. No one who is looking for love should settle for less. This is what the present generation as well as ours needs to learn. Don't put anyone on a pedestal, you are no less than anyone.

Did you experience bitterness in your first marriage? Is your second marriage blissful? There was no bitterness in my first marriage. It was a seven-year relationship. We drifted apart, as it happens in many marriages, sadly. We had no fights. We were living in two different countries, so that might have been the reason. There was no ugliness. You need to take things in your stride and start over, without regrets. I was 27 when I got divorced. Not once did I say, 'I don't want to get married again' or 'I don't want to fall in love

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again.' Whether you have a live-in relationship, or go in for marriage, even an arranged one, there should be respect.

Lastly, as far as love is concerned, I would say, "Once bitten, or twice, or thrice, continue loving."

Suchitra Pilla. (By Arrangement) One bitten by love, or twice, or thrice, continue loving Parents have a responsibility to teach their kids lessons in love, respect and confidence, feels Suchitra Pillai

stant real-time peer-to-peer and person-to-merchant money transfers were planted way back in 2009 when the RBI formed the National Payment Corporation of India to integrate all the payment mechanisms available in the country—another great example of public investment in technology for good. The UPI pilot was launched only in 2016. This process doesn't suit the aspirations of venture capitalists and entrepreneurs, which is why the government must take a more active role in this area.

How can the government create a market for public interest technology?

Creating a market for public interest technologies requires looking beyond adding tech solutions to tackle government and nonprofit problems. The government needs to establish systems that seamlessly integrate technology-based solutions, design new academia for technologists that enable them to understand the ethical, social, economic, and political ramifications of new technology, create jobs for public interest technologists, train civil servants and nonprofits to become a part of the movement, and establish networks of various stakeholders.

Understanding the current problems communities are facing, applying appropriate technologies, and iterating the solutions continuously by understanding the pulse of the public is a time-consuming process, which necessitates setting up an entire ecosystem that nurtures this process and rewards the stakeholders. By taking an active part as investors eager to maximise their returns, we believe that governments have tremendous potential to develop sustainable markets for public interest technologies.

Abhishek Reddy M is a deputy manager (communications) at Dr Reddy's Foundation. He has three years of experience working on writing, screenwriting, creative direction, social media management, employee engagement, photography, presentation, and design. He is a Young India Fellow from Ashoka University. He has a postgraduate certification in digital marketing and communications from MICA and a bachelor's degree in commerce from Christ University. Abhishek also leads creative direction at Six Elements Studio (Sculpture Studio).

Wine, Foreign Liquor Cheaper

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Foreign Made Foreign Liquor (FMFL) and Wine became cheaper in the State as the government has reduced excise duty on these products in its new Excise Policy for the year 2022-23.

According to official sources, the Excise Policy 2022-23 formulated to improve the efficiency of process associated with manufacture, import, export, transport and sale of alcoholic beverages while attaching due priority to health and well being of the citizens of the State.

In order to reduce disparity in MRP with neighbouring states and also to promote high quality FMFL and low strength wine, the duty on wine and FMFL has been reduced. However, Excise Duty for Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) & Beer has been kept unchanged.

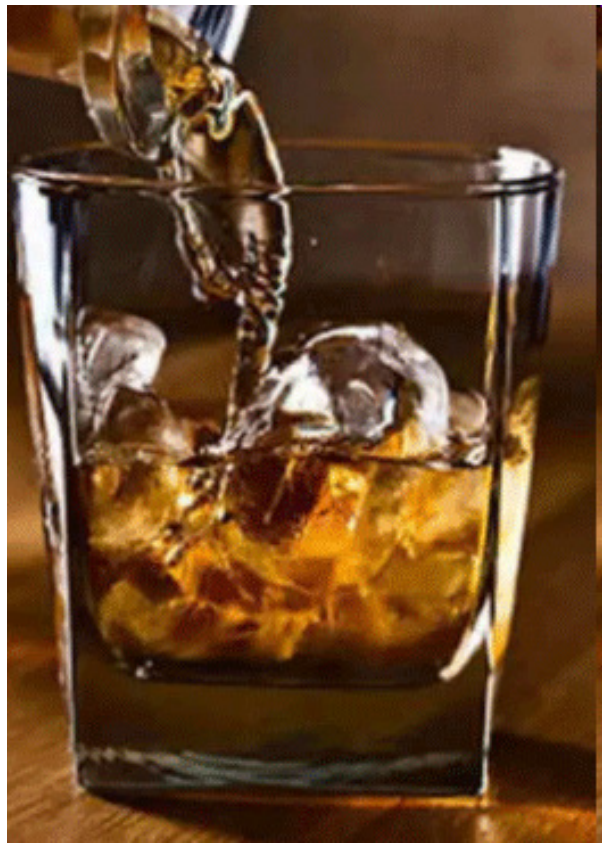
There has been nominal increase in license fee, MGQ, application fee for manufacturers, suppliers as well as retailers in this year's Policy.

In view of encouraging response of premium "OFF" shops opened in BMC & CMC areas in 2021-

22, some more Premium "OFF" shops have been proposed in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, B e r h a m p u r , Sambalpur, Rourkela Municipal Corpora-

duced. Similar fee for additional bars in "ON" shops has been rationalized.

In order to promote Ease of Doing Business, the emphasis on automation of various



tions as well as 4 other Municipalities, they said.

In order to encourage low alcoholic drinks, the microbrewery policy has been redesigned. A separate license fee slab of Rs 5 lakh/annum for standalone Micro Brewery has been introduced without Restaurant "ON" license.

In order to improve compliance, fees for temporary bar licenses have been re-

duced. Similar fee for additional bars in "ON" shops has been rationalized. In order to promote Ease of Doing Business, the emphasis on automation of various

ing and supervision. In order to restrict entry of inexperienced suppliers or brands with unverified credentials in the Odisha market, certain qualifying criteria for Brand Registration has been introduced in this year's Policy.

As per the Policy document, no license shall be granted to a liquor shop having the name of deities / eminent personalities (living or dead) which can hurt the sentiments of the people. It is also observed that some liquor shops are using the word 'sarkari' in the name of the shop. So, the Department has clarified that No OFF shop should use 'sarkari or Government' in their name. The license holder may use 'Licensed FL OFF shop' signage.

Home delivery of liquor shall continue in addition to counter sale. All guidelines issued earlier relating to social distancing to contain the spread of COVID-19 virus shall be observed. All other features of existing Excise Policy will continue as it was, it said.

Yogi govt to reactivate 'anti-Romeo squads' across Uttar Pradesh from Saturday

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh government, led by CM Yogi Adityanath, is all set to re-activate anti-Romeo squads across the state from Saturday. An order in this regard was released by the state home department on Friday, wherein, the state police department was directed to commence

assment. The anti-Romeo squads were set up by the Yogi government 1.0 to protect girls from harassment. Significantly, the BJP scored over its political rivals in the recently concluded assembly elections over the improvement in law and order under the Yogi government

officials concerned to prepare a broader plan of action on top priorities for 100 days and start working on them without losing time. The CM asked the top cops to ensure recruitment of at least 10,000 police personnel during the first 100 days of the second tenure of his government. Unemployment and

ferent departments and establish a dialogue with women folk in rural areas to make them aware of the welfare schemes and programmes meant for their empowerment. The officials were also directed to started a broader campaign on fixed days of the week to address issues and problems of women in different municipal wards in urban areas and secretariats at village level.

Official sources also confirmed that the CM, at the meeting, made it clear to all the officers concerned that security and good governance were the priority of his government. He issued directives to continue the crackdown on criminals dealing in mining, liquor, cattle, forest and land, demolishing their syndicates and seizing the illegal property.

To boost law and order further, CM Yogi asked senior police officials to identify the top 10 criminals under the limits of each police station and crack the whip against them. He also laid stress on the use of technology to control crime and ensure time-bound legal proceedings against anti-social elements booking them under the Gangster Act.



the special drive from day one of 'chaitra navratri' beginning on Saturday to ensure security and safety of women and girls. As per the order, released after a high-level meeting of the CM with senior officers of the home and police department, the authorities concerned were asked to depute cops associated with anti-Romeo squads around all girls' colleges and schools to curb the menace of ha-

as it received wide appreciation, especially from women voters. Sharing the details of the order released on Friday, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Navneet Sehgal said the CCM also asked senior police officials to set up police teams for patrolling in market places and other crowded locations during the evenings. CM Yogi Adityanath, who has been helming the home department himself, directed the

delay in recruitment of cops was a big issue raised by the opposition during the state elections. Moreover, focusing on the empowerment of women -- both rural and urban -- the state government is also prepared to start the fourth phase of 'Mission Shakti 4.0' from April 10. The CM, said Sehgal, issued directives to the authorities concerned to coordinate with the women workforce of the dif-

DMK moves Bill in Rajya Sabha to fix two-month time limit for Governors to decide on Bills

CHENNAI: A day after Chief Minister MK Stalin strongly took up the delay being caused by Governor RN Ravi in forwarding the Bill seeking exemption from NEET for medical admissions in Tamil Nadu to the President, DMK MP P Wilson on Friday introduced a private member's Bill in the Rajya Sabha to amend Article 200 of the Constitution setting a two-month

time limit for Governors to decide on Bills. "Some of the Governors are impeding the functioning of democratically elected Governments by acting as stumbling blocks in processing the Bills passed by the Legislative Assemblies. They sit over the Bills indefinitely and some Governors are even usurping the powers of the President, passing unwarranted comments while returning the Bill to the Legislatures. The returning of the NEET Bill in our state is one such act of a Governor," Wilson told The New Indian Express.

The Bill introduced by the DMK MP said the absence of a time limit in Article 200 gives the Governor unbridled power to delay the fate of the Bill. Thus, non-prescription of a time limit is an impediment to the welfare of the people. Governors taking a long time to decide on the Bills defeat the will of the people since the State Legislature represents the mandate of the people. Pointing out that as the Constitutional Head of the State, the Governor owes a responsibility to the people of the state, the Bill said, "It is trite in law that any constitutional authority must

perform its duties within a reasonable time frame. However, in the recent past, we have seen several instances of Governors sitting over Bills passed by the State Legislatures for an inordinate amount of time, without deciding one way or the other," the Bill explained.

"All Bills passed by the State Legislature are for the welfare of the people of the state. The state government's functioning cannot indirectly be curtailed and rendered inutile by the actions of the Governor, a Union appointee. That infringes the balance of power between the Union and states established by



the Constitution," the Bill added. Meanwhile, DMK mouthpiece Murasoli, in its editorial, took exception to a further delay being caused by Governor RN Ravi in forwarding the NEET Bill to the President. "The State Assembly has passed this Bill for the second time and it is pending before the Governor nearly for around two months. When Chief Minister MK Stalin called on him on March 15 and urged him to forward the Bill to the President, the Governor had assured him that it would be done. However, till now, it has not been forwarded to the President," the editorial said.

The editorial of Murasoli further said the way the Governor delays the NEET Bill goes against the Cabinet system being followed in India. "The Governors cannot function in a manner similar to what prevailed during the Dual Rule system in the 1920s," the editorial added.

Titilagarh Records 43.6 Degree C

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Western Odisha town, Titilagarh logged 43.6 degrees Celsius, the highest in the state. The all-time high in the town for the month was 48.5 degrees Celsius on 24 April, 2018, according to the Department of Meteorological in Ministry of Earth Sciences. Temperature in Bolangir was 42.4 degrees, while it was 34.5 and 33.6 in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack respectively, a bulletin stated. Odisha clocked the highest temperature this summer as the mercury touched 43 degrees Celsius in Bolangir district on Friday, the Met office said. At least eight places recorded a maximum temperature of at least 40 degrees or more as hot winds intensified from the northwest, the Bhubaneswar



Meteorological Centre said. The MeT Office pointed out that there would be no significant change in the maximum temperature in the next four-five days. It will be above normal by 3-4 notches at many places and over 40 degrees at some areas in interior Odisha. MeT Center has pleaded with the people to take precautionary measures for hot weather while going outside from noon to 3 pm in these areas. It has predicted light to moderate rainfall or thunderstorms at a few places in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Rayagada, Gajapati, Koraput for two days from Sunday. There may be downpour in some areas in North-Coastal Odisha next Monday, it added. The MeT has forecasted that the maximum temperatures would be normal to below normal over most parts of the state in April, while it may be above normal in many areas of West and South Odisha.

BJP first party since 1990 to touch 100-seat mark in Rajya Sabha, tally may drop again

NEW DELHI: For the first time in its history, the BJP has achieved the feat of having 100 members in Rajya Sabha after the party won one seat each in Assam, Tripura and Nagaland in the elections held on Thursday. Once the results are notified, the BJP's tally will officially reach the landmark but its hold on the

Pradesh where all five outgoing members were from opposition parties. In Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party won all five seats. While the Rajya Sabha website is yet to notify the new tally, the BJP's numbers will reach 100 if the three seats it has gained in the latest round of elections are added to the existing 97.



BJP's IT department in-charge Amit Malviya tweeted, "BJP and its allies win both the Rajya Sabha seats from Assam. The other two seats from North East, namely Tripura and Nagaland also won by the BJP. This makes it 4/4. Congress draws a neat blank. The BJP now has 100 members in the Rajya Sabha. No party has been there after 1988." The BJP's tally, despite way short of majority in the 245-member House, highlights its continuous rise since Prime Minister Narendra Modi led it to its majority in Lok Sabha in the 2014 polls.

The BJP's strength in Rajya Sabha was 55 in 2014 and has since steadily inched up as the party won power in a number of states. The last time a party had 100 or more seats in the Upper House was in 1990 when the then ruling Congress had 108 members before its steady decline. Its strength in Rajya Sabha fell to 99 in the 1990 biennial polls and continued to decline as it lost a stream of states and the coalition era began and continued till 2014.

triple figure may be tenuous as polls to around 52 more seats will be held soon and it is expected to suffer a drop in its numbers from states like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Jharkhand. Whether the BJP's expected gains from Uttar Pradesh, where it may win at least eight of the 11 potential vacancies, will make up for the loss remains to be seen. Out of the 11 retiring Rajya Sabha members from Uttar Pradesh, five are from the BJP. In the recently held biennial polls for 13 Rajya Sabha seats across six states, the BJP lost its solitary seat from Punjab but gained one each from the three northeastern states and Himachal

Portal for e-Vehicle incentive

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In another step towards hassle free implementation of Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy-2021, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra launched the online portal for disbursement of the incentives under Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy-2021 from Lokseba Bhawan on 1 April.

Principal Secretary Commence and Transport, Bishnupada Sethi, Transport Commissioner, Arun Bothra and Secretary Electronics and Information Technology Manoj Kumar Mishra graced the occasion.

Inaugurating the portal Chief Secretary directed to make the portal robust by linking

it with fund transfer portal of the banks. He asked to automate the entire process with least human interface. He also sanctioned the first subsidy through the portal in favor of one two-wheeler vehicle owned by Trilochan Behera under RTO-II of Bhubaneswar.

Outlining the portal, Principal Secretary Mr.Sethi said, "Electric Vehicle Policy of Government of Odisha is a lead progressive policy, and the Portal designed for disbursement of the incentives is first of its kind in the country". He added, "The portal has been developed within least possible time

through technical expertise of NIC.

Transport Commissioner, Mr. Bothra said that the State Government incentives like subsidy against purchase of electric vehicles would be directly disbursed to the vehicle owners through this portal. The vehicles purchased on or after 01.9.2021 would be eligible for the subsidy. As for the current policy, the provision of subsidy would continue onwards for 4 years from 01.9.2021. For two-wheelers the subsidy would be 15 per cent of the cost, up to a maximum ceiling of Rs 5,000; for three wheelers the cap

Portal. The owner would be asked to give his bank details, and the information regarding disbursement of subsidy to bank account would be intimated through SMS.

Mr.Bothra added that all four-wheelers EV buyers could avail above incentives. However, the two-wheeler EVs would have to qualify on the basis of performance and quality check criteria, as specified under Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, Phase II. These conditions included (i) Minimum top speed: 40km/h, (ii) Minimum acceleration of 0.65m/s², (iii) Maximum electric energy consumption not exceeding 7kWh/100km, and (iv) At least three years comprehensive warranty including battery warranty from the manufacturer.

It may be pertinent here to mention that in addition to this subsidy, the owners of electric vehicles purchased within Odisha are now getting 100% exemption of motor vehicle (MV) tax and registration fees.

Deputy Director General NIC Kabita Roy, Secretary State Transport Authority Brjabandhu Bhol, Additional Transport Commissioner Srinivas Behera, Additional Secretary Commerce and Transport Kishore Das along with senior officers from Odisha State Transport Authority and NIC participated in the launching event.

MCL produces 168 MT Coal

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Central PSU Coal India Ltd (CIL) has registered a record amount of 168 million tonne coal production during the financial year 2021-22 with an impressive growth of about 14% over previous fiscal 2020-21.

The company has set new milestones in all the performance parameters vis-a-vis coal production, despatch and overburden removal (OBR).

Addressing the Annual Press Conference here on Friday, Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of MCL, OP Singh, said, "The last fiscal has been a great year, full of achievements for the company, and I am happy to inform that MCL's achievement in coal production had been 103% of target at a record 168.17 million

tonne for the financial year ended yesterday."

Besides, the company has dispatched 176.17 MT coal to the consumers, with a growth of about 21% over previous year, he said.

Similarly, MCL has

Director (Technical/Projects & Planning) joined through video-conferencing.

Singh said that MCL had been successful in meeting the rising demand of coal during the third quarter of last Financial Year 2021-22, despite

mand, Singh said, "It is estimated that the coal demand will continue to remain high in the coming times."

"We have also made advance preparations, keeping in view the erratic rainy season and other operational challenges, to meet the rising demand by producing more coal," he said, informing that the company had also done capital expenditure (CAPEX) of Rs 3,805 crore for FY'22, which would help MCL in meeting the future goals.

The Company, he added, would produce 176 million tonne coal in the financial year 2022-23. MCL is the largest coal producing company in the country, having its mining operations spread over Sundergarh, Jharsuguda and Angul districts of Odisha.



registered a growth of more than 18% in overburden removal at 207 MCuM (million cubic meters), which will help us increase coal production during the current fiscal, the CMD said. Singh was accompanied by KR Vasudevan, Director (Finance) and Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel) on the dais while SK Pal,

challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic.

He also expressed his gratitude to people's representatives, State Administration, coal consumers, Indian Railways, representatives of trade unions, peripheral villagers and all stakeholders for their continuous support to the company. Speaking about the future of coal de-

JSW pays 18K CR premium

Bhubaneswar(KCN): JSW is the single highest contributor to the total mining revenue earned by the State Government with close to Rs 18,284 crore contribution in way of premium and other statutory dues in fiscal 2021-22.

The company said it has given returns to the tune of Rs 11,686 crore by way of bid premium alone to the State Government in the year 2021-22. Last fiscal, the total mineral revenue contribution from the JSW was Rs 3650 crore,

which has witnessed a significant jump in 2021-22. The revenue by means of premium and other dues from the auctioned captive mines of JSW Steel translates to 52.5% of the mining revenue of Rs 24,171 crore earned by the State exchequer from auctioned mines. During the last quarter of the last fiscal (2021-22), the revenue contribution from its captive mines has extended close to Rs 3517 crore with all statutory dues put together. It is to be noted that for the month of March, its revenue contribution from mines has surpassed Rs 1900 crore, the JSW said.

The mining revenue has contributed to 90% of the state's own non-tax revenue as per the recently tabled interim budget.

Production from the auctioned mines of JSW

stood at 24.1 MT and the despatch figure was 21.3 MT for the current fiscal. In contrast, for 2020-21, production and despatch were 16.66 MT & 9.67 MT, respectively.

JSW launched mining operations in July 2020 amidst all supply chain disruptions during the pandemic and has progressively ramped up production targets month on month to achieve the major milestone of iron-ore despatch surpassing 1 lakh tonnes on a single day.

Once operational with full capacity, these mines are expected to produce around 36 MT per annum, sources said.

The State has collected over Rs 48,000 crore from mineral-based revenue during the year 2021-22, which is inclusive of approximately Rs 971 crore from coal mining.

In 2020-21, State had collected near about Rs 13,800 crore in mineral revenue and there has been a significant jump. The projected mining revenue for the State for the current fiscal is Rs 46,000 crore. JSW Group companies' cumulative contribution at Rs 12,683 Cr is 26% of the mineral revenue earned by the State. JSW would be stepping up production targets to have a solid partnership with the State and has set a robust target of 28 MT production for the current fiscal.



on 15 per cent subsidy would be Rs. 10,000; and, for four-wheelers, it would Rs. 50,000.

The owners of the electric vehicle could now avail the subsidy amount by logging on to odishatransport.gov.in->online services->apply subsidy for electric vehicles. The owner would not be required to run to RTO office. The vehicle information would be automatically collected from Vahana

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29 food business operators found non-compliant with labelling provision of coffee-chicory mixtures: FSSAI

NEW DELHI: Food regulator FSSAI on Friday said that 29 food business operators have been found non-compliant with the labelling provisions of coffee-chicory mixtures. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said in a statement that it has recently examined the labels of various FBOs (Food Business Operators), including large and

mid-sized manufacturers of coffee-chicory mixtures, for necessary compliances with the related regulatory provisions. "It has been found that out of 42 active centrally-licensed coffee-chicory manufacturers, 13 were found compliant and 29 FBOs were non-compliant with the existing labelling provisions of coffee-chicory mixtures," FSSAI said.

SankalpTaru Foundation becomes the first Indian NGO in environmental conservation space to launch Blockchain

Kolkata(KCN): One of India's leading IT enabled NGO, SankalpTaru Foundation today



announced an integration with Polygon to adopt blockchain technology. This integration enables SankalpTaru Foundation to become the first Indian NGO in the environmental conservation space. It also helps to further enhance the trust of its donors that offers them an additional handle to check the veracity of information, including the tree data shared with them.

As a major agricultural producer, West Bengal is said to have good farming interventions, despite which the state's marginal farmers do not receive a good return over their crops due to low selling rates. SankalpTaru initiated Project Shyamolima with a pledge to promote biodiversity in the state through development of a sustainable plantation program, thus creating efficient and effective self-enthusiastic model for the project beneficiaries.

On this occasion, Mr Apurva Bhandari, Founder of SankalpTaru Foundation says, "SankalpTaru has always pioneered through its various creative interventions and has brought technology closer to the cause. Blockchain allows digital information like tree

URL with basic details such as tree image, tree ID, and its geolocation to be recorded and distributed with no scope of editing, deletion, or destruction of any data. Through Blockchain, we would build trust among our donors and sponsors and encourage them to plant millions of trees to combat the war against climate change."

The Blockchain is an information management technology that uses a distributed processing architecture to enhance the resiliency of data transactions from unauthorized changes, hacks, and corruptions. If someone tries to alter or tamper with a record in one instance of the database, the other nodes would crossreference each other and easily pinpoint the node with the incorrect information. Thus, this system helps to establish an exact and transparent order of events. This way, SankalpTaru would ensure that the trees planted by its individual and corporate donors



are never duplicated or reassigned to anyone else. Every planted tree in the digital forest would bear unique data and a placeholder to cross-verify the details shared with the donors. The green patrons are environmentally aware and take a decision to contribute their time, money, and trust in making the planet liveable. Blockchain initiative of SankalpTaru and Polygon is there to assure that one's tree data is very much validated and immutable. This integration is foreseen to revolutionize the way data is stored and accessed. This integration is a shining example of bringing new green opportunities to the technological world.

India's indigenous 4G mobile network to be rolled out soon, says Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI: India's indigenous 4G mobile network has been prepared in the shortest possible time and is ready for rollout soon while the 5G network will be ready by the end of 2022, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

He said after many years, state-owned BSNL has been able to make operating profit after improvement in its services. Vaishnaw said Indian engineers have prepared the country's own 4G network which is ready for launch very soon. "The whole world is looking at us with surprise how India has built its 4G network so soon," he said during Question Hour.

The minister said the 5G network is built on the 4G and the work is going on to

build the 5G. "The scientists have predicted that our 5G network will be ready by the end of this year," he said.

Replying to a supplementary on the poor connectivity in many areas of the country, Vaishnaw said nine schemes have been taken by the government to improve mobile telecom network across the country. "Results have started coming due to all these initiatives and the mobile network has been improved significantly in different parts of the country," he said. Referring to BSNL, the minister said everyone knew who was responsible for the poor health of the company but because

of the steps taken by the government, BSNL has been able to make operational profit after a long time and people should acknowledge it. "After the Rs 69,000 crore package announced in 2019, BSNL has become a

stable entity. In this year's budget too, Rs 44,720 crore provision has been made," he said. The minister said the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India monitors the performance of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), including BSNL, against the benchmarks for various Quality of Service (QoS) parameters laid down by TRAI by way of QoS regulations issued from time to time, through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs) received from TSPs.

As per PMR for quarter ended September 2021, BSNL is meeting, in general, most of the QoS parameters for its cellular and basic services in Uttar Pradesh, including its aspirational districts, he said.

During their meeting, Jaishankar and Lavrov considered the implications of recent developments on trade and economic ties, according to a statement from the external affairs ministry. Jaishankar said that India, as a developing economy, is concerned by global volatility in different domains. "It is important for both countries that their economic, technological and people-to-people contacts remain stable and predictable," the statement said. Like the prime minister, Jaishankar emphasised the importance of cessation of violence and resolving disputes through dialogue, diplomacy and respect for international law, the UN Charter, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. The ministers also discussed the situation in Afghanistan, Iran and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA).

Finance Minister says inflation to come down in fiscal year 2023

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the government be-

The Finance Minister said that the Economic Survey is an independent report, and the bud-



lieves inflation would come down, and that 3.1% GDP deflator is feasible in 2022-23. The FM was responding to questions on credibility of budget estimates in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

She said that the GDP deflator, which is the difference between nominal and real GDP growth rate, has been 3.15% over the past five years and the estimate for 2022-23 is close to the five-year estimate.

She said that deflator is neither consumer inflation (CPI) nor is it wholesale inflation (WPI) and that it has components of both. She admitted that the wholesale inflation is much higher than the retail inflation, but reiterated that the government believes the wholesale inflation would shrink in 2022-23. The Wholesale Inflation in February was 13.11% while the retail inflation was 6.1% during the month.

She was responding to Congress Rajya Sabha MP and former finance minister P Chidambaram's question on budget estimate of 11.1% nominal GDP growth even as the Economic Survey puts the real GDP growth rate at 8-8.5%. Chidambaram had, therefore, questioned the government's inflation (deflator) estimates in 2022-23.

End Ukraine violence, India ready to contribute to peace efforts, Modi to Lavrov

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conference that the regional situation is "not perfect" and said Russia supports Indian efforts to "consolidate regional countries" and to promote mutually beneficial approaches in South Asia.

Asked about a possible role for India in mediating between Russia and Ukraine, Lavrov said he hadn't heard "about such talks", though India - which is not under the influence of "US dictates" and is "an important and serious country" - can support efforts to find a resolution. India is Russia's partner and has a "just and rational approach towards international problems", and no one would be against it if India seeks to play a role that provides a resolution of the problem, Lavrov added.

During their meeting, Jaishankar and Lavrov considered the implications of recent developments on trade and economic ties, according to a statement from the external affairs ministry. Jaishankar said that India, as a developing economy, is concerned by global volatility in different domains.

"It is important for both countries that their economic, technological and people-to-people contacts remain stable and predictable," the statement said.

Like the prime minister, Jaishankar emphasised the importance of cessation of violence and resolving disputes through dialogue, diplomacy and respect for international law, the UN Charter, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. The ministers also discussed the situation in Afghanistan, Iran and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA).

Prez, PM, CM greet people

Continued from page-1

self-esteem of the Odia community," he said. "Greetings to the people of Odisha on #UtkalDibasa. The land of Mahaprabhu Jagannath is blessed with vibrant culture, stunning architecture and glorious history. May this beautiful state continue to prosper in the years to come," tweeted the Union home minister.

Wishing the people of Odisha, Rahul Gandhi said Odisha is a historic and glorious State. Its culture and traditions are very ancient and unique.

On April 1, 1936, after years of struggle by the forefathers, Odisha was declared a separate state on linguistic basis.

get estimates are based on advanced estimates released by the National Statistics Office (NSO). She hinted that there could be differences in the Economic Survey estimates and the Budget estimates.

link; Australia to send armoured vehicles to war-torn country

Continued from page-1 we're going to be sending our armoured vehicles,

our Bushmasters, as well," Morrison said. Zelenskyy has been tailoring his message to individual countries through video appeals like the one shown to legislators in the Australian Parliament.

Lawmakers gave him standing ovation at the start and end of his 16-minute address.

Zelenskyy also called for tougher sanctions and for Russian vessels to be banned from international ports.

"We need more sanctions against Russia, powerful sanctions until they stop blackmailing other countries with their nuclear missiles," Zelenskyy said through an interpreter.

Zelenskyy specifically asked for Bushmaster vehicles.

"You have very good armed personnel vehicles, Bushmasters, that could help Ukraine substantially, and other pieces of equipment," Zelenskyy said.

While the Ukrainian capital Kyiv is 15,000 kilometers (9,300 miles) from the Australian capital Canberra, Zelenskyy said Australia was not safe from the conflict which threatened to escalate into a nuclear war.

He suggested that a Russian victory over Ukraine would embolden China to declare war on Taiwan.

"The most terrible thing is that if we don't stop Russia now, if we don't hold Russia accountable, then some other countries of the world who are looking forward to similar wars against their neighbors will decide that such things are possible for them as well," Zelenskyy said.

Zelenskyy also said Russia would not have invaded Ukraine if Moscow had been punished for the 2014 downing of a Malaysia Airlines plane in Ukraine.

Two weeks ago, the Australian and Dutch governments launched a legal case against Russia at the International Civil Aviation Organisation to hold Moscow accountable for its alleged role in the missile strike that killed all 298 people on MH17.

Of the victims, 196 were Dutch citizens and 38 were Australian residents.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison had earlier told the president that Australia would provide additional military assistance including tactical decoys, unmanned aerial and unmanned ground systems, rations and medical supplies.

He later said the additional help would cost 25 million Australian dollars (USD 19 million).

"You have our prayers, but you also have our weapons, our humanitarian aid, our sanctions against those who seek to deny your freedom and you even have our coal," Morrison said.

Australia has already promised or provided Ukraine with 91 million Australian dollars (USD 68 million) in military assistance, 65 million Australian dollars (USD 49 million) in humanitarian help and 70,000 metric tons (77,200 US tons) of coal.

Earlier Thursday, the government announced Australia was imposing an additional 35 per cent tariff on all imports from Russia and Belarus starting April 25.

Oil and energy imports from Russia will be banned from that date.

Exports to Russia of Australian aluminum ore will also be banned.

Sanctions have been imposed on more than 500 individuals and entities in Russia and Belarus. The sanctions cover 80 per cent of the Russian banking sector and all government entities that handle Russian sovereign debt.

Osaka rallies, tops Bencic to make Miami Open women's final

MIAMI GARDENS: Naomi Osaka's eyes welled with tears when her match ended, an all-too-familiar scene for her in recent years. The unseeded Osaka defeated No. 22 Belinda Bencic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Thursday in the Miami Open semifinals. She's in a championship match for the first time since the



2021 Australian Open, and will meet No. 2 Iga Swiatek for the title on Saturday. "Damn, I'm almost crying," Osaka said after her match. Maybe not even almost. She hid her face in an orange towel a few times following the final point, at least one tear clearly making its way down her right cheek. Osaka entered this tournament ranked No. 77 in the world, will leave Miami no worse than 36th and would be back in the top 30 if she wins the title.

Norway FA president Lise Klaveness thinks Qatar should have decriminalised homosexuality before selling tickets

DOHA: Outspoken Norwegian Football Federation President, Lise Klaveness, thinks that Qatar

Thursday's FIFA Congress on the eve of the tournament's draw. Qatar's record of pro-

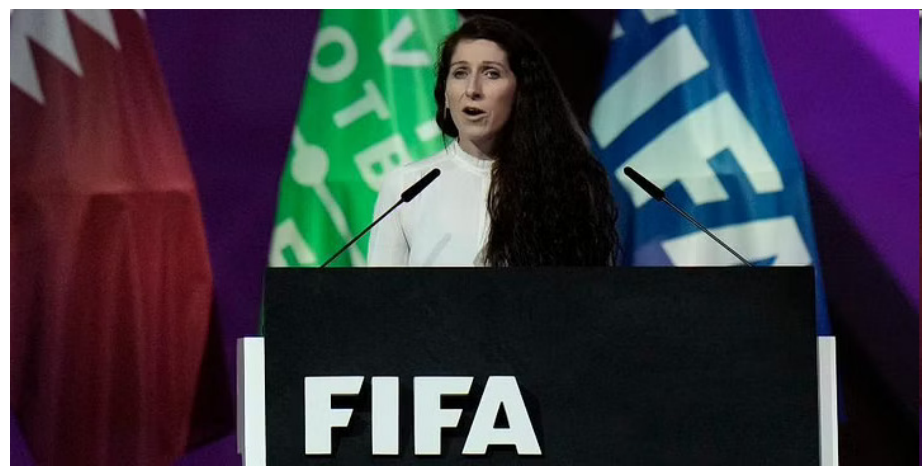
FIFA member federation. FIFA had worked this week in Doha to keep the Norwegian's

Jose Ernesto Mejia said in translated comments.

Klaveness was chided by Hassan Al-Thawadi, who fronted Qatar's bid more than 12 years ago and has led the organising committee ever since.

"You did not attempt to contact us and did not attempt to engage in dialogue before addressing congress today," he said. Al-Thawadi said Qatar's door was always open for people to "educate themselves before passing judgement."

Qatar and FIFA have consistently said taking the World Cup to the country has accelerated positive changes in the nation's laws and society.



should have decriminalised homosexuality before selling tickets for this year's World Cup. The former Norway international, who is gay herself, had already delivered a scathing criticism of the World Cup host and FIFA to an audience of executives at

protecting the rights of migrant workers — who have built tens of billion of dollars of projects needed for the World Cup — and its criminalisation of homosexuality was aired. Klaveness, the newly elected head of football in Norway and one of the few women ever to lead a

speech off the main Congress agenda, and then gave the floor to rebuttals from a Latin American soccer official and the head of Qatar's organising committee.

"This is not the right forum and not the right moment," Honduras soccer federation general secretary

Biennial World Cup feasible, debate continues: FIFA president Gianni Infantino

BERLIN: FIFA president Gianni Infantino has clarified at the 72nd FIFA Congress in Doha, Qatar that the global football governing body has not proposed a biennial World Cup and it needs more time to discuss.

of the World Cup every two years," said Infantino. "FIFA came to the conclusion that it is feasible and it would even be positive for a big part of the world. But there is also a big opposition to it due to the repercussions and

great; if we find it in one year, it's great as well," said the 52-year-old world football leader. "We could go for a vote and get the majority to vote for more competitions. But we are aware that it's more important to ex-

is more suitable for everyone. The big ones have to become bigger and the small ones have to benefit as well."

The Swiss-Italian official believed the biennial World Cup would give more chances to the young talents and create more hope for the people in football developing regions. However, the proposal has been heavily criticised for ignoring the well-being of players and risks overexposing the World Cup, reducing the exclusivity of the tournament.

"Some 100 years ago, some wise men decided that the World Cup should take place every four years. Let's see what we can do better and how we can do better," said Infantino.

"We're not in a rush. We have to think about what is best for the development of football. It's better to take a bit more time to do it."



Speaking about the speculations on the biennial World Cup on Thursday evening in Doha, Infantino said the world football governing body has not made a proposal to change the global calendar.

"The last FIFA congress asked the FIFA administration with a vote, and 80 per cent voted in favour to study the feasibility

impacts." FIFA is not in a hurry to make the final decision and Infantino believed it still needs some time to debate, discuss and convince, and FIFA is trying to find agreements and compromises with all parties involved, Xinhua reports.

"We're looking at all different options. If we find an agreement in one week, it is

change views."

In addition to the confederations and the member associations, FIFA also needs the support and feedback from the leagues, the clubs and players as well.

"We have to do this in balance with the clubs, which is the biggest part of where the players are playing," said the president. "We'll find what

India's GS Lakshmi is match referee for ICC Women's World Cup final

CHRISTCHURCH: India's GS Lakshmi, the first woman ever in the ICC international panel of match referees, will be the

Cup final at the Hagley Oval will be overseen by four women match officials -- the first such instance in cricket his-

tor. Australia and England are set to face off in the final after having outplayed West Indies and South Africa respectively in the semifinals. South Africa's Lauren Agenbag and Kim Cotton of New Zealand have been named the two on-field umpires, while West Indies'

home T20I series against Ireland. Langton Rusere of Zimbabwe has been named the fourth umpire.



match referee for the Women's World Cup final between England and Australia here on Sunday.

Lakshmi also has the distinction of being the first woman match referee in men's ODIs, having stood in the role during the World Cup League 2 in the UAE in December 2020.

The Women's World

T20 World Cup final between Australia and India at the MCG, having stood as the on-field umpire alongside Ahsan Raza. Williams, who hails from Jamaica, became the first female to officiate as the third umpire in men's international cricket in 2020, having fulfilled the role during West Indies' three-match

showdown.

"As part of its strategic commitment to a gender-equitable sport, the ICC has focused on increasing the number of international female match officials, with women comprising eight of the 15 match officials at this event," the game's apex body said ahead of the summit



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