

## Putin, Zelensky to be at G20 meet, says host

JAKARTA(KCN): Indonesia's President Joko Widodo says that both Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin have agreed to attend the G20 summit to be held in Bali in November.

Widodo, the current chair of the G20 group, made the remarks in a televised statement on Friday in which he said that he had telephone conversations this week with Zelenskyy and Putin. He said he urged both leaders of Ukraine and Russia to end the war through negotiations. "I reiterated the importance of ending the war immediately," he said. "I also emphasized that peaceful efforts should continue and Indonesia is ready to contribute to these peaceful ef-

forts."

He said that he invited Putin and Zelenskyy to the G20 summit as the war in Ukraine has a major impact on the global economy. "We understand that the G20 plays the catalyst role in the recovery of the global economy," Widodo said.

Widodo said that he has rejected the Ukrainian leader's request for arms but instead will send humanitarian aid.

"The mandate of Indonesia's constitution and the principles of our foreign policy prohibit us from providing arms assistance to other countries," Widodo said. "However, we are ready to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine."



## Stop 'bulldozers of hatred', start power plants instead: Rahul Gandhi to PM Narendra Modi on power crisis

NEW DELHI(KCN): Amid the ongoing power crisis in India, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the Modi government should stop running the "bulldozer of hatred" and start running power plants instead.

He also sought to know from Prime Minister Narendra Modi whether he cared about the country and its people as the coal and electricity crisis has created havoc in the country.

"On April 20, 2022, I told the Modi government to stop running the bulldozer of hatred and start power plants of the country, today the coal and electricity crisis has created havoc in the entire country.

"I am saying again - This crisis will destroy small industries, due to which unemployment will increase further. Small children cannot stand this scorching heat. The lives of patients admitted in hospitals are at stake. There will be financial loss by stopping rail, metro services," Gandhi said in a Facebook post.

ALSO READ: 'Where is Rahul Gandhi?',

Congress makes video to silence critics

"Modi ji, do you not care about the country and the people," he asked and used the hashtag "#BJPFailsIndia".

With large parts of the country facing long power cuts, the opposition Congress on Friday said the central government's misgovernance and mismanagement led to this "artificial" crisis in the scorching summer.



Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh alleged that the Modi government was not providing logistical support for coal distribution to power plants across the country, leading to the crisis.

The Modi government cannot run away from its responsibility and blame states for all the problems in the country, he added.

On Wednesday, Rahul Gandhi hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the exit of some global brands from India, and said "Hate-in-India" and Make-in-India cannot coexist.

ALSO READ: Power crisis result of Modi government's mismanagement of coal distribution - Congress

## Arun Bothra Gets Crime Branch

Bhubaneswar(KCN): 1988 Batch IPS Arun Bothra has been appointed as DG Prisons and Correctional Services.

Mr.Chabra, one of the senior most Top Cops is serving as DG Special Armed Police (SAP) of Odisha.

Veteran Top Cop Santosh Kumar Upadhyay has been appointed as DG Fire Services of Odisha. 1988 Batch IPS Mr.Upadhyay is also DG Home Guards and Director General Civil Defence.

Department of Home has brought out a notification in this regard on 29 April, notifying Mr.Upadhyay as DG Fire Services, HG and CD.

Mr.Upadhyay presently serving as DG Prisons and Correc-



Top Cop Sanjeeb Panda as Director Intelligence. 1994 Batch IPS

Mr.Panda, an informative Top Cop is eminently suitable for the Top Intelligence assignment, which is crucial for the State.

assignment with all his sincerity and effectiveness, he is expected to deliver the service in handling sensitive posting as well.

Mr.Panda, who is CMD Odisha State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OSPHWC) is allowed to continue as the Chief of the Organization.

After Mr.Panda took over OSPHWC, large number of projects are taken up by the organization and State Government has reposed faith on him, who has the ability to scale up the activities and timely execution of the projects.

1996 Batch IPS Officer Arun Bothra is appointed ADG Crime Branch, CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Speaker Surya Narayan Patra says Assembly panel will visit site after parties finish their jobs

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): Even as the political slugfest over the Puri heritage corridor project continued, Speaker Surya Narayan Patra on Thursday took a swipe at the parties and announced the Assembly committee will inspect the site "after the political parties are finished with their jobs."

"Let the political parties finish their jobs. The Assembly committee will then meet and inspect the heritage corridor site," the Speaker,

who is chairman of the Assembly committee on the project, told mediapersons here.



Meanwhile, a day after Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi's visit to Srimandir during which she targeted the State government for proceeding with the corridor project without permission from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the ruling BJD hit back saying the works were being carried out with the approval of experts. CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Low Pressure in BoB

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The India Meteorological Department on Friday said a low pressure area is likely to form over South Andaman Sea and adjoining Bay of Bengal around May 5 with possibility of further intensification.

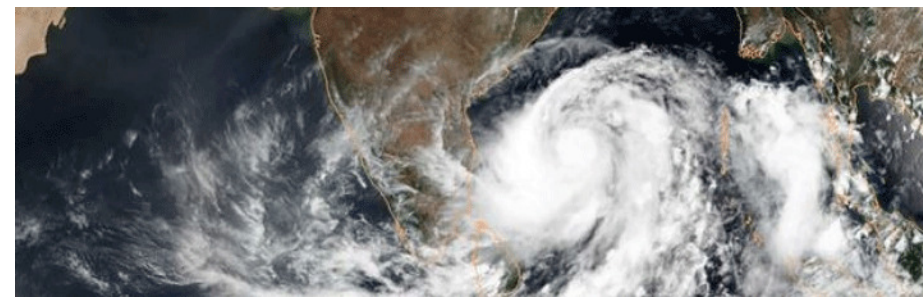
"A cyclonic circula-

tion is likely to form over South Andaman sea and neighborhood around May 4. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over the same region during the next 24 hours. It is likely to become

marked during the subsequent 24 hours," the IMD said in a bulletin. However, the IMD has not issued any forecast whether the system will hit any coastal land or not. "As per our prediction so far, a low pressure area will take shape in the Bay

Biswas. Ever since cyclone 'Fani' battered the Odisha coast on May 3 of 2019, development of such systems over the Bay of Bengal in the month of May has become a matter of concern for the people of eastern coast of the country. Private weather fore-

and likely to turn into a low pressure area on May 5." Environmental conditions stand favorable for intensification to a depression in the subsequent 24 hours. The weather system will be placed under watch for any further intensification, it said.



The Skymet further said any tropical system reaching the stage of depression, stand a fair chance of growing to a storm, at this time of the season, over the Andaman Sea. Storms during the month of May threaten

Myanmar, Bangladesh, West Bengal and Odisha. Tropical cyclones are known for defying norms of track, intensity and timelines. Therefore, the entire coastline turns vulnerable, till the threat recedes, it said.

casting agency, Skymet weather, says, "A cyclonic circulation is expected to move across the Gulf of Thailand and Malay Peninsula, around May 4. Quickly, this will make its way to North Andaman Sea

parts of the government have to be aligned towards a common goal of transforming the state.

## Odisha on transformation mode

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday said that his government no longer believes in incremental development. "We want to increase the pace of development and therefore, time is very important for our government. We no longer believe in incremental development," the Chief Minister said addressing the India Today conclave here. The people of the state want transformation to happen and therefore all our efforts are directed towards achieving that goal, he asserted. Mr.Patnaik said the model of governance in

"Therefore, we follow the 'Whole of Government' approach. Especially during crisis situations, this is very effective. Whether it is cyclone management or the Covid management, the entire government machinery is involved in tackling the situation," he said. Mr.Patnaik said that all segments of the society also have to be made a part of this process.



the State is to provide transformational governance with the aim to build a new Odisha. "The principles of our Governance are best explained in the 5Ts - Transparency, Technology, Team Work, Time and Transformation," he said.

Governance cannot take giant leaps unless there is team work, he said and added that all

"We strongly believe in an inclusive governance, which stands for the most disadvantaged people. Therefore, we have programs for women empowerment like Mission Shakti. More than 70% of our Zilla Parishad Presidents are women. We ensured that women get more than their fair share in the Governance structures and become

## World Malaria Day was celebrated by CCRYN, New Delhi

New Delhi (KCN): World Malaria Day was celebrated as awareness day\* by Central Yoga & Naturopathy Research Council of Yoga & Natural



Medicine Research on 25th April 2022. Dr. Rashmi Pandey conducted the programme and gave opportunity to MBBS internship students and staff members of IHMC present in the program to spread awareness about

malaria. Everyone please keep your thoughts very well and also suggest precautionary measures against malaria. Dr. Rashmi told in the programme

As well as avoid mosquitoes in rainy season. Yoga therapist Sonia Arya and Bhagwan Swaroop also expressed their views that take care of hygiene around you



your surroundings for this. Do not grow mosquitoes in still water. For this before it starts raining, clean the drains near the house and fill the potholes etc. Spray pesticides on every corner of the house from time to time. Wear full body covering clothes to

before eating. Wash your hands well before eating. Practice yoga daily to increase your immunity and take special care of eating. Many doctors of Lady Harding Medical College including Naveen Mishra were also present in the programme.

## SwitchON Foundation carries out special drive on the National Panchayati Day to sensitise farmers on climate smart technologies

Kolkata (KCN): SwitchON Foundation, on the occasion of National Panchayati Day, organized a special awareness drive through its existing SEWA network working in 4 states, 28 districts of the country. The drive was conducted along with the respective State Nodal Agencies, involving different village panchayats of the states.



Sustainable-Energy-Water-Agriculture (SEWA) network is an initiative by the foundation to promote and bridge the existing knowledge gaps among marginal farmers in the key agro states of the country.

As seasonal temperature rises and vital agricultural resources become scarce. The special drive conducted by SwitchON along with its partner NGOs is targeted among marginal farmers of the states, promoting climate resilient smart agriculture practices of solar water pump and micro irrigation.

The National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated each year to commemorate the Panchayati Raj Systems in India (73rd amendment). The day was first celebrated in April 2010 to mark the decentralization of power making it one of the most significant events in Indian history. The Indian Constitution recognises panchayats as a system of self-governance, wherein, the panchayats are responsible for delivering justice and ensuring the development of their villages.

Vinay Jaju, MD, SwitchON Foundation said, "This occasion provides an excellent opportunity for direct dialogue with Panchayat representatives of villages, particularly to understand the impact of important govt programmes like the PM KUSUM Scheme and various other schemes introduced by the Government."

He further added, "This will further help address the issues faced by the farming community, besides helping depts. generate new data for better review and

implementation of policies thus enabling sustainable development across the region." "There is a need to recognise and localize SDGs at Panchayat level, which presents a viable opportunity for holistic development across villages."

Some of the key activities carried out during the drive along with special gram sabha sessions included; Panchayat & Block level meetings, Exposure visit to solar pump & micro irrigation sites, Training & workshop on solar pump & micro irrigation, and individual farmers meetings. The events saw active participation from the farmers in each block and was also attended by key block level and district level authorities.



In some of the key states like West Bengal where the SEWA network exists, the drive was carried out in key blocks of the vulnerable districts of Bankura, Purulia with SEWA Partners like; Kangsabati Mahila Farmers. Along with other key districts of Bardhaman, South Paschim Bardhaman, Hooghly, and Birbhum. In Jharkhand it was carried out in the districts of Dumka and Deoghar with the FD Foundation. In Orissa, it was carried out in Kalahandi, Bolangir, and Kandhamal Districts with Lok Drishti Naupada, and across key blocks of Bastar District in Chhattisgarh along with Bastar Sevak Mondal.

The various regional partners attending the drive said, "We are really glad that with SwitchON Foundation and as part of the SEWA network, we are successfully able to reach out to the marginal farmers of our region. This comes as a meaningful way to bridge the knowledge gap and build their capacity. Enabling them to reap the benefits of the several good schemes of the Government, and thus produce more crops per drop of water, using clean renewable energy sources for irrigation."

## Demand Letter to Collector Cuttack for Kandarpur Samabaya Samiti cash Issue



Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : Cuttack Sadar Kandarpur Samabaya Samiti 153 farmers around eighty lakhs rupees taken by cashier Dipti Kumar Pattanik who is not joining office long back. Several times the depositors bring

notice to higher authority and Mini Bank team but neither any action not reaction. So all the farmers will not attain election of samiti and all are fight against this injustice matter. For justice BJP State working committee member Prativa

Satapaty, Cuttack Jilla Samabaya Coordinator Bandhu Charan Sahoo, CCV Cuttack Jilla coordinator Bijaya Routary, Banki CCV coordinator Ajay Muduli, Cuttack Sadar Samabaya Coordinator Khirod Dalai, Sub-coordina-

tor Bipin Panda and team given there demand letter to Honorable Collector, DCP & State Cooperative Election commissioner with full fill there demand on top prior basic otherwise from 7th. May's team will sit on a hunger strike.

## Declare Paika Rebellion as First War of Independence

Khordha(KCN): Hundreds of people belongs to the Paika community

recognition of the Paika Rebellion of 1817 as the first war of Independence and

BBSR. If our demands are not meet we will intensify our agitation. Thousands

Ramnath Kovind and admitted Paika rebellion was the first War of Independence. The delegates of Paika submitted a memorandum address to Chief Minister of Odisha through Collector Khordha raising the pitch for allocation of land with free of cost for the proposed Paika rebellion memorial at Barunei foot hills in Khordha and seeking his intervention to expedite the matter. Odisha Bira Mahasanga Programme Coordinator Narendra Prusty & Dr. Ashok Sundaray, Ramakanta



dressed in traditional attires demonstrating their martial skills with swords, club's etc. held a massive rally at Barunei hills Khordha organized by Odisha Bira Mahasanga. They were demanding recognition of Paika Bidroha or Paika Rebellion against the British as India first war of Independence. They also demanded the formation of a paika regiment in the Indian Army similar to Gorkha, Sikh and Assam regiments. President Odisha Bira Mahasanga Dr. Prakash Srichandan & General Secretary Dr. Dillip Srichandan demand

formation of odisha paika regiment to that several paika youths can join the

of Paika youths will march to delhi and gherao red port, said Dr. Dillip



Army and serve the country. Members of Paika community marched from the Barunei shrines at the Barunei hills to station square in

Srichandan. Laying the foundation stone for Paika rebellion memorial at Barunei hills in Khordha on December -07-2019 by President

Mohapatra, Biswajit Chhotray, Abani Kanta Jena, Padma Charan Ray and others were participated in this programme.

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## Farewells of the year: List of icons the entertainment industry lost in 2020

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** The year of losses - 2020 - brought with it a lot of grief with the en-

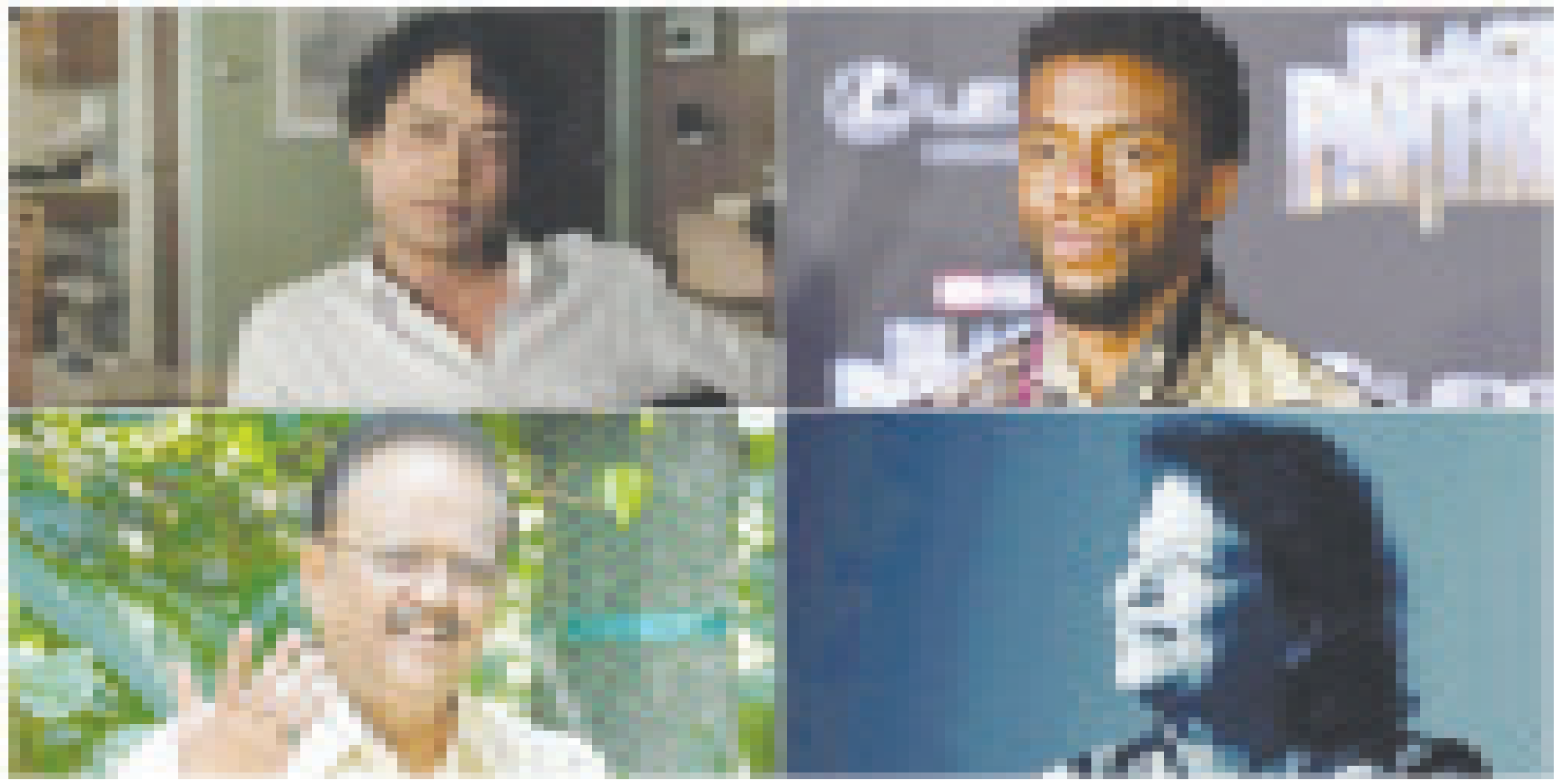
lot of controversies, fans continue to mourn the loss of the 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' star. He

breathed his last at a Mumbai hospital at the age of 67. Kickstarting his career from the small

triggered sorrow in every countryman including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Pandit Jasraj had

with her sudden demise on July 3 following a cardiac arrest. Khan was the first female choreog-

than 40 years and one of the screen's most reliable and distinctive leading men. Connery was the first



tainment industry marking the demise of some of its finest personalities. Be it 'James Bond' legend Sean Connery, or Bollywood's most celebrated icon Rishi Kapoor, the year kept dealing major blows with almost every fan losing at least one of their favourite entertainers.

As we now set to bid adieu to the year full of tragedies and losses, here's a list of some of the greatest icons whose passing away left a void in the entertainment industry. The rising star of the Indian film industry, Sushant Singh Rajput shocked the entire nation on June 14, when he was found dead in his Mumbai residence. Though his demise triggered a

was 34. The much-loved star of the Marvel Universe brought the famous character of T'Challa to life in 'Black Panther.' Boseman passed away on August 29, at an age of 43 after a four-year-long battle with colon cancer. He did not reveal his cancer diagnosis throughout the four-year-long battle and continued working. Only after he passed away did his team reveal his illness.

The charming lover boy and a member of the illustrious Kapoor clan, Rishi Kapoor passed away on April 30, after a two-year-long battle with leukemia. The original 'showman' left behind a rich legacy of cinematic marvels spanning decades. He

screen, Irrfan Khan tasted success in both Bollywood as well as Hollywood. The versatile actor made the country laugh and weep through his epic portrayals. From 'Life of Pi,' to 'Maqbool' and from 'Hindi Medium' to 'Piku,' each of the characters portrayed by Khan continue to remain etched in the hearts of his fans. He breathed his last on April 29 after battling rare cancer at the age of 53.

The legendary classical vocalist who had a glorious 75-year-long musical career passed away on August 17 leaving behind a void in the Indian music industry. The demise of the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan recipient,

passed at the age of 90 due to a cardiac arrest.

The musical maestro who graced many decades with his melodious voice passed away on September 25 due to post-Covid recovery complications. The winner of six national awards for his soulful singing fought hard before finally succumbing to his health complications at an age of 74. He lent his voice in songs of several films like 'Maine Pyaar Kiya,' 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun!,' 'Ek Duuje Ke Liye' and many more.

The dancing legend who choreographed some of the greatest dance performances in the history of Hindi cinema, Saroj Khan sent shockwaves to the entire country

rapher in Bollywood and she is also known for mentoring the greatest of divas including Sridevi,

to bring the character of James Bond to the screens with 'Dr No' in 1962.

While these are just a



Madhuri Dixit, and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. The most recent loss of the entertainment industry happens to be the original 'James Bond' legend Sean Connery who passed away due to heart failure on October 31. The Scottish-born actor was an audience favourite for more

handful of celebrities that the entertainment Industry lost in the year 2020, there are many more including filmmaker Nishikant Kamat, actor Soumitra Chatterjee, musician Wajid Khan and actor Jagdeep who passed away this year.

## 'Shakeela' trailer falls flat, lacks the punch expected in a star biopic



The trailer of Indrajit Lankesh's Hindi language film "Shakeela" doesn't hold much to impress. From using modern-day Hindi music to cliched film sets, it feels like a repackaging

of Vidya Balan's 'Dirty Picture' except that this version fails to bring the charm Vidya brought to the screen. The film, as described by the filmmakers of 'Shakeela', is

"inspired by life events of a famous star Shakeela who predominantly starred in southern cinema." It features Richa Chadha as the titular adult actor who was one of the biggest stars of the

1990s arriving from Kerala who went on to act in several adult films in languages spanning Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada, while Pankaj Tripathi is the male lead. The film is de-

scribed to "portray the hardships of the actress as she had to face a lot of criticism, insults and betrayals from her own family members and the film fraternity who were influential in getting her films banned." The main reason for the success of 'Kinnarathumbikal', one of the films that catapulted her into the limelight, was solely her screen presence and energy, and with no other male lead in the movie. Trying to fill in the gaping hole left by Silk Smitha in the low-budget softcore industry,

Shakeela made her own mark with around 250 movies in her kitty -- heralding the 'Shakeela Tharangam' (The wave of Shakeela). Meanwhile, the Shakeela that Indrajith is trying to portray doesn't look like she has much story to tell. The screen-space also seems to be overpowered by star cast Pankaj Tripathi. Let's hope the full length movie holds more than what the trailer showed. The film is produced by Sammy Nanwani and Sahil Nanwani, with music by Meet Bros and Veer Samarth.

## Understand the meaning of surge of tourism in Kashmir

The pleasant breeze blowing through the valley of Kashmir is surely raising hope among the Kashmiris. The breeze of hope that the life is



returning back to normal in the Valley. The atmosphere of fear and worry is almost ending there. Had it been a false statement then one lakh

eighty thousand tourists almost 6000 per day, would not have reached Srinagar airport for excursion. This figure is much greater in comparison to last ten years tourist visit in a month. Additionally, the experts allied with the tourism sector of state government are predicting that in coming days and months this number will certainly boost. In order to beat the scorching heat of May and June, tourists from across the country, will surely like visit valleys, falls and religious spots in Jammu & Kashmir. In the time of terror, no one would have even imagined that the normalcy will return in that short period of time and tourists will not be troubled any more there. Presently, all the hotels are full and Shikaras also have long waiting period. The mindset of the people towards the valley is changing. Kashmir is welcoming tourists from Mumbai to Delhi and Bhubaneshwar to Kerala everywhere. One of my friends who is former Income tax commissioner, visited the valley along with his family last month. He was pleased by the reception offered by Kashmiri people which is similar to the one offered before the decade of 90s. They are joyous seeing the unprecedented number of visitors. Firstly, terrorism and then Covid completely destroyed the tourism sector there. People in this sector was even devoid of two course meal. They faced a harsh scarcity of food. The atmosphere there is free from terror now. Still some anti India elements are existing there. Today or tomorrow, they will have to join and

be a part of mainstream. They aren't left with any other choice. If they continue their path, they will be and are being reined. Now locals of Kashmir will have to make sure that they completely

**R.K. Sinha**

has not openly paid tribute to the poor deceased. It is also a reality that many migrants Bihari have fallen prey to terrorism. Few days back poor person from Bhagalpur named Virendra Paswan was gunned

projects of central government are being implemented and executed in the valley. Kashmiri people are getting their full benefits. People who were devoid of benefits of reservation, are now getting its benefits. Shameful fact is that In the state Dalits and backwards have not



isolate themselves from anti India elements. Locals should report willingly the whereabouts of these anti India elements to security forces. Along with it they will have to provide complete security to the non- Kashmiri people working there. They will have to assure that Kashmir belongs to every Indian like whole India belongs to Kashmiris also. With the increase in number of tourists, Kashmiri people should think that people from other states will migrate to Kashmir for small job opportunities also. Indians from other states have equal right over Kashmir as the people of Kashmir have on the entire India. Every year people from Kashmir move to different parts of the country to sell the products of handloom and carpet and woolen industry of the state. Have they been denied from entering any area? Similarly, they should allow other people to practice business in their state. In reality a poor person from Bihar selling golgappa is murdered. Despite all these mishaps, the Kashmiri society

down. On his death no one was there to remorse except his relatives. Virendra Paswan used to migrate to Kashmir during every summer to earn livelihood. He used to sell tasty golgappas. Actually, the main problem of muslims in the Kashmir is that they always remain in the victim mode. They continuously try to prove that they have suffered injustice. This is a wrong mindset. There is a need to come out of it. They become silent on exodus of Kashmiri Pandit. They don't protest the murders of people like Paswan. Actually they haven't face any injustice. They themselves have done injustices to the Kashmiri Pandits and poor Hindu labourers who have temporarily migrated in Kashmir.

Actually, as the Kashmir valley is changing, various development programs run by government should also be given due credit. Last Sunday PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stone for the development projects worth of 20 thousand crores. All the

received any benefits for last 70 years.

Amidst, the foundation stone of three sections of Delhi- Amritsar- Katra expressway was laid. It is a project worth more than 7.5 thousand crore. 108 Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Samba and Solar electricity plant of five hundred kilowatt is being constructed. Along with it, Banihaal- Kaazigund road tunnel has been inaugurated. Almost 8.5 kilometres long tunnel will dramatically reduced the distance between Banihaal and Kaazigund by 16 km and travel time is reduced by 1.5 hours. If you have recently visited Jammu- Kashmir you will believe that the roads in the state is becoming world-class. The importance of road in mountainous region is known to all. As the central government along with the country are wishing that the state should get the deserving prosperity Kashmiri people should also perform their duty. They should show their allegiance. Pakistan has always led them to astray as a result they have always suffered losses.

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

## GoI should cut fuel tax rate

Government of India (GoI) was the main beneficiary of earlier fuel tax hikes. Now, it should take lead in lowering them.



The political argument over India's tax policy of petroleum products is an essential one. However, it requires unpacking to reach a meaningful conclusion. GoI

and states independently tax petrol and diesel, the two most important products. GoI's taxes are to be shared with states according to a formula recommended by the Finance Commission. However, there's a catch here. The Constitution's Article 270 allows GoI to completely retain taxes classified as cess and surcharge. Effectively, GoI has the power

over classification to decide how much it will share with

**Pradeep Kumar Panda**

states. This is the root cause of friction with opposition-administered states.

The backstory for the current argument began in March 2020. As the pandemic swept across the world, lockdowns kicked in and oil prices collapsed. At that point, GoI increased its taxes on petrol and diesel. Between March 14, 2020 and May 6, 2020, central excise on unbranded petrol and diesel increased by 44% and 69% respectively.

The incremental tax was collected in the form of cess, which meant it was not shared with states. Consequently, even as crude oil price fell from around \$65/ barrel in early January 2020 to about \$20 in April 2020, the pump price of diesel increased from Rs 67.96 per litre in Delhi to Rs 69.39 in May 2020.

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted by 6.6% in FY 2020-21, which adversely impacted tax collections. However, GoI's fuel taxes were the exception to this trend. Driven by higher fuel taxes, GoI's FY 2020-21 revenue from the petroleum sector was Rs 4.5 lakh crore, an annual increase of 36%.

What about states? Collectively, their FY 2020-21 revenue from petroleum shrank by 1.5% to Rs 2.2 lakh crore. About 68% of the Rs 6.72 lakh crore of revenue generated by the petroleum sector in FY21 went to GoI.

As crude prices began to rise in 2021, public pressure for tax relief mounted. In August 2021, Tamil Nadu lowered tax on petrol. In November, GoI cut taxes on both petrol and diesel, which catalysed reductions by more than 20 states.

However, taxes remain high when located in the current economic context where elevated inflation is cutting into discretionary spending of a large section of the population.

The per litre cost of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is the highest in our country when it comes to the purchasing power of currencies in their domestic market. On similar terms, petrol price in India is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest while diesel is 8<sup>th</sup> most expensive globally.

GoI, with superior revenue-raising powers and as the main beneficiary of tax increases in FY21, should take the lead and engage in one more round of fuel tax reductions. This will put pressure on states to follow suit. In all, it's the appropriate fiscal adjustment.

The Author is an Economist

## Sanjeeb Panda; New Director Intelligence

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Government has appointed Senior

Crime Branch has handled the crucial assignment with all

tive job, feels a former DGP. Mr.Panda, who is

ment has reposed faith on him, who has the ability to scale up



Top Cop Sanjeeb Panda as Director Intelligence. 1994 Batch IPS Mr.Panda, an informant Top Cop is eminently suitable for the Top Intelligence assignment, which is crucial for the State. While Mr.Panda has been serving as ADG

his sincerity and effectiveness, he is expected to deliver the service in handling sensitive posting as well. Mr.Panda, who has the experience in handling Intelligence apparatus of the State earlier, has the acumen for ably managing the hypersensi-

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## Sikh community a strong link in India's relations with other countries: PM Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI: Asserting that the new India is leaving its mark on the whole world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Sikh community has been a strong link in relations between India and other countries.

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# Nepal ganja campaign seeks return of Himalayan high times

Nepal's marijuana ban could soon be up in smoke, as lawmakers mull a return to the liberal drug policies that once made the Himalayan republic a popular pit stop on the overland "hippie trail".

Half a century ago, thousands of fun-seeking backpackers from around the world made their way to Kathmandu to buy potent hash strains from government-licensed stores on "Freak Street" -- a lane named for long-haired and unkempt foreign visitors.

Washington's global war on drugs, and its accompanying pressure on foreign governments,

## Suresh Prabhu MP,Chancellor Rishihood University leading an Indian Rishihood Delegation to United States of America

Kolkata (KCN): Honourable Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu MP (and former Union Minister for multiple Ministries) is leading an Indian delegation from Rishihood University, in his capacity as the founder-Chancellor, to

prompted the closure of the capital's dispensaries in 1973, along with a cultivation ban that forced farmers to rip up their cannabis plants.

Now, with Western countries easing their own prohibitions on marijuana, the government and legal reform campaigners say it is time to stop criminalising a potent cash crop with centuries-old ties to the country's culture and religious practices.

- Corruption and smuggling -

"It is not justifiable that a poor country like ours has to treat cannabis as a drug," Nepal's

United States of America. Sharing his thoughts while Visiting many Important Universities and Indian-American Associations. Ms Uma Prabhu, CEO MSVS and Sr. Journalist is accompanying Shri Prabhu.

At a famous Stanford, on 28th April, Shri Prabhu said, "Interacted with the bright young minds at Stanford. Happy to see the enthusiasm of students in issues of economy, research, entrepreneurship and education." A week earlier, As a part of our mission to connect with the global community, Chancellor Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu interacted with students and faculty at well known Columbia University. He spoke on Environment, Society and Governance. He also spoke about how politics influences ESG policies.

Health Minister Birodh Khatiwada told AFP. "Our people are being punished... and our corruption increases because of smuggling as we follow decisions of developed countries that are now doing as they please."

Khatiwada sponsored Nepal's first parliamentary motion advocating an end to the ban in January 2020, and two months later a bill was put to lawmakers seeking partial legalisation.

A change in government has stalled progress since, but in December of that year Nepal backed a successful campaign to have the United Nations reclassify cannabis out of its list of the world's most harmful drugs.

Nepal's home ministry has since launched a study into the medicinal properties and export potential of marijuana that is expected to support a revived parliamentary push to end the ban.

"It is a medicine," said prominent activist Rajiv Kagle, who lives with HIV and began campaigning for legalisation after using the drug to treat his symptoms.

Kagle said ending the ban would be an "important booster" to Nepal's tourism industry, which is still reeling from the Covid pandemic, and would also benefit Nepalis suffering from chronic illnesses.

While the current law allows for medicinal cannabis, there is no established framework for therapeutic use and the government still enforces a blanket ban on consumption and trafficking.

"So many patients are using it, but they are forced to do it illegally," Kagle told AFP. "They can get caught anytime."

Enforcement of the ban is already patchy: tourists visiting Nepal's backpacker haunts are unlikely to encounter the long arm of the law for lighting up a joint in a Kathmandu back alley.

Authorities also look the other way during an

annual festival held to honour the Hindu deity Shiva, the destroyer of evil, who is regularly depicted clasping a chillum pipe used to smoke cannabis.

Ganja smoke wafts around the grounds of Kathmandu's Pashupatinath Temple each year as holy men gather to celebrate and worshippers fill their own chillums with Shiva's "gift". But elsewhere, penalties are harsh and regularly enforced. Marijuana dealers risk up to 10 years jail time and police seize and destroy thousands of cannabis plants across the country each year.

- 'Part of our culture' - Prohibition interrupted a long tradition of cannabis cultivation in Nepal, where plants grew wild and their stems, leaves and resin were used in food, as clothing fibres or as a component of traditional Ayurvedic medicines.

"The ban destroyed an important income source in this region," a farmer in western Dang district told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It ignored how it was part of our culture and everyday life, not just... an intoxicant."

Several Western countries have ended their own bans on marijuana use in recent years, including parts of the United States, which once spearheaded the global campaign to criminalise the drug.

In California, dispensaries sell "Himalayan Gold", a strain which originated from Nepal and calls to mind the country's historic associations with weed culture.

A rejuvenated marijuana trade tailored to burgeoning export demand and cashing in on Nepal's existing "international brand value" could prove highly lucrative, said Barry Bialek, a doctor working at a cannabis research centre at Kathmandu University.

"As a cash crop it can be good locally but also in the global market," he told AFP. "It can be a leader in the world."



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## Barbil Municipality organised BadaKhana to recognise sanitary workers



Barbil (KCN): A grand feast popularly called Bada Khana was organised by the Barbil Municipality to recognise sanitation worker with a objective to create an congenial and brotherhood environment among the workers. Under the caption of Sochha Bharat - Swasth Bharat of Housing and Urban Development department, Barbil Municipality aimed at creating a cleaner and healthier environment of Barbil. This initiative is well

praised by the public . Municipality too prepared it's future action plan and budget for sanitation work for the municipal region after due discussion with the participant participated. Member of legislative assembly Minakshi Mahanta, Chairman Lakshman Mahanta, Vice Chairman Saraswoti Naik, councillor of all wards of Barbil Municipality, Executive officer Abhisekh Panda along with sanitary workers and all municipal officials were present on the occasion.

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### Sebi slaps Rs 6 lakh fine on Pace Stock Broking in NSE co-location case

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday imposed a Rs 6 lakh

The noticee (Pace Stock Broking) was one of the trading members identified

secondary server. Further, as per available records, NSE advised the broker

equitable access to all brokers who connected to it.

Through such acts, Pace Stock Broking violated the provisions of the NSE By-laws and code of conduct specified under the stockbroker rule as well as PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) norms.

Meanwhile, in a separate order, the regulator has barred nine entities from participating in the capital market for 3 months over price manipulation in the securities of Super Sales India Ltd.

The order came after Sebi conducted an investigation into the trading activities in the scrip of Super Sales India Ltd for the period December 2011 to October 2014. In another order, the regulator has levied a fine of Rs 5 lakh on Champa Devi Jalan for indulging in non-genuine trades in illiquid stock options at BSE.



penalty on Pace Stock Broking Services for flouting norms related to National Stock Exchange's co-location facility.

The order came after Sebi received multiple complaints against the broker, pertaining to allegations of malpractices with respect to the co-location facility provided by NSE.

In the wake of allegations of preferential access to the Tick-by-Tick data feed given by NSE to certain trading members, the matter was taken up for investigation by Sebi.

for comprehensive investigation (including) forensic audit for primary and secondary server connects. The stockbroker logged into the secondary server in currency derivatives, cash market and Futures and Options during 2013-2014, as per Sebi orders.

As per NSE's co-location guidelines, the secondary source for TBT (Tick-by-Tick) data is to be used in the event of non-availability of the TBT primary source and trading members should not routinely connect to the sec-

ondary server. However, the broker continued to log in to the secondary server, Sebi noted.

The noticee connected frequently to the secondary server, which violated the NSE co-location guidelines, thereby also failing to exercise due skill care and diligence in conducting its trading operations, it added.

By circumventing the primary source regularly, the noticee engaged in conduct, which undermined the trading system set up to provide fair and

### Biocon Q4 net profit down 4 per cent

BENGALURU: Biocon has posted a 4% decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 284 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2022. It reported Rs 296 crore net profit in the same quarter last year. The company's quarterly net profit missed street expectations.

Its consolidated revenue from operations in the fourth quarter stood at Rs 2,409 crore, a 30.7% increase compared to Rs 1,842 crore in the year-ago period. For the full-year FY22, the Bengaluru-based company re-

ported a 9% decrease in consolidated net profit at Rs 772 crore compared to Rs 846 crore in the previous fiscal. Its revenue from operations for FY22 stood at Rs 8,184 crore, a 14% increase, as against Rs 7,143 crore in the previous fiscal. In FY22, the company's core EBITDA up 18% at Rs 2,669 crore.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson, Biocon and Biocon Biologics, said, "FY22 was a transformational year for Biocon. Key strategic

moves in our Biosimilars business position us for long-term growth and value creation for our stakeholders."

"We believe that the two strategic transactions, with Viatrix and Serum Institute Life Sciences, will position Biocon Biologics as a world-leading, unique, fully integrated biologics company with a strong differentiated portfolio of

biosimilars and vaccines," she added. The company said its board of directors has recommended a final dividend at the rate of 10% of the face value per share, for the financial year ended March 31, 2022.

On Friday morning, the company's shares gave up initial gains and were trading at Rs 371.80, down 1.25% in afternoon trade on the BSE.

#### Arun Bothra Gets Crime Branch

Continued from page-1

known for his effectiveness and ability to nab criminals.

While Mr.Bothra is allowed to handle Transport Commissioner Assignment, he will be handling one of the most critical assignments of the Odisha Police, CB-CID.

While 2002 Batch IPS S K Gajbhiye is appointed IGP Communication, 2003 Batch IPS Shafeen K Ahamed is appointed as IGPHRPC. 2008 Batch IPS Uma Shankar Dash is appointed Additional Commissioner of Police on promotion to DIGP Rank.

2007 Batch IPS Niti Sekhar is appointed DIG Rourkela and 2011 Batch IPS Pinak Mishra has been brought in as DCP Cuttack.

2013 Batch IPS Smit P Parmar is appointed as new SP Bargarh, and 2014 Batch IPS Prateek Singh is appointed as DCP Bhubaneswar.

2015 Batch IPS Rahul Jain is new SP Jharsuguda and 2015 Batch IPS Sarvana Vivek is new SP Berhampur.

2017 Batch IPS Siddhartha Kataria is new SP Khurda, 2018 Batch IPS Abhilas G is new SP Kalahandi and 2018 Batch IPS S Susree is new SP Nawarangpur.

Senior OPS Officer Alekha Pahi is appointed as SP Nayagarh.

built under the high school transformation and the classes are taken online to improve the quality of education. A model scheme for farmer empowerment like Kalia could be launched and executed within a short time, thanks to technology," he added.

Another example is the government's partnerships in sports. It has built partnerships with sports federations, corporates and Sports persons.

"Together, we established high performance centers and organized national and international tournaments. Due to such partnerships, we could help restore the glory of Indian Hockey," he said.

Chief Minister said a lot has already been achieved in the last two decades and from a situation of abject poverty and hunger, the State is now a leading one in paddy production.

"We are on a fast track of industrial development. We are top in mining and mineral based industries like Steel, Aluminum etc. Odisha has been recognized in many fields such as skill development, health initiatives like Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, urban projects like Jaga Mission, Drink from Tap, high school transformation, fiscal management, food security, mega drinking water projects, road connectivity like Biju Expressway, etc," Patnaik said.

In spite of the Covid pandemic in the last two years, Patnaik said, Odisha is among the fastest growing states in the country.

"We are making huge investments across all sectors including large irrigation projects, infrastructure development, industrial hubs, health institutions, educational initiatives, etc," he said and added that in the next two years, there will be visible transformational changes across Odisha.

"We are confident that this will be a giant leap forward in the development history of the state and a new Transformed Odisha will emerge as a leading state in the country," the Chief Minister asserted.

### Over 25 anchor investors evinced interest for LIC issue offer: Official

KOLKATA: The proposed maiden public offer by state-owned Life

He said 35 per cent is being reserved for retail investors, 15 per cent

ditional issue of shares by LIC but instead opted for dilution as the cor-

taken dividend and ploughed back Rs 5,600 crore to the life insurer.

Post IPO, LIC will be run by a professional board with nine independent directors who have been already inducted.

Mohanty said the post of chairman will be in place till 2024, and then replaced by MD and CEO.

With the largest market leadership in the life insurance market in India, it has Rs 40 lakh crore as assets under management (AUM) and reserves of Rs 30 lakh crore.



Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has received interests from more than 25 anchor investors both foreign and domestic, an official said here on Friday.

The government plans to dilute 3.5 per cent of its stake in LIC to raise Rs 21,000 crore from the market next month. During the formation of LIC in 1956, the government had infused Rs 5 crore as seed capital.

An official of one of the lead managers said 50 per cent of the offer is reserved for QIPs, including anchor investors.

for high networth individuals and ten per cent for policy holders.

The anchor book will be opened on May 2, he said. Thirty per cent of the portion reserved for QIPs is reserved for anchor investors, he said.

LIC Managing Director Siddhartha Mohanty told reporters here that even after the IPO, the government's sovereign cover will continue under Section 37 of the LIC Act.

He said the government shareholding in LIC will not fall below 51 per cent. To a query, he said "the government did not go for ad-

ditional issue of shares by LIC but instead opted for dilution as the cor-

poration is cash rich with healthy solvency".

Mohanty said the Centre, in the last two years, had not

Continued from page-1

Government chief whip Pramila Mallik said, the Gajapati and sevayats had extended their support to the project and it was being opposed by only few persons with political motives. However, the Congress joined the BJP on the issue. Senior party leader Narasingha Mishra came down heavily on the State government for the illegal construction work which is posing as a threat to the temple.

"The administration has dug some big pits near temple wall without taking permission from ASI which shouldn't have happened," he said. Stating that unlawful digging activities around Jagannath temple are going on without taking permission from ASI, Puri MLA Jayant Kumar Sarangi said that the Bhubaneswar MP was right in her observation. Nobody is opposed to development work, but no action has been taken even though the ASI aware of the illegal construction activities, he added.

#### Speaker Surya Narayan Patra says Assembly panel will visit site after parties finish their jobs

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## Sanjeeb Panda; New Director Intelligence

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Crime Branch has handled the crucial assignment with all

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ment has reposed faith on him, who has the ability to scale up



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