

Parliament passes bill to include Darlong as sub-tribe of Kuki in ST list of Tripura

NEW DELHI(KCN): Parliament passed a bill on Wednesday for the inclusion of the Darlong community as a sub-tribe of Kuki

Lok Sabha had cleared the bill on March 28.

Speaking on the bill in the Upper House of Parliament, Minister

Kuki is one of the main tribal communities in Northeast India and the Darlong community in Tripura will become

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, along with other central government agencies, has taken several steps for the development of the tribal community while keeping in mind their unique culture and tradition, she added.

The government will consider the demands that have come from several states, including Chhattisgarh, for the inclusion of other communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes, Saruta said. The minister alleged that in West Bengal the tribal communities are unable to get benefits of various central government schemes due to the policy of the state

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in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tripura.

Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill-2022 with a voice vote.

of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Saruta said the inclusion of the Darlong community as a sub-tribe of Kuki will give it an identity in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tripura.

its 18th sub-tribe. The minister said Tripura has a tribal population of around 11.66 lakh, which is 31.76 per cent of the state's total population according to the census of 2011.

Vir Vikram takes SJTA Charge



the morning.

Puri(KCN): Senior Mandarin Vir Vikram Yadav Wednesday took charge as the Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

District Collector Samarth Verma, senior officials, and servitors accompanied Yadav to the Jagannath temple in

After offering prayers to the Lords, Yadav proceeded to the SJTA office at 'Bada Danda' and took charge as the Chief Administrator.

Notably, the State Government had appointed Mr.Yadav as the Chief Administrator, SJTA and Secretary, Works Department on Saturday.

A 1996-batch IAS officer, Mr.Yadav is also Principal Secretary of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department.

He replaces Dr Krishan Kumar who was relieved from the State Government in March this year, to join as Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Such bipartisanship augurs well for India at world stage: PM Narendra Modi on Ukraine discussion in Lok Sabha



NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hailed the discussion on the situation in Ukraine in Lok Sabha, saying the rich level of debate illustrates there is bipartisanship on the matters of foreign policy which augurs well for India at the world stage.

A short duration discussion was held in the Lower House on 'Situation in Ukraine' on Tuesday with members of both the treasury and Opposition benches expressing their views over the matter and External Affairs Minister replied to the discussion on Wednesday.

"Over the last few days Parliament has witnessed a healthy discussion on the situation

in Ukraine and India's efforts to bring back our citizens through Operation Ganga. I am grateful to all MP colleagues who enriched this discussion with their views," Modi said in a tweet. The rich level of debate and the constructive points illustrate how there is bipartisanship when it comes to matters of foreign policy, he said.

Modi said such bipartisanship augurs well for India at the world stage.

"It is our collective duty to care for the safety and well-being of our fellow citizens and the Government of India will leave no stone unturned to ensure our people do not face any troubles in adverse situations," the prime minister said in a series of tweets.

BrahMos deal with Philippines bilateral; will not be impacted by sanctions on Russia: Indian envoy

NEW DELHI(KCN): India's deal with the Philippines to supply the BrahMos missile is a bilateral transaction and it will not be impacted by the sanctions against Russia, Indian

Ambassador to Manila Shambhu Kumaran has said. The Philippines also sought a clarification from India on the BrahMos missile following last month's incident of the accidental firing of an Indian missile that landed in Pakistan, the envoy suggested.

BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.

In January, India sealed a USD 375 million deal with the Philippines for supplying three batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile.

When asked about the possible impact of the Western sanctions on Russia on India's deal with the Philippines to supply BrahMos missiles, Kumaran said at an online event on Tuesday that it is a bilateral transaction between Manila and New Delhi.

"I think it is very important for us to maintain

that this is an India-Philippines transaction. I do not want to downplay the fact that the weapons system was developed and manufactured by Russia and India and there is a strong



element of Russian support in the system," he said.

"But definitely, this is an India-Philippines transaction, and I am quite confident that we will be able to move ahead on that bilateral basis," he added.

The Western countries have imposed crippling sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

The event was organised by the Ananta Centre.

Asked whether the Philippines had any concerns following the incident of accidental firing, Kumaran said there

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Car rams Russian Embassy gate in Romania, driver dead

BUCHAREST(KCN): A car crashed into the gate of the Russian Embassy in the Romanian capital early Wednesday, bursting into flames and killing the driver, police said.

The sedan rammed into the gate at about 6 am Wednesday but did not enter the Bucharest embassy compound. Video of the aftermath showed the car engulfed in flames as security personnel ran through the area.

According to police, firefighters who arrived at the scene were able to put the fire out but the driver died at the scene. There was no immediate information on a possible motive or other details.

In a statement after the incident, the Russian embassy expressed condolences to the fam-

ily of the driver. "We must state with regret that whatever the motives of the driver," the statement read.

"There is no doubt that he committed this act under the influence of an explosion of anti-Russian hysteria in connection with a staged provocation in the city of Bucha." The embassy said no employees were injured.

Romania, which shares a long land border with Ukraine, has taken in more than 600,000 refugees since Russia invaded its neighbour.

Since the war started Feb.24, protesters have gathered outside Russia's embassy in the capital to call an end to the Russian aggression.

On Tuesday, Romania ordered 10 diplomats from the embassy

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Srimandir kitchen vandalism: Suspect detained

PURI(KCN): Puri Police nabbed a youth suspected to be involved in the vandalism of earthen stoves in the kitchen of Srimandir, SP K Vishal Singh said on Tuesday night. In a tweet, the Puri SP said the youth was apprehended by IICs of Baseli Sahi and Town police basing on CCTV footage inside Srimandir. The detained youth was identified as Jagan Mahapatra of Deuli village in Khurda district. Police nabbed him from his village. Earlier, a police team comprising five senior officers was formed to nab the miscreant involved in vandalising at least 43 chulhas (earthen stoves) used for cooking Mahaprasad in the kitchen of Shri Jagannath temple on Saturday night.

After the youth was spotted in the footage of CCTV camera, his photo was shared with all police stations. Police also questioned four personnel of Jagannath temple police (JTP) who had driven the youth out of the shrine complex on Saturday night.

The JTP personnel revealed that they found the youth inside the temple compound and evicted him at around 1.15 am. The CCTV footage had shown the JTP personnel escort-

ing the youth out of the temple through Simhadwar. It is believed that the kitchen was vandalised before 1 am and the temple security guards were unaware of it.

As per tradition, after Badasimhar ritual and



closing of the sanctum sanctorum, JTP personnel search the temple complex to clear all humans from the shrine premises. If any devotee is found sleeping in the compound, they are escorted out. This exercise is called 'Sodha'. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), which is conducting an internal inquiry into the incident, has asked the four JTP personnel to explain the cause of dereliction of duty, within three days.

On the day, Puri Collector Samarth Verma and Singh visited the police control room at Simhadwar. Verma said security in and around the temple has been tightened.

Womanly pain

Shreeta Sikruti Kuanr

You walk the line of fire and sins
Enunciating your heartbreak
You are a folklore
Mothers do not tell anymore
Of pentagons across your chest
Exploring your hands
You are the sinner's destiny
She fights through the grave
Pegasus of hope, webs of pain
You sprout like a morning hope
End with a night's terror
Bleeding and murdering
What poem shall suffice
The hunger in you?
Broadcasting yellow skies
Luminary of a red death
Of burning stars
Chained by horror and scars
What song shall complete
The lover in you?
For you watch
Time fall into the mouth of monsters
Rattle the events like the crocodile's mouth
Unfinish undone unspoken
So shall you rise
This new moon
With a roar of victory and new word
That speaks for the sinner's fate.
Of the womanly death



Pearl and dimond

Dwit David Philip

Unfolding own
Unfolding the one in hand
Bliss in me
Smooth in thee
Hard in me
Never rejected,
Received solace and smooth

That's the poetry
That's Thee and me
We delight

We are in a course
Started when I am kissed
Blossom that I get
Grief engraves from all side

I reciprocate
That's the poetry
That's Thee and me



Deep is the sea
Keeps the Pearl in it
Deeper is the mines of coal
Begets the Dimond in it

I am covered in love
Sorrow of deep water,
I am uncovered in love in the joy of my passion

That's the poetry
That's Thee and me
We delight

I am deep hid in love in my morning
I am stimulated in evening while tired and broken

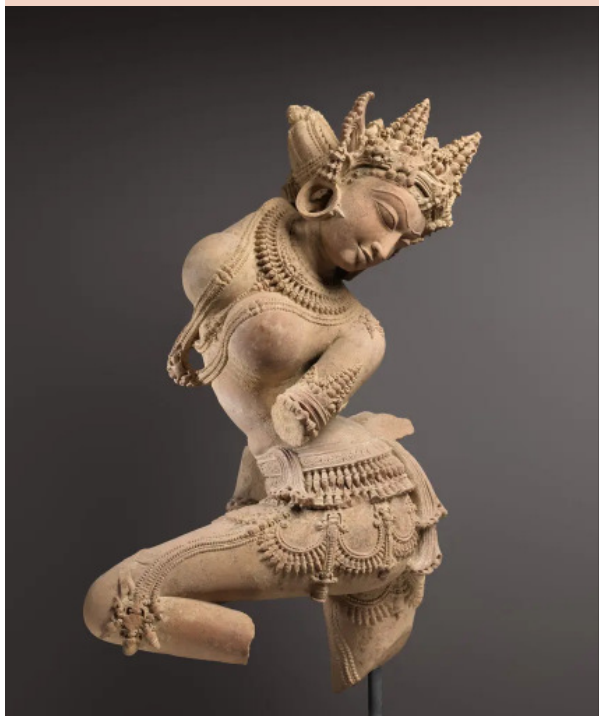
Ohh God, I delight

Leheritahana, Katapar, Biharsharif,
Nalanda, 803101, Bihar

Quotation of the Day

A beautiful
day begins
with a
beautiful
mindset.

India's Art History United in a Single Source



The history of art in India, going back 10,000 years to the Bhimbetka cave drawings, has long been told through a Western lens or written by Indian scholars in a dense, academic style that felt inaccessible to many. But that will soon change, when the MAP Academy Encyclopedia of Indian Art arrives online on April 21. With over 2,000 initial entries, peer-reviewed by some of the world's leading art historians and experts on South Asia, it is a project whose scope has not been tried before.

"If there is an encyclopedia of Indian art in Antarctica I don't know about it, but it's definitely not in India," said Abhishek Poddar,



founder of the Museum of Art and Photography, or MAP, in Bangalore, which initiated the project. "There was not a single comprehensive encyclopedia that existed, which is quite a shame."

The open-source encyclopedia — accessible on its own website or by going through the museum's — will have entries in article form,

along with images, and will cover everything from paintings, photography, textiles and craft up through contemporary art from the last decade.

The encyclopedia is broad in scope, in terms of both its content and those it hopes to reach. That audience includes not only collectors, both new and seasoned, but also academics, curators, students and anyone with a passing interest in learning about art from the region.

"This encyclopedia really is pivotal," said Ayesha Bulchandani, a New York-based collector of Indian art who is both on MAP's advisory committee and a trustee of the Frick Collection. "The digital presence of this encyclopedia really connects global cultures. It will inform libraries, curatorial staff, educational staff and the membership community because it just opens up dialogue across platforms."

In many ways, the story of the encyclopedia

is the story of the museum itself. Because of the pandemic, it did not have its planned physical opening two years ago, though its digital debut was quite a success. (The actual doors are expected to open late this year.)

One of the pillars of the private museum started by Mr. Poddar, a successful industrialist and avid art collector, was arts education, something not considered important in the country. "The museum-going culture has never really built up or taken off in India," he said, "and we don't have the greatest museums in the world, though we have really amazing art."

MAP Academy is the museum's education arm which, along with putting together the encyclopedia, has been charged with running online art history courses.

Ginanne Brownell



Its director, Nathaniel Gaskell, who came up with the idea for the encyclopedia three years ago, said he had two main goals: providing better access for all to art history, and presenting it in ways that are more regionally and gender diverse. "Prior to this, people got their information on Indian art either from Western institutions or from the market or from very spe-

cialized academics who write books that most people cannot understand," Mr. Gaskell said in a video call. Indian art history, he added, was "not just kings and rulers but also local artisans" and those who worked in community art. To write the encyclopedia, the academy hired over two dozen early career Indian academics and art historians to research and write the entries, which are then reviewed by international experts.

"The MAP team had been using some of my books for reference and asked me if I could check their textile entries for accuracy," Rosemary Crill, a former senior curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, wrote in an email. "In a confusing world of Wikipedia and other random bits of information, this could become the first point of inquiry for people wanting to know more about specific aspects of Indian art and culture." Geopolitical boundaries have, of course, shifted over the centuries, so the encyclopedia embraces not only the art history of India but also that of the entire subcontinent.

The articles are specifically written in a straightforward and easy-to-understand style, something that has been lacking, said Anirudh V. Kanisetti, an editor of the encyclopedia and author of "Lords of the Deccan: Southern India From the Chalukyas to the Cholas."

"I'm convinced that South Asia needs more

accessible history writing in the public domain," he wrote in an email. Compared with Britain or the United States, India's history, he wrote, tends to be "much denser and more academic," noting that young people curious about their past "need materials that bring out its complexity" in an intelligent but relatable way.

For now, the encyclopedia will be in English, but ultimately it will be in regional languages as well. The project will also focus on translating historical texts from local languages into English for a wider audience to appreciate. Deepanjana Klein, Christie's international head for contemporary Indian & Southeast



Asian art, used as an example historical art from the state of Kerala that "is so rich but a lot of the texts are in Malayali, which is not accessible to a lot of us."

Ms. Klein added that the encyclopedia, which hopes to add about 1,500 entries a year, could become a critical resource for young collectors who want to learn more about how art developed across the subcontinent. "The art market is very strong for South Asia and it is only getting bigger," she said. "When people are spending \$500,000 and above, one is also thinking, 'OK, what am I spending this on? I need to have a little more understanding of what I am getting involved with.'"

Ms. Bulchandani agreed, saying that the encyclopedia will add to the "connoisseurship and scholarship" not only among more seasoned collectors but also for newer ones who have a different take on collecting.

"I was talking about this project with younger collectors," she said. "They don't go to libraries. They aren't buying books. They are not collecting stuff the way our generation did. Everything for them is digital." This encyclopedia, she said, "is a groundbreaker."

The Encyclopedia of Indian Art, arriving online next month, aims to be comprehensive and yet accessible to experts and students of all kinds.

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



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

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

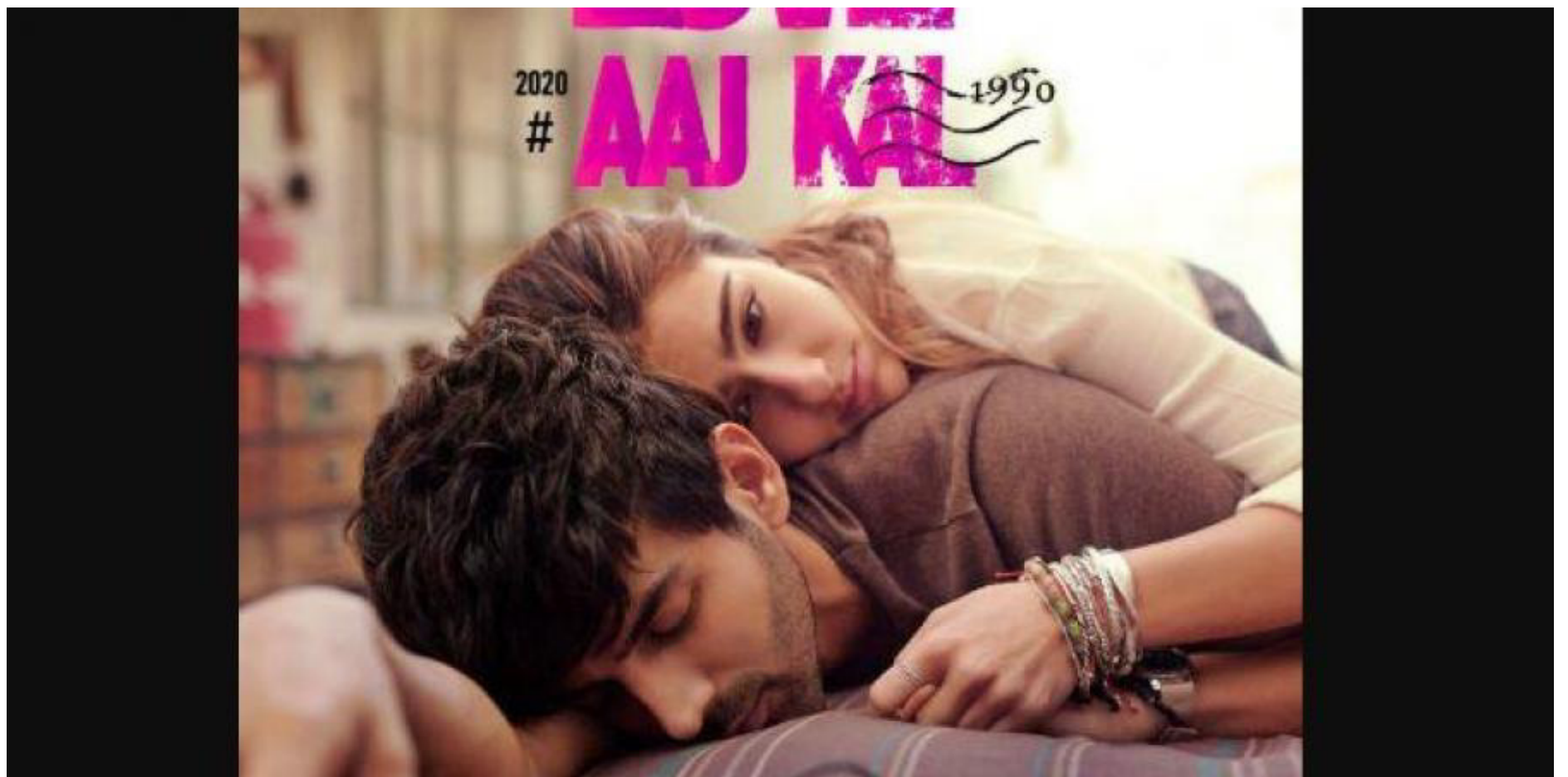
Transition services with the help of a female astronaut where dead people are recycled for rebirth. "Cargo" will be screened under the Global section of the film festival which will run from March 13 to 21.

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

films to be there. And I feel blessed for receiving so much applause not just from the country but across the world. People have loved Chhapaak, they have embraced it with open arms and now 'Cargo' being selected

at this big a platform, I feel really fortunate," the actor said in a statement. "Cargo", which had its India premiere at the 2019 MAMI Film Festival under the spotlight section, is produced by Arati, Navin Shetty, Shlok Sharma and Anurag Kashyap.

First look of Imtiaz Ali's Love Aaj Kal two released



Kartik Aryan and Sara Ali Khan are the new romantic pair in Imtiaz Ali's Love Aaj Kal. Yes, the film's titled just that, not Love Aaj

Kal 2 or Aaj Kal. In a poster, we get a glimpse of their characters, Veer and Zoe, nodding off on top of each other. The poster also re-

veals the film's timeline, which will run from 1990 to 2020. "Meet Veer and Zoe, captured in their element. It's in these

simple, candid moments that love plays peekaboo, right? Love Aaj Kal," Imtiaz wrote. "Meet Veer and Zoe. Come get wound up

in our whirlwind wonderland Love Aaj Kal trailer out tomorrow," Sara added. The new Love Aaj Kal was shot in

Himachal Pradesh, Mumbai, and Rajasthan. The sequel also stars Randeep Hooda. The film is slated for Valentine's Day release.

No proof to link Netflix's '13 Reasons Why' to high US suicide rates: Study

NEW YORK(KCN): Contrary to the findings of a 2019 study that associated the Netflix series "13 Reasons Why" with an increase in monthly suicide rates among youth after the show's release, a new analysis finds no evidence to draw such a link.

The reanalysis, published in the journal PLOS ONE, revealed that after controlling for the dramatic increase in adolescent suicide in recent years, the show's release had no clear effect.

"Our reanalysis casts

considerable doubt on the show having an effect on boys," said study author Dan Romer and research director of the Annenberg Public Policy Centre (APPC) from the University of Pennsylvania in the US. The reanalysis found that the increase in the suicide rate for boys observed in the original study by Jeffrey Bridge and colleagues for three months after the series' release was no longer evident after controlling for the ongoing trend in adolescent suicide.

In addition, the increase seen during the first month of the release began the month prior to the release, making it difficult to attribute the rise to the show. The reanalysis found no effects in the subsequent months of that year.

The original time-series analysis of suicide rates found an additional 195 suicide deaths among boys ages 10 to 17 during the nine months following the series' release, on March 31, 2017, but did not find a similar result among adoles-

cent girls. Romer said he questioned that finding for two reasons: "First, contagion would be expected to be stronger for girls than boys because this show focuses on the suicide of a high school girl. Second, the prior analysis didn't take into account strong secular trends in suicide, especially in boys from 2016-2017."

When the first season of the Netflix show appeared in 2017, it created widespread concern that its graphic portrayal of a teenage girl's suicide

would lead to imitation among vulnerable young people, especially adolescent girls. The first such study found evidence of a jump in suicides among boys ages 10 to 17 in the three months following the show's release, but no effect for girls.

Romer said that analysis relied on a forecasting method to project the likely trend in suicide for 2017. But that forecast failed to anticipate the actual trend. A second study by different researchers, published in JAMA

Psychiatry had a similar problem, Romer said. That study found an effect in boys and girls 10 to 19 years old in the three months following the series' release. But it similarly failed to control for the secular trend in suicide, again making it difficult to separate the effects of the show from the trend. APPC's reanalysis did find a modest rise in the suicide rate among adolescent girls during the first month following the release of "13 Reasons Why," but it was not statistically reliable, the researchers said.

To
Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India
The Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Kerala and
Tamil Nadu And Hon'ble Members of Parli-
ament and political leaders

Hon'ble Sir,

Sub: The risk of the failure of the Mullaperiyar dam and the total wiping out of the Districts of Cochin, Alleppey, Kottayam and the loss of lives of not less than 60 lakhs of common citizens of this country is real and imminent, and the on-going litigation in the Supreme Court where I appear for the common citizens is all certain to be a futile exercise.

1. I address this letter inviting your excellency's immediate personal attention because there could be few issues which deserve your attention than the instant one, which I am afraid to say has received none.
2. The Mullaperiyar dam which is made of limestone and surkhi was commissioned in the year 1895. It was meant to last for 50 years. However, today, it remains not yet decommissioned, even after 127 years of its construction, posing the risk of its imminent failure. I consciously used the word imminent because a dam which is made of limestone and surkhi at a time when dam technology was at its infancy, certainly cannot be considered to be safe. Mullaperiyar falls under seismic zone-III and, therefore, is not immune from earthquakes. The Mullaperiyar dam even finds its place in the list of endangered dams prepared by international bodies such as the United Nations University.
3. Anywhere else in the world if the safety of a dam is under doubt, which certainly is the case with Mullaperiyar, a new dam would be constructed and the old dam would be decommissioned. However, in the case of the Mullaperiyar, even that is not required, because as suggested by our 'Metro man', E Sreedharan, at minimal cost a tunnel could be dug at the level of 50ft from the floor of the dam to draw water from the Mullaperiyar dam to the Vaigai basin in Tamil Nadu. In other words, to avoid the risk involved with storing huge quantity of water at the Periyar reservoir at 2800 ft from sea level, by constructing a tunnel at the bottom of the dam, the water could be stored at the reservoir at 100 ft from seal level. There is no difficulty to augment the storage capacity of the Vaigai dam. This is the simplest and most inexpensive solution, and there is no rationale or reason to oppose the same.
4. As aforesaid, the other alternative is to construct a new dam downstream, in Kerala, which may cost maybe 1500 crores which the Government of Kerala is more than willing to spend. However, Tamil Nadu outrightly rejected the same as recorded by the Supreme Court.
5. In short, Tamil Nadu is neither willing to construct a tunnel which will help them to draw more volume of water from the Periyar reservoir and store it at the base in the Vaigai dam, utilize it for agriculture or if at all needed, allow the water into flow into the Vaigai river, nor to allow Kerala to construct a new dam to prevent the catastrophe in case the Mullaperiyar fails.
6. Two things are infinite, said Albert Einstein, the stupidity of humans and the infinity of the universe. And the latter, Einstein said he is not sure of. It appears that the sole basis of the stubbornness of Tamil Nadu is the judgment of a 5-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court in State of Tamil Nadu v. State of Kerala, 2014.
7. In the said case the principal issue framed was whether the structural safety which the Kerala Government raised could even be allowed to be raised, it being barred by the principle of res judicata. Res judicata is a fundamental principle of law evolved by Roman lawyers, particularly, Ulpian, who lived in the 1st century AD. The core of the principle is that to avoid multiplicity of litigation and ensure finality of judicial decisions, even erroneous decisions are to be given full effect. For instance, a

Court of final appeal, in a case between A and B holds that $1+1=0$, that decision is to be treated as truth, though ex facie erroneous. Applying this principle, if a Court finds an innocent man guilty of murder and orders him to be hanged, he will be hanged.

8. Res judicata is a principle of public policy for the larger public good and also to avoid the evil consequence of parties being able to re-agitate an issue which was finally adjudicated. This principle is primarily applicable to 'actions in personam' and to 'real actions' with certain exceptions. It can have no application in a situation as the instant one involving the lives of millions of people. For the doctrine of res judicata to be applied, one ought to be party to the legal proceedings. The millions of common citizens in Kerala who may perish if the dam were to collapse were not parties to the Mullaperiyar case. Further, for the doctrine to apply, the cause of action ought to be the same. The safety and vulnerability of dam is a continuing cause of action. Therefore, res judicata can have no application.
9. A 3-judge bench of the Supreme Court in 2006 in the Mullaperiyar Environment Protection Forum case, based on the report of a Committee formed by the Court came to the conclusion that the dam was structurally safe and allowed the water level to be raised to 142 ft from 136 ft, which was what Kerala is willing to permit. The Court arrived at the said finding primarily based on three factors. Namely, (a) that the Idukki dam despite the "copious rain" is not filled to its full capacity, that against 70.500 TMC it was only filled to the extend of 57.365 TMC, (b) that the recent earthquakes that the reservoir area had experienced had caused no damage to the dam, and that (c) in the event of the Mullaperiyar dam giving away, the flood waters will flow to the Idukki reservoir and that it has the capacity to contain the extra inflow.
10. It is shocking that the 3-judge bench of the Supreme Court came to the conclusion that the Mullaperiyar dam is safe and that in the worst scenario of the dam bursting, the flood waters will flow downstream into the Idukki reservoir and that the Idukki reservoir has the ability to contain the flood waters without any study ever having been conducted as to the what direction the flood waters would flow. The Mullaperiyar dam is situated at 840 meters from sea level. It flows downstream towards and the west and takes a turn towards the north-west after a distance of 2.8 kms because of a small hill which is at an elevation of 842 meters. Just two meters above the natural ground level (NGL). However, in the event of the collapse of the dam huge volumes of water wiping out everything in its path will be forced to gush down at great speed towards the west, because there are huge mountains on the north and the south sides. For water which is gushing down in such quantity and with such immense force, the two-meter elevation will be of no consequence. In its westward flow from a height of 789 meters it will with unthinkable force fall to a depth of 160 meters from sea level. That would mean a waterfall from the ridge of the western ghats with a height of 629 meters, i.e., 2064 ft. To compare, 57 meters, i.e., 188 ft is the height of the Niagara Waterfalls.
11. The Supreme Court in 2006 held that in the event of the dam breaking the flood waters will flow to the downstream Idukki reservoir located downstream at a distance of 25 km. How insensitive and casual the Court has been is obvious from the fact that it is not bothered in the least about the ten thousand people living on the banks of river Periyar who will be washed away in the event of the dam giving away. Our political executive maybe corrupt and inefficient. But they can be criticised and made to see reason. Our courts on the other hand consider any form of dissent as contempt. They speak of freedom of speech and expression on one side and use the law of contempt, which belongs to the

dark ages and which has fallen out of practice in most countries except India and Pakistan, to suppress any dissent, nay, much needed constructive criticism.

12. The constitution bench of 5-judges in 2014 on a total misconception of the doctrine of res judicata held that the judgment of the Court of 2006 "operates as res judicata in respect of the issue of safety of the dam" and, therefore, it is not open for Kerala to question the safety of the dam any longer. It pronounced a judgment that the dam is safe because a 3-judge bench held so in 2006 and held that it cannot be re-agitated. It held "... and the structural safety of the Mullaperiyar have been finally decided by the judgment of this Court dated 27.2.2006 and Kerala is estopped from raising or re-agitating these issues in the present suit." The meaning of res judicata is not what the learned judges have understood it to be. Even between the same parties, a difference in the cause of action will give a distinct right for action. Res judicata can apply only if the parties in previous case and the present are the same and the cause of action is the same, and the cause of action has been fully adjudicated on merits. The Governments cannot be said to represent the individual citizens whose lives are at risk. Further, res judicata is in the realm of procedure or evidence, a matter of public policy, for the welfare of the people at large. There is no estoppel (res judicata) against fundamental rights. There is no res judicata or estoppel against statute. Yet, the Supreme Court, erroneously, declared unconstitutional, the amendment that Kerala brought to the Water Conservation Act on the ground that it is hit by res judicata.
13. There is a fundamental difference between the decision of a Court and an Act of Parliament. The decision of a Court binds only and only the parties before it and not the public large, because it is against the principles of natural justice to bind one to a decision where he is not a party. On the contrary, a law enacted by the Parliament binds every citizen, because it is presumed to have received the consent of the citizens because all citizens are present in the Parliament through their representatives. Unfortunately, in India, the supremacy of the Parliament has been undermined by judicial decisions which hold that the ultimate power is vested in the Court.
14. The instant is a classic example of the Courts erring so unthinkably on issues of life and death, influenced by hyper technical considerations which the political executive, who is responsible to the electorate cannot remain a mute spectator. The Court cannot be entirely blamed for committing errors like the instant one. We had a period of weak political executive due to coalition governments. With the executive becoming weak, certain powerful lobbies in Delhi began to increasingly govern the country through so-called "PILS". Matters of governance of great import were allowed to be brought to court and decided by the Courts. The Mullaperiyar is a tragic example of the said trend. The only difference is that the Mullaperiyar dam case is an issue concerning life and death in its most literal sense. It is only providence that the dam did not collapse during the unprecedented floods of 2018. It should have been an eye-opener for the Governments and the Courts that the issue is not about res judicata, which does not apply here at all! The issue is what is the fallout in the event of the dam breaking.
15. As I have indicated above, if the dam breaks, which is a certainty, only the date is unpredictable, it can happen at any moment, today or tomorrow, what is its consequence? The Mullaperiyar dam is around one-third of the Idukki dam in terms of storage capacity, and thus is not a very small dam. In the event of its collapse, the waters will flow towards the west and fall from the mountain ridge to the valleys from a height of more than half a kilometer. The impact will be unimaginable.

16. Shri Roy George, who was an engineer of the KSEB has conducted an extensive study of the likely flow of the water in the event of the breaking of the dam. The Governmental agencies are yet to conduct any study. The study which is conducted indicates that the water from the Periyar Reservoir will flow downstream towards the west and will fall to the valleys from a point near to Manjumalla to Korithodu in Kottayam District, wiping out everything in its path. Kanjirapally, Mundakayam, Erumelli, Pala, Thiruvalla, Alapuzha, all will be washed away. Due to the topography, the flood waters will inundate the entire districts of Ernakulam, Kottayam and Alleppey. Not less than 60 lakh people of this country will perish. A copy of the findings of the study conducted by Shri Roy George is enclosed.

17. In spite of the unthinkable catastrophe that awaits, no serious concern is paid by the Governments and the Court. So far as the Courts are concerned it is all about the finality of its judgments and the duty to obey the judgments of larger benches. The need of the hour is to reduce and maintain the water level at 120 ft instead of the 142 ft which is permitted today, no matter what the economic costs to Tamil Nadu. Because nothing is more precious than the lives of the people. The Supreme Court took up the issue in 2018 and ordered the constitution of committees by central and state governments, separately, under the Disaster Management Act. The common man has absolutely no faith in these "Committees", especially committees lead by retired judges of the Supreme Court, for the very simple reason that they are not experts in these highly technical issues. For the people of Kerala their opinion is of little solace.

18. The immediate reason why I am addressing your Excellency is that instead of realizing that emergent measures are needed and that in the event of the dam collapsing, no committee, no number of hearings, no measure under the Disaster Management Act can work, the Court is now considering entrusting the functions of the authorities under the Dam Safety Act, 2021, to the Supervisory Committee constituted in terms of the 2006 judgment till the National Dam Safety Authority under the 2021 Act is established. This is no solution. Even the 5-judge bench of the Supreme Court refused to re-open the issue of the safety of the Dam on the ground that the 2006 judgment is res judicata on that aspect. For that reason alone, the 5-judge bench rejected Kerala's plea to limit the water level to 136 ft, so too, Kerala's offer to construct a new dam at its expense.
19. What I apprehend is a scenario which is extremely horrific. The entire population of the districts of Ernakulam (cochin), Kottayam and Alleppey, being wiped out, me and my family included. In spite of the gravity of the situation, there is hardly any seriousness or sense of urgency. The solutions are simple. Bring down the water level to less than 120 ft as an emergency measure. And as a long-term solution, either construct a new dam which the Kerala government had offered to do, which for reasons unfathomable, Tamil Nadu refused. Or simpler still, to construct a tunnel at 50 ft or so, from the bottom of the dam to draw water to keep the Periyar reservoir level below 120 ft at all times, which will substantially lower the risk of a dam collapse. All that is to be done is augment the capacity of the Vaigai dam at the base.
20. Sir, as the Prime Minister of the country your good-self possess enormous power and influence. If your good self could convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu that can bring a solution to this controversy, and the long-drawn nightmare of the people of Kerala can be put to rest, effortlessly.

With most respectful regards,

Yours Sincerely,

MATHEWS J. NEDUMPARA

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Black boxes from China Eastern crash sent to US for analysis



BEIJING: Both black boxes from a passenger plane crash in southern China last month that killed 132 people are being analyzed by US experts at a government lab in Washington, DC.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday it is helping its Chinese counterparts download information from the flight data recorder.

The American agency said last week it was doing

the same for the cockpit voice recorder. Both may have been damaged by the impact of the crash.

If the information on them can be recovered, it could shed light on why the China Eastern Boeing 737-800 went into a sudden nosedive and slammed into the ground in a mountainous area on March 21.

The crash left a 20-metre-(65-foot)-deep crater in a

mountainside, shattered the plane and set off a fire in the surrounding forest.

More than 49,000 pieces of plane debris were found. It took two days to find the cockpit voice recorder and six days for the flight data recorder, which was buried 1.5 meters (5 feet) underground.

US accident investigators arrived in China last weekend to assist the investigation by the Civil Aviation Administration of China. The

NTSB team is taking part because the plane was manufactured in the United States.

Chinese officials have said a preliminary investigation report would be completed within 30 days of the crash.

Flight MU5735 with 123 passengers and nine crew members was headed from the city of Kunming in southwestern China to Guangzhou, a provincial capital and export manufacturing hub near Hong Kong in the southeast.

More Western sanctions to hit Russia after Bucha killings

BRUSSELS: The United States, United Kingdom and the European Union were set Wednesday to impose new punishing sanctions targeting Russia, including a ban on all new investment in the country, after evidence of torture and killings emerged in recent days

tions including a ban on coal imports that could be adopted as soon as Wednesday once unanimously approved by the 27-nation bloc's ambassadors.

The United States and Western allies plan to impose a ban on all new investment in

getting Russia's lucrative energy industry over its war in Ukraine.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the ban is worth four billion euros (\$4.4 billion) per year and that the EU has already started working on ad-

think that measures on oil, and even gas, will also be needed, sooner or later."

The new package of measures proposed by the commission also includes sanctions on more individuals and four key Russian banks, among them VTB, the second-largest Russian bank. The bloc also would ban Russian vessels and Russian-operated vessels from EU ports.

Further, targeted export bans, worth 10 billion euros, in sectors covering quantum computers, advanced semiconductors, sensitive machinery and transportation equipment also were proposed.

"I appreciate the strengthening of the 5th EU sanctions package: bans on Russian coal, vessels accessing EU ports, and road transport operators," Ukraine Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba wrote on Twitter.

"But it will take a gas/oil embargo and de-SWIFTing of all Russian banks to stop Putin. Difficult times require difficult decisions." Western allies have already cut out several Russian banks of the SWIFT financial messaging system, which daily moves countless billions of dollars around more than 11,000 banks and other financial institutions around the world



from a town outside of Kyiv.

The Associated Press has seen dozens of dead bodies around the town of Bucha while Ukrainian officials have said the bodies of at least 410 civilians have been found in towns around the Ukrainian capital city that were recaptured from Russian forces. Videos and images of bodies have unleashed a wave of indignation among Western allies, who have drawn up new sanctions as a response.

After several European countries announced the expulsion of Russian diplomats, the European Commission proposed a fifth package of sanc-

Russia. Among the other measures being taken against Russia are greater sanctions on its financial institutions and state-owned enterprises, and sanctions on government officials and their family members, according to White House press secretary Jen Psaki. Separately, the Treasury Department moved Tuesday to block any Russian government debt payments with US dollars from accounts at US financial institutions, making it harder for Russia to meet its financial obligations.

The European Commission's proposed ban on coal imports would be the first EU sanctions tar-

ditional sanctions, including on oil imports. She didn't mention natural gas, with consensus among the 27 EU countries on targeting the fuel used to generate electricity and heat homes difficult to secure amid opposition from gas-dependent members like Germany, the bloc's largest economy. But European Council President Charles Michel said the bloc should keep up the pressure on the Kremlin, suggesting that an embargo on gas imports should also be required at some point in the future.

"The new package includes a ban on coal imports," Michel said on Wednesday. "I

Amnesty International India chief Aakar Patel stopped from flying abroad over FCRA case

NEW DELHI: Amnesty International India chief Aakar Patel was on Wednesday stopped from leaving the country at the Bengaluru international airport in the wake of a CBI lookout circular (LOC) issued on December 31 last year in an FCRA case, after which he moved a special court in Delhi challenging it.

The court has sought a response from the CBI by Thursday when it will again hear the plea by Patel who claimed that the action was taken despite an order by a Gujarat court permitting him to travel to the US.

According to agency sources, the LOC was issued on the basis of a charge sheet filed by the CBI in a special CBI court in Delhi on December 31, 2021 for the alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

Earlier in the day, Patel said that when he went to the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru on Wednesday morning to catch a flight to Boston, Immigration officials stopped him citing a lookout circular by the CBI.

He claimed that he was not aware why the circular had been issued against him and said that he wanted to fly to the US to deliver lectures in three universities.

CBI sources said the look out circular was issued against him on the basis of its charge sheet with a request to port authorities to "prevent him from leaving the country".

The charge sheet was filed by the agency in the special CBI court at Rouse Avenue against Patel and Amnesty International under Section 11 read with Sections 35 and 39 of the Act after a two-year probe into alleged violations, they said.

"I don't know why I am on the lookout circular. I did not know about it that I could not fly. I missed my flight and now I am back home. They (Immigration officials) did not let me go," Patel told PTI.

He said that there was a case filed against him by a BJP MLA in Surat for which his passport had been impounded.

"The court released my passport. I got my visa. I went to the airport. I was stopped at Immigration. I was told that I am on a lookout circular, that's the word that was used, from the CBI for the case that they had filed against the Amnesty in which I have neither been arrested nor I am on bail," the Amnesty International India chief said.

The CBI had raided the human rights watchdog's offices in Bengaluru and New Delhi in November 2019.

In 2018, the Enforcement Directorate had raided the Amnesty International India office in connection with a foreign exchange contravention case.

Back then, the organisation had alleged harassment and had claimed that it stands in full compliance with Indian and international law. "Last time they (CBI) had called me was 14 months ago and I went there," Patel added. Patel later approached a special court after which Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pawan

Kumar issued notice to the probe agency and sought its reply by Thursday when the court will hear the matter further.

He has sought the court's permission to visit the USA to take up his foreign assignment and lecture series organised by various universities till May 30.

The case was registered against Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd (AIPL), Indians For Amnesty International Trust (IAIT), Amnesty



International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT), Amnesty International South Asia Foundation (AISAF) and others in November 2019.

It was alleged that the provision of the FCRA and IPC were contravened by the aforesaid entities by receiving foreign contributions from Amnesty International UK through AIPL even though prior registration or permissions were denied to AIIFT and other trusts under FCRA, the officials said.

According to a complaint filed by the Home Ministry to the CBI, AIPL is a 'for-profit' company.

It was observed that London-based Amnesty International worked through four companies, which have been named by the CBI in the case. It is alleged that a payment of Rs 10 crore, classified as Foreign Direct Investment, was remitted to Amnesty India from the London office without taking the home ministry's approval.

Another Rs 26 crore has been remitted to Amnesty India, "primarily from the UK based entities".

"All such receipts have subsequently been expended on Amnesty's NGO activities in India, in violation of FCRA".

It alleged that Amnesty made several attempts to obtain prior permission or registration under FCRA, failing which, it used "commercial methods to evade FCRA".

It further alleged that Amnesty India received funds for purposes like 'service contract', 'advance income' and FDI through the automatic route.

Out of the Rs 36 crore received, Rs 10 crore were remitted as FDI, Rs 26 crore as payment for consultancy services, it claimed.

The UK-based Amnesty International invested Rs 10 crore to AIPL on September 24, 2015. The amount was classified as 'compulsory convertible debenture' but was shown in Income Tax returns as "long-term borrowing". While forwarding the complaint, the home ministry had directed the CBI to rope in Income Tax and Enforcement Directorate in case violations of relevant acts were found during the investigation.

Berhampur: Record haul of illegal wildlife items, one held

BERHAMPUR: In a major haul, sleuths of Berhampur forest division seized record quantity of illegal wildlife items including two leopard hides and the skin of a spotted deer from a



house in Titigaon village under Surangi panchayat of Patrapur block here on Tuesday. On a tip off, a raid was conducted at the house of one Balam Sahu (32) in Titigaon village under Samantiapalli range. During search, two leopard hides, skin of a spotted deer, two deer antlers, 38 porcupine quills, seven wild boar teeth, a pangolin scale, five leopard teeth, a leopard claw, hoof of mouse deer, leopard bone and tissue were recovered from the house, assistant conservator of forest (ACF) Ashok Kumar

Behera said. Besides, a tractor-laden with timber planks of different sizes was also seized.

Balam had stored the wildlife items since some time and was searching for a buyer. The raid was carried out by Samantiapalli forester Rajat Kumar Mishra and his team along with Patrapur tehsildar Amit Kumar Nayak. Divisional forest officer (DFO) of Berhampur Amlan Nayak said it is one the largest single seizure of wildlife items in the last one decade in the division. Balam was arrested and produced in court after interrogation. Search is underway at his house. The DFO confirmed that most of the seized wildlife items are old but one of hides is fresh. "We will appeal in the court to take Balam on remand for further investigation," Nayak added. On the other hand, Balam pleaded innocence and said the items seized from his house were collected from the forest during a period of five years. Sources in the Forest department said investigation is underway to ascertain if Balam is part of any organised wildlife smuggling racket. Poaching of leopards, a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, has increased in the State. At least 60 leopard hides have been seized by the enforcement wings of police and Forest department in the last two years.

Man Arrested For sexual assaulting, a minor girl in Barbil

Barbil (KCN): A 8-year-old girl was allegedly absconded and did sexual assault by a 23 years youth SaniaChampia alias Teru of Bhusugaon under Barbil police station of Keonjhar district on Sunday dated 3rd April ,evening, said police here on Tuesday. The Barbil Police



apprehended the accused at Dorby on date 5th April under Bolani police station of the district. The accused has kidnapped the girl and then committed the heinous crime. "The accused has been charged under .Barbil ps case no 61/22 u/s 366/376(AB)/506IPC/6 POCSO Act and forwarded to the court special POSCO court, Keonjhar

Bhubaneswar: Trio steals whole ATM as police sleep

BHUBANESWAR: Three masked men stole a multi-utility vehicle, uprooted an State Bank of India ATM and then vanished into thin air without evening breaking a sweat in the city late on Monday night. The local police, obviously, had no clue whatsoever about the theft. The automated teller machine the thieves decamped with carried over Rs 20 lakh in cash. The target was an offsite ATM in Lingipur Housing Board Colony area under Dhauli police limits. The miscreants stole a multi-utility vehicle of MS Nursery in Lingipur area before reaching the ATM kiosk. They damaged the CCTV cameras, cut off power supply in the kiosk and dislodged the ATM. The miscreants then loaded the ATM on the stolen vehicle and headed to Daya river bed. They reportedly broke open the ATM, took out the cash, abandoned the stolen vehicle and fled the spot, with the local police virtually caught napping. Police suspect at least three persons were involved in the crime and they possibly

used iron rods to remove the machine. However, the cops have no clue about where they went from Daya river after breaking open the teller machine. CCTV footage of the incident which shows three persons entering the kiosk at about 2.22 am went viral on social media. In the clips, three persons with their faces covered could be seen reaching the CCTV cameras to damage them. Police seized the stolen vehicle and the ATM from the spot. A red-faced Commissionerate Police engaged Special Squad, Property Offence, Prevention and Detection (POPD) and Cyber Crime Cell officers to identify and nab the culprits behind the loot. Police claim the alarm system of the bank was not operational and they will inform appropriate authorities about the matter. Besides, there was no security guard deployed at the ATM kiosk. "A case has been registered and we are dealing with the matter with all seriousness," said Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash.

Farewell to retired teacher Sj.Dharanidhar Behera



Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : Cuttack Sadar Jashapara GP Koshida Bhikari Charan UP School senior teacher Dharanidhar Behera's farewell day ceremony meeting held in the school periphery. In this meeting all delivered speech the greatness of Ideal teacher Sj. Dharanidhar Behera and there

teaching style, punctuality etc, with presence of mistresses Lihita Swain, Retired Headmistresses Minakhi Sahoo, Kamarapada UP school Headmistresses Gitarani Sahoo, Paikasahi UP school Headmistresses Kalpana Tripathy, Assistant teacher Suasanta Nayak, Kelikadamba High School teacher

Jagannath Mahali, Dharina High School teacher Durga Murmu, Bhimasen Rout, Bhikari Charan UP School mistress Soubhagini Panigrahi, Rani Marandi, Swarnalata Parija. All the students, village team, Kanhu Charan Behera, Subodh Ray were present and celebrated.

Manas was tortured after he failed to recover file from Sarmistha's computer: CB

BHUBANESWAR: The accused in cameraman Manas Swain murder case tortured him after he report-

Niranjan Sethi also visited Sarmistha's office on February 7 and assaulted the cameraman.

Jhuna, Niranjan and Ranjan Nayak on five-day remand starting March 29. Niranjan and Ranjan were sent to judicial custody on Sunday after the end of their police remand.



edly failed to recover a file from his former employer Sarmistha Rout's computer, the Crime Branch investigation has revealed. Manas had visited Palashpur village in Bhadrak district on February 6 to record videos of a wedding. He was going to Digachhia on a two-wheeler with one of his associates and a local on February 7 morning when five accused - Sarmistha, Jhuna Bhoi, Ranjan Nayak, Bhagyadhar Nayak and Bibek Nayak waylaid him. Manas, a native of Nayagarh district, told them that he can recover a deleted file from Sarmistha's computer. They took the cameraman to the office of Sarmistha, editor of Bhubaneswar based web channel Sampurna, near Sundarpada area of the City. He and Ranjan attempted to recover the file but failed. They then asked Manas to hand them over a memory chip having the same content which was deleted from Sarmistha's computer. Retired Odisha Information Service (OIS) officer

He was later taken to Dayal Ashram, a shelter home for elderly persons in the City run by Sarmistha, and was brutally thrashed. The accused found him dead on February 8 morning. The Crime Branch officers said Manas was in possession of a memory chip having some 'valuable' content related to the accused. So far, the agency's officers have found no trace of the missing memory card. "We have not recovered any device of Manas. He was not staying in any particular location in Bhubaneswar and he kept on changing his places of stay for which it is a difficult task to recover any of his device. However, efforts are still on to trace his devices," said a senior Crime Branch officer. Meanwhile, Chandbali JMFC court on Sunday allowed the agency to take Sarmistha and her associate Jhuna on three-day police remand for further questioning them in connection with the case. The agency had earlier taken Sarmistha,

Three temples looted in Kendrapara, Rs 10 lakh worth ornaments stolen

KENDRAPARA: In a midnight heist, miscreants struck three temples within Aul police

tion boxes in three shrines. The burglary came to notice when the servitors reopened

pears to be handiwork of thieves who are experts in carrying out thefts in religious places.



limits in Kendrapara district and decamped with gold and silver ornaments and other articles of the deities worth around Rs 10 lakh on Monday. The robbery took place in Ram temple at Juania, Krishna temple at Gobindapur and Mangala temple at Baramatia. As per reports, the thieves also stole cash by breaking the dona-

the temples for daily rituals on Tuesday morning and found ornaments and other belongings of the deities missing. After FIRs were filed, police launched an investigation. Aul IIC Dilip Sahoo said police has formed a special team to investigate the thefts and video footage of nearby areas are being examined for vital clues. "It ap-

Efforts are on to nab the accused. Temple priests and locals do not rule out 'insider' involvement," he said. On February 19, a similar heist took place in Lakshmi Varaha Jew temple in Aul where Ashtadhatu idol of Radha-Krishna and other brass idols were stolen from the sanctum sanctorum.

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SEBI comes out with new guidelines for KYC Registration Agencies

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday issued fresh guidelines for KYC Registration Agencies

clients who have completed KYC using non-Aadhaar OVD will be validated only upon receiving the Aadhaar

validation, KRAs will validate details pertaining to Aadhaar through Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) au-

for validation. On successful completion of KYC validation, Sebi said that a unique client identifier called KRA



(KRAs) whereby such agencies will have to independently validate KYC records of all clients from July 1.

The move comes after Sebi, in January, notified new norms to make KRAs responsible for carrying out independent validation of the KYC records uploaded onto their system by Registered Intermediaries (RIs).

Under the notified rules, such agencies will have to maintain an audit trail of the upload/modification/download with respect to KYC records of clients.

In a circular, Sebi said KRAs will independently validate records of those clients (existing as well as new) whose KYC has been completed using Aadhaar as an Officially Valid Document (OVD).

The records of those

number.

"The validation of all KYC records (new and existing) shall commence from July 1, 2022," the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said.

According to the regulator, clients whose KYC records are not found to be valid by KRA after the validation process will be allowed to transact in securities market only after their KYC is validated.

The regulator has put in place the additional guidelines on KRAs in order to implement the regulations effectively.

KRAs will continue to act as repository of KYC data in the securities market and will be responsible for storing, safeguarding and retrieving the KYC documents.

During the process of

authentication, PAN using the Income Tax database and mobile number and e-mail ID using one-time password validation. This is applicable only in cases where mobile number and e-mail ID provided by client are not seeded with Aadhaar.

The KRAs will develop systems/mechanism, in consultation with Sebi and in co-ordination with each other. It will follow uniform internal guidelines detailing aspects of identification of KYC attributes and procedures for KYC validation.

The systems of RIs and the KRAs will be integrated to facilitate seamless movement of KYC documents. KRAs will promptly inform the respective RIs of deficiency/inadequacy in client's KYC documents, if any, that is observed

identifier will be assigned by KRA to the client.

Such a KRA identifier may be used by the client for opening of account with any other intermediary, without repeating the KYC process.

The KYC records of new clients, who have used Aadhaar as an officially valid document, will be validated within two days of receipt of KYC records by KRAs.

The records of all existing clients will be validated within a period of 180 days from July 1.

KRA will have to intimate about the KRA identifier to the client within two working days of receipt of KYC records.

This has to be done by post or e-mail, and the KRA concerned will have to maintain the proof of dispatch.

Center Clears Capital Ring Road

New Delhi: Union Minister for Road



Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has approved three key proposals for Bhubaneswar. These are a Flyover

foot-over bridges near Hotel Crown and Satsang Vihar. Besides, the Capital Region Ring Road proposal has also

received the Union Minister's nod, said Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi. Ms. Sarangi met Mr. Gadkari in Delhi on Wednesday and presented the proposals before him. Following the meeting, she informed that all the projects have been approved by the Minister.

to inform that as desired by the residents of my Constituency, I had been requesting for the approval of – Flyover at Cosmopolis Square; Two FOBs near Hotel Crown & Satsang Vihar; and Capital Region Ring Road. Grateful to Minister Nitin Gadkari, all are being allowed."

RBI's Monetary Policy Committee starts discussions on next bi-monthly policy

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India's rate-setting panel on Wednesday started discussions to firm up the next bi-monthly monetary policy amid expectations that it might retain status quo on interest rate but change its monetary policy stance amid rising inflation on account of geopolitical developments. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, is holding its first meeting in the current financial year.

The meeting will be on from April 6 to 8 and the outcome will be announced on April 8. In the last 10 meetings, the MPC left interest rate unchanged and also maintained an accommodative monetary policy stance. The repo rate or the short-term lending rate was last cut on May 22, 2020. Since then, the rate remains at a historic low of 4 per cent. In a report this week, State Bank of India (SBI) said the central bank may increase its inflation projections for fiscal 2022-23 considerably and also lower growth projections. It expects the RBI to continue with a pause on short-term lending rate (repo).

"Prolonged growth supportive stance may have created a signal extraction and coordination problem with administered rates being cut even as inflation has continued to tread up," SBI said in the report. According to the report, real rates have been negative for a persistent period and "the RBI may like to create a discordant note by emphasising inflation as a threat but at the same time emphasising it is fully seized of it!" Industry body PHD Chamber's President Pradeep Multani on Wednesday said the economy is still in the recovery process from the daunting impact caused by the coronavirus pandemic and that an accommodative policy stance at this juncture would be inevitable to strengthen the economic fundamentals.

"The recent geopolitical developments though stoke inflation, status quo of the policy rates will help the economy to cope up the impact of external shocks," he said.

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and surging oil prices are pushing the cost of commodities higher, resulting in rising inflationary trends. The government has mandated the central bank to keep inflation at 4 per cent, with an upper and lower tolerance level of 2 per cent.

After the February MPC meeting, the RBI had decided to hold its key lending rates steady at record low levels for the 10th straight meeting to support a durable recovery of the economy.

Car rams Russian Embassy gate in Romania, driver dead

Continued from page-1

expelled following a string of expulsions of Russian officials across the 27-nation European Union.

Romania's Foreign Ministry said the actions of 10 embassy workers, who have been declared persona non grata, "contravene the provisions of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relationships."

The incident comes days after Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed Romania's parliament Monday, when he labeled the slaying of civilians in the town of Bucha a "war crime" and called for tougher sanctions against Russia.

Before Zelenskyy's address, Romania's President of the Chamber of Deputies, Marcel Ciolacu, said that the "horrible images" that emerged after Russian troops withdrew from Bucha have "overwhelmed and revolted us all."

BrahMos deal with Philippines bilateral; will not be impacted by sanctions on Russia: Indian envoy

Continued from page-1

were queries on it and he had an interaction with Defence Secretary Delfin Negrillo Lorenzana over the issue.

"Yes, I did have an opportunity to interact with defence secretary Lorenzana and I clarified...there was obviously a query and we responded with the fact that there was no technical issue as far as we could understand and there was an inquiry underway and we will have that cleared out once the information is available," he said.

"There is definitely a degree of confidence in the system because of the fact that India uses it extensively," Kumaran said.

The incident had taken place on March 9 following which Pakistan had lodged a strong protest with India the next day.

On March 11, the Defence Ministry said the missile was fired accidentally and it landed in Pakistan.

Parliament passes bill to include Darlong as sub-tribe of Kuki in ST list of Tripura

Continued from page-1

government.

Saruta asserted that the Centre has focussed on the education of tribal children and increased the number of Eklavya Model Schools and enhanced the budgetary allocation for it. Members cutting across party lines supported the bill that amends the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

While supporting the bill, Phulo Devi Netam of the Congress said the government remembered Adivasis now as the assembly election in the state is approaching.

Manik Saha of the BJP said the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to the welfare of all and termed the bill "historic".

Santanu Sen of the Trinamool Congress said there are 427 tribal communities in the country, of which 130 major categories are from the Northeast.

He requested all members to support the bill as it will ensure the community gets the benefit of reservation.

M Mohamed Abdulla of the DMK, Mamta Mohanta of the BJD and Lingaiah Yadav of the TRS were among those who supported the bill.

Government forms advisory committee for Semicon India project

NEW DELHI: The government has formed an advisory committee to drive

cial statement said on Wednesday. The panel formed under the chair-

cessor from inception, and Arogyaswami Paulraj, who in-

structured, efficient, and strategic manner, and provide necessary guidance to the ISM executives.

It shall also provide insights and suggestions to develop a sustainable semiconductor and Display ecosystem in India," the statement said.

The committee is mandated to provide key inputs for building a resilient supply chain, promoting investments, financing mechanisms, global engagement, research and innovation, and IP generation for the

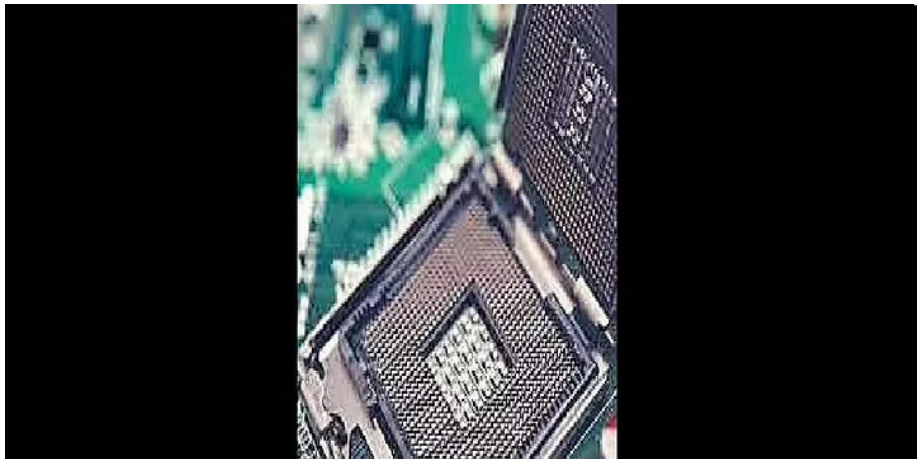
semiconductors and display ecosystem and enable an ecosystem to support startups and MSMEs.

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who will be vice-chairperson of the panel, said, "Partnership between the government, industry and academia to power the India semiconductor mission."

The other members of the panel include Niti Ayog member VK Saraswat, electronics and IT secretary, foreign secretary, expenditure

secretary, economic affairs secretary, DIPP secretary, deputy national security advisor.

The representatives from industry and academia include industry body Semi CEO Ajit Manocha, Pradeep Khosla, designer of India's first indigenously developed micro-processor 'Shakti' V Kamakoti, Credit Suisse Co-head of Asia Pacific Strategy and India Equity Strategist for Credit Suisse Neelkanth Mishra and HCL co-founder Ajai Chowdhry.



the Rs 72,000-crore project, Semicon India, to make the country a global leader in semiconductor manufacturing, design and innovation, an offi-

manship of electronics and telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw includes venture capitalist Vinod Dham, who led Intel's iconic Pentium micropro-

vested in MIMO wireless communication that is used in 4G technology. "The newly-formed Advisory Committee shall steer the objectives in a

DC vs LSG: Future captains Rahul and Rishabh engage in battle of wits as Stoinis, Warner set to join forces

MUMBAI: KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant, the two enormously gifted cricketers, earmarked as future India captains will be showcasing their tactical acumen when newcomers Lucknow Super Giants square off with Delhi Capitals in an IPL match on Thursday.

Rahul and Pant, both match-winners in their own rights even with the bat, will like to seize the initiative in these early rounds.

IPL is a great platform where a good exhibition of meticulous homework, informed decision making with a dash of punt at critical junctures will hold any leader in good stead.

India will be playing a lot of cricket in next few years and with national captain Rohit Sharma's



workload management is paramount, Rahul and Pant will both like to make a strong case for themselves going into the future.

And hence, the availability of the dashing David Warner for Capitals and the dependable Marcus Stoinis for LSG will certainly add to the depth of the playing XIs and bolster the competitive edge.

It is expected that Tim Seifert will make way for Warner in the Capitals line-up while all-rounder Stoinis, who was picked by Lucknow from the draft might replace one among Andrew Tye or Evin Lewis.

As of now, replacing Tye looks more imminent. Both teams have had issues with their bowling but Lucknow under Gautam Gambhir's mentorship, has managed pretty well.

The addition of Jason Holder has made them stronger and Delhi will be hoping that Warner gives them a rollicking start alongside mercurial Prithvi Shaw.

In case of LSG, skipper Rahul two good knocks against CSK and Sunrisers Hyderabad would like that Quinton de Kock also repeats his performance against CSK.

However it is LSG's bowling that needs to stop DC's batting firepower which will grow manifold in Warner's presence and skipper Pant and Shaw also waiting for their big knocks.

While Lalit Yadav is growing in confidence with each passing game, it is veteran batter Mandeep Singh, who is the weakest link in the batting line-up.

The way Mandeep backed towards leg-stump to deliveries from Lockie Ferguson and even Hardik Pandya, didn't make a pleasant sight. However with LSG's attack not having an express quick in absence of Mark Wood, Pant and coach Ricky Ponting might be tempted to give the former Punjab captain one more chance.

In case, he doesn't get it then the three available options are Kona Bharat, Sarfaraz Khan and Yash Dhull.

Sarfaraz was in great form during first-class season while Bharat did well for RCB last year in the few chances that he got.

In case Lucknow, Manish Pandey has looked horribly out of touch but Gambhir is known to back his players which could well save him from getting the axe.

Also there is no denying that LSG's bench strength when it comes to Indian batting back-up isn't great.

The two available players are Manan Vohra, who even after a decade in IPL, has failed to deliver and there is Uttar Pradesh white-ball captain Karan Sharma, who isn't exactly a finished product.

Teams (From) Lucknow Super Giants: KL Rahul (Captain), Manan Vohra, Evin Lewis, Manish Pandey, Quinton De Kock, Ravi Bishnoi, Dushmantha Chameera, Shahbaz Nadeem, Mohsin Khan, Mayank Yadav, Ankit Rajpoot, Avesh Khan, Andrew Tye, Marcus Stoinis, Kyle Mayers, Karan Sharma, Krishnappa Gowtham, Ayush Badoni, Deepak Hooda, Krunal Pandya, Jason Holder.

Delhi Capitals: Rishabh Pant (Captain), Ashwin Hebbar, David Warner, Mandeep Singh, Prithvi Shaw, Rovman Powell, Anrich Nortje, Chetan Sakariya, Khaleel Ahmed, Kuldeep Yadav, Lungi Ngidi, Mustafizur Rahman, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Lalit Yadav, Mitchell Marsh, Pravin Dubey, Ripal Patel, Sarfaraz Khan, Vicky Ostwal, Yash Dhull, KS Bharat and Tim Seifert.

Match starts at 7.30 pm.

Priyanka Devi strike hands India victory against Egypt

ZARQA (Jordan): Priyanka Devi scored the solitary goal as the Indian women's football team registered a 1-0 win over lower-ranked Egypt in the first friendly at the



Prince Mohammed Stadium here on Wednesday.

It was Priyanka's first-ever goal for the Blue Tigresses against 95th ranked Egypt. The first half began with the Indian side pressing hard to seize the initiative.

Captain Ashalata Devi tried to earn an early lead in the 18th minute via her shot from distance but

Anju, who latched on to the ball, missed the chance. Couple of minutes later, Manisha almost scored the first for the night through Dalima's pass from the right but was col-

lectly, the young midfielder found the back of the net. The half time score therefore read 1-0 in favour of India.

The second half was played out on similar lines with India creating more chances, as head coach Thomas Dennerby made his first change at the restart, replacing forward Renu with Pyari Xaxa.

Ten minutes after the resumption, Pyari came close to scoring in the 53rd minute as she got on the end of a cross from Manisha with an excellent run, but the shot was saved by the keeper.

Couple of more substitutions followed as Sandhiya came on in place of Anju Tamang, and Soumya and Ratanbala were introduced in place of Grace and Priyanka Devi respectively.

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The prolific captain Engy Ahmed Sayed tried her luck from close range before the hour-mark, but Sowmiya stood tall to deny her confidently. Hayam Abdellatif had the final effort for Egypt in the dying minutes of the game but her effort landed safely into Sowmiya's gloves.

The last change was made by Dennerby at the final minutes of the regulation time when Manisha was replaced by Mariyammal. The match soon came to an end as India earned their first victory in Jordan.

This is the first match since the national team was forced to withdraw from the group stage of the AFC Asian Cup, which India hosted in January-February, after it failed to field a team due to a COVID-19 outbreak inside its bio-bubble in Mumbai.

ISL witnesses a first with Vukomanovic's three-year extension at Kerala Blasters

NEW DELHI: The Indian Super League (ISL) witnessed a first this week with Ivan Vukomanovic, who helmed Kerala Blasters FC's run into the 2021-22 final, signing a three-year contract extension, the longest ever by any head coach in the history of the event.



Vukomanovic-led Kerala Blasters to the ISL final for the first since 2016, taking over the club who could only achieve a second-bottom finish in the preceding season.

Vukomanovic is set to remain in charge of the club until the end of the 2024-25 season.

Previously, the preferred trend in ISL had been rolling one-year extensions, instead of long-term contracts prevalent in developed football markets in the west.

Kerala Blasters, who reached the final this season after a six-year-long wait have had 11 coaches -- 8 permanent and 3 interims -- before Vukomanovic since 2014. In a bid to bring stability, the club has

now opted for a long-term vision.

Other major clubs ATK Mohun Bagan and Mumbai City FC had already started this trend in Indian football, with both managerial and player recruitment policies.

"I'm happy that we agreed on a three-year

deal with Ivan. He adapted seamlessly and is an integral part of the Blasters family. I think it is an important move for our club, and we now have a strong base to continue our work with consistency and achieve more goals," the club's Lithuanian Sporting Director Karolis Skinkys said.

Vukomanovic has been a major proponent of providing more opportunities to youngsters in the interest of Indian football. "If you see the rule of having at least four developmental players in your squad, it pushes you as a club, as a league and a football federation to invest more and develop younger players. They are the future of Indian football."



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