

### Murder case: Sarmistha Rout's computer to be examined by Crime Branch

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): has been no trace of The Crime Branch the memory card so



will send the computer of Sarmistha Rout, prime accused in cameraman Manas Swain's murder, for forensic examination to recover a deleted file which was also in the possession of Manas. "We conducted searches at Manas' house in Nayagarh district and at two other places in Bhubaneswar where he stayed but there

far," said a senior CB officer. Manas had reportedly demanded Rs 10,000 from his former employer Sarmistha - editor of Bhubaneswar based web channel Sampurna - to return the memory chip having some 'valuable content' related to the accused. He had also demanded to return his camera which was

snatched by Sarmistha and co-accused retired OIS officer Niranjana Sethi on January 30 this year.

The cameraman had been staying in Dayal ashram, a shelter home for elderly people run by Sarmistha since January 10. Sarmistha and Niranjana called Manas to her office on January 30 and asked him to return the memory chip. They thrashed him as he did not return it. Sarmistha and Niranjana then took Manas to Dayal ashram and forcibly took away his camera, said the Crime Branch officer.

### No comment: India on political turmoil in Pakistan

NEW DELHI(KCN): India on Thursday declined to comment on the political turmoil in Pakistan saying it is an "internal matter" of that country but noted that it is keeping an eye on the developments in Islamabad.

"It is their internal matter. I do not have any



comment to make on this. We are keeping an eye on it but we do not comment on internal matters (of any country)," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. At a media briefing, he was asked to comment on the political developments in Islamabad. Pakistan witnessed political upheaval after the deputy speaker of the country's parliament on Sunday blocked a no-confidence motion against beleaguered Prime Minister Imran Khan. Subsequently, Pakistan President Arif Alvi dissolved the parliament to pave the way for the holding of early elections. Pakistan's opposition parties have approached the Supreme Court challenging the deputy speaker's decision to dismiss the no-confidence motion against Khan. The court is yet to pronounce its verdict on the issue.

### Samajwadi Party to hit the roads over jobs issue: Former Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav

LUCKNOW(KCN): The Samajwadi Party the youth, who are awaiting for recruit-



will hit the roads to press the government to solve problems of

ment against vacant posts, party chief Akhilesh Yadav said

on Thursday. The former Uttar Pradesh CM said this after meeting a group of job aspirants, who submitted a memorandum regarding their issues to Yadav at the party headquarters here.

"The BJP government is taking no interest in resolving

### 21-year-old MCom student Damayanti Majhi elected deputy mayor of Cuttack

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Ending all speculation, Damayanti Majhi, the youngest

Indian Express, Majhi said serving people is her motto and the reason behind

Ravenshaw University. Although a greenhorn when it comes to politics and



corporator of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation, was elected as deputy mayor of the civic body on Thursday. A resident of Jagatpur-Balisahi slum in Cuttack, she had won the corporator post from Ward 49 on a BJD ticket in the recently concluded urban elections. Speaking to The New

entering politics. "I would thank Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and MLA Souvic Biswal besides other senior leaders of BJD who reposed their faith in me for this important post," said Majhi who was elected unopposed. The 21-year-old Majhi is a final year MCom student of

administration, Majhi said she will balance her responsibilities as the deputy mayor and education well. "I am a newcomer to politics but I have been balancing my career and livelihood well," says Majhi who has been raising her siblings along with her mother, a daily wage, ever since her father died

a few years back. After getting elected as a corporator, Majhi has been working on her plan of action for Cuttack. "There is a lot to do in the city. To begin with, I want to improve the living conditions of people in my slum. There are many other slums in Cuttack where people like me are struggling day in and out to get basic amenities like drinking water and electricity," she said. Drainage figures high on her agenda. Earlier in the day, Majhi won the post after the Opposition BJP and Congress walked out of the elections to the post of deputy mayor protesting the manner in which the polls were being held. On the day, BJD leader Subash Singh also took oath as Mayor of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation.

### Russia suspended from UN Human Rights Council, India abstains in UNGA vote

UNITE D NATIONS(KCN): Russia was suspended from the UN Human Rights Council after the 193-member General Assembly on Thursday voted to adopt a resolution moved by the US that received 93 votes in favour and 58 abstentions, including by India. The resolution titled 'Suspension of the rights of membership of the Russian Federation in the Human Rights Council' was adopted with 93 votes in favour, 24 against and 58 abstentions. Those abstaining included Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore,

South Africa, Sri Lanka and UAE. "India has abstained on the resolution with regard to suspension of the Russian Federation from the Hu-

man Rights Council after the voting. "Since the inception of the Ukrainian conflict, India has stood for peace, dialogue and diplomacy. We believe that no solu-

tion can be arrived at by shedding blood and at the cost of innocent lives. If India has chosen any side, it is the side of peace and it is for an immediate end to violence," he added. Since January this year, India has ab-



man Rights Council adopted in the General Assembly today. We do so for reasons of both substance and process," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador TS Tirumurti said in the Explanation of Vote

tion can be arrived at by shedding blood and at the cost of innocent lives. If India has chosen any side, it is the side of peace and it is for an immediate end to violence," he added. Since January this year, India has ab-

stained on at least eight occasions on procedural votes and draft resolutions in the UN Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council that deplored Russian aggression against Ukraine. "An important and historic day. Countries from around the globe have voted to suspend Russia from the UN Human

Aryaupasita Sahu, St. -7 Student of DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar presented a self portrayed pencil sketch of Principal Dr K C Satpathy on the day of his Retirement

### Sans fitness, permit and checks, heavy vehicles turn killer in Capital

rested on Tuesday and produced before

According to details obtained from the

24, 2018. The Hyva's goods permit was also valid till August 8, 2021. The vehicle was purchased on July 30, 2016. The State Transport Authority (STA) sources said a new truck's fitness must be renewed every two years up till eight years by paying Rs 800. After the



a court on the day. Fitness had expired

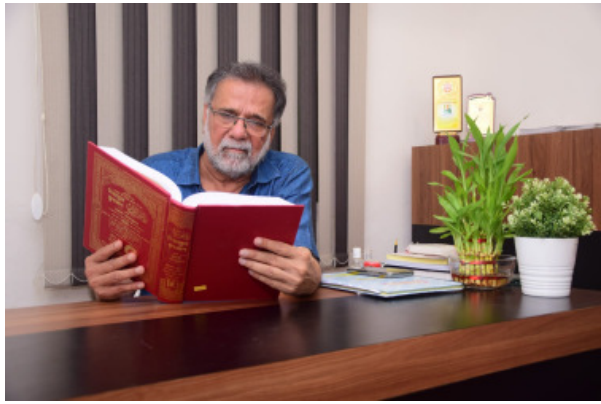
Vahan portal, the heavy vehicle's fitness expired on July

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# Ramadan Mubarak Special Olympic Bharat At SOA In Kendujhar district, election for vice chairperson ended peacefully



Bhubaneswar (KCN): May this blessed month brings peace and prosperity for all in the world. May we be able to spend the month with full consciousness of Allah who is the creator of each

and everyone of this earth. May Allah ease the pain and suffering of all oppressed people wherever they are. May Allah accept our fasting and all good deeds with Ibadah Safdar Hashim.

## Honorary D. Litt to Dr. R. Elangovan

Chennai (KCN): Dr R Elangovan, Professor and Head, Faculty of Yoga Science and Therapy (FYST) of Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research (MAHER) (Deemed to be University) Chennai have been

honoured with \*D'Litt(Hon)\* award from St. Mother Theresa University, Melbourne, Australia at Dubai, United Arab Emirates recently in recognition of his Academic achievements and social activities.

## Centurion Hosts team Nepal

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Centurion University inaugurates a 5 days residential Training Program and Exposure Visit on Housing Microfinance and Digitization of Microfinance Operations in India. A team of 11 from Microfinance and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) of Nepal arrived on 3rd

ture, mushroom cultivations, etc. Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. (Dr.) Supriya Pattanayak addressed the delegates emphasizing upon the skill courses and labs of university to promote hands-on-skills to promote enterprises. She advised the delegates to get business ideas by visiting different units promoted



April at Jatni Campus of the University for the program. President of CUTM, Prof. (Dr.) Mukti Kanta Mishra welcomed the delegates from Nepal and expressed his unconditional gratitude towards the bankers who played a very important role in building Centurion University. He advised the delegates of micro-finance institutions from Nepal to walk an extra mile while evaluating the proposals beyond prescribed rules and regulations. He also emphasized on his concern about environment while implementing projects of large or small scale. The managers of Micro-finance institutes are required to promote environmental-friendly entrepreneurial ventures like apiculture, floriculture,

by the University beyond the training programs. Registrar, Prof. (Dr.) Anita Patra explained the importance of Micro-finance in promoting Housing finance and microfinance institutions play a very important role in building rural economy. Director, Prof. Jagannath Padhi focused on the importance Micro-finance institutes in ensuring sustainable development goals. The five day's training program and exposure visit will witness a lot of brain storming related to role of MFIs in development of India, regulatory perspectives of MFI housing loan products, digitization of MFIs etc. The delegates will also get an opportunity to visit some leading micro finance organizations to understand the operational procedure.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Several hundred differently-abled children, forced to remain at home for two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic, thronged an auditorium at Siksha 'O'

At SOA, the children were examined by a team of doctors drawn from the department of Public Health Dentistry of the Institute of Dental Sciences (IDS), SOA's faculty of dental sciences, and

strengthen people with intellectual disabilities who constituted about 25 per cent of the world's population. Children with such disabilities have been winning laurels for the country in Para Olympics. He cited the example of Satish Gujral who is counted among the top five painters in the country though he was deaf and dumb.

Mr. Prakash Rath, Area Director for SOB, said the aim of the program was to bring these children out of their homes after two years. The differently abled athletes from India who participated in the Special Olympics in UAE last year had won 379 medals for India of which 85 were gold, he said.

Prof. Neeta Mohanty, Dean of IDS, Prof. Bijay Kumar Sahu, Dean of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS), SOA's faculty of agricultural sciences and Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) also spoke. Dr. Sthithipragyan Dalabehera, Head of the Department of Physiotherapy at IMS and SUM Hospital, conducted the program.



Anusandhan (SOA) here on Thursday as part of a nationwide event of Special Olympics Bharat (SOB), a global inclusion movement spanning across sport, health, education and leadership programs. The event was part of the National Health Fest for Divyangjan conducted by SOB aiming to medically screen 75,000 children with intellectual disabilities in 75 cities of the country between April 5 and 7 as part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' marking the 75th anniversary of independence. Across the country, 7,500 intellectually challenged child athletes jogged at 126 different locations at the same time for one minute as part of the program to find place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Department of Physiotherapy of Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital during the day which coincided with the World Health Day. SOB, a National Sports Federation accredited by Special Olympics Inc, USA to conduct sports and development programs all over India, is recognized by the Government of India for the development of sports for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities. The program was supported by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Speaking at the inaugural program, SOA's Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Kumar Mahapatra said there was a great need to



Barbil (KCN): In Kendujhar district, four municipal councils and one NAC have been completed, ending all speculations. In all five ULB, the BJP has won chairman seats of the Kendujhar municipality while other four bagged by BJD.

Similarly the election for vice chairman ended in these five urban bodies. Soumitra Behera from Champua NAC, Sandhya Patra from Jodamunicipality, Barada Prasanna Das from Keonjhar municipality, Durga Dalei from Anandpur and Saraswoti Naik

elected from Barbil municipality as vice chairman person. All municipal and NAC of Keonjhar district occupied by BJD and more ever two municipality Joda and Barbil along with one NAC champua were given prioritised for women candidate from BJD.

# EOW arrests Fraudsters

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch has arrested two fraudsters for misappropriating government subsidies amounting to Rs 6.81 crores meant for supply of agricultural equipment. The accused brothers are Manas Ranjan Dash and Tapas Kumar Dash, respective Director of Sheetal Agro Inputs Pvt. Ltd. and Proprietor of Mishita Enterprises, located at Purohitpur, Taradapada, Jagatsinghpur, said Crime Branch Chief, Sanjeeb Panda here on Thursday. Both were arrested yesterday in connection with EOW PS Case No.8 dt. 02.04.2022 and are being forwarded to the court of SDJM, Jagatsinghpur today, Mr.Panda said. The accused have provided 504 agricultural equipments to beneficiaries by submitting fake invoices and cheated the lion share

of their subsidy amount provided by the State Government, ADG Mr.Panda said. The Government subsidy meant for the farmers/beneficiaries amounting to Rs. 6.81 crore, the Chief of

said firm is registered with the Agriculture Department of State Government under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme as a manufacturing firm/company of Agro implements like trans-

to equal number of farmers/ beneficiaries belonging to 19 districts of Odisha including Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Balasore, Khordha, Kalahandi and Sambalpur and managed to avail sub-

planter machines of Sheetal Agro Inputs Pvt. Ltd, during the year 2018-2020, 337 transplanters are shown to have been sold by its dealer Mishita Enterprises, the proprietor of

In the entire process the actual machine/transplanter was not manufactured or sold but subsidy was availed by the beneficiaries, they said. The EOW has also been ascertained that soon after the subsidy amount was credited to the account of the beneficiary/ farmer, accused Manas and his brother Tapas along with other dealers used to lure the beneficiary to withdraw the total subsidy amount. They took away a major subsidy amount in cash from them by paying some amounts/ cuts to the concerned farmer/beneficiary. During investigation, many incriminating documents like the details of farmers/beneficiaries, fake invoices, Money Receipts and one Hard Disc containing the data uploaded in DBT Portal have been seized, the EWO officials informed.



Crime Branch informed. Investigation of the case conducted so far has revealed that the arrested accused, Manas Ranjan Dash is the Director of Sheetal Agro Inputs Pvt. Ltd., having its office at Purohitpur, Taradapada, Jagatsinghpur. The

planter machines etc. During the financial year 2018-2019 & 2019-2020, Manas Ranjan Dash, in active connivance with its eight dealers including Mishita Enterprises has uploaded a series of false/fake invoices/data/ information in respect of supply/ sale of 504 Transplanters

sidy amount of Rs.6,81,53,048 under the DBT scheme, which was disbursed in the bank accounts of concerned beneficiaries/farmers by the Agriculture Department and misappropriated the same, officials said. The EOW also found that all 504 trans-

which is accused Tapas Kumar Dash, brother of Manash Ranjan Dash and both the accused persons received the subsidy amount against those false sales by uploading fake invoices/data/ information and UTR in the DBT Portal and misappropriated the subsidy amount.



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

Mumbai (KCN): Kankane Rakhi Surendra reveals that



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

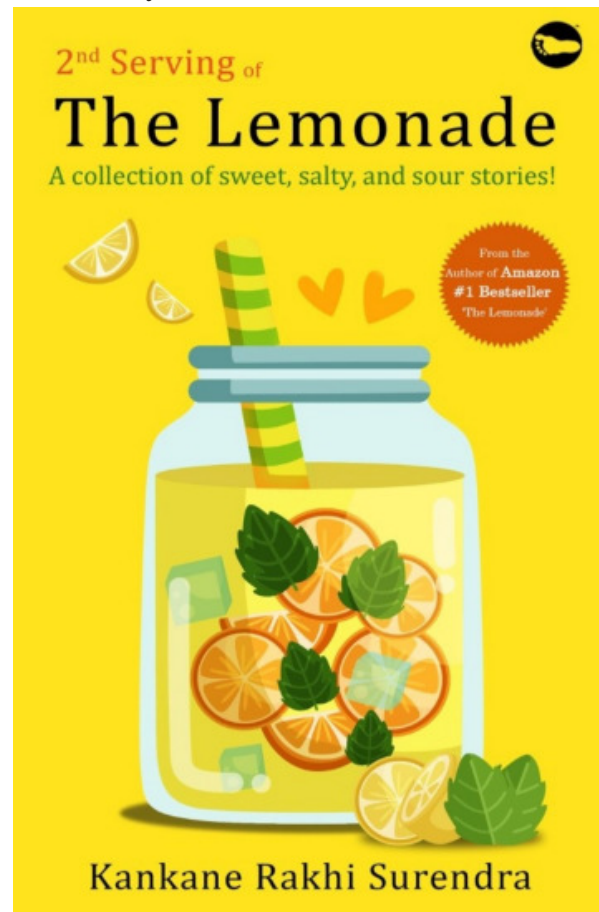
Rakhi, with her series 'The Lemonade', brings a collection of short stories that are about life's challenges, relationships, and one's approach towards life. They talk about accepting whatever the situation is at the present moment and deriving something positive out of it.

Talking about her latest book, author

the base of her book is a very famous

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

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



quote by Dale Carnegie, 'When life

on Amazon, Kindle, and Flipkart

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

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

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

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



Netflix based film "a phenomenal experience".

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

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

Kapoor who has a cameo in the film.

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

While Kapoor essays the role of a yesteryear actor,

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

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

### CHENNAI (KCN):

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

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

### "Indian 2".

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

Ponneram translates to golden times in English. Kajal said her

career's golden times started when she signed S.S. Rajamouli's "Magadheera".

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

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

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



S a n j a y occasion of



S h a r m a 45th death of Param

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

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



## Reawakening of the saffron roots

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) once again proved its uninterrupted and indubitable proximity towards what its political adversaries call an aggressive push of the Hindutva agenda. This time it is about the inclusion of the Bhagavad Gita in the school syllabus in the party ruled state of

Gujarat. Karnataka, another BJP ruled state recently witnessed upheavals in the name of Hijab. The Hijab controversy was scoffed at as a deliberate weapon that the BJP consciously brought out from its Hindutva cascket, propelling an issue well before its bastion Uttar Pradesh went to polls. The issue remained in discussion for months until the appellants were told by the court to stop unnecessary commotions and directing them to fall in line with the democratic principles of the state. The Karnataka high court candidly made its observation enlightening the minority community, by pronouncing its verdict that the Hijab had never been an integral part of Islam. For the critics it is the BJP's saffron agenda but the party is unaffected by the hubbubs of the liberals on the streets and now it has come out with a different issue. The party steered another controversy by revamping the education system with the inclusion of the Gita which it probably thinks would bring about greater understanding among the children about India and its spiritual heritage. But the writing on the wall is incredulously indicative to a motivated push keeping an eye on the forthcoming state elections in Gujarat. A little dose of dharmic values to the young generation, according to the party, would do greater good to any society but a complexity such as India would reciprocate to everything with a deceptive note as it has deeply been entangled in the intricacies of secularism. And secularism, except for accepting different faiths with equal benchmarks, does everything that it can; to disre-

gard, disorient and disproportionately demean everything that is part of human life. Concerns are genuine as to why the party that is in power is taking strides in the direction of genuinely appeasing a particular community and disregarding the emotions of the other, probably by hurting their sentiments and beliefs.

The country had witnessed aggression in the name of cow vigilantism by a bunch of transgressors vandalizing the spiritual ethos that India stood for generations. Dharma or righteousness is the core principle that the Gita exhorts through its seven hundred verses. The central idea of the Gita runs through an intense friendly conversation that happens between Lord Krishna and Arjuna in the middle of the battlefield. It envisages and urges the followers to take one among the three paths that it advocates, the Karma yoga, Jnana Yoga and Bhakti Yoga which, if simply translated could be termed as the path of sincere work, knowledge and devotion. The paths to liberation or salvation or nirvana, according to Gita, is possible through choosing any one of the above three by following its principles diligently. The plight of Arjuna in the battlefield was terrible and disproportionate to his being, a warrior prince, and the discourse that Lord Krishna puts him through reveals the ways in which life should be lived and critically examines the folly of principles that manipulated people's mind. India and Hinduism are defined as the essence of plurality and the strength it squeezes to survive is from the unity that the plurality ultimately aims at. The idea of pluralism is directly indicating what monism stands for. Essentially, pluralism in India always maintained the impression that "ekam sat vipra bahudha vadanti", which means truth is one and people call it by different names. Semitic religions exhorted that there was one spiritual principle that was capable of awarding salvation, possibly discrediting the multiplicity that India offered with more freedom and liberty- undoubtedly, perplexity and animos-

M. R. LALU

ity taking centerstage and skepticism be-

coming the villain. By including the Gita in the syllabus, does the BJP plan to impose its version of Hinduism on others. Implementation to the level of gaining acceptance from all corners would define its purpose and the intention behind the initiative. As a country or a conglomeration of principalities, India remained and still remains to be one in essence and principle mainly due to the values that we propagated from the great epics the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Nobody can deny the fact that the spiritual essence that India is gaining acceptance across the globe, is mainly due to the secular spiritual values that the Vedas and the Upanishads and the Epics that we have been handed over through generations. Our existence during the British period remained limited to the country of "Brown Sahibs" that Lord Macaulay wanted Indians to be transformed as. He wanted a new education system based on the English culture and spirit substituting the one that traditionally existed in India which taught the world, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which means the world is one family. The BJP's experimentation, introducing the Gita in school curriculum should explain the manner in which it might complicate the indispensable cord of distrust that it was successful in tying the country with. The party must take sincere efforts to win the hearts of all the stakeholders convincing them the need of such an exercise through which the constitutional concomitance of multiplicity would be strengthened. This should also help to rediscover the spiritual essence of India which is inclusiveness in its purest form which nobody, even the immature standards of politics, should be capable of meddling with. Therefore, the party cannot have an underhanded plan to infuse the social supremacy of a particular religion. This would lead to mistrust and friction further.

With most of the Hindus and all the other Indian religions living together with accep-

tance in India, the presence of a large population of Muslims and Christians with their semitic credentials should also be seen with greater appreciation. The Hindus believe in Karma, the focal factor that they think would determine the destiny and a key to rebirths. This is one of the main tenets that the Gita elaborates at length and an idea that people across the globe are giving attention to. The Biblical maxim "you reap what you sow" is in line with what Lord Krishna propounded to Arjuna saying that it is the Karma that determines what we are destined to land upon. Going further Krishna makes the point clear. He says if the Karma is performed with dedication, the result is bound to be good. The Gita holds the philosophical depth to transform young minds with a clarity of vision and the ability to untie the complexity of life. The saffron political patronage of the BJP should not be jumping into making political dividends out of the initiative that it takes to implement the Gita in curriculum. It should handle a complex philosophy such as the Gita with meticulous care. Before the curriculum is revamped in a haste, there should be preparatory exercises by experts to dilute the philosophy into a digestible fashion for the children. With exam-driven minds, the children need proper guidance to deal with the philosophy of the text while the real secular message of the Gita holds the power to strengthen them. The dilemma and the discord that Arjuna went through could hit anyone's life and the Gita offers a solution to those who sincerely seek. The whole theme of practice by the government should not end as a political gimmick making nothing solid out of it. That would break the cohesiveness in the learning atmosphere of schools, making young minds offensive to the life-giving principles available in the holy text.

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## "No Hindu nor Muslim, but man as the manifestation of the Divine" - Amir Khusro

The Hindu-Muslim relationship is similar to that of milk and sugar. However, there are occasions when you'll have to put your skills to the test. The Hindu-Muslim relationship is similar to that of milk and sugar. However, there are moments when we must be on the lookout for dividing influences that exist in

both communities. In terms of morals, ethics, norms, and values, all religions agree that no one would encourage doing something unethical or immoral. However, it's worth noting that, rather than being distinct, religions share their substance in a variety of ways. "Amity is better than enmity, conciliation is better than confrontation, the conversation is better than impasse, harmony is better than harassment, love is better than hatred, peace is better than chaos, tolerance is better than intolerance," the chant goes in all religions. when we must be on the lookout for dividing factors that exist in both communities. In terms of morals, ethics, norms, and values, all religions agree that no one would encourage doing something unethical or immoral. However, it's worth noting that, rather than being distinct, religions share their substance in a variety of ways. "Amity is better than animosity, conciliation is better than confrontation, dialogue is better than deadlock, harmony is better than harassment, love is better

than hatred, peace is better than pandemonium,

tolerance is better than intolerance, Conciliation is better than conflict, unity is better than division, and giving is better than grabbing," is a mantra that can be found in all religions.

That is why Bertrand Russell famously claimed that there is only one religion, despite the fact that there are a hundred different variants. It is difficult to distinguish between Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians due to the strong cultural bonds that exist amongst followers of many religions. Sudhir Dar, a well-known Hindustan Times cartoonist, once told a fascinating story. He was seven years old and strolling the streets of Allahabad's Prayag Mohalla, which had a mixed population. Someone inquired if he was a Muslim or a Hindu. "Mother, tell me whether I am a Muslim or a Hindu," Dar said as he ran back to his mother. The answer is academic, but one thing is certain: those who work in that field are exceptional.

Before the so-called invading, raiding and preaching "Muslim invaders" arrived in India, it was Islamic intellectuals who came to learn and study the land. They brought back works of wisdom only to translate them into Arabic after learning Sanskrit and other Indian languages in India. "The Hindus are superior to all other nations in terms of wisdom and thinking," Arab author Yaqubi said in 895-96. They are more precise than anyone else in Astronomy, Astrology, and Arithmetic. The treatise

Pratap Kishore Mohanty

BrahmaSiddhant demonstrates their intellectual

pro prowess, and the Greeks and Persians have benefited from this work."Alauddin II (1436-58), a Bahmani Sultan, was devoted to NarasimhaSaraswati, a prominent Hindu philosopher. Similarly, Ibrahim II, the Adilshahi monarch of Bijapur (1580-1686), admired NarasimhaSaraswati and established a tiny shrine near his palace in Bijapur, where he placed the saint's paduka (footwear).Barbosa, a Portuguese traveller who visited the kingdom during Sultan's reign, remarked that the sovereign offers such freedom that every individual, whether Christian, Jew, Moor, or Heathen, may come and go and live according to his own beliefs without suffering any discomfort or inquiry.

According to Gandhiji's Young India, Tipu Sultan gave lavish gifts of land and other items to Hindu temples, particularly temples dedicated to Shri Venkataramanna, Shrinivas, and Shriranganath, all of which were located near Tipu's palaces, and the historic temple of Sriranganatha was under his personal care. The famed Nanjundeswara deity, known as the "Hyder Ali lingam," was previously presented by Hyder Ali to the mediaeval temple of Nanjangud in Karnataka state. Pathan rulers such as Sultan Nazir Shah and Sultan Husain Shah translated the Mahabharata and BhagwatPuran into Bengali. Adil Shah, a 16th-century king in the Deccan, built a massive and amazing library with a collection of interfaith texts and books on

ecumenism and tolerance. It was headed by VamanPandit, a Sanskrit professor. Because of his policies of compassion, goodwill, and charity, his descendent Ibrahim Adil Shah was regarded as the "friend of the poor" and "world's teacher." Saraswati, the famed Hindu goddess of wisdom, is frequently honoured in his compositions. What is less well remembered is the account of AppaGangadhar, one of Aurangzeb's trusted generals, who was asked by Aurangzeb after a major victory. Appa requested that a temple be built at the Urdu Bazar near LalQila in honour of his revered deity Gauri Shankar. Not only was Appa given permission, but he was also given financial assistance in building the temple. When Aurangzeb visited Chitrakut, he also built the Balajee temple and gave the donation of eight villages to sustain it. It is quite regrettable that we have abandoned our search for a human being in favour of a Hindu or a Muslim! "There is no Hindu nor Muslim, but simply man as the manifestation of the Divine!" proclaimed Amir Khusro, a gifted Sufi poet from northern India. "There is no Hinduism or Islam, simply man as the manifestation of the Divine!" This is, in reality, the foundation of India's secularism today. "Remember, the eradication of Hindu-Muslim goodwill will be India's tragedy!" said IK Gujral, a former Indian prime minister. He knew exactly what he was talking about.

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## 16 new roads dedicated at mining affected Lahunipara and Koira blocks

Sundargarh (KCN): Sixteen new roads constructed in Lahunipara & Koira blocks have expanded the network of Road Connectivity in the mining affected areas of Sundargarh district. Out of the same, 12 roads fall under Lahunipara and 4 in Koira block. The roads were dedicated to the public at a special occasion on Thursday. MLA Bonai Laxman Munda inaugurated the projects at a special event in Pratappur village at Lahunipara block in presence of the Collector Sundargarh Nikhil Pavan Kalyan. These 16

roads will connect various villages and Gram Panchayats in the two blocks with the national highway, local markets and urban centres, enhancing the life and livelihood of general people. The newly constructed roads will benefit over 12,000 people of 28 villages across Lahunipara and Koira blocks. A total of 24 Kms of road network under the projects launched today shall improve connectivity across the mining affected, hilly and remote patches. Thus the projects supported by District Mineral Foundation, DMF Sundargarh will en-

able education, health services, market linkage and other basic facilities to the students, youth, farmers, general public and other stakeholders. In Lahunipara block, the new roads connect Sadhubahal to Digi, Kardahudi to Pratappur via Rengalbeda, Thiaberna to Kudapada, SAIL Road to Deodevpur via Ghatitala, Sasa to Rugudi, Talbahali to Bhuyan Sahi, Rangamatia to Rangamatia, Sananuagaon to Girijatola, Sananuagaon to Bhuyan Sahi, Sanjal Taldihi, Budhabhuin to

Budhabhuin, Ladapani to Ladapani. Similarly, the new roads in Koira block include National Highway 215 to Tukutola, National Highway 215 to Rengalbeda slum, Soyamba to Chardhipa, and Badabali to School Sahi area. Among others, Sub Collector Bonai Pradeep Dang, Project Administrator Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Lalat Kumar Luha, BDO Lahunipara Dhanai Charan Tudu along with other senior officials of District Administration and District Mineral Foundation were present on the occasion.

## Pakistan rupee drops to historic low against dollar amid political crisis



KARACHI: The Pakistan rupee dropped to a historic low of 191 rupees to the dollar Thursday as an ongoing political crisis rocked confidence in the currency. The rupee has been declining for months, but the fall became precipitous in March when opposition parties tabled a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan that led to the dissolution of the national assembly last week.

The rupee has lost over six percent in a month, and on the open market Thursday was at 191 and 189 at the interbank rate. "The political mess has ensued from uncertainty and this badly reflects on the rupee," said Mohammad Sohail, chief of Toplevel Securities, a Karachi based brokerage and economic research house. Pakistan's supreme court was sitting Thursday to rule on

the legality of political manoeuvres that led Khan to dissolve the national assembly. Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, which rely on remittances from the diaspora, have failed to stop a growing trade deficit. ALSO READ: Endgame for Imran in Pakistan's power establishment Reserves have fallen to \$12 billion from \$16 billion since March as the deficit hit 70 percent for the

nine months of the fiscal year spanning 2021-22. Since July 2021, the rupee has lost 18 percent of its value against the dollar. Relations with the United States and International Monetary Fund (IMF) are also critical factors. The IMF has approved a \$6 billion bailout package for Pakistan to support its balance of payment issue in 2019. Half was disbursed, but the rest is being renegotiated

## China warns against US House Speaker's possible visit to Taiwan

TAIWAN: China warned of "strong measures" on Thursday if US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi visits Taiwan following media reports of an upcoming trip. Japanese and Taiwanese media on Thursday reported that Pelosi will visit Taiwan next week, after leading a delegation

to Japan this week-



end. Neither Taiwan nor Pelosi's office have confirmed the reports but Beijing --

which opposes countries having relations with Taipei, spoke out against the potential visit.

"The US should abide by the One-China policy and... and immediately cancel Nancy Pelosi's plan to visit Taiwan," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters. "China will take strong measures in response to defend its national security and integrity," Zhao added.

## Ukraine war: Seeing Bucha atrocities is turning point for media, viewers

NEW YORK: CBS News reporter Debora Patta has covered conflicts in Africa and the Middle East, and the aftermath of terrorist attacks in Europe. She has seen violence and death at close range before. But the atrocities she witnessed in Bucha, Ukraine this week stood out, and overwhelmed her. "We need to be disturbed by these pictures," Patta said on "CBS Mornings," after describing what she and other journalists witnessed in the outskirts of Kyiv. The war changed this week from a media perspective, which is how most people outside of Ukraine experience it. Before, events had been seen primarily from a slight distance, fiery explosions caught on camera or drone-eyed views of burned-out buildings. Now, with the Ukrainian army retaking control of villages near Kyiv that had been brutalised by Russian soldiers, journalists are capturing the aftermath of horrific violence at close range, of dead bodies bound, tortured and burned. While there's a sense that images like these might change public opinion or have an impact on how a war plays out, historically that hasn't often been the case, said Rebecca Adelman, a communications professor at the University of Maryland who specializes in war and the media. Still, several countries, including the United States and Britain, imposed additional sanctions on Russia this week, and they cited the brutality in Bucha as compelling them to do more. Whatever the impact, Adelman said it is critical to have journalists on hand to document what is going on. "Bearing witness is crucially important, particularly in cases of catastrophic loss," she said. "Sometimes the photograph is all you have left." Photographs and video from Bucha showed body bags piled in trenches, lifeless limbs protruding from hastily dug graves, and corpses scattered in streets where they fell, including one man blown off a bicycle. Journalists from around the world also inter-

viewed Ukrainians emerging from their hiding places to tell stories about the barbarism they witnessed from Russian soldiers. TV anchors and correspondents warned viewers that they were about to see graphic and disturbing pictures, a warning that came four times in one episode of "World News Tonight" on ABC. "I'm sorry I have to show you this," CNN's Frederik Pleitgen apologised, before motioning a camera to show body bags piled in a van. "While we may want to look away, it is be-



coming harder and harder to close our eyes to what's happening," NBC "Nightly News" anchor Lester Holt said in his warning to viewers. Veteran television news producer Rick Kaplan said that, from what he's seen, news organizations have been careful in what they've shown without flinching from the story. "Every day we have these images it brings (the war) home more and more," said Kaplan, a former president of both CNN and MSNBC. "It's a good thing that this horrifies us. Can you imagine if we were blasé about it?" The gruesome images from Bucha, in particular, have dominated news reports around the world. The BBC reported on the continued "world revulsion." Italian state TV gave no warning before showing bodies with bound hands, half-buried in sandy terrain.

"What you see from here, unfortunately, are signs of torture on the face," journalist Stefania Battistini said. "All are wearing civilian clothes." Narrating a story on Fakty, Poland's most-watched evening news program, anchor Grzegorz Kajdanowicz said "it is our duty to warn you, but also to show you what the Russians did in Bucha and several other places." It was different in Russia, where state television falsely claimed Ukraine was responsible for either killing civilians themselves or per-

petrating a hoax. Russian TV has also run images of dead bodies in Bucha, some taken from CNN, with the word "fake" stamped on the screen, according to Internet Archive, a company that monitors Web and television content. The Russian propaganda prompted many Western news organisations to debunk those claims by using satellite imagery to show that many dead bodies that were documented on the ground this week by journalists had been in the same spots when Russia controlled the town. Some of the most graphic images were compiled in a short video made by Ukraine to accompany President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's speech to the United Nations on Tuesday. To a soundtrack of somber music and the cries of children, the video showed close-ups of corpses and body parts. Technical difficulties delayed its airing until well after Zelenskyy talked, giving networks like CNN and Fox News Channel that had aired the speech time to present it later in edited form. But MSNBC appeared to show it in full, leaving anchor Andrea Mitchell visibly shaken. "That's just horrific," she said. "I don't think the world has seen anything like it." Ukraine has a clear motivation to show the world what is happening, and journalists accompanied Zelenskyy on a visit to Bucha on Monday. While television and the Internet give greater immediacy to war coverage, heart-wrenching images, and their potential to shape public opinion, are hardly new. Harvard historian Drew Faust, author of "This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War," noted that when Matthew Brady had an exhibit of his Civil War photographs in 1862, The New York Times wrote, "if he has not brought bodies and laid them in our dooryards and along the streets, he has done something very like it." When a memorable photo was circulated of a 5-year-old boy sitting dazed and bloodied after being rescued from a bombing in Aleppo, Syria in 2016, NPR asked in a headline, "Can one photo help end a war?" It hasn't yet. A danger, too, is that in a world not easily shocked people will become numb to the pictures. That's Faust's fear, particularly as she expressed surprise that many people became strangely disconnected to the news of so many people dying of COVID-19. As more communities are liberated from Russian rule, the number of ghastly images will almost certainly multiply. "A little caution will be needed going forward so every news program doesn't become a parade of horrible images," said news consultant and retired NBC News executive Bill Wheatley. Yet one of the surprises of this war, along with Ukraine's ability to stave off a quick defeat, is the way Zelenskyy has been able to win the information battle and unite opposition in a way that was not anticipated. In that context, the images may help make a difference.



## UGC nod to Bhima Bhoi chairs in two Central varsities



BHUBANESWAR: The UGC has approved establishment of Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi chairs at two Central universities - University of Delhi and Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur.

The Commission in its 556th meeting held on March 10 approved the proposals by the two institutions, said a letter from MoE Joint Secretary Jitendra K

Tripathy. Welcoming the decision, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said a proponent of Mahima Dharma, Santha Kabi Bhimabhoi played a stellar role in rekindling the cultural and literary consciousness in Odisha. Last year, he had suggested the UGC to conduct extensive research on the philosophy of Mahima Dharma.

Shantinagar on Wednesday. Conductors will be provided with QR code readable Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) to validate the passes. Commuters can purchase passes online through a mobile app and make the payment online using UPI or other online payment options. To use the feature, a commuter has to download the app 'Tummoc' from the Google Play Store and create a profile by providing minimum KYC.

## Now, use digital passes to travel on BMTC buses

BENGALURU: In a big relief to passengers who otherwise had to stand in long queues in front of ticket counters to buy passes, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) on Wednesday, introduced a mobile-based digital pass system in collaboration with Tummoc, a startup. With this, commuters can purchase passes online through an app. The project has been introduced on a pilot basis. The project was launched at the BMTC central office in

Shantinagar on Wednesday. Conductors will be provided with QR code readable Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) to validate the passes. Commuters can purchase passes online through a mobile app and make the payment online using UPI or other online payment options. To use the feature, a commuter has to download the app 'Tummoc' from the Google Play Store and create a profile by providing minimum KYC.

## Congress leader K V Thomas to attend CPM seminar, defying party diktat

KOCHI: Veteran party leader K V Thomas has announced that he will participate in the CPM seminar at the ongoing party congress in Kannur on Saturday, defying the ultimatum by Congress state president K Sudhakaran.

The talk on 'Centre-state relationship',

discussing the key issue of the 'Centre-state relationship' which was strongly advocated by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin is also taking part in the seminar. Will the Congress exclude Stalin from its alliance for attending the CPM seminar?"

years. "If my age is the matter for excluding me from the party and parliamentary posts, many persons who are elder to me are still holding parliamentary and party posts," Thomas told a news conference held at his residence in Thoppumpady. Stating that Congress has been ignoring

Philip's warning against joining CPM, Thomas said he is accepting advice. "I have acquaintance with CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechuri since 2001," he said, adding that he has no offer from the CPM. Regarding the seminar, he said he met



where Thomas will speak, is held as part of the seminar series on various topics at the ongoing CPM 23rd Party Congress at Kannur.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the seminar and Thomas will share the dais with Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin. "I am not going to the CPM. I'm going to attend a national seminar dis-

he asked. Meanwhile, KPCC Sudhakaran told reporters in New Delhi that the state unit will recommend action against Thomas if he attends the seminar. The KPCC had directed Thomas to stay away from the CPM organised seminar. Thomas, a former Union Minister in UPA-II, said he had been sidelined in the party for several

him, he said he could not meet party leader Rahul Gandhi from December 2018 onwards. "I am still a member of AICC and only the Congress national leadership can oust me from the outfit," Thomas said. Thomas, a four-time Congress MP and two-time MLA said that he will continue in Indian politics. Responding to party leader Cherian

Yechuri in New Delhi in March. "He told me about the seminar and invited me to speak on the topic, which is dear to Nehru," he said. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor who was also among the speakers listed for the seminar had withdrawn from the programme following the directive from the high command.

## Nitin Gadkari gives nod to Capital Region Ring road in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has approved six infrastructure projects for the State including the much-awaited Capital Region Ring Road (CRRR) project. Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi met Gadkari in Delhi on Wednesday and submitted three proposals to him for approval. Sarangi requested Gadkari for approval of a flyover at Cosmopolis Square, two foot-over bridges near Hotel Crown and Satsang Vihar and the Capital Region Ring Road project.

"Delighted to inform that as desired by the residents of my constituency, I had been requesting for the approval of a flyover at Cosmopolis Square, two FOBs near Hotel Crown and Satsang Vihar; and Capital Region Ring Road. Grateful to Minister Nitin Gadkari, all are being allowed," Sarangi tweeted.

The State government last year approved the alignment of CRRR which will

provide a parallel connectivity of NH-16 bypassing Khurda town, Bhubaneswar, Athagarh town, Cuttack city and Choudwar town. It will originate from

Gadkari has also intimated Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari about the approval of the Ministry to three infrastructure projects the latter has requested. The three

development has been at the core of the government's efforts to fuel economic growth.

"In our pursuit towards this mission, my Ministry has un-



Rameswar on NH-16, pass through NH-55 at Govindpur and terminate near Tangi on NH-16.

The 111.2-km CRRR is proposed to be developed as 6-lane carriageway including a major six-lane bridge over river Mahanadi. The greenfield project has been proposed to have minimal effect on forest area, eco-sensitive zones and resettlement of villagers due to land acquisition. The State government has decided to provide `600 crore to meet the cost of land acquisition.

projects are a high-level bridge across Hirakud dam reservoir, widening and strengthening of Patnagarh-Padampur Road and Bargarh-Bhatli-Ambabhona Road.

"I am happy to share with you that your request regarding construction of three works has been approved under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) with an allocation of `368.5 crore," Gadkari wrote to Pujari enclosing the sanction order of the Ministry. He said infrastructure devel-

dertaken construction of a number of highway projects with enhanced focus on providing better connectivity to the remote areas in the State of Odisha," the letter added.

Other Projects Flyover at Cosmopolis Square 2 FOBs near Hotel Crown and Satsang Vihar High-level bridge across Hirakud dam reservoir Widening, strengthening of Patnagarh-Padampur Rd and Bargarh-Bhatli-Ambabhona Rd



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## HC grants interim protection from coercive action to SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh in fraud case

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh in a case of an alleged

stating that it did not find sufficient grounds to grant relief to him in view of the overall facts and circumstances of the case and the gravity

before an arbitral tribunal and that he was willing to "secure and set aside separately" the number of shares in question in the investigation.

never intended to fulfill.

Delhi Police lawyer had said that other criminal cases were pending against Singh and a non-bailable warrant was also issued against him in the present case.

In the present case, which pertains to two similar FIRs, a Delhi businessman and his family members have alleged that there was a share-purchase agreement between him and the accused and he paid Rs 10 lakh for 10 lakh shares of SpiceJet. These shares, however, were not transferred leading to the filing of the police complaint against Singh.

The complainant has also claimed that the accused deliberately and dishonestly handed over outdated and invalid DIS (delivery instruction slip) to him. Singh had moved the trial court seeking protection from arrest in the case after non-bailable warrants were issued against him in January for failing to appear before the police for investigation.



fraud related to the transfer of shares of the airline to certain individuals.

"No coercive action till the next date of hearing," said Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta who listed Singh's anticipatory bail application in the case for further consideration on May 24.

The court directed Singh to join the investigation and keep the disputed shares frozen in the meantime.

The trial court had rejected Singh's anticipatory bail application last month,

of the offence. Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appearing for Singh, had earlier argued before the high court that there was no need for the SpiceJet promoter's custodial interrogation and he was not going to abscond and he was co-operating in the investigation.

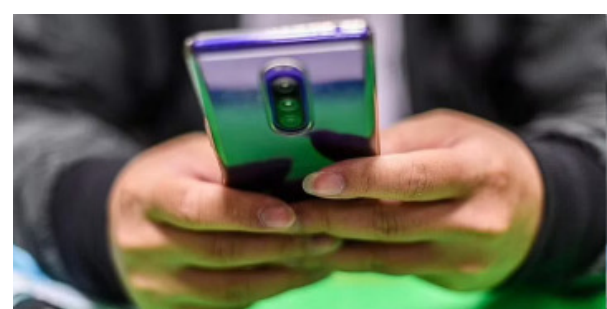
He has stated that Singh even returned the sum of Rs 10 lakh which was given to him by the complainant for the transfer of shares after the same could not materialise on account of a separate pending dispute

In his bail plea, Singh has submitted that ex-facie no offence was made out against him and the criminal case was an abuse of the criminal machinery. Senior advocate Vikas Pahwa, appearing for the complainant, had opposed the anticipatory bail plea as well as the grant of interim relief, saying that the present case was "serious" in nature.

Senior advocate Mohit Mathur, also appearing for the complainant in the matter, had argued that Singh made promises that he

## Trai scraps charge on USSD messages for mobile banking, payment services

NEW DELHI: In a move to boost financial inclusion, telecom regulator Trai has scrapped the charges levied on USSD messages, which are mostly availed by feature phone users, for transactions related to mobile banking and payment services.



USSD is a mobile short code that enables financial and banking transactions even on feature phones.

With immediate effect, the regulator on Thursday decided to scrap charges levied on USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Services Data) updates.

USSD sends out text messages without requiring internet connection on a mobile phone.

These text messages are different from SMSes and telecom companies frequently use the USSD technology to alert users about their balance after a call or a SMS.

So far, the charge was 50 paise per USSD session.

In a communication, Trai said no charges will be levied for USSD for mobile banking and payment service, and it has been implemented with immediate effect.

The decision has been taken following consultations with the stakeholders, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) said, adding that it will keep a watch on the progress of service, and may review the charge for a period of two years.

"After analysing the comments received from stakeholders and other data/information available with it, the authority is of the

view that to protect the interests of the USSD users and to promote digital financial inclusion, rationalisation of USSD charges is required.

"In view of the same, the authority has decided that the subscribers will not be charged for USSD for mobile banking and payment service," the regulator said.

While smartphone penetration is increasing in the country, there is a vast majority of mobile users who don't have access to internet and still operate on feature phones. In this scenario, USSD based transactions become crucial in enabling digital transactions.

In 2013, Trai had prescribed a ceiling of Rs 1.5 per USSD session, which was further reduced to 50 paise per session in October 2016.

**Samajwadi Party to hit the roads over jobs issue: Former Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav**

Continued from page-1

problems of the youth and this amounts to playing with their future," Yadav said, according to a press release.

More than 34 lakh candidates are awaiting for the completion of process against vacant posts, he said.

The Samajwadi Party will raise the issue in the state Assembly and hit the roads, Yadav assured the job aspirants as he accused the ruling BJP of being "unfair and inhuman".

"The patience of the youth should not be tested," he warned alleging that the government cheated the youth by making false claims.

"Neither has there been any investment nor industries set up in Uttar Pradesh. How and where would the jobs be given? The BJP is doing its politics only with the help of lies and deception," Yadav said.

The BJP is working to fill coffers of the capitalists by snatching the bread from the poor, he alleged.

## Sans fitness, permit and checks, heavy vehicles turn killer in Capital

Continued from page-1

eight year, the fitness will be checked every year. This Hyva did not have any permit but still plied on the roads and the outcome ended in a tragedy. "Had there been regular check and scrutiny of such vehicles plying without fitness and permit, mishaps could be avoided. Neither City Police nor the Transport department officials care," said an insider.

More importantly, entry of heavy vehicles under Bhubaneswar Urban Police District is restricted between 8 am and 10 pm but lack of enforcement along the highways lead to such tragic incidents. "Fitness of heavy vehicles is a major cause of concern. Drivers often reveal their brakes do not work properly. In many instances, drivers ask helpers to drive when they are tired. Drivers have also been found under influence of alcohol," the officer pointed out about the lack of monitoring and surveillance.

No check on speed limits

Besides, the authorities have also turned a blind eye towards lane and speed limit violations. According to the rules, a heavy vehicle must keep left and its maximum speed limit should be 30 km/hr on National/State Highways passing through municipalities and notified area councils. A truck's maximum speed limit has been fixed at 60 km/hr on four lanes and more, and 50 km/hr on other National/State Highways. But none cares to adhere. Nor does any check on the spot because electronic surveillance is the norm now.

"Random on-the-spot checking has stopped for most violations as CCTV is used primarily. The deterrence is gone," said another officer. Despite having 37 interceptors, there is hardly any check on drunken driving and over-speeding. The interceptors are equipped with speed detection equipment and breath-analyzers. Each SP/DCP has also been provided with one high-way patrolling vehicle.

Special drive fades

Odisha Police launched a stringent campaign against driving under the influence of alcohol on the highways during in-charge DGP BK Sharma's tenure in 2019. However, the special drive, which resulted in arrest of hundreds of violators, faded over the tenure of the subsequent police chiefs. Meanwhile, police said blood samples of Hyva driver have been collected and will be sent for examination. His license has also been seized and the police will request the MVI to suspend it for rash and negligent driving.

Interestingly, the driver has not been booked under any section of the Motor Vehicles Act despite the vehicle not possessing permit or fitness certificate. A case has been registered under Sections 279 (rash driving) and 304A (death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code and further probe is on," said an officer of Mancheswar police station.

Besides, initial investigation suggested that truck was overloaded with gravels and the vehicle was going towards Nakhara to deliver the consignment. A total of 10,984 road accidents and 5,081 deaths were reported in Odisha in 2021 as against 9,817 road accidents and 4,738 deaths in 2020. There has been 11.89 per cent rise in road accidents in the State in the last two years.

**VIOLATIONS GALORE ON CAPITAL ROADS**

Truck bearing registration number OD-02-AD-3311 belonging to LG Constructions had no valid fitness and permit certificates. Driver Saubhagya managed to ply for 43 km from Nijigarh Tapang to Palasuni without any checks.

Its fitness expired on July 24, 2018, goods permit was valid till August 8, 2021.

Saubhagya has not been booked under any section of the MV Act despite the violations

## Russia suspended from UN Human Rights Council, India abstains in UNGA vote

Continued from page-1

Rights Council. We have collectively sent a clear message that Russia will be held accountable," US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield tweeted.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba tweeted that "Russia's rights of membership in the UN Human Rights Council has just been suspended. War criminals have no place in UN bodies aimed at protecting human rights. Grateful to all member states which supported the relevant UNGA resolution and chose the right side of history."

Tirumurti said India continues to remain deeply concerned at the worsening situation and reiterates its call for end to all hostilities. "When innocent human lives are at stake, diplomacy must prevail as the only viable option," he said.

He reiterated that recent reports of civilian killings in Bucha are deeply disturbing.

"We have unequivocally condemned these killings and support the call for an independent investigation."

The General Assembly resumed its Emergency Special Session after a request from Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Japan, Liberia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, on behalf of 27 members of the European Union.

The Human Rights Council consists of 47 Member States, elected directly and individually by secret ballot by the majority of the members of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, "may suspend the rights of membership in the Council of a member of the Council that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights."

Abstentions do not count and the resolution required two-thirds of yes/no votes to be adopted.

Tirumurti said the impact of the crisis has also been felt beyond the region with increasing food and energy costs, especially for many developing countries.

"It is in our collective interest to work constructively, both inside the United Nations and outside, towards seeking an early resolution to the conflict," he said.

"India has been at the forefront of protecting human rights, right from the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We firmly believe that all decisions should be taken fully respecting due process, as all our democratic polity and structures enjoin us to do. This applies to international organisations as well, particularly the United Nations."

The Assembly voted on the draft resolution that "decides to suspend the rights of membership in the Human Rights Council of the Russian Federation."

Russia's current membership on the Council ends in December 2023.

The only time a Member State was suspended from the Geneva-based body was Libya in 2011 when in an unprecedented move a resolution was adopted in the General Assembly that had expressed "deep concern about the human rights situation" in Libya in the wake of Muammar Al-Gaddafi's violent crackdown on anti-Government protestors.

The draft resolution notes the Human Rights Council resolution of March 4, 2022, in particular its grave concern regarding reports of "gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights" and "violations of international humanitarian law" committed by Russia during its aggression against Ukraine.

It expresses "grave concern" at the ongoing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, particularly at the reports of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law by Russia, including gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights.

It recognizes strong expressions of concern in statements by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and by the High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.

Thomas-Greenfield had told reporters in Bucharest, Romania this week that Washington, in close coordination with Ukraine, European countries and other partners at the UN, was going to seek Russia's suspension from the UN Human Rights Council.



## 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

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

Previously, the preferred trend in ISL

now opted for a long-term vision.

Other major clubs ATK Mohun Bagan and Mumbai City FC had already started

with consistency and achieve more goals," the club's Lithuanian Sporting Director Karolis Skinkys said. Vukomanovic has



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

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

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

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."

## Former South Africa captain Mignon du Preez calls time on ODI and Test career

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa batter Mignon du Preez, who played a major role in knocking India out of the recent Women's World Cup, has announced her retirement from ODIs and Tests with imme-

and hopefully start a family of my own soon," she said in a CSA statement. "I feel the time is right to announce my retirement from the longer format of the game and focus my attention on T20

Slight in stature but brimming with passion for the game of cricket, Du Preez will always be synonymous with the Proteas Women's journey from a budding team to a world-renowned side currently ranked

her 50-over career as South Africa's leading run-scorer with 3,760 runs at an average of 32.98, with 18 half-centuries and two centuries, including a 116 not out against Ireland in 2016.



diate effect. The former South Africa captain took the decision to concentrate on T20 cricket and spend more time with family. "I've been wonderfully fortunate to play in four ICC ODI World Cups to date. These have been some of my most treasured memories in life. I would however love to prioritise time with my family

cricket going forward. Thus, I decided to retire from ODI cricket at the completion of our recent World Cup in New Zealand. "I feel South African women's cricket is in a very healthy state and the time is right to step away and allow the next generation of exciting cricketers to continue to grow this beautiful game of ours."

second in the one-day format. The 32-year old made her international debut in 2007 as a teenager and went on to don the green and gold in 154 ODI matches, including a ground-breaking reign as captain in 46 ODIs, where the team also transitioned into a fully contracted outfit. The electric right-handed batter ends

In this year's World Cup, Du Preez notched up her 150th appearance against New Zealand and scored her last fifty in ODI cricket in what will go down as a World Cup classic, where she guided South Africa to a historic run chase against India in Christchurch. Du Preez will also not be adding to her solitary Test cap despite the upcoming one-off red-ball clash against England in June this year. In her only four-day game, the Pretoria-born and raised player recorded a debut hundred (102) against India in 2014, in what was South Africa's last Test match to date.

## Jo-Wilfried Tsonga to retire after French Open

PARIS: Former Australian Open runner-up Jo-Wilfried Tsonga announced Wednesday he will

off. That means he can't enter the main draw at Roland Garros automatically through his ranking, and

"This is the last thrill," Tsonga said in a video. "This will be my 15th Roland. I hope that I will stay fit before

16 wins against the Big Three of Roger Federer (6), Rafael Nadal (4) and Djokovic (6). In 2017, he also



retire after the French Open, hoping to put the final touches on an injury-plagued career in front of his home crowd. The 36-year-old Frenchman reached a career-high ranking of No. 5 in 2012, but has dropped to No. 220 following his latest lengthy injury lay-

will have to rely on being granted a wild-card entry by organisers. Tsonga is the first member of a gifted generation of French players that emerged nearly 20 years ago — which also includes Gaël Monfils, Richard Gasquet and Gilles Simon — to call it quits.

and be able to be the one I have always been in that tournament." Tsonga reached the semifinals twice at the French Open, in 2013 and 2015. He has won 18 ATP titles and made it to the Australian Open final in 2008, losing to Novak Djokovic. He earned a combined

helped France win its first Davis Cup title in 16 years. But injuries have hindered Tsonga recently. The Frenchman underwent left knee surgery in 2018 and was then hampered by back problems. The French Open starts on May 22 in Paris.

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