

30 Congress leaders resign, raising questions on party's revival in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): As many as 30 Congress leaders including some former state office-bearers resigned from the party on Tuesday dealing a blow to the party's attempts for organisational revival in the State. Announcing the decision, the leaders

Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Sarat Pattanayak, the dissidents alleged that it seems he has joined hands with the ruling BJD. The new president is only busy organising programmes as directed by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) without taking any initiative for the revival of the organisation in Odisha, they also said.

The mass resignation of so many leaders is seen as a reaction against the appointment of Pattanayak as the OPCC president ignoring the claims of other contenders. Sources say that the resignations have the



alleged that Congress is moving away from its ideals and policies in the State and the leadership has not initiated any measures to create a sense of confidence among the party rank and file. Targeting the high command and State leadership of the party, the dissidents alleged that there is no internal democracy in Congress.

Alleging that those in charge of party's organisation at the national level are not giving any importance to the State unit Congress, the leaders said genuine leaders and workers of the party are getting sidelined. Targeting the newly appointed president of the Odisha

Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Sarat Pattanayak, the dissidents alleged that it seems he has joined hands with the ruling BJD. The new president is only busy organising programmes as directed by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) without taking any initiative for the revival of the organisation in Odisha, they also said. The mass resignation of so many leaders is seen as a reaction against the appointment of Pattanayak as the OPCC president ignoring the claims of other contenders. Sources say that the resignations have the blessings of top leaders of the party though nobody came to the fore on Tuesday. Those who resigned include former MP Radhakant Digal and ex-MLA Rabindra Kumar Behera. The OPCC president, however, said the resignations will have no impact on the party. The resignations have a BJD hand to it, Pattanayak said, adding the ruling party has resorted to such a tactic as Congress has changed its approach in the State. Meanwhile, the party led by Pattanayak took out a rally from Janata Maidan in the city as part of the Azadi Ki Gaurav Yatra celebrated by the party across the country.

Tough road ahead for NDA as BJP will have to depend on BJD, YSRCP to get bills passed in Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI(KCN): With the Janata Dal (United) moving out of the National Democratic Alliance, the BJP will now have to depend more on regional outfits like the BJD

Sabha even after he was expelled by the CPI(M) from the party. The JD(U) has 16 MPs in Lok Sabha, but the BJP enjoys an absolute majority of its own in the lower

require the support of 123 for a simple majority, for which it would need the support of three more independents and either the BJD or the YSRCP. The Biju Janata Dal

Ramados of Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and G K Vasan of Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar). Maharashtra avenged, says Congress



and the YSR Congress to get key legislations through in Rajya Sabha. The JD-U has five members in the Rajya Sabha, including deputy chairman Harivansh whose fate now hangs in the balance as he may have to resign since his party has moved out of the ruling alliance. However, Harivansh may continue in the post going by precedence set by Somnath Chatterjee who remained the Speaker of Lok

house. The BJP does not have a majority of its own in Rajya Sabha, where the saffron party has only 91 members. 'Snake has entered your home, new Bihar government to fall soon': BJP to Lalu Prasad on allying with Nitish It has the support of a total of 110 MPs, which includes two independents and the AIADMK (four MPs). In the 245-member house, the BJP would

(BJD) and the YSR Congress Party, which have nine MPs each in Rajya Sabha, have extended their support to the ruling party in getting key legislations passed in the recent past. Among the eight other MPs of regional parties which are allies of NDA are Ramdas Athawale of RPI-A, Hishey Lachungpa of Sikkim Democratic Front, Birendra Prasad Baishya of Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), Anbumani

'Mahagathbandhan 2.0' takes oath, Left Front to seek 'Common Minimum Programme' W a n w e i r o y Kharlukhi of the National People's Party, K Vanlalvena of Mizo National Front and Rwngrwa Narzary of United People's Party (Liberal) are also backing the BJP. Besides, two independent MPs - Ajit Kumar Bhuyan from Assam and Kartikeya Sharma from Haryana - are also with the ruling NDA.

Amit Shah's claim to form govt in Odisha is day dream, say BJD and Congress



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): A day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah claimed that the BJP will come to power in Odisha in 2024, both the ruling BJD and Opposition Congress dismissed it as a day dream. The claim to form the next government in Odisha is simply an act of day dreaming by the BJD, former minister Sudam

Marndi told media persons here. "They will never be able to come to power in the State as long as Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik remains our leader," he said. Dismissing BJP's 'Mission 120' as unachievable, Marndi said the saffron party had also claimed that it would win at least 120 of the 147 seats in the

Odisha Assembly in 2019 elections. "Everybody knows what was the outcome," he said. The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) also pooh-poohed the claim. "The party had made similar claims last during last elections, but what happened," OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak told me-

dia persons. Stating that Congress is now on the revival path in the State, the OPCC president said that the party will win more seats than the BJP in the 2024 Assembly elections. In the by-election to the Brajrajnagar Assembly constituency, it had pushed BJP to the third position and emerged as the main Opposition.

HLCA Clears 10 investments

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) of the State Government headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday approved ten investment proposals worth Rs 74,620.18 crore. These projects will provide employment opportunities for over 24,000 people in the State. The Committee approved the proposal of ReNew EFuels Private Limited (REFPL) to set up a green hydrogen & green ammonia plant in Paradip against an investment of Rs 2000 crore which will generate employment opportunities for 2000 persons. The establishment of these plants will have a pragmatic environmental impact since they will create ammonia and hydrogen using renewable resources, which will cater to the demand of the steel and fertiliser sector in Odisha, said an official. The Committee has also given approval for

Sompuri Infrastructures Private Limited got the approval of the state government to set up a 24 MTPA pellet plant & 6 MTPA of filter cake at Dhamra, in Bhadrak district. The company will make an investment of Rs 7811 crore, which will generate employment opportunities for over 684 people. Similarly, the above company will also set up a 30 MTPA Beneficiation plant at Deojhar, in Keonjhar district and a 30 MTPA Slurry Pipeline connecting its proposed 30 MTPA Beneficiation plant at Deojhar, in Keonjhar district to the proposed pellet plant at Dhamra, in Bhadrak district against investments of Rs 4592.18 crore and Rs 3674 crore which will create employment opportunities for 250 and 600 persons respectively. Approval was also given to Aarti Steels Limited for expansion of a steel plant at Athgarh,



setting up of 60,000 MT industrial structure and 6,000 MT steel plant equipment facilities to Tata Steel Limited (growth shop) with an investment of Rs 1000 crore with employment opportunities for over 2451 people. The HLCA approved the proposal of Adani Enterprises Limited to set up a 4.0 MTPA Alumina Refinery and 175 MW CPP Plant in Kashipur, Rayagada district. The company has proposed to invest Rs 41,653 crore for this project, which will generate employment opportunities for over 7750 people. In addition, the panel gave nod to set up 2.5 MTPA steel plant and 370 MW CPP in Kalinga Nagar, Jajpur district, by Orissa Alloy Steel Pvt Ltd against an investment of Rs 8,000 crore that will provide jobs for 5000 people.

in Cuttack district at an investment of Rs 3000 crore, which will generate employment for over 3587 people. This project will facilitate availability of raw materials to Auto component manufacturers. Moreover, the committee approved the proposal of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited for setting up a 6 MTPA Beneficiation Plant and 12 MTPA slurry pipeline in Keonjhar district against an investment of Rs 1490 crore generating employment opportunities for 600 persons. Rungta Metals Private Limited (RMPL) got the approval for setting up of 0.5 MTPA integrated steel plant creating employment potential for 1125 persons against an investment of Rs 1400 crore in Rairangpur in the district of Mayurbhanj.

LIFE TAKING TURNS

Shreya RV

One day I saw a boy
Sitting behind me on a train
And we both underwent the same kinda pain
But we both went in different lanes
One day we came in contact of each other
And became good tight brothers
We both shared our dismays
And understood on which path we lay
We continued our future
Based on how we were nurtured
We bought lots of laurels
By singing Christmas carolls

Life
- Aaron K Green -

Getting by one day at a time.
My challenges and trials grow.
So a new mountain I must climb.
And battle through the endless snow.
Every day struggles renew.
Life unique in an epic style.
Sleepless nights turn my brain to stew.
Yet I find a reason to smile.
Whilst I face challenges galore.
Sleepless nights through storms untamed.
And endless mountains to endure.
I do so with my love proclaimed.
Together we overcome strife.
Together we tackle this life.

@thebusypapa



Through Fiery Trials
With God

What shall I learn from God
through fiery trials today,
As side by side He walks with me
along life's rugged way?
He never fails - not even
in the darkest hour.
I know my Lord is high -
I feel His power.

Today I thank Him
for His love and grace.
In perfect peace, the future
I can face.
He knows of each new need
before "The Day"
And lovingly my Saviour
plans my earthly way.

As day by day I feed
upon God's word,
I learn my step is "ordered
of the Lord".
So also every "stop" is just
another step to rest,
And prove to me one fact -
God's way is always best.

The Tricoloured's Call
Dwit David Philip

Saluting our prodigious
Tricoloured,
with the wheel of truth amidst,
flying in sky of new arena,
waving an ever alarming call,
that reminds a story
unforgettable,
scribbled wherein, the anguish of
innocent lot, ransacked,
offered with satanic acts,
beaten black n blue often.
The beautiful flag urges In flashback,
to envisage those sanguinary fields,
of suppressed mutiny,
the fighters' tale who shed blood,
ushered rays of hope, a renaissance,
to regain the usurped land,
from abyss of utter dismay,
sticked with hunger and despair.
The sacred cloth addresses
for our attention towards a deep
contemplation to redeem, to unite,
to respect all caste, creed n religion,
to smash sabotage of all sorts,
to rejuvenate truly,
the past glory of Mother India.
Traveler, Chaibasha. Jharkhand, India



Quotation of the Day

The struggle you're in
today is developing
the strength you need
tomorrow.

Robert Tew

Culture of Odisha – Explore the Varied and Ancient Heritage of Utkala Region

Odisha is a cultural treasure trove, with ancient monuments, archaeological sites, indigenous arts, sculpture, dance, and mu-

there.

The Sultanate of Bengal's troops, headed by the iconoclast leader Kalapahad, captured the province in 1568 CE. The region's political identity was shattered. The region's subsequent rulers were more like tribute lords than true kings. For over a half-decade after 1751, the Marathas controlled the region. The region was ceded to the British Empire in 1803. The British partitioned the area into sections of various provinces. Odisha was established in 1936 as a province based on the population of Odia-speaking people.

Language of Odisha

Oriya is the most widely spoken language in the state and its outlying areas, and it is one of the country's oldest languages with Sanskritic roots. It is spoken by approximately 84% of Orissa's population. Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, and Telugu are commonly spoken and understood. Only a few educated people speak English.

Traditional Dress of Odisha

Women in Odisha



It is the 8th largest state in terms of land and the 11th largest in terms of people. The state is home to India's 3rd largest number of Scheduled Tribes. It is bordered on the north by West Bengal and Jharkhand, on the west by Chhattisgarh, on the south by Andhra Pradesh, and on the southwest by Telangana. Along the Bay of Bengal, Odisha has a 485-kilometre (301-mile) coastline. Utkala is another name for the region, which is featured in India's national song "Jana Gana Mana." Lets take a deep look in to the culture of Odisha and it's heritage.

History of Odisha



Odisha's early history can be traced back to references in ancient literature such as the Mahabharata, Maha Govinda Sutta, and a few Puranas. Due to marine trade links, the region was also known to other kingdoms in the East Indies region. The land's first occupants belonged to the Sabara tribe, which had its own culture. When the Aryans arrived in Odisha from the northeast, there was initially hostility between the two civilizations, but over time, reciprocal give and take resulted in cultural integration. Odisha is famous for being the birthplace of King Ashoka, who began to practice and preach Buddhism

Salwar Kamiz are popular women's outfits in Odisha. Dhoti is a popular traditional attire for males in Odisha. During the festival and other customary festivals, they also wear Kurta and Gamucha.

Suggested Read – Traditional Dresses of Odisha Reflecting Culture of Odia People

Arts and Crafts of Odisha



wear many varieties of saris, which enhances their natural beauty. Katakari Sari, Sambalpuri Sari and

Tarakasi, Odisha's most distinctive and finest handcraft, is a type of silver filigree work popular in Cuttack. This highly accomplished art form dates back over 500 years and is expertly performed by local artists.

Pattachitra is a traditional painting based on Hindu mythology that is one of Odisha's oldest and most popular art forms. Raghurajpur village in Puri is well-known for its artists, and it's fascinating to note that practically every family has at least one member participating in the art form.

Palm Leaf Painting, also known as Talapatra Chitra in Odisha, is an old style of art. This is regarded as one of the sacred art forms in the state.

Odisha is also known for its sand sculptures. Sand Art is clearly one of the world-famous artworks that can be found in Puri, Odisha. In fact, the state conducts an International Sand Art Festival every year. The applique work is a frequent thing in every dwelling, street, and shop in Pipli, a tiny village located near Puri. In the hamlet itself, visitors may watch the process of creating umbrellas and canopies, as well as see the finished products. Artists weave small mirrors on the applique motifs to make it more eye-catching!

Dokra is a very old style of craft that originated approximately 4500 years ago. It is



currently done in many parts of Odisha but the craft is particularly famous in Dhenkanal. Many of its people use the lost wax process to create boxes, sculptures of Gods and Goddesses, and lamps.

Culture of Odisha, Folk Art

The black stone sculpting art of Khiching in the Mayurbhanj area, which has a long history and a regal past, is one of the most well-known crafts. Khiching is also recognized for its spectacular temple of Maa Kichakeswari Devi, which attracts a large number of tourists because it is con-



structed entirely of black stone and is adorned with exquisite decorations that are unique to the state!

Most of Odisha's arts have received international acclaim, and Papier Mache is one of them. The art involves the use of



discarded cloth, natural fibers, and papers and is practiced in practically every region of the state.

Ikat, also known as Bandha, is a textile art form in which patterns are formed by dyeing cotton or silk before weaving the fabric. Though it is available in a variety of locations, Sambalpur is a popular destination for this type of art. While Ikat works may be found all over India, single ikat, double ikat, and a combination ikat of both warp and weft threads are very popular in Odisha.

Architecture of Odisha

Culture of Odisha is characterized by a plethora of temples and monuments. These temples are proof of the region's beautiful architecture. The first monuments were constructed in the third century B.C. The lion capital of an Ashokan pillar, now in the State Museum, and the fragment of an Ashokan pillar, converted into a Shiva



Lingam and ensconced in the Bhaskaresvara temple in Bhubaneswar, tell eloquently of Odisha's previous splendor. The second phase of Odisha art is represented by the rock-cut caves of Khandagiri and Udaygiri, as well as inscriptions documenting Kharavela's brief but eventful rule in the first century B.C. The Naga and Yaksha images discovered in Bhubaneswar are from the post-Kharavela period. During the seventh to thirteenth centuries A.D., Odisha was at the pinnacle of her creative grandeur, the Temple Architecture in Odisha. The temples of Orissa have a distinct design that has evolved through time to include a more complicated plan, highly ornamental plastic figurines, and higher sikharas. (To be continued)

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Rajinikanth thanks fans, colleagues, political leaders for wishes on Dadasaheb Phalke honour

CHENNAI: Superstar Rajinikanth, the recipient of presti-

presented to Rajinikanth on May 3.

On Thursday, in a statement posted on the microblogging

brother Sathyarayan Rao Gaekwad, who sacri-

theatre owners, media, the Tamil people, "who have

his 1975 film "Apoorva Rag-



gious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, for the year 2019, has expressed his gratitude to fans, film fraternity colleagues and political leaders for their heartfelt wishes.

The Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday announced that the award, which is Indian cinema's highest honour for an artiste, will be

"For all the love, greetings & wishes I've received from eminent political leaders, my film fraternity friends & colleagues, well wishers, media, every person who took the time to wish me & my beloved fans from across India & all over the world. My deepest gratitude and thanks," the veteran actor said in a Twitter post on Friday.

site, the 70-year-old cinema icon had dedicated the award to his friend, bus driver Raj Bahadur, elder brother Sathyarayan Rao Gaekwad and all those who made him the superstar that he is now.

"I dedicate this award to my friend and bus driver Raj Bahadur, who discovered my acting talent and encouraged me, my elder

fixed a lot to make me an actor while struggling with poverty, my guru K Balachander, who created this Rajinikanth," he had said.

IN PICS | And the Phalke Award goes to Thalaivar: The Superstar and his chemistry with big-wigs He also remembered his producers, directors, technicians, distributors,

given me my life, and my fans across the world.

"Rajinikanth, whose real name is Shivaji Rao Gaekwad, tried his hand at several odd jobs before landing as a bus conductor.

He soon quit the job to pursue his acting dreams.

It was noted director K Balachander who spotted Rajinikanth at a film institute and roped him to star in

angal". The director also gave the actor his screen name Rajinikanth.

The cinema icon has delivered several superhit films such as "Billa", "Muthu", "Sivaji" and "Enthiran", among others.

He has also starred in Bollywood movies such as "Hum", "Andha Kanoon", "Bhagwaan Dada", "Aatank hi Aatank" and "Chaalbaaz".

Malaika Arora receives first dose of COVID-19 vaccine

MUMBAI: Actor-host Malaika Arora on Friday received the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine. The 47-year-old ac-

Let's go warriors, let's win this #WarAgainstVirus. Don't forget to take yours soon!" she wrote in the caption.

smile. Thank You (and yes I am eligible to take the vaccine)," she added.

The actor, known for featuring in movies

Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, Sanjay Dutt, Sharmila Tagore, Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Mohanlal, Jeetendra,



tor shared the news in an Instagram post, along with a photo of hers receiving the vaccine jab at a centre in Lilavati Hospital.

"I took the first dose of the COVID vaccine. Because #wereinthistogether!

Arora also gave a shout-out to frontline healthcare staff for being "caring and vigilant".

"A special mention to our amazing frontline workers, who were so caring and vigilant and went about doing everything with a

such as "Dil Se", "Kaante", "Kaal" and "EMI", had contracted the virus in September 2020.

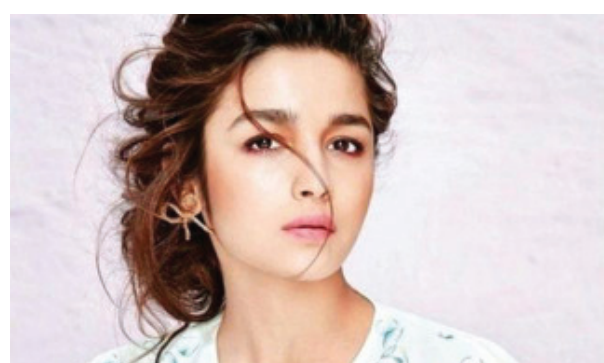
She recovered after briefly quarantining at her home.

Arora is the latest Indian film celebrity to be vaccinated after

Kamal Haasan, Nagarjuna, Rohit Shetty, Neena Gupta, Rakesh Roshan, and Johnny Lever. Last week, the government had announced that from April 1, all people above 45 years of age would be eligible to get COVID-19 vaccines.

Covid-19: Alia Bhatt tested positive, goes under home quarantine

Mumbai (GNS): Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt has tested Covid-19 positive and has been under home quarantine. Alia took to Instagram stories to share her diagnosis late night. She wrote, "Hello all, I have tested positive



for Covid-19. I have immediately isolated myself and will be under home quarantine. I am following all safety protocols under the advice of my doctors. Grateful for all your love and support. Please stay safe and take care."

Rang De review: A breezy entertainer

Nithiin and Keerthy Suresh's romantic drama Rang De is undoubtedly more entertaining than recent films of this genre. Yet this film rides on an old and predictable story. Arjun (Nithiin) and Anu (Keerthy Suresh) are childhood buddies and neighbours, who endure a love-hate relationship. He's a student with poor academic records, she's studious, thoughtful and attention-seeking. They grow up together for 20-odd years and for Arjun, Anu is one annoying friend everyone has in their life and is also someone his parents (Naresh VK & Kausalya) love more than him. Arjun bears the brunt of his father for Anu's achievements and he steadily develops a strong dislike for her. He wants to stay away from Anu so that his father stops comparing him to her. Anu, on the other hand, assumes Arjun shows real affection for her and falls for him. What happens next?

The first hour of the film draws its strength from the sheer charm of its lead pair. Director Venky Atluri has succeeded in maintaining a light and breezy tone throughout and generates laughter out of most natural situations. Even the routine slang jokes are presented with a dash of freshness and in

a less annoying manner. The story has potential in its premise but doesn't translate effectively on screen. The director couldn't build enough tension as we watch how Arjun-Anu's friendship turns sour. He occasionally struggles to haul up a coolness that the script doesn't possess. The real problems surface when Venky arms up the melodrama and resorts to using tired cliches to milk the emotional conflict between the lead characters. For example, Anu's mother (Rohini Molleti) encourages Arjun and his wrongdoings but doesn't support her daughter's goal to study abroad. The humour dries up and the narrative goes off the rails about ten minutes into the second hour. The sub-plot involving Vineeth and Abhirami too lacks real depth and it stretches the narrative needlessly. The climax scene in which Arjun makes the confession to Anu fails to pack an emotional wallop. Yet you are willing to overlook all these loopholes because all the characters have their own insecurities, which make them endearing and relatable. The film also attempts to be mature about sexual abuse and the concept of motherhood.

Significance of Raksha Bandhan the bond of a brother and sister

Literally translated, raksha means protection while bandhan means bond. Raksha Bandhan, therefore, signifies the bond of love out of which comes a sense of security and protection. It falls on Purnima or full moon day in the month of Shrawan according to Hindu Calendar. The festival is most common among the Hindus. However, it is also celebrated by the Sikhs, Jains and other communities. Regional celebrations may be different but Raksha Bandhan has become an integral part of those customs. The festival has been celebrated in the same way with the same traditions for centuries. Only the means have changed with the changing lifestyles. In Indian tradition, the frangible thread of rakhi is considered even stronger than an iron chain as it strongly binds a brother and a sister in the circumference of mutual love and trust. There are several historical evidences, which remind us about the significance of this festival and every time, this festival emphasizes the same values which have been mingled along with the festival. Raksha Bandhan is mentioned in our epics as a festival of Gods. It is said that once Indra, the God of Heaven was about to go into battle and was feeling a little apprehensive. When his wife tied a sacred thread to his arm for his protection and assurance all his fears vanished and he was successful in all his endeavors. The most ancient incident refers to the invasion of Alexander the Great. Accordingly

to the another story. Puru was a mighty king. Alexander had to

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

face a great resistance from him. Worried about her husband's safety, Alexander's wife

wrist and performs an aarati. While tying the rakhi, the girls

chant

"Yena baddho Balee raajaa daanavendro



sought audience with King Puru. She requested him to accept her as his sister. Puru obliged her and promised not to harm Alexander. The Rakhi on Puru's hand is said to be the savior of Alexander. On Raksha Bandhan, the sister ties a rakhi, comprising sacred threads, on her brother's

mahaabalah tena twaam anubadhnaami rakshe maa chala maa chala" Means "I am tying a Rakhi on you, like the one on mighty demon king Bali. Be firm, O Rakhi, do not falter." It is the duty of every brother to protect his sister. The sister prays

for the well-being, success, and safety of her brother. The brother promises to safeguard his sister under all circumstances. It helps to build a healthy family relationship. Today, the festival goes much beyond real brothers and sisters to any two individuals who enjoy a deep relationship. So you are likely to see a woman tie a rakhi to her cousins, neighbours and close friends. The love and self-actuation towards a novel cause between a brother and his sister is the theme of this great Rakhi festival.

This Raksha Bandhan, like all other Indian festivals, is a call to the Divine Self within. So let us pledge, on this day, to commit ourselves to dedicating our actions to our goal of self-betterment, harbouring finer emotions and developing the clarity to see the permanence in and through the transience of the world.

Raksha Bandhan is the day when people perform the grand pooja or the worship of the three eyed God, Lord Shiva. The sacred thread was apparently mentioned in several Hindu legends.

We have to place Raksha Bandhan in this larger context to realise that it is not just a simple function of tying a love band, applying a tilak on your brother's forehead, offering him sweets and accepting his gifts. The rakhi is not a band of love; it is a knot of subordination. The finer points of Raksha Bandhan is to bring people together just like the true spirit of all other Indian festivals.

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad

The basic needs of Adivasis should be fulfilled

The tribal people living in the remote areas of hills & forests of odisha are being fallen a prey to acute poverty. They have been deprived of their fundamental rights when our country is going to observe Azadi ki amrit mahotsaba" after 75 years of Independence. But it is immensely propagated that both central and state govt. are formulating so many masterplans to bring these adivasis to main streams of upliftment. Most of the time the politics of central and state govt. become scrambled without any consequences. But infact it doesnot bring any change in the development of the adivasis. Planning may be formulated by the govt., but it does not being implemented properly; as a result, the adivasis are so far from the advantages of these plannings from the time immemorial the adivasis have been neglected in all respects by the proceedings or present govt. fundamental necessities of adivasis that are most vital problem, seem as if govt. is not focusing so eagerly. After Independence to bring the adivasis to the main streams of the society both in social, financial and political aspects, exemplary steps may

have not been taken by any govt. till to date.

Pratap chandra sahu

Whatever activities worked out by any govt. out of courtesy sake does not symbolise any sincerity. It is impossible to make such whole hearted development of adivasis unless the govt. go into the root cause of their poverty and illiteracy and to find out their perpetual solution.

In the near past so many projects such as k.b.k project, multipurpose co-ordinated adivasis project, panchayat raj project, district planning board, biju k.b.k jojana, etc. have been formulated by the govt. for the upliftment of the adivasis. Whether the programme of eradication of poverty or incidental food supply to the needies have been fulfilled or not is impossible to declare. It is needless to say any positive-ness in the health and education sector. A poor adivasi is maintaining his life in hunger, epidemic and illiteracy. All these epidemics including all negatives have become his perennial followers. The child mortality as well as delivery mothers, mortality in their case always high. The root cause of such mortality is due to hunger and malnutrition. Whereas the child mortality rate in national level is 40% while in k.b.k it is 85%. It is only due to non-availability

of communication in remote areas.

Ambulance service is a day dream in such remote areas mostly resulting a high mortality of delivery patients and newly born childs. Now-a-days in such remote areas it is evidently said that innumerable children have fallen a prey to malnutrition. Planning of improved health service in the state or in our country is only restricted in pen and paper.

In k.b.k area in spite of having altogether 8 to 9 D h s, 14 sub-divisional hospitals, 80 chcs, 300 phcs, 1600 sub health centres, 225 health care sectors, 15 others wellknown private hospitals and also some homeopathic and ayurvedic hospitals alongwith some moving health care units are unbelievably in sickness. Health service in tribal areas is now like step-mothers behaviour of the govt. continuously.

As a result of which the poor adivasis are pushed into the open mouth of contagious diseases like cholera, dengue, and malaria. Although in this areas one can find nominal existence of adult education centres, anganawadi kendra's, ninad, sandesh, nabajyoti programmes, sarvasikhya avijan, samagra sikshya avijan etc. for

the upliftment of adivasis. In addition to these service centres one can find N. G. Os working for the awareness of adivasis in various factors. For this lacs and lacs of rupees have been spent through N. G. Os, but the result is zero.

In 1970-71 thousands of refugees were sheltered in the remote area umerkote and malkangiri. They were given ample benefits. On the other hand the bonafide original inhabitants (adivasis) were fallen under huge negligence for decades together. Their most favourable habitations were shifted to those newly coming refugees for their settlement, but in return the adivasis are in bitter betrayas. Nevertheless the inhabitants of the habitations where machha kind, balimela, indrabati, upper kolab projects were undertaken by the govt., the adivasis were yet not resettled properly.

So it is clearly evident that in every atomsphere the adivasis were betrayed or forced to be lack of any improvement. Having so many plannings are planned for the upliftment of the adivasis, but it cannot be implemented properly. So govt should be aware of of the fact and take major positive steps as to bring them to the normalcy of the society.

Nabarangapur

Letter to Editor

Education in School's needs to be improved

Many states school's education should take into account the interests of students at various stages of development. It should take into account early childhood care, literacy & numeracy fundamentals, skills-based learning, subject choice flexibility in high school classrooms, curriculum reduction to the essentials, reinventing vocational education, defining skills & content while framing syllabi for both primary and secondary schools. The state should make use of Science and Technology for innovation, to build internet in children to engage in physical & welfare activities, early exposure to modern technologies in schools & along with a focus on Divyang children.

Yours
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Everyone knows that there will be a last moment! Still, we lust for absolute power

We envy others. We boast for nothing. In that last moment, we will be so helpless.



death. But do they succeed in those fake endeavours?

No, no and a big no! Then why are we struggling to hoard many kinds of stuff in our lives? At the last moment, we will be abandoned by everyone! Nobody will accom-

Dr Sudipta Mishra

pany us. Since we know the fact again why do we crave for luxury? Even after encountering death so many times, we are greedily acquiring everything for our betterment. We are even creating a barrier like a wall outside our personality. That ego never allows us to think beyond our family. We only think of ourselves. In the graveyard, no one will follow us. We have to complete this awful journey alone. Then why do we make ourselves so attached to everyone? We know everything. Then what happens to

us at the time of thinking rationally about our death? Death is certain and life is an illusion. Without knowing the fragility of life, we always try to establish a primary bond with our immediate family. Then at the last moment of our lives, we long to live with them. We never ignite the inner light of our soul. We always find joy from outside. We never get to know the Universal truth. Soul transmits from one core to another. It's the ultimate truth. Instead of averting the last moment, we need to desire for that eternal moment. So that when death comes, we should embrace it happily.

All India Tribal Writers' Meet 9-10 August 2022, Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Kolkata

Kolkata (KCN): Today, on the first day of All India Tribal Writers' Meet, organized by Sahitya Akademi, on the occasion of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at the

Ayung Raikhan (Tangkhu), Ms Dipali Debbarma (Kokborok) and Sri Lankeswar Kanhar (Kui) recited poems in original along with Hindi/English translations. The vote of Thanks of the inaugural session was proposed

(Asuri), Ms Kumuda B. (Vagri) and Sri Badal Hembram (Santali) read out short stories in Hindi/English translations. The session was chaired by eminent Khasi writer and scholar Minimon Laloo who read out a story in original Khasi language. There stories

Bhutiya and Dhanya Vengachery will present papers with Ushakiran Atram in the chair. In the fifth session, Roshan Ramdas Jambu (Korku), Lanbon Kabui (Kabui), Ananda Gopal Hansda (Mahali), Salomi Ekka (Mundari), Satyajit Toto (Toto), Shanti



Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, 4, D. L. Khan Road, Kolkata 700025, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. He welcomed all the present dignitaries. In his speech, he focused on the indigenous knowledge systems which with the passage of time got developed. Interaction with other cultures played a vital role in this. He also lauded the role of women in tribal societies. The introduction address was delivered by Sri Madan Mohan Soren, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He informed the audience of other such multicultural meets. He also regretted the fact that despite the existence of so many indigenous languages in India, only two have been designated as scheduled ones. He also spoke about the need of national councils for promotion of these indigenous languages. The inaugural address was delivered by Ms Damayanti Beshra, eminent Santali writer and Padmashree awardee. In her speech, she focused on the role of women in preserving the culture and life style of the Adivasi Society. She also spoke of the high prestige of daughters in the Adivasi society. In adivasi society, housewives managed all household activities. She also spoke on the role of mothers in imparting knowledge of tradition and culture to the next generation. The inaugural session was chaired by Sri Debi Prasanna Pattanayak, eminent linguist and Padmashree awardee. He spoke on the significance of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. He threw light on the connotations of terms like primitive, tribe and indigeneous. He informed the audience of the diversity of Adivasi cultures. He also stressed on the importance of preservation, promotion, development and translation of Adivasi languages. He focused on the importance of mother-tongue based multilingual education. In the session Ms

by Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. The first session of the Meet was focused on the topic "Indigenous Voices in Non-indigenous Languages". The session was chaired by eminent Marathi fiction writer Sri Laxman Gaikwad. Ms Pushpamma S, Sri Hansda Sowvendra

Shekhar and Sri Walter Bhengra Tarun presented papers in the session. Ms Pushpamma S spoke on the tribal communities of Kerala as well as their rituals and cultures. She spoke about the oral traditions prevalent in tribal societies as well as their beliefs and philosophical thoughts. In his paper, Sri Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar spoke on the reasons for which he used English as his writing medium despite his original Santali language. He also spoke on his experience as he tries to express his thoughts on Santali life-style in English. Sri Walter Bhengra Tarun spoke about the tribal communities of Jharkhand. He informed the audience of several literary magazines which focused on tribal culture. He also spoke in details about many prominent indigenous writers who have chosen other languages, i.e. English, Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi etc, for expressing themselves. Sri Laxman Gaikwad, while speaking from the chair, lauded the Adivasi freedom fighters who were less in discussion now-a-days. He pointed to the lack of comprehensive history books on Advasi societies in India. He informed the audience of the torture and social as well as institutional atrocities, tribal communities have to face till today. The notions of criminal tribes are still in vogue. In the second session, Ms Asinta Asur



displayed their deep attachments with nature as well as the impact of societies on these tribal communities. In the third session, noted poets like Roshan Chaudhari (Chaudhari), Paikray Champia (Ho), Kaisa

Moyee Chiran (Garo), Sajjad Ali Shujaat (Purgi) and Altaf Salim Tadavi (Tadavi) will read out poems in Hindi/English translations with Vasamalli K. (Toda) in the chair.

In the sixth session, papers will be present on the topic of "Preservation and Development of Indian Indigenous Languages" by noted scholars like Wichamdinbo and Jaincy John with Damayanti Beshra in the chair.

In the seventh session, noted poets like Paominson Khongsai (Khongsai), K. Lalnunzama (Mizo), Dhaniram Tisso (Karbi), Raghunath Madkani (Koya), Kamal Muduli (Didiyi), Mohd Ali (Balti) and R a j e s h w a r i



Pfoze (Mao), Thowaiongya Mog (Mog), Jaysingh Santa (Kondh) and Gagarin Sabar (Saura) read out poems in Hindi/English translations. The session was chaired by eminent Chakma writer and scholar Arun Chakma.

On the next Day, the title of the fourth session was "Writings by Women in Indian Indigenous Languages". In the session, noted scholars like Pushpa Gavit, Vandana Tete, Chukey

(Hakkipikki) will read out poems in Hindi/English translations with Gosa Painter (Pawari) in the chair. On both of the days Sahitya Akademi books will be exhibited and will be available for sale. We request you to kindly publish the matter through your esteemed media. Also please make it convenient to attend tomorrow's programme and depute one of your media personnel to cover the above events of national importance.

Nitish Kumar to emerge as Opposition's PM face

New Delhi(KCN): The Opposition forces across India got a major shot in the arm with Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar snapping ties with the BJP on Tuesday. With Trinamul Congress supremo and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee reeling under a cash scam scandal, Mr Kumar is all set to emerge as the Opposition's "face" for the 2024 general election. A CPI(M) leader claimed that, unlike Ms Banerjee, Mr Kumar has a "pan-India image". While Ms Banerjee has been struggling to expand her influence

outside West Bengal, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr Kumar "is the only leader who has the ability to influence" politics in the Hindi heartland. As for caste-based electoral politics, both Mr Kumar and Mr Modi belong to the OBC category. And even though he was an ally of the BJP, Mr Kumar has somehow managed to largely steer clear of Hindutva politics and has been soft on the minority community in Bihar. He apparently enjoys the support of Bihar's Pasmada Muslims as well. Mr Kumar is also a major draw for the Opposition

leaders because of his "clean image". A JD(U) leader noted that Mr Kumar is "perhaps the only non-BJP leader with no corruption charges against him".



It is also felt that, unlike Ms Banerjee, the JD(U) leader was a "more reliable ally" and acceptable to all the non-Congress and non-BJP outfits, par-

ticularly the Left parties. Therefore a "Mahagathbandhan" of the JD(U), RJD, Samajwadi Party and Left parties could counter the BJP's politics of

social engineering and muscular nationalism in the BJP's key bastion -- the Hindi heartland, an Opposition leader felt. Besides his "clean image". The Op-

position parties can also bank on Mr Kumar's track record of "good governance". In Bihar, Mr Kumar has gained a lot of popularity for ushering in "develop-

ment" across the state and this may hold "currency" at the national level, a JD(U) leader observed. It was also being felt that even though the BJP is

the second largest party in the state, with 77 MLAs after RJD with 79 seats, it was Mr Kumar's image which went on to "help" the NDA alliance during the 2020 Bihar Assembly elections. The JD(U) had managed to win only 45 Assembly seats. Regardless of Mr Kumar's recent disenchantment with the BJP, sources said that the JD(U) chief had "always been nurturing his ambition" to be at the helm of national politics. In 2015, Mr Kumar left the BJP and formed the Grand Alliance. The entire Opposition had started looking at

him as the face to challenge Mr Modi. But then, at the last moment, Mr Kumar walked out of the Grand Alliance to return to the saffron fold. After the 2020 state elections, the BJP started calling the shots and the chief minister apparently felt "slighted" on many occasions. The BJP also broke the JD(U) in Nagaland and merged its MLAs with the BJP. JD(U) sources said that over the past few months, Mr Kumar had not only opened a back channel with the RJD but was also in touch with other Opposition leaders, particularly

Congress president Sonia Gandhi. As for the electoral arithmetic, the JD(U) has units in over 26 states and has fought Assembly elections in Karnataka and Gujarat without any tie-ups with the BJP. The JD(U) has been working to expand and strengthen its state units, according to a party leader. Party sources revealed that Mr Kumar's first and major obstacle in emerging as a national "face" was the RJD. However, "now that he has crossed the hurdle", Mr Kumar will begin his parleys with other regional players.

Barbil gears up for Muharram procession

Barbil(KCN): Muslim community recalled the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain on the

placed great importance on equality and brotherhood. "said one Muslim youth



Samshul Haque .Muslims of Barbil mourn the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, son of Hazrat Ali, and grandson of Prophet Muhammad, on this day. Shia Muslims took out processions on the day of Ashura and carry Tazia, which is a miniature replica of the tomb of Imam Hussain. Parwej Akhtar said Tazia was

occasion of Muharram today at Barbil. Muslims observe the day in remembrance of

brought home between the first day and the ninth day of the Muharram. On the 10th day, also known as the day of Ashura, the Tazia is carried to the cemetery for burial. During the



the martyrdom of Hussain, grandson of the Prophet Mohammad, in the battle of Karbala. Today is a day to recall the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS). He is remembered for his unwavering commitment to truth and his fight against injustice. He also

Muslim community too distributed sweet among people and proved brotherhood in the city. Local administration has maintained peace .Police platoons were also deployed to maintain law and order situation.

The 5th Apex Committee Review Meeting on Coastal Security of Odisha Conducted at INS, Chilika

Khordha (KCN): Department of Fisheries and Customs. The meeting

Affordable and Sustainable Handwashing in 3 Easy Steps with Savlon Powder Handwash

Kolkata (KCN): Of all the hygiene habits, handwashing has received considerable attention in last two years and its critical role in public health is now a well-established discourse globally. But as the fear of the pandemic gradually wanes and amidst rising prices, concerns like accessibility and affordability have caused consumers to return to washing hands with just water. Good hygiene should never be compro-



Meeting on Coastal Security co-chaired by Vice-Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, AVSM, YSM, VSM Flag Officer Com-

was convened as an Annual Review of Coastal Security issues of Odisha. All key issues and development /



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manding -in-Chief Eastern Naval Command and Shri Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, IAS, Chief Secretary & Chief Development Commissioner, Government of Odisha was conducted at the office of NOIC, Odisha at INS, Chilika on 10 August -2022. The meeting was also attended by representatives from all stakeholders namely the Indian Navy, State Government of Odisha, Coast Guard, reps of Dharma, Puri & Gopalpur Ports, SIB, ITR, Balesore progress made since the last review meeting were discussed and suitably addressed various challenges in the maritime domain as well as future measures and possible solutions to enhance the effectiveness of coastal security were also deliberated to chart the way ahead. The meeting achieved its overall aim of finding solutions to strengthen the coastal security of Odisha as well as achieve greater synergy among all stakeholders.



Raksha Bandhan celebrated at DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar

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Ashada jinx hits Hyderabad property registrations in July 5G Auction: Record Rs 1.5 lakh cr bids; Jio top bidder

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad has witnessed the registration of 4,313 units of residential properties in July 2022.

of 26 per cent MoM. Since the beginning of the year, the city has seen sales of 40,897 residential units with a total

decline in valuation. The share of registrations for properties worth Rs 50 lakh and above has declined to 26 per cent in July

ago. Commenting on the report, Shishir Bajjal, chairman and managing director, Knight Frank India

New Delhi: After a competitive bidding battle that lasted an entire week, India's first-ever mega 5G spectrum auction finally ended on Monday, with spectrum

Adani group bought only 400 MHz, or less than one per cent of all spectrum sold, for Rs 212 crores. "Sunil Mittal's Bharti Airtel was the second-highest bidder

try. Sources said both Bharti and Jio have built a pan-India spectrum footprint for 5G, with Vodafone Idea's and Adani Data Networks

The auction was stretched to seven days because of the bidding fight over UP East circle among participants. The UP East circle -- which includes Lucknow,



The number of registrations in July 20 per cent lower on month on month basis as buyers preferred to delay registrations in the wake of rising interest rates and the Hindu month of Ashada, which is considered not ideal to execute big purchases.

"The total value of properties transacted in July 2022 stood at Rs 2,101 crore also registering a decline

worth of Rs 20,023 crore," said a monthly report released by Knight Frank India. The Hyderabad residential market includes four districts namely Hyderabad and its surrounding Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy and Sangareddy.

A decline in the registration of properties worth over Rs 50 lakh and above contributed to the de-

2022 from 31 per cent in July 2021. However, homes in the price band of Rs 25 lakh and Rs 50 lakh constituted 56 per cent, which is an increase from a share of 34 per cent in July 2021.

The contribution of the segment comprising houses worth less than Rs 25 lakh in the July registrations declined to 18 per cent compared to 35 per cent a year

said, "Going forward, we do expect some short-term moderation in activities due to the rising home loan rates and an increase in prices in the market. However, the strength of the latent demand in the market is expected to keep the market buoyant in mid to long-term basis, because of the overall economic growth and the rise in income levels."

Cognizant's acquisitions to strengthen digital offerings

HYDERABAD: Cognizant, one of the world's leading professional services companies, is looking at acquisitions in the next six months as it seeks to expand its presence in digital technologies.

"We will continue to look for opportunities on the M&A front. We bought several companies last year. This year too we expect to have some movement on this front," Rajesh Nambiar, executive vice-president, chairman and managing director of Cognizant India, told Deccan Chronicle on Thursday, after announcing the company's second quarter results. It has forecast a 100 basis point growth in revenue through the inorganic contribution.

In 2021, the company had spent \$970 million on acquisitions, while the year before it had used \$1.12 billion to fund its inorganic growth strategy.

According to Nambiar, the company would be looking at further strengthening its digital portfolio through the acquisitions. "Going forward, all our service offerings could have a digital element," he said, laying emphasis on the company's digital strategy. During the April-June quarter, the company reported a seven per cent growth in revenue at \$4.91 billion compared to \$4.58 billion in the year-

ago period. This year for the second consecutive quarter 50 per cent of Cognizant's revenue have come from their digital business.

Despite unprecedented labour market conditions in the technology space, Cognizant has reported a healthy growth of 30 basis points in operating margin. "In a period of unprecedented labour market conditions characterised by elevated attrition and significant wage inflation, we focused on our client commitments and delivered balanced financial results in the second quarter," said Brian Humphries, Chief Executive Officer. "As we position the company for sustained success, we will continue to invest in our talented employees, our clients and our capabilities," he said. At the end of the April-June quarter, the company had 3,41,000 employees on its rolls. During this period, the company had seen a 31 per cent voluntary attrition, caused mainly due to an industry-wide talent shortage seen since the Covid pandemic. Nambiar said the company has been taking several initiatives to stabilise attrition. As part of this, the company had promoted 33,000 employees and is planning to hire 50,000 freshers through campus recruitment.



worth a total of Rs 1,50,173 crores being sold to telecom companies. The auction saw about 71 per cent of total spectrum bid out in the latest auction. Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio was the top bidder, winning a bid of over Rs 88,000 crores to consolidate its leadership position in the telecom space. Bharti Airtel, cash-strapped Vodafone Idea and Adani Data Networks came second, third and fourth respectively in the bidding for their priority circles.

Briefing the media after the final day's auction on Monday, telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio emerged as the largest bidder for the 5G spectrum, acquiring close to half of all the airwaves sold in the latest auction for Rs 88,078 crores, while the

with 19,867 MHz spectrum in various bands worth Rs 43,084 crores, while Vodafone Idea snapped up 2,668 MHz worth Rs 18,784 crores. The total bids worth Rs 1,50,173 crores for 71 per cent of the total bids of 72,098 MHz of spectrum offered across 10 bands in this latest auction," the minister said, adding the government in the first year will get Rs 13,365 crores in payment for the spectrum, and 5G services could be launched by October this year.

While the Adani group bought spectrum in the 26 GHz band, which is not for public networks, Jio acquired spectrum across several bands, including the coveted 700 MHz band that can provide 6-10 km of signal range and forms a good base for fifth generation or 5G in all 22 circles in the coun-

participating selectively in the bidding. While the government had put on offer spectrum in 10 bands, it got no bids for high-priced airwaves in 600 MHz, 800 MHz and 2300 MHz bands.

At the end of the auction, the mop-up from the 5G spectrum is estimated to be almost double of the Rs 77,815 crores worth 4G airwaves sold last year, and triple of the Rs 50,968.37 crores garnered from the 3G auction in 2010. "About two-thirds of the bids were offered for the 5G bands (3300 Mhz and 26 GHz), while more than a quarter of the demand came in the 700 Mhz band -- a band that had gone unsold in the previous two auctions (2016 and 2021)," the sources added.

The mega 5G spectrum action kicked off last Tuesday with bidding over Rs 1.45 lakh crore on Day 1.

Allahabad, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Kanpur -- saw bidding activity pick up once again for 1800 MHz, a band primarily used by telcos for 4G services. UP East -- which has over 10 crore mobile subscribers -- accounted for all the incremental spectrum sales on Sunday, amid a pitched battle for radio waves among players such as Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel.

As of May this year, Reliance Jio had 3.29 mobile subscribers in UP East, Bharti Airtel (3.7 crore) and Vodafone Idea (2.02 crore). "The bidding intensity for 1800 MHz band in Uttar Pradesh East circle had peaked between Wednesday and Friday, then subsided somewhat Saturday. On Sunday, however, renewed interest was seen and demand flared once again outstripping the spectrum supply," the sources said.

Telangana 2nd in Niti's innovation index

Hyderabad: A day after cracking the list of best states for start-up ecosystems, Telangana on Thursday ranked second among 'major states' in the NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index 2021 and also ranked first in the 'performers' category.

Telangana was preceded by Karnataka and followed by Haryana in the innovators under the 'major states' category, which comprised 17 states, with other categories including 10 north-east and hill states, and nine Union territories and city-states.

IT minister K.T. Rama Rao took to Twitter to hail Telangana's achievements. Rao tweeted: "Glad that the 3-I mantra; Innovation, Infrastructure & Inclusive growth of #Telangana is paying rich dividends @NITIAayog has ranked Telangana as No-1 in performers category & overall as 2nd best in the country. Kudos to Hon'ble CM KCR for his visionary leadership(sic)". Finance minister T. Harish Rao tweeted: "#Telangana ranked 2nd in India Innovation Index & stands 1st as a performer by

@NITIAayog. This is testament to Hon'ble #CMKCR garu's vision, as even Central govt acknowledged

creased." The India Innovation Index 2021 was set against the backdrop of the pandemic,



that ICT labs have doubled; Enrolments in higher education, Private R&D units & Startups have in-

creased." The India Innovation Index 2021 was set against the backdrop of the pandemic,

systems at the sub-national level and highlights the recent factors and catalysts for promoting crisis-

driven innovation. The index was released by NITI Aayog's Vice Chairman Suman Bery in

the presence of Chief Executive Officer Parameswaran Iyer on Thursday. It has been developed on the lines of the Global Innovation Index.

Among the worst performers were Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Bihar, which ranked at the bottom of the 'major states' category for the third year in a row, while Karnataka topped the index for the third consecutive year. Among Union territories, Chandigarh topped the chart, while Manipur occupied the top spot among north-east and hill states.

Iyer said he would like to reaffirm Aayog's continued commitment to monitoring the state of innovation in India through the India Innovation Index. "We strive to improve the innovation ecosystem across the nation in partnership with states and other stakeholders," he said.

NITI Aayog member V.K. Saraswat said that innovation is the key to sustainable and inclusive growth. "It can help us solve the biggest challenges of our times, bringing millions out of poverty, generating livelihood opportunities, and paving the way

for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

The first and second editions of the India Innovation Index were released in October 2019 and January 2021.

An official statement said that the third edition strengthens the scope of innovation analysis in the country by drawing on the framework of the Global Innovation Index (GII). The new framework presents a more nuanced and comprehensive outlook for measuring innovation performance in India, with the introduction of 66 unique indicators, as compared to the 36 indicators used in the previous edition (India Innovation Index 2020), it added.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka exits match at Toronto Open with back injury

TORONTO: Naomi Osaka's recent struggles continued Tuesday with an early exit at the National Bank Open.

The four-time Grand Slam champion retired from her first-round match with a back injury. She was trailing 7-6 (4), 3-0 against

Silicon Valley Classic. That was her first tournament since the French Open as she recovered from an Achilles injury. Prior to that run, she had her best tournament of the year making it to the final of the Miami Open in early April before losing to top-ranked Iga Swiatek.

Tomljanovic of Russia, Amanda Anisimova of the United States, and Zhang Shuai of China also advanced. Osaka struggled with unforced errors and had four of her five double faults in the first set. She won the first game with the help of three unforced errors from

past the baseline. Kanepi built on that momentum in the second set, taking advantage of Osaka's mishaps and firing sharp forehands past the Japanese star. After hitting her second ace of the match earlier in the final game, Kanepi closed out with



Estonia's Kaia Kanepi when she withdrew from the contest. "I felt my back from the start of the match, and despite trying to push through it, I just wasn't able to today," Osaka said. "I'd like to pay credit to Kaia for playing well and want to wish her all the best for the rest of the tournament."

Entering the tournament, Osaka had been eliminated from her last three competitions in the first or second round, including a straight-sets loss to Coco Gauff at last week's Mubadala

The 31st-ranked Kanepi will next play No. 8 Garbine Muguruza of Spain. In other matches, 10th seeded Gauff beat fellow American Madison Brengle 6-1, 6-3; China's Zheng Qinwen got past Canada's Rebecca Marino, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4; Italy's Camila Giorgi defeated ninth-seeded Emma Raducanu of England, 7-6 (0), 6-2; and Bianca Andreescu of Canada beat Daria Kasatkina of Russia, 7-6 (5), 6-4. Elise Mertens of Belgium, Sara Sorribes Tormo of Spain, Ajla

Kanepi, but the four-time Grand Slam champion lost her momentum after going up 2-1. Kanepi won four of the next seven games to go up 5-3. From there, Osaka had to fight her way out of two set-point opportunities from Kanepi. With a mix of a strong backhand and multiple errors from Kanepi, Osaka was able to tie it up and send the set to a tiebreaker. With the tiebreaker tied 3-3, Kanepi turned up her level of play taking four of the next five points as Osaka handed her set point on a shot

Qatar World Cup to start a day earlier than planned: Sources



DOHA: The opening match for this year's World Cup, between Senegal and the Netherlands play the first game on November 21, followed by the official inauguration match between Qatar and Ecuador later that day. The World Cup sources said that confirmation of the change was expected soon. FIFA and the Qatari organising committee declined to comment.

"There were discussions and agreement between the two respective teams and there was a request from CONMEBOL - the South American confederation," one World Cup source told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity as no official decision has been announced. "We wanted to follow the tradition that either the reigning champions or the host country be in-

involved in the opening match," the source added. For fans who have tickets for the November 21 game, "any disruption will be dealt with so impact is minimal", another tournament source told AFP. Under the change, Netherlands v Senegal would be moved from 1:00 pm (1000 GMT) on November 21 to a 7:00 pm start. "It is a better slot for both teams for television and other areas," said the World Cup source.

Bhavani Devi wins gold, defends Commonwealth Fencing Championship title



LONDON: India's Bhavani Devi won the gold medal in the ongoing Commonwealth Fencing Championship here, defending the title she won last time. The 42nd-ranked Indian fencer defeated second-seeded Australian Veronika Vasileva 15-10 in the senior women's sabre individual category final on Tuesday. Since becoming the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics, the Chennai-born Bhavani has had a steady rise in her sport. The year began with the World Cup in Istanbul where she finished 23rd after missing out on a spot in the last 32. Thereafter Bhavani's World Championship campaign in July at Cairo ended in the second round. The Commonwealth Fencing Championship is her 10th international tournament this year.

Speaking after her win, Bhavani said, "It was a tough final and I am glad I could add another gold medal for India this year. It has been a great journey for me this year and I would like to continue this momentum for the upcoming tournaments. The support back home has been great for me throughout." Rajeve Mehta, Secretary General of the Fencing Association of India, sees her as the torchbearer of fencing in the country. "She has been an inspiration to every fencer in India, and it is because of her that many youngsters now dream of making it big on the global fencing map." "This gold medal only adds to our belief that fencing in India is growing and I am confident that the day is not far away when we will have Indian fencers competing at the top international tournaments regularly including the Olympics," said Bhatia.




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