



Annual function at Rajnagar College Kendrapara. Hon'ble Higher Education Minister, Rohit Pujari, attended the function as chief guest, MLA Ranjagar Kendrapara, Dhruba Sahu and Raja Sahab Kanika, Shivendr Bhanjdeo, attended the function as guest of honour...

## Taiwan, China hold opposing military drills amid tensions

TAIWAN(KCN): Taiwan is staging military exercises to show its ability to resist Chi-



nese pressure to accept Beijing's political control over the self-governing island, following new rounds of threatening drills from China.

The exercises Wednesday off the southeastern county of Hualien follow days of Chinese missile firings and incursions into Taiwan's sea and airspace by ships and planes from the People's Liberation Army, the mili-

tary wing of China's ruling Communist Party. "We strongly condemn Communist China's continuous military provocations around Taiwan's sea and air that undermine regional peace," Taiwan Defense Ministry spokesperson Sun Li-fang told reporters at Hualien Air Force Base. "Communist China's military operations just provide us with

the opportunity for combat-readiness training," Sun said.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Joanne Ou said China was using recent visits by U.S. Congress members including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as a pretext for escalating its attempts to intimidate Taiwan into accepting what it calls its terms for "peaceful reunification." **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

## Odisha floods: Water receding, farmlands still inundated

Around 150 residents of villages under Ambabhona block in Bargarh district located on the fringes of Hirakud dam reservoir were evacuated to safer places on Sunday after backwater flooded the area following the release of water from the dam. While the situation of Chikhli village remains grim, the situation of nearby villages is returning to normal.

Sources said, as soon as 34 gates of Hirakud dam reservoir were opened on Saturday night, water started entering Chikhli village in the early hours of Sunday and continued to increase continuously. Reportedly, at 3 pm on Monday, the inflow of water to the reservoir reached 9,85,060 cusec against the outflow of 4,45,924 cusec through the gates affecting Chikhli, Ghugrapali, Benipali, Antradi, Baugapali and Dunguri.

Currently, Chikhli remains inundated in around 4 ft water and electricity has also been disrupted in the village. Tehsildar of Ambabhona, Sitaram Patel said, four relief centres are currently operational. "However, the situation of Chikhli continues to be grim," he added.

After massive disruptions owing to intermittent heavy rainfall in Sundargarh district for three days, life is slowly returning to normalcy with no rainfall reported since Monday evening. Sources in Sundargarh District Emergency Office (DEO) said as per preliminary reports, about 300 houses suffered partial to heavy damages under Rajgangpur, Tangarpali, Hemgir, Balishankara, Bisra and

Sadar tehsil limits, while report of property loss from 12 other tehsil areas is pending. They, however, claimed no human injury or death was reported from across the district, adding compilation of property damages was underway.



Sources said Hemgir block on Saturday and Sunday received 340.4 mm rainfall damaging many houses. Sundargarh town bore the brunt of heavy rainfall as water entered the District Headquarters Hospital (SDHH) on Sunday. At Panposh and Balughat and other low-lying areas of Rourkela too, rainwater entered houses.

In Balasore, residents of low-lying areas under four gram panchayats in Basta block and

## Odisha flood situation remains grim, 2 lakh affected

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Flood situation in the Mahanadi river system remained unchanged despite a fall in the water flow at the Mundali barrage near Cuttack.

The water level at Mundali barrage has reduced to 11.28 lakh cusec and is likely to reduce further within the next 24 hours. The inflow and discharge of flood water from Hirakud reservoir has remained almost constant at 6.42 lakh cusecs and 6.80 lakh cusecs respectively even as flood water have entered many low lying areas in coastal districts.

Around 2 lakh people in 1,366 villages and nine ULBs in 10 districts along Mahanadi basin have so far been affected by the flood triggered by back-to-back low pressure. As many as 337 villages with more than 20,000 people remained marooned in Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Puri districts of the state. Floodwater inundated Nimapada-Bhubaneswar road at Garapada and Nimapada-Balanga road near Dhamra on Wednesday. Road communication was disrupted with water overflowing on Khurda-Balangir NH-57 near Baghamari. The floodwater of the Mahanadi have also entered low lying areas in Banki NAC.

Fresh low pressure may worsen flood situation in Odisha. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradip Kumar Jena told mediapersons after a review meeting that floodwaters breached two more river embankments, Kushabhadra near Tendiakuda in Puri and Mahanadi near Teramanapur in Jagatsinghpur on Wednesday. The SRC said this is the first time after 2011

## NATO says 'urgent' need to inspect Ukraine nuclear plant

Ukraine (KCN): It is "urgent" the UN's atomic watchdog be allowed to inspect the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine that is under Russian military control, NATO

that so much water flow is seen at Mundali. He, however, said that within the next 24 hours, water flow at Mundali will reduce to



7 lakh cusecs. "The next 24 hours are crucial when the peak flood will pass through and reach the sea. Following which, the water level will further recede," he added.

Water flow at Mundali is reducing by 17,000 cusecs every hour now and within the next few hours the flow per hour will further reduce to 25,000 cusecs. The SRC said water level of Devi river is also receding. The water level of Devi river was 12.04 feet as against danger level of 11.76 feet.

Several localities of Narsinghpur, Banki, Badamba, Damapada, Tigiria and Athagarh blocks marooned after different connecting roads cut off by flood water in Cuttack district. "District administrations and engineers of the Water Resources department are working round-the-clock to tackle the situation and rescue operations are also underway by ODRAF, NDRF, and Fire Service personnel," Jena said.

In view of an anticipated fresh low pressure over the north Bay of Bengal on August 19, Revenue Minister Pramila Mallik has asked the district administration of Keonjhar, Bhadrak, and Jajpur to remain alert.

## NATO says 'urgent' need to inspect Ukraine nuclear plant

chief Jens Stoltenberg said Wednesday. Russia's seizure of the plant "poses a serious threat to the safety and the security of this facility (and) raises the **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

The flood situation in Tikarpara and Athamallick sub-division improved on Tuesday with water levels receding at both the areas. In Athamallick, only two panchayats have been affected by flood water. Local administrative officials have rescued 157 people from Kudagaon and put them in local primary schools at a higher location.

"Situation has started improving with only two panchayats flooded now. We have geared up our official machinery to tackle the impending flood in Athamallick," said Sub-Collector Tarani Suna.

Similarly flood situation at Tikarpara has improved as well even as it is flooded along with Majhipada, Ramimunda and Behera Sahi areas. Meanwhile, relief and rescue operations for people of Tikarpara area are on.

About 36 hours after rainfall stopped, paddy fields in the banks of Hati, Tel and Sandool rivers continue to be submerged in Jaipatna, Junagarh, Kalampur, Dharamgarh, Golamunda and Narla blocks of Kalahandi district. According to preliminary assessment of the Agriculture department, 4141 hectares of agriculture land including 4018 paddy land in 362 villages of Narla, Jaipatna, Kalampur, Junagarh, Dharamgarh and Golamunda blocks are still under water. After water recedes, details of the damages to crops can be ascertained, said Chief District Agriculture Officer Pradeep Kumar Sahoo said.

As many as four kutch houses collapsed in Gothagadigoan in Rashalpur GP and the families along with their livestock were shifted to safer places. Presently, hectares of land remain inundated due to poor disposal of water while roads have been cleared. Block Agriculture Officer of Basta, Harihar Nayak who visited the sites said that as many as 1830 hectares of paddy lands are submerged owing to the flash flood in river Jalaka.



## August

August follows the trail of my gory past  
Sprouting as the paradigm of a woman  
She falls short, front my pain last  
For what she uncovers, kills the summer  
She questions the poetries and spring covers

September knows the rain  
Over her worth, with crackers and little death  
Funny how the quiet girl now talks of rolled  
meth  
She finds a boy  
Who calls her, his own fantasy  
She flares and jumps to kiss his lips, uncanny

October whispers the love  
Around my damaged stars  
He writes my eyes pretty  
So gorgeous that  
Autumn and winter grow jealous



Shreeta Sikruti Kuanr

Lips shy to smile  
For he found our love to be a sandcastle  
Washed away by thr wave of hassle

November smokes tragedy  
She escapes murder  
By the blink of fluorescent  
Bargaining the limits of ascend and descend  
She collides against her will  
Her lovers suggest whiskey and cigar  
But she knows death is not that far

December remembers me  
The daughter of a broken mother  
The sister of a sunken writer  
And as the air crashes  
Perforating lungs and skins  
December will forgive me  
For my clashing with sin.

## Time for any

Dwit David Philip

Every day is a loss of time,  
If approaching to a definite  
objective,  
No time is enough for any,  
If concern is quality to refine,  
Gestation, incubation and pregnancy time He  
decides,  
Research and science gives trained analysis



You and me bound under time,  
We never know when is our fear well and who  
all will say bye bye to you and me.

Give a smile,  
Every body likes it,  
Hope you will not love to miss it from now  
when we are in time.

Time has no beginning no end, it's eternity,  
You and me are in given time.  
Traveler, Chaibasha. Jharkhand, India

## Quotation of the Day

What is coming is  
better than what  
is gone.



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

### Culture-of-Odisha-Architecture

The Sun Temple in Konark is the crowning achievement of the Orissa style. It is the last phase of temple construction in Orissa. It was constructed in the 13th century A.D. by



Narsingha Deva of the Ganga Dynasty. It is known as the Black Pagoda and is dedicated to Surya, the Sun God. It portrays Time – the Sun God moving across the sky, shaped like a Ratha or chariot drawn by seven gorgeously caparisoned horses in motion. The temple's outer walls are adorned with magnificent sculptures of dancers in various stances, musicians, lions, horses, elephants, and other animals depicting all aspects of life.

### Architecture of Odisha Jagannath Temple Puri

A ruler of the Ganga Dynasty built the Lingaraja temple in the 11th century AD. It has all of the characteristics of an Orissa temple. It has a vimana and a Garbha Griha and is enclosed in a quadrangular enclosure. The shikhara, a lofty ribbed curvilinear spire



that curves in at the top and is crowned by an amalaka or great rounded block of stone, is built over the garbha griha. The golden vase-shaped Kalasa with a trisul stands on top of this. The sanctuary is built on a foundation of beautiful mouldings. Niche projections of Ganesh, Parvati, and Kartikeya adorn the lower half of the wall on three sides.

Puri's Jagannath temple is a grander version of Lingaraja's temple. It was constructed in the 12th century AD and includes a 65-meter-high tower.

Suggested Read – Temples of Orissa – Illustrious Architectural wonders of India

### Religion of Odisha

Odisha is home to Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and Jainism, among other religions. However, Hinduism is the majority religion in Odisha. Despite the fact that all



other religions have adherents, Odisha boasts

the biggest concentration of Hindus among Indian states. Odisha is a nation of religious tolerance, and people of many sects and faiths coexist peacefully, often within the same hamlet, and used to share all of the festivals.

### Music and Dance of Odisha

Odisha has a long and illustrious musical culture. Odisha's rich musical legacy is reflected in the figures of dancers and musicians carved on old temple walls. Odissi music is a classical genre that combines all of the elements found in Hindustani and Karnatic music. Odissi sangita is a synthesis of four types of



music, namely dhruvapada, chitrapada, chitrakala, and panchal, as detailed in two treatises produced in the early nineteenth century, namely Sangita Sarani and Sangita Narayana. Jayadev, the saint-poet, renowned composer, and illustrious maestro of classical music, is responsible for most of it.

The Odissi dance, which is choreographed to the best music of Odisha, is claimed to be an attempt to approach God and experience ultimate happiness. As a result, the devadasi, who used to dance to the recital of hymns and bols of talas, kept this dance alive. The Odissi



dance emerged from the millennia-old Mahari dance form, which was once performed by devadasi dancers known as maharis at the shrine of Lord Jagannath in Puri. It was afterwards promoted as Odisha's classical dance genre. Late Kavichandra Kalicharan Patnaik and Padma bhusan recipient Kelu Charan Mahapatra are among the masters who elevated the dance form to international prominence. To name a few, there's Padmashree Pankaj Charan Das, and Deba Prasad Das.

### Music and Dance of Odisha-Chhau-Dance Chhau Dance – Image Source

In the world of Odisha music and dance, Chhau is a popular dance genre in addition to classical Odissi. It's a warrior dance performed to the accompaniment of indigenous instruments. Today's highly stylized Chhau dance adheres to the essential principles of Bharat Muni's Natya Shastra and Nandikeswara's Abhinaya Darpana. Other dance traditions found in Odisha's rich history and culture include Jatra, Pala, Dashkathia, Gotipua, and Naga-Medha.

### Festivals of Odisha

Odisha is a melting pot of cultures, including Aryan, Dravidian, and Adivasi. The majority of the state's festivals highlight some aspect of their cultures and honour their faith

throughout the year. There are several festivals that are widely celebrated, but the celebrations are unique to each place. The Rath yatra is the state's most well-known festival, during which a massive chariot or rath is driven across the state, particularly in Puri, where devotees worship Lord Jagannath. Durga Puja is celebrated all around the state, but especially in Cuttack. Kali Puja, also known as Diwali, is observed in many parts of Odisha. Cuttack's Bali Yatra, held on the full moon day of Kartika, recalls the splendor of Odishan traders in the past. At Baripada, the Chaitra Parva, a Chhou dance festival, is held.

### Cuisine of Odisha

Odiya cuisine uses a variety of locally obtained vegetables, grains, pulses, dairy products, and seafood, as well as fewer spices and oil. Khechidi (rice, lentils, and ghee), Palau (vegetables, dry fruits, and spices), Kanika (sweet rice dish made with dried fruits and ghee), Ghee rice, and Pakhala (watered rice served with curd and stir-fried vegetables) are some of the famous rice dishes in Odisha. The vegetable and spice-laden Dalma, the plain and uncomplicated Dali, and the delectable and flavorful Besara are just a few of the mouthwatering lentil meals. Santula is a vegetable stew made with onion, garlic, and green chilies in a skillet. Khajuri khata, Amba khatta, Ouu khatta, dhania-patra, and pudina-patra chutneys are some of the state's well-known chutneys used as condiments in Odishan cuisine. Dahi baigana, a curd and brinjal dish, is a delicious side dish with a tangy, flavorful, and sweet-sour flavour.

### Cuisine of Odisha

When it comes to sweets, Odisha has a wide variety of desserts, including cheese-based Chhena Poda, Chhena Jhili, Rasamalai, and Chhena Gaja, as well as flour-based Pheni, Jilapi, Malpua, and Kheera Gaja. Pitha, or indigenous cakes, are popular in Odisha.

The kitchen of Puri's famous Jagannath Temple is said to be the world's largest, with a thousand chefs working around 752 wood-burning clay hearths known as chulas to feed over 10,000 people every day. Offerings are made to the presiding deities in temples around the region. The Jagannath Temple's prasad is well-known, and it is known as Maha Prasad, which means "largest of all prasads." It is known as chhappan bhog since it has 56 recipes.

### Tourism of Odisha

With a 485-kilometre-long coastline, mountains, lakes, natural biodiversity, and rivers, tourism in Odisha is one of the most important contributors to the state's economy. Odisha is one of India's most important tourism destinations, offering a diverse range of tourist attractions including wildlife reserves, beaches, temples, monuments, the arts, and festivals.

### Occupation of Odisha

In Orissa, agriculture is the most common occupation. Agriculture and agriculture-related businesses employ over 76% of the entire working population. In addition, the state is a big producer of fish. Because of the favourable industrial climate in the state, the state has seen an increase in industrial activity.

Odisha with its diverse and intriguing cultural traditions exemplified by the iconic Sun Temple at Konark and the respected Jagannath Temple in Puri. Odisha, which is home to 62 tribes, has long been a favourite of visitors and scholars alike. Odissi dance, handlooms,

and fine handicrafts give this land a distinct cultural character that has enthralled people



from all over the world in the past and will continue to do so in the future. (Concluded)

## Soil statue of Lord Krishna

A statue maker named Ashwin who lives in a village called statuepur. The village named is like that because most of the inhabitants are making statue of Gods. Before one month of Janmastami, the villagers made statues of Lord Krishna to worship. People made the statues colourful using various chemical colours. But Ashwin made number of statues of Lord Krishna not using the chemical colour. He made it only by soil. Ashwin was very poor so he cannot make his own store. Ashwin asked to his father to bring bamboo sticks to make a store. Ashwin's father went



to jungle and brought fifty bamboo sticks.

Ashwin built a store to keep the statues safely in the rainy season. The statues made by Ashwin stored in the store room. People saw the soil made statues but not buy it because he was not used chemical colours. But People preferred to buy the colourful statue. Ashwin was getting upset.

One day in heavy rainfall, the chemical colour of some statues made by the statue makers washed away and mixed with water, pond etc. Lord Krishna came when his favorite animal cow moved to drink such water. Lord Krishna said please stop, the water is poisoned. Lord also said that the statue makers should not use the chemical colours because that will harm to the animals, plant, children and people. Lord Krishna said that Ashwin is my devotee. He prays me and follows my ideology. He made my statues without using chemical colours and thinks well for everyone. So I will be there in the statue where it was made keeping in view of protection of nature, people, animal and with a good will. It will not be harmful for anybody. Listening the voice of Lord Krishna all people buy the soil statue of Lord Krishna from the Ashwin. Ashwin earned more and more money. He became rich. He is very happy and surrendered himself before Lord Krishna by folding both the hands.

Mr. Sadyant Satapathy  
Class-IV A  
Mother's Public School, Puri



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**Rowel Star- The new shining Star of the Rajasthan Music Industry**

Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): The Rajasthan music industry is going leaps and bounds, celebrating the new singing star Afjor Khan aka Rowel Star. This new generation of Rajasthan singers is making headlines for his outstanding singing style and making the world shake legs with his unique Rajasthan songs.

Afjor Khan, popularly known as Rowel Star on Social Media, has created a sensation in the Rajasthan music world with his mesmerizing voice and affective tone. "I am an ardent fan of Guru Randhawa and take his inspiration for my songs. I want to create some unique mix of folk songs with blending hip-hop and wanted to give something new to the music world, says Rowel Star." He recently gave his voice to two new songs, "Tera Shoot" & "Nahiyo Jeena", making the Rajasthan cultures a step ahead in this ever-evolving music world. The shoot of these songs has recently been completed in Dubai and will be out very soon to rock the floors! About his upcoming projects, Rowel Star will be seen sharing the floors with re-

nowned Rajasthan Singer Sumsa Supari.



They together have shot the song recently in Dubai in various amazing locations. The song will be out soon and published on the YouTube channel Sumsa Supari Films.

Rowel Star's songs, Maro Sajaniyo, Bannasa ke Mijaj, and Jai Jasol Maa album are the most popular and trending, creating a sensation on his YouTube channel and blessing him with millions of views and subscribers.

Born and raised in a small village in the Panawara district of Barmer, Rajasthan, Afjor has been fascinated by the music culture since he was five. He was sent to his maternal house at Sindhari for schooling. During his school days, he sang songs and attracted many ears listening to his soulful voice. His teacher once gave him a chance to sing a song on Republic Day, which grabbed praise from the entire school.

It was the year 2007 when Afjor Khan won the hearts of millions for singing the famous Rajasthan song of those days, "Maharana Pratap", which rolled out tears from listeners' eyes. His soulful voice created a huge impact on people's minds. Afjor won the gift price of Rs.1500/- for his singing.

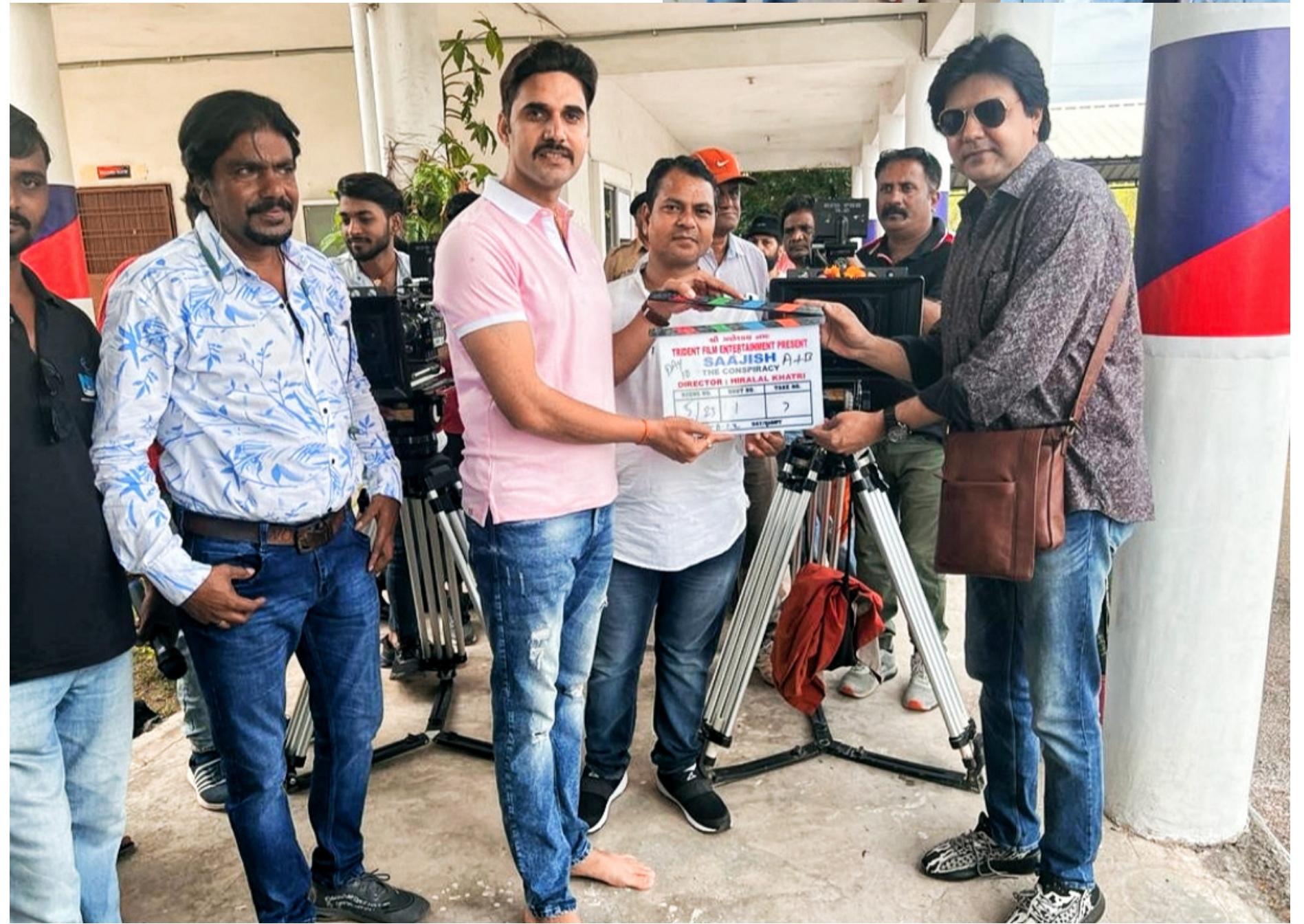
After the impressive response to his performance, there was no looking back for Afjor Khan, and his journey of becoming Rowel Star has kick-started!

**Neeraj Bharadwaj is shooting for web series 'Saazish' in Bhopal**



Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): Film and TV veteran and famous actor Neeraj Bharadwaj is

About which Neeraj Bharadwaj says, "I am playing the role of city's famous lawyer Abhay Pratap



shooting for the web series 'Saazish' in Kalua Khurd, Bhopal, which will soon be airing on Disney Hotstar. It is produced by Col. S S Pattnaik and the director is Hiralal Khatri.

Singh, who gets the brother of villain Shahbaz Khan punished. After that Shahbaz Khan commits a lot of oppression on my family and me. I am not able to do anything. After that conspiracy is

and just like before, I will definitely be able to make a place in the heart of the audience with my performance." By the way, Neeraj Bharadwaj will soon have a webseries named

Madgaon ...A Murder Case. Its shooting has been completed. The main cast of the web series 'Saazish' are Mugdha Godse, Shahbaz Khan, Raza Murad, Mustakh Khan and

Dev Manaria with Neeraj Bharadwaj. Its screenplay and dialogues are by Vinod Vats, Vikas Vashisht and Ajay. Its cameramen are Manish Vyas and Amar Vyas, music is by Manish Bhanushali. It is produced by Col.S S Pattnaik, co-producer Dev Manaria and executive producer is Anu Madrasi. It will be coming soon on Disney Hotstar. Its shooting is going on in Bhopal followed by Vadodara.



# Journey of Rupee from 4 to 80

India is celebrating its 75th year of Independence and is at the crossroad of understanding a strong monetary development for its people during the following 25 years - what the government terms the country's "Amrit Kaal".

Keeping different parts of the economy to the side, let us have a look at how the Indian Rupee fared against other worldwide benchmark peers starting around 1947.

The worth of a country's cash is a critical marker for measuring its economic pathway. A great deal has occurred on the macroeconomic front starting around 1947 remembering economic stress in the 1960s drove by a downturn in food industrial creation. Then, at that point, came the Indo-China and Indo-Pakistan which enlarged spending and gave birth to the balance of payments crisis. Confronted with high import charges, India was near default as the unfamiliar trade holds had nearly dried up.

As per reports, the then Indira Gandhi-led government needed to go for a steep devalue of the rupee. The worth of the rupee devalued from Rs 4.76 against the US dollar to Rs 7.5.

Then in 1991, India again ended up in a serious monetary emergency as the na-

tion was not in that frame of mind to pay for its imports and service its external debt obligation commitments. Once again, India was nearly on the verge of default, which required the genuinely necessary changes which opened the nation's economy.

To negate the emergency, the Reserve Bank of India allegedly degraded the rupee in two sharp tranches - 9% and 11%, separately. Post the downgrading, the worth of the rupee against the US dollar was around 26.

From Rs 4 during Independence against the then benchmark Pound sterling to around Rs 79 to Rs 80 against the US dollar now, the rupee has devalued by Rs 75 in the beyond 75 years.

Weakness for the rupee in these years has been contributed by many factors with trade deficit now rising to record highs of USD 31 billion from almost no deficit at the start of independence mainly contributed by high oil import bill.

It is expected that rupee could continue to fall against the US dollar going ahead but the pace of depreciation could be getting slow following a massive war chest build by the RBI in the reform of foreign exchange reserves.

Despite the fact that the falling rupee may not help the whole economy, a cheapened cash unquestionably has its benefits as it supports in boosting trades.

**Pradeep Kumar Panda**

Since the economic reforms of 1991, the rupee has been depreciating at the pace of 3.74 percent on CAGR (compound annual growth rate) against the US dollar as a result of inflation and interest rate differential between the US and India.

Somewhere in the range of 2000 and 2007, the rupee settled to a degree drove by significant unfamiliar ventures streaming into the nation yet to later downfall during the economic slump of 2008.

Further looking at the past, we see major depreciation started from 2009 onwards, from 46.5 to now at 79.5, 4.3% CAGR as compared to almost unchanged from 2000 to 2009, from 46.7 to 46.5. The US dollar being the reserve currency of almost all countries is detrimental to other currencies, especially in times of sharp volatility in financial markets as it weakens peer currencies. Since the cost of imports becomes higher, domestic inflation may be triggered, which in turn may reduce purchasing power in the economy.

Rising costs of imports may also increase the current account deficit (CAD). For April-July 2022 period, India's trade deficit stood at USD 100.01 billion. A widening trade deficit is also a contributing factor to the weakening of the rupee.

For the record, the Indian rupee in July

slipped below the psychologically important level of 80 against the US dollar for the first time as high crude oil prices amid tighter global supplies boosted demands for the US dollar.

There is, however, a silver lining. SBI Research said in its latest report said an interesting development is taking place in the global currency market as there has been a significant jump in trade in oil and other commodities in currencies such as the Renminbi, Hong Kong Dollar, and Arab Emirates Dirham at discounted rates.

"Dollar Distancing is finally happening and it is time for India to pitch Rupee as a credible, secular alternative in the changing world order?" SBI Research questioned in its report.

Coming to the share of the US dollar in global foreign exchange reserves, it has been shrinking since the start of the twenty-first century, falling close to 59 per cent as of the end of December 2021, from above 70 per cent two decades back.

The RBI also seems keen to reduce the dominance of the US dollar as it earlier this year announced a mechanism to settle payments for international trade in rupees, especially for India's exports. The mechanism if fructified may go a long way in internationalizing the rupee in the long run.

The Author is an Economist

# Tracing fascinating, vibrant journey of 'Vande Mataram'

Call it history revisited or something else! As India celebrated "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" (75th year of Indian Independence) with much fanfare, a new book published on that day and on the occasion, digs out so many unknown parts of India's pre-



Independence and post-Independence history that are still interesting, relevant and thought-provoking.

Very few would have possibly known that the first national flag in pre-Independent India with 'Vande Mataram' written on both sides of a thunderbolt (Bajro of Lord Indra) was weaved by Sister Nivedita. Nivedita herself explained: "It is for this that the Thunderbolt (Bajro) is multiplied, that it may be the symbol, not of a hero, but of a nation of heroes." And Vande Mataram was described as the mantra of 'nation of heroes'.

The book titled "Vande Mataram- Rup Rupantar" written by Dr Devajit Bandyopadhyay and published by Patrabharati, also offers answers (with well documented facts, figures and records) to some vexed questions like:

- \* Why and how 'Vande Mataram' was replaced with 'Janaganamanaadhinayaka..'?
- \* What was Mahatma Gandhi's take on 'Vande Mataram'?
- \* How Pt Jawharlal Nehru approached Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to get Tagore's feedback on 'Vande Mataram'?
- \* How Bose had actually approached

Tagore on the same issue days before Nehru's letter?

**Ritwik Mukherjee**



- \* What was Mahatma Gandhi's take on the convention of standing up when the National Anthem is sung and what he himself used to do?
  - \* Which was the first and only time HMV released a music record without the company logo on the disc and why was that?
- .....And many more.

In what can spark off a fresh controversy, the book quotes Gandhi's biographer (Ibid, page 99): "He (Gandhiji) himself purposely kept seated, because he has learnt that the Indian culture did not require standing as a mark of respect when

any national song or Bhajan was sung. It was an unnecessary importation from the West." This refers to Gandhi's prayer meeting in Kolkata on August 29, 1947, which started with 'Vande Mataram'.

The book delves at length on how style of tune of singing Vande Mataram changed and evolved over the years in theatre, jatra, movies and other performances. Research done by the author reveals that 'Vande Mataram' has been sung in as many as 146 different styles and tunes. This is notwithstanding what Mahatma Gandhi said. "There should be one universal notation for 'Vande Mataram' if it was to stir millions; it must be sung by millions in one tune and one mode. After all, national songs could only be two or three. But they should all have their common notation. It was upto the Shantiniketan authorities or some such authoritative society to produce an acceptable notation," says Gandhi. The book also touches upon how different political parties used 'Vande Mataram' -either in its pure form or with a dash of sarcasm to lash out at political oppo-

nents. "This is one of my dream projects and I had worked on it for long. Each and every fact presented in the book are well documented, recorded and cannot be challenged. 'Vande Mataram' was initially part of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's masterpiece-Ananda Mutt (first revolu-



tion of the Sannyasis). It was first sung by music guru Jadu Nath Bhattacharjee. From Jadu Nath Bhattacharjee to A R Rehman and Jeet Ganguly- Vande Mataram has traversed a long way and passed the test of time, still maintaining its acceptance, recognition and vibes, despite the controversies. My endeavour has been to trace this long and most fascinating journey of 'Vande Mataram' between the two covers," says Bandyopadhyay.

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.



## Fresh low pressure may worsen flood situation in Odisha



BHUBANESWAR: Even as the State battles a serious flood situation, likely formation of a fresh low pressure system around Friday bringing in more rains could compound the problems further. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the low-pressure area is expected to form over the north Bay of Bengal and trigger heavy rainfall at a few

places in Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Under the influence of the system, heavy rainfall is likely to occur in Puri, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore and nine other districts on Thursday. Similarly, rainfall activity is expected in Sambalpur, Nayagarh, Khurda and 15 other districts on Friday. "Rainfall or thunder-

shower activity is likely to occur at most places in the State on Thursday and Friday under the influence of the system. Once formed, this would be fifth low pressure of this monsoon season," said Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre Scientist, Umasankar Das. Chhattisgarh's regional Met office has forecast heavy rainfall at isolated places in the State on

Friday and Saturday. The experts are of the opinion that the discharge of over 6 lakh cusec water from Hirakud Dam on Tuesday evening and the fresh spell of rains may worsen the flood situation in Odisha. Due to back-to-back low pressure systems, the rainfall activity increased in Odisha, and the State has received 13 per cent excess rainfall between June 1 and August 16.

## Overdrive to Curb Accidents

Bhubaneswar: Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary Commerce & Transport directed the officials to go for overdrive to tackle road accidents. Accordingly State Transport Authority is making statewide special drive against riding motorized two-wheelers without wearing helmets on national and state highways, the transport authorities have suspended 400 DLs in the past 24 hours. Helmetless driving is a major cause of road accidents and grievous injury across Odisha. A total of 2073 e-challans were issued and 77 vehicles have been seized for driving without a driving license. The enforcement team of State Transport Authority have collected Rs. 4, 30,400 towards fine and as many as 400 licenses have been suspended for riding the two wheelers without helmet. Sanjay Biswal, Joint Commissioner Transport, Road Safety said, "The main aim of this drive is to create a sense of responsibility among the road users for prevention of road



accidents and fatalities." It has been observed that out of the accidents taking place on NH/SH many are related to two-wheeler riders. Due to continuous enforcement activities people are using helmets in the urban areas but are unfortunately avoiding wearing helmets on highways where protection is much more needed, he said. Biswal appealed to the two-wheeler riders and pillion riders to follow the traffic rules and wear helmets for their safety. As many as 1308 persons, including riders (868) and pillion riders (440) of motorised two wheelers, were killed in road accidents in the year 2021. Most of them were not wearing helmets. Similarly, a total of 1280 persons were grievously injured and 747 had minor injuries in accidents involving two wheelers. The ongoing special drive against helmetless riders which began on August 16, will continue till August 30

## Independence Day celebrated in and around Barbil with patriotic fervour

Barbil(KCN):The 76th independence day celebrated with great patriotic fervour and

despite unfavourable climatic conditions ,the people of Barbil unanimously celebrated the occasion. He appreciated the consistent endeavours of our armed forces in protecting our country bravely. He urged to realize, understand and cherish our coveted freedom and work towards a progressive nation. Along with many corporate house



zeal in and around Barbil amid certain restrictions in view of rise of Corona case in the state. Though parade and other programmes are restricted the National day celebration committee celebrated with less crowd at Vikas Mahal,Barbil.Laksman Mahanta,Chairman Barbil municipality unfurled the flag accompanied by Alok Patel,Tehsildar,Abhisekh Panda, executive officer, Dillip Mishra ,the former chairman Barbil municipality,Pratap Das ,chairman NDCC and members of different



celebrated the 75th Azadiki Amrit Mahostav.Sushant Dash,IIC,Barbil unfurled flag at Regional Media Forum and Seva organisation in presence of many media personnel , volunteers of Seva group and many other dignitaries of the town.Sushant Dash told about the supreme sacrifice the great martyrs who gave their lives for the sake of freedom. He also said that the freedom was very precious and it was very necessary to preserve it.In his speech Sushant Dash urged to follow the ideals of the great people like Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose etc and advised all to become ideal citizens of the country.



organisations of Barbil followed by the National Anthem. This entailed a short celebration ,people of Barbil witnessed the Independence Day programme at Vikas Mahal. . The chairman Laksman Mahanta speaking on the occasion contended that

Adding to this he too said this day reminds us every year that freedom is sacred and citizens must do everything to ensure that it shall not be endangered. One tri colour flag rally was also organised in the city to mark the occasion

## Swamy takes MPEDA Chief Charge

Kochi: Ace Mandarin, D V Swamy has taken over as Chairman of Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) on Wednesday. 2001 Batch IAS Mr.Swamy was accorded warm welcome by the senior officials of the Apex Export Institution of Marine Products. Senior IFS Officer K S Pradeep Secretary MPEDA and top officials of MPEDA greeted the

new Chairman. With Mr.Swamy taking over as Chairman, the senior officials are now engaged in chalking out the Road Map to export Rs.1 Lakh Crore of Marine Products by 2025. The dynamic IAS Officer with lot of experience and expertise in Export Sector is determined to scale up the activities of MPEDA in a big way.

# Cabinet Approves TKDL

New Delhi: The Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the "Widening access of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database to users, besides patent offices". The opening up of the TKDL database to users is an ambitious and forward-looking action by the Government of India. This will be a new dawn for Indian traditional knowledge, as the TKDL will drive research & development, and innovation based on India's valued heritage across diverse fields. The opening up of the TKDL is also envisaged to inculcate thought and knowledge leadership through Bharatiya Gnana Parampara, under the New Education Policy 2020. Indian traditional knowledge (TK) offers immense potential to serve national and global needs, there-with providing societal benefits as well as economic

growth. For example, the traditional systems of medicine and wellness from our country, namely Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Sowa Rigpa, and Yoga are serving the needs of people from India and abroad even today. The recent COVID- 19 pandemic has also been witnessing extensive use of Indian traditional medicines whose benefits range from immune-boosting to symptoms-relief to antiviral activity. Earlier this year in April, the World Health Organization (WHO) established its first offshore Global Centre for Traditional Medicines (GCTM) in India. These demonstrate the continued relevance of traditional knowledge in address the current and emerging needs of the world. The approval of the Cabinet to widen the access of the database beyond patent offices lays emphasis on integrating and co-opting traditional knowl-

edge with current practices towards enhancing innovation and trade. The TKDL will act as an important sources of TK information for advancing knowledge and technology frontiers. The current contents of TKDL shall facilitate wider adoption of Indian traditional medicines, while also propelling new manufacturers and innovators to gainfully build enterprises based on our valuable knowledge heritage. The TKDL can cater to a vast user base that would include businesses/companies {herbal healthcare (AYUSH, pharmaceuticals, phytopharmaceuticals, and nutraceuticals), personal care, and other FMCG}, research institutions: public and private; educational institutions: educators & students; and others: ISM practitioners, knowledge holders, patentees and their legal representatives, and govern-

ment, among several others. The access to the TKDL database would be through a paid subscription model with a phase-wise opening to national and international users. In future, more information on Indian traditional knowledge from other domains will be added to the TKDL database from the perspectives of the "3P - Preservation, Protection and Promotion". While catering to its primary mandate of preventing grant of wrong patents on Indian traditional knowledge, the TKDL database will also push creative minds to innovate for better, safer and more effective solutions for a healthier and technology endowed population. India's rich heritage shall lay a strong foundation for newer socio-economic developments.



## Jhunjhunwala will be remembered for giving India its new airline Akasa Air: Scindia

New Delhi: Rakesh Jhunjhunwala will be remembered for giving India its new airline Akasa Air after more than a decade, Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Sunday while expressing condolences on the ace investor's demise. Veteran stock market investor Jhunjhunwala, often referred to as India's Warren Buffett and whose net worth was USD 5.8 billion (about Rs 46,000 crore), died in Mumbai on Sunday morning. He held 40 per cent shares in Akasa Air.



Air's first flight, which operated from

Mumbai to Ahmedabad. The airline had on July 7 received air operator certificate from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Scindia said on Sunday: "Shri Rakesh

Jhunjhunwala Ji was not only an astute businessman, but also passionately invested in India's growth story."

"He will be remembered for giving India its new airline Akasa Air after more than a decade. My deepest condolences to his family and loved ones," he mentioned.

Jhunjhunwala was present at the Mumbai airport on August 7 for Akasa Air's inaugural flight.

Jhunjhunwala had then said in his speech: "I must thank you (Scindia) because people say that India has a very very bad bureaucracy but the cooperation that the Ministry of Civil Aviation has given us, it is unbelievable.?"

Nowhere in the world has an airline been conceived and born in 12 months, he had added. "Normally a child is born in 9 months, we took 12 months. It would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Ministry of Civil Aviation," he had noted.

## 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 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.

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, 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.

## NABARD Care for Handloom

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Pradeep K Jena, Development Commissioner has urged all stakeholders to come forward for greater convergence towards addressing challenges faced by the Handloom sector.

Mr.Jena said issues like drudgery, lack of marketing in the Handloom Sector in the State and the Rural Economy at large for ensuring progressive growth in all spheres.

NABARD, Odisha Regional Office (RO) has

sioner, P K Jena; Principal Secretary Finance, Vishal Kumar Dev, CGM, NABARD, C Udaybhaskar; Weavers, NGOs and other stakeholders have participated in the event.

While Odisha with its rich cultural heritage in art and crafts has an immense scope for improving the extent and quality of its Handloom and Textiles products, said Mr.Jena.

NABARD has been taking lot of initiatives



celebrated National Handloom Day on 07 August 2022 at Bhubaneswar.

Minister of Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts, Rita Sahu; Development Commis-

sioner, P K Jena; Principal Secretary Finance, Vishal Kumar Dev, CGM, NABARD, C Udaybhaskar; Weavers, NGOs and other stakeholders have participated in the event. While Odisha with its rich cultural heritage in art and crafts has an immense scope for improving the extent and quality of its Handloom and Textiles products, said Mr.Jena.

## Profession teacher but Addiction Social Services

Kandhamal(KCN):He is a teacher by profession but addiction is social service. One such unique personality is Bulu Nayak. His native is kandhamal District of Baliguda Block. He says I am a friend of the tribals and the poor people. He is always stretches helping hands to all who suffer. He stands with the people whether they are suffering from poverty, illness or any problems, feeding the hungry people during Corona and creating awareness of Corona. and provided dry food to many families. He loves to stand for people's happiness. He devotes himself to service without expecting anything. After completing his higher education he became a teacher and took up social service. After the death of Anarya Munda's wife in Bandpipili village under tribal-affected Kotgarh block. it was very difficult to manage the family.

## Crompton unveils "The Secret of Fine Taste" with its new-age Ameo Neo mixer grinder powered by MaxiGrind Technology™

Kolkata(KCN): A trusted legacy brand with quality, long-lasting durability and innovation at its core, Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. (CGCEL), one of India's leading consumer electrical companies is reinventing the modern Indian kitchen with the introduction of the all-new Ameo Neo Mixer Grinders. With 'finer grinding' being the key benefit consumers look for, this new product, which is part of the brand's innovative portfolio of mixer grinders, is powered by the cutting-edge MaxiGrind Technology™ that renders finer grinding efficiency making it "The Secret of Fine Taste" with its superior performance combined with an enhanced aesthetic appearance.

Indian cuisine comes with a multitude of delicacies that has the perfect blend of variety and spice. The correct mixture of herbs, spices and masalas becomes essential in delivering that unique authentic flavor. Hence with the evolving Indian palette,

order to get that refined taste in food. While every food lover hopes to have the best mixer grinder for their fine grinding, it is the kind of technology that ultimately delivers a result that can transform any dish into a masterpiece. Raising the bar of finer grinding, Crompton's Ameo Neo Mixers with MaxiGrind Technology is designed to deliver the ideal combination and consistency for a delicious dish. From elevating a smoother puree blend to a sharper masala mix and a grinding that cuts through the toughest of ingredients in a matter of seconds - Crompton's latest mixers provides "The Secret of Fine Taste" that creates mouth-watering dishes and a surprise to your taste buds.

To enhance the overall cooking experience and get the finest grind efficiently, Crompton Ameo Neo is powered with state-of-the-art features as follows:




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# Do we need to worry about the new China virus?

MELBOURNE: A new virus, Langya henipavirus, is suspected to have caused infections in 35 people in China's Shandong and Henan provinces.

It's related to Hendra and Nipah viruses, which cause disease in humans. However, there's much we don't know about the new virus known as LayV for short including whether it spreads from human to human. Here's what we know so far.

How sick are people getting?

Researchers in China first detected this new virus as part of routine surveillance in people with a fever who had reported recent contact with animals. Once the virus was identified, the researchers looked for the virus in other people.

Symptoms reported appeared to be

mostly mild fever, fatigue, cough, loss of appetite, muscle aches, nausea and headache although we don't know how long the patients were unwell.

A smaller proportion had potentially more serious complications, including pneumonia, and abnormalities in liver and kidney function. However, the severity of these abnormalities, the need for hospitalisation, and whether any cases were fatal were not reported.

Where did this virus come from?

The authors also investigated whether domestic or wild animals may have been the source of the virus. Although they found a small number of goats and dogs that may have been infected with the virus in the past, there was more direct evidence a significant proportion

of wild shrews were harbouring the virus.

This suggests humans may have caught the virus from wild shrews.

Does this virus actually cause this disease?

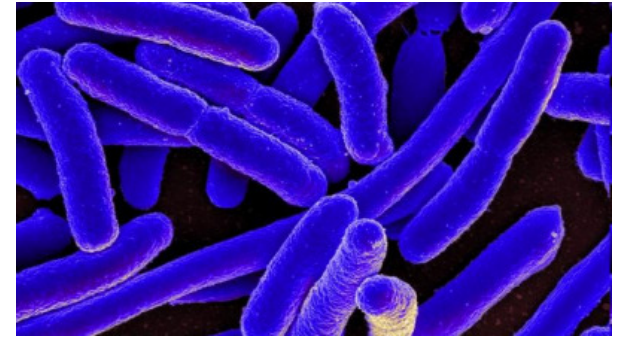
The researchers used a modern technique known as metagenomic analysis to find this new virus. Researchers sequence all genetic material then discard the known sequences (for example, human DNA) to look for unknown sequences that might represent a new virus.

This raises the question about how scientists can tell whether a particular virus causes the disease.

We have traditionally used Koch's postulates to determine whether a particular micro-organism causes disease:

- 1) it must be found in people with the disease and not in well people
- 2) it must be able to be isolated from people with the disease
- 3) the isolate from people with the disease must cause the disease if given to a healthy person (or animal)
- 4) it must be able to be re-isolated from the healthy person after they become ill.

The authors acknowledge this new virus doesn't yet meet these criteria, and the relevance of these criteria in the modern era has



been questioned.

However, the authors say they didn't find any other cause of the illness in 26 people, there was evidence 14 people's immune systems had responded to the virus, and people who were more unwell had more virus.

What can we learn from related viruses?

This new virus appears to be a close cousin of two other viruses that are significant in humans: Nipah virus and Hendra virus. This family of viruses was the inspiration for the fictional MEV-1 virus in the film Contagion. Hendra virus was first reported in Queensland

in 1994, when it caused the deaths of 14 horses and the trainer Vic Rail.

Many outbreaks in horses have been reported in Queensland and northern New South Wales since, and are generally

thought to be due to spillover infections from flying foxes.

In total, seven human cases of Hendra virus have been reported in Australia (mostly veterinarians working with sick horses), including four deaths.

Nipah virus is more significant globally, with outbreaks frequently reported in Bangladesh. The severity of infection can range from very mild to fatal encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

The first outbreak in Malaysia and Singapore was reported in people who had close contact with pigs. However, it is thought more recent outbreaks have been due to food contaminated with the urine or saliva of infected bats.

Significantly, Nipah virus appears to be transmitted from person to person, mostly among household contacts.

What do we need to find out next?

Little is known about this new virus, and the currently reported cases are likely to be the tip of the iceberg.

At this stage, there is no indication the virus can spread from human to human.

Further work is required to determine how severe the infection can be, how it spreads, and how widespread it might be in China and

**Taiwan, China hold opposing military drills amid tensions**

Continued from page-1

"China launched military provocations on these grounds. This is absurd and a barbaric act, which also undermines regional stability and interferes with shipping and commercial activities in the Indo-Pacific region," Ou said. China sees the island as a breakaway province to be annexed by force if necessary, and considers visits to Taiwan by foreign officials as recognizing its sovereignty.

Alongside its military threats, China imposed visa bans and other sanctions Tuesday on Taiwanese political figures. China exercises no effective legal authority over Taiwan and it's unclear what effect the sanctions would have. China has refused all contact with Taiwan's government since shortly after the 2016 election of President Tsai Ing-wen of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party. Tsai was overwhelmingly reelected in 2020. The DPP also controls the legislature, while the vast majority of Taiwanese favor maintaining the status quo of de facto independence along with strong economic and social connections between the sides.

China accuses Washington of encouraging the island's independence through the sale of weapons and engagement between U.S. politicians and the island's government. The U.S. says it does not support independence and has no formal diplomatic ties with the island, but it is legally bound to ensure Taiwan can defend itself against threats from China, including a blockade.

Aside from putting its military on alert, Taiwan has largely played down the threat from the Chinese exercises and life has continued as normal among a population of 23 million that has lived under the shadow of bellicose rhetoric and saber rattling from China for more than seven decades.

## Housing prices up 5% in June quarter

Chennai: Housing prices in the top eight cities, on average, moved up 5 per cent in the June quarter, while NCR saw a 10

Foras, for eight major cities—Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru,

real estate market, saw only a 1 per cent rise in housing prices at Rs 19,677 per square foot.

Housing prices in

demand due to increasing interest rates, but I am confident that the sales will continue to grow across segments



per cent rise.

Residential prices in the June quarter surpassed pre-pandemic levels, indicating strong demand in the major markets. Prices have been seeing an upward trend, led by rising demand amidst increasing prices of construction materials.

Delhi-NCR saw the highest increase in residential prices at 10 per cent compared to the same quarter of last year. Golf Course road saw the highest price increase of 21 per cent, followed by the Noida Expressway areas.

According to Housing Price-Tracker Report 2022, brought out by realtors' apex body Credai, real estate consultant Colliers India and data analytic firm Lias

Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad—the sales momentum that started in the latter part of last year continued in April-June as well, led by pent-up demand and attractive pricing.

Among the top cities, prices in Ahmedabad rose 9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 5,927 per square foot. Bengaluru saw a 4 per cent price appreciation to Rs 7,848 per square foot, while Chennai witnessed only 1 per cent increase to Rs 7,129 per square foot. Housing rates in Hyderabad stood at Rs 9,218 per square feet, up 8 per cent from the year-ago period.

Prices of residential properties in Kolkata too increased 8 per cent to Rs 6,362 per square foot. MMR, the costliest

the Delhi-NCR property market saw the highest annual increase of 10 per cent to Rs 7,434 per square foot.

Pune reported a 5 per cent rise in housing prices to Rs 7,681 per square foot during the June quarter. The prices are based on carpet area.

Residential prices in major cities have moved up compared to the previous quarter as well. Ahmedabad saw the highest quarterly rise of 4 per cent, followed by Bengaluru and Pune at 3 per cent each. Chennai residential prices remained stagnant sequentially.

"The housing prices have increased across cities, as materials and labour costs continue to remain high. We may see a marginal dip in

from September, as we enter the festive season," said Harsh Vardhan Patodia, president of Credai National.

According to Pankaj Kapoor, managing director, Lias Foras, going forward prices will largely remain range-bound. Colliers India CEO Ramesh Nair said the festive season is likely to keep the market sentiment high, resulting in higher sales despite the hike in interest rates.

Meanwhile, unsold inventory in the June quarter saw a dip in most of the cities despite rising prices and an increase in new launches in the last few quarters. Bengaluru witnessed the steepest yearly drop in unsold inventory at 21 per cent.

### NATO says 'urgent' need to inspect Ukraine nuclear plant

Continued from page-1

risks of a nuclear accident or incident", he told reporters in Brussels.

"It is urgent to allow the inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to ensure the withdrawal of all Russian forces," he said.

The Russian military control of the facility



"endangers the population of Ukraine, of neighbouring countries and of the international community", Stoltenberg added.

"Russian troops... now use the ground around the nuclear power plant as a staging area, as a platform, to launch artillery attacks on Ukrainian forces, and this is reckless, it is irresponsible."

Stoltenberg made the comments in separate news conferences Wednesday with the presidents of Serbia and Kosovo.

Russian forces in March took the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, located in southern Ukraine, shortly after invading.

ALSO READ | India expresses concern over reports of shelling near Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant

The plant is the largest one in Europe, and the uncertainty surrounding it as the war rages has fuelled fears of a nuclear accident to rival that of Chernobyl in 1986, when a reactor exploded.

Russia and Ukraine have accused each other of shelling the Zaporizhzhia nuclear installation.

The UN Security Council last week held an emergency meeting over the situation and warned of a "grave" crisis unfolding in Zaporizhzhia.

On Thursday, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will hold talks in western Ukraine with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The discussions were expected to include Zaporizhzhia.

Ukraine counted on four nuclear power stations to supply it with around half of its electricity supply before Russia's invasion.

Its call for a demilitarised zone around the Zaporizhzhia facility has been backed by Western allies.



## Neymar leads Paris Saint-Germain to big opening win in French league

PARIS: An unplayable Neymar notched a goal and three assists to lead defending champion Paris Saint-Germain to a 5-0 win at Clermont in the French league on Saturday. Lionel Messi also made a big contribution with two goals and an assist. Neymar troubled Clermont with his movement and skills. In the seventh minute, he pounced on a low cross from Achraf Hakimi to have a first-time effort deflected out by Alidu Seidu. Two minutes later, Pablo Sarabia squared the ball back for Messi, who flicked it toward Neymar. The

day and lacked match fitness. PSG left out of its matchday squad some high-profile players it reportedly wants to move out: Mauro Icardi, Julian Draxler, Ander Herrera, Idrissa Gueye, Rafinha, Thilo Kehrer and Layvin Kurzawa. Meanwhile, Krepin Diatta and Sofiane Diop scored for a weakened Monaco to prevail at Strasbourg 2-1. In a clash between contenders for European spots, Diatta opened the scoring with a powerful volley from the edge of the box in the 43rd. The Senegal



Brazil forward controlled the ball before burying it into the bottom corner. PSG capitalized on a fast break in the 26th when Neymar found Achraf Hakimi, who fired into the top corner. Neymar set up the third goal with a pinpoint free kick for Marquinhos, who headed home in the 39th. On the stroke of halftime, Neymar fed Messi, whose shot was saved by goalkeeper Mory Diaw. PSG slowed down a bit in the second half against a Clermont side which narrowly avoided relegation last season. 'Not right to single out Ronaldo for criticism': Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag Messi still made it 4-0 in the 80th. He played a one-two with Neymar before netting with a low strike. The Argentina superstar sealed the win in the 86th by chesting down a ball over the top from Leandro Paredes to score with an overhead kick. "What I have liked is the team's desire to win the ball back very quickly, to play with a lot of intensity," PSG coach Christophe Galtier said. "Leo reacts very quickly when possession is lost, and Ney has also made efforts in his defensive positioning to help the team stay very compact and win the ball." Chasing a record 11th league title, PSG missed Kylian Mbappe, who is nursing a groin problem, and Renato Sanches, who was signed on Thurs-

winger could have added another goal in the 48th but Strasbourg goalkeeper Matz Sels saved his chip. Diop, a France Under-21 international, doubled the lead by converting a rebound in the 53rd after Sels palmed away a deflected cross from Gelson Martins. Strasbourg forward Habib Diallo pulled one back in the 65th by heading in a cross from Thomas Delaine. Monaco and Strasbourg finished third and sixth, respectively, last season. Sels limited the damage by denying Martins in the 35th, diverting onto the post a close-range effort from Jean Lucas in the 61st, and saving a downward header from substitute Maghnes Akliouche in the 85th. Monaco goalkeeper Alexander Nubel preserved the win in injury time by stopping a point-blank shot from Adrien Thomasson. "We had chances to lead 3-0 and 4-0," Monaco coach Philippe Clement said. "It's a matter of experience. It's normal with young players, they must learn lessons, they must gain experience in such situations." Monaco missed the suspended Kevin Volland and Aleksandr Golovin, the injured Takumi Minamino, Benoit Badiashile and Myron Boadu, and an ill Caio Henrique.

## Annu Rani wins bronze, becomes first Indian female javelin thrower to win medal in CWG



BIRMINGHAM: Annu Rani scripted history as she became the first Indian female javelin thrower to win a medal, a bronze, in the Commonwealth Games on the penultimate day here

on Sunday. Rani sent the spear to a distance of 60m in her fourth attempt to finish third. World champion Kelsey-Lee Barber of Australia stole the gold with a final round throw of

64.43m from compatriot Mackenzie Little (64.27m) who was leading at the end of the penultimate round. Before Rani, Kashinath Naik and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra had

won a bronze and a gold in the men's javelin throw respectively. Naik had won the medal at the 2010 Delhi Games while Chopra won the gold in Gold Coast in 2018.

## India's champion women's club Gokulam FC stuck in Tashkent after ban on AIFF

KOCHI: The Gokulam Kerala FC's women's team match against Iran in the championship, which is being held at @Anurag\_Office @narendramodi for us to participate in



which reached Tashkent, Uzbekistan in the early hours of August 16, to play the AFC Women's Club championship after becoming the champion club in India is now caught in a no man's land after the ban on All India Football Federation (AIFF) by FIFA meant that the Kozhikode club would not be able to participate in the championship. Gokulam FC Kerala was to play its first

Qarshi, Uzbekistan. In a last-ditch effort to see if the team could participate in the prestigious tournament, Gokulam FC has sought the urgent intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur. "Gokulam Kerala FC are stranded in Tashkent ow of no fault of ours. We request urgent inter-vention by @ P M O I n d i a , @ i a n a g t h a k u r AFC," Gokulam FC tweeted on Wednesday. In a letter to the Prime Minister, it said: "Our team reached Tashkent, Uzbekistan from Kozhikode during the early hours of 16th August 2022. On arrival, we heard through various media outlets that FIFA has banned AIFF and the clubs are therefore no longer entitled to take part in the international competition until the

suspension is lifted. However, AIFF has not sent any mail or letter to our club anticipating that the ban will be lifted by FIFA within a couple of days. Our club's women's football team consisting of 23 players with an average age of 21 got grounded at Tashkent with disappointment coupled with distress as our preparation both mentally and physically went awry," the letter said. The letter said that the women players and the club has been declared ineligible to participate in the AFC Women's Championship 2022 for no fault of theirs. "In the light of the above, we request PMO's good offices to intervene in the matter and make all efforts to revoke the FIFA ban and include us back in the AFC Women's Club Championship as the champion club of India.



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