

Bomb threats put tiny Moldova, Ukraine's neighbour, on edge

MOLDOVA(KCN): For tiny Moldova, an impoverished, landlocked nation that borders war-torn Ukraine but isn't in the European Union or NATO, it's been another week plagued by bomb threats.

On an overcast day outside the international airport serving Moldova's capital of Chisinau, hundreds of people lined up this week as bomb-sniffing dogs examined the vicinity. That's now a common scene in Europe's poorest nation as it battles what observers believe are attempts to destabilize the former Soviet republic amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

Since the beginning of July, Moldova has received nearly 60 bomb threats with more than 15 reported so far this week at locations ranging from the capital's city hall, to the airport, the supreme court, shopping malls and hospitals.

While no one has yet been charged for the bomb threats, most of which have arrived via email and all of which have turned out to be false, officials say they have traced computer addresses to Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

"It is part of the disinformation war against Moldova, which is ongoing," said Valeriu Pasa, an analyst at the Chisinau think tank Watchdog.md. "It could be part of the Rus-

War of words between AAP and BJP over CBI raids at Sisodia house

New Delhi(KCN): The raids conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at the residence of Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and other location have triggered a war of words of between the AAP and the BJP. Delhi chief minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal said that the raid at his junior colleague's house was the result of their good performance which is being appreciated globally. AAPMP Raghav Chadha said the raids were conducted



Will he, will he not: Congress' Rahul dilemma

NEW DELHI(KCN): Will he, will he not? That is the question on every Congress leader's mind as Rahul Gandhi has still not indicated whether he is ready to take on the mantle of party presidency. Congress' Central Election Authority chair-



man Madhusudan Mistry said the Congress Working Committee, the party's highest decision-making body, will decide the date of the election of president and the exact schedule.

"The list of delegates (who will vote) is ready. From our side, we are ready, it is the CWC that has to decide the date," he told PTI.

Most party leaders, including those known to be close to Gandhi, are unable to say with confidence whether he would give into the demands of workers and contest the party presidential poll or not.

Sources said his stand of not taking on the mantle of party presidency was unchanged till a few days ago.

A senior party leader said most people in the

sian effort to destabilize Moldova, as they use many different methods to do so."

Since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, Moldova, which has a population of 2.6 million people, has faced a multitude of crises. It has received more Ukrainian refugees per capita than any other country; tensions have soared in the country's Russia-backed breakaway region; it is dealing with an acute energy crisis; and like much of Europe it is battling skyrocketing inflation.

The frequent bomb threats are only adding pressure to the country's already overstretched authorities.

"It blocks a lot of the resources — police, investigators, technical services — it's a type of bullying I would say, or harassment, of Moldovan state systems and public services," Pasa said.

Maxim Motinga, a prosecutor from Moldova's Office for Combating Organized Crime, told The Associated Press that since the bomb threats started "practically every day we open criminal cases."

"At the moment, all criminal investigations are ongoing," he said, adding that requests have been made for official assistance from Russia and Ukraine if

by 'BJP's CBI'. He lauded the Delhi government led education revolution in the region and said that there were many such raids in the last eight years that resulted in nothing.

Meanwhile, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur dubbed Manish Sisodia as an 'excuse minister' after the latter claimed

he was 'paying the price for honesty' as the CBI searched his premises in connection with the excise scam. CONTINUED ON: P-7

party want Rahul Gandhi to become president again but there have been no indications from him that he has changed his stance on the issue.

A school of thought is also emerging from within the party that in case Rahul Gandhi does not agree to become president, Sonia Gandhi should continue at the helm. In that case she could be assisted by a couple of senior leaders in the day-to-day functioning who may be given an official role like that of working president, a senior leader said.

There will be clarity on the issue within the next week, the leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said. Political commentator Rasheed Kidwai said the election to party president in India is not as democratic as it seems to be and it seems to be the case across party lines.

"In the case of the Congress, the person now elected will be the president till 2027. The second issue is that with what the Opposition has said vendetta politics taking place and Enforcement Directorate raids, party leaders feel the Gandhis cannot be left to fend for themselves. If one of them remains at helm it becomes difficult to orchestrate such actions against them," Kidwai told PTI. As far as Rahul Gandhi is concerned, he has given the right kind of

Russia deploys hypersonic missiles to its Baltic exclave

MOSCOW(KCN): The Russian military said Thursday that it

sonic missiles arrived at the Chkalovsk airbase in

separately. The deployment of Kinzhal missiles to

weapons to Ukraine, accusing the US and its allies of fuelling the conflict.

The Russian military says the Kinzhal has a range of up to 2,000 kilometres and flies at 10 times the speed of sound, making it hard to intercept. Russia has used the weapon to strike several targets in Ukraine.

Kaliningrad's location has put it at the forefront of Moscow's efforts to counter what it described as NATO's hostile policies.

The Kremlin has methodically bolstered its military forces there, arming them with state-of-the-art weapons, including precision-guided Iskander missiles and an array of air defense systems.



has deployed warplanes armed with state-of-the-art hypersonic missiles to the country's Kaliningrad region, a move that comes amid soaring tensions with the West over Moscow's action in Ukraine.

Russia's Defense Ministry said three MiG-31 fighters with Kinzhal hyper-

the Baltic Sea enclave as part of "additional measures of strategic deterrence." The ministry said the warplanes will be put on round-the-clock alert. A video released by the Defense Ministry showed the fighters arriving at the base but not carrying the missiles, which were apparently delivered

Kaliningrad as Russia's campaign in Ukraine nears the sixth-month mark appeared intended to showcase the Russian military's capability to threaten NATO assets. The region borders NATO members Poland and Lithuania.

Moscow has strongly criticised the deliveries of Western

Indonesia leader says Putin and Xi to attend G20 summit: Report

JAKARTA(KCN): Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping will attend the upcoming Group of 20 summit, the leader of host nation Indonesia said in an interview published Friday.

The pair's attendance would set the stage for showdown talks with US President Joe Biden at a time

when Washington is at odds with both of

wan. It has been unclear whether Putin



the rival powers, particularly over crises in Ukraine and Tai-

and Xi would turn up to the November talks on the Indone-

sian resort island of Bali. Moscow is isolated after its invasion of Ukraine, while the Chinese leader is limiting foreign trips because of Covid-19.

But President Joko Widodo, in an interview with Bloomberg, said both leaders would attend the G20 summit in person. "Xi

Flood relief for 15 days

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday inspected the flood-hit areas of several districts through an aerial survey and announced 15 days relief for the affected people.

inundated by the flood and damage of crops and houses.

After the aerial survey, the Chief Minister ordered to expedite the provision of relief and cooked food, health care, and drinking



The CM surveyed islands in Luna and Chitrapotla rivers in Kendrapara district, islands in Paika river, Kujang and Naugaon in Jagatsinghpur district, and Gop, Nimapara, Astarang, Delang, Pipili, and Kanas in Puri district, aurally. Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian accompanied the Chief Minister during the survey.

He expressed concern over the large areas

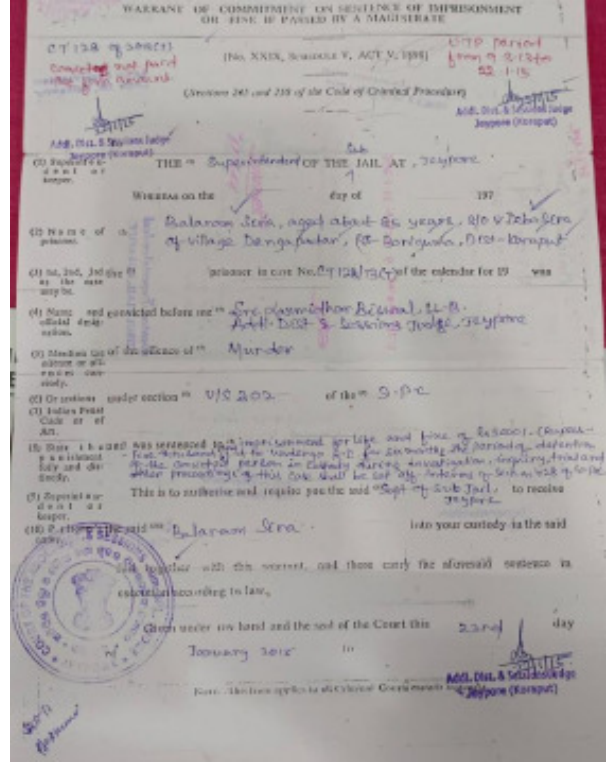
water supply in the affected areas and also to provide necessary fodder and veterinary treatment to the affected cattle/livestock. After making the aerial survey, Mr.Patnaik announced relief assistance for the affected people.

The Chief Minister has announced 15 days relief for the people, who are residing in the marooned villages of Khurda, Puri, Cuttack, Kendrapara

and Jagatsinghpur districts. Similarly, a seven-day relief will be given to the affected people of Sambalpur, Bargarh, Sonapur, Boudh and Angul districts, he said. Mr.Patnaik has also directed the district administrations to assess the damage within seven days after the water level recedes and to provide relief for house damage and crop damage within 15 days.

The Nation's Oldest Convict is in Odisha

Koraput (KCN): Convict No 7273/A in the Circle Jail in Koraput is no ordinary prisoner. At 92, Balaram Sira is the oldest prisoner in the state, perhaps the country. The nonagenarian, who was arrested for murder in March 2013, has been admitted to the jail hospital on the premises of the 115-year-old British-era jail since the last few years. Balaram, a native of Dengapadar Village un-



der Borigungma Police Station was arrested in 2013 in connection with a murder following a land dispute. He was sentenced to life imprisonment under sections 302 IPC by the Additional District & Sessions Judge, Jeypore on the 22nd January 2015. As an under trial prisoner since March 2013, and later on as a convicted prisoner, Balaram has been in jail for nine and a half years. Since the last few years, Balaram has been admitted to the prison hospital and is fighting age-related ailments with no hope of stepping out alive. The Jail Superintendent, doctors and staff have been taking good care of the nonagenarian but he is in a poor mental and physical state.

The Law department of the Government of Odisha, in the Guidelines of Premature Release 2022, which supersedes the earlier Resolution of 2010 has amended many of the previous rules of the State Sentence Review Board. The three considerations which are to be taken are:

Whether the convict has lost his potential for committing crime considering his overall conduct

The possibility of reclaiming the convict as a useful member of society

Socio economic condition of the convict's family.

The Categorization of Prisoners for Premature Release further states the Male Convicts sentenced to life imprisonment aged more than 65 years and who have undergone an actual imprisonment of 5 years including remand period and a total imprisonment of 7 years including remission shall be pre-

ma-

turely released. The rules clearly states that old and decrepit prisoners, who are incapable of committing crime, male life convicts aged 65 years and above; and female convicts, aged 55 years and above, were eligible for premature release after they complete 60 months of imprisonment. Despite Balaram having completed 111 months imprisonment (as on date) his name has not been cleared by the advisory board for premature release. Furthermore, the Odisha Jail Manual Rule 840 says that that when a convicted prisoner, in the opinion of a Medical Board, is in danger of death from sickness (not due to an infectious disease) with no hope of recovery within or outside the prison, the Superintendent shall report the fact to the Inspector General of Prisons if it is considered desirable to allow such prisoner the comfort of dying at home.

I have written to the President of India and the Chief Justices of both the Supreme Court and the High Court of Odisha for Balaram Sira's release, it does not behove well for the justice system to have such aged person incarcerated in jails. I have gone to his village, the family of the 92 year old convict say that he is even older, and is actually 96 years old. According to Advocate Ajit Patro of Koraput, who highlighted Balaram Sira's case, the implementation of the criminal justice system rests with three institutions, i.e. the police, the courts and the prisons. With a ratio of 144 police officers per 100,000 citizens, the police-to-population ratio is much lower than the United Nations' recommended 222 per 100,000 citizens. Courts in India at all levels (district, High Courts and Supreme Court) have a cumulative backlog of over 3.5 crore cases.

Dr. Biswajit Mohanty says that Indian jails are overcrowded, housing more than 4.6 lakh prisoners at 117% occupancy. Notably, almost 70% of these prisoners are under-trial prisoners, i.e., those who haven't been convicted yet. As per the data available with the National Crime Records Bureau the central jails are operating at 121% occupancy and district jails at 132%.

Of its total population, more than 3.15 lakh prisoners are under-trial prisoners. Overcrowding is primarily attributable to the disenfranchised poor under-trials, who are languishing in jail due to their inability to pay bail. The Government spends a considerable amount of the taxpayers' money on keeping these individuals incarcerated. In this background, it may be advisable to release those who are on trial for petty crimes; and where it is apparent, that there would likely be no 'real' trial. The criminal justice system is an integral part of the democratic setup. Therefore, it is imperative that comprehensive steps are taken to make the system more effective. Otherwise it will be a shame on our democracy to keep a mentally and physically decrepit nonagenarian in jail, till his death.

turely released. The rules clearly states that old and decrepit prisoners, who are incapable of committing crime, male life convicts aged 65 years and above; and female convicts, aged 55 years and above, were eligible for premature release after they complete 60 months of imprisonment. Despite Balaram having completed 111 months imprisonment (as on date) his name has not been cleared by the advisory board for premature release. Furthermore, the Odisha Jail Manual Rule 840 says that that when a convicted prisoner, in the opinion of a Medical Board, is in danger of death from sickness (not due to an infectious disease) with no hope of recovery within or outside the prison, the Superintendent shall report the fact to the Inspector General of Prisons if it is considered desirable to allow such prisoner the comfort of dying at home.

I have written to the President of India and the Chief Justices of both the Supreme Court and the High Court of Odisha for Balaram Sira's release, it does not behove well for the justice system to have such aged person incarcerated in jails. I have gone to his village, the family of the 92 year old convict say that he is even older, and is actually 96 years old. According to Advocate Ajit Patro of Koraput, who highlighted Balaram Sira's case, the implementation of the criminal justice system rests with three institutions, i.e. the police, the courts and the prisons. With a ratio of 144 police officers per 100,000 citizens, the police-to-population ratio is much lower than the United Nations' recommended 222 per 100,000 citizens. Courts in India at all levels (district, High Courts and Supreme Court) have a cumulative backlog of over 3.5 crore cases.

Dr. Biswajit Mohanty says that Indian jails are overcrowded, housing more than 4.6 lakh prisoners at 117% occupancy. Notably, almost 70% of these prisoners are under-trial prisoners, i.e., those who haven't been convicted yet. As per the data available with the National Crime Records Bureau the central jails are operating at 121% occupancy and district jails at 132%.

Of its total population, more than 3.15 lakh prisoners are under-trial prisoners. Overcrowding is primarily attributable to the disenfranchised poor under-trials, who are languishing in jail due to their inability to pay bail. The Government spends a considerable amount of the taxpayers' money on keeping these individuals incarcerated. In this background, it may be advisable to release those who are on trial for petty crimes; and where it is apparent, that there would likely be no 'real' trial. The criminal justice system is an integral part of the democratic setup. Therefore, it is imperative that comprehensive steps are taken to make the system more effective. Otherwise it will be a shame on our democracy to keep a mentally and physically decrepit nonagenarian in jail, till his death.

Wednesday afternoon. Similarly, floodwater is leaking through two pipings created on Luna left embankment at Badathakana in Sarapada gram panchayat and at Sankilo in Kentalo gram panchayat, where locals are keeping a close tab by packing them with sand bags.

On the other hand, a big piping has been created on the left side embankment of Chitroptala river at Nahalpur under Daudpur gram panchayat where a breach had occurred few years back. "We are spending sleepless night as the weak embankments which are in unstable condition at several places are posing threat and a breach may happen any time. Though floodwater has started receding today there is every possibility that breach may occur if further floodwater is released to Mahanadi river system in Cuttack district," said Nahalpur residents. Locals say due to lack of proper maintenance, the floodplains and embankments have eroded. Plying of heavy vehicles for transporting sand too have weakened the embankments. Assistant Executive Engineer Akshya Kumar Mallik said efforts were on to arrest the pipings and strengthen the vulnerable points.

Wednesday afternoon. Similarly, floodwater is leaking through two pipings created on Luna left embankment at Badathakana in Sarapada gram panchayat and at Sankilo in Kentalo gram panchayat, where locals are keeping a close tab by packing them with sand bags.

On the other hand, a big piping has been created on the left side embankment of Chitroptala river at Nahalpur under Daudpur gram panchayat where a breach had occurred few years back. "We are spending sleepless night as the weak embankments which are in unstable condition at several places are posing threat and a breach may happen any time. Though floodwater has started receding today there is every possibility that breach may occur if further floodwater is released to Mahanadi river system in Cuttack district," said Nahalpur residents. Locals say due to lack of proper maintenance, the floodplains and embankments have eroded. Plying of heavy vehicles for transporting sand too have weakened the embankments. Assistant Executive Engineer Akshya Kumar Mallik said efforts were on to arrest the pipings and strengthen the vulnerable points.

On the other hand, a big piping has been created on the left side embankment of Chitroptala river at Nahalpur under Daudpur gram panchayat where a breach had occurred few years back. "We are spending sleepless night as the weak embankments which are in unstable condition at several places are posing threat and a breach may happen any time. Though floodwater has started receding today there is every possibility that breach may occur if further floodwater is released to Mahanadi river system in Cuttack district," said Nahalpur residents. Locals say due to lack of proper maintenance, the floodplains and embankments have eroded. Plying of heavy vehicles for transporting sand too have weakened the embankments. Assistant Executive Engineer Akshya Kumar Mallik said efforts were on to arrest the pipings and strengthen the vulnerable points.

Deep depression to cross Odisha, West Bengal coasts; heavy rainfall forecast for four districts

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The depression over north-west and adjoining north-east Bay of Bengal that moved west-northwestwards is likely to cross Odisha and West Bengal coasts between Balasore and Sagar Islands around Friday evening. The regional Met office has cautioned that at least four districts will experience extremely heavy rainfall and 12 districts will receive heavy rainfall. Damage to kutcha roads and



houses is expected. "Extremely heavy rainfall at some places is likely to occur in Keonjhar, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts on Friday. Similarly, heavy rainfall is expected at a few places in Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Cuttack, Sambalpur and seven other districts," said Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre scientist Umasankar Das. The depression that lay centered about 250 km east-southeast of Balasore, 190 km east-southeast of Digha and 150 km south-east of

Odisha's coastal districts on high alert amid heavy rains

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Odisha government on Friday put the coastal districts on high alert as the low-pressure area intensified into a depression, causing heavy rainfall in several parts of the state, a senior official said.



As a fresh spell of rain could further worsen the flood situation in the Mahanadi basin area, the state government has asked the district administrations to provide assistance to the people in the affected areas, Special Relief Commissioner PK Jena said.

Under the impact of the depression, a third in the fortnight, heavy rains triggered a flood in Jagatsinghpur and Rayagada districts, and some areas in Subarnarekha basin in the northern region, a revenue department official said. Jagatsinghpur district recorded 107 mm of overnight rainfall, as per the weather department.

The low-pressure area over northeast and adjoining areas of east-central Bay of Bengal moved northwestwards and concentrated into a depression, centred about 310 km east-southeast of Balasore, it said.

It is very likely to intensify into a deep depression and is likely to cross West Bengal and Odisha coast between Balasore and Sagar Islands in the evening, the weather department added. It would continue to move west-northwestwards across Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand, and move towards north Chhattisgarh and weaken gradually.

In view of the forecast, the Odisha government asked the districts to closely monitor the situation. A red alert of extremely heavy rain has been issued for parts of Keonjhar,

Sagar Islands at about 8.30 am moved at a speed of 20 km/ph. Man killed by Maoist on suspicion of being police informer in Odisha's Nuapada According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) latest bulletin, the system is very likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a deep depression in the next six hours. After landfall, the system will continue to

move west-northwestwards across north Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand towards north Chhattisgarh and then weaken gradually. IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the north coastal region of Odisha is expected to witness a wind

speed of 55 km/ph to 65 km/ph and gusting up to 75 km/ph from Friday noon till midnight.

The fishermen have been advised not to venture into sea along and off Odisha coast and north Bay of Bengal till Saturday.

Under the influence of the system, heavy rainfall is also likely to occur at one or two places in Nayagarh, Khurda, Puri and 11 other districts on the day. Heavy rainfall is expected to occur at one or two places in Sambalpur and 14 other districts on Saturday.

Balasore, Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj districts. The rains may cause water levels in rivers to rise, flash floods, landslides or mudslides in vulnerable hilly areas and cause damage to susceptible roads and houses, officials said. An orange alert has been issued for 12 dis-

tricts, including Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Dhenkanal and Angul. Yellow warning has been issued for Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Khurda, and Puri. Fisherfolks have been warned not to venture into the sea till Saturday. The state government said that the water level in the Hirakud reservoir was at 622.37 feet at 8 am against the full capacity of 630 feet. "We are creating more space in the Hirakud reservoir and keep the water level within 622 feet as a heavy rainfall is likely to occur in the upper catchment areas of Mahanadi river in Chhattisgarh," said BK Mishra, the chief engineer of the water resources department. Mishra said that while 2.94 lakh cusec of water was entering the reservoir, 4.76 lakh cusec of water was being discharged downstream. Efforts are on to maintain the water level within 8 lakh cusec at Mundali barrage near Cuttack, he said, adding that steps are being taken to regulate flood in Subarnarekha and Budhabalang rivers in north Odisha. The special relief commissioner said that four more gates of the Hirakud dam have been closed, while 24 gates are open. The ongoing flood has affected over 5 lakh people in 13 districts. As many as 90,000 people were moved till Thursday to 190 relief camps.

CLASSIFIED

CAUTION

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. The Kalinga chronicle publication does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of The Kalinga Chronicle Publications shall not be held responsible/ liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.



AUTOMOBILE

SALE
Kawasaki Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale
Contact: 2555328

PURCHASE

Required a Marshal/Commandor / Boleto in good condition. Contact 2555763



REAL ESTATE

SALE
Flats ready for possession before Rathayatra at Puri near Seabeach for sale. Contact : 986 1078308

Residential plots at Pahala close to NH-5 and near Pata Railway Station, Bhubaneswar for immediate sale. Contact : 0674-2556733
Residential plots at

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

Classified advertisements are released daily. The normal classified advertisement is charged @ Rs. 5/- per word up to maximum number of 50 words. Any extra word will be Rs. 8/- per word. The minimum charges for any classified advertisement is Rs. 100/-. The options for bold lettering and outlining are also available and are charged @ 7/- and 10/- per word respectively. Extra charges for photographs Rs.100/-. For Box No. Rs. 100/-

HIRE

For hiring of Car / Jeep / Bus on monthly basis. Contact : 2555763

Gohira Chhak in front of CV Raman Engineering College beside NH-5, near Tamando. Contact : 9238691168

PURCHASE

Simplex / Duplex building at BBSR contact : 9437002509

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required Single / Double / Triple Stored North/East facing building at Puri . Contact 9437 143483



TOURS & TRAVELS

We provide luxury coach buses (16,25,32,41,52 seater) for Picnic, Excursion, Marriage. Maa Santoshi Travels, Contact : 9861079437
For Luxury Passenger vehicle, Contact : Sagasity Tours & Travels, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Ph. 2540219



BUSINESS

Saving 10,000/- for high return, extra earn and Foreign trip opportunity, 9238694001.

Independent business work from home, training in Singapore, 9338014287.



WANTED

Required Driver/Peon/Attendant/ Aya

Please Contact-8984600400

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required double/Single/ Multi storied Bungalow type North or East Facing Independent building At-Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar, V.S.S. Nagar, Mancheswar, Rasulgarh, Sallashree Vihar, Niladri Vihar.

Please Contact- 8338870595

Shanthnu Bhagyaraj joins Vijay's 'Thalapathy 64'



After back-to-back Thalapaty 64 updates over the past two days, it is clear that the makers of the film are keen to capitalise on the trend. Today, they have

announced yet another detail about the Lokesh Kanagaraj directorial.

As we had earlier speculated, actor Shanthnu Bhagyaraj has in-

deed been roped in for Vijay's upcoming film, which already boasts of a stellar cast that includes names such as Vijay Sethupathi and Angamaly Diaries-

fame Antony Varghese.

This project will have Anirudh Ravichander composing for a Vijay film for the second time after Kaththi. Sathyan

Sooryan, who is the cinematographer for Lokesh's upcoming film, Kaithi, will handle camera duties in Thalapaty 64 as well.

Bankrolled by

Xavier Britto of XB Film Creators, Thalapaty 64 is also speculated to feature Malavika Mohanan, and this might be the update that the makers are expected to announce later today.

Weird that women still need to protest for rights, says Shruti Haasan



MUMBAI(KCN): Actress Shruti Haasan has raised question over why women still feel the need to protest for their rights, not only in India but all around the world.

"People organise marches and protests for women's rights and I find it weird that we still feel the need to do these protests for women's safety and equality rights. It has been happening for years. I do believe there is a change in the scenario but I feel sad that the problem still exists," said Shruti, while interacting with the media at an RPG Foundation-

organised get-together for women who work under their CSR initiative on Tuesday in Mumbai.

ALSO READ: Shruti Haasan's latest to cross over to Hollywood

She added: "I don't feel it is happening only in our country. It is happening all around the world. When you look at international news, you realise this topic comes up many times."

Asked what she felt about the fact that there were lesser female-centric films made in India, she said: "I think slowly things are changing. Films are

being made that are rooted around women characters, so change is taking place. But it should have happened bit earlier."

ALSO READ: Shruti Haasan to have break-up song in her debut EP

Talking about Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on October 2, Shruti said: "It's such an important day and important part of our history. My father (Kamal Haasan) really believes in his philosophies."

Shruti Haasan will next be seen in an untitled film directed by Mahesh Manjrekar, along with Vidyut Jammwal.

'Joker' review: Solid filmmaking, messy politics

In many of its seedy street side shots, Todd Phillips's Joker focuses on a theatre and clearly shows the titles playing. There is Zorro the Gay Blade, which came out in 1981, a time that seems closer to the mood this film is going for – the late 70s and impending Reagan era vibe of New York that it lends Gotham City. But the more interesting title it shows is probably Ace in the Hole.

Is it the Billy Wilder film? It's a film that hints at media manipulation and Joker insists on a

kind of manipulation by everything from TV, press to upbringing and economic condition that drives Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix) to become the murderous eponymous character.

Ace in the Hole was also one of Wilder's famous critical and commercial failures. Failure and rejection are important driving forces in this film that's more honest and focused on its visual splendour than it is on the condition and circumstances that create the space

for a turn like that of Arthur Fleck's to Joker. Also, who refers to Harvey Dent as "ace in the hole"? Heath Ledger's Joker in The Dark Knight.

ALSO READ: There are many ways to see 'Joker', says director Todd Phillips The Gotham City and its socio-economic atrophy that writers Phillips and Scott Silver envision can come across as unconvincing and out of context. It talks of class issues but without clear markers for the oppression it wants us to zero in on.

Indigenous Women and Traditional Knowledge

(The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated globally on 9 August. It marks the date of the inaugural session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982.)



Indigenous communities all around the world are continually fighting to preserve their rights, their customs, and their knowledge in a society that is still heavily influenced by the western perspective. They must contend

with the difficulty of juggling two opposing worlds—one native and the other non-native—each of which exerts considerable influence over the other. Indigenous peoples have endured centuries of invasion and exploitation, and frequently they have witnessed their knowledge replaced by western knowledge that is pushed on them by western institutions. However, indigenous populations have endured for generations, adjusting in a variety of ways to unfavorable climatic conditions and succeeding in developing sustainable living systems. Numerous indigenous cultures have been able to deal with novel and complicated situations that frequently have a negative influence on them thanks to their ability to monitor, adapt, and mitigate. Many of these communities have been able to maintain a sustainable use and management of natural resources, to protect their environment, and to increase their resilience thanks to their diverse forms of knowledge, which are deeply rooted in their relationships with the environment as well as in cultural cohesion.

Indigenous knowledge is important for environmental sustainability, according to the UN System Task Team on the Post 2015 UN Development Agenda, which states that "traditional and indigenous knowledge, adaptation and coping strategies can be major assets for

local response strategies" in the report *Realizing the Future We Want*. "Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing in those territories, or parts of them. They form at present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories, and their ethnic identity, as the basis of their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institutions and legal systems" (UNDESA, 2004).

By indigenous knowledge, we mean local knowledge held by indigenous communities that have its own epistemology and scientific validity rather than knowledge that is in opposition to western knowledge. Indigenous knowledge "represents generations of creative thought and action within each individual community, as it struggles with an ever-changing set of conditions and problems" (Warren, 1996). Indigenous knowledge forms an integral component of indigenous people's existence since it gives the vital tools for survival because of these deep contextual and cultural links. Because indigenous peoples actively create their knowledge, doing so is extremely risky for comprehending because it renders the information worthless and may result in incorrect interpretations. 2009 (UNESCO)

Women & Traditional knowledge
Men have dominated the attribution of ground breaking work in both the social and natural sciences (Garry and Pearsall, 1992). Despite their accomplishments, women have long been underrepresented in the scientific community. Not only are women not allowed to participate in public decision-making, but they are also invisible as knowledge creators. Women's contributions have been devalued

Pratap Kishore Mohanty

in both traditional knowledge and modern science. In traditional knowledge, the situation is comparable for women. Women's contributions are seldom known and understood. What is generally accepted comes from two main sources: anthropological study and environmentalist activity. Anthropologists have looked into how women fit into the world of accepted wisdom (Reiter, 2006; Leacock, 1983). It is true that many components of the knowledge that people create are shared since men and women in a community experience a similar past and face comparable contextual obstacles. The variations in their lived realities, identities, and roles, however, also produce significant differences in their perceptions, modes of knowing, and assessments of phenomena. For instance, traditional knowledge depends on experience, which is influenced by the knower's gender, race, class, and even geographic location.

Even while information regarding the contributions that traditional and indigenous knowledge provide to biodiversity and environmental protection is becoming more widely available, relatively little is known about how gender is incorporated into traditional knowledge. Only in the early 1970s, with the birth of eco-feminism as a concept and a movement, was the active articulation of women's role in environmental conservation. While being influenced by the Green movement's theory, eco-feminism has evolved into its own school of thought due to its emphasis on women and how they perceive, understand, interact with, and value nature differently from males.

Women's contributions to traditional knowledge

India is a mega-diverse country with only 2.4 percent of the world's surface area, but it is home to around 45,000 plant species and 91,000 animal species, making up 7-8 percent of all known species. The Himalaya, the Western Ghats, the North-East, and the

Nicobar Islands are four of the planet's 34 biodiversity hotspots, and they are all in India. Indian philosophy gave rise to the traditional medical systems known as Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani between 2500 and 500 BC. India is also the world's largest exporter of medicinal herbs. India is a country with a diverse biological population, and its historic knowledge of various resources, especially the medical system, makes it a wealthier nation. But this knowledge needs to be preserved and expanded. India has faced numerous challenges in her efforts to preserve its traditional wisdom. These came up as a result of firms receiving patents for knowledge that originated in India.

Women are acknowledged as traditional knowledge creators, custodians, and consumers in important international agreements and instruments (e.g., various UN declarations and policies). In order to manage biodiversity, preserve the family and community, and advance knowledge, their work is crucial. In Latin America, women generate 40% of the food, 60% of the food in Asia, and 80% of the food in Africa (FAO, 2005). Rural women have an extensive and varied knowledge of the uses of the regional biodiversity because they play a crucial role in providing their families with food, water, fuel, medicines, fodder, and other essential daily requirements. Women are vital to the maintenance of biodiversity and have a stake in a healthy ecological system. Both material and abstract elements make up to cultural legacy. The preservation and sharing of indigenous knowledge are the main focuses of this year's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples event. This is an opportunity to acknowledge indigenous women's profound knowledge of the natural world, human health, technical developments, unique rites and rituals, and other significant cultural manifestations. Women pass down this priceless gift of antiquity from one generation to the next.

The Author is a Academic Consultant in Sociology, Odisha State Open University Sambalpur, Pratapk68@gmail.com

Can't we prevent insult of our National Flag ?

In India, during Independence Day & Republic day there is a new trend of selling flags made of paper and plastic, which is not fare. Ahead of Independence Day, the Centre has urged all citizens not to use national flag made up of plastic and asked states and Union Territories to ensure strict compliance of the flag code.



Our PM Narendra Modi has already called for wide publicity and sensitisation of

Central and state departments as well as the public to strictly use "paper flags" instead of plastic flags and ensure that national flags are disposed in ways that are consistent with the "dignity of the flag". Millions of patriots have laid their lives to achieve freedom and our National Flag is a symbol of their great sacrifice. Every true Indian knows the importance of this flag and would make sure that it continues to sway freely always. Our national flag is courage and inspiration for us. It makes us remember about the sacrifices of our great Indian freedom fighters. It makes us remember that how tough that moment was for them. Getting freedom was not so easy. We should always respect our flag and never let it go down for our motherland. Many sacrificed their life to save the honour of the Flag by not allowing it to fall down on the ground. Unfortunately people have forgotten to maintain the honour of the Nation. Abuse of national flags takes place on Independence Day and Republic Day, due to use of plastic

flags. National flag is used by people in every corner, every

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

crossroad, every shop, and every vehicle. Some proudly places by pinning up on the clothes. Some oneeven set on vehicles but it is painful to see our national flat in Garbage next day. Many unceremoniously dump the national flag to the dustbin while some thrown it on the road or in gutter. The feelings of patriotism and loyalty to a country are entrenched in the minds of individuals right from the time they start going to school. While each child enjoys carrying a paper flag on the *independence and republic day*, parents must be very watchful in ensuring that the flag is treated with respect.

The plastic or paper Flags that are held in the hand on the 'Independence Day' and 'Republic Day' with great honour and love during the flag hoisting ceremony, are seen lying on the streets, drains, filthy places in the afternoon of the same Day itself.

Is this not an insult to the bold patriots who suffered bullets of the British and the Portuguese on their chest to save the honour of the Flag ? Flag Code of India 2002, Section II, Point 2.2 (xiii) says that when the Flag is in a damaged or soiled condition, it shall be destroyed as a whole in private, preferably by respectful burning or by any other method consistent with the dignity of the Flag. The Flag Code of India, 2002 containing the provisions of the Prevention of Insults to National Honor Act, 1971 governing the guidelines for display of the national flag of India clearly mentions that whoever in any

public place shows disrespect to or brings into contempt

the national flag shall be punished according to the law. According to Section 2 of 'The Prevention of insults to National Honour Act, 1971' – Whoever in any public place or in any other place within public view burns, mutilates, defaces, defiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or otherwise shows disrespect to or brings into contempt (whether by words, either spoken or written, or by acts) the Indian National Flag or any part thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

There have been complaints that after Republic Day and Independence Day, flags made of plastic are often found lying on roads and gutters. It is observed that paper and plastic national flags are found strewn all over roads and even in gutters right from 26th January and it takes time to dispose of plastic flags. The government has already passed orders banning the manufacture, sale, distribution and display of plastic national flags. According to our Flag Code, "The National Flag of India shall be made of hand spun and hand woven wool/cotton/silk khadi bunting." Necessary action as per Mumbai High Court's orders should be taken for prevention of insult of national flags. All heads of departments and other officials should take care to ensure that the national flag is used only in a manner consistent with the provisions of the flag code. Our national flag is used in festoons. After

all the celebrations, people just leave them there. The flags fall to the ground and are stepped on. Plastic flags are preferred by many political parties for the election campaign. The Model Code of Conduct bans the display of any banners or flags in public places.

The flags are not only environmentally unfriendly, but also physically hazardous as the loose ends of the twine they are attached to, fluttering from lampposts and buildings, pose a danger to two-wheeler riders and pedestrians. The burning of non-biodegradable waste, including plastic flags, releases dioxins into the atmosphere.

We must uphold its dignity even if it is at the cost of our lives. Showing respect for National Flag is a symbol for the moral values of the citizens of the country. Don't we think like the national anthem and pledge are printed in school textbooks, a message about national flags can also be printed, Our national flag should not be used as a festoon, rosette or bunting or in any manner for decoration. It should be hoisted on important national, cultural and sports events. The paper flags should not be thrown on the ground or discarded after the event and should be disposed of in privacy with the dignity of the flag, Efforts should be made to educate, and spread awareness to the people of the country through advertising, in print and electronic media, so that the proper usage and dignity of national flag should not suffer in any manner,

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

Gadkari, Chouhan dropped from BJP's top board, Laxman and Yediyurappa in

New Delhi: It was a rude awakening for a section of senior BJP leaders when the high command dropped Union minister Nitin Gadkari and Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan from its parliamentary board, the highest decision-making body in the party.



Singh Lalpura.

In a major organisational reshuffle on Wednesday, the party brought in six new faces in the parliamentary board, including former Karnataka chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa and former National Minorities Commission head Iqbal

Seminar on TB Organised by REACH, Odish

The Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH) in collaboration with Odisha State TB Cell (STC) and Bhubaneswar District TB Cell(DTC) organised a consultative meeting with the newly elected Corporators of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on August 17, 2022, in Hotel Swosti Pre-

USAID supported ALLIES project intervention in the state of Odisha. The discussions at the consultation spanned the basics of TB, the disease burden and issues such as transmission, risk factors and an overview of the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP). The socio-economic implications of TB, stigma and recent developments on nutrition



support and private sector engagement were also discussed. Most importantly, the role of elected representatives and political commitments in TB elimination programme was highlighted in the consultation.

State TB Officer Dr.P.K.Hota said, not even single person with TB should be missed out, which has significant impact on the success of the pro-

gram. Dr. S.Sundaray from DTC had updated about the district NTEP program under urban TB cell, Bhubaneswar. And Deputy Mayor Ms. Majulata Kanhar called for TB pledge on behalf of all the Present Corporators to extend their participation and support in TB program in Bhubaneswar in their Respective wards. Dr Reeta Sahoo organized this meeting on behalf of REACH Odisha. The meeting was ended with the closing remarks from Mr.Subrat Mohanty, Project Lead.

percent pass percentage. From 1996-2021, 238 students have completed their high school and many of them are now pursuing higher education while some of them are doing government and private jobs.

PM Modi retweet lights up visually-challenged student's mind

VISAKHAPATNAM: "All of us in our school are thankful to PM Narendra Modi for acknowledging our love for the nation," says Madhuri, a student of Government Residential School for Visually-Challenged Girls in

The school has a science laboratory, computer laboratory, a digital classroom, a music room and dispensary to cater to the needs of visually-challenged girls. "With financial assistance from Divis Laboratories Limited, other organisations and individuals, we are able



Visakhapatnam, whose video was retweeted by the Prime Minister a few days ago, commemorating the 75 years of Independence. Madhuri, a native of Lakshmipuram village in Srikakulam district, is a Class IX student. "I wish to become an IAS officer and serve the poor to the best of my capacity," says Madhuri. The other students in the school expressed their desire to help their parents financially in future.

to provide the best possible education and amenities to the students," said Reddy. Separate records are being maintained by the school administration for funds donated by various organisations and individuals. "We will ensure transparency when it comes to donations. We disclose information regarding the donations received by the school because we respect and appreciate the donors for their contributions and it is our responsibility to ensure that the additional funds are not misused.

"On August 10, when India Post distributed national flags to these children, who never had the opportunity to see the national flag, they were overjoyed and celebrated the 75 years of Independence along with the rest of the country," said school principal M Maheshwara Reddy.

"Several parents are not willing to enrol their children in our school because they prefer staying close to them, even though those children aren't provided with all the required facilities. I sincerely welcome visually-challenged girls from all parts of the State to our school," he added.

Speaking to TNIE, the school principal expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for the retweet. "It is a great pleasure and inspiration for all of us. It may not be a big thing for others, but the noble act of PM Modi inspired our students. I hope this will help the students to strive hard to achieve success and self-sufficiency, against all odds".

Govt school for visually challenged girls in Vizag Government Residential School for Visually Challenged Girls in Visakhapatnam, which can accommodate 100 students, has 53 girls hailing from Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, and East Godavari districts. The girls studying in the school are either completely or partially blind.

Established in 1987, the first Class X batch of the school passed out in 1997 with a 100

Flood hits Cuttack hard, 136 villages marooned

CUTTACK: Cuttack district has been one of the worst hit in the prevailing flood situation in the State as several areas of Banki, Damapada, Badamba, Narasinghpur, Tigiria and Athagarh blocks have been marooned. Moreover, the communication link to most of the affected villages has been snapped because of 3-5 feet of floodwater running over important roads at different places in the district. Mancheswar-Nuapatana road, Kakhadi-Bramhanabasta and old Cuttack-Sambalpur roads are submerged in Athagarh block; RD road from Talabasta to Bilipada, main roads to Kuspangi, Sukhuakhala, road from Shimilipur to Bilipada via Jorakula in Damapada block have remained cut off. Similarly, communication link to several areas in Banki remain cut off with floodwater overflowing over Huluhula Nullah near Govindpur, Chandrapa Nullah and Jatamundia bridge.

by the flood in the district where classes have been suspended. Highest 31 schools have been affected in Damapada block followed by 19 in Banki block. "All BEOs have been instructed to keep a close tab on the situation and to take immediate steps for suspension of classes if the flood situation poses threat," said Nayak.

Two stranded in Mahanadi island rescued Cuttack : ODRAF team rescued a man and his son who were trapped in floodwaters at an island in the middle of Mahanadi river in Athagarh block on Wednesday. The rescued man Dharyadhar Dalei and his son Arjun of Kandarpur had gone to Amangei Kuda, an island in Mahanadi river near their village in a country boat for grazing their goats on August 12, but got trapped due to sudden rise in water level. On being informed, the district administration sent an ODRAF team, which started the rescue operation on Wednesday.

A 71-year-old man of Gayalbanka went missing after he slipped and was swept away in Mahanadi while taking bath at Devidwar ghat on Wednesday. According to a preliminary report of the district administration, as many as 1,92,624 people of 333 villages belonging to 95 gram panchayats in 11 blocks and 2 ULBs have been affected by the flood in Mahanadi and its tributary rivers such as Kathajodi, Luna, Chitroptala and Birupa. Banki, Damapada, Badamba, Narasinghpur, Tigiria and Athagarh are the worst affected blocks of Cuttack district, where 136 villages have been marooned. "Many people who are found to have taken shelter on the roof of their buildings in the marooned pockets are not interested to shift to safer places," said a fire service personnel engaged in evacuation and rescue operation in Banki.

Schools on alert amid heavy rain forecast Bhubaneswar: The School and Mass Education department has asked all education officers to remain prepared for heavy rains from August 18 to 20 in wake of the low pressure alert by IMD. The



Three ODRAF teams have been deployed in Banki, Damapada and Kantapada blocks. Considering the situation, a NDRF team and two fire service response teams have also been deployed in Banki. While, 53,096 people have so far been evacuated to 80 shelters set up in the worst affected blocks, free kitchen have been set up at 35 marooned pockets for three days.

district education officers, district project coordinators and block education officers have been asked not to leave their headquarters. The department has directed all the headmasters to allow use of MDM food grains, if necessary, by the district administration which will be recouped from the SRC and also allow use of school buildings for shelter and relief distribution.

As many as 28 mobile health teams, 14 mobile veterinary teams have been deployed to provide necessary health service to people and their domestic animals, Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani informed. However, he added that the situation is not so dangerous as the water level is receding. District Education Officer Krishna Chandra Nayak said 96 schools have been affected

OUAT issues advisory for flood-hit farmers Bhubaneswar: The OUAT has issued an advisory to the farmers of the flood-affected areas. As kharif crops in the flood affected districts are submerged, the Directorate of Agriculture and Food Production has directed the Chief District Agriculture Officers to advise the farmers how to save the existing crops or give a plan for alternative crops after floodwater recedes. The field officials of the Agriculture department have been asked to advise the farmers to drain out the excess water and hold up the application of fertilizer and pesticide.

'You are minister at your home': Council Deputy Chairperson tells Maharashtra Cabinet member

MUMBAI(KCN): The Maharashtra Legislative Council on Thursday witnessed a verbal duel between Deputy Chairperson Neelam Gorhe and state Cabinet member Gulabrao Patil, an interaction during which the former rebuked the latter, saying "you are a minister at your home".

to your department. This question is related to Kesarkar's department," Gorhe told Patil. Despite the Chair's instruction to Patil to take his seat, chaos continued in the House. Later, Gorhe said, "Gulabrao Patil ji, I have, from time to time, warned you, requested you. Take your seat immediately. What kind of behaviour is this in the House? Parliamentary Affairs Minister, can't you tell him (to behave)."



Patil, a rebel Shiv Sena MLA who is part of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's faction, was also a minister in the previous Uddhav Thackeray government. Seeking to reply, Patil said, "I am a minister" and added he

Member of Legislative Council (MLC) Suresh Dhas of the ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) later requested the deputy chairperson to expunge her remarks from Council records to which Gorhe said she will examine them.

should be given a chance to speak. Gorhe lost her cool and shot back, "What if you are a minister. You are a minister at your home. Take your seat."

The verbal exchange occurred when School Education Minister Deepak Kesarkar was responding to a question in the Upper House. The opposition was unsatisfied with Kesarkar's reply despite an assurance that he will hold a meeting on the issue on Tuesday. "Then Gulabrao Patil intervened and started speaking from his seat," Shiv Sena MLC Manisha Kayande said.

This, however, did not go down well with Dhas, who raised the issue in the House.

The intervention by Patil, the water supply and sanitation minister, further angered the opposition members who stormed into the Well of the House, leading to a brief adjournment. "The Education Minister was responding to a question. The Leader of Opposition said one minister (Patil) was bossing around. You please sit down. This question is not related

"I don't want to guide you (Gorhe). I don't have anything to say when you warned Gulabrao Patil. You told the parliamentary affairs minister to talk to him. I don't have anything to say about that, too. But then Gulabrao Patil said he should be given a chance to speak. At that time, you inadvertently said 'you are a minister at your home'. I request you to expunge those remarks," Dhas told the Deputy Chairperson.

On another occasion in the Upper House, Rural Development Minister Girish Mahajan, too, found himself at the receiving end of Gorhe's anger. In response to an issue raised by NCP MLC Amol Mitkari, Gorhe told the minister not to laugh and give the reply with seriousness.

Odisha floods: Mahanadi floodwater receding, several villages remain cut off from outside world

JAGATSINGHPUR: Floodwater of Mahanadi and Paika rivers has started receding but people are still struggling to cope with the



aftermath as around 42 villages in Kujang and Tirtol blocks continue to remain cut off from the outside world.

As many as 14,967 residents of 34 villages in 11 panchayats of Kujang and 2,000 of eight villages in as many panchayats in Tirtol were marooned after the two rivers breached embankments at four places.

Residents of Jayasankhpur village in Kujang alleged that around 200 families have been marooned for the last three days. They are yet to get relief materials. No official has visited the village which was cut-off from the mainland following the breach, they claimed. Apart from Jayasankhpur, other villages like Zillanasi, Saharadiha, Tentulikhamar and Madhapur too remain cut-off. Affected villagers alleged that the administration is yet to supply adequate number of boats for re-

lief and rescue operations.

Sources said many affected villagers have taken shelter on roads and temporary sheds erected on embankments. Bharat Sahoo of Anolipatana, who has taken shelter on a river embankment, said many people lost their thatched houses in the flood. The unavailability of polythene sheets has only made matters worse.

Sarpanch of Zillanasi Naliniprava Parida said around 1,000 families are marooned for the last four days. Dried food, which was supplied to the villages, is insufficient. "Only after I requested the officials concerned, the affected people were given dry ration, polythene and cattle feed," she said.

Sub-Collector Dharmendra Mallick admitted that the number of boats in Kujang is inadequate. The administration requires 30 boats to reach out to the affected people in the block but it has been given only 19. Despite shortage of boats, the administration has supplied free cooked food, dry ration and cattle feed to the flood-affected villagers, he said. Meanwhile, Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Central Range Suresh Chandra Dalai visited flood-hit villages of Tirtol and Kujang and interacted with the affected residents.

Hirakud dam closes 12 gates

SAMBALPUR: The authorities of Hirakud dam closed 12 sluice gates on Thursday after a decrease in the inflow of water into the reservoir. Currently, water is being released through 28 gates including 20 on the left and eight on the right. A day back, the dam was releasing water through 40 sluice gates after the inflow of water increased due to heavy

rainfall on Wednesday. As per the rule curve of the dam, water level should be maintained at 622 feet against the full reservoir level of 630 feet. Hence, the gates are being closed. As there is no prediction of heavy rainfall upstream, the situation is under control, he said.

At 6 pm on Thursday, the water level of the dam stood at 623.60 feet against the full reservoir level of 630 feet, which is considered a dangerous level. Similarly, while the inflow of water into the reservoir was 3,95,840 cusec, the outflow was 4,81,497 cusec. Around 4,46,544 cusec water was being released into Mahanadi river



rainfall.

But the intensity of rainfall decreased considerably in the last two days. In the last 24 hours, the dam witnessed rainfall of 0.06 mm upstream and 1.70 mm on downstream. Chief Engineer of Upper Mahanadi Basin Ananda Chandra Sahu said the upstream and downstream of Hirakud dam did not receive any

through the sluice gates and 32,214 cusec to the power channel. On the other hand, water level in low-lying areas of Sambalpur town, which were flooded due to discharge of floodwater from Hirakud dam on Wednesday, receded at many places. But affected people are still taking shelter in the eight relief centres opened by the administration.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik appoints six senior observers ahead of 2024 polls

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): As part of the restructuring of the party organisation ahead of

districts. According to a release issued by the BJD, Finance Minister

Former MP Prasanna Acharya will be senior observer for Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur,

has been assigned Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada and Gajapati districts while former minister Debi Prasad Mishra will be in-charge of Ganjam, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Khurda, Puri and Boudh districts.

Similarly, former minister Maheswar Mohanty has been appointed as senior observer for Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts. Former minister Pratap Jena has been entrusted with Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Deogarh, Angul and Dhenkanal.



the 2024 elections, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appointed six leaders of the party as senior observers for 30

Niranjan Pujari has been appointed senior observer of Nuapada, Kalahandi, Balangir, and Bargarh districts.

Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak and Balasore districts. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik

Crocodile fear grips two blocks in Odisha's Jajpur



JAJPUR: Panic gripped several villages of Jajpur and Dasarathpur blocks after crocodiles were reportedly spotted in floodwater. Residents of Dharampur village in Dasarathpur claimed that two crocodiles were spotted in the swollen Kani river on Wednesday. As floodwater has inundated many villages in the block, residents feared that the reptiles may enter human habitations and harm them.

Similarly, a crocodile was sighted in the floodwater of Jamuna nullah, a branch of Budha river, near Namtikari village of

Malandapur panchayat in Jajpur block on Thursday afternoon. Panicked villagers demanded immediate steps to capture the reptiles.

Sources said forest officials have reached the villages where the crocodiles were spotted and initiated steps to trace the reptiles. Meanwhile, the flood situation in Dasarathpur improved on Thursday after water started receding in several villages. As per a preliminary assessment of the district administration, over 2,5000 people of 35 villages in the block have been affected by floods in Kani river.



2021-2022



ADMISSION OPEN

Maharishi Public School, Baripada

STD-NURSERY TO VIII

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2021)

Find the Difference

- Small Classes
- Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
- Individual attention to each child.
- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL
Baghra Road, Baripada

For details

Contact :

Call-9438102188, 06792-255227

Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon

E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com



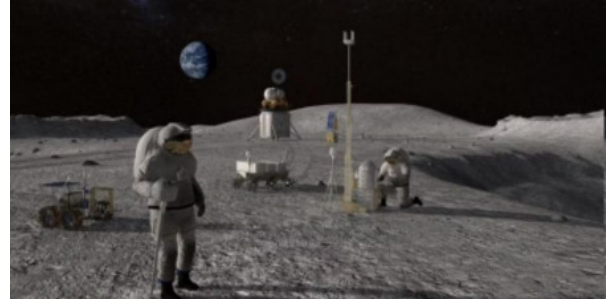
Find us on
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada

NASA, Microchip to develop next-gen spaceflight computing processor

WASHINGTON(KCN): NASA has selected US-based Microchip Technology to develop a high-performance space flight computing (HPSC) processor that will provide at least 100 times with the computational capacity of current space-flight computers.

The next-generation processor would advance all types of future space missions, from planetary exploration to lunar and Mars surface missions.

"This cutting-edge spaceflight processor will have a tremendous impact on our future space missions and even technologies here on Earth," said Niki



Werkheiser, director of technology maturation within the Space Technology Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington, in a statement.

"This effort will amplify existing spacecraft capabilities and enable new ones and could ultimately be used by virtually every future space mission, all benefiting from more capable flight computing," Werkheiser added.

The microchip will architect, design, and deliver the HPSC processor over three years, with the goal of employing the processor on future lunar and planetary exploration missions.

Microchip's processor architecture will significantly improve the overall computing efficiency for these missions by enabling computing power to be scal-

Indonesia leader says Putin and Xi to attend G20 summit: Report

Continued from page-1

Jinping will come. President Putin has also told me he will come," Widodo said, according to the report.

Kremlin officials said in June that Putin had accepted Widodo's invitation to the summit, and would attend so long as the Covid-19 pandemic allowed him to.

Indonesia currently holds the rotating G20 presidency, putting it at the centre of global affairs as war rages in Europe and with tensions at their highest level in years in the Taiwan Strait, where China lately conducted its largest-ever military drills.

Jakarta has come under Western pressure to exclude Putin from the G20 gathering after announcing in April he had been invited.

But Indonesia has maintained a neutral position and called for a peaceful resolution to the months-long conflict in Ukraine, with Widodo visiting both Kyiv and Moscow earlier this year.

Asked about Widodo's comments, Indonesian foreign ministry spokesperson Teuku Faizasyah told AFP that Russia and China "have received the invitation and said they would attend".

"(It is) something that we are very much hopeful," he added.

Widodo's chief of staff declined to comment and his state secretary did not respond to a request for comment.

Indonesia has also invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to the summit with the world's top economies, in a bid to foster compromise between the two countries.

The Ukrainian leader, whose country is not a G20 member, said he would attend at least virtually.

Russia's top diplomat Sergei Lavrov last month walked out of a G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Bali after Moscow's military assault on its neighbour was roundly condemned.

Xi has not travelled internationally since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, only making his first visit outside the Chinese mainland last month to finance hub Hong Kong under strict security measures.

able, based on mission needs. The design also will be more reliable and have higher fault tolerance.

NASA to launch 2 more choppers to Mars to help return rocks

As part of NASA's ongoing commercial partnership efforts, the work will take place under a USD 50 million firm-fixed-price contract, with Microchip contributing significant research and development costs to complete the project.

"We are pleased that NASA selected Microchip as its partner to develop the next-generation space-qualified compute processor platform," said Babak Samimi, corporate vice president for Microchip's Communications business unit.

The platform "will deliver comprehensive Ethernet networking, advanced artificial intelligence/machine learning processing and connectivity support while offering unprecedented perfor-

War of words between AAP and BJP over CBI raids at Sisodia house

Continued from page-1

"?Today, the issue is of liquor licenses and corruption involved in it. The minister concerned is Manish Sisodia. He reversed the excise policy the day the probe was handed over to the CBI. Why was this step taken, because there was corruption in the issuance of liquor licenses,? Thakur said.

The minister said the fear of a CBI probe had compelled Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Sisodia to link the searches by the central investigative agency to education facilities in the national capital.

?The fear of probe compels Arvind Kejriwal to speak about education. This is not about education, but about the excise policy. Don't think of people as fools and stop your addresses to the nation,? Thakur said.

The minister hoped that Sisodia would not claim to be suffering from memory loss as his ministerial colleague Satyendra Jain, who has been arrested in connection with a money laundering case.

?People seek answers. The corruption in excise policy has revealed the true face of Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia. They talked about fighting corruption and not entering politics. Not only did they venture into politics, but are also now involved in corruption,? the senior BJP leader said.

Meanwhile, responding to the raids, Manish Sisodia said that conspiracies will not break him or deter his resolve to continue to work for good education.

The CBI has arrived and is welcome. Sisodia said on Twitter. Besides the home of the Aam Aadmi Party leader, the probe agency also searched the residence of IAS officer Arava Gopi Krishna and 19 other locations after registering an FIR in connection with the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

"We are hard core honest and are shaping the future of lakhs of children. It is very unfortunate that those who do good work in our country are harassed like this. That is why our country could not become the number one," Sisodia said.

In a series of posts on Twitter, he said they will extend full cooperation in the probe so the truth emerges soon.

"Till now, there have been many cases against me but nothing came out. Nothing will come out in this also. My work for good education in this country cannot be stopped," he asserted.

Sisodia alleged that people were troubled by the excellent work being done in Delhi in the sectors of education and health. That's why, he said, Delhi's education and health ministers had been caught ? a reference to himself and Satyendar Jain who is behind bars.

"There are false allegations against us and the truth will emerge in court," he added.

"I won't be broken by your conspiracies. I have made these schools for lakhs of children of Delhi. The smiles we brought in the lives of lakhs of children is my strength. Your intention is to break me," Sisodia said.

mance gain, fault-tolerance, and security architecture at low power consumption", Samimi added.

Microchip's HPSC processor may also be useful to other government agencies and applicable to other types of future space missions to explore our solar system and beyond, from Earth science operations to Mars exploration and human lunar missions. Far out: NASA space telescope's 1st cosmic view goes deep. The processor could potentially be used for commercial systems on Earth that require similar mission-critical edge computing needs as space missions and are able to safely continue operations if one component of the system fails.

These potential applications include industrial automation, edge computing, time-sensitive ethernet data transmission, artificial intelligence, and even Internet of Things gateways, which bridge various communication technologies.

Bomb threats put tiny Moldova, Ukraine's neighbour, on edge

Continued from page-1

"certain tracks leading to the respective countries were established."

"I hope we get some answers from those countries," he said. For Veaceslav Belbas, a 43-year-old Moldovan businessman returning from Turkey to Chisinau on Monday, a bomb threat left him frightened as his plane circled the capital's airport for 30 minutes. After that, the plane did a U-turn and went back to Turkey.

"We prayed a lot and finally landed," he said. "For me, it was such a big shock that I told my wife that this is my last flight."

Tensions in Moldova soared in April after a series of actual explosions occurred in the Russia-backed breakaway region of Transnistria, where Russia bases about 1,500 troops in a so-called frozen conflict zone. It raised fears that non-NATO, militarily neutral Moldova could get dragged into Russia's war orbit. At least one Russian official has spoken openly of snatching enough land in southern Ukraine to link up Russian-controlled areas from the mainland to Transnistria.

Observers pointed out that the blasts came as Moldova which has historically close ties with Moscow showed a growing Western orientation and after it had applied to join the EU, which it did shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine. It was granted EU candidate status in late June, shortly before the bomb threats started.

Since Moldova gained independence in 1991, it has been plagued by organized crime and official corruption. After an election in 2019, a local oligarch attempted to seize power, which triggered mass protests before he fled the country. In 2014, several politicians and oligarchs had alleged ties to a scam in which \$1 billion vanished from local banks. No one has yet been convicted in that case.

Galina Gheorghes was returning to England from Moldova last month after attending a family get-together when a bomb threat cancelled her flight. She says she is angry that no one has yet been caught.

"It is very bad what's happening ... unfortunately, the ordinary people suffer," the 35-year-old Gheorghes said.

Amid a seemingly endless pattern of disruptive and costly threats, Moldova's Internal Ministry said it wants to toughen punishments for anyone convicted of false bomb alerts by ramping up fines and handing out lengthier prison sentences.

Chisinau Airport has been hit by dozens of bomb threats since July and has bolstered security in response. Radu Zanoaga, head of border police at the airport, says a specialist unit has been established to save security officials the trouble of travelling in from the city center each time a bomb threat is made. "At the moment, we are dealing with the situation in cooperation with other (state) bodies and institutions that operate within the airport," he said. "There have been bomb alerts before — but not as many and not as frequent as now."

For 1st month ever, streamers rule broadcast, cable networks: Nielsen company

NEW YORK: This summer has been a breakthrough for streaming, with the time viewers spent watching services like Netflix and Hulu outpacing broadcast and cable television networks in July for the first month ever.

Viewers spent 35 per cent of their time with streamers, 34 per cent on cable networks and 22 per cent watching broadcast television last month, the Nielsen company said on Thursday. Video on demand or DVD playback accounted for much of the other time.

July is an unusual month, broadcast TV is essentially on vacation with little live sports or scripted programming and a prime-time schedule clogged with game shows, but it's a clear indication of how rapidly the business is changing.

"It was inevitable," said David Bianculli, professor of television studies at Rowan University and critic of NPR's "Fresh Air." "I knew it had to happen, but I didn't know it would happen as quickly as it did."

Streaming's audience share in July was up 23 per cent compared to July 2021, Nielsen said. Broadcast television's share was down 10 per cent and cable down 9 per cent.

Will he, will he not: Congress' Rahul dilemma

Continued from page-1

reasons for not accepting the post and there is also a sort of anti-dynastic mood in the nation so that makes him a "weak candidate", said Kidwai, author of several books, including "24 Akbar Road: A Short History Of The People Behind The Fall And Rise Of The Congress".

Some people think that it may be best that Sonia Gandhi continues at the helm and around two-three working presidents are appointed, he said.

Manindra Nath Thakur, an Associate Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University's Centre for Political Studies, said the Congress is facing a "catch 22 situation".

"Sonia Gandhi is on her way out, she has health issues. The problem with Rahul Gandhi is that the moment he becomes party chief he would be the target of attacks from rivals and the family does not have a trusted man like Manmohan Singh. That is the big problem facing the party," Thakur told PTI.

Rahul Gandhi's graph has improved outside party presidency tenure but the Gandhi family will have to find a trusted leader but another problem is that the moment the leadership goes out of their hands it is very difficult to keep everybody united, he said.

It seems the only option is to have Sonia Gandhi as president and some leaders to assist her, Thakur said, adding the problem with that is it would not enthuse people and bring in energy which the party needs, Thakur said. The Congress had announced that the election to the post of party president would be held between August 21 and September 20, but with just days to go for the process to kick in, uncertainty is writ large on the rank and file of the party as to who would assume the mantle of party president.

If not Rahul Gandhi, then who? Party leaders and workers are also grappling with this question and prepping for a scenario in which a person from outside the Gandhi family is to be made chief.

Speculation is rife with names such as Ashok Gehlot, Mallikarjun Kharge, Mukul Wasnik and Kumari Selja doing the rounds.

After a crucial meeting of its working committee, the Congress had announced in October last year that the election of the new Congress president will be held between August 21 and September 20 this year. Rahul Gandhi had resigned as Congress president after the party suffered its second consecutive defeat in parliamentary elections in 2019.

Sonia Gandhi who took over the reins of the party again as interim president had also offered to quit in August 2020 after an open revolt by a section of leaders, referred to as G-23, but the CWC had urged her to continue. There have been several calls by leaders publicly exhorting Rahul Gandhi to become party chief again but uncertainty and suspense continue to loom over the party's presidency conundrum.

Skipper KL Rahul needs game time; team new challenge in remaining ODIs

HARARE: Skipper KL Rahul would hope to get some valuable batting time as the Indian team is expected to recalibrate its goals to create some challenge for itself in the remaining two ODIs against Zimbabwe. The gulf between the two teams would always make these kinds of bilateral contests lopsided but the bigger goal for the 'Men In Blue' would be to push the limits. The immediate target for the side would be

Similarly, Deepak Hooda, if given a chance to bat up the order, can also build his confidence.

Then there is Sanju Samson, If he plays at No.4, it gives him ample scope to build an innings of significance.

For acting head coach VVS Laxman, as much as he would like to experiment, he wouldn't mind winning the series first before giving some of the reserves a chance to test themselves.

Therefore a left-right combination of Ishan Kishan and KL Rahul won't be a bad option in case Shikhar Dhawan's forearm injury sustained towards the end of the match turns out to be serious. Winning the series is important but creating

ing a different kind of situations and testing the game awareness of the younger lot in pressure cooker scenarios should be on the checklist.

Deepak Chahar bowling seven overs at one stretch is a good sign and indicator that he is gradually building up his workload.

Similarly, Prasidh Krishna would like to try a few more variations than his back-of-the-length stuff while Mohammed Siraj won't mind a few more wickets.

Just like batting in the morning could be a challenge for Rahul and Co., bowling in the warm afternoon conditions with no lateral movement on offer would test the character of pacers and their improvisation skills.

Teams (from): India: KL Rahul (C), Shikhar Dhawan (VC), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Ishan Kishan (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Mohd Siraj, Deepak Chahar, Shahbaz Ahmed.

Zimbabwe: Regis Chakabva (C), Ryan Burl, Tanaka Chivanga, Bradley Evans, Luke Jongwe, Innocent Kaia, Takudzwanashe Kaitano, Clive Madande, Wessly Madhevere, Tadiwanashe Marumani, John Masara, Tony Munyonga, Richard Ngarava, Victor Nyauchi, Sikandar Raza, Milton Shumba, Donald Tiripano.



to try and bat first in case Rahul wins the toss in Saturday's second ODI.

The early start on a bouncy track and sufficient nip in the air would pose some challenges for the batters.

There won't be any Jimmy Anderson or Josh Hazlewood in operation but even then battling the conditions would be a good test for Rahul and his players.

Deepak Chahar had pointed out after the first game that there is little help for the bowlers during the second session and the only time there's some challenge for batters is the first hour of the match.

Before facing the might of Shaheen Shah Afridi in Asia Cup, a morning session with deliveries moving both sides, albeit with a gentle pace, would be a decent enough extended net session for Rahul.

While 'Captain Rahul' showed his elder statesman-like qualities by letting Shikhar Dhawan and Shubman Gill open in the first game, the 'Batter Rahul' also needs to get his priorities right before the Asia Cup.

He needs to quickly adapt to Team India's "attack at all costs from the onset" philosophy and that can't just happen overnight.

Against a side like Zimbabwe, which is not good enough to even challenge a top Indian domestic side, Rahul would get an ideal opportunity to experiment with his batting.

Manisha Kalyan becomes first Indian to play in UEFA Women's Champions League

NEW DELHI(KCN): Young striker Manisha Kalyan has become the first Indian footballer to play at the UEFA Women's Champions League when she made her debut for Apollon

Indian women's international footballer to sign for an overseas club when she landed a multi-year contract with Cypriot top division winners Apollon Ladies.

Kalyan had produced impressive performances for the national team and Gokulam Kerala in the Indian Women's League (IWL).

She was recently awarded the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year for the 2021-22 season.

Kalyan had shot to fame last year when she scored against former World Cup runners-up Brazil in their own den during an international friendly.

Kalyan is the second player from Gokulam Kerala to sign for an overseas club after Dangmei Grace joined Uzbek outfit FC Nasaf. Apollon Ladies will next play FC Zurich Frauen on August 21



Ladies FC in the European Club competition in Engomi, Cyprus.

Kalyan replaced Cyprus' Marilena Georgiou in the 60th minute at the Makario Stadium, as Apollon Ladies FC beat Latvian top flight club SFK Riga 3-0 in their UWCL opener on Thursday.

The 20-year-old had emerged as the fourth

US Open to award record USD 60.1 million in prize money

NEW YORK(KCN): This year's US Open will award a record

tal tops the old mark of USD 57.5 million from last year, with

ond round. Those figures represent hikes of 85%

qualifying rounds. Doubles champions will be paid USD



USD 60.1 million in total player compensation, the US Tennis Association said on Thursday, with USD 2.6 million going to each singles champion, twice the runner-up total. The prize money to

an emphasis on boosting payouts for players in early rounds.

That means a boost to USD 80,000 for each singles competitor in the main draw first round and USD 121,000 in the sec-

and 57% respectively since 2016.

The USTA arrived at the figures after consultation with the WTA and ATP Player Councils.

There will be more than USD 6.25 million distributed in

688,000 per team, twice what the runner-up duo will receive.

Main draw matches for the year's final Grand Slam event on the New York hardcourts will begin on August 29.



MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL

Nurturing awareness Moulding Future

ADMISSION OPEN FOR

PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

A great Place to grow @ MPS

Laugh
Play
Learn
Share

Call now for Application:

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

N-3 B/14-15, IRC Village,
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar

PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)

E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com



Find us on
[facebook.com/maharishiplayschool](https://www.facebook.com/maharishiplayschool)



FOLLOW US
ON TWITTER
twitter.com/maharishiplayschool