

Nearly 9,000 Ukrainian troops killed so far, says Kyiv

Ukraine (KCN) Nearly 9,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed since Russia invaded, the country's top military officer said Monday, as Moscow accused Kyiv over the as-

among the nearly 9,000 heroes who have been killed".

Zaluzhny's comments on the Ukrainian death toll, reported by Interfax-Ukraine news agency, was the first indication of Kyiv's military losses since April.

On Wednesday, Ukraine will mark its independence day -- and six months since Russian troops invaded.

After Ukrainian resistance thwarted an early Russian push on the capital Kyiv,

Moscow's forces have focussed on gaining ground in the east of the country.

The shockwaves of the war are being felt around the world with soaring energy prices and food shortages.

- Putin denounces 'vile crime' -

Russia's FSB security services on Monday accused Ukraine of being behind Saturday's car bombing in the outskirts of Moscow that killed Daria Dugina, the

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sassination of the daughter of a leading hardliner.

The European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell meanwhile told reporters in Spain that the bloc was considering military training for Ukraine's forces.

General Valeriy Zaluzhny, Ukraine's commander-in-chief, said Ukraine's children needed particular attention "because their fathers have gone to the front and are maybe

Jantar Mantar protest: Farmers charm the lot with traditional attire, emotional connect

NEW DELHI (KCN): Among the hundreds of farmers who be-

Delhi on Monday after covering a three-day train journey

abandon their farm equipment, we won't be getting any food. I

"Jantar Mantar buzzed with voices of dissent on Monday as farmers from all over the country gathered here demanding a law ensuring minimum support price for crops, farm loan waiver, and sacking of Union Minister Ajay Mishra.

Ajay Mishra is the father of Ashish Mishra, an accused in a case related to mowing down four farmers

in Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh during a farmer protest last October.

Farmers, hundreds in number, launched

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gan their demonstration at the Jantar Mantar over a slew of issues, 64-year-old Sriaj Kodyuriv from Kerala garnered the most attention with his 'Adivasi' attire Kodyuriv reached

from Kerala. For several hours, he stood at Jantar Mantar holding placards that read Implement MSP, Save farmer'.

"Farmers are closest to nature. If they

am here for this," Kodyuriv said.

Asked why he chose the 'Adivasi' attire, he said: "This is to send a message that the farmers and tribal people deserve their rights.

KCR anti-farmer and nepotist, says Amit Shah

MUNUGODE (KCN): A day after Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao warned people not to get carried away and cautioned that if the BJP wins it would scrap welfare schemes, Union home minister Amit Shah accused him of being "anti-farmer" for denying farmers

fold, Amit Shah remarked that the Nalgonda strongman's entry was about the "beginning of uprooting the KCR government," not about an individual joining the party.

Telangana would be led by a BJP Chief Minister under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah asserted.

"You ensure Rajgopal's victory, and I guarantee that the corrupt KCR government will vanish just like that," Shah stated while urging voters to ensure a landslide victory for the new entrant in Munugode bypolls.

"I promise that if you help Rajgopal win big

and the BJP forms government, Telangana will be on the path of development like other states where the BJP is in power. The BJP Chief Minister of Telangana will keep every promise made by our

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the benefit of the 'PM Fasal Bima Yojana' and asserted that the "corrupt" TRS government would be ousted.

While welcoming former Congress leader Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy into the BJP

Subarnarekha river in spate, warning in low-lying areas

BALASORE (KCN): Panic has gripped people residing in low-lying areas of Baliapal, Basta, Bhograi, Jaleswar and Sadar blocks in Balasore as the Subarnarekha river is swelling due to the release of floodwater from 14 gates of Galudih barrage in Jharkhand.

On Sunday, ODRAF,

against the danger mark of 10.36 metres at Rajghat in the Jaleswar block. The river was flowing at 53.46 metres against the danger mark of 49.16 metres at Jamsola ghat.

Meanwhile, incessant rain over the last one week has led to another flood in Jalaka river at

too has started rising. The river is now flowing at 7.36 metres against the danger mark of 8.13 metres at Madhuban in the Mayurbhanj district. The river has inundated low-lying areas like Phuladi, Chandamanipadia, Kantabania and Pasimila.

On the day, communication between

chaired a meeting with officials of different departments to take stock of the situation and prepare for relief and rescue operations. Shinde said apart from 12 fire service teams, a dozen more squads along with four NDRF and ODRAF teams are ready for relief and rescue operations in the dis-



NDRF and fire service personnel asked residents of low-lying areas to shift to safer places as there was the possibility of flood

in Subarnarekha. Sources said at least 34 villages of 19-gram panchayats in the five blocks will be affected.

The water level of Subarnarekha stood at 10.17 metres

Mathani in Basta block. Excess rainwater from Rasgobindpur, Chitrada, Morada, Suliapada and Amarda in Mayurbhanj district was released into the Jalaka river. The water level of Jalaka was 6.76 metres against the danger mark of 5.50 metres at Mathani.

The water level in the Budhabalanga river

Baliapal and Basta was affected as a 2.5 km stretch of the road was submerged in rainwater. With direct connectivity hit, residents of Baliapal were forced to travel to Basta through Bhograi and Jaleswar.

Amid the possibility of floods in the Subarnarekha river, Collector Dattatreya Bhausahab Shinde

trict. The Collector directed BDOs and tehsildars of the vulnerable blocks to open flood shelters and make arrangements in school buildings to accommodate people. Officials have been asked to tour the villages along with medical teams and RWSS engineers.

Worry for NREGA fund delay

Bhubaneswar (KCN) : Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi for addition of a default provision in NREGASoft to avoid delays in MGNREGS wage payments to workers.

The default provision will enable drawal, utilization and recoupment of budgetary allocation towards "State's Revolving Fund" to prevent delay in payment of wages under the scheme.

Writing a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the CM said, "My Government has taken a slew of proactive measures to ensure proper implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and has ensured that the benefits of the scheme reach the intended beneficiaries."

The State of Odisha has done well in ensuring almost 100 per cent timely payment of wages. This is a testimony of the tremendous emphasis it has attached to the mandates of the Act, he pointed out.

Similarly, he said, the Government of India has taken significant steps in raising the Central budgetary allocation towards MGNREGS during the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic which has enabled the State Government to provide succour to the vulnerable rural house-

holds especially the migrant families.

In order to ensure timely payment of wages, whenever there is a delay in receipt of funds from the Government of India towards the payment of wage liabilities, the State Government has created a Revolving Fund for

payment of wages to the job card holders within the stipulated time as a contingent measure, the CM informed.

For this, the State Government has also made a budgetary allocation of Rs.1000 crore for the Financial Year 2022-23. The Revolving Fund is to be recouped after receipt of the fund

in this regard from the Government of India. The Ministry of Rural Development has been requested earlier for addition of a default provision in NREGASoft for drawal, utilization & recoupment of budgetary allocation towards State's Revolving Fund to prevent delay in payment of wages. However, the Ministry is yet to take any action on the aforesaid proposals of the State Government, he added.

Therefore, he urged Modi to consider State's proposal for addition of a default provision in NREGASoft for drawal, utilization & recoupment of budgetary allocation towards State's Revolving Fund to prevent delay in payment of wages under the scheme.



Be aware of fraud SMSes, connect customer care centre only; advises TPCODL

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Considering the increasing cases of cyber fraud activities against electricity consumers, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and Odisha Government, today re-issued an advisory against the unscrupulous elements, who are attempting to trap consumers by sending them electricity supply disconnection threat through SMSes. The Discom has also requested all its consumers to only connect to its dedicated 24X7 Toll Free customer care numbers 1912 / 18003457122 for any clarification related to power supply or disconnection.

The modus operandi of the cyber frauds is to message a consumer threatening disconnection of electricity supply on the same day for non-payment of previous month's dues and ask the consumer to call to a given number immediately. Once the consumer makes the calls, the operator sends a link for online payment to avoid disconnection. Consumers us-

ing that link are then defrauded. Similar fake messages related to updating KYC were earlier received by consumers in the month of May. The fraudsters have been trying to trap consumers by sending various types of messages recently. TPCODL have been urging its consumers to not engage with such fraudulent messages and refrain from connecting to the numbers shared in the SMSes. The Discom has clarified to its consumers that it never asks any customer to share any password, OTP, bank details, or laptop/mobile screen during with any of its executives, whether over phone or in person. Also that the consumers should only use authorised payment modes for all bill payments. Over the past few months, the Company has been trying continuously to spread the above awareness through conventional media, regular posts on its social media platforms, advisory at customer care centres and direct SMSes to individual customers at their registered mobile numbers.

ED raided at several places of Sarda Mines

Barbil(KCN):The Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials on Monday carried out simultaneous raids at Sarda mines under Joda mining circle of Keonjhar district of Odisha. According to source, the searches were carried out at the residence of Arjun Saraswat, Director Sarda Mines at Soyabaly base camp including their mining office and Bhubaneswar office. Though media is

mining operations till March end 2021 as per their lease deed. The state government had on January 13 asked SMPL to handover possession of the mines, including stock of minerals, plant and machineries, building structures etc to the mining office. Sarda mines had moved again the HC seeking a direction to the state government to execute a lease deed for the remaining 10 years out



restricted to enter mines premises, it has come to know from the source a team of 11 ED officials conducted the raid. It is to note that Sarda mines which was a supplier of high-quality ore to the Naveen Jindal-led JSPL plant had acquired a mining lease for over 947.046 hectare for 20 years from August 2001 to 2021 for Thakurani iron ore mine in Keonjhar in Odisha, but the environment clearance was granted only in 2004. However, the mining operations were stopped for want of the environmental clearance beyond March 2014. Later in January 2020, SMPL had paid Rs 933.60 crore for excess production of iron ore and had resumed its

of the 30 years renewal. However, the Orissa HC had rejected its plea on the grounds that the orders of HC in 1991 and 1998 do not operate as constructive res judicata, SMPL had waived its right for grant of lease of 30 years by executing a lease for 20 years and the 2015 MMDR Act provisions operated as a bar to seek any renewal beyond 20 years. Sarda mines has moved to supreme court .A Bench led by Chief Justice NV Ramana while seeking response from the state government have asked it to maintain status quo with regard to mining auction and not to take any coercive action against the mining company till further hearing.

Ultra Supporters join Mainstream

Bhubaneswar(KCN):Inspired by the development works carried out by the State Government and its Rehabilitation Policy, more than 500 active Maoist supporters and sympathizers of Swabhiman Anchal on Monday joined the mainstream in Malkangiri district.

The active Maoist sympathizers of villages Dabal Pahad, Ralegada, Chintalduli, Korrappalli, Tekpadar, Palankrayi, Tatipahad, Eskapalli, Sarukabandha, Durgam, Banajholi, Chikatpalli, Jajpalli, Gajalmamidi, Sitapalli of Ralegada GP under Papermetla police station of Malkangiri district surrendered before Malkangiri police at Janbai BSF camp in presence of SP Nitesh Wadhvani and DIG, BSF, Malkangiri.

The surrendered militias/supporters exhibited their opposition towards the Maoist ideology by burning the dress materials of Maoists



and demolishing the Maoist Martyr Pillar and gave slogans "Maobadi Murdabad" before a large group of media before surrendering. All these villages are located in the Odisha-AP border and was the erstwhile stronghold of Maoists. Swabhiman Anchal has seen maximum violence over the last two decades. These Maoist Supporters used to assist the Maoists in violent activities and were involved in killing of security forces, civilians & were supplying all logistics to them, the Malkangiri

police said. Swabhiman Anchal was considered as a Liberated Zone and Maoists ran Janatana Sarkar there. 37 Greyhound jawans, 7 BSF personnel, 4 Odisha Police personnel and 40 innocent local tribals were killed by the Maoists. Thousands of local villagers had to leave the area out of fear.

Nandini Mahant, who lives in No. 8 Ward PHD area

Barbil (KCN): Nandini Mahant, who lives in No. 8 Ward PHD area of Keonjhar District

was caught and many valuable articles had been stolen. Based on her complaint, the



Barbil police station, complained to the police station that someone cut her house key with a hex blade and stole their motorcycle, jewellery and money from her residence. According to her, she had gone to Kanjipani village under Jhumpura police station on 2nd of this month for the funeral of a relative along with her family. On the 19th of this month, after returning to his residence at PHed road, she found that her main door lock

police arrested two youths named Om Mahakud and Pradyuman Mahakud of that PHed area for their involvement in the theft. One motorcycle bearing OD 09K 6244 was seized from them. Another accused Ashish Kullu of that area was arrested on the charge of stealing the bike of Jagannath Naik of Kara Khendra area of Barbil and a bike with the number JH 22D 0958 was also seized from him.

NDA Ally pleads Naveen

Bhubaneswar(KCN): President of Republican Party of India and Union Minister Ramdas Athawale Monday urged BJD President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to consider rejoining the NDA for the betterment of Odisha.

Speaking to media persons here, Mr. Athawale ' an ally of NDA said, Naveen Patnaik has started his political career in the NDA. Later, he departed and won elections from his own strength, which is good.

"If he will join the NDA, we will welcome him. Though he is not in the NDA, we are getting support of BJD while passing Bills in the Parliament. Originally, when he entered his feet into politics, he

was with the NDA," he said. If the CM will be a part of NDA, he may get more benefit. Prime Minister

be promoted on a higher scale to bring equality in the society. The ministry through Ambedkar



Narendra Modi may give more budgetary support for the development of Odisha, claimed the Union Minister. Briefing about implementation of schemes of his Ministry in Odisha, he said inter-caste marriages need to

Foundation is providing Rs 2.5 lakh for inter-caste marriages while the Odisha Government too has a similar scheme, but there is a need to promote it on a higher scale.

He said that in 2020-21, 1,847 inter-caste marriages were registered in Odisha which rose to 2428 in 2021-22.

Providing data on the cases of atrocities in the State, the Minister said that Odisha has registered 2,828 cases of atrocities in 2020-21 and 2,768 cases during 2021-22. "The Center and the state need to work in coordination to stop the cases of atrocities," Athawale stressed.

Talking about the status of Divyangas, elderly and widows, Athawale said that

in Odisha, around 20 lakh Divyangas, elderly and widows are receiving pensions worth Rs 500 a month. "We need to increase the amount of pension for the beneficiaries," he said.

He also provided data on various central sector schemes and their status of implementation in the state. As per data, under PM Jandhan Yojana, 46.25 crore accounts have been opened across the nation while in Odisha, 1.91 crore accounts have been opened so far.

Similarly, under PM Mudra Yojana, 36.33 crore people have so far benefited, while in Odisha, the number of beneficiaries stands at 2 crore 45 lakh 50 thousand. In PM Ujjwala Yojana, 52.94 lakh beneficiaries have got cooking gas connection in Odisha.

Under PM Awas Yojana (Urban), 62.22 lakh people have got houses across the nation, while in Odisha, 1.08 lakh benefited. Over 2.40 crore people have got pucca houses in the country under PM Awas (Rural), while in Odisha, the number stands at 18 lakhs. Earlier today, the Minister reviewed implementation of various central schemes of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in the state with senior Government officials.

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Mayur Vyas, a diving judge in two Olympics, honored with 'LifeTime Achievement Awards'

Indore / Mumbai(KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj):



Mayur Jansukhlal Vyas, a sportsman living in Borivali, Mumbai and a judge for diving in Rio Olympics 2016 and Tokyo Olympics 2021, was selected for the 'Life Time Achievement Awards' by the 'World Book of Records' (London) for his invaluable contribution to sports. For which the '5th World Book of Records Awards ceremony' was organized on Monday 22 August, 2022 at JW Marriott Hotel, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, which was successfully completed. On the occasion, the versatile Mayur Vyas was honored with the 'Life Time Achievement Awards' at the hands of the renowned Kiran Bedi. On this occasion, Maharaaj Kumar Sahib Lakshyaraj Singh Ji Mewar of Udaipur, President & CEO of WORLD BOOK OF RECORDS, Santosh Shukla, Dr. Tithi Bhalla,

Satesh Shukla, etc. and celebrities from politics, Indian cinema and corporate world also participated in this function and made the ceremony successful. On receiving the award, Mayur Vyas expressed his gratitude to all the people associated with the committee and all the people who came. Mayur Jansukhlal Vyas is currently a member of the Technical High Diving Committee of the World Body FINA, a member of the



Technical Diving Committee of the Asian Swimming Federation and the Chairman of the Technical Diving Committee of the Swimming Federation of India. He has also been a judge for diving in Rio Olympics 2016 and Tokyo Olympics 2021, being the first Indian to be a diving judge in two Olympics. Prior to this, as a sportsman for India, he has won a silver medal in water polo in 1976 Junior National and 1984 Senior National he won silver medal in Diving once and Joined All India Railway Sports and was champion there from 1981 to 1988. He was also the coach

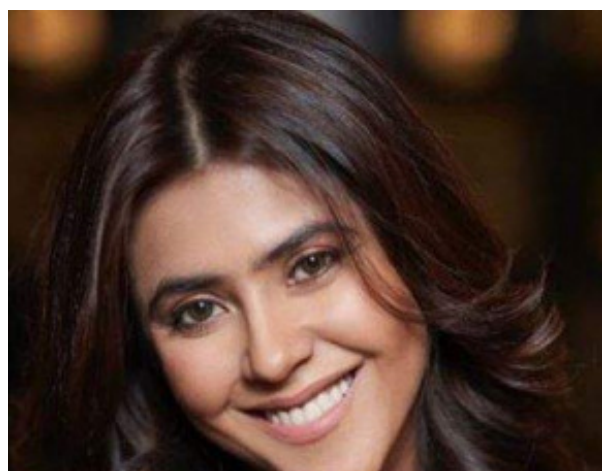
of Western Railway from 1990 to 2018 and



coach of Indian Railway from 2005 to 2018 and retired in 2018. In which Indian Railways was Diving champion in Men and women section champion from 2005 to 2017. He was also the Deputy Competition Director of Commonwealth Games, Delhi in 2010. After that he started to like judging and gave exams for it. He then started judging from the Commonwealth game and started going abroad as a technical diving judge. He is associated with diving from 1976 till today. On this, Mayur Vyas says, "I never bother or run after awards i, I always focused on sports. Right now our players are performing well. After the Modi government came, facilities have increased and players are getting help. I would like to thank Modi ji for this. And I also thank Virendra Nanavati ji, because of whose guidance and support I have achieved this position and have reached till this level.

SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The Supreme



Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for al-

leged objectionable content in her web

Kapoor. She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her. The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.

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

NEW DELHI(K-CN): Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the Netflix based film "a phenomenal experience". Deshmukh took to Twitter to share a poster of the movie, which features Anurag Kashyap and Anil

He then went to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film.

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



Kapoor in lead roles. "Mind has been blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted Deshmukh.

While Kapoor essays the role of a yesteryear actor, Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film.

'AK vs AK,' revolves around the story of a movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kidnapping the actor's daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

'Wanted to make a film on Indian Army with Shah Rukh Khan', says Director Kabir Khan

MUMBAI(KCN): Filmmaker Kabir Khan, who is gearing up for the release of his web series "The Forgotten Army: Azaadi Ke Liye", based on Indian National Army (INA), says he wanted to make a film on the subject starring Shah Rukh Khan. He added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a fee for the voiceover he gave for the series. "Shah Rukh has very graciously given the voiceover. The series is based on a true story, so there is an introduction of a few minutes before every episode along with real footage, where he has lent his voice. I talked about it with Shah Rukh earlier as well, when this was a film script. Back then, I wanted Shah Rukh to do the film. We even had a few meetings but we couldn't take it forward," said Kabir while promoting the series along with its lead actors Sunny Kaushal and Sharvari Wagh. Kabir added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a single paisa for his voiceover as-

signment. "When I was making this series, I thought I should ask Shah Rukh (to be the narrator) because Shah Rukh's father had involvement with this army. His father knew General Shahnawaz Khan, who was an important part of INA. So, I knew he (Shah Rukh Khan) has sympathy and attachment with Azad Hind Fauj and I called him up. It's not an easy task to ask a superstar for a voiceover but Shah Rukh instantly agreed to do it. Usually, when you discuss a film with Shah Rukh, it's a long process, but in this case Shah Rukh literally did the voiceover for us on the second day. I don't know whether he would like me to reveal this, but he didn't take a fee from us. I think the kind of attachment he has with Azad Hind Fauj reflects in his act." Incidentally, Shah Rukh did a cameo in Kabir Khan's 2017 release "Tubelight", starring Salman Khan.

Towards centenary: India's Amrit Kaal challenge

One more Independence Day passed with great patriotic fervour and gaiety. India at 75 is at the crossroads of a quest for development emanating from every inch of its landscape while its own sneaky conflicts frustrate its efforts to bring about greater changes. But the quest to become a developed country by 2047 attaches great meaning to the dream that we have been consciously nurturing for long. The Prime Minister's call to transform India into a developed nation in the next 25 years was a lift-off moment and of course one with great vigour and thrust. He seemed to have captured the gist of India as he set this goal for its citizens. What remains to be done is to inject into the limbs and veins of the country the idea of a developed nation. But the challenges ahead are harder and essentially hold indomitable barriers and the efficiency we need to garner to dispel them needs to come from within. India's true potential to keep pace with developed countries needs to be seen with complete earnestness. Despite its being trapped and enmeshed in its own conflicts as a nation, India has consistently been representing a world view purely cognizant of its ability to gain stability and its intent to bring peace across the planet through multiple ideological interventions is surely gaining global recognition. The Covid-19 pandemic spilled its wrath on humanity and millions writhed and choked and died and the global powers remained perplexed devoid of solutions, but India took the plunge and brought solace to a large number of people irrespective of geopolitical complexities. 75th Independence Day was also an occasion to introspect on the journey that an independent India has taken. Breaking the shackles of colonialism, it was not easy for an infant nation to take a leap with unsteady



M. R. LALU

steps. Bringing 562 princely states into one casket of national unity, the leaders had sailed the newborn nation through the most tremulous situations. From the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister was candid when he eulogised the nation that we are and while setting goals for the next 25 years he was more vocal on the aspirational sentiments of the populace and the road to development for him, was a collective endeavour that every Indian should embrace. While being assertive on the potentiality of India, Modi honestly expressed his view as to how an aspirational society accelerates the momentum of development and the governments, to him, are often on the sword's edge as public expectations soar high. The new awakening of an aspirational society backed by altruism and patriotic belongingness would surely bring gigantic changes and the country is all set to capture the opportunity of the moment. The more the women folk are brought to the mainstream with equal opportunities as enjoyed by the men, the more and faster will India's ascend as a country with significant power be. Modi's direct attack against corruption from the Red Fort was a clear indication on what his government's action against the culprits in future could be. This needs to be seen with caution and the panic that it could create. The Congress and its leaders thronged into the streets against the government's action on the top brass of the party dynasty. The investigative agencies would further gain power to sneak into the bunkers of the corrupt. More skulls would be pulled out from the graves and the convulsion across the political spectrum in India is an indication, a clear message to those who stage-manage the crass cacophony in the parliament and the streets. India's journey from the subjugation imposed by the invasion, shaking its shade of slavery forever, was a strenuous struggle and the

junction that we are today is an outcome of the fire into which the country had thrown itself wholeheartedly. The diversity that we have been watering has also brought an indelible imprint of cohesion and a cultural assimilation that we have been strengthened by was one of the most significant factors behind India's unity as a free nation. The role that we have today to play on a global stage is more significant than ever before. The Prime Minister has been successful in encapsulating the idea that India represented from the days of antiquity to the present. Though India's baby steps towards progress have been unsteady, its national energy has been unparalleled and stable pushing an infant nation from the clutches of cultural devaluation and denigration. Shaking the impact of the colonial influence was not that easy. Surprisingly, even today we could not successfully emancipate India from the colonial blow. The policies forcefully disseminated by Lord Macaulay have definitely chiselled a genus of Indians who represent the white-man's wisdom and are unapologetically argumentative on its efficacy even today. We can find them everywhere among the academics, the media fraternity, the politicians, the judiciary, and the intellectuals and also among social critics. India as of today is a complex democracy. On one side its aspirational worldview is gaining momentum and on the other we are pulled by the pinching realities of illiteracy, inequality, corruption and the contradictions and conflicts of religious hypocrisy. The question that often penetrates into the collective psyche of Indians is that; how long shall we live a life of contradictions? Does this country still have the energy to defend its inner conflicts? As an aspirational India marches towards its centenary, Himalayan challenges await us. Measures taken to address the anomalies in

recent years cannot be brushed aside, but the pace that we need to gather before we would be able to put the country on the pedestal of development needs to be accelerated. Seventy Five years of glorious journey brought moments of pride but it was filled with moments of conflict and defeats too. The wars India won against Pakistan are stories of valour for the upcoming generations. But the defeat at the hands of China equally gave us a subject to ponder. While Chernobyl, Hiroshima and Nagasaki evoked emotions of restraint, we did not hesitate to shield the country with nuclear arms. Emergency's darkness thickened upon the country and its wrath unforgivably pressed it hard in jails and detentions. India's tenacity was herculean that we could successfully navigate the country against a regime in its quest for relentless power and political immunity. We were not hesitant to shed tears at the brutal assassinations of our Prime Ministers but never failed to learn from them, we continued to strengthen our security apparatus. India witnessed agitations fuelled by democratic aspirations against the ruling regimes but was consciously holding the ethos of democracy and the values enshrined in the constitution. Riots small and big have occasionally brought blot on independent India's history and the scars engraved by the rage of mob fury obviously went deeper. A regime change in India since 2014 was a result of an aspirational shift by the Indian voters from a system of institutionalised corruption. All sectors of social life in the country received indomitable challenges but considerable moves in the direction of reforms followed. India, towards its centenary is an aspirational India and its quest is to accomplish big things and the Amrit Kaal will be a period of an aspirational India's rise to greater global significance.

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Set Knowledge Management Collaborative practices without Saddle points for Organizations future growth Success

The biggest demotivation for future Knowledge Management endeavour is "fear of gaining Knowledge Management back is what keeps it going for the Organization". As a Knowledge Management professional you must stay switched ON and set realistic Game plans, targets that keep your Knowledge Management goal and objective going forwards for future Knowledge Management endeavours. Post Knowledge Management sections people start figuring out the year end work goals. But Knowledge Management has to talk, how to find out what motivates employees and how self improvement goals are easier to maintain than you think. Technology collaboration approaches open up and become synonymous focused towards self motivation. Everyone puts out positive vibes, trailblazing thoughts and innovative quotes, may be inspire a few and reaffirm their faith in the individuals work objectives & goals. All you need to be kindle a spark that to drive them to pursue a goal and desired future outcomes, which is the initial starting point of Knowledge Management to give individual choice to choose to work towards individual growth, drawing straight line to future benefits and more towards organizations strategy. There are self-help thoughts, innovative ideas and helpful advices galore to keep self motivational flag flying. Don't need to push someone into doing something because it will lead to better things for them, rather Knowledge Management need to took up the challenge not because Knowledge Management need a job to do but because it will remove the roadblock that restrict someone to scale high in future. At one point it may demotivate individual as someone felt like letting go because Knowledge Management is outside interference to their work area. But your pre-set realistic Knowledge Management game plan must be target oriented and try to guide

someone to overcome those feelings and will remind individual that they are owner of this challenge, so kept going stepwise. So Knowledge Management has to include more motivational mentorship that remind employee about their schedule time to time and "Keep it Real". Any changes require an action plan, which has to be outside someone's comfort zone. There may be mistrust, self doubts, are other factors pull back to anyone but Knowledge Management need to work like motivational factor that maximize pleasure of innovation and minimize pain of demotivation. New technology adoption, experimentation has made us fast, beyond expectation result available on tips, which may put a big question mark on the "Can do" approach of someone. Environment may be conducive for change but it is individual mind is to properly tuned to accept it. Now Knowledge Management has to play big role to set environment realistic, so that stakeholder realize that "doing this because liked to do it". Once individual realize this, Knowledge Management success for future is brighten. There is no concept of failure or success here, just Knowledge Management has to set the game in a realistic manner for future success, so Knowledge Management should manage, **The Six Senses:**

1. Set steps for future
2. Keep it simple
3. Set right environment & guidelines
4. Mirrors individual effort
5. Keep straight
6. Regular follow up.

Now the question is what should be the Value payoff, if the payoff has a saddle point. The payoff matrix should $Value = V(i, j)$, where i = Individual contribution & j = Job profile. **Both i & j are coefficients of optimal strategic game plan of Knowledge Management value addition.** On other way, if the Knowledge Management matrixes do not have saddle point, the strategic game plan has no optimal strategies. The concept of optimal Knowledge

Binod Behera

Management strategies can be extended to all matrix games by introducing probability with choice and expectation towards future value. Knowledge Management to choose a particular activity (A1) with probability of value $X(A1)$, which can also be interpreted as relative frequency with importance of activity (A1) from number of (1,2,3,.....i) activities, (A1, A2, A3,.....Ai) of the strategic game plan. The set $X = (X_i, 1 < i < m)$, m is the maximize probability Value of an activity. Similarly the value needs to calculate for every activity, sequentially. Thus the Vector $X = (x_1, x_2, x_3+.....x_m)$ for non negative members satisfying $(x_1+x_2+x_3+.....+x_m) = 1$, is the mixed strategic value of activity 1. Similarly Vector for second activity of non negative numbers satisfying will be calculated and so on for all activities Knowledge Management perform. Now what should be the expected value of the payoff strategy of Knowledge Management for all activities? The expected value will be perfectly match to the functional value of the activities, else Knowledge Management will not get the final ROI value for the business functions and also get a hole in the Knowledge Management implementation phase. $E(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5,x_m) = F_n(x_1+x_2+x_3+x_4+x_5+.....x_m)$ there are $n (f_1, f_2, f_3,f_n)$ number of distinct models you are trying for Knowledge Management success. The KM success probability depend on $K(F_n) = F\{P\{f_n\}\}$, $P\{f_1\} = P\{f_2\} = P\{f_3\} == P\{f_n\} = i/n$ Now you have to calculate the amount of knowledge success rate, which is the function of n number of activities you are performing for the business functions. Similarly for second business unit the it will be $= i/m$ Hence functional value will be $f(1/n)+f(1/m)+.....= f(i/mn)$ You can calculate the technology collaboration and for applications deployed for Knowledge Management, the value will

come as $f(i/mn) = \log mn = \log m + \log n$ The value of intellect increases sharply as one moves up the Knowledge Management scale from cognitive knowledge to self motivated creativity. Knowledge Management need to be adopt courteous approach, as most of professional's activity directed at perfection. In this point Knowledge Management has to focus how to develop a homogeneous team in the organization and also keep finger cross for the ROI (Return On Investment), in term of **required man-hour, Project cost, cost of defining functional derivatives for the organization and technology collaboration**, that need to be keep your mathematical calculation for intellectual capital value in front of your eye always. The functional value of Knowledge of business functions is virtually a search for intensive statistical parameter associated with a probability scheme. This parameter should indicate uncertainty applicable to occurrence of each functional activity in the set of co-existence of Knowledge Management activities. Knowledge Management should provide distinct and proven real time, research based K-12 models that are now being sought after by various Industries in the Country and the World. It is high priority for Knowledge Management team to mentor & re-defined the skills and bring it to common forum of the Organization by creating the long-term professional mentoring programs in regular interval of time frame. This long-term mentoring model will create the eco-System in the organization that will nurture the creative mind set of the employees, so that they will keep the adversity out of sight. Train them for better relationship management & also make sure employees are integral part of organization's intellectual eco-System, so that they will feel proud, believe themselves and obtain proper recognition. This is completely dedicated approach for "Fit for Purpose". So, Knowledge Management needs to remove the saddle points of negativity and be integral part of the organization's future growth.

The Author is the Founder Member & Head - Training, Corporate Relation SWOTcm-Consulting & Management (Start Up)

Manish Sisodia deserves Bharat Ratna instead he's being hounded by Centre: Delhi CM Kejriwal

AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, under the CBI lens over alleged irregularities in excise policy, deserves the Bharat Ratna for improving education standard in schools, but instead he is being hounded by the Centre due to political motives, CM Arvind Kejriwal said on Monday.

On the other hand, Sisodia, who handles education among a host of other key portfolios, made a sensational claim, saying the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) offered him the chief minister's post if he split the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

"I have received a message from the BJP -- leave the AAP and join the BJP. We will ensure that all cases lodged by the CBI and the ED against you are closed. My reply to the BJP -- I am a descendant of Maharana Pratap and a Rajput. I am ready to get beheaded but can never bow down before conspirators and corrupt people. All the cases against me are false. Do whatever you want to do," Sisodia said in a tweet in Hindi.



In response to Sisodia's tweet, Kejriwal said: "It means that the CBI and ED raids have nothing to do with the liquor policy and corruption? These raids were carried out only to topple the AAP government in Delhi? Like they have done in other states." Later, he tweeted: "Operation Lotus fails in Delhi."

Sisodia is among the 15 people and entities named in an FIR lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Delhi excise policy.

"The New York Times has lauded our education model," Kejriwal, on his fifth visit in a month to poll-bound Gujarat, said in Ahmedabad. But instead of appreciating Sisodia, he is being targeted, Kejriwal told reporters.

"Don't you feel ashamed to make the CBI conduct raids on a man who did wonders in five years, did what existing political parties could not do in 70 years and made government schools the best. Such a man should get the Bharat Ratna," the CM said.

Liquor scam: MLC Kavitha to file a defamation suit against Delhi BJP leaders following allegations

Kejriwal, who is also the AAP convener, also expressed apprehension that Sisodia may be arrested soon.

"Manish Sisodia may be arrested; who knows I may also be arrested. All this is being done in view of the Gujarat Assembly elections," he said.

Kejriwal and Sisodia are currently in Gujarat to strengthen the AAP's base there in the run-up to the state Assembly polls scheduled later this year.

Kejriwal said the people of Gujarat are "sad" and are bearing the brunt of the "arrogance" of the BJP regime of the last 27 years in the state.

He promised quality education and health care to the people of Gujarat if the AAP comes to power in the state, where the Assembly polls are due by the year-end. Defending the Delhi government's liquor policy, Kejriwal said they were forced to change it. "A total 850 (liquor) shops had to open in Delhi. But only 350 shops could open, 500 shops could not open. The way the Centre and all agencies

started pressuring our officers, they said no to auctioning new shops. The LG (Lieutenant Governor), police, and central agencies were putting pressure. The policy is very good, and we are ready to debate with anyone," he said.

How the controversy over the Delhi Liquor Policy unfolded

Got two offers from BJP: Sisodia Meanwhile, Sisodia, who is also visiting Gujarat, claimed the BJP offered him the chief minister's post if he broke the AAP. Addressing a press conference in Ahmedabad, Sisodia said he was surprised when someone came to him with a message that he has "two offers" from the BJP.

"The messenger said one was that all big cases registered against you by CBI-ED will be taken back. The other offer was that I break the party and they will make you chief minister," the AAP leader claimed.

"I gave a clear political answer to them - 'Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is my political guru and I have learnt politics from him'. I have not come into politics to be CM or PM," Sisodia said.

"I am an honest man. In fact, I am with the Arvind Kejriwal team because I am a 'kattar imandar' (staunch honest) person. These fake cases are weak, and you

can't threaten me with these," Sisodia said at the press conference. The deputy CM said improving education in Delhi schools remains his top priority. "I am here with a dream to ensure that every child of Delhi gets the best education. And today I am working to ensure the best education to every child in the country, whether he is a child of the poor or the rich. This is my dream, and I am working on that dream," Sisodia said.

Asked about the name of the persons who sent him message, Sisodia said, "The person who sent me message told me that he was behind making Suwendu Adhikari in West Bengal, Himanta Biswa Sarma in Assam, Narayan Rane and others join the BJP. He said I could trust him because he is the man who works on making people join the BJP."

Sisodia, however, did not reveal the name of the messenger.

Rise in water level of three major dams in Odisha

JEYPORE(KCN): Incessant rain over the last few days has led to a rise in the water level of

come sign as it will help in better power generation and irrigation in the ayacut areas.



Indravati, Kolab and Telingiri dams in the Koraput, Balangir and Kalahandi districts. Sources said the water level of the three major dams has risen by 5-10 metres. While the reservoir level of Indravati was 631.48 metres in 2021, it is 639 metres this year.

Similarly, the reservoir level of Upper Kolab is 851.75 metres this year against 847.31 metres in 2021. The water level of the Telingiri dam reservoir was 620.25 metres in 2021 and is 630.8 metres this year. The rise in the water level of the dams is a wel-

Meanwhile, authorities of the Indravati project at Khatiguda in Nabarangpur have decided to open one gate of the dam to release excess water. Official sources said the current inflow into the Indravati reservoir indicates that the water level will reach 640 metres by Monday.

"We have decided to open one sluice gate on Tuesday to balance the rising water level in the reservoir," informed the additional chief engineer of the Indravati project Anil Panigrahi.

Fauci announces December departure from government service



WASHINGTON: Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert who became a household name — and the subject of partisan attacks — during the COVID-19 pandemic, announced Monday he will depart the federal government in December after more than

five decades of service. Fauci, who serves as President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, has been the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and chief of the NIAID Laboratory of Immunoregulation. He was a leader in the federal response to

HIV/AIDS and other

infectious diseases

even before the

coronavirus hit.

"I will be leaving

these positions in

December of this

year to pursue the

next chapter of my

career," Fauci said in

a statement, calling

those roles "the

honor of a lifetime."

Biden praised Fauci

in a statement, say-

ing, "Whether you've

met him personally

or not, he has

touched all Americans'

lives with his

work. I extend my

deepest thanks for

his public service.

The United States of

America is stronger,

more resilient, and

healthier because of

him."

Rain fury brings life to a halt in several parts of MP, including state capital Bhopal

BHOPAL: Unpre-

cedentedly heavy rains

accompanied by blus-

tery winds followed by

flash floods over the

last two and half days

have cast their shadow

on a large part of

Madhya Pradesh, in-

cluding capital Bhopal,

which witnessed the

fiercest rain in the last

24-48 hours since 2016.

Over 400 people have

been rescued by the

SDRF and NDRF

teams from various

flood-hit areas in parts

of Vidisha, Rajgarh,

Ashok Nagar, Raisen,

Jabalpur, Mandla, Sidhi,

and Guna districts, where

heavy rains have put all

major rivers in spate and

most dams are either over-

flowing or replete with

last 24-36 hours. The

capital city reported

7.5-inch rain in the last

24 hours, which was

the heaviest since the

deadly rain of 2016.

Along with rains, the

blustery winds blowing

at a speed of 33-34

kmph have brought the

temperatures down

drastically.

Heavy rains and flood-

ing of ponds and lakes,

besides dams, have sub-

merged over 200 resi-

dential localities of

Bhopal, a large part of

which is in the dark due

to continued electricity

shut down and faults in

around 50 residential

localities. The Misrod

area of the city, particu-

larly, is facing a

flood-like situation.

Dozens of trees have

been uprooted all

across the city, which is

already on high-secur-

ity alert owing to the

day-long presence of

union home minister

Amit Shah for a slew of

major events.

In Bhopal, a young mo-

torbike rider was killed

after coming in contact

with an uprooting tree

near Tarun Pushkar.

Owing to extremely bad

weather conditions, the

closure of schools in

Bhopal, Sehore,

Rajgarh, Vidisha,

Raisen and Sagar dis-

tricts has been ex-

tended for Tuesday

also.

All major rivers in cen-

tral MP, Mahakoshal

and west MP are in

spate, with the mighty

river Narmada likely to

cross the danger mark

by midnight.

As per reports, pro-

longed rains which are

likely to continue on

Tuesday also, have

badly affected life in

around 27 districts of

B h o p a l ,

N a r m a d a p u r a m ,

G w a l i o r a n d J a b a l p u r

d i v i s i o n s .

In Vidisha, a stop dam

built just a year back in

Islam Nagar area of

Lateri block developed

major breach, result-

ing in massive release

of water through the

crops in 10-12 adjoining

villages. In the same

central MP district's

Basoda area, the dis-

trict administration has

sought urgent help from

the Indian Air Force

(IAF) to airlift over 100

villagers, taking shelter

on terraces of houses

owing to flash floods.

In Guna district of

Gwalior region, three

villagers remained

stuck on an island ow-

ing to flash floods in the

Pipliya village of

Bamori area.

In the adjoining Ashok

Nagar district, five

people on the way from

Bhopal to Ashok Nagar

were swept away in a

flooded nullah. While

three of them swam to

safety and spent their

night on trees, two oth-

ers, including a newly

elected village

sarpanch are missing.

Meanwhile, the Meteo-

rological Department

has sounded red alert of



CM Secy @ IT Tower OSCB CR Gets Own home

Bhubaneswar : Secretary to CM 5T V K Pandian today visited the new BMC building at Satya Nagar and O Hub to review the the



progress and to ensure timely completion of the work required to have new development centres to be made operational by Deloitte and IBM respectively.

The opening of development centres by such large MNCs in Bhubaneswar will create huge job opportunities for the youth. Both MNCs are setting their foot for the first time in Odisha and both centres are targeted to be

operationalised by Mid October.

He also directed early commissioning of the Bhubaneswar smart city command and control centre and expressed his satisfaction on the work in progress.

He laid emphasis on creation of very good common use facilities in both new buildings viz Meeting halls, Canteen and Parking and overall eco system.

The 2nd Tower of O Hub work has been prioritised. It's now planned to have Incubation centres, Co-working spaces along with office spaces for the Start Ups who will graduate into regular companies.

While inspecting Info city area he has also suggested for a Multilevel Parking to be planned inside Infocity to address to the growing parking needs of the IT companies.

During the visit Mr. Pandian was accompanied by Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma, E&IT Secretary Manoj Mishra, Chairman BSCL Sanjay Singh, BMC Commissioner Vijay Kulange and MD IDCO Bhupinder Singh Poonia, along with other senior officers of respective departments.

State approves 132 Cr APO

Bhubaneswar: In a move for enhancing livelihood activities through forestry, the State Government on Monday approved Annual Plans of Operation (APO) of around Rs.132.01 crore for the financial year 2022-23.

The High Power Committee of Odisha Forestry Sector Development Society (OFSDS) led by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra has approved the APO.

The Committee has approved annual plans of operation (APO) of around Rs.132.01 crore for OFSDP phase-II, and Rs.58.24 crore for

OFSDP was being implemented in 12 Forest Divisions and 2 Wildlife Divisions across 10 Districts. A total number of 1211 VSSs were actively involved at ground level in conservation, growth and promotional activities. Perspective 10 year micro-plans for all VSSs were also prepared by them.

Around 56031 hectares of forest land were developed through them. Soil moisture conservation measures over 2250 hectares, fire lines across 1710 Kms and forest boundaries across 1900 KM were constructed, and being maintained through respective VSSs.

Six hi-tech nurseries with provision of raising around 4.40 lakh quality seedlings were also established and being run through them.

A total of 4118 hectares were covered under farm forestry with 29 lakh seedlings for providing remunerative income to members of 777 VSSs. The balance VSSs would be covered in phases.

Construction of Multi Product Clusters for aggregation and value addition of minor forest produce

and agriproducts were in process. Sal leaf clusters in three project divisions namely, Karanjia, Baripada and Rairangpur were made operational, sources said.

More than 300 members from 66 VSSs were trained in Sal leaf stitching, making of cups and plates. Besides, the Honey Cluster in Athmallik, and Multi-Product Cluster in Boudh forest division were also operationalised.

An amount of around Rs. 460.72 crore was invested for all these activities under OFSDP-II by end of July, 2022.

Similarly, under AJY, a total number of 4601 VSS and 14263 WSHGs across 22 territorial divisions were involved in various forest conservation and associated livelihood activities with investment of around Rs 545.65 crore by end of July, 2022.

This apart, livelihood projects in convergence with OMBADC were launched in 5 forest divisions covering about 900 VSSs from 25 forest ranges with a financial outlay of Rs. 43.43 crore. In the first phase, 3237 SHGs and 900 VSSs were included.

Product mapping and authentication across the VSSs were also completed. Chief Secretary Sri Mahapatra directed to complete the VSS wise sustainable livelihood and IGA plan soon.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Forest and Environment Satyabrata Sahu, PCCF (HoFF) Debidatta Biswal, Principal Secretary Rural Development Sanjaya Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary Finance Vishal Kumar Dev, Project Director OFSDP Meeta Biswal along with senior officers from concerned departments participated in the discussions.

Bhubaneswar : The new accommodation of OSCB Cuttack which 7 in this time. The bank is earning profit since its inception. accommodation in ESSEN CITY CENTRE.



Road Branch in ESSEN CITY CENTRE, near SBI Jharpada was inaugurated today by Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Minister FS&CW, Cooperation.

The OSCB came into existence in the year 1948 licensed by RBI and is a scheduled Bank.

Presently it has 14 branches. Out of

each in, Angul, Paradeep, Rourkela, Sambalpur and Berhampur.

The total working capital of the bank as on 31 March 2022 is Rs 21320.40 crore with a net profit of 143.13 crore earned during the financial year 2021-22.

The total deposit base of the bank is 10355.32 crore by

This Cuttack Road Branch, initially functioning as market extension counter from 1996 was upgraded to a full-fledged branch from 01.05.2003 as per RBI licence as "Cuttack Road Branch".

The branch was functioning in a rented accommodation and today has got its Own

Sanjiv Kumar Chadha, Secretary Cooperation & Administrator OSCB, Gopabandhu Satpathy MD OSCB, Udhav Chandra Majhi, Registrar Cooperative Societies, other departmental Officers and bank employees were present during the inaugural ceremony.



AJY. Besides, Rs. 43.43 crore financial outlay was made from OMBADC for livelihood activities.

Mr. Mahapatra directed to intensify livelihood activities for making those sustainable even after the end of the project period.

Reviewing the progress made so far in the main constituents of OFSDP viz. Ama Jungle Yojana (AJY), OFSDP Phase-II, and livelihood interventions through OMBADC; the Chief Secretary directed different departments to prop up convergence of resources with OFSDS proactively for boosting sustainable livelihood programs in forest fringe villages. "The people living in these villages are mostly poor, and they need to be assisted through income generation activities (IGA). Such activities also add to conservation and growth of forest," he said.

He also directed to "ensure survival of these seedlings with close supervision, and replace deceased plants after resolving the cause of casualty". It was decided to implement local specific IGAs through VSS and Women Self Help Groups (SHGs).

The main activities under OFSDP included entry point activities, sustainable forest management, bio-diversity management, livelihood promotion, capacity building of VSS and SHGs, support activities, assisted natural plant regeneration and block plantation, construction of soil moisture conservation measures, forest protection, fire guarding, construction of IGA Center, community mobilization, product mapping of different VSSs, formulation of VSS wise livelihood plan and skill training.

Project Director Meeta Biswal apprised that




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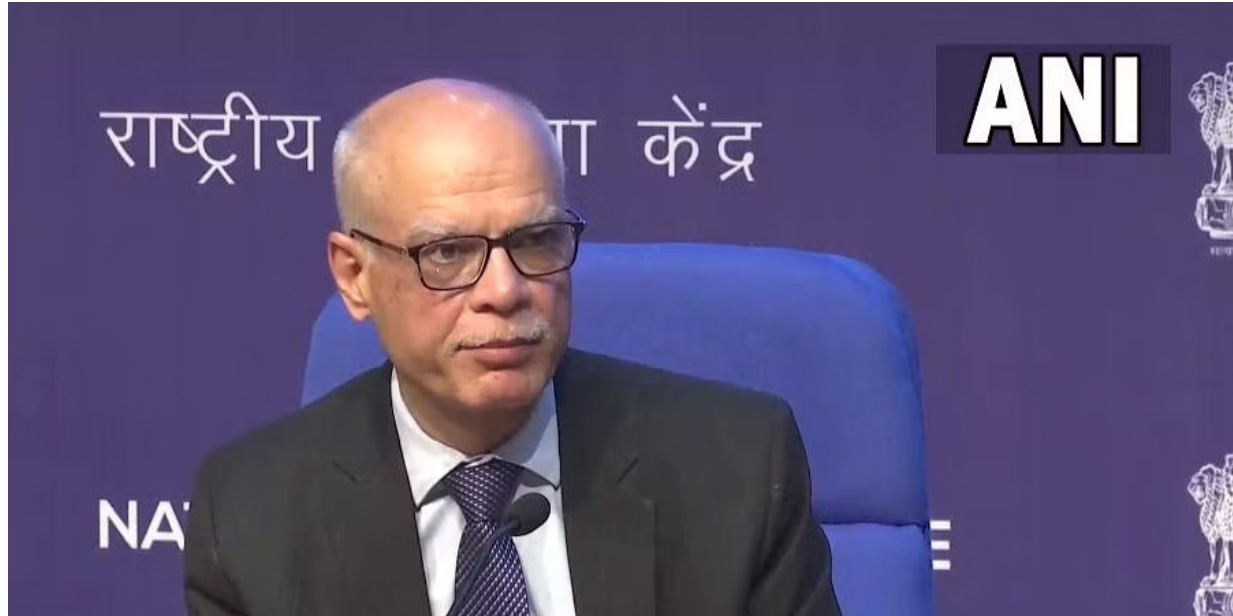
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Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj gets additional charge of Corporate Affairs Secy



NEW DELHI: Tarun Bajaj, Revenue Secretary, has been given an additional charge of secretary at the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Dolo 650 maker Micro Labs rejects allegations of Rs 1,000 cr worth freebies to doctors

NEW DELHI: Drug firm Micro Labs has termed the allegations that it offered freebies worth Rs 1,000 crore to doctors to promote its anti-inflammatory drug Dolo 650 as baseless. The Supreme Court on Thursday was told by

additional charge of the post of Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs to Tarun Bajaj, IAS (HY:1988), Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance with immediate effect and till

the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders, whichever is earlier," said an order issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on August 22. Tarun Bajaj was appointed

tributed Rs 1000 crore freebies to prescribe Dolo 650mg tablets: SC told With an economical option like Dolo 650, doctors across the country have been able to manage most of their patients in the pandemic without re-

the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders, whichever is earlier," said an order issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on August 22. Tarun Bajaj was appointed

KCR anti-farmer and nepotist, says Amit Shah

Continued from page-1

great leader, Narendra Modi," he stated. After being at the receiving end from the Chief Minister at the TRS' public meeting at Munugode, Shah, in his address, raked up a list of unkept promises by the TRS government.

"KCR and his company do not keep their promises. They promised `3,000 as unemployment allowance to youth. Was it delivered? He promised poor people two-bedroom houses. Forget the houses, this government is creating hurdles even for construction of toilets, which are funded by the Modi government," the Union minister remarked. Farmers who lost crops due to floods would have received insurance, according to Shah, if the TRS government had implemented the PM Fasal Bima Yojna. "Why should farmers pay for KCR's sins? He is anti-farmer. Telangana government is not purchasing paddy at the MSP prescribed by the Centre. If you bring the BJP to power in Telangana, I promise that our government will buy paddy from every single farmer."

Among other unfulfilled promises, the Union minister stated, were the construction of super-specialty hospitals in all districts. "Does Nalgonda district even have one super-specialty hospital," he asked, to which the crowd replied, "No". Shah reminded the audience of Chandrashekar Rao's promise to appoint a Dalit as Chief Minister. He said that even after Chandrashekar Rao, his son would be the CM, not a Dalit. "KCR has failed to keep up his promise of `10 lakh for every Dalit family, three acres of land for Dalits, and one acre of land for tribals. If TRS wins, it will be KTR replacing him, and not a Dalit," Amit Shah said.

He claimed that there have been no job opportunities for youth since 2014, and that the jobs have gone to members of the Chandrashekar Rao family. "KCR comes from a large family. I have no problem with his son, daughter, son-in-law, nephew, and many others getting jobs, but why should people of Telangana lift their burden," he asked, adding that the Kaleshwaram project had been turned into an "ATM for the KCR family."

Telangana had the country's highest petrol price, he pointed out. "Modi reduced petrol prices twice, but the state is not ready," he said, adding that Telangana was drowned in debt despite the Modi government sanctioning more than `2 lakh crore for different schemes and programmes.

as the revenue secretary under the Ministry of Finance in April 2021. Earlier, Bajaj was given the additional charge of the economic affairs secretary till August 12, as per a government circular.

Sameer Mahendru: From CBI witness in 2013 graft case to accused in Delhi excise 'scam'

NEW DELHI: Indospirit's Managing Director Sameer Mahendru, who is being probed by the CBI for alleged bribery to influence Delhi's excise policy, was once the agency's key witness against two infrastructure and development officials convicted for graft in 2013, according to officials.

As a prosecution witness (PW-34) for the CBI, Mahendru had testified against the two officials of the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.

(DSIIDC) who were demanding four to five expensive liquor bottles from distributors every month for granting various favours.

His testimony was one of the clinching evidences that nailed the role of the two DSIIDC officials -- Sushanta Mukherjee and Amrik Singh -- and they were convicted by the special CBI court in 2013.

The same CBI unit -- the Anti Corruption Bureau, New Delhi -- that probed the 2008 FIR number 15A/2008/CBI/ACB/ND is now investigating the bribery charge against Mahendru, and 14 other including Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

The case registered on March 31, 2008 on source-based information pertained to large scale corruption by two officials of DSIIDC who were regularly seeking bribes and liquor from distributors in Delhi. Mukherjee had retired from the DSIIDC but was inducted as an Officer on Special Duty in its Indian Made Foreign Liquor unit between June 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007 with wide ranging duties from policy to procurement of liquor.

How the controversy over the Delhi Liquor Policy unfolded

Amrik Singh was the assistant manager (enforcement) and used to flaunt his cordial relations with Mukherjee and say he could get any work done through Mukherjee in the IMFL division.

Armed with telephone call intercepts, witnesses and evidence, the CBI filed a chargesheet against Mukherjee and Singh in 2011.

Two years later, the strong case presented by the CBI resulted in their conviction.

During the trial, Mahendru testified against Mukherjee as a CBI witness and identified both the accused in the court room.

"The fact that the liquor bottles were picked up/ obtained from DSIIDC vends by the accused persons despite protest by the suppliers and that the suppli-

Jantar Mantar protest: Farmers charm the lot with traditional attire, emotional connect

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their protest amid heavy security arrangements in a 'mahapanchayat' called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) at Jantar Mantar.

They waved flags, wore caps with the name of their farm organisations inscribed on them, and raised slogans for farmer unity and against the Centre accusing it of not coming good on its promises.

Magha Nibori, a farmer from Punjab with one acre of farmland which he cultivates with seasonal crops, said he came here fully prepared to stay put, if required.

Many travelled thousands of kilometres to take part in the mahapanchayat.

"I am here from Cochin. Around 250 people have come from Kerala and nearby states to urge PM Modi to agree to our demands regarding MSP law, and other issues. We want India to withdraw from the WTO. Ajay Mishra should resign," said Paulsen, a 50-year-old farmer from Cochin, Kerala.

Many farmers registered their protests in their own unique ways.

One of them came wearing a garland of garlic, while another, a woman, wore a saree with tricolours.

"The government made a promise but now they are not doing anything. There is no concrete action taken by the government. If we can raise a person to power. We can also bring him down. The government should understand this," Kavita, clad in tricolour print saree, said.

As farmers associated with different unions reached Delhi, police obstructed their way to the protest site erecting deep layers of barricades across entry points of the city, and checked every vehicle entering the national capital, causing huge traffic jams.

Besides the borders, Ghazipur, Singhu and Tikri, key stretches on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, the Palam flyover, Aurobindo Marg, Ring Road (near Indraprastha Park), the Ghaziabad-Wazirabad road, and the Munirka road, and several other stretches, witnessed traffic snarls.

Other than north India, farmers from states such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and Kerala arrived in Delhi to take part in the 'mahapanchayat.'

ers were made to pay for the same, is borne out from the testimony of PW-34 Sameer Mahendru," Special Judge Poonam A Bamba had noted in the judgement.

She had said it is also made out that such illegal gratification was obtained by the accused persons for expediting the release of payments to them.

When intercepted calls were played in the court, Mahendru recalled the telephonic conversation with Mukherjee.

"PW-34 deposed that during the period 2007-2008, he was working as an attorney and C and F Agent for Skol Beverages Ltd. and had been supplying its brands to various outlets of DSIIDC. He knew both the accused persons and identified them in the court," the Judge had noted.

Mahendru now stands accused of making illegal payments of Rs 4-5 crore to two "close associates" of Sisodia on different occasions.

The agency has accused Mahendru as one of the businessmen who were "actively involved" in alleged irregularities in framing and implementation of the excise policy of Delhi government for the year 2021-22.

The CBI has raided multiple places in connection with alleged irregularities in the implementation of the policy.

The policy was rolled back by the Delhi government last month.

Nearly 9,000 Ukrainian troops killed so far, says Kyiv

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daughter of hard-line Russian ideologue Alexander Dugin.

"The crime was prepared and committed by Ukrainian special services," the FSB said in a statement Monday carried by Russian news agencies.

Russian President Vladimir Putin denounced the "vile crime" in a message of condolence to her family.

The FSB statement said the person responsible was a Ukrainian woman born in 1979 who had rented an apartment in the same building where Dugina lived.

After the car bombing, she had fled to EU member Estonia, it added.

Dugin, 60, is an outspoken Russian ultranationalist intellectual who enthusiastically backs Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as did his daughter. Russian media reports suggest Dugina had borrowed her father's car at the last minute.

Over the weekend, Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhaylo Podolyak denied that Kyiv had had anything to do with the bombing.

- Tense Independence Day -

In Spain Borrell told reporters that EU defence ministers would next week discuss launching a major training operation for Ukrainian forces in nearby countries.

"It seems reasonable that a war that is lasting and looks set to last requires an effort not only in terms of supplies of material," Borrell said.

EU defence ministers have a two-day meeting in Prague from next Monday.

"I hope it will be approved," said Borrell, adding that the details would have to be agreed by all EU member states.

Any such operation would be a step up from the military training that several nations are already providing to Ukrainian forces under bilateral agreements.

With much of Europe preparing for fuel shortages as Moscow cuts back its deliveries to the west in response to sanctions, Bulgaria said Monday it was seeking talks with Russia gas giant Gazprom.

The country is almost totally dependent on Russia for its annual consumption of 3.0 billion cubic metres of natural gas.

"We obviously have to turn to them," said Energy Minister Rosen Hristov.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky warned over the weekend that Russia might mark Ukraine's Independence Day by launching a trial of Ukrainian soldiers captured during the siege of Mariupol.

"This will be the line beyond which no negotiations are possible," he warned in Sunday's nightly address.

The capital Kyiv has already announced a ban on public gatherings around Wednesday's public holiday, and the city of Kharkiv, in the east, has declared a curfew.

Ahead of independence day, residents in Kyiv clambered on destroyed Russian tanks put on display in the city centre over the weekend.



an NGO that the Central Board of Direct Taxes has accused the Bengaluru-based drug firm of distributing Rs 1,000 crore freebies to doctors for prescribing its 650 mg tablets.

In a statement, a Micro Labs spokesperson said that in some of the recent media reports it has been falsely and maliciously alleged that the company has been distributing freebies worth Rs 1,000 crore to promote Dolo 650 in one year. "This is highly misleading and is affecting the reputation of Micro Labs, pharmaceutical industry and doctors," the spokesperson added. The annual sales of Dolo 650 have been Rs 360 crores, about 8 per cent of the company sales.

Despite the raw material cost tripling during COVID times, Micro Labs maintained its uninterrupted supplies without any price change as per the government fixed retail price of less than Rs 2 per tablet, the spokesperson noted.

'Pharma company dis-

sorting to expensive antiviral and other drugs, the spokesperson said.

"To think of distribution of freebies worth thousands of crores is thus highly preposterous.

The company would like to clarify that the amount referred to pertains to the total sales and marketing expenses incurred by the company for its total India business in the last five years' period and spent across its whole portfolio," the spokesperson added.

The medication has been prescribed by doctors due to its quality, effective and speedy relief from fever and on the trust built over three decades, the spokesperson said. "We are fully cooperating with the authorities to provide all the necessary information and explanation for their due consideration," the spokesperson added. Last month, the Income Tax department had conducted searches at the premises of the drug firm over alleged tax evasion.

Thriving Modric helps Madrid get over Casemiro's departure

MADRID: Luka Modric is making it easier for Real Madrid fans to start getting over Casemiro's departure.

A day after the Brazil midfielder announced he was ending his successful decade-long stint with Madrid to join Manchester United, his former teammate scored a beautiful goal and set up another to help the defending champion beat Celta Vigo 4-1 on Saturday for its second consecutive win to start the Spanish league.

Modric's performance was worthy of applause even by Celta fans when the veteran was substituted in the second half.

"It is always nice," Modric said. "It makes me happy to be recognized by other fans."

Karim Benzema, Vinicius Junior and Federico Valverde also scored as Madrid comfortably followed up its come-from-behind win at promoted Almeria in the opener.

It was Madrid's first game since losing Casemiro, the trusted holding midfielder who had been one of the defensive anchors of the Spanish powerhouse.

"We made history together here," Modric said. "He was a fundamental piece for us and we will miss him a lot, both as a player and as a person. We are sad that he left but it's part of soccer. We have to move on without him

and each one of us has to give something extra to make up for his absence."

Without the Brazilian, Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti set up the midfield with Eduardo Camavinga, newly signed Aurélien Tchouaméni and Modric, who had not started against Almeria.

The 36-year-old Modric took over the midfield on Saturday, controlling the pace both defensively and offensively.

He scored his goal with a well-placed curling shot into the top corner after a nifty move to get past a defender at the top of the area in the 41st minute at Balaídos Stadium.

"Modric is a fantastic leader for us," Ancelotti said. "He played very well and scored the most important goal of the match because it put us ahead and made everything easier."

Benzema, Madrid's top player last season, scored his first goal of this campaign by converting a 14th-minute penalty kick after video review spotted a handball by Celta midfielder Renato Tapia inside the area.

Celta equalized with another penalty kick less than 10 minutes later, with Iago Aspas finding the net from the spot after a handball by Madrid defender Éder Militão.

After putting his team ahead, Modric sent a nice through ball to Vinicius Junior in a

breakaway in the 56th, and the Brazil forward found the net after dribbling past Celta goalkeeper Agustín Marchesín.

Some Celta fans stood to applaud Modric when he was substituted by Dani Ceballos in the 77th.

Valverde closed the scoring after a pass by Vinicius Junior in the 66th.

Substitute Eden Hazard missed a chance to increase Madrid's lead when he missed a late penalty kick, with Marchesín saving his shot. In addition to Casemiro's absence, Ancelotti also could not count on midfielder Toni Kroos because he had the flu. Forward Rodrygo was not in the squad because of an injury.

England women's record goalscorer White quits football



LONDON: Ellen White, England's all-time record women's goalscorer, on Monday announced her retirement from football with immediate effect after a glittering 17-year career that culminated in last month's Euro 2022 triumph.

"Manchester City Football Club can confirm that Ellen White has retired from football," her club said in a statement.

"England's all-time women's record goalscorer, the legendary striker ends her playing career

this summer on the highest of highs and having left an undeniable impact on the game as a whole," it added.

The 33-year-old forward scored 52 times in 113 appearances for the Lionesses, while her club career also included stints at

Arsenal, Chelsea, Notts County, Birmingham, and Leeds.

She played an integral role in helping England women lift their first ever major trophy, scoring two goals during this summer's home-hosted tournament.

State gears up for HWC

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With only a few months left for the Hockey Men's World Cup, 2023, the State Government has tightened its seat belts to set global benchmarks by successfully hosting the mega sporting event.

The state is going to host the event for the second time in a row after its massive success in Hockey Men's World Cup of 2018. The Asian Ath-

Rourkela administration joined in through Video Conferencing.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra emphasised on the challenges of the event as it will be held in two cities at the same time. But, he added, the state administration is confident of ensuring a smooth, successful and memorable world cup for players, officials,

the last by adding new aspects to draw in more crowds, engage fans and also positively impress the visiting tourists, the chief secretary added. Secretary to Chief Minister V K Pandian sharing his views, said that it is a matter of great pride that Odisha has got the opportunity to host the consecutive edition of the Men's Hockey World Cup that too at two different venues.

return as brand ambassadors.

Secretary Sports R Vineel Krishna said that the construction of the infrastructure and facilities in co-host city, Rourkela, is going on in full swing and the development is being monitored closely and will be ready in the coming months. Other aspects related to upgradation and beautification of Rourkela have also been keenly taken up



letics Championship in 2017 was also a resounding success. To ensure that the marquee event is even bigger and better than its previous edition, Odisha Chief Minister's Office (CMO) held a meeting here on Monday. Top govt officials, including Chief Secretary, Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Secretary to Chief Minister V K Pandian, Principal Secretaries and heads of different Departments were present at Lok Seva Bhawan today. Senior officials from Cuttack and

fans and spectators. "We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming the top teams of the world. There are certain areas that need special attention and we will be reviewing the development periodically," he stressed. Different government departments have worked seamlessly and efficiently and executed an exceptional event in 2018 that made a global impact on Odisha's image, and the same has been asked of them for this edition. In fact, the state is hoping to better

"This has never happened before and we should be extremely proud of this. Odisha has set a benchmark in hosting international events," he said. Mr. Pandian further said that the Chief Minister has directed to use this world cup as an opportunity to showcase not only Odisha's capability as a remarkable host but also the art, culture and heritage of the state. He encouraged all department heads to come together and ensure players and fans have a memorable experience and

by the district administration. In Bhubaneswar, the new turfs have been laid at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium a few months back and is match ready. For smooth and successful hosting of the sporting event at both venues, requirements, roles and responsibilities for different areas including security, fire safety, transport, connectivity, accommodation, tourism, information & technology, finance, public works amongst others were discussed at the meeting.

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