

Opposition stalls Odisha House

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Opposition BJP and Congress Members on Monday stalled

till 4 p.m. The BJP MLAs had given a notice for discussion on an ad-

issue including non-payment of crop insurance claims by private companies

Before adjourning the House, the Speaker said the notice moved by the BJP discussion on chit fund scam was rejected as the issue was not a recent occurrence and it is sub-judice.

As per the rules of the business of the Odisha Legislative Assembly, such issues couldn't be taken up for discussion, Mr. Arukha said. Later, the Speaker conveyed an all-party meeting, but it failed to resolve the log-jam.

The Speaker said earlier also the demand for discussion on the issue was raised in the House but the then Speaker rejected it after consulting with the Advocate General.

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businesses of State Legislative Assembly demanding debate on chit fund scam and farmers' issues. Due to protest by the opposition members, the first half of the day completely washed away. The house was adjourned for four times including the last one

jourment motion on chit fund scam. However, Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha has rejected it. In protest of such a move by the Speaker, the BJP members created a ruckus in the House. On the other hand, the Congress members insisted on a debate on the farmers'

and due to scanty rainfall in some pockets of the State. As soon as the House assembled for the day at 10.30 AM, the BJP and Congress lawmakers, shouting slogans, rushed to the well of the House and demanded discussion of the above issues.

First shipment of Ukraine grain set to leave Odessa port: Turkey

ANKARA(KCN): The first shipment of Ukrainian grain was set to leave the port of

ing under the flag of Sierra Leone and loaded with maize will leave the port of Odessa bound for Lebanon at 08:30 am (0530 GMT)," the Turkish defence ministry said in a statement.

It was expected to reach the mouth of the Bosphorus on Tuesday at around midday, according to Yoruk Isik, an expert on ship movements in the Bosphorus Strait and in the re-



Odessa on Monday under a deal aimed at relieving a global food crisis following Russia's invasion of its neighbour. "The departure of the cargo ship Razoni fly-

Other convoys would follow, respecting the maritime corridor and the agreed formalities in line with the agreement CONTINUED ON: P-7

BJP gov't's decisions have hit 25 crore households, widened divide between rich and the poor: Congress

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Congress on Monday held the BJP-led central government responsible for the price rise, saying its decisions have hit hard 25 crore households in the country and widened the divide between the rich and the poor. Initiating a debate on the issue of the price rise in Lok Sabha, Congress member Manish Tewari alleged that savings, investment, production, consumption and employment, the five pillars of the economy, have been blown away due to the wrong policies of the Union government.

"During the UPA regime, 27 crore people were brought above the poverty line. Then it was learnt from a report, which was made pub-



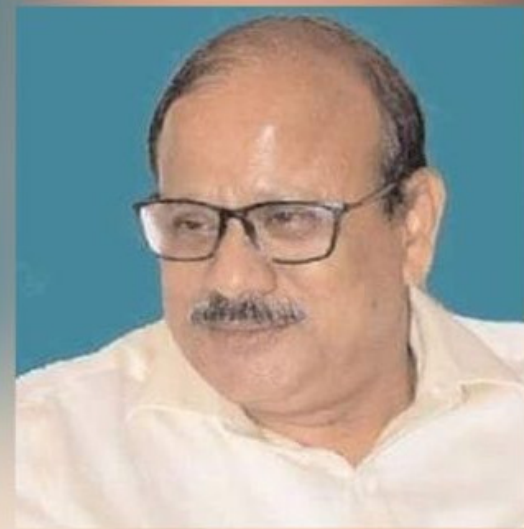
lic in 2021, that as many as 23 crore people are once again below the poverty line," he said. While the number of billionaires in India increased from 100 to 142 in these years, the income of those in the lower strata

has been decreasing day by day, he said. He said it is "unfortunate" that 77 per cent of the country's wealth is in the hands of one percent of the

the COVID-19 pandemic would be a factor leading to the current economic scenario but the country's economy had already started weakening with the government's decision to demonetise high-value currency notes on November 8, 2016, he charged. After the note ban, the government brought in GST implementation which hit at least 2.30 lakh small industries.

"This note ban and GST not just impacted medium and small scale industries but employment also," he said. CONTINUED ON: P-7

Ex Odisha Bureaucrat Bijay Nayak appointed Addl Press Secy of Prez Murmu



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Former Odisha bureaucrat, Bijaya Nayak, has been appointed as the Additional Secretary, Press, to President Draupadi Murmu. Nayak is now posted as Officer on Special

Duty in Odia University coming up at Sakhigopal in Puri. He was the Culture director of the Government of Odisha before his retirement. Nayak was the Private Secretary to

Murmu when she was the Minister for Commerce & Transport and Fisheries & Animal Resources Development from 2000 to 2002. He is also a reputed literary figure in Odisha. He has been

the editor of the literary magazine 'Kahani' for the last 20 years. During his college days, he was the President of the Bhadrak College Students' Union and also of the Utkal University Students' Union.

8506 Drowning Deaths

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As many as 8506 people have died after drowning in different water bodies across the State during the last six years from 2016 to 2021.

This was informed by Minister of State for Home, Tusharkanti Behera in the State Legislative Assembly on Monday.

Replying to an unstarred question of BJP lawmaker Sukant Kumar Nayak, the Minister said 935 people drowned in 2016, while 1079 died due to drowning in 2017.

Similarly, 1406 drowned in the year 2018, 1441 in 2019, 1840 in 2020 and 1805 in the last year



(2021), he said.

Mr. Behera said the highest number of 121 drowning cases was reported from Cuttack Urban Police District (UPD) in 2016 followed by 54 in Balasore in the same year.

Mayurbhanj district reported the highest number of drowning incidents in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. While 90 people drowned in 2017, 123 drowned in 2018, 104 in 2019, 152 in 2020 and 167 in 2021.

After Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar district reported the maximum number of drowning cases. As many as 69 people drowned in 2017, 91 in 2018, 93 in 2019, 133 in 2020 and 145 in 2021, the Minister said.

In 2021, highest 167 drowning death cases were reported in Mayurbhanj district, followed by Keonjhar (145), Ganjam (111), Bhadrak (98), Kendrapara (95), Puri (80) and Jagatsinghpur (80).

Splendid, historic moment on August 15: PM

New Delhi(KCN): In his monthly "Mann Ki Baat" address on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the sacrifices of India's heroic freedom fighters. Offering his "humble tributes" to the revolutionaries who

Calling the 91st episode of Mann Ki Baat special, Modi said, "The Almighty has blessed us with this great fortune. Think about it... Had we been born in the era of slavery, then how would we have imagined this day? That yearning



for freedom from slavery, that desperation for freedom from the shackles of subjugation, how formidable it must have been!"

The PM exhorted the nation to remember that millions of our countrymen fought for independence every single day and sacrificed for the sake of freedom.

He said imagine waking up every morning dreaming about India's independence and eventually dedicating our lives to the freedom movement, chanting "Vande Mataram" and "Bharat Maa Ki Jai" for a better future for our country and the generations to come. Referring to "Azadi Ki Railgadi Aur Railway Station", a government initiative to create awareness among the people about the role of Indian Railways in the freedom struggle, the PM pointed out that

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TRUST Asset Management announces the launch of TRUSTMF Money Market Fund

Kolkata(KCN): TRUST Asset Management announced the launch of its New Fund Offer (NFO) – the TRUSTMF Money Market Fund which aims to seek benefit from steepness in the Money Market yield curve and provides an avenue for parking short term surplus with relatively low interest rate risk.



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The NFO opens for subscription from 05th August 2022 and closes on 11th August 2022. The Fund will be managed by Anand Nevatia, Fund Manager, TRUST Mutual Fund. This is the fifth addition to TRUST Mutual Fund's Fixed Income product portfolio. The Key Highlights of TRUSTMF Money Market Fund are: To seek benefit from steepness in the Money Market yield curve; Predominant investment into 6-month instruments where steepness is currently the highest; Minimal credit, interest rate and liquidity risk; Ideal for investors looking to park short term surplus for 3 to 6 months.

Speaking on the launch of the TRUSTMF Money Market Fund, Sandeep Bagla, CEO, TRUST Mutual Fund said, "We are happy to announce the launch of TRUSTMF Money Market Fund. We continue to focus on our key ethos of providing credible investment solution to our investors. The aim of the fund is to take advantage of the Money Market yield curve which has seen perennial steepness. In these uncertain times, Money Market Mutual Funds will provide relative stability and reasonable returns to investors looking to park their surplus money for 3 to 6 months investment horizon."

Anand Nevatia, Fund Manager, TRUST Mutual Fund said, "The change in stance from RBI followed by a series of rate hikes, has resulted in abnormal steepness in the money market yield curve, particularly in overnight to 6 month curve. The TRUSTMF Money Market Fund will look to invest predominantly in 6 months instruments of high quality issuers and let them roll down to take benefit of the steepness. This steepness can provide a good opportunity to lock in higher yields and can also provide downside protection from imminent rate hikes. We believe this is an ideal strategy for short term deployments in these volatile times."

Major blow to Sena: ED detains Sanjay Raut after raids at house

Mumbai: In a huge blow to the Shiv Sena, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Sunday detained its senior leader Sanjay Raut in a Mumbai land scam case after hours of conducting searches at his residence. The defiant leader said

had stood firmly behind Thackeray and was at the forefront in attacking the BJP and the rebels. Addressing party leaders and workers from Thane on Sunday afternoon, the Shiv Sena chief said that Raut might be arrested at any time

the late Balasabheb Thackeray that I have nothing to do with any scam." He then added: "I will die but won't leave the Shiv Sena." During the ED search, hundreds of Shiv Sena workers, holding saffron flags and banners gathered outside Raut's resi-

people at the spot. After nearly nine hours of search and questioning, the ED officials asked Raut to join them for the investigation in the agency's office. He left his house in his own car. Putting up a brave face, he said: "Sanjay Raut won't be cowed down."

"False charges and documents are being framed against people. All of this is being done to weaken the Shiv Sena and Maharashtra. I will not leave the party," Raut said. The ED, which took Pune-based businessman Avinash Bhosale into custody earlier in connection with the DHFL-Yes Bank case, wants to grill Mr Raut in this matter too. They claimed that the Patra Chawl case of the ED was also linked to the DHFL case.

In April, the ED provisionally attached assets worth over Rs.11.15 crores of Varsha Raut and two of his associates as part of this investigation.

Two days ago, a witness in the case, Swapna Patkar, reported that she was being threatened to withdraw her statement given to the ED. At the time of filing the report, Raut's questioning was still going on at the ED office for more than three-and-a-half hours.



that he was being targeted due to political vendetta. He claimed that the ED was going to arrest him in a "fake case". Raut was summoned for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged irregularities in the Rs 1,034-crore Patra Chawl redevelopment land scam. The ED action against Raut is considered as a huge blow to Shiv Sena supremo Uddhav Thackeray, who is facing a rebellion within his party with the desertion of 40 MLAs that resulted in the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra. Raut

and the ED's action was a "conspiracy" against the Shiv Sena. Raut had appeared before the ED in Mumbai to record his statement on July 1 in connection with the case. After that, the ED had summoned him twice, but he had skipped them, saying that he was busy due to the ongoing Parliament session. At 7 am on Sunday, the ED sleuths, accompanied by CRPF personnel, reached Raut's bungalow, Maitri, located in suburban Bhandup, and began the search. The search went on for nine hours. As soon as the ED action began, Raut tweeted: "I swear by

dence and shouted slogans against the Central agency. Raut waved to his supporters from the window of his house. His family members, including his wife Varsha were also seen getting emotional standing by him. The Mumbai police sent additional commissioner Dnyaneshwar Chavan of central region, additional commissioner (special branch) Rajiv Jain to monitor the situation. Police commissioner Vivek Phansalkar issued instructions to cordon the roads leading to Raut's colony so that at no point were there more than 100

Seva work done by Bipadara Bandhu Seva Sangathan at Kishorenagar



Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : Cuttack Sadar Kishorenagar based social organization Bipadara Bandhu Seva Sangathan has donated food, clothes, Fruits with some cash as help to the needy family of Paharajapur . In this great seva work Khitendra Mitra, Kanganli Charan Behera, Sk Fayaj

Alli, Chitta Ranjan Behera, Bimal Prasad Sahoo, Alok Mandal, Bhairab Sethi, Sudhakar Das, Sk Sarwar Alli, Narayan Das, Deba Narayan Mohanty, Jagannath Mallick and other members are present and extended seva work on emergency time.

Bondagirl tops +2 in district, fosters hope for community



MALKANGIRI(KCN): Bonda Hills, which grabs headlines for its inaccessibility and backwardness, seems to be turning the tables around. A wave of celebration erupted among the Bonda community members after Karma Muduli, a native of remote Padeiguda village in Mudulipada panchayat, topped the +2 Commerce (Regular) examination in the district. Muduli, a student of Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste department run Government Higher Secondary School at Govindpalli, topped in the district securing 82.66 per cent

in the examination. Success of Karma from the Primitive and Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) has created an unprecedented vibe within the Bonda community in particular, changing the general perception of outsiders towards the lot, District Welfare Officer Krupa Sindhu Behera told TNIE on Sunday. Karma is a symbol of hope and transformation for her community, he said adding that Collector Vishal Singh will felicitate her on Independence Day with a cash award of Rs 10,000.

Melody queen Nirmala Mishra passes away

BHUBANESWAR: Noted playback singer Nirmala Mishra, who lent her voice to several Odia



songs, breathed her last at Kolkata in the wee hours of Sunday. A Sangeet Sudhakar Balakrushna Das awardee, which was conferred upon her for her lifetime contribution to Odia music in 2011, Mishra was suffering from age-related ailments. She was 81 and suffered a heart attack. Born into a family of musicians in West Bengal, Mishra debuted in the Odia film industry as a singer in 'Shri Lokanath', music for which was directed by legendary musician Balakrushna Das in the 1960s. She carved a niche for herself in the Odia music scene with her rendition of several unforgettable songs like 'Nida Bhara Rati' from the movie 'Anutap', 'Aji Aakashe Ki Ranga Laagila' from 'Shri Lokanath', 'Jochhana Luchana' from 'Adina

Megha', 'Jaa Jaarey Bhaasi Jaa' from 'Chilika Teerey', 'Mo Mana Binara Tare' of 'Manika Jodi' and much more. Film historian Surya Deo said in her career in Odia music industry spanning two decades between the 1960s and 80s, she sang in all major films and worked with almost all music directors including Das. "Her first song Aji Aakashe Ki Ranga Laagila from Shri Lokanath was extremely popular and then she went on to give musical hits in every film that she did afterwards," he said. Mishra sang duets with eminent singers like Akshaya Mohanty, Pranab Patnaik, Sikandar Alam, Shantanu Mohapatra, among others. Some of her golden hits were from films like 'Shri Lokanath', 'Aparichita', 'Manikajodi', 'Ghara Sansara', 'Adina Megha', 'Abhinetri', 'Ghara Bahuda' and 'Stree'. Apart from Odia films, she sang devotional songs for All India Radio and Gramophone. Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and people from all walks of life condoled her demise. Expressing his condolences, Governor said that Mishra gained popularity by singing some of the most mellifluous songs of Odia movies of yesteryears. Stating that her songs will be etched in the hearts of music lovers forever, the Chief Minister said her death is an irreparable loss to the Odia music industry.

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

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

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

nowned Rajasthan Singer Sumsa Supari.



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

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

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

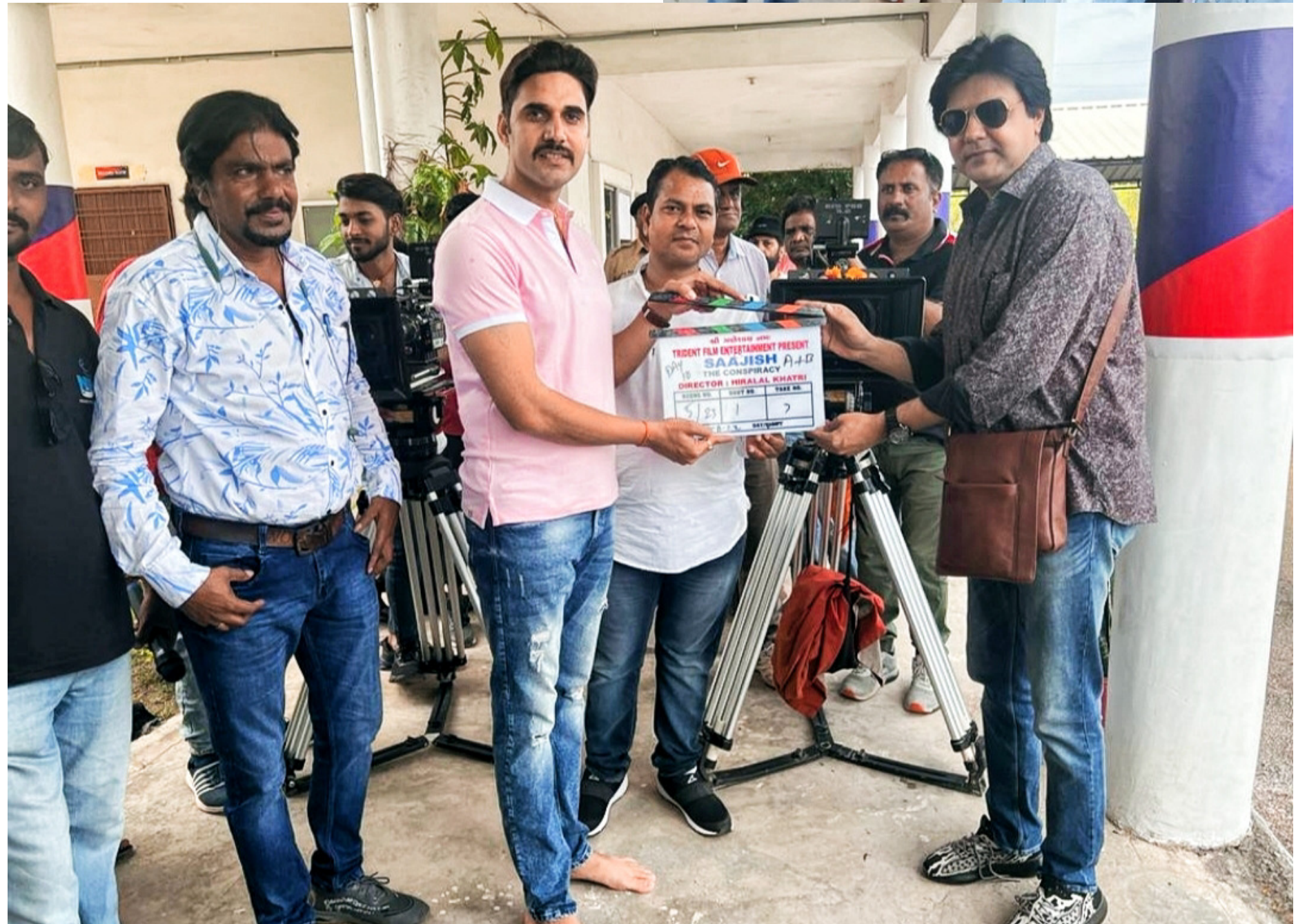
It was the year 2007 when Afjor Khan won the hearts of millions for singing the famous Rajasthan song of those days, "Maharana Pratap", which rolled out tears from listeners' eyes. His soulful voice created a huge impact on people's minds. Afjor won the gift price of Rs.1500/- for his singing. After the impressive response to his performance, there was no looking back for Afjor Khan, and his journey of becoming Rowel Star has kick-started!

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Letter to Editor

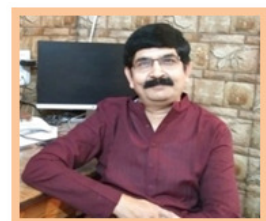
The way of getting well with others

Almost all the employees try at their best to be in good book of their bosses. All normal people also wish to be liked by others. The quickest way to be liked is to show that we like people. Competition has been started among the employees to be nearer and dearer of the authority. Signs of appreciation, admiration, sympathy and interest are acceptable to almost all cases. It is in small apparently unimportant details of life that we can show a friendly interest with other people. Here are some hints to do: (1) seek occasions to compliment positively to others. The majorities of human beings feel rather in secure at least psychologically, words of sensible praise help to give them back their confidence. (2) show sympathy really means feeling with others. Sympathy (deep) only show to intimate friends. But little touches of fellow feelings are a great help to acquaintances. There are times when we have no words of sympathy but a pat on the back or a friendly shake of the hand show we do share some ones joy or sorrow a little. (3) study the special tastes of others. It is worth to find out what people like best to eat. What colour they like to put on, what ornaments they intend to appreciate, what show entertains them most, what book pleases them and so on. Then when we give them a treat or a present we choose some thing that will give them real pleasure & show them we have considered their own tastes. (4) notice the opinion of others, we all have opinions on controversial subjects. Many are only ideas or prejudice, we have picked up. In general we should never affront some body else conviction except in the case of urgent, important controversy. (5) never forget to the people to thank, it creates interest in other people. Thanks cost nothing, but give much pleasure. It is courtesy by nature. (6) be business like and punctual. When we late for an appointment except un-avoidable circumstances we have to say sorry, we imply that the person we have kept waiting is not important. Failing to keep promise to muddle instructions we have been given to loose things belonging to others to forget to return borrowed articles and so on suggest that we are not thinking about others. quite often it is just self centered ness. (7) notice what amuses other people. humour is the spice of life. but we do not put pepper in a milk putting nor ginger ale in a dish of liver & bacan. We must choose the appropriate spice, what is funny to one person can be shocking an offensive to another. It is worth while noticing what amuses others by seeing what they tell or show as funny & suit our humour to others. (8) show thoughtfulness in small practical ways. A little helping worth a great deal of pity. We show we are conscious of others, when we give them a helping hand. we make them understanding that we are aware of their need & in our simple way we try to be kind and pleasant. (9) notice what others are doing. little questions like: was your trip to success? did you enjoy with your dinner? have finished your work in time? show you notice what you consider them important. (10) learn to listen. Good speaking is an important social art. But good listening is an art everyone can learn easily & one that is a great help in getting on with the people. some people are genuine borer. But more people bore us because we fail to listen them properly. Most human beings are interesting, if we make up our minds to be interested. there is no magic formula for getting well on with the people. We have to try at our best to like others & respect also. Try to be unselfish. Always labour hard showing as duty is god. It is however worth doing for in people, we find our own happiness with them. In office also don't canvass in matter, perform your duty sincerely but not as courtesy.

Pratap Chandra Sahu, Nabarangapur

Cow protection is the eternal dharma of India

Article 48 of the Constitution of India is one of the Directive Principles which directs the state to make efforts for banning animal slaughtering of cows and calves and other



milch and draught cattle. Of course, the cow has long had a place in Indian politics: the country's constitution includes a provision explicitly

urging a gradual movement toward full prohibition of cow slaughter – a ban that has already been implemented in most states. The cow was possibly revered because humans are relied heavily on it for dairy products and for tilling the fields, and on cow dung as a source of fuel and fertilizer. Cow protection was a significant part of the freedom movement, championed by a person no less than Mohandas Gandhi himself. Mahatma Gandhi said “Cow protection to me is not mere protection of the cow. It means protection of that lives and is helpless and weak in the world.” Reverence for cows is in the major texts of the Vedic religion. It is said that hindus do not consider the cow to be a god and they do not worship it. Hindus, however, are vegetarians and they consider the cow to be a sacred symbol of life that should be protected and revered. In the Vedas, the oldest of the Hindu scriptures, the cow is associated with Aditi, the mother of all the gods. Mahatma Gandhi said that “I worship it and I shall defend its worship against the whole world.”

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Gandhi regarded Cow better than the earthly mother, and called her “the mother to millions of Indian mankind.” Cow protection has become a highly politicized core of the Hindu religion. Killing and maiming innocent animals for human consumption is the most irreligious, immoral and lowest human act. Indians have reasoned that killing a cow is like killing your own mother. In India, the cow is considered holy, and many devout Hindus devote themselves to protecting cows from slaughter and abuse — sometimes with violent results. Cow protection didn't become India's top political issue in 2017 overnight. There is a strong history and background to it that allows the BJP to garner such widespread public support while championing the bovine cause. Cow vigilante groups have become increasingly active in many parts of India. Rather than encouraging these cow vigilantes to take law into their hands, the government should strictly enforce laws so that no such illegal transportation or cow slaughter occurs in the first place. Animal slaughtering is wrong as they are also sentient beings and feel as much pain as we humans do. Not just cows but all the animals should be protected and not murdered to merely satisfy our taste buds.

Breaking his silence on cow vigilantes in the

country our PM Modi has already condemned their actions, saying most of them were anti-social elements masquerading as gaurakshaks (cow protectors). India has 150 million cows today, giving an average of less than 200 litres of milk per year. The cow has been a symbol of wealth in India since ancient times. However, they were neither inviolable nor revered in the same way today. Now a days, it has been slaughtered in large numbers. Commercial benefits are not the only criteria in a human life. Cow-based farming has been the backbone of our agriculture for centuries. The cow is very much attached to the sentiment and the cultural traditions of the people. It is to be remembered that cow is the back-bone of Indian economy. India was golden bird until cow was base of agriculture. It is our duty to inform the poorly informed the bad consequences of animal slaughter for human consumption. We call the cow our mother. It's not our duty to protect our mother? It is nice that the government runs several goshalas, shelters for old cattle, across the country, but these are too few and are not governed by serious norms. Government must put a check on the people who are running shops in the name of cow protection which welcomes donations and outside help in the name of cow protection. We need to spread awareness about the cow and its many uses.

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

How child trafficking rears its ugly head...

Child trafficking is abuse, exploitation and gross rights violation, in its worst form. Children make up almost a third of all human trafficking victims



worldwide, says a UNICEF report of 2018. They are tricked, forced or persuaded to leave their homes and are moved or transported and then, exploited, forced to work or sold. They are forced into marriages, sold to brothels, made to do domestic chores like cleaning, cooking and childcare and also engaged as unpaid labour in factories or agriculture. Some even end up begging on roads or getting involved in petty crimes or moving drugs. The end result: they drop out of school, risk their lives and are deprived of what is rightfully theirs – a happy, healthy and safe childhood.

A news report in Times of India, dated July 20, 2022, says that 10 minor girls, aged between 13 and 17, from West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand were rescued by the police from an illegally run placement agency in North Delhi. All the girls had been trafficked to the Capital with promises of well-paid jobs. Three of the girls have been working as domestic help in various locations across Delhi for the past two years. The placement agency has reportedly sent many children from Jharkhand and other states to Mumbai and Gujarat with promises of jobs. While the ordeal of these girls has, hopefully, come to an end with their rescues, there are thousands of similar cases that remain unresolved. Children go missing, but their parents don't report them to the authorities, or follow them up. In some cases, the children are taken away with their families' consent, with the allure of “good money” at the end of each month. The promised sum never arrives. The children are also never heard of. Proposals from “prospective” grooms from faraway states is a luring bait – hapless parents “marry” off their daughters without a second thought and never hear back from them.

Data from the National Crime Records Bureau mirror the ground reality. An average of 174 children went missing every day in the country in 2016 and the number rose to 200 in 2019. 2020 saw a slight dip in the count (162), possibly because of the pandemic fall-out. The predators Trafficking is an organized crime, very much economic in nature. Traffickers may work alone or in small groups, recruiting a small number of children, often from areas they know and live in. They may also be part of medium-sized units who recruit, move and exploit children and young people on a small scale, or large criminal networks that operate across the international borders with high-level corruption, money laundering and a large numbers of victims. They often mingle freely with children, families and

Ritwik Mukherjee

communities to gain their trust. They promise them a better future for the families with the money that their children would “earn”. Mired in poverty and low standard of living, the families have no option but to fall in line.

The hapless ‘victims’ In the lush green tea plantations of Dooars in North Bengal, trafficking of children and youth is a common occurrence. Eighteen-year-old Usha (name changed), a Class IX student, was promised a job in Jammu and Kashmir last year by her cousin's mother-in-law. Usha's father and mother are tea garden workers but do not earn enough to sustain a healthy living for Usha and her four sisters. Usha left in March 2021, and has not been heard of since. Her parents do not know anything of her whereabouts and the ‘agent’ too hasn't come forward to help. Neighbours apprehend that she has been “sold” off to a brothel or has been employed as domestic labour in one of the northern states. Sriman's (13) father is jobless, and his mother works as a casual labour in a tea garden. When the Class VIII student got a ‘job’ offer in Sikkim, the hapless parents gave their ‘consent’. Sriman left in May. The parents haven't heard of him since.

Over the years, the tea gardens in North Bengal have been a hotbed for ‘unsafe’ out-migration, children and youth alike. Sick or closed tea gardens, unpaid dues of garden workers, extreme poverty, lack of health infrastructure, absence of schools – the socio-economic environment in the garden breeds ‘opportunities’ for ‘unsafe’ out-migration, or trafficking. The geographical location of the gardens, in the Chicken Neck territory, make it a safe conduit for trafficking and ‘unsafe’ migration. Across the border, in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand, similar cases of trafficking have been reported in large numbers. Budhu and Ruti (both minors) were rescued by the police from a construction site in Tamil Nadu, almost two months after they went missing from their village in West Singhbhum. The children told the police that they had been promised a job by an agent, but were brought to Tamil Nadu and made to work and live in unhygienic conditions, without adequate food and water. In the hinterlands of Bihar, despondent parents often accept marriage proposals for their minor daughters from “well established” groups settled in Maharashtra and Gujarat in exchange for a token amount of money. In many cases, this is the last time they see their daughters.

Hard impact:

Trafficking can have both short and long term effects and the impact can last a lifetime. Children and young people who've been trafficked might not understand what's happened to them is abuse and

be hesitant to reveal details. Even after being rescued, they feel very guilty or ashamed about the abuse they've suffered. They struggle to reconnect with their families and get back into the mainstream. Children exploited for domestic servitude and forced labour suffer physical injuries and often developmental health problems.

Multiple studies and reports have revealed that in the tea gardens of north Bengal, it's the rescued traffic victims who turn agents for more “recruitments”. They do not reveal their “ordeal” to the police or their families. As days pass, they become the conduit for more children “missing” from the community. Thus, the vicious circle continues, unabated.

Mission possible:

CRY has addressed the issue of child trafficking with a two-pronged approach – preventive and responsive. As part of preventive measures, we identify “vulnerable” families and children and link them to various social protection schemes. Efforts are made to ensure all children in our intervention areas are enrolled in formal schools and they attend classes regularly. Child protection committees in villages keep a close watch on “vulnerable” families and children and also on the activities of “agents.” Children's groups or collectives play an important role in spreading awareness on the issue among the community. The groups also serve as a platform for to share their views and perspectives on issues such as trafficking, child labour, child marriage and more.

The prevention strategies aim to boost coordination between village and district level officials, teachers, police, community leaders and also the children's collectives and create a stringent safety net to protect vulnerable children and youth in every which way.

As part of its response approach, CRY focuses on advocacy for effective implementation of laws, programmes and policies. The aim is to strengthen systems and processes in place for rescue, repatriation, rehabilitation and re-integration with mainstream.

The malaise is ingrained and widespread. The path to eradication is complex and riddled with insurmountable challenges. Accurate child trafficking statistics are notoriously difficult to ascertain, and official figures may be misrepresentative of victim numbers, diversity and lived experiences. Data collection challenges are numerous and include the complex, covert, hostile and highly lucrative nature of the crime. But the fight needs to continue, in earnest. And, it's time nations across the world join hands in this collective mission.

Author is a Kolkata based
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'Inspire others to use national flag as profile pic,' Shah appeals



New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asked people to inspire everyone to use the national flag as profile picture of their social media accounts between August 2 and 15. In a series of tweets in Hindi, Shah said Modi has started 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to hoist the tricolour at every home from August 13 to 15, praising the valour of freedom fighters on the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

"To make the

#HarGharTiranga campaign a mass movement, today in his #MannKiBaat programme, @narendramodi ji appealed to all the countrymen to put the tricolour in their social media profiles from August 2 to 15. "Inspire others to join this campaign by putting the tricolor in your DP," he said. Shah said besides connecting the country, the tricolour inspires everyone to

dedicate to the service of the nation. In his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast, Modi noted that under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' programme to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, a special campaign 'Har Ghar Tiranga' is being organised between August 13 and 15. He urged people to hoist or display the national flag at their homes during the campaign.

Delhi HC comes down on Congress leaders for "belligerent personal attacks" on Smriti Irani, daughter

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has said that Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khara, Netta D'Souza along with others conspired to "launch a tirade of false scathing and belligerent personal attacks" on BJP leader Smriti Irani and her daughter, who are neither owners of the restaurant in Goa nor have they ever applied for the licence for food and beverages at the eatery, as alleged. The high court said the statement made by three Congress leaders are in the "nature of slander and seem to be bogus with malicious intent," to intentionally subject Irani to a "great public ridicule" and "to injure the moral character and public image" of the BJP leader and her daughter. The remarks were made by the high court while perusing the documents placed before it in a civil defamation suit filed by Irani, the Minister for Women and Child Development, against the three Congress leaders. The high court's order, in which it had on July 29 issued summonses to three Congress leaders on the civil defamation suit, was uploaded on the court's website on Monday. The high court has also asked them to take down tweets and other social media posts on allegations levelled against the union minister and her daughter. "I have perused the various documents on record, particularly, the show cause notice dated July 21, 2022, issued by the Government of Goa, office of Commissioner of Excise, which has been addressed to one Anthony Dgama, and not to the plaintiff (Irani) or her family members." Considering the documents on record it is clearly seen that there was no license that was ever issued in favour of the plaintiff or her daughter. The plaintiff or her daughter are not the owners of the restaurant. It has also been established by the plaintiff prima facie that the plaintiff or her daughter never applied for license. "Neither the restaurant nor the land on which the restaurant exists is owned by the plaintiff or her daughter even the show cause notice issued by the Government of Goa is not in the name of the plaintiff or her daughter. All these facts have also been affirmed in the affidavit by the plaintiff." Justice Mini Pushkarna said in her 14-page order. Irani has filed a defamation suit against the Congress leaders for allegedly making baseless and false accusations against her and her 18-year-old daughter. The high court said since the plaintiff commands an

esteemed position as a minister in the Government of India and considering the nature of her public office, there is immense public glare and scrutiny of any information about her in the public domain. "Defendant nos. 1 to 3 (Congress leaders) have conspired with each other and other individuals and organisations to launch a tirade of false, scathing, and belligerent personal attacks on the plaintiff and her daughter with a common motive to malign, defame and injure the reputation, moral character and public image of the plaintiff and her daughter," it said. The high court said it was of the considered view that the statements made by the Congress leaders are in the "nature of slander and seem to be bogus with malicious intent, only to garner the highest amount of viewership thereby intentionally subjecting the plaintiff to a great public ridicule". It added that "Plaintiff (Irani) has made out a prima facie case and balance of convenience lies in favour of the plaintiff and against the defendants". The high court has also passed an interim injunction directing the Congress leaders to remove from social media the allegations made against Irani and her daughter. The court said in case the defendants fail to comply with its directions to remove tweets, retweets, posts, videos, and photos from social media concerning the allegations made against Irani, and her daughter within 24 hours, social media platforms Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube shall take down the material. Irani's action came after the Congress leaders alleged that her daughter Zoish Irani ran a bar illegally in Goa and also targeted the minister over this, demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi sack her from his Cabinet. "After seeing the documents placed on record and the excerpts of the press conference, I am of the prima facie view that slanderous and libelous allegations have been made against the plaintiff without verifying actual facts. Great injury has been caused to the reputation of the plaintiff and her family in view of the various tweets and re-tweets which have been followed the press conference carried out by the defendants," the judge said. The high court said there is an imperative need to protect the reputation of an individual, least to say, that of the plaintiff who is a respected member of the society and esteemed member of the Union Ministry.

PROFILE: Fabulously rich Rishi Sunak bids to become UK's first Hindu PM

LONDON: Before his spectacular falling-out with Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak was on a rapid rise that could still end with him installed as Britain's first prime minister of colour. It would be a historic landmark, if

quell inflation and get growth back on track. Video footage also emerged of a 21-year-old Sunak describing his mix of friends following his education at Winchester College, one of Britain's most ex-

profile earned him the media nickname of "Dishy Rishi". ALSO READ | Racism not a factor in British PM race, says Rishi Sunak Partygate fine Until last year, Sunak held a US Green Card -- which critics said sug-

READ HERE | Have no doubt, I am the underdog in UK PM race, says Rishi Sunak as he hits out at his critics Waiter to wealth Sunak represents the constituency of Richmond in Yorkshire, northern England -- a safe Con-



the Hindu descendant of immigrants from Britain's old empire in India and East Africa were to take command of the world's fifth largest economy. But after making the final run-off following a series of votes by Conservative MPs, Sunak must first persuade the party's members as ballot papers go out on Monday -- and he is well behind Liz Truss. Opinion polls show that she has so far outflanked him with policies geared to the Tory right, which also mistrusts Sunak's role in a cabinet revolt that unseated Johnson after months of scandal. Fabulously rich from his pre-politics career in finance, the former chancellor of the exchequer has also been mocked as being out of touch when Britons are contending with surging inflation. On the campaign trail this month, he wore expensive Prada loafers on a visit to a building site, and was accused of "mansplaining" to Truss during a bad-tempered TV debate when he savaged her tax-cutting plans. Instead, Sunak argues, Britain needs a Thatcherite dose of "sound money" to

clusive private schools, and the University of Oxford. "I have friends who are aristocrats, I have friends who are upper class, I have friends who are, you know, working class," he said, before adding: "Well, not working class." READ HERE | Liz Truss wins UK cabinet backing as voting to choose next PM begins Dishy Rishi A details-oriented policy wonk, Sunak, 42, was an early backer of Brexit, and took over as chancellor in February 2020. It was a baptism of fire for the Tory rising star, as the Covid pandemic erupted. He was forced to craft an enormous economic support package at break-neck speed, which he now says needs to be paid off. In India, Sunak has been better known through his wife Akshata Murty. She is the daughter of Indian tycoon Narayana Murthy, the billionaire co-founder of information-technology group Infosys. The Sunaks met while studying in California and they have two young daughters -- along with a photogenic dog. The ex-minister's Instagram-friendly

gested a lack of long-term loyalty to Britain. And he has faced difficult questions over Murty's failure until recently to pay UK taxes on her Infosys returns, which opinion polls suggest was viewed with deep disfavour by voters. Sunak has already been marked by the scandals of Johnson's tumultuous premiership. In November 2020, he marked the Hindu festival of Diwali by lighting oil lamps on the front step of the chancellor's official residence at 11 Downing Street -- while urging other Hindus to stick to England's Covid lockdown. Johnson was less observant of the rules, drawing a police fine for one lockdown breach as part of an investigation into the "Partygate" affair. But Sunak also ended up with a police fine, after joining a birthday gathering for Johnson when he arrived early for a Downing Street meeting. Along with the controversy over his family fortune, the Partygate scandal sullied the reputation of the teetotal Sunak, who admits only to a fondness for Coca-Cola and sugary confectioneries.

servative seat he took over in 2015 from former party leader and foreign secretary William Hague, who described him as "exceptional". Sunak swears his oath of allegiance as an MP on the Bhagavad Gita. Theresa May gave him his first job in government in January 2018, making him a junior minister for local government, parks and troubled families. Sunak's grandparents were from Punjab in northern India and emigrated to Britain from eastern Africa in the 1960s. They arrived with "very little", Sunak told MPs in his maiden speech in 2015. His father was a family doctor in Southampton on the southern English coast, and his mother ran a local pharmacy. Sunak waited tables in a local Indian restaurant, before progressing to Oxford and then Stanford University in California. Sunak insists that both his own family's experience, and that of his mega-rich wife's, are a "very Conservative" story of hard work and aspiration. He will soon learn if the party members agree.

Expert panel to advise Odisha government on reviving tiger population

BHUBANESWAR: In a fresh bid to revive tiger population

also a member of the panel, said, "The first meeting of the com-

thority, field directors of Satkosia and Similipal tiger re-

side where the tiger population is negligible," said a forest



in the State, the Forest and Environment department has formed an advisory committee to guide the government in the field of big cat conservation.

The move assumes significance as Odisha government looks to move on after the failure of the tiger translocation project in Satkosia and no major change in the State's big cat population since 2014.

Official sources said the committee will also devise action plan for rewilding of the big cats in major tiger landscapes of the State.

The Forest department notified formation of the committee recently. A senior forest officer, who is

mittee will be convened soon to discuss roles and functions and work out a roadmap to proceed further." As per the notification of the department, the nine-member advisory committee is being headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW).

Besides the PCCF, it has eight other expert members. They are former member secretary of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) Anup Nayak, ex-field director of Kanha Tiger Reserve Khageswar Naik, one representative each from NTCA, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Central Zoo Au-

thority, field directors of Satkosia and Similipal tiger re-

serves and director of Nandankanan Biological Park. The committee will advise the State government in implementing tiger conservation programmes to re-establish tiger source populations in Satkosia and Debrigarh, a favourable habitat, besides working on enriching the big cat population and gene pool in Similipal.

The panel has been assigned the task to prepare a comprehensive and time-bound action plan and execute population recovery of tigers in the State.

"In Similipal, we will improve protection measures and work on enriching the prey base in its northern

officer. The notification doesn't speak about conservation in the forests of Sunabeda which has been struggling for years to get tiger reserve status without an official notification. Officials though said it is on the radar of the big cat conservation programme.

Odisha's tiger population, which was reportedly over 100 in early 2000 declined to 32 in 2010 and 28 in 2014. The figure remained the same in 2018. However, forest officials are expecting an increase in the number during the ongoing quadrennial estimation of tiger population this year.

Modi mentions Medaram Jatara in his Mann Ki Baat

MULUGU: Speaking about India's glorious

states in the country like the biennial Samakka-

Jatara in Medaram, Telangana. This fair is

Jatara is a major tribal festival in Telangana people that marks the fight of the mother-daughter duo Sammakka and Saralamma against the powerful Kakatiya rulers over an unfair law. It is a four-day festival held at Medaram in Tadvai mandal of Mulugu district once every two years, attracting millions of people from all over the country.

Samakka resolved to continue the fight to avenge the dead though she was badly wounded. She told the people that as long as they remembered her, she would protect them and cursed that the Kakatiya dynasty would perish, before disappearing into the forest.



and historic moments as India completes 75 years of Independence in the 91st edition of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday mentioned the many traditional fairs of tribal societies in different

Saralamma Jatar at Medaram. "Some of these fairs are associated with tribal culture, while some are organised in connection with tribal history and heritage. For example, if you get a chance, you must visit the four-day Sammakka-Saralamma

called Mahakumbh of Telangana," the Prime Minister said. "I am very happy to see that the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is taking the form of a mass movement," he said, before going on to mention the Jatara. Sammakka-Saralamma

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: Dharmendra Pradhan leads Tiranga Yatra in Bhuban



DHENKANAL: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan took part in a Tiranga Yatra as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence at Bhuban here on Sunday. In the morning, Pradhan performed puja at Hanuman temple near Pala Mandap and participated in a huge procession to Nilakanthapur village, the birthplace of Saheed Baji Rout.

The Union Minister garlanded the statue of Baji Rout and urged people to emulate the

ideas of the youngest martyr of India's freedom struggle. "The nation is observing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in which Har Ghar Tiranga campaign will be launched from August 13 to 15. I call upon the people of Odisha to make the campaign successful by hoisting the Tricolour in their houses," Pradhan said. Later in the day, the Union Minister attended the Mann Ki Baat programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Old Zilla Parishad hall at Dhenkanal town. Several BJP leaders were present.



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ATF price cut by steep 12 per cent; commercial LPG reduced by Rs 36

NEW DELHI: Jet fuel (ATF) prices on Monday were cut by the steepest ever 12 per cent, the second reduction in as many weeks, on softening international oil prices amid recessionary fears.



Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices were cut by Rs 16,232.36 per kilolitre, or 11.75 per cent, to Rs 121,915.57 per kl in the national capital, a price noti-

This is the steepest ever reduction in rates and follows a Rs 3,084.94 per kl (2.2 per cent) reduction effected on July 16. Parallely, the rates of commercial LPG - the one used by hotels, restaurants and other business establishments - was cut by Rs 36 to Rs 1,976.50 per 19-kg cylinder. This is the fourth re-

duction in commercial LPG rates since 1st and 16th of every month, based on rates of benchmark international oil rates in the previous fortnight, commercial LPG rates are changed once a month. The price of ATF - the fuel that helps aeroplanes fly - peaked to Rs 141,232.87 per kl (Rs 141.23 per litre) on June 16, after a record 16 per cent (Rs 19,757.13 per kl) increase in rates. In all, prices have come down by Rs 377.50 per 19-kg cylinder. There was no change in the price of domestic cooking gas LPG used in the household kitchens. A 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder costs Rs 1,053 in the national capital. While ATF prices are revised on the

reduction in rates on July 16 and August 1, ATF prices were cut by a marginal 1.3 per cent (Rs 1,563.97 per kl) on June 1. But for these three decreases, ATF prices have been on the rise throughout 2022. In all, rates had increased 11 times since the start of the year. This has led to rates almost doubling in six months. Prior to the two

back-to-back reductions, prices had gone up by 91 per cent (Rs 67,210.46 per kl) since January 1. With jet fuel making up almost 40 per cent of the operating cost of an airline, the increase in prices had resulted in a rise in the cost of flying. Now there is some relief for the airlines. Meanwhile, petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged at Rs 96.72 per litre

and Rs 89.62 a litre, respectively. An excise duty cut by the government had helped reduce the price of petrol by Rs 8.69 a litre and diesel by Rs 7.05 per litre on May 22. But for that, the base price has remained unchanged since April 6.

Before that, prices had risen by a record Rs 10 per litre each. The retail prices of petrol, diesel and domestic cooking gas are way below the cost. Petrol and diesel rates are revised daily, based on equivalent rates in the international market.

Opposition stalls Odisha House
Continued from page-1
The BJP Members continued their slogan shouting inside the well of the House. The Speaker requested the members to respect the earlier ruling, take their seats and participate in the proceedings of the house as many important issues are to be discussed. Speaking to reporters outside the Assembly, BJP Chief Whip Mohan Majhi said, "We had moved a notice for an adjournment motion on chit fund scam. However, the Speaker neither rejected nor accepted it." Though the insurance companies have collected crores of rupees, the farmers are yet to get insurance claims raised for the kharif 2021 crops, said Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja. Similarly, the Western Odisha region including Bolangir districts have received scanty rainfall during June and July. Therefore, cancelling all other businesses, the drought like situation should be discussed in the house, he demanded.

Record Rs 1.5 lakh crores from 5G spectrum sale; Jio top bidder

NEW DELHI: A record over Rs 1.5 lakh crore worth of 5G telecom spectrum was sold in a seven-day auction ending on Monday, which saw billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Re-

liance Jio emerging as the top bidder to consolidate its leadership position. Sources with direct knowledge of the matter said provisional data puts the total bids at Rs 1,50,173 crore. The mop-up from the 5G spectrum, capable of offering ultra-high speed mobile internet connectivity, is almost double at Rs 77,815 crore worth 4G airwaves sold last year and triple of Rs 50,968.37 crore garnered from a 3G auction in 2010. Reliance Jio was the top bidder to the airwaves capable of offering speeds about 10 times faster than 4G, lag-free connectivity, and can enable billions of connected devices to share data in real-time. It was followed by Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd. New entrant Adani group is said to have bought 26 Mhz spectrum for setting up a private telecom network. The sources said details of which company bought how much spectrum would be known once the data from the auction is fully compiled. Both Bharti and Jio have likely built a pan-India spectrum footprint for 5G, with Vodafone Idea's selective participation. The government had put on offer spectrum in 10 bands but received no bids for airwaves



in 600 MHz, 800 MHz and 2300 MHz bands. About two-thirds of the bids were for the 5G bands (3300 Mhz and 26 GHz), while more than a quarter of the demand came in the 700

Mhz band - a band that had gone unsold in the previous two auctions (2016 and 2021). In the auction conducted last year - that had lasted two days - Reliance Jio picked up spectrum worth Rs 57,122.65 crore, Bharti Airtel bid about Rs 18,699 crore, and Vodafone Idea bought spectrum worth Rs 1,993.40 crore. This year, a total of 72 GHz (gigahertz) of radiowaves worth at least Rs 4.3 lakh crore was put on the block. The auction was held for spectrum in various low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz, 2500 MHz), mid (3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands. In addition to powering ultra-low latency connections, which allow downloading full-length high-quality video or movie to a mobile device in a matter of seconds (even in crowded areas), Fifth Generation or 5G would enable solutions such as e-health, connected vehicles, more-immersive augmented reality and metaverse experiences, life-saving use cases, and advanced mobile cloud gaming among others. The auction garnered bids worth Rs 1.45 lakh crore on the first day on July 26, with subsequent days seeing only marginal incremental demand in some circles.

First shipment of Ukraine grain set to leave Odessa port: Turkey
Continued from page-1
reached with Russia on July 22, the ministry said. According to the Marine Traffic website, the Razoni was still docked in Odessa at 0500 GMT. Built-in 1996 and measuring 186 metres (610 feet) in length and 25 metres in width, the vessel has a capacity of 30,000 tonnes. On July 22, Ukraine and Russia signed a landmark deal with Turkey and the United Nations aimed at easing a global food crisis caused by blocked Black Sea grain deliveries. Turkey formally opened a special joint coordination centre to oversee the exports in Istanbul last Wednesday, which is being staffed by civilian and military officials from the two warring parties and delegates from Turkey and the UN. Their primary assignment involves monitoring the safe passage of Ukrainian grain ships along established routes and overseeing their inspection for banned weapons on the way into and out of the Black Sea. The blockage of deliveries from two of the world's biggest grain exporters has contributed to a spike in prices that has made food imports prohibitively expensive for some of the world's poorest countries. UN estimates say nearly 50 million people began to face "acute hunger" around the world as a direct consequence of the war. Wheat prices fell sharply hours after the grain deal was signed.

BJP govt's decisions have hit 25 crore households, widened divide between rich and the poor: Congress
Continued from page-1
To join the league of the developed countries, about two third of a country's eligible population should have employment. "But, in India, just about 40 crore people have jobs today," Tewari said. To become a developed country, the number of people employed in the country has to increase to 84 crores. "But this government, unfortunately, doesn't have any strategy for this," he charged. Slamming the government over the GST hike, Tewari said, "You have increased the GST on flour, curd, paneer, pencil and sharpener. You did not spare even children." The Congress leader said he was "hurt" when 18 per cent GST was imposed on "crematoriums". Hitting out at the government over the rise in fuel prices, Tewari said the Centre collected Rs 27 lakh crore through "tax, excise duty and dividend" in the petroleum sector to swell its coffers but did not pass on the benefits to the people. "The government may have streamlined its own budget, but has completely spoiled the life of country's 25 crore households". He said every homemaker is in tears. He asked the government, "What kind of nation are you building?" Opposition parties had stalled Parliament proceedings for days demanding a debate on price rise.

Splendid, historic moment on August 15: PM
Continued from page-1
many railway stations in the country are associated with the history of the freedom movement and urged people to visit such stations in their vicinity to know about their significance in the freedom struggle. He said, "75 such railway stations have been identified spread over 24 states across the country. These 75 stations are being decorated very ornately. Many types of programmes are also being organised on these stations. You should also take out time to visit one such historical station in your vicinity." Mr Modi added, "Gomoh Junction in Jharkhand is now officially known as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Junction Gomoh. Do you know why? Actually, at this very station Netaji Subhash was successful in dodging British officers by boarding the Kalka Mail. All of you must have heard the name of Kakori Railway Station near Lucknow. The names of brave hearts like Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaq Ullah Khan are associated with this station. The brave revolutionaries had displayed their might to the British by looting the treasury of the British being carried by train. Whenever you talk to the people of Tamil Nadu, you will get to know about Vanchi Maniyachchi Junction in Thoothukudi district. This station is named after the Tamil freedom fighter Vanchinathan ji. This is the same place where Vanchi, 25 years of age then, had punished one British collector for his actions." Referring to the heroism of Indian freedom fighters Mr Modi further said, "Friends, on July 31, all of us countrymen salute the martyrdom of Shaheed Udham Singh ji. I offer my humble tributes to all such other great revolutionaries who sacrificed their all for the country." The PM also expressed his happiness over Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav taking the form of a mass movement. "People from all walks of life and from every section of society are participating in different programmes connected with it. One such event took place in Meghalaya earlier this month. People remembered the brave warrior of Meghalaya, U. Tirot Singh, on his death anniversary. Tirot Singh ji fiercely opposed the British conspiracy to control the Khasi Hills and destroy the culture there," he said.

Messi looking to bounce back with PSG and peak for World Cup

PARIS: Lionel Messi ended last season with his first five-goal haul in 10 years. It was for Argentina against Estonia, however, not for Paris Saint-Germain, where he scored only six league goals in 26 games following his move from Barcelona. It was Messi's lowest tally since the

last season. The more the team is connected, the more the team produces," incoming PSG coach Christophe Galtier said. "From what I've seen, he's totally invested. As for the rest, the whole world knows what he can do." Yet while last season was difficult for Messi, some have wondered if he

Di Maria's absence hurt Argentina when it lost the 2014 World Cup final to Germany 1-0, but his departure from PSG could actually help Messi at club level.

Previous PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino perhaps had too many attacking options as he tried to accommodate Messi,

pressure off the midfield and free up Verratti to combine higher up the field with Messi to open up defenses. With Messi probing from the right, operating more as a creator in a system where Mbappe holds the role as the main scorer, he should be able to save energy. That could be good news for Argentina.



2005-06 season, when he was still only 18. Although his 14 assists for PSG were the second highest in the league behind teammate Kylian Mbappe, the record seven-time Ballon d'Or winner's form fell well below expectations for a player who scored 672 goals for Barcelona. That eye-popping total included an extraordinary 50-goal league season in 2012 to go along with 46 in 2013, eight Spanish league scoring titles and six in the Champions League. At his very best, he scored five against Bayer Leverkusen in 2012. Fast forward a decade and his poor goal tally for PSG raised questions whether he could adapt to a new system after so many years where fantastic players like Andres Iniesta, Xavi Hernandez and Neymar played primarily for him. "The idea for him is to be more involved in the game and have teammates bond with him during games, which didn't happen much

has been holding back for this year's World Cup. At 35, it will most likely be his last chance to win it with his beloved Argentina. The tournament's unique timing of Nov. 21-Dec. 18, in order to avoid the summer heat in Qatar, also means he will arrive with much fresher legs than if it was held in June and July. Messi was inspirational in leading Argentina to the Copa America title last year, finishing co-top scorer with four goals and leading with five assists. It ended Messi's tortuous wait for a major international trophy after losing one World Cup final and three other Copa America finals. So he will be hugely motivated to perhaps sign off from the international game with the biggest trophy of all. A strong start for PSG could set him up well for success in Qatar, in a strong Argentina attack featuring Juventus winger Angel Di Maria and Inter Milan forward Lautaro Martinez.

Neymar, Mbappe, Di Maria and Mauro Icardi. Galtier also sticks to formations more than the experimental Pochettino, which should favor Messi. Messi was also perhaps a victim of his own versatility last season and won't be moved around so much under Galtier. It means he won't have to share a position on the flank with Di Maria and likely will move inside less to dovetail with Mbappe, whose most dangerous position is at center forward. PSG will be best served if Galtier picks Neymar and Messi on either side of Mbappe in a fixed three-man attack, with astute passer Marco Verratti in an advanced midfield role. Messi started the season with a goal as PSG beat Nantes 4-0 to win the Champions Trophy on Sunday. PSG's central defense has been strengthened by the arrival of Nordi Mukiele from German club Leipzig. It should take some

PSG'S RIVALS PSG remains the favorite and does not appear to have a serious challenger, much like last year. The fight for second place and automatic entry into the Champions League is likely to be between Marseille, Monaco and Lyon. Marseille has a new coach in Igor Tudor but is still perhaps too reliant on the old legs of playmaker Dimitri Payet. The arrival of Lyon's new American owner, John Textor, coincides with the return of two homegrown players in midfielder Corentin Tolisso and forward Alexandre Lacazette following spells with Bayern Munich and Arsenal, respectively. Monaco excelled under attack-minded coach Philippe Clement last season. But much like Marseille, the club relies too much on one player, France forward Wissam Ben Yedder. His 25 league goals last season were second only to Mbappe's 28.

TV recharge, day off from grocery shop: How Bindyarani household prepared for big night

BIRMINGHAM: Bindyarani Devi's father closed his grocery shop and her brother recharged the DTH connection

which has become a weightlifting hub in the country with the likes of Mirabai Chanu and Bindyarani's idol

taekwondo. Then I switched to weightlifting. I had an issue with my height and people at SAI centre said my height

recharged. He and my friends said we will do a reception after you come back with a medal," she said with a smile.



Bindyarani was in the running for a gold but she made a failed second attempt for 114kg before pulling off 2kgs more in the final attempt.

Nigeria's Adijat Adenike Olarinoye won the gold with total of 203kg, and the Indian ended with 202kg.

"If I had lifted 114kgs in the second attempt, I felt I would have gone for more in the third attempt. It was bit of a shock but I am thankful that I got a silver at least." Her next big target is the 2024 Olympics and she hopes to stay injury-free for that and beyond.

"By the grace of god, I have been injury-free all these years and hope to stay like that. Now I will go back to the Games Village and offer sweets to my teammates as promised and have some myself too," she signed off.

as part of their preparation to watch her perform at the Commonwealth Games here. Weightlifter Bindyarani, 23, kept the promise she made to her family by securing a silver in the 55kg category on Saturday night at the buzzing NEC arena. The 116kg she lifted in clean and jerk to move to the silver medal position was also a Games Record. Now a big reception awaits in Manipur

Kunjarani Devi also hailing from the northeastern state. It was the biggest medal of Bindyarani's career and it took a decade to make her mark at the big stage though she had already won medals in the Commonwealth Championships. Her first love was taekwondo but due to her height -- 149 cm -- the coaches advised her to switch to weightlifting. "From 2008 to 2012 I was doing

was ideal for weightlifting. From 2013 onwards I am doing weightlifting," she said. The Bindyarani household had to make extensive preparation to make sure they do not miss on the action. Her father, who is also into farming, had to shut his grocery shop for the day. "They have been preparing since yesterday. They did not have Sony10 in the house so my brother




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