



The Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, Mr. Jacob Mudenda laying wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi, at Rajghat, in Delhi

Odisha yet to submit proposal for establishment of high court benches: Union Law Minister

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha government has not yet submitted a detailed proposal for establishment of benches of Orissa High Court including its location in consultation with the HC. This was informed by Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijju in a written reply to a question of Koraput MP (Congress) Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka in Lok Sabha on Friday. Rijju said requests for establishment of high court benches in places other than the principal seat of high courts have been received

from various organisations from time to time including state government of Odisha. The Odisha government has requested for setting up of Orissa high court bench in western and southern region of Odisha, he said. "The Central government has requested the state government of Odisha to work out details of proposed benches including its location in consultation with the high court of Orissa. However, no response has been received yet," said the Law Minister. At present, no complete

proposal from the Odisha government regarding setting up of a bench of the high court is pending with the Centre, he clarified. Informing about the criteria for establishment of high court benches, Rijju said the benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No. 379 of 2000. The state government which has to provide necessary expenditure and infrastructural

facilities need to submit a complete proposal in consultation with the chief justice of the High Court concerned which is required to look after the day-to-day administration of the High Court. Further, the complete proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned state, he added. Notably, lawyers of different parts of the state including Sambalpur in western Odisha and Berhampur in south Odisha have been demanding establishment of HC bench in their area.

Odisha shivers as night temperature drops below 10 degree C at 7 places

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Cold wave condition prevailed across Odisha with 7 places recording below 10 degree Celsius last night.

As per regional meteorological centre of IMD's observation, G Udayagiri stood at 6 degree Celsius becoming the coldest place in Odisha followed by Phulbani (6.6 degree C) and Daringibadi (7.5 degree C). The night temperature dropped below 10 degree C at Kirei (8.2 degree C), Chipilima (9.2 degree C), Jharsuguda (9.6 degree C) and



Bhawanipatna (9.6 degree C). The mercury dipped to 10 degree C at Ranital, Angul, Sundargarh and Koraput yesterday night.

Similarly, the night temperature was 10.4 degree C at Keonjhar, 11 degree C at Similiguda, 11.6 degree C at Nabarangpur and

Hirakud, 11.9 degree C at Sonepur and Mahisapat, 12 degree C at Nayagarh, Boudh, Bargarh, Balasore, Baripada and Dhenkanal.

The Twin City Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded 14.2 degree C and 13.6 degree C respectively last night. According to Bhubaneswar MeT, the cold wave condition gripped entire Odisha under influence of north wind. The night temperature is likely to rise by 2-4 degree C from tomorrow due to Cyclone Mandous that is expected to hit Tamil Nadu in the midnight.

Take Up Challenges, Look for Opportunities to Become Successful Entrepreneurs; Experts at KIIT-TBI Start-up Innovation Conclave

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Captains of successful start-ups, entrepreneurs, senior government officials and academic leaders on Friday converged at the KIIT-TBI organised Start-up Innovation Conclave 1.0 and highlighted the need to develop a vibrant ecosystem to promote and encourage budding talents to set up enterprises in the East and North-eastern part of the country.

The poster boy of the Indian start-up industry Gautam Kumar, the co-founder and COO of FarEye and a proud alumnus of KIIT Deemed-to-be-University, emphasised developing ideas and businesses that touch all segments of



society. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to KIIT and KISS Founder Dr Achyuta Samanta, who was present at the event, for extending financial support to his idea and venture that has gone on to become a unicorn today. Vice Chancellor of KIIT DU Prof Sasmitha Samanta said that when Gautam had approached the university for financial assistance to the tune of Rs 25 lakh, the Founder did not hesitate once to extend

support to him as he values and promotes entrepreneurship.

The two-day event is being organised as part of the ongoing Silver Jubilee Celebrations of KIIT. Union Secretary in the Ministry of the Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Lok Ranjan made a spirited appeal for setting up enterprises in the Northeastern region and said that the general perception that start-ups cannot be developed in this part

of the country needs to be set aside.

"Our vision in the northeast is to have a transformative impact in the region through development. We will focus on infra, health, education, and primary sector development through entrepreneurship," he said.

A short video clip was played during his address following which the Secretary said that the presentation gives an idea about the

challenges that can be converted into opportunities. Secretary, Technology Development Board (TDB) Rajesh Kumar Pathak said the challenge before him is to set up the ecosystem in smaller towns to support entrepreneurship and start-ups that are mostly concentrated in big cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Gurugram. He announced that one of the proposals supported by them will

soon become a reality as the start-up will produce malaria vaccine for the world in Bhubaneswar soon.

Former Secretary TBI H K Mittal, who has been a regular visitor to the KIIT campus, hailed the achievements of KIIT-TBI for being the premier centres of its kind in the country and successfully creating hundreds of start-ups in the country.

Director General of Entrepreneurship Development Institute

of India (EDII) Ahmedabad Sunil Shukla underscored the need to develop an entrepreneurial mindset in the country and shared a study of his institute which revealed that 52 percent of aspiring minds lack the confidence to take their venture ahead. However, the study also revealed that there has been a 15 percent increase this year while capturing the engagement of people towards entrepreneurship. This

has reduced to only 5 per cent during the Covid phase.

Dr Samanta, on the other hand, encouraged budding entrepreneurs to take up challenges to be successful in the venture. He said that KIIT is a shining example of successful entrepreneurship. KIIT's sister concern KISS, he said the largest university worldwide for tribal students and has won UNESCO's highest literacy honour.

Climate change spike sea waves

New Delhi(KCN): A recent study of extreme wave events shows that Indian Ocean, northern sector of Arabian Sea, and central Bay of Bengal are likely to experience an increase in rough wave days in the near future. It could help timely warning and planning to prevent major impacts on life and property, especially in coastal areas.



In a changing climate, extreme wave events that have been recorded quite frequently during recent times can pose a tremendous impact on the livelihoods of the coastal population, infrastructure, and ocean-related activities. Observed variability and changes in extreme wave events, along with shifting storm intensity and tracks, can play a crucial role in shoreline changes, erosion rates, flooding episodes, and other related coastal hazards. Extreme waves due to climate change and its consequences continue to emerge at both regional and global scales. Hence, a better understanding of the future projected changes in the amplitude of high-frequency extreme wave events is necessary for timely warning and coastal planning and management.

A team of scientists from the Department of Applied Sciences, National Institute of Technology Delhi; Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur; and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, projected the likely future changes in extreme wave height indices over the Indian Ocean. Their research published in the journal 'Climate Dynamics', Springer recently used COWCLIP2.0 datasets' to show that large-scale distribution in future wave climate can

vary significantly from the present. Future projections by the scientists Divya Sardana and Prashant Kumar from the Department of Applied Sciences, NIT Delhi, Prasad K. Bhaskaran from Department of Ocean Engineering & Naval Architecture, IIT Kharagpur, and T. M. Balakrishnan Nair from ESSO-INCOIS Hyderabad indicate that under the climate scenario RCP4.5 (medium representative concentration pathway of greenhouse gases), the regions over eastern tropical Indian Ocean, northern sector of Arabian Sea, and central Bay of Bengal showed a strong positive increase in rough wave days. However, under high-emission scenario corresponding to RCP8.5, a decreasing trend in rough wave days is likely over most of the regions in the Indian Ocean, with exception for regions in the north Arabian Sea and extra-tropical regions beyond 48° S in the Southern Indian Ocean sector. Changes in high wave days are projected to intensify over South Indian Ocean under both RCP 4.5 and 8.5 scenarios, and the wave-spell-storm duration is found to strengthen over the northern Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, southeast Indian Ocean and South Indian Ocean under RCP8.5 forcing scenario. The study indicates that projected changes in the amplitude of high-frequency extreme wave events in the Southern hemisphere are driven by changes in a sea-level pressure gradient that is consistent with the projections of SAM (Southern Annular Mode) for the twenty-first century period.

The research supported by the Science Research and Engineering Board (SERB), an attached institution of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, can be immensely useful to policymakers and decision-making authorities for both short and long-term planning that can benefit the coastal population.

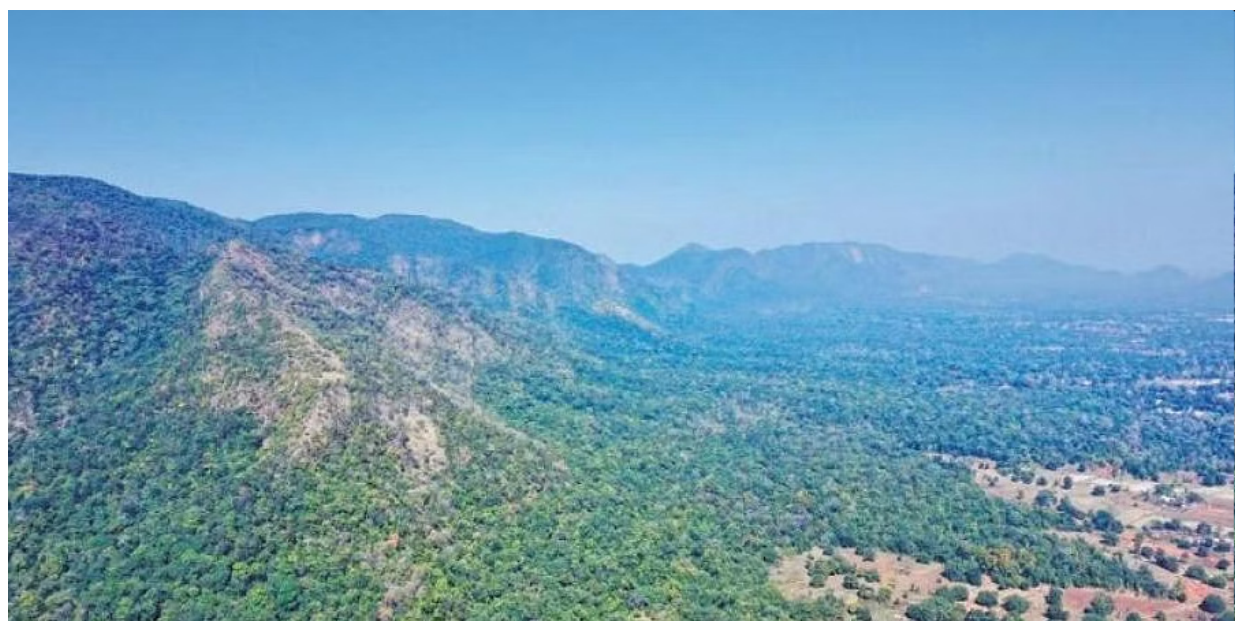
Biodiversity heritage site tag for Gandhamardan soon

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Gandhamardan hill system could be the third 'biodiversity heritage site' in the state soon. The Odisha Biodiversity Board has sent a proposal to the state government to declare the 18,963.89 hectare threatened

Officials of the Board said they received proposals from the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) of Nandupalla, Telenpalli, Bartunda, Mithapalli as well as proposals from DFO Balangir

189.639 sq km within the forest ranges of Harisankar, Lathore and Patnagarh in Balangir and Nursingnath and Paikamal in Bargarh. The Board has found 1,700 species of plants and animals, 1,200 species of

ened and one species is endemic. Besides, Board officials said Gandhamardan hill range is famous as 'Ayurvedic paradise' of Odisha' where traditional knowledge holder have been collecting wild medicinal plants to treat different dis-



and ecologically sensitive landscape of the hill range in Gandhamardan reserve forest area as a 'Biodiversity Heritage Site' for long-term protection, conservation and management of biological resources of the hill.

and Bargarh and other stakeholders to declare Gandhamardan hill as biodiversity heritage site. Accordingly, they carried out a detailed inventory of the flora and fauna in the hill ecosystem spread over

plants and 500 species of animals, in the hill ecosystem. Around 209 trees, 135 shrubs, 473 herbs, 77 climbers and 300 species of medicinal plants have been recorded in the hill ecosystem of which 18 species are threat-

ened and ailments. Notably, Odisha government had accorded Mahendragiri the tag of 'biodiversity heritage site' last month making it the second such spot in the state after Mandasaru Gorge in Kandhamal.

Minor attempts suicide after being punished by a kangaroo court in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): A minor boy attempted suicide after he was publicly humiliated late on Thursday in a kangaroo court for allegedly passing comments at schoolgirls in Bhubaneswar.

The 16-year-old boy tried to consume phenyl after he along with a cousin were made to kneel down holding their ears by residents of a locality for making passes at girls. In fact, three of their family members too were allegedly forced to join them in the punishment given by the kangaroo court. Humiliated, the minor attempted to end his life. He was rushed to the Capital Hospital by his family members. His condition is stated to be stable now. The entire episode, which happened in Baramunda village, was recorded on a mobile phone and the video went viral.

An uncle of the victims lodged a complaint at the

unlawfully punished in the presence of hundreds of people at

police conducted a raid, the irate locals fled the spot.



Khandagiri police station late in the night. Two persons have been detained in this connection. According to the police, the two minor boys, both students of Class X, were allegedly passing comments at girls when a group of people confronted them.

Let's talk about India's invisible emergency – suicide After residents of Baramunda village learned about the incident, Suresh Paranga, uncle of the two boys, his son and younger brother were

about 8 pm on Thursday. Suresh though refuted allegations leveled against his nephews and said they all were humiliated as the two minor boys aged 16 had a fight with their friends near a gym in the area. His younger brother claimed they were even forced to do sit-ups and no one came to their rescue. He alleged the locals threatened them with dire consequences if they reported the matter to the police. However, when the

Four students suspended for 'obscene' burqa dance in Karnataka In the complaint, five persons including a woman have been named by the victims. "A case has been registered under Sections 323, 341 355 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Investigation is continuing and necessary action will be taken against all those involved in the unlawful act," said Khandagiri IIC Dayanidhi Nayak.

Five-year ban lifted, new private colleges allowed to open in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): In a big step towards improving the gross enrolment ratio (GER) in the state, the Higher Education department has decided to lift its five-

account the educational needs of local students. In 2019, the department had decided not to grant permission for establishment of new private degree or pro-

feSSIONAL colleges for five years from 2020-21 academic session to check the mushrooming of private institutions which lack infrastructure and facilities. In the meeting chaired by principal secretary and chairman of HPC Bishnupada Sethi, it was also decided to accord permission for increase of seats and opening of new subjects, streams and courses (including PG courses) under the OE Act, 1969 irrespective of NAAC CGPA score, NIRF ranking and accredi-

tion by National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for the academic session 2022-23 and onward till further orders. The decisions were taken in the wake of government to refund 100 per cent pledge money to educational agencies who wish to close down their colleges due to low enrolment. Currently, one has to deposit a



year ban on opening of new private degree or professional colleges in Odisha. A good National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) score or National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rank will also no longer be mandatory for higher education institutions (HEIs) to apply for increasing seats or opening new courses. The high power committee (HPC) of the department in its recent meeting unanimously decided to allow opening of new colleges taking into

findings of the last All India Survey of Higher Education which states that Odisha has 24 colleges per lakh population as against the all-India average of 30 colleges. Besides, the GER in Odisha is 21.7 against the all-India average of 27.1. "In these circumstances, it is important to open more colleges and increase seats in existing colleges to bring more and more students to the higher education fold," Sethi said. It was also decided that the HPC will propose the state

pledge money of Rs 15 lakh and Rs 10 lakh for opening a degree college and professional college respectively. However, if one has to close the institution, he/she has to forfeit 50 per cent of the pledge money. "There are many colleges that are not doing well and their management wants to close them. However, they do not do so fearing forfeiture of 50 pc of the pledge money. In such cases, non-closure of the colleges leads to deterioration of quality education," an official said.

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Kristen Stewart named youngest-ever Berlin film fest jury chief

BERLIN: US actor Kristen Stewart will in February head up the jury at Berlin's international film festival, Europe's first major cinema showcase of the year, organisers said Friday.

The Berlinale, as the event is known, told AFP that Stewart, 32, would be the youngest person in its 73-year history to lead the panel selecting the winners of the Golden and Silver Bear top prizes.

Festival chiefs Mariette Rissenbeek and Carlo Chatrion called the star of "Spencer" and the "Twilight" movies "one of the most talented and multi-faceted actors of her generation".

"Young, shining and with an impressive body of work behind her, Kristen Stewart is the perfect bridge between the US and Europe," they said in

a statement. Considered one of Hollywood's major young talents, Stewart began her career as a child actor,

Both have harnessed their box office bankability to pursue projects with independent directors on each side of the At-

Maria". Two years later she marked her directorial and screenwriting debut with the short film

cess Diana in Pablo Larrain's 2021 drama "Spencer". The Berlinale, which will run February 16-26, ranks with

Golden Bear for best film this year for "Alcarras", a Catalan drama about peach farmers. Organisers announced last



starring alongside Jodie Foster in David Fincher's "Panic Room". The five-part "Twilight" saga made her and Robert Pattinson global superstars.

lantic. In 2015, Stewart became the first American to win France's Cesar film award, for her role alongside Juliette Binoche in "Clouds of Sils

"Come Swim" and in 2018 served on the main jury at the Cannes film festival. She was nominated for an Academy Award as best actress for her turn as Prin-

Cannes and Venice among Europe's top three film festivals and serves as an early annual launchpad for the industry. Spanish director Carla Simon won the

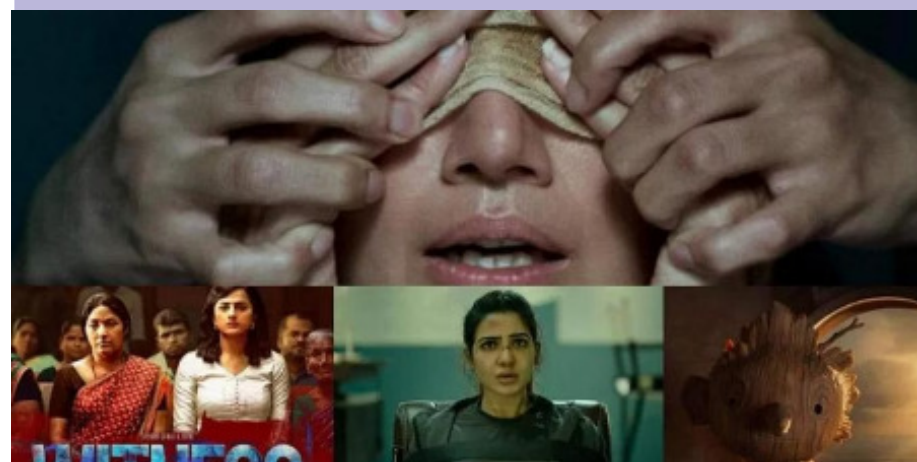
month that three-time Oscar winner Steven Spielberg, 75, would attend the event to pick up an Honorary Golden Bear prize for lifetime achievement.

What to watch this week: From 'Blurr' to 'Witness', a list of OTT releases this weekend

Witness- SonyLIV (December 9)
In this social drama, Rohini plays a street sweeper who loses her son to manual scavenging. The film is primarily about this defiant mother's fight to serve justice to her deceased son. Others part of the cast include Shradha Srinath, Azhagam Perumal,

Shankar, this film stars Samantha Ruth Prabhu in the titular role. As she agrees to join a surrogate program out of desperation to find her missing sister, things start to go haywire when revelations about the high-end surrogate facility come to light. The sci-fi Telugu survival thriller also stars Unni Mukundan,

Venjaramoodu plays the lead role. The actor essays the titular character that is in search of her missing wife and journalist, Teena. As he files a missing complaint at the police station, some assume he is mentally unwell. The film is directed by Sunil Ibrahim.



Shanmuga Raja, Subatra Robert. The film is directed by Deepak, who is also cinematographer of the film.

Blurr - ZEE5 (December 9)
The film marks the debut production of Taapsee's banner Outsiders Films and is directed by Ajay Bahl. Blurr follows Gayatri, a woman who arrives in a foggy, murky hill town with her husband, Neil. Gayatri's twin sister, Gautami, who was blind, has seemingly died by suicide. Unconvinced, Gayatri insists

up enrolling himself in gynaecology due to lack of a seat in his desirable subject, orthopaedics. Others part of the cast are Rakul Preet Singh, Shefali Shah, and Sheeba Chaddha.

Roy - SonyLIV (December 9)
A family-oriented mystery thriller, Suraj

Pinocchio - Netflix (December 9)
Guillermo Del Toro's Pinocchio is a stop-motion is a reimagining of the 1883 Italian novel The Adventures of Pinocchio by Carlo Collodi. The film had its world premiere at the BFI London Film Festival on 15 October 2022 where it had a stellar critical reception. The voice cast of the film includes Ewan McGregor, David Bradley, Gregory Mann, Finn Wolfhard, Cate Blanchett, John Turturro, and Ron Perlman.

CAT - Netflix (December 9)
Directed by Balwinder Singh Janjua, the film unfolds over two parallel timelines in Punjab. Randeep Hooda plays Gurnaam Singh, a former police informant who's pulled back into the game after his younger brother gets caught in a drug racket. To secure his brother's future, he enters a murky underbelly of politics, corruption and crime to bust a thriving drug cartel.

Popular Kollywood comedy actor Sivanarayanamoorthy passes away



Actor Pattukotai T Sivanarayanamoorthy, who was known for his work as a comedy actor in various films working alongside comic giants like Vivek and Vadivelu, passed away on Saturday. He was 66. A veteran of over 200 films, the actor passed away due to sudden health deterioration. Sivanarayanamoorthy has worked alongside some of the top stars of Tamil cinema, in-

cluding Rajinikanth, Ajith Kumar, and Vijay. Apart from his comedy roles, he also starred in a few films that explored his skills as a serious actor too. Sivanarayanamoorthy is survived by his wife Pushpavalli, and three children, Lokesh, Ramkumar, and Sridevi. The actor's last rites will happen in his native of Pattukotai later today.

The weekend is round the corner! Cinema Express brings to you a list of films and series streaming across various OTT platforms this week that you can watch from the comfort of your homes

on investigating her death even as Neil attempts to dissuade her. As she talks to locals and digs deeper into Gautami's hazy past, Gayatri herself begins to lose her eyesight.

Rathasaatchi - Aha (December 9)
Penned by writer Jeyamohan, and helmed by Rafiq Ismail in his directorial debut, this film stars Kanna Ravi in the lead. Rathasaatchi is set during the 1980s and shows how the followers of the Naxalbari movement resist the suppression imposed on them. The film is an adaptation of the short story Kathaigal from Jeyamohan's novel Venkadai.

Yashoda - Prime Video (December 9)
Directed by Haresh Narayan and K Hari

MODI'S CIVILIZATIONAL REVAMP



M.R.LALU

India, the world's largest and oldest civilization has been witnessing scores of initiatives by the Modi government since 2014. Many of them were largely indicative of a civilisational revamp that Prime Minister Modi has been unequivocally manoeuvring and with the global acceptance, his government at the centre is upbeat about everything that it believes as a cultural necessity. While critics prefer to hoot from behind the fence on anything the government brings in its platter, the Prime Minister is seen unperturbed and busy and relentless on his cultural revamping mission. India's G-20 Presidency came at a point when the government enjoys all possible reasons to celebrate the global leadership that

it was pacing forth in a post pandemic world.

The Vedic hymn "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" that the Prime Minister tried to set as the focal thesis for the global community under India's G-20 presidency was taken from the Maha Upanishad. Modi's undisputable efforts to channelize the global attention towards the spiritual splendour that the Vedic traditions defined for humanity had received support from all the corners. This is again marked as a guaranteed significance as the human race is severely troubled by the harrowing effects of war and the highhandedness and hegemony that the superpowers deal with the rest of the world with. India's global reach through the new leadership of the G-20 would further strengthen its efforts to take the global community closer to knowing the Indic traditions and this should be seen as an occasion that the

world would directly test the flavour of spiritual concomitance that India has been actively advocating. Undoubtedly the presidency becomes more significant as India takes its strides through the Amrit Kaal, which the Prime Minister puts as a matter of pride and great opportunity.

To see the world as a family has been a Vedic expression and India's efficiency in effectively communicating this idea of oneness in a post pandemic world irrespective of the differences that humanity is engrossed in deserves admiration. The message "One Earth, One Family, One Future" in itself is all encompassing and would probably break all the assumptions that have been keeping the global community on the edge of scepticism and surreptitious denial. Well before its G-20 presidency, India, under the leadership of Modi,

was catapulting its agenda of Yoga heritage by highlighting the essence of the tradition and its global relevance. The world community tilting its mind in acceptance for Yogic life and declaring June 21 as the International Yoga Day was undoubtedly a victory that the Modi government could take the credit of.

India's civilisational revamp since 2014 has been hugely accepted and admired. But Narendra Modi's ideological interventionism has been forcefully painted as majoritarian by his rivals. The interconnectedness that the Vedic traditions had discovered centuries ago was transformed into a global narrative by the Indian state. With its multiplicity flourishing and expanding, India sets an example for coexistence while

diverse views gain respect and resonance. Truth and non-violence and the Vedic means of Dharma would gain global acceptance and its inheritance such as Yoga, Vedanta and Ayurveda would be seen playing a pronounced role in bringing the global diversity under the Indic wisdom of oneness. Aspiring to bring a multicultural world together by stitching differences into amity and eradicating enmity, India's G-20 leadership is potential and holds vitality to speak for the entire world.

The world being divided and disabled by political, ideological and geographical differences, India stands as a potential platform for the global community to lean on for peace and tranquillity and experience the essential principle of oneness. Back home, Modi's civilisational leap in

India has been termed as a scripted narrative and the efforts protruding in the direction of a significant revamp are lambasted as divisive. A deliberate denial that India's civilisational symbols have been made a victim of have now been officially given a face lift, a titivation. You call it an ideological take-over that India never attempted for decades since independence. Modi's courage to redraw between the missing dots should be seen as an endeavour to retrieve the heritage of an erstwhile colony of the Mughals and the British. The colonial hangover is broken and the chain of servitude is unfastened.

The monumental statue of Subhash Chandra Bose installed in the Kartavya Path tells us stories of valour and sacrifice and the element of pride that the initiative injected in Indians is momentous. To speak about another

initiative of the Modi government, with more visible changes put in place, the National Education Policy 2022 comes as a revolutionary step in the area of education. With its ancient glory restored, the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor stands as an example for India's cultural revival and the Mahakal Lok Corridor in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh dances in tune with the spiritual jugalbandi of Ayodhya, Kedarnath, Somnath and many other spiritual places that received a refurbishment in the Modi era. Abrogation of Article 370 brought significant changes in Jammu and Kashmir too and a spiritual rejuvenation that the Himalayan region is witnessing through the restoration of temples and shrines, would be enlisted as a step towards India's spiritual renaissance led by a constitutionally elected government.

India's global humanitarian interventions and its distinctive multilateralism and the ideals that it drafted for the global concomitance would redefine geopolitical aspirations of countries. Modi's spiritualised global diplomacy and the G-20 presidency seem to be emerging as an actual catalyst, cementing irritable differences in a world that is desperately seeking consensus to stay together peacefully and polarization kept at bay. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam would further illuminate the global community to stand in line with 'oneness' gaining momentum as a vision and a mission that it can probably cultivate for the future.

(Freelance Journalist / Author of the book (India @75- A Contemporary Approach) Meppurathu Pathanamthitta District Kerala State

Editor To Letter

Dear Editor

Buddhism as a religion, philosophy and life practise teaches us to be peaceful, forgiving, benevolent, happy and compassionate not just to fellow human beings; but also towards nature, environment, wildlife and even towards non-life matters. Currently we are sitting at the crossroads of environmental pollution, ecological degradation, Climate Change, Global Warming, catastrophic tsunamis, cyclones, tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flood, drought, famine, over exploitation of our limited natural resources, encroachment and destruction of natural forests, poaching and trafficking of endangered wildlife as well as major and minor forest resources to mention only a few of the multitude of problems impacting our lives and livelihoods. At this crucial junctures, the compassionate teachings of Gautama Buddha on Nature and Nurture is an important lesson for us to learn to live synergistically with our other co inhabitants of this planet such as wildlife, forests and our nature. Unless we learn to practice simple sustainable lifestyle and in using our resources judiciously we are doomed and answerable to our future generations for the damage add destruction we have inflicted on this planet. Let us join our hands and walk towards the sustainable life style and practices to prevent bringing further cataclysmic changes and destructions to our lives and livelihoods.

**Saikat Kumar Basu
378 Prince Anwar Shah Road
Kolkata 700045 West Bengal India**

Driving faster can cause Disaster

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit



It seems over the years, our society has unfortunately become more complacent about underage driving than before, and more kids are growing up learning that it is 'cool' to drive young, to drive fast, and to risk it with the law. Underage driving has not only added to the city's chaotic traffic but is resulting in a large number of accidents. Children, by nature, are more reckless. They are not mature enough to understand the consequences of their actions or mistakes. For them, driving is all about thrill and looking cool. Children are not to be blamed for reckless driving

but it is the parents' job to teach children how to go by the rule book. Public awareness campaigns by traffic control authorities and others are vitally important to make such youth realise their errors and the possibilities of their rash driving. Children of this age are restless, impatient and have a shorter attention span. It is observed that a few school authorities who tried to discourage underage driving had to face parents' ire. Speeding around seems cool to teenagers but it can lead to havoc and that's where adults have to step in. Children are more likely than older drivers to speed, run red lights, make illegal turns, ride with an intoxicated driver, and drive after using alcohol or drugs. They have a sense that they can get away with transgressions – a



feeling of bravado whereby "I can get away with anything" The fight against underage drinking in our country is a tough battle, and frighteningly, alcohol is involved in about 20-25% of fatal teenage car wrecks. Underage driving seems to increase with each passing day as children become smarter and more informed and parents fail to understand the consequences. It is observed that minors can get a license with fake proof of age. In such cases, the police impose a nominal fine and these dangerous drivers are back on the

road. Teenage drivers are a threat not only to themselves but also to others. They are not sensitive to traffic rules and don't even follow the basics of safe driving. They either injure or kill themselves or others. The high number of underage drivers transgressing the law by going for a joyride can be attributed to peer pressure and a feeling of youthful invincibility. Many lives are shattered by underage drivers going for a joyride in the vehicles of their parents or older relatives. Under Section 4 of the Motor

Vehicles Act, minors driving a vehicle are liable and accordingly they can be fined at least Rs 1,000. The owners, meanwhile, can be fined Rs 1,500 under Section 5 of the same Act. In case of negligent driving by minors, parents should be booked too. Traffic police has been trying everything, have challenged and even impounded their vehicles but failed to curb the menace. The only solution left is the duty of the parents to realise the danger associated with underage driving. Inexperience and immaturity are the primary causes of the

increased risk of teenage driving. Untrained eyes are more likely to underestimate hazardous situations on the road. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration suggests that parents write up a contract for their teenage driver that includes penalties for any rule that they break. Preventative measures must be taken to bring teenage auto fatalities down. The most important advice would be to teach responsibility by way of example. If parents drive with caution and obey the laws of the road – their children will also have more respect for traffic laws and for those who travel our roads.

**B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society,
Jodhpur Tekra Satellite
Ahmedabad – 380 015**

CM KCR lays foundation stone for Hyderabad Express Metro to Airport

HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday laid the



foundation stone for Hyderabad Express Metro to Airport at Mindspace junction. The High Speed Airport Metro has a maximum speed of 120Kmph. There will be a flight information display and information desk. There are also automatic fare collection gates for ease of passengers at each station. There will be city check-ins, early check-ins and baggage handling facilities at Raidurg metro station initially and further at other selected stations.

BJP credits people's faith in PM Modi for historic win in Gujarat

NEW DELHI/ GANDHINAGAR: The BJP on Thursday attributed the party's "historic" victory in Gujarat assembly polls to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's credibility and people's trust in his leadership. The party is set for a landslide victory in Gujarat to retain power for a seventh straight term by winning more seats than

is the victory of people's unwavering faith in BJP's policies," Nadda tweeted. Union Home Minister Amit Shah termed it as a rejection of those who do politics of hollow promises, freebies and appeasement. In a series of tweets, Shah said he salutes the people of Gujarat on this historic victory and it shows the "unwavering faith of

The 31-km Airport Express Metro which starts from Raidurg Metro Terminal Station at Mindspace Junction will pass through Biodiversity Junction, Khajaguda Road and touches Nanakramguda Junction on the Outer Ring Road before reaching RGI Airport in Shamshabad. The Metro is projected to connect the airport to the

main city in only 20 minutes. A few of the stations that are scheduled to be are Bio-Diversity Junction, Nanakramguda, Narsingi, TS Police Academy, Rajendranagar, Shamshabad and Airport Cargo station, and terminal.

The Minister for IT, Industries, MA & UD, Telangana KT Rama Rao tweeted that, Telangana Government is strengthening Hyderabad's mobility infrastructure to position it as a global city. The new metro rail line will cover 31km in just 26 minutes.

seats in the 182-member state assembly. The Congress party was a distant second ? it had won 6 seats and was leading in 10 others, while the Aam Aadmi Party was leading in 5 seats. The Congress holds the record of winning 149 seats in 1985 under the leadership of Madhavsinh Solanki. Addressing a press

entrant Aam Aadmi Party, alleging it tried to demean the people of Gujarat with "dole" politics. "AAP never thought about Gujarati Asmita (pride) and was never able to connect with the psyche of the Gujarati people. " All anti-Gujarati forces have been defeated...The Congress must introspect as to why they



in any assembly election in the state. Hailing Prime Minister Modi's leadership, BJP president JP Nadda said the party's historic victory in the Gujarat elections is a victory of Modi's commitment towards development, good governance and public welfare. "Gujarat has set new records of development in the last two decades under the leadership of Modi ji and today the people of Gujarat have blessed the BJP and broken all records of victory," Shah said. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the people of the state have rejected the anti-national elements in the Assembly election and once again reposed faith in Prime Minister Modi and the BJP leadership. The BJP has won or was leading in 157

the public in Narendra Modi's development model". "In the last two decades, under the leadership of Modi ji, the BJP broke all records of development in Gujarat and today the people of Gujarat have blessed the BJP and broken all records of victory," Shah said. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the people of the state have rejected the anti-national elements in the Assembly election and once again reposed faith in Prime Minister Modi and the BJP leadership. The BJP has won or was leading in 157

conference in Gandhinagar, CM Patel said, "The people of Gujarat have once again reposed faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP leadership. If the masses of Gujarat have elected the BJP, then we have to live up to their expectations." "The people of Gujarat have rejected the anti-national elements in this election and have voted for the BJP's track record of development in the state," he said. Gujarat BJP president C R Paatil, who was also present at the press conference, hit out at new poll

are losing public support," he said. Senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh credited Prime Minister Modi's popularity and his credibility for the party's historic win in the Gujarat assembly polls. He also congratulated BJP's national president JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and the party's state unit head C R Patil for the BJP's performance in the state. Singh said with the tireless hardwork of all these leaders, "the BJP has scripted history, breaking all records".

Congress to hold meeting of newly-elected Himachal MLAs today

Shimla: The Congress, which wrested power from the BJP in Himachal Pradesh, has convened a meeting of all its newly-elected MLAs here on Friday

Singh Sukhu and outgoing CLP leader Mukesh Agnihotri.

AICC in-charge of Himachal Pradesh Rajeev Shukla had on Thursday said the Congress was happy that it is getting an opportunity to form the government in the state and asserted that the party will do everything to fulfil the 10 guarantees made to the people of the state and would provide better governance to people.



"The newly-elected Congress MLAs would meet in Shimla on Friday post-election results and decide on electing the new legislature party leader," Shukla had told PTI on Thursday. Sources said the MLAs are likely to pass a one-line resolution authorising Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to decide the CLP leader. This has been the tradition in the Congress party, they said. The party's two observers — Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and senior leader from Haryana Bhupinder Singh Hooda — along with Shukla are arriving in the state capital where all the party MLAs have been called. While Shukla is AICC in charge of Himachal Pradesh, Baghel was appointed senior observer for the polls.

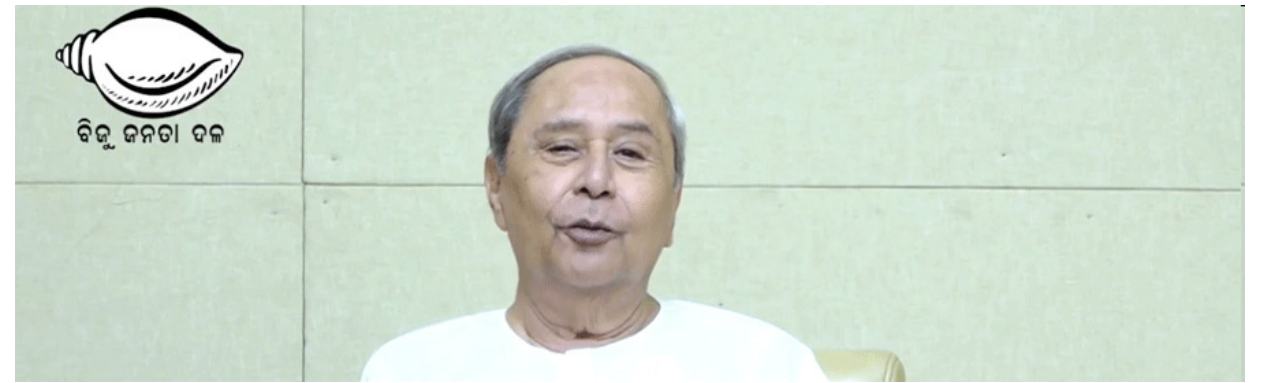
and the meet is likely to pass a resolution authorising the Congress president to pick the CLP leader. The Congress on Thursday won 40 seats in the 68-member Assembly in the hill state which maintained its tradition of not voting any incumbent government to power since 1985. Leader of the opposition Mukesh Agnihotri said that a meeting would be held in Shimla on Friday. Deciding on the chief ministerial face who can bind the party going forward is the immediate challenge for the Congress. State party president Pratibha Singh is considered a key frontrunner for the chief minister's post, closely followed by former party chief Sukhwinder

new legislature party leader," Shukla had told PTI on Thursday. Sources said the MLAs are likely to pass a one-line resolution authorising Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to decide the CLP leader. This has been the tradition in the Congress party, they said. The party's two observers — Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and senior leader from Haryana Bhupinder Singh Hooda — along with Shukla are arriving in the state capital where all the party MLAs have been called. While Shukla is AICC in charge of Himachal Pradesh, Baghel was appointed senior observer for the polls.

Naveen Slams BJP Leaders

Bhubaneswar: For the first time, after winning an election, BJD Supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has come down heavily on BJP leaders for making personal remarks on winning BJD candidate Barsha Singh Bariha. Thanking the people of Padampur for BJD's huge victory in the bye-election, the Chief Minister said it is the victory of the people of Padampur. He also thanked lakhs of BJD workers for the victory. The CM slammed the BJP leaders for making disrespectful remarks on elected party candidate Barsha Singh Bariha during campaigning. In a video message, Mr. Patnaik said he was deeply pained by BJP leaders' personal and disrespectful attacks on party candidate Barsha. So, he decided

he said. "Losing and winning in politics, contesting elections are different things. But to disrespect a woman like this is very reprehensible," the BJD President said. "That's why I decided to stand by Barsha Singh — like a father figure, like a brother and a friend," Mr. Patnaik said. The CM cautioned state BJP's leaders to refrain from making such remarks against women on the pretext of politics, else people of Odisha will never support them. Slamming a couple of Union Ministers for their statements during the bypoll campaign, Naveen said those were made to deceive the people of Odisha and Padampur.



to stand by her as a father figure and personally campaign at Padampur. "Some people are asking me that you have not campaigned during the panchayat election and past several Assembly by-polls. I want to say them that some BJP leaders have disrespected a woman, an educated young woman, who is in grief after losing father. It saddened me," the Chief Minister said. Such a personal attack on Barsha is not only a matter too sad for him but also all women of Odisha,

"Some Union Ministers have tried to hoodwink the people of Padampur on issues like rural housing scheme, GST on kendu leaves, delay in release of crop insurance, MSP on paddy, and rail connectivity. This is extremely unfortunate. You are at the Center, we are in the State. Let's work together for people and the betterment of Odisha," Naveen said. He assured the people of Padampur that all the promises made by him will be fulfilled.

Private member's bill on Uniform Civil Code introduced in Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI: A controversial private member's Bill that seeks to provide for a panel to prepare a Uniform Civil Code was introduced in the Rajya

Meena moved for leave to introduce the Bill to provide for the constitution of the national inspection and investigation committee for preparation of a

members from the Congress, CPI, CPI(M), Trinamool Congress protested against the introduction of the Bill saying it will "destroy" the social

called for division and the motion for introduction of the Bill was passed with 63 votes in favour and 23 against it. In the past, although



Sabha on Friday. "The Uniform Civil Code in India Bill, 2020" was introduced in the Upper House amid protests from opposition parties. BJP MP Kirodi Lal

Uniform Civil Code and its implementation throughout India and for matters connected therewith during the private member's business. However, Opposition

fabric and unity in diversity that is prevalent in the country. With the Opposition members seeking withdrawal of the Bill, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar

the Bill was listed for introduction, it was not moved in the Upper House. The Bill envisages a collection of laws to protect the personal rights of all citizens without considering religion.

Cyclone Mandous: Heavy rain batters TN, holiday declared for educational institutions in 15 districts

CHENNAI: Heavy rains battered Chennai and its surrounding areas on Friday evening even as cyclone Mandous is set to make its landfall on the coast between Puducherry and Sriharikota around Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) during midnight of December 9 to the early hours of December 10. Power supply has been disrupted in Mahabalipuram. Transport services also re-

Tamil Nadu state transport buses will not ply two hours before the cyclone touches the land and two hours after it.

Schools and colleges were closed in several districts today.

Earlier in the day, several parts of Tamil Nadu witnessed light to moderate rainfall with some places receiving heavy showers. Several weather stations in and around Chennai



main disrupted.

Several families residing in low-lying areas have been shifted to relief centres.

In neighbouring Puducherry, 15 houses collapsed in Pillaichavady village as high tides under the impact of the cyclone eroded the coast on Friday.

A holiday has been declared for schools and colleges on Saturday in 15 districts including Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi, Vellore, and Ranipet.

From 6 PM today till midnight, the departures of several flights from Chennai have been cancelled. However, trains including suburban services are in operation.

clocked rainfall of 7 cm each in the morning; it was light to moderate in other regions. The IMD said Doppler weather radars are monitoring the cyclone which weakened into a cyclonic storm on December 9 after being a severe cyclonic storm for less than 24 hours. Mandous, pronounced 'man-dous' is an Arabic word and it means treasure box. The name was reportedly picked by the United Arab Emirates.

16,000 police personnel, 1,500 Home guards, a 40-member team of TN State Disaster Response Force, and 400 National Disaster Response Force personnel, in addition to 12 District Disaster Response Force teams are on standby.

Gas pipeline damage hits CDA residents

CUTTACK: The pipeline of the Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) was again damaged in CDA locality here causing much inconvenience to hundreds of households of Sector-6 and its adjacent

caused gas leakage, there was no incident of fire reported. Locals out on their morning walk saw the damage and brought it to the notice of the GAIL staff, following which the leak was

no supply gas to the stove. I had no other option than to go and buy an electric induction furnace," said a resident.

"This is not a single such incident that happened for the first time. Earlier, the gas

ging the surface in coordination with the GAIL officials. "The GAIL staff are not confirming and marking perfectly as a result of which the underground gas pipelines are getting damaged," said



areas on Thursday morning.

The underground cooking gas pipeline was cut near Prajapita Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya at CDA sector-6 during digging of the surface by the WATCO for laying underground drinking water pipelines on Wednesday night.

Though the damage to the pipeline had

immediately blocked and necessary repair work started.

However, the GAIL officials claimed that they had restored the supply of gas by 3 pm, but a majority of the residents had to suffer till Thursday 7 pm as their regulators needed resetting by their field staff.

"After waking up when I went to make tea at 5 am in the morning, I found

pipe line was damaged twice about 20 days back. We had to suffer a lot when it came to cooking due to frequent damages which apparently are being caused due to lack of proper coordination between WACTO and GAIL," another resident of the locality alleged General manager, WATCO Cuttack division, Debabrata Mohanty said that the engineers are dig-

Mohanty. Refuting the allegation, DGM, City Gas Distribution, Cuttack Sudhansu Satapathy alleged that the pipelines are getting repeatedly damaged due to unauthorised digging in the night. "Even if our staff are restraining them not to go for digging till the demarcation, the WATCO continues it," said Satapathy.

Gajapati: Protestors lock panchayat office over water scarcity

BERHAMPUR: Women of Dekapanga village in Mohana block of Gajapati district on Wednesday, locked the panchayat office to protest erratic supply of piped water.

supply of piped water has been erratic. Sources said the village has not been supplied piped water for the last one week and the women have no option but to walk over two km to fetch

tation. When the women did not relent, Patamajhi called up other officials to come to his aid but none responded. Late in the evening, an assistant engineer

Ranjib Sabar and some RWSS department officials reached the village and assured the women to make an alternate arrangement soon. They also



The village, inhabited by over 200 families, has two tubewells. This apart piped water is also supplied to houses in the village under Basudha Yojana. However, while the tubewells have not been functioning for the last three months,

water for their families' daily needs. After their pleas to authorities concerned went unheeded, the women locked the panchayat office. Sarpanch Babuli Patamajhi rushed to the office and tried to convince the women to call off their agi-

of RWSS department reached the village and repaired one tubewell but it did not function. This infuriated the women who refused to let the panchayat office function. As the stalemate continued, Mohana block chairman

sought time to come up with a permanent solution to the issue. Following the officials' assurance, the women opened the panchayat office but threatened to resort to agitation again if the situation does not change.



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Reliance Capital's general insurance business seeks Rs 600 crore fund infusion

NEW DELHI: Reliance General Insurance Company (RGICL) has sought company (Reliance Capital) by December 31, 2022. The general

become an impediment for the business growth of the company as large

The letter further says the capital infusion will also augment value creation and negate the risk of underperforming the broader markets. As per sources, the Committee of Creditors (COC) is expected to consider and discuss the request of Reliance General Insurance for capital infusion in the meeting on 9 December 2022. The firm has told the Reliance Capital administrator that as a large format insurer it can gain significantly in the current ecosystem if it can pursue growth like most of its peer competitors, but that would require adequate capital support from Reliance Capital.



an urgent Rs 600 crore capital infusion from its parent firm Reliance Capital, which is itself undergoing a corporate insolvency resolution process. Sources told TNIE that RGICL has written a letter to the Reliance Capital administrator -- Y Nageshwar Rao -- seeking a Rs 600 crore capital support from the parent

insurance firm has said the fund infusion is essential to preserve the business, enhance value and take its solvency from 155% to about 175%. The company has in the letter said that the borderline solvency ratio (minimum solvency required by an insurance company is 150% of the total insurance cover offered) has

corporate and government clients are showing hesitancy in doing business with it. Reliance General Insurance believes that the capital infusion from the existing stakeholders of the company will send a strong message of support to the market, and will allow it to outperform the market growth rate.

India, China trade deficit at USD 51.5 billion during April-October this fiscal

NEW DELHI: The trade deficit, difference between import and exports, between India and China has touched USD 51.5 billion during April-October this fiscal, Parliament was informed on Friday.

He said that the merchandise exports from India to China have increased from USD 11.93 billion in 2014-15 to USD 21.26 billion in 2021-22, showing an increase of 78.2 per cent over the last six years.

by only 100 per cent to USD 73.31 billion in 2021-22," Goyal said. He informed that most of the goods imported from China are capital goods, intermediate goods and raw materials and are used for meeting

imports in these categories is largely due to the gap between domestic supply and demand," he added. Replying to a question about imports from China, minister of state for commerce and



The deficit during 2021-22 had jumped to USD 73.31 billion as compared to 44.03 billion in 2020-21, according to the data provided by commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. According to the data, imports during April-October this fiscal stood at USD 60.27 billion, while exports aggregated at USD 8.77 billion.

Imports from China, on the other hand, have increased from USD 60.41 billion in 2014-15 to USD 94.57 billion in 2021-22. "The trade deficit with China in 2004-05 was USD 1.48 billion, which increased to USD 36.21 billion in 2013-14, an increase of 2,346 per cent. Against this massive increase, the trade deficit with China has since increased

the demand of fast expanding sectors like electronics, telecom and power in India. "The rise in import of electronic components, computer hardware and peripherals, telephone components, etc can be attributed to transforming of India into a digitally empowered society and a knowledge economy. India's dependence on

industry Anupriya Patel said that many imports are inputs for further manufacturing in India and exports from India. The major goods imported from China include electronic goods, organic and inorganic chemicals, medicinal and pharmaceutical products, fertilisers, crude and manufactured and dyeing/tanning/colouring materials.

Air India plans USD 400 million fleet cabin makeover

NEW DELHI: Air India (AI) has committed to spend \$400 million (about Rs 3200 crore) to give cabins of its wide body fleet, comprising 27 Boeing B787-8 and 13 B777 aircraft, a makeover and introduce a premium economy service on medium and long-haul routes.

The full-service carrier, which underwent ownership transfer in January from the

of latest generation seats and best in-class inflight entertainment across all classes. The first class cabin will also be retained on 777s. AI has engaged leading London-based product design companies, JPA Design and Trendworks, to assist with the cabin interior design elements of this refurbishment programme. This lengthy process and the time required to manufacture seats is expected to



government to Tata Group, trails much behind Gulf and European carriers when it comes to offering premium services on its flight. This, as per many aviation experts, has resulted in loss of market share for Air India in the overseas market. Currently, AI carries nearly 11% of all international traffic to and from India and it has ambitions to take this share to 30% in next five years. The airline said the refurbishment includes the addition

lead to the first aircraft entering service in mid-2024. Campbell Wilson, MD & CEO of AI, said, "We know, at present, the cabin product on our 40 legacy widebody aircraft falls short of this standard." "We are working with partners to accelerate the refit process as fast as possible and, in the meantime, leasing in at least 11 new widebody aircraft with brand new interiors to improve our offering," added Wilson.

RIL, Adani firms biggest wealth creators in 2017-22

NEW DELHI: Mukesh Ambani-promoted Reliance Industries (RIL) and Gautam Adani-led Adani Enterprises (AEL) were ranked as the biggest and most consistent wealth creators,

wealth created by India's top 100 listed firms. This is for the fourth time in succession and ninth in last 16 five-year study periods when RIL has emerged the biggest wealth

highest price CAGR of 97%. Other most consistent wealth creators during 2017-22 were Alkyl Amines, Coforge, Mindtree and L&T Infotech. Adani

the top 10 fastest growing companies equally it would be worth Rs 2.1 crore in 2022, a return CAGR of 84% as against a 15% return for the BSE Sensex. Wealth created, in



respectively, during the 2017-22 period, according to brokerage firm Motilal Oswal. In the report titled 'Motilal Oswal Annual Wealth Creation Study 2022', RIL grabbed the top spot in the list of the biggest wealth creators during 2017-22 period, accounting for Rs 13.02 lakh crore out of the Rs 92.2 lakh crore

creator. As in past few studies, TCS, Infosys and HDFC Bank remained among the top 5 wealth creators. AEL topped the list of the most consistent wealth creators. The Adani Group flagship was also the third fastest wealth creator. According to the report, AEL has outperformed the BSE Sensex in all the last five

Transmission came in as the fastest wealth creator during the five year period with 2017-22 price CAGR of 106%, the report highlighted. Tanla Platforms, Adani Enterprises, Brightcom Group and Tata Tele. (Mah.) were some of the other firms in the fastest wealth creator list. If Rs 10 lakh was invested in 2017 in

the study, is calculated as change in the market cap of companies between 2017 and 2022 (March ending), duly adjusted for corporate events such as mergers, de-mergers, fresh issuance of capital, buyback, etc. The pace of wealth creation at 28% CAGR is the highest in the last eight years.

Shami unlikely to feature in Bangladesh Tests

New Delhi: Mohammed Shami is unlikely to feature in the Test series against Bangladesh. The latest information from the Indian camp is that the seasoned pacer has not fully recovered from the right shoulder strain that kept him out of the ongoing ODI series. Shami has been in the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru and reports from there are not encouraging for the experienced bowler. The NCA staff will draw a roadmap for his recovery and rehab. At this stage, there is no clear information on his comeback. For the

struggling Indian side in Bangladesh, the absence of Shami (216 wickets in 60 Tests) could be a setback as his experience could be badly missed.

The 32-year-old was last seen with the Indian team in the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia last month. He was initially part of the ODI squad for the Bangladesh series but had to be withdrawn. Umran Malik was named as his replacement for the ODIs.

However, for the Tests, there apparently is no immediate plan to rush in a replacement as more than 30 players are in



Bangladesh, including those part of the India A squad. The Indian team will be free to retain any player if it

wants. Anyway, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur are part of the squad

alongside the spinners Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav. They will also be soon

be joined by Saurabh Kumar, a left-arm spinner who will come in place of an injured Ravindra Jadeja.

Same goes for the ODI squad. Although three players - Kuldeep Sen, Deepak Chahar and Rohit Sharma - are not unavailable for the third and final ODI on December 10, no replacement is being named. Siraj, Thakur and Umran are available for selection and the selection committee sources have said there is no immediate need for a replacement for a series that has already been lost.

As for Rohit, the skipper has arrived in Mumbai for scans

following the injury he sustained during the second ODI and a decision on his participation in the Tests will be taken in the next 24 hours. If not for the opening game,

Rohit's availability for the second and final Test will also be explored. Shubman Gill, a specialist opener, is part of the Test squad and can fill in alongside KL Rahul. No dates yet for selection panel interviews

Meanwhile, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is yet to fix a date(s) for interviewing the candidates for the new selection

committee. The target apparently is to complete the process by December 15 but the members of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) - Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjpe and Sulakshana Naik - have had no communication from the BCCI so far.

It is understood that the board managers are shortlisting the applications which apparently are as many as 207. With the criteria being 30 first class games, many former cricketers are eligible and the information is that the response to the advertisement was very high.

India-Australia Test series to begin in Nagpur on February 9



New Delhi: The marquee India-Australia Test series will begin in Nagpur on 9 February 2023, the BCCI announced. This last iteration of the four-Test Border-Gavaskar series before it becomes a five-

Test contest, will then move to Delhi (February 17-21) after a three-day gap. The teams will have a week off before the third Test in Dharamsala (March 1-5) before a shorter turnaround leading into the final Test

in Ahmedabad (March 9-13).

Australia's tour of India will then conclude with three ODIs in Mumbai (March 17), Visakhapatnam (March 19) and Chennai (March 22) leading into the next

season of the IPL.

This series will be preceded by shorter white-ball assignments for India, against Sri Lanka and New Zealand at the turn of the year. Sri Lanka will begin their series on January 3 with three T20Is in Mumbai, Pune and Rajkot before playing one-dayers in Guwahati, Kolkata and Trivandrum.

New Zealand will start their series on January 18 with three ODIs, the second of which will mark the international debut of the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur. Ranchi, Lucknow and Ahmedabad will play host to the three T20Is, with the series running until February 1.

Impact Player concept likely to apply only for Indian players in IPL

New Delhi: The Impact Player concept, being introduced in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 17, could apply only to the Indian players. Although the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is yet to share the regulations on how it will work, BCCI managers, who are in conversations with the franchises, have indicated that only Indian players could come in as the 12th player or as an active substitute during a match.

Cricbuzz has learnt that the franchises have been explained a team cannot introduce an overseas player in place of another overseas player, nor will a team be allowed to have a foreign player in place of an Indian. The rule is to make sure that the primary and binding IPL rule of only four foreign players taking



part in a game is not diluted. Whether a foreign player will be allowed to come in if a team goes into a match with only three overseas players in the starting XI is not yet clear.

In a recent note to the teams, the BCCI said, "...Also note that from IPL 2023 Season a tactical/strategic concept will be introduced to add a new dimension to IPL, wherein one substitute player per team will be able to take a more active part in an IPL

match. The regulations pertaining to the same will be issued shortly." The idea has sent the franchises into a thinking mode. While most teams welcome the experiment, the general belief is that the rule could considerably dilute the role of an all-rounder and increase the influence of specialists in a game. The inference is based on the fact that a team can use a specialist bowler while bowling and replace him with a

specialist batsman while chasing. The rule could also have a major bearing on the auction in Kochi on December 23.

The Impact Player concept was first introduced in this year's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) and the BCCI is satisfied that the experiment was a big hit. The BCCI has drawn inspiration for this from football and a few other games where substitutes play a very active role.

"The concept is to allow one substitute player per team to take a more active part in a match. This would add a new tactical /strategic dimension to the game. A number of team sports allow teams to make tactical substitutes i.e. football, rugby, basketball, baseball. The substitute is allowed to perform or participate like any other regular player," the BCCI had said while introducing the rule in the SMAT earlier this year.

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PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

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