

No need for any High Court bench in Odisha, rules Supreme Court

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Supreme Court, while hearing the plea related to protest by lawyers demanding a permanent bench of Orissa High Court in Sambalpur, today ruled that there is no need for establishment of such bench.

"The passage of time and use of technology has made the demands obsolete. The use of technology is quite widespread now and monitored by the Orissa HC. There is no need for additional bench," said a bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice SK Kaul and Justice AS Oka.NTPC Dulanga observes annual mines safety fortnightOdisha: Inter-college women's tourney kicks off ahead of FIH Men's Hockey World Cup

"There is no hope for formation of a bench. Even if there was a remote possibility, it is lost now with the conduct of the agitating



lawyers," the Supreme Court said.As directed by the apex court, Odisha DGP and police officer in-charge of Sambalpur district appeared before it virtually today.

"The DGP and IG have stated that they will keep the situation under control. They would be closely watched by us," the bench said.

The top court further said that all office bearers of the Sambalpur Bar Association who were indulged in violence during the agitation will be served contempt of court notice.

"The resolution of the

Central Action Committee of the Sambalpur Bar Association is only the suspension of the strike. We reject the resolution. The committee would have to call off the strike unconditionally," the bench ruled.

"Anyone can file petition and appear before the Orissa High Court virtually from district courts in the state. It has been proposed that one room in every district court be made functioning for video conferencing. The operationalisation would be in 3 months. We accept the same," it said.

The apex court said that complete peace and functionality of the court has to be maintained while the lawyers who are willing to attend court be able to do so. Some senior officers of Bar Council of India are facing threats. It shall be responsibility of the state police to provide protection to them, the SC said.The next hearing of the matter will take place on February 6, 2023.

Notably, the Central Action Committee of All Bar Associations of Western Odisha yesterday suspended its ongoing agitation demanding establishment of Orissa High Court's permanent bench in Sambalpur.

The Bar Council of India has suspended practice license of 43 lawyers of the district bar association for 18 months who had allegedly resorted to violence during the agitation. It has also suspended all members

of district bar association till further orders.

Sambalpur police have so far arrested 17 agitating lawyers over their alleged involvement in vandalism on the premises of the District Court.They have been arrested under Sections 147, 341, 323, 353, 332, 506, 186, 188 and 149 of the IPC.The accused lawyers had allegedly resorted to vandalism inside the chamber of a district judge.

The number of arrests is likely to increase as police were examining CCTV footage of the court premises to identify others involved in the offence.Prohibitory order under Section 144 of CrPC has been clamped at the Kacheri Chhak, where the lawyers had staged protest, to avoid any further untoward incident.

Action will be taken against anyone entering the prohibited area, police said.

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3 dead as speeding bike collides head-on with private bus in Sundargarh

Hemgir(KCN): In a tragic road mishap, three youths were killed as a bike on which they were travelling hit a bus from the front at Tumulia Square under Hemgir police limits in Sundargarh, today. Two youths died on the spot and another while undergoing treatment at hospital.Two deceased were identified as Shyam Gidhili (30) and Ishwar Pandey (32) and the other one as Om Prakash Bhainsal (33). Two of the youths belonged to Gopalpur locality of the district.The bus (bearing registration

number OD-16 A-1824) was on its way from Tumulia to Brajarajnagar of Sundargarh district, when it met with accident.The injured was rescued by some locals and rushed to Hemgir community health centre (CHC) in critical condition. Later, he was shifted to Sundargarh district headquarters hospital (DHH) after his condition deteriorated. However, doctors treating him at the health facility declared him 'dead'.Hemgir police have sent the bodies for post-mortem and launched a probe.

Alleging police inaction, 75-yr old man attempts suicide outside Odisha Lok Seva Bhawan

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Alleging police inaction despite repeated attempts to seek help in a dispute case, a 75-year-old man allegedly tried to end his life by consuming phenyl outside Odisha Lok Seva Bhawan in the Capital here today. The man, identified as Rabindra Mohan Das of Jagatsinghpur district, was rescued and rushed immediately by the police to Capital Hospital. He resorted to this extreme step claiming police non-cooperation in a case where three persons were trying to usurp his business venture and extorting money from him with death threats.

Das was living in Kalinga Vihar area in Bhubaneswar and had started a salon with an

investment of Rs 5,12,800.As per his written complaint, as soon as he set up the parlour, three persons including his two staff Ajay Barik and Ranjan Barik and house owner Satyabrat Behera started making attempts to take over the business. On October 5, the accused trio even took Rs 50,000 from him by attacking him with a knife and threatened to kill him. Distressed, Das reached out to Tamando police and filed a complaint, not once but four times. But despite the FIRs, police did not co-operate or even register a case. He even tried seeking help by approaching the IIC, DCP, Commissioner and even the DG office but to no avail. Later, he approached Tamando

police. The IIC started probe and found that my salon's lock has been broken and many things missing. He questioned Satyabrat and others where they confessed to have broken the lock and started the daily business. But instead of taking action against them or arresting them, the IIC asked me to hand over the salon to them. Das wrote in his complaint adding that he stood ground that he would hand over the parlour only if he was paid around Rs 3-3.5 lakh but police only forced him to sign a document and handed him a copy of the FIR without any action.

Sources said Das had made similar suicide bids twice over family dispute in the past.

Some staffers of the department.The tusk of the pachyderm was reportedly chopped off prior to the burning of the carcass. The Orissa High Court had yesterday expressed displeasure over the state government's inaction in the elephant poaching incident. Appearing before the court, the PCCF confessed that the forest officials had killed the tusker, removed ivory and burnt the body, informed senior advocate Ashish Mishra.

department had suspended the accused trio.Notably, a tusker was allegedly killed by some poachers on December 7 at a place under the Jenabili forest range of Similipal National Park.The poachers torched the carcass and immersed the ashes in river. The killers had alleged nexus with

Elephant death in Similipal: Three employees of Odisha Forest Dept arrested

Baripada(KCN): The Odisha Forest Department today arrested three of its employees over the alleged killing of an elephant in Similipal National Park of Mayurbhanj district.

The arrested have been identified as Shiba Shankar Samal, Jenabil Range forester in-charge, Chandrabhanu Behera, forester of Gurandia section, and Binod Kumar Das, forest guard of Special Tiger Protection Force.NTPC Dulanga observes annual mines



safety fortnightOdisha: Inter-college women's tourney kicks off ahead of FIH Men's Hockey World CupThey will be forwarded to court today. Earlier, the

department had suspended the accused trio.

forest range of Similipal National Park.The poachers torched the carcass and immersed the ashes in river. The killers had alleged nexus with

some staffers of the department.The tusk of the pachyderm was reportedly chopped off prior to the burning of the carcass. The Orissa High Court had yesterday expressed displeasure over the state government's inaction in the elephant poaching incident. Appearing before the court, the PCCF confessed that the forest officials had killed the tusker, removed ivory and burnt the body, informed senior advocate Ashish Mishra.

Archana Nag case: Odisha HC rejects Shradhanjali Behera's interim protection plea

Cuttack: The Orissa High Court today rejected the interim protection plea of Shradhanjali Behera, associate of sextortion accused and blackmailer Archana Nag.

The court asked Shradhanjali to cooperate with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the investigation.The next hearing of the matter will take place on January 17. The agency had said that

she was not cooperating with it in the probe into the money laundering allegation against Archana.Shradhanjali had appeared before the ED at its office in Bhubaneswar twice for questioning.

Archana had allegedly deposited significant amount of money in Shradhanjali's bank account between 2017 and 2022.

ED has registered a case under the Prevention of

Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Archana, her husband Jagabandhu Chand, his business partner Khageswar Patra and Shradhanjali.

Archana is accused of extorting money from influential persons by blackmailing them with videos of intimate moments between her and them. Shradhanjali had alleged involvement in the offence.

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The President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu presenting the National Energy Conservation Awards, National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards and National Painting Competition prizes, in New Delhi

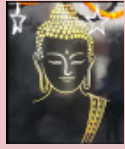
From Siddhartha to Buddha

Saikat Kumar Basu

On a dark night, the Prince Siddhartha left his palace,
He left behind everything that connected him to his royal life.
He left his son, he left his wife, he left his parents-
He discarded all his wealth and possessions.
He left his claim to the throne,
He left his aristocracy, noble birth and status
He left behind his pride and ego,
He left behind his will to rule.
He left behind any desire to be a future emperor
He left behind any memories to connect him to his past life.



He left behind his old shadow,
In quest for the ultimate truth of life.
He had nothing with him,
Other than his passionate heart and an inquisitive mind-
To explore the unknown and discover the real truth of life on his own,
The Prince turned overnight into a Pauper !
But the greatest Pauper that changed the life of millions around the globe for ages,
He left his identity as Siddhartha-
To become Buddha, the 'enlightened one'!



378 Prince Anwar Shah Road,
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Indians are children of many wars

Dwit David Philip

Indians are children of many wars,
War begets wars,
You and me are not in fault we are all products of wars.



War does not win,
A side wins,
Ideology does not win,
An ego wins,
Just you and me fight,
Finally truth and time wins.

Religions, ideologies, culture are different,
Earth is one.

Basic fight is for food, shelter and clothes,
Covered with desires, egos, politics and ideologies.
Issues are many, earth and India is one.

You and me are different and many never felt one,
Sanatana is one,
History made us sanatana, but never realised, what we are.

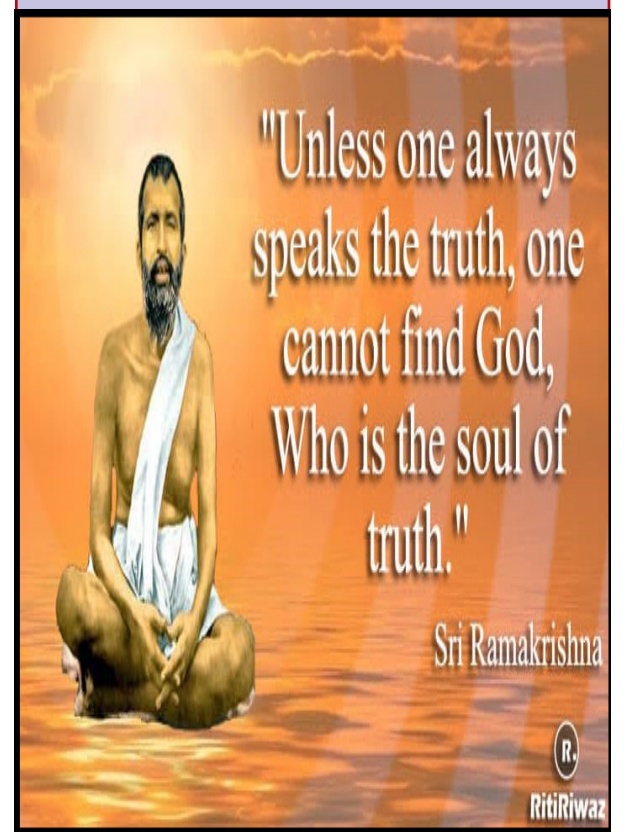
Don't call yourself Christian, Hindu, Budhist, Jain, Musalman, You are a sanatani by birth.

We all are Indians, Sanatanies by heart,
Exchange emotions, cultures, ideologies, ethos, heritages, histories, geographies, foods, languages, the colours of the world.

If you are not of sanatani, ashamed of, that's for war.
War mongers' generation Begotten from wars.....

Chaibasha, Jharkhand

Quotation of the Day



An artist in every home: How a village in Odisha keeps local art and dance alive

Barfi pink. Bright blue. Deep ochre. Violet and saturated orange. Etches and paintings of gods and goddesses. Green parrots flying on a wall. The source of Odissi dance. Lush greenery.

Welcome to Raghurajpur in Puri district, home to over 300 artisans who have learned and still practice various traditional art forms handed down over the generations. A family of artists lives in each of

more lustre and eye-popping colour to the village.

The front room of each home serves as both studio and exhibition space. Surprisingly un-commercial, the artisans, men and women speak in Odiya, keenly showing their work and explaining the tradition, narrative and techniques they apply. Home to performing artists

Jael Silliman

molasses, lentils, curd, casein and local herbs such as

trifala and bel. To boost rural tourism they were encouraged to paint their homes to showcase and display their art.

Dance teacher and artist Guru Gangadhar Nayak spoke about his efforts to pass on Gotipua. No longer able to see well enough to do the artwork of which he was also a master, today he trains young boys to perform this local dance tradition. This is his passion. In Gotipua, young boys dress as females and also sing devotional songs while performing the dance. It is embedded in the Sakhibhav movement where devotees consider themselves cohorts of Lord Krishna. The songs that are sung to accompany the dance are generally compositions of Vaishnav poets.

Artist's haven

Nayak recounts his version of how Raghurajpur evolved as an artist's haven. "A Chaitanya bhakt from Bengal came and settled here which was then a jungle," he told VillageSquare.in. "He made a representation of Jaganath. He coloured the face of the Lord from coal, which is why Jaganath is still represented with a black face. This sage was the first artist of the village. In pursuit of the Divine he experimented with limestone and then color and this was the way our village evolved and became an artist's village. The art form Chitrakala developed here."

Nayak also recounted that an American woman, Helen Jerry, was among the first people to recognise the artistry of the community. She worked to publicise their art and also bought and had much of their works

Digital village

This year, Raghurajpur was adopted by the Bank of India as a digital village and 20 points of sale machines have been installed by the bank in addition to opening two hundred savings bank accounts. There is also an ATM machine and a few artisans accept PayTM.

A village lane in Raghurajpur. Photo credit: Jael Silliman

Raghurajpur has been included in the ideal crafts village scheme and online sources state that the Center has sanctioned Rs 100 million for overall development of the village. None of the people we spoke with knew much about this development of which three crore has apparently already been released. As part of this initiative the state government is planning to design the doors of every house and strengthen water and sanitation facilities. Plans for a guesthouse are also supposedly in the works.

Artistic effervescence

Over time, the government has been called Raghurajpur a "Crafts Village", a "Heritage Village" and now a "Digital Village." The changes in nomenclature have not effected the artistic effervescence nor the pace and style of life which still seems idyllic compared with the material and physical poverty of many of our villages and the commercial, mass produced quality of so many of our traditional arts. Here, as Guru Mohapatra had once said about dance, art not only gives purpose to one's life, but is life itself.

Spending time in Raghurajpur provides a glimpse into another world where art is the



the 100 or so painted, yet modest households, which face one another. A series of temples dedicated to local and Hindu Gods and courtyards occupy the lane between the homes. Here, in Raghurajpur, worship and art are one – each breathes life and gives meaning to the other.

The chitrakars (painters) are the most famous and numerous among Raghurajpur artists. They paint brightly coloured mythological stories about Jaganath and other gods, especially Krishna. Derived from the Sanskrit word patta (canvas) and chitra (painting), pattachitra has its roots in the 12th century.

Painstaking workmanship

Men and young boys portray dramatic mythic themes and flamboyant processions. Historically, women painstakingly prepared the canvases. Today, men and women learn the art of designing and executing pattachitra paintings from their parents and grandparents and proudly display numerous national awards for their excellent workmanship.

This artist's village is also known for intricate palm leaf folded pictures etched in black with cutouts, delicate brushwork on tussar silk, stone and woodcarvings. The stories are ubiquitous. Colourful painted coconuts reveal stories, as do painted birds, papier-mâché toys, masks and painted boxes that are displayed on meticulously clean stone front porches. Fashioned from local materials – palm leaf, coconut, local dyes, mouse hair, stone and wood – this range of art works have a unique beauty and guileless charm. The art works bring even

Raghurajpur is also home to performing artists, most notable being the late Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra. His father was a painter and mrudangam player. Kelu Charan trained in the Gotipua dance tradition in Raghurajpur, and became renowned as the leading proponent of Odissi dance. He is credited for reviving this ancient dance form. For Guru Mohapatra, dance was worship. Today there is a dance studio in Raghurajpur in where young students still receive training in Gotipua, an acrobatic dance form that is a precursor to Odissi. Students from Raghurajpur participate in national dance festivals and public events.

This dense concentration of skilled artists, keeping alive several Odissi art forms, is truly unique. Not surprisingly, Raghurajpur was recognised as a Heritage Village in 2000. Since 2000, INTACH ICCI, NORAD, India Foundation for the Arts, Bengaluru and Government of India, Odisha, worked in tandem to develop Raghurajpur as a craft's village.

They trained artists to relearn traditional techniques and apply them in their art works. For example, they were retaught how to apply plaster made of lime, jute,



sold abroad.

Ever since Raghurajpur was chosen as a heritage village, many more tourists, from India and abroad, have come to admire their art and purchase it directly from the artists. A few visitors come to learn traditional art techniques. On the day we visited, we were the only tourists there.

organizing principle of the village. It structures daily life. With some intervention from arts and cultural organisation the skills of artists and artisans have been refined, a market is being developed for their work, and the artists can interact directly with the customers to maximise the proceeds from their works. As Nayak told VillageSquare.in,

"Today we show and sell our works across the world. People abroad appreciate our talents and traditions, and ready to pay to acquire our creations."

Raghurajpur is truly a national treasure. To make it part of the rural tourist map, while safeguarding its artistic integrity, demands deft and delicate maneuvering.

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Three films with India connect chosen for 2023 Sundance Film Festival

MUMBAI: Three films with an India connection have been selected for the 2023 edition of the Sundance Film Festival -- "Poacher", a drama directed by Richie Mehta of "Delhi Crime" fame, Reema Maya's short "Nocturnal Burger", and Shalini Adnani's "White Ant". The boost for Indian independent cinema circuit comes after Shaunak Sen's "All That Breathes" won the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Documentary at the 2022 Sundance. The upcoming edition will be held from January 19 to January 29 in Park City, Utah, in the US.

It is presented by Sundance Organisation, a non-profit that discovers and supports independent artists, and introduces audiences to their work.

According to the gala's website, Mehta's "Poacher" will have its world premiere in the Indie Episodic segment.

Inspired by true events, the film features "The Great Indian Kitchen" breakout Nimisha Sajayan, "Darlings" star Roshan Mathew and "Rocket Boys" actor Dibyendu Bhattacharya. "A group of Indian Forest Service officers, NGO workers, police constables and Good Samaritans risk their lives trying to track down the biggest elephant ivory poachers in

the history of India and bring them to justice," reads the official logline of the film.

An India-US production, "Poacher" is backed by Mehta, Sean McKittrick, Raymond Mansfield, and Edward H Hamm Jr.

Maya's "Nocturnal Burger" will receive its world premiere on January 21 in the 'US Fiction Short Films' section.

It stars Bebo Madiwal, Millo Sunka, Trupti

Maya, who previously went to the 2018 edition of Sundance with her acclaimed short "Counterfeit Kunkoo", said she is grateful to the festival organisers for their continued support. "Getting nominated the first time was a life-long dream come true, I never even imagined being a two-time Sundance nominated filmmaker.

It has helped me believe more in my voice and the stories I want to tell.

Sundance 2018 was life-changing.

I can't wait to see what Sundance 2023 has in store for us!" the filmmaker said in a statement.

"Nocturnal Burger" is a Catnip film presented by XRM Media and produced by Maya and Michael Y Chow and executive produced by Surekha Sengupta and Sue Turley.

Adnani's "White Ant" is selected to have its world premiere under the 'International Fiction Short Films' programme.

Denzil Smith, Harish Kesariya, Pushpa Madam Singh Chauhan, and Sushant Sapare round out the cast of the film.

"A man is summoned from Mumbai to his village to deal with a termite infestation threatening to destroy his childhood home," reads the official synopsis of the movie.

The producers on the project are Sara Bonakdar, Michael Graf, Kaarthekeyen Santhanam, and Mrunalini Havaladar.

Previously, Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh's documentary "Writing with Fire", India's 2022 entry to the Academy Awards, had received the Audience Award at the 2021 edition of the Sundance Film Festival.



The 27th edition of the International Film Festival of Kerala commenced two days ago and the curation for this year couldn't get better for our film enthusiasts! Featuring American legend Scorsese to the hostage drama inspired by events in Kerala, check out some of these films that will be showcased at the fest.

Netflix series on 1997 Uphaar Cinema fire tragedy coming in January

MUMBAI: "Trial by Fire", a limited series based on the 1997 Uphaar Cinema fire which had claimed 59 lives, will start streaming on Netflix from January 13.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Nair said the Krishnamoorthys are inspiring examples of the kind of resilience and fortitude it takes to move the

loss of 59 victims and 100 injured film-goers as a fire took over the Uphaar Cinema in South Delhi. "Trial By Fire" will depict their endless trials and tribulations



Inspired by the bestseller book "Trial by Fire: The Tragic Tale of the Uphaar Fire Tragedy" by Neelam and Shekhar Krishnamoorthy, the upcoming show is directed and showrun by Prashant Nair. Rajshri Deshpande and Abhay Deol play the roles of Neelam and Shekhar, the couple who lost their two children to the tragedy and fought a long legal battle for justice.

needle even slightly in this country. "What happened to them and the way they have been forced to fight for justice is truly horrific and, unfortunately, there are countless other people today in similar situations. We are grateful to Netflix for being such courageous partners in telling this story," the director added. The fateful evening of June 13, 1997 saw

in the pursuit of justice over twenty-four years while also looking at the other lives touched and destroyed by the fire," read the official synopsis of the series. Produced by Endemol Shine India and House of Talkies, the show also stars Rajesh Tailang, Ashish Vidyarthi, Anupam Kher, Ratna Pathak, Shilpa Shukla and Shardul Bharadwaj.

Anurag Kashyap-produced 'Lords of Lockdown' heads to Rotterdam 2023

Mihir Fadnavis' Lords of Lockdown will next play at the International Film Festival of

Antifa Films and Atraxia Films. Navin said, "Lords of Lockdown" shall al-

national circuit. Such global recognition is really encouraging." Mihir describes



Rotterdam, in 2023. The film depicts the heroism and resilience of daily wage workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. It premiered at the New York Indian Film Festival in April this year. It was also selected for the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne in July.

Lords of Lockdown is produced by Navin Shetty and presented and co-produced by Anurag Kashyap. It's the first joint ven-

ways be a special film. The catastrophe brought newer challenges for mankind. It taught us the values of selflessness. Our film is a tribute to all the frontline workers, all the policemen, and all the common people who went out of their way to defy the odds and reinstated faith in humanity. I would like to congratulate the entire cast and crew for yet another selection in the inter-

Lords of Lockdown as a reflection of how 'the common man of India took the baton in his own hand' and 'not only helped himself but others too. "The pandemic taught us the eminence of helping each other selflessly which is also the essence of the film," Mihir said. "I'm elated over the recognition that Lords of Lockdown has been receiving. It is really humbling for all of us."



From the Punjabi hit 'Gallan Goodiyaan' to Thala Ajith's 'Aaluma Doluma,' check out these dance numbers to play for your Diwali party this year.

SAVE OUR POLLINATORS



Insect pollinators such as bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies and ants are all vanishing first around the planet due to excessive use of pesticides in agriculture and anthropogenic pollution. About 85% of flowering plants on our planet are dependent on these insect pollinators for their survival and maintaining the balance of our ecosystem. Global bee populations are showing an alarming decline due to a number of factors like environmental pollution, indiscriminate use and over applications of various agro-chemicals, industrial agricultural practices detrimental to nature, changes in the land use patterns; and parasitic diseases of bees as well as lack of adequate supply of nectar and pollens for different bee species due to lack of suitable of bee foraging plants. The yield loss due to lack of suitable pollinators for cross pollination is a serious threat to the future of global

agriculture as well as for maintaining the balance of our natural ecosystems.

The greatest impacts on both honey bees and native bees have been reported from highly industrialized countries. These include mainland USA and Hawaii, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Israel, Turkey, European Union (UK, France, Belgium, Switzerland,



Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Poland, Greece, Netherlands, Denmark). Outside the EU, bee declines have also been reported from Russia Ukraine, Belarus and the Balkan Peninsula. Other countries reporting mass bee declines are Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and other Central American countries, Sub Saharan Africa, Madagascar, various Island nations

like Sri Lanka, Maldives, Guam, Seychelles, St Vincent, Marshall Islands, Caribbean Islands, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Kiribati to name only a handful. No reliable and comprehensive data are available from S&SE Asia, Central Asia and Middle East and vast stretches of Africa and Latin America. The worst decline is noticed in developed nations practising high

precision industrial agriculture with native bee population crashes between 97-99% in the past two decades. The major factor behind this rapid decline of pollinator insects is specifically due to extensive application of toxic synthetic pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. The industrial level pesticide spraying in large farms in western countries is dependent on

Saikat Kumar Basu

low wind speed and bright sunny mornings. Unfortunately, these are the days when insect pollinator's flock to their foraging ground in large numbers. As a consequence they are being killed in massive numbers impacting ecological balance. Pesticide laden irrigation water and rain water percolated through holes in the soil to reach the bee colonies to wipe them out. This kind of bee population declines are not reported from developing nations like India where small plot farming is practised due to lack of large agronomic lands and related infrastructure to maintain such huge averages. Furthermore, there is tremendous crop biodiversity in the sense that rice, mustard, flax, various legumes, aromatic and medicinal herbs, forage crops, ornamentals and fruit orchards are all grown in adjacent areas. Thus pollinator insects have the grand opportunity to move or escape the negative chemical impact by moving into other plots or fields or Forage in an alternate crop.

The toxic chemicals land as droplets on the insect body and stick to them. Bees like other insects have the habit of cleaning their antennae; and through this process they intake toxic pesticides inside their system killing them. Often these chemicals impact their nervous system impacting their precise sense of orientation causing them to land at inappropriate sites causing deaths. Cross contamination with bees having pesticides with them with others in the hives or nest also causes an epidemic resulting in mass deaths of honey bees as well as native bees. While commercial honey bees



are raised and can be replaced, native bees on which forest pollination is completely

dependent are being wiped out in this process. In North America and EU over 40% annual productions in apiculture industries have been impacted due to mass deaths of bees. Establishing suitable pollinator (bee) gardens or habitats or sanctuaries at suitable sites could prove to be instrumental in both bee and other pollinator insect conservation from a long term, ecological perspective. Using suitable Pollinator Mixes comprising of native grasses, wildflowers as well as annual, biennial, perennial forage crops (forage grasses, legumes, different Brassica family members) can help in



areas, under used or unsuitable agronomic lands, unused and available rural locations, city and municipal parks and gardens, lawns, kitchen gardens, unused or hard to farm areas, in sites adjacent to natural or artificial water bodies like ponds, pools, ditches, swamps, bogs, streams, irrigation canals etc Natural or artificial aquatic habitats like pools, ponds, ditches, swamps, bogs, lakes, canals etc could be targeted for ecological restoration by planting short or high grasses, salt tolerant aquatic plant species and grasses along with Pollinator mixes comprising of annual and perennial legumes, wildflowers and related pollinator friendly plant species adjacent to water

bodies. Such mixes will not only restore aquatic habitats; but, also attract small and medium sized land birds and a wide diversity of pollinator insects like honey bees, native bees, moths, butterflies, certain species of pollinator beetles and flies for nectar foraging, nesting and breeding purposes. If the water/bodies are well stocked with indigenous fish species, well protected grassy aquatic habitats will also attract a wide diversity of aquatic birds to nest, forage and breed in such unique environmentally restored ecosystems.

The Author is a Canada Based Indian Journalist and Environmental Activist

Editor To Letter

Dear Editor,

Environment friendly construction is imperative in the country

The construction is one of the most important industries that has significantly contributed towards the country's socio-economic development. Traditional Concrete structures are associated with significant amounts of carbon emissions at various stages, including material manufacture, construction, and operation. For a long time, this was thought to be inevitable since concrete was essential to the construction industry and was inextricably linked to human prosperity. However, in order to achieve a carbon-neutral economy, we must prioritise concrete structures that reduce carbon emissions over cost, one of the important environment friendly construction methods is using sustainable concrete.

Sustainable concrete is concerned with all aspects of a concrete structure throughout its lifetime, including materials, design, construction, conservation, intervention, demolition, reuse, and recycling, all of which will necessitate the use of cutting-edge technologies. Sustainable concrete construction is a step toward greener and more environmentally friendly concrete construction practises in order to reduce global environmental problems. Instead of traditional concrete, landscape designers and architects experts recommend using fly ash, a byproduct of thermal power plants, as a cementing material. The use of recycled materials such as crushed glass and woodchips reduces the production and consumption of cement, lowering the carbon footprint. Green building is one of the concept plays important role in reducing carbon footprint in construction industry. Green building, through its design and construction, has a positive impact on climates and the natural environment. It consumes less energy, water, and natural resources, generates less waste, and is healthier than traditional construction. Low maintenance and operational costs, energy efficiency, improved indoor environment quality, water efficiency, better health, material efficiency, a cleaner environment, and less strain on local resources are all advantages of green building construction. Green architecture can help to reduce the use of natural resources and fuels, as well as improve water and material efficiencies and air quality both inside and outside of structures. Thus, a green or sustainable building is the result of a design philosophy that holistically focuses on increasing the efficiency of the resources used, namely energy, water, and materials, while reducing building impacts on human health and the environment during the building lifecycle through better sitting, design, and construction. Another sustainable option is to use permeable concrete in the ground, which allows for more water infiltration and subsequent recycling of aggregate material. Self-maintaining or self-healing concrete is an engineered microbial glue that can repair cracks in concrete and is applied as a spray. The use of geopolymer technology in construction has significantly reduced cement consumption, resulting in significant reductions in carbon pollution. Furthermore, geopolymer cements are being deployed to improve structural performance by enhancing durability and compressive strength, improving resistance to acid, and structural performance under elevated temperature curing conditions, in order to address concerns raised by the disposal of industrial materials by processing and repurposing them in geopolymer production. To improve the carbon footprint of new buildings, producers and contractors alike are now increasingly being expected to preserve natural resources while continuing to produce quality products, and are, as a result, looking for construction methods, practises, and products that will improve the sustainability of new buildings and infrastructure. Finally, the use of recycled or waste materials in the concrete industry is a viable option for achieving global sustainable development goals.

Keeping in mind the environment obligation every citizen possessing, our smart cities concept and all other ongoing construction and upcoming constructions projects should use imperatively environment friendly construction methods to play the part in reducing carbon footprint in the country.

VijayKumar H K Raichur, Karnataka Environmentalist

Drinks to Stay Hydrated this Winter



Shahnaz Husain

Did you know lack of water in the body during winter can also affect your immunity? Dry, dull skin is a frequent wintertime concern, and we often overlook the necessity of staying hydrated as our thirst responses diminish during winter. We forget to drink water since it is so cold outside, and we end up feeling dehydrated as a result. Dehydration can cause a drop in metabolism, feeling sluggish, headaches, fatigue, and irregular bowel. Of course, you probably already know that ample hydration is essential—but have you considered that you can hydrate with more than just plain old water?

The good part is that there are many delicious and healthy beverages that play a major role in the health of your skin. that serve as excellent alternatives while fulfilling your hydration needs just as well. These hydrating drinks supply a whole lot of electrolytes, sodium, vitamin, probiotics, and minerals along with a burst of flavors. In

fact, there are a few nutrient-rich beverages that may be able to take your skin to the next level if you sip on them regularly.

In order to stay hydrated during the winter, try these drinks:

Coconut Water-----

Coconut water is, undoubtedly, the best hydrating drink. Coconut water hydrates your body instantly because it contains a lot of electrolytes

It's packed with nutrients that can help your skin glow and helps keep your skin looking plump and youthful.

It is low in calories and rich in potassium and is known to have better hydrating qualities than plain water. It is also energizing in nature which makes it a healthier substitute for packaged sports or energy drinks. This tasty beverage contains hyaluronic acid, which can be a total gamechanger when it comes to keeping your skin hydrated and glowing

Apart from herbal drinks, we can have hot drinks in winter, instead of tea and coffee. Why not try herb teas or soups?

They are natural and caffeine-free, so you don't have to worry. They not only help in keeping you hydrated by also calm your tired nerves and relax your mind.

In Ayurveda, ginger is known as "a universal

remedy" because it has so many benefits. Ginger boiled in water can be had as ginger tea. Ginger tea is advised after meals for digestion and is used in coughs and colds. It has anti-inflammatory properties too and keeps the skin clear of acne and other blemishes. You can also add spices to tea, like Cardamon (elaichi) and Cinnamon (dalchini). Black pepper and tulsi, for instance, are also said to be useful in coughs, colds and respiratory congestion. Remember to not go overboard with teas and limit yourself to 2 cups maximum. Drinking hot soups can be delicious during winter. They can be easily made by boiling vegetables in water. You can make a mixed vegetable soup with potatoes, carrots, turnip, peas, tomato and so on. Or you can make a spinach soup (palak). Fresh mushrooms, available in winter, make good soups too, especially if you add a little milk. After boiling the vegetables, strain and puree the vegetables in a mixer. Then add it back to the water. Add salt and black pepper, along with a little milk to make it tasty and more wholesome. In spinach soup, you can add a dash of lemon juice. Grated cheese also makes a tasty addition to vegetable soups. Herbal drinks are an

ideal alternative to beverages like tea and coffee. You can make delicious thirst quenchers out of herbal drinks, fresh fruits, and vegetables. If one selects fresh fruit or vegetable juices, without adding sugar, it is possible to have a low-calorie drink. Fresh juices and herbal drinks can cause detoxification of the body, by getting rid of toxins and wastes. They can cleanse the body and purify the blood. They can also provide excellent nourishment. Freshly extracted juices of fruits and vegetables, mixed with water, are very easily assimilated by the body.

Here are some drinks you can make at home:

Lemon water: A glass of lemon water first thing in the morning ensures youthful, glowing skin. A drink loaded with beauty benefits, Lemon water or a glass of good old nimbu paani is probably one of the most hydrating drinks. You must have lemon water daily made with the juice of two lemons and a pinch of rock salt. Rich in antioxidant Vitamin C, it fights acne, radical damage, and sensitive skin problems like redness and rash.

Lemon and Mint (Pudina)—Crush mint leaves and allow it to stand in boiled hot water for an hour. When the water is

cool, add lemon juice and ice, to make a refreshing drink. You may add a dash of honey and a pinch of salt and pepper. Rock salt or chaat masala can be added, instead of salt and pepper.

Pineapple and Orange juice – These two fruits make a delicious drink when used together. You can use freshly extracted juices of fresh pineapple and orange. Remember to dilute with water. Pineapple contains enzymes and helps digestion. Orange juice is rich in Vitamin C.

Tomato-carrots-cucumber - Use tomato juice and add freshly extracted carrot and cucumber juices. Add a stalk of celery and run it in the blender. Add a squeeze of lemon.

Tomato and Mint – To tomato juice, add a few crushed mint leaves, sugar to taste (optional), pinch of salt. You may also add a dash of lemon juice.

Pineapple Juice can be combined with cream of coconut (coconut milk). Add pineapple and orange juice to green coconut water. A squeeze of lemon juice can be added for flavor. Both drinks and soups help the body to stay hydrated and healthy, adding a glow to the skin.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

39th Athletic Meet of B.B.Colleg held

Baiganbadia: The 39th Athletic Meet of B.B.College, Baiganbadia has been organized on 13th & 14th December 2022 by the Athletic Club Association under the Chairmanship

Mr.Harishankar Mohakud organized the Meeting in a very smooth and systematic manner. The Associate vice president Sri Subrat Kumar Dash, Dr.Annapura Dhal & Deepak Sau



of Principal Dr.J.N.S.D.Sachan and Chief Guest Mr.Muralidhar Patra, Ex-Branch Manager UBI and Mr. Kedar Chandra Nayak founder and Ex-Secretary of this College. The Vice President Athletic Club

present also help to organized the meeting. Dr. Sandeep Kumar Pattnaik, Dr.Srinath Samal, Dr.Rajendra Kumar Das, Dr.Sanjukta Mohanty, Dr.Subhendu Das, Dr.Kedar Chandra Parida, Dr. Sarat



Association Dr.Bijay Kumar Mohanta inaugurate the meeting and deliver students about the spirits of sports in the student's life. The Associate Vice-President

Kumar Mohanty, Jahangir Kabir, Mr.P.K.Basa, Malay Ghosh, Dr. Alakamanjari Bhuyan, Meghamala Behera, Jayshree Dash., Bharati Panda are also present in this meeting.

6892 Cr PMAY funds

New Delhi: For construction of pucca houses for poor people in rural and urban areas of Odisha, the Government of India has released a total of Rs 6892.19 crore to the State during the past three financial years.

This was informed by Minister of State (MoS), Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Giving a written reply to a question asked by Congress MP from Koraput, Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, the Union Minister said Rs 6031.07 crore has been released to Odisha during the financial years 2019-20 to 2021-22 under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

Similarly, a total of Rs 861.12 crore has been given to the State Government under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) during the last three financial years, she said. Both the Central schemes are being implemented in all 30 Districts of the State.

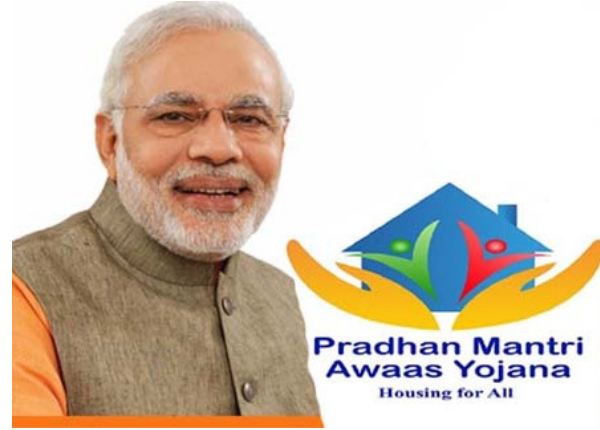
Under PMAY-G, the Centre has released Rs 2197.33 crore during the financial year 2019-20, which was increased to Rs 2821.87 crore in 2020-21. However, the Government of India has drastically reduced funding for Odisha to Rs 1011.87 crore under the major rural housing scheme in 2021-22.

As per the reply of the MoS, the Ministry of Rural Development has released Rs 274.60 crore, Rs 295.52 crore and Rs 291 crore to Odisha under the PMAY-U scheme during 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively.

Replying to other questions asked by Odisha MPs Basant Panda and Chandrani Murmu,

Jyoti said construction of a total of 8,53,436 houses under PMAY-G have been completed in Odisha so far.

The total expenditure made under the PMAY-G scheme including Central share and State



Government's share, during 2019-20 was Rs 5460.06 crore. The utilisation under the scheme in Odisha during 2020-21 and 2021-22 was remained at Rs 4556.46 crore and Rs 1122.72 crore, respectively.

Though only three and half months left until the end of the current financial year 2022-23, the Government of India has yet to release any funds to the State under the PMAY-G scheme till December 7. However, the State Government has utilized Rs 235.76 crore from its own resources.

Informing about the major shortcomings faced till date by the PMAY-G, the Union Minister said there is delay in construction of houses due to Covid-19 induced restrictions, delay on part of States/ UTs in releasing of Central & State Share from State Treasury to State nodal account of PMAY-G, delay in allotment of land to landless beneficiaries by the States/UTs, cases of unwillingness of beneficiaries, permanent migration, disputed succession, unavailability of building materials and at times general/ Assembly/Panchayat elections.

NIT Warangal is Ready to Host Techno Zion 2022

Warangal: National Institute of Technology Warangal Director NV Ramana Rao stated that Techno Zion is organized by the students. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday on the sidelines of the three-day annual technical conference, he informed that the Techno-Zion, which will be held on 16-17-18 at Warangal NIT, aims to provide a platform to the engineering students of India to pool knowledge in various fields of science and techno logy. Events Programs Work-



shops Collections Guest Lectures Exhibitions Management The name comes from techno gion meaning technology. This year the theme of technogeon is Ignosi, the quest for wisdom. Ignosi is an ancient Greek word that is synonymous with technogeon which is the attempt to change The gnostics have become gnosive through workshops, boot camps, and other recreational events to share knowledge, just as the Gnostics, who were referred to as the Greek scholars who searched for the essence of spirituality in ancient times, left such an imprint on innovation. Dr. G. Satish Reddy, Scientific Adviser to the Defense Minister, Government of India, Dr. B. Karunakar Reddy, Vice Chancellor, Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences, Principal Dean of Student Welfare, Prof. P. Ravi Kumar, Prof. Anand Kishore Kola, Faculty Advisor. On this occasion, he said that Sandeep Jain, Manikantha Gelli Dijahaj, Allur Proshow, Vishal Chandrasekhar of Drone Racing and Benny Dayal will participate as guest lecturers.

Rajya Sabha okays bill to include Gond community in ST category in parts of UP

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed a bill that seeks to include the Gond community in the Scheduled Tribes category in parts of Uttar Pradesh.

Munda said the issue has been pending since 1980s and blamed the then Congress-led government for ignoring the plight of the community and denying them their

Tribes) (Uttar Pradesh) Order, 1967 (ST Order) and the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 (SC Order) with respect to its application to Uttar

community as a Scheduled Tribe in these four districts. The minister said the Uttar Pradesh government had written a letter related to the Gond community on April 22, 1981 stating that on the basis of their lifestyle, culture and from every aspects, they exhibited characters of scheduled tribe.

He added that in those days, the Gond community was included under STs in other states.

The minister rued that the issue has remained unresolved till now with the people of the community unable to raise their voice at the Centre. He also lamented that the then government did not implement the recommendations of the Lokur Committee for the uplift of tribals, keeping in

mind their culture, lifestyle, closeness to nature and backwardness, and give them their constitutional rights. As a result, he said the country is facing the issue of tribals being left behind in the growth and development witnessed by India.

The government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working for the betterment of tribals in the last eight years and would continue to do so, Munda said. Taking a dig at the Opposition over their attitude towards tribals, Munda said if they had cared, the first woman President from tribal community Droupadi Murmu would have been elected to the top constitutional post unanimously and now some of them have even started criticising her as well.

Odisha: BJP, Congress support high court bench demand

BHUBANESWAR: The Opposition BJP and Congress on Tuesday supported the demand for a permanent high court bench in western Odisha in view of the growing population and increasing number of court cases. However, the government is yet to make any statement over the issue. Leader of the Opposition and senior BJP leader Jayanarayan Mishra blamed the state government for the unpleasant situation during lawyers agitation at Sambalpur on Monday and alleged that a concrete proposal is yet to be sent to the Centre by the state. Stating that the Centre is clear on the issue, Mishra said as soon as the state government gives a concrete proposal specifying the place for establishment of high court bench, the Centre will take appropriate steps in this regard. Noting that there is tremendous pressure on the high court due to ever increasing case load, Mishra said more benches are required for reducing the burden and speedy disposal of cases. Leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Narasingh Mishra, however, targeted both the Centre and the state government for the situation.

Stating that the Centre will have to pass a law in Parliament for setting up a bench of the high court, he said that a concrete proposal from the Centre is also required. He said the state government no doubt has submitted a proposal, but it is silent on where the bench will be set up. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in a letter to then Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on January 11, 2019, had requested him to take early decision on the establishment of high court benches in western and southern Odisha in view of the unrelenting agitation by people of these areas. Referring to the letters written by him to the Centre on September 28, 2013, February 13, 2014 and September 5, 2018 on this issue, the chief minister had said that there is more than adequate justification for establishment of permanent benches in these regions. However, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju has made it clear in a written reply in Rajya Sabha that the Odisha government is yet to submit a detailed proposal for establishment of benches of Orissa High Court including its location in consultation with the high court.

Three dead, several injured in stampede at event attended by Suwendu Adhikari in Bengal

Kolkata: Three persons were reported killed while several others were injured in a stampede in an event attended by Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari on Wednesday evening, reports said.

State General Secretary and Spokesperson of All India Trinamool Congress, Kunal Ghosh

people at West Burdwan district. The stampede reportedly took place after Suwendu Adhikari addressed the gathering and left the venue. The injured have been rushed to Asansol district hospital and are currently undergoing treatment. According to initial reports, the BJP has not taken permission for holding the event. More details are awaited.



pede in an event attended by Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari on Wednesday evening, reports said.

took to Twitter to blame Suwendu Adhikari for the tragedy. The event was held to distribute blankets to

Road Safety rally organised at Barbil State cares wildlife; Amat



Barbil(KCN): An awareness rally for road safety was organised on Wednesday morning where students of different schools, organisations participated. The rally was organised by Barbil police in association with Barbil Municipality. The aim of the rally was to create awareness among

the public on following road safety rules. Both the department and public conducted a road safety awareness programme with the tagline, "Gear up to be guarded" and emphasised the necessity of maintaining proper driving etiquette. The programme was well praised by the public.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat has urged the Divisional Forest Officers to

the proposals, considering the importance of these cases, those who are working selflessly will be rewarded at the same time non-performers

conflict. In addition, the Department needs to speed up the plantation drive, dig more water bodies and awareness program

Mr.Amat. State Government is functioning in line with 5-T and 'Mo Sarkar' outline. This Department particularly in grass root lev-

steps are being undertaken by this Department for afforestation. Minister directed senior officials to prepare 3 years master



Royal Bengal tiger's skin seized from Odisha's Simlipal Tiger Reserve

BHUBANESWAR: The Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch seized the skin of a Royal Bengal Tiger from the fringe areas of the national park during the wee hours of Wednesday. The tiger may have been poached in about a month's time, say experts. The claws were intact on the skin which had not completely dried. Sources also said that Patra could possibly have been a middleman who was waiting to hand over the tiger's hide to a customer when the raid was conducted by the STF. The STF is making efforts to arrest the poacher, too. Meanwhile, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) SK Popli said it would be premature to say the big cat was poached in Simlipal Tiger

Reserve. "The matter will be jointly investigated by STF and the Forest Department," said Popli. The recent spate of incidents including the poaching of elephants raised a question mark on protection measures in the tiger habitat. In the 2018 tiger enumeration, STR had about 28 tigers. This is the first time that the STF has seized a tiger hide in Odisha. A case has been registered under Sections 379, 411 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 51 of Wild Life (Protection) Act. The Forest Department recently formally arrested three of its suspended staff for allegedly covering up the poaching of a male elephant and burning its carcass to destroy evidence.

complete the forest diversion proposals in time-bound manner to complete the railway, road, irrigation and other community based projects in time. Inaugurating the DFO Conference held here at Aranya Bhawan on 14 December, Mr.Amat said that the State Government is pursuing these cases. While senior officials in PCCF Office are sincerely clearing

will be punished, said the Minister. He said that the State Government giving utmost importance to protection of wildlife. A series of steps are being taken in this regard, still in the recent past human- elephant conflict has become a headache. The staff and officers of Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department have to be more proactive to mitigate the

in elephant moving forest and non-forest areas, Minister stated in State level DFOs' conference held at Aranya Bhawan today. Forest, environment and bio-diversity are essentially required for existence of life in the planet. All-round development of Odisha and to make it the number one State of the country is the dream of Chief Minister. e m p h a s i z e d

els, there should not be any deviation. Promotion and pension related works need to be completed by the end of this year, so that all will come with fresh energy in the new year, stated Additional Chief Secretary, FE&CC, Mona Sharma. While PCCF (Wildlife) Sushil Kumar Popli emphasized on strict enforcement, new technology and new ideas. A lot of


plan for different ranges as per their need to make afforestation more successful, stated PCCF and HoFF, Debidutta Biswal. PCCF (Nodal) Sushant Kumar Nanda offered the vote of thanks while CEO (CAMPA) Pradeep Raj Kamat coordinated the program. Forest officers from all areas and ranges were present in the conference.

Jharkhandi Information Rights Forum and Adivasi Moolvasi Janadhikar Manch demand closure of Netarhat Field Firing Range

Ranchi: To officially close the Netarhat Field Firing Range, the Hemant Soren government should issue a notification as soon as possible and complete its announcement, otherwise there will be chaos again. Today, the Central President of Jharkhandi Information Rights Forum, Central Vice President of Adivasi Moolvasi Janadhikar Manch, social worker, former candidate of Hatia Vidhansabha, Vijay Shankar Nayak sent an e-mail to the Chief Minister of the state Mr. Hemant Soren and Defense Minister of the country Mr. Rajnath Singh. He further said that finally on August 16, 2022, the State Chief Minister Mr. Hemant Soren had announced among the affected people of Netarhat Field Firing Range that the disputed 1471 sq.km. Return of land Ministry of Defence will be withdrawn from and Netarhat Field Firing Range will be officially closed, but today is about to be five months of the announcement, yet till now no government process has been started by the government, due to which Netarhat Field Firing Range has been closed for years. Among the villagers facing the brunt of range-affected displacement there is widespread anger against the government and their anger can explode anytime and the government can have serious consequences for it. Mr. Nayak further said that the disputed land is still in the possession of the Union Ministry of Defense and is in the form of acquired land, so until the Jharkhand government does not pass a proposal regarding the extension of the term of this land and sends it to the Union Defense Ministry. Ministry of Defense officially The Chief Minister's announcement will not be legally constitutional until he does not is-



sue a notification regarding this. Since no positive government initiative has been taken by the Honorable Chief Minister in this direction so far, the rural people are bound to consider this announcement only as a jumla and only a political stunt, which is not auspicious sign for the state's interest and public interest and the state. Mr. Nayak further said that about 39 revenue villages of Latehar district had submitted a memorandum to the Governor and the government in protest against the Netarhat Field Firing Range in the past through the General Assembly and through that memorandum the affected Latehar and Gumla districts of the firing range. It was told about that Both of those districts come under the fifth schedule and PESA Act 1996 is applicable there, under which the Gram Sabha has the constitutional right that the village heads of the affected areas organize the Gram Sabha on the demand of the affected people and demarcate the boundary of the village for the firing range. Inside ground army firing range exercise It was decided not to provide for Mr. Nayak further said that in the interest of the people affected by the firing ranges of Latehar and Gumla, the Hemant Soren government has taken further action in the direction of issuing a notification to immediately officially close the Netarhat field firing range and implement the announcement made at the ground level. Do the work so that the bagasse After getting the trust of the people, a concrete initiative can be taken in the direction of establishing an ideal among the displaced people, otherwise the movement will be started again, the responsibility of which will be on the state government.



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ADB retains India's growth forecast at 7 pc in FY23, 7.2 pc in FY24

CHENNAI: Asian Development Bank has retained India's growth forecast for FY23 at 7 per cent and FY24 at 7.2 per cent. Inflation in India is expected to rise to 6.7 per cent in FY23 before falling back to 5.8 per cent. Despite recent global headwinds, the Indian economy is expected to grow by 7 per cent, as projected earlier, supported by a strong domestic base. In India, the economy grew by 6.3 per cent in Q2 of FY2023, reflecting contraction in public consumption of 4.4 per cent even as exports grew by 11.5 per cent despite the global slowdown.

Among the developing economies of Asia, lower export orders point to continued weakness going forward. Among the 11 economies for which data on new export orders is available with ADB, 10 recorded readings below 50 in November, indicating declines from the previous month. However, India was the only exception.

Similarly, PMI readings indicated softening economic activity in most economies, while India saw it improving in November.

On the supply side, growth in FY23 was led by service sector growth at 9.3 per cent, contributing 4.6 percentage points to GDP growth. Industry, by contrast, suffered a small contraction by 0.8 per cent, ADB said in its latest estimate.



Going ahead, some recent high-frequency indicators are more favourable than expected. This includes, consumer confidence, electricity supply, and purchasing managers' indexes. However, others are a little less favourable, in particular exports, largely textiles and iron ore, and the index of industrial production of consumer goods. ADB has retained the growth forecast for FY24 at 7.2 per cent, sustained by positive effects from structural reform and from public investment catalyzing private investment.

ADB also expects India's inflation to rise to 6.7 per cent in FY23 before falling back to 5.8 per cent, as projected earlier. For 22 of the 28 economies in developing Asia with monthly inflation data, inflation has now come down from peaks reached earlier in the year, including in the largest economies like China, India, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea. In India, monthly inflation was 7.4 per cent in September and it has cooled down to 6.8 per cent in October. However, in contrast, the inflation projection for South Asia is increased marginally for 2022 from 8.1 per cent to 8.2 per cent and more substantially for 2023 from 7.4 per cent to 7.9 per cent. The sub-regional revision for 2023 largely reflects higher inflation forecasts for Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Russia offers India help in overcoming G7's oil price cap

Moscow: Russia has welcomed India's decision to not support the price cap on Russian oil announced by G7 and its allies and offered it cooperation on leasing and building large-capacity ships to overcome the ban on insurance services and tanker chartering in the European Union and Britain to continue buying discounted oil.

The offer came as Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak held a meeting with the Indian Ambassador to Moscow, Pavan Kapoor, on Friday. "The Deputy Prime Minister welcomed India's decision not to support the price cap on Russian oil, which was imposed on December 5 by the G7 countries and their allies," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. India's appetite for Russian oil has swelled ever since it started trading on discount as the West shunned it to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine.

Novak noted that even amid the energy crisis, Russia is responsibly fulfilling its contractual

deal in the interests of the Indian people, and that is exactly what we are trying to do," he said.

The executive body of the European Union has asked its 27 member countries to cap the price of Russian oil at USD 60 a barrel as part of the West's attempt to squeeze Moscow's oil revenues and limit its ability to wage war in Ukraine while keeping global prices and supplies steady.

From December 5, western shipping and insurance companies are prohibited from handling Russian oil sold above the price cap.

However, ships loaded with Russian oil before December 5 and unloaded at their destination before January 19, will not be subject to the price cap. A top government official said India can continue to buy Russian oil if it can send ships, cover insurance and devise a mode of payment.

"The introduction of a price cap on Russian oil is an anti-market measure. It disrupts supply chains and could significantly complicate the situation in global energy markets," Novak said.

"Such non-market mechanisms disrupt the international trading system as a whole and set a dangerous precedent in the energy market. As a result, the problem of energy poverty is being aggravated not only in the developing world, but also in the developed countries of Europe," Novak said.

The two sides noted the record growth in trade between the two countries and expressed the desire to continue this interaction, increasing cooperation on trade in energy resources, such as oil, petroleum products, liquefied natural gas, coal and fertiliser.

In 2021, bilateral trade between Russia and India increased by 46.5 per cent, exceeding USD 13.5 billion, the Russian Foreign Ministry statement said. In January-September 2022, trade exceeded the figure for all of last year, totalling USD 20.4 billion. Over the first eight months of 2022, Russian oil exports to India grew to 16.35 million tonnes. Deliveries of oil products and coal also increased. Meanwhile, Russia has for the second month in a row remained India's top oil supplier in November, surpassing traditional sellers Iraq and Saudi Arabia, according to data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa.

Russia, which made up for just 0.2 per cent of all oil imported by India in the year to March 31, 2022, supplied 9,09,403 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil to India in November, the Russian Foreign Ministry statement said.

It now makes up for more than a fifth of India's oil supplies.

Novak has also invited Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs of India Hardeep Singh Puri to take part in the international forum, Russian Energy Week 2023, which will be held from October 11-13 next year in Moscow.



obligations for the supply of energy resources, diversifying energy exports to the countries in the East and South.

To avoid dependency on the ban on insurance services and tanker chartering in the European Union and Britain, Novak offered India cooperation on leasing and building large-capacity ships, the statement said.

The Indian government has been vehemently defending its oil trade with Russia, saying it has to source oil from where it is the cheapest.

The imports in November were made ahead of a price cap agreed by the EU on Russian seaborne oil. But, the government has indicated that oil companies will continue to buy oil from Russia outside the price cap. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on December 7 told the Rajya Sabha that Indian refiners will continue to look for the best deals in the interest of the country.

"We do not ask our companies to buy Russian oil. We ask our companies to buy oil (based on) what is the best option that they can get. Now, it depends on what the market throws up," he had said while replying to clarifications sought by MPs on his suo moto statement on foreign policy.

The companies will go after sources that are more competitive, Jaishankar added.

"Please do understand it's not just we buy oil from one country. We buy oil from multiple sources, but it is a sensible policy to go where we get the best

Long-pending Kadapa steel plant gets nod from AP state cabinet

VIJAYAWADA: The state Cabinet on Tuesday gave its approval to Jindal Steel for the construction of the Kadapa steel plant. It also approved the AP Pumped Storage Power Policy and decided to form urban development authorities for Bapatla and Palnadu. State information and BC welfare minister Chelloboina Srinivas Venugopal Krishna briefed the media on the Cabinet decisions. He said the council of ministers approved the establishment of an integrated steel factory under the auspices of JSW Steel at Sunnapurallapalle in YSR district.

This had already been approved by the state investment promotion board under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. The long-pending steel plant would aim at a two-million tonne output. It also got the approval for creation of necessary infrastructure to achieve a production of another 2.5 million tonnes in future.

He said JSW would invest Rs 8,880 crore for the Kadapa Steel Plant and this would create employment opportunities for 6,500 persons directly or indirectly. The Kadapa steel plant is a long-pending proposal for which three chief ministers had laid

foundations. Chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had convinced the JSW Steels to establish its second biggest unit in AP.

In June 2007, the then CM Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy had laid the foundation for Brahmani Steels but the Ballari mining baron Gali Janardhana Reddy failed to make it due to his arrest in the illicit mining case. Later N. Chandrababu Naidu as CM laid the foundation on December 27, 2018 in the name of

sources.

He said the companies would pay Rs 2 lakh per megawatt to the state government. If the land is taken from farmers, the lease would be `30,000 per acre per year. A five per cent increase in lease fee every two years will further benefit the farmer.

The Cabinet approved a plan to grant permission to Adani Green Energy for setting up 1600mw pumped hydro storage projects under the Raiwada project in Pedakota in Alluri Sitarama

Hydro Electric Project with a capacity of 1350mw at Sileru in Alluri Sitarama Raju district.

The Cabinet also gave its green signal for the setting up of the Bapatla Urban Development Authority with Bapatla as its headquarters under which the Bapatla Urban Development Authority would be established with two urban local bodies, 101 villages and 9 mandals in an area of 1301.68 sq-km.

The Cabinet approved the establishment of



Rajalaseema Steel Authority Corporation Ltd, but no progress was achieved. Jagan Moahn Reddy laid the foundation in December 2019 and took the matter forward.

Minister Krishna said the Cabinet approved the formulation of the AP Pumped Storage Power Promotion Policy-2022 to promote pumped storage and hydro projects in the state as part of the government's efforts to explore non-conventional energy

Raju district and Raiwada in Vizianagaram district.

The Cabinet also approved a plan to grant permission to Sri Shirdi Sai Electricals for setting up pumped hydro storage projects with a capacity of 900mw at Somasila in YSR district and 1200mw at Yerravaram in Alluri Sitarama Raju district.

The Cabinet okayed administrative approvals for construction of the Upper Sileru Pumped Storage

Palnadu Urban Development Authority with Narasaraopet as its headquarters. The authority would be set up in a 7281.31 sq-km area with 349 villages in 28 mandals along with eight urban centres.

These apart, the Cabinet gave its nod for creation of SE post in Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) and SE post in Visakhapatnam Metro Region Development Authority (VMRDA).

Pope says spend less on Christmas, give to Ukraine



VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Wednesday called on people to spend less on Christmas presents and celebrations, and donate the money saved to those in war-ravaged Ukraine.

"It is nice to celebrate Christmas. But let's lower the level of Christmas

spending a bit," Francis said in his weekly general audience at the Vatican.

"Let's have a more humble Christmas, with more humble gifts. Let's send what we save to the Ukrainian people, who need it," he said. Nearly 10 months into the war, hardship from the fighting has

compounded as winter sets in and Russia pounds Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Missile strikes have been crippling -- resulting in the periodic loss of electricity, heating, water and phone service across swathes of Ukraine. The Ukrainians "are suffering so much.

They are hungry, cold. So many people are dying because there are no doctors or nurses," the pope said.

On Tuesday, Ukraine's Western allies pledged an additional one billion euros (USD 1.1 billion) in emergency winter aid to help the country withstand Russia's onslaught.

Umesh to spearhead pace attack in absence of Bumrah and Shami - Mhambrey

D h a k a : P a r a s Mhambrey, India's bowling coach, has stated that the upcoming two-match Test series against Bangladesh will be an opportunity for the Indian pacers to make themselves count in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami. He further went on to add that Umesh Yadav will be spearheading the attack. Umesh, who has been present with the Indian side for most parts of the last 10 years, has featured in only 11 Tests in the last four years. Stating that the veteran pacer was unfortunate to be warming the bench more than being on the field, Mhambrey said, "Umesh is a very experienced bowler, we all know what he brings to the table.

With how things have been, unfortunately, he hasn't got too many opportunities looking at the team balance. "You have someone like Bumrah, Shami and Mohammad Siraj coming in as well. He didn't get too many opportunities, unfortunately. The team management has spoken to him why we have taken certain decisions, we have been very clear, we have clarity over what Umesh is concerned." He further went on to add, "If I look at it the other way, Umesh Yadav becomes a spearhead for us now. He has a lot of experience with him going into the Test match. I'm also happy with the way Siraj has delivered in Test cricket. The Test matches he has played for us in England



and other venues, he has performed for us and won Test matches for us. "A lot is expected from Umesh, but it is also a great opportunity for Siraj as well to fill in. We want him to pick up wickets, every Test match from hereon is extremely important for us. Every

game we are going ahead, we are going to win Test matches, that's how we are going ahead." Given that the pitch at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong has traditionally favoured batters, a lot of pressure

will be on the bowlers to find wicket-taking opportunities. It's something that even Taskin Ahmed mentioned in the press conference on Monday. However, Mhambrey doesn't want to worry too much about the plans of the opposition. "They know their conditions very well," he said. "As a home side, they have the advantage, they know the conditions, they play out here a lot more than we have. But when you go out to play a Test match on a fresh day, it really doesn't matter what side we're playing. Our perspective is clear, on how we're going to implement our strategies going ahead in the series, in the Test match.

India vs Bangladesh 1st Test Day 1: At Stumps, IND at 278/6, Pujara and Iyer slam fifties



Dhaka: Cheteshwar Pujara and Shreyas Iyer came up with gritty half-centuries as India reached 278 for six at stumps on the first day of the first Test against Bangladesh, at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury stadium at Chattogram on Wednesday. Pujara (90) missed out on a century but Iyer remained on course for his landmark as he was unbeaten on 82. Rishabh

Pant's counterattacking 45-ball 46 helped India stabilise the innings following early wickets. Axar Patel (13) was dismissed on the final ball of the day. For Bangladesh, Taijul Islam (3/84) bowled with three wickets for 81 runs, while Khaled Ahmed (1/26) and Mehidy Hasan Miraz (2/71) were also among the wickets. India

lost skipper KL Rahul (22), Shubman Gill (20) and Virat Kohli (1) before lunch after opting to bat. India needs to win both matches of the series to stay alive in the race for the World Test Championship final. Brief Scores: India: 278 for six in 90 overs (Cheteshwar Pujara 90, Shreyas Iyer 82 not out; Taijul Islam 3/84).

Croatia Manager Slams "Suspicious" Argentina Penalty After World Cup Semi-Final Loss

New Delhi: Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic said the disputed decision to award Argentina a penalty changed the complexion of Tuesday's World Cup semi-final after his side lost 3-0. Lionel Messi blasted home the opening goal from the spot after Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic collided with Julian Alvarez, who also struck twice for Argentina at Lusail Stadium. "Everything was in our hands. We played well for half an hour and had possession. We were not a threat but did have control," said Dalic, who claimed his side should have been awarded a corner just before the penalty. "We conceded a goal, which was very suspicious. The situation leading to the penalty... it was a little too cheap, a bit too easy to be honest." "Our goalkeeper did what he did and these are the new rules," he added. "This goal took the match in a different direction."



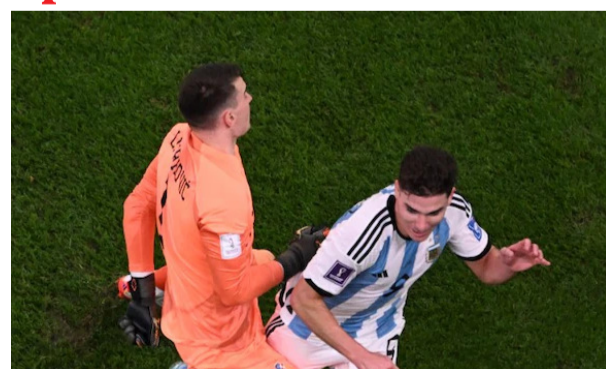
Dalic also bemoaned his team's lack of a genuine goalscorer. Croatia created few openings of note and had only two attempts on target in the entire game. "I congratulate Argentina on the victory," said Dalic. "We have to pull ourselves together, raise our heads. I can't blame the boys for anything -- we are going into the fight for third place. "We don't have much to

complain about." Dalic said his team created "good situations" but failed to produce clear-cut chances. "We have prepared everything but we missed a real, genuine attacker," he said. "We lost the match. I have nothing to complain about regarding the boys. They gave their best during this whole tournament.... It is a deserved defeat."

A number of Croatia players have likely played their final World Cup matches including 37-year-old Luka Modric, Ivan Perisic and Dejan Lovren -- all of whom started the 2018 final against France, which they lost 4-2. "Perhaps this is the end of the World Cup generation for a couple of them who have reached a certain age. We'll have to see for the 2026 World Cup," said Dalic. "I believe this generation will slowly finish off their career at Euro 2024. "It's an excellent generation who two times in a row reached the semi-finals. It would have been excellent if they'd won the trophy as a crowning moment." Dalic, 56, said he would remain in charge until the next European Championship in Germany. "I will continue. My contract is until 2024 and in six months we have the Nations League (finals)... My plan and objective is to take Croatia to Euro 2024."

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