

Cyclone Mandous: Light rainfall likely to occur in these Odisha districts

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Several districts of Odisha are likely to experience light rainfall under the influence of forecasted Cyclone 'Mandous' over the Bay of Bengal. Light rain very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Ganjam and Gajapati on December 10, the Regional Meteorological Centre here predicted. However, the system will have no direct impact on the state, it said. The existing low pressure area over Southeast Bay of



Bengal is likely to move west-northwestwards and concentrate into a Depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal by today evening. Thereafter, it is likely to continue to move west-northwestwards, intensify further gradually into a Cyclonic Storm around 7th December evening and reach Southwest Bay of Bengal off

north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry & adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts by 08th December morning, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. It will continue to move west-northwestwards towards north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry & adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts during subsequent 48 hours, the IMD added.

Waiting for right time to expose truth, won't spare anyone: Archana Nag

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Blackmailer Archana Nag once again made explosive statement indicating involvement of many influential people in a sextortion case. "I have evidence and waiting for right time to open the lid. I won't spare anyone. I was waiting for ED to reveal truth and I will fully cooperate in the probe. I am ready for probe by all investigative agencies," said Archana while she was at the Capital Hospital for medical examination before being taken by the ED on remand for interrogation. Speaking

to media for the third time, the accused said, "I have been trapped and I need sufficient time to prove all allegations against me 'wrong'. When I will speak, entire scenario of the state will be changed. I need only 30 minutes for this. I will speak everything exclusively." "I am not a terrorist. The way I was arrested and my family was harassed by the Commissionerate Police, it's all conspiracy against me. I will speak the truth if given the chance," she said. When asked why her business associate Shradhanjali Behera made allegation



against her, she said, "Let her come to the front first. If she has courage, let her give proof against me or let her clarify whether she dragged me in the case out of pressure." Without naming anyone, Archana

claimed that she was trapped by two persons. Worth mentioning, the local court in Bhubaneswar has allowed the ED to take Archana on a seven-day remand for interrogation in a money laundering

case involving Archana Nag. The ED is investigating into 'dubious' financial transaction in the bank accounts of Archana and her husband Jagabandhu Chand following blackmailing allegation leveled by Oilywood filmmaker Akshay Parija. According to the complaint, Archana was involved in a sextortion case. She demanded Rs 3 crore from Parija threatening him of making his objectionable videos and photographs with a woman public.

MS MELINDA FRENCH GATES CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT

New Delhi: Ms Melinda French Gates, Co-Chair and Trustee of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation called on the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (December 6, 2022). Welcoming Ms Melinda French Gates to Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President was happy to note the work done by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation over the past two decades. The President said that the Government of India is investing significantly in health and development through a range of

flagship initiatives. The Government is making special efforts to ensure an inclusive approach, so that the benefits reach the most vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of society. She expressed confidence that the Foundation would also make efforts to reach those who are most in need - whether they are women and girls, tribal communities, or those residing in remote parts of the country. The President also highlighted the role of women in the overall development of the country, and called on the Foundation to continue its efforts

towards gender equality and women's empowerment. The President appreciated the pioneering work of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in public health, infectious disease control and malaria and TB prevention. She encouraged the Foundation to also give attention to other serious ailments, such as sickle cell anemia, which particularly afflicts tribal communities. The President also appreciated the good work of the Foundation in the area of agricultural development, and urged

the Foundation to consider starting cooperative marketing initiatives for minor forest produce in tribal areas. Speaking about India taking over the G20 Presidency, the President said that India's experience and best practices can be very useful lessons for other developing countries. In particular, India's rich and diverse tribal heritage can be showcased to the world - living in harmony with nature, traditional systems of medicine, and a genuine 'sustainability' approach are the hallmarks of this unique lifestyle.

JD (U) demands Bharat Ratna for Biju Patnaik



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Bihar's ruling Janata Dal (United) has demanded Bharat Ratna for legendary Biju Patnaik of Odisha. Party's secretary general KC Tyagi met former Union Minister Srikant Jena and addressed a press conference here yesterday putting forward the demand. Tyagi said the states of eastern India are most backward, for which the Central Government should give special category status to Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar and

West Bengal. He said social justice will be the prime issue for the 2024 elections. There would be no social justice and appropriate reservation unless states like Odisha opt caste-based census, like in Bihar, said Tyagi. He also urged BJD president Naveen Patnaik to join opposition's fight against BJP in 2024 polls, as proposed by JD (U) leader Nitish Kumar. Jena seconded Tyagi's demand of Bharat Ratna for Biju Patnaik at the press conference.

Congress to pay heavy Price in Jharkhand for it's Anti-Dalit, Anti Muslim Mindset

Ranchi(KCN) : In Jharkhand, Congress is working as an anti-Dalit and anti-Muslim party. An example of which is that in Jharkhand, not a single Muslim and Dalit community leader has been given a place on the nomination of district presidents, and in 24 districts, not a single Dalit community leader or Muslim community leader has been nominated for the post of president. It is a sign that the work of Congress is to follow the path shown by BJP still working. An appeal was made to all Dalit Muslim Congress leaders to resign from the Congress party without delay and play their historic role in establishing Congress and BJP free rule in Jharkhand. The above things were said today by the Central President of Jharkhandi Information Rights Forum, former candidate

ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE
K.C. Venugopal, MP, General Secretary

04th December 2022

PRESS RELEASE

The AICC has approved the proposal for the appointment of Presidents of various District Congress Committees in Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee, as follows, with immediate effect.

1. Shri Shantanu Mishra - Ramgarh
2. Shri Shaileendra Kr. Yadav - Hazaribagh
3. Shri Narayan Barwal - Koderma
4. Shri Dhananjay Kr. Singh - Giridih
5. Prof. Uday Parkash - Deoghar
6. Shri Dinesh Prasad Yadav - Godda
7. Shri Anil Kinar Ojha - Sahebganj
8. Shri Sri Kumar Sarkar - Pakur
9. Shri Mahesh Ram Chandravanshi - Dumka
10. Shri Hari Mohan Mishra - Jamtara
11. Shri Santosh Kumar Singh - Dhanbad
12. Shri Umesh Prasad Gupta - Bokaro
13. Shri Kumar Raja - Ranchi Town
14. Dr. Rakesh Kiran Mahto - Ranchi Rural

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15. Shri Anand Bihari Dubey - East Singhbhum (Jamshedpur)
16. Shri Chandra Shekhar Das - West Singhbhum (Chaibassa)
17. Shri Bishu Hembram - Saraikela-Kharsawan
18. Shri Ravi Mishra - Khunti
19. Shri Devidi Turkey - Sinterdaga
20. Shri Chaitu Oran - Gumla
21. Shri Sukhar Bhagat - Lohardaga
22. Shri Muneswar Oran - Latehar
23. Shri Shrikant Tiwari - Garhwa
24. Shri Pramod Kumar Dubey - Chatra
25. Shri Jaish Ranjan Pathak - Palamu

(K.C. Venugopal)

of Hatia assembly constituency, social worker Vijay Shankar Nayak in his response to the nomination of 24 district presidents of Congress today. He also said that Avinash Pandey, in-charge of Jharkhand Congress, is working on the lines of RPN Singh and he is engaged in the work of making more and more district presidents of his own caste people and is doing

the work of grossly neglecting Dalit tribals and Muslims. From which it seems that too in the future. The way RPN Singh took the primary membership of Bharatiya Janata Party, similarly it seems that Avinash Pandey will also take the membership of BJP in future. Mr. Nayak demanded the Congress President to immediately keep an eye on the activities of the

Congress in-charge of Jharkhand and immediately remove him from the post of Congress in-charge of Jharkhand and ensure the participation of all sections by canceling the nomination of all the district presidents made by him. Otherwise JNo power in the world can save congress in Jharkhand being cleaned. He appealed to the Dalit Muslim leaders

of the Congress to protest strongly by taking the task of resigning from the Congress. Mr. Nayak further said that the Congress has also followed the footsteps of the Bharatiya Janata Party and it is also engaged in nurturing the Manuwadis and by making more and more district presidents of the same caste, the oppressed and deprived communities have been deprived of their rights for centuries. It is working to exploit the neglected leaders and He is working to strengthen the Bharatiya Janata Party in Jharkhand by doing the work of making the participation in the politics of Jharkhand. As a result of this, the leaders of Jharkhand's Dalit Muslim tribal society will never work to vote for Congress in the coming days.

Rajdhani College Organises One-Day International Colloquium on Relationship of European Union and India



New Delhi (KCN) : The Comparative Federalists Research Group, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi in Collaboration with Rajdhani College, University of Delhi organized an International Colloquium on "The historic unification process of the European Union" on 5th December 2022 at 2.30 pm. Professor Rajesh Giri Principal of Rajdhani College gave the inaugural address and highlighted the

challenges that the pandemic posed for the entire world. The Guest of Honour and Keynote Speaker, Ms. Lena Düpont, Member of Parliament, European Union talked about the historical trajectory of European Union highlighting the various challenges that the organization is confronted, most prominently the conciliation of interests of member states and the European Union as a supranational organization. She shared her view

deriving from her own practical experience as a member of the Parliament of European Union. Professor Rekha Saxena Convener, CFRG Department of Political Science talked about the relationship between European Union and India and the opportunities for mutual collaboration. The programme ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Nawal Kishroe Convener, Research and Development Cell Rajdhani College.

ICAR-CIFRI celebrates world soil day

Kolkata(KCN): ICAR-CIFRI celebrated 'World Soil Day-2022' on Monday (December 5, 2022) with the theme 'Soils: Where the food begins' by inviting eminent scientists and professors of soil science, and 50 farmers.

Dr. B.K Das, the Director of the Institute emphasised on the need of balanced use of manures, fertilisers, other chemicals and maintenance of soil health towards achieving sustainable production. As Guest-of-Honour Dr. J. C. Tarafdar, former National Fellow and Principal Scientist, ICAR-CAZRI delivered a highly informative lecture on 'Nanofertiliser: Key Player for Global Food Production' in which he narrated with experimental results how the nanofertilisers could be highly effective in terms of enhanced nutrient use efficiency, increased crop yield, reduced expenditure and less environmental pollution.

Dr. R. K. Basak, retired Professor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV) and the Chief Guest of the programme spoke on the farmers who came here from different districts of West Bengal and are

engaged in farming as well as aquaculture. He stressed upon the immediate need of applying organic matter in the form of FYM, compost, vermi-compost, poultry manure and other possible sources to improve the soil health which deteriorated over the years in most parts of the county due to continuous use of inorganic fertilisers. He, however, cautioned about the form and the dose of the manures to be applied to get the desired result. Prof. Basak also discussed the management of pond soils and emphasised the need of soil and water testing before adopting any remedial measure. On the occasion ICAR-CIFRI distributed Water and Soil Health Cards with the recommendation of the measures to be taken to maintain the water quality and soil health to the managers of the eight wetlands in West Bengal viz. Moyna (Purba medinipur district), Khalsi & Bhomra, (Nadia District), Akaipur, Duma, Chamta, Sindrani & Beledanga (North 24 Parganas district).

The farmers also participated in the discussion followed by a presentation and cleared their doubts.

DSP Wins First Place in Sustain Awards 2022 in Industrial Water Management

Kolkata(KCN): Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) was recently felicitated as the Winner, as it claimed first Place in the



SUSTAIN AWARDS 2022 IN INDUSTRIAL WATER MANAGEMENT in the Best Large Companies category in Ganga region States. Shri B P Singh, Director In-charge (Burnpur & Durgapur Steel Plant) received the prestigious award at an award presentation ceremony jointly instituted by Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) and GIZ India.

India is known to have played an important role in formulation of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 mirrored on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among all the Goals, SDG-6 in the present context holds significant importance for India in ensuring sustainable sanitation, access to clean water in the country through various programs like water conservation, industrial water management etc. by the



industrial sectors across India. The recent felicitation program highlighted best practices across industries in the field of industrial water management in Gangetic regions comprising States of Bihar, Uttarakhand & West Bengal in setting benchmarks towards establishing role models on innovative solutions for water management in industries. DSP was selected for the award on being subjected to a three tier screening process consisting of submission of application with preliminary information, screening of application and submission of relevant documents for assessment as per assessment parameters,

on-site assessment and review of selected application for jury decision. The jury members were highly impressed with the best practices and facilities prevalent at DSP comprising Elaborate



Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) at process units for treatment of waste water & further recycling them back into the



system with 93 % recycling efficiency; well-equipped five environmental laboratories inside plant premises; using evolving water efficient processes for maximising rainwater harvesting; conducting frequent water audits followed by implementing suggestions & recommendations of the audit reports; developing eleven model villages in periphery areas of Durgapur aimed at improving social quality, free medical health care for people below poverty line and promoting renewable energy through installation of rooftop solar units on major buildings of DSP thereby approximately achieving 7% savings in electrical energy consumption in 2021-22 for water management compared to 2019-20 figures.

Puri station redevelopment

Camp office started functioning at Puri railway station to look after the developmental work

Puri (KCN): The Camp office to look after the proposed Redevelopment Work of Puri Railway Station has been made operational recently in front of Puri Railway Station.

Puri Railway Station is being redeveloped to be a World-class infrastructure with passenger friendly amenities. The facelift of the station and Yatri niwas is being planned to be done by taking inspiration from Odisha's temple architecture.

Various modern facilities being planned include:

New Building, Air concourse, Renovation of Platforms and Platform Shelters and Circulating areas. Food Court Zone and Shopping Areas with Organic Waste Management. There will be provision of well-designed Drains, Signage and Dividers. This will also have facilities of Liquid Waste Management and Solid Waste Management. The New Building will have high Standard Dormitories and Retiring Rooms apart from the beautified circulating area.

During the last visit of Honorable Railway



Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw to Puri, he took stock of the various activities and discussed to ensure safe journey of common people. Later, General Manager of East Coast Railway, Shri Roop Narayan Sunkar inspected the station site and had instructed the concerned officials to execute the project in an exemplary manner.

The project was sanctioned in 2021-22 at a cost of Rupees 161.5 Crores and was targeted to be completed within 30 months of the starting of work. The design of the station is being done by keeping the future inflow of passengers in mind. The air concourse is being designed to be a common place for all outgoing passengers and shall consist of various modern passenger facilities.

Facilities like Divyangjan friendly, Wall Paintings & Green spaces provision at various points, Enhanced CCTV surveillance, Prepaid Cab facility, Tourism Information & Booking Centre, Food Court Zone with Organic Waste Management & Shopping Areas at Station, Pharmacy & Medical facilities, Provision of Well Designed Drains, Signage and Dividers, Green Cover at Station, Liquid Waste Management, Solid Waste Management & Energy Waste Management, Dormitories and Retiring Rooms along with Waiting Chairs/ Benches at each Platform, Seating Benches in Concourse will be available in the redeveloped works.

Highest Placement Offer on Day 1 among all IITs

Breakthrough Performance of IIT Kharagpur with Fastest 1000+ Offers, 1 Crore Package to More than 12 Students

Kolkata(KCN): IIT Kharagpur has achieved a breakthrough in Placement 2022! With the benchmark of 1300 plus placement offers, this year at the end of Day-5, the institute accomplished a new landmark of receiving the fastest 1000 offers within Day-2. Noteworthy to mention, IIT Kharagpur is the only IIT to receive the highest package offer of 2.68 Cr on the first day of placement including 760 total offers in the Campus Placement 2022-23, which is the highest among all IITs. A total of 45 international offers from Japan(28), Taiwan(9), US(3) and Singapore(2) and others(3) are received by KGPIans, which shows the confidence of multinational recruiters in the institute.

The on-set of progress cloud started with a huge accumulation of 900 internships, which then rained

Man stabbed at Barbil bus stand by unknown miscreants

Barbil(KCN): A man was stabbed at old bus stand, Barbil in the district of Keonjhar, Odisha at about 8.30am morning on Tuesday. The accused stabbed the victim with a sharp object, leaving him severely injured.



As per the reports, the victim identified as MD Akbar sustained severe injuries and was rushed to the Barbil Hospital. As said by public victim Akbar had come to a tea shop in Barbil bus stand. Six to seven person came there and attacked him and fled away from the spot. The intention of attack is not known yet. But the rise in crime in Barbil and adjacent area panic people. However, Barbil police is investigating the matter.

SER observes Mahaparinirwan Diwas of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

Kolkata(KCN): The 66th Mahaparinirwan Diwas of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was observed at the South Eastern Railway (SER) Headquarters, Garden Reach today. Ms. Archana Joshi, General Manager, SER paid floral tribute to the great patriot, Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Sri Atulya Sinha, Additional General Manager, Dr. Mahua Verma, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, SER along with officials of SC/ST Association garlanded the portrait of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution. The Principal Head of the Departments, senior railway officers & staff of SER Headquarters also paid tribute to the illustrious son of India, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. The Mahaparinirwan Diwas of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was also observed at four divisional offices at Adra, Kharagpur, Chakradharpur and Ranchi.

College teachers to evaluate OPSC tests

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): In a bid to tide over the non-availability of examiners to evaluate the descriptive papers of different examinations including Odisha Civil Services (OCS)-2021, the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) has sought services of faculty members of degree colleges and universities.

Accordingly, the Higher Education department on Monday asked BJB Autonomous college, Rajadhani college and Nalini Devi Women's College of Teacher Education at Bhubaneswar besides, SB Women's college, JKBK college and Radhanath Institute of Advanced Studies in Education at Cuttack to select a list of professors and associate professors with at least three years teaching experience in different disciplines and send it to OPSC. The evaluation of descriptive papers of OCS-2021 is likely to commence from mid-March, 2023. Last month, the OPSC had informed that it is experiencing difficulties in timely evaluation of descriptive papers in OCS and OJS examinations.

a total of 760 plus offers (including PPOs) at the end of Day-1. The Institute has received 10 big-ticket offers ranging from 1 Cr to 2.65 Cr both domestic and international from companies across the sectors including analytics, software, finance-banking, supply-chain-logistic, consulting, core-engineering, high frequency trading, tech profile, product development, etc. Among many high valued domestic offers, two are close to 1 Cr. Prof. A. Rajakumar, Chairman CDC remarked, "The Institute has broken its own records of day-1 offers and the fastest 1000 plus in day-2 among all IITs, which endorsed the legacy of the institute as well as the quality of the students. This would encourage more companies to visit the campus in the coming days and in near future."

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'Qala' movie review: Anvita Dutt's second feature is all design

Art is aspiration. It's also antidote. Take the films of Anvita Dutt, for example. The director of *Bulbul* and *Qala*—two exquisitely imagined, beguilingly old-world recent Hindi films—started her career as a lyricist and dialogue writer with YRF and Dharma. Neal 'n' Nikki, Tashan, Bachna Ae Haseeno, Luck, Dostana, Kambakkht Ishq, Badmaash Company, I Hate LUV Storys, Tees Maar Khan, and Student of the Year are just a few gems that line the trajectory of her early filmography. Honest commissioned work no doubt, though it must have taken a toll. No wonder then that, finally freed up as a storyteller, she likes disappearing into the past with tasteful music and ro-coco set decorations and never looking back.

Bulbul was set in late 19th century Bengal and starred Tripti Dimri in the title role. *Qala*—also on Netflix—opens on a Calcutta balcony

with Tripti holding up a Golden Vinyl to throngs of cheering

mother's mind, given her current stardom. There is more. Dis-

clear—yet neither Dutt nor the performers relinquish the

stopped following the dialogue onscreen. This hap-

tation. "The times will change"—Majrooh, a lyricist played by Varun Grover, tells *Qala*. The progressive bundles up with the regressive, a more rounded view of the fabled cosmopolitanism of the 40s Calcutta.

Babil, son of Irrfan, is efficient as the ghost-like Jagan. He is evidently green in certain sequences, especially when he has to look blank and inscrutable, but otherwise conveys emotions considerably well. Tripti—who had a lot more to work with in *Bulbul*—plays *Qala* as an undifferentiated bag of nerves. It's a one-note rendition of a person with mental health issues, further intensified by the skittish dream sequences. Swastika Mukherjee is intense as Urmila, skirting dangerously close to a type of villain and escaping unscathed. The pinpricks of warmth in the film's tragic final stretch only really work because of her.



fans. She's *Qala* Manjushree, songstress extraordinaire and toast of the 1940s film industry. Her mother, Urmila (Swastika Mukherjee), leads a quiet and secluded life in Himachal. They're estranged—for difficult reasons. *Qala*'s twin, a male child Urmila had most hoped for, had died in utero. It made her heir apparent to an austere musical legacy—'You should be called a Pandit, not a Bai,' Urmila exhorts her daughter—a legacy we presume *Qala* has broken from in her

cordant flashbacks abound. At her debut concert, *Qala* is upstaged by a talented young singer named Jagan (Babil Khan). Urmila takes the scrawny orphan under her wing, welcoming him into their home and sowing the seeds of bitter rivalry in the girl's head. In the present timeline, we see Jagan returning to *Qala* in haunting flashes. Is he a wraith, a dream, a product of her own troubled, guilt-ridden mind? We're watching a mental health movie—at least this much is

feeling of staging a spooky ghost story. Like *Bulbul*, *Qala* is beautifully assembled and shot. A lone boat gently drifts along an inky river, swathed in the moonlight. There are gargoyles and gramophones. The Howrah Bridge—the most clichéd of Calcutta images—is seen under construction. The frames are exceedingly pretty—overwhelmingly so. At one point, I was so lost in admiring the intricate traceries on *Qala*'s bedroom wall and the lively interplay of harsh and soft shadows that I

opened more than once. The design of *Qala*, after a point, starts distracting from its substance. The film is also heavy by way of metaphor, all mazes and moths and mercury. History gently ruffles the curtains of this vintage world. A star performance is thinly attended because Mahatma Gandhi is in Shimla. "An artist has no caste," Urmila assures an impresario. Anvita, who refracts present concerns through a period lens, weaves in commentary on pay parity and sexual exploi-

Neeraj Pandey: Khakee: The Bihar Chapter gives peek into culture and history of the state

For many creators, it is often a random spark of an idea that unlocks an entire world of new possibilities from which to tell the untold. For filmmaker Neeraj Pandey, this spark happened as a result of a conversation with IPS officer Amit Lodha, and as he ruminated on it, voila! A new Netflix web series was the result: *Khakee: The Bihar Chapter*.

Known for telling compelling stories based on real-life incidents, Neeraj Pandey has proved his mettle with films like *A Wednesday*, *Special 26*, *MS Dhoni: The Untold Story*, and *Aiyaary*. After making a mark with his Special OPS franchise, Neeraj now returns to OTT with *Khakee: The Bihar Chapter*, which is based on the life of an IPS officer named Amit Lodha, who is known for 'eliminating' some of the most notorious criminals in Bihar. Speaking to us about how it all started, Neeraj credits the meeting with Amit, who wrote *Bihar Diaries: The Story of How Bihar's Most Dangerous Criminal was Caught*, for kickstarting the process.

"I was intrigued by the life of an IITian who chose IPS over IAS. The story of someone who is born and brought up in Rajasthan and gets into Bihar for his first posting. It was a fascinating fish-out-of-water story for us. I realised that this could be made into a story that audiences would relish," Neeraj shares. Brimming with excitement, the filmmaker talks about how the project germinated from an idea. "We realised that the story had the potential to be a seven-hour narrative. Monika Shergill (Vice President of Content at Netflix) was excited to collaborate with us, and here we are on this call discussing it." Monika, who is also in the conversation with us, steps in to add that she, in fact, chased him because she wanted his voice on their

streaming service. "I have been an admirer of Neeraj's craft and his way of storytelling. I wanted him to make a series for us, and coincidentally, he was also tossing around this (*Khakee*) story. So, yes, he was chased... in a nice way," says Monika, with a smile. Discussing the importance of having a unique selling proposition and an X factor to ensure that such genre-based content stands out, Monika affirms, "Bihar is a complex, yet dynamic state, and policing is not easy. What attracted me was how Neeraj told *Khakee*:

terminated cop who is new to the locality and a criminal who did not start off being one. Their journeys are narrated in parallel, and their eventual goals are to eliminate each other. The meeting of these two proves to be a powerful combination that we rarely see," Monika says.

With true crime stories being the flavor du jour of OTT, in many cases, we have observed a lack of documentation being a detriment in bringing these stories from India to life. Fortunately, that wasn't the case for *Khakee: The*

Bihar Chapter, the duo says. "The journey has been well-chronicled. This series is a combination of both the material in the book and all the research that did not make it into it," Neeraj states.

When asked about the possibility of turning this into a cop franchise perhaps—one that steps in and out of several regions in the country—Monika says, "We hope to tell an infinite number of brilliant stories told in the way *Khakee* is



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NEERAJ PANDEY
MONIKA SHERGILL

told. For now, I would like the audience to watch this and let us know how it is appreciated. And yes, we are already working with Neeraj on other projects." At a time when all film content seems to be aiming for pan-Indian appeal, Neeraj too says that *Khakee: The Bihar Chapter* is a universal story crafted to cut across boundaries. "When it comes to viewing content, the world is becoming smaller, and stories are becoming language and culture-agnostic. That way, *Khakee: The Bihar Chapter* is a series that can be viewed by anyone, regardless of their age," he says. As we wrap up the conversation, Neeraj, who seems to thrive in the crime-drama genre, expresses his interest in doing something lighthearted. "I think I have a decent sense of humour, and if a story requires that particular tone, then why not?"

The *Bihar Chapter* through a policeman's perspective." Seconding it, Neeraj guarantees that the world of Bihar will be a treat for the audiences as the series gives a "fantastic peek into the culture and history of the state". "That's where director Bhav Dhulia and scriptwriter Uma Shankar, who are natives of Bihar, bring in their expertise. Even some of our cast members belong to the region. Also, shooting in real locations helped maintain the authenticity," Neeraj adds. *Khakee: The Bihar Chapter* is the latest entrant in the crime slate of Netflix, which already has titles like *Jamtara*, *Indian Predator*, and *Sacred Games*. Monika feels that the new series stands out because it is a character-driven crime drama that immerses audiences in the social fabric of Bihar. "The series spans a few years, and it shows the growth of a de-

Development professionals in the realm of poverty or prosperity

"Everybody loves a good profession, where income increases, work decreases, and supervisor remains silent" is the tendency of many professionals in jobs, when I say this, people smile and silently consent. Since childhood, being a boy of small town with proximity with villages and being a low performing student of undeveloped region of Kalahandi, I was always afraid of technologies, big cities, and universities. Later a perception developed, technologies and universities are the panacea for human sufferings, and cities are the places of abundance, comfort, and affluence of amenities of life like, SAFE WATER, FOOD, CLOTHES, HEALTH, and SHELTER, which have their dark side again i.e. India was a country of villages when the country got independence in 1947 and availability of water, food, clothes, and shelter was not enough but manageable. Now, in India slums are increasing, being Dharabhi as the biggest slum in world as an indicator. Nevertheless, cities are presumed as essential for life with quality, for which many prefer not only cities, also cities of Europe and America like Anglo Fill, Nirad C Choudhury and singers and movie actors etc. and many, who have

the luxury of spending. Industrialisation of 1960s with Tata, Birla with German, Russia and American technology and Green revolution from 1967-1978 of free India, with Dr MS Swaminathan, minimised the nation's span of struggle for food scarcity. Today, while traveling through Odisha, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar the so-called bimar/sick states, after working in development sector for twenty-five years, feeling that the effort of teachers and students of Premium Development Schools and Colleges, like the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA1979), Tata Institute of Social Sciences 1979, Xavier groups of development schools of Bhubaneswar called XIMB (CENDERET 1994), Ranchi called XISS 1955, Jabalpur called XIDAS, 1995 and colleges on Master in Social Work, like Madras 1952, Madurai 1969, Pune 1986, Bhubaneswar 1971 with lacks of students and thousands of teachers in last five decades, who had to address the expected development needs of the community for whom students studied and wrestl for attending development is attended but looks incomplete. Including IGNU, there are many universities crediting

students on social studies. Still there is struggle for food security for the people of bimar states of India. Below Poverty Line is earning less than 2700/- per year who constitute around 16% of population as per Union Cabinet. But all the towns and villages have significant numbers of houses without secured roof, earning and food. Indian villagers still go for open defecation, pregnant and lactating mothers walk down for water. Indria Awash Yojana still needs miles to go for homes for homeless. India is home to 1/3 malnourished children of the world and home delivery without professional nurse, is highest in the world. The share of India's institutional deliveries increased to 88.6% in 2019-2021 (National Family Health Survey 5 (NFHS-5) from 40.8 % in 2005-06 (NFHS 3). The country has witnessed in the past that, many IAS officers and IIT pass out, by living white collar jobs and opted to contribute to development sector to uplift the poor and marginalised section without being in government by influencing all sections of the society including policy of government. Harsh Mander, BD Sharma, are the extraordinary examples, followed by S. Sasikanth Senthil (2009 batch),

Kashish Mittal (2011) and Kannan Gopinathan (2012) have put in their papers. Balwinder Singh Dhaliwal (2004 batch), Shah Faesal (2010 batch) Subhash Chandra Garg (1983). Dr BD Sharma had almost single-handedly steered the preparation of the Bhuria Commission report, the Forest Rights Act and PESA (Panchayat Extension of Scheduled Areas Act), which enabled Gram Sabhas to govern their own resources in scheduled areas and was also instrumental for pushing through the concept of a Tribal sub plan. He had served as Vice Chancellor of the North East Hill University (NEHU) at Shillong and later as a member of the North East Council. The plight is, in the doorway of massive industrialisation, dams and universities, issues like malnutrition, child labour, child marriage, rack pickers are gnashing teeth to proud trillion-dollar economy and to its industries. Human face is roaring for basic amenities of life, food, shelter, and clothes. Fast growing economy, slipping out the natural resources to the hands of corporates ownership, sounds pretending to self, its citizens and to these innocent infants, who does not understand

independent India. Tribals with land resources and traditional skills and Dalits mostly without land with many skills are the worst sufferers, for which special provisions are made for them in constitution. Today all eyes are on political will, corporate investment and technology and there is no dearth of resources for it in India as a state. The constitution of India is designed, after learning lessons from 1. Colonial rule, 2. American's Capitalism, 3. Russian Socialism, 4. Chinese's Marxist and Leninism in addition to 5. Gandhian thoughts of Sarvodaya, as the title of his 1908 translation of John Ruskin's tract on political economy, "Unto This Last", and last not the list, 6. Vedic principles. The nation had implemented Community Development program of October 2, 1952, Integrated Rural Development Program 1978, Drought Prone Areas Program 1973-74. The nation had implemented Nationalisation of Banks in 1969" to serve better the needs of development of the economy in conformity with national policy objectives." and Corporations owned Insurance, State owned services sectors like Road, Railway, Health, and Education.

But now the nation is marching towards privatisation in every walk of life where the citizens are found themselves, who are consumers with depleting paying capacity. Now a political narrative has immersed i.e. two India, poor and nonpoor. There was a time in India there were rampant baggers in cities and villages. But the number has decreased but the number of persons under social security schemes has increased as per the registration in government. It's not wise to tell them beggars but are dependent on free schemes. The development activists of civil society organisations, activism and advocacy for poor, the writers and poets look slow or mostly remaining silent to see the way the sea elephant is turning to other side with new ethos of corporate owned, trillion-dollar economy. In this changing scenario, the question rises where the development professional of era of first growing sophistication. Did we hid under the development projects of government and corporate social responsibility. Did we become part of the system which needs further changes like, Right to education 2009, right to food under food

security act 2013, right to health still a movement under right to life, article 21, right to information 2005, Panchayati Raj Act 1991 under 73 amendment, Integrated child protection schemes, Proposed in 2006 and implemented in 2009, together are the Acts can be titled as second independence movement initiated by civil society organisations and the true patriotic political leaders. So, to conclude, the development professional, the technocrats and the corporates must take the call to give justice to the dissertation papers, practical work of bitter experiences of the destitute and to the results of our research papers submitted for degrees, MPhil and PhD. India is by 2050 is going to be the biggest economy of the world. Will it be state owned economy or corporate owned economy with development professional of corporate funded institutions with no malnutrition no slums and no forced migration. If the children of next generation will neither see development nor the mines of bimar states, it will be a fatal situation and we too will have to answer.

**Social Worker
Chaibasha
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9437104303**

Editor To Letter

Dear Editor, Reduce Dark Data

More than half of the digital data generated by companies is collected, processed and stored for single use. It is often never reused. This can be numerous nearly identical images stored in Google Photos or outdated spreadsheets from a company that will never be used again, or useless sensor data from the Internet of Things - this is known as dark data. The energy that this "dark data" requires keeps an individual grounded in reality. Data that is stored but never used again takes up space on servers, which are often huge banks of computers housed in warehouses. These computers and storage consume a lot of electricity. Therefore, pollution is increasing due to this obscure unused data. While most climate protection activists focus on reducing emissions from the automotive, aerospace and energy industries, digital computing is already on par with these industries and growing. It is expected that digitization would account for 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions by 2023. The production of digital data is increasing rapidly; The world is expected to generate 100 trillion gigabytes of data this year. Could almost double to 200 trillion gigabytes by 2025, according to environmental studies. As a result, it is surprising that reducing the digital carbon footprint of organisations has received little attention. To reduce this footprint, the idea of "digital decarbonization" is introduced. This does not mean using phones, computers, sensors and other digital technologies to reduce a company's carbon footprint. Rather, it refers to reducing the carbon footprint by deleting own digital data which is no longer required. To illustrate the magnitude of the dark data situation, data centers they have a larger carbon footprint than the airline industry. A typical data-driven company like insurance, retail, or banking with 100 employees could generate 3,000 gigabytes of dark data per day. If they kept that data for a year, it would have a carbon footprint similar to six flights from Mumbai to Chicago. Any files stored in Apple iCloud or Google Photos contribute to digital carbon footprint. One can reduce dark data production and contribute to the digital decarbonization movement by removing unwanted stored data.

**Vijaykumar H K
Raichur, Karnataka
Environmentalist**

Time is running out for Nature and Wildlife around the World



4th December is celebrated as World Wildlife Conservation Day. It is an occasion to be aware, reflect, and take action when it comes to issues that are threatening the planet's wildlife biodiversity balance. Forests, forests species and the livelihoods that depend on them currently find themselves at the crossroads of the multiple planetary crises we currently face, from climate change, to biodiversity loss and the health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hunting and killing of animals has become a form of recreation. Murdering humans is considered a crime. But killing and wiping out an entire genre is hardly given consideration. Hunting has tradition and the support of very

powerful people on its side and with their influence hunting has been left untouched by legislation - the Protection of Animals Act only covers captive and domestic animals. High officials, who are supposed to be the guardians of law, often abuse their powers to shield the rich and powerful. Our country is unique in having a significant number of tigers in the wild, in spite of growing population and resource extraction pressures on their habitat. Reducing number of tigers has triggered the government authorities to awaken and take observe. The elimination of tigers from the environment can have a very serious effect on the food chains. It would disrupt the balance of an ecosystem because tigers keep a control over the plant eating animals. Tigers are the heritage of our country, evoked in the vedas, puranas and many other literature for their unparalleled strength

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

and aesthetic beauty. The destruction of forest coverage by Maoists may be one of the reasons for this decrease. Wild animals deaths were also reported from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttarakhand. We should know that we are not just animals, but that we belong to

achievement till now. Hope this continues and leads to a significant rise in the coming years. Among animals, some are fewer in number than the others, if proper care and security are extended to them, the rare animals would survive. Only the national animal will

and bodies, poaching however carries on. Tigers play a large role in sustaining the biodiversity of forests, in maintaining healthy ecology, habitat conservation and the livelihoods of rural communities. The tiger population has decreased in the states of Telengana & Andhra Pradesh. The destruction of forest coverage by Maoists



the same family tree as other mammals, that our physiology and bodily processes are just like theirs, and that our mental processes too are from the same general pattern. The protection of the national animal has been a significant

survive to maintain the ecological balance. If we delay now, it might be too late. If you want to preserve the tigers, we must stop the poaching first. Even when the government has prohibited the selling of tiger's skin

may be one of the reasons for this decrease. Wild tiger deaths were also reported from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Karnataka and Uttarakhand. During the first six months of the year, 30 deaths were reported. The

protection of the national animal has been a significant achievement till now. Hope this continues and leads to a significant rise in the coming years. Credit must also be given to Aircel for initiating "Save Tiger" campaign, along with New Delhi Television (NDTV), who played an active role in creating awareness among the people on dwindling tiger population in India. The number of wild tigers has gone up to 3,890, from the earlier 2010 estimate of 3200, according to the World Wildlife Fund and the Global Tiger Forum. A new Tiger commando force should be created to protect tigers from the poachers. Government must try to put in more efforts to improve the arrangements to conserve the national pride - the Tiger.

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

Philippine Lawmakers propose USD 4.9 bn sovereign wealth fund chaired by Marcos

MANILA: Philippine lawmakers have proposed a \$4.9 billion sovereign wealth fund to be chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr to boost growth, but critics warn it will be prone to graft and risk Filipino pensions.

Congressmen Sandro Marcos and Martin Romualdez -- the president's son and cousin respectively -- are among the six authors of the bill

"We all know about our neighbour Malaysia where their IMDB was a real disaster where the money was looted," she said, referring to the graft scandal that involved billions of dollars of state funds.

A lack of safeguards also meant "the potential for corruption is almost limitless," Vincent Lazatin, former executive director of the Transparency and Accountability Network, told AFP Tuesday.

ALSO READ | Indonesia's Parliament criminalises adultery, cohabitation of unmarried couples 'A lot of questions' The bill's proponents highlighted Indonesia as an example of a sovereign wealth fund successfully being used to attract direct investments into infrastructure and emerging industries. But Natixis senior

economist Trinh Nguyen said Indonesia's fund has a "very clear" investment objective, while the Philippine proposal "lacks a direction."

"There are a lot of questions... How is it going to benefit the longer-term development objective of the Philippines because it's not very clear to me that it would," she said.

Under the proposed bill, MIF funds would be "exempt from any regulatory restrictions."

Investment options would include financial derivatives, equities, infrastructure projects and "other investments as may be approved by the Board."

Congressman Joey Salceda, who leads the technical working group examining the bill, told AFP the fund's governing board would be chaired by the president.

Former president Gloria Arroyo, who has backed the bill, said it was a "powerful statement that the highest official of the land will hold himself as ultimately accountable to the Filipino people for the performance of the Fund."

But Lazatin noted that the country had a dismal record of punishing elected officials for corruption. "Our laws are good on paper, but in practice... we have not been able to hold public officials accountable," he said. An estimated \$10 billion was stolen from state coffers over the course of Marcos Sr's rule, while the family has been accused of owing more than \$3.6 billion in estate taxes. No one in the clan has been jailed.



filed to the House of Representatives and will be examined by several committees before being debated in the house.

The "Maharlika Investments Fund" (MIF) would be seeded with 275 billion pesos from government financial institutions, including two pension funds and two banks, according to the latest version of the bill.

It would help the Marcos administration achieve its goals of getting the Philippine economy to "soar to greater heights in spite of external shocks," the authors wrote.

The word "maharlika" is widely associated with Marcos Jr's late dictator father and namesake, who presided over widespread human rights abuses and corruption during his two decades in power. He was ousted in 1986.

Marcos Sr claimed to have led an anti-Japanese guerrilla unit called Ang Mga Maharlika during World War II, but he has been accused of lying about his war record.

The MIF has been met with concern from business groups, economists, activists and opposition figures, who have questioned the need for a sovereign wealth fund in the debt-laden country. They argue pension funds were already being invested and that diverting them to the MIF would expose them to additional risk. Even the president's own sister, Senator Imee Marcos, said it was "risky to gamble" retirement funds.

Ambedkar is the Periyar of North India, says Stalin; memorial in Mumbai soon, promises Shinde

CHENNAI: Paying tributes to BR Ambedkar on his death anniversary, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said that he was the 'Periyar' of North India in fighting for secularism.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister in a tweet on Tuesday said, "Ambedkar is the leader who broke the shackles of slavery of the oppressed classes." He

for the rights of the poor. He focused on education and we, too, are working towards it. It will lead to equality in society," Kejriwal said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday said the work to set up an international standard memorial of Dr B R Ambedkar at the Indu Mill Compound in Mumbai will be completed at the earliest.

Addressing a function after paying floral tributes to Ambedkar on his death anniversary at his memorial 'Chaityabhoomi' in Mumbai's Dadar area, Shinde also said all memories and history pertaining to the architect of the Constitution will be preserved. Shinde said Dr Ambedkar's memorial being built on the Indu Mill land (near Chaityabhoomi in Dadar) is a magnificent divine monument which the "world will envy". Ambedkar's house 'Rajgruh' in Dadar is a

"historic treasure", he said. Ambedkar temple opened in Andhra's Srikakulam Prime Minister Modi pays homage to Babasaheb BR Ambedkar on his Mahaparinirvan Diwas, at Parliament House Complex in New Delhi.

On the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi also says that a person like him, who is the son of a tea-seller, could become the PM only because of the Constitution written by Dr Ambedkar." "I feel this is the power of the Constitution," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday tweeted: "On Mahaparinirvan Diwas, I pay homage to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and recall his exemplary service to our nation. His struggles gave hope to millions and his efforts to give India such an extensive Constitution can never be forgotten."

The death anniversary of the chief architect of the Constitution is observed as 'Mahaparinirvan Din'. Every year, thousands of people from across the state converge at B R Ambedkar's memorial 'Chaityabhoomi' on December 6, who died on this day in 1956.



also said that Dr Ambedkar was a modern-day Buddha who had taken a vow to create a society free of oppression and dominance.

In a separate event, BJP Tamil Nadu state president K Annamalai said that Dr BR Ambedkar was a tall leader who transcended religions for the love of human beings.

He also said that Ambedkar, who framed the Indian constitution, is also a person of high intellect and leadership qualities.

The BJP state president also added that the framer of the Indian constitution was an epitome of love for the country and society.

Ambedkar, known as the Father of Indian Constitution, died on December 6, 1956.

Governor of Tamilnadu RN Ravi on Ambedkar's death anniversary on Tuesday. (Photo | Ashwin Prasath, EPS)

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said the AAP government was following in his footsteps.

"Today I appeal to everyone to take inspiration from Ambedkar's life that was full of struggles. He fought

Kisan Congress chief writes to PM Modi, says Centre 'betrayed' farmers

NEW DELHI: Accusing the Centre of having "betrayed" the farmers, the All India Kisan Congress on Tuesday wrote to Prime Minis-

ters, which are matters of life and death for them. But nothing has been done about those demands so far.



ter Narendra Modi, highlighting the "plight" of the tillers and reiterating the demand for the legal guarantee for MSP for all crops.

The Congress' unit for farmers also reiterated the demand for the dismissal of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, the release of "innocent" farmers imprisoned in the case, withdrawal of "fake cases" registered against farmers in various states during the farmers' agitation and compensation to families of the deceased farmers.

In his letter to Prime Minister Modi, All India Kisan Congress (AIKC) president Sukhpal Singh Khaira said it is almost one year since tens of thousands of farmers lifted their sit-in and suspended their agitation in December 2021 following the PM's assurance and withdrawal of three farm laws.

"Besides the withdrawal of three laws, farmers were promised some other pressing is-

Farmers have been left with no option, but to stage a protest on December 9 in New Delhi as the Central government has so far not taken any confidence-building initiative," Khaira said. Speaking to reporters, Khaira said the Centre has not taken any concrete step in

the direction of fulfilling the promises made at the time of the withdrawal of three "anti-farmer" laws. He reiterated the demand for the legal guarantee for MSP for all crops and said that MSP should be guaranteed using the C2+50 per cent formula, based on the recommendation of the Swaminathan Commission report.

In his letter, the AIKC chief demanded that the committee constituted by the Centre for this purpose should be dismissed, and a new committee should be constituted with due representation of farmers and farmer organisations. He also demanded that the rate of interest on farmers' loans be reduced by at least 50 per cent and loans of farm labourers be completely written off.

Khaira also demanded the implementation of a farmer pension scheme of Rs 5,000 per month for all small, medium and marginal farmers and farm labourers.

Can examine manner in which economic decision was taken: Supreme Court on demonetisation

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday observed that it was always amenable for the court to examine the manner in which an "economic decision is taken."

Brushing aside RBI's contention in pleas challenging the centre's decision to demonetise notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 in 2016 that the top court cannot review an economic policy measure judicially, Justice BV Nagarathna said,

Jaideep Gupta for RBI submitted before the five-judge bench led by Justice S Abdul Nazeer that judicial review would only lie if there was a "procedural lapse" and in this case, there wasn't any since the procedural mandate was followed.

"There's no procedural lapse, then judicial review lies. The procedure under section 26(2) was obviously followed, and a procedural mandate was

destroyed. He also added that reasonable opportunities were given to the people to arrange affairs and the government took cognisance whenever a problem arose. "If the govt is in such readiness to deal with the decision, then to call it thoughtless does not make sense. It has also been stated that whenever a problem arose, the government took cognisance. There was a control room," he added.

ment will make social policies and choices. When we move from one framework to another, the state will have to balance. Several difficulties were presented to the court as well as policymakers. If every act of a legislature is investigated on the premise of wisdom, then where will we be," AG further asked.

Underscoring the role played by RBI in issues of currency, Senior Advocate and Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram in his rejoinder submissions argued that the centre could act only pursuant to the recommendations made by the RBI central board. "Process cant be reversed to centre advising to RBI and RBI submitting its recommendation



"Court will not go into the merits of the decision. But, just because it is an economic decision, does not mean the court will fold its hands and sit. We can always examine the manner in which the decision was taken."

Defending the manner in which the decision was taken, Senior Advocate

followed. Any decision, when unconstitutional, will be amenable to judicial review. But whether it is subject to abuse of discretion is a separate thing altogether," Gupta further added. It was also his contention that care was taken to see that none's money was unnecessarily

For the central government, Attorney General for India R Venkataramani contended that the decision of demonetisation was taken to address three evils related to social policy. "Today, courts don't enter into economic policy. We're looking into social theory as to how the govern-

after a one-hour meeting in one day," he also added. He further added that demonetisation had nothing to do with monetary policy. "They are throwing phrases like monetary policy and economic policy telling the court that they are not experts. None of us are experts," he added.

NRI returns home after 12 years to vote in Padampur bypoll

BARGARH: Setting an example for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), a 38-year-old man living in Oman for more than a decade, came back to his hometown Padampur to exer-

Panigrahi has been working at a smelter in Oman for the last 12 years.

Umesh Panigrahi "I became eligible to vote 20 years back but could not exercise my franchise

town, I tried my best to make it this time. I applied for an emergency leave and was lucky to get flight tickets on time. Fortunately, everything worked out in my favour and

ferent. "More than a constitutional right, voting should be seen as a responsibility. I was following all the updates on the by-election. With my limited knowledge about the



cise his franchise in the bypoll on Monday. An engineer by profession, Umesh Panigrahi of Padampur town arrived at his native place on Sunday. After casting his vote, he left for Oman on Monday evening.

Later, I went to Oman to work. I tried coming back to participate in the past elections but circumstances weren't favourable. When I came to know that by-election is being held in my home-

I could exercise my franchise for the first time," said a visibly elated Panigrahi.

For Panigrahi, the whole experience of going to the polling booth and voting for his choice of candidate was new and dif-

background of the candidates in poll fray, I exercised my franchise. As a voter, I want the civic problems of Padampur to be addressed. The schools and colleges of the region should also be developed," he added.

JD(U)'s KC Tyagi urges Naveen to join Nitish's anti-BJP front

BHUBANESWAR: Senior Janata Dal (United) leader KC Tyagi on Monday urged Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik to join the efforts to forge unity among non-BJP parties to take on the saffron outfit in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Addressing mediapersons here, the JD (U)

party. Asserting that Nitish Kumar and JD (U) will never return to the BJP-led NDA, Tyagi said, "We have snapped our ties with BJP for good and Nitish is in touch with leaders of all political parties and stepping up efforts to unite them to take on the saffron outfit in a united



general secretary said the BJD should lend hand to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's efforts to forge unity among like-minded political parties to provide a viable alternative to BJP ahead of 2024 polls. Replying to a question on the leadership of such a front, he said both Nitish and Naveen can lead it. Tyagi requested the BJD chief to give up his policy of maintaining equal distance from both BJP and Congress and said following a middle path and travelling at the centre of the road involves the risk of meeting with an accident. He also made it clear that there can be no alternative to the BJP without Congress which is the biggest opposition political

manner". He said Naveen can also join the mission. Recalling his close association with legendary Biju Patnaik, Tyagi said he has a special bond with Odisha and wants BJD to be with the non-BJP front. Nitish Kumar is also a good friend of Naveen Patnaik, he said. On reservation for socially and economically backward sections, Tyagi said there is a need to increase the quota for them according to their number for which a caste-based census is essential. Tyagi is here to campaign for a caste based census on behalf of the Samajika Suraksha Manch. JD(U) Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha and former Union minister Srikant Jena were also present.

Ahead of Hockey World Cup, meat traders told to check open slaughter

BHUBANESWAR: As open slaughtering and roadside sale of meat continues in the city, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday urged the non-veg traders to stop the practice and do their business at the designated sites. The corporation's request to the vendors, mutton traders in particular, came ahead of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup for which the civic body has launched a series of beautification drive. Mayor Sulochana Das, who chaired a meeting with the representatives of Bhubaneswar Non-Veg Traders Federation (mutton) wing, reportedly sought cooperation of the federation in this regard. Since, BMC with the help of Bhubaneswar Development Authority has launched a massive roadside eviction drive on major stretches to remove the 'unauthorised' stalls and kiosks ahead of

the event, the mutton traders were requested to support the civic body in its campaign, said a BMC official. Issues related to meat shops and sellers in all 67 wards of the city were also discussed at length in the meeting. Sources said during the meeting, meat traders raised several problems faced by them in non-veg markets at Unit-IV, Unit-III, Rasulgarh canal road, Patia, Sundarpada haat and other places across all the wards due to lack of adequate number of slaughter houses. The members also demanded restoration of the slaughter house that has been lying defunct in Laxmisagar area for over 15 years. A review meeting on sanitation was also held at the BMC office under the chairmanship of BMC commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange in which officials were asked to strengthen garbage collection and cleanliness work.

Hockey World Cup trophy to tour 14 states

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday launched the trophy tour

I am sure it will be a memorable World Cup for the teams and the fans."



of FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 here. The chief minister handed over the trophy to the Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey in presence of Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusarkanti Behera, Hockey India secretary Bholanath Singh, Hockey India executive director Cdr. RK Srivastava, Sports and Youth Services department secretary R Vineel Krishna.

Wishing the trophy tour a grand success, Naveen said, "I hope the trophy tour will build excitement for the World Cup across India. We will be hosting 16 teams and the matches will be played in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

In the next 21 days the trophy will travel across West Bengal, Manipur, Assam, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, New Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Chattisgarh before returning to Odisha on December 25. Once back in Odisha, the trophy will tour across all the districts. The trophy will also visit the 17 blocks of Sundargarh, the hockey cradle of the state. The last leg of the tour will be in Rourkela before finally returning to Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar where the finals will be played on January 23, 2023.

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Fitch retains India growth forecast at 7 per cent this fiscal, cuts projections for next two years

NEW DELHI: Fitch Ratings on Tuesday retained India's economic growth forecast at 7 per cent for the current fiscal, saying India could be one of the fastest-growing emerging

markets this year. It, however, cut the projections for the next two financial years, stating that even though the country is shielded to some extent from global economic shocks but is not

impervious to global developments. In its December edition of the Global Economic Outlook, Fitch projected India's GDP to grow at 7 per cent in the current fiscal and

in 2024-25. Given the stronger-than-expected outturn, Fitch forecasts growth at 7 per cent in the financial year ending March 2023 (FY23). "India is expected to



slow to 6.2 per cent in 2023-24 and 6.9 per cent in 2024-25. In September, Fitch had projected 7 per cent growth for the current fiscal, followed by 6.7 per cent in 2023-24 and 7.1 per cent growth

record one of the fastest growth rates among emerging markets in our Fitch20 coverage this year," it said. ALSO READ | World Bank upgrades India's GDP growth forecast to 6.9 per cent for

investment making up the bulk of the country's GDP. "However, India is not impervious to global developments. The worldwide economic slowdown is expected to reduce demand for Indian exports," Fitch said.

markets this year. It, however, cut the projections for the next two financial years, stating that even though the country is shielded to some extent from global economic shocks but is not

Walmart, Flipkart join hands with NSIC to help MSMEs grow, unlock export potential

NEW DELHI: Walmart and Flipkart on Tuesday joined hands with the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) to accelerate capacity building for

micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India, help them unlock export potential and become part of retail supply chains locally and globally. The agreement was signed at a summit here to mark the milestone of 20,000 MSMEs completing their training under the Walmart Vridhhi S u p p l i e r D e v e l o p m e n t Programme, of which Swasti is a programme partner.

continued support to the growing MSME sector in the country," Minister of MSMEs Narayan Rane said, adding, "We are trying to increase exports from the sector."

Through Vridhhi programme being implemented by Walmart and Flipkart, all MSMEs by way of getting e-marketing support or digitization will be benefitted, National Small Industries Corporation CMD Gaurang Dixit said. Through this partnership, MSMEs across the country can get the necessary support required to further expand their businesses nationally and across the globe, he added.



registered for the programme from metros and Tier II and III cities across India. The partnership will enhance access for participating MSMEs to schemes offered by the NSIC while making learning resources of Vridhhi available to MSMEs registered with the NSIC. "The Indian MSME sector currently comprises 6.3 crore MSMEs that employ more than 11 crore people. We look forward to Walmart's

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Donald Trump Jr. to visit India this month; may announce expansion in Indian realty sector

NEW DELHI: US-based The Trump Organization Executive Vice President Donald Trump Jr, son of former US President Donald J Trump, is expected to visit India this month and may announce its expansion in Indian real estate market.

New York-based The Trump Organization entered into Indian real estate market through a partnership with Mumbai-based Tribeca Developers.

The US firm and Tribeca have tied up with local developers, including the Lodha group, to build luxury projects under 'Trump' brand. So far, four luxury projects have been announced, of which one in Pune is already complete.

"Donald Trump Jr. is expected to come to India this month on the occasion of Tribeca Developers' 10th-anniversary celebration," Tribeca Developers said in a statement.

During this visit, Donald Trump Jr. and Kalpesh Mehta, founder of Tribeca Developers, are both likely to announce their business expansion plans in the country, it added.

"Tribeca's business association with the Trump Organization dates back 10 years and has grown stronger over the years. Our 10-year celebration wouldn't have been complete without Donald Trump Jr. and I'm delighted he will be joining us," Mehta said.

"During this visit, we also plan to announce our business expansion plans with the Trump Organization and other significant developments," he added.

At present, there are four Trump projects in India -- Trump Tower Delhi-NCR, Trump Tower Kolkata, Trump Tower Pune and Trump Tower Mumbai.

In India, The Trump Organization has already



completed a luxury project in Pune partnering with Panchshil Realty.

It tied up with Lodha group in 2014 for a housing project in Mumbai, which is currently under construction.

In November 2017, Trump Tower was launched in Kolkata comprising 140 ultra-luxury apartments and being developed by Unimark Group, RDB Group and Tribeca Developers.

The fourth housing project at Gurugram, Haryana, launched in 2018, is being developed by realty firm M3M.

Besides Trump Towers, Tribeca is independently developing few projects in partnership with other builders.

European Union agrees ban on import products driving deforestation

BRUSSELS: The European Union reached an agreement Tuesday to ban the import of products including coffee, cocoa and soy in cases where they are deemed to contribute to deforestation.

The draft law, which aims to ensure "deforestation-free supply chains" for the 27-nation EU, was hailed by environmental groups as "groundbreaking."

It requires companies importing into the EU to guarantee products are not produced on land that suffered deforestation after December 31, 2020, and that they comply with all laws of the source country.

The scope encompasses palm oil, cattle, soy, coffee, cocoa, timber and rubber as well as derived products such as beef, furniture and chocolate.

Illegal production has spurred massive deforestation in countries such as Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mexico and Guatemala.

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that an aggregate area of land bigger than the European Union, or some 420 million hectares (more than one billion acres), has been deforested around the world over the past three decades.

The European Union is the second-biggest market for the consumption of targeted products after China.

Pascal Canfin, chairman of the European Parliament's environment committee, hailed the agreement, and how its impact would feed through to everyday items Europeans consume.

"It's the coffee we have for breakfast, the chocolate we eat, the coal in our barbecues, the paper in our books. This is radical," he said.

'Historic' The environmental lobby group Greenpeace called the draft law, agreed upon between the European Parliament and EU member states, "a major breakthrough."

Another, WWF, called it "groundbreaking" and "historic."

"This regulation is the first in the world to

tackle global deforestation and will significantly reduce the EU's footprint on nature," the WWF said in a statement.

Both groups called on the EU to go further, by expanding the scope of the law to include savannahs, such as Brazil's Cerrado, which are also under threat by encroaching ranchers and farmers.

Greenpeace noted that financial institutions extending services to importing companies would not initially come under the new law, but that they would come under review two years later.

Both the European Council -- representing the EU countries -- and the European Parliament now have to officially adopt the

agreed law. Big companies would have 18 months to comply, while smaller ones would get a longer grace period.

"The new law will ensure that a set of key goods placed on

the (European Union) market will no longer contribute to deforestation and forest degradation in the EU and elsewhere in the world," the European Commission said in a statement.

"The battle for climate and biodiversity is accelerating," French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted.

Big fines The parliament said in a statement that the law opened the way for technology such as satellite monitoring and DNA analysis to verify the provenance of targeted imports.

High-risk exporting countries would have nine per cent of products sent to the EU checked, while lower-risk ones would have lower proportions scrutinised.

Companies found violating the law could be fined up to four per cent of annual turnover in the EU.

The legislation would be reviewed one year after coming into force, to see whether it should be extended to other wooded lands.

Another review at the two-year mark would have the commission considering whether to expand it to cover other ecosystems and commodities, as well as financial institutions.



Harry Kane stars in England's win over Senegal to power side into quarterfinals

New Delhi: Like all great strikers, Harry Kane's timing was perfect. The England captain got off the mark on Sunday (December 4), scoring his first goal at this year's World Cup in a 3-0 victory over Senegal that set up a must-see match against France in the quarterfinals. "I was waiting patiently to try to score and thankfully that was today," said Kane, who was the leading scorer at the last World Cup. "I feel good and hopefully this can start a good run for me personally because I know that will help the team as well."

It certainly was a good time for Kane to end his dry spell in Qatar because Kylian Mbappe, the tournament's leading scorer with five goals, is waiting to face England on Saturday at Al Bayt Stadium. With that in mind, England could do with its most prolific

striker at his sharpest. "It is the biggest test that we can face," England coach Gareth Southgate said. "They are world champions, they have an incredible depth of talent, outstanding individual players, very difficult to play against and score goals against. It is a fantastic challenge. "(Mbappe) is a world class player, has already delivered in big moments in this tournament and in previous tournaments." Kane scored six goals at the 2018 World Cup in Russia, each one helping England reach the semifinals. But it has been harder this time around, with the captain having to wait until first-half stoppage time against Senegal to finally get one. When the moment came, he never looked like missing. Head down, he powered a shot past Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy to put England



ahead 2-0. Then, arms spread wide, the relief poured out as he ran away in celebration. "As a striker scoring goals is what you do and it's one of the best feelings you can have in football," Kane said.

"The ball just sat up nicely and the connection was perfect. I had one just before that I should have done better with so it was nice to see that one go in." It was Kane's 52nd goal for England, moving him

within one of Wayne Rooney's national record. He also overtook Gary Lineker as his country's leading scorer in major tournaments with 11 goals. "You could see the lift that gave him in

the second half," Southgate said. "For any striker, when you haven't scored, it is there in the back of your mind and you get that lift of confidence when it comes. "There is nobody I would rather have in

that moment bearing down on goal, a really clinical finish."

England's great strength at this year's World Cup has been the amount of different goal threats it has, and another emerged on Sunday when Jordan Henderson gave his team the lead. Bukayo Saka completed the scoring with his third of the tournament. Marcus Rashford, who has also scored three goals in Qatar, didn't even make the starting lineup.

"The great thing for us is the goals have been spread," Southgate said. "We've not been dependent upon him (Kane). It's great that we are showing another side to our attacking play." Jude Bellingham is also one of England's goal scorers, but his game is about so much more. He proved that with a dominant midfield performance against Senegal. "Goodness me,

@BellinghamJude is unbelievably good. He's the leader in this team. His parents must be so proud. Love him," Lineker wrote on Twitter after the 19-year-old Borussia Dortmund midfielder crossed for Henderson to score the first goal in the 38th minute. Up to then, Senegal had been creating the more dangerous chances. But everything changed once Bellingham seized control, charging into the box to set up Henderson before starting the move that led to Kane's goal. "I've spoken really highly of him," Kane said. "He's a fantastic player, has everything with and without the ball, presses really well, getting around the pitch, tackles. With the ball he can run, take players on, play a through ball. As you saw today he was really important with our goals."

Shafali Verma, Richa Ghosh picked in India U19 squad after ICC green signal

New Delhi: Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh have been picked in India's Under-19 World Cup squad only after the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed their eligibility. The selection panel, it is learnt, wanted to be sure about the eligibility of both players since the two have already represented India at the senior international level.

The communication between the Neetu David-led selection panel and the ICC was done through the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), and the two players were selected for the maiden edition of the Under-19 World Cup after a green signal from the world body.

Shafali, at 18, is already a veteran of sorts having played 69 international games (two Women's Tests, 21 WODIs and 46 WT20Is). Richa, on the



other hand, has played 42 international games, (17 WODIs and 25 WT20Is). Both also qualified age wise, although Richa is already 19. Shafali, in fact, has been named skipper. The ICC, it is learnt, has clarified that any player born on or before September 1, 2003, is not eligible for playing in the Women's Under 19 World Cup, to be held in South Africa. Richa has escaped the cut-off date by 28 days as she was born on September 28, 2003. Shafali's birthdate is January 28, 2004 and she will be well below 19

when the World Cup would be underway. Further, the national selectors have felt that the selection of the two will be a big boost for the senior team as the Women's T20 World Cup will also be held in South Africa immediately after the Under 19 World Cup, which is from January 14 to 29. India are placed in Group D alongside South Africa, UAE and Scotland. The top three teams from each group will progress to the Super Six round, where teams will be pooled into two groups of six. The Women's T20 World Cup

is from February 10 to 26.

Meanwhile, it has been learnt that the selectors will be submitting over 200 names of players who can be considered for the Women's IPL, to be held sometime in March. As previously reported by Cricbuzz, the BCCI, after a recent Governing Council meeting, asked the selectors to create a pool of players for the WIPL. Cricbuzz has learnt that the list with over 160-170 Indian players and about 30-40 foreign players, will be submitted to the BCCI in a couple of days. The five-team league would be requiring a window of 15 days and it is likely to be held from March 7 to 22.

Before confirming the dates though, the BCCI will be conducting an auction for the media rights followed by another auction for the franchises.

One of England's greatest away wins - Stokes

New Delhi: Ben Stokes has hailed the 74-run win in Rawalpindi as "one of England's greatest away wins."

The victory was achieved in trying circumstances for England, who found a way to pick 20 wickets on a very flat pitch. But challenges began for the visitors even before they took the field as a sickness bug swept through the dressing room, leaving them sprawling to put together an eleven.

But once on the field, England didn't put a foot wrong. They made use of a good toss and racked up runs quickly in both innings before a very aggressive declaration from Stokes on Day 4 set the game up beautifully.



"To be able to get a result on this type of wicket is just mind-blowing," Stokes said. "Just the effort that everyone's managed to put in this whole week is just incredible and I feel very honored and feel in a very privileged position to be able to lead these guys out in the field. "Jimmy Anderson said to me before the end of match presentation that

he's feeling quite emotional about this win. So here's a guy who has played 180 Test matches, has experienced everything you know, the highs and lows of Test cricket, and to hear him say that about this particular Test match, I think that really makes you realize how special an achievement this week has been wearing this England shirt.

"Some of the things we can't plan for is what happened to the squad before the Test. Seems a long time ago when we were running around to find players for the Test. Will Jacks getting the message three minutes before toss, and Pope getting the gloves."

England played exactly in the image of Stokes and McCullum, both of whom have brought an aggressive brand of cricket to the dressing room.

"We've played 8-9 matches with myself and Brendon in charge. One thing we try to do is focus on ourselves and not the opposition. We know we're a very exciting team," Stokes said.



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