

YBhg Datuk Abang Sallehuddin Abg Shokeran to Head DBP, Malaysia again

Kuala Lumpur (KCN): YBhg. Datuk Abang Sallehuddin Abg Shokeran is re-appointed as the Director General of Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka (DBP) by the

ment Literary authority for Malay Literature in Malaysia and comprises patronage of all the Malaysian Universities and writers unions. The founder of Moti-

rum Director Sabrina Bryant and Sr Advisor (Malay Literature & Translations) Dr Raja Rajeswari Seetha Raman congratulated Ybhg. Datung Abang

that this move is a reassurance to Malay literary aspirants and established authors and beneficial to Global Literature. He praised the Government of Malaysia strategic decision. Dr Raja Rajeswari Seetha Raman said that Motivational Strips and Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka (DBP) will work closely to enhance the relevance of Malay literature on the global front. Sabrina Bryant from Motivational Strips USA office extended her congratulations to YBhg Datuk Abang Sallehuddin Abg Shokeran and the citizens of Malaysia on this move.



YBhg. Datuk Abang Sallehuddin Abg Shokeran
Director General - DBP

Shiju H. Pallithazheth
Founder
Motivational Strips

Dr Raja Rajeswari Seetha Raman
Sr Advisor
Malay Literature & Translations

Sabrina Bryant
Forum Director
Motivational Strips

Malaysian Government. Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka (DBP) is the highest Govern-

mental Strips, the worlds most active writers forum Shiju H. Pallithazheth, it's Fo-

Sallehuddin Abg Shokeran on the occasion. Shiju H. Pallithazheth stated

BBI Airport for Asset Monetization

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Union Government has identified Bhubaneswar Airport

2025, said Minister Of State Civil Aviation, VK Singh in a written reply to a

Vijayawada, Vadodara, Bhopal, Tirupati, Hubli, Imphal, Agartala,

the airports through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode in public interest and



for Asset Monetization. Bhubaneswar Airport is an International Airport in Odisha. As per National Monetization Pipeline (NMP), 25 AAI airports have been earmarked for asset monetization over the years 2022 to

question in Lok Sabha today. Those are Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Trichy, Indore, Raipur, Calicut, Coimbatore, Nagpur, Patna, Madurai, Surat, Ranchi Jodhpur, Chennai,

Udaipur, Dehradun and Rajahmundry. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has identified Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) International Airport in Tamil Nadu among 13 airports for operations, management and development of

for better management of the airports. Even after bringing these airports under PPP mode of operations, AAI will remain the owner of the airports and all these airports will revert to AAI once the Concession Period is over.

Blood donation camp by Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Excellence in association with ASTHA School of Management and Capital Hospital organised a blood donation camp here on Wednesday. The camp was inaugurated by president of Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Excellence Rotarian Susanta Kumar Mohapatra.

Charter president Rotarian Sidharth Tiwari, club service chairman and Astha School's chairman Rotarian Bijay Kumar Patra, and others were present. As many as 72 units of blood were collected from the members of the club, students, parents and staff of the School and locals at the camp.

Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, and many prestigious awards. He expired on December 8, 2021 at the age of 63." Terming the sad demise of General Rawat and all 11 other armed personnel as an irreparable loss to the nation, Mr. Patnaik said, "Their outstanding service to our nation will always be remembered." He requested Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro to kindly let the

Rich Tributes to General Rawat

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Legislative Assembly on Thursday paid rich tributes to Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, his wife Madhulika Rawat and 11 others who died in the Mi-17V5 helicopter crashed near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu on 8 December afternoon. Moving an obituary reference in the Assembly, Chief Minister and Leader of the House, Naveen Patnaik said, "With profound grief, I rise

to inform the August House of the sudden and untimely demise of General Bipin Rawat, his wife Madhulika ji, and 11 other armed forces personnel in a tragic helicopter crash in the 8th of December, 2021 in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu." "He (Gen Rawat) had an extremely distinguished career of over four decades of selfless service marked by exceptional gallantry. He was conferred with the Param Vishisht

Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, and many prestigious awards. He expired on December 8, 2021 at the age of 63." Terming the sad demise of General Rawat and all 11 other armed personnel as an irreparable loss to the nation, Mr. Patnaik said, "Their outstanding service to our nation will always be remembered." He requested Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro to kindly let the

House pay sincere condolences to the members of the bereaved families.



BJP chief whip Mohan Charan Majhi, Congress leg-

BJD, BJP protest in street

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of Panchayat

prices, essential commodities and rising

gherao Assembly over Mamita Meher

was led by the party's Organisational Secretary Pranab Prakash Das, Yuva BJD General Secretary Pranab Balabantaray and Chhatra BJD President Devi Ranjan Tripathy. The party activists raised slogans against the Central government during the march.



Polls, youth activists of Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and opposition BJP on Thursday held two rallies in the capital city against each other.

The BJD workers took out a motorcycle rally here protesting over the rise in fuel

unemployment. The youth BJP tried to

The BJD bike rally



Puri Awaits for more Prashad Funds

Bhubaneswar(KCN): While the Union Government has released only Rs 10 crore for the development of infrastructures in Jagannath Dham Puri under its PRASHAD Scheme, the Holy City waits for more funds.

"Infrastructure Development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham - Ramachandi - Prachi River front at Deuli under Mega Circuit" under PRASHAD Scheme the Ministry of Tourism was sanctioned in

Shree Jagannath Vishramsthali & Amphitheatre and the development works at Shree Jagannathdham Puri Beach, Gundicha Temple, Ramchandi Temple, works at Prachi river front and

However, the Centre has sanctioned over Rs 45 crore for Kerala and over Rs 53 crore for Andhra Pradesh. The National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Aug-



That too, the amount was released in March 2015, when the PRASHAD scheme was launched. Though the Centre has supposed to provide Rs 50 crore under the scheme, it has released only Rs 10 crore till now.

March 2015 at the cost of Rs 50 crore with release of an amount of Rs 10 crore." Giving details of the projects taken up under the scheme, Reddy said development of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Puri, Development of

Maa Mangala Temple have been approved under the scheme. "Till date the progress in the project has been less than 10 per cent and no utilization certificate has been received from the State Government," he told the Rajya Sabha.

mentation Drive' (PRASHAD) was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15 with the objective of integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations. The scheme aimed at

parted souls and then adjourned till 4 pm. Meanwhile, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan expressed grief at the death of Junior Warrant Officer (JWO) Rana Pratap Das, who was from Odisha, in the incident. "While the country is yet to come to terms with the unfortunate chopper crash yesterday, I also mourn the demise of JWO Rana Pratap Das who lost his life along with CDS Gen Rawat, his wife and other de-

fence personnel. Shri Das was from my hometown in Talcher, Odisha," Mr. Pradhan said in a tweet. As an exceptional gentleman, Das served the nation with courage, commitment and diligence. With his passing away the country has lost a fine IAF officer and Odisha a brave son, he said. Mr. Pradhan offered his deepest condolences to family & friends of Mr. Das.

Preparation meeting for Mini Marathon & Cricket by Inter Village Cricket Association

Cuttack (KCN): Cuttack Sadar old organisation Inter Village Cricket Association plans his 17th. annual cricket tournament with both male and female teams joined in 3 steps this month 25th-26th. December two days at Kotua playground as

preparation meeting presiding by



Association presi-

dent Laxman Kumar Sahu in presence of Secretary Samir Khuntia, Bijaya Rout, Main coacher Rabindra Bhoi, Patitabpaban Nath, Bapi Prusti & all. These events are made in the great memories of retired Police officer Late

Brundaban Rout and 6th. Mini marathon will be held by 26th December as strat from Fakirapada Kali Temple to Kotua playground. Those who want to participate may contact 9778156237, 934839318 cell numbers respectively.

The company has appointed a new Head of Remote-First and adopted new working practices

Kolkata (KCN) Cactus Communications (CACTUS), a technology company

means that in everything we do at work, we will adopt a remote-first mindset, making sure

the multiple challenges posed by workforce migration to overpopulated big cities and

Leaders found that 86% of employees wanted flexibility in how and where they worked, with 38% preferring full-time remote work. A core team then benchmarked other remote-first companies and spoke with industry thought-leaders to learn best practices. Several pilots on various work practices were introduced to gain insight on what would work best for the company. This included everything from introducing virtual water cooler events and virtual whiteboards to creating a communications charter, designating remote champions, developing guidelines on a synchronous communication, and launching a remote-first handbook. The company also created a new role, Head of Remote-First, hiring Jason Morwick to lead the company's transition.



accelerating scientific advancement, has announced its transition to a remote-first company for all its 1,200 employees across nine locations globally. It is one of the first companies in India to join a small but growing list of firms across the globe that are embracing remote-first—companies that have office locations but do not require their employees to work from them. “Three hundred and twenty people joined CACTUS in the seven months leading up to October 2021, and 50% of our new hires are from locations where we don’t have physical offices, such as Jaipur, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, and many others,” said Yashmi Pujara, Chief Human Resources Officer at CACTUS. “Remote-first does not mean that we will not have offices or that our people can’t work from an office. It

everyone, regardless of where they are working from, has an equal voice and visibility in the organization.” “We believe that talent is everywhere, opportunity is not,” continued Pujara. “We are now no longer restricted to specific geographic locations, and we can provide opportunities wherever we find the right talent. In fact, our people are currently spread across 14 countries and 165 different cities. In India, our employees are currently working out of more than 130 cities.” The move will see CACTUS expand its recruitment across the globe and pioneer new, post-pandemic working practices, including work from anywhere, asynchronous communication, and more. Through this move, CACTUS also aims to create employment opportunities in smaller towns where such opportunities might be scarce, thereby mitigating

contributing to a more fulfilling and sustainable future for the employee, organization, and planet at large. “While the world was forced into an 18-month experiment with remote work, we’ve been thinking about embracing remote-first for a long time,” said Abhishek Goel, CEO and Co-founder, CACTUS. “The primary reason behind our adoption of a remote-first culture is our evolution as a global company. When too many people are concentrated in a specific office location, the loudest voices are the ones closest to you. With customers in over 160 countries, we want to be close to them and responsive to their needs. We also want employees across the globe to contribute equally to the direction of the company.” To develop a remote-first model, the company surveyed employees to better understand their work preferences and challenges.

Lower Stretch of Ganges in West Bengal Records Higher Faecal Coliform Count Compared to Upstream River States an Environmental Study

Kolkata(KCN): On both the banks of the lower stretch of River Ganges, which is termed as Bhagirathi Hooghly, intense semi urban to urban localities and industrial zones have developed over time including growth of towns and cities such as Kalyani, Tribeni, Barrackpore, Kolkata and Diamond Harbour before it meets the coastal Bay of Bengal. On a daily basis, release of untreated municipal sewage, agricultural runoffs, untreated effluents from small industries as well as ongoing social, tourism and religious activities affect the water quality of the River Ganges. Several steps including establishment of sewage treatment plants (STPs) under Ganga Action Plans I and II (GAP) were implemented. However,

even with the existing STPs which were set up in the state of West Bengal, the lower stretch of the Ganges continues to report high faecal coliform counts as these could only treat 1208.80 MLD sewage. Between 2007 and 2011, this stretch of Ganga River (Bhagirathi-Hooghly) flowing between Dakshineswar and Diamond Harbour recorded higher faecal coliform count compared to the rest of the entire upstream of the river. In the Gangetic Plains of West Bengal, seasonal precipitation that spans over the months of July to September and often stretching to October, plays a major role in influencing water quality of the River Ganges. Surface waters are most vulnerable as they are continuously exposed to disposal of wastewa-

ter. Municipal and industrial waste water that originate from PS affect the river continuously, whereas surface runoff varies seasonally and is influenced by seasonal precipitation. Variation in seasonal precipitation, surface runoff, interflow and groundwater seepage are some of the factors that ultimately influence river discharge and may also affect the pollutants. A team led by Professor Punyasloke Bhadury from the Integrative Taxonomy and Microbial Ecology Research Group (ITMERG) at IISER Kolkata comprising Chakresh Kumar, from ITMERG, Anwesha Ghosh, ITMERG, Yash (ITMERG) and Manojit Debnath, Department of Botany, Panskura Banamali College,

Purba Medinipur conducted along the lower stretch of River Ganges beginning from Kalyani up to Kolkata. The studied stretch spans across a distance of approximately 50 kms. Nine sites were selected located on both sides of the river bank for sampling namely Kalyani, Tribeni, Halisahar, Naihati, Chandannagar, Palta, Barrackpore, Dakshineswar and Kolkata. The study found that the lower stretch of the River Ganges that flows through West Bengal and is commonly referred to as Bhagirathi Hooghly has ‘very poor’ water quality. Unchecked metal contamination originating from industrial effluents including tanneries along with rapid increase of coliform count has rendered the river water unfit for usage.

Safer Digital Space For Women

Khordha (KCN) The leading NGO of the

leges, SHGs, SHG federation,

Sakhi centre, DALSA, CWC, DCPU, POCSO,

of case and victims are also discussed. The campaign will



state Darbar Sahitya Sansad(DSS) in collaboration with Maitri Network is continuing a 16 days campaign in Khordha District on "Safer Space For Women ". The campaign is being conducted in different schools, col-

Anganwadi workers etc. DSS fellow Ms. Annapurna with Ms. Santoshini is conducting the awareness session on "Sexual violence against women and Children ". Various aspects like role of stakeholders like women helpline,



ICDS, Police, CBOs are being discussed in details. The role of community level workers in detecting and proper reporting

continue till 10th December -2021. So far 650 women and adolescent girls have been made aware.

Donation box of Shani temple of Barbil was stolen



Barbil(KCN): There has been remarkable rise in theft at Barbil in the district of Keonjhar since last few months. It has come to notice that

the donation box of Shanimandir was stolen by some miscreants last late night. Taking the advantage of winter ,a group of

miscreants has become active and deliberately doing the theft activities says some locals .The management of Mandir

committee has lodged a complain at Barbil police station. Police is investigating the matter said IIC Sushant Dash.

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Hotel tenant Pankaj Varma starving to death due to the owner of 'Cafe Saga' hotel in Bhayandar (West)

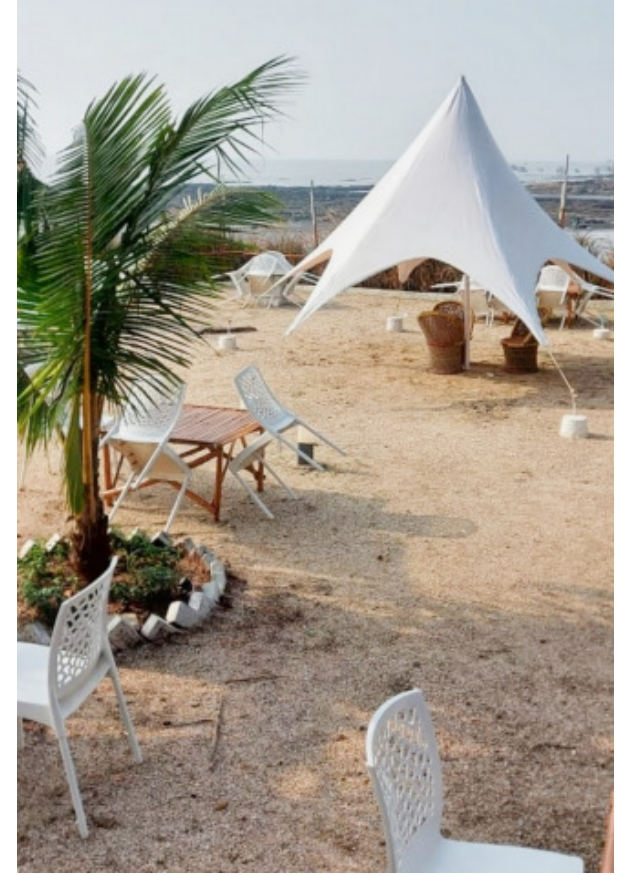
Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): A person named Vipul Murlidhar Kshirsagar at Borne

Tenant Pankaj somehow took the hotel by paying 10 lakhs as a deposit and started the hotel by investing

of covid time and if this is not acceptable then Pankaj asked the owner to return the deposit. On this the

Kshirsagar possession at that time. When Pankaj Varma went back to the hotel after coming from

legal fees in which BMC legal fees of Vipul Murlidhar



Wadi Uttan, lakhs of rupees in

owner of the hotel,

the village, the

owner of Cafe Saga

Hotel, Vipul Kshirsagar, refused to let him in and threatened him saying, "My wife is a tribal, if you come here, I will implicate you in some case." After this, Pankaj Varma sent a notice from his lawyer Harish P Bhandari to return his 10 lakh deposit or allow him to run the hotel again under the three-year live and license agreement. He was also ready to pay half the rent for the month of lockdown. But Vipul, the owner of the hotel, sent a reply to the notice from his lawyer Mukesh N Rathod that by 30 November 2021, pay eleven and a half lakh rent, along with electric bill and watchman's salary, and BBMC

50000 it is of what?. When the hotel was closed due to lockdown the hotel was damaged and there was loss of seven lakhs due to cyclone it was said by Pankaj but when hotel was taken by Pankaj all the renovation work was done by Pankaj, whereas Pankaj had bear the entire cost of building the hotel, and when the cyclone came, the hotel was closed and it was under possession of Vipul Kshirsagar. According to owner the total expenditure is about 20 lakhs, out of which the tenant Pankaj Varma should give the owner of Kshirsagar, nearly 10 lakhs after deducting the deposit, a reply has been sent to such a notice. Due to all this, tenant Pankaj was very hurt and his health deteriorated, his family is starving and everything has come to a standstill. Now they are going to file a case in the Mumbai High Court by taking loans from people with great difficulty. Really, it is difficult to calculate how many families were destroyed due to Corona and also because of lack of humanity in some people. No one thinks that such kind of trouble can ever come on anyone.



Bhayandar (West) gave his hotel 'Mansi Uphar Griha' (Cafe Saga) to Pankaj Munnal Varma on 8 November 2020 on 15 lakh deposit and 1.25 lakh on rent for three years. Out of which 10 lakhs deposit has paid to owner and the rest was to be given later.

Hotel setup by borrowing for others and paid the rent till April 2021 and after that unfortunately there was lockdown due to Coronavirus and the hotel was closed. Pankaj discussed with the owner that he will be able to pay only half rent in closing period

Vipul, did not wanted to return the deposit and thus, agreed to take half rent. After this, Pankaj went out to his village in lockdown. After his departure, the hotel was damaged due to the cyclone, while Hotel was in Vipul

James Franco erased from Vanity Fair's Hollywood issue following alleged sexual misconduct



WASHINGTON(KCN): In the wake of the sexual misconduct allegations levied against him, James Franco was removed from the Vanity Fair cover photo that features Reese Witherspoon, Oprah Winfrey, and a host of other stars. According to The Hollywood Reporter, 'The Disaster Artist' star sat for a photo shoot and conducted an interview for the piece titled "12 Ex-

traordinary Stars, One Momentous Year." "We made a decision not to include James Franco on the Hollywood cover once we learned of the misconduct allegations against him," the publication said in a statement released to E! Online. Allegations of sexual misconduct involving the 39-year-old emerged in force during the Golden Globes, where

Franco won best actor, musical or comedy for his role as Tommy Wiseau. The cover features a range of film stars, from left to right: Oprah Winfrey, Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon, Tom Hanks, Michael B. Jordan, Zendaya, Jessica Chastain, Claire Foy, Michael Shannon, Harrison Ford, Gal Gadot, Vanity Fair editor-in-chief Graydon Carter, and Robert De Niro.

Actress and activist Alyssa Milano aims to counter Donald Trump's State of the Union address

LOS ANGELES (KCN): Actress and activist Alyssa Milano will host "a hopeful, public alternative" to US President Donald Trump's State of the Union address. Milano's "State of the Dream" digital initiative is soliciting and will present brief videos from Americans describing their dreams for the coun-

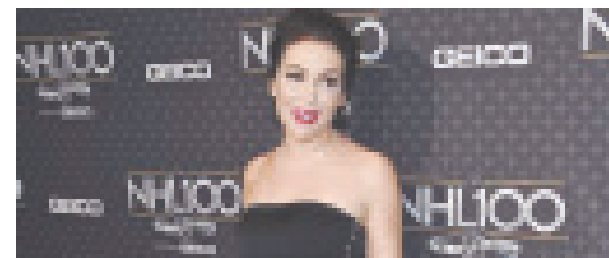
try. The videos will be simultaneously posted on Twitter and other social media just as Trump begins his address on January 30, reports deadline.com. Milano, who helped popularise Tarana Burke's #MeToo movement, wrote that everyone is welcome to post a video, but she especially encourages any-

one seeking political office to participate. After the initial video blast, contributors can continue "the unifying tweetstorm" by posting with the #StateOfTheDream hashtag. The actress says a toolkit will be released prior to January 30. Milano's project will follow by a day the People's State of

the Union live-stream event at New York City's Town Hall, a gathering of progressive organisations (MoveOn.org, We

Stand United, Stand Up America, People For The American Way, among others) and celebrities including Mark Ruffalo,

Whoopi Goldberg, John Leguizamo, Michael Moore and Wanda Sykes. Set for Monday, the event is self-described as "a hopeful, public alternative to Trump's State of the Union", and will outline a plan of action for the coming year focusing on voter rights, voter registration and voter turnout.



When will the country get its first Dalit trillionaire industrialist?

R. K. Sinha

It is imperative to remember that India will be able to proudly claim to be fully developed only on the day when we will have thousands of Dalit industrialists/entrepreneurs thriving in our economy. Over the course of many years, India has



borne witness to Dalits who have become Presidents, Governors, Chief Ministers, Ministers, etc. In the world of science, education and sports youth

belonging to Dalit society are also performing exceptionally well.

But, we are still awaiting the advent of our first Dalit entrepreneur to adorn the status of a billionaire-trillionaire. The pleasant thing is that Dalit youth are now making a place for themselves in the business world. Now, they are getting

widespread employment opportunities. Ravish is associated with the footwear business. Footwear companies around the world place orders with him to make goods according to their demands. Ravish Pipal provides design, technology, and marketing advice to footwear manufacturers in India and supplies goods to the companies from where he gets orders. His employees belong to all castes in his company and jobs are secured purely based on merit.

Nowadays, Dalit women are also succeeding as entrepreneurs. Take the example of Mumbai's Kalpana Saroj. Her story of struggle fascinates one a lot. She is the President of Kamini Tubes. She says that she has benefited from the liberal economic policy of the Modi government. Saroj moved to Mumbai from Akola in the 1980s. Until then economic liberalization was still a few years away. Saroj started earning a nominal amount every day by working as a tailor in

of entrepreneurship, in which Dalits have also benefited. There is a positive impact on the emerging section of Dalit entrepreneurs in the retail market. For the educated Dalits, huge opportunities in business are constantly being created. The truth is that government jobs in the country are also decreasing rapidly every year. Jobs are decreasing rapidly in the Central Government, State Governments, Banks, Public Sector Undertakings, etc. The second thing is also that the reasons due to which the youth were attracted towards government jobs no longer exist. As there is no pension in government jobs anymore and the crackdown on corruption is at an all-time high. Thus, there seems no reason for there to be a lot of commotion to secure such jobs?

Today, large-scale government jobs are available only on a contractual basis. Because of this also many youths, most of whom come from Dalit and backward society, have made up their mind to do

in this work, Rajiv Kane took a leap. He set up a unit manufacturing electric scooters and motorcycles in Noida. He also managed to get loans. Now his company has dealers across the country. They believe that considering the ever-increasing prices of petrol and diesel, the time of electric vehicles has arrived.

Thousands of Dalit youth have become successful entrepreneurs in Babasaheb Ambedkar's home state Maharashtra. Their standard of living is also changing rapidly. They do not only aspire for reservations in workplaces and educational institutions. However, they do aspire to leave their mark in the business world.

Regrettably, the fierce casteist leaders of North India like Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav want to keep the youth coming from Dalit and backward castes entangled in questions like a reservation. However, their grip is weakening by the minute. Of course, any society that goes through difficult times and struggles progresses in the future. Take Marwaris for instance. They were born in the dry and barren land and desert of Rajasthan and Gujarat. Currently, many big industrialists of the country come from the Marwari community. Similar is the case of the Parsis who fled from Iran and the Sindhis who left Sindh. All of them fought through adversity and emerged prosperously. The partition of the country gave birth to thousands of young entrepreneurs.

Many Hindu and Sikh youths who came to India from Pakistan in 1947 made a place for themselves by starting new businesses. They did not give up in the face of adversity. Many of these later became Brijmohan Munjal (Hero Group), Mahasaya Dharampal Gulati (MDH Spices), Raunak Singh (Apollo Tyres), HC Nanda (Escorts). Now is the time for Dalits, Dalits who are progressing beyond their capabilities in business and shattering all outdated stigmas and stereotypes.

(The author is a senior editor, columnist, and a former MP.)

plenty of opportunities in the open economy structured by the Modi government. By taking advantage of the changes, they have started giving jobs instead of asking for them. It seems only plausible to expect the dawn of the era of Dalit billionaire businessmen. However, this is not a small feat.

The Dalit society, which has been exploited for centuries, has finally started writing its history in the competitive field of business. Ravish Pipal, a Dalit entrepreneur from Agra is recognized among those who act as a source of inspiration for others. He provides

Mumbai. She then started a furniture shop by taking a bank loan. When that worked out well, in 1997 Saroj bought land in Mumbai. In the year 2000, she sold her building. This portrayed her image as a woman who could do something on her own in Mumbai. In 2006, Saroj took over the command of a tube-making company, which was on the verge of bankruptcy called Kamani Tubes. Under her leadership now that company is making a profit.

The success of Dalit entrepreneurs in the business world is being attributed to outsourcing. This has led to an explosion

some business of their own. This is a pleasant situation. Many young people are also earning decent money through outsourcing. Dalit youth are also realizing that they cannot live their entire lives with the help of reservation. That is why the Dalit youth themselves have taken the concrete initiative of self-employment. Rajiv Kane comes from Dalit society who felt that he could not survive with the help of a job.

During his childhood, he worked as a scooter mechanic in East Delhi along with his father. He did a lot of hard work and faced several struggles. After specializing

IMF forecast on Comfortable economic

Uma Shankar Prasad

The waves of new variants of the old accused pandemic is bad news for the health of the planet. On top, the economic disruptions that these have



been creating is a double whammy. The only silver lining is that people should learn fast to tackle new situations, however difficult these are. A South

African doctor conclusively proved the infection by a still more infectious variant of the old COVID-19 virus, it sent a shiver down the spines. All countries woke up the possibilities of another round of mass sickness, over crowded hospitals, shortages of essential medicines and medical services and then fresh lock downs. Several countries have already imposed fresh travel restrictions. Japan for one has been super charged and has reportedly stopped all international flights coming. Some European countries are doing so, amidst already spiking COVID infection rates.

China, the country which had let loose this horrible plight on the world, has been pursuing its crude policy of zero-tolerance to COVID infection> Brazil

has been another weak spot, with large incidence of infection, omicron or no omicron. The doctors are already saying that although the virus mutant is far more infectious than the earlier Delta one, it has so far proved to be less fatal. The symptoms of the Omicron variety are much milder and do not immediately require hospitalisation. If controlling the spread of the omicron variety of COVID needs still more various isolation and lockdown, then this is surely going to affect the global economic recovery now under way. The IMF had forecast comfortable economic recovery before the news of the omicron spread. Now after its emergence and rapid spread, these would have to be reviewed. Already, global financial markets have reacted to the news of the new variant and its typical nature. Markets have fallen sharply and these are still waiting for further details. As more and more news appear about the omicron variety, the financial markets would surely react. This is not unknown. Immediately after the global financial melt-down in 2008 and subsequent disruptions, the economies had gone into a tail spin. As the US economic authorities had responded to the revolving scenario, these further left collateral damages. A kind of financial

market instability following severe omicron spread and fresh lockdowns could once again give rise to uncertainties. This would of course depend on their current economic strength. Those already facing high inflation (and some are), having smaller kitty of foreign exchange reserves, exposure to short-term loans and dependence on exports to China or US, will face possible inflection points. Both China and the United States are the engines of the global economy and their domestic economic policies will influence what happens to others.

There are two principal threats now. The first is that China is slowing down and a slower China poses threat to a host of countries with numerous related risks. The second is the monetary policy stance of the US federal Reserve and the rippling financial woes these could inflict across the world. The Chinese economic trends are posing a serious problem for the global economy. Real estate is estimated to constitute close to 30% of the Chinese GDP according to some very conservative calculations by well-down China expert Kenneth Rogoff. The trouble of the real estate behemoth, Evergrande which owned over \$300 billion in loans to various banks and individuals who have kept

their money with the company, is facing difficulties in repaying. Some of the loans had defaulted and the company is struggling to meet its obligations. Any failure on the part of Evergrande could spill disaster to Chinese banks as well as a large number of Chinese household investors. Such a development could undermine the Chinese financial system and the Government has not shown any signs of bailing out the company as part of its calibrated stance to correct the real estate bubble. It is seeking to convey an impression that whoever is in trouble, the Government isn't going to bail out. In addition the Chinese Government's step to tame the technology sector in the country and its tech billionaires also has had an unnerving impact. Whatever happens in China is in mammoth scale. A series of global financial operators have been hurt by the move of the Chinese Government. It could affect countries exporting commodities to finished products to China. On the other hand a tightening monetary policy of the United States could also affect countries. How India laced in this situation? India is not exposed to risk from either of these potential sources of instability in the global economy.

Columnist Khurda

SUMUM Bags HACCP Certificate



Bhubaneswar: SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM), the one-stop, next generation multispecialty quaternary care hospital here, has obtained the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification recently. HACCP is a preventive food safety system that optimizes efforts to provide patients, attendants, visitors and employ-

ees with safe food at all time. It addresses food safety through analysis and control of biological, chemical and physical hazards from raw material production, procurement and handling, to manufacturing, distribution and consumption of the finished product. The certification ensures that the systems for managing food safety in the hospital

were in place and adequate pre-requisite measures were established for ensuring safe food. Affirming to the commitment to provide the highest level of quality, in care and safety, in patient-centric and technology-enhanced settings, SUMUM put to test its food services division for a HACCP certification. Not only did the hos-

pital pass the food safety compliance test but also became the first hospital in Odisha to be awarded the latest edition 22000-2018 ISO HACCP certification within two years of its inception. The HACCP is yet another feather to SUMUM's cap of quality initiatives including NABH and NABL certifications received earlier.

Courts Heard 4L Cases Since Covid Outbreak

New Delhi: The High Court and other District Courts in Odisha have heard nearly 4 lakh cases since the outbreak of Covid-19 in India. According to a statement of Union Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju, the High Court of Orissa has heard 2,18,073 cases from March 23, 2020 to October 31, 2021 while the District Courts in Odisha have heard 1,81,653 cases from March 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021 (totaling to 3,99,726). The virtual court in Odisha was started in August 2021. Video conferencing emerged as the

Besides providing Case Status, Cause List, New Cases Filed, Judgment/Orders, Defect Status, Certified Copy Status, the Mobile App also features a live display board for all Benches and a Digital Notice Board of the court, the Union Minister informed. The 'Free Text Search' facility conceptualized by the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India for searching judgments and orders of the High Court has been integrated with the High Court's Mobile App for convenient access. The High Court of Orissa has launched a Software Module called the Order Communication Portal (OCP) to facilitate secure and instantaneous communication of High Court's orders and judgments to Subordinate Courts in a paperless environment, thereby saving resources and time consumed in traditional methods of correspondence, he said. So far, 15 virtual courts have been set up in 11 States/UTs viz. Delhi (2), Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala (2), Maharashtra (2), Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir (2), Uttar Pradesh and Odisha to try traffic offences.



mainstay of the courts during the Covid lockdown period as physical hearings and normal court proceedings in the congregational mode were not possible, he said. Live streaming of cases is functional from August 2, 2021 in High Court of Orissa. The High Court's e-Services Mobile App to help lawyers and litigants in availing cases and court related information from the convenience of their smartphones was launched on the same day.

than 1.07 crore cases and realised more than Rs 201.96 crore in fines. Since Covid lockdown started, the District Courts across India heard 1,01,77,289 cases while the High Courts heard 55,24,021 cases (totaling to 1.57 crore) till October 31, 2021 using video conferencing only. The Supreme Court alone heard 1,50,692 hearings since the lockdown period upto October 29 last, Mr.Rijiju said in his reply to the Upper House of Parliament today.

Jaga Mission Bags Global Award

Bhubaneswar: The Housing & Urban Development De-

sion. The award was given for Innovation

through a competitive process from amongst 50 pro-

proach to recognize the informal settlements and the slum dwellers as an indispensable part of the city fabric. These slum dwellers must be empowered with land tenure security and better living habitat; instead of treating them as encroachers and evicting them. 175,000 slum families are already provided with land tenure security and 550 slums in 28 cities have already been transformed into livable habitats. Earlier in 2019, Jaga Mission received the World Habitat Award for its success in providing land tenure security. Jaga Mission serves as a torchbearer for the developing world. It acts as a model public policy to bring about long-lasting happiness in the lives of the poor and marginalized living in informal settlements.



partment of Government of Odisha on Thursday won the Asia Pacific Housing Forum Innovation Awards 2021, a global recognition for its flagship initiative – The Jaga Mis-

in Public Policy in recognition of Jaga Mission's Slum Upgradation program. This award was administered by an international jury which selected Jaga Mission as a winner

grams from several countries in Asia Pacific region. Jaga Mission has successfully demonstrated that governments globally need to have a paradigm shift in their ap-



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ER organises meeting with tour operators to introduce "Theme Based Bharat Gaurav Trains"

Kolkata(KCN): To tap the vast tourism potential of India, Indian Railways has planned to introduce the theme based tourist circuit trains 'Bharat Gaurav' to showcase the country's rich history & heritage. The meeting was organised with tour operators of theme based 'Bharat Gaurav' trains over Eastern Railway (ER) on Tuesday, December 8, 2021. Shri Soumitra Majumdar, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, ER and Shri Amitava Mukherjee, CCM/PM and other senior officers from ER side and eight tour operators or service providers participated in the meeting. Shri Majumdar informed the operators regarding the advantages of this scheme. Various potential

themes & circuits like Buddhist Circuit, National Park Circuit, Rajasthan Circuit, South India Circuit were discussed in the meeting. He also expressed the hope that the new scheme of the Railway would be a success. Some important points were highlighted to the tour operators. Bharat Gaurav trains will run with ICF coaches or service providers can also procure new coaches or bare shell directly from production units of Indian Railways. The minimum number of coaches will be 14 and maximum is 20 coaches including two SLR. Minimum hiring period of Bharat Gaurav trains will be for two years and the maximum period up to the residual codal life of the coaches. In order to ensure the highest

degree of punctuality of 'Bharat Gaurav' trains, it has been decided to accord these tourist trains priority at par with fastest mail and express trains in respective routes. He further stated that interior and exterior decoration can be done as per party's choice and cost. In that case only stripping charges will be borne by the Railways. Parties can change the carrying capacity of a coach as per their own choice, but the total number of berths should not cross the maximum permissible limit of that particular type of coach. Shri Majumdar also pointed out that parties can use the whole body (interior or exterior) of the train for advertising purposes/ Branding Rights which will give them

opportunities of additional earnings. The tour operators will have the flexibility to decide the theme, tour packages & cost and will have the liberty to offer all inclusive packages to the tourists including rail travel, hotel accommodation, sightseeing etc. The tour operators can also apply for on-line registration. A customer support unit will also be established under the Commercial Department of the concerned Zonal Railway Headquarters. It may be noted that two maintenance staff will be deputed on the train for each trip for attending to unusual occurrences & maintenance related issues during the journey and no extra charge shall be levied for these staff.

Shut down of PRS, UTS, MPS retiring room and other allied services over Eastern Region

Kolkata(KCN): The Eastern Railway authority has informed that Firmware Upgradation activity at PRS Data Centre Kolkata has been planned between 00:30 pm at night and 03:30 pm at night of coming Sunday, December 12, 2021 i.e. intervening night of December 11 and 12, 2021. Consequently, Passenger Reservation System (Internet Booking, Current Booking, Enquiry etc), Unreserved Ticketing System, Parcel Management System, Retiring Room and other allied services will not be available during this period over Eastern Railway, South Eastern Railway, East Coast Railway, South East Central Railway, Northeast Frontier Railway and East Central Railway.

JWO Rana Pratap Das from Odisha died in chopper crash along with Gen Bipin Rawat

BHUBANESWAR: Junior Warrant Officer (JWO) of Indian Air Force (IAF) Rana Pratap Das, who lost his life along with CDS Bipin Rawat and 11 others in the tragic chopper crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday was from

membered for his contribution," tweeted his brother-in-law Sankalp Kumar Das. Ageing choppers: IAF fleet's air-worthiness comes under scanner after Sulur mishap. The JWO is survived by his wife, one-year-

old son and his elderly parents. He was serving the IAF for over a decade. Family sources said his mortal remains will be brought to his ancestral village for last rites. A pall of gloom descended in the village after the death news spread. Condolences poured in from different quarters will be people expressing their grief following the sad demise. "While the country is yet to come to the terms with the unfortunate chopper crash yesterday, I also mourn the demise of JWO Rana Pratap Das, who lost his life along with Gen Rawat, his wife and other defence person-



Odisha.

The gunman, a native of Krishnachandrapur village in Angul district, was part of the technical crew that flew with the CDS, his wife and other defence officials. "My relative Rana Pratap Das from Talcher, Odisha lost his life in the tragic helicopter crash. We all are saddened by his untimely demise. He will always be re-

nel. Das was from my hometown in Talcher," tweeted Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Meanwhile, a condolence motion was brought in Odisha Assembly on Thursday to pay tributes to the departed CDS General Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 other defence officials who lost their lives in the tragic helicopter crash.

Following the sad demise, a condolence motion was brought in Odisha Assembly on Thursday to pay tributes to the departed CDS General Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 other defence officials who lost their lives in the tragic helicopter crash.

Odisha Governor, CM Naveen Patnaik condole CDS General Bipin Rawat's death

BHUBANESWAR: Governor Ganeshi

Madhulika and other armed forces person-

extremely unfortunate helicopter crash.

Chief Minister said, "Deeply saddened by

condolences to the bereaved families and wished speedy recovery of the injured. Expressing his grief, Pradhan tweeted, "A decorated general, Rawat served the armed forces with distinction and passion. His demise is a loss for the country. My sincerest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. Also, praying for the earliest recovery of Group Capt Varun Singh, who is currently undergoing treatment at the Military Hospital in Wellington, Tamil Nadu." In a tweet, Union Railways Minister Vishnaw said, "Pained by the demise of CDS Gen Bipin Rawat, Mrs Rawat & other armed forces personnel in an unfortunate accident today. Om Shanti."



Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday condoled the death of Chief of Defence Staff General Rawat, his wife

and 13 others in the helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu. In his condolence message, the Governor said he is deeply saddened to learn about the demise of CDS Rawat, his wife

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Rs 24.5 lakh in cash seized from Delhi bound passenger in Odisha

CUTTACK: Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel on Wednesday seized Rs 24.5 lakh in cash from a person travelling in New Delhi-bound Rajdhani Express at Cuttack railway station.

Arun Kumar Swain (50) of Serapur within Bareilly police limits in Jajpur was carrying the money in four bags.

The bags contained



1,10,000 notes of Rs

20 denomination and

25,000 notes of Rs 10

denomination.

RPF inspector Prabin Kumar said RPF personnel detained Swain and brought him to an outpost near the station

for interrogation.

Amid migration, children feel education stress in Odisha's Balangir

BALANGIR: For children of the seasonal migrants in Balangir district, education is still in a limbo.



The seasonal hostels that were closed are yet to resume; schools have not reopened but large-scale migration has started. A large number of vulnerable children in their school going age are either stuck at their homes or many have moved on with their parents to their workplaces. With seasonal hostels in the district not opening, many children are also waiting to return.

In 2019-2020, the administration opened 62 such hostels in different parts of the district where 2,448 children of migrant workers stayed. Last year, no such center could be opened as the Covid pandemic swept through the State. The hostels are yet to open.

Most of these hostels are operated at different panchayats after assessing the number of children that need accommodation and academic support. With no survey conducted, no proposal has been sent yet this time.

The main objective behind the hostels is to ensure continued education of the children whose parents migrate for a long time. The school campuses turn into hostels and children stay there. They are

provided mid-day meal and other expenditures are borne by the government. Such hostels are running since 2001-2002 in the district.

However, an uncertain Covid situation not allowing the hostels to re-open, children are left with no choice this year. District education officer of Balangir Dhruva Charan Behera said, "Little data on migration is available since schools are closed. If there is requirement, we will plan for the hostels," he added.

Adding to the problem is migration. When reverse migration occurred last year due to Covid, 1.48 lakh migrant workers registered to return to the district. More returned without any registration. This year, poor rainfall has affected farm activities in 42,000 hectare in the district. Expecting normal rainfall, farmers started cultivating early but subsequent scarce rain led to damage of crops in early stages of their growth. This has impacted economic condition of the people who take up farm activities after returning home from their workplaces in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Agriculture has been taken up over 1,21,874 hectares but out of this, 70 percent land faced drought-like condition due to low and erratic rainfall. With no prospects of rainfall and lack of irrigation in the district, farmers are staring at tough days ahead which will only fuel migration.

DoT to deactivate extra SIM of subscribers beyond nine connections



NEW DELHI: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued an order to re-verify the SIM of subscribers holding beyond nine connections across India, six connections in the case of Jammu and Kashmir, North East and Assam, and to disconnect in case of non-verification. The subscribers will be given the option to choose the connection they want to retain and deactivate the rest of the connections, according to the order issued on December 7.

"If during the data analytics carried out by DoT, it is found that an individual subscriber is having more than nine mo-

bile connections (six in the case of J&K, NE and Assam LSAs) across all the TSPs (telecom service providers), all the mobile connections will be flagged for re-verification," the DoT order said.

LSA refers to Licensed Service Area. The order comes from DoT to check incidence of financial crimes, pesky calls, automated calls and fraudulent activities. The DoT has asked telecom operators to remove all the flagged mobile connections from the database that are not in use as per the rule. The outgoing (including data services) facilities of the "flagged mobile con-

nection shall be suspended within 30 days" and "the incoming service shall be suspended within 45 days" in case subscriber has turned up for verification and exercises his option to surrender, transfer to disconnect mobile connections.

In case no subscriber turns up for re-verification, the flagged number will be deactivated within 60 days to be counted from December 7.

"In case of a subscriber who is on international roaming or with physical disability or hospitalisation, additional 30 days will be provided," the order said.

However, if the num-

ber has been flagged by any law enforcement agencies or financial institution or identified as a pesky caller then the outgoing facilities will be suspended within 5 days, incoming within 10 days and complete disconnection within 15 days in case no one turns up for verification.

"The said timelines shall be regularly intimated by the TSPs to the subscribers of flagged mobile connections via SMSs/IVRS/e-mail/app or any other available methods. The subscribers shall also be regularly intimated about the reason for barring of services," the order said.

Retail car sales on slow lane in November, skid 19 per cent

NEW DELHI: Retail sales of passenger vehicles (PVs) fell 19%

is not allowing sales to conclude. The extended waiting period

states. Apart from this, crop loss due to incessant rains and

ber. On the near term outlook, Fada said that the new variant of



in November 2021 to 2,40,234 units as against 2,98,213 units sold in the same month last year as chip shortage continue to play a spoiler, according to data issued by auto dealer body Fada.

Large Indian automakers such as Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai are producing PVs at much lower quantity than their installed capacity as they are unable to outsource vital electric components, mainly the semi-conductor.

"PV continues to face the brunt of semiconductor shortage. While the new launches are keeping customer's interest high, it is only the lack of supply which

is now starting to make customers jittery and this may lead to loss of interest in vehicle buying," said Vinkesh Gulati, president at the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA).

Two-wheeler sales also registered a decline in demand despite having an eventful month of festive and marriage season. It fell 1% year-on-year in November 2021 to 14,33,855 units.

"While the 2W segment saw almost at par sales compared to last year (which itself was a bad year), overall sentiment remained low as marriage season also didn't help in revival except in one or two

flood in southern states, high acquisition price as well as fuel costs kept the customers away. Further, there are no signs of increase in inquiry levels which is a bigger cause of concern," said Gulati. To note, Hero MotoCorp and Honda 2Wheeler, India's two biggest players in this segment, had reported abysmal numbers for the month of Novem-

Covid 'Omicron' has once again gripped the entire nation in fear.

This will further impact the overall vehicle demand. Price rise due to high input costs and high fuel costs are continuing to add customers' woes.

On the 2-wheeler front, Fada urged manufacturers to announce attractive scheme which can work as a stimulus for growth in sales.

Puri Awaits for more Prashad Funds

Continued from page-1

infrastructure development such as entry points (Road, Rail and Water Transport), last mile connectivity, basic tourism facilities like Information/ Interpretation Centers, ATM/Money exchange, eco-friendly modes of transport, area Lighting and illumination with renewable sources of energy, parking, drinking water, toilets, cloak room, waiting rooms, first aid centers, craft bazars /haats/ souvenir shops/cafeteria, rain shelters, Telecom facilities, internet connectivity etc.

BJD, BJP protest in street

Continued from page-1

"The Central Government has betrayed people by making several false promises. The price of fuel and essential commodities is continuously rising. Rise in unemployment among the youth has also added to the woes of the common men," said BJD Lawmaker Snehangini Chhuria.

The Union Government should bring down the prices of fuel and essential commodities. Other wise, BJD will intensify the protests in the coming days, she warned.

On the other hand, the BJP workers scuffle with the police while taking out a massive party rally in Bhubaneswar demanding CBI probe and sacking of Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra in connection with Mamita Meher murder.

Taking out a massive rally from the State BJP headquarters, the BJYM workers marched towards the Assembly shouting slogans against the BJD and its supremo Naveen Patnaik and Minister Mishra.

However, they were stopped at the lower PMG by the police following which, they staged dharna in front of the Assembly. However, later the protest turned violent after the saffron party activists tried to make forced entry by breaking the police cordon. Later, the police resorted to lathi-charge on the BJYM activists who continued the rally near lower PMG.

Meanwhile, BJP MP Suresh Pujari raised the Mamita murder case, Mahanga double murder, Pari murder and custodial death of Gobinda Kumbhar in Parliament.

Demanding a CBI probe, the MP from Bargarh urged the Centre to seek a report from the Odisha government over the cases while highlighting the deteriorating law & order in the State.

UP, Delhi and Karnataka leading states in electric vehicles sales: Govt

NEW DELHI: Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Karnataka have emerged as top three states in terms of registration of electric

vehicles have been registered in India. Uttar Pradesh (255,700) has the highest registered electric vehicles, fol-

Gadkari said the Ministry of Heavy Industries formulated a scheme namely Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of

fossil fuels. At present, Phase-II of FAME India scheme is being implemented for a period of five years

GST on chargers/charging stations for electric vehicles has been reduced from 18 per cent to 5 per cent. Replying to a sepa-

have been engaged as issuer banks to issue FASTag to road users and 14 acquirer banks are also engaged to process transactions at toll plazas.

"As on December 4, 2021, 4.21 crore FASTags have been issued and approx 97 per cent of total user fee is collected through FASTag," he said.

Replying to another question, he said the road ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs).

"Apart from this, the ministry also allocates funds for state governments / Union Territories (UTs) for development and maintenance of state roads under the Central Road & Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) and Economic Importance & Interstate Connectivity (EI&ISC) schemes," Gadkari said.



vehicles in India, the government said on Wednesday.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said that 870,141 electric

lowed by Delhi (125,347) and Karnataka (72,544) come in that order. The fourth and fifth spots are grabbed by Bihar (58,014) and Maharashtra (52,506).

(Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme in 2015 to promote adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles in the country with an aim to reduce dependency on

with effect from April 1, 2019 with a total budgetary support of Rs 10,000 crore, he added.

GST on electric vehicles has been reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent;

rate question, Gadkari said at present, all fee plazas on National Highways are equipped with FASTag Facility. Around 35 banks (including public and private sector banks)

Indian women's hockey team's ACT campaign ends due to COVID case in squad

DONGHAE: The Indian women's hockey team was on Thursday forced out of the ongoing Asian

longer competing in the event. The side is currently in quarantine and the identity of the player

"With the health and safety of the players being paramount, the Indian Women's Hockey Team's

tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival. India had earlier thrashed a lowly



Champions Trophy after one of its player tested positive for COVID-19, joining Malaysia which was also compelled to withdraw after being hit by the dreaded virus here.

A day after the cancellation of its matches against defending champions Korea and China respectively, an Asian Hockey Federation source told PTI that the Indian team is no

who has tested positive has not been revealed. "Last edition's runner-up India are out of the tournament due to a positive case in the squad. India will no longer participate any further in the tournament," the AHF source said. While India were scheduled to take on hosts Korea on Wednesday, they were slated to meet China on Thursday.

match against China on 9th December will not take place," Hockey India had tweeted on Wednesday. The pandemic had cast its shadow on the tournament on Monday itself when India's second match against Malaysia was cancelled due to COVID-related issues. Malaysia was eventually forced out after one of its players, Nurul Faezah Shafiqah Khalim,

Thailand 13-0 with drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur scoring five goals. India are the highest-ranked team taking part as they sit ninth in the International Hockey Federation's women's rankings. The Women's Asian Champions Trophy was originally scheduled for 2020 but was postponed multiple times because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ISL 2021-22: Mumbai City FC move past Jamshedpur to remain on top spot

GOA: Mumbai City FC consolidated their lead at the top of the table with a 4-2 win over Jamshedpur FC in a gripping Hero Indian Super League (ISL) contest that ebbed and flowed from start to finish in Fatorda on Thursday.

ahead in the third minute through the extremely skilful Gabriel. Ahmed Jahouh's short corner was played in the path of Gabriel just outside the box, with the Brazilian curling the ball home from the edge of the box.

unmarked Bipin to tap in. Seven minutes later, Mumbai made it 3-0 sending a strong message to the other teams in the league that their shock defeat to Hyderabad FC was probably a one-off. This time it was all about Angulo's bril-

ling a powerful shot that deflected off a defender to wrong-foot Mohammad Nawaz under the Mumbai City FC bar. Eli Sabia atoned for his mistakes in the first period with a second, a few minutes later when the



Cassio Gabriel (3rd), Bipin Singh (17th) Igor Angulo (24th) and substitute Ygor Catatau (70th) were on the scoresheet for Mumbai who now are four points clear at the top with 12 points from five matches. Komal Thatal (48th) and Eli Sabia (55th) found the back of the net for Jamshedpur who remain in second place, having eight points from five games. It was the home team all the way from the first whistle, nodding

Two minutes later, Jamshedpur nearly got the leveller but Greg Stewart found the keeper after doing all the spawework to outfox Rahul Bheke and take a swipe at goal. There was no stopping Mumbai though as the defending champions doubled their lead in the 17th minute. A good spell of passing football set Gabriel free on the right side. The 29-year old beat Eli Sabia with pace to enter the box, sending across a delectable cross for an

liance although Gabriel was in the forefront again with a perfectly weighted pass. Angulo (37) left Eli Sabia for dead with his first touch to turn and rifle home a scorching left-footer that whizzed past TP R e h e n e s h . Jamshedpur turned on the heat after the break, scoring twice in the space of seven minutes. First, Stewart found Thatal in space with the latter cutting into his right and unleash-

33-year old leapt high to nod into an empty net, making the most of a defensive error from Bheke. Angulo made way for Catatau in the 68th minute and the Brazilian made an instant impact with a smashing finish from close. Jamshedpur threw in the towel at the end and pushed Mumbai to the brink but it was too little too late as the Owen Coyle-coached side succumbed to its first loss of the season.

AITA begins process to identify venue for Davis Cup tie against Denmark

NEW DELHI: The process to identify the venue for India's next Davis Cup tie against Denmark began on Thursday with the All India Tennis Association (AITA) reaching out to players to know their preferred surface and potential state associations who could host the matches on March 4-5 next year. India were handed a home tie after three years

It has been learnt that either Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA) or Madhya Pradesh Tennis Association (Indore) can host the tie if the players opt to play on hard courts. "I feel Delhi will host matches since Delhi has not hosted any big event in recent past. They must be keen to have this tie," said an AITA official.



after the draw pitted them against Denmark for the World Group I tie. AITA Secretary General Anil Dhupar said captain Rohit Rajpal will speak with the players to know what surface they think would be best-suited for the home team. "We will know in two days' time where we are going to host this tie. Once we know the players' choice for surface, we will see which venue would be best for the purpose," Dhupar told PTI from Indore.

The Karnataka association is hosting two Challenger events, so it is highly unlikely that the tie will be held in Bengaluru but an official said they can still "consider". It will be the first tie between the two nations since September 1984 when India won 3-2 at Aarhus. The two teams have not clashed much as the only other time they played was in 1927 when Denmark whitewashed India 5-0 in the quarterfinal in Copenhagen.

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