



Paryabekhyak & The Kalinga chronicle Group Chief Editor Dr Pabitra mohan samantaray with RERA MEMBER & Former Special secretary Finance Sri Pradeep kumar Biswal, Smt Prasanti Biswal, Newly wed elder son Puneet , Daughter in law Vasundhara at the Reception Ceremony in Bhubaneswar club

## Sunil Bansal left Odisha as SP, returns after 27 years as DGP

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha government on Wednesday appointed Sunil Kumar Bansal as the new Director-General of

Police (DGP). The office of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik formally announced the appointment of Bansal, a 1987 batch IPS officer, as the head of the police force. Currently on Central deputation, Bansal is

“recommendations of the UPSC” and “in the interest of public service.” The Odisha cadre IPS officer who went to Central deputation in 1994 will return to the State in an official capacity for the first time in 27 years. His last posting in the State was as SP of Vigilance.

In October, as part of the process for the appointment of the new DGP, the State Government had submitted a panel of names to the Ministry of Home Affairs which in turn sent the list of the empanelled officers to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

The UPSC then approved the names of three officers - Bansal, Pradeep Kapur (1986 batch) and Manoj Chhabra (1988 batch) and asked the Odisha government to pick one name for the top post of police administration in the State.

The Odisha cadre IPS officer has worked only for a short period in the State. During his eight year's service in Odisha till 1994, Bansal served as additional SP Dhenkanal, Talcher SDPO and additional SP Sambalpur. He was also Mayurbhanj SP and Vigilance SP at Sambalpur.

He, however, has served extensively in IB. Before being elevated to the post of Special Director IB in October 2020, he was serving as the Additional Director IB. He also had a stint as Joint Director in New Delhi. His extensive experience in intelligence, security and law and order in India and outside would be key. He will have a few immediate challenges though, the most significant being the ensuing panchayat elections and urban body polls which are not too far away.



December 31 this year. He may assume charge from January 1, 2022. DGP Sunil Bansal The notification of the Home Department stated that Bansal's name for the DGP post was shortlisted on the

## Bhubaneswar Development Authority extends deadline for executing lease deed till Dec 31

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) on Wednesday extended the last date for submission of applications for lease deed execution till December 31.

BDA Secretary Kabindra Kumar Sahoo said that more than 5,000 beneficiaries who have been allotted plots, flats, houses, shops and land for commercial purposes in the city have not yet executed the lease deeds. “To facilitate them in the signing of the lease deeds, the BDA had earlier kept the application submission deadline till December 15. However, following requests from some of the applicants, the last date for submission of application has been ex-

tended till December 31,” he said. Sahoo said beneficiaries facing trouble

issues. Similarly, it is not applicable for Lingaraj Vihar Housing and

Wednesday seized one tonne of polythene and single-use plastic materials



during submission of the online application may contact 0674-2396437 for assistance. The BDA, however, said that lease deed is not applicable for allotment made under discretionary quota/taskforce/audit report/third party transfer and any other allotment having legal

Shopping Scheme, Baramunda Housing and Shopping Scheme, District Centre commercial complex, Mahatab market, Subham market and Barabhuj market complex in the city.

One tonne polythene seized by BMC  
BHUBANESWAR: The BMC on

from a store at Unit-I market and imposed a Rs 20,000 fine on the owner. He has also been warned of legal action and cancellation of trade license if the offence is repeated. The use of polythene and single-use plastic has increased substantially due to inadequate enforcement.

## Poland confirms first Omicron case



WARSAW(KCN): Poland's Health Ministry has confirmed the country's first case of infection with the omicron coronavirus variant in a woman from Lesotho.

The case was found in a sample examined in Katowice. The ministry tweeted Thursday that the 30-year Lesotho citizen feels well but has been put in hospital isolation.

It said national health authorities have taken necessary steps. That usually means contacting, testing and putting under quarantine people who have had con-

tact with the infected person. The first Polish person diagnosed with omicron was a teenager who travelled to China this month and tested positive on arrival.

## State Recruits 6231 Teachers

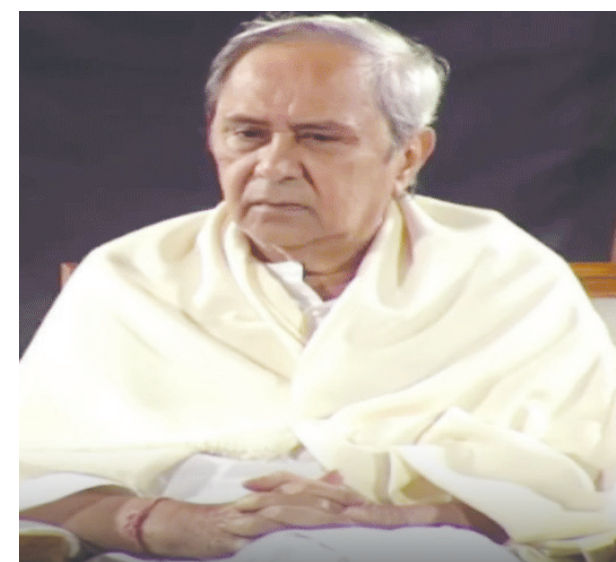
Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday

newly recruited teacher at an orientation program here the

Teachers play a key role in instilling new hope, empowering their imagination, and engaging in learning,” he said. The Chief Minister advised the teachers to work for the development of creativity and confidence in the students.

Citing former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's remarks on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the role of teachers in society is as important as any other profession in the world. Mr. Patnaik congratulated the newly appointed teachers for taking on such a great profession as teach-

ing. Informing about the ongoing transformation in the education sector in the state, the Chief Minister said that the infrastructure of various schools in the state has been transformed under the 5T High School Transformation Program. Now there are smart classrooms, e-libraries, modern laboratories, improved toilets and toilets in as many as 1,075 schools in the first phase,” he said. Chief Minister advises newly recruited teachers to work towards developing creativity and confi-



day exhorted the teaching community to take responsibility for success of education transformation in State. Exhorting over 6231

Chief Minister said that education is a reflection of the collective hopes and aspirations of the society. “The children are the symbol of eternity.

# Moj drives impact for marketers with its curated campaigns

Kolkata(KCN) Moj, India's number one short video app has been expanding its advertising and monetisation avenues over the last few months. With a user community of over 160 million, the platform supports 100 million+ pieces of

been Manyavar's #DoTheManyavarMove. With the wedding season in full swing, Manyavar was looking to do a campaign that celebrates the Dulha as showcased in their latest ad film with Ranveer Singh. While capturing the moment of welcom-

led by 20 popular creators including Moj Superstar hunt winner - Himanshu Shrivastav, dancer Baba Jackson and Swimmer Sajan Prakash. The campaign was immensely popular with the Moj community creating innovative renditions

gaging video in the process. Commenting on the campaign, Ajit Varghese, Chief Commercial Officer, Moj said, "We are continuously working towards enhancing the social experience to our community while empowering brands to connect with their relevant audiences. The collaboration with Manyavar created a celebratory vibe on our platforms, with our creator community participating in huge numbers and revelling in #DoTheManyavarMove campaign. Generating a spectacular 200+ UGC, the campaign was immensely successful in popularizing the Manyavar move."

Moj's enhanced platform capabilities help brands stand out from an otherwise cluttered space of social promotions. The app creates a safe brand-space and links business to creators that share their style and manner of communication to optimise reach while creating meaningful social experiences that have consumers at its core.



new content every month from its creator community base of 50 million. To enhance monetisation and discovery opportunities for its creator base and for brands on the platform, Moj has demonstrated a symbiotic balance between users' social experience and business using AI-based tools. The latest in a spate of successful brand collaborations has

ing the baraat, the idea was to popularize the Manyavar Move by making a large number of people replicate it. Moj curated the #DoTheManyavarMove campaign that promoted a hook step from the ad film and amplified it through its network of talented content creators. The ten day long campaign garnered more than 1 billion+ views and was

of the #DoTheManyavarMove leading to approximately 200+K UGC. Moj sees 4.5 billion unique video plays per day with an average user spending 34 minutes on the platform daily. These attributes unique to the platform helped generate higher engagement numbers for brand Manyavar without added spends and helped content creators issue an en-

# A Bengali Scientist along his two other Colleagues from IISc, Bengaluru Selected as EMBO Global Investigators 2021

Kolkata (KCN): Shri Srimonta Gayen belongs to the Department of Molecular Reproduction, Development and Genetics, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. His research group strives to further the under-

standing of the mechanism of epigenetic regulation of gene expression during early mouse and human development, through the lens of X chromosome inactivation, genomic imprinting and random monoallelic autosomal gene expression. The overall goal of his lab is to extend the knowledge from the early development to (a) cancer stem cell biology in order to better understand cancer pathogenesis and provide therapeutic intervention (b) to develop a clinical strategy to prevent the gender bias issue in babies born through in vitro fertilization (IVF) and enhancement of IVF success rate and (c) improving the quality of human iPSC. Research by Scientist Shri Ramray Bhat's

tion, the process of making proteins from mRNAs by deciphering the genetic code, have been selected as

Europe and beyond. The major goals of the organisation are to support talented researchers at all



standing of the mechanism of epigenetic regulation of gene expression during early mouse and human development, through the lens of X chromosome inactivation, genomic imprinting and random monoallelic autosomal gene expression. The overall goal of his lab is to extend the knowledge from the early development to (a) cancer stem cell biology in order to better understand cancer pathogenesis and provide therapeutic intervention (b) to develop a clinical

group focuses on understanding the mechanisms by which cancers of the breast and ovary undergo metastasis. Of special interest, he is studying how migrating cancer cells cooperate and reorganise into multi-cellular ensembles to survive hostile body environments and penetrate through natural defence barriers. Along with these two scientists, Shri Sandeep Eswarappa from the Department of Biochemistry of IISc, whose research focuses on transla-



EMBO Global Investigators in 2021. EMBO is an organisation of more than 1,800 leading

stages of their careers, stimulate the exchange of scientific information, and help build a research envi-



researchers that promotes excellence in the life sciences in

ronment where scientists can achieve their best work.

# 7th. Annual Day Ceremony with blood Donation Camp of BCT



Cuttack (KCN): Leading seva organisation Bishnupriya Charitable Trust Odisha(BCT) observed 7th. Annual day with blood donation camp in the great memories of late

Bishnupriya Devi with collects 55 units of blood by the help of central red cross team cuttack branch at Bari block Balibili panchaya Rajiv Gandhi seva kendra. The honourable MLA Bari Block

Smt.Sunanda Das inaugurated the blood camp,the guest of honour Jajpur dist Jiban Bindu Coordinator Er. Bimal Ch. Das and the BCT volunteers Bari branch Coordinator Bijaya S a h u , T u s h a r

s h a n t i , B i r e n R o u t , S a n g r a m R o u t , S a d i c h h a S a m a l , R a t n a k a r S a m a l , R a n j a n S a m a l , E r . A v i l a s h D a s , P i p i l i b r a n c h C o o r d i n a t o r H e m a n t a D a s a n d a l l t h e t e a m c o n d u c t t h e c a m p .

# Traffic police is at sleep, lives of people at risk in Barbil it

Barbil(KCB): Apart from acute problem of traffic congestion that has become the order of the day, the haphazard mining transportation along Bhadrasahi to Barbil road in the district of Keonjhar has posed

hundreds of trucks, invariably get lined up along the nearly 6 km stretch of road from Bhadrasahi to Barbil, severely inconveniencing two wheelers, cars and other road users. While the trucks

traffic. "Traffic congestion on this road due to uncontrolled mining transport has transgressed all limits. The lives of the public travelling in vehicles along this road are in grave

venience to passenger. Intellectual demands for more vigilance to the issue it by the concerned authorities. It is said that Since last one year numbers of vehicles and traffic personnel have been



yet another safety hazard for the public. Mining trucks are seen haphazardly parked along the road during the night and in the day time after they are denied entry into the town beyond 8pm by the administration. The situation is such that

congest due to parking on the road, traffic cops are hardly seen in the scene. People who have been consistently opposing are now decried the insensitivity of the authorities in streamlining the

danger, more particularly of the two wheeler riders. Owing to traffic blocks which are an everyday occurrence, buses on this road route are forced to stop at many place on the way. thereby creating incon-

deployed to address the issue, but reality is far from the objective. One traffic cell is also established at Barbil police station to streamline the congestion problem, but white uniform traffic police seems vanished in the area.

# Suvendu Kanungo gets "Suryakhetra Sanman"

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Suryakhetra Foundation of Education and Charitable Trust holds its 13th Annual Function and felicitation ceremony in Guru Kelucharan Odissi Research Centre at Bhubaneswar. The member of the state legislative assembly Shri Mohan Charan Majhi joined as a chief guest in the programme and said that the foundation is working for creating awareness about how to prevent cancer among the people and all should imitate its work in society. The IOFS Special Secretary Dr. Himanshu Bhusan Panda joined as a chief speaker whereas Sangram Keshari Paikaray, Brahmakumar Tapaswini, Kishore Dwivedi and Secretary of ACIC Bipin Bihari Nayak joined as honourable guests of the programme. The president of the foundation Shri Bipin Bihari Mishra said that, the suryakhetra foundation is also treated cancer patients in the shelter house in Mumbai at free cost. The foundation is also

connection, Mr. Suvendu Kanungo gets "Suryakhetra Sanman" from Suryakhetra Foundation as the best photojournalist of Bhubaneswar along with bouquets, Uttariya and bank cheques. The general secretary of the foundation Dr. Sukanta Mishra present in the programme.

felicitated journalist, social work and young entrepreneurs as "Suryakhetra Sanman". In this



connection, Mr. Suvendu Kanungo gets "Suryakhetra Sanman" from Suryakhetra Foundation as the best photojournalist of Bhubaneswar along with bouquets, Uttariya and bank cheques. The general secretary of the foundation Dr. Sukanta Mishra present in the programme.

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Please Contact- 8338870595

## Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed book

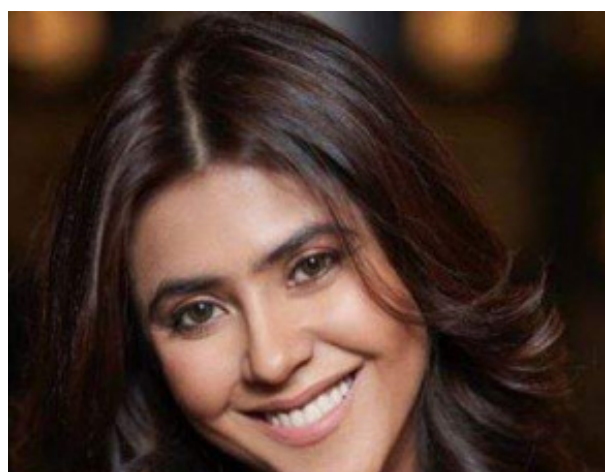


**NEW DELHI:** Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book #YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the cation, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of the former Chairman

of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

## SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** The Supreme Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for alleged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2".



A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted interim protection to Kapoor. She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her.

## Phenomenal experience: Riteish Deshmukh praises Anil Kapoor, Anurag Kashyap's 'AK vs AK'

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the



blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.

only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor\_has outdone your entire performance in one

scene," the 'Housefull' actor's tweet further read. While Kapoor essays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. 'AK vs AK,' revolves around the story of a daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

## Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

Ajay Devgn's Mayday has been creating a massive buzz because of its interest-



the icing on the cake is that Ajay Sir is directing the film. It's actually happening!

ing star cast, which includes Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh and Angira Dhar. Talented actress, Aakanksha Singh has now joined the team. Aakanksha will essaying the role of Ajay Devgn's wife in the film. She joined the shoot yesterday. Aakanksha says, "It's like a dream come true to be a part of such a big and much-awaited film. I am so excited to share the screen with Ajay Sir and Amitabh Sir; and

## 'Wanted to make a film on Indian Army with Shah Rukh Khan', says Director Kabir Khan

**MUMBAI(KCN):** Filmmaker Kabir Khan, who is gearing up for the release of his web series "The Forgotten Army: Azaadi Ke Liye", based on Indian National Army (INA), says he wanted to make a film on the subject starring Shah Rukh Khan. He added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a fee for the voiceover he gave for the series. "Shah Rukh has very graciously given the voiceover. The series is based on a true story, so there is an introduction of a few minutes before every episode along with real footage, where he has lent his voice. I talked about it with Shah Rukh earlier as well, when this was a film script. Back then, I wanted Shah Rukh to do the film. We even had a few meetings but we couldn't take it forward," said Kabir while promoting the series along with its lead actors Sunny Kaushal and Sharvari Wagh. Kabir added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a single

paisa for his voiceover assignment. "When I was making this series, I thought I should ask Shah Rukh (to be the narrator) because Shah Rukh's father had involvement with this army. His father knew General Shahnawaz Khan, who was an important part of INA. So, I knew he (Shah Rukh Khan) has sympathy and attachment with Azad Hind Fauj and I called him up. It's not an easy task to ask a superstar for a voiceover but Shah Rukh instantly agreed to do it. Usually, when you discuss a film with Shah Rukh, it's a long process, but in this case Shah Rukh literally did the voiceover for us on the second day. I don't know whether he would like me to reveal this, but he didn't take a fee from us. I think the kind of attachment he has with Azad Hind Fauj reflects in his act." Incidentally, Shah Rukh did a cameo in Kabir Khan's 2017 release "Tubelight", starring Salman Khan.

## Why the Stalemate in Eastern Ukraine Will Likely Hold

In the days leading up to and following last week's video summit between U.S. President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin, there has been intense speculation that Moscow is on the verge of a new military incursion into Ukraine. The United States has estimated that Russia has already deployed close to 70,000 soldiers—media reports have claimed significantly higher numbers—to several locations along Ukraine's eastern border and in Crimea. Apparently, the Russian government is impatient with the unfinished business of the Donbas war in eastern Ukraine, which is now in its eighth year. And Putin seems to think he can prevent Ukraine's entry into NATO by threatening a new war in the center of Europe.

Observers have been right to worry. According to *The Washington Post*, a U.S. intelligence report concluded that Russia may ultimately move as many as 175,000 troops to the border, forces that could be ready for a large-scale invasion as early as this winter. And as many analysts have pointed out, both countries' armed forces are considerably stronger than they were in 2014–15, although Ukraine's would still be thoroughly outgunned by the Russians. All this means that a new military escalation would likely be even more destructive than the last one. Seen from the Donbas itself, however, Russia's alarming moves take on a different cast. Given the recent turn of events in the disputed region, there are reasons to doubt Moscow's interest in an actual invasion. This is not to say that such a dramatic step could not occur, but it would be surprising. The 250-mile frontline has hardly changed since 2015, with some 35,000 Russian-backed separatists—and likely considerably more Ukrainian troops—dug in to their positions. Having long since stopped fighting for territory, the two sides are now trading bullets and small numbers of casualties, largely to avoid the compromises that any formal peace arrangement would require. Notably, few in the breakaway areas of Luhansk and Donetsk seem to think a new invasion is likely.

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In fact, over the past year and a half, Kyiv and Moscow have grown increasingly comfortable with a stalemate that brings benefits to them both. Donbas is slowly but surely separating from Ukraine and being swallowed by Russia. This trajectory is at odds with both countries' official commitment to the region's peaceful reintegration into the Ukrainian state. Yet the trend serves powerful interests in both Kyiv and Moscow and therefore seems likely to continue. For Kyiv, prolonging the war means that it does not have to implement a peace that would be politically and economically costly. For Moscow, the unresolved conflict means that it can continue to keep Kyiv off balance, undermining what it sees as an anti-Russian political project.

Seen from the Donbas, Russia's alarming moves take on a different cast.

What vexes Moscow, then, is not the failure of the Minsk agreements to end the Donbas war on Russia's terms. Rather, it fears Kyiv's ever-closer ties to the West and NATO. In menacing an invasion, Russia is hoping to limit Ukraine's westward slide, ensuring that its new, chilly *modus vivendi* with Kyiv at least remains predictable and reinforcing a situation that has given it wide control over the breakaway region.

### A FAILED PEACE

The current framework for ending the war in the Donbas—the Minsk agreements of 2014 and 2015—has been ill fated from the start. When the conflict began in 2014, Ukrainian government forces appeared to be

nearing victory over a chaotic assortment

of Russian-armed separatists, until the Kremlin sent in thousands of regular troops to overwhelm the government forces. The resulting Minsk II protocols were effectively dictated to Kyiv, with Russia asserting broad autonomy over the areas it had helped wrest away from Ukrainian control.

For Moscow, Minsk II was a blueprint for creating Russian-backed semiautonomous states whose staunch opposition to NATO and EU expansion could be used to prevent Ukraine from joining those bodies. The agreement also had its Ukrainian defenders, including, for a time, then President Petro Poroshenko, who maintained that it gave Ukraine significant sovereignty over the region. But the Minsk approach faced strident opposition on both sides. Ukrainian nationalists saw it as a betrayal, endangering their push for a unitary and thoroughly de-Russified state; Russia's own nationalists viewed the agreement as failing to formally unite the Donbas with Russia.

In the six years since, the anti-Minsk camps have held the upper hand. In Ukraine, nationalists pushed Poroshenko to refashion himself as an anti-Russian militarist. Then, in 2019, Poroshenko was easily unseated by Volodymyr Zelensky, who blamed him for failing to end the war. Zelensky did not promise to implement Minsk, but he did vow to wind down the military conflict. He faced vocal opposition from the Movement to Resist Capitulation, a loose coalition of hard-liners supported by Poroshenko, some of whose associates have taken credit for stopping Zelensky's early efforts to disengage Ukrainian forces on the frontline.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin has reliably rebuffed efforts by Kyiv to find a path to peace. Since 2015, Kyiv has made numerous proposals for how an international force or a transitional administration could oversee the Donbas's reintegration as part of Ukraine. Moscow shut down each proposal. Then, when Zelensky came to office promising to renew ties with the separatist-controlled areas, Moscow almost immediately weakened his hand by making their populations eligible for Russian citizenship. This left the new Ukrainian leader in the awkward position of trying to win back citizens who, his opponents argued, were basically already gone.

### A CONVENIENT IMPASSE

Although both Kyiv and Moscow are often at odds with their own nationalist factions, both governments have in their own ways reinforced the stalemate. In Ukraine, for example, both Zelensky and the hard-line opposition that disdains him seem to believe, although for different reasons, that reintegrating the Donbas is for the moment undesirable: for the government, allowing the conflict to continue means avoiding the political minefields of reunification while benefiting from a steady supply of Western aid and sympathy. For its part, the Kremlin has backed away from its own efforts to implement Minsk, having found it more practical to pursue *de facto* annexation while the formal status of the of the Donetsk and Luhansk statelets remains unresolved.

Meanwhile, the two sides have not held in-person talks since April 2020, meeting instead by videoconference. Eyewitnesses to those meetings say the Russians increasingly behave as if their presence is an act of generosity, insisting that Kyiv negotiate directly with the separatists. Occasionally, there have been small breakthroughs: in July 2020, the sides managed to agree on a new cease-fire that included strict bans on return fire. But the agreement has since collapsed, in part due to Kyiv's refusal to implement a provision calling for joint monitoring by Ukrainian and Russian-backed troops.

**Katharine Quinn**

The ongoing fighting itself has offered perverse incentives to both sides. The steady trickle of casualties means each side can regularly provide fresh evidence of the other's villainy. Even for the separatist leaders, whose populations have borne the brunt of civilian casualties, continued hostilities have provided a useful distraction from their own misgovernance and corruption. In Ukraine, reports of Ukrainian soldiers dying in combat provide a regular reminder of Russia's campaign to undermine the country's democracy. Rarely does anyone in Kyiv acknowledge that the vast majority of enemy casualties are also Ukrainians.

### ANNEXATION BY OTHER MEANS

For the several million residents of the Donbas, the strategic calculations of Kyiv and Moscow mean little. In conversation, they often refer to themselves as Russian and Ukrainian interchangeably. Many are lukewarm if not hostile toward Putin, but they don't trust Kyiv either. They are not eager for Western military assistance, because they worry that whatever the West sends could lead either side to escalate. Their dream is not to fight off the Russians or, alternately, to defeat the decadent West. What they want is for the frontline running through their home area to go away and to know what country they're living in. Increasingly, though, the lack of resolution to the conflict has provided its own answer.

During earlier phases of the conflict, Moscow kept its financial support for the Donetsk and Luhansk statelets to a bare minimum on the grounds that they were integral parts of Ukraine. But since the spring of 2020, bilateral COVID-related restrictions have left residents of the separatist-held areas increasingly isolated from Ukraine. Before the pandemic, the five civilian checkpoints along the frontline recorded about one million crossings per month, mostly elderly people traveling to government-controlled Ukraine to collect their state pensions. In the time since, however, separatist leaders have never fully reopened the checkpoints, despite what appear to be serious efforts by Ukrainian negotiators. Crossings have shrunk to a trickle, amounting to just five percent of their previous levels. Residents who still wish to travel to Ukraine now have to undertake expensive, days-long trips through Russian territory.

With this hardening border, Russia has quickly moved to strengthen ties with the civilian populations of Donetsk and Luhansk. Russian officials say they have given Russian passports to more than 650,000 residents under the new expedited procedure introduced after Zelensky's victory. As one resident of a separatist-held city put it, neighbors were taking advantage of the offer since "the gates are only open for us in one direction."

Donbas residents want to know what country they're living in.

Meanwhile, Moscow is for the first time beginning to pour substantial investments into the region. In October, Ukrainian journalists obtained a copy of a Russian government document outlining plans for "the expedited economic development" of "territory 1" and "territory 2"—code for the two statelets. The plan called for spending \$12 billion on the region over the next three years, including raising the salaries of public-sector workers to match those in Russia's neighboring Rostov Oblast. This would amount to a doubling of Moscow's current annual spending on the breakaways and would exceed its monetary transfers to almost every region of the Russian Federation.

The Kremlin has also moved to facilitate Russian commerce in the statelets. Previ-

ously, Russian businesses had been unable to conduct legal trade there, because of the statelets' unrecognized status. But in mid-November, Putin ordered his government to start recognizing origin certificates for goods produced in Luhansk and Donetsk, allowing them to be traded in Russia. Moreover, these goods are to enjoy priority status when it comes to state and municipal purchases. Although the long-term effects of these measures are unclear, they suggest an evolving Russian approach that is untethered to any formal status negotiations.

Until now, Kyiv has shown little interest in trying to stop Moscow's growing hold over the Donbas. This is not necessarily because the Ukrainian government supports these efforts but because it has very limited capacity to stop them. The slide toward full separation, however, may also be a perverse win for Ukraine's nationalists. For some years now, the hard-liners have been concerned by the continued prevalence of Russian and Russian-language media in parts of Ukraine and by the fact that many Ukrainians themselves still feel a strong cultural unity with Russia. For those seeking to cleanse the country of Russian influences—and for a handful of Western officials who support them—getting rid of the heavily Russian-speaking separatist regions that Kyiv's own minister for reintegration has described as "mentally ill" would make life easier. Without them, they suggest, it would be possible to draw a clear, bright line between a free and democratic Ukraine, which is oriented toward the West, and an authoritarian Russia, which is not. This stance, of course, fits neatly into one of the Kremlin's agendas: it suggests to Russians that although their government may habitually lie to them and arbitrarily imprison them, there will never be a place for people like them in a Western-style democracy.

### NO WAR, NO PEACE

Russia's latest military buildup seems to have been aimed, at least in part, at perceived Western slights and provocations, such as the presence of U.S. ships in the Black Sea and various delays to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that is supposed to supply Russian gas to Europe without crossing Ukraine. By showing Russia's readiness for an invasion, Putin's primary goal may have been to force Biden into a dialogue and deter a NATO expansion. This does not mean one should ignore the risk of an accidental escalation or an impulsive move by Putin to force all of Ukraine back into Russia's orbit. It does mean, however, that the greater worry may be that the current low-level conflict could grind on indefinitely, with occasional scares like the present one simply becoming part of the pattern of the stalemate.

For now, many residents in the region think that the current situation is unlikely to change: more than seven years of grim uncertainty have robbed them of any hope that things might get better and any interest in contemplating the possibility of things getting worse. "They say this every year," one resident of Donetsk city remarked the other day, when asked about talk of a new escalation. "Everyone thinks this will just drag on," said another.

One cold gray morning in November, I encountered a man smoking at the foot of a barbed-wire fence dividing Ukraine from Russia. In the past, he said, "this wasn't even here," gesturing to the fence. The Russians had put it up in 2018, dividing the village in half down the center of the main street. "Nobody asked us," he said. He lived across the frontlines in separatist-held territory, earning a tenth of what he did before the war. He saw no end to the conflict as long as Putin was in power, but he was also worried about Ukraine reasserting control. "I think this is forever," he said.

KATHARINE QUINN-JUDGE is a Consulting Senior Analyst for Ukraine at the International Crisis Group.

## State Boosts CAPEX Spending Odisha plans mobile medicare units for elderly population

Bhubaneswar: In order to boost permanent asset creation and spur capital spending in the State, the Odisha Government has sanctioned Rs.374 Crore for taking up various infrastructure projects.

Vishal Dev, Principal Secretary Finance, who is regularly monitoring spending on developmental programs, is harping on more Capital Expenditure (CAPEX). Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) is the money spent by the State Government on the development of roads, building, drinking water, water resources, health facilities, education, etc.

It also includes the expenditure incurred on acquiring fixed assets like land and investment by the Government that gives dividend in future.

Accordingly, Department of Finance has recently cleared several projects for three departments including Works, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water and Water Resources.

As many as 12 infrastructure projects of Works, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Water Resources would be funded from the Central Scheme.

Under the Scheme, the State Government has given Rs 180

crore for two road projects of Works Department, Rs 127.68 crore for four



drinking water projects of Panchayati Raj Department and Rs 66.32 crore for two Water Resources Department projects.

As the State Government has received the first installment of Rs 143.12 crore under Central scheme Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure for the year 2021-22, such projects have been sanctioned to boost CAPEX Spending, said sources.

According to sources, the Union Government has approved a sum of Rs 374 crore

to the State of Odisha under the scheme 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Ex-

penditure 50 Percent, i.e Rs 187 crore would be released by Government of India after utilization of the funds released in first phase and submission of UC to that effect, the sources said.

The State Government has also made necessary budgetary provision for execution of the big infra projects.

In the meantime Department of Finance has requested the Administrative Departments to take necessary steps for the implementation of the projects to be funded under the scheme expeditiously.

"The entire Capital expenditure for Rs 374 crore is to be incurred during the current financial year and the identified projects are to be completed before March, 2022. Hence, the Administrative Departments are requested to start spending out of the above provision in 2021-22 (BE) and submit Utilization Certificate (UC) for at least 50 Percent of the amount by end of December, 2021 to Finance Department for onward transmission of the UC to Ministry of Finance for release of the second phase installment of funding," Department of Finance has urged the Departments, said sources.

penditure for 2021-22'.

As the State Government had not utilized an amount of Rs 43.88 crore during 2020-21, the un-utilized amount has been adjusted against the 1st installment of Rs 187 crore under the scheme for the year 2021-22.

Thus, a total sum of Rs 143.12 crore as the first installment has been released in the form of a long-term interest-free loan to the State Government under the Scheme towards 50 per cent of the approved project cost.

### Roads, buildings in Cantonments should be renamed after soldiers who shaped modern India: Rajnath Singh

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday suggested to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as well as Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) to consider renaming roads and buildings in Cantonment areas after the brave soldiers and stalwarts who played a central role in building modern India.

"Even after 75 years of Independence, there are some roads and buildings in the Cantonment areas which have been named after the loyalists of the British colonial, their officers and soldiers. I would like to give a suggestion that the MoD and the DGDE Should consider that all these roads and buildings be renamed after our brave soldiers and creator of mod-

ern India," Singh said.

He, however, maintained that the suggestion is not motivated by any narrow mentality, stressing that the British officers or soldiers who did a commendable job for the betterment of the people must be respectfully recognised and introduced to the future generations.

The Defence Minister said this in his address on the occasion of 96th Raising Day of Directorate General Defence Estates. Rajnath Singh gave away Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence 2021 to DGDE personnel for innovation and digital achievements in the fields of health, education and sanitation along with public service and land management.

Congratulating the

award winners, Rajnath Singh excluded confidence that the awards will encourage all the winning organisations to work for the betterment of Cantonment Boards.

Rajnath Singh lauded the efforts of the DGDE towards management of 17.98 lakh acres of land and the civil administration of 62 cantonments across the country. He appreciated the fact that the DGDE is constantly striving to provide modern facilities to Cantonment areas and meet the growing aspirations of the military officers, soldiers, their families as well as the civilian population of more than 20 lakh people.

The Defence Minister commended the Cantonment Boards for providing public services, com-

prehensive medical care and tele-medicine facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the second wave. "The Cantonment hospitals have upgraded their infrastructure on a war footing and are now ready to face any challenge," he added.

The Minister also commended Cantonment Boards for their initiative to renovate 75 water bodies across the country as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating 75 years of Independence.

MoS (Defence) Ajay Bhatt, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Sanjiv Mittal, DGDE Ajay Kumar Sharma and other senior civil and military officials of MoD were present on the occasion.

BHUBANESWAR: Every district in the State will have one physiotherapy clinic and a mobile medicare unit for senior citizens soon. The facilities will extend medical care to people above 60 years living in rural, isolated and backward areas.

The Odisha government has decided to set up these health facilities in all 30 districts under the State Action Plan for Welfare of Senior Citizens (SAPSRc) to be run by the Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department.

The physiotherapy clinic project aims at enabling senior citizens to assume an active role in

maintaining and improving their own health and encourage others to do the same. The mobile medicare unit will attend the elderly persons living in areas where proper healthcare facilities are not yet available.



The agencies having a credible track record of running projects for the welfare of senior citizens will be roped in to manage the physiotherapy clinic for a minimum of 50 persons per month.

Along with the allopathic treatment, senior citizens can avail ayurvedic or homeopathic medical care through the mobile medicare units, which will cover a minimum 400 people per month. Each mobile

unit will make at least 10 trips per month to the assigned areas. A senior official of SSEPD department said the project will be a combined effort of the government, social organisations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, local bodies and the community at large. Recognised charitable hospitals or nursing homes/medical institutions will run the clinics. While the mobile medicare unit will have one doctor and a nurse besides one driver, an organiser and a multi-tasking staff for distribution of medicines and getting pathological tests done, the physiotherapy clinic will have a physiotherapist, technician and

multi-tasking staff. This apart, a pool of trained geriatric caregivers will be created to provide bedside assistance to the needy elderly. A State-level centre will be set up for the purpose to impart training to geriatric caregivers and conduct 24 programmes per year with the help of agencies working in the field of old age care.

The State government has selected agencies to run the clinics and mobile units in 14 districts - Balangir, Boudh, Deogarh, Dhankanal, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nayagarh, Sambalpur and Sonepur.

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## International Online Omkar Nath Thakur Music Festival Held

Seoul/London/ Mumbai/Noida/ NewDelhi/Bhubaneswar, Dt:16.12.: Re-

Chief Guest senior Journalist and Chairman of World Odisha Society Kishore

Abhimanyu in keeping intact the classicism and purity of our music in its original

Mukesh Kakker from London, Swapna Rani and Laxmipriya Pradhan from New Delhi and Neha Dubey from Noida. The special attraction of the evening was the mesmerising presentation of 'Ganesh Bandana' by Acharya Abhimanyu's Two disciples wonder kid brothers Sidhant and Bivan Dubey from Noida. Krushna Chandra Das, Subodh Narayan Padhi,



owned Cultural Institution Swara Samarpan recently hosted International Pandit Omkar Nath Thakur Music Festival – 2021 on virtual platform. Representatives of Odia Samaj in different countries, Prominent Non Resident Odias, Members of World Odisha Society and Music Lovers from across the Globe attended this online musical extravaganza. Delivering his welcome speech the main

Dwibedi lauded the role of Swara

form. Child prodigy Sidhant Dubey and



Samarpan and Guru

upcoming musical wizard Swapna Rani were conferred Year 2021's Tejaswi Award during the oc-

Prakash Salaskar and Bijay Kumar Dash supported the singers in musical instruments. Ace Anchor of



organiser of the Mega Event and Founder of Swara Samarpan Acharya Abhimanyu expressed his gratitude to the patrons for their help and co-operation in carrying out the promotion of classical art inspite of the devastation created by Covid Pandemic and expected the same kind of sympathy and support in future also. Addressing the gathering, the

Acharya Abhimanyu in promoting, propagating and popularising Odishan Art, Culture, Tradition, literature and ethos in National and International arena. Distinguished Guests Sanjay Srivastava, Dr. Chandramani Brahmdudd, Reeta Patra, Sishir Dubey and Rajpal Johar eulogised the spectacular contributions of Acharya

casion. President of Indraprastha Literature Festival, Dr Chandramani Brahmdudd, was presented Swar Samajasebi Award for his immense contribution in the field of Social Service. The audiences were completely spellbound by the scintillating and soul soothing musical numbers rendered by Acharya Abhimanyu from New Delhi, Singh Bandhu fame Padmashree Pandit Surinder Singh from Mumbai, Karunakar Nayak from Bhubaneswar,

AIR and Doordarshan Pratima Sharma, conducted and coordinated the entire programme in a smooth and seamless manner. The Live Streaming of the Digital Jambhori was carried out from the premises of Omkar Divine Place at Noida. Distinguished dignitaries present include Dr. Sitansu Sekhar Nanda from South Korea, Reecha Gupta from Tanzania, Sukhnanandan Bindra, Krushna satpathy Harihar Rath and Anindita Das from India.



## Webinar by Odisha State Open University & UNDP



Sambalpur (KCN): Odisha State Open University (OSOU) Sambalpur, in collaboration with United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) organized a webinar entitled "Forest Right Act-Ensuring Livelihood & Environmental Security with

Special Reference to Odisha". The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof (Dr) Arka Kumar Das Mohapatra was the chief Guest and Patron of the Webinar and the Head of Office, UNDP, Odisha Unit Ms. Abha Mishra graced the occasion as Guest of Honor. Mr. Tushar Dash, a

researcher working on forest rights and governance issues in India, acted as the esteemed Speaker in the webinar. He deliberated upon the historical injustice and genesis of the Forest Right Act and its relevance to Odisha. Prof. Dr. Manas Ranjan Pujari, Registrar,

Odisha State Open University felicitated the guests and gave away the vote of thanks. The webinar was conducted by Mr. Pratap Kishore Mohanty and Miss. Karishma Sahoo Academic consultant, Department of Sociology, Odisha State Open University.

## NITI Aayog team meets Odisha government on state's growth plan

BHUBANESWAR: NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar held a series of meetings and discussed a

gether by sharing ideas. "This is a part of our efforts to visit and engage with all states and discuss various is-

sioner Pradeep Jena and secretaries of some key departments. On the discussion with senior offic-

In the afternoon, the deputy chief of NITI Aayog interacted with representatives of different industry associa-



wide range of issues with the State government and representatives of industry, academics and civil society to share ideas in the spirit of co-operative federalism. Leading a team of officials of the plan panel, Kumar said that engagement with all the states is required to develop to-

we also discuss the blueprint of development with the state governments," Kumar told media persons here. On a three-day visit, Kumar and his team met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik followed by an official level meeting with Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra, Development Commis-

ers of the State, Kumar said that in the presence of senior officers from NITI Aayog, the State government was apprised of its opportunity areas such as connectivity, low railway density, compliance burden and critical areas that can hack growth, particularly the State's potential for mining.

tions to get their feedback on different issues concerning growth of industrialisation in Odisha. This was followed by meeting with civil society organisations on localising sustainable development goals. The third session was interaction with academicians on educational transformation in the State.

## Trial of new oral drug against COVID-19 begins in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG: Oravax Medical Inc, a subsidiary of US/Israeli pharmaceutical company Oramed, has started the first phase of clinical trial of its oral COVID-19 vaccine in South Africa. South Africa has been struggling with its plans to achieve the herd immunity through vaccinations, with widespread vaccine hesitancy, largely fuelled by social media misinformation. There is also a strong

anti-vaccination lobby, including some political parties. "We expect to rapidly complete this study and hope to advance into pivotal trials for emergency use approval in countries where our oral Virus-Like Particles (VLP) vaccine would have the greatest impact," Oramed Chief Executive Officer Nadav Kidron said in a statement. "South Africa is a great location for the Phase 1 study, as it is

currently experiencing a surge in COVID cases and has struggled to obtain sufficient vaccines. "It is our firm belief

that an oral vaccine which eliminates symptoms and eases distribution and administration, can significantly help increase

vaccination rates for South Africa and similar countries," Kidron said. The open-label trial involves participants

who have not received either a COVID-19 vaccine or contracted the virus. Participants will be administered one dose of the oral vaccine at the beginning of the trial and a second dose three weeks later. The trial's endpoints will include safety and tolerability as well as efficacy by measuring the presence of an immunogenic response. Kidron said the trial phase would be short

to show as quickly as possible that this oral vaccine works very well on humans before seeking phase two approvals. Oravax said its oral vaccine targets three SARS CoV-2 virus surface proteins, including proteins less susceptible to mutation, thus making the vaccine potentially more effective against current and future variants of the COVID-19 virus. "Oravax's VLP vaccine technology is highly scalable for

manufacturing and is easily transferable for logistical wide scale distribution as there is no need for sub-freezing storage," it added. Oravax Medical Inc. was established earlier this year by Oramed Pharmaceuticals and other shareholders with a mission to bring an oral COVID-19 vaccine to the market. Specialising in ways to deliver drugs orally, Oramed is currently in an advanced stage of trials for the first commercial oral insulin capsule for the treatment of diabetes.



## The security flaw that's freaked out the internet: Log4j explained

Security pros say it's one of the worst computer vulnerabilities they've ever seen. Firms including Microsoft say state-backed Chinese and Iranian hackers and rogue cryptocurrency miners have already seized on it.

The Department of Homeland Security has sounded a dire alarm, ordering federal agencies to urgently find and patch bug instances because it's so easily exploitable — and telling those with public-facing networks to put up firewalls if they can't be sure. A small piece of code, the affected software often undocumented.

Lodged in an extensively used utility called Log4j, the flaw lets internet-based attackers easily seize control of everything from industrial control systems to web servers and consumer electronics. Simply identifying which systems use the utility is a challenge; it is often hidden under layers of other software.

The top U.S. cybersecurity defense official, Jen Easterly, deemed the flaw “one of the most serious I've seen in my entire career, if not the most serious” in a call Monday with state and local officials and partners in the private sector. Publicly disclosed last Thursday, it's catnip for cybercriminals and digital spies because it allows easy, password-free entry.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, which Easterly runs, stood up a resource page Tuesday to deal with the flaw it says is present in hundreds of millions of de-

### State Recruits 6231 Teachers

Continued from page-1  
dence among the students.

“This day will always be remembered in the history of education in the state. As a landmark step towards building a new Odisha, the state government has given priority to the development of two sectors— education and health in the state.

“This is an all-time record in state's employment history,” he said.

The function was attended by Ministers Niranjana Pujari, Tukuni Sahu, Ashok Chandra Panda, Sameer Das.

Principal Secretary School & Mass Education, Satyabrata Sahu took the initiative for hiring these 6131 teachers in just 47 days, which included 2236 Arts teachers, 1779 Science teachers, 829 Hindi teachers, 796 Sanskrit PET and three Telugu teachers.

## HAL signs Rs 2400 crore contract with Bharat Electronics, the biggest order ever placed with an Indian company



BENGALURU: In a major boost to indigenization, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the development and supply of 20 types systems for the LCA Tejas Mk1A program here today, December 16, 2021.

The five-year contract spanning from 2023 to 2028 is valued at Rs 2400 crore and involves supplying critical avionics Line Replaceable Units (LRUs), flight control computers and night flying LRUs. This is the biggest ever order

that HAL has placed on any Indian company boosting ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ campaign. “LCA Tejas programme is an excellent example of synergies between Indian Defence establishments such as HAL, DRDO & BEL. The current order for the development and supply of 20 types of critical avionics LRUs for Tejas Mk1A is a shot-in-the-arm for Make in India activity. HAL stands committed to indigenous products”, said R Madhavan, Chairman & Managing Director, HAL. “We are pleased to

receive this order from HAL for the prestigious LCA Tejas program and look forward to continuing strong partnership and joint success with HAL,” said Anandi Ramalingam, CMD, BEL.

The order for supply of these systems for 83 Tejas Mk1A fighter fleet will be executed by two divisions of Bharat Electronics Limited at Bengaluru and Panchkula (Haryana). All the contracted items will be delivered by BEL to HAL in a ready to board condition. Deliveries under 83 Tejas Mk1A order to

IAF will commence from FY 2023-24 onwards. The home-grown fighter is slated to be equipped with indigenous flight control computers, air data computers which would also be supplied by BEL under this contract. These systems have been designed and developed by various labs of DRDO and Aeronautical Development Agency, Bengaluru.

The contract documents were handed over by Mr E P Jayadeva, General Manager LCA Tejas Division, HAL to Mr Manoj Jain, General Manager (EW&A) BEL.

Other heavily computerized countries were taking it just as seriously, with Germany activating its national IT crisis center. A wide swath of critical industries, including electric power, water, food and beverage, manufacturing and transportation, were exposed, said Dragos, a top cybersecurity firm. “I think we won't see a single major software vendor in the world -- at least on the industrial side -- not have a problem with this,” said Sergio Caltagirone, the company's vice president of threat intelligence. Eric Goldstein, who heads CISA's cybersecurity division, said no federal agencies were known to have been compromised. But these are early days.

“What we have here is an extremely widespread, easy to exploit and potentially highly damaging vulnerability that certainly could be utilized by adversaries to cause real harm,” he said.

A small piece of Code, A World of Trouble The affected software, written in the Java programming language, logs user activity. Developed and maintained by a handful of volunteers under the auspices of the open-source Apache Software Foundation, it is highly popular with commercial software developers. It runs across many platforms — Windows, Linux, Apple's macOS — powering everything from web cams to car navigation systems and medical devices, according to the security firm Bitdefender.

Goldstein told reporters in a Tuesday evening call that CISA would be updating an inventory of patched software as fixes become available. “We expect remediation will take some time,” he said. Apache Software Foundation said the Chinese tech giant Alibaba notified it of the flaw on Nov. 24. It took two weeks to develop and release a fix.

Beyond patching, computer security pros have an even more daunting challenge: trying to detect whether a network or device was hacked. That will mean weeks of active monitoring. A frantic weekend of trying to identify — and slam shut — open doors before hackers exploited them now shifts to a marathon.

Lull Before the Storm

“A lot of people are already pretty stressed out and pretty tired from working through the weekend — when we are really going to be dealing with this for the foreseeable future, pretty well into 2022,” said Joe Slowik, threat intelligence lead at the network security firm Gigamon.

The cybersecurity firm Check Point said Tues-

day it detected more than half a million attempts by known malicious actors to identify the flaw on corporate networks across the globe. It said the flaw was exploited to install cryptocurrency mining malware — which uses computing cycles to mine digital money surreptitiously — in five countries.

As yet, no successful ransomware infections leveraging the flaw have been detected, though Microsoft said in a blog post that criminals who break into networks and sell access to ransomware gangs had been detected exploiting the vulnerability in both Windows and Linux systems. It said criminals were also rapidly incorporating the vulnerability into botnets that corral multiple zombie computers for larcenous ends. “I think what's going to happen is it's going to take two weeks before the effect of this is seen because hackers got into organizations and will be figuring out what to do next.” John Graham-Cumming, chief technical officer of Cloudflare, whose online infrastructure protects websites from online threats. Senior researcher Sean Gallagher of the cybersecurity firm Sophos said we're in the lull before the storm.

“We expect adversaries are likely grabbing as much access to whatever they can get right now with the view to monetize and/or capitalize on it later on.” That would include extracting usernames and passwords.

State-backed Chinese and Iranian state hackers were already leveraging the vulnerability for espionage, said Microsoft and the cybersecurity firm Mandiant. Microsoft said North Korean and Turkish state-backed hack-

## Cryptocurrencies a challenge for emerging markets, regulation needed: IMF chief economist

NEW DELHI: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Chief Economist Gita Gopinath has made a strong case for regulating cryptocurrencies, saying it will always be a challenge to ban them as they operate

no particular regulations or any ban on use of cryptocurrencies in the country.

ALSO READ | Government unlikely to bring bill on cryptocurrency in winter session  
“Regulation is abso-

observed. Replying to a question on India's fiscal and monetary policy, Gopinath said India's core inflation is slightly above 6 per cent; so, in that environment, having to make policy, while recognising that the

need to keep a close eye on inflation. According to her, due to the resurgence of the pandemic in the third quarter, the global recovery lost momentum.

“We still have a positive growth, we still have global recovery



from offshore exchanges. Gopinath also suggested a global policy and coordinated action for regulating cryptocurrencies.

“I think cryptocurrencies are a particular challenge for emerging markets. It seems to be more attractive to adopt cryptocurrencies and assets in emerging economies than in advanced economies,” she said while addressing an event organised by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on Wednesday.

India is contemplating a bill in Parliament to deal with the challenges posed by the unregulated cryptocurrencies. Currently, there are

lutely important for the sector (cryptocurrencies and assets). Countries around the world are trying different things, there is obviously challenges to banning (cryptocurrencies and assets),” Gopinath, who is slated to be the first deputy managing director of the IMF early next year, said. According to the IMF chief economist, no individual country could solve this (cryptocurrencies) problem on its own given the complex cross-border transactions.

“Because a lot of these crypto exchanges are offshore, they are not subject to regulation of a particular country. So, there is a need for a global policy on that front urgently,” she

economy is not fully recovered is a major issue.

“India's fiscal policy should maintain its accommodative stance for a few more quarters and after that slowly unwind,” the IMF's Indian-American chief economist said, adding that “but do it gradually”. Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation for the month of November surged to a 12-year high of 14.23 per cent, the highest since April 2005. CPI inflation for last month rose to a three-month high of 4.91 per cent. On the Monetary policy front, she said, “We see the reason to remain accommodative at least when it comes to interest rates.” Gopinath, however, emphasised that at the same time, there is a

continuing but with weakening momentum,” she noted.

The new COVID variant called B.1.1.529 or Omicron was first reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) from South Africa on November 24.

She noted that one of the positive findings was that though the pandemic has now been prevalent for nearly two years, it cannot be likened to the Great Depression of the early 20th century.

“The impact of the Great Depression was longer and more far-reaching; in contrast, after the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an economic rebound even if an uneven one,” Gopinath pointed out.

## Sports Projects on Track World's Most Admired: Sachin among top 3 sportspersons alongside Messi and Ronaldo

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today visited the Kalinga Stadium and reviewed the progress of the major sports infrastructure

CM, V K Pandian, Secretary, Sports and Youth Services R Vineel Krishna, and officials of the Department of Sports & Youth Services.

2022-23. These multipurpose indoor stadiums will have facilities for badminton, table tennis, weightlifting and can be used as disaster

cellence. Swimming has ample opportunity for medals and the state is expanding its Swimming ecosystem and is offering Swimming



projects ongoing within its premises, particularly the indoor aquatic center, which once complete, will be an iconic facility for Swimmers. In addition, the Indoor Athletics Stadium, will be the first such facility in India. The projects are on track and scheduled to be completed in a year.

Chief Minister expressed his satisfaction on the progress of ongoing construction and said, "These are land mark sports infrastructure which will make Kalinga Stadium as the leading destination in various sports."

He was accompanied by Minister Sports & Youth Services, Tusharkanti Behera, Development Commissioner, Pradeep Jena, Secretary to

During this visit, Chief Minister inaugurated five sports infrastructure facilities and laid the foundation stone for 89 multipurpose indoor hall. The projects inaugurated include the Biju Patnaik Weightlifting Hall and a new sports hostel at the Kalinga stadium, a swimming pool each in Angul and Baripada and the indoor stadium in Rourkela.

For the multi-purpose indoor stadiums, land for all the 89 locations has been identified. Tender process has been initiated for 87 locations and work is expected to start shortly in about 50 locations where the tender has been finalised. It is expected that all the indoor stadium will start functioning in

shelters and hospitals during disaster and pandemic like situations.

All these projects will give an added boost to the ever-evolving sports ecosystem of the state.

Currently, Odisha has promising young lifters who are poised to become strong medal contenders in near future, and having a Weightlifting Hall lead by team of experts and professionals with access to Sports Science facilities will go a long way to ramp up their performance. The new Sports hostels and its allied facilities and amenities, within the Kalinga Stadium premises, will ensure a home away from home for the athletes, while they stay focused on their goal to achieve sporting ex-

both as a competitive sport and a life skill. The semi Olympic Swimming Pool in Angul and Baripada, led by professional instructors and life guards, will run grassroots programs and will be of benefit to the local talent and the community at large. In the very near future there will be few more launched in other regions.

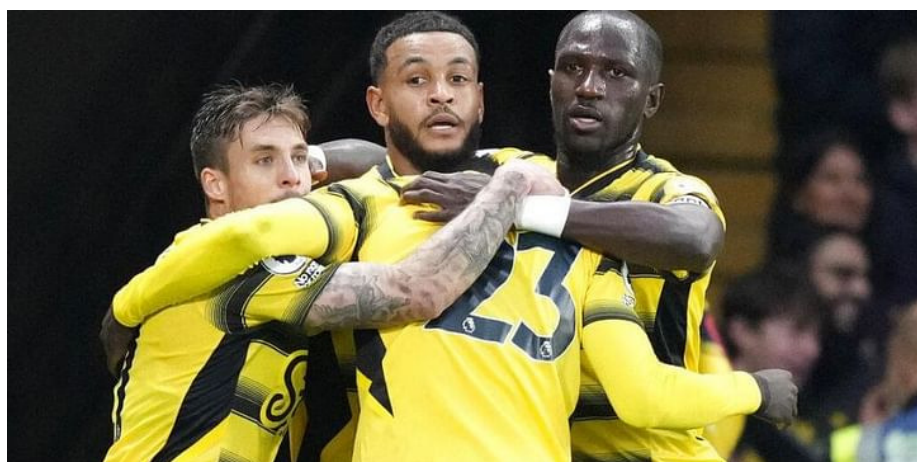
Rourkela, which is transforming into the second hub of Sports in the state, with India's largest Hockey Stadium coming up for the Hockey World Cup in 2023, is adding many sports infrastructure to its length and breadth. The inaugurated Indoor Stadium is an added milestone for the smart city and will be a hub for shuttlers of that region.

## Watford coronavirus outbreak sees game at Burnley called off

LONDON: A coronavirus outbreak at Watford led to its game at Burnley being called off less than three hours before kickoff on Wednesday, becoming the third Premier League postponement in four days. "The decision was taken following guidance from medical advisers due to an ongoing COVID-19 outbreak within Watford's squad," the Premier League said. "As a result, the club has an insufficient number of first team players available to fulfil the match."

But Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers expressed his disappointment that Leicester's request for Thursday's game against Tottenham to be postponed was re-

jected by the Premier League. Leicester will be without nine players due to coronavirus-related issues and injuries. "Unfortunately for



us we weren't granted dispensation, which is disappointing because as a team and a club we have always wanted to support all the measures, but when we need a little support with the extreme situation we find ourselves in we weren't able to get it,"

Rodgers said. "There was a big doubt for the game against Newcastle, but for the greater good of the game and for the supporters it went

ahead. But since then we have picked up more injuries. "They are not COVID-related injuries, but they are because players are picking up injuries because we can't rotate the team and the squad because of the number of players we already have

out." Tottenham requested the game was postponed in order to play its Europa Conference League game with Rennes that was called off last week

due to the London club's coronavirus cases. That also led to the postponement of Spurs' league game against Brighton last weekend. Manchester United's away game at Brentford on Tuesday was called off, too, following an outbreak at United.



MUMBAI: Legendary Sachin Tendulkar has been adjudged as the world's 12th 'Most Admired Man', as per a survey conducted by YouGov, an internet-based market research and data analytics firm. This year's study sur-

veyed more than 42,000 people in 38 countries and territories to compile the list. Among sporting heroes, Tendulkar is third in the list behind Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. In the list, the iconic batter is ahead of

former US president Donald Trump, Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan, Amitabh Bachchan and also present India captain Virat Kohli. Tendulkar has been associated with UNICEF for more than a decade and

was appointed the South Asian ambassador in 2013. Over the years, Tendulkar has supported several initiatives in health, education, and the sports sector in rural and urban areas across various states in India.



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