

### South Africa to give Johnson & Johnson vaccines to other African nations

JOHANNESBURG (KCN): South Africa will donate just over 2 million doses of the

ment. "This donation embodies South Africa's solidarity with our

and effective vaccines," said Ramaphosa. Ramaphosa is "mak-

ery," the statement said.

South Africa's donation will add to the more than 100 million vaccine doses that have been donated to the African Union's African Vaccination Acquisition Trust. The African vaccination group has also purchased 500 million doses to be distributed to countries across the continent.

Africa remains the world's least vaccinated continent. The World Health Organization said that Africa might not reach the target of vaccinating

70% of its 1.3 billion population until the second half of 2024. Just 20 of Africa's 54 countries have fully vaccinated at least 10% of their populations against COVID-19. Ten African countries have less than 2% of their populations fully vaccinated, according to WHO.

South Africa is currently battling the resurgence of the coronavirus fuelled by the omicron variant. South Africa recorded 24,785 new infections and 36 deaths in the most re



Senior BJP Leader, Former BJP Jaipur District President Mr Jagannath Samal and Editor in chief of Paryabekhyak & The Kalinga chronicle Group Dr Pabitra mohan samantaray on a special interactive session discussing various issues of jajpur district

facturing facility in Gqeberha, formerly Port Elizabeth, and be distributed to various African countries over the next year, according to a state-

sion and protect economies and societies on our continent is to successfully immunize a critical mass of the African population with safe

Town since then, with treatment by the South African military health service. Ramaphosa is "in good spirits and comfortable in his recov-

### PM Modi to visit poll-bound UP four times in 10 days as BJP ramps up campaign

LUCKNOW(KCN): The significance of Uttar Pradesh in the political landscape of the country can be

The PM is set to visit the state four more times in the next 10 days for various official functions before

the state. If the sources are to be believed, the ECI may notify the assembly polls in five states any time early next month

be in Shahjahanpur on December 18 to lay the foundation stone of the 594-km long Ganga Expressway from Meerut to Prayagraj followed by his visit to Sangam city of Prayagraj on December 21 to interact with nearly two lakh women employees. He is also likely to launch a few development schemes in the district on Tuesday.

Modi is also scheduled to inaugurate the first phase of his dream project -- the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project -- on December 13-14. He will again visit

### Odisha villagers disgruntled with JSW's rehabilitation plan

PARADIP(KCN): A day after JSW declared a special rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) package for the project affected people, anti-industry activists alleged that the decision was arrived at without taking public opinion into consideration.

JSW announced a compensation package for people losing land in villages of Nuagaon, Gadakujang and Dhinkia gram panchayat. However, the locals said this was done without conducting a meeting with the Rehabilitation and Peripheral Development Advisory Committee (RPDAC). Unhappy, villagers said their demands have not been met.

While they had asked for Rs 20,000-25,000

per decimal towards compensation for betel vine, JSW has decided to give Rs 17,500 per decimal. Labourers will get Rs 88,000 in two installments as opposed to the amount decided in the 2010 RPDAC meeting which now amounts to Rs 27 lakh per person. Similarly, prawn ghery owners will be getting Rs 2.5 lakh against the proposed Rs 5-6 lakh.

In a press release, COO of JSW Ranjan Nayak said, "The proposed compensation has emerged through a series of collaborative discussions at the district, gram panchayat and village level with extensive participation of villagers, district administration and other stakeholders to elicit public opinion.



gauged from the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already paid three visits to the poll-bound state so far this month.

the Election Commission comes out with the notification for 2022 Assembly polls and the model code of conduct comes into effect in

and in UP the assembly polls may be held in 6-7 phases. PM Modi is leaving no stone unturned to ensure BJP's victory in 2022 in UP. He will

### In a first, Odisha government appoints 6,131 teachers in one batch

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister

ment has appointed so many teachers in

Telugu teachers. They were appointed

possibilities. Stating that teachers play a



Naveen Patnaik on Thursday said that education is a reflection of the collective hopes and aspirations of society. Distributing recruitment letters to 6,131 newly appointed teachers at a function in the Kalinga Stadium here, the Chief Minister said that this is for the first time that the State govern-

one batch. The teachers will be posted in 1,075 schools reconstructed under the first phase of the school transformation programme under the 5T initiative. The newly appointed teachers include 2,236 arts teachers, 1,779 science teachers, 829 Hindi teachers, 796 Sanskrit and PET teachers and 3

within 47 days, a release issued from the Chief Minister's office said. The government has set a target to fill up 11,000 posts of teachers in the first phase. Inaugurating the orientation programme for the teachers, the Chief Minister said that children are the future of the nation and symbol of infinite

key role in instilling hope and empowering the imagination of the students, he advised them to work for ensuring the blossoming of creativity and confidence among the students. He said that education and health services are the primary focus area of the government.

### State clears AMNS Steel Project

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) of the Government of Odisha, headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday approved ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel's (AM/NS) proposal to set up mega steel plant at a cost of Rs 1.02 lakh crore. The company has proposed to set up a 24 MTPA integrated steel plant at Mahakalpara block of Kendrapara district. This mega project will generate direct employment opportunities to 16,000 persons and create significant indirect employment opportunities through ancillary and downstream industries and services. The approved project is the largest project in the manufacturing sector in the country. At its Kendrapara complex, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) will produce 24 MT of various grades of steel with its latest green steel making technology. It will also produce high value added Steel downstream products.

This facility will also produce 18.75 MT of cement annually, making it one of the largest cement manufacturing plants in the country and will boost the infrastructure development in the region.

Along with the steel complex, the company will also develop a downstream industry park to promote the MSMEs and help import substitution. A large Number of ancillary manufacturing companies are expected to put up their units in this region to support the huge steel making facility.

The infrastructure to be developed for the Kendrapara projects facility will give a boost

to the logistics and overall development of the region. This modern, green & environment friendly steel making facility will put Kendrapara and Odisha on the world steel map. A number of international equipment manufacturers will be stakeholders in this project and catalyse more employment opportunities to the State.

Through this investment, the state government will give push to extensive socio-economic development across the region. This mega



project will get completed in 7 years in phases. The logistic infrastructure, power and water utilities and all the clearances for the project will be provided in a time bound manner by the government agencies, which will be monitored by a High Power Committee chaired by Chief Secretary, Odisha.

With this massive investment, Odisha has garnered investments worth Rs 2.70 lakh crore in the past 12 months, creating potential employment opportunities for over 77,000 persons.

Odisha is enjoying the tag of largest steel producing State in the country and such projects will further enhance the production to cross the 100 MT Steelmaking capacity by 2030.



## Annual departmental seminar department of Physics, B. B. College, Baiganbadia

**BARIPADA :** A Departmental Seminar in physics entitled 'Recent

In the seminar the Hon'ble Principal Dr. JNSD Sachan presided over the

the guests and spoke on the Seminar topic. Resource person and chief speaker Dr. power point presentation. At the outset Senior Lecturer Mr. Subrat kuman Dash delivered his introductory speech. In this seminar Anil. Behera, Ram Chandra Soren, Selina Gochhayat, Pooja Upadhya, Rajshree Mahapatra, Sukumar Patra, Dibya jyoti Satpathy, Dipti lipsa Muduli presented their seminar papers. At the end student Selina Gochhayat gave the vote of thanks. Lecturer Miss Ipsita Parida and demonstrator Mr. kshitish Chandra Mohapatra co-operated in the programme. All the students of physics department were present at the meeting.



Development in Diluted magnetic semi Conductor was held on 09.12.2021 in B. B. College, Baiganbadia.

meeting and made the students aware of their goal in life. The HOD of Physics Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanta introduced

Pravan Mallick , professor of physics of M. P.C. Autonomous College explained the topic minutely through

## "SAMVEDNA" NGO put a hope to envisage slanting winter

**Barbil (KCN):** A blanket distribution programme was organised by Samvedna NGO at Bolani ,keonjgar. In view of slanting thunder in the area ,the NGO have been

Tripathy, before the programme they do a survey of beneficiaries in the area as per the criteria they decide in a meeting. Based on the survey they prepared a report for

distributed 350 numbers of blanket and planning to distribute dress materials for the children living in hutting area said RatanlalGope ,another member of the

iron ore mines while other officials I C Chunduwat, S k Dev of BIOM along with president Mrs K. Chartered and Maheswari Ramachandra were present to witness the



distributing blankets since 2011. In this programme they have targeted the downtrodden especially the oldaged and helpless needy .According to a member Pinaki

budgeting. They always try to reach all this needy and take utmost care in their distribution so that no one left behind said KundanSingh. In this programme they have

NGO. It is too learnt that they have a non final school for the drop out children. In this distribution programme Jaydev Chaterjee, Chief General Manager of SAIL owned Bolani

programme. Ram Sir, Duryadhan Sandil, Amarjit Singh, Sanjay Yadav, Anadi and Binay Chowdhury and many other members of Samvedna were present.

## "Happiness is a direction, not a place". Proved Vikas Sarwogi

**Barbil (KCN):** AyashaPatra, a 12-year-old girl from Thakurani area under Barbil municipality of Kendujhar district. She suffers from apalstic blood cancer. Her father, LaxmidharPatra, is a driver by profession. His wife Nirupama and his two daughters Ayesha and Isha consist his family . Laxmidhar being a driver in a private vehicle engaged in transportation work in mines runs his family with great difficulty. Having known the condition of her daughter, he lost his hope .Through some volunteers raises funds and takes them first to Barbil CHC, SCB Medical College and later to AIMS in Bhubaneswar. After a long treatment for about two months ,doctors at AIMS advised him to take her daughter to AIMS ,Delhi for further treatment . He was devastated to find that it was a costly treatment and impossible on his part to manage . At the same time, an woman named Sonali from Bhubaneswar extends her helping hand, talking to an NGO working for the disease and asking for her help. The NGO has agreed to pay a hefty share of the expenses. The NGO has agreed to bear an expense of Rs 25 lakhs according to Laxmidhar. But his total

expenditure is estimated at over Rs 35 lakh, which is also not possible for Laxmidhar, and a social worker and a young good hearted businessman 'Vikas Sarogi ' have extended a helping hand for the treatment of patient. He said he would



hire one of his associates to help him during his stay in Delhi with the financial support needed to cover the remaining expenses. Accoding to him happiness can only be achieved by helping others and this can be of many different direction ,not a place. He too requested other people to take part voluntarily . He has been widely praised for his generosity in the town.

## Lifestyle announces the biggest sale of the season

**Kolkata (KCN):** Lifestyle, India's leading fashion destination for the latest trends, has an-

ion brands. Fashion shoppers can look at giving their wardrobes a stylish makeover as Lifestyle

Forever, Juniors and more, as well as from a wide variety of leading brands like Vero Moda, Levi's,

you get them all at irresistible offers and attractive prices. The Lifestyle Sale will be valid across

nounced its much-awaited 'SALE' to go live from the 18th of December. Customers shopping at Lifestyle Sale can find up to 50% off and many more exciting deals on latest styles across top fash-

offers compelling discounts across categories for Men, Women and Kids. Customers can choose from Lifestyle's strong portfolio of brands like Forca, Ginger, Melange, Kappa, Code, Bossini, Fame

Puma, Loreal, Titan, Biba, ONLY, Louis Philippe, Tommy Hilfiger and more. Make the most of the latest trends in Apparel, Beauty, Watches, Fragrances, Footwear, Handbags, and Accessories, as

all Lifestyle Stores, online at lifestyle's website and on the Lifestyle app available for Android and iPhone users. In Kolkata, Lifestyle store is located in Axis Mall and Quest Mall.

## Dabur Chyawanprash Immune India Campaign flagged off in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** As part of its commitment to safeguard the health of the future generations, Dabur Chyawanprash announced the launch of a mega awareness initiative aimed at securing the health of underprivileged kids across the country. Under this initiative, Dabur Chyawanprash - together with Dr. Parmeshwar Arora, M.D. (AY) B.H.U. Varanasi Gold Medalist & Senior Consultant Ayurveda— will conduct Immunity awareness sessions to educate children about the need to build a stronger immune system to fight against illnesses due to changing season, common bacteria and viruses.

The drive was flagged off in Bhubaneswar with a special session conducted for more than 200 kids from MY-HEART NGO. The session was aimed at creating awareness among kids to fight illness in winter. The kids were also educated on ways to boost their immunity through basic hygiene and a nutritious diet. Speaking on the occasion, Dabur India Ltd, Marketing Head- Health Supplements, Mr. Prashant Agarwal said, "In the era of COVID-19, strong immunity has become the primary need of every individual more than ever before. Dabur Chyawanprash, with the power of more than 40 Ayurvedic herbs like Amla, Ashwagandha, Giloy etc., has always stood for boosting immunity to fight illnesses. To authenticate this, we have completed a large scale, multi centric, clinical study on - Dabur Chyawanprash. This clinical study evaluated the beneficial role of Dabur Chyawanprash as a prophylactic remedy for COVID-19 infection. The findings of the study revealed that regular use of Dabur Chyawanprash helped reduced the risk of COVID-19 infection by up to 12 times in tested subjects in comparison to control group which was not consum-

ing Chyawanprash. It was also noted that with regular usage of Dabur Chyawanprash, there was up to 6 times lesser severity of COVID - 19 infection when compared to subjects in control group."

Dr. Parmeshwar Arora, M.D. (Ayurveda), B.H.U., said, "During cycles of seasonal change there is a sudden temperature variation, which leads to illnesses like cough, cold & flu. Enhancing immunity is an effective way to fight illnesses like Cold, Cough, Respiratory problems etc. Dabur Chyawanprash is an effective solution to boost one's immunity needs through changing weather cycles."



Under this campaign, Dabur Chyawanprash has joined hands with leading NGOs from 18 cities in India i.e. Varanasi, Prayagraj, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Patna, Indore, Raipur, Pune, Aurangabad, Ranchi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Chandigarh.

"Dabur Chyawanprash has been committed to helping every Indian achieve a strong immunity for over 100 years. This initiative is a leap forward towards this commitment. We are concerned about the cold wave that claims so many lives every year. Through this Initiative, we will attempt to reach out to provide protection to underprivileged kids by highlighting the importance of immunity besides providing Chyawanprash to these Kids," Mr. Agarwal added.



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## Maara Movie Review: A grounded remake of Charlie with quite a bit of heart

If you didn't know that Maara is the remake of the Malayalam film, Charlie, the opening shot of fireflies fluttering about is a strong hint of the magic contained within the universe of this film. Shortly, you see little Paaru in rapt attention, as a nun narrates to her the story of a soldier who's travelling across seas and jungles in a quest to find his soul. This is pretty much the story of this film as well, as Paaru (Shraddha Srinath) grows up to find herself in a similar quest for her soul, well, soulmate, in Maara (Madhavan). There's another quest for a soulmate in this film, one undertaken by Vellaiyan (a wonderful Mouli), one that is later taken over by Maara. The film is a reinforcement of the power of stories, of the stories each of our lives are. This is why there are multiple characters with their own short stories, including those of Selvi (Abhirami), the sex worker, and Kani (Sshivada), the guilt-ridden doctor. The implication is that no one story is necessarily more important than another. I got the sense that Maara doesn't think of himself as a hero or a saviour, even if those around him seem to believe that. He's merely a tool, a person who breezes through life hoping to repay the extraordinary help that Vellaiyan has done to him. I loved this touch because shorn of it, Maara, the character, could have felt idealistic and

unrelatable—which would have gone against the point of the film itself. This way, there's a reason for why Maara is the way he is, why he can't afford to stay at one place for too long. I quite enjoyed that Madhavan plays this character without

kites, in the sketch-book and its pencil illustrations... hell, even in the blotches of Maara's acid-wash hoodies. There's a call through this film, through its characters, to refuse to fall into the trap of mundanity and indif-

small community. Maara, the film, suggests that perhaps, just perhaps, his way of life could also come down to the courage to choose to step away from the norm. Realise the magic of life in you, it seems to be saying... notice the al-

speaking about Maara says, "destiny". Another likens him to a mythical character, Santa Claus, while commenting on Maara's habit of sudden appearances that usually result in joy to whoever he meets. Maara himself, as he

about Meenakshi; watch his eyes grow wide in surprise, and almost well up under the weight of decades of mourning. Ghibran's background music and Thamarai's evocative lyrics add so much to such scenes as well. It's wonderful that films like Maara are able to offer elderly characters like Mouli's as much purpose and are able to see them for the individuals that they are, instead of simply as a crutch for a lead character. Of course, much of this credit must go to the original film, Charlie. In a world that is in a tearing hurry, at a time when films and stories are designed to be rapid for fear of making audiences impatient, films like Maara come as a welcome relief. In this film, at least two important exchanges—between Vellaiya and Paaru, and later, between Maara and Kani—happen as wood slowly burns to ember, as tender faces are lit by the warm glow of a fireplace. It's for such moments that I'll remember this film, even if some inconsistent performances and some synthetic moments stop it from being truly great. Nevertheless, it's a film that has heart and that encourages empathy towards those around us, and if possible, to note that magicity doesn't need to be thought of an otherworldly trait, if only we cared to pay more attention to the beauty around us.



a sanctimonious flavour—and more importantly, in a way that shows that Maara isn't above vulnerability. There's no moral superiority in that ascetic laughter of his—which probably can be thought of as even the desperate attempt of an unhappy man to be happy, chained as he is to his lifelong quest.

**Director: Dhilip Kumar**  
**Cast: Madhavan, Shraddha Srinath, Mouli**

The film is almost a homage to art—and the dreaminess inherent in it. This can be spotted throughout the film: In the pretty wall murals, in the art plastered across and drawn all over the walls of Maara's home, in the designer

ference, into routine and repetition. Maara is pretty much the film equivalent of 'Follow the white rabbit'. That's perhaps why during a conversation between Maara and a thief (Alexander Babu), you can see a neon sign in the background that reads 'White Rabbit'. The usual response to such a call is to cite a lack of financial security, and while that is a reason to be empathetic about—especially given the enviably cushy work-free existence Paaru seems to be leading in this film—we could also note how Maara, who's hardly a wealthy man (as a thief realises), makes the choice to get by, winning and returning favours in his

most mystical beauty of existence. It's also likely that this is why the film's many shots are lit as they are, with many faces often aglow, as though in the presence of a halo. This is why the coincidences in this film become palatable. The central idea at the heart of this film is of two lonely souls in search of each other. Take note of that inexplicable attraction little Paaru feels as she sees a speeding train from within her bus. Or take note of that instinctive smile from Maara as he steps into his room, a room that Paaru has lived in briefly. In such a film, coincidences are to be thought of as divine providence, or as one character, when

does many times in this film, underplays this notion that he's a mystical being. It's his understanding—and you will see it from his eyes when he's engaged in conversation with every single character—that each of us is magical, as are our stories. In this film with performances that range from great to over-the-top, I loved Mouli in particular, who plays Vellaiya, an old man consumed by his unrequited love. Watch him in that scene with Paaru as he brings to her an old photo of his beloved, Meenakshi, but hesitates after seeing her be so charmed by photos of Maara instead. Watch him in another scene with Paaru as she tells him

## Shooting for third season of 'Four More Shots Please' to begin soon: Kirti Kulhari

**MUMBAI(KCN):** Bollywood actor Kirti Kulhari on Thursday said shoot for her series "Four More Shots Please!" is set to commence in coming days. The Amazon Prime

Taking to Instagram, Kulhari shared her excitement to team up with her co-actors again for the new season. "And we are back #fourmoreshotsplease #season3 shoot begins su-

tions, the show was recently nominated in the best comedy series category at the 48th International Emmy Awards. On the film front, Kulhari is currently awaiting the release



Video series, which also features Sayani Gupta, Maanvi Gupta and Bani J, follows a quartet of friends who deal with their relationships, work-life conflicts, ambitions and anxieties in a male-dominated society.

per soon. Lovely to be back with the crazy 3," Kulhari wrote alongside a series of candid photos with Gupta, Gagroo and Bani. Created by Rangita Pritish Nandy and produced by Pritish Nandy Communica-

of the Hindi remake of Hollywood blockbuster "The Girl on the Train", starring Parineeti Chopra. The movie, which premiere on streamer Netflix on February 26, will feature Kulhari as a British cop.

## Vijay Sethupathi, Katrina Kaif in Sriram Raghavan's next?

It was recently revealed that Sriram Raghavan's upcoming film, Ekkis, has been put on hold. A big-budget military drama starring Varun

Santosh Sivan, is a Hindi remake of Maanagaram (2017). He is also rumoured to star in an upcoming web series directed by Raj and

Sriram Raghavan's last film was Andhadhun (2018) with Ayushmann Khurrana and Tabu. The film is getting a Tamil and Telugu re-



Dhawan, the film was delayed due to Covid-19. Now, rumour has it that Sriram has signed Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi for his next. If true, this is the latest Hindi project Vijay Sethupathi is attached to — the others being Laal Singh Chadha and Mumbaikar. The latter, directed by

DK. The unrevealed series will also star Shahid Kapoor.

make with Prashanth and Nithiin, respectively, in the lead.

Banita Sandhu clarifies on COVID-19 diagnosis, says she 'continues to test negative'

**MUMBAI(KCN):** "October" actor Banita Sandhu on Thursday said she has continued to test negative for COVID-19 since her arrival to the country in January 3, contrary to what is being reported in media.

According to health department sources, Sandhu had tested positive for COVID-19 on January 4 in Kolkata after flying from United Kingdom and was admitted to a private hospital after she refused to be treated in a government facility.



## Why This Kolaveri di ? We are Pastoralist

Dr. Gyana Ranjan Mishra

“Your life begins to end the moment you start being silent about the things that matter” - Martin Luther King, JR.

Livestock, a multiple-value resource, supports the livelihood of nearly one billion smallholder producers in developing nations. In many developing



c o u n t r i e s , s m a l l h o l d e r livestock producers c o n t r i b u t e significantly to the food security of the p o p u l a t i o n , providing local markets with animal sourced food produced in a

sustainable way. Livestock sector in India contributes 4.11% to GDP and 25.6% of total Agriculture GDP. In India about 20.5 million people depend upon livestock for their livelihood and provides livelihood to two-third of rural community. It also provides employment to about 8.8 % of the total population of India. With its vast livestock resources, India stands first in milk production, second in buffalo meat production third in egg production and so also is the second largest poultry market in the world. The credit of all these impressive figures are attributed to diverse livestock farming system practised in different agroclimatic zones through India. Irony is that one of the important livestock production system through which India meets 53 per cent of its milk and 74 per cent of its meat requirement is being constantly ignored, and that is pastoralistic system of livestock rearing. Pastoralism makes a significant contribution to the economy of our country both in terms of providing employment and income opportunities and in supplying nutrition to the rural poor.

Pastoralism is not recognised as a sector or even a sub-sector of the agriculture economy in India. The global report released by the non profit organization “League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development” (LPP), September 30, 2020 stated, in its special section on India, “Pastoralism is not an official category in India. No official definition exists. Officials are aware of its existence but do not recognise it as a distinct management system. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying nor the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, nor the NITI Aayog have any information, data or scheme, or even recognition about them. The National Agenda on Doubling Farmers’ Income does not expend even one word on them. The term “pastoralism” is rarely used and remains so far an almost unknown category used neither by anthropologists nor animal husbandry people. The first usually talk in terms of “nomads”, a category, which in India contains a large number of non-pastoral groups. For animal husbandry professionals, animal keeping outside “western models” (i.e. either for dairy purposes or production of meat, egg wool etc) has barely recognised except a very few and for the rest term “pastoralist” is new.

There is no official definition of pastoralism in India exist so far, so we take into consideration the work of different scholars and NGOs working in this field, in Indian context, pastoralists can be defined as “members of caste of ethnic groups with a strong traditional association with livestock keeping, where a substantial proportion of the

group derive over 50 percent of household consumption from livestock products or their sale, and where over 90 percent of animal consumption is from natural pasture or brouse, and where households are responsible for the full cycle of livestock breeding”. According to a semi-popular magazine, between 14 to 35 million that is 1 percent of the country’s total populatiin are engaged in pastoralism. Since Independence, population censuses no longer collect data based on caste adherence, besides, not all members of pastoral castes are actually engaged in livestock keeping. Only a small proportion of young people from pastoral backgrounds have the opportunity or interest to become livestock herders and are engaged mainly in unskilled labour in cities.

A wide range of pastoralist systems exist in India, from fully mobile to transhumant (seasonal movement of livestock between fixed summer and winter pastures) and sedentary. A tremendous variety of sub-systems exists within these broad system depending on agroclimatic conditions and other sociocultural factors. It includes nomadic and semi-nomadic movements, and village-based herding. Village-based pastoralism is the type of pastoralism usually practiced by owners of small to medium sized sheep, goat and pig owners and also by some cattle herd keepers. Here herds usually return to the village for the night, although they may stay away for several days or weeks, if more distant pastures are to be utilized or fields that are farther away are to be fertilized. With high demand of milk and its products in large cities a new form of pastoralism was in practise and that is urban pastoralism, it refers to the keeping of buffalo and cattle in and at the periphery of large cities for milk production with market purchased fodder.

Since they are cut off from the main stream development policies and so also are laggards in context of adoption to modern technology like Artificial Insemination, according to one count a significant proportion of India’s native livestock breeds (73 out of 200) officially recognized breeds are with pastoralists. These breeds are very special, being on the one hand very alert, resilient, hardy and independent. Pastoralism is important for crop cultivation and long-term soil fertility. The animals distribute manure directly on the fields where they are penned overnight. The value of this manure as a source of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium has been estimated at a massive 45 billion US dollars a year. Pastoralists also play an important role in conserving wild biodiversity, their livestock convert native vegetation directly into food, without having to go through the intermediate stages of clearing land, ploughing and raising crops. The animals also disperse seeds that get caught in their wool or hides and then fall off elsewhere. Pastoralists have learned to live with wildlife, including predators. In a changing world with increasing variability in climate patterns and natural resources pastoralism secures continuous flow of animal source foods such as meat and milk with climate resistant production system and act as a buffer for protecting national economy and reducing demand for food import at the time of natural calamities. Pastoralism is a complex activity, hinging on a fine balance between human population, animal population

and natural resources. They have been deeply affected by poor understanding of their livelihood system and non-recognition of their immense contribution not only to agricultural economy but also to nutritional security. Due to the problem of their cultural stereotyping, small population and migratory lifestyle, the pastoralists are ignored in various policy level decisions. Non-participation and ignorance of their due rights and status in Indian have seriously marginalized these communities. Modern development leaves the animals of pastorals nowhere to forage. Customary grazing lands are being enclosed and alienated at an ever-increasing pace. Throughout India, the establishment of wildlife sanctuaries, the expansion of irrigation, the construction of buildings and highways are forcing pastoralists to sell off their herds and seek new livelihoods often with little success. Rapid urbanisation, expansion of roads and better connectivity which increases human activity force the pastoralists to frequently alter their migratory routes and face problems of livestock being killed on roads, thefts and a constant pressure to move. Ironically purest of livestock commodities like milk, cheese, meat etc. of highest quality which we often level as close to nature or organic in our modern day terminology are produced only by these pastoralists at the cheapest rates. Unfortunately they either don’t find appropriate buyers or it is the middleman (traders) who capitalise upon the product quality and obtain the financial gains. Due to their migratory habits, poor economic condition and social marginalisation pastoralists do not have access to modern animal health care service and they generally rely upon their traditional knowledge for preventing and treating sick animals which is not sufficient enough to keep their animals healthy and productive. Many a times they face huge loss both in terms of production and death of animals due to disease outbreak because of poor on nil vaccination. Neither the insurance sector (for risk coverage) nor the banking sector (for credit facilities) supports them because of their movable assets and poor or almost nill land holdings which makes these pastorals valunerable to risk and restricts their economic growth.

Like the situation at international and national level, same scinario prevails here in our state for these pastoralistic communities. There is no official data or document available regarding their population, classification, migration habit, types of herd rearing, etc. The major departments of Government of Odisha who work for the welfare and development livestock farmers and are involved in the management and conservation of natural resources like Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Department (FARD), Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department and ST & SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department don’t have any specific policy for these marginalised people. Neither the Odisha Economic Survey report nor the Odisha State Livestock Sector Development Policy, mentions anything about pastoralist. The various subsectors having there contribution in socio-economic upliftment of the rural poors through management of natural resources and promoting indigenous technical knowledge like the component of National Livestock Mission (NLM),

Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM), The Orissa Watershed Development Mission (OWDM) and NGOs like PRADAN, BAIF had no policy directed specifically for the welfare of these pastoralistic community. With scanty or almost no records available about the pastoralist in Odisha, whatever prediction or estimation is possible is only through collection of information from indirect sources. Unlike other parts of the country typically the northern cold Himalayan region, western dry land and north eastern hilly areas where extreme and a variety form of pastoralism like permanent movement and movement of long distance in search of pasture and water are found, here in our state mostly the village based pastoralism is prevalent though some herd keepers and other tribal peoples move long distance with their livestock. Pastoralism in Odisha is interwoven with the culture of itinerants (groups who move around supplying services to fixed communities). They are known under a variety of names like Gola, Ghusura, Manisiala, etc and associated with a variety of traditional occupations and some of them play an important role in livestock farming. They fall into casted, endogamous groups and are often stereotyped as ethnically distinct, as are pastoralists, whom our governments often put into the same catogory as schedule cast or schedule tribe catagory. The Odisha State Livestock Resources Development Society (OLRDS) under FARD, working constantly for the conservation of native germplasm in different parts of the state is supporting these nomadic pastoralistic community who preserve our precious native germ plasm and hence helps in resolving some of the issues related to these specific communities. The watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN) foundation in collaboration with FARD, is also doing respectable job in this regard. While discussing pastoralism in the context of Odisha it’s a moment of pride to mentation the name of Dr. Balaram Sahu, Ex, Joint Director, FARD, Government of Odisha, the Pioneer of ‘Pathe Pathasala’ who has got international recognition, had done a commandable job for the pastoralist in Odisha. His publication “ Pig Pastoralism in Odisha - A Study” is a master piece in this regard.

The issue faced by of pastoralist is universal phenomenon because the policy makers, conservationists and animal scientists have failed to recognize the importance of these long-standing human-animal-landscape associations, for biodiversity conservation and for rural livelihood. As far as pastoralists are concerned Afghanistan is a bright spot, with the community getting legal recognition and economic support from the government. They get financial support like funds and shelters when they migrate from one place to another. The former Afghan president Hamid Karzai belongs to a pastoral community himself and as a result made pastoralist-friendly policies during his tenure. The future of pastoralism in India will depend heavily on policy decisions made by the State and Central Government. However, working with pastoralists, based on a thorough understanding of their traditional production systems, indigenous knowledge, traditional strategies and practices, could empower the pastoralists and maintain their capacity to produce food on marginal lands.

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## PM Modi thanks Bhutan for highest civilian honour, says India will support it in every possible way

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday thanked Bhutan's king for awarding the country's highest civilian decoration on him, and said India will always cherish the country as one of its closest friends and neighbours and will continue to support its development journey in every possible way. Modi also conveyed his greetings to the neighbouring country on the occasion of its national day.

The prime minister tweeted that he admires Bhutan for its unique model of sustainable development and the deeply spiritual way of life. "Successive Druk Gyalpos - Their Majesties the Kings - have given a unique identity to the Kingdom, and nurtured the special bond of neighbourly friendship that our nations share," he said.

Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering said on social media that he was overjoyed to hear "His Majesty pronounce Your Excellency Modiji's (Narendra Modi) name for the highest civilian decoration, Order of the Druk Gyalpo".

Replying to him, Modi said, "Thank you, Lyonchen! I am deeply touched by this warm gesture, and express my grateful thanks to His Majesty the King of Bhutan."

"I have been privileged to receive the utmost love and affection from our Bhutanese brother and sisters, and take this occasion to convey my greetings to all of them on the auspicious occasion of the National Day of Bhutan," he

added. The highest civilian honour from Bhutan joins a long list of awards Modi has received from foreign countries.

Last year, Prime Minister Modi received the 'Legion of Merit by the US Government' award of the US Armed Forces that is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

In 2019, Russia conferred on him its highest civilian honour 'Order of St. Andrew' award. The UAE also conferred its highest civilian honour 'Order of Zayed Award' on Modi in 2019.

He had received the 'Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud', the highest honour of Saudi Arabia awarded to non-muslim dignitaries, in 2016 and 'State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan', the highest civilian honour of Afghanistan, in the same year.

He was conferred 'Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award', the highest honour of Palestine awarded to foreign dignitaries, in 2018 and 'Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin', the highest honour of the Maldives for foreign dignitaries, in 2019, officials noted.

Modi received 'King Hamad Order of the Renaissance', the top honour from Bahrain, in 2019. He has also been conferred numerous honours from international organisations and foundations.

## Nitesh Plea for Sambalpuri inclusion



New Delhi: Senior BJP leader and Sambalpur MP Nitesh Ganga Deb has urged Centre to include Sambalpuri, most spoken language of Western Odisha, under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Mr. Deb had called on Union Minister for Law & Justice, Kiren Rijiju to press this demand. Later he presented the letter. "Sambalpuri lan-

guage is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in all Western Odisha districts. The people of Western Odisha have an emotional attachment towards this language and they have been demanding consistently at different forums to include Sambalpuri language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution," Mr. Deb wrote to Union Minister Mr. Rijiju. The State

Government has also recommended the same to the Union Government in this regard. "Your good offices may take necessary steps in this regard at the earliest," he urged. In 2015, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had written a letter to the then Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh over the same demand. State had also made similar request earlier in 2014

through a letter by Mr. Patnaik. The State has also submitted a complete proposal based on the recommendation of an expert committee to the Centre. Sambalpuri/Kosali is the mother tongue of more than 7.5 million people in Western Odisha and spoken for many centuries. It is even used as a medium of teaching in non-formal schools now.

## State Clears 5K L Infra Projects

Bhubaneswar: In another step towards development of industrial infrastructure in the State, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra approved four new infrastructural development projects of worth around Rs. 5192 lakh for different industrial estates in the State.

Mr. Mahapatra approved these projects while presiding over inter-departmental coordination committee meeting on Industrial Infrastructure

Principal Secretary Revenue and Disaster Management Bishnupada Sethi, and Executive Director IDCO Bhupender Singh Poonia along with senior officers of the concerned departments participated in the discussions.

Approving the new proposals, Chief Secretary Mr. Mahapatra directed to ensure basic infrastructure like good road, quality power supply, piped drinking water and drainage etc to all the industrial estates both

textile park at Dhamnagar from Akhupada barrage on river Baitarani; and, (iv) laying of treated water pipe line and commissioning of water supply to Andharua bio-tech park estimated around Rs 1100 lakh. Chief Secretary Mr. Mahapatra also reviewed progress of the infra development projects approved earlier in two phases during the current year. In the first phase, the projects of worth Rs. 4829.12

out of these 5 projects 4 projects were completed, and the last project was under implementation at an advanced stage. Similarly, the projects approved in the second phase included construction of high level bridge on 2-lane external approach road from NH to plastic park, construction of external approach road and molten metal road to aluminium park at Angul, and external water supply to industrial estates at Jayamngal,



Development Fund (IDF) held on digital mode today from Lok Seva Bhawan. Presenting the new project proposals, Principal Secretary, Industry Hemant Kumar Sharma said that these projects were essential for furthering industrial activities in the concerned estates, and making those more attractive for the investors.

Principal Secretary Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Satyabrata Sahoo, Principal Secretary Industry Hemant Kumar Sharma, Prin-

old and new. The departments of Industry, MSME and IDCO were asked to jointly work out details of the requirement with estimated cost.

The approved projects included the proposals for (i) external water supply to different industrial estates at Balasore estimated around Rs. 2745 lakh; (ii) external wide approach road for heavy vehicles and containers to the sea food park at Deras from Baranga-Pitapali road estimated at around Rs. 443 lakh; (iii) external water supply to

lakh were approved. These projects were construction of approach road from IOCL side to the Paradeep plastic park; construction of external 2-lane approach road from NH-5(A) to the plastic park; external power linkage to plastic park; construction of surge protection embankment cum road from PPT gate to IDCO land, and construction of main entrance road and cross drainage work to Kholadwar industrial estate in Khordha. Review showed that

Ramdaspur, Chhatabar and Bamuni. The estimated cost of these projects was Rs. 4095.32 lakh. Review showed that the high level bridge project and the external approach road project were completed. The laying of pipe line and construction of 33 KV power supply work for the external supply project were at the final phase of completion. Chief Secretary Mr. Mahapatra directed to expedite the completion and commissioning of the projects.



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# ArcelorMittal Nippon to set up Rs 1 lakh crore steel plant in Odisha, gets state govt nod

BHUBANESWAR: The ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) has revived its plan to set up a steel plant in Odisha at Mahakalpada block of Kendrapara district with a huge investment of Rs 1,02,275 crore.

The proposal for the 24 million tonne per annum capacity plant was cleared at the meeting of the High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) headed by CM Naveen Patnaik on Friday. The mega project is expected to generate direct employment opportunities for 16,000 persons and create significant indirect employment oppor-

tunities through ancillary and downstream industries and services.

The project will be completed within seven years in phases. The logistic infrastructure, power and water utilities and all the clearances for the project will be provided in a time-bound manner by the government agencies, which will be monitored by a high power committee headed by the chief secretary.

The approved project is the largest project in the manufacturing sector in the country. At its Kendrapara complex, the AM/NS will produce

24 million tonne of various grades of steel with its latest green steelmaking technology. It will also produce high value-added steel downstream products.

large number of ancillary manufacturing companies are expected to put up their units in this region to support the huge steelmaking facility. If the project comes up, this will be the first big

## Last man standing : Vice Admiral Sarma veteran of three Wars

Bhubaneswar 17th Dec : Fifty years to the day that Pakistan

kistan had started. To commemorate fiftieth year of the Vic-

memoration and to coincide with Vijay Divas, Admiral

Staff and other Senior Naval Officers felicitated and applauded



surrendered 93000 troops in then Paki-

tory, four Mashaals (Victory flames) have

Sarma was invited to New Delhi and was

him for having been the first Fleet Com-



stan, now Bangladesh, and India's Army, Navy

crisscrossed the country and visited the homes of as many 1971 veterans as was possible. One such flame also came to

felicitated by the Navy. He is the senior most veteran to grace the events. On 13th December, he laid a wreath at the Na-

mander of the Eastern Fleet and for having taken the fleet to Victory. The CNS Admiral R Hari Kumar, said that even though 50 years have passed it is difficult to forget the daring maritime



and Air force established that India is a country which cannot be taken lightly. Pakistan thought they had India on the ropes, they received a 13 day reply that clearly established that they were no match for India, and even the threat of the U.S. Seventh fleet did not deter India from completing what Pa-

Odisha and to the home of Vice Admiral S.H. Sarma, then a Rear Admiral, who commanded the Eastern Fleet in the Bay of Bengal, which played a significant part in the 1971 war, for which the Nation deemed it fit to award him the PVSM "Param Vishisht Seva Medal".

As part of the com-

tional War Memorial on behalf of the Indian Navy, and also wrote a message in the electronic visitors book there. On the 14th the veterans were felicitated by the Defence Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh at the New Delhi Cantonment. He was the first veteran to be felicitated. On the 16th the Chief of Naval

escapades. As General J.S. Aurora had said "The Indian Navy had reduced the task of the Indian Army threefold in the Eastern Sector".

These celebrations also coincided with Admiral entering his centenary year on the 1st of December 2021. Another coincidence is that Admiral joined the Royal Indian Naval reserve on the 16th of December (1942), and Vijay Divas is celebrated on the 16th of December every year. He is the only surviving Naval officer to have served in the World War 2 and the 1965 and 1971 wars.



This is for the second time that Mittal is trying to set up a steel plant in Odisha. Earlier in 2013, the company had withdrawn from a steel project in Keonjhar district due to land acquisition, raw material and other issues.

The proposed facility will also produce 18.75 MT of cement annually, making it one of the largest cement manufacturing plants in the country and will boost the infrastructure development in the region. Official sources said that along with the steel complex, the company will also develop a downstream industry park to promote the MSMEs and help import substitution. A

industry in Odisha. This will give a boost to the logistics and overall development of the region. The modern, green and environment-friendly steel making facility will put Kendrapara and Odisha on the world steel map. A number of international equipment manufacturers will be stakeholders in this project and catalyse more employment opportunities for the state.

With this massive investment, Odisha has garnered investments worth INR 2.70 Lakh crore in the past 12 months, creating potential employment opportunities for over 1.6 Lakh persons.

## Centre has taken Steps to Strengthen Anganwadi Services in West Bengal: Smriti Zubin Irani

Kolkata(KCN): The Union Government has taken several steps to strengthen Anganwadi services, though it has not constituted any task force for implementation of the schemes related to women empowerment. These steps include revision of cost norms of supplementary nutrition, provision of construction of Anganwadi Centres under Convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), provision of drinking water and sanitation facilities at AWCs under Swachhta Action

Plan (SAP) etc. This was stated by the Union Minister for Women Child Development Smt Smriti Zubin Irani in a written reply to a question posed by Shri Kuntal Hembram, MP, Jhargram in the Lok Sabha today.

There have been sustained engagements with State Governments for review and improvement including recent interactions to discuss different implementation related issues to strengthen services. Further, streamlined guidelines were issued on January 13, 2021, covering several aspects such as

quality assurance, roles and responsibilities of duty holders, procedure for procurement, integrating AYUSH concepts and Data management and monitoring through "Poshan Tracker" for transparency, efficiency and accountability in delivery of Supplementary Nutrition has been issued. Smt Irani also stated that In West Bengal a total of 576 Projects and 1,19,481 Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned out of which all are operationalised catering to the needs of 87.69 lakh beneficiaries. Under

Anganwadi Services, a package of six services, comprising Supplementary nutrition; pre-school non-formal education; nutrition and health education; immunization; health check-up and referral services are provided to targeted beneficiaries i.e. all children below 6 years of age, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers. Three of the six services namely, Immunization, Health Check-up and Referral Services are delivered through Public Health Infrastructure under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

## IISSM's 2 days Annual Global Conclave will benefit the stake holders, namely, users, service providers, manufacturers, integrators and security professionals

New Delhi (KCN): The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Global Conclave of International Institute of Security and Safety Management was conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021 on a virtual platform.

The Conclave was inaugurated by Mr. Amit Khare, IAS (Retd), Advisor to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. Mr. S K Sharma, founder DG, NCRB and Chairman IISSM welcomed Mr. Amit Khare and outlined the over-arching theme of the Conclave in his welcome address. During these two

days four Keynote addresses and four Panel discussions were conducted by professionals from the security and safety industry and eminent personalities who are acknowledged leaders in these fields. This year's over arching Theme was "Modernization in the Security, Safety & Loss Prevention Industry".

The interaction between delegates and panellists in all the sessions was commendable and proved very informative and educational. The recommendations and solutions

provided by these interactions would go a long way in upgrading Security and Safety standards. The Valediction Ceremony was presided over by Mr R K Sinha, Former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) & Executive Chairman-IISSM. Mr R K Sinha was welcomed by Mr Rajan K Medhekar, IPS (Retd), DG-IISSM. Mr R K Sinha in his Valedictory Address outlined the genesis and inception of IISSM as a platform for interactions and Networking between all stake

holders, namely, users, service providers, manufacturers, integrators and security professionals. He pointed out that all the stakeholders would benefit from the take aways from this Conclave. Thereafter, Mr G M Srivastava, IPS (Retd), President-IISSM summed-up the proceedings and deliberations of the last two days. Finally, a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Rajan K Medhekar, IPS (Retd), DG-IISSM and the 31<sup>st</sup> IISSM Annual Global Conclave concluded with the playing of the National Anthem.



## RBI Board discusses private cryptocurrencies, Central Bank Digital Currency

MUMBAI: The Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India was held at Lucknow under the Chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das.



cryptocurrencies. Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, for consideration in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament. However, sources

central Board of Reserve Bank on Friday discussed various aspects related to Central Bank Digital Currency and private

cryptocurrencies. Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, for consideration in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament. However, sources

taken up during the session scheduled to end next week. The RBI in a statement said the 592nd meeting of the Cen-

tral Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India was held at Lucknow under the Chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das.

"The Board also discussed various aspects relating to Central Bank Digital Currency and Private Crypto Currencies," it said.

Parliament was recently informed that the government had received a proposal from the RBI in October 2021 for the amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to enhance the scope of the definition of 'bank note' to include currency in digital form.

The RBI has been examining use cases and working out a phased implementation strategy for the introduction of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) with little or no disruption. CBDC is introduced by a central bank.

The central bank has repeatedly expressed its strong views against cryptocurrencies, saying they pose serious threats to the macroeconomic and financial stability of the country, and also doubted the number of investors trading on them and their claimed market value. Governor Das too

had reiterated his views against allowing cryptocurrencies, saying they are serious threats to any financial system since they are unregulated by central banks.

The RBI statement further said the Board also reviewed the current domestic and global economic situation, evolving challenges and remedial measures.

The Board also discussed the half-yearly income statement of the RBI for the half-year ended September 30, 2021.

"The Board also discussed various areas of operations of the Reserve Bank including the functioning of

the Local Boards, activities of select Central Office Departments and the draft Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India, 2020-21," the central bank added.

Deputy Governors Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao, and T Rabi Sankar were present in the meeting.

Other directors of the Central Board Satish K Marathe, S Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer and Sachin Chaturvedi attended the meeting. Debasish Panda, Secretary, Department of Financial Services also participated.

## CBI files charge sheet against Corporation Bank ex-chairman in Rs 79 crore fraud case

NEW DELHI: The CBI has filed a charge sheet against former chairman cum managing director Ramnath Pradeep of Corporation Bank and other executives in connection with alleged loss of Rs 79 crore incurred by the bank due to loan default by a company, officials said on Fri-

(approximately) from e-Corporation Bank (now UBI). They had further allegedly diverted the funds and deployed it in real estate and other non-related business activities by way of loans/advances in different real estate projects," CBI spokesperson R C Joshi said. He said an alleged

pensed with the condition of seeking NOC from the Lead Bank of the consortium," Joshi said. Giving details of the alleged roles of Pradeep, Shankar and Kumar, the CBI alleged that its probe showed that then CMD, e-Corporation Bank (Pradeep) had allegedly sanctioned

the condition of obtaining NOC from Lead Bank facilitating gain to the private firm and causing loss to the bank. It was further found that the then Chief Manager (Shankar), and the then Senior Manager (Kumar), LCB, Mumbai were allegedly associated in the appraisal of the sanc-

## Mobile phone exports increased from USD 0.2 billion in 2017-18 to USD 1.7 billion in 2021

NEW DELHI: Exports of mobile phones have increased from USD 0.2 billion in 2017-18 to USD 1.7 billion in 2021 (April 21-September 21). Imports of mobile phones have decreased from USD 3.5 billion in 2017-18 to USD 0.5 billion in 2021 (April 21-September 21), said the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Minister of State Anupriya Patel, in a written reply, informed the Rajya Sabha on Friday that the steps taken by the Centre to increase the

domestic manufacturing and export of electronics goods including mobile phones include formulation of Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for large scale electronics manufacturing, Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for IT hardware, Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS), Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) under the National Policy on Electronics, 2019, which envisages to

position India as a global hub for Electronics, System Design, and Manufacturing (ESDM). Moreover, FDI up to 100% under the automatic route is permitted for electronics manufacturing subject to applicable laws. Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP)

has been notified to promote domestic value addition in mobile phones and their sub-assemblies / parts manufacturing. Tariff Structure has also been rationalized to promote domestic manufacturing of electronic goods, including Cellular mobile phones.

PM Modi to visit poll-bound UP four times in 10 days as BJP ramps up campaign

Continued from page-1 CONTINUED ON: P-7 Varanasi, his parliamentary constituency on December 23 to hold a seminar with farmers on his vision for the agricultural sector. As per his itinerary, the PM would visit Kanpur on December 28 to inaugurate the Kanpur Metro project and participate in the IIT-Kanpur convocation.

ALSO READ | PM Modi to meet around 40 BJP MPs from UP on Friday as party kicks off poll preparations

The PM had visited the state thrice this month so far — to Gorakhpur for inaugurating AAIMS and a fertilizer factory in Gorakhpur on December 7, unveiling the national irrigation project—Saryu Canal National project in Balrampur on December 11 and launch of the first phase of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project on December 13-14.

In November, the PM had visited Sultanpur to launch Purvanchal Expressway on November 16, to inaugurate the Jhansi node of the UP Defence Corridor on November 19, participated in the DGs conference from November 19-21 and lay the foundation stone of Jewar International Airport in Greater Noida on November 25.

Ganga Expressway project is tipped to be the longest expressway project of the country joining Meerut in western UP to Prayagraj in eastern UP and it is to be finished by 2025. The road will cross 12 districts from West to East UP and the state has acquired 94% of the 7,386 hectares of land required for the project. The project will cost Rs 36,230 crore and the bids have been finalised for it.

Originally a six-lane project, it could be expanded up to eight lanes and extended till Hardwar in Uttarakhand and also till Ballia in the east in the second phase. On December 21 event, the PM would address the UP government's women employees from across the state. Sources said discussions are on about raising the salary of Accredited social health activists (ASHA), Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and Anganwadi workers who treaded inaccessible paths to ensure Covid vaccination and ANM services. Bank Sakhis too have been invited.

On December 23, the PM will again be in Varanasi to address a conference on his vision for the agriculture sector and for farmers. On December 28, the PM would travel to Kanpur to inaugurate the 9-km long first leg of the Kanpur Metro Project and attend the annual convocation of IIT Kanpur.



day. In its charge sheet filed before the court of ACMM, Esplanade, Mumbai, the probe agency named S N Murthy Shankar, the then chief manager, and A P Shiva Kumar, the then senior manager, Corporation Bank, LCB, Mumbai, they said. The agency had taken over the investigation on the complaint of the bank on June 16, 2017 against Parekh Aluminex Limited, its directors and chartered accountant (CA).

The company and the CA were charge-sheeted on December 28, 2020.

"It was alleged that the directors, chartered accountant and others had conspired and availed various credit facilities to the tune of Rs 60 crore

loss of Rs 79.04 crore (approx) was caused to the Corporation Bank.

It was alleged that the officials of Corporation Bank conspired with the MD of said private company and allowed the disbursement of Rs 59 crore (approx) without confirming Drawing Power from Lead Bank, that is, Indian Overseas Bank, and did not make efforts to become a member of the consortium to secure the interest of the bank.

"It was also alleged that the officials of Corporation Bank also repeatedly extended the time limit to the said private company for seeking NOC from the Lead Bank inducting Corporation Bank in the consortium. They subsequently dis-

a working capital limit of Rs 60 crore (approx) to the said private firm on the pretext of refusal by three of the existing banks of the consortium to share the enhanced limits, Joshi said.

"It was further alleged that the accused did not ensure seeking confirmation from three banks about the reasons for refusal to take their share in the enhancement of limits and sanctioned their share without ascertaining the factual position of financial closure and tie-up status," Joshi said.

The CBI alleged that the sanction of the said credit limit was in contravention of the lending policy of the bank.

"It is also alleged that the accused waived

the said private company, knowing fully that the applicant of the loan was neither a director nor an authorised signatory of borrower company," Joshi said.

It was also found that the accused were allegedly associated in preparing the memorandums for modifications of the sanction terms with regard to the said private company and did not verify the actual position of the working capital requirement of the private company from the Lead Bank, he said.

The accused did not comply with the modified sanction terms and allegedly disbursed the loan without informing the Lead Bank about the sanction.



# State Honors Outstanding Athletes

Bhubaneswar: In recognition of the outstanding performance of athletes at the national and international level, Sports and Youth Services Department, today, honored 237 athletes from across the state.

Minister for Sports and Youth Services, Tusharkanti Behera, felicitated the athletes with cash prizes.

der the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Government of Odisha has come up with a number of schemes for the betterment of sports and sportspersons. We have been able to build infrastructure for players to excel in their respective events. We have built 11 HPCs in the state for the high performance of the players. Yesterday, the Chief Minister



Secretary, Sports and Youth Services Department, R.Vineel Krishna graced the occasion along with officials of the State Sports Department.

A total of Rs 1 Crore 8 lakh and 83 thousand was awarded across various sports disciplines. Out of a total of 237 athletes awarded cash prizes, 172 were athletes, while 65 were para athletes categories.

Congratulating the athletes present and those joined virtually, Sports Minister, said, "Un-

**No great expectations for Rafael Nadal on return in Abu Dhabi, hopes high on Australian Open**

ABU DHABI: Rafael Nadal returns to competition in Abu Dhabi on Friday with his expectations low after a lengthy injury absence but hopes high of lining up in next month's

most all the time. It's more about having the chance to have a pain that I can manage to compete well," Nadal told reporters in Abu Dhabi on Thursday. "Let's see, I need to try

out almost half the season, he finished 2021 ranked No.6 in the world after picking up two titles in Barcelona and Rome and making the semifinals at Roland

to his coaching staff in the form of his good friend Marc Lopez, who won 2016 Olympic gold with him in doubles in Rio. "I have been doing a great job at home, practising well with



Australian Open. The 20-time major champion has struggled with a foot injury for the past six months - forcing him to miss both Wimbledon and the US Open.

His first event in four months is the Mubadala World Tennis Championship exhibition where the Spaniard will face another former world number one Andy Murray or Dan Evans on Friday. Nadal is guaranteed to get two matches under his belt in the UAE capital, which will help him assess the progress he has made with regard to his foot.

"It's not about pain. Pain I had a lot of times in my career, al-

it in competition. I know the comeback will not be easy, I don't have big expectations now. But the early expectation is to be here, to play in front of a great crowd again, to feel myself competing again against great players and then enjoy. I really hope that the foot is going to get better and better to be again at the way and the level I want to be," he added. Nadal explained that it has been a "tough period" for him but he is no stranger to injuries and lengthy breaks from competition and insists he still has the fire to achieve more in the sport.

'Interior fire' Despite skipping

Garros and the quarters at the Australian Open.

With the 2022 Australian Open just over four weeks away, Nadal is keen to test his foot in Abu Dhabi and work towards making the trip Down Under in healthy conditions. "You never know honestly," he says when asked about his expectations for Melbourne. In sport, my experience says that things change very quick. What today seems impossible or almost impossible, nobody knows what can happen in one month," he said.

Nadal has been practising hard back home in Mallorca and has made a new addition

the right attitude, intensity, working a lot on my fitness, so if I'm able to do all these kind of things because the foot allows me, you never know what's going on," said the 35-year-old.

"I know it's going to be super difficult for me. If things are going well, I'm going to be playing only one tournament before Australia and these two matches here, so the amount of hours on court at the competitive level before such a tough and demanding tournament like Australia will be not much. But the main thing is still always the same, to be healthy. If I'm healthy, I still have the interior fire to keep going and to fight for my goals," he said.

**Harmanpreet's double strike hands India 3-1 win over Pakistan in ACT hockey, takes team closer to semis**

DHAKA: Vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace as Olympic bronze-medallists India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 3-1 to register their second consecutive win and virtually qualify for the semifinals of the Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament here on Friday.

Harmanpreet (8th, 53rd minutes) converted two penalty corners, while comeback-man Akashdeep Singh, who couldn't make the Tokyo Olympics squad, found the net from a field effort in the 42nd minute for his second goal of the tournament.

Pakistan's lone goal was scored by Junaid Manzoor in the 45th minute.

It was India's second win in the tournament after their 9-0 drubbing of hosts Bangladesh, while Pakistan are still winless, having drawn goalless against Japan in their opening match. India had earlier drawn 2-2 against Korea in their tournament opener.

India is currently leading the points table with seven points from three games and will take on Japan in their last round-robin match of the five-team tournament on Sunday. Pakistan, meanwhile, has just one point from two games.

India and Pakistan were the joint winners in the last edition of the tournament in Muscat after the final was washed out. The Indians completely dominated possession in the first two quarters while Pakistan preferred to sit back. But they defended admirably save for Harmanpreet's lone strike.

The play was mostly on the Pakistan half in the first two quarters as Indians pressed hard from the onset and created a couple of chances but credit must go to goalkeeper Mazar Abbas who was brilliant overall. But expectedly, it was India who took the lead in the eighth minute when Harmanpreet converted the team's first penalty corner with a powerful low flick to the left of

the Pakistan goalie.

Four minutes later, skipper Manpreet Singh' deflection from outside the circle was saved by an alert Abbas.

The second quarter continued in the same manner as India made numerous inroads but the Pakistan defence was up to the task. While Pakistan defence stood out, the team's forward line looked unimpressive as it failed to register a single shot on the goal or secure a penalty corner.

Leading 1-0 at halftime, the Indians kept up the pressure on the Pakistan goal and increased their lead in the 42nd minute when Akashdeep slapped in Sumit's drive from the left flank with a reverse hit.

But the fighting Pakistanis didn't give up hope and upped their game from here on, reducing the margin 27 seconds from the end of the third quarter through Manzoor's diving deflection from Abdul Rana's pass.

If the first three quarters belonged to India, Pakistan gave Manpreet and his men a run for their money in the final quarter, which produced end-to-end enthralling hockey.

Pumped up by the goal, Pakistan went on the offensive and secured their first penalty corner of the tournament in the 47th minute, which was rejected after India asked for the referral.

Pakistan didn't lose hope and continued to press hard and secured two more penalty corners in quick succession but young Indian custodian Suraj Karkera made two brilliant saves to keep his side's lead intact.

In between, India secured their second penalty corner and once again Harmanpreet was precision personified with his drag-flick.

India earned another penalty corner just three minutes from the final hooter but Varun Kumar's effort was saved by the Pakistan goalkeeper.




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