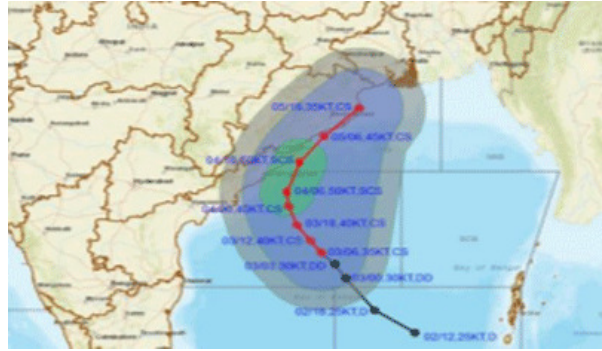


Cyclone May Hit Puri Bhagaban Kar Passed away

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The path of cyclone Jawad projected by India Meteorological Department (IMD) shows that it is very likely to cross the



Odisha coast in Puri district from a close distance.

As per the latest bulletin of IMD, the cyclone is likely to

make landfall by December 5 noon before recurving north, north-east and heading towards West Bengal and Bangladesh. How-

ever, no exact place of landfall has been predicted so far. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Jena here Friday.

Either it may make landfall or touch the coast near Puri or somewhere north south. Still, the State machinery is being prepared assuming that the system will hit someplace near the Odisha coast, he said.

Keeping in mind that the cyclone may hit any parts of the Odisha coast from Ganjam to Jagatsinghpur, the Odisha Government is making preparations, informed Mr.Jena.

The Odisha Government has deployed

247 relief and rescue teams in various places of the State. Another 19 teams have been kept on reservation for any emergency requirement, he said.

Mr.Jena has reviewed the cyclone preparedness with the Collectors of all the districts likely to be affected by the cyclonic storm for the deployment of teams in vulnerable areas.

The district collectors of Ganjam, Khordha, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack have been asked to evacuate the

CONTINUED ON: P-7



Danagadi(KCN) : Sri Bhagaban Kar of Danagadi passed away at the age of 81 at Amri Hospital, Bhubaneswar. He was survived by wife Smt Laxmipriya Kar, sons Sapan, Khokan, Tukuna, Babloo, Daughter in laws Gayatri, Sipi, Bharati, Lipsa, & grandsons Chagu, Kanha, Gudu, Debu, Grand daughters Moon, Chutuli after retiring from as a manager from Minining dept, Govt of odisha He was active in various

social, Spiritual, Philanthropic field. Sukinda MLA Sri Pritiranjana Ghadei, Paryabekhyak & The Kalinga Chronicle Group Editor - in - Chief Dr Pabitra Mohan Samantaray & many dignitaries in Bhubaneswar paid their last respect. The Body was carried to his native place Danagadi for his last Darsan & cremated at Daswasmedha Ghat, Jaipur Town. Many eminent People have mourned his death.

The online world is "the new frontier for gender-based violence," says Natalia Kanem of UNFPA

NEW YORK(KCN): Relentless, borderless, and often anonymous the online world is "the new frontier for gender-based violence," the Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Natalia Kanem has said. Nine-out-of-10 women report that online violence harms their sense of well-being. More than a third of



women state that cyber violence has led to mental health issues. Digital violence inhibits authentic self-expression, and adversely impacts the professional and economic livelihoods of people who depend on online and social media spaces. Online violence silences the voices of women, said a statement issued by UNFPA. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, 85 percent of women with access to the internet reported witnessing online violence against other women, and 38 percent have experienced it personally. Moreover, some 65 percent of

women surveyed have experienced cyber-harassment, hate speech, and defamation, while 57 percent have experienced video and image-based abuse and 'astroturfing', where damaging content is shared concurrently across platforms, said the statement.

When someone infringes on music or film copyright, digital platforms remove the content immediately. Governments have passed laws making copyright infringement illegal and digital platforms have devised ways to identify and prevent unauthorized use of copyrighted material. These same protections and repercussions must also extend to individuals and their photos, Natalia Kanem noted.

The UNFPA has launched the "bodyright" campaign highlighting that corporate logos and copyrighted IP are more highly valued and better protected online than images of human bodies, which are often uploaded to the Internet without consent, and used maliciously.

The bodyright initiative is part of the wider 16 Days of Activism against Violence Against Women campaign, which runs until 10 December. UNFPA has also launched "The Virtual Is Real" website, which features stories of victims and survivors of digital violence from around the world, alongside innovative work done by UNFPA to address this human rights violation.

Naveen breaks Mamita silence

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday broke down his si-



lence over Mamita Meher murder case inside and outside Assembly, Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday broke down his si-

lence over the issue and also slammed the opposition for politicizing it.

Making a statement in Odisha Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister said his government is fully committed to ensure justice to Mamita Meher.

"The death of Mamita Meher was a very sad and unfortunate incident and we are all deeply anguished and pained by this heinous crime. She was a young and bright daughter of Odisha, having a brilliant future. Her death is a terrible and irreparable loss. My heart goes out to the family of the victim," he said.

"My government will ensure that no stone is left unturned to see that the perpetrators of the crime are brought to justice as per law in the shortest possible time,"

Patnaik said.

However, in the aftermath of this terrible incident, the manner in which this very sensitive and heinous crime has been politicized shocked me as well as the people of Odisha, he said.

Though parents of the victim have made an emotional appeal, the politicization of this issue sadly continues. The family was not allowed to mourn peacefully, the Chief Minister said.

"I, as the Chief Minister of Odisha have always worked to ensure justice for all especially for women and vulnerable sections of the society. Similarly, in this case we will move the competent court for fast track trial so that the perpetrators of the

CONTINUED ON: P-7




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Dabur Honey Launches "Shuddhata Sabke Liye" Campaign on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Kolkata(KCN): On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities

pairment. It is an attempt to express gratitude toward entire community of

sweetness, health, or celebration. Mr. Kunal Sharma, Category Head, Dabur

they celebrate their anniversaries just like us. How to accept the circumstances and still remain cheerful and joyous towards life is what I have learnt from them. I believe these films gave me the opportunity to thank them for teaching me nuances of happy life. They are the inspiration behind these stereotype-breaking characters." Mr. Ashay Sahasrabudhe, Founder CEO of KINTEL.

The beautifully writ-



ties, World's No. 1 Honey brand Dabur Honey from the house of Dabur India Ltd launched a first of its kind media campaign called "Shuddhata Sabke Liye". Dabur has unveiled a film to promote the concepts of empowerment, inclusion, and equal opportunity for all.

"With this campaign, we want to honor the fact that people with disabilities are no different than people without disabilities, except for their im-

people with disabilities for their role in our growth. The video depicts how Dabur Honey brings sweetness into the



lives of a couple who, in the face of adversity, make every moment special for each other. Dabur Honey's purity, which has always been an important part of people's lives, whether for

India Ltd. KINTEL is the agency behind this campaign idea and execution. "People with disabilities not only live life



like all of us, but also use products that we all use. I have seen my friends, who are blind, living lives just like us. They like to party like us, they love to cook like us,

ten script about an independent and empowered blind couple has reached a greater level when ace poet, writer and actor Swanand Kirkire lent his voice to it.

Nomination for the Indian Achievers Awards

New Delhi (KCN): We wish to announce that the Indian Achievers Awards 2021, is set to felicitate and recognize the winners on an inter-

national level (virtually). For over two decades Indian Achievers Forum has been recognizing and celebrating the exemplary work delivered

by professionals, individuals, and enterprises, in their respective professions/fields which have cemented a positive change in society.

Please send your nomination for this prestigious award which will not only showcase your achievement but will also motivate others.

22nd National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries on the theme 'Passion for Profession: Empowering Entrepreneurship & Excellence' inaugurated in Kolkata

Kolkata (KCN): The 22nd edition of the National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries, being organised on the theme 'Passion for

with Swami Suparnananda ji, Secretary, The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, as the Special Guest. In alignment with

Saini, said "I acknowledge the unstinted support and effort of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and its members in the corporate sector

where he enlightened the gathering about the sync between mind, body and soul. Attuning to the theme of the conference, he said "Efficiency and Creativity are the two mantras that would help the professionals in realising their passion for the profession as well as their dreams." The deliberations at the two day congregation, on the following sub-themes, will provide the participants an opportunity to explore the renewed role and responsibility of a Company Secretary, as value driven professionals in the wake of recent regulatory developments.

Special Session on IBC : Journey so Far and Further Opportunities for PCS

Integrating Growth, Branding & Wealth Creation: Examples, Challenges & Targets

Special Session on E-Adjudication

New Age Digital Tools for Profession: Timing, Solutions & Costs

Special Address by Chairman NCLAT

Dynamic Regulatory Framework, Speed, Services & Expectations

Special Session on Emerging Opportunities under SEBI Laws

Briefing the Press Conference about the National Conference, CS Nagendra D Rao, President the ICSI, said, "Practising Company Secre-

aries have made a mark for themselves in the field of entrepreneurship by fueling inclusive growth besides ensuring robust compliance and best governance practises all throughout India Inc. They have been contributing immensely in building a sustainable, ethical and socially beneficial economy."

CS Sudhir Banthiya, Chairman, EIRC of ICSI & Programme Coordinator, and CS Asish Mohan, Secretary, the ICSI were also present at the Press Meet.

About ICSI: The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is a premier professional body set up under an Act of Parliament, i.e., Company Secretar-

CS Manish Gupta, Council Member, the ICSI and Chairman PCS Committee, CS Sandip Kejriwal, Council Member, the ICSI,

ies Act, 1980, for the regulation and development of the profession of Company Secretaries in India. It functions under the jurisdic-

tion of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The Institute, being a pro-active body, focuses on best and top-quality education to students of Company Secretaries Course and best quality set standards for CS members. The Institute has over 66,000 members and about 2.5 lakh students on its roll.

threatening farming and feared. Demanding legal action against those who engage in unlawful acts.

Villagers Protests Over Mining Lease For Nayakot Ghodadila Stone Quarry

Khordha(KCN): People from several

inconveniences. The villagers depend on

for the past few years has affected

mining in the area. The pollution has



villages in Olassing Grampanchayat under Tangi Tahasil, Khordha to Protests against the mining lease to a Private Firm in Nayakot Mouza Ghodadila stone quarry. Denizens from as many as the villagers gathered and Protested over the stone quarry alleging that it will Jeopardize their lives. They submitted memorandum to the Collector Khordha urging the cancellation of the lease. They also served an ultimatum to the khordha district administration will responsible for



the Forest for their livelihood. The indiscriminate quarrying at Ghodadila Stone quarry and the surrounding villages

the water table and agricultural activities. The villagers have urged the district administration to ban alleged illegal

threatening farming and feared. Demanding legal action against those who engage in unlawful acts.



Profession: Empowering Entrepreneurship & Excellence' was inaugurated in Kolkata on 3rd December, 2021, in the benign presence of Dr. Navrang Saini, Chairperson (Designate) & Whole Time Member, IBBI, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest along

Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative of Government of India, the National Conference is aimed at bringing together a plethora of innovative ideas that will narrate the outline of governance and provide variables of empowering Atmanirbhar Bharat. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Navrang

and in nation building" He also gave a detailed explanation of the entire procedure at IBC and highlighted on the opportunities available for the Practising Company Secretaries in the sector. Swami Suparnananda ji set the tempo of the conference with his inspirational address



Special Address by Chairman NCLAT

Dynamic Regulatory Framework, Speed, Services & Expectations

Special Session on Emerging Opportunities under SEBI Laws

Emerging Opportunities: Outlook, Risks & Preparations

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Priyanka Chopra lauds Adarsh Gourav for bagging 'breakout star' award for 'The White Tiger'

NEW DELHI White Tiger'. Rao, has been Purple Pebble Pictures, took to her Instagram story to



on Thursday gave a shout out to actor Adarsh Gourav for bagging the 'Breakout Star Of 2021' award for the much-acclaimed Netflix film 'The 2020 American comedy-drama film 'The White Tiger' starring Priyanka Chopra and critically acclaimed Bollywood actor Rajkumar and web series this year by Internet Movie Database (IMDb). Priyanka, who also executively produced the movie under her banner--

for #The WhiteTiger," she wrote. Adarsh also had garnered immense praises for his performance in 'The White Tiger' on an international level. He was nominated for the BAFTA Award, AACTA International Award for Best Actor and Independent Spirit Award for Best Male Lead. 'The White Tiger', directed by Ramin Bahrani, explores India's class struggle and is told from the perspective of Balram (Adarsh), a lower-class citizen who becomes a chauffeur for a rich land-lord named Ashok and his wife named Pinky played by Rajkumar and Priyanka respectively. After receiving the trophy from IMDb, Adarsh flaunted it in his Instagram stories too. Apart from 'The White Tiger', the 27-year-old actor is best known for his portrayal of Mohit Chadda in the 2017 Hindi thriller film 'Mom' and as Ankit in the 2019 adult comedy-drama 'Hostel Daze'. He will also be seen in Zoya Akhtar's next 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan'.

'Housefull 4' rakes in Rs 53 crore in first three days



MUMBAI(KCN): Samji-directed film Akshay Kumar's "Housefull 4" has earned Rs 53 crore in the first three days of its release, the makers said on Monday. The Farhad Nadiadwala, however, believes the film will perform better in the coming days as the festive season has concluded. ALSO READ: 'Housefull 4' movie review - Akshay Kumar steals the show in this problematic comedy of errors "The first three days of our film release were like paid previews. People have

come despite the festive season & enjoyed the film. I think we had the best-paid previews with a total collection of 53cr and our actual weekend starts to-

Vijay's 'Bigil' crosses Rs 100 crore mark in three days

CHENNAI: Tamil just three days since ongoing festive sea-



superstar Vijay's Diwali release, "Bigil", has crossed the Rs 100-crore mark worldwide in its release. The film, directed by Atlee Kumar, is the big Tamil release of the son. ALSO READ: 'Bigil' review - Thalpathy's 'message' is flawed in this 'Mersal' film Industry tracker and columnist Sreedhar Pillai tweeted: "#Bigil does

more massy than it in style in super fast time, crosses 100 cr worldwide in 3 days! Extraordinary! Phenomenal! ALSO READ: 'Bigil' madness - Rioting charges on 32 Vijay fans in Krishnagiri Trade analyst and film critic Ramesh Bala wrote on Twitter: "#Bigil has taken more than 100 crs+ Opening at the WW Box Office. Vijay is known as Thalpathy to Tamil fans and the film continues his winning streak at the box-office. Incidentally, this is his third release with Atlee after "Theri" and "Mersal". With both earlier films emerging blockbusters, Vijay fans hope "Bigil" will repeat the box-office feat. ALSO READ: A Bigil-esque script - Two schools in Erode helping girls play their way to success "Bigil" is a sports action film that has Vijay in dual roles as father and son. As the father, he plays a local don and as the son he is the coach of a women's football team. The actor underwent training for the coach's character.

Why All The Anti-Trans Arguments Are Bogus

evolution, that I'm not allowed to comment on it unless I read the whole book? I've been looking at writing about trans people, trans issues, and biology, for a large chunk of my life. So anyway, I went



through them all. I haven't read every single aspect of them. First, even though each book has its own

particular angle, they all go through the same talking points that are the ones that those of us who are familiar with anti-trans or trans-skeptical media articles can recognize. They touch on detransition and social contagion/rapid-onset gender dysphoria and desistance and all the autogynephilia. It's basically the 10 anti-trans boxes you check. And they never provide the other side of the argument. None of them considers counter-arguments. And it's really easy to make a one-sided argument. In my online writing critiquing the recent anti-trans backlash, I try to present both sides, while explaining why I favor one. And there's sometimes truth to some of these arguments. For example, there are people who detransition. But the reality is more complex than they're willing to concede.

So I wanted to start out by saying that, on the specifics of the biology part of her argument: for one thing, even amongst mammals, there's a lot of sex diversity and species that don't quite fit into rigid male and female dichotomies. For mammals, I will concede that, yes, unlike, say, certain types of fish that change sex midlife, mammals don't have that. But there are mammals, including humans, who are intersex, which is a sexual dichotomy or sexual dimorphism and they don't fall neatly into what's considered male or female. And this happens for every single physical sex difference that exists, whether it's chromosomes, whether it's hormones and secondary sex characteristics, whether it's reproductive organs. So it sounds like she's not considering at all that that falls under my complex trait/bell curve/humans are diverse argument. She's arguing that biology is a static truth that trans people fall outside of. But actually, we fall within the parameters of biology as seen for mammals. If she wants to talk about physical traits alone, then there's sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity. We can't ask animals how they identify. But in all species of mammals, there are same sex pairings. Oh yeah, not yet. Mammals display a diversity of attraction. Same sex attraction is found in every mammal that I think it's been closely examined in, as is whatever a combination of gender identity or gender expression is, where a male of the species will behave like the females behave, and a female behaves like the males behave. And intersex animals have been found for every mammal species that has been closely examined. So, you can appeal to biology. Biology, including sexual orientation, including aspects of what we as humans called gender, you can call it like sexually dimorphic behaviors. But all of these things vary within mammals, too. And to just ignore that by saying that people have always been male or female ignores the existence of intersex animals. It's just very overly simplistic.

ROBINSON

There's a part in Joyce's book where she's even more wrong, where she says, "Gender self-identification is a demand for

validation by others. But the label is a mis-

Dr. Julia Serano

nomer, because it's about requiring others to identify you as a member of the sex you proclaim. Since evolution has equipped humans with the ability to recognize other people's sex almost instantaneously, with exquisite accuracy, very few trans people pass as their desired sex. And so to see them as that sex, everyone else must discount what their senses are telling them."

That just seems to be false.

SERANO

Yes, on several different levels. You can tell that to all the people in my life who read me as female and assume I'm female. That happens with a lot of trans people. Sure, there are issues. Depending upon when you transition and the randomness of other physical features, there are some trans people who don't pass. But to say that most trans people don't pass is a big jump right there. It implies that she doesn't really know too many trans people. But then the idea of being biologically programmed to see the sexes differently—there's a large body of psychological and social research into how children learn to see differences between the sexes. It's pretty well established that it's a learning process. That's not to say that there isn't a biological aspect to the differences. But we most certainly learn to do it. And we learned to do it differently than other groups of humans. Many human cultures, including Indigenous American cultures, have third and fourth genders that are acknowledged in society. And people see them as a separate gender from male and female. That's a learned process. And so different cultures might interpret gender diversity differently.

A lot of people who have negative attitudes towards trans people also express concerns about being deceived by trans people. That's long been out there as a meme in the media—you know, she isn't really a she, right? Or people freaking out when they find out that the person they're attracted to is trans. And it's like, yeah, that kind of goes against this whole idea [that it's easy to identify "sex"].

The other thing I want to add here—and this is something that blows my mind—is that these people keep pointing to chromosomes and reproductive organs and everything. We don't see any of that. The physical differences that we see between women and men are secondary sex characteristics. For example, muscle and fat distribution, breasts or facial hair. These things are things that are brought on by hormones, which are the things that trans people often take when they transition. I don't know how much of it with any given anti-trans writer is motivated reasoning, how much of it is cluelessness, like not actually being at all familiar with trans people. But yeah, there's a lot of problems in that passage.

ROBINSON

I don't know how they go through their lives—and when I say they, I mean from J.K. Rowling to Ben Shapiro to Jordan Peterson to Helen Joyce to Debra Soh to Abigail Shrier. They must go through their lives trying to avoid having serious conversations with trans people. That's the only way you could come up with this idea that there is a denial of biology. It's so strange. Of all the people who deny human biology, trans people are not in that

group. Nobody has a better understanding of what causes the body to be the way it is and the effects of hormones on the body. Nobody thinks about that more. There's not a single biological fact that is being in any way denied by trans people.

SERANO

Yeah. I would love to be at a point where—and obviously, we've taken this kind of backlash turn—we realize that trans people provide a lot of insight for everyday people about gender. People will debate the differences between the sexes, and it's like, trans people have written about our experiences with, say, hormonal transitioning. And the answer is that yeah, there are very real differences. Experiences may vary. But again, humans are these overlapping bell curves. We, as trans people, have experience being members of both the male and female persuasions, and that relates to both physical and social aspects of gender. Having moved through the world as male and as female, we have very interesting experiences. And we have moved through the world as non-binary and have been read different ways and have experienced very real double standards.

A lot of these anti-trans people purport to be feminists. I'm not going to say they aren't feminists, but their feminism seems a bit off to me. We can talk at great length about how sexist double standards are very real things—if you would stop fighting us. There are a lot of feminists who appreciate trans people's insights and perspectives into these issues. But this particular group of people, some of whom consider themselves to be feminists, just really don't want to have that conversation. They only want to have one conversation, and it's one where trans people don't get to speak and where it ends with us being shown the door.

ROBINSON

I want to ask you about the definitions of terms like man and woman and what it means to be a woman, what it means to be a man. One of the "gotchas" that the gender-critical—or whatever we want to call them—people argue is that the only categories that make sense are biological man and woman. And if we don't use those, then any other definition is incoherent or is based upon stereotyped notions of femininity. I just want to read you two quick passages from Lionel Shriver and Helen Joyce. Helen Joyce: "there's a circularity to the mantra that trans women are women, which raises and leaves unanswered the question of what then the word woman means." And Lionel Shriver says that "in order to construct a spectrum, it's necessary to understand what it means to be a man or woman.... We are told the trans woman may have been born a man but feels like a woman. I do not mean to be perverse, but I have no idea what it feels like to be a woman, and I am one." And she says that the trans movement seems to think that being a woman has a lot to do with what clothes you choose to wear and mascara and heels and so forth. And that's mild compared to some of the stuff that people like Germaine Greer say.

SERANO

Okay, so where to start? Nowadays, we have the "trans women are women" kind of mantra. When I was writing my book, the one that most people were familiar with was, "I'm a woman trapped inside a

man's body" or "I'm a man trapped inside a woman's body," which served the same purpose. Actually, let me take a step aside to say the following: There's this assumption that trans people are kind of delusional and have overly simplistic notions of gender, often very stereotyped ideas of gender, and that we're trying to fulfill these gender stereotypes. And it's actually the opposite.

I don't mean that every single trans person is alike and every single cisgender person is like that. I'm not making that argument. What I am saying is that—for me, speaking with "I" statements—I started out viewing gender the exact same as every kid that I grew up with. I'm Generation X. We were all taught to see gender a particular way. It involved stereotypes of bodies, it involved things you're supposed to do, things you would grow up to be, all these learned ideas, things that were supposed to be inevitable. But because I was trans, I inexplicably had these really strong feelings, first and foremost, thinking that there was something wrong with my being a boy. But more importantly, just as inexplicable a feeling that I should be a girl. And that really scared me. And it didn't make any sense to me. And I think most trans people are our first biggest critics, right? I was very suspicious of those thoughts. I tried to get rid of those thoughts. And I went through multiple stages of learning more and more about gender, learning more sexual diversity to the point where when I came out as trans, I can assure you that I questioned gender about a thousand times more than the average cisgender person. That's not to say that cisgender people don't question their genders—they do. I'm just saying, I spent a huge amount of my life questioning and doing research and meeting diverse people. Part of my journey was meeting other queer people and meeting other trans people. I'm not saying that every trans person is a perfect expert on gender. But what I am saying is that, by and large, we spend a lot more time thinking about and questioning gender than the average cisgender person. So I just want to throw out the idea that we have simplistic notions of gender. So going back to the question of trans women are women or a woman trapped inside a man's body, these statements from a transgender perspective very clearly are attempts to explain something really complicated in a very simple way to people who might not get it. I came up against the whole thing when I was first transitioning. What does it mean to be a woman trapped inside a man's body?—which is never how I saw myself, but it was what I had to answer for the statement that other people would make. Growing up, I had no idea what other girls felt or what other boys felt. I had no idea; I only knew what I was experiencing. And so when I say I'm a trans woman, it's not because I aspire to be a woman or have stereotyped notions of being a woman or that I'm making a crass assumption about what women really feel. I've no idea what anybody feels on the inside except me. There are some people who have really strong feelings. And you can say feelings—I would say it's a little more complicated than that. I often describe it as being similar to cognitive dissonance, a kind of understanding that your body should be a particular way that it isn't, and trying to sort that out. (Concluded)

Biologist and trans activist Dr. Julia Serano discusses what people like Ben Shapiro and J.K. Rowling get wrong about "biology" and debunks some common transphobic talking points.

College Devp Centers Mooted

Bhubaneswar: State Government has rolled out an institutional mechanism-District College Development Facilitation Centers (DCDFCs) of for development of Higher Secondary and Higher Education

He gave this direction over video conferencing held from Lokseva Bhawan wherein Principal Secretary Higher Education Saswat Mishra outlined the issues for discussion. Taking a district wise

tors and District administration would resolve many ground level issues more easily as Government has given clear cut guidelines on all important matters".

Further, Chief Secretary Mr.Mahapatra directed the collectors to look into the major issues like "settlement of land in name of the colleges, separation of +2 wing from the degree colleges, expeditious implementation of the developmental projects in the colleges, proper utilisation of the Government money given under different schemes, and development of academic-eco system in the campus.

Development Commissioner Pardeep Kumar Jena directed the collectors to use the grants received from different sources in most judicious way so that money spent yields the maximum value for qualitative improvement of the institutions.

Principal Secretary Mr.Mishra apprised that DCDFCs would be chaired by the Collector of the respec-

tive district, and Regional Director, Deputy Director of the Regional Directorate of Education would function as the member-convener.

The Principals of all Government and aided degree colleges, district level officers of works, rural development, public health and general electricity departments would be members of the Committee. Collector may nominate any other member as per necessity from time to time. The ADM would function as Member Coordinator. Chief Secretary Mr.Mahapatra asked the Collectors to convene round wise meeting with different colleges for having a first-hand assessment of their problems and accordingly prioritize those as per the guidelines issued by the Higher Education department.

All the District Collectors appraised the present infra-structural and other facilities of the colleges in their respective districts.



Sector. Accordingly, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra directed the Collectors of all districts to operationalize DCDFCs for addressing the issues requiring administrative support encountered by the colleges.

review of DCDFCs, Mr.Mahapatra said, "Development of the colleges is a priority agenda of the Government; and, Collectors must be directly involved in the process". Principal Secretary Mr.Mishra said, "Direct involvement of the Collec-

India is on its way to achieve population stabilisation, says Minister of State for Health

NEW DELHI: India is on its way to achieve population stabilisation, Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar informed the Lok Sabha on Friday. She said the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has declined to 2.0 in 2019-20 which is below replacement level, while 31 out of 36 states and Union territories (UTs) have already achieved the replacement level fertility.

The modern contraceptive usage has increased to 56.5 per cent and the Unmet Need for Family Planning has declined to 9.4 per cent, according to NFHS 5 findings, Pawar said in a written reply. The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) has declined to 19.7 in 2019. "Family planning is a target free programme, and the government provides services based on voluntary and informed choice," she said.

A National Population Policy was formulated in the year 2000 with long term objective of attaining population stabilis-

ation by 2045. In response to a question on whether the government proposes to bring a legislation for two child policy, the minister said, "There is no such pro-



posal. "She said the government is implementing various schemes which have been instrumental in reining in population growth. Listing a few of them, she said Mission Parivar Vikas is being implemented in 13 states for substantially increasing access to contraceptives and family planning services. These are seven high focus states (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jhar-

khand, Chhat-tisgarh and Assam) and six north-eastern states (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram).

The MoS further said

which provides compensation for loss of wages to the beneficiary and also to the service provider team for conducting sterilisation was initiated, she said.

"Post-partum intrauterine contraceptive device (PPIUCD) services are provided post delivery and the scheme for home delivery of contraceptives by ASHAs at doorstep of beneficiaries has been taken up."

"Besides, Family Planning Logistics Management System Information System (FPLMIS), a dedicated software, has been launched to ensure smooth forecasting, procurement and distribution of family planning commodities across all the levels of health facilities," Pawar said. According to the Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections (TGPP) July 2020, chaired by Registrar General of India (RGI), the projected population of the country, in the year 2030 is 1.47 billion, she added.

PAC completes 100 years, President to inaugurate celebration in Central Hall of Parliament

NEW DELHI: President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the centennial year celebration of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in the Central Hall of

occasion. Chowdhury, while speaking to the reporters, said that the President will release the centennial souvenir of PAC. "An exhibition showcasing

M a l a w i , Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Maldives have confirmed their par-

sources and assess outcomes of programmes, schemes and projects of the Central government. "The PAC will also deliberate on the implementation of recommendations of



Parliament on Saturday.

Besides top dignitaries, representatives of a number of countries will take part in the commemoration meeting, said the PAC chairman and leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. He said that vice president M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will address the gathering on the

the century-long journey of the committee will also be inaugurated by the President during the inaugural session," he said.

Union Ministers, Members of Parliament, presiding officers of legislative bodies in the country will also take part in the commemoration programme.

Representatives of B o t s w a n a , Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Eswatini,

participation in the commemoration event at the Central Hall, added Chowdhury.

The PAC will deliberate on a four-agenda theme on the working of the Committee over two days, which will include discussions on the functioning of PAC in present times, challenges and the way forward. The PAC will also seek to collect information from non-governmental

its reports, including adherence to timelines and mechanism for strict compliance. The members will also dwell upon the issue of PAC as a development partner, with a focus on strengthening of systems and promoting good governance. Also, on the agenda for the discussions will be the impact of PAC, ensuring citizens' right to due process and value for taxpayers' money," said Chowdhury.

IREDA Pacts with THDCIL

New Delhi: To provide its techno-financial expertise in developing Renewable

Energy and Energy Efficiency & Conservation

help THDCIL to accelerate their footprints in the Renewable Energy space,

able us to contribute for meeting the targets of the Paris



Energy projects, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with THDC India Ltd (THDCIL). The MoU was signed by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA and Shri Rajeev Kumar Vishnoi, CMD, THDCIL. Under the MoU, IREDA will undertake Techno-Fin-

tion projects for THDCIL. IREDA will assist THDCIL in developing an action plan to create and acquire Renewable Energy projects for the next 5 years. IREDA will also extend its techno-commercial expertise to THDCIL for Environmental & Social (E&S) due diligence of RE projects as per the internationally accepted E&S standards. Speaking on the occasion CMD, IREDA said: "This MoU will

who already has portfolio of Solar & Wind energy projects apart from Hydro and Thermal. It will facilitate knowledge transfer, which will contribute to driving sustainable development of the country through Green Energy." Shri Das also underlined: "Realizing the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to reduce carbon emissions to 45% by 2030 in India, these collaborations will en-

Agreement. Also, these efforts can stimulate green investments and create lakhs of jobs." This is the sixth MoU signed by IREDA within one year for providing its consultancy services for developers of RE and Energy transition. Earlier, IREDA had signed MoUs with SJVN, NHPC, T A N G E D C O , NEEPCO and BVFCL to extend its Techno-Financial expertise for Green Energy projects.

UNIBIC launches its New Products



Bhubaneswar(KCN): India's leading cookies and biscuits brand "UNIBIC" has launched 2 different types of snappers (patato biscuits) in a local hotel. This has two flavors cream onion and Indispsices in price range from Rs 20 to Rs 160. It was unveiled by Suresh Reddy, Regional Manager of the Company,

Rabinarayan Acharya, Senior Manager and Priliva Mohanty, Managing Directors of Sony Enterprises. Customers are also offered by one get one offer. More than 60 dealers were present on this occasion. Company offers more than 60 varieties of product in Market. Over 30 different variants

including 6 sugar-free flavors are available in the Market. "UNIBIC" aims 10 Crore Monthly business target in Odisha Market. Sony Enterprises is a Major Super Stockiest having more than 200 distributors. Sony Enterprises is always trying to bring "UNIBIC" in every corner of Odisha.

Khordha DHH: Patients Alleged to Taking Bribe

Khordha (KCN): In a fresh embarrassment to the administration at the Khordha District Head Quarter Hos-

pital, which was embroiled in a series of corruption allegations in the past, a vedio clips, showing medical staff at the hospital allegedly taking bribe from the kin of a women who had been admitted for delivery went viral. In the vedio the medical staff were clearly seen taking the bribe money. The fresh incident nevertheless has put the hospital authorities in a spot against. According to reports Ashutosh Pradhan from Bolagarh area

has got his relative admitted to the District Head Quarter Hospital, Khordha for delivery. However a staff at the

Ashutosh. Meanwhile the goings on at the government

the scam is one of a staff nurse of the DHH Khordha, who



hospital has once again invited public ire and criticism after the vedio went viral. When contacted Chief District

had working in DHH Khordha since last 10 years. Today, one delivery patients Kalpana Sahoo(20) also died



Medical Officer (CDMO) Khordha, Dr. Viswaranjan Pati claimed he had no knowledge about the bribery allegations or the viral vedio. I am not aware of the incident. If it's true a thorough probe would be ordered soon" Said CDMO, Dr. Viswaranjan Pati. The kin pin of

in the negligence by the Gynaecologist Doctor and staffs of Gynic ward DHH, Khordha. The husband of the deceased patients Purna Chandra Sahoo lodged a written complaints before the CDMO, Khordha to inquiry the matter and take appropriate steps.

Ex- MLA put her pension into social service through the trust

Sambalpur(KCN): Former Sambalpur MLA and BJD leader Dr. Raseswari Panigrahi has decided to put her pension in the field of Social Service for promo-

Raseswari Panigrahi Welfare Trust "will operate within the Sambalpur District to help needy, meritorious poor students and provide financial assistance to the help-

briefed reporters. President of Trust Dr. Shankar Prasad Pati, Secretary Subhas Chandra Panigrahi, Treasurer Swarup Kumar



tion of education and Health care of needy students and poor patients. Addressing a press conference in this regard, she said that the Trust in the name of " Dr.

less patients. She has contributed ten lakh the total pension received till now and monthly pension would be credited to the trust's account directly Dr. Panigrahi

Purohit along with Sudhir Pujari, Shiva Shankar Nanda, Debashis Nanda, Dr. Nirupama Badpanda, Dr. Bikash Hota were the trust members present.

Two wheels of Duranto Express derail in Odisha's Jajpur district, all passengers safe

BHUBANESWAR: Two front wheels of high capacity parcel van of Yasvantpur-Howrah Duranto Express derailed near Haridaspur

Railway Station in train was passing



Jajpur district on Friday.

East Coast Railway (ECoR) sources said the incident took place when the

through the station yard at about 11.15 am. There was no injury to anyone and all passengers are safe.

"The affected coach is next to the engine. All passenger coaches are being connected with another engine. The train will leave once the coaches are fixed," said a railway spokesman.

The derailment, he said, will not affect the movement of train services on the Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar mainline as

the restoration of the affected coaches is being done with immediate effect. Meanwhile, the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Khurda Road Rinkesh Roy with a team of high-level officers and an accident relief train reached the spot for putting the derailed coach back on track.

Onions bring tears to Maharashtra farmer who earns just Rs 13 after selling over 1.1 ton

MUMBAI: A farmer from Solapur in Maharashtra managed to earn a meagre Rs 13 after selling 1,123 kilograms of onions, despite winter tending to spike prices of the kitchen staple, leading to a

cluding labour cost, weighing charges and transportation from the farm to the commission agent's shop but excluding cost of production, being Rs 1,651.98. This meant he earned just Rs 13 from the

"How will he repay the production cost, which includes preparation of soil for cultivation, procurement of onion seed, fertiliser and harvesting charges? If onion prices had skyrocketed, the Union gov-

from his own pocket, Shetti further said. Commissioner agent Rudresh Patil, who procured the onions from Kavade, said. "I did buy onions at such a low rate, but it is mainly because of the poor quality of the



state farm leader declaring such a situation was unacceptable, while a commission agent claimed the low price was due to the consignment's poor quality. The sale receipt provided by a Solapur based commission agent showed farmer Bappu Kavade sent 1,123 kgs of onion to the market and earned Rs 1,665. 50, with his expenses, in-

sale. Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana leader and former Lok Sabha MP Raju Shetti, who tweeted the sale receipt of Kavade, said, "What should one do with this meagre Rs 13? This is unacceptable. The farmer supplied 24 bags of onion from his farm to commission agent's shop. And he earned only Rs 13 from it."

ernment would have imported the produce from other countries on war footing. However, now that the prices have crashed, government will ignore the farmer's plight," Shetti alleged. Kavade earned enough to pay the transportation cost of Rs 1,512 to the service provider or else would have ended up paying this amount

produce. The onion was wet and damaged due to unseasonal rains in last few days, which is why it attracted such a low rate." Patil said good quality onions are fetching robust prices in the market due, and termed Kavade's case as "unfortunate and exceptional". Kavade could not be contacted for comments.

BJP on radar for questioning Mamita Meher probe

BHUBANESWAR: The BJD has targeted the BJP for questioning the credibility of the probe into



Mamita Meher murder case which would be monitored by retired district judge ABS Naidu, nominated by the Orissa High Court. The ruling party alleged that this amounts to contempt of court. Referring to the statement of Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi that the probe monitored by a retired district judge

cannot do justice to the case, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said it proves that BJP believes more in CBI than court. Parents of Mamita had approached the High Court praying that character assassination of their daughter should be stopped and also requested the political parties not to do politics over the issue. "But the BJP is repeatedly raising this issue for narrow political gains. Such an approach is creating mental agony for Mamita's family", he said. Mohanty added that a court-monitored probe will ensure impartiality.

Brace for a bumpy year ahead as cars, houses to cost a lot more in 2022

NEW DELHI: With commodity prices showing no signs of abating, year 2022 is going to be costlier on many fronts — especially if you were planning to buy a new car or a house.

India's largest

had increased the prices of its vehicles by 1.4% in January 2021, 1.6% in April and then again in September by 1.9% — taking the total quantum of increase to 4.9%.

Sources said Tata

minium, copper, plastic and precious metals becoming costlier. Steel prices, which stood at Rs 38 per kg last April-May, shot up to Rs 77 a kg this year. Similarly, aluminium which was available for \$1,700-

Prashant Thakur, director & head of research at Anarock Group.

Real estate industry body Credai had recently estimated housing prices to jump 10-15% in view of rising costs of con-



struction raw materials. Cement price to touch Rs 400 per bag; Crisil

The retail price of cement, which has risen Rs 10-15 per bag pan-India since August, is likely to swell by another Rs 15-20 over the next few months, ratings agency Crisil said in a report on Thursday.

Millennials leading charge in buying pre-owned vehicles in India: Report

NEW DELHI: Millennials are leading the charge when it comes to buying pre-owned vehicles in the country, according to research report by online used car marketplace CARS24. The company has collaborated with leading research firm IPSOS to come out

1,800 a tonne last year, now costs \$2,700-2,800 per tonne. If unchecked, this surge in metal prices, along with a surge in cement prices, is going to jack up property prices as well. "Housing developers' profit margins are already wafer-thin and the rising inflationary trend of basic input costs such as cement, steel and labour is a real challenge... Future price hikes seem inevitable," said

MSIL's senior executive director (marketing and sales) Shashank Srivastava had recently said the firm would be forced to hike vehicle prices with steel, alu-

are helping feed the growing field of app and web-based channels," the report stated. The rise in new-vehicle prices and lifestyle changes due to the pandemic as well as emergence of online players are the major factors contributing to this shift, it added. While

used cars in India and deliver best in class customer experience," Kunal Mundra, CEO, Cars India, CARS24 noted.

Recently, CARS24 announced the launch of seven company-owned refurbishment centres this year in India. The centres will be

the near future. The report also highlights that among used car buyers, the most-preferred body type is hatchbacks (43 per cent willing to buy) followed by SUVs (26 per cent willing to buy).

Additionally, the demand for petrol engines is also high among buyers, as



with the report which focuses on the used car buyer trends and top category drivers.

The study highlights the most-compelling consumer trends and statistics with respect to the Indian used car industry. "Young buyers, who account for 80 per cent of buyers' base,

the majority of buyers are young males, there has been an up-take in the number of women used car buyers, the report said.

It added that from an industry average of 10 per cent last year, the number has increased by 50 per cent; and is likely to further amplify in

per the findings of the research report. Besides, the condition of the car remains the most important factor for used car buyers. "Through this report, we have identified some interesting trends and to those, we will continue to build a gold standard for quality

set up across Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Pune. Currently, CARS24 is the market leader in the online used car segment with over 90 per cent market share, and has clocked over four lakh transactions till date.

Air India disinvestment: Union moves HC on employees' welfare

CHENNAI: An employees' union on Friday moved the Madras High Court with a prayer to restrain the Union Civil Aviation Ministry and Air India from proceeding further with the process of the national carrier's disinvestment without taking appropriate steps to protect the rights of the staff.

The court, in interim relief to the petitioner, restrained the Ministry and other authorities concerned from evicting the members of the Air Corporation Employees' Union in Meenambakkam here from their residences provided by the management of Air India Limited.

Justice V Parthiban, who granted the relief while admitting a writ petition from the association by its president C Udayashankar, also restrained the authorities concerned from discontinuing all the medical facilities the members were hitherto enjoying. The Union government had in October signed a share purchase agreement with Tata Sons for

the sale of Air India for Rs 18,000 crore, with the Centre earlier accepting an offer by Talace Pvt Ltd, a unit of the holding company of the salt-to-software conglomerate, to pay Rs



2,700 crore cash and take over Rs 15,300 crore of the airline's debt.

The main prayer of the petitioner was to restrain the Ministry and Air India Limited from proceeding further with the process of disinvestment without taking appropriate steps to protect the terms and conditions of service and the rights of the employees, represented by the union. It also prayed the court to issue an interim direction to the Ministry to disclose the contents of the share purchase agreement entered into by them with Talace Pri-

entitled to continue in service until the age of 58 years which is the age of superannuation.

According to the petitioner association, the Centre and the management of Air India had shared neither the draft share purchase agree-

ment nor its content with the union prior to signing it. Such non-disclosure is in violation of the rights of the employees protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.

Their action of entering into the share purchase agreement without holding prior consultations with the petitioner union in respect of the clauses relating to the protection of the service conditions of employees of Air India is arbitrary, unjust and unfair and amounts to violation of Article 14 of the Constitution. The union is given to understand that as per the terms of the agreement, the new employer will be required to retain the employees of Air India in service for just one year. Denial of job security to the employees post disinvestment is contrary to the service regulations and standing orders, it contended. As per the applicable service regulations and standing orders, they are

The action of the government and Air India in rushing to complete the process of disinvestment without addressing the aforesaid issues is arbitrary, unfair and unjust. The proposed move to evict employees of Air India from the company provided accommodation post disinvestment without effecting any increase in their house rent allowance will deprive the employees and their family members of the right to decent housing which is in violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.

The proposed change in the medical benefits presently extended to service as well as retired employees of the company post disinvestment is in violation of the right to health of the employees and their family members which is protected under Article 21 of the Constitution.

"Without prejudice to the submission that all the employees of Air India should be retained in service by the new employer until the age of 58 years, the authorities had failed to frame a suitable Voluntary Retirement Scheme or Voluntary Separation Scheme as per the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises issued in 2018," petitioner contended.

Naveen breaks Mamita silence

Continued from page-1

crime are brought to justice in the quickest possible time," Patnaik assured the House.

To bring about transparency in investigation of this case my government had written to the High Court of Orissa to appoint a sitting judge, or a retired judge of the court or a district & sessions judge to monitor the investigation of the case.

The HC has been pleased to appoint a retired district judge to monitor the investigation of the case. Now the entire police investigation will be subjected to judicial scrutiny, he pointed out. Rejecting the CBI probe demand of BJP, the CM said, "In the past there have been such sensitive cases against women. These cases were later either investigated by CBI, or were subject to High Court scrutiny or judicial inquiry. In no case were the State agencies found to be lacking in professionalism."

"Now, that this investigation is being monitored by the judiciary, if there is even an iota of evidence against anybody let it be brought to the notice of the court," the leader of the House dared the opposition leaders.

Expressing concerned over the opposition's attack on Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra, Mr. Patnaik said, "The Indian Constitution has given crucial responsibility to the Legislature and its Members enjoy certain safeguards and privileges for helping them discharge their duties without fear, intimidation and pressure. It will be a travesty if the Members of the House are not allowed to discharge their constitutional duties. This is also setting a wrong precedent and such attempts can be misused anytime"

The State is facing a looming threat of a winter cyclone in the next 48 hours. Worldwide the Covid crisis is assuming serious proportions and we have issues of farmers, non-lifting of paddy by FCI, stopping of rural housing in KBK and tribal districts, sharp cut in central funds for the State, doubling of LPG, price rise and other issues affecting the common man, he pointed out. He appealed the opposition members to cooperate in the smooth functioning of the House so that people of Odisha are benefitted.

This statement of the Chief Minister came in the wake of pandemonium continued to prevail in the Assembly over the issue for third consecutive day as opposition BJP and Congress members created ruckus in the House demanding removal of Minister Mishra from the council of ministers.

The House could not able to transit any business today due to the protest by opposition members and witnessed adjournments two times in the morning session and another till tomorrow morning in the post-lunch session.

In an innovative protest, the BJP members led by opposition chief whip Mohan Majhi sprinkled ganga jal and water mixed with cow dung and swept to purify the premises outside the House.

The BJP members said the Assembly has lost its sanctity after due to the presence of Mr. Mishra in the House. The Minister has been attending the House since the commencement of the winter on 1 December.

entitled to continue in service until the age of 58 years which is the age of superannuation. These issues need to be addressed before the completion of the disinvestment process. The action of the government and Air India in rushing to complete the process of disinvestment without addressing the aforesaid issues is arbitrary, unfair and unjust. The proposed move to evict employees of Air India from the company provided accommodation post disinvestment without effecting any increase in their house rent allowance will deprive the employees and their family members of the right to decent housing which is in violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.

Cyclone May Hit Puri

Continued from page-1

persons from the low lying areas. The evacuation process will start tomorrow.

Mr. Jena said after hitting the coast, the system may again divert to sea. There is also a possibility of the cyclonic system not hitting the coast if it changes its path further.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Koraput, Rayagada, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack Khordha, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Malkangiri, Keonjhar, Anugul Dhenkanal and Nayagarh from December 3 to 5 next.

Met department said squally wind speed reaching 45-55 KMPH gusting to 65KMPH is likely to commence along and off north Andhra Pradesh-Odisha coasts from the midnight of December 3 and increase gradually to 80-90KMPH gusting to 100 KMPH from the evening of December 4 for the subsequent 12 hours.

As the sea condition would be rough fishermen are advised not to venture into the sea from December 3 to 5. Distance cautionary signal No 1 has been hoisted in all ports of the state. Mr. Jena said all fishermen who were in the sea had already returned to the coast.

The SRC advised people to store drinking water for two days and not to resort to panic buying essential commodities stating that there is enough stock of goods in the market.

In view of the possible cyclonic storm, the east coast railway has cancelled more than 90 trains passing and originating from its jurisdiction for two days beginning tomorrow for the safety of the passengers.

The authorities have closed the Similipal for the tourists on December 4 and 5. The State government has cancelled the weekly off of all of its officials.

The International Sand Festival and the Konark Dance Festival being held on Chandrabhaga beach in Konark, Puri from December 1 are being called off with immediate effect. The state government has banned fishing all along the Odisha coast.

KL Rahul told me to make it 'big': Mayank Agarwal after Test ton against New Zealand

MUMBAI: Mayank Agarwal knows that he might be confined to the sidelines once KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma are back in the mix but what has

endary Sunil Gavaskar's batting videos and slightly changed his stance. "When I was picked, Rahul bhai spoke to me. He asked me to

The Bangalore-based opener lamented that it was his misfortune that he got hit on the head during a net session in England and then there was nothing

about how he had advised Agarwal to reduce his pronounced back-lift into a shorter one and the opener said that as of now, he is trying to ape the iconic former India captain's side-on stance.

"He told me that I should consider keeping the bat a bit low initially in my innings. I have a tendency to hold it high. I couldn't make that adjustment in this short period of time. When he was saying, I noticed his shoulder position and basically picked up that I need to be more side on," he said.



helped him stay focussed is words of wisdom from coach Rahul Dravid, who told him to control what's in his domain. Agarwal, who has been in and out of the squad in recent times, scored a fine 120 under pressure on the opening day of the second Test before which he watched leg-

control what is in my hands and said, 'go out there and give it your best'. He had told me 'When you get set, make it big'. I am happy to have capitalised on the start that I had. But that message was very clear from Rahul bhai, that I should make it count," Agarwal said at the end of the day's play.

in his hands. "It was unfortunate for me to not have played in England, I got hit and there's nothing much I could do about that. I accepted it and continued to work hard and work on my process and my game," he said.

Gavaskar on the day during his commentary session spoke

On the day, he hit four sixes off left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel, who was New Zealand's best bowler by a distance with four wickets to his name. He said that it was a "conscious decision". "He was bowling exceedingly well. But each time anything was in our half (our arc), the

plan was to be a bit more attacking. Anything that came a little towards us in length, we were going to go for it. He had that phase when he tied us down, so it was a conscious decision to make it count when we could or each time he bowled it in our spot," he explained. For Agarwal, this innings was more about "grit and determination" and he was prepared to look ugly as long as he got results. "That is something I have thought about, but this innings was more about grit and determination, just to stick with the plan, be disciplined. I know I didn't look good sometimes but I got the job done," he said. India hasn't still reached a commanding score and Agarwal reckoned that the first session on Saturday will be crucial. "How we start is crucial, the focus is that. The first session we want to play it out, the wicket is going to get harder and harder to bat on," he said.

'Eating melons', 'that person': Chinese dodge censors to discuss missing tennis star's case online

BEIJING: With coded references to "eating melons" and "that person", Chinese social media users are getting creative to discuss tennis star Peng Shuai online as censors race to scrub all mentions of her sexual assault allegations.

When Peng last month posted that former Chinese vice-premier Zhang Gaoli forced her to have sex, censors were quick to scrub the message and obvious discussion of Peng from social media. The 35-year-old's allegations spread on Twitter -- which is blocked in China but accessible using special Virtual Private Networks -- and sparked an international outcry.

And many found ways to get around the censorship inside the Chinese firewall, initially using Peng Shuai's initials in English, "PS", to refer to the former world doubles number one online. Messages including those initials were soon censored.

"Eddie Peng is too handsome," read one since-deleted post, according to screenshots -- in an apparent reference to the Taiwanese actor. The characters for the movie star's surname and "handsome" make up Peng Shuai's name in Chinese.

On pop culture review site Douban, some users turned to a mix of English and Chinese. "Her WB id no le," one user wrote in a screenshot of a now-deleted Douban forum thread, referring to the disappearance of Peng's official Weibo account from the platform's search function. "I hope her ping'an," another user said, wishing for the ten-

nis player's safety. Douban is considered a more liberal platform, often drawing discussion pushing the political boundaries of the Chinese internet. Some took to the "Tennis" topic page on Weibo to post obliquely about a "big melon" that had exploded in the world of tennis overnight.

In Chinese internet slang, the phrase "eating melon" means to consume gossip. "Even when I'm asleep I must wake up to eat melon," one Weibo user wrote in a now-deleted post, after Peng's allegations were posted late one evening, describing Zhang -- or the "person involved" -- as "too politically sensitive".

The authorities have been quick to catch up, swiftly identifying and deleting new coded posts related to Peng -- even blocking the Douban page for the Korean drama "Prime Minister & I", where users had retreated to discuss Peng's claims against Zhang.

But the sheer volume of comments means that some linger, especially those made on remote parts of social media unrelated to Peng Shuai. "I support WTA" and "please respect every woman", commenters wrote on a Weibo post by the Women's Tennis Association listing 2021 tournament winners. Some online users started out some letters from "WTA" to avoid censors, with one asking on Weibo if the "TA" move on Wednesday to cancel tournaments in China was "because of that person?"

India's first woman footballer Bembem Devi lauds Kerala government for hosting Women's Nationals

NEW DELHI: Bembem Devi, the first Indian women's footballer to be conferred with the Padma Shri, praised the Kerala government for doing its bit for women's football

who supported Kerala government for hosting the tournament so smoothly and taking Indian football forward together," she told the All India Football Federation website.

been the defending champions for the last two years. This year also, I want them to win. As a coach, I always advise my players to respect their opponents and not think they are weak.

age their daughters to play the sport and not sit in their villages to get married. This mindset was essential in every state to develop the sport in the coming years," he said. She also



by hosting their National Championship. The tournament is being played across four venues -- Municipal Stadium, Kuthuparamba, EMS Corporation Stadium, Kozhikode, Calicut University, Kozhikode and Calicut Medical College Kozhikode -- from November 28 to December 9. Bembem Devi, who is the head coach for her state Manipur, said, "I am delighted to see that the Kerala government has taken this initiative to host the senior women's nationals this year to develop women's football."

She added, "Every year, many young girls have been taking part in the trials for the national camp from Kerala, as there is huge potential for women's football in the state." Recently, Gokulam Kerala FC participated in the AFC Club Championship, which was the only club from India to play in the continental top-tier competition.

Manipur, with 20 titles, are touted to be the favourites. This season, the state from the northeast is placed in Group A. They defeated Daman & Diu 5-0, Pondicherry 12-0 and Meghalaya 4-0 in the group stage. She also lauded the football culture in her state. "Manipur has

We aim to win every match and be the champions this season as well. Every player from Manipur gives their hundred per cent into the field. It's a very competitive tournament, and I want the girls to give their best every day and make Manipur proud," she informed. Bembem Devi has always supported young girls to play the sport and urges every parent to let their children learn from the sport. "In the season, I have seen a lot of young and fresh faces, and I am pleased to see that 32 states in 8 groups have been participating, which is good for the development of women's football in India. It's also so nice to see parents encour-

aged the federation for organising many friendly matches for the national team as preparation for AFC Asian Cup, which the country will host in January-February next year.

"AIFF has been working hard to organize so many friendlies before the AFC Asian Cup 2022. I am so pleased to see the girls playing against top teams globally, and these matches from UAE, Brazil will surely help the girls develop themselves for the upcoming tournament. I wish them all the best for their AFC Asian Cup India 2022. I hope they will make the country proud," she concluded.



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