

BJP, Congress and BJD trade barbs over poll disruptions, approach SEC

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The BJP and the BJD blamed each other for incidents of violence resulting in poll disruptions in different parts of the state on the first day of polling on Wednesday. Both parties approached the state



election commission (SEC) seeking action. While Union education minister and state BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan claimed that the violence was sponsored by the BJD, the ruling party's general secretary (organization) Pranab Prakash Das countered him by saying it's the saffron outfit that had unleashed violence.

"I strongly condemn the violence and lawlessness sponsored by the ruling party. The state administration must do its duty to give justice to the people. The SEC must act against the perpetrators of violence," Pradhan wrote in a series of tweets. "Violence should not mar the festival of democracy. Pre-poll violence was also seen in many places," he wrote.

Responding to Dharmendra, Pranab Prakash said the BJD always believes in practising non-violence. "It is the principal opposition BJP which has been sponsoring violence, fearing defeat. BJP MLA Jayanrayan Mishra has been threatening government employees. BJP leaders and workers have attacked BJD Zilla Parishad members in Gajapati and Pipili. The BJP has resorted to violence in Koraput, Salipur, Brahmagiri, Kanas, Dhenkanal among other places," he hit back.

Delegations of the two parties separately complained to the poll panel against each other. A

BJP delegation met SEC secretary R N Sahu and submitted a memorandum alleging that the BJD has been trying to win at any cost. The BJD leaders are intimidating voters, forcing them to vote for them, the BJP said. A BJD delegation, meanwhile, demanded strict action against BJP leaders and workers accusing them of indulging in murderous attacks on BJD leaders and workers and all others across the state. In a memorandum addressed to the state election commissioner, the BJD demanded action against the BJP leaders allegedly involved in a series



of poll related violence.

Congress state unit president Niranjan Patnaik, in a press statement, said the incidents exposed the government's false claim about its preparedness to ensure election in a transparent and impartial manner. He also accused the BJD of threatening voters and killing the democratic process.

Stating that the commission has taken the incidents seriously, state election commissioner Aditya Prasad Padhi said the DGP has been asked to ensure peaceful polling in subsequent phases.

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G-20 finance leaders eye ways to support pandemic recovery

JAKARTA(KCN): world, Indonesian Countries must avoid President Joko tensions and cooper- Widodo told a gather-



ate to support a recovery from the pandemic as it lingers in many parts of the

"The winter is coming," Widodo said in welcoming finance ministers and heads of central banks of the Group of 20 industrial nations. "The pandemic is far from over, and the global economy is struggling," he said.

"During this situation, no single country could recover alone. All countries are interconnected,

no one is isolated."

The G-20 financial gathering comes as many economies are treading a precarious path between raising costs of borrowing to cool inflation and helping to support recoveries from the pandemic.

Worries over the potential conflict in Ukraine are an added unwelcome source of

CONTINUED ON: P-7

MEA seeks explanation after Singapore PM says most Indian MPs have criminal antecedents

NEW DELHI(KCN): Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, during a debate in Parliament,

many of these allegations are politically motivated," Lee said during a debate on the Committee of Privi-

leges. These remarks haven't gone down well with India. According to reports, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned Singapore's envoy to India - Simon Wong - seeking an explanation.



invoked India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and said that at present most Indian MPs in the Lok Sabha have criminal charges pending against them.

"Nehru's India has become one where, according to media reports, almost half the MPs in the Lok Sabha have criminal charges pending against them, including charges of rape and murder. Though it is also said that

Lee made these comments during the debate on the Committee of Privileges' report on complaints about untruths told by former Workers' Party lawmaker Raeesah Khan.

"Things start off with passionate intensity. The leaders, who fought for and won independence, are often exceptional individuals of great courage, immense culture, and outstanding ability. They came through the crucible

of fire and emerged as leaders of men and nations. They are the David Ben-Gurions, the Jawaharlal Nehrus, and we have our own too," the 70-year-old PM said.

He argued that imbued with enormous personal prestige, politicians strive to meet the high expectations of their peoples to build a brave new world and shape a new future for their peoples, and for their countries. But beyond that initial fervour, succeeding generations often find it hard to sustain this momentum and drive.

"The texture of politics changes, respect for politicians declines. After a while, the electorate comes to think this is the norm and you cannot expect better. So, standards get debased, trust is eroded and the country declines further," the Prime Minister said.

Nehru continues to inspire world leaders, but Modi denigrates him: Congress on Singapore PM's speech

NEW DELHI(KCN): After Singapore's Prime Minister Lee

gress on Thursday said while the country's first pre-

grates him inside and outside of Parliament.

ones here at home who fail to have the vision to understand the exceptional leader he was," the Congress said on its Twitter handle.

Senior party leader and former Union minister Jairam Ramesh shared a video clip of Lee Hsien Loong's speech and said, "Singapore PM invokes Nehru to argue how democracy should work during a parliamentary debate whereas



Hsien Loong invoked Jawaharlal Nehru during a speech on democracy, the Con-

mier continues to inspire world leaders even today, PM Narendra Modi deni-

"Pandit Nehru's magnanimity continues to inspire world leaders even today. Pity the

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Soulful Tribute to Nightingale of India Lata Mangeshkar at DAV, Kalinga Nagar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar paid a soulful tribute to and teachers offered their floral tribute to the iconic figure of Indian music. In his the empress of musical world shall continue to rule the hearts of thou- architect of music and a musical rendition by the teachers comprising of Lata



the legendary singer Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar on 11th day of her last rites. In the programme observed to mark the occasion, Principal of the school Sri Bipin Kumar Sahoo, all the supervisors address to the gathering, the Principal highlighted the unparalleled contributions of Lata Mangeshkar to the field of music in general and Indian music in particular. He further said that sands and millions of music lovers all over the world till eternity. The other activities organized to mark the occasion includes display of a biopic showcasing the rise to excellence by the accomplished Mangeshkar's evergreen songs. The entire programme was arranged successfully with full respect to COVID-19 protocols by the whole-hearted support of all the staff.

Will Barbil-Banspanilink commence ,people are confused

Barbil(KCN): Union Minister for government would bear the cost of dilemma. Earlier, it had been proposed to construct this link jointly with the state government's Railway Infrastructure Development Board and the Union Railway Department's at 49 and 51 share with a budget allocation of Rs 376 crore. But unfortunately the railway minister statement put a question mark on completion of this project. Thousands of crores of rupees as revenue coming from the region, but the central government is repeatedly blocking the state's development path by pursuing such a policy, which will not be tolerated and strongly condemned, said Barbil Vikas Parishad convenor and CPI(M) party leader Indramani Behera. Reacting to the statement of the minister, Congress leader Ashok Thakkar said this is an old policy of BJP led government at centre to prohibit non BJP state from development. But we will not stay behind and our fight will continue.



Railways Ashwani Vaishnav's statement in the Rajya Sabha that the Odisha state constructing the Barbil Banspani railway link has put the public of Barbil in

NCW favors CBI Probe

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) Rekha Sharma on Thursday sought a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the sensational Kalahandi woman teacher Mamita Meher murder case. Ms.Sharma, who held a discussion with Odisha DGP Sunil Bansal, however, suggested the him to recommend the State government for a high level probe by the CBI into the murder case of the lady teacher from Mahaling school in western Odisha. "The charge sheet filed in the court in connection with the lady teacher murder case can be sufficed by the ad- dition of new evidence. So I have asked the DGP to add anyone into the purview of the investigation who has not been included so far. A relook is necessary into the charge sheet and if it is felt the probe is insufficient, CBI can be roped in to take charge of investigation of the case," said Ms.Sharma told reporters after meeting with the DGP. Speaking on the alleged link of Minister Dibyashankar Mishra in the murder case, Sharma said the name of the State Minister of State (MoS) Home is not mentioned in the charge sheet. "As the police come under the jurisdiction of the Home department, the Minister in charge of the portfolio should have been questioned by now. But surprisingly, the DGP's office is not even aware whether the Minister has been questioned in connection with the case or not," said Ms.Sharma.



Two person died in a dreadful road accident

Barbil(KCN): Outrage has been seen after the death of two persons in a road accident in the Joda police station area of Odisha's Kendujhar district. According to eye witness, a Hyundai Creta car vide regd.no JH-05-CC-0983 collided with a Hero Honda bike near Tarini temple on Kalapahad road at about 10pm night. Two bike riders died on the spot due to a head-on collision. The deceased were identified as Swapneswar Tanti and Titu Bindhani of Joda Bachu Basti. Both used to work in a mine. They were returning to their home in Bachu Basti after finishing B shift duty. Then the police reached the spot after receiving the news of this accident. The place of accident is closer to the house of the deceased. Police took the dead body in possession and sent both of them to Tata steel Hospital. They were the sole breadwinners of both the families. The family members of the deceased were sitting on a dharna demanding job and compensation for one person of their family members. IIC-



Joda, Padmalaya Sahu tried to convince the people. But till the writing of need no solution was made.

Samajsebi Jayant raysinghnk Pratham barshik smrutisabha

President, Khordha Bisub Milan Samiti, Khordha Jilla Bhasha Surakhya Parisad, Kalinga Paika Sangathan, Sahid Raghunath Dabakar Smruti Committee,



Sammilani, Sambad Sahitya Ghara, Aryavart Ancient Academy, Odisha State Brigade School, Trinath Charana Kala Sansad, Konark sahitya sansad, Palla Saraswati Sishu Mandir, Khordha Itihaas Sankalan Samiti Advisor, Utkal Vikash Khordha Jilla Baristha Nagarika Mancha Vice-President, Sankat Mochan Bidyamandir, Khordha Aaitihisik Samaj Member, Odisha Bhasha Pratisthan, Khordha Head Post Office Advisory Committee Associate Editor, Aamari Satya.

Boudh Records Highest Polling

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Boudh district has recorded highest voters' turnout of 84.7 per cent while lowest 64.96 per cent in Deogarh, (77.25), Subarnapur (81.56) and Sundargarh (72.69). The election was held at 22,379 booths in 1,669



cent polling recorded in Ganjam district during the first phase of voting for the election to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) held on 16 February. The State Election Commission (SEC) has released the final polling data on Thursday. As per the data, 77.2 per cent out of 67.51 lakh voters have turned out to the booths in this phase. Angul district has recorded 82.6 per cent polling while it was 76.58 per cent in Balasore, 70.24 per cent in Balangir, 78.94 per cent in Dhenkanal, 79.57 per cent in Gajapati, 77.57 per cent in Jagatsinghpur and 74.5 per cent in Jajpur district. The polling percentage of other districts—Jharsuguda (82.1), Kalahandi (81.12), Kandhamal (76.33), Kendrapada (71.76), Keonjhar (78.43), Khurda (71), Koraput (80.2), Malkangiri (77.86), Mayurbhanj (78.42), Nabarangpur (80.54), Nayagarh (73.63), Nuapada (75.57), Puri (76.32), Rayagada (76.95), Sambalpur Panchayats in 71 Blocks of the State. Meanwhile, the poll for 13 ward members, 6 Sarpanches, three Panchayat Samiti Members and one ZP member was countermanded due to death of contesting candidates. Notably, the voter turnout in the 2017 Panchayat poll was around 78 per cent while there was 76.65 per cent polling in the first phase. The SEC has made all elaborate arrangements for the second phase polling to be held to- morrow. In the second phase, polling will be held for 186 Zilla Parishad zones in 68 blocks across the State. A total of 20,436 booths will be set up in 1,514 Panchayats and 62,10,938 voters will cast their vote. The campaigning for the second phase election ended on Wednesday evening. As violence has been reported in some booths in the first phase, the Commission has issued strict instructions to the DGP to ensure law and order conditions during the next four phases of Panchayat polls. The DGP has also been directed to take strong action against the law violators.

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5th Japanese Film Festival Online 2022

NEW DELHI (KCN): The Japanese movies fans in India would soon have the

Being organised by the Japan Foundation, New Delhi in the run-up to the 5th

celebrated Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-Hsien and Japan's own Takeshi Kitano.

Zhangke. DATE: February 7, 2022 TIME: 6 PM (IST) PLATFORM: Zoom REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN: SCAN

the 2019 Kawakita Award. He was appointed Program Director of the Tokyo International Film Festival in 2021. The co-panelist Bilna

has been instrumental in shaping both these festivals into important international events. She is currently the Vice-Chairperson of



opportunity to see and listen to Shozo Ichiyama, a film festival veteran from Japan and globally acclaimed movie producer and director who would participate in a virtual panel discussion "The Lives of Japanese Films in South Asia" on February 7. Ichiyama who would be joined by noted Indian film editor and national awardee Bina Paul, will speak on the trajectories of the Japanese Film Industry and its future in South Asia.

Japanese Film Festival Online 2022, which is taking off on February 14, the panel discussion would be moderated by film critic G a u t a m a n Bhaskaran. It is significant to mention here that the 1963-born Shozo Ichiyama was tasked with overhauling Tokyo's film offerings and using his global connections to raise the event's profile. He is also known for his work as a producer with Chinese auteur Jia Zhangke,

Since placing his production base in Shochiku Company, Limited and Office Kitano Inc., Ichiyama mainly produced works by foreign filmmakers. His major films included Hou Hsiao-Hsien's "Flowers of Shanghai" (1998), Cannes Film Festival Jury Prize-winning director Samira Makmalbaf's "Blackboards" (2000), and Cannes Film Festival Best Screenplay winner "A Touch of Sin" (2013) directed by Jia



THE QR CODE REGISTER BY 5:00 PM, 5 FEB 2022 OR CLICK HERE: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8VC1gjnYtdQy5vgKYKsg He was also in charge of selecting films for the Tokyo International Film Festival from 1992 to 1999. In 2000, he launched the Film Festival Tokyo FILMEX and served as its director. However, since 2013, he has been serving as a visiting professor in the Tokyo University of the Arts, Graduate School of Film and New Media. He is the recipient of

Paul has edited over 40 feature films working with illustrious directors. A recipient of two National Awards and numerous Kerala State Awards for editing, she has also directed & produced Documentary Films. Her latest film 'The Sound of Silence' has been screened at numerous National and International Festivals. Bina is the Artistic Director of the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) & International Documentary & Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK) and

the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy and Vice President NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian & Pacific Cinema). The panel discussion moderator Gautaman Bhaskaran is a movie critic, commentator, and author, who penned the first-ever biography of Adoor Gopalakrishnan, and has been covering many film festivals, including Cannes, Venice, Tokyo, and Cairo among others for about 30 years. Courtesy:- Asian Community News.

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

NEW DELHI(KCN): Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya

blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane

this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor_ has outdone your en-

star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates



Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the Netflix based film "a phenomenal experience". Deshmukh took to Twitter to share a poster of the movie, which features Anurag Kashyap and Anil Kapoor in lead roles. "Mind has been

take a bow my friend," tweeted Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir, only you could do

tire performance in one scene," the 'Housefull' actor's tweet further read. While Kapoor essays the role of a yesteryear actor, Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. 'AK vs AK,' revolves around the story of a movie

by kidnapping the actor's daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

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

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Supreme Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR



against her for alleged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted interim protection to Kapoor. She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her. The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.

Spring Skin & Hair Care & Make-up

After months of snow, slush, and frigid temperatures, spring is finally on the horizon.



As temperatures rise and as we re-emerge from the cocoon of cozy blankets, bulky sweaters and flannel pajamas, it's time to start thinking about what

steps to take to prepare for warmer weather.

Changing seasons mean more than just a switch in wardrobes. Spring is the time to renew and refresh your skin.

While a complete overhaul isn't necessary, a few adjustments will help you feel and look better once spring has sprung.

We've identified some easy ways for you to achieve your most glowing, healthy skin with the help of the right skin care products, techniques, and antioxidants.

If the skin is very dry, with rough reddish patches, avoid applying soap. Instead, use a cleanser morning and night. Apart from daily cleansing, give the skin some nourishment. As a home remedy, you can try applying a little sesame seed (til) oil and pat the skin with a hot moist towel. Or, you one can apply a little milk, with a few drops of honey, leave it on for 10 to 15 minutes and wash off with water. These treatments are especially good for normal to dry skins.

If you have oily skin, add one teaspoon of pure glycerin to 50 ml rose water. Put it in a bottle and shake well. Apply this on the face. You will find that glycerin and rose water provide enough moisture to the skin.

The coming of spring often brings problems for people with allergies, including skin problems like itchy, rashy or in-

flamed skin. Sandalwood is an ideal ingredient for such

conditions. Sandalwood paste can easily be applied on the skin to soothe inflammatory conditions. It also helps to relieve itching. However, if there is excessive itching, it is best to consult a doctor.

Here are some home remedies:

Mix sandalwood with a little rose water and apply on the face. Wash off with plain water after 20 to 30 minutes.

Simmer a handful of neem leaves on a very low fire in 4 cups of water for one hour. Leave it overnight. Next morning, strain the water and make a paste of the leaves. Apply it on inflamed and rashy areas. The water can be used for rinsing the area. Neem contains organic sulphur compounds, with versatile healing actions that are of particular benefit to the skin.

Add a pinch of turmeric to milk and apply on the face. Wash off after 15 minutes.

Clays like fuller's earth (multani mitti) have a cooling and soothing effect. Mix one tablespoon Fuller's Earth with rose water. Apply the paste on affected areas and wash it off after 15 to 20 minutes.

Spring Hair Care

During winter the hair becomes dull and dry. For spring hair care, heat pure coconut oil and apply once a week. Remember to apply on the ends too. Leave it overnight and wash the next day. Applying curd or egg on the hair 15 minutes before shampoo helps to add body to fine hair. A beer rinse after shampoo also helps to add body.

After shampoo, apply a creamy conditioner, taking less quantity and massaging it lightly into the hair. Leave on for two minutes and rinse off. Or apply a "leave-on" type of conditioner or hair se-

Shahnaz Husain

rum.

Or, mix some water with creamy hair

conditioner and put it in a spray bottle. Spray the mixture on the hair. Then comb the hair, so that it spreads through the hair.

Here are some home remedies for dry hair:

Take two teaspoons of pure glycerine, one tablespoon sesame seed (til) oil and one egg yolk. Mix together and apply on the scalp and hair. Apply on the ends too. Wear a plastic shower cap and leave on for an hour before washing the hair.

Curd or egg yolk can be applied on the hair for conditioning dry hair. Apply and leave it on for half an hour, before washing the hair.

Spring Make-up

In keeping with the spring season, the make-up should be one that is fresh and youthful. Try to achieve a more natural look. Yellow and green are the main colours of spring. For clothes, colours like leaf green, olive green, lime green, lemon, yellow, cream, light brown, pink, mauve, turquoise blue, light blue would be suitable. Floral prints, checks and dots look pretty, or you can use lace or light embroidery on your clothes.

For make up, leave out foundation, if the skin is clear. Apply a light liquid moisturizer and a touch of baby powder for a translucent look. Or, use compact powder. For the night, a light, liquid foundation would be appropriate. If the skin is too dry, use a creamy one.

When you apply make-up, remember not to smear too much or rub it. Whether it is foundation or blusher, it is best to dot it with a light touch, using a finger tip, or an applicator. It can also be applied lightly and evenly with a damp sponge.

If you wish to cover a pimple or spot, it should be done before applying foundation or powder. Concealing sticks are available for this. Using a thin brush, paint over the spot with a little concealer, or a shade lighter you're your normal foundation. Then, apply a little powder.

For the natural look, use lip gloss, instead of lipstick, during the day. At night, you need more colour. Applying lipstick with a lip brush helps it to last longer. The lip colours for spring can be light brown, rose, mauve and pink for the day, while bronze, coral, copper, burgundy and even red would look good for the night.

Apply a hint of lip gloss after applying lipstick. This gives a fresh and youthful look.

A hint of blusher should be used on the cheeks. A powder blusher is easier to apply. Use it after you have applied powder and at the end of your make-up. Apply on the cheekbones and blend it outwards and slightly upwards.

Exercising regularly is great for your overall health and skin. It gets the blood circulation going and helps flush out the toxins ruining your plans of getting beautiful skin. When you sweat, you expel dirt and grime from our pores, making the skin moist and hydrated.

Applying eye cream at night is investing for future good skin. The skin under the eyes is extremely thin and your regular moisturizer might not work. Use an eye cream to hydrate the skin under your eyes and promote younger-looking skin.

Perfume is also a part of make-up. During spring, use light floral perfumes. A cologne would be ideal during the day. The author is international fame beauty expert and is called Herbal Queen of India

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

Guv's Tweets won't work, BJP must tweat strategies to fight Mamata's political acumen

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is making the same mistake time and again of taking on Mamata Banerjee through not-so-political means. The



three-time chief minister of Bengal, aptly called the stormy petrel, cannot be fought with

Tweets from the governor or former governor of two neighboring states. Nor can she be fought with uncouth, verbal diarrhea of a former state party president. The strategy of making fun out of her apparently simpleton gestures and postures by the Prime Minister, Home Minister or other top leaders of the Saffron Brigade does not work against her. She cannot be taken on with the snooty urban apathy towards so-called unsophisticated and unpolished vocabulary or sentence construction. The more these things are tried out against her, the stronger she

emerges. The results of the last

state assembly polls followed by Kolkata Municipal Corporation polls and then the civic body polls in different parts of the state, one by one, are cases in point. The recent reported and projected feud within the party notwithstanding, Mamata Banerjee and her party have gone increasingly stronger (in electoral politics, at least) by the day. You like it or not, this is a fact, in black and white. Mamata Banerjee's Trinamul Congress has regained (or started to regain) its lost ground in north Bengal as well, much to the worries of the Saffron Brigade.

Much more matured and an astute politician now, the once fire-brand opposition leader and now the third time chief minister knows exactly when, where and how to intervene in party affairs. She also knows how to put a spoke into the wheels of over

Ritwik Mukherjee

ambitious leaders. She does not even mind doing the same thing, if some over ambition gets reflected on her own parts as well.

Consider how she did not let her party contest the UP polls after the initial gung-ho, and eventually decided to extend support to Akhilesh Yadav-led political front. Similarly, after giving a long rope to the party's youth and youthful brigade, on the day of the Goa polls, she made it clear that they were not expecting to win Goa (although she said her party would do much better than it is expected), they were keen on reaching out to every homes in Goa and build party organisation in that state. In Tripura also, the party is suddenly going slow. Unlike some of the top BJP leaders, including the Prime Minister, Home Minister, their national party president, who had virtually camped in Bengal before the

polls and toured & campaigned across the length and breadth of the state, Mamata did not do anything of that sort, so that she can be blamed in the eventuality of a poll debacle.

She has somehow realised that she would not have to branch out physically, thereby running the risk of loss of face in some cases, to come up as a strong contender for the most coveted post, or the strongest challenger to Modi-Shah's leadership. She can jolly well do that by virtue of her party's electoral performances within the state and her government's performance within its jurisdiction.

The Saffron mandarins, therefore, need to tweak and re-work their strategies, politically, in case they are serious about taking her on, on her home turf.

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

DGP asked to ensure Law & Order No halt for Duronto Express, Rourkela sulks

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Following several violence incidents reported during the first phase of Panchayat



in the remaining four phases. According to sources, SEC Mr. Padhi is quite disappointed

in the remaining four phases.

According to sources, SEC Mr. Padhi is quite disappointed

Wednesday.

“We will ensure that the remaining four phases of Panchayat polls are barred from any form of untoward incidents. We have taken steps to arrest people involved in violence which took place in some parts of the State yesterday,” assured Mr. Bansal.

Stating the first phase of election was largely peaceful barring a few incidents of violence, he said, “The elections will be free and fair and we will ensure that strict action is taken against anyone involved in disrupting the polls.” He said a total of 240 platoons of force, 1753 mobile patrolling parties along with district police officers have been deployed all over the state for smooth conduct of the second phase of elections. The police have arrested 36 persons in three districts for resorting to violence during the first phase poll. While 16 people have been arrested in Puri district, 14 arrested in Jajpur and 6

in Dhenkanal district in connection with poll disruption incidents during the first phase.

The police has also seized 3,87,177 litres of liquor, 38 illegal arms, 2216.56 grams of narcotic drugs, registered 4966 excise cases and executed 1903 pending warrants during the election process, so far.

SEC Secretary RN Sahu said that the Commission has received proposals for re-polling at 25 places in four districts from the concerned district Collectors. Those include 11 booths in Jajpur district, five booths each in Puri and Bhadrak districts and four booths in Dhenkanal district, Sahu said.

“We have received proposals for re-poll at 25 places in four districts. The State Election Commission is reviewing such proposals and a decision will be taken in this regard soon,” he added.

ROURKELA: The demand for stoppages of two Duronto Express trains at Rourkela on the Howrah-Mumbai mainline of South Eastern Railway (SER) continues to remain unfulfilled drawing criticism from various fora. The express train however will have an additional



enroute. Proliferation of stoppages is not operationally expedient. However, Rourkela is well-connected to both Kolkata and Pune.”

In this connection, general secretary of UDBHAV, a forum for integrated development and mass awareness, VP Tiwari sent a letter

stoppage at Raipur in Chhattisgarh. Sources said, Raipur is the latest addition to commercial stoppages of 12221/12222 Howrah-Pune Duronto Express and 12261/12262 Howrah-Mumbai Duronto Express. In 2019, the then Railway Minister Piyush Goyal replying to Sundargarh Lok Sabha MP and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence Jual Oram on December 11 denied the proposal for stoppage of 12221/12222 Howrah-Pune Duronto Express at Rourkela. Goyal went on to state, “Duronto Express trains are long-distance fast moving prestigious trains with very limited stoppages

to SECR on Monday reiterating demand for stoppages of both trains at Rourkela. “The Railway Board quickly approved the proposal allowing stoppage of both trains at Raipur which is just 108 kms from Bilaspur but ignored Rourkela and the 200-km SER line passing through tribal areas. This just highlights the step-motherly treatment of the Railway Ministry towards Odisha,” added Tiwari. Tiwari further sought the intervention of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav to look into the matter as Rourkela is a bulk contributor to SER.

Fake doctor married 18 women: Bhubaneswar police

BHUBANESWAR: Ramesh Chandra Swain who posed as

and highly placed women across different states, marry

ment, another is a doctor from Guwahati, a char-

The police have engaged a woman councilor-cum-advocate to reach out to the victims and collect further information about Swain. One more case has been registered against Swain for staying on rent under Khandagiri police limits by submitting fake documents. Another case will be registered against him for collecting `18 lakh from a person on the promise of providing an MBBS seat to his son. The victim has contacted the police to lodge a formal complaint. Two PAN cards have been seized from the accused and police will write to the RBI to locate Swain's bank accounts linked with the cards.



a doctor and a senior Central government official had actually conned 18 women into marriage in over the last three decades. The 66-year-old Ramesh alias Dr Bidhu Prakash Swain alias Dr Ramani Ranjan Swain, who belongs to Singhalo in Kendrapara district, was arrested by Bhubaneswar police on Monday. He used to target educated

them and then swindle their money. While police earlier traced 14 victims, further investigation revealed that he had married four more women. ALSO READ: Fake doc who made a career out of marriages nabbed by Bhubaneswar cops after 14th knot

After the four victims, one is a senior official working with the Kerala govern-

‘Explore solutions to make Gridco financially viable’: Odisha energy department secretary

BHUBANESWAR: here recently, Dhal Principal Secretary, Energy department

said it is another milestone in the

past years. Dhal complimented the Board of Direc-

and minimising losses in the first nine months of current fi-



and Chairman of Gridco Nikunja Dhal has appealed to all employees of the State-owned corporation to explore innovative solutions to make it financially viable and ensure energy security for Odisha at affordable cost. Chairing the 200th meeting of Gridco's Board of Directors

company's journey since 1996. He expressed satisfaction over the role of the Board in maintaining a balance between demand for power in the State and power procurement from various sources while complying to statutory and regulatory requirements through its brilliant decision making process in

tors and the employees for ensuring State's energy security without availing any direct financial subsidy from the State government. He also appreciated role of the trading and business development team led by Umakanta Sahoo for improved energy trading through bilateral/power exchange

financial year. Managing Director of Gridco, Trilochan Panda expressed gratitude to all the directors for their continued guidance and advice to the company over more than two decades and the State government for extending all co-operation in ensuring uninterrupted power supply to people.

Polls in Odisha's Maoist pockets peaceful

Bhubaneswar : Unlike the coastal districts which reported poll-related violence, the first phase voting passed off peacefully in Maoist-hit pockets of Odisha on Wednesday. In Malkangiri, the administration heaved a sigh of relief as no untoward incident was reported from any of the 264 polling booths on the day. The highest polling percentage of 84.91 was reported from Tandki panchayat bordering Chhattisgarh where Maoist fear loomed large a year back. There were 88 sensitive booths including 15

in four panchayats bordering Chhattisgarh in Malkangiri block. Official sources said women turned out in greater numbers to vote this time compared to their male counterparts. In the first phase, 49,797 women exercised their franchise against 46,896 men. Similarly, the first phase polling in tribal areas of Koraput district was peaceful. In Maoist-hit Bandhugaon block, no untoward incident was reported amid tight security arrangement by both the State police and Border Security Force (BSF). Ahead of the poll-

ing, combing operation was carried out in the block. A police check post was also functional at Bandhugaon border to monitor activities of outsiders. Sources said tribals in large numbers came out to vote in Borigumma, Kamta, Kumuli, Padapadar, Kathorgada, Semiliguda, Almonda, and Bandhugaon. In the first phase, poll was held in seven zilla parishad zones under Borigumma, Semiliguda and Bandhugaon. Similarly, polling remained incident-free in Sundargarh, Kalahandi and Balangir. In Kalahandi, Junagarh and

Golamunda blocks went to the polls in the first phase. All eyes were on Junagarh as the Assembly constituency is represented by Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra who is facing heat over his alleged links with the main accused in lady teacher Mamita Meher murder case. In Balangir, combing operation was carried out in Maoist-affected areas before voting started on the day. At least 33 mobile patrolling squads, six striking teams led by three DSPs and four inspectors were engaged for polling.

“Agira Purina “ celebrated with serenity and devotion at Barbil

Barbil (KCN): Odisha is an agrarian society and Odias celebrate numerous agrarian festivals

with urbanisation the age old festival is in the verge of extinct. But there are still people who always be

firewood is collected by every family and put together at one place for the occasion. As evening

the sound of temple bell ,conch shell and hulhuli (a sound created by women for holiness).There is a



throughout the year. Agira Purnima is celebrated in the lunar month of Magha and is also known as Magha Purnima. The famous Agni Utsav is celebrated in the evening in which Agni (God of fire) is worshipped. Along

part of this holy festival. One hamlet of Barbil known as Bhanja colony has this utsav at their Lord Hanuman temple premises with great enthusiasm and serenity. The whole community of the hamlet get involved in it. Hay and

sets the entire people gathered and set the pile on fire. People offered sweet potatoes and brinjals to the fire which they took after being roasted. They worshiped Lord Fire and the priest chanted mantras. The whole places echoed with

believe that the direction of the fire predicts the yield of crops for the coming year. An eastward tilt means there will be high tides and saline water would enter fields. A westward tilt predicts floods. Only a tilt towards the north-east means there will be a good crop.

House of Multi Story (HMS) and Liza Varma collaborate for a Pop up Fashion Show and Exhibition with leading designers across Delhi-NCR

Gurugram (KCN): The technology hub and posh residential area of HNI'S of Northern India experienced the most talk of the town fashion exhibition and showcase curated by House of Multi Story and renowned Show Director and former Femina Miss India Liza Varma with support from Kkomal Chawla of Style Souk. The event was held at Magnolias Club at Golf Course road in Gurugram.

The Pop Fashion Exhibition showcased top established Designers Rohit Bal, Genes Lecoanet Hemant, Charu Parashar, Joy Mitra Purple Potato, Turquoise Studio, Miri Pir, Velvet Duck, Bibi Russell, Indiya by Nayanika, Dheeru Taneja, Aron Katona By GFN Prad, First Resort by Ramola Bachchan, Tara Bhuyan Raani, CocobyBawa, House of Madhavan, Caramelly, Urvashi Kaur, Ambar Pariddi Sahay and Kala by Alia & Palak, Coal Clean Beauty, Tara Bhuyan, Am I Flity!, DS by Diya and Sonali, Zephyr by Jyoti Khoshla, Coco By Bawa and many more. The pop up show was also supported by Nevaniaart on Videography and Brewhouse as beverage partner.

With over 50 Fashion Designers exhibiting their latest design collection, there was plenty for one to feast their eyes on which was followed by a fashion show by participating designers. From the hottest in-trend designer outfits, accessories, footwear to must-have apparel, the exhibition guaranteed to be a heaven for the Fashionistas. According to Veronika and Ridhima, Founder HMS, “We brought the best of contemporary designs, and aesthetics under a common roof. The exhibition brought together an extensive and diverse range of exhibitors showcasing and offering the very best of the fashion style.”

Liza Varma adds “Fashion industry is a global industry and is one of the fastest emerging industries of India. With the help of Pop Up fashion shows, the industry has made an outstanding performance in the recent years. Customers

can expect to be dazzled by work that uses an intriguing array of traditional and innovative materials and techniques to reflect contemporary fashion at these shows.

Star Imaging Collaborates with Delhi Police West District to Serve the Senior Citizens

New Delhi: Star Imaging & Delhi Police West District organized a health &

tor, Star Imaging & Path Lab said that It is important to understand the needs of



wellness camp to serve the Senior Citizens during Police Week. Diagnosis of Lifestyle disease through blood tests as well as Eye & Dental Care diagnostic services were extended to Senior Citizens so as to provide them better preventive health care, supervision and help them to lead a healthy life. Dr. Sameer Bhati, Direc-

Old age and lend a hand of emotional attention as well as providing care to the elder people. Through such camps, we would love to extend the specialized preventive care assistance to the Old age people so that early diagnosis and early treatment can be offered to them helping them to lead a comfortable life.”

Social Activist Amitabh Samal thanked DRM of Chakradharpur Division

Rourkela (KCN): Social Activist and president of in Panposh and Rourkela. He requested to consider



Rourkela Jagran Manch Amitabh Samal has thanked Divisional Railway Manager of Chakradharpur Division Vijay Kumar Sahu by writing a letter on Thursday. The addressed letter reveals about a memorandum sent in January whereas Amitabh Samal had mentioned about the adjoining railway tunnel between Rourkela and Panposh. It has a great importance for the people residing

the matter for increasing the size of this tunnel. Amitabh Samal said that now the matter has been taken for priority and work has already been started, as this issue is related to the safety and security of more than lakhs of people residing in Panposh and Rourkela area therefore he thanked DRM for taking this work on priority basis as the work for the same is in progress in larger Public interest.

Namrata Singh Deo Felicitated best Cine Actress and Social Activist

Khordha (KCN): Motion film organized felicited programme

wash, distribution of foods, clothes in old age homes, leprosy



of Cine artists and social activists at Geet Govinda Sadan. One of the most gorgeous, amazing, beautiful by heart actress Namrata Singh Deo felicitated the best cine actress and best social activists of this years. She is acting as a heroin in more than 15 film till now. In the time of Covid-19 pandemic Namrata Singh Deo create awareness among the peoples to always wear masks, distribution of masks, sanitisers, soaps, hand

colony etc. In this felicitated programme Odisha Cine Critics Association President & Senior Journalist, Odisha, Pradosh Pattnaik, Former MLA, Khordha & President Prerna, Dr. Dillip Srichandan, Columnist Amiya Pandab among others were present. Eminent Odia Cine Actor Chandan Kar, Hara Rath, Pratiba Panda, Hadu, social activists Ahmed Alli, Geetanjali Kar and others were present.

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Poetry book on romance "Amorous Musings" touches AMAZON BEST SELLER #1

Bengaluru(KCN): Renowned author Sreekala P Vijayan's second poetry book touches the Amazon best seller rank #1. The book contains

School stated that she is a motivation for many students and a wonderful facilitator too. The school staff and management appreciated her tireless

author and many poems are published in international anthologies and literary magazines. She hails from Palakkad, Kerala, the southern part of India. She is an academician by profession and has groomed many talents amidst her students. Having specialised in school psychology and administration, her name is aptly placed amidst the WOW(women of wonderful values) writers. Her poems are apt for intimate reading and relatable to the common human values seen around. They resonate with amusement, wisdom, and precision. Her ink preference surrounds the varied aspects of poetic art such as environment, nature, pleasure, love, hope, memories, uprising, and many more. Her versatility has no limitation to explore and unwind in the poetic world.

About the author: Administrator, Media spokesperson – Motivational Strips, Member of World Nations Writers Union. Anchor of literary shows- Mighty Quills of Motivational Strips, Nuggets from the author's soul and The Voice of Mighty Quills

Subject Lead : Mathematics, Primary-Soundarya Central School, Bangalore Awards received : Order of Shakespeare Medal from Motivational Strips 2021 Golden badge from Gujarat Sahitya Academy and Motivational Strips Prashasti patra from Gujarat Sahitya Academy and Motivational Strips on 75th Independence day of India.

Cesar Vallejo from Union Hispanomundial De Escritores 2021 Literary Captain Story Mirror Anthologies :

Poets unify world (Anthology from Motivational strips- the world's most active writer's forum, Anthology by UHE in the memory of late Kairat Duissenov Parman (Ex President of WNWU). Muted nights, Beauty of life, Last message, So many unsaid things, My crime partner, Rhythms of love, You +me =we, Listen when a girl say no, DAD-Devoted and dedicated, Maa, Emotions , Metaphorphosis, Heart beats, Khaliste, Khwaishein. Books compiled : Cicatrices : Scars are flawless, The Burgeons

Nehru continues to inspire world leaders, but Modi denigrates him: Congress on Singapore PM's speech

Continued from page-1

our PM denigrates Nehru all the time inside and outside Parliament." Former prime minister Manmohan Singh said the BJP, despite being in power for more than seven years, continued to blame Nehru for the problems of the people.

ALSO READ: Rather than admitting mistakes, BJP govt blaming Nehru for people's problems: Manmohan Singh

The Indian Overseas Congress also said on Twitter, "Nehru stands tall as an epitome of democracy! Listen to PM of Singapore who refers to Nehru when he speaks about building a democratic society. Hope our PM listens to it." The All India Mahila Congress also shared an identical tweet.

Senior Congress leader and former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Digvijaya Singh tweeted, "This is the difference between Lee Hsien Loong and Narendra Modi. Lee is leading Singapore to new heights of development and Modi is taking our country for a ride on false promises. No matter how hard Modi tries, Pt Nehru shall remain immortal, builder of Modern India." Lee invoked Nehru while arguing how democracy should work in the city-state during a passionate debate in Parliament. "Most countries are founded and start off on the basis of high ideals and noble values. But more often than not, beyond the founding leaders and the pioneer generation, over decades and generations, gradually things change," he said on Tuesday.

"Things start off with passionate intensity. The leaders, who fought for and won independence, are often exceptional individuals of great courage, immense culture, and outstanding ability. They came through the crucible of fire and emerged as leaders of men and nations. They are the David Ben-Gurions, the Jawaharlal Nehrus, and we have our own too," he said.

Imbued with enormous personal prestige, they strive to meet the high expectations of their peoples to build a brave new world, and shape a new future for their peoples, and for their countries.

But beyond that initial fervour, succeeding generations often find it hard to sustain this momentum and drive, Lee said. The texture of politics changes, respect for politicians declines. After a while, the electorate comes to think this is the norm. So, standards get debased, trust is eroded, and the country declines further, he said.

G-20 finance leaders eye ways to support pandemic recovery

Continued from page-1

uncertainty, Widodo said, warning against antagonisms at this time. "It is not the time to create new tensions that could affect global recovery, let alone jeopardize the world peace as we've currently seen in Ukraine," he said. "It is necessary that every party puts an end to rivalry and frictions."

Officials were attending the meetings both in-person and online, given troubles with travel and quarantines due to outbreaks, mostly of the omicron variant of coronavirus, that are plaguing many countries.

Host Indonesia is among many countries in Southeast Asia that have endured severe waves of infections, though vaccinations have helped quell the worst of outbreaks. The fourth most populous nation with 274 million people, it has reported nearly 5 million cases and 145,622 deaths. In the past month, 690,518 new cases have been reported.

Indonesia is the world's 10th largest economy and is located in the fastest-growing region — at least before the pandemic swept the world, disrupting business and travel while killing nearly 6 million people.

Surging prices for food and energy are among the challenges the financial leaders confront as they discuss how to best nurture a global economic recovery, Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati told G-20 participants.

"Inflation risk remains skewed to the upside, driven by supply chain disruption, labor market mismatches, wage pressure, and higher energy prices," she said, adding that such problems have been more persistent than previously expected.

The International Monetary Fund has forecast that world economic growth will slow to 4.4 per cent in 2022 from 5.9 per cent in 2021, following a 3.3 per cent contraction in 2020. Mulyani emphasised the need for coordination between countries in different stages of recovery.

The US Federal Reserve is pulling back on massive support for markets and businesses, preparing to raise interest rates as soon as next month to cool inflation that jumped to 7.5 per cent in January — the highest rate in 40 years. Consumer prices rose to a record 5.1 per cent in the 19 countries that use the euro last month and to a nearly 30-year high in the United Kingdom. Indonesia's central bank has also moved to curb inflation. But some other economies have yet to bounce back from the havoc caused by the pandemic.

"Countries' domestic macroeconomic policy may also cause adverse impacts for other economies," Mulyani said. "In this regard, global coordination, including a discussion on exit strategy will be critical."

Meanwhile, she noted that ensuring countries have equitable access to vaccines remains an urgent priority for limiting new virus variants and ending the pandemic.

FM pitches for expeditious, equitable distribution of vaccines to aid global recovery

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday pitched for expeditious and equitable distribution of vaccines to aid global recovery.

She shared insights on India's policy response to the pandemic and suggested that recovery measures have to be built around a long-term vision. Participating in the first G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting under the G20 Indonesia presidency, Sitharaman stressed that it is crucial to address the gaps in global pandemic preparedness

and the work of the G20 Joint Finance and Health Task Force should progress in this direction.

"In the first session today, FM talked about the global economic outlook and risks including #inflation, #supply disruptions and new variants of the virus and called for #expeditious and #equitable distribution of vaccines to aid #recovery," a tweet by the Finance Ministry said.

She emphasised addressing structural bottlenecks to reduce the pandemic's scarring effects and build resilience.



romantic poem for all ages and written in such a language clarity which is understandable by all people. The world's most active forum administration congratulated her on her success. Founder of Motivational Strips, Shiju H Pallithazheth stated that her selfless works to the field of literature is commendable and her muse is one such which is capable enough of capturing millions of minds. Soundarya Educational Trust CEO, Mr. Keerthan Kumar applauded her win. Mrs. Renuka Devi, Principal of Soundarya Central

hardwork. Director Nitin Jacob congratulated her on this achievement. Sreekala P. Vijayan is a prolific poet, author, compiler, newscaster and reviewer. She is the administrator and media spokesperson of Motivational Strips, the World's most active writers forum. She is the author of "Soul in whole" and AMAZON BEST SELLER #1 " Amorous Musings" She believes that consistent interactions keeping aside geographic borders, help a poet to be experimental with life lessons. She is an internationally known

I-T department raids premises of former NSE MD Chitra Ramkrishna, colleague in Mumbai, Chennai

NEW DELHI: Troubles grew for Chitra Ramkrishna, former MD of the NSE, and Anand Subramanian, her col-

league, as the Income Tax department raided their premises in Mumbai and Chennai, IT sources confirmed. Ramkrishna has been in the eye of a storm ever since Sebi on February 11 showed her and her former advisor for sharing sensitive information on the ex-

change with an unknown person. The Mumbai wing of the IT department is heading the searches, it is learnt, that hap-

pened across Mumbai and Chennai and come in the wake of the Sebi order. The Mumbai searches pertain to Ramkrishna's residence and the Chennai one to Subramanian's premises, as per sources. The searches began this morning. Ramkrishna described



the unknown person as a yogi dwelling in the Himalayan ranges. The information was shared over her official email and the un-

known person responded likewise with her. Sebi said the hiring of Subramanian on an incommensurately large salary of over one crore from a subsidiary of Balmer Laurie where he last drew Rs 15 lakh was allegedly at the instance of the yogi.

Some of the information shared was of financial projections of the IPO bound NSE, which has been barred from introducing any

confidential information Apart from this, the order said Ramkrishna had shared certain internal confidential information, including financial and business plans of NSE, dividend scenario and financial results, with the yogi and even consulted him over the performance appraisals of the exchange's employees.

Ramkrishna was MD and CEO of NSE from April 2013 to December 2016. Sebi levied a fine of Rs 3 crore on Ramkrishna, Rs 2 crore each on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Subramanian, former NSE MD and CEO Ravi Narain, and Rs 6 lakh on V R Narasimhan, who was the chief regulatory officer and compliance officer. Ramkrishna and Subramanian have been restrained from associating with any market infrastructure

institution or any intermediary registered with Sebi for three years, while the same for Narain is two years. Sebi also directed NSE to forfeit the excess leave encashment of Rs 1.54 crore and the deferred bonus of Rs 2.83 crore, of Ramkrishna.

In addition, Sebi barred NSE from launching any new product for six months. Following these revelations, the Congress party had demanded that the government bring a white paper on the functioning of the NSE.

"The finance ministry and the prime minister should come out with a white paper on the state of affairs of National Stock Exchange and on the shocking activities of an 'invisible Baba' who was dictating terms to the former CEO of the exchange," Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh told reporters two days back.

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"The finance ministry and the prime minister should come out with a white paper on the state of affairs of National Stock Exchange and on the shocking activities of an 'invisible Baba' who was dictating terms to the former CEO of the exchange," Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh told reporters two days back.

'Suresh Raina lost the loyalty of MS Dhoni': Simon Doull on CSK legend going unsold in IPL Mega Auction

Chennai Super Kings fans were in for a shock during the recently concluded IPL Mega Auction as the defending champions decided to not bid for club legend Suresh Raina. Raina has been a part of CSK since the inception of the league in 2008 - excluding the two years ban (2016 and 2017) the team faced. Mr. IPL, as lovingly called by fans, Raina was not able to attract even a single bid during the Mega Auction this year and went unsold. Despite the fact

that Raina did not have a great run in the previous edition of the IPL, fans still believed that CSK would bid for the veteran cricketer as he's played a huge role in the success of the club over the years.

Former New Zealand cricketer and commentator Simon Doull opined as to why Raina was not picked by CSK. During an interaction with Cricbuzz, Simon Doull said, "There are 2 to 3 parts to it. He lost his loyalty in the UAE. We don't need to

go into why that was but you know there's enough speculation about that, so he lost the loyalty. Of all the team, he lost the loyalty of MS Dhoni. So once you do that, you are very very unlikely to be welcomed back. He's not fit and he is scared of the short ball."

Raina was released by CSK ahead of the IPL Mega Auction, while the franchise decided to retain skipper MS Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Moeen Ali and Ruturaj Gaikwad.



The left-handed batter, who kept his base price at Rs 2 crore, was ignored by all the

franchises despite his success and records in the cash-rich league. It must be noted that Raina flew down to India from UAE during IPL 2020 after the CSK camp was hit with COVID-19. Though he was retained by CSK for IPL 2021, Raina missed the last few games of the tournament due to

a knee injury. Devoid of proper competitive cricket in the last few years might also be one of the main reasons for Raina going unsold in the Mega Auction. 'Mr. IPL' Raina is one of the very few players to have scored over 5000 runs in the IPL. He has amassed 5528

runs in 205 matches, which include one century and 39 half-centuries. Raina is also a handy part-time bowler and has claimed 25 IPL wickets. Meanwhile, CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan stated that Raina's 'current form' was the reason behind the latter not being picked up by the

club this season. Viswanathan said that the team combination and form meant the left-handed batter could not fit into the team. "Missing out on Raina...He has been a great asset for the side earlier. Considering the current form, he did not fit into the side," Viswanathan.

Bengaluru FC take on NorthEast United with semifinal hopes in balance

MARGAO : Bengaluru FC will be desperate to get back to winning ways and more importantly

sixth spot with 23 points from 16 outings, six adrift of Hyderabad FC and second-placed ATK

had an 11 day quarantine period. We need to prepare him for the next steps. He can create an overload in

Roshan. Four of Roshan's assists have come from corner kicks. He is one of the main reasons why



stay close to the top-four pack when they take on rock-bottom NorthEast United FC in the Indian Super League here on Friday. The Blues saw their three-game winning run come to an end against league leaders Hyderabad FC the other night. But head coach Marco Pezzaouli would like to believe the result was just a bad day in the office for his charges who have been in good form otherwise. Against a struggling NorthEast United, it will be a golden opportunity for Bengaluru to get back in the mix. With four matches remaining, Bengaluru need to win all their remaining games if they are to have any chance of progressing to the semi-finals. Bengaluru are in

Mohun Bagan. The former champions have a few key players missing for the game on Friday. "Ashique and Roshan are not available, Rohit and Jayesh as well who are injured. In terms of long-term injuries, King, Amay, Harmanpreet are still missing. We have some players who are still suffering after the COVID situation," said Pezzaouli ahead of the game. The Blues added defender Yaya Banana to their squad in the January transfer window and Pezzaouli said they need to take a careful approach with the Cameroonian defender as he had an 11-day quarantine period. "Yaya has trained for a week with us, we have to be careful about him because he

midfield and is very good defensively." On NorthEast United, who have endured a 10-game winless run, the BFC coach said: "I think they are a good, offensive team with good players who are individually skilled. They have some new faces as well, and we've watched their most recent games." We know how we played in the first game against them, obviously they are not the same team. They created chances in that game and that's something we want to avoid. Bengaluru will miss Roshan Singh a lot as he has been a key player for them this season, having six assists to his name, the joint second highest after Ahmed Jahouh (7). No Indian player has more assists this season than

BFC (8) have scored more goals from corners than any other side. On the other hand, NorthEast United's season is all but over and the Highlanders have only pride to play for. With just 10 points in their kitty from 17 matches, Khalid Jamil's side have managed just two wins so far having thrown away as many as 16 points from winning positions. VP Suhair ended an eight-game goal-less drought as he scored NorthEast United's opening goal in their defeat to ATK Mohun Bagan and the striker will look to continue his form. "Bengaluru have experienced players and we cannot take this match lightly. We have to finish the season strongly, for everyone in the camp, it is a serious game," said Jamil.




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