

Final ULB list out

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Area Councils Similarly, the chairperson post in 40



ward in conduct of Urban Polls, the Housing & Urban Development Department on Monday issued final notification on reservation of the post of Chairperson in 107 Municipalities and Notified

As per the notification, the office of Chairperson in 9 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) has been reserved for Scheduled Caste (woman), five for Scheduled Tribe (woman) and three for Scheduled Tribe.

other ULBs have been kept reserved for women candidates while 42 others are kept unreserved. The Department has issued the final notification after seeking objections/ suggestions from all stake-

holders and the general public on the draft reservation list. "In pursuance of sub-section (4) of Section 47 of the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950 (Odisha Act 23 of 1950) read with sub-rule (6) of rule 67 of the said rules, the State Government do hereby reserve the offices of Chairpersons for the categories," read the notification. The reservation of the offices of the Chairperson of 107 Municipalities were worked out based on the provisions of Article 243 T of the Constitution of India read with sub-section(4) of Section 47

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Trinity Darshan From 6 AM To 9PM

Puri (KCN): Just a day before opening of the Lord Jagannath Administrator Dr Krishan Kumar, the devotees can enter the card for identification) along with final certificate for Covid-



temple here for devotees, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) on Monday issued the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure devotees have smooth darshan of Lords.

The revised SOP were finalised at the Chhatisha Nijog meeting which was held on January 28 through virtual mode. As per the SOP issued by the SJTA Chief

temple for darshan of the Lords from 6 am to 9 pm on all days when the temple will be open for public darshan. However, the temple will remain closed for public darshan on all Sundays for sanitation activities as a measure to contain the spread of Covid-19 disease.

All devotees will be required to bring their photo ID card (Aadhaar/Voter ID or any other photo ID

19 vaccination (of having taken two doses) or Covid-19 negative certificate (RT-PCR) of testing done within 96 hours prior to the visit to the temple. This restriction will remain in force until 17.02.2022.

The same will be reviewed again before the expiry of the said date and a revised instruction, if required, will be issued keeping in view the then prevailing COVID

situation, said the order. It is mandatory for all pilgrims to wear masks at all times, inside and outside the Temple. People flouting the norms will be fined, and may be refused entry to the temple. Devotees should have to sanitize their hands before entering the temple. There will be strict enforcement for ensuring Covid appropriate behaviour by all. Devotees will have to maintain physical distance at all times as per Covid-19 guidelines. The temple administration has set-up a camp for administering 'Precaution Dose' vaccine to Sevayals in the age group of 18 to 60 years. Efforts will be made to ensure that all eligible Sevayats are given the same in due time, keeping in view the health of the Sevayats.

No decision yet on reopening of colleges, universities: Odisha Higher Education department

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The department of Higher Education on Sunday clarified it has not yet taken any decision regarding reopening of colleges and universities after a fake letter on the institutions resuming physical classes from February 10 started doing rounds on various social media platforms.

"A fake letter is circulating in social media purportedly conveying the decision of Higher Education department to reopen colleges and universities from February 10, 2022. It is hereby clarified that no such decision has been taken by the State government," stated the department.

The letter claimed the department has de-

ernment announced closure of colleges,

started plunging, the government is yet to



decided to reopen the higher educational institutions from February 10 when the roster duty of the teaching and non-teaching staff will end. The State gov-

universities and technical universities from January 7 following surge in COVID-19 cases across Odisha. Though the daily infection count has

decide the date from which offline classes will be allowed in the higher education institutions. The

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Night Curfew Relaxed by 1 Hour

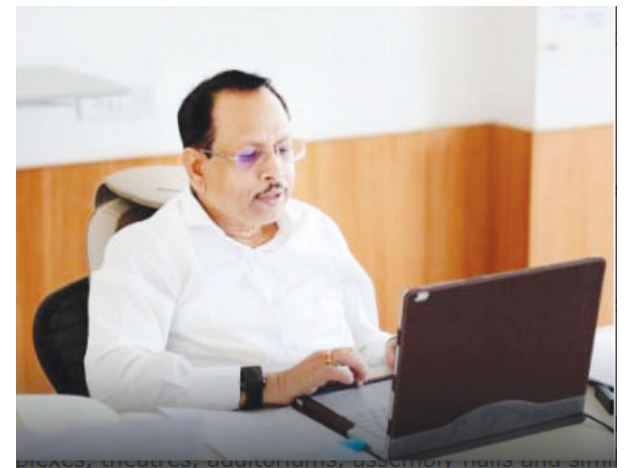
Bhubaneswar(KCN): With the little improvement in the Covid-19 situation in the State, the Government has reduced the night curfew timing in urban areas by an hour.

Now, the night curfew will be enforced in the urban areas of Odisha from 10 PM to 5 AM, as per an order issued by the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Kumar Jena. The State Government has extended the guidelines and restrictions imposed in view of Covid-19 and Panchayat elections through various orders during the month of January will remain in force till February 28.

As per the order, all types of shops, malls, shopping complexes, markets/haats, cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment complexes, theatres, auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places can remain open across the State from 5 AM to 10 PM every day.

During the night curfew period, home delivery of food, groceries, vegetables, egg, fish, meat, milk and other essential items by res-

taurants and aggregators such as Zomato, Swiggy, OPOLFED, OMFED, Chilika Fresh etc have been allowed.



Restrictions have been imposed on the celebration of Saraswati Puja and Magha Saptami/ Magha Purnima during the month of February.

Saraswati Puja can be observed with all rituals in the temples and

CONTINUED ON: P-7

PM Modi congratulates Portuguese counterpart on election win



NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated his Portuguese counterpart António Costa on his election win and said he looks

forward to deepening the warm and time-tested relationship with Portugal. Costa's Socialist Party won an unexpected outright majority in Sunday's

snap general election. "Congratulations to my friend @antoniocostapm for resounding performance in the parliamentary elections in Portugal and his re-

election," Modi tweeted. "Look forward to continue deepening the warm and time-tested relationship with Portugal," he said.

CPI says Prez address filled with 'hollow claims'; CPI(M) terms Economic Survey govt's 'PR exercise'

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has decided to provide a subsidy of Rs 50,000 for purchase of electric four wheeler as part of its Electric Vehicle Policy-2021.



The State Government had decided recently to provide subsidies to various buyers under the Policy during the policy period up to December 31, 2025. As per a notification, 2021 have decided to give a maximum subsidy of Rs 5,000 for two wheelers, Rs 10,000 for three wheelers also.

The above subsidy is applicable

w.e.f. Sept 1, 2021 and the amount will be credited to the Bank Accounts of the beneficiaries by the concerned RTO where the vehicle is registered/will be registered.

The Transport Commissioner with the help of NIC/OCAC will develop a dedicated Portal to monitor all information relating to EV sales, crediting of purchase incentives, subsidy on loans for purchase of EV etc.

Notably, the State Government had published the Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy, 2021 in extraordinary issue No. 1358 dated September 2, 2021 of Odisha Gazette in order to encourage faster adoption of Electric Vehicles in the State on the advice of NITI Aayog. Under the policy guideline, the State Government has proposed to extend a lot of incentives for the purchasers.



passed away on 27 th January at SCB medical college Cuttack at the age of 81. He was survived by son Suresh, daughter in law Rina, daughter Saudamini, son in law Subrat and grand children. He was a caring, lovable spiritual person many eminent people's including members of jv 90 have deeply mourned his sad demise.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Yogic Surya Namaskar

Kolkata(KCN): On the occasion of death anniversary of Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama, Tikatal, Khordha. To mark



Mahatma Gandhi a special programme on 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Yogic Surya Namaskar' was jointly organized by Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari & Vivekananda Rock Memorial West Bengal branch and

the event during this corona pandemic a virtual Yoga session with special emphasis on Surya Namaskar was conducted by the Yoga & Wellness Expert Sri Sanatan Mahakud. Along with the practice of Surya Namaskar its

prayer, meaning, psychosomatic ailments and stress, said Mr. Mahakud. A practitioner always should move with his body capacity and limitations. Members and well wishers of



benefits of breathing exercises, Loosening Exercises, Asanas and pranayamas. It is not only helpful to overcome from many ailments but also helps in preventing from series of

Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari & Vivekananda Rock Memorial West Bengal branch and Sri Ramakrishna Sevashrama, Tikatal, Khordha had enjoyed the session with great enthusiasm.

Tata to take over NINL

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Tata Steel Long Products Limited (TSLP) has emerged as H-1

motors (Rs 4,116 crore), Banks (Rs 1,741 crore), other creditors and employ-

Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment (CGD) and the empowered Alternative Mechanism.

Government of Odisha with their companies, OMC & IPICOL having stake of 32.47% was also part of the decision-making at every stage. The Expressions of Interest (EoI) were invited on January 25, 2021. Multiple EoIs were received by the due date of March 29, 2021. In response, three bids were received by the due date. As per the extant procedure, the Reserve Price was subsequently recommended by the IMG after detailed examination of the valuation reports prepared by the TA and the AV, and was approved by the CGD at Rs 5616.97 crore.

Thereafter, the financial bids were opened for the three qualified bidders, Jindal Steel & Power Limited and Nalwa Steel and Power Ltd, JSW Steel Limited and TSLP. Among the three players, TSLP emerged as H-1 bidder, whose bid has been accepted by the AM. Letter of Intent (LoI) is being issued to TSLP inviting them to sign the SPA. At this stage, 10% of the bid amount shall be paid by the successful bidder into the Escrow account. On the closure date, shares will be transferred to the strategic buyer and the balance amount will be received to be utilized in the manner prescribed in the waterfall agreement October 27, 2021 signed amongst the selling shareholders.

Part-sale proceeds would be infused in the company to the extent of the liabilities which will be set-off and the balance amount in the escrow

account will sell shareholders proportional to their shareholding.

This is the first instance of privatization of a public sector steel manufacturing enterprise in India. The success of the transaction is a win-win situation for all.

The biggest advantage of privatization will be to the local economy of the region as the strategic buyer will be able to revive a closed plant, bring in modern technology, best managerial practices and make infusion of fresh capital, which will help in augmenting the capacity of the plant, officials said.

The Government of Odisha has given active support to the process of privatization. The privatization will help in creating new jobs in the region by creation of ancillary industries and supplier's network. Keeping in view the best interest of the serving employees, it was decided to keep the employees' dues as the top most ranking liability in the Waterfall Agreement to be satisfied first before any other liability, they said.

The transaction is on "going concern" basis and the employees of NINL will continue to be the employees of the company in terms of the Share Purchase Agreement (SPA), which binds the buyer to have a lock-in period of one year. The strategic buyer will also be bound to follow the terms of VRS applicable to CPSEs whenever such a decision is taken. Post-sale consideration will go towards settling of the liabilities of the company, in the order provided in the Waterfall Agreement.

Ram Krishna Jaiswal Honourary Consul for Maldives in Kolkata online meeting Ms Melinda Pavek Consul General for United States of America in Kolkata

Kolkata (KCN): Sri Ram Krishna Jaiswal Honourary Consul for Maldives in Kolkata, (West Bengal) said it was Great pleasure to meet online with Honourable Ms Melinda Pavek ???Consul General in Kolkata."

They had a 51 minute discussion, including some serious issues. Global Peace is a big discussion carried on internationally but small firm steps are needed to proceed and implements the thoughts into reality. There is no secret formula but holistic action is required for global

peace. Sri Jaiswal felt if he could bring a smile on faces of a few children that is also global peace. This was in reply to Honourable Ms Pavek asking Honourable Mr Jaiswal, "you are becoming famous for your campaign for global peace. What are you doing about it?"

There was also discussion on education and climate action. Plastic Waste Management is an important issue and so is Saving Our Oceans for Global Peace? Sri Jaiswal also invited Honourable CG Ms Pavek to Visit Maldives

Odisha Reminds Center On PMAY-G

Bhubaneswar(KCN): On the beginning day of the Budget session of Parliament, the State Government reminded the Centre about its demand for sanction of houses under Pradhan

Awaas+ was allowed on January 13, 2022, the Minister pointed out.

"Ignoring the repeated requests from the State will not support the cause of Odisha and it will fur-



Mantri Awas Yojana—Gramin (PMAY-G). Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Pratap Jena on Monday wrote a letter to Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh on this issue.

Mr. Jena reminded Singh about the demands raised by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and himself through letters and during meetings.

He urged the Union Minister to take necessary steps to synchronize the data of 6.65 lakh households in the State-owned Rural Housing Portal with the Awaas+.

Mr. Jena also demanded sanction of 1.84 lakh Special PMAY (G) houses as promised during May, 2019 to Odisha in the aftermath of cyclonic storm Fani and open of the Awaas+ window for some time to incorporate names of eligible left out families.

While the genuine demand of Odisha has not been paid heed to by the Ministry of Rural Development so far, synchronization of data from Karnataka State Government MIS into

ther deprive lakhs of tribal beneficiaries living in the Scheduled areas of the State and deserving poor people belonging to KBK region and Western parts of the State. I would request your august office to rectify this injustice being meted out to the State of Odisha and its people," Mr. Jena told Mr. Singh in the letter.

In December, the Chief Minister had written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding 14.84 lakh housing units under PMAY-G.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has allowed identification of eligible left-out families through Awaas+ by March 7, 2019. However, the State could identify only 35,000 families within this stipulated period because of pre-occupation of government machinery in preparatory work for general elections-2019, network connectivity issues and LWE violence in some pockets of State.

The Prime Minister had promised to allot 5 lakh PMAY-G (special) houses to Fani affected families during his visit in May 2019.

Training on Book Circular

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has asked all Departments to include Book Circular-47 in the agenda of the training program

for the newly recruited OAS, ORS, OTAS and other officials by which they can know how to implement the provisions of Book Circular-47.



for the newly recruited OAS, ORS, OTAS and other officials.

Principal Secretary, Parliamentary Affairs Department, G Mathi Vathanan has written a letter to all Secretaries, Revenue Divisional Commissioners (RDCs), D.G./G of Police, Heads of Department, Collectors, SPs on this matter recently.

During a tour to the districts of Deogarh, Sundergarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sonepur and Boudh, the House Committee on Ethics has expressed their displeasure over the non response of Government officials towards MPs and MLAs.

The Committee observed that the provisions of Book Circular-47 should be included in the agenda of the training pro-

lar-47. Mr. Mathi Vathanan said in his letter.

The Committee also recommended that the personal staff of the officers concerned should be sensitized on implementation of Book Circular-47.

Therefore, the Parliamentary Affairs Department has requested all senior officers to take necessary steps to implement the recommendation of the Committee under intimation to this Department. Book Circular-47 speaks about the relationship between Members of Parliament and Legislators and Government Servants. The Circular clearly defined the role & responsibility and behavior to be shown to the elected MPs and MLAs by the government servants.

Barbil forest department nabbed hunters involved in killing wild animal

Barbil(KCN): Barbil Forest department in the district of Keonjhar has enabled to nab the team engaged in hunting wild animal in Thakurani reserve forest. As per source few locals have been involved in hunting wild boar and rabbits in the adjoining forest of Thakurani, Soyabali



and Balitaarea. The Barbil Forest Department has arrested two hunters Salim Oram and Anil Munda, including a dead wild boar, and a Hero Honda hf deluxe motor cycle vide number OD 09 P4580 has also been seized. According to the information received, the hunters hunted the wild boar by taking the 11kv power line from the forest with the help of bottle and GI wire and laying a trap in the forest. The weight of the wild boar is said to be more than 90kg. District Forest officer Hanuman Dhanraj and forest range officer Sanjib Kumar Rout have strategized a plan for the incident. The entire team spent entire night in the forest and nabbed

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Nick Jonas gushes over Priyanka Chopra's smile



LOS ANGELES (KCN): They may have not made their relationship official, but Nick Jonas is surely in love with Priyanka Chopra's "smile".

Priyanka posted a photo of herself and two friends enjoying

burgers at In-n-Out and Nick not only liked the picture but also commented on it.

"Burgers and Chanel...my favourite combo with my fav girls," the Indian actor captioned the photo.

Photo | Instagram

"That smile," the pop star commented along with a heart emoji.

The 35-year-old "Quantico" star also commented on one of Nick's pictures with heart and fire emoji.

According to E! News, the duo has

been spending a lot of time together lately and were seen enjoying multiple dates over Memorial Day weekend.

"They are dating and it's brand new. It's a good match and they are both interested in each other,"

a source told Us Weekly of the budding relationship.

Priyanka and Nick were also spotted on a dinner date at Toca Madera in West Hollywood, where they cosied up on the garden patio and munched on

guacamole, the Ceviche Verde, chicken tacos and the Japanese Wagyu Beef. The two, who posed for photos on the red carpet together in Ralph Lauren designs at the 2017 Met Gala, are yet to comment on dating rumours.

Blac Chyna tries to jack Rob Kardashian's car



The custody hearing is full steam ahead for next month and Blac plans to raise allegations that Rob committed domestic violence.

Rob Kardashian and Blac Chyna who are engaged in custody war visited the Century City law offices of Laura Wasser, who represents Rob.

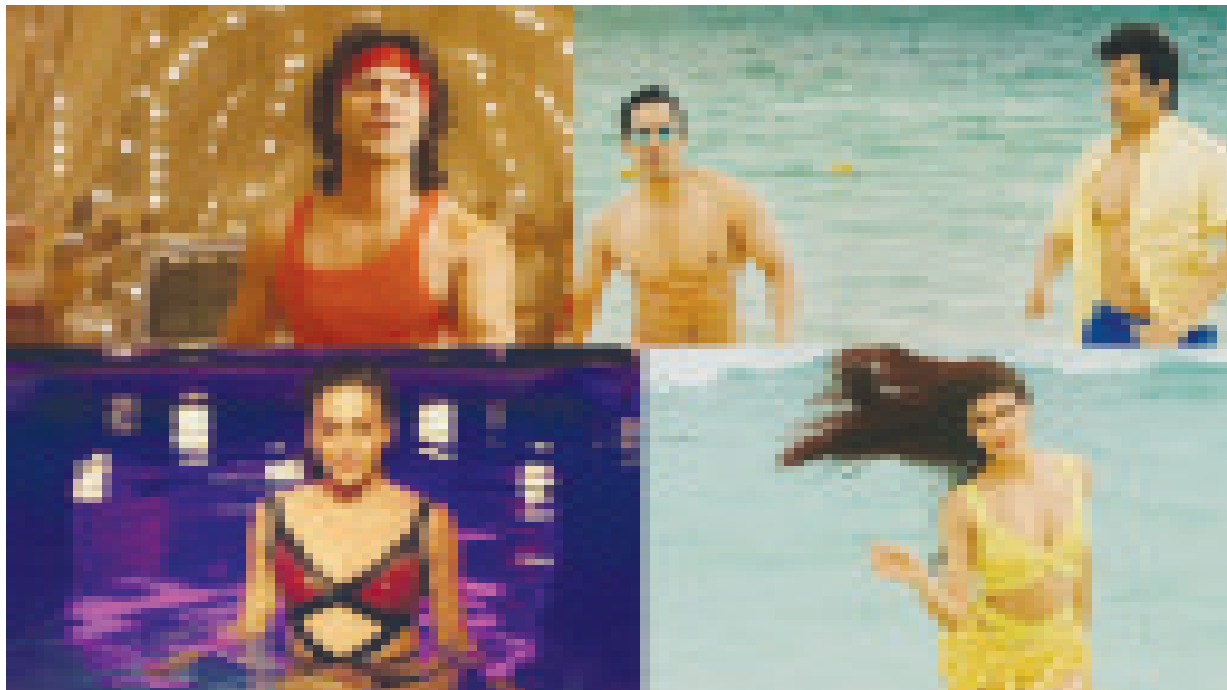
According to

TMZ.com, they spent hours inside but, nothing has been resolved. Rob had someone call ahead to have his car pulled up to the valet stand, but he wanted to wait until Blac left.

The witnesses claim that a visibly agitated Blac came along, saw the Range Rover, got inside and prepared to hightail it

away from the building. One of Blac's lawyers told her, "That's not a good idea." And with the help of a valet, they got Blac out of Rob's whip. The custody hearing is full steam ahead for next month and Blac plans to raise allegations that Rob committed domestic violence.

Watch: Varun doesn't let you miss Salman's histrionics in hilarious Judwaa 2 trailer



Mumbai(KCN): Varun dhawan is yet to deliver a flop and a lot of it has to do with the actor's immense charisma and potential.

And now, the young star is teaming up with his father again, on the highly anticipated sequel to the latter's iconic 90's cult

film, 'Judwaa'.

And the first trailer, as expected, has sent expectations soaring.

Varun is at his goofy, nerdy, exuberant best as the diametrically different twins.

The hilarious trailer ensures a lot of humour, action and romance, as is ex-

pected from a potboiler as this.

Varun's leading ladies, Taapsee Pannu and Jacqueline Fernandez are both in their elements themselves.

The makers have also utilised iconic tracks from the prequel's soundtrack

composed by Anu Mallik.

Varun, who was last seen in 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania,' can be seen in different looks as well, with one of them sporting long hair.

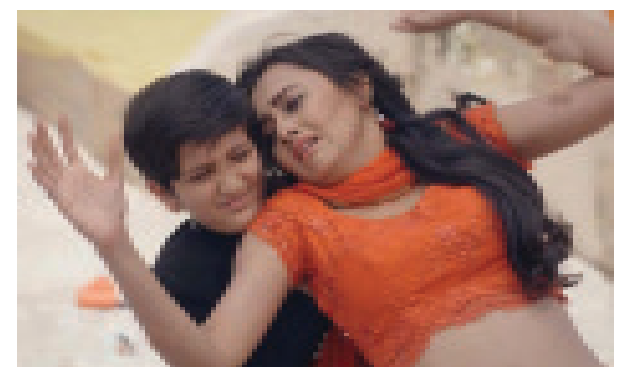
'Judwaa 2' is slated for a September 29 release.

Pehredaar Piya Ki and TV content

Sony TV's latest offering, Pehredaar Piya Ki is barely a month old and has been marred in controversy from the word go. The show that depicts a 10-year-old boy married to an 18-year-old woman, who doubles up as his 'protector,' has been protested against with petitions. While the producers are standing by their stance of this not being a 'regressive' show, the protests seem to have worked — to some degree, that is. The Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) has directed the channel

there. For instance, I don't think Bigg Boss offers any great content either, but it is on the television screens of people at 9 pm, which is a prime-time slot. But even if it is on the screens, it doesn't mean that children should be exposed to it. At the end of the day, people have the remote control in their hands and they are not gullible fools. Whether it is 8 pm, 9 pm or 10 pm, they will watch what they like. Children these days, don't sleep at 10 pm.

I don't think con-



to move the show from prime time to 10 pm.

Frankly speaking, I do not believe in curbing anyone's freedom to see whatever they want to — I am against censorship of such kind. So whether the content is bad or good, it is still out

tent can be judged — it is very subjective. After all, we have all kind of content on the Internet. Having said that, shifting the time slot for the show is a decent move since young kids don't watch the television at that time.

Pegasus surveillance creates a storm in the country

The Modi government just may have achieved a dubious first by being the first government in post-independence India to be accused of lying to the Supreme Court and to Parliament,



two institutions which form the bedrock of democracy, if a news report published in the New York Times on January 28, alleging Prime Minister Narendra Modi inked a deal accepting NSO's spyware Pegasus as part of a \$

2 billion sophisticated missiles and intelligence package for India, is correct. Modi's visit to Israel was the first-ever such visit of an Indian prime minister to Israel. Union minister V.K. Singh, rubbished the sensational news report published by the world's most respected newspaper, New York Times, calling it "supari media." This minister formerly headed the Indian Army and is the first general to have accepted a ministerial berth after retiring as a general. Be that as it may, what is even more sensational is that the Modi government has been accused of supporting Israel in the United Nations by voting against observer status for a Palestinian-based human rights body, on suspicion that it had links with terror outfits. This has been rubbished by India's permanent ambassador to the U.N. at that time, Syed Akbaruddin.

The Pegasus spyware which can be used by governments to snoop on whomsoever they choose in the name of national security, infects all mobile phones without the knowledge of the victim. It does not need the victim to click on a link as more primitive spywares do. An innocuous message is sent which activates the camera and collects data of all contacts, photos, locations, conversations even with the camera turned off.

The Pegasus spyware has reportedly been

used to hack the phones of Congress leader, Rahul Gandhi, a Supreme Court judge, opposition leaders and even the woman who accused the former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi of sexual harassment. And also her relatives who certainly cannot be accused of being a threat to national security. Three hundred

Indians are reportedly under the surveillance of Pegasus, such as doctors, lawyers, opposition leaders, journalists and activists. Coming close on the heels of former Vice President Hamid Ansari alleging that an imaginary cultural nationalism had replaced civic nationalism preceded by retired Supreme Court judge Rohinton Nariman questioning the prime minister's silence on hate speeches, the alleged purchase of the Pegasus spyware by India has eroded democracy. If even the mobile phones of a select few dissidents are kept under surveillance, revealing everything the government wants to know about certain individuals, this is a drastic violation of the right to privacy. In September 2018, Citizen Lab, which is a laboratory based out of the University of Toronto, Canada, first divulged that 50,000 private individuals were under surveillance from a hi-tech spyware called Pegasus which infected their mobile handsets and could even implant incriminating but false data. Three hundred Indians

On June 15, 2020, Citizen Lab, with Amnesty International said nine Indian citizens had been targeted followed by another news report on July 18, 2021, when 17 journalist bodies from around the world, including an Indian affiliate, released the results of a long investigative effort proving the alleged use of the Pegasus software on private individuals.

The NSO Group purportedly sells this sophisticated software only to government agencies which means elected governments which was confirmed by the Israeli

Dr Olav Albuquerque

ambassador to India.

In May 2019, the global messaging giant WhatsApp Inc. divulged a snag in its software allowed the Pegasus spyware to infiltrate the devices of WhatsApps users.

This news was followed by a disclosure that the devices of certain Indians had been infiltrated, which was confirmed by the minister of law and electronics and information technology in a statement made in Parliament on November 20, 2019.

The Supreme Court's stand on questioning the government emerged from its judgment last year when it clearly said judicial review was not intended to create judicial oligarchy, or covert legislation. Hence what should be debated in Parliament and in the media cannot be transferred to the judicial arena, the judgment of the three-judge bench laid down. The point is that the government wanted to set up an expert committee to probe the allegations levelled in a batch of writ petitions filed in the Supreme Court. But the petitioners opposed this saying this was tantamount to the government probing itself and the committee lacked credibility. No less a person that the solicitor general of India told the judges that the committee set up by the government would comprise experts who would not be influenced by extraneous factors. But such a government-appointed committee was shot down by the petitioners who approached the Supreme Court because their mobile phones were allegedly infected by Pegasus.

A designated senior advocate Shyam Divan of the Supreme Court said his phone was allegedly infected by the Pegasus software and wanted this special committee to be set up. Another senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, said several senior journalists were victims of the Pegasus attack and if the government had sworn an affidavit that it had not used a malware or spied on its citizens in an unauthorized manner, the petitions would have

abated.

The three judges who heard the case were Chief Justice of India N.V Ramana, Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli. They said the first requirement was there must be a law in existence to justify an encroachment on privacy which violates Article 21. Second, the requirement of a need, in terms of a legitimate state aim, ensures the nature and content of the law which imposes the restriction falls within the zone of reasonableness as against arbitrary state action. Judicial review does not reappraise or second guess the value judgment of the legislature but is for deciding whether the aim which is sought to be pursued suffers from arbitrariness. The third requirement ensures that the means which are adopted by the legislature are proportional to the object sought to be achieved.

A committee of three judges headed by retired Supreme Court Justice R.V. Raveendran has already issued an advertisement in all national newspapers calling for those who believed their mobile handsets had been infected to hand over their devices for forensic analysis with their reasons why they felt the government had put their under surveillance. Needless to say, very few journalists or activists will respond to such an advertisement jeopardizing their sources of information.

This is why it is unlikely that anything significant may emerge from the committee set up by the Supreme Court to probe the Pegasus surveillance scandal which has rocked the nation. Given that the government will never admit to using the spyware against its own citizens and the fact that it will stonewall such endeavours to collect information, it is highly unlikely that the committee will find anything significant.

Dr Olav Albuquerque holds a Ph.D in Media Law from the University of Mumbai and is a practising advocate in the Bombay High Court. He is an honorary member of the Goa Union of Journalists.

Beauty benefits of rice water

Rice water has been used in Asian beauty rituals for centuries to achieve glowing and smooth skin. Using rice water for skin is a natural home remedy in treating and preventing acne, removing acne scars, and getting rid of hyperpigmentation.

Rice water contains amino acids, vitamins B and E, and minerals which promotes cell growth, stimulates blood

flow and keeps the skin smooth, youthful and bright in chilly weather conditions.

It's literally a beauty booster used for more and more people all over the world.

Rice is of course delicious as one of the key culinary ingredients around the world, so we all know how to make it but when we are using it for beauty purposes it's a different process, very simple by the way.

You can use rice water cubes to boost collagen and nourish, refresh skin. Put rice water into the ice tray and freeze it. Add cucumber too. Apply these ice cubes onto the face and uncovered areas around the face, neck and uncovered area around face etc as a toner. Rice water is great to keep the skin glowing and hydrated during winters.

You can use rice water for reducing dark patches or achieving fair complexion by mixing rice powder with raw milk to form thick paste. Apply thick paste on your face and uncovered skin and leave it for a few minutes and wash it with clean fresh water. Repeat it once a week to achieve amaz-

ing results. Although many beauty companies have

launched soaps, toners, creams etc. containing rice water, it is always advisable to go for herbal homely products.

Rice water acts as an excellent hair conditioner. You can add a few drops of essential oils like rosemary, lavender or tea tree oil and apply it on hair to balance PH level on the scalp and act as an excellent hair conditioner. After shampooing, apply rice water to your hair along with a few drops of lavender essential oil or rosemary essential oil. Let the rice water dry on hair in a natural environment for 15-20 minutes and then rinse with normal fresh water. Fermented rice water is rich in vitamin B which also happens to promote melanin production for hair.

Fermented rice water protects the skin from UV rays and sun tan. Leave your boiled rice water out on your kitchen in open space for 48 hours. When it starts to smell slightly sour, bottle it up and store it in your fridge. You can use fermented rice water in the same ways you can use regular rice water. Using rice water is also an effective remedy in treating sunburns. Applying it on sun-damaged skin can help the burns heal faster.

You can also prepare rice water with fermentation. In a glass jar put some rice and water (twice the quantity of rice). Keep it at room temperature for a day or two. Strain the mixture and keep the water in the fridge.

Rice wine increases the collagen in the skin, which keeps your skin supple and helps prevent wrinkling.

Rice is part of India's beauty legacy which

Shahnaz Husain

contains ferulic acid, a powerful antioxidant and allantois

which contains anti-inflammatory properties. So, whether you eat rice or not, use it in your face pack for glowing skin. The starch in rice water is said to soothe the skin in conditions like eczema. Dip a clean washcloth into the rice water, then apply it over the affected area. After 2 to 3 minutes, allow the skin to dry by itself. In fact, acne-prone skin or even skin with acne eruptions can be washed with rice water to soothe and heal the skin. It also helps to tighten the pores and refine the skin. Rice water may be applied on the face with cotton wool and then massaged for a few minutes to revitalize the skin. In fact, rice water has an astringent effect and helps to prevent pimples and acne.

Mix cornstarch powder and rice powder in 1:2 ratios. Apply the powdery material evenly on the face by using a makeup brush and wash with clean water after a few minutes for silky smooth skin.

Rice powder or rice flour can be used as a facial scrub. It is ideally suited to oily skin and is effective as a facial scrub. It helps to deep cleanse the skin and unclog the pores, discouraging and dislodging blackheads. It removes dead skin cells, tightens the pores and brightens the skin. Mix rice powder with curd and a pinch of turmeric. Apply on the face and rub gently on the skin with circular movements. Wash off with water. Rice powder can also be added to ubtan for body scrubs, along with gram flour, curd, rose water, powdered lemon and orange peels, etc.

Rice wine contains antioxidant properties

which prevent premature ageing and wrinkles on the skin.

Prepare thick paste of rice flour, castor oil and banana and apply over dark circles and wash it after some time with clean fresh water. It will lighten skin around your eyes and keep you younger and fresh.

Take rice powder and Multani mitti in equal proportions and make a paste of it. Apply the paste on your scalp and rinse off with fresh water after 45 minutes for smooth, soft and lustrous hair.

Mix honey and rice powder and apply the thick paste on the face and open areas. Leave it to dry in the natural atmosphere and wash after it has dried completely.

Cook a cup of rice. Remove the water and grind it to a thick paste with honey and milk. Apply a thick layer of this paste on the face and neck and let it dry before washing it off with lukewarm water.

Add yogurt to the mixture of sugar and rice. Apply the paste on your face and wash your face with fresh water after half an hour to get a flawless, fair and attractive complexion.

It is preferable to use organic rice, clean filtered water, and rinse the rice thoroughly before use to get rid of any topical pollutants and pesticides. White rice is preferred over brown or red rice – since the water from the former has more extensive benefits.

Transcending the boundaries of food, rice offers a plethora of benefits for your skin and hair, a rather surprising beauty staple that's been used across the world.

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

Women commissions need to widen their scope of work: PM Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI: Noting that the role of women in the society

is continuously expanding, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the women commissions will have to increase their scope of work and give a new direction to the women of their states.

tion for Women (NCW), the prime minister said the par-

sions will also have to increase their scope of work and give a

ments, he said those who did not give priority to women safety, women did not hesitate to remove them from power. Highlighting the steps taken by his government toward women empowerment, Modi said both the Make in India and the Self-reliant India initiatives are utilising the skills of women for the country's progress.

With 26 weeks, he said India is one of the countries that give maximum maternity leave to women.

"About 70 per cent beneficiaries under the Mudra Yojana are women and crores of women have started their business using the scheme," the prime minister said.



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Speaking on the occasion of the 30th foundation day of the National Commis-

sion for Women (NCW), the prime minister said the par-

sions will also have to increase their scope of work and give a new direction to the women of their states," he said.

Modi also said people with old thinking considered the skills of women as a matter of domestic work but it is necessary to change this mentality to bolster the country's economy. Taking a swipe at the previous govern-

Hyderabad Literature Festival ends with a lot of food for thought

HYDERABAD: The three-day Hyderabad Literature Festival (HLF), which started on January 29 and concluded on Sunday, received good response. The event invited over 30 speakers and was held online because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Saturday saw celebrities like Sidhartha Mallya, son of Vijay Mallya, who spoke on 'Mind the Mind'. During the discussion with actor Samir Soni, Sidhartha spoke about his book 'If I'm Honest', in which he writes about the stigma

around mental health. He said that despite all the privilege, he had gone through depression. "It's fine to not feel okay. It's okay to be depressed as the career choice you made when you were 12-14 years old has not worked out. It is okay to fail and to choose the right career path after knowing yourself, in your 20's or even later," Sidhartha said. This was followed by a discussion on Des Raj Kali's novel Shanti Parav which speaks of history, ethnography and politics of the Punjabi Dalit.

Odisha eases Covid curbs further, allows home delivery of food, essentials during night curfew

BHUBANESWAR: Amid a gradual fall in the daily infection count in the state, the Odisha government on Monday eased the Covid guidelines further for the month of February, bringing relaxations to the night curfew and

Sawaswati Puja, Magha Saptami and Magha Purnima in the month will be observed with strict compliance to Covid safety norms.

Saraswati Puja will be observed in temples and religious places without participation of devotees, while it will be allowed in educational institutions with participation of a limited number of students and proper adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour. The SRC, however, clarified that celebration of the Puja will not be allowed in public places. People celebrating Puja at home have also been advised to follow Covid safety norms and avoid mass gathering.



excluding home delivery of essentials from restrictions during the curfew hours in urban areas.

As per the order of Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena, night curfew in urban areas of the state will now remain in effect from 10pm to 5am everyday against the previous timing of 9pm to 5am. The night curfew will remain in force from February 1 to 28.

Jena, however, said that the curfew restrictions will not apply to home delivery of food, groceries, vegetables, meat, milk and other essentials by restaurants and aggregators such as Swiggy, Zomato and OMFED.

Besides, restrictions will also not apply to the permissible activities prescribed for the month of January 2022, he said.

The SRC said shops, markets, malls, shopping complexes as well as cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment complexes, theaters, auditoriums and assembly halls will remain open from 5am to 10pm.

As per the guidelines, festivals such as

Lage congregations at river banks, ghats, sea shore and water-bodies will be allowed on the occasion of Magha Saptami and Magha Purnima. The rituals of these festivals will be allowed inside temples without participation of the devotees.

"No community feast associated to Saraswati Puja and other festivals will be allowed. There will also be restriction of musical and entertainment programmes in this period," the guidelines stated.

The SRC has allowed functioning of government, autonomous and private offices with 100 per cent staff. The General Administration department will issue detailed guidelines and SOP to this effect shortly, he said and added that virtual meetings and training will be encouraged to check transmission.

The government in its guidelines, however, has not brought any relaxation to the restrictions imposed on the crowd limit for weddings and other social functions. Besides, no decision has been taken regarding reopening of schools and colleges in the state.

10 officers appointed to monitor Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana in Bhubaneswar



BHUBANESWAR: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has entrusted 10 senior officers with the task of monitoring implementation of Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) in the State Capital and collecting report in this regard from the empanelled hospitals every month.

Officials of the civic body said as many as 37 hospitals in the city have been empanelled to provide healthcare services to the beneficiaries of the scheme. Each officer has been assigned the responsibility of monitoring implementation of the scheme in three to four empanelled hospitals. The officers, in

the rank of deputy and assistant commissioner, will visit the hospitals at least once every month to verify implementation of the scheme and submit a report comprising details of the number of beneficiaries availing treatment and whether the services provided under the scheme to them w cashless.

They will also collect feedback from the beneficiaries as well as medical staff and submit it to the civic body. Meanwhile, with the urban polls expected to be conducted soon, the move is being seen by many as the BJD government's bid to woo voters in the city which has over 1 lakh BSKY beneficiaries.



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Covid Care Camp organised in Sector 3

Rourkela (KCN): As Corona virus infection continues to spike in number of

Sector 3 of Rourkela. While Ms Gracy David, Vice Chairperson of The

people and encouraged people to actively participate in the camp. The



fatalities cases in the country, The Neelam Foundation organized a camp to aware people about the dangerous effects of the infection. The underprivileged people sometimes ignore and don't take precautions for their safety. To inculcate safety measures, the team took steps to aware them followed by mask distribution in Balangir Basti at

Neelam Foundation counselled people on keeping safe. Dr Amit Das gave them instructions as well as answered their various queries on health issues. Executive Member, Mr Rupesh Agarwal also contributed masks for distribution in the area. The Mask group (which is of 15 member ladies group) of Balangir Basti coordinated with the

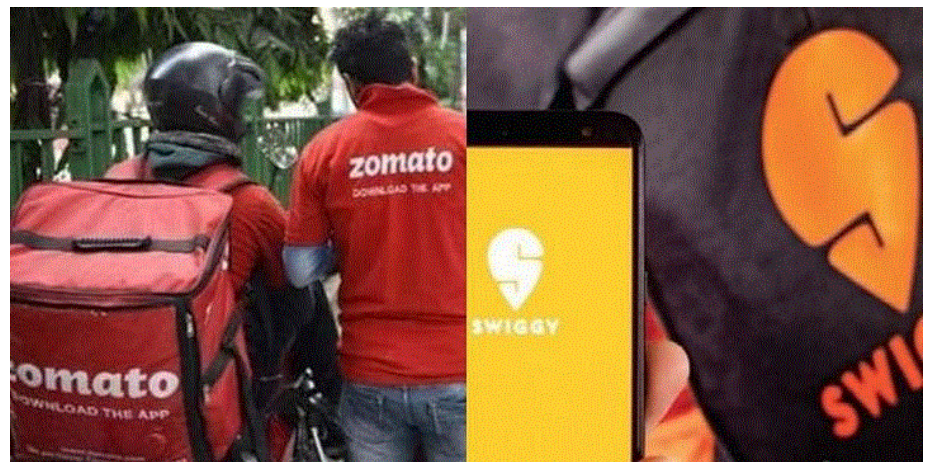
Neelam Foundation, also its Executive Members Sharda Dhal, Biswaranjan Maharana, Chandrama Das and Jiten Mohanty. The camp was presided over by the Chairperson Pratima who focused on their uses of wearing mask and health. The camp was conducted by following proper covid guidelines as gathering of crowd was discouraged.

Bhubaneswar: 'No food delivery after 9 pm' rule leaves needy and hotels in a lurch

BHUBANESWAR: Takeaways and food delivery services which continued even in the midst of a raging pandemic have been stopped beyond 9 pm in the Capital, leaving people dependent on it at great inconvenience.

Senior citizens who live without their children as well as bachelors are primarily dependent on food delivery services through aggregators like Zomato and Swiggy. However, restriction on timing of the service till 9 pm after night curfew was enhanced by an hour due to Omicron surge has emerged as a cause of concern for them. "Even if a food delivery application accepts order after 8.30 pm, the delivery boys cancel it possibly due to the fear of being harassed by the police on the road," said Sasmita Paikray, a communication consultant. Shibashrita Priyadarshini, a media professional, echoed similar sentiments and said many people cannot cook at home

due to their working hours and depend on food delivery applications. The restriction has also impacted restaurant and eatery owners in the city who are suffering losses. The Restaurants Association of Odisha, a



February," said All Odisha Restaurants Association president Rajiv Swain. The association members said senior citizens staying alone in the city are also facing problems due to the restriction. An order issued by the office of

the SRC on January 5 stated that hotels, restaurants, dhabas, bars and pubs will be allowed for dine-in up to 50 per cent of their respective seating capacities till 9 pm. However, the order mentioned nothing categorical about takeaways not being allowed beyond 9 pm. Aurobindo Rath, a training administrator, said online food delivery services are helpful for working individuals staying away from families and the curbs are creating a lot of problems for them. "Steps must be taken by government to ease restrictions and food delivery services should be allowed to function considering the fact that many people are working in the Capital City and do not stay with their families," he added.

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Biodiversity park in Kerala's Kottayam district is a devotee of the nature

KOTTAYAM: In the midst of 35 acres of land, a large pond is the abode of more than 65 varieties of fish species. A few meters away, a temple pond proclaims the rich traditions of the past. Near to it, a 'sarpakavu' (a place considered as abode of snakes) reminds about traditional culture of conservation of biodiversity. Surrounded by them, nearly four lakh trees and plants of 4800 species make the land a unique place, perhaps, in the world. This is Mango Meadows Agriculture Pleasure Land, a biodiversity park situated in Ayamkudi, a small hamlet in the paddy-rich Kallara grama panchayat of Kottayam district. The rare repository of a wide variety of flora and fauna is the result of two decades-long hard work and dedication of a man, who loved Nature more than anything. Meet Nellikkuzhi Kuriakkose Kurian aka NK Kurian, who dedicated his life to the conservation of nature. Except for a few nature lovers and social media persons, NK Kurian, a native of Kallara, is not a familiar name. The 51-year-old civil engineer carved out a niche in history by developing a bio-diversity park having 700 varieties of trees, 85 varieties of vegetables, 145 fruit trees along with fish, cattle, canines, goats, rabbits, and ducks in just 35 acres of land.

However, the road to the park was never a cakewalk for Kurian, who spent nearly 15 years in Saudi Arabia and UAE as an employee and a businessman. It was in 1995 that Kurian, who can be termed as an earlier form of 'Cuba Mukundan' of Malayalam movie 'Arabikkatha', was sent to Saudi Arabia by his parents and party workers. After three years of tiring jobs in Saudi, Kurian shifted to Dubai and found a better job in the field of aluminum fabrication works. His hard work and a boom in the construction field of Dubai in early 2000's helped Kurian in finding a handsome remuneration. He soon started his company and increased his revenue. Even then, his thoughts hung on to his native village and he bought a few acres of land having a pond in the middle in Ayamkudi in 2002. In the middle of his 30's, he relinquished his business in UAE worth millions of rupees and deposited his entire earnings in preserving nature and biodiversity by developing an agriculture park. He traveled across the country and even abroad to collect various plants and seeds.

BJP slams Odisha government over illegal construction on Lingaraj temple land

BHUBANESWAR: The BJP on Sunday came down heavily on the State government for alleged illegal construction on land belonging to Lingaraj temple. State BJP president Samir Mohanty said construction on the temple land is being carried out near the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) which is not far from the residence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The State government cannot deny that the illegal construction is being done without its knowledge. "Any construction within the city limits is not possible without the approval of Bhubaneswar Development Authority



With his concentrated efforts and hard work, he widened the area of the land and developed an unparagoned land of biodiversity soon.

For nature lovers, it is nothing but a wonder,

as a vast variety of floras, right from 'Kattupoovarasu' (Rhododendron arboreum), which grows in below five degree Celsius to Date Palm, usually flourishes in around 45 to 50 degree Celsius, are being developed in a single stretch of land having comparatively high atmospheric temperature.

"Before venturing into cultivation, I widened the pond to develop an ecosystem on its banks. Now, there are four ponds in the park, having an area of 50 sq. metres to 150 sq. metres and depth up to 2.5 meters. All four ponds are interconnected with tunnels through which fish can move to all the ponds. One of the ponds is developed as a temple pond, which is deeper to ensure sufficient water for fish even at the peak of summer season," Kurian said.

The predominant idea behind the initiative was to retain the tradition and culture of Kerala for the next generations, for them places like sarpakavu would be a thing of the past.

"The sarpakavu is primarily considered as a virtue. However, many of them were destroyed over the years. Whatever is the belief or myth, Sarpakavu consists of particular varieties of flora, which may not have any direct use for people. A kavu is developed to conserve such species from extinction," he said.

Apart from tradition and culture, the park is also an abode of several rare species of trees and plants like Maha Vilva (Aegle Marmelos), which is considered a sacred as well as medicinal plant, Ficus Alii, facing extinction, Mangrove Apple, one of the rarest species that bears edible fruits, Beggar's bowl or Calabash, which was abundant during the period of Sree Budha, Rudhraksha and so on.

Though he invested millions of rupees for developing the park, he kept it without any commercial purposes till 2018. Later, when financial difficulties started affecting him, Kurian opened it for the public in February 2018.

(BDA). It is for the BDA to explain how such illegal activities are going on and who gave permission for the same," he asked. Mohanty said 18 acre of temple land

name of the temple trust. The temple land was illegally sold to a big real estate company for construction of a luxury hotel. The court had ordered that the proposed

two-and-a-half acre land on which construction activities were stopped by the local administration is close to the plot where the luxury hotel was coming up. This clearly shows

COVID effect: Caterers, tent house owners in Bhubaneswar seek hike in crowd limit to get over losses

BHUBANESWAR: Hit hard by the restrictions imposed across the State in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, catering service and tent house owners have urged the government to increase the number of guests allowed for weddings and other social functions to at least 300. The catering service and tent house owners in the Capital said that the pandemic has dealt a blow to their businesses they have incurred losses in crores in the last two years. "The losses sustained by the caterers and tent house owners in Bhubaneswar zone, comprising the State Capital, Khurda and Jati, alone are around Rs 70 crore in the last one year. Imagine the amount of losses the sector would have incurred across the State," said Biswa Prakash Bhadra, owner of Grand Caterer and Tent House in the city. The losses are also affecting the State exchequer as the government gets huge amount in taxes from the industry, he said. Bhadra said the restrictions have left around 30 lakh persons, dependent on the sector directly or indirectly, in a lurch. Binay Bhusan Patnaik of Sristi Catering said the restriction on social gatherings imposed by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has come as a double-whammy for them as it is half of what the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) had permitted in his January guidelines. "While the cap on maximum gathering for a wedding had been fixed at 100 in the State this month, it remained 50 within BMC jurisdiction leaving us in a lurch," he said. Patnaik said the businesses of caterers and tent houses had started picking up slowly, after the restrictions were eased and the ceiling on gathering restored to around 250 during November and December.



was vested with the General Administration department in 1986 and the Orissa High Court in 2015 had ordered recording back a portion of the land (2.865 acre) near the BPIA in the

luxury hotel on the temple land is fallacious and has no legal sanction because the State government does not have any legal power to do so. Mohanty said the

the government is fully aware of the illegal transaction of the temple land which has been converted to 'gharabari'. "Even the land of Lord Lingaraj and Lord Jagannath is

not safe under the BJD government," Mohanty alleged and urged the government to take prompt action to recover all the temple land which are under unauthorised occupation.

Referring to a December 2021 report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), the BJP leader said only 31.556 acre out of 1523.879 acre of the immovable property of Lingaraj temple across the State is under the actual possession of the temple trust.

The executive officer of Lingaraj temple had informed the auditors that 36.370 acre out of 69.423 acre land in Bhubaneswar is under encroachment.

Even with economic recovery playing hopscotch, Budget might not have fireworks

Annual budgets are all about balancing income and expenditure. But Bob's not your uncle if you happen to be India's Finance Minister and what's supposed to be a simple arithmetic

at 4.5% of GDP by FY26, implying an average 60 bps annual reduction. It means, deficit will likely squat at 6.3% or thereabouts in FY23. But the RBI, whose

or cash transfers, but regulatory measures and efficient allocation of capital and labour. Some will involve short-term costs, but ensure long-term gains, eventually leading to

cable technical glitches, besides clarity on equalisation levy, and on cryptocurrencies. As for corporate taxes, the 2019 tax cuts helped firms gain higher profitability.



and rising distress in the informal economy.

That said, going to market with a cap in hand will unleash the nasty side of investors and rating agencies, for whom even a rupee of extra debt translates to doomsday scenarios. But higher allocations are being sought, rightfully so, for healthcare, education, rural and urban employment schemes, housing programmes, credit guarantees for the worst-hit sectors including MSMEs among others.

Even though tax collections surprised on the upside this fiscal (and likely next fiscal), the need for market borrowings remains elevated at over Rs 12 lakh crore in FY23. In fact, Sitharaman had indicated this in her previous budget itself. As per the medium-term fiscal policy, fiscal deficit is targeted

its future complementary position. Loosely translated, it means RBI will no longer anchor long-term bond rates at the sacrosanct 6% and that borrowing rates will rise. In a trailer of sorts, the 10-year benchmark rates have crossed the pre-pandemic 6.7% already and Patra's remarks simply puts across the point in the public domain.

EDITORIAL | Job schemes needed to address distress in informal sector That said, none expect a stratospheric jump in government expenditure either given Sitharaman's reluctance to spend even during the height of the pandemic. Total expenditure will likely maintain its trendline growth at around Rs 38 lakh crore. This is also the FM's essential myth buster that supply-side economics need not essentially include tax cuts

eral key announcements remained just that and focusing on their execution will be key. These include privatisation, national infrastructure pipeline, asset monetisation, bad bank, including G-secs in government bond index, and importantly direct tax reforms.

Thanks to Sitharaman's FY20 Budget, taxpayers now have two choices, but this only created administrative complexity, and the upcoming Budget is expected to smooth out the kinks. This is essential to increase compliance and broaden the tax base. Only when this happens, the next step of rationalizing tax slabs becomes realistic and doable, perhaps next year or just in time for 2024 general elections. While at it, Sitharaman must also ease compliance for taxpayers, who have been facing inexpli-

tion and for broad-based improvement in jobs, the FM will likely fast forward infrastructure projects, besides increasing allocation for MNREGA.

Evidently, focus areas include healthcare and government allocation should be higher, particularly for programmes like Ayushman Bharat that are severely under funded. Besides, the budget should throw renewed light on doubling of agricultural income, following the embarrassing rollback of farm laws.

As for privatisation, the government should move on from taking the applause for Air India sale and step on the gas for privatizing banks and insurance companies. Hitting the right notes, the recent policy on public enterprises in strategic sectors marks the first step to pursue large scale investments.

Time for contrition and change, not for boasts and no change: P Chidambaram on Economic Survey

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on

to grow by 8-8.5 per cent in the fiscal beginning April 1 and is

Attacking the government, Chidambaram said the Economic Survey repeats "ad nauseum" that at the end of 2021-22, the economy would have recovered to the pre-pandemic level (2019-20).

"In plain language, it

means that on 31.3.2022 the GDP will be at the same level as it was on 31-3-2020. It means that it has taken two years to go back to where we were on 31-3-2020," the former finance minister said in a series of tweets.

No decision yet on reopening of colleges, universities: Odisha Higher Education department

Continued from page-1

department's officials have also maintained silence over the matter, though pressure is mounting from parents and students to resume classes in physical mode from February. Members of parents associations have been demanding reopening of classes from class VIII to Plus II and UG and PG from the beginning of February and conduct of classes for at least three months as the government plans to conduct the annual exams in offline mode.

Believe-it-or-not Economic Survey says hakuna matata to India

It's said that in economics, the majority is always wrong. The Economic Survey 2022, in an unshowy way, attempts to tell us how.

Tabled in the Parliament on Monday, the Survey, in a give-me-five tone glosses over the success of government's Covid-19 policy response and emphasises how supply-side measures pulled us out of the economic blackhole. India is well placed to take on the challenges this year, it noted, yet the Survey's chief architect, Principal Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal, settled for a conservative growth projection of 8-8.5% for FY23.

Most macroeconomic indicators are pulsing with adrenalin, but the economy isn't antifragile yet and any of several factors, including geo-political tensions, rising global crude oil prices, persistent inflation, further pandemic-related economic disruptions, abnormal monsoon, or withdrawal of global liquidity can take away the punch bowl. That said, the Survey dug into the data and the overall sketch makes one believe that India's growth fairy is back. From agriculture and allied sectors to industry to government expenditure to exports all are doing their bit, but two key components -- consumption and investments -- are not in step. Unhelpfully, the Survey's foresight isn't letter perfect either.

Services sector has been the hardest hit. Worse, segments like travel, trade and hotels are still hostage to the stop-start nature of Covid-19 waves. Worryingly, advance estimates too suggest full recovery of all components on the demand side this fiscal, except for private consumption. Likewise, private investment recovery is nascent, but the new Chief Economic Adviser Dr Anantha Nageswaran concluded that all will be well by the second half of FY23.

ALSO READ | Delhi with 5,000 start-ups replaces Bengaluru as start-up capital: Economic Survey And better-than-budgeted tax collections, a sanitised banking system minus the overhang of bad loans, higher capital

spending and a robust external sector all point to one thing: It'll be India's place in

scenario, and how demand-side measures alone can't guarantee the needed

space to provide additional support. That said, it didn't touch upon the need for tackling the twin targets of reducing debt and deficits initiated in FY20.

Inflation is now a global issue and though headline inflation is within the targeted tolerance band of 6%, wholesale inflation is running in double-digits. Although this is partly due to base effects that will even out, India does need to be wary of imported inflation, especially from elevated global energy prices.

While the Survey noted that forex reserves of \$634 billion, equivalent to 13.2 months of merchandise imports, and higher than the country's external debt, how the adequate buffers will fare in the face of rising global crude prices and against possible global liquidity tapering remains to be seen.

In short, the Survey has fired up hopes of yet another iconic budget. Will Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, whose previous annual financial statement was hailed as one of the five distinctive budgets India has seen, get lucky again? We shall know soon.

Night Curfew Relaxed by 1 Hour

Continued from page-1

religious places without participation of devotees. Saraswati Puja will be allowed in educational institutions with participation of a limited number of students observing Covid appropriate behaviour, Mr.Jena said in the order.

However, no Saraswati Puja will be allowed to be celebrated in public places other than in schools and educational institutions, he said. No community feast associated with puja/festivals during the period will be allowed. There will be no musical or any other entertainment programme on the occasion of Saraswati Puja, Mr.Jena further said.

Large congregations at river banks, ghats, ponds, sea shore or near other water bodies to take bath on the occasion of Magha Saptami/Magha Purnima and on the day following have been prohibited throughout the State. However, the rituals can be performed inside the temple without participation of devotees.

All the State government-run offices will now operate with 100 per cent of the staff with strict adherence to Covid protocols. The General Administration and Public Grievances department will issue detailed guidelines/ SOP regarding attendance of officers & staff.

Final ULB list out

Continued from page-1

of the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950, it said.

Few days ago, the H&UD Department had reserved the Mayor seat in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) for women candidates while Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Mayor post has been kept unreserved. Notably, the State Government has amended the Odisha Municipal Rules, 1994, to hold direct election for the posts of Mayors of municipal corporations and Chairpersons of Municipalities and NACs during the upcoming poll.



the Sun, soon.

For those who believe in it, the Survey's two-word summary is this: Hakuna matata... It means no worries. It's wackadoodle for those who don't. Perhaps, the first cheer squad was markets, with Sensex and Nifty rallying 1,000 and 238 points respectively in a pre-buzz session on Monday. What gives?

First up was the government's four-pronged approach to the crisis including short-term measures, structural supply-side changes, process and factor market reforms as Nageswaran outlined. In fact, the Survey has put up a spirited defense for the government's pandemic response explaining why they did what they did. As against the usual Waterfall approach to fight crises, they opted for an Agile framework that took us closer to the fortune cookie. Stripped off economic jargon, it means the government believed that while dealing with uncertainties, it isn't enough to have just one grand plan (say a trillion dollar stimulus package) based on initial assessment, but several components rolled out from time to time.

To recall Sanyal's earlier remarks, the idea was to cross the river feeling the stones. Even if one's convinced with real-time rollout of measures, few are happy with the meagre fiscal spending of the government. The Survey reasoned that the emphasis was purely on supply-side for two reasons. One, policymakers viewed the demand squeeze wasn't only due to the pandemic, though this doesn't really cut the mustard given that we were already in a cyclical slowdown.

ALSO READ | Will the budget have fireworks? Helpfully, the second reason goes beyond the government's traditional pork preparing for a post-Covid

No more the captain, Virat Kohli talks about contributing more as a batter

NEW DELHI: Citing Mahendra Singh Dhoni as example, Virat Kohli says one doesn't need to be a captain of a team to be a leader and now that he is not the India skipper, he might

VK', Kohli spoke how one can contribute to the team even when he is not its leader.

"Everything has a tenure and time period. You obviously have to be aware of

Tests and then limited overs cricket.

"When MS Dhoni was in the team it was not like that he was not a leader. He was still the guy we were going to constantly get inputs... but for

day format.

"Taking the decision to move on is also part of leadership to understand the right time to do it. To understand that may be the environment

needs a different di-



contribute more as the side's batting mainstay.

Kohli shocked the cricketing world earlier this month when he stepped down from Test captaincy following the 1-2 series defeat in South Africa.

He ended up as India's most successful Test captain.

The unexpected decision came after he stepped down from the T20 side before being removed as ODI skipper.

During Digit's 'Fireside Chat with

that. People might say 'what this guy has done' but you know when you think of moving forward and achieving more, you feel like you have done your job," Kohli said.

"Now as a batsman maybe you have more things to contribute to the team. You can make the team win more. So take pride in that. You don't need to be a captain to be a leader. As simple as that."

Kohli had taken over the captaincy from MS Dhoni, first in

him to understand that yes it is natural progression and a natural time for me to take over and take Indian cricket forward to a level that I wanted to and as long as I feel that I have done that job without having materialistic goals, that has a longer lasting effect." Kohli also talked about the timing of moving on.

Rohit Sharma has taken over from him as the white ball captain while the board is yet to announce his successor in the five-

rection. Obviously same culture but a different set of ideas to boost people in a different way and contribute in a different manner," he said. "One has to embrace all kinds of roles and responsibilities. I have played under MS as a player and I have been the captain of the team for a long time, my mindset has been the same. "I always thought like a captain even when I was a player. I want to make the team win. I have to be my own leader," he added.

ISL: Goa aim to arrest slide as Odisha look to steady ship

BAMBOLIM: Winless in four games, FC Goa will be eager to arrest the slide when they take on Odisha FC, who will also be keen to steady their ship, in the Indian Super

League here on Tuesday.

FC Goa are sitting in ninth position with 14 points from as many games. They have to start winning matches if they are to push for a playoffs spot but in Odisha, who are one rung above them, they will face an opponent who will harbour similar thoughts.

Odisha have had a mixed bag this sea-

son, starting on a good note before tapering off in the middle.

With 17 points from 13 matches, they still have time to fight for a playoff spot, and a win on Tuesday

a team in a single game this season alongside ATK Mohun Bagan.

Brandon Fernandes played for Goa in the last game, and coach Derrick Pereira said he is one of the key players in the side and they are happy to have him back.

"He makes a difference. Going forward, his performances will give us better options and in creating more chances. He has been an integral part of the team and brings in that quality to our team," Pereira said.

Odisha have been among the goals and their ability to score late goals should make coach Kino Garcia happy.

Jonathas also got back among goals in the last game and it was Odisha's ninth goal in the last 15 minutes of a game this season.

With four goals, only

Aridai Cabrera (5) has scored more for Odisha this season besides Jonathas.

Indian players Jerry Mawihmingthanga and Nandhakumar Sekar have been putting in some impressive performances of late.

"The last matches, we have been playing well. We didn't win or get points but the performance was quite good. The positives are that the team is brave to try things we are doing in training. We are trying to create more chances by keeping the ball," said Garcia. "So the attitude of the players is good. It will be a tough game. Goa doesn't deserve to be where they are. They are playing quite well. They also want to keep the ball. So we need to close down the spaces. They have really good players," he added.

I will try to go as far as I can and get confidence back: Musetti

PUNE: Emerging Italian star Lorenzo Musetti on Sunday said he is keen to make his mark in his debut appearance at the Tata Open Maharashtra tennis tournament, which begins here on Monday.

The 19-year-old second seed will start as one of the title contenders in the men's singles event in the fourth edition of South Asia's only ATP 250 event at the Balewadi Stadium here.

"I'm here to win matches. I will try to go as far as I can and get the confidence that I used to have," Musetti said during a virtual press conference on Sunday.

He is likely to face strong competition from top players like World No. 15 Aslan Karatsev and defending champion Jiri Vesely. Musetti suffered first-round de-

feats at the season opener Adelaide 1 event and Australian Open. "I played two good matches with two really great opponents. They showed they were playing best tennis and both the matches were close," he said.

A Roger Federer fan, Musetti is one of the few players in the world with a strong single-handed backhand and he said it came naturally. Musetti had an impressive 2021 wherein he broke into the top-100, made Grand Slam debut and had two sets lead against the World No. 1 Novak Djokovic in a match at the French Open but retired in the fifth set.

He rated that match as one of the best of his career. "It helped me to understand a lot of things like I can be on that level and can reach there with my game. It was helpful

especially for a young player who is coming on the tour. I hope to reach that level again and to play a lot of matches like that one," Musetti concluded.

Among the Indians, Yuki Bhambri and Prajesh Gunneswaran will kick-start their campaign on Monday against Slovakia's Jozef Kovalik and fifth seeded Daniel Altamaier of Germany respectively. The Delhi-born Bhambri had received a direct entry into the main draw while Asian Games medalist Gunneswaran had entered the tournament as a wildcard.

Apart from Bhambri and Gunneswaran, the tournament will also see the country's top-ranked player Ramkumar Ramanathan and local player Arjun Kadhe starting di-

rectly in the singles main draw.

Lithuanian highest ranked player Ricardas Berankis, who had a semi-final finish in the last edition, will also be seen in action as seven singles opening round matches will be played on Monday.

Berankis will be up against Halys Quentin of France.

Top-seeded Australian pair of Luke Saville and John-Patrick Smith will open their campaign against Stefano Travaglia and Bernabe Zapata Miralles as four doubles matches will take place on Day 1 of the main draw.

In the qualifying matches, played on Sunday, India's Sasikumar Mukund and Manish Sureshkumar suffered defeats in the first round.




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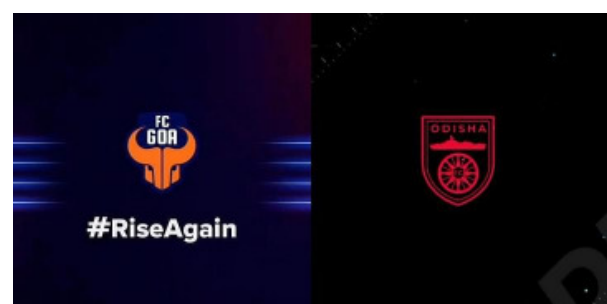
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Odisha have had a mixed bag this sea-

would put them back in the fray.

For Goa, the lack of finishing has been a problem as they have created more chances and attempted more shots than any other team this season.

Goa also hold the record for most crosses in a single game this season.

They attempted 31 crosses against SC East Bengal, the joint highest attempted by