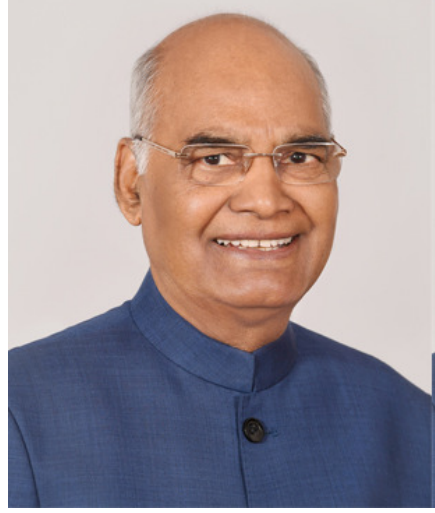


On February 20, 2022, the President will inaugurate the three-year long celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Srimad Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Prabhupad, the founder of Gaudiya Math and Mission in Puri

Bhubaneswar (KC-N): The President of India, Shri Ram Nath

gurate the three-year long cel-



brations of the 150th birth anniversary of Srimad Bhakti Siddhanta Saraswati Prabhupad, the founder of Gaudiya Math and Mission in Puri. On February 21, 2022, the President will witness the Fleet Review and Flypast at Visakhapatnam. The President of India as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces reviews the Indian Naval Fleet once in his/her term as part of the 'President's Fleet Review'.

Kovind will visit, Puri, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh from February 19 to 22, 2022. On February 20, 2022, the President will inau-

Sale of campaign paraphernalia rises in Uttar Pradesh with Election Commission relaxing COVID curbs

LUCKNOW (KCN): With the Election Commission relaxing COVID-19-induced curbs on physical electioneering, the sale of campaign



paraphernalia such as party flags, banners, badges and caps has picked up pace in Uttar Pradesh. According to some traders, there has been a 50 per cent increase in sale of cam-

aign material ahead of the third phase polling on Sunday as compared to the first phase that took place on February 10. With the COVID-19 situation improving in the country, particularly in the five poll-bound states, the Election Commission has relaxed guidelines on physical campaigning by candidates and parties. Raju Shukla who runs Sheela Enterprises, located opposite the Samajwadi Party office in Lucknow, heaved a sigh of relief that the pandemic situation has improved and his sale grew.

"The sale of posters, banners and flags have picked up some pace. Among Samajwadi Party candidates, the maximum demand is for the party's trademark red

President on Odisha Visit

Bhubaneswar(KCN): President Ram Nath Kovind arrived here at Biju Patnaik International Airport at

will be visiting Jagannath Temple in the evening. During his visit, no devotees will be allowed inside

President will inaugurate the three-year celebration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Srimad Bhakti



around 2.28 PM on a two-day visit. Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and senior officials received the President here at the airport on his arrival.

As per the schedule, the first citizen of India left for Puri in a special IAF aircraft soon after arriving here at the airport. He

the shrine from 4 PM to 6 PM. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) had also released SOP in this connection. After visiting the temple, the President will spend the night at Raj Bhawan in Puri, where Governor Ganeshi Lal will host him. On February 20, the

Sidhant Saraswati Goswami Prabhupada, the founder of Gaudiya Mission. He will also visit Sri Chaitanya Gaudiya Mutt at 10.30 AM. Full proof security cover has been put in place in Puri for the visit of the President. Around 40 platoons of police force have been deployed for the secu-

Russia could be cut off from financial markets and high-tech goods, says EU Chief

MUNICH: Moscow would have its access to financial markets and high-tech goods limited under Western sanctions being prepared in case Russia attacks Ukraine, one of the European Union's top officials said Saturday. The comments from Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive commission, came as tensions over Russia's intentions toward Ukraine intensified.

US President Joe Biden said Friday he was convinced Russian President Vladimir Putin has decided to invade the neighbouring country.

"The Kremlin's dangerous thinking, which comes straight

out of a dark past, may cost Russia a

to modernize and diversify its economy,"

geo-strategically. And at the same time,

they were talking about an invasion of



prosperous future," Von der Leyen said Saturday during the annual Munich Security Conference, where US Vice President Kamala Harris also spoke.

Von der Leyen said the EU's executive arm has developed a 'robust and comprehensive package' of financial sanctions with the US, UK and Canada.

"In case that Russia strikes, we will limit the access to financial markets for the Russian economy and (impose) export controls that will stop the possibility for Russia

she added. And we have a lot of high-tech goods where we have a global dominance, and that are absolutely necessary for Russia and cannot be replaced easily.

ALSO READ | Kamala Harris warns Russia of unprecedented sanctions if it invades Ukraine

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that during a Tuesday meeting with Putin he "made clear that any further violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine will have high costs for Russia, politically, economically and

I stressed that diplomacy won't fail because of us," Scholz added.

"As much diplomacy as possible without being naive, that is our aspiration, and we are using all channels of communication for that. Western leaders so far have not specified what precise Russian action would trigger sanctions.

A French official who wasn't authorised to be publicly named and spoke on condition of anonymity after Biden conferred with several counterparts on Friday said

territory currently under the control of the government in Kyiv. Biden now 'convinced' Russia will launch invasion of Ukraine

"It is in the event of an invasion of this territory that the massive sanctions that we are talking about would be triggered," the official said. Parts of eastern Ukraine are under the control of pro-Russia separatists who have been fighting Ukrainian forces since 2014, the year Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

'I am fighting to form majority like in 2007': BSP chief Mayawati attacks BJP and Samajwadi Party

AMBEDKARNAGAR (UTTAR PRADESH)(KCN): BSP chief Mayawati on Saturday alleged that people, especially those belonging to minority communities, are living in fear under the BJP government and promised that her party will work to ensure social justice to all if voted to power in Uttar Pradesh. Addressing a rally here, the former chief minister also accused the Samajwadi

and the SP, the BSP's campaigning in UP has remained subdued.

However, her party leaders insist that Mayawati has a loyal voter base and she had kept away from the limelight even before her 2007 victory. Mayawati said that the Akhilesh Yadav government cancelled the provision of reservation for SCs and STs in government tenders which was first introduced by the BSP.



Party (SP) of working against the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

"Dalits, Backwards and especially Muslim communities have been living in fear and terror under this government. Harassment on the basis of caste and religion will not be allowed in any case under BSP rule," the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo said.

"We are fighting to form a majority government like 2007 and to get rid of the casteist, narrow-minded, arrogant and dictatorial rule of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). You will have to support BSP, the only party that cares for all sections of society to ensure this," Mayawati said.

The BSP came to power in 2007, winning 206 assembly seats of the total 403. Its seat count was reduced to 80 in 2012 and just 19 seats in the 2017 election. Unlike the ruling BJP

The SP also tore a bill for reservation in promotion and stalled its passage in Lok Sabha, she alleged.

The SP government also stopped the scholarship for students of SC/ST communities and changed the names of places named after Dalit icons and cited that Ravidas Nagar was renamed Bhadohi, Mayawati alleged. She also attacked the Congress, saying that it was ruling for decades after Independence but due to its bad policies, it is out of power both at the Centre and in states.

Free of gangster Vikas Dubey, Bikroo villagers say now they can vote without fear of repercussions

"Development of people from a particular caste was taken up under previous governments but the BSP worked for the development of every section of society, including those from the backward castes. But the work done by us was undone by the Samajwadi Party and BJP when they came to power," Mayawati said.

Targeting the BJP, Mayawati alleged its policies are focused on pro- CONTINUED ON: P-7

District Task Force Meeting on IMI 4.0 Drive -2022

Khordha (KCN): Intensified mission indradhanush 4.0 will have three round's and will be conducted in 416 districts. In this regards a meeting was conducted in the Conference Hall of Collectorate Khordha. Additional District Magistrate, Khordha preside over the meeting and said that "In Khordha district

programme aimed at covering children who had either missed vaccination or were partially vaccinated against 12 vaccine preventable disease. With the goal of increasing 90% sustain if through Routine Immunization reaching the unreached with all available vaccines for children 0-2 and pregnant women.



mission indradhanush programme launched in three rounds. In the first round start from March -07 to 13, Second round from April-04 to 10 and third round May -08. The programme provides vaccination against 12 life threatening disease. Addressing here, CDMO & PHO, Khordha, Dr. Artabandhu Nayak said "the

Till today 10 round's Immunization programme completed in Khordha district. As per the National Family Health Survey report in Khordha district total -74 & 88 percent Immunization programme were completed. In this programme ADPHO(FW) and other district officials were present.

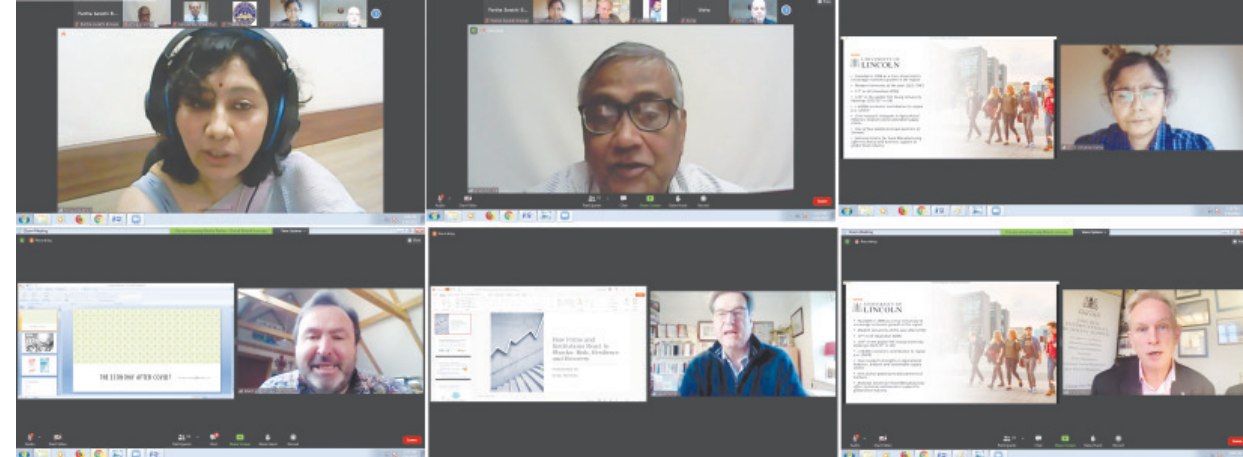
International Conference organised by Heritage Business School, Kolkata

Kolkata(KCN): On 18th February 2022, Heritage Business School in association with Lincoln International Business School, UK organized an International Conference on "How firms and institutions react to global

Heritage Business School and Chairman, Bandhan Bank, Prof. Dean Fathers, Professor of Resilience and Chair, CORE and LIIRH ISAB, The University of Lincoln, Dr. Upasak Das, Presidential Fel-

Akhtar, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and many more. The entire conference was being coordinated by Dr., Rimu Chaudhuri, Associate Professor, Heritage Business School, Prof. Simon Lilley,

ences every year to give the students real practical inputs from the experts across the world. Such an exposure is mandatory for a management graduate aspiring to take up the challenges in the corporate world," said Shri H.P. Budhia,



shocks:Risks, Resilience & Recovery' on an online platform. The Conference was addressed by experts across the globe on various issues like the Economy after Covid-19, Environmental impact after the pandemic, gender implications of the effect of the pandemic and many more. The Conference witnessed the address of Dr. Anup Sinha, Chief Mentor,

low in Economics of Poverty Reduction, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, UK, Dr. Subhasish Chowdhury, Associate Professor (Reader), University of Bath, UK, Prof. Partha Ray, Director, National Institute of Bank Management, India, Prof. Martin Parker, University of Bristol, UK, Prof. Runa Sarkar, IIM Calcutta, Prof. Salma

Director of Research, Lincoln International Business School, UK, Prof. Shrabani Saha, Associate Professor of Development Economics (Reader), Lincoln International Business School, UK and Dr. Anup Sinha, Chief Mentor, Heritage Business School. The Conference will continue till 19th February 2022. "At Heritage Business School, we organize such Confer-

Chairman, Heritage Business School, Trustee, Kalyan Bharti Trust and Chairman, Patton International Ltd. "This Conference will help the students to learn the various factors that have affected the economy after the global shock due to Covid-19," said Shri P.K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions Kolkata.

NITR alumni welcomes the New Director of NIT

Rourkela (KCN): Alumni of NIT Rourkela felicitated



and heartily welcomed the New Director Prof. K.Maheshwar Rao to the alma mater. Prof. Rao joined NIT Rourkela on Friday. In his first day at NITR, he met NIT Rourkela administration and the faculties and ex-

pressed his long term visions towards the development of the institute. On his second day, he was warmly welcomed by the alumni of NIT Rourkela represented by Bharat Bhushan Mohanty (1969 batch), Fakir Charan Mohanty (1971 batch), Uday Patel (1983 batch), Bimal Kumar Bisi (1985 batch) and Asutosh Nayak (2010 batch). Prof. Rao was very pleased to meet the alumni. He expressed his anxiety narrating

his hardships he and his wife had to undergo to reach Rourkela. He wondered how a city can be termed as smart having no air connectivity and unsatisfactory road connectivity. Nevertheless, he assured that the journey to join NITR, he shall forget as night mare because his reception by institute has overwhelmed him. He stressed that now on Rourkela is his home place and collectively with alumni and Rourkelaites, he

would work for making Rourkela a science city. He also assured the alumni that he would strive to bring overall improvement whereby ranking of NITR would have quantum jump, possibly No.1 among all NITs. Finally, he mentioned that alumni are the integral part of the institute and play a vital role to the growth of institute. Mr. Mohanty assured the new Director that alumni would make all effort towards the growth of institute in years to come.

Two dead in a collision between two iron ore loaded truck



Barbil (KCN): A tragic accident took place on National Highway 520 near Nardapur village under Champua police station in Kendujhar district. At around 1pm, a truck loaded with iron ore vide no CG07CA 6847 collided with another truck vide no OR09Q4023 from its rear back. The collision was so severe that one truck get ablaze and the driver of the truck was found to have been burnt to death The helper of the vehicle said to have thrown out half burnt and died too .Knowing from the Rimulipolice, the fire brigade team rushed in to spot and did above two hours hardship to control over the

fire. The dead body of the vehicle get rescued after cutting the frontal part of truck. The identity of these two deceased is still not known to police and they are working on it said the police. The reason behind the accident is not yet traced. But speeding lorry and losing control over the speed of driver might be a cause some opinioned . The driver might have slept on the way while driving another commented. What ever the reason might be, but the rise in accident on this high way finger out miss management of transportation mechanism, intellectual comments

THREE STUDENTS OF D.A.V. KALINGA NAGAR QULIFIED For this national level prestigious scholarship

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The students of DAV,

namely Adyansu Beura, Priyansu Panda and Subham Soumyaranjan have

Where the students shall get scholarship up to end of their academic career like Rs.15000/- per annum in Class XI & XII, Rs. 24000/- per annum in UG & PG and as per the UGC norms in Ph.D. This is one of the rarest achievements of its type as 3 students of this school have qualified out of 4 qualified to the 2nd round of this prestigious examination. The Regional Officer, DAV Institutions, Odisha, Zone-

1, Dr. K.C Satapathy, Chairman of the school Sri Madan



Kalinga Nagar have outshone their talents in the prestigious National Talent Search Examination-2020-21. In the final result published, three students of the school

successfully recorded their names among the selected 2000 students across the nation qualified for this national scholarship.

Mohan Panda, and Principal of the school, Sri Bipin Kumar Sahoo congratulated the students on their success and the teachers associated for their effort and guidance.

Rourkela Smart City felicitated for UN energy compact submission by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India

New Delhi/Rourkela(KCN): The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt of India organized a programme called "New

Rourkela initiative'.

Rourkela Smart City Limited was acknowledged, by Ministry of New and Renewable



Frontiers" as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations on 16th February 2022 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

In January 2021, India was selected as a Global Champion for Energy Transition for the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Energy. As a part of the dialogue Indian organisations have submitted 21 voluntary Energy Compacts (ECS) for energy access, transition and efficiency to the UN. Smart City Rourkela submitted Energy Compact to United Nation with a target of achieving 30% of its energy needs through clean energy sources by 2030 with 'Solarizing

Energy for submitting and presenting Energy Compact to United Nation High level Dialogue on energy and contributing to India's energy transition.

Dr Subhankar Mohapatra, CEO Rourkela Smart City Limited received the token of appreciation from

Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Union Cabinet Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, India and Shri Bhagwanth Khuba, Hon'ble Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy & Chemical and Fertilisers, India. Shri Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable energy, Shri Alok Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shri Dinesh D Jagdale Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Dr Arunabha Ghosh, Founder-CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) were also present in the program.

CLASSIFIED

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Please Contact- 8338870595

Vikrant Massey's 'Cargo' to be screened at South by Southwest festival in US



MUMBAI(KCN): Vikrant Massey-starrer "Cargo" will have its North American premiere at the 2020 edition of South by Southwest (SXSW) festival. The science fiction film, written and directed by Arati

Kadav, also features Massey's "Mirzapur" co-star Shweta Tripathi and actor Nandu Madhav. The story revolves around a lonely demon Prahastha who has been working on a spaceship for years for the Post Death

Transition services with the help of a female astronaut where dead people are recycled for rebirth. "Cargo" will be screened under the Global section of the film festival which will run from March 13 to 21.

Vikrant, who most recently featured alongside Deepika Padukone in "Chhapaak", said it makes him "proud" that the film has been chosen for the prestigious film gala. "Cargo" is one of the first Indian sci-fi

films to be there. And I feel blessed for receiving so much applause not just from the country but across the world. People have loved Chhapaak, they have embraced it with open arms and now 'Cargo' being selected

at this big a platform, I feel really fortunate," the actor said in a statement. "Cargo", which had its India premiere at the 2019 MAMI Film Festival under the spotlight section, is produced by Arati, Navin Shetty, Shlok Sharma and Anurag Kashyap.

First look of Imtiaz Ali's Love Aaj Kal two released



Kartik Aryan and Sara Ali Khan are the new romantic pair in Imtiaz Ali's Love Aaj Kal. Yes, the film's titled just that, not Love Aaj

Kal 2 or Aaj Kal. In a poster, we get a glimpse of their characters, Veer and Zoe, nodding off on top of each other. The poster also re-

veals the film's timeline, which will run from 1990 to 2020. "Meet Veer and Zoe, captured in their element. It's in these

simple, candid moments that love plays peekaboo, right? Love Aaj Kal," Imtiaz wrote. "Meet Veer and Zoe. Come get wound up

in our whirlwind wonderland Love Aaj Kal trailer out tomorrow," Sara added. The new Love Aaj Kal was shot in

Himachal Pradesh, Mumbai, and Rajasthan. The sequel also stars Randeep Hooda. The film is slated for Valentine's Day release.

No proof to link Netflix's '13 Reasons Why' to high US suicide rates: Study

NEW YORK(KCN): Contrary to the findings of a 2019 study that associated the Netflix series "13 Reasons Why" with an increase in monthly suicide rates among youth after the show's release, a new analysis finds no evidence to draw such a link. The reanalysis, published in the journal PLOS ONE, revealed that after controlling for the dramatic increase in adolescent suicide in recent years, the show's release had no clear effect. "Our reanalysis casts

considerable doubt on the show having an effect on boys," said study author Dan Romer and research director of the Annenberg Public Policy Centre (APPC) from the University of Pennsylvania in the US. The reanalysis found that the increase in the suicide rate for boys observed in the original study by Jeffrey Bridge and colleagues for three months after the series' release was no longer evident after controlling for the ongoing trend in adolescent suicide.

In addition, the increase seen during the first month of the release began the month prior to the release, making it difficult to attribute the rise to the show. The reanalysis found no effects in the subsequent months of that year. The original time-series analysis of suicide rates found an additional 195 suicide deaths among boys ages 10 to 17 during the nine months following the series' release, on March 31, 2017, but did not find a similar result among adoles-

cent girls. Romer said he questioned that finding for two reasons: "First, contagion would be expected to be stronger for girls than boys because this show focuses on the suicide of a high school girl. Second, the prior analysis didn't take into account strong secular trends in suicide, especially in boys from 2016-2017." When the first season of the Netflix show appeared in 2017, it created widespread concern that its graphic portrayal of a teenage girl's suicide

would lead to imitation among vulnerable young people, especially adolescent girls. The first such study found evidence of a jump in suicides among boys ages 10 to 17 in the three months following the show's release, but no effect for girls. Romer said that analysis relied on a forecasting method to project the likely trend in suicide for 2017. But that forecast failed to anticipate the actual trend. A second study by different researchers, published in JAMA

Psychiatry had a similar problem, Romer said. That study found an effect in boys and girls 10 to 19 years old in the three months following the series' release. But it similarly failed to control for the secular trend in suicide, again making it difficult to separate the effects of the show from the trend. APPC's reanalysis did find a modest rise in the suicide rate among adolescent girls during the first month following the release of "13 Reasons Why," but it was not statistically reliable, the researchers said.

Beyond perspective, radicalization transmutes into a terrible reality in Kerala

As a country, India has been on the rise in various fields in the recent years. This was spectacular and unprecedented. Political opponents of the present Modi dispensation may have divergent opinions about this, but as a country India has left its imprint globally. One of the biggest youth workforce and an emerging global market, India has been looked up to as a country which has the potentiality to fulfill the aspirations of the developing world in a great way. But what matters the most and a grave concern which needs attention is, the country is becoming a boiling pot on every passing day. The global success that the country is making in various fields might be largely affected by the internal unrest that some elements are deliberately trying to cause. For various reasons Jammu and Kashmir remained an area of unrest and terror for decades largely ignited by our intolerant neighbor. Since the abrogation of article 370 and the interventions that the government made in the state has transformed Jammu and Kashmir into relatively a peaceful place but unfortunately the stage of terror seems to be getting shifted to the state of Kerala today. The Popular Front of India (PFI), the new incarnation of banned Islamist outfit the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), is largely stretching its ugly hands across the southern states sowing the seeds of yet another partition. As per reports, the PFI and its recently hatched political party the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) have made strong inroads in various parts of the South Indian States. Unlike Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the name Popular Front of India intelligently camouflages its intentions by not disclosing its radical identities. It has managed to make an impression that it is involved in issues that are genuinely the Muslims in the country are affected with. This includes Muslim res-



M. R. LALU

ervations, Minority rights and Muslim Personal Law. These multipolar identities that it could stage-manage so far were enough to conceal its real intention. Instead of taking weapons against the country directly, the outfit is stretching across its geography with multiple activities that nobody would immediately become skeptical about. A large number of workers from the rightwing RSS and BJP has been murdered by the PFI and SDPI in the recent years in South India. Last 15 years of statistics shows that about 35 workers of the right-wing cadre were either hacked to death or were hit by unidentified vehicles in the highways in the state of Kerala under mysterious circumstances. Sanjith was an RSS worker in the Palakkad district of Kerala. He was brutally killed by the SDPI and PFI on November 15 last year. Another RSS worker Biju from Chavakkad of Kerala was killed on October 31. Findings emerging from the investigation are startling that no provocation of any kind was found as a reason behind these brutalities. Sanjith was killed in front of his wife. The killers hit his motorbike with their car and hacked him to death in broad daylight. He had 21 cuts on his body. Ranjith Sreenivasan, a lawyer by profession was also the state Secretary of the BJP OBC Morcha. He was killed in front of his mother, wife and two daughters in the courtyard of his house in the Alappuzha District on December 19. Targeted killings have become a normal routine for Kerala. Heated arguments erupted in channels and social media as a Muslim clergy was seen spitting in the food to be served to a congregation recently. The act was later attempted to be justified in the name of 'halal food'. This was reportedly practiced across the state by a radicalized group in hotels and restaurants in the name of sanctifying the food as per the divine standards of the holy text of their religion. The most disgusting part of this development was that many ordinary people, unaware of such unhygienic practices, were deliciously enjoying the

food served in such airconditioned restaurants. Parties are silent yet on an issue that could have dangerous ramifications on common man's health amidst a pandemic. The PFI is reported to have an estimated 75000 members actively working for its projects to divide the state and a large number of sympathizers across Kerala. It is steadily growing with more people enrolling in it every year. Stretching its hands across the country, it has managed to make its presence felt in many places. Floating various front organizations such as the Campus Front, the National Women Front, the Muslim Relief Network and the Sathya Sarani, the PFI has its arms stretching every field of life like an octopus. Parties from the left and right are blindfolding their eyes rejecting the presence of jihad especially in the Malabar region of Kerala. A large number of youths being radicalized in the state, are going to press the nerves of the country in a big way in the days to come. What makes it more vulnerable for Malabar region of Kerala is that it had a large number of communal clashes and genocide in the past and wounds of the Hindu genocide of 1921 are yet to heal. A new alignment between the ultra-religious radical islamists and the atheist communists since the last assembly elections in 2021 has been a new development and a subject of worry for the grassroots electorate. This combination probably helped the left parties to return to power the second consecutive term. The State Secretary of the CPI(M) Kodiyeeri Balakrishnan has publicly authorized conceding to the fact that the party has no grudge on its Muslim cadre following their religious practices. When it comes to the religious faith of the majority, the party is too atheistic in its ideals to ban or warn its workers. Both communists and the islamists conveniently justify their hobnob as a requirement to defeat the rightwing across the country. Probably what is fundamentally helping this unholy nexus to happen is a policy that 'enemy of my enemy is my friend'. A significant chunk of the intelligentsia, especially from the left ideology

has so far been able to monopolize the academia in many universities in India. Kerala has to be cautious to keep it a geographical unity as the islamists in the state began to make claims for the formation of a new state chiseling the present Malabar region out of the present state of Kerala. Accelerating their move, a large number of Bangladeshi nationals are reported to have settled in the state with the help of their local sympathizers. From China to Kerala, the red flag is the soul and symbol of the communists. But the CPI(M) has flagrantly kowtowed to the islamists by turning the party flags into green in its recent meetings. This is largely to woo more members from the minority community to the party. Red being transmuted into green is a trend that the traditional party cadre is watching with horror. The recent trends emerging in the state are enough to fathom the gravity of the situation as parties in the state seem to be in a lull nibbling from the electoral gain the minority consolidation offer. Four Kerala girls who got converted into Islam were taken to Afghanistan to join the Islamic State in the recent years. They were among the thousands of Islamic State fighters lodged in the Afghanistan prisons. The Government of India has rejected their families' plea for their repatriation when the Taliban took over Afghanistan. The NIA filed a chargesheet in 2017 against 21 men and women from Kerala who left India in 2016 to join the Islamic State. This was a combination of Christians and Hindus converted to Islam. The group was reported to have crossed over to Afghanistan on foot from Iran. The recent activities and the outreach and access of the radicals across the state are to be seen as a well-planned jihadi rebellion getting ready in the God's Own Country and the neighboring states shattering all the narratives of brotherhood among the communities. The author is a Freelance Journalist / Social Worker, Meppurathu House, Puthusserimala P.O -Ranni, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala State. Email: mrlalu30@gmail.com

US, NATO and Ukrainian Crisis- A Global Debacle

Ukraine is a country around the size of Texas, sandwiched between Russia and Europe. It was a member of the Soviet Union until 1991, and since then, it has been a less-than-perfect democracy with a sluggish economy and a foreign policy that oscillates between pro-Russian and pro-European positions. In November 2013, President Viktor Yanukovich rejected an agreement for further integration with the European Union, provoking large protests that Yanukovich tried to put down forcefully. In the crisis, Russia backed Yanukovich, while the US and Europe backed the demonstrators. Several significant events have occurred since then. Anti-government protests ousted the government in February, forcing Yanukovich to flee the country. In order to reclaim its lost influence in Ukraine, Russia invaded and annexed Crimea the next month. Pro-Russian separatists began capturing territory in eastern Ukraine in April. On July 17, the rebels fired down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 by accident, killing 298 people. Fighting between the insurgents and the Ukrainian military became more intense, the rebels began to lose ground, and in August, the Russian army invaded eastern Ukraine openly in support of the rebels. All of this has driven Russia's and the West's relationship to its lowest point since the Cold War. The Russian economy is on the verge of collapse, and more than 2,500 Ukrainians have been killed as a result of the sanctions. Much of this can be traced back to Ukraine's centuries-long Russian dominance. Ukrainians who see Ukraine as a part of Europe and those who see it as inextricably linked to Russia have split the country more or less evenly. A political crisis within the government as a result of such disagreement may have been unavoidable. Meanwhile, Putin is promoting an imperial-revival, nationalist worldview in Russia, in which Ukraine is seen as a part of bigger Russia — and as a victim of ever-increasing Western hostility. Ukraine's chances of regaining Crimea look slim. It's uncertain whether Russian soldiers will try to occupy sections of eastern Ukraine, how the conflict will finish, and what this implies for Ukraine's future — as well as Putin's increasingly aggressive but isolated Russia. It used to be known as "the Ukraine," but after the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991, the name was changed to simply "Ukraine." This distinction proves to be crucial in comprehending the current dilemma. Ukraine has a long history of being ruled by foreign powers and a brief period of national independence. That could explain why the country was given the name "Ukraine," which many historians believe meant "borderland" in ancient Slavic (it may also mean "the homeland," a theory that Ukrainian nationalists understandably prefer). In other words, it may have been dubbed "the" because it was regarded as more of a geographical region than an autonomous country, distinguished by its in-betweenness.



Before 1991, you'd have to go back a long way in history to locate the last time Ukraine was independent. After World War I, there were a few years, and before that, there was a brief period in the 1600s. Crimea is considered by most of the world to be a region of Ukraine that's under hostile Russian occupation. Russia considers it a rightful and historical region of Russia that it helped to liberate in March. Geographically, it is a peninsula in the Black Sea with a location so strategically important that it has been fought over for centuries. The crisis in eastern Ukraine began in April 2014, with low-level fighting between the Ukrainian military and separatist insurgents backed by Russia, who seized some cities in the primarily Russian-speaking region. Since then, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has evolved into an open, albeit unofficial, war. Separatist rebels first appeared in eastern Ukraine soon after Russia invaded and occupied Crimea, when ostensibly Crimean insurgents were actually unmarked Russian Special Forces. They seized towns like Sloviansk and Donetsk in Ukraine's eastern Donbas area, reportedly in retaliation for the protests that toppled pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich, who hails from the same region. Despite President Vladimir Putin's claims that Russia is not invading eastern Ukraine, Russian soldiers, tanks, and self-propelled artillery have been crossing the border in what can only be regarded as a hostile invasion since mid-August. There are two ways to interpret Putin's actions: as a reasonable, strategic endeavour to wrest something from Ukraine, or as a less-rational action motivated by domestic Russian politics. Putin has been supporting the separatists and inciting unrest in eastern Ukraine for months. He's doing it either to maintain a perpetual separatist crisis (as he did in Georgia and Moldova) so that he can exert pressure on the Ukrainian government to keep it from crossing him, or to give himself an excuse to invade on the pretext of rescuing eastern Ukrainians and then annex the territory, as he did in Crimea. Another option is that he wants to compel the Ukrainian government and/or the West to make a concession. In any case, the assumption is that Putin is pursuing a short-term strategic aim and will quit once he believes he has achieved it. Putin has governed through an unspoken agreement with the Russian people since entering office in 2000: he gave strong economic development in exchange for political and individual rights restrictions. However, once the economy stagnated and some Russians opposed his fraudulent reelection in 2012, Putin shifted tactics, focusing on inflaming anti-Western paranoia and imperial-style Russian nationalism. As a result, when the Ukraine crisis erupted, Putin's state media concocted a storey alleging that the protests in Ukraine were part of an American plot



to isolate Russia and that the new Ukrainian government is run by covert Nazis bent on expansion. Sponsoring the insurgents and rescuing Ukraine, which Russian nationalists believe is truly part of Russia, became a source of national pride and a means of demonstrating Russia's defiance of the West. **Is Crimea better off as part of Russia or as part of Ukraine?** This is a legitimately difficult question to answer. Yes, Russia's forceful seizure of Crimea from Ukraine in March was hostile and unlawful - there is no dispute about that. However, the more abstract question of whether Crimea is fundamentally Russian or Ukrainian is far more ambiguous. **Is Crimea a part of Russia or Ukraine legally? Ukraine, most likely.** Since 1954, when Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev transferred Crimea from the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, it has been technically part of Ukraine. The reasons behind this are arcane, and because both "republics" were part of the Soviet Union, it didn't make much of a difference. When the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991, everyone expected Moscow to demand the return of Crimea. But that didn't work out. A slim majority of Crimeans voted for independence from Russia, and Russia vowed to honour and respect this when Crimea formally joined the newly independent Ukraine (although with special autonomous advantages). Since the crisis began, some Crimeans have been holding pro-Moscow rallies calling to rejoin Russia. In mid-February, a poll found that 41 percent of Crimeans wanted the region to become part of Russia. That's an awful lot — but it's still not a majority. Crimea's March referendum on leaving Ukraine for Russia ostensibly garnered 97 percent support, but it occurred in a rush, without international monitors, and under Russian military occupation. The anti-government protests that began on November 21, 2013, in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev and sparked the entire issue are known as "Euromaidan." The protests were dubbed "Euromaidan" since they focused on Europe and took place in Kiev's Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square). The first, obvious reason for the protests was that President Yanukovich had turned down a deal with the European Union for closer integration, opting instead for a \$15 billion bailout from Russia. Many Ukrainians favoured the EU pact, partly because they thought it would improve their country's ailing economy, and partly because they considered tighter relations with Europe as culturally and politically desirable. Many Ukrainians wanted the Russia bailout and Yanukovich to stay, but not everyone backed the protests or their agenda. Euromaidan also brought together a number of far-right ultranationalist groups, some of which were violent. This is why the Russian government and some Ukrainians perceive the protests as effectively disenfranchising Russian-speaking Ukrainians, particularly in the predominantly Russian-speaking east. **What role does Ukraine's east-west split play in the current crisis?** Ukraine's national identity problem, started by its

1991 independence from the Soviet Union, between its Russia-facing east and pro-European west, was never fully addressed. In many ways, the current crisis is a continuation — and even climax — of that internal — and foreign — debate about their country's character. It is also the culmination of some Russians' opinion that eastern Ukraine — or possibly the entire country of Ukraine — is not a separate country but rather a legitimate component of Russia. **What is Russia's fascination with Ukraine?** On the surface, this is due to the large number of native Russian speakers and ethnic Russians in Ukraine, many of whom voted for Yanukovich in 2010 and opposed the Euromaidan protests that led to his removal. So, while Russian officials may be myopically disregarding the very valid reasons for Yanukovich's ouster, they do mean it when they say they'll intervene to preserve the rights of Russian-speaking Ukrainians. Is it possible that a more democratic Russia would be more peaceful? Not only since 1991, but throughout history, this has been the governing assumption of Western strategy. Until 1991, the assumption could never be tested, and the data since then has been inconclusive. However, the electoral success of Russian nationalist groups, as well as Yeltsin's need to utilise his broad powers to combat revanchists in the 1990s, cast doubt on the claim that a democratic Russia would be pro-Western. Regardless of how they feel about Putin, the majority of Russians agree that Russia has the right to govern Crimea and that Ukrainians are not a different people. Is it possible that a more dictatorial Ukraine might turn to Russia? This has been assumed in both Russia and the West, although the evidence is varied. Yanukovich was dictatorial and looked to Russia for help, but he wasn't always a willing participant in Russia's integration attempts. Kuchma, who steered Ukraine toward a competitive authoritarian regime[6] in the late 1990s and early 2000s, paving the way for Yanukovich's attempt to steal the 2004 election, also spearheaded a concerted effort to strengthen Ukraine's ties with NATO and consolidate the country's 'multi-vector' foreign policy. Because it was viewed as necessary to overcome communist conservatives in parliament, the West supported Kuchma's heavy-handed techniques of creating a constitution with exceptionally strong presidential powers. To summarise, the link between regime type and foreign policy is not as apparent as many people believe. That is an important argument, because the West's drive to spread democracy (thinking that by doing so, they are also spreading peace) and Russia's desire to block it have been major contributors to conflict (assuming that in doing so it is preventing states from aligning against it). Both programmes are founded on shaky assumptions about the relationship between regime type and foreign policy. Breaking the presupposition of a relationship between regime type and foreign policy, ironically, may assist to reduce tensions in the United States and elsewhere. The Author is a Academic Consultant in Sociology, Odisha State Open University Sambalpur, Prapatk68@gmail.com

Kamala Harris warns Russia of unprecedented sanctions if it invades Ukraine

MUNICH: US Vice President Kamala Harris warned Russia on Saturday that it will face 'unprecedented' financial costs if it invades Ukraine and predicted that such an attack would draw European allies closer to the United States.

Harris spoke at the annual Munich Security Conference in Germany the day after Presi-

nian forces in the country's east for almost eight years. The US and the European Union previously sanctioned Russia over its seizure of Crimea. Western fears of an invasion have escalated in recent months as Russia amassed more than 150,000 troops near Ukraine's borders.

Harris said the Biden administration, along

the same page on the necessity of confronting Putin. "We came together and are now speaking with a unified voice," Harris said.

Harris on Friday declared "our greatest strength is our unity" as she met with the leaders of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on the sidelines of the conference. The Baltic countries have requested the US increase its troop presence on the eastern edge of NATO.

The White House has not yet said whether it will fulfill those requests, but Harris suggested in her comments that an invasion would lead to a bolstered American presence. "We will further reinforce our NATO allies on the eastern flank," Harris said.

As the brewing crisis gets more complicated by the day, Biden and other administration officials have offered increasingly dire warnings that the window for diplomacy is narrow. Biden told reporters Friday that he

believes Putin has decided to invade in the coming days, taking military action that could go far beyond the disputed Donbas region in eastern Ukraine and include the capital of Kyiv.

As Harris makes late-inning push to Putin to pull back, she aimed to hit hard on the argument that the US will emerge stronger from a conflict while Russia will emerge weaker, the Biden administration official said. The vice president was scheduled to meet after her speech on Saturday with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

ALSO READ | Ukraine-Russia crisis: What

to know as the tension grinds on Biden demurred when asked Friday about the wisdom of Zelenskyy leaving Ukraine to attend the Munich conference at a moment when the Biden administration warns an invasion could be coming any day. "That's a judgment for him to make," Biden said of Zelenskyy.

The Munich gathering has been used in recent years by both US and Russian leaders to deliver pivotal messages before an important audience. Then-Vice President Mike Pence in 2019 pitched President Donald Trump's 'America First' worldview, receiving a tepid response from the mostly European crowd. Biden has addressed the conference as a private citizen, senator, vice president, and president. At last year's conference, held virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic, a then-new President Biden declared 'America's back' in an address that touched on economic and security concerns driven by adversaries Russia and China.

Fifteen years ago, Putin used his own Munich appearance to deliver a broadside against NATO, accusing the alliance of putting its frontline forces on our borders. It's a message that Putin continues to press as he demands the US and other NATO nations guarantee that Ukraine long aspiring to be included in the alliance will never be given entry.

ALSO READ | Ukraine rebels order troop mobilization amid invasion fears

Harris' opportunity to demonstrate her policy chops abroad hasn't been lost on GOP detractors. Putin is a bully who responds to strength. "Sending VP Harris to Europe for meetings and speeches will only amuse him," tweeted Nikki Haley, who served as Trump's U.N. ambassador and is a potential 2024 presidential contender. But Harris in her remarks was laser-focused on her assignment to rally allies. "Our strength must not be underestimated. It lies in our unity," she said. And as we have always shown it takes a lot more strength to build something up, than it takes to tear something down.



dent Joe Biden said he's convinced that Russian President Vladimir Putin has made the decision to invade the neighbouring country. "Let me be clear, can say with absolute certainty: If Russia further invades Ukraine, the United States, together with our allies and partners, will impose significant, and unprecedented economic costs," Harris said. The vice president aimed to make the case to a largely European audience that the West has strength through unity and that an invasion would likely lead to an even bigger NATO footprint on Russia's doorsteps. Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula in 2014, and pro-Russia separatists have been fighting Ukrai-

with its allies, had sought to engage with Moscow in good faith to find a diplomatic resolution but was not met the Kremlin in good faith. ALSO READ | Biden now 'convinced' Russia will launch invasion of Ukraine

"Russia continues to say it is ready to talk while at the same time it narrows the avenues for diplomacy," Harris said. Their actions simply do not match their words. Harris credited European allies for speaking with a largely unified voice as the latest Ukraine crisis has unfolded.

The vice president said Republicans and Democrats in Washington - who rarely agree on many major issues - have largely reached

S Jaishankar meets Singapore Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen and ex-US Defence Secretary Mattis

MUNICH: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday met Singapore Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen and former US Defence Secretary James Mattis here and discussed with them a range of global and regional issues.

Jaishankar, who arrived in Germany on Friday to take part in the Munich Security Conference (MSC),

appreciated Mattis'



insights on American

national security thinking.

"Good to catch up with former US Secretary of Defense, James Mattis at #MSC2022. Appreciate his insights on American national security thinking," he said in a tweet. The MSC is expected to extensively deliberate on the escalating

tension between the NATO countries and Russia over Ukraine. The External Affairs Minister also met Singapore Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen and discussed bilateral and ASEAN related defence cooperation.

At MSC, he will participate in a panel discussion on the Indo-Pacific and will also lead discussions at an 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' event, be-

ing hosted by the Indian consulate in Munich and the Observer Research Foundation.

From Germany, Jaishankar will travel to France where he will hold bilateral talks with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian on February 20.

Economic Offences Wing freezes Rs 17 crore of Sambandh Finserve

BHUBANESWAR: The Economic Offences Wing of the Crime Branch has frozen Rs 17.10 crore bank balance of Sambandh Finserve Pvt Ltd in connection with financial frauds allegedly committed by its managing director Deepak Kindo and other family members. Investigators said that 47 bank accounts of Sambandh Finserve and sister organisations, Deepak, his wife Amrita and their close relatives have been traced so far.

In 2020, Deepak had approached Annapurna Finance Pvt Ltd for a loan of Rs 5 crore on the pretext of lending the money to SHGs and joint liability groups. However, the accused did not repay the amount. The EOW officers established that Deepak had fraudulently raised more than Rs 100 crore between 2015 and 2020 from different investors/lenders like DCB Bank, Small Industries Development Bank of India, Singapore-based BOPA Microfinance, Dia Vikas Capital Pvt Ltd, among others. Instead of onward lending of the borrowed amount, Deepak diverted the money to Sambandh Finserve's sister organisations including Diya Dairy Agro Processor Pvt Ltd. Last month, the agency had arrested Deepak's wife and the managing director of Diya Dairy, Amrita.

Re-Polling at 45 Booths

Bhubaneswar: The State Election Commission (SEC) will

The re-polling will be held from 9 AM to 3 PM on February 23

could not be held during the first phase on February 16 and another 20 booths where voting disturbed due to violence & other reasons during the second phase of polling on February 18, the Commission said.

The police, so far, arrested 62 persons in the district in connection with poll disruption incidents during the first two phases of Panchayat election in the State.

The police have arrested 28 accused persons in Jajpur district while 6 people arrested in Dhenkanal, 5 in Jagatsinghpur and 23 accused persons ar-

rested in Puri district, so far. The first two phases of Panchayat polls were held on February 16 and 18. Meanwhile, the police have made elaborate security measures for the third phase of election to be held tomorrow at 18,495 booths in 1,382 Gram Panchayats under 63 blocks of 29 districts. The police said 240 platoons force, 1625 mobile patrolling parties along with district police officers have been deployed for the poll. The election will be conducted with strict enforcement of State Election Commission guidelines and Covid protocols.

Bhubaneswar: The State Election Commission (SEC) has released the final polling data on second phase voting for Panchayat election on Saturday. As per the data, there was a 78.3 per cent voters' turnout during the second phase.

Subarnapur district has recorded the highest voters' turnout of 85.67 per cent while lowest 64.86 per cent polling recorded in Ganjam district during the second phase of voting for the election to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) held yesterday.

Angul district has recorded 80.32 per cent polling while it was 78.74 per cent in Balasore, 74.63 per cent in Balangir, 76.2

per cent in Bargarh, 81.04 per cent in Bhadrak, 84.9 per cent in Boudh, 79.64

Kandhamal-79.5%, Kendrapada-74.88%, Keonjhar-78.18%, Khurda

for 168 ZP Member posts at 20,436 booths in 1,514 Panchayats in 68

78.3% Polling in Second Phase



conduct re-polling at 45 booths, where the election was disturbed during the first two phases of polling.

under tight security at the booths. Re-polling will be carried out at 25 booths where voting



per cent in Cuttack, 78.33 per cent in Deogarh, 81.08 per cent in Dhenkanal, 82.69 per cent in Gajapati, 78.68 per cent in Jagatsinghpur and 70 per cent in Jajpur district. The polling percentage of other districts—Jharsuguda-85.14%, Kalahandi-83.81%,

73.97%, Koraput 79.01%, Malkangiri 73.43%, Mayurbhanj-76.85%, Nawarangpur-81.73%, Nayagarh-77.95%, Nuapada-77.67%, Puri 79.16%, Rayagada-77.16%, Sambalpur-78.43% and Sundargarh-74.25%. The election was held

Blocks across the State. The election was also very peacefully conducted at the disputed Kotia Panchayat. Notably, the voter turnout in the 2017 Panchayat poll was around 78 per cent while there was 77.91 per cent polling in the second phase.

Yoga meditation instructor Urmila Mittal visualises enlightenment

Rourkela (KCN): Yoga meditation instructor Urmila Mittal shared

never dies, so she prayed to God after meditating on her and

ter which she joined Paramvidya. After this, he joined the Art of

you. We think that no one is watching us, but the part of the soul that



information related to enlightenment while she was taking part in Shivling establishment at Ma Durga Vatika in Basanti Colony of Rourkela. She told that after the death of her husband, the method and technique of self-knowledge that she has been able to teach, the ultimate meaning of this is that the soul

said that how can the divine soul die. It was said that even Mahakal cannot do anything to its devotees and as we are his supreme devotees of Lord Shiva. Why did it happen. She prayed to God to give her the power of self-knowledge by doing self-meditation, then God gave her the power of self-knowledge, af-

Living, meditated and attained enlightenment. She said that she wants to teach the world that the action that a human does, he has to suffer in this life, if not today, then tomorrow in this life or in the next life. what you are doing with others, it comes back to you. The soul within you is a part of God. He's looking at

is inside us is watching us every moment. God gives birth and death, man gets what he gives, she said that to impart knowledge sharing about self mediation knowledge to the society. When we get connected with God, then our soul will not testify for doing a single wrong thing. The soul pervades every particle.

All Set for Phase III Poll

Bhubaneswar: The State Election Commission (SEC) headed by Aditya Prasad Padhi has made elaborate arrangements for the third phase of general election to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to be held tomorrow. The third phase of Panchayat election will be held for 171 Zilla Parishad seats at 18,495 booths in 1,382 Gram Panchayats under 63 blocks of 29 districts. Tight security measures have been taken to ensure smooth conduct of the poll. Over 56.53 lakh voters will decide the fate of 679 Zilla Parishad (ZP) candidates along with other candidates in fray for the post of Ward Member, Sarpanch, Panchayat Samiti Member and ZP Member in this phase. Out of the total booths, 2,773 booths have been identified as sensitive booths, said Secretary to State Election Commission (SEC), RN Sahu. Polling parties have reached the booths while additional polling personnel will reach their booths by this evening, he said. Informing about the final polling data on second phase voting for Panchayat election held on Friday,

Mr.Sahu said there was a 78.3 per cent voters' turnout during the second phase. Mr.Sahu said the Commission has received proposals for re-polling at 13 booths due to disturbances while error in ballot papers reported in another three booths during the second phase voting. It had received such proposals from districts for re-polling at 25 booths. The Commission is examining the proposals and very soon a decision will be taken, he added. Meanwhile, three village guards on Panchayat election duty were killed and several injured when their bus overturned in Nabarangpur district. The incident happened at Sorispadar village near Mokia in Papadahandi block yesterday night. The SEC Secretary said an ex-gratia of Rs 15 lakh will be provided to the family of each deceased person. The fourth phase and the fifth and the final phase of elections will be held on February 22 and 24, respectively. The counting of votes will be conducted from February 26 to 28.

'I am in perfect health': Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dismisses rumours about his health

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dismissed rumours on his health after visiting Lingaraj Temple on Friday and announced that he is fit to serve the people of

and added, "I don't want to tell anything more." Two out of the five-phase panchayat polls have been completed on Friday. The Chief Minister warned people that

time that such rumours about Chief Minister's health have spread. There was such a rumour a couple of days before the Republic Day, January 26. Though there was no discus-

circles about his health before the 2019 assembly and Lok Sabha which the BJD won comfortably. Meanwhile, minister of state for science and technology



Odisha. "Rumours on my health are spread whenever there is an election. I am in perfect health and very happy. I assure you whenever there are such rumours BJD does well in elections," Naveen said

the Covid pandemic is still on and urged them to take precautions by wearing masks. Naveen had a darshan of Lord Lingaraj before replying to queries from media persons on his health. This is not for the first

sion over the issue, Chief Minister attended the official Republic Day celebrations at Bhubaneswar setting aside all talks in this regard. Besides, there was a prolonged speculation in political

Ashok Panda condemned all those who are doing politics by spreading rumours on the Chief Minister's health. Alleging that this is a well-planned conspiracy, Panda said that such people are acting against the interest of the state.

Establishment of Shakti pillar and Shivling in Maa Durga Vatika

Rourkela (KCN): Twelve Shakti Pillars and Shivling, brought from Narmada, in the Maa Durga Vatika temple located in Basanti Colony, Rourkela city of Sundargarh

cited the mantras and establishments took place of four Shakti pillars and Shivling. Social worker Dhanji Bhai Patel said that Pran Pratishtha ceremony will be done after seeing the aus-

Dharmendra Pandey, Urmila Mittal, Ankit's mother, Ankit, Aryan Kumar, Super 20 chief social Worker Nitesh Kumar and other service-oriented people were present. The

Devotees and worshippers should have darshan of the Goddess Durga, by seeing the twelve Shakti Pillars and Shivling brought from Narmada, there will be a divine communi-



district, were installed on the auspicious occasion of Falgun Krishna Paksha Tritiya Budha Purnima on Saturday on an under construction base. Santosh Maharaj re-

precious time. On this occasion, founder and social worker of Maa Durga Vatika temple Dhanji Bhai Patel, Santosh Maharaj, Nandkishore Chaudhary,

construction work is going on for the establishment of twelve Jyotirlingas. Dhanji Patel said that Maa Durga Vatika temple is going to become a special identity in the state of Odisha.

of devotion in them. He told that the self-incarnated goddess is seated here. There are two forms here, one is self-incarnated and the other is a form born from the ground.




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CBI quizzes ex-NSE CEO, opens lookout circulars against her and two others

MUMBAI: After the Sebi and income tax department, it was the turn of the CBI to question Chitra Ramkrishna, former NSE MD and CEO, in light of newly emerging facts at her residence on Friday, a source said. The CBI has also

owner and promoter of Delhi-based OPG Securities Pvt.Ltd, Sanjay Gupta, in the co-location scam, whereby allegedly preferential access was given to certain brokers on NSE, who benefited from getting information fractions of seconds before other market par-

abused the server architecture of NSE in conspiracy with unknown officials of NSE. It was also alleged that unknown officials of NSE, Mumbai had provided unfair access to said company using the co-location facility during the period 2010-2012

continue on Friday. ALSO READ | Probe likely on 'mystery baba' with whom ex-NSE chief Chitra Ramkrishna shared confidential information Ramkrishna's troubles began last week when Sebi in an order penalised and barred her from dealing with any Market Infrastructure Institution for allegedly sharing sensitive exchange related information with an unknown person. Ramkrishna termed the unknown person a "spiritual force" whom she relied upon for personal and professional guidance. Sebi in its order called the sharing of financial projections and other confidential details a most "blatant" thing to do.



opened a lookout circular (LOC) against Ms Ramkrishna, Ravi Narain, Ramkrishna's predecessor and Anand Subramanian, ex-group operating officer and advisor to MD. An LOC is issued to ensure that those wanted by legal agencies don't leave the country. The CBI had registered a case against Ramkrishna and the

participants. ALSO READ | I-T department raids premises of former NSE MD Chitra Ramkrishna, colleague in Mumbai, Chennai The CBI was also investigating unidentified officials of Sebi and NSE and other unknown persons. "It was alleged that the owner and promoter of said private company

that enabled it to login first to the exchange server of the stock exchange that helped to get the data before any other broker in the market," the CBI alleged in their FIR. Income Tax authorities had begun searching Ramkrishna's and her former advisor Anand Subramanian's premises for suspected evasion on Thursday. The searches

Co-promoter Gangwal resigns from IndiGo board; will gradually reduce stake in airline over 5 years

NEW DELHI: IndiGo's co-promoter Rakesh Gangwal on Friday resigned from the board of directors of parent company InterGlobe Aviation, stating that he will gradually reduce his equity stake in the airline over the next five years. Gangwal and his related entities own around 37 per cent stake in this company. Rahul Bhatia and his related entities own around 38 per cent in InterGlobe Aviation. "I have been a long-term shareholder in the company for more than 15 years and it's only natural to someday think about diversifying one's holdings," Gangwal said in his letter to the board members. "Accordingly, my current intention is to slowly reduce my equity stake in the company over the next five plus years," he added. At an extraordinary general meeting held on December 30, IndiGo shareholders had approved a special resolution to remove a clause from the company's Articles of Association (AoA) which gave its two promoters the power of right of first refusal when one of them wanted to sell his shares. The passage of the special resolution paved the way for resolution of a dispute that has been going on between Gangwal and Bhatia since 2019. In his letter on Friday, Gangwal said he continues to be a big believer in the long-term prospects of IndiGo and more so now with the industry consolidation underway. "Under this backdrop and in the long-term, Indian aviation should prosper, as in various other parts of the world," he noted. While new investors should benefit from the potential future growth in the company's share price, a gradual reduction of his stake will also allow him to

benefit from some of the upside, he mentioned. "Like any plan, future events may impact my current thinking," he noted. However, he said he is concerned about the optics of reducing his equity stake even though such transactions can only be undertaken when he does not have any unpublished price sensitive information (UPS). "As you are aware, on an ongoing basis, the company provides us information and some of this is UPS. Being a co-founder, co-promoter and director, this issue takes on great significance," he added. Gangwal said after considerable thought, he sees only one clear path to address this issue. "Regrettably, and effective immediately, I am stepping off the Board. Accordingly, I ask that no company information be shared with me that is UPS and, having stepped down as a director, there should be no reason to share such information," he said. "Sometime in the future, I shall consider participating again as a board member," he added. The feud between the two promoters -- Bhatia and Gangwal -- came into public domain after Gangwal had written to market regulator Sebi in July 2019 and sought its intervention to address the alleged corporate governance lapses at the company, charges that have been rejected by the Bhatia group. In 2019, both the promoters had moved the London Court of International Arbitration to resolve their disputes. The court had passed its order on September 23 last year, following which the aforementioned extraordinary general meeting was called to amend the company's AoA.

Government releases buffer stock of onion to states to check price rise

NEW DELHI: To check any sharp jump in retail onion prices, the Centre on Friday said it has started offloading the buffer stock in a calibrated and targeted manner to states where prices are increasing over the previous months. The buffer stock is being released even in Lasalgaon and Pimpalgaon wholesale mandis of onion in Maharashtra to augment the supply in these markets, the Consumer Affairs Ministry said in a statement. The ministry said the states had been offered onion at Rs 21/kg ex-storage locations. The Mother Dairy's Safal outlets had also been supplied at Rs 26/kg inclusive of transportation cost, it said. "aggressive releases of onion from the buffer contributes to stability in prices," the ministry noted. As per the ministry's data, retail onion prices are inching up slowly in the last few weeks. Onion prices were ruling at Rs 37/kg in Delhi and Chennai, while Rs 39/kg in Mumbai and Rs 43/kg in Kolkata on February 18. The ministry further said that late Kharif (sum-

mer) onion arrivals are steady and expected to remain till Rabi (winter) arrival from March, 2022. As of February 17, the all-India average price of onion was ruling 22.36 per cent lower than the last year, it said. According to the ministry, onion prices remained substantially stable during 2021-22 due to effective market intervention through the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF). Similarly, all India average retail price of potato was ruling 6.96 per cent lower at Rs 20.58/kg on February 17 from over the last month. "Potato sowing has been delayed in the southern part of West Bengal due to cyclone Jawad, however, the State reported that crop area has recovered almost to the level of last year," the ministry said. The total crop area for 2021-22 is estimated to be comparable with that of last year, it added. Under the PSF scheme, interest-free advances are provided to states for the creation of State-level Price Stabilisation Fund, on a 50:50 shar-

'Just grotesque': US gunmaker unveils semi-automatic rifle for kids!

WASHINGTON: A US gun manufacturer has unveiled a semi-automatic rifle for kids modeled on the AR-15, which has been used in a number of deadly mass shootings, sparking condemnation from gun safety groups. The gun dubbed the JR-15 is being marketed by maker WEE1 Tactical as

particular the National Rifle Association -- wields great influence. On December 14, 2012, a young man used an AR-15 to kill 26 people, including 20 children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. An AR-15 was also used in a Las Vegas attack in 2017 that

that are lighter to handle and often painted in bright colors -- pink, red, orange or metallic purple -- with the aim of drawing in young audiences.

In 2021, firearms killed nearly 45,000 people in the United States, including more than 1,500 minors, according to the organization Gun Violence Archive.

Sale of campaign paraphernalia rises in Uttar Pradesh with Election Commission relaxing COVID curbs

Continued from page-1 cap and miniature bicycle (its election symbol). The cost of 100 medium flags is around Rs 600. The cycle badge costs in the range of Rs 300 to Rs 500 for 100 pieces," he told PTL. ALSO READ | Free of gangster Vikas Dubey, Bikroo villagers say now they can vote without fear of repercussions

He said that as compared to the first phase, the sale has now grown by 50 per cent. However, Shukla rued that major parties such as the SP and the BJP are distributing many campaign material from their headquarters, denting their sale.

Raghuraj Pal who runs a shop near the BJP office said the sale has gone up but not to the level that used to be earlier. As the BJP is giving its candidates some campaign material, the sale is not what it used to be, he added.

Saffron-coloured gamcha is selling in good numbers, besides party flags, banners and badges, he said. Surendra Awasthi, whose shop on Mall Avenue is near the Congress office, said 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon' badges are being sold the most, in addition to wrist bands. CLICK HERE FOR COVERAGE ON UTTAR PRADESH POLLS

Awasthi said the sale of election material has picked up pace after the second phase with the Covid situation improving and the Election Commission relaxing its campaign guidelines. Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur are being held in seven phases. The final phase polling will be held on March 7 and the results will be declared on March 10.

'I am fighting to form majority like in 2007': BSP chief Mayawati attacks BJP and Samajwadi Party

Continued from page-1 moting "casteist, capitalist and narrow-minded ideas of Rashtriya Swamsewak Sangh (RSS)". This has ushered in an environment of religious tension and hate in the state, she claimed.

Mayawati questioned the state of law and order in the state under the BJP and the SP. "Women, people of backward castes and Dalits are not safe under the rule of BJP. People are being harassed on the basis of their caste and religion. This will change when BSP will come to power. Mafia and goons will be sent back to jail which is their right place," said Mayawati.

All rivals will be confined to 'daldal' after polls: Uttar Pradesh deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya

"The BSP is the only party that provided employment to the youths during the last four times it came to power. Our efforts not only stopped migration but also brought people who have migrated to other places back to their homes," she added.

"I want to assure you that the youth will not have to migrate in search of jobs in my government. They will get employment in the state only," said Mayawati The BSP supremo asserted that her party will work for the uplift of people from all sections of society, make arrangements of employment for the youth, provide facilities to farmers and form a commission to fulfil the demands of government employees.

"Farmers and the common man are also suffering from the wrong policies of the central government. The BSP will ensure that the wrong policies of the central government will not be imposed in the state," Mayawati added.



"the first in a line of shooting platforms that will safely help adults introduce children to the shooting sports."

The company's website says the rifle "also looks, feels, and operates just like Mom and Dad's gun." The JR-15 is only 31 inches (80 centimeters) long, weighs less than 2.5 pounds (one kilogram) and comes with magazines of five or 10 rounds of 22 caliber bullets. It was released in mid-January with a price tag of \$389.

The adult model, the AR-15, is the civilian version of a military-style weapon and has been used in multiple mass killings in the United States, including in schools. Mass shootings are a recurrent scourge of the United States, where the right to own weapons is guaranteed by the Constitution.

Attempts to regulate their sale is often blocked in Congress, where the powerful gun lobby -- in par-

left 58 people dead, making it the deadliest shooting in recent US history, and in the Parkland High School shooting in Florida that killed 17 in 2018.

"At first glance this comes across as a grotesque joke. On second look, it's just grotesque," said Josh Sugarmann, executive director of the Violence Policy Center, which seeks to curb gun violence.

Newtown Action Alliance, a group also pushing for limits on firearms, condemned the gun lobby and weapons manufacturers who, it said, "will do anything in pursuit of continued profits."

Sugarmann slammed the imagery used by the manufacturer to attract young customers: a pirate skull with a Mohawk haircut for boys and for girls, a skull with blond bunches and a pink pacifier in its mouth. In his 2016 report on the methods that US arms manufacturers use to attract young people, Sugarmann denounced weapons

ing basis (75:25 in case of NE States).

So far six states, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal have drawn the advance and a total of Rs 164.15 crore has been released as Central share. These states have the funds and mandate to undertake necessary interventions for controlling prices of essential food commodities.

"Other states have also been requested to set up the PSF for state-level interventions to control price rise in essential food commodities," it added.

In the case of tomatoes, prices have been on a decline during the past one month though remained slightly above the last year's level. As of February 1, the all-India average price of tomato was Rs 26.69/kg which is lower than that in the last month.

As arrivals in north India will pick up the pace, prices will go down further in the coming week. Arrivals in South India will also increase in the coming week and will pick up the pace till the end of February, it added.

Kerala Blasters hope for long term continuity besides top-four goals ahead of Mohun Bagan test

KOCHI: Argentine striker Jorge Pereyra Diaz had trouble articulating his thoughts in English when asked what his experience was playing in the Indian Super League and whether he fancied extending his loan spell with Kerala Blasters beyond this season.

With a little help from the head coach Ivan Vukomanovic, the 31-year-old expressed that he was happy to stay on if the club wanted and continue enjoying what he called was a "different experience".

"If Kerala wants me, I would love to come back and that is a possibility. I am very happy and I can see myself being here for another year. I like to

be here and if the clubs can arrange I would be happy to stay," said Diaz

one considering that both teams are fighting for a play-off berth, Blasters

alongside the local players.

It looks like Blasters have built a

and planning for each season.

"You start from zero every season

our players whether it is foreign or Indian players," said

to be seen if the team manages to hold them down.

As Diaz hinted, players have expressed their interest in staying on with the team and it remains to be seen whether the club takes the effort to hold onto them.

"We want to take a professional approach and in the long term it will yield results," added Vukomanovic.

The more immediate focus meanwhile is to consolidate their position in the top four and second-placed Bagan who looked like a rejuvenated outfit under Juan Ferrando is a challenging prospect.

Blasters don't have fond memories of facing Bagan this season

as they had slumped to a 4-2 defeat in the earlier fixture this season.

"That defeat (against ATK Mohun Bagan) feels like it happened three years ago because of what we have achieved so far. It happened a long time ago, and since then many things have changed in our camp. We are now at the final line of the race, it is now about how the teams will respond and enter the fight in what mentality because we have good teams fighting for the points to reach the top. I hope on Saturday, we have a good game because now the players are motivated to show that against one very good team," said Vukomanovic.



prior to their match against ATK Mohun Bagan in the Indian Super League.

While the game against the Mariners is a crucial

head coach stressed the need to plan long term which involved the retention of their core group of players including the foreign players

squad that has the quality to fight for the top honours but Vukomanovic admitted that the focus was just not on getting into the top four this season

if you keep changing the squad and try to build over and over again and you'll never achieve anything. We will do our best to retain most of

Vukomanovic. The likes of Diaz, Adrian Luna, Alvaro Vazquez and Marko Leskovic have stood out this season and it remains

Britain's relay team loses Olympic silver over CJ Ujah's doping violation

LONDON: In one of Britain's biggest Olympic doping scandals, the 4x100-meter relay team was stripped of its silver

graded to silver with China taking bronze. Ujah did not challenge the anti-doping rule violation but his claim to have un-

previously been stripped of Olympic medals — both bronze. Judoka Kerrith Brown produced a positive for a

the BOA said in a statement. "You will get caught. You are not welcome on our team and nor are you representative of our



medal from Tokyo after C.J. Ujah's doping violation was confirmed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Friday. Ujah was part of the quartet alongside Zhanel Hughes, Richard Kilty and Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake that finished second to Italy in a close race by 0.01 seconds in August. But a sample taken from Ujah after the race in the Japanese capital was found to contain the prohibited substances ostarine and S-23, which are muscle-building selective androgen receptor modulators. Canada will be up-

knowingly consumed a contaminated supplement was not accepted. Now the suspended Ujah is waiting for a ruling about a ban from the Athletics Integrity Unit.

"I would like to apologize to my teammates, their families and support teams for the impact which this has had on them," Ujah said in a statement. "I'm sorry that this situation has cost my teammates the medals they worked so hard and so long for, and which they richly deserved. That is something I will regret for the rest of my life." Britain has only twice

diuretic at the 1988 Seoul Games — after claiming to be unaware the substance was prohibited — and a banned stimulant methamphetamine was detected in skier Alain Baxter's sample at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Games after he used a nasal inhaler. The British Olympic Association made no attempt to defend Ujah's actions.

"We welcome his contrition. That said, this should act as a salutary message for anyone — British or otherwise — who is doping or considering doping as a way of boosting their athletic performance,"

values, or of our nation."

Tokyo was Britain's second-most successful overseas Olympics after the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games. Losing a medal prevented Britain from matching the 65-medal haul of the home games in London in 2012.

"All athletes, wherever they are from, deserve to go to the start line knowing they are in clean competition," the BOA said. "It is with deep sorrow that colleagues and opponents of Ujah were not able to be reassured of this fact in Tokyo."

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