

78.6% Polling in Phase III

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Election Commission (SEC) on Monday said 78.6% polling was recorded during the third phase of Panchayat Poll con-

district during the third phase of voting. Angul district has recorded 84.24 per cent polling while it was 74.72 per cent in Balasore, 71.83 per cent in Balangir,

82.72 per cent in Gajapati, 76 per cent in Jagatsinghpur and 71 per cent in Jajpur district. The polling percentage of other districts—Kalahandi—

Mayurbhanj—78.53%, Nabarangpur—86.33%, Nayagarh—78.2%, Nuapada—78.24%, Puri—80.12%, Rayagada—79.44%, Sambalpur—81.07% and Sundargarh—75.45%.

The election was held for 171 Zilla Parishad members at 18,495 booths in 1382 Panchayats of 63 Blocks in 29 districts across the State.

Several violence incidents have been reported in Jajpur district. The Commission has so far received proposals of re-polling in some booths of Bhadrak and Rayagada district. However, the detailed report from Jajpur district will be received soon, said SEC Secretary RN Sahu.



ducted yesterday. Subarnapur district has recorded the highest voters' turnout of 87.44 per cent while lowest 66.75 per cent polling recorded in Ganjam

82.63 per cent in Bargarh, 77 per cent in Bhadrak, 81.31 per cent in Boudh, 79.26 per cent in Cuttack, 79.8 per cent in Deogarh, 80.39 per cent in Dhenkanal,

77.59%, Kandhamal—81.35%, Kendrapara—72.25%, Keonjhar—77.89%, Khurda—76.49%, Koraput—84.78%, Malkangiri—76.63%,

Attack on journalists: Opposition blames BJD

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Political leaders cutting across party lines condemned the attack on journalists outside

Expressing concern over the incident, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said frequent

attacks but there is no place for violence," he added. State BJP general secretary Golak

rigging by the ruling BJD supporters have become rampant and journalists trying to cover such incidents are being brutally assaulted, he said and added many such incidents of violence are going unreported. Condemning the incident, the president of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee Niranjan Patnaik said that the attack on journalists and political opponents with the aim of manipulating the poll process is an attack on democracy and civil society. This is the modus operandi of the BJD during elections in

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a booth in Binjharpur block of Jajpur district while they were covering an alleged incident of booth capturing during the third phase panchayat polls on Sunday.

attacks on media persons is not a good sign in a democracy. He raised questions over the law and order situation in the State. "There can be disagreement in poli-

Mohapatra alleged the ruling BJD is sponsoring such attacks because of the growing support for the BJP in the elections. Booth capturing and

UP polls: BJP gave step-motherly treatment to Raebareli, says Sonia Gandhi

RAEBARELI(KCN): Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday accused the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh of doing nothing in five years except dividing people, and claimed that it had meted out "step-motherly" treatment to her constituency Raebareli.

In her maiden election speech for the ongoing UP polls, Gandhi also hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, accusing them of mismanagement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's going to be an important election because for the last five years you have seen a government which did nothing except divide people," Gandhi said during a virtual address on the



last day of campaign for the fourth phase. Gandhi is the Lok Sabha MP from Raebareli, where voting will take place on February 23 on all five assembly seats of Raebareli (Sadar), Harchandpur, Bachchawan, Sareni and Unchahar.

"We had brought several development schemes for you but the Modi-Yogi government banned all of them. Step-motherly treatment was meted out to Raebareli," Gandhi said. "You

have seen the politics of Congress which is based on service of people and giving rights to people," she said. She said Congress workers have worked really hard in UP in the last

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China to provide J-10C fighter jets to Pakistan

China (KCN): China will deliver 25 J-10C fighter jets to Paki-

pabilities to defend its airspace, The News reported.

craft is being tested in Chengdu, the base of its manufacturer

ferred to Pakistan once Pakistan Air Force pilots and tech-



stan within weeks in a major boost to the countrys military ca-

UK's Financial Times reported that the first batch of combat air-

Chengdu Aerospace Corporation. "They will be trans-

nicians complete an introduction to the

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Opposition smells rat as BMC focuses on 'Ama Clinic' in State Capital

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s move to promote 'Ama Clinic' programme in the State Capital through its social media platform ahead of the urban polls has not gone down well with the opposition parties.

After engaging officials to conduct a physical inspection of hospitals to ensure proper implementation of the health insurance scheme Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana in all empanelled hospitals of the city, the civic body in the last one week has started focusing on proper implementation of

the Ama Clinic programme. BMC has started issuing a list of special-

Psychiatry, etc. Opposition BJP and Congress, however, dubbed it as a poll

a political drama ahead of the civic polls as the government is well aware of



ists who will be available from 8 am to 11 am and 5 pm to 8 pm at the urban primary health centres in the city every day to provide specialist services in O&G, Paediatrics, Medicine and Geriatrics, ENT, Physiotherapy and

gimmick ahead of the urban elections in the city. The parties asked why it took almost five years for the civic body to promote the scheme and raise awareness on it when it is already in place since 2017. "This is nothing but

the crippling public health system in the Capital," said Bhubaneswar District Congress Committee president Biswajit Das. Das alleged the move is a tactic of the government and the civic

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PM favors e-Vidya

New Delhi(KCN): Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has said that there will be positive impact of Union Budget 2022 on the education and skill sectors. The Prime Minister started by emphasizing the importance of the young



generation in the process of nation building. He said "Empowering our youth who are future nation builder, is empowering India's future". The Prime Minister elaborated on five aspects that were highlighted in the Budget 2022. Firstly, Key decisions have been taken for universalization of quality education i.e expansion of education with improved quality

along with enhanced capabilities of the education sector. Secondly, attention has been given to skill development.

Focus is on creating a digital skill ecosystem, skill development as per industry demand and better industry linkages. Thirdly, inclusion of India's ancient experience and knowledge of urban planning and designing into education is important. Fourthly, Internationalization has been emphasized. This involves arrival of world class foreign universities and encouragement of institutions of GIFT City getting Fintech related institutes. Fifth, focus on Animation Visual Effects Gaming Comic (AVGV) where there is huge potential of employment and there is a big global market. "This budget will help a great deal in realizing the National Education Policy", he said. The Prime Minister mentioned that it was digital connectivity that kept the country's education system going during the pandemic. He noted the decreasing digital divide in India. "Innovation is ensuring inclusion in our country. Now going even further, country is moving towards integration", he said. He stressed that measures like e-Vidya, One Class One Channel, digital labs, digital universities are creating an educational infrastructure which will go a long way in helping the youth of the country.

"This is an attempt to

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Distribution of sarees among the workers at Maa Durga Vatika



Rourkela (KCN): Dhanji Bhai Patel, the founder and social worker of Maa Durga Vatika temple, greeted the workers engaged in the construction work of the establishment of Shivling and related works in the premises of Maa Durga Vatika temple located in Basanti Colony of Rourkela in Sundargarh district by providing them new clothes and

sarees. Social worker Dhanji Bhai Patel said that the workers are serving Bholenath with true spirit with their hard work and dedication and this will benefit the culmination and visitors of the temple in the days to come. On this auspicious occasion Santosh Maharaaj, Nandkishore Chaudhary, Urmila Mittal, Aryan Kumar, Ankit Kumar, Super

Twenty Chief Social Worker Nitesh Kumar along with Dhanji Bhai Patel, the founder of Maa Durga Vatika temple were present. Dhanji Bhai Patel, Yoga instructor Urmila Mittal, Nitesh Kumar played a commendable role in getting the clothes distributed among the workers. He said that it is their effort to bring a smile on their faces and happiness by

which they are doing this commendable work. Along with this, social worker Dhanji Bhai Patel has also been distributing food among the helpless and poor and hungry people, people are with him in this commendable work and he roams around the city well and distribution of food under the program of Ram Roti takes place.

Kishore Dwibedi condemns attack on Journalists

Bhubaneswar/New Delhi(KCN): Senior

a statement Shri Dwibedi strongly

vital role in the celebration of democ-



Journalist and Chairman of Journalists Development Council of India (JDCI) Kishore Dwibedi expressed serious concern over the attack on Journalists in Jajpur and Nayagarh districts of Odisha. In

condemned the unfortunate incidents. These kind of aberrations are against democratic process of the constitution and healthy social set up, he observed. As the 4th pillar of democracy, Media plays a

racy through election. Particularly the role and responsibility of Media has been enlarged in manifolds after the invasion of social media, he underlined. These kind of dastardly acts mar the very festive spirit

of the Franchise, he said. Shri Dwibedi demanded drastic action against the culprits involved in the Poll violence. He expressed relieve over the fact that all political parties cutting across partyline and Chief election commissioner of the State have disapproved the ghastly attack on media men. The protest of Journalists across the country will continue till the real miscreants are brought to book and punished, he declared. Shri Dwibedi cautioned the administration to be vigilant not to allow these kind of untoward happenings repeated during the ensuing Municipality elections.

International Mother Language Day Celebrated by SHREYASHI

Kolkata (KCN): Shreyashi online magazine presented a different programme on the eve of International Mother Language Day popularly known as 'Ekushe February'. At the outset Rana Zaman from Dhaka, Bangladesh unfolded the untold anecdotes pertaining to 'Ekushe February' or 'Bhasa Dibas' that announced later by UNESCO as International Mother Language Day in the year 2000. Soumen Kar, Dr. Alok Nath Mishra, Chandan Shit, Pranab kanti Bhattacharya, Sushanta Sahu, Dr. Gagan Chandra De highlighted the key issues regarding multifold aspects in their brief note and poems. Putul Maity's recitation of a poem by Kazi Nazrul Islam fetched standing ovation. Padmalochan Karan, story writer and novelist, brought home of the recently launched novel 'Mahajiban' that centers round a rustic orphaned lass Aparna's sole struggle with sociopolitical issues and attainment of the supreme devotional elevation in the long run. Veteran Poet and The President of Bongiya Sahitya Parishod in Chhattisgarh, Dulal Somaddar presented the whereabouts of Gobind Pal's new released collection of Bengali poems "Samayer Padadhvani" from

the house of New World Publication, New Delhi. Nalini Kanta Padhi's Collection of Odia poems under the title 'Surjyastara Shesh Kotha' (The last words of the Sunset) from Bonaful Publication, Kendrapada also released in the Meet on such auspicious occasion. A multilingual poets' Meet continued in between the programme. Poets like Rojot Sanyal, from Gujrat, Centu Ranjan Chakraborty from Agartala, Gobind Pal and Dulal Somaddar from Chhattisgarh, Pallabi Das from Bankura, Deb kumar Mukhopadhyay from 24 Pragana read poems and reaped the harvest of appreciation. Sanatan Mahakud, Duryadhan Pradhan, Santanu Bisoi, Bijay Kumar Muduli were connected from Odisha and read their poems in Odia. Bilingual Poets like Pradipta Das and Priya Ranjan Das read poems in Odia and English respectively from Jharkhand and Nagaland. Biswayan, an annual Odia magazine on be half of Biswayan Sahitya Sansad, Kharagpur and a by-monthly Bengali magazine named 'Manan' opened to readers in this Meet. The two and half hours long session was anchored by the the editor of the 'Shreyashi' Mr. Barun Kumar Das.

Kasia village confront post vote violence. People demands arrest of miscreants

Barbil(KCN):The across the state of incidences of Odisha in the last



violence came amid series of pre-poll violence reported

fortnight. Last night, in a hamlet Buruhatting of Kasia

village under Bhadrasi Panchayat of Joda block in keonjhar district, some armed supporters of a candidate frightened the inhabitant of the village when they denied to cast their vote in favour of particular party they asked for. As per information given by the people some miscreants had come

loaded in five four wheelers and they tried to pursue for a particular party. When denied by the villagers they attacked people with sticks. Villagers have given one afire at Barbil police station and demanded early arrest of these miscreants. They may not cast their vote if justice denied by the administration as per source.

Awareness Programme on Mask, Cancer and Air Pollution

Kolkata : An NGO of Domjur named Domjur Disha organisers online discussion on 'use off mask, cancer and air pollution'. Founder secretary doctor Monotosh Khanra what's the moderator of the event. Registration panel list for this webinar was professor Naba Kumar Mondal, professor of Burdwan University and doctor Arup Halder, eminent doctor of Woodland Hospital. Expert of this discussion emphasizes on different points pandit friend types of diseases causes due to air pollution. Discussion also in-

cludes the sources of non conventional source of energy. Dr Arup Halder gives a view on different diseases causes due to air pollution. Moderator of the discussion Dr Khanra is the message to new generation to use maximum number of e bike and e cycle reducing air pollution. This webinar technical coordinator was Prof. Souvik Paul, Assistant Professor of The Heritage Academy, Kolkata. Domjur DISHA will continue to organise such webinar in near future to aware more people on the effects of different types of pollution.

Barbil Sishu Mandir will commence it's bilingual education pattern soon

Barbil (KCN):The ShishuMandir,Barbil managed by Sikhya Vikas Samity has decided to add Hindi medium of learning for the Hindi-speaking people of the city and it's adjoining area. Since Barbil is a industrial belt, many people from all over India come for their living either in the form of business or job. As Hindi has become lingual for many of them, parents usually take their children out of the city. Hence the management of BadbilShishu Mandir is going to include Hindi medium in this academic year. The school will impart education in both English and Oriya languages like other Sishumandir established at Rourkela, Bargarh and Kantabanji in Odisha, Jagb-andhuKar, secretary of the

school said in a press meet. Chandragupta Prasad, president of the school, said the school has been feliciated by the Odisha government for four consecutive years since its inception in 1993 and in their new endeavour, it would improve the quality of the students along with spiritual outfitment. Treasurer of the school Rajesh Binani said the academy has the necessary infrastructure for their new hindi medium school and can also be availed based on need. The Head master of the Shishu Mandir Dambrudhar Mahanta adding his statement that the school has proved it's quality and they will retain it's reputation despite all situation. He too believes the school will put a bench mark for others.

NTPC achieves another milestone, surpasses highest annual generation of previous years

New Delhi (KCN): NTPC has recorded a generation of 314.89 Billion Units upto 18th Feb'22, surpassing the maximum annual generation of 314 BU achieved in 2020-21. Last year, the generation was 270.0 BU till 18th Feb, indicating improved performance and an increase in demand for power in the current year. NTPC Korba (2600 MW) in Chattisgarh is the top performing thermal power plant in India with 94.32% Plant Load Factor between April'21 to

Jan'22, as per the data published by Central Electricity Authority. This demonstrates the expertise of NTPC in Operation and Maintenance of the power plants and the high levels of operational excellence. The total installed capacity of NTPC is 67,832.30 MW having 23 coal based, 7 gas based, 1 Hydro, 19 renewable energy projects. Under JV, NTPC has 9 coal based, 4 gas based, 8 hydro and 5 renewable energy projects. Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Amar Patnaik recommends Sangram Keshari Mohanty his representative from Sundargarh



Rourkela (KCN): Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha, member of Parliamentary standing committee on finance, member of joint parliamentary committee on personal data protection bill, member of subordinate legislation Committee and member of Parliamentary Consultive Committee on environment, forest and climate change, Dr. Amar Patnaik recommended the name of Sangram Keshari Mohanty as his representative from Sundargarh district of Odisha to participate in all deliberations and meetings of the Railway Advisory Committee from time to time. It has

been addressed in the letter issued that he may also attend the meeting organized during field visits of General Manager to highlights the issues relating to Railways in Sundargarh district. MP Dr. Amar Patnaik has addressed this letter to the General Manager of South Eastern Railway and sent it's copies to DRM, Chakradharpur division under South Eastern Railway and Social Worker Sangram Keshari Mohanty. Sangram Keshari Mohanty thanked MP Dr. Amar Patnaik for the same and said that he will perform his responsibility for the development of Sundargarh district including Rourkela.

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Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed book

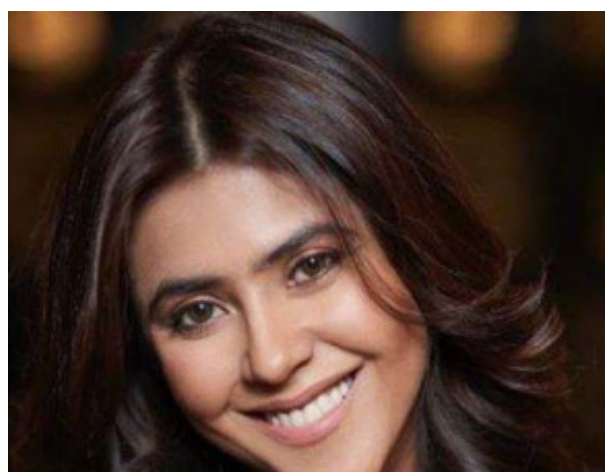


NEW DELHI: Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book #YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the cation, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of the former Chairman

of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

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

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The Supreme



Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for alleged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted interim protection to

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

NEW DELHI(K-CN): Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the



blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.

only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor_has outdone your entire performance in one

movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kidnapping the actor's daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

Ajay Devgn's Mayday has been creating a massive buzz because of its interest-



the icing on the cake is that Ajay Sir is directing the film. It's actually happening!

ing star cast, which includes Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh and Angira Dhar. Talented actress, Aakanksha Singh has now joined the team. Aakanksha will essaying the role of Ajay Devgn's wife in the film. She joined the shoot yesterday. Aakanksha says, "It's like a dream come true to be a part of such a big and much-awaited film. I am so excited to share the screen with Ajay Sir and Amitabh Sir; and

'Wanted to make a film on Indian Army with Shah Rukh Khan', says Director Kabir Khan

MUMBAI(KCN): Filmmaker Kabir Khan, who is gearing up for the release of his web series "The Forgotten Army: Azaadi Ke Liye", based on Indian National Army (INA), says he wanted to make a film on the subject starring Shah Rukh Khan. He added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a fee for the voiceover he gave for the series. "Shah Rukh has very graciously given the voiceover. The series is based on a true story, so there is an introduction of a few minutes before every episode along with real footage, where he has lent his voice. I talked about it with Shah Rukh earlier as well, when this was a film script. Back then, I wanted Shah Rukh to do the film. We even had a few meetings but we couldn't take it forward," said Kabir while promoting the series along with its lead actors Sunny Kaushal and Sharvari Wagh. Kabir added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a single paisa for his voiceover assignment. "When I was making this series, I thought I should ask Shah Rukh (to be the narrator) because Shah Rukh's father had involvement with this army. His father knew General Shahnawaz Khan, who was an important part of INA. So, I knew he (Shah Rukh Khan) has sympathy and attachment with Azad Hind Fauj and I called him up. It's not an easy task to ask a superstar for a voiceover but Shah Rukh instantly agreed to do it. Usually, when you discuss a film with Shah Rukh, it's a long process, but in this case Shah Rukh literally did the voiceover for us on the second day. I don't know whether he would like me to reveal this, but he didn't take a fee from us. I think the kind of attachment he has with Azad Hind Fauj reflects in his act." Incidentally, Shah Rukh did a cameo in Kabir Khan's 2017 release "Tubelight", starring Salman Khan.

Can we ensure that all children return to schools?

Schools are slowly reopening after multiple COVID-19 lockdowns. It is time to



build a better education system that focuses on the needs of the most vulnerable children, especially girls. by SAFEENA HUSAIN

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit India, 12-year-old Rekha's father lost his job. The family lost their income and their home. They were forced to return to a small village in Rajasthan, where Rekha had no school to go to, no mid-day meal, and no menstrual hygiene products. A bigger concern, however, was her future. When an Educate Girls' volunteer visited the family and asked her parents when they were sending their children back to school, Rekha's father said, "I can barely afford to feed my family. My priority now is two square meals for my children."

This is the reality that families across India faced as the crisis deepened, and this is what confronted nonprofits throughout the length and breadth of the country. Before the pandemic, more than 4.1 million girls¹ were not going to school across India. The closure of 1.5 million schools during the pandemic has further impacted over 247 million children enrolled in elementary and secondary schools.

It is estimated that almost 11 million girls are at risk of dropping out of school. Even before the pandemic hit, one out of five girls would drop out of school in Rajasthan, and now due to COVID-19, 14.9 percent children have not even enrolled in schools. The case is similar in Uttar Pradesh, where 54 percent of girls are not sure whether they will return to school post the pandemic.

Nonprofits had to balance the reality of meeting immediate basic needs with anticipating the lasting impact of the crisis on the future of our children. The pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns pushed around 230 million people into extreme poverty in 2020. Consequently, many households in remote parts of India have had to reduce food intake and resort to child labour, forcing many young girls into early marriage and caregiving roles, and making them susceptible to violence and trafficking.

During the COVID-19 crisis, our work at Educate Girls gave us deep insights into the community, and we've had to navigate a very sharp learning curve. Over the last 18 months, more than 15,000 members of Team Balika—a group of village-based community volunteers involved in efforts to ensure education for girls—have worked closely with more than 2.3 lakh children through our community learning initiative called Camp Vidya, reaching 20,000 villages in 21 districts across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh where 40 percent of India's out-of-school girls live. Here are some of our learnings from the pandemic, and things we need to prioritise as we move forward so that children affected by COVID-19 return to school.

1. The sector must adopt a multipronged approach to ensure no child is left behind. The pandemic compounded existing inequalities in the country and impacted different subgroups disproportionately. We, therefore, need to adopt a planned,

multipronged approach to ensure

Safeena Husain

that children affected by COVID-19 in different ways continue their schooling. We need to identify children who are permanently at risk of not returning to school. For instance, for children who were already in school before the pandemic, we need to look at existing school records and ensure that they return without exception. Next, we have to identify new entrants who have attained schooling age, as well as the children of migrant workers who could not access schooling after shifting to a new location. Although difficult, we need to have a system in place to identify each one of them and encourage them to join school. We also need to focus on children belonging to transition grades, especially primary to secondary, where the dropout rates, particularly for girls, are high.



Lastly, we need to identify children who are permanently at risk of not returning to school. These would be children orphaned during COVID-19 and older girls who may now not be eligible for mainstreaming. For example, girls who turned 14 in March 2020 face the highest risk of not returning to school as they would have crossed the age eligibility criteria for admission as per the Right to Education Act. They are also most likely to be married off or expected to take up caregiving roles, further curtailing their return to school. We need an alternate education plan for these children.

2. Policymakers should focus on creating incentives to get children back in school

As we emerge from the pandemic, policies and policymakers must keep the most vulnerable communities at the centre of their thinking and strategy. This holds true particularly for girls as they are now more exposed to gender-based violence, early marriage, forced labour, trafficking, and so on. Therefore, a convergence in education, public health, and agency building is critical. Focusing on vocational training for girls and provision of healthcare and hygiene facilities in schools can be key components in this strategy. An urgent policy-level intervention is also required to make education compulsory for all girls.

More importantly, think tanks, researchers, and policymakers must look to cre-

ate a set of incentives and support programmes that shift the focus back on education for marginalised communities. For example, schools can be incentivised and rewarded based on their capacity to accommodate children like Rekha from low-income households; the government can consider providing free education to girls up to graduation; more seats can be added in government-funded residential hostels such as Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas; and plans can be made to accommodate and allocate extra resources for schools in rural areas where migrant children have returned so as to ensure enough food for an expanded population. Building back better

To build back a better education system, our goal should be to recover the children that lost out on education during the pandemic. We need to put in focused ef-

forts to reform and build back the system in a way that better accommodates the needs of all children, so that no one gets left behind.

hygiene kits. This could encourage re-enrollment, particularly for the most vulnerable. Incorporating bridge courses that help children overcome their learning losses, so that the gap created in education does not impact their learning in the future. This must be followed by age-appropriate learning programmes in the curriculum as children from diverse age groups come back to school. The new curriculum should also focus on the mental and physical well-being of children, given that they missed out almost entirely on learning and interacting with peers during the pandemic. Launching a campaign aimed at getting girls back to school with active support from school management committees and the local government. This is critical as the chances of girls dropping out are higher this year due to the added economic strain caused by COVID-19.

Inclusive funding will be paramount. We have to recognise the fact that the current national and global financing for education is just not sufficient. The funding gap, as estimated by a number of thought leaders, is approximately USD 75 billion per year. And this is just enough to ensure that every child receives an education—this is just the shortfall.

Funding must be inclusive and focus on initiatives that ensure access to quality education

for the most vulnerable children.

The pandemic witnessed rigorous fundraising activities both at the government and non-government levels. Most of these funding initiatives focused on direct relief measures. In the beginning of the pandemic, the focus was largely on providing daily supplies to the masses and setting up digital facilities for education, and this was non-inclusive in nature. In the second wave, the focus shifted to meeting medical emergencies such as oxygen cylinders and ventilators. The massive disproportionate spending on these causes led to the neglect of issues such as education for the most marginalised.

Now, as we seek to build an education system that can withstand future shocks and ensure that no child is left behind, we truly need a war chest. We must be able to persuade global and domestic donors as well as governments that more funding is needed. However, at the same time, this funding must be inclusive and focus on initiatives that ensure access to quality education for the most vulnerable children.

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Now, as we seek to build an education system that can withstand future shocks and ensure that no child is left behind, we truly need a war chest. We must be able to persuade global and domestic donors as well as governments that more funding is needed. However, at the same time, this funding must be inclusive and focus on initiatives that ensure access to quality education for the most vulnerable children. And as we dive deeper into the problems related to the lack of access to resources and education for the most vulnerable communities, it is time to come together and address the problems at the grassroots, keeping the well-being of girls on priority.

The Author is the founder and board member of Educate Girls, a nonprofit that is bridging the gender and literacy gap in India's most marginalised and rural villages since 2007.

Putin mulls independence of separatist Ukraine regions

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin convened top officials Monday to consider recognising the independence of Russia-backed separatist regions in eastern Ukraine.

The meeting of the presidential Security Council comes amid Western fears that Russia could invade Ukraine any moment, using skirmishes in eastern Ukraine as a pretext for an attack.

Putin's statement follows televised statements by separatist leaders, who pleaded with Putin to recognise them as independent states and sign friendship treaties envisaging military aid to protect them from what they described as the ongoing Ukrainian military offensive.

Russia's lower house made the same plea last week.

Ukrainian authorities deny launching an offensive and accuse Russia of provocation amid intensifying shelling along the line of contact.



The Kremlin initially signalled its reluctance to make the move that would effectively shatter a 2015 peace deal for eastern Ukraine that marked a major diplomatic coup for Moscow, requiring Ukrainian authorities to offer a broad self-rule to the rebel regions.

The US and Russian presidents tentatively agreed to meet in a last-ditch effort to stave off a possible Russian invasion of Ukraine, even as sustained shelling continued Monday in a conflict in eastern Ukraine that Western powers fear could provide the spark for a broader war. If Russia invades, as the US warns Moscow has already decided to do, the meeting will be off.

Still the prospect of a face-to-face summit resuscitated hopes that diplomacy could prevent a devastating conflict, which would result in massive casualties and huge economic damage across Europe, which is heavily dependent on Russian energy. Russia has massed an estimated 150,000 troops on three sides of Ukraine — the

Supreme Court seeks reply from Centre, states on plea seeking law for adherence to fundamental duties

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday sought response from the Centre and states on a plea seeking direction for enacting well defined laws/rules to ensure adherence to the fundamental duties as enshrined in the Constitution.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M M Sundresh issued notice on the plea filed by Supreme Court lawyer Durga Dutt.

The plea sought issuance of directives ensuring adherence to the mandates as postulated under Part IV-A of the Constitution and said that non-adherence to them has a direct bearing on the exercise and enjoyment of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 14, 19, 21 for formulation and operationalisation of appropriate scheme providing incentives to the citizenry for their adherence.

"Moreover, it may be just and appropriate for this court to frame guidelines for regulation and effective implementation for fundamental duties in exercise of the plenary and extraordinary power of this court under Article 32 and 142 of the Constitution until the scheme in this regard is formalised by the respondents," said the plea filed through advocate Karunakar Mahalik. The plea said the fundamental duties are intended to serve as a constant reminder to every citizen that while the Constitution conferred on them certain fundamental rights specifically, it also requires citizens to observe certain basic norms of democratic conduct and behaviour because rights and duties are correlative.

"The fundamental duties are an important tool to protect the unity and integrity of several institutions including the judiciary. It is submitted that every citizen must learn how to respect the institutions of this country. There have been cases where Fundamental Duties have been brazenly flouted by the people including the officers of the law and which in turn resulted in violation of fundamental rights of other citizen," the plea said.

Dutt said his plea aims to address the issue of

biggest such buildup since the Cold War.

And Western officials have warned that Russian President Vladimir Putin is now looking for a pretext to invade the country, a western-looking democracy that has defied Moscow's attempts to pull it back into its orbit.

Even as diplomatic efforts inched forward, potential flashpoints multiplied. Fighting escalated in eastern Ukraine, Russia said it had fended off an "incursion" from Ukraine, which Ukrainians officials denied, and Russia decided to prolong military drills in Belarus. Moscow denies it has any plans to attack, but wants Western guarantees that NATO won't allow Ukraine and other former Soviet countries to join as members. It has also demanded the alliance halt weapons deployments to Ukraine and roll back its forces from Eastern Europe, demands flatly rejected by the West. With the prospect of war looming, French President Emmanuel Macron scrambled to broker a meeting between US President Joe Biden and Putin.

Macron's office said both leaders had "accepted the principle of such a summit," to be followed by a broader meeting that would include other "relevant stakeholders to discuss security and strategic stability in Europe".

The language from Moscow and Washington was more cautious, but neither side denied a meeting is under discussion.

US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the administration has always been ready to talk to avert a war, but was also prepared to respond to any attack. "So when President Macron asked President Biden yesterday if he was prepared in principle to meet with President Putin, if Russia did not invade, of course President Biden said yes," he told NBC's "Today" show on Monday. "But every indication we see on the ground right now in terms of the disposition of Russian forces is that they are, in fact, getting prepared for a major attack on Ukraine. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Monday that Putin and Biden could meet if they consider it "feasible," but emphasised that it's premature to talk about specific plans for a summit.

Macron's office said that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov are set to lay the groundwork for the potential summit when they meet Thursday. The French leader has been trying to play go-

national importance and to promote commitment amongst citizens towards each other and towards the nation as it contributes towards development and progress of the nation.

"The petitioner is constrained to invoke the jurisdiction of this court because the existing laws are inadequate for ensuring performance of the fundamental duties," it said.

The plea further added that except for some scattered legislations, there is neither a uniform policy nor a comprehensive code for enforcement of fundamental duties.

It said that while citizens show a serious concern towards fundamental rights, they often forget that there is a corresponding Constitutional and moral obligation upon them to perform the fundamental duties.

"It is further apt to state that at the advent of COVID-19 pandemic and then the manner in which it was cynically exploited to stoke communalism, on social media and TV channels...Therefore, it is need of the hour that certain moral obligations be converted to legal obligations by enacting legislation and framing guidelines, so that if in future such situation arises, we as a nation shall be seen standing together with united efforts", it said. The plea also sought direction for setting up of an independent high-powered committee, headed by a retired chief justice or judge of this court or High Court and consisting of distinguished citizens from different fields/professions and concerned officials of the stakeholders and the respondents, to scrutinise and review the entire legal framework relating to the effective implementation of Part IV-A of the Constitution and recommendation of appropriate guidelines needed to be laid down by this court. It sought directions to Centre and states for framing of guidelines for taking appropriate steps to sensitize people and spread general awareness among the citizens in relation to performance of fundamental duties under the Constitution.

between to avert a new war in Europe, and his announcement followed a flurry of calls by Macron to Putin, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Even as the diplomacy pressed ahead, there were signs it might not head off a broader conflict. Russia and its ally Belarus announced Sunday that they were extending massive war games on Belarus' territory, which could offer a staging ground for an attack on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, located just 75 kilometers (less than 50 miles) south of the border.

Starting Thursday, shelling also spiked along the tense line of contact that separates Ukrainian forces and Russian-backed rebels in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of Donbas.

Over 14,000 people have been killed since conflict erupted there in 2014, shortly after Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

Ukraine and the separatist rebels have traded blame for massive cease-fire violations with hundreds of explosions recorded daily.

The world is watching the fighting warily since Western officials have warned for weeks that Russia would look for a pretext to invade, and that the conflict in Donbas could provide just such an excuse. On Friday, separatist officials announced the evacuation of civilians and military mobilisation in the face of what they described as an imminent Ukrainian offensive on the rebel regions.

Ukrainian officials have strongly denied any plans to launch such an attack.

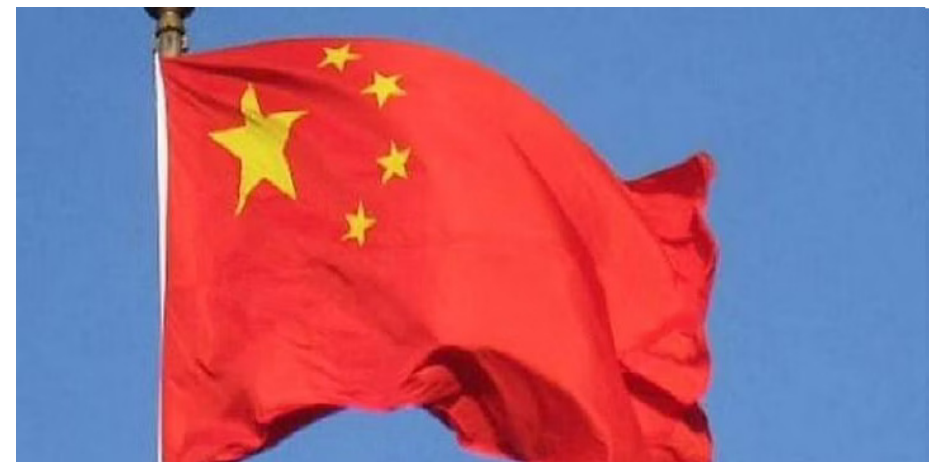
While Russia-backed separatists have charged that Ukrainian forces were firing on residential areas, Associated Press journalists reporting from several towns and villages in Ukrainian-held territory along the line of contact have not witnessed any notable escalation from the Ukrainian side and have documented signs of intensified shelling by the separatists that destroyed homes and ripped up roads. Some residents of the main rebel-held city of Donetsk described sporadic shelling by Ukrainian forces, but they added that it wasn't on the same scale as earlier in the nearly 8-year-old conflict in the east.

The separatist authorities said Monday that at least four civilians were killed by Ukrainian shelling over the past 24 hours and several others were wounded.

China sanctions Raytheon and Lockheed due to arms sales to Taiwan

TAIPEI: China said on Monday that it will impose new sanctions on US defense contractors Raytheon Technologies and Lockheed Martin due to their arms sales to Taiwan, stepping up a feud with Washington over security and Beijing's strategic ambitions.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin announced the move at a daily press briefing, citing a newly passed Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law that took effect in 2021. It was in response to a \$100 million deal approved by the US for maintenance of Taiwan's missile defense systems by the two companies. "China once again urges the US government and relevant parties to stop arms sales to Taiwan and sever military ties with Taiwan," Wang said. "China will continue to take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard its sovereignty and security interests in accordance with the development of the situation," he



said without giving any details. Taiwan is a democratically self-governed island that communist-ruled China claims as its own territory. The two sides split amid civil war in 1949. The US has no formal relations with Taiwan but is its main ally. It has increased weapons sales in recent years, angering China with the sales. US law requires the government to ensure Taiwan can defend itself. Beijing regularly pressures American companies to try to influence US policy. In October 2020, Beijing also announced sanctions against Raytheon and other defense contrac-

Ukraine's military said two Ukrainian soldiers were killed over the weekend, and another serviceman was wounded Monday.

Ukrainian military spokesman Pavlo Kovalchuk said the separatists were "cynically firing from residential areas using civilians as shields." He insisted that Ukrainian forces weren't returning fire. In another worrying sign, Moscow also alleged that forces from Ukraine crossed into Russia's Rostov region. The Russian military said it killed five suspected "saboteurs" who crossed from Ukraine and also destroyed two armored vehicles. Ukrainian Border Guard spokesman Andriy Demchenko dismissed the Russian claim as "disinformation". Amid the heightened invasion fears, the US administration sent a letter to the United Nations human rights chief claiming that Moscow has compiled a list of Ukrainians to be killed or sent to detention camps after the invasion. The letter, first reported by the New York Times, was obtained by the AP.

Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, said the claim was a lie and no such list exists.

Throughout the crisis, Ukraine's leaders have sought to project calm, repeatedly playing down the threat of an invasion.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said Monday that Russia has amassed 147,000 troops around Ukraine, including 9,000 in Belarus, arguing that the number is clearly insufficient for an offensive on the Ukrainian capital from the north.

"The talk about an attack on Kyiv from the Belarusian side sounds ridiculous," he said, charging that Russia is using the troops there as a scare tactic.

The European Union's top diplomat, foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, welcomed the prospect of a Biden-Putin summit but said the 27-nation bloc has finalized its package of sanctions for use if Putin orders an invasion.

"The work is done. We are ready," said Borrell. He provided no details about who might be targeted. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said Monday that the European Union has also agreed to send military officers to the country in an advisory role. It's likely to take several months to set up.

tors and relevant American individuals. A day later, the State Department said it had notified Congress of plans for a \$2.37 bil-

lion sale of Harpoon attack missiles to Taiwan. It's unclear what penalties, if any, were imposed. US weapons or military aircraft sales to Taiwan in 2010, 2015 and 2019 drew similar threats of sanctions. China maintains that US arms sale to Taiwan violates its so-called "one-China principle" and provisions of agreements between Beijing and Washington. Tensions over Taiwan have been mounting as Beijing has stepped up military activity

around the island to try to force concessions from the pro-independence administration of President Tsai Ing-wen. The Communist

Party also is using the Chinese mainland's growing economic weight to pressure other governments to cut diplomatic and unofficial ties with Taiwan. Raytheon, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and other defense industry giants face controls on sales to China of military and dual-use technologies that have both defense and commercial applications. But they also have major civilian businesses and China is a huge market for aviation, among other industries.

Fishing Cat in Bhitarkanika! Fourth phase Poll in 163 ZP

Bhubaneswar: A rare variety of Fishing Cat has been located in Bhitarkanika National Park, thanks to an initiative of

1956. Similarly, 'The Statesman', Calcutta of 18 April 1962, reported the occurrence of caracal in

(Pardofelis marmorata) and Caracal (Caracal caracal).

In fact Bhitarkanika National Park houses wild animals including Fishing cats.

Rajiv Kumar, Chairman Odisha Biodiversity Board asked the researchers to go for such a study in Bhitarkanika National Park.

Under this backdrop, Odisha Biodiversity Board (OBB) has initiated a Research

smaller cat species its status is very poorly understood.

Apart from few recent surveys in specific locations, no intensive effort has been undertaken to assess its current distribution and threats to its persistence within Odisha.

The present study has been focused on distribution status and abundance of fishing cat in their natural habitats like

Bhubaneswar: The smooth conduct of fourth phase of the election at tight security measures have been put

seats and their fate will be decided by the voters tomorrow. In view of the declining trend of Covid-19 cases in the State, the Commission has relaxed certain restrictions imposed earlier for counting of votes of the ongoing Panchayat Polls. The SEC on Monday wrote to all district Collectors in this regard.

As per the latest order, there is no need to undergo compulsory Covid-19 testing (RT-PCR or Antigen) to enter into the counting centres within 48 hours of the commencement of counting.

Now, all persons entering the counting centres should be thermally scanned. Only double vaccinated persons will be allowed inside the counting centres. Besides, those showing Covid-19 symptoms will not be allowed into the counting centres. The counting of votes will be done on February 26, 27 and 28.



Odisha Biodiversity Board.

It is known that the Fishing Cat is included in the Schedule-I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Swarup Kumar, a young researcher of Odisha Biodiversity Board has found out the Fishing cat after he fixed a camera trap inside the Bhitarkanika National Park and the vulnerable specie was sighted on 15 February. Reports say that a Marbled Cat was last sighted in Phulbani forests in

Mayurbhanj district. Thereafter their existence has not been reported in the state. At present only six species of wild cats are reported to occur in Odisha, Researchers say.

Out of fifteen living species of wild cats found in India, eight species were known to occur in Odisha. These are Tiger (Panthera tigris), Leopard (Panthera pardus), Jungle Cat (Felis chaus), Leopard Cat (Prionailurus bengalensis), Fishing Cat (Prionailurus viverrinus), Rusty-Spotted Cat (Prionailurus rubiginosus), Marbled Cat



Project on fishing cat in Bhitarkanika National Park the only notified National Park of Odisha.

The fishing cat is a medium sized cat that is widely but erratically distributed across the Odisha State and is strongly associated with wetlands. It is among the six felid species that presently inhabit Odisha and like other

Bhitarkanika National Park through camera trap exercise. The camera trap is an important and appropriate conservation tool to study the animal behavior also, said a Researcher of OBB. OBB has decided to go for more research projects in the state as Odisha is rich in Biodiversity, said a senior official of the Board.



three-tier Panchayat elections in the State will be held at 163 Zilla Parishad (ZP) zones in 27 districts tomorrow.

The State Election Commission (SEC) has made necessary arrangements for

17,089 booths in 12,54-Gram Panchayats (GPs) in 64 Blocks, said Commission Secretary, R N Sahu here on Monday.

The SEC has identified 2,563 booths as sensitive booths and

in place in these booths. Over 51.31 lakh voters are eligible to cast their votes in this phase, he said.

At least 667 candidates are in fray for the 163 ZP Member

Prof RN Acharya appointed Director General of CCRAS

BHUBANESWAR: Professor of Gujarat Ayurveda University Dr Rabinarayan Acharya has been ap-

pointed Director-General of Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), New Delhi. T

The Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet approved the appointment of Prof Acharya as DG of CCRAS for a period of five years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Prof Acharya is the first from Odisha to head the Central institution under the Ministry of AYUSH. A native of Nalibar village in Jagatsinghpur dis-

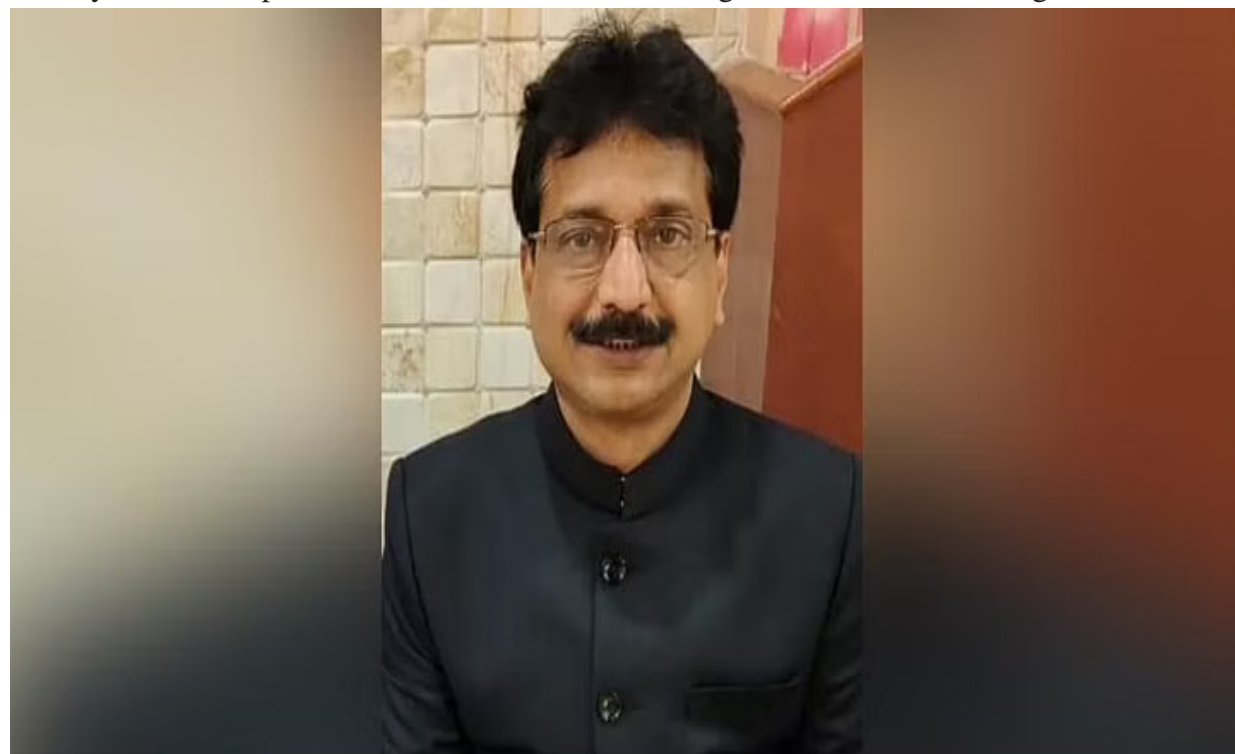
trict, Prof Acharya is presently serving as Dean and Head of Dravyaguna department at Institute for Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (IPGT & RA), Jamnagar. Having more than 26 years of teaching and research experience in various fields of drug research, he has worked on standardisation of 13 poisonous plant drugs by using Shodhana. He had established the impact of Shodhana for their better therapeutic application besides creating awareness among physicians. Prof Acharya had completed his post-graduation in 1996

and PhD in 2002 from Gujarat Ayurveda University and his undergraduate degree from Utkal

standards and safety studies on over two dozens extra pharmacopoeial drugs to encourage further clinical research. He has authored five books and worked as a temporary advisor to World Health Organisation (WHO).

Violence swells: Cops, BDO, scribes attacked as sweeps through polls

BHUBANESWAR: Hooliganism and anarchy reached its peak as violence and arson swept through third phase polling for panchayat elections across the State. And no one was spared. Election officer, policemen and journalists came under attack with cops watching as mute spectators while incidents of booth rigging and ballot box loot were reported from several districts. In Jajpur, miscreants attacked block development officer (BDO) of Korei Anjan Kumar Parida near a polling booth at Soti village under Goleipur panchayat. The BDO, who was the election officer of Korei, had gone to the booth after receiving information regarding irregularities in the polling process. Parida, who sustained injuries, lodged a complaint against the assailants with the police.





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Himalayan baba may actually be former bureaucrat from Finance Ministry, claims source

NEW DELHI: The CBI and tax authorities have swooped down on former MD & CEO of the National Stock Exchange Chitra Ramkrishna. But they have not been able to find the identity of the so-called Himalayan Baba who ran India's biggest stock exchange from behind the scenes.

Highly placed sources told The New Indian Express that this person is no baba and has nothing to do with the Himalayas, and is most



likely from the other end of the country. They say he is a former bureaucrat from the Union finance ministry who was in charge of the capital markets and is credited with shaping the career of Ramkrishna and helping her reach the top at NSE.

Strongly rejecting the possibility of NSE's Chief Strategy Advisor Anand Subramaniam being the Baba, sources said there were some people, who wanted the issue to be closed by making Subramaniam the person who was communicating with Ramkrishna using the email id rigyajursama@outlook.com.

If Subramaniam is established as the Baba, then the serious charge of leaking sensitive information to an outsider would go away. This theory of Subramaniam being the Baba is also being pushed by the NSE board.

SEBI, however, has rejected this theory after a detailed investigation into the matter. SEBI investigation has also established that the NSE board had full knowledge of Ramkrishna sharing sensitive NSE information with an unknown person who used the email id rigyajursama@outlook.com.

ALSO READ | CBI quizzes Ravi Narain over latest revelations in NSE case

Yet, the board allowed her to resign and leave and took no action against her. In fact, the board thanked her for her services. Sources said members of the board are also likely to be probed as investigation widens in the case. According to sources, the name of this bureaucrat who used the identity of a baba would come out if the CBI dives deep into the case. "But if the case is investigated like the collocation scam where NSE was allowed to get away with a fine, then the baba will remain a mystery," sources said.

They said that NSE's theory that Subramaniam used the fake id in order to communicate with Ramkrishna and seek favours from her is deliberately misleading. "The person using rigyajursama@outlook.com id is known intricate details of NSE's functioning and hierarchy. Subramaniam was a novice. He came

InterGlobe Aviation's shares fall over four per cent after Rakesh Gangwal's resignation

NEW DELHI: the morning trade. IndiGo co-promoter Rakesh Gangwal on Friday resigned from the board of directors of parent company InterGlobe Aviation.

He further stated 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. Shares of InterGlobe Aviation Ltd dived over four per cent during the early trade on Monday, after Rakesh Gangwal resigned from the company's board of directors. On the BSE, the shares were down 4.47 per cent to Rs 2,025.45 apiece. Likewise, on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the scrip declined 4.31 per cent to trade at Rs 2,025.2 during

from outside. The authoritative tone of the messages from that mail id is a clear giveaway about the seniority and knowledge of the user," sources said.

They said Subramaniam could never have told Ramkrishna, "You will vomit all that is required as always." This is a communication from a tutor to a pupil. Not from a junior to his senior, they said.

In a mail, the unknown baba tells Ramkrishna "don't worry, the straw known when to be a capillary and when not to. Kanchan (Subramaniam) will be the straw and I will be the suction force for this and you will vomit all that is required as always." Here, the unknown person is telling Ramkrishna to repeat his lines in discussions with SEBI, PMO and finance ministry on the listing of stock exchanges.

During the course of investigation in the collocation case, SEBI came across certain documentary evidence, which demonstrate that the MD & CEO of NSE had shared certain internal confidential information of NSE viz Organizational Structure, Dividend Scenario, Financial Results, Human Resources Policy and related Issues, Response to Regulator etc with an unknown person by addressing her correspondence to an email id rigyajursama@outlook.com during the period 2014 to 2016.

SEBI investigator Ananta Barua concluded, "I find the allegation that Noticee no. 6 (Subramaniam) has exploited Noticee no. 1 (Ramkrishna) by creating another identity before her in the form of the unknown person having email id rigyajursama@outlook.com to guide her perform her duties according to his wish, is not sustainable."

ALSO READ | Former NSE chief's Yogi story a ploy to save North Block bosses under UPA: BJP

SEBI said it was unfortunate that the head of the leading and largest stock exchange in India has had to resort to such attempts to justify her actions of sharing confidential information pertaining to NSE with an unknown person.

"I find that it is a bizarre attempt at concealing the identity of the unknown person. Clearly, such an attempt is unacceptable. I note that the Noticee no. 1 (Ramkrishna) herself has stated that - "Who else and whom he would correspond with was outside my purview. He may have corresponded with any others too", and therefore, Noticee no. 1 has no assurance herself that the confidential information she has passed on to the unknown person is not being passed on to other persons. Therefore, I find that it is a glaring breach of the regulations and laws in place that requires key officials and employees to maintain confidential information of the company, which in this case being NSE, which is the leading and largest stock exchange in India," the SEBI order said.

China to provide J-10C fighter jets to Pakistan

aircraft," a journalist, working with a Chinese military publication, told FT.

Senior officials in Islamabad said the jets would be delivered before the end of the month, the report added.

The images of the J-10C fighter jet with the marking of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) recently surfaced on social media and were widely circulated by media outlets.

First published on social media last week, the images show two J-10Cs, equipped with China's domestically developed WS-10B Taihang turbofan engines, undertaking test flights at an undisclosed location.

"If confirmed, this could be the first time China has exported the J-10 series fighter and also the first time it has exported the WS-10 series engine," observers said.

Commenting on the matter, Chinese analysts have lauded the latest defence cooperation between the two countries, saying that the move yields great significance to them, in terms of boosting combat capabilities of the Pakistan military, promoting China's aviation equipment, and responding to their security interests in the region, The News reported.

UP polls: BJP gave step-motherly treatment to Raebareli, says Sonia Gandhi

Continued from page-1

five years and 8,000 party workers were jailed while fighting for the rights of the people in the state.

"Brothers and sisters, I consider myself an inseparable part of your family. We are committed to pursuing a politics which makes your life better. We want to give you an MLA who works day and night for you, and makes policies that empower you," Gandhi said.

"In this election, strengthen the 'hand' (party symbol) of the Congress and select the politics which will make your future better. Ensure victory of all our candidates in Raebareli with a huge mandate," she appealed.

The Congress is faced with stiff challenge in Raebareli as its both MLAs (Aditi Singh from Harchandpur) have crossed over to the BJP and are fighting on the lotus symbol.

The five assembly seats have a combined voter count of over 17 lakh, including around eight lakh women. The district, adjoining Lucknow, has a population of around 30 lakh.

After winning over Amethi, once a so-called bastion of the Congress, the BJP is making every effort to completely wash out the grand old party in Sonia Gandhi's home turf of Raebareli in the 2022 UP polls.

Noting that the Congress brought in a legislation like MNREGA to empower people with the right to work and help them have a better life, Gandhi said it is a pity that during a crisis (pandemic), the budget for MNREGA was reduced instead of being increased.

She recalled how people faced difficult times during the peak of the Covid pandemic, unable to get oxygen, medicines and even beds in hospitals and many lost their loved ones.

On the other hand, she noted that the pandemic also disrupted the work and business of many people while many endured the pain of having to walk for miles on foot during the lockdown.

"The Modi-Yogi government gave proof of how irresponsible they are. They turned away their faces from your problems and shut their eyes to your woes. Not only this, their behaviour towards you was also not good during the lockdown. The government did not provide you any relief," she said.

She also targeted the Centre and the state government over the issues of farmers, youth and inflation. She said farmers work hard to grow crops for everyone but in the last five years they neither got an appropriate price for their produce, nor fertilizers or facilities for irrigation.

"Farmers got under burden of debt while stray animals kept ruining their crops," Gandhi said. Similar is the condition of the youth, who study hard and prepare for jobs but the BJP government forced them to sit at home, she said.

"There are 12 lakh vacant government jobs in the state but you were not given jobs," the Congress chief noted.

She said the price of petrol, diesel, cooking gas and mustard oil have become unaffordable for people and running a household has become difficult, and added that inflation also hit women who somehow managed to save small amounts of money.

Hitting out at the government over the unemployment situation, Gandhi said instead of reducing the burden of people, the government sold out many companies at low prices to its "friends", which resulted in joblessness.

She said the Congress party has come with a "new vision" for politics in Uttar Pradesh. "Jobs for youth, rights to women, facilities to farmers and relief to everyone from inflation are envisioned under this new politics," Gandhi said. "We have prepared 'shakti vidhan' for women, 'bharti vidhan' for youth and 'unnati vidhan' for development of UP. I am happy that Priyanka has allotted 40 per cent of the party ticket to women candidates this time," she added. The elections to the 403 assembly seats of Uttar Pradesh are being held in seven phases this time from February 10 to March 7. Results of all phases will be declared on March 10.

Opposition smells rat as BMC focuses on 'Ama Clinic' in State Capital

Continued from page-1

body to hide their failure in managing the Covid situation and dengue menace in the Capital in recent years. Aam Aadmi Party leaders also alleged that though the State government implemented the scheme, which is similar to Mohalla Clinic concept launched by the Delhi government in 2015, it has miserably failed in providing services and treatment to patients in urban areas.

Most of the government-run health centres in the Capital don't have a sufficient number of doctors to offer services under Ama Clinic. Besides, those on duty are often prescribing prescriptions to patients to purchase medicine from private dispensaries, the party leaders alleged. The BJD leaders, however, termed the allegations of the opposition as baseless and said it has nothing to do with the urban polls. A senior health official from BMC also said they have started sharing details of doctors only to streamline the implementation of the programme in the Capital.

Attack on journalists: Opposition blames BJD

Continued from page-1

Odisha, he added. A delegation of Congress leaders submitted a memorandum to the State Election Commission and demanded immediate transfer of Jajpur SP over the incident. Organisational secretary of BJD Pranab Prakash Das took to Twitter to condemn the attack on the journalists. "There is no place for such acts of violence in a democracy. Odisha police will take strict action against the culprits in accordance with the law," he said.

Meanwhile, senior journalists on Sunday met the SEC and demanded strict action against those involved in the attack on the scribes.

PM favors e-Vidya

Continued from page-1

provide better education solutions to villages, poor, Dalits, backwards and tribal people in the country's socio-economic set up", he added. In the recently announced National Digital University, the Prime Minister saw an innovative and unprecedented step that has the potential of fully addressing the problem of seats in the universities. He called upon Education Ministry, UGC and AICTE and all the stakeholders of the Digital University to work with speed on the project. He emphasized the need to keep international standards in mind while creating institutes.

On the International Mother Language Day today, the Prime Minister underlined the link between education in the medium of mother language and the mental development of children. He informed that in many states medical and technical education is also being imparted in the local languages. The Prime Minister called for momentum in creating best content in digital format in local Indian languages. He emphasized that such content needs to be available via Internet, Mobile phones, TV and radio. He reiterated the requirement to keep the work with regard to content in sign languages going with due priority.

The Prime Minister said "dynamic skilling is critical from the point of view of global talent demand for Aatm Nirbhar Bharat." He highlighted the need to prepare the 'demographic dividend' of the country as per the demands of the changing job roles. Digital Ecosystem for skilling and Livelihood and e-Skilling labs were announced in the budget with this vision in mind, he said.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister explained how recent changes in the budgetary process are turning budget as a tool of transformation. He asked the stakeholders to implement the budget provisions seamlessly on the ground. He said that by advancing budget by one month in recent times, it is being ensured that when it is implemented from first April, all preparation and discussion is already undertaken. He asked the stakeholders to ensure optimum outcome from the budget provisions. "In the context of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and National Education, this is the first budget, which we want to implement quickly for laying down the foundation of the Amrit Kaal", he continued "budget is not just an account of statistics, budget, if implemented properly, can bring great transformation even with limited resources", he concluded.

At first I declined offer to join ISL: League's highest scorer Ogbeche

MARGAO: Ace Nigerian forward Bartholomew Ogbeche, who recently surpassed Indian captain Sunil Chhetri to become

end. While the Nigerian striker took his league tally to 51 goals, his 16 goals in as many games this season puts him in a

friend who played in ISL. I spoke to him and did my due diligence. I heard a lot of fantastic things about ISL and gave it a second thought. "Offers

shield.

Currently, he has scored 14 goals for Hyderabad, topping this season's goal-scoring charts. Ogbeche in hindsight felt assured he made the right move to join ISL against the wishes of his close ones. "Friends and family suggested not to move to India at the time. But I listened to my heart and was convinced that I was making the right choice for my career. It turned out to be a shrewd decision and I am really thankful." The 37-year-old credited his formative years at the Paris Saint Germain academy for his longevity. "I feel I am doing the best job in the world. There are millions in the world who would love to do what I am doing." "I was very lucky to have played with some of the best players to have ever played the game at the very start of my career. Ronaldinho, Jay-Jay Okocha, and Nicolas Anelka took me under their wings like a little brother, and that shaped me both as a footballer and a person."



the highest scorer in the ISL, says he declined the initial offer to join the league. Veteran striker Chhetri recently became the first player to cross the 50-goal mark in the Indian Super League with a fine performance against Hyderabad FC. Both Chhetri and Hyderabad's Ogbeche were on 49 goals each, when the India captain won the race to reach the half-century milestone. The four season-old Ogbeche, however, overtook the Bengaluru skipper with a brace during Hyderabad's 3-2 victory over the week-

position to win the Golden Boot award. Ogbeche reached the 50-goal mark in just 73 games, 38 lesser than Chhetri. Ogbeche, speaking on ISL's weekly podcast Lets Football Live, revealed he almost declined the opportunity to join the ISL. "At first I declined to be completely honest. I said no, I was not going to go there," Ogbeche said. The Nigerian striker was reassured by friend and former ATK striker Kalu Uche to take up the offer from NorthEast United FC in 2018. "However, I had a

came back a second time, I said I would think about it. When they came for the third time, I took it more seriously," Ogbeche said. Into his fourth ISL season, Ogbeche has represented four different clubs and racked up 49 goals from 71 appearances. He has scored 12 for NorthEast United in his first season and followed it up with 15 at Kerala Blasters in 2019-20. Last season, Ogbeche joined Mumbai City, for whom he scored eight goals and ended up winning the enviable double -- the ISL trophy and the League

Dubai Tennis Championships: Sania Mirza and Lucie Hradecka pair lose in semifinals



DUBAI: Trailblazing Indian tennis star Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka fritted away a great opportunity to lose the Dubai Tennis Championships doubles semifinal here. After dominating the first set, Sania and Hradecka lost 6-2 2-6 7-10 to Lyudmyla

Kichenok of Ukraine and Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko on Friday night. The Indo-Czech duo, which had received a wild card for the tournament, saved 11 break points while converting two of the three in the first set to take a 1-0 lead in the WTA 500 tournament.

However, the two were unable to keep the momentum going as Kichenok and Ostapenko levelled the proceedings in the second set and then eventually sealed the match in their favour. The veteran Indian had won the doubles title here in 2013 with USA's Bethanie

Mattek-Sands. The 35-year-old, who is India's most accomplished woman tennis player having won six Grand Slam titles, including three mixed doubles trophies, had earlier announced that 2022 would be her last season.

IDCA to organise third KFC one-day national zone cricket championship for deaf



NEW DELHI: The Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) on Monday said it is organising the third KFC one-day national zone cricket championship for players with hearing impairment from February 23-27. The 50-over tourna-

ment, to be hosted by Madhyanchal Cricket Society of The Deaf in Madhya Pradesh, will witness the best deaf cricketing talent from across the country. Good performances in the tournament will help the players to stake a national team claim for

the Deaf ICC T20 Champions Trophy, to be held in Qatar. The champion team will get a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh while the runners-up will pocket Rs 50,000. The Man of the Series will get Rs 5100, while the best bowler and best batter will

pocket Rs 2500 per match. Sumit Jain, IDCA president, said, "Our hardworking players are positive about reserving a spot for the Deaf ICCT20 Champions Trophy. We wish all the teams and its participants all the very best."

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