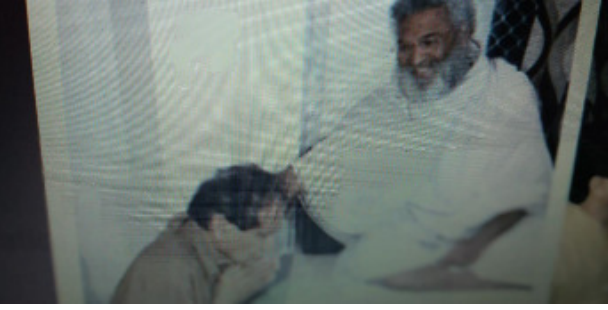


Suresh Prabhu and Ms Uma Prabhu attend several programmes in Indore, Madhya Pradesh

Kolkata (KCN): Honourable Shri Suresh Prabhakar International conference. Met several Madhya

and guidance of sri davish jain .Young innovators are doing Was wonderful to meet you all with my political colleagues



Prabhu MP (and former Union Minister for Multiple ministries) and Ms Uma Prabhu, Senior Journalist and CEO, MSVS were invited to attend several programmes in Indore Madhya Pradesh. Commenting briefly about their Indore and Ujjain tour, Sri Prabhu said, "Happy to have visited Madhya Pradesh for 2 days. To attend several programmes. Addressed Prestige management school

Pradesh BJP colleagues. Visited soyabean institute. Met many delegations. Had meaningful discussion with Jain congregation. Met farmers and traders during our visit to Indore and Ujjain. It was Nice to meet team of innovative minds at Prestige education institutes in Indore. Was very impressed to see the commitment at Atal Incubation center run under able leadership of Sri sanjeev patni

fantastic job in several sectors." Shri Bharat Jhalani, Real estate Consultant and Director, Finance and Operations, Abika Hotels Indore said, "What an honour it was to briefly host Sri suresh prabhakar prabhu ji and Mrs Uma Prabhu at Abika Hotels, Indore. Your humility and incisiveness is very inspiring. Hope to see you soon Sir ?? Jai Shree Mahakal."

Sri Prabhu replied (to Sri Jhalani) by saying, "Pleasure was purely mine and of Ms Uma Prabhu.

Thank you for your family's gracious



hospitality. Our visit to Ujjain and Sri mahakal was extremely satisfying

Yogi seeks vote for those who 'save' cows; promises monthly stipend of Rs 900 per cow

AYODHYA(KCN): Launching a campaign for the fifth phase of the Uttar Pradesh elections, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday asked people to vote for those who "pro-

The farmers who rear cows will get a stipend of Rs 900 per month per cow, he announced, adding that his government will not compromise with the security of cows under any circumstances. Beginning his speech at RD Inter College, Bikapur, Adityanath took a veiled dig at Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav and said "Babua" had not been visiting the temple at Ayodhya. "We will win all the five seats in Ayodhya, 325 seats in the state and thereby form a strong government," he said. Later, addressing the gathering at Inayatnagar in Milkipur, he said the whole world was looking towards Ayodhya and Ayodhya meant Ram temple. "By next year, this grand temple will be ready. If Ayodhya is to be established as a grand city, there should be a double engine government of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh," he said. Accusing the earlier SP government of favouring a community, the chief minister said electricity in the state used to be supplied on Eid and Muharram, but cut off on Holi and Diwali.



tect cows and not those who kill them". He also said that the state was ruled by goons before 2017, but they were put behind the bars after the BJP government assumed power. Adityanath was campaigning in support of the BJP candidates of the Milkipur reserved Assembly constituency and Bikapur seat in Ayodhya district on Tuesday. The chief minister promised to enhance the security of cows and other cattle if voted to power again.

China promises to India to 'work for early return' of stranded Indian students

BEIJING (KCN): China has promised to India to work for the "early return" of over 23,000 Indian

ban and assured New Delhi that they will not be discriminated in any manner as their resumption of studies the vexed issue of stranded Indian students, mostly studying medicine in various Chinese colleges, the Chinese Foreign Ministry has informed the Indian Embassy here "they are cognizant of the welfare of all foreign students, including Indian students".

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of China has assured the Embassy that they are cognizant of the wel-

fare of all foreign students, including Indian students, and have also conveyed that they will work on their early return to China in a coordinated manner and will continue contact with the Embassy on this matter," an Indian Embassy press release here said on Tuesday.

"Chinese MFA also conveyed that the return of Indian stu-
CONTINUED ON: P-7



students stranded at home for over two years due to Beijing's rigid COVID-19 visa is not a "political issue". In its first positive communication on

Air India operates flight to Ukraine; to bring back Indians amid rising tensions

NEW DELHI(KCN): Air India on Tuesday operated a Boeing 787 aircraft to Ukraine to bring back Indians amid rising tensions in the eastern European country.

The aircraft, which has more than 250 seats, is expected to return to the national capital at around 10.30 pm on Tuesday, according to an airline official.

The flight AI 1947 took off from the airport here at around 7.30 am and landed at Boryspil International Airport in Kyiv at around 3 pm IST (Indian Standard Time), according to flight tracking websites. World leaders condemn Russia on Ukraine

In recent weeks, tensions have been escalating between Ukraine and Russia, and on Monday, Russia recognised the independence of two separatist regions in the eastern Ukraine. On Tuesday, Indian embassy in Kyiv again

asked Indian students to temporarily leave the country amid the rising tensions.

Air India, on February 19, announced that it would operate three flights between India and



Ukraine on February 22, 24 and 26.

Meanwhile, full-service carrier Vistara's CEO Vinod Kannan on Tuesday said it has no plans to operate flights to Ukraine. South Korea's Foreign Ministry issues 'grave concern' for Ukraine crisis. CONTINUED ON: P-7

Satya Priya Rath gets IAS

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Senior Odisha Finance Service (OFS) Officer Satya Priya Rath has been elevated to Indian Administrative Service (IAS) under Non-State Civil Services (NSCS) category. Department of Personnel & Training on 22 February has notified selection of three NSCS officers to IAS Cadre.

They are Satya Priya Rath, Deepankar Mohapatra and Pranati Chhotray. All three are bright OFS Officers, who have

been successful in getting into IAS.

tional Secretary (Budget), a brilliant



Dr.Rath presently he is working as Addi-

officer. He has done his

M.Sc. in Physics from Utkal University in 1997 and Post Graduate Diploma in Financial Management from National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad in 2006.

He has successfully completed PhD on the topic "Fiscal sustainability: A case study of Odisha" from KIIT University, Bhubaneswar in 2016. He has two publications in the area of Public Financial Management in
CONTINUED ON: P-7

CM Patnaik reviews infra work in Kalinga stadium

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday visited the Kalinga Stadium complex here and reviewed the progress of the indoor athletic stadium and other projects.

Projects worth over `300 crore are being executed in Kalinga Stadium including an indoor athletic stadium, indoor aquatics stadium, tennis centre, staff accommodation and hockey high-performance centre building.

Sporting a trendy look, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the progress of the projects. He said the indoor athletic facility will be a major boost for the development of athletics in India and become a hub to create champions in the coming years. This is the first indoor athletic stadium in India and will help athletes practice throughout the year.

The indoor athletic stadium is being built at a cost of `120 crore and will be ready by the end of 2022. The facility can host national and international indoor athletic events. It will also have a residential facility for full-time coach-

ing of more than 100 athletes.

The Chief Minister also visited the tennis centre project and reviewed its progress. The court of the tennis centre is being constructed for hosting national and international events like international tennis federation tournaments and Davis Cup. The indoor athletic stadium and the tennis centre are part of the State Sports Infrastructure Development Project which aims at transformative changes in the sports sector in Odisha under the 5T initiative of the State government.

Later, Naveen watched a match of the ongoing Odisha Women's Football League at the main football ground of Kalinga Stadium. He interacted with the women footballers and assured them all support. He also spoke to the rising football player 18-year-old Manisha Nayak of the Sports Odisha team who was to play against the Rising Students team on the day.

However, Manisha could not play the match as she sustained an injury CONTINUED ON: P-7



International Mother Language Day Celebrated by Heritage Law College, Kolkata

Kolkata (KCN): Heritage Law College, Kolkata observed International Mother Language Day in the campus. International Mother Language Day is a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February to promote awareness of linguistic diversity and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. First announced by UNESCO on 17 November 1999. It was formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly with the presence of Dear Prof. S.S.Chatterjee, Teacher-in-Charge Prof. Santanu Mitra,, Prof. Sraboni Gupta, various faculties and also emphasizes the importance of languages and multilingualism as vital tools for fostering social inclusion and uniform development

also emphasizes the importance of languages and multilingualism as vital tools for fostering social inclusion and uniform development



Day is a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February to promote awareness of linguistic diversity and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. First

Brown Sugar Worth Rs-5.20 lakhs Seized. One Drugs Peddler Arrested

Khordha(KCN):



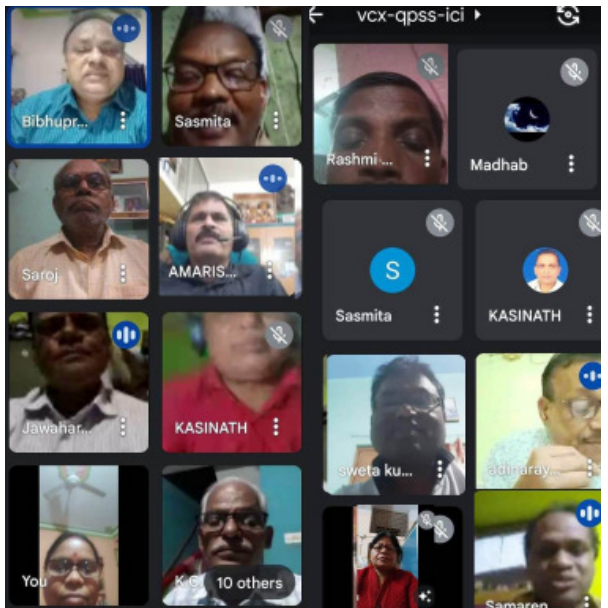
As per the direction of Collector & Excise Superintendent, Khordha to intensifying the ongoing drive against drugs syndicate's and street peddling of narcotics a raid was conducted Tuesday in the village area of Podadiha under Baghamari Police Station, Khordha. One NDPS case has been detected and seized 52 gram's brown sugar, worth Rs-5,20 lakhs. One drugs peddlers have been arrested in this connection. They were identified Prabhat Sethi, age -32 years. According to report acting on tip-off the raid was conducted and inter-

peddlers from Podadiha. Following a search Excise Squad recovered 52 gram's brown sugar from Prabhat Sethi possession. A case has been registered vide PR No-60/21-22 of Inspector Excise, Khordha under section -21 of NDPS Act. The raiding team was conducted the raid under the guidance of Inspector of Excise, Khordha Range, Inspector of Excise District Mobile Squad, Khordha, Inspector of Excise Tangi, Range, OIC, Khordha, OIC, Begunia and all Excise Staff's. The accused was forwarded to the Judicial court of Khordha.

staff members of Heritage law College., "International Mother Language Day is observed for the encouragement of linguistic, multi-lingual, and cultural diversity. The day

Bilupta na heu matrubhasa-Khordha-22feb22

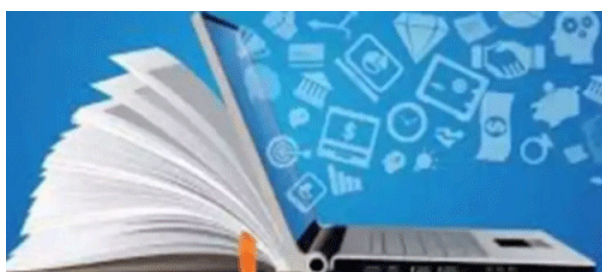
Khordha (KCN): Vikash Parisad, President, Khordha Kalinga Paika Bisub Milan



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

Move for Digital Varsity

New Delhi(KCN): Broader aspects of establishing a digital university including creation of comprehensive EduTech ecosystem in PPP mode, digital platform, content creation, effective digital pedagogy, concurrent and robust faculty training, virtual labs and assessment of digital teaching-learning were deliberated in the Panel Discussion by eminent Panelists over impact of Union Budget on Education and Skill Development. The panelists emphasized on the need for Multilingual, accessible Learning Management System, creation of engaging, immersive learning



Lion Dr. Biswanth Pattanaik Felicitated in his Birthday Day by DPBP

Cuttack (KCN): 75th Happy Birthday ceremony by leading cultural Organiza-



of Baral eminent Freedom fighter Sahid Sardar'son Lion Dr. Biswanth Pattanaik Felicitated in his

secretary Narayan Chandra Mohanty, President Er.Ashok Biswal, Upendra Barik, Madhab Parida, Pravat Khatua, Rudra Narayan Das, Bulai Behera, Binod Behera, Prasanna Behera and team Felicitated him and discuss about Dr. Pattanaik greatness, dedication to society.For information social worker Dr.Pattanaik is a good writer,senior sergon, doing Awareness and regularly doing health camp by Loka Bikash Sangathan Bhubanswar,organiser of blood camp and variety type of Seva work for his best quality he awarded by Saraswati Kalaparisad Kandarpur Cuttack, Utkal Vikash Parisad Cuttack Sadar, Muhana Sahitya Sansad Mumbai, Utkal Yuth Trust Bangalore, Netaji Parisad 42 Mouza, Panchasakha Bhubanswar, Adarsha Yuva Sangha Bharat, Bishnupriya Charitable Trust Odissa (BCT) etc.

Murder in Thakurani, police confiscated all accused

Barbil (KCN): A Purti for some murder has taken reason,but the .She cried for help. police investigated the matter and Three of the suspects



place in the Dalki hamlet of Thakurani area under Barbil police station. According to reports, Chandra Gop, Indra Gop and Akash Gop of the area had an altercation with a man named Chala argument turned into violence .They attacked Chala with an axe and sharp knife. Hearing the screams , Chala 's wife Mamata came out of the house and saw her husband lying bled on the ground fled hearing people shout. Chala was taken to Barbil Community Health Centre for treatment, but he died of excessive bleeding. Based on the three allegations of the deceased, Barbil arrested three accused along with used weapon in the attack. Police filed a case under IPC Section 302/34 in the name of the three accused and took them to court.

experiences, linking peer learners to create strong learning communities and synchronised, experiential learning by blending online education with physical mode (phy-igital). This university can fill the gaps in faculty development, enrollment in SEDGs, employability enhancing skills, quality learning material in regional languages, formal & non-formal (Recognizing Prior Learning) etc. University Grants Commission will function as an enabler and not as a watchdog with accountability provisions in reimagining of futuristic

teaching learning process w.r.t. Digital education. Opportunities in India's current educational landscape with EduTech boom are truly exciting with digital university ecosystem, integration of various GoI's initiatives such as BharatNet, National Digital Library, National Academic Depository, Academic Bank of Credits, SWAYAM, NEAT & Internships, National Digital Education Architecture and National Education Technology Forum to create an all-inclusive digital teaching-learning ecosystem. Detailed roadmap and implementation plan for the Digital University such as regulatory framework, identification of Hub and Spoke HELs, orientation of academic leadership and training for faculty will be worked in the coming times.

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Actor Rajan Kumar to bring to life the tableau of Ministry of Textiles for the Republic Day Parade at Rajpath

Jaipur (KCN, Dance. In 2004, his Rajan Kumar has wears the dress. belongs to Munger been selected to perform his art on Sanjay Sharma name was included fans all over the Very big turban, district of Bihar. It



Raj): Actor Rajan Kumar is very fond of art culture. This is the reason that in 1998, the Government of India gave him the National Award for Chhau in the Limca Book of World Records. In 2005, his name was entered in the Guinness Book of World Records as Charlie Chaplin II. International artist world. This time on the tableau of the Ministry of Textiles, Rajan Kumar will be seen in a Gujarati attire. He gets into the character as soon as he colorful dress, instantly bringing alive the tableau of the Ministry of Textiles, Rajan Kumar will enchant the Rajpath. Actor Rajan Kumar is a matter of happiness and inspiration for the people of Munger, the people of Bihar and the whole country that a youth of a small town has this historic day. Rajan Kumar has reached Delhi and is working day and night continuously on the Rajpath preparing for the 26 January parade.

Maara Movie Review: A grounded remake of Charlie with quite a bit of heart

If you didn't know that Maara is the remake of the Malayalam film, Charlie, the opening shot of fireflies fluttering about is a strong hint of the magic contained within the universe of this film. Shortly, you see little Paaru in rapt attention, as a nun narrates to her the story of a soldier who's travelling across seas and jungles in a quest to find his soul. This is pretty much the story of this film as well, as Paaru (Shraddha Srinath) grows up to find herself in a similar quest for her soul, well, soulmate, in Maara (Madhavan). There's another quest for a soulmate in this film, one undertaken by Vellaiyan (a wonderful Mouli), one that is later taken over by Maara. The film is a reinforcement of the power of stories, of the stories each of our lives are. This is why there are multiple characters with their own short stories, including those of Selvi (Abhirami), the sex worker, and Kani (Sshivada), the guilt-ridden doctor. The implication is that no one story is necessarily more important than another. I got the sense that Maara doesn't think of himself as a hero or a saviour, even if those around him seem to believe that. He's merely a tool, a person who breezes through life hoping to repay the extraordinary help that Vellaiyan has done to him. I loved this touch because shorn of it, Maara, the character, could have felt idealistic and unrelatable—which would have gone against the point of the film itself. This way, there's a reason for why Maara is the way he is, why he can't afford to stay at one place for too long. I quite enjoyed that Madhavan plays this character without a sanctimonious flavour—and more importantly, in a way that shows that Maara isn't above vulnerability. There's no moral superiority in that as-



into the trap of mundanity and indifference, into routine and repetition. Maara is pretty much the film equivalent of 'Follow the white rabbit'. That's perhaps why during a conversation between Maara and a thief the almost mystical beauty of existence. It's also likely that this is why the film's many shots are lit as they are, with many faces often aglow, as though in the presence of a halo. This is why the coincidences in this this notion that he's a mystical being. It's his understanding—and you will see it from his eyes when he's engaged in conversation with every single character—that each of us is magical, as are our stories. In this film with performers like Mouli's as much purpose and are able to see them for the individuals that they are, instead of simply as a crutch for a lead character. Of course, much of this credit must go to the original film, Charlie. In a world that is in a tearing hurry, at a time when films and stories are designed to be rapid for fear of making audiences impatient, films like Maara come as a welcome relief. In this film, at least two important exchanges—between Vellaiyan and Paaru, and later, between Maara and Kani—happen as wood slowly burns to ember, as tender faces are lit by the warm glow of a fireplace. It's for such moments that I'll remember this film, even if some inconsistent performances and some synthetic moments stop it from being truly great. Nevertheless, it's a film that has heart and that encourages empathy towards those around us, and if possible, to note that magicity doesn't need to be thought of an otherworldly trait, if only we cared to pay more attention to the beauty around us.

film become palatable. The central idea at the heart of this film is of two lonely souls in search of each other. Take note of that inexplicable attraction little Paaru feels as she sees a speeding train from within her bus. Or take note of that instinctive smile from Maara as he steps into his room, a room that Paaru has lived in briefly. In such a film, coincidences are to be thought of as divine providence, or as one character, when speaking about Maara says, "destiny". Another likens him to a mythical character, Santa Claus, while commenting on Maara's habit of sudden appearances that usually result in joy to whoever he meets. Maara himself, as he does many times in this film, underplays

Why are thousands of Indian students studying in Ukraine?

The situation of war between Russia-Ukraine remains unceasing. It's feared that Russia may attack Ukraine at any moment. Due to



this troublesome situation, a mounting challenge has also arisen in front of India. Thousands of Indian students pursue medical, dental, nursing, and other professional courses in Ukraine. In light of a possible war between Russia and Ukraine, they want to leave and return home safely. The question is how many flights will have to be sent to bring such a large sum of Indian youths studying in Kyiv and other cities of Ukraine? This is being discussed by the government at the top level and preparations for the journey are being undertaken.

Undoubtedly, this work needs to be done on a priority basis. Now that Air India is not owned by the Government of India, it remains to be seen how far the government's talks with the new owner of Air India, i.e. Tata Group, have reached to bring the stranded Indians home from Ukraine. In such a situation, when Russia has deployed 1.25 million fully-equipped soldiers on the border for the war with Ukraine, will the Government of India take the services of airlines other than Air India for this vital mission?

If we start from the year 2014 itself, then India has utilized all available resources to bring back Indians trapped in other countries safely. During the Afghanistan crisis, thousands of our citizens were brought back safely. Indian Air Force and Air India aircraft continued to bring Indians home from Afghanistan. They were brought to Delhi or other parts of the country via Tajikistan and Qatar. Before this, five Indians, who had been in jail in Togo since

2013, were safely released and brought home. Similarly, in 2015, the Government of India, taking prompt action, brought thousands of Indians stranded in Yemen to their homeland safely. They were taken to Djibouti from the Indian Navy warship INS Sumitra. These people were brought back to India by four planes from Djibouti. These are all examples of recent times which prove that India is capable of bringing back its citizens stranded in other countries. The Government of India is not ready to show its complacency

R. K. Sinha

2018-19 from India, 6.20 lakh students went outside India to study. These figures have been published by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. In 2017-18, 7.86 lakh students went outside the country. Most of them go to other countries only to get a Bachelor's degree. That results in a massive outflow of foreign exchange.

It is understandable if Indian students enrol in universities like Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) or Colorado in the US

proceeding, we must take a look at some statistics. During

The 36th Prime Minister of Nepal, Baburam Bhattarai, studied at the Capital's School of Architecture and Planning (SPA). The students studying here have contributed immensely to the construction of skyscrapers, highways, flyovers, bridges, etc., in the country. It was established in 1959. These places also witness a flock of students from Iran, Singapore, Malaysia, African countries.

There is no problem if foreigners come to India's best Delhi universities and our youth go to world-class institutions. But, if Indian youth start moving abroad for courses like hotel management, MBA, or general Bachelor's degree, then it will be considered a serious matter. It should be known that we will be able to stop the youth from going out of India to study only when we have excellent educational



like the previous governments in such situations.

Meanwhile, the central and state governments have to urgently consider why such a large number of Indian students go to Ukraine. Every year the Government of India has to spend billions of rupees in foreign exchange due to their going there or to other countries to study. After all, when will we be able to open a sufficient number of colleges in our country which provide high standard degrees of medical, engineering and other courses.

One must also think long and hard about the level of education in India and why is it so that every year lakhs of students go abroad for quality education? Why are we not able to provide good faculty and other facilities in our educational institutions? Before

for specific research etc. Everyone knows that some of America's universities have established themselves as the best educational institutions in the world due to their excellent faculty and other facilities. The same can be said about universities like Oxford and Cambridge in Britain.

In some institutions, even Nobel laureates teach. Thus there is no harm in enrolling in them. Our premier educational institutions like IIT and Delhi University also attract many foreign students. Many students come to Delhi University from African countries like Kenya, Sudan, Congo, Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad, Suriname, Fiji, etc. The President of the African nation of Malawi, Bingu wa Mutharika, was a student of Shri Ram College of Commerce and Delhi School of Economics of Delhi University.

institutions here.

The Russia-Ukraine crisis is giving us an opportunity to learn a lot. Surely we will be able to get our citizens out of Ukraine. Our present government has that capability and might. But, we will have to arrange the best education in our own country so that our youth can get admission to good colleges and universities. We have to connect our meritorious youth to the field of education. They also need to be inspired to become teachers and help to provide better facilities. Apart from this, adequate emphasis will also have to be given to research-related work. India needs to open its eyes and strive to improve its academic standards to retain the country's youth and prevent brain drain.

(The writer is a senior editor, columnist, and former MP)

Decoding the Yogi tweet

Towards the last leg of his campaign for the first phase of the assembly elections, Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar



Pradesh warned the electorate of his state through a video that he tweeted. In his short video of nearly 6 minutes, he cautioned the voters to exercise their franchise carefully. If

not, he warned, the state was destined to become Kerala, Bengal or Kashmir. Reacting to the Yogi, the Kerala Chief Minister's counter tweet came, a sharp note. "If UP turns into Kerala as Yogi Adityanath fears, it will enjoy the best education, health services, social welfare, living standards and have a harmonious society in which people won't be murdered in the name of religion and caste. That is what the people of UP would want.", he said. Yogi's tweet was to remind the people of an increasing presence of radical elements in Kerala and the other two states and about those who are now silent and fearful of an iron fist administration in his own state. The only sentence he uttered about the three states in the short video was an indicator to what seems to be a covertly blanketed truth. The statement was divisive to some and politically motivated to someone else. But in reality, the atrocities ran on the majority in a post poll Bengal was proof and example of radicalized infringement, supported by a democratically elected establishment insensibly torturing the electorate. Kerala, a volcano in the making, is ready to erupt any time as radicalization is reaching its peak. Kashmir

is an open story for decades and for the plight of the

M.R. LALU

Kashmiri pandits, no voice was heard until the Modi government rehabilitated some of them in the valley. Abrogation of Article 370 could bring about certain positive changes in the social atmosphere. Since Yogi took over the reign in the state of Uttar Pradesh in 2017, the state, once a nursery of gundaraj and a laboratory of riots, began to breathe peacefully. His gibe on Kerala and the other two states was not just a throwaway casual remark but a deliberate statement of caution that he concluded his appeal to the voters with, a punchline. Since 2017, safety of women in the state of UP has been better than the previous regimes. Lot of initiatives came in the direction of UP getting a facelift.

In Kashmir, until recently, the separatist movement was active. Though the unrest has come down, the cross-border terrorism is still on. What might have prompted Yogi to take the name of Kerala? Rahul Gandhi, being evicted from Amethi, had seen a safe and secure seat in the Wayanad constituency of Kerala which has a predominant minority presence. The minority being the majority in Wayanad has helped the Congress scion get through. While Kerala has made advancements in multiple areas, it is true that the state is advancing towards becoming a hotbed of radicalization. Soon after the Easter terror bombings in a church in Sri Lanka in 2019, the National Investigative Agency (NIA) is reported to have sniffed a connection in Kerala about the perpetrators. The attack which took place in the church killed more than 250 people. During the agency's investigations in the Malabar region of the

state, it is reported that it got ample evidence of a Kerala

connection with the blast. As per the reports, more than half of the total 100 Indian youths who joined the Islamic State were from Kerala. Riyaz Aboobacker from Palakkad district of Kerala, when arrested, had admitted his connections with the Sri Lanka suicide bomber Zahran Hashim and the controversial preacher Zakir Naik. The suicide bomber had visited South India before he threw himself into his killing mission. Radicals demanding a new state carved out of the erstwhile Malabar region on religious lines was the latest development in the state. Since the rise of the Popular Front of India (PFI) in 1990, Kerala has been witnessing a boom in radicalization. The group is active in the northern region of Kerala indoctrinating a large number of Muslim youths. Alarmingly, the United Nations' report on terrorism has forewarned about the presence and activities of a large number of ISIS terrorists in the state. As per the report, the ISIS has an active 200 members in Kerala. Among the recruits to the ISIS, Kannur district of Kerala topped in number. Interestingly, Kannur district is a traditional Marxist stronghold. Numerous party villages in Kannur are still inaccessible to rightwing activists. But the presence of radicalized elements has increased in leaps and bounds. Kasaragod, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Thrissur and Ernakulam are the other districts that are reported to have a strong presence of extremists. The recent selective killings of rightwing activists in various parts of the state tells us how deep-seated are the radicals in the Kerala society.

On the contrary, Kerala's achievements in various fields can be seen as exemplary. In the Niti Aayog Report on health performance, Kerala has once again emerged as the best ranking state in the country. In its overall health performance report, UP ranked worse and among the small states, Mizoram has emerged as the best performer. Among the populated states Keralites are known to have the best quality of life. Its medical systems and educational facilities are the best in comparison with other states. A wonderful tourist destination, Kerala is smartly a literate state. The state normally shows improvement in all categories of parameters set by agencies. Contradictory to this, during the pandemic period, Uttar Pradesh, with its 24-crore people could successfully contain the transmission. While Kerala had struggled to cut the transmission with its 3.5 crore population. In comparison to the number of tests conducted in a day, UP outnumbered Kerala almost every day. UP is reported to have done 7.10 crore tests, while Kerala could conduct only 3.06 crore. In vaccination, Kerala took a fast pace while UP had slowed down. With regard to national security, Yogi Adityanath's statement was not just a potshot on Kerala. And to deny it abruptly as a political taunt will be a grave mistake. Kerala needs to up the ante in a defensive discourse. But with a deep-state of radicalization in the making, with elements of disruption with international connections, the state cannot sit silent when it is warming up towards a dangerous volcanic eruption of terror.

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Ukraine crisis jolts Europe to push for secure energy supply

MADRID: Surging energy prices and fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine are making European leaders think hard about energy security — particularly their decades-old reliance on Moscow for natural gas. The crisis shows Europe's vulnerability after years of limited progress in completing an "energy union" — a 2015 vision to allow afford-

able gas and electricity to flow across borders while diversifying suppliers and reaching climate goals. As renewables like solar and wind are slowly built up and coal and other fossil fuels are phased out, Europe still needs natural gas, and it's dependent on Russia to get it. That came into sharp relief as Europe's gas supply dropped and prices soared partly because Russia sold less gas than normal, squeezing households and businesses with rising costs. With gas reserves low and concerns a war could interrupt pipeline flows from Russia, the European Union is focused on getting liquefied natural gas, or LNG, by ship from the United States, Qatar, Algeria and elsewhere until renewables catch up. Environmentalists fear making that even a short-term priority could set back Europe's goals to move away from fossil fuels. Doubling down on renewables would help reduce dependency on Russian gas, EU Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson said Monday, but reiterated that energy security was critical. An advisory group to coordinate the EU's gas supply security was meeting Tuesday because "it's important that contingency plans are ready for the worst-case scenario," she said. The 27-nation EU is "on the safe side for this winter" but doing "everything possible to get rid of this dependency," European Commission Presi-

dent Ursula Von der Leyen said Saturday at the Munich Security Conference. She accused Russia's state-owned gas giant Gazprom of "deliberately trying to store and deliver as little as possible while prices and demand are skyrocketing." Russia has fulfilled long-term contracts but failed to sell additional gas on the spot market, while pushing for German infrastructure, told The Associated Press. "It's in moments of crisis that we see the need for market integration and enough infrastructure from a security and procurement point of view," he said, adding that the focus on renewables shouldn't neglect the role of natural gas. After Russia seized Ukraine's Crimea region in 2014, diversifying energy supplies

The question always seems more urgent among newer, eastern EU members with bitter memories of Russian domination during the Cold War. Poland has been working on pipeline connections with neighboring countries, including the Baltic Pipe, which is set to deliver Norwegian gas to Denmark and others starting in 2023. The country also has built the Swinoujscie LNG port on the Baltic Sea, near the German border. Since 2015, the facility has helped reduce gas imports from Russia via the Yamal pipeline by a third, to less than 60% of its total gas imports. Polish authorities have vowed not to extend the Yamal deal when it expires next year, relying on more LNG from places like the U.S., Qatar and Australia. But investing billions in more pipelines or import terminals risks them becoming obsolete amid the long-term shift to renewables, Tagliapietra said. Instead, Europe could require gas companies to begin the winter with adequate storage levels, he said. Russia's Gazprom didn't fill its underground storage in Europe last summer. "It's up to them to decide, and that's not acceptable," Tagliapietra said. Governments also are talking about creating a strategic reserve of gas, either shared among several countries or organized at the EU level. Energy-consuming countries have done that with crude oil since the 1970s. Environmentalists say the solution isn't more gas but action to promote renewables. "It is a little bit surreal and surprising," said Elif Gündüzyeli, fossil fuels policy campaigner for the Climate Action Network. "This approach of adding more gas to the grid to solve the energy supply issue is a little bit like adding another lane to a highway to solve the traffic issue: more cars come in and it gets even more complicated."



to reduce Russian reliance was enshrined in the EU's 2015 energy union plan. Since then, there has been some significant progress: More two-way pipeline connections have been built and more LNG import terminals are planned. A new pipeline transports gas from Azerbaijan to western Europe via Turkey and Greece. There's also a planned pipeline extension from northeast Greece to southern Bulgaria that would relieve Bulgaria's total dependence on Russian gas. And Greece is moving forward with plans to build a facility to take in LNG imported by sea. But connecting Europe's energy markets hasn't been done "sufficiently well," said energy policy expert Simone Tagliapietra, a senior fellow at the Bruegel think tank in Brussels. In particular, a pipeline connection from Spain to France was shelved, leaving "a major bottleneck that we didn't manage to solve," he said. Now, gas industry groups are talking about reviving the idea. Following the Crimea crisis, the priority shifted from energy security to climate change, leading up to the EU's 2019 Green Deal, a wide-ranging plan to cut emissions. "Energy security disappeared," Tagliapietra said. "It was all about sustainability, decarbonization. Now we are seeing the great comeback of energy security as an issue in Europe."

approval of its contentious Nord Stream 2 pipeline as a way to solve Europe's gas squeeze. The crisis escalated Monday with Russia recognizing separatist regions in Ukraine, which could allow troops to deploy there. Moscow has said it has no intention of cutting off gas supplies and has continually stressed its role as a reliable energy supplier. Security analysts say Russia would have little interest in a total gas cutoff that would deprive it of revenue and give Europe a further incentive to find other sources of energy. Countries like Lithuania and Poland have managed to reduce Russian gas imports. But Russia accounts for more than one-third of the EU's supply, and its dominance is entrenched in the Baltic states, Germany, Italy and parts of southeastern Europe. The core issue is that the 27 EU countries retain substantial control over energy policy. Clashing regulations and standards make transport of gas from one country's system to another difficult, even when the network to do it actually exists. Energy companies moving gas across borders, for example, are sometimes charged tariffs more than once or twice. "Unfortunately, energy interconnection in Europe is an unresolved issue," Miguel Arias Cañete, former EU energy and climate commissioner who oversaw a proposal for more gas

development Council has been set up by the government in consultation with financial market regulators, to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhance inter-regulatory coordination and promote financial sector development. Without prejudice to the autonomy of regulators, the Council monitors macro-prudential supervision of the economy, including functioning of large financial conglomerates, and addresses inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development issues. It also focuses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.

Vigil On Financial Condition Urged

Mumbai: Union Government and all regulators need to maintain constant vigil on the financial conditions and functioning of important financial institutions, especially considering that it could expose financial vulnerabilities in the medium and long-term. This was deliberated in the 25th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in Mumbai today, under the Chairpersonship of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

The Finance Minister is on a two-day post-Budget outreach visit to the city, where she is meeting with representatives of industry, financial market functionaries and bankers. The Council deliberated on the various mandates of the FSDC and major macro-financial challenges arising in view of global and domestic developments. The Council discussed measures required for further development of the financial sector and to achieve an inclusive economic growth with macroeconomic stability. The Council discussed operational

issues relating to currency management. It

Ministry of Electronics and Information

Finance. The Financial Stability and De-



also took note of the activities undertaken by the FSDC Subcommittee chaired by the RBI Governor and the action taken by members on the past decisions of FSDC. The 25th FSDC meeting was also attended by Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, MoS (Finance); Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India; Dr. T. V. Somanathan, Finance Secretary and Expenditure Secretary; Shri Ajay Seth, Economic Affairs Secretary; Shri Tarun Bajaj, Revenue Secretary; Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Financial Services Secretary; Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary,

Technology; Shri Rajesh Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs; Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance; Shri Ajay Tyagi, Chairperson, Securities and Exchange Board of India; Shri Supratim Bandyopadhyay, Chairperson, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority; Shri Injeti Srinivas, Chairperson, International Financial Services Centres Authority; Mrs. T. L. Alamelu, Member, Insurance and Regulatory Development Authority of India; and the Secretary of the FSDC, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of

development Council has been set up by the government in consultation with financial market regulators, to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhance inter-regulatory coordination and promote financial sector development. Without prejudice to the autonomy of regulators, the Council monitors macro-prudential supervision of the economy, including functioning of large financial conglomerates, and addresses inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development issues. It also focuses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.

Business 'mushrooms' for villagers of Fuldhudhi

ROURKELA: Come March, villagers of Fuldhudhi village under Ujjalpur range of Sundargarh Forest Division

is under implementation only in SFD limits of Sundargarh, aims to revive defunct VSSs and reduce pressure on for-

estry of traditional forest dwellers have adopted paddy straw mushroom cultivation in Fuldhudhi," said project officials.

Rs 5.7 lakh from selling mushrooms. Another woman Rehati Kalo, who engages in growing paddy straw mushroom



(SFD) will be engaging in mushroom cultivation to earn a livelihood instead of solely depending on forests. Mostly members of the local Van Suraksha Samiti (VSS), around 60 per cent of families of the village within the forest will be taking up mushroom farming under Phase II of the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project (OFSDP). The initiative, which

ests by building an alternative economic ecosystem for the traditional forest dwellers and other poor households. Sources said it has been four years since Fuldhudhi, comprising 66 families with a population of 273, became part of the project along with 18 other villages and adopted mushroom cultivation. "As of now, 18 households including 13 ST families in the cat-

In 2018, a 47-year-old tribal woman Bimala Chita was the first to be a part of the project by investing Rs 2,500 and earned Rs 4,500. As soon as the word spread, others followed suit with six more women earning Rs 34,000 in three months against an investment of Rs 16,000 each. The number rose to 15 in 2021 who invested Rs 1.75 lakh and earned around

from March to October, sells them for ₹240 per kg which retails at Rs 350 per kg. The farmers sell their produce through the local VSS centre and SHGs. Contacted, Sundargarh DFO Pradeep Mirase said that he had recently visited the village and discussed ways to enhance yields and market support as this project would highly benefit SFD and poor villagers.

BJD-backed candidate among 8 held for attack on Rout's vehicle

JAGATSIINGHPUR(K-CN): A BJD-backed sarpanch candidate and seven of his supporters were arrested by the Tirtol police on Monday for allegedly attacking the car of veteran politician and former Minister

hurt but his vehicle was damaged. Following the incident, Rout lodged an FIR with Tirtol police and also approached Kujang block development officer (BDO) and election officer Soumyshree

BJD leader and former MLA Debasish Samantaray who is Rout's arch-rival. To settle scores with Samantaray, Rout is campaigning for candidates supported by his son and local MLA Sambit

in Gareii. Lenka and Biswal have been fielded by Routray. In Sailo panchayat, Rout is backing Sisir Das, a rival of Sethy for the sarpanch post. Sources said irked by the senior leader's activities, the candidates fielded by



Damodar Rout. On Sunday afternoon, Rout was on way home after campaigning for rebel BJD candidates when his vehicle was detained by sarpanch nominee from Sailo panchayat Saroj Sethy with his supporters in tow. They reportedly heckled Rout and attacked his car. Rout escaped un-

Panigrahai to take action against errant Sethy. Tirtol IIC Sabyasachi Rout said basing on the senior leader's complaint, police registered a case and arrested sarpanch candidate Sethy and his seven associates. All the accused were produced in court. Sources said, Sethy has been fielded by

Routray. Rout has intensified campaign against candidates fielded by Samantaray in Gareii, Sailo and other panchayats. Last week, he and his supporters participated in roadshows and campaigned for sarpanch candidate Diptirekha Lenka and panchayat samiti member nominee Ambika Biswal

Samantaray were apparently nursing a grudge against him. Sethy alleged that after resigning from BJP, Rout is on a mission to defeat BJD-backed candidates in panchayat elections. "When he campaigned in Sailo in favor of rival candidates, my supporters restricted him. But he lodged a false case against us."

Kerala CM says Sivasankar's memoir had no government nod

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Senior bureaucrat M Sivasankar penned his memoir without the state government's permission, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan informed

ment. Sivasankar, who was under suspension for alleged involvement in the gold smuggling through diplomatic channel case, was reinstated in service recently.

the book about her were contrary to facts. She accused Sivasankar of exploiting her and covering up the facts. On Tuesday the chief Minister also replied in writing in

as logistic manager. Addressing a press conference last week, Vijayan had justified the contents of Sivasankar's book. The CM said Sivasankar has written about his past



the Assembly on Tuesday. Vijayan had earlier backed his former Principal Secretary for the remarks in the book. In a written reply to Najeed Kanthapuram MLA, the chief minister said as per service rules, government servants cannot write autobiography or service history without clearance from the govern-

Two weeks ago he came out with the book Aswathamavu - Verum Oru Aana (Aswathamavu - Just an elephant) that looked into the gold smuggling scandal. The book soon kicked up a row after Swapna Suresh, a key suspect in the gold smuggling case, came on record alleging that many things mentioned in

the assembly that the government has not appointed Swapna Suresh's husband in the K-Phone project. The reply was given to a question from Congress MLA M Vincent. Earlier in a Television interview, Swapna had stated that Sivasankar had offered her husband Jayasankar a job in the K-phone project

experiences. What he said in the book against the National Investigation Agencies and the media was factual. He also said that those who were hurt in the revelations in the book might have hated him. The chief minister, however, had evaded a direct reply to questions on whether Sivasankar had obtained permission to write the book.

Winter makes its exit, mercury begins to rise across Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: Winter is on its way out in Odisha, many parts of which have begun to witness a rise in mercury. On Monday, at least 21

Bhubaneswar recorded 31.6 degree Celsius. Bhubaneswar's average temperature during the month of February is 31.5 degree

leave the long-range forecast for this summer season on February 28 or March 1. However, the rise in temperature was consistent across the

shower is likely to occur in Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts



places reported 30 degree Celsius temperature marking the gradual onset of summer. Sonepur was the hottest at 34 degree Celsius. The night temperature also jumped across the State on the day. Jharsuguda was the coldest at 11.7 degree, followed by hill station Daringbadi at 13.5 Celsius. Similarly, Capital city

and it was marginally higher on Monday. The city had witnessed hotter days last year in February and recorded 40.4 degree Celsius on 26th of the month. The Regional Meteorological Centre attributed the rise in temperature to an approaching western disturbance. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is likely to re-

country. Across south India, the day temperature rose, with a centre in Kerala hitting the 40 degree Celsius mark. Even as the mercury showed a rise, it is expected to fall in some parts of the State from Thursday onwards due to the rainfall activity under the influence of the western disturbance. Light to moderate rainfall or thunder-

on Thursday, and at a few places in northern districts and southern districts on Friday "The daytime temperature is likely to fall in some parts due to the rainfall activity, but there will be no large change in night temperature in the State during the next four to five days," said Met dept scientist Umashankar Das.

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RBI cautions public against prepaid payment instruments issued by unauthorised entities

MUMBAI: The RBI on Tuesday said Gurugram-registered 'sRide Tech Private Limited' is operating a pre-paid instrument (wallet) through its car-pooling app 'sRide' without obtaining the required permissions, as it cautioned the public against using applications issued by unauthorised entities.

As such, any person dealing with sRide Tech Private Limited, will be doing so at their own

risk, the central bank said in a statement.

RBI said sRide Tech Private Limited is operating a semi-closed (non-closed) pre-paid instrument (wallet) through its car-pooling app 'sRide' without obtaining the required authorisation from RBI under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. The RBI urged people to exercise utmost caution while using such application/s, dealing with and be-

fore parting with their money to any such unauthorised entity. "In their own interest, members of public should verify and satisfy themselves that the application used or the entity they are dealing with is authorised to carry out the activity it performs or assures to perform," it said. The list of authorised payment system providers and authorised payment system operators are displayed on the RBI website.

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conditions and functioning of important financial institutions, especially considering that it could expose financial vulnerabilities in the medium and long-term.

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market functionaries and bankers.

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FSDC and major macro-financial challenges arising in view of global and domestic developments. The Council discussed measures required for further development of the financial sector and to achieve an inclusive economic growth with macroeconomic stability.

The Council discussed operational issues relating to currency management. It also took note of the activities undertaken by the FSDC Sub-Committee chaired by the RBI Governor and the action taken by members on the past de-

cision of FSDC. The 25th FSDC meeting was also attended by Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, MoS (Finance); Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India; Dr. T. V. Somanathan, Finance Secretary and Expenditure Secretary; Shri Ajay Seth, Economic Affairs Secretary; Shri Tarun Bajaj, Revenue Secretary; Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Financial Services Secretary; Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; Shri Rajesh Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs; Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance; Shri Ajay Tyagi, Chairperson, Securities and Exchange Board of India; Shri Supratim Bandyopadhyay, Chairperson, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority; Shri Injeti Srinivas, Chairperson, Inter-

national Financial Services Centres Authority; Mrs. T. L. Alamelu, Member, Insurance and Regulatory Development Authority of India; and the Secretary of the FSDC, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. The Financial Stability and Development Council has been set up by the government in consultation with financial market regulators, to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhance inter-regulatory coordination and promote financial sector development. Without prejudice to the autonomy of regulators, the Council monitors macro-prudential supervision of the economy, including functioning of large financial conglomerates, and addresses inter-regulatory coordination and financial sector development issues. It also focuses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.

PM Modi expresses grief over Himachal mishap, announces aid

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

and 12 others sustained burn injuries in the explosion in

(PMNRF) would be given to the next of kin of those who

doled the loss of lives in the explosion. "I express my



Tuesday announced Rs 2 lakh each as relief to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in an explosion at a factory in Himachal Pradesh. At least seven people were killed

the factory in Una district where firecrackers were being made, a senior district official said.

"Rs two lakh each from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund

lost their lives in the tragic factory mishap in Himachal Pradesh. Rs. 50,000 would be given to the injured," the prime minister said on Twitter. Modi also con-

deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in this accident," he said on Twitter. The prime minister also wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the accident.

China promises to India to 'work for early return' of stranded Indian students

Continued from page-1

dents was not a political issue and they will not be discriminated in any manner while deciding on the return of foreign students to China to resume their education," it said.

The assurance followed the Embassy "continuously highlighting these issues with the relevant Chinese authorities in the last two years", it said.

The MFA too has made vague assurances in the last two years whenever the Indian media here questioned the delay of the return of the students and the plight they suffered at home despite paying hefty fees.

The references to not to make the students return a political issue and assurance to not to discriminate against them followed China assuring leaders from Pakistan, Mongolia and Singapore that it will allow their early return.

It also aims to dispel an impression that Indian students may be discriminated against in view of the current political stalemate between the two countries due to the military standoff at eastern Ladakh.

China had promised during the visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan early this month to "arrange" for the return of about 28,000 Pakistani students who are stuck back home for the past two years following visa curbs imposed by Beijing under its zero COVID-19 case policy.

China reportedly made similar assurances to leaders of Mongolia and Singapore whose leaders like Khan also visited Beijing to take part in the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics in early February.

Recently, the Sri Lankan government urged Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during his visit to Colombo to permit its medical students studying in Chinese universities to return as their future was at stake.

While making these promises Beijing has not given any definite timelines to those countries to permit the students to return.

Since 2020, China has stopped issuing visas for Indians and currently, there were no flights in operation between the two countries.

The extension of China's strict zero case policy of COVID-19 to thousands of foreign students, mostly studying in Chinese medical colleges, has virtually ruined nearly two years of their education.

The online classes that their colleges claim to conduct made little difference to the medical students who were deprived of valuable laboratory classes.

Into the second month of this year, Beijing is yet to commit to a definite timeline for the return of the Indian students and their South Asian counterparts besides hundreds of Indian employees and businessmen who are either stuck at home or separated from their families.

The Indian Embassy press release said "it will continue to work with the Chinese side on the issue of movement of people between the two countries".

"All Indian nationals who are intending to travel to China are advised to remain in touch with the Chinese Embassy in Delhi and Consulates in Mumbai and Kolkata for further information. Indian Embassy and Consulates will also immediately put out further information on this issue, when shared by the Chinese side, on their website and various social media handles," it said.

Referring to Chinese official statements in the past about the educational institutions conducting online classes, the Embassy statement said, "for medical students, in particular, the issue of in-person education is of paramount importance as it is impossible to undertake such studies in a remote manner".

In addition, the National Medical Council (NMC) of India has also clarified that students cannot appear for FMGE (Foreign Medical Graduation Exam) in India if the medical courses are conducted in an online mode.

"Accordingly, the notification of NMC (issued on February 8, 2022) has also been formally conveyed to the relevant Chinese authorities, so that they are mindful of the concerns of Indian students, who are enrolled with them or are planning to enroll at a later date," it said.

Satya Priya Rath gets IAS

Continued from page-1

reputed international journals. He also has another publication in compendium of 18th National Conference on e-Governance to his credit.

He joined Odisha Finance Service in recruitment year 1997 and has 23 years of experience in handling Sub-national Financial Management including Resource Projection, Budget, Expenditure & Treasury Management, Debt Management, Fiscal Restructuring, Finance Commission related matters, Externally Aided Projects etc.

He had two years of experience in Treasury management and three years of experience in managing University finances before his assignment in Finance Department.

Dr.Rath has been leading the team in formulation of the Odisha Budget for last ten years. He has played a key role in implementation of FRBM Act and Rule for Odisha to achieve Fiscal Turnaround in the State. He has been instrumental to ensure that Odisha remain FRBM compliant every year since its enactment.

He has been instrumental in bringing various reforms in financial management and budget formulation in the State. He has played leading role in automation of budget formulation process, introduction of paperless budgeting (e-Budget), making Odisha the first State in the country to introduce Strategic Budgeting, Nutrition Budget and Climate Budget. With improved disclosure, Odisha ranks among top three States in Fiscal Transparency.

Dr.Rath is leading the PFM Reforms team of the State in making substantial stride in second generation PFM reforms in the areas of re-enforcing budget credibility, fiscal risk management, cash management and commitment control system making Odisha a leading State in the country in adoption of advanced PFM practices. His role in effective management of State Finances with COVID-19 challenges has been noteworthy.

In spite of aggressive COVID management Odisha could become one of the very few States in the country to generate revenue surplus in 2020-21.

Air India operates flight to Ukraine; to bring back Indians amid rising tensions

Continued from page-1

"At this time, we are not planning flights to Ukraine because of aircraft limitations and other reasons," he said.

On February 17, the civil aviation ministry asked Indian carriers to look at the possibility of operating flights to Ukraine due to the increase in demand.

Besides, the ministry had removed the curbs on the number of flights that can be operated between India and the eastern European nation under the bilateral air bubble arrangement to facilitate travel of Indians from that country. Putin's take on Ukraine's history may lay groundwork for war

CM Patnaik reviews infra work in Kalinga stadium

Continued from page-1

on her knee at the last moment. But she had not thought that the injury will give her a chance to interact with the Chief Minister. He consoled Manisha and advised her to keep up her preparations to play the next match.

Naveen also met the Indian hockey teams (men and women) at the hockey stadium and inquired about their stay and practice facilities. The players expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for extending assistance for the development of hockey.

He wished them luck for the upcoming Pro League matches and assured them all support. He hoped the players will aim to get medals for the country in the Asian and Commonwealth Games this year.

Faultless as a defender, star footballer Jhingan draw social media flak over 'sexist comments'

KOCHI: At the start of last year, Sandesh Jhingan, who is considered one of the top defenders in India, made headlines for all the right reasons as he decided to test himself in Europe by making the bold move of moving to Croatian side HNK Sibenik. Jhingan was one of the highest-paid players in the Indian Super League at that time with ATK Mohun Bagan and his decision to risk testing himself in a considerably

"If my comments have hurt anyone, my apologies. It was never intended to create any harm to anyone," Jhingan wrote on Twitter in a series of tweets in the immediate aftermath of the whole incident. However, the controversy has refused to die down as Jhingan issued another apology in a video clip while also claiming that his family was 'threatened and racially abused'. ALSO READ | Kerala Blasters a digital hit!



tougher league drew a lot of praise. The 28-year-old also has had a lot of goodwill riding behind him after he had made a high-profile move from Kerala Blasters after six memorable seasons where he rose to become one of India's finest footballers. Impressively enough, Blasters had even retired his jersey as a tribute for the contributions made by the India international. Ironically, Jhingan found himself in the eye of the storm against the same opponents last Saturday after he allegedly made some sexist comments at the end of the 2-2 draw between Bagan and Blasters. Jhingan's stay in Croatia was cut short owing to injuries and a lack of playing time and the centre-back made a low-profile re-entry into Indian football with Bagan welcoming him back. After the disappointments of his Croatian stint, Jhingan seemed to be adjusting to the league as he reclaimed his position in the side, only to commit a misstep that put him under the spotlight for all the wrong reasons. After the match, as Jhingan was walking off, he made a comment on the lines of, "Auraton ke saath match khel aaya hoon, aurato ke saath", which roughly translates to: "I played a match with women, with women". The video clip of the incident was widely circulated discussed on social media with many slamming its sexist undertone. Given Jhingan's popularity, seniority and standing in the game, the remarks didn't go down well with fans and he tendered an apology on social media.

"I know a lot has happened in the last 48 hours, and it has been down to an error in judgement from my part. I have had the time to sit and reflect, something which I should have done, instead to react. To put it simply, what I said in the heat of the game is, it's wrong, and I am truly sorry for it and I know I have let many people down, including myself and my family. I cannot erase what I have done already, but I will surely do from this is to learn from the situation, try to be a better human being and better professional and try to be a good example," Jhingan said in the video. The post-match incident has drawn the wrath of many while the abuse which Jhingan claims his family had gone through points to another ugly side of the celebrity-fan engagement in the social media space.

"An unfortunate fallout from this unsavoury incident has been that a lot of hate has been targeted towards my family, especially my wife. I know people are upset with me but to threaten and racially abuse my family, I think, is not required and unwelcome. So I please request you all to not do it," he added.

Prior to Saturday's incident, Jhingan was always looked at as an immaculate professional who rarely got entangled in off-field controversies. From a hero and a role model worshipped by many, Jhingan now finds himself caught in an awkward position. "Lastly again, I am really sorry but I will try to learn from this and try to be a better human being," Jhingan added.

Indian Cricketers' Association strongly condemns journalist's 'threat' to Wridhimann Saha

NEW DELHI: The Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) on

matter. "We acknowledge the fact that the media plays a very

organisations too to take up the matter and ensure such things are

sage. "We are fully with Saha and request him to reveal the journalist's name. Should the BCCI feel the need to cancel the erring journalist's accreditation and access to any BCCI event, we will fully support the move," he added. "We would offer our full support to Saha at this juncture. No player should be subjected to such 'threats' from anyone in the media or elsewhere. We urge the media also to come out in support of Saha and ensure that these sorts of issues don't crop up again. Any interaction between a player and the media has always to be voluntary," said ICA secretary Hitesh Majumdar.



Tuesday strongly condemned the "threatening" message to veteran wicketkeeper-batter Wridhimann Saha by a senior Indian journalist and welcomed the BCCI's decision to probe the issue. The ICA urged the board to take strictest possible action in the

important role both in the growth of our game and the players but there's always a line that must never be crossed," ICA head Ashok Malhotra said in a statement. "What has happened in Saha's case is totally unacceptable and we call for the respective press

not repeated. At the ICA our foremost concern is the welfare of cricketers, past and present, and we cannot accept such behaviour from anyone let alone a journalist," he added. Malhotra wants Saha to reveal the name of the journalist who sent him that mes-

Dubai Tennis Championships: Novak Djokovic wins first match of 2022, Andy Murray battles through

DUBAI: The world number one Novak Djokovic and former champion Andy Murray reached the second round of the Dubai Tennis Championships in contrasting styles on Monday. Djokovic, playing his first match of the 2022 season, always looked comfortable against tournament wild card Lorenzo Musetti and won 6-3, 6-3. But Murray, who will be seeking his 700th career win in the second round, needed just nine minutes under three hours to squeeze past qualifier Christopher O'Connell 6-7, 6-3, 7-5. Although Musetti will not turn 20 until next month, he claimed one of the biggest wins of his career in his last tournament against world number 11 Hubert Hurkacz. But although he showed plenty of aggression and skill against

Djokovic, it was not enough to unsettle an opponent seeking his sixth title in Dubai. "I think Dubai is a perfect place for me

said O'Connell broke Murray to lead the first set 5-4, and although Murray im-

saving a breakpoint to hold for 2-2 but then holding four break points to take a 5-4 lead and serve for the match. Murray



to start a season because of the support and the fans that showed up tonight and really cheered me on the way they did. Big Serbian community as well. Very nice to see Serbian flags around. I felt there was an international crowd supporting me as well, which was very nice. They exceeded my best expectations, so to say, in terms of the atmo-

mediately broke back to level at 5-5 it was O'Connell who went on to claim the tiebreak. Murray was rarely threatened in the second set, breaking in the first and last games to take the match to a decider. That was a tense affair during which each player produced some magnificent tennis. Both struggled on serve at times, with O'Connell

dug deep to overcome that challenge and then finally earned the only break of the set at 6-5 to end the battle. Earlier, Filip Krajinovic struggled to overcome a gallant Malek Jaziri in another thrilling first-round battle, edging his way to a 6-7 6-2 6-4 victory in a highly entertaining two hours 18 minutes.




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