

Cuttack Municipal Corporation fails to collect dues over unauthorised hoardings



CUTTACK(KCN): Against the permitted 200, over 2,000 unauthorised hoardings dot Cuttack city today owing to zero enforcement by the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC). The menace just seems to be growing every day. Further, the civic body is yet to collect hoarding tax to the tune of Rs 1.5 crore from the defaulters. As per the rule, the advertising agencies should take permission from CMC and pay rent and tax towards display of hoardings. However, many agencies instead of taking permission are putting up hoardings directly at prominent roads across the city, sometimes even covering road signs. While the civic body has closed its eyes to the menace, it is also yet to collect a whopping Rs 1.5 crore of hoarding tax which is pending against 30 advertisement agencies for the last two years. The CMC in its 2016 council meeting had

passed a resolution restricting display of hoardings at 12 places including Chandi Mandir square, near Orissa High Court, Gadakhai, SCB MCH, roads stretching from DRDA office to Sishu Bhawan, Satichaura square to Sector-10 Petanal road besides, near educational institutions, parks, health centres and religious institutions.

However, there has been no enforcement on its part. According to officials concerned, only 200 hoardings are allowed in the city but over 2000 of them are currently dotting the skyline.

CMC Deputy Commissioner Latashree Bag said that letters have been issued to the defaulting advertisement agencies asking them to pay the pending tax. "We have started collecting hoarding tax from October last year after the COVID situation improved," she said.

State hikes job entry Age

Bhubaneswar(KCN): State Cabinet chaired

sions relating to the departments of

and public grievances; higher educa-

tion; panchayati raj and drinking water; and revenue and di-



by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today took 12 major deci-

handloom, textiles and handicrafts; general administration

tion; panchayati raj and drinking water; and revenue and di-

staster management. Informing people about cabinet decisions through media, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra along with Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena said that Cabinet decided to extend the upper age limit for entry to state government service from 32

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Odisha turns 'Destination of Choice'

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday said that Odisha is fast emerging as the 'Manufacturing Hub of Eastern India' and focusing on 5T — Transparency, Technology, Teamwork, Time, and Transformation.

projects for which groundbreaking and inauguration have been undertaken today are spread over nine districts. Even in these difficult times amid the onslaught of COVID-19, the state has attracted major investments and continues to enjoy the trust of investors,"



The State Government is putting continuous efforts in making Odisha the "Destination of Choice" for investors, he said while inaugurating two industrial projects and performing the ground-breaking for 11 others projects worth over Rs 2359.29 crore here. "The 13

the CM said He noted that the state has always endeavoured to provide a "hassle-free and smooth business environment" for investors in Odisha. "Today's event, where we launched new industrial projects of diverse sectors — ranging from

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AIASA announced the office bearers for Odisha

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The All India Agriculture Students'

Agriculture and Ag-allied students of the registered institutions

opment. The body has actively participated in administra-

gregation of Agriculture in our country. It emphasizes on devel-



Association was established in 8th Jan 2011 as a welfare society, head quartered at New Delhi, to look after the prosperity of

across India. AIASA aims at safeguarding students' interest while maintaining the national vision of Agriculture sector devel-

opment of all the realms of agriculture viz-a-viz, Education, the prima facie ingredient for invention

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UK trade minister to launch Free Trade Agreement talks in Delhi from Wednesday

LONDON (KCN): Britain's Secretary of State for International Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan will launch Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations during a visit to New Delhi start-

(DIT) said on Sunday that the schedule for the two-day visit to India will include bilateral talks between Trevelyan and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thurs-



ing on Wednesday, the UK government has said. The Department for International Trade

"The UK and India are already close friends and trading partners, and

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Sri Lanka launches luxury train service with India's assistance

Colombo (KCN): Sri Lanka has launched a luxury train service connecting the country's Tamil-dominated Jaffna district to the capital city Colombo with the help of a Line of Credit offered by India, in another significant landmark in bilateral ties.

The intercity rail service with all facilities was launched on Sunday for passengers travelling from Colombo's Mount Lavinia suburb to Jaffna's Kankesanthurai port suburb in the north, covering a distance of approximately 386 kms.

India's High Com-

mission here termed it "another significant landmark in India-Sri Lanka ties". "Powering the rail-



way infrastructure forward!! The train service launched today to the Northern Province highlights 2 key pillars of India's development partnership with Sri Lanka -

AC Diesel Multiple Units (AC DMUs) under the loan facility. Sri Lanka's Minister of Transport Pavithra Wanniarachchi, who undertook the inau-

gural ride, was welcomed by India's Deputy High Commissioner Vinod K Jacob at the Colombo

"Hon'ble Minister @pavithrawannia1 inaugurated the AC Diesel Multiple Unit

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Prasanna Kumar Paikaraya Elected as State Secretary of OJ



constitute the Executive Body of the Union for the 2022-2024 Session. The Senior Journalist and Former Secretary OJ, Khordha District Unit Prasanna Kumar Paikaraya elected as State Secretary of OJ for 2022-2024 Session. Except Journalism Mr. Paikaraya is also involved in different Social Organization and actively participated social activities in the district of Khordha as well as the State of Odisha

since long time. After he was elected as the State Secretary of OJ Mr. Paikaraya thanks to OJ State President Prasanna Kumar Mohanty for his support. OJ Khordha District Unit President Sanat Kumar Pattnaik, Lohit Narayan Mohapatra, Sayed Ansar Alli and other members of the union congratulates Mr. Paikaraya to elected as the state Secretary of OJ.

Khordha (KCN): The Odisha Union of Journalists (OUJ) conducted its organizational election on Sunday to

On 11 January Celebrating 100 Years of Insulin Discovery and Use - Saving Millions of Lives Worldwide

14-year-old Leonard Thompson was dying of diabetes



On January 11, 1922 he was the first person to be injected with the insulin that would save his life.



Mumbai (KCN): 100 years to Insulin Discovery - Can we imagine today the life of a child with type 1 diabetes till about a 100 years ago? Miserable with complications and early death. The discovery of Insulin and its first use on 11th January 1922 for Leonard Thompson in Canada changed the destiny of people with diabetes world wide. The team of Banting, Best, Mcleod and Collip were awarded for one of the most important medical discoveries in history. Insulin is the hormone responsible for conversion of sugar into energy and it is deficient completely in type 1 diabetes and deficient relatively in type 2 diabetes. Insulin has evolved over

the last century from impure animal extracts to purified solutions, from commercial availability of human insulins to modified designer insulins to better control the highs and lows of blood sugars for people with both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. The insulin delivery has come a long way from reusable glass syringes and large needles to disposable syringes, pen devices with 4 mm needles and insulin pumps for continuous insulin delivery. Today, Insulin is the elixir of life for millions of people with type 1 diabetes across the globe. Individuals with type 2 diabetes too require insulin along with their oral medications for short or long term

periods and helps prevent the long-term complications of diabetes. Dr. Vasant Kumar, President of RSSDI (Research Society of Study for Diabetes in India) says, "Insulin is the miracle medicine that saves the lives of millions of people with type 1 Diabetes." Even today many children with type 1 diabetes across India loose their lives or land up with hospitalization due to diabetic ketoacidosis as a consequence of stopping insulin due to non affordability, non availability or wrong negligent guidance by some. Dr. Manoj Chawla & Dr. Purvi Chawla from Mumbai Diabetes Care Foundation (MDCF) believe in need for appropriate

training for correct insulin technique and monitoring of blood sugar using various technologies. MDCF runs regular training programme for physicians and patients alike on insulin use and supports with subsidized/ free availability of insulin and monitoring means like glucose meters and CGM where indicated. "No child with type 1 diabetes should ever be deprived of insulin and its benefits" is the belief of Dr. Banshi Saboo, Ex President of RSSDI. So as they celebrate the centenary of insulin discovery, one realises that we have a long way to go towards prevention and more effective management of diabetes and its complications.

1991 Batch 10th Class Students organized Get Together



Khordha (KCN): Bachhara Sushila Devi Pragati Bidya Pitha 1991 batch 10th class students organized get together at "Maa Batiani Pitha". It was a day of reunion for the 1991 batch 10th class students and their family members from various parts came after several years. Just for the reunion the students shared their memories with each others and

reminisced their older times in the class. Gyanendra Kumar Nayak, Parsuram Baral, Rajesh Behera, Pradeep Swain and Nibedita Senapati Co-ordinated the programme. Pramod Kumar Sahoo, Pratima Mohanty, Ashok Kumar Baliarsingh, Kedar Nath Sahoo, Suratha Kumar Subudhi, Narendra Kumar Sahoo and others were present.

COVID-19 vaccine: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation's camps to reach out to teenagers in slums

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has started organising special camps to reach out to teenagers in slums and speed up the ongoing inoculation drive in the city for 15 to below 18 years age group. The civic body organised four such camps on Friday. The camps were organised for the teenagers at Santipali slum in ward no 34, Falikia slum in ward no 41 and Mahisakhala slum in ward no 56. The civic body engaged vaccination teams and slum management committee members for smooth vaccination of the teens at these camps. Sources said, the BMC decided to carry out the drive in slums to ensure that those unable to register do not face any difficulties in getting vaccinated. Apart from slums, a special camp for teenagers was also organised

for adolescents at MBS School near Exhibition ground in Unit-III. Additional District Urban Public Health Officer (ADUPHO) Antaryami Mishra said they have targeted to vaccinate at least 50 teenagers in such camps, though provision for inoculation of 100 beneficiaries has been made. While the morning slot of these camps is kept reserved for teens who are being vaccination on the basis of token, the evening slot is being opened for beneficiaries of all eligible groups. The ADUPHO said that the response of teenagers to vaccination in the city has been very good so far. From administering first dose to 4,100 beneficiaries on January 3, the first day of vaccination, the civic body is now administering around 14,000 beneficiaries in the 15 to below 18 years age group a day.

Behold the new treasure scent: Oriflame unveils the Giordani Gold Essenza Blossom Parfum

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Oriflame's iconic brand Giordani Gold exudes luxury, and Essenza Parfum is the real essence and heart of Giordani Gold. Loved for its opulent bottle design, sheer sophistication and exclusive Orange Flower Luxury Essenza heart note, this is Oriflame's best-selling female fragrance. Building on this luxury, Oriflame now launches the Giordani Gold Essenza Blossom Parfum, the new treasure scent. Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the iconic Giordani Gold brand, the Essenza Blossom is designed as a Parfum jewel. Crafted with the highest attention to detail by two renowned Perfumers Fabrice Pellegrin and Daphne Bugey, Giordani Gold Essenza Blossom Parfum is created with a very high fragrance concentration for high impact and ultimate long-lasting quality. Luxuriously interwoven with Camellia and Jasmine to create the precious Rose Gold Accord, the fragrance is encased in the iconic bottle adorned with real 18 carat rose gold details on the cap. Now that's opulence and luxury! The treasure scent opens with the sweetness of pear and mandarin, along with a luminous bouquet of white flowers. The delicately soft Camellia Celebratissima Accord entwines with sensual orange blossom and rich jasmine is

further warmed with alluring notes of vanilla and musk. The 'Flower of Luxury' Camellia



brings a gentle quality to the perfume. First cultivated in the Coserta Royal Palace in Tuscany, the ornate "Celebratissima" variety embodies celebration and luxury. Speaking on the launch, Spokesperson - Oriflame, said, "Enjoy the classy, rich life with Giordani Gold's latest, rose gold rendition of the classic Essenza Parfum. The high-quality fragrance concentration offers the ultimate long-lasting scent that will mesmerize everyone around you. With Orange Blossom, Camellia, and Jasmine, this Parfum will take your breath away and elevate your aura from the moment it touches your skin. We are confident that our customers will love the warm and sensual finish of this exclusive Parfum."

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Farewells of the year: List of icons the entertainment industry lost in 2020

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The year of losses - 2020 - brought with it a lot of grief with the en-

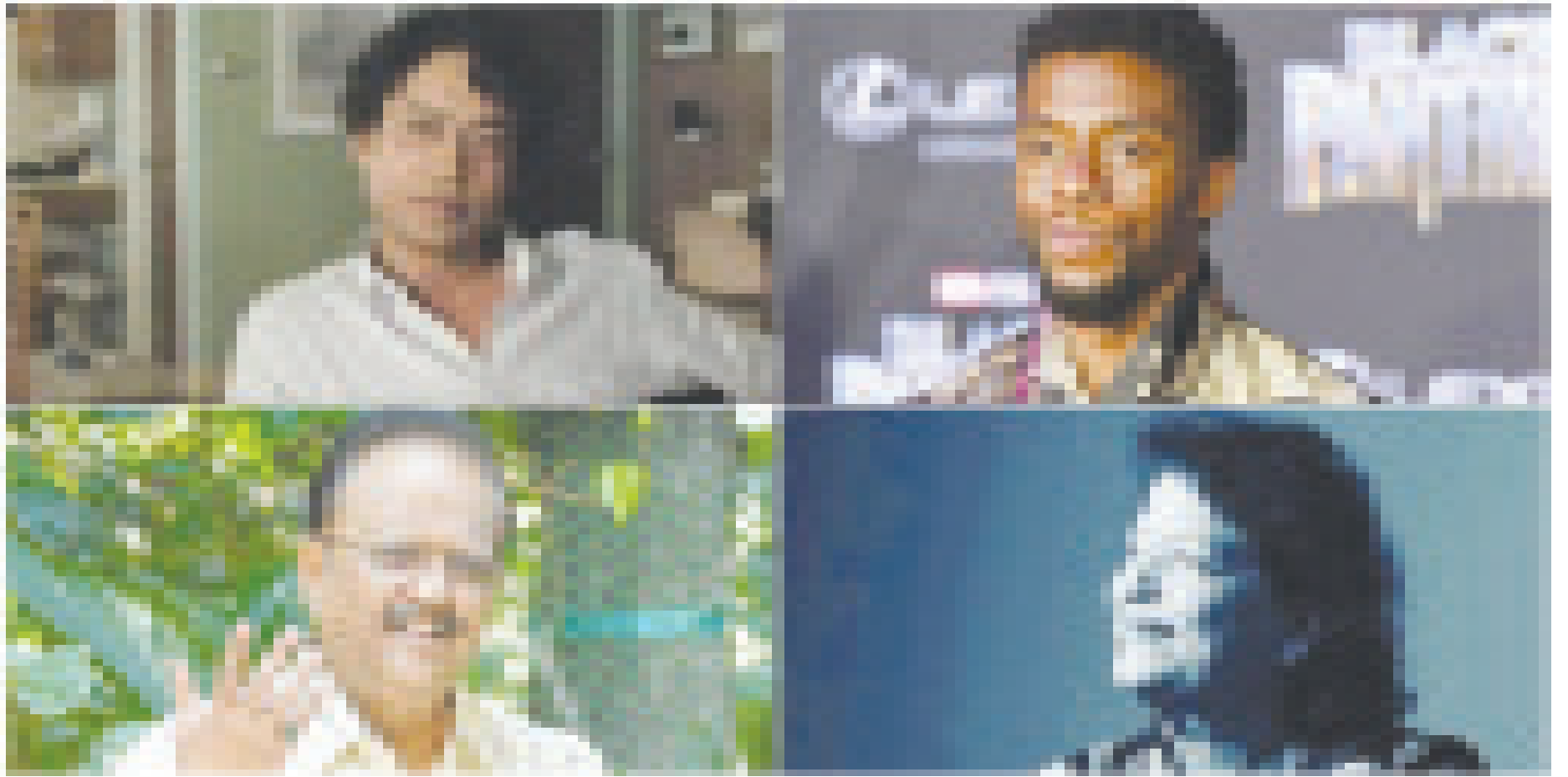
lot of controversies, fans continue to mourn the loss of the 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' star. He

breathed his last at a Mumbai hospital at the age of 67. Kickstarting his career from the small

triggered sorrow in every countryman including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Pandit Jasraj had

with her sudden demise on July 3 following a cardiac arrest. Khan was the first female choreog-

than 40 years and one of the screen's most reliable and distinctive leading men. Connery was the first



tainment industry marking the demise of some of its finest personalities. Be it 'James Bond' legend Sean Connery, or Bollywood's most celebrated icon Rishi Kapoor, the year kept dealing major blows with almost every fan losing at least one of their favourite entertainers. As we now set to bid adieu to the year full of tragedies and losses, here's a list of some of the greatest icons whose passing away left a void in the entertainment industry. The rising star of the Indian film industry, Sushant Singh Rajput shocked the entire nation on June 14, when he was found dead in his Mumbai residence. Though his demise triggered a

was 34. The much-loved star of the Marvel Universe brought the famous character of T'Challa to life in 'Black Panther.' Boseman passed away on August 29, at an age of 43 after a four-year-long battle with colon cancer. He did not reveal his cancer diagnosis throughout the four-year-long battle and continued working. Only after he passed away did his team reveal his illness. The charming lover boy and a member of the illustrious Kapoor clan, Rishi Kapoor passed away on April 30, after a two-year-long battle with leukemia. The original 'showman' left behind a rich legacy of cinematic marvels spanning decades. He

screen, Irrfan Khan tasted success in both Bollywood as well as Hollywood. The versatile actor made the country laugh and weep through his epic portrayals. From 'Life of Pi,' to 'Maqbool' and from 'Hindi Medium' to 'Piku,' each of the characters portrayed by Khan continue to remain etched in the hearts of his fans. He breathed his last on April 29 after battling rare cancer at the age of 53. The legendary classical vocalist who had a glorious 75-year-long musical career passed away on August 17 leaving behind a void in the Indian music industry. The demise of the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan recipient,

passed at the age of 90 due to a cardiac arrest. The musical maestro who graced many decades with his melodious voice passed away on September 25 due to post-Covid recovery complications. The winner of six national awards for his soulful singing fought hard before finally succumbing to his health complications at an age of 74. He lent his voice in songs of several films like 'Maine Pyaar Kiya,' 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun!,' 'Ek Duuje Ke Liye' and many more. The dancing legend who choreographed some of the greatest dance performances in the history of Hindi cinema, Saroj Khan sent shockwaves to the entire country

rapher in Bollywood and she is also known for mentoring the greatest of divas including Sridevi,

to bring the character of James Bond to the screens with 'Dr No' in 1962. While these are just a



Madhuri Dixit, and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. The most recent loss of the entertainment industry happens to be the original 'James Bond' legend Sean Connery who passed away due to heart failure on October 31. The Scottish-born actor was an audience favourite for more

handful of celebrities that the entertainment Industry lost in the year 2020, there are many more including filmmaker Nishikant Kamat, actor Soumitra Chatterjee, musician Wajid Khan and actor Jagdeep who passed away this year.

'Shakeela' trailer falls flat, lacks the punch expected in a star biopic



The trailer of Indrajit Lankesh's Hindi language film "Shakeela" doesn't hold much to impress. From using modern-day Hindi music to cliched film sets, it feels like a repackaging

of Vidya Balan's 'Dirty Picture' except that this version fails to bring the charm Vidya brought to the screen. The film, as described by the filmmakers of 'Shakeela', is

"inspired by life events of a famous star Shakeela who predominantly starred in southern cinema." It features Richa Chadha as the titular adult actor who was one of the biggest stars of the

1990s arriving from Kerala who went on to act in several adult films in languages spanning Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada, while Pankaj Tripathi is the male lead. The film is de-

scribed to "portray the hardships of the actress as she had to face a lot of criticism, insults and betrayals from her own family members and the film fraternity who were influential in getting her films banned." The main reason for the success of 'Kinnarathumbikal', one of the films that catapulted her into the limelight, was solely her screen presence and energy, and with no other male lead in the movie. Trying to fill in the gaping hole left by Silk Smitha in the low-budget softcore industry,

Shakeela made her own mark with around 250 movies in her kitty -- heralding the 'Shakeela Tharangam' (The wave of Shakeela). Meanwhile, the Shakeela that Indrajith is trying to portray doesn't look like she has much story to tell. The screen-space also seems to be overpowered by star cast Pankaj Tripathi. Let's hope the full length movie holds more than what the trailer showed. The film is produced by Sammy Nanwani and Sahil Nanwani, with music by Meet Bros and Veer Samarth.

Ten Scientific Breakthroughs That Rocked 2021

I. Impactful IPCC 2021 report on climate change

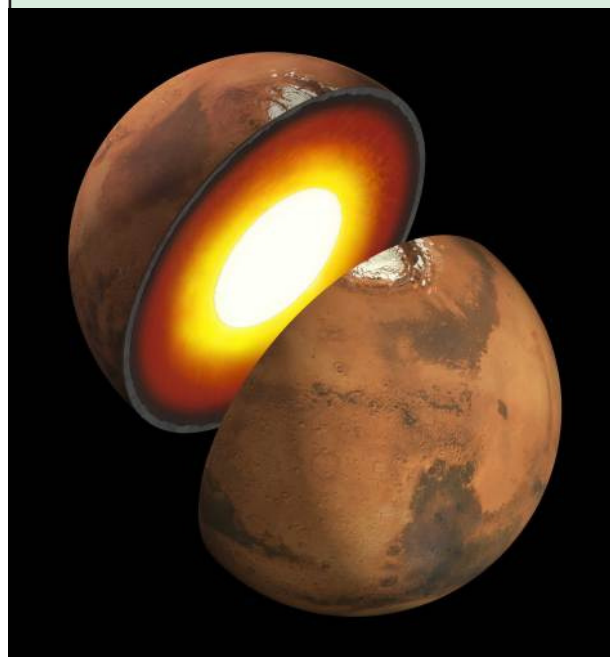
The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) gathers over 200 experts who volunteer to examine thousands of scientific articles and summarize crucial findings on the climate and its impact on communities. In summer 2021, they issued a new report on climate change status, including possible future scenarios and recommendations for



policymakers. In the hundred and fifty pages document, they concluded that it is “unquestionable” that human activities have warmed the atmosphere, oceans, and land at an unprecedented rate over thousands of years. This situation has severely impacted the frozen water systems and the biosphere. They also state that the consequences are already affecting communities that have to withstand the rapid rise of the sea level and extreme weather such as heatwaves, heavy



precipitation, or tropical cyclones. The report warns that the global temperature will soon exceed 2 °C “unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.”



However, they clarify that “many changes due to past and future greenhouse gas emissions

are irreversible for centuries to millennia, especially changes in the ocean, ice sheets and global sea level.”

Climate change represents a threat to our generation, and we are responsible for the future of the biosphere and civilization.

II. Mars interior revealed

The inner structure of Mars. Artists impression. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech.

Alexandra de Castro

public health concern, while effective treatments remain scarce. Researchers predict that, by 2050, the percentage of aged individuals will exceed 21% of the population; therefore, achieving healthy aging should be considered a goal for society.

A study published in Nature Aging suggests that gut bacteria may be crucial to rejuvenation. The researchers found that microbiota transplantation from young mice into old mice reverses many age-related metabolic and cognitive behavior dysfunctions such as those related to learning and memory. Read our full report about the finding here.

V. New successful arrivals to Mars



Perseverance and Ingenuity. Images were taken with the WATSON camera, on April 6, 2021. Credit: NASA.

During summer last year, three missions from different countries were launched heading to Mars. NASA rover Perseverance with its drone-helicopter Ingenuity, the Chinese orbiter Tianwen-1 with its charming looking rover Zhurong, and the satellite Hope from the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre from the United Arab Emirates safely arrived at Mars in February.

What are the questions scientists are asking with these new Curiosity companions? You will find all the details in our article Seven minutes of terror.

VI. AI helped unveil Rembrandt's painting lost piece

The famous Rembrandt painting The Night Watch has been exhibited for over 300 years with a missing piece. Yes, you read it!

In 1639, the Mayor of Amsterdam, captain Frans Banninck Cocq commissioned the artwork for the town hall. When it was ready, it stayed at the headquarters of the Dutch civil guard. In 1715, it was finally moved to the town hall triggering the tragedy. The painting was too big for the walls, so its borders were trimmed, and the “leftovers” were discarded. Nightwatch with the missing pieces, as generated using an AI. Credit: Hay Kranen.

Fortunately, Gerrid Lundens made a small copy of the painting. Although it is far from a replica, people and objects missing were there. Recently scientists used Lundens' copy as a cheat sheet to train artificial intelligence to visualize the missing part and reproduce it in Rembrandt's style. How? Read the full process in our article.

VII. The asteroid that killed the dinosaurs created the Rainforest

Solid evidence supports that the asteroid that

made the Barringer Crater in Arizona, USA, helped the dinosaurs to become extinct 60 million years ago. But what happened after that? We know that massive extinction gave way to new species and a new face of the Earth.

Paleontologists have been tracing the rainforest evolution; it appears to have its origin after the massive extinctions. In an article published this year in Science, Mónica Carvalho and collaborators used thousands of fossilized pollen and leaves to characterize the changes in the Colombian forests to reconstruct what happened at the end of the Cretaceous.

They found differences in the species composition, which led them to infer how the whole environment structure evolved. They concluded that the event that killed the dinosaurs “triggered a long interval of low plant diversity in the Neotropics and the evolutionary assembly of today's most diverse terrestrial ecosystem.”

Find a popular science article on the subject here.

VIII. Molecules of life found close to the center of the Milky Way

Early this year, in an article published in the



Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, Scientists reported (To be continued)

I am a science and technology communicator and a bilingual freelance writer —Spanish and English— with a research scientist background (Ph.D. in Physics). I hold a specialization in communication and divulgation of science and technology from the University of Oviedo, Spain (2014). My fifteen years of experience as a scientist include a postdoc position at the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany (DAAD fellow); Professor of physics, tenured, at Universidad Simón Bolívar, Caracas, Venezuela; and Research Associate at the University of Sydney, Australia. For the last three years, I have been the Leader of the non-profit organization Persea Foundation. I joined United Academics Magazine as Editor-in-chief in 2021. My passions are theoretical physics, particle physics, climate change, astronomy, and space exploration.

US, Russia meet for talks amid tensions linked to Ukraine

Senior U.S. and Russian officials were formally launching special talks on strategic stability on Monday as part of a flurry of diplomatic activity in Europe this week aimed at defusing tensions over a Russian mili-

deputy secretary of state, and her team. The meeting is part of "Strategic Security Dialogue" talks launched by Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin during a June summit in the Swiss city. After an informal

operation in Europe in Vienna on Thursday. Moscow has sought to wrest a string of concessions from the U.S. and its Western allies, including guarantees that NATO will no longer expand eastward into former

said that during Sunday's dinner Sherman "stressed the United States' commitment to the international principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and the freedom of sovereign nations to choose their own al-



tary buildup on the border with Ukraine. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov and his delegation arrived under Swiss police escort at the U.S. diplomatic mission for face-to-face talks with Wendy Sherman, the U.S.

working dinner on Sunday, Ryabkov predicted "difficult" talks in Geneva that are to be followed by a NATO-Russia meeting in Brussels on Wednesday and a meeting of the multi-lateral Organization for Security and Co-

Soviet states like Ukraine, along whose border Russia has amassed an estimated 100,000 troops in steps that have raised concerns about a possible deeper military intervention there. State Department spokesman Ned Price

liances," a reference to Ukraine and its aspirations of joining NATO. Sherman "affirmed that the United States would welcome genuine progress through diplomacy," Price said in a statement.

Paper Slippers For Kashi Shrine

Vanarasi: The devotees visiting the Shree Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi and hundreds of temple workers will no longer need to enter the temple premises barefoot. Starting 14 January, Khadi and Village Industries Commission

Hastkala Pratisthan, a registered Khadi Institution in Varanasi. The handmade paper slipper manufacturing unit will be inaugurated by the Mahant of Kashi Vishwanath Temple on Makar Sankranti; i.e. on 14 January, 2022. The development

performing seva have to abide by this rule. Chairman KVIC, Vinai Kumar Saxena said the "use & throw" slippers made of handmade paper will maintain the sanctity of the temple and at the same time will also save devotees from heat and cold during harsh

Mr.Saxena said. Notably, Khadi's handmade paper "use & throw" slippers have been developed for the first time in India. These handmade paper slippers are 100% eco-friendly and cost-effective. The Handmade paper



(KVIC) is beginning the sale of Khadi handmade paper "Use & Throw" slippers for the use of the devotees and the workers. The Khadi handmade paper slippers will be sold from the Khadi sales outlet located at the parking lot of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor. The handmade paper slippers can be purchased at a nominal price of Rs 50 per pair. The slippers will be sold by Kashi

comes in wake of the jute slippers sent by the Prime Minister for the workers of Kashi Vishwanath Temple after he learnt that most of the people working at the temple performed their duty barefoot. It is forbidden to wear footwear made of leather or rubber on the temple premises. The entire workforce of the temple including the priests, security guards, sanitation workers and people

weather conditions. Also, these slippers will prevent any kind of pollution as they are made of natural fibres. "These handmade paper slippers will uphold the sanctity of the temple. These slippers are made of 100% eco-friendly material. The use of these slippers in temple premises will also create sustainable employment for Khadi artisans. KVIC will be selling these slippers from 14 January,"

used in making these slippers is completely wood-free and made of natural fibres like Cotton & Silk rags and agro waste and hence, suitable for use in places of worship. It is also effective from the hygiene point of view. These slippers have been developed by KVIC with the objective of supporting the handmade paper industry and creating sustainable employment for artisans.

Kazakhstan's largest city Almaty returns to normal after clashes, blackout leave over 40 dead

ALMATY: Kazakhstan's largest city was back online and appeared to be returning to normal on Monday, as the nation observed a day of mourning after clashes that left dozens dead and the financial hub of 1.8 million people reeling. Almaty, the country's former capital, had been nearly completely offline since Wednesday, but local and foreign websites were accessible again from Monday morning, following the worst unrest in the ex-Soviet republic's independent history. The Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), a Moscow-led regional military bloc that has dispatched peacekeeping troops to the country, was set to hold an online summit on the crisis on Monday, with the Kremlin confirming Russian President Vladimir Putin's attendance. AFP correspondents saw public transport on the streets of Almaty for the first time since protests descended into violence earlier this week, leaving strategic government buildings burned and gutted and businesses counting the costs of a looting spree. Lyudmila, a pensioner who was waiting for a bus in the city centre and gave only her first name, said she was alerted to the internet's re-appearance by a messenger call from relatives in Ukraine. "I had no idea that we were back online again," she said. She told AFP that during clashes on Wednesday night, injured soldiers had been dragged into the courtyard of the apartment building where she lived for emergency treatment. Kazakhstan has framed the violence in Almaty as an attack by "terrorist groups" and expressed displeasure at foreign media coverage of the events, which began with protests over a fuel price hike in the west of the country on January 2. On Monday the government said foreign media reports had created "the false impression that the Kazakhstan government has been targeting peaceful protestors". "Our security forces have been engaging with violent mobs who were committing brazen acts of terror," the foreign ministry said in the statement. But the authoritarian government has also struggled to firm up its own narrative. On Sunday evening the information ministry retracted a statement that had appeared in an officially run Telegram channel earlier that said more than 164 people had died in the unrest.

Two private websites that had reported the news said the information ministry had told them the statement was the result of a "technical mistake". Officials previously said that 26 "armed criminals" had been killed and that 16 security officers had died. In total, 5,800 people have been detained for questioning, the presidency said in a statement on Sunday. Nur-Sultan, the city that replaced Almaty as capital in 1997 and which was renamed in honour of 81-year-old founding president Nursultan Nazarbayev in 2019, saw comparatively little unrest. West-Russia tensions The crisis comes with tensions between Moscow and the West at post-Cold War highs over fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine, with talks between Russia and the US to take place in Geneva on Monday after a working dinner on Sunday evening. Russia has ruled out any concessions at the talks. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has thanked the Moscow-led CSTO for answering his request for help and sending a detachment of 2,500 troops to the country. Tokayev says the deployment will be temporary, but US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned on Friday that "once Russians are in your house, it's sometimes very difficult to get them to leave". While the precise contours of the political crisis that engulfed Kazakhstan are unclear, it is evident that the ruling elite has been roiled. On Saturday, authorities announced the arrest on treason charges of Karim Masimov, a high-profile Nazarbayev ally who was dismissed from his post as security committee chief at the height of the unrest. Nazarbayev, who was widely regarded as holding the strings in the oil-rich Central Asian country despite stepping down from the presidency in 2019, has not spoken in public since the crisis began. Nazarbayev's press secretary said on Twitter on Saturday that Nazarbayev was in "direct contact" with Tokayev and called on Kazakhs to "rally around" the president. Nazarbayev hand-picked Tokayev as his successor after calling time on more than a quarter-century as head of state. Tokayev's spokesman said on Sunday that he was "taking decisions independently...not running to consultants."



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Rural Poll Guidelines Soon

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Giving a clear indication towards timely conduct of Panchayat elections, State Election Commissioner Aditya Prasad Padhi on Monday said detailed guidelines for the poll will be issued soon, keeping the prevailing Covid-19 situation in mind.

Mr. Padhi today held a meeting with the representatives of all political parties of the State and took their feedback and suggestions for free, fair and safe conduct of the election. All political parties expressed their views on whether the polls can be held or not under the present Covid-19 situation.

“The Election Commission of India (ECI) has already issued guidelines on the conduct of assembly elections in several states. We are framing similar guidelines to ensure free, fair and safe poll in the State. The guidelines will be issued soon,” said Mr. Padhi.

Meanwhile, Opposition BJP and Congress have proposed the SEC for postponement of the polls for a period of three months in view of the prevailing Covid-19 situation in the State and issues on reservation for ST and OBC candidates.

On the other hand, senior BJD wants that the Constitutional right of voters to exercise their franchise is not denied and the polls are held on time.

BJP lawmaker Mohan Majhi urged the SEC to defer the election by two to three months after completion of Covid-19 third wave peak period.

Senior Congress leader Ganeshwar Behera said, “Apart from the BJD, all other parties believe that polls are not feasible under the present circumstances of the steep rise in Covid-19 cases. We urged the Commission to defer the poll by three months.”

However, Rajya Sabha Member Amar

Sovaniya International Youth Web Conference Held

Youth Power is supreme : Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal

Mclean/ Toronto/ Canberra/ London/ Manchester/ Singapore/ Auckland/ Nizwa/ New Delhi/ Bengaluru/ Bhubaneswar/ Cuttack/ Udaygiri(KCN): The Power, Potential, Perfection, Proactiveness and fortitude of youths are unique and unparallel observed



Governor Professor Ganeshi Lal. Inaugurating the 21st International Youth Web Conference hosted by International Indecency Prevention Movement (IIPM), Prof. Lal attributed youth's strength as solid and supreme.



They are quite capable to fight Corona out, he added. Lauding the Topic of the Conference, “Youth's Mandate to keep up Mental Health

viewers witnessed the Live Streaming of the Mega Event through Social Networks.

Initiating the debate at the plenary session, Prof Kalikinkar Pattanayak exudes confidence that Youths can do wonder and miracle and have the guts to transform and Reform the society. Senior Advocate of Supreme Court Soumyajit Pani pointed out several positive outcomes of the restrictions during the Pandemic. Eminent Physician from Australia Dr Nalini Pati urges Youths to engross in mindfulness and engage mind in positive thoughts avoiding stress and depression. Dr Tanmay Panda from Canada underlined that spiritual and divine knowledge is necessary for youths to overcome the hazards of Pandemic.

Dr Usha Rout from U.K. recommended that youths to be taken into confidence in decision making, finding solutions and managing disasters during Pandemic. Mentioning that Pandemic has created opportunity to raise mental Health, Siba Ranjan Biswal from Manchester stressed on the need of self care and intra motivation. Dr Bhagyashree Singh from U.K.

brighter side and positiveness of the problem



like how pandemic has brought all of us from different parts of the world together and taught us to care and share among each other. Sujit Routray from Bengaluru prescribed for spreading motivation through social media, maintaining mental health through charitable



organisations like Sovaniya and contemplating innovations in policies. Prem Nepak from Newzealand suggested to keep a close track on mental health of our near and dear youngsters and counsel them properly. Advising to be vigilant and not to get scarry, Dr Tapan Kumar Mahanta from Oman informed that our body has the immense capability to neutralise the substitute mutant like omicron. Advocate Biraja Mohapatra from New Delhi Wished youths to be in good health to face the Pandemic boldly. Senior member of IIPM Indramani Nayak presented vote of thanks. Ace anchor from Singapore Banojini Nayak conducted and co-ordinated the entire session smoothly. Nandan Dwibedi managed the Digital control desk ably.

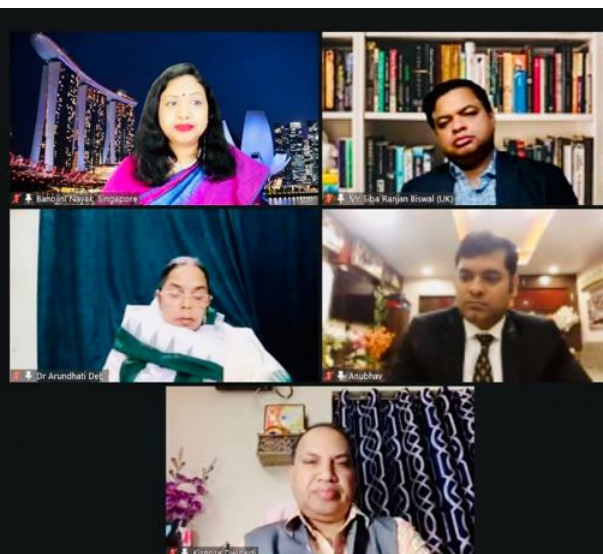
Sovaniya Bahini kept the audience spellbound by their opening song ‘Oh Youth.’ Khirabditanaya Jena presented scintillating

and Mass Morale during Pandemic,” Prof. Lal appealed the youngsters to spread Peace, Plurality, Positivity, Perseverance and spirituality among the common masses in the society during the current Pandemic period. Delivering her Welcome address The Director of IIPM and Chairperson of the Conference Dr Arundhati Debi, expected youths to be honest, sincere, disciplined, peaceful, lovable, co-operative and helpful. Dr Debi gave a clarion call to young masses across the Globe to rise upto the occasion and extend helping hands to the vulnerable sections of the Society to keep up their mental health during ongoing corona catastrophe. Guest of Honour and Chairman of World Odisha Society Kishore Dwibedi advised Youths to take precaution and prevention and remain away from distress and depression. USA based young Entrepreneur Anubhav Mishra observed that the Pandemic has thrown open myriad of opportunities to think of out of the box, go for innovations, display of inner energies and trust on self strength. The Souvenir of the Conference “The Yuba Surya” was released during the occasion. The Online conclave was attended by Representatives of Sovaniya Andolan in different countries, prominent non resident Odias and eminent intellectuals as well as scholars from all over the world. Hundreds of

emphasised on the longstanding persistence



of physical disorder during Post Covid Period and finding their cure. Narrating Corona as a war between discipline and indiscipline, Dr Sitansu Sekhar Nanda from South Korea pleaded youths to remain cool, clam, composed, contented and disciplined. Young panellist Priyanka Priyadarshini strongly argued to use our age old traditional methods of treatment and Ayurvedic medicines for corona victims. Dr Ram Prasad Mohanty from Australia wanted youths to get away from depression, loneliness and Panic and look at the



musical number entitled Surjya Senani Ame on the theme of Sovaniya Movement. Distinguished dignitaries present include Dr Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Krupanidhi Biswal, Ravi Mahapatra, Akshay Mohanty, Dr. Anita Panda, Mamata Pradhan, Krushna Kumar, Nirakar Beura, Umakant Bhuyan, Dr.Pravati Panigrahi, Reeta Patra, Kasturika Patnaik, Sunanda Mishra Panda, Cheeranjiv Swain, Satyabrata Mohanty, Sreemarani Das, Dr Rabinarayan Behera, Kaveri Behera, Manoj Nayak and Pradipta Kumar Mishra.



Patnaik, who represented ruling BJD in the meeting, said the tenure of the elected representatives of all rural bodies across the State will end in March.

“BJD wants the Constitutional right of voters to exercise their franchise and the poll should not be delayed a single minute. The BJD has assured to extend all support to the Commission in conducting the polls with strict compliance of the Covid-19 norms.

Meanwhile, a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed in Orissa High Court seeking postponement of the rural polls to give reservation to the OBC people.

6 ISIS terrorists killed in police raid in Pakistan

Pakistan: Pakistani counterterrorism police have killed six terrorists from the outlawed Islamic State group in a raid at a hideout in the southwestern city of Quetta.

The raid was carried in the Eastern Bypass area on Saturday night, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) said in a statement, adding that the terror group had been planning a big attack in Quetta. “There was heavy exchange of fire during the intelligence-based operation conducted on information about the



presence of militants in the area. The CTD also seized arms, ammunition and explosive material from a house being used by the members of the banned outfit as their hideout,” a CTD official said.

One of the dead terrorists was identified as Asghar Samalani, who had a Rs 20-lakh bounty on his head. He was killed along with other terrorists near a graveyard on Quetta's Eastern Bypass, the official said. “They were moving to attack a sensitive installation in Quetta. On receiving the information, a CTD team reached the place and intercepted the terrorists,” the CDS spokesman said.

The militants were asked to surrender by the CTD personnel, but they started firing indiscriminately and lobbed grenades. A shootout ensued in which six ISIS members were killed while four to five others managed to escape in the dark, the statement said. Things recovered by the CTD included an improvised explosive device, three submachine guns with 200 rounds, two 9mm pistols with 47 rounds, a hand grenade and two motorcycles, it said.

Domestic air passenger traffic at 111 lakh in April-Dec; 44 per cent lower against 2019

MUMBAI: Domestic air passenger traffic remained 44 per cent lower in the April-December 2021 to 111 lakh against the corresponding period of FY20, but saw a jump of 52 per cent compared to December 2021, according to rating agency ICRA.

The total domestic passenger traffic had stood at 73 lakh in December 2020, according to a report by the rating agency.

It also said that the emergence of new coronavirus variant and reactionary restrictions impacting air travel remain near term-challenges for the airline industry. On a sequential basis, the growth in December was recorded at 5-6 per cent over No-

vember 2021 during which Indian carriers had flown 105 lakh passengers, ICRA said in a statement on Monday. Besides, the average



daily departures stood at around 2,800, notably higher compared with around 2,065 in December 2020 and around 2,700 in November 2021, it said. At the same time, the average number of

passengers per flight during December 2021 was largely flat at 129 as compared to 130 in November, ICRA said. Though sequential

recovery continued in

December 2021, demand continues to remain subdued from the corporate traveller segment as reflected by the passenger traffic for 9M FY2022 remaining around 44 per cent

largely on the back of leisure travel, boosted by calendar year-end festive and holiday travel, he added. Moreover, with the emergence of the new coronavirus variant and the recent trend of rising infections,

lower than 9M FY2020, ICRA Vice-President and Sector Head Suprio Banerjee said. Sequential recovering is happening

few states have already started announcing certain curbs on domestic air travel, posing a serious threat to domestic passenger traffic recovery in the near term, he said.

Domestic air passenger traffic grew around 5-6 per cent to around 111 lakh in December 2021, compared with around 105 lakh in November 2021, ICRA said.

It added that the same reflects a y-o-y growth of around 52 per cent, wherein passenger traffic stood at around 73 lakh in December 2020, the report said.

Airlines' capacity deployment for December 2021 stood at around 35 per cent higher than Decem-

ber 2020 (86,465 departures in December 2021 against 64,002 departures in December 2020), it added. ICRA also noted that one major concern that continues to be a drag on the aviation sector is the aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, which have seen a sharp increase of 49 per cent on a y-o-y basis till January 2022, mainly on account of an increase in crude oil prices.

This, coupled with relatively low capacity utilisation of aircraft fleet, will continue to weigh on the financial performance of Indian carriers in FY2022, ICRA said.

It added that furthermore, the credit profile of most Indian carriers continues to be characterised by a weak liquidity position.

UK trade minister to launch Free Trade Agreement talks in Delhi from Wednesday

Continued from page-1

building on that strong relationship is a priority for 2022. I will be using my visit to drive forward an ambitious trade agenda which represents the UK's Indo-Pacific tilt in action and shows how we are seizing global opportunities as an independent trading nation," said Trevelyan.

"This is just the start of a five-star year of UK trade, forging closer economic partnerships around the globe and negotiating deals that work for businesses, families and consumers in every part of the UK," she added.

On Thursday, the UK minister will join Goyal to co-host the 15th UK-India Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) to review how businesses in both countries are benefiting from existing market access commitments under the UK-India Enhanced Trade Partnership agreed last May by Prime Ministers Boris Johnson and Narendra Modi.

The DIT said the UK Trade Secretary is expected to meet several Cabinet ministers to discuss closer bilateral cooperation, including External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav. "This highlights the ongoing wider strategic importance of the UK-India bilateral relationship which extends beyond trade," the DIT said.

On Wednesday, Trevelyan will meet staff at the New Delhi site of British manufacturing firm JCB to talk about how manufacturing and engineering firms could hugely benefit from the UK-India trade deal. The company are dubbed a UK "export success story", having been in India for over 40 years and employing over 5,000 people in country.

Later that day, the UK minister will also attend a Defence Industry roundtable hosted alongside Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar to promote future UK-India defence collaboration and strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

According to latest DIT figures, total trade in goods and services between the UK and India was GBP 23.3 billion in 2019, making India the UK's 15th largest trading partner. Indian investment in the UK supports 95,000 jobs across the country, with 15,000 new jobs created by Indian investment in the last three years.

The UK government said that a trade deal could help increase this further and will play a key role in our ambition to double trade with India by 2030.

It added: "India is one of the world's biggest and fastest growing economies and a bold new deal would put UK businesses at the front of the queue to export to India's growing middle class of a quarter of a billion consumers. India is set to become the world's third biggest economy by 2050, with a bigger population than the US and EU combined."

Odisha turns 'Destination of Choice'

Continued from page-1

— is proof that our efforts in attracting investments have borne fruit," Mr.Patnaik said. This has created an industry-led ecosystem of value addition, sustainable employment generation and revenue augmentation in the State, he asserted.

Mr.Patnaik said it is heartening to see the efforts being put in by the friends in Corporate India as well as the officers of State Government in ensuring that while the fight with Covid-19 is on one hand, efforts also continue to build a more industrially prosperous Odisha. He complimented all the companies that participated in the ceremony.

Minister of Energy, Industries, MSME said that the Government has taken many steps to facilitate industrial investments and introduced several initiatives to attract employment-intensive sectors.

"Odisha is a pro-industrial State and our government is committed to the growth of the manufacturing sector. We aim to make Odisha a manufacturing powerhouse. In order to realize this goal, our government is focusing on mega investments in new age sectors, offering increased incentives, over and above the benefits offered by the PLI scheme of Govt of India," he said.

Highlighting the efforts to improve the Ease of doing business, he said, with several initiatives the state government is ensuring time-bound and fast commissioning of the industrial projects.

The projects include a logistic park, 3-ethanol plants, a steel expansion project, a cement manufacturing unit and a 5-star resort among others.

These diversified and employment-intensive projects will create potential employment for over 3,200 persons in the State, he said.

Some of the leading companies promoting these projects include Tata Steel, Prachi Resorts, Swosti Premium, Greentech Bio-Energy and Coastal Biotech.

The projects that were inaugurated were a cement grinding unit of 1.5 million metric tons per annum at KNIC Jajpur by Jajpur Cement at an investment of Rs 400 crore and prospects of generating employment opportunities for over 214 persons and a Bio-degradable tableware manufacturing unit at Growth Centre Ph-II, Balangir by Swosti Ecowares at an investment of Rs 9.03 crore that will generate potential employment opportunities for over 49 persons.

The projects for which ground-breaking was done are an expansion project of Tata Steel of its iron ore beneficiation plant from 12 MMTPA to 17.6 MMTPA at Joda in Keonjhar district at an investment of Rs 946 crore with prospect of generating employment opportunities for over 803 persons; a 200 KLPD Ethanol along with 5 MW Co generations plant at

State hikes job entry Age

Continued from page-1

to 38 for three years up to 2023.

This decision was taken to enable the youths who could not appear the recruitment examinations because of covid situation, and run out of age during last two years.

Chief Minister also gave nod to Odisha non-Government colleges, Junior colleges and higher Secondary schools grant-in order 2022. Cabinet also approved the tender proposals of mega pipe water supply schemes for Samakhunta, Kaptipada and Baripada block of Mayurbhanj district; Banki, Dampada Baranga of Cuttack district; Jujumora, Maneswar Naktideula, Rairakhol blocks of Sambalpur district; and Saraskana, Kuliana and Bangiriposi blocks of Mayurbhanj district. Chief Secretary Mr.Mahapatra said that construction of these pipe water supply schemes would be completed in 2 years from the time of the execution agreement

Sri Lanka launches luxury train service with India's assistance

Continued from page-1

(DMU) supplied by @RITESLimited under an Indian credit line & launched the train service from Mt.Lavinia to KKS. She undertook the inaugural ride & was welcomed at the #Colombo #Fort Station by Deputy High Commissioner," the Indian mission said in a tweet. "This train service will facilitate people-to-people exchange and will lay emphasis on mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries," Jacob said.

The train service will criss-cross the island nation, connecting Colombo with Kankesanthurai on the northern tip of the Jaffna Peninsula, which has a Tamil-majority population.

Wanniarachchi thanked the Indian government for its continued support to Sri Lanka in tackling the ongoing pandemic.

The supply of air-conditioned diesel multiple units is just one of the many railway projects being undertaken by India in Sri Lanka, the Indian High Commission said, adding that there are also other ongoing projects, which include supply of passenger coaches under an Indian Line of Credit.

India's total development portfolio in Sri Lanka is over USD 3.5 billion, of which around USD 570 million are purely grant projects, the Indian mission said in a statement.

Modernisation of railways and the creation of new railway infrastructure has been important sectors of focus under the Indian Government's development portfolio in Sri Lanka, in line with the priority of the government and people of Sri Lanka, it added.

AIASA announced the office bearers for Odisha

Continued from page-1

and innovation; Infrastructure to evolve with the modern era of technology; Research to meet desired standards of output and enrichment; Extension to disseminate global level methodologies at the grass root level of our country. Added to that AIASA also strives to bring promising national and international job opportunities to the member students, publish newsletters and magazines periodically, strengthen students-teachers association and provide scholarships to meritorious students. It also works for eradication of corruption, cut-short unnecessary bureaucratic interference and redress disputes and grievances in fast-track mode. To execute its operations in Odisha AIASA has formed the state cabinet for Odisha for the year 2022 comprising of the following selected members.

It aims in bringing new job opportunities in agricultural sector and improve awareness about student rights and needs and help students in various sectors of Odisha. Advisor, State Mr Anil Mishra mentioned about the formation of state agriculture council for betterment of agri allied education and also to implement the agriculture education from school level for students, which will create an awareness among students about agriculture and farmers.

I used to like him as an actor but this was not nice: Saina on Siddharth's remark

NEW DELHI(KCN): Badminton ace Saina Nehwal on Monday said it was "not nice" to see actor Siddharth's unsavoury remark after she expressed con-

(NCW) asking Twitter India to "immediately" block the actor's account. "Yeah, I'm not sure what he meant. I used to like him as an actor but this was not

security breach during his visit to Punjab, Saina had tweeted, "No nation can claim itself to be safe if the security of its own PM gets compromised. I condemn,

the matter. NCW has also written to @TwitterIndia for blocking the actor's account & to take appropriate action against him for post-



cerns on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent security breach and he could have used "better words" to comment on the matter. Siddharth's reply to the Olympic bronze medallist's tweet on PM Modi's security breach has attracted much flak, with the National Commission for Women

nice. He can express himself with better words but I guess it's Twitter and you remain noticed with such words and comments," Saina, who is also a BJP member, said in a statement. "If the security of the PM of India is an issue then I'm not sure what is secure in the country," she added. Reacting to Modi's

in the strongest words possible, the cowardly attack on PM Modi by anarchists." In response to this, Siddharth had tweeted, "Subtle cock champion of the world.. Thank God we have protectors of India (sic)." The NCW, which is headed by Rekha Sharma, said it has taken cognisance of

ing such remarks. Following strong criticism on social media for the tweet, Siddharth said that "nothing disrespectful was intended". "COCK & BULL" That's the reference. Reading otherwise is unfair and leading! Nothing disrespectful was intended, said or insinuated. Period," he tweeted.

Host Cameroon wins as African Cup opens under virus shadow

YAOUNDE: Cameroon captain Vincent Aboubakar scored two penalties in quick succession as the host country came from behind to beat Burkina Faso 2-1 in the African Cup of Nations' opening game Sunday, lifting the mood of a tournament burdened throughout the buildup by the coronavirus pandemic. Aboubakar slotted the first penalty to the right side of the goal in the 40th minute and the sec-



ond to the left side in the third minute of first-half injury time. It left a large crowd at Olembe Stadium in Yaounde sighing with relief after they'd waited out two delays lasting three years before the African Cup finally came to their Central African country. Cameroon's long-serving 88-year-old President Paul Biya smiled broadly at the end. Cameroon was stripped of the 2019 tournament because of problems with its preparations and saw its 2021 hosting delayed a year because of the virus. It seemed the wait wouldn't be worth it when Gustavo Sangaré volleyed Burkina Faso into the lead in the 24th minute. He ran off pounding his chest in celebration. Cameroon fans had their heads in their hands. But Burkina Faso lost the lead with two reckless pieces of defending in the closing minutes of the first half. Burkina Faso captain Bertrand Traoré barged into André-Frank Zambo Anguissa to give Cameroon its first penalty, which was only awarded after referee Mustapha Ghorbal consulted VAR. VAR is being used in all games at the African Cup for the first time. It was used from the quarterfinals onward at the last one. Soon after, Issoufou Dayo mistimed a sliding tackle to foul Nouhou Tolo and Aboubakar kept his cool for a second time. VAR was also pivotal in the second Group A game on the opening day, where Cape Verde beat Ethiopia 1-0, also at Olembe. Referee Hélder Martins Rodrigues de Carvalho gave Ethiopia defender Yared Bayeh a yellow card for a foul on striker Júlio Tavares but changed that to red in the 12th minute after consulting VAR. Tavares headed

in Cape Verde's goal right on halftime. The tournament officially opened a few hours earlier at the newly rebuilt Olembe Stadium with a burst of colour as dancers wearing red, green, yellow, white and blue costumes performed in the middle of the field during a short opening ceremony. Some of them wore masks in matching colours, a reminder that Africa's monthlong soccer showpiece is going ahead amid a global surge in virus cases driven by the omicron variant. A computer-generated image of a giant lion walked across the top of the stadium roof as the ceremony began, a nod to Cameroon's team, known as the "Indomitable Lions." Red, green and yellow smoke — the colours of Cameroon's flag — burst from a huge replica of the trophy to end the celebrations marking Cameroon's biggest sporting moment since last hosting the African Cup 50 years ago. FIFA President Gianni Infantino attended, as did Biya, who has been president of Cameroon since 1982. Biya didn't wear a mask and neither did many of the soccer supporters. The 60,000-seat stadium was nearly full for the Cameroon game, even after organizers introduced a last-minute restriction that only fully vaccinated fans with proof of recent negative virus tests will be allowed into stadiums for any of the 52 games. Attendances are also capped at 80% of stadium capacity for games involving the home team, and 60% for other games. The tournament will still be hard-pressed to avoid being regularly disrupted by infections and outbreaks given that so many of the 24 teams have had virus cases in the buildup. "Today, by all of us being here, it shows that we believe in ourselves, that we believe in the people of Cameroon and we believe in the people of Africa," Confederation of African Football President Patrice Motsepe said at the ceremony. He said it would be the best African Cup ever. Yet this African Cup has been the target of more scepticism than most. There were rumours that it was going to be postponed again, while European clubs have expressed concerns that the health protocols won't be sufficient to protect their African players. CAF rejected the criticism and pressed ahead. "The people of Cameroon are showing the rest of Africa, the rest of the world, that we can host a successful..." Motsepe said before the cheers of the crowd prevented him from finishing his sentence.

I'm nowhere near done, says Rabada set for personal milestone at Newlands

When Kagiso Rabada takes the field against India on Tuesday, he will complete a significant milestone of playing 50 Test matches, but the pacer says "he is nowhere near done" and hopes to serve the South African team for a long time. Rabada, 26, already has 226 Test wickets in his kitty and is spearheading the Proteas pace attack. He is also the fastest South African bowler and fourth fastest overall in terms of age to get to 200 wickets. "As much as it is about taking wickets, it's about being the best I can be and there's no limit to that. I feel like I'm nowhere near done," Rabada was quoted as saying by the Cricket South Africa website. "It's just about coming back and playing the next game. You can never take international cricket for

granted. "For me it's about the longevity and not doing it for just a short amount of time. It's about doing it for a long time and that's what keeps driving me," he added. Rabada, who was unaware of reaching the landmark until the end of the previous match, said it's a milestone which is close to his heart. "It's quite special. I didn't even know how many games I was on and only found out after the last Test match that this would be my 50th. "It kind of really goes by without noticing. But it's something special for me, I've always wanted to represent my country, so this is definitely a personal milestone and one that I'll hold dear to my heart. "It has not been an easy path for the pacer since he made his Test debut in In-

dia in 2015. There's been lots of ups and downs, it's definitely been challenging to keep good performances going for a long amount of time. "It's been tough navigating your way through the lows -- I think that's been quite difficult -- and then also trying to get through the external pressures that can influence your game and also influence the team space. "Those are things you have to get used to dealing and things you constantly learn how to deal with. "At the end of the day you almost have to remind yourself to keep enjoying it and remember yourself as this youngster who just wanted to represent your country and show the world what you're about," said Rabada. A vital cog in South Africa's scheme of things, Rabada bowled a stunning

spell on the third day of the second Test, which helped South Africa post a memorable seven-wicket win against India to level the series. The right-hander counts the 2015 ODI series win in India and the Test series victory against Australia in 2016 as highlights of his career. "The tours that stand out were when we visited India in 2015 and we became the first South African touring team to beat India in an ODI series away from home. "Also when we went to Australia in 2016 when a lot of our players were kind of retiring and we really had to dig deep and ended up winning the series 2-1 away from home. "Australia is a big challenge away from home and those two series were the highlights of my career thus far," added the fast-bowler.

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