

SEC on Urban Poll Readiness

Bhubaneswar: The State Election Commission (SEC) is taking all steps for smooth conduct of

general elections to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), 2022. As per norms, the Election Officer of

Electoral Roll, the electors will be split up polling booth wise. The State Election

voters in a proposed booth exceeds 1200, there should be one more booth, equally distributing the voters as far as possible. The polling station will be carefully selected in advance and to the extent possible, they may be located more or less in permanent fireproof public buildings.

"The polling booths should not be located in the premises of police stations, hospitals, religious institutions and private buildings," the SEC said.

There can be more than one booth in one polling station. But, there must be a separate waiting area, entrance and exit for each such booth.

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the Urban Poll soon after the Panchayat elections in the State. The Commission has recently issued detailed procedure or guidelines for finalisation of polling station/booth for the

every Municipality shall, with the previous approval of the Election Commission, provide a sufficient number of polling stations for each ward. After the final publication of the

Commission directed that one polling booth will be provided for a well defined polling area covering on an average of 1,000 electors, as far as practicable. In case the number of

Flight operations delayed at Bhubaneswar airport due to dense fog

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Flight operations were delayed at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) in Bhubaneswar on Friday morning because of poor visibility due to dense fog conditions.

BPIA officials said the IndiGo flight en route from New Delhi to Bhubaneswar was diverted to Raipur due to poor visibility. The visibility was 150 metres at 9 am and 500 metres half an hour later.

"First flight from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar landed at 9.27 am after the

visibility improved. As instrument landing system is already installed in the airport, pilots can land the planes when the



visibility is up to 800 metres as against the normal visibility of 1.5 km," BPIA Director Pravat Ranjan Beuria told TNIE.

However, pilots of small aircraft, on their own discretion,

can land even if the visibility is less than 800 metre.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD),

dense fog prevailed in the capital and very dense fog occurred in Angul. The fog condition is prevailing due to clear sky conditions, calm winds and moisture availability," said Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre Scientist, Umasankar Das.

Meanwhile, the IMD has forecast shallow to moderate fog at one or two places in Malkangiri, Koraput, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Boudh, Angul, Sonepur and Balangir districts on Friday night and Saturday morning.

"On Friday morning,

BJP names 85 more UP candidates; disgruntled ex-leader enters fray as independent

NEW DELHI(KCN): The BJP on Friday fielded Aditi Singh, who left the Congress to join it, and Asim Arun, who recently

Hariom Yadav, a distant relative of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. Hariom Yadav quit

tively, while Arun, a Dalit, will contest from Kannauj, a reserved seat. The Rae Bareilly assembly seat is part of

Nitin Aggarwal, who had also left the SP to join the BJP, will fight from Hardoi. With the fresh list of candidates, which include 15 women, the total number of names announced by the party for the seven-phase election to the 403-member assembly has reached 195.

After filing his nomination papers as an independent candidate from Kheragarh here on Friday, former BJP leader Digamber Singh Dhakrey broke into tears alleging that a senior party leader had betrayed him. Dhakrey, however,

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quit the IPS, in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls as it released a list of 85 more candidates.

The list also includes incumbent MLA

the opposition party recently.

The BJP has named both Singh and Yadav from their current seats of Rae Bareilly and Sirsaganj respec-

the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha constituency which is represented by Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Uttar Pradesh Assembly Deputy Speaker

BJP leaders Uma Bharti, Pragya Thakur seek liquor ban in MP

BHOPAL(KCN): Senior BJP leader Uma Bharti on Friday sought total prohibition in the party-ruled Madhya Pradesh, a demand endorsed by her colleague and Lok Sabha MP Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur who, however, added that "liquor works as a medicine under ayurved if consumed in a limited quantity".

The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has just unveiled a new excise policy under which it has permitted setting up of home bars and slashed retail prices of liquor by 20 per

cent. Former chief minister Bharti, in a series of tweets in Hindi, said in the first phase of her move for total prohibition, she had



discussions with senior RSS workers, Madhya Pradesh BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. "Will start the next phase from February

14, liquor ban and total prohibition in Madhya Pradesh will certainly take place," she said.

She clarified that her campaign for liquor

ban was not against the state government. "It is against liquor and intoxication. But it is difficult to make those who are sitting in power understand," the former Union minister said.

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BJP's Bhopal MP Thakur also favoured a ban on liquor in the state.

Answering a question on the issue on Thursday during an event here, Thakur said, "Liquor prohibition is a must. Because (liquor consumption) leads to clashes in homes which is unbearable, this also forces many people to commit suicide. People get into depression and even many women end their lives because of it."

"Women don't drink, but when their husbands consume li

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UN chief: World worse now due to COVID, climate, conflict

UNITED NATIONS (KCN): As he starts his second term as U.N. secretary-general, Antonio Guterres said Thursday the world is

worse in many ways than it was five years ago because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and geopolitical tensions that have sparked conflicts everywhere, but unlike U.S.

President Joe Biden he thinks Russia will not invade Ukraine. Guterres said in an interview with The Associated Press that the appeal for peace he issued on his first day in the U.N.'s top

job on Jan. 1, 2017 and his priorities in his first term of trying to prevent conflicts



and tackle global inequalities, the COVID-19 crisis and a warming planet haven't changed. "The secretary-general of the U.N. has no power," Guterres

said. "We can have influence. I can persuade. I can mediate, but I



have no power." Before he became U.N. chief, Guterres said he envisioned the post as being a convener, a mediator, a bridge-builder and an honest broker to help

find solutions that benefit everyone involved."

He said Thursday



these are things "I need to do every day." As an example, the secretary-general said this week he spoke to the African

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Odisha MSME body seeks CM Naveen Patnaik's help as coal crisis deepens

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): With no respite in sight to the ongoing coal crisis that continues to affect the survival of local in-



mercy and Industry (UCCI) Ltd, the OASME has written a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik seeking his

intervention to avert the impending crisis and help sustain industry operations. The shortage, a result of the intermittent coal supplies to captive power plants (CPPs) based indus-

tries in Odisha, has threatened the viability of industries that form the backbone of the State's MSMEs and provide employment to lakhs.

Secretary general of OASME Satwik Swain said that despite the government efforts to support the industry, the continuing coal shortage due to stopping or curtailment of coal supplies and rakes has threatened the very survival of local industries. The CPP-based industries which are heavily dependent

on coal are unable to run smoothly due to the crisis. The CPPs are getting 40 to 50 pc of the required coal supplies since August 2021, creating a backlog of over 1,500 coal rakes, as most of the available coal rakes are being diverted away from CPPs. "Prompt action needed to be taken for the immediate resumption of coal and rake supplies from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited to help meet 100 pc coal requirement of the local CPP-based industries," he added.

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Even a small amount of help changes a lot of people

Barbil (KCN): Humanity is still intention. Few days ago, two kind hearted



alive. Of course there are very few people who extends helping hand to the needy. They do not want to be named in the work, nor do they have any political

men from Barbil rescued the elderly couple Jadu Gop and Gurubari Gagarai, who were starving and sick in an abandoned house in weigh bridge hitting

under Barbil Municipal area . Abhishek Panda, the executive officer of the municipality too have taken care towards their treatment and had asked her how she felt, she rolled his hand on our head with lot of affection. She pointed out her finger to the old man saying "he is OK. "I am happy". I can



sent them to Oldage home run by Ideal Development Agency a Banajodi, Keonjhar. We went to that place to check on what happened next. We spent some time with those elderly couple. The two of them were very happy. His diseased face changed a lot. The glow of face was well marked. The old man is able to walk and the old lady is trying to walk using with the help of crutches . When

walk in a few days." Sebati Singh ,secretary firmly assured us saying we are taking utmost care and lot of development is marked in short days .Her kindness also shocked us. With the deepest contents, we would like to thank Abhishek Panda, Devendra Budha and Ram Patra and Sebati Singh on behalf of our newspaper "The Kalinga Chronicle" and hope this will inspire others too.

No Odisha Tableau in R-Day Parade

Khordha(KCN): Several Paika organisations

Freedom fighters Veer Surendra Sai. Only the de-

tion Committee rejected our tableau over a non-

independence last year. Dr. Srichandan requested to the CM



demonstrated in front of the Raj Bhavan in Bhubaneswar protesting the rejection of Odisha tableau at the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi this year. The Odisha government had sent six tableau design's to the expert Committee under Union Minister of Defence for consideration - Paika Revolution and Buxi Jagabandhu, Krushna Chandra Gajapati and Chakhi Khuntia.

sign of Paika Revolution could pass the initial three round's and reached the final round. However, the design was rejected in the fourth round. Though the reason for the rejection is still unclear. It is alleged that the Odisha tableau got the red signal over a trivial ground. Venting his anger the President of the Odisha Paika Academy Dr. Dillip Srichandan said "The selec-

issue. This is an insult to the glorious history of Odisha. With this Odisha will not have its own tableau to showcase at the Republic Day Parade for two years in a row. Its design's were rejected in 2021 too. The rejection of Paika themed tableau proposed by Odisha bear's significance because the centre had rejected Odisha proposal to Identify the Paika Bidroha as the first war of

Naveen Pattnaik to write a letter to the defence ministry to reconsider the matter and allow Odisha tableau to participate in Republic Day Parade in New Delhi. In this protests meeting President New Thinking Forum Narendra Prusty, Social Activist Ganesh Samant, Nirod Khuntia, Abani Jena, Ajaya Gumansingh and intellectual masses, social activists were present and give their opinion.

Timely treatment saves baby from arrhythmia at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Proper diagnosis and timely treatment by doctors at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar saved a baby who was suffering from arrhythmia. The 25-day-old baby girl was rushed to AIIMS on Tuesday as she was crying consistently for more than 12 hours and had stopped breast-feeding.

A team of doctors led by Associate Professor of Neonatology Department Dr Pankaj Mohanty checked the vitals of the baby and diagnosed her of suffering from arrhythmia.

Before coming to AIIMS she was treated for abdominal colic, otitis or sepsis. "When she arrived here, her heart rate was 300 bpm (instead of below 140). Her ECG was conducted immediately and she was admitted to neonatal intensive care unit," Dr Mohanty said.

The treating doctors had to give shock treatment and it resulted in reverting the rhythm to normal. The baby was intubated and treated for

myocardial contractility. After 24 hours, the baby's heart rate became normal. She is now doing well on oral drugs to prevent cardiac dysrhythmias. "Child crying excessively is not always a case of abdominal colic, otitis or sepsis as considered by many. It may be arrhythmia which can be fatal if not diagnosed in time. Parents as well as doctors should be aware of this," warned Dr Mohanty. Additional Professor of Cardiology Department Dr Ramachandra Barik helped in doing echocardiography and managed the baby. The AIIMS doctors have planned to do electrophysiology study and radio frequency ablation, if required. The treating team is happy as amid the threat of COVID spread, they could save the life of the baby. The walk-in OPD services have been suspended following the surge in Covid cases among the healthcare workers. Barring Dr Mohanty, most of the residents have tested positive.

Passing out Parade Ceremony of Batch 02/2021 held at INS Chilika

Khordha(KCN): A total of 2929 trainees

eral also awarded medals and trophies Vikash Kumar Soni Matric Recruit (MR) trainees. During the function the winter



of Indian Navy and Coast Guard of Batch to meritorious trainees on the



from Indian Navy as well as Arun Talan, Navik (General Duty) and Sachin, edition of Ankur the bilingual trainees magazine of INS Chilika was also re-



02/2021 graduated from INS Chilika in a ceremonial passing out parade held on 21 January 2022 . The parade was reviewed by Lt.Gen. Satinder Singh AVSM, Commandant Army, Air Defence College

Navik (Domestic Branch) from coast Guard were adjudged the best trainees in their respective categories. Earlier a valedictory function was held on 20 Janu-



Gopalpur which marked the successful culmination of 21 week's of their ab-initio training. The Gen-

excel in their respective careers that lay ahead. Lunawath Praveen Senior Secondary Recruit (SSR) ary 2022 during which a cultural programme was put up that showcased the talents of the Chilika. The champion division shield was presented to Shivaji Division during the function.

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Jacqueline Fernandez requests media to respect privacy after picture with alleged conman surfaces



MUMBAI: Actor Jacqueline Fernandez has requested the media to not circulate pictures that intrude on her privacy after a new image of her with alleged conman Suresh Chandrashekhar went viral. Fernandez has previously appeared before the Enforcement

Directorate in connection with a money-laundering investigation involving Chandrashekhar and others. On late Saturday evening, an intimate picture of the 36-year-old actor with Chandrashekhar surfaced on the Internet. Fernandez, whose

mother reportedly suffered a heart stroke earlier this week in Bahrain, shared a statement on Instagram, writing that she is going through a tough time and would appreciate people drawing a boundary. "This country and its people have always

given me tremendous love and respect. This includes my friends from the media, from whom I have learned a lot. I'm currently going through a rough patch but I'm sure that my friends and fans will see me through it. "It is with this trust that I would request my media

friends to not circulate images of a nature that intrude my privacy and personal space. You would not do this to your own loved ones, am sure you would not do this to me either. Hoping that justice and good sense prevails. Thank you," the Sri Lankan actor said in the state-

ment. Last year, Fernandez was grilled by the ED multiple times as the agency suspects she is a "beneficiary" of the proceeds of crime allegedly generated by Chandrashekhar after conning and extorting money from some high-profile people.

'My mother advised me to discuss politics and religion only at home': Danish Sait

Danish Sait is back as Nograj, albeit on a different platform. The anchor, presenter, stand-up comedian, television host, radio jockey, actor, and writer is someone who needs no introduction, and the same holds good for one of his most iconic characters Nograj.

The character, which was first introduced by Danish through a radio show, had a hugely successful run in cinema too. The first film, Humble Politician Nograj, which was released in 2018, enjoys almost cult status. There is an equal expectation in the upcoming socio-political satire web series, which will stream on Voot Select. The 10-episode series produced by Applause Entertainment and Firstaction Studios marks the digital debut of Danish and director Saad Khan. The actor and director speak to CE, ahead of the release of this original web series, which will be out on January 6. Danish admits that he is tired, even if in a good way, with bringing to life the role of Nograj. "I am glad that I got an opportunity to use Nograj to entertain audiences for many years, but on the flip side, I feel, with age and experience, my interest is getting changed, and so have been my career goals. I haven't figured out the future of Nograj yet," explains Danish, who also revealed to us that during this year's IPL season, when he had to get into Mr Nag's character on the field, he did discuss with the team whether he wanted to play this character next year as well. "I feel it is tiring, and at the same time I can't give a final answer," he adds.

What is it about Nograj that made the character such a people's favourite? Is it the magic of the character or Danish's exemplary performance? "I feel it is Nograj that catches all the attention. I am funny on screen and in front of the camera. Otherwise, I am a simple boring boy. So it is the character 'Nograj'. The look, the moustache, the craziness in the eyes, the roller coaster ride that he takes to become an MLA, and his dreams to become the CM, it is all this and much more that people like about the character," he says.

Danish, the actor, has also written the script of Humble Politician Nograj along with director Saad Khan. Does the multifaceted per-

sonality who has worked in different mediums, find the process of making a web series more liberating? "No. It has the same process as what we do with cinema. You have SMPs and lawyers sitting and watching the show. I don't think there are many liberties except for the fact that one can tell a story by taking as



much time as we want. Unlike cinema, the time constraints are a lot more flexible, and as long as the content is tight, we can work around the time factors," he explains, and further clarifies that there are no separate set of audiences for OTT and theatres, and the basic requirement for all audiences is the expectations of entertainment.

Apart from Danish, who plays the titular role, the series also has Vijay Chendror as Manjunath, Prakash Belawadi, Disha Madan, Varun Thakur, Shalini Narayan, and Geetanjali Kulkarni in pivotal roles. The political satire traces the life and times of MLA Nograj who harbours ambitions of becoming the CM. It deals with the power play involved, and re-stor politics.

There is a buzz that the film's topic touches upon coalition governments, and Danish quickly says, "Humble Politician is fictional, and it has got nothing to do with actual political scenarios. Of course, the situations and the central incident could have taken place in some other places. But it is important to un-

derstand that it is just a comedy show, where a lot of things are products of our creativity. Danish is honest when he says that his knowledge about politics is minimal. "Even if I have an opinion, I discuss it with my wife, and life moves on. As a child, my mother had advised me that politics and religion should be dis-

cussed only at home, and I have always followed that" he says.

Danish Sait and Saad Khan have travelled together for almost eight years, and are associated with various creative works. Coming to Humble Politician Nograj, the director sheds more light on the kind of equation he share with Danish. "We have been friends for many years, and we have managed to maintain a good rapport. With Danish's popularity whatever he is doing in the lockdown has helped this webseries come out so well. We did get a good response for our film, which was out in 2018, and I hope we get the response for this web series. There is a positivity that comes from Danish, and he has delivered his signature style as Nograj. With an ensemble cast to boot, this web series will definitely be a powerhouse for entertainment. Saad had observed people in different situations to help the director craft the story and the various characters. "I have never taken any influence from any politician, and my inspirations are from the common people," he signs off.

Winter Vegetable That Will Give You Cold Glow

Shahnaz Husain

The weather's getting colder, the air is getting dryer and the sweaters are getting thicker. Cold, harsh winter not only impacts your immunity system, but also your hair and skin.



Sometimes you may buy a dozen creams, lotions or moisturizers but your skin always looks lifeless and dull. Your skin is susceptible to the frigid climate that causes inflammation, redness and dryness, among many other common symptoms during winters.

So, what can you do to protect your skin despite dropping temperatures?

You can moisturize and apply a few extra face masks each week, but instead of working from the outside in, consider working from the inside out.

It's finally that time of the year again when markets are flooded with a variety of seasonal green vegetables like "Palak," "Methi," "Bathua", "Sarson ka Saag" and lettuce. And these tasty delights are brimming with antioxidants, vitamins and minerals, that not only give you the right nutrition but can also do wonders for your skin.

Carrots:

Carrots are available in very good quality during winter season. Though you can find carrots round the year, the color of carrot that you can find during the other seasons would be orange whereas in winter season it is red in color.

Carrots are rich in Vitamin C, an antioxidant that helps your body produce collagen. Carrots are high in vitamin A, another antioxidant that attacks cell damaging free radicals.

It has a soothing effect on the skin, making it soft, smooth and supple further preventing wrinkles and fine lines. In fact, it can be applied to soothe dry, sensitive skin. Carrots can be also be used as a face mask. Boil them in a little water. Cool and mash. Apply the pulp on the face like a pack and wash off with plain water after half an hour.

It's recommended as a way to help clear up acne and allow your skin to become soft, supple and attractive.

Cabbage: Cabbage is a wonderful ingredient among the list of vegetables which have good fiber contents.

It's nutritious, helps in weight loss and prevent cholesterol accumulation.

Cabbage is rich in skin-nourishing vitamin K, and also boast of possessing anti-inflammatory properties.

Cabbage contains valuable minerals and are also very nourishing for the skin. It is said to

have many healing properties, due to high sulphur content. It also contains Vitamin V and thus is good for the skin. Cabbage can be boiled in enough water. Cool the water and use it to wash the skin. It is a nourishing and soothing skin treatment.

Mix cabbage juice with ripe banana pulp and honey. Apply this hair mask after oiling your hair. Keep it for about 20 minutes. Wash it off with a mild shampoo.

Spinach: Leafy green wonder veggie that originated in Persia is excellent for skin care. Spinach is a superfood, rich in Vitamins A, C, E and K as well as vital minerals which work together to help your skin enhance its radiance, heal from scars or sun damage, and fortify its natural barrier. It can be incorporated quite easily into any diet, as it is cheap and easy to prepare.

Thus it is quite beneficial when taken internally as food and also applied externally. Spinach helps to clear up acne. You can also use it as a beauty mask on your face by blending fresh baby spinach leaves with a little water and applying it on your face for 30 minutes. It is known to reduce oiliness and also inflammation. It also helps to tone and refresh the skin. It will act as an effective remedy in getting rid of damaged skin cells.

Lettuce: Eat plenty of Lettuce, which is commonly available in winter. This lettuce also contains potassium which gives your skin a

boost of oxygen and nutrients, helping to improve circulation and giving you a covetable glow.

It is said to stimulate hair growth, as it contains, Vitamins A, C and E, along with folic acid and zinc. It also prevents premature graying of hair and also has several skin benefits too. It improves blood circulation and also makes the skin radiant. It delays the visible signs of ageing. Lettuce leaves are best eaten raw. Cooking them can strip off all the nutrients in them. Shredded Lettuce leaves are used in Salads. Certain proteins in lettuce like lipoxigenase, help control inflammation.

Tomatoes: Tomato also has beauty benefits. Tomatoes are rich in selenium; an antioxidant that gives you added protection from skin cancer and sun damage.

It contains lycopene, an antioxidant and therefore, has anti ageing benefits when applied on the skin.. It can also help prevent the formation of age spots, wrinkles, fine lines thus keeping your skin smoother, clearer and younger-looking for longer. Tomato pulp or tomato juice also helps to reduce oiliness and lightens skin colour over a period of time. It is particularly useful for oily skin.

Keep these extremely nutritious veggies in mind next time you're grocery shopping!

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

A nun being forced to share bed with the bishop will not amount to rape- Could there be a greater miscarriage of justice?

Mathews J. Nedumpara

1. The First Addl. Sessions Judge, Kottayam, in a judgment running into 289 pages, acquitted Franco, former Bishop of Jalandhar of charges of rape of a nun, the



mother superior of St. Francis Mission Home, Kuravilangadu, Kerala, and other related charges, observing that the testimony of the nun, victim is inconsistent, uncorroborated and even motivated. The reasons for which the Ld. Sessions Judge came to the said conclusion is perverse in law, to say the least.

2. Administration of criminal justice has been considered to be the primary duty of the King, the sovereign from time immemorial. Every crime is taken as a breach of the peace of the King, the sovereign, and not merely infringement of the lives, limbs, liberties or properties of the subject. In all civilised countries, investigation of crimes and bringing of the offenders to justice is in the exclusive province of the state. Our criminal law too confers very little right to the victim or his relatives to conduct the prosecution in serious offences. The reason is that the just and efficient administration of criminal justice is in the interest of the State, the victim, the accused, all concerned.

3. The criminal law has primarily three objectives, namely, deterrence, retribution and reformation, in that order of priority. When it comes to offences against women, it is difficult to say whether retribution or deterrence is of greater priority, I believe both are complimentary.

4. 'In criminalibus probationes debent esse luce clariores' - in criminal cases, the proof ought to be clearer than light. Blackstone said, it is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer. Our law leans heavily in favour of the accused, the laudable purpose being to prevent the conviction of an innocent man. That principle is so sound and is undoubtedly an immortal principle. However, in all jurisdictions including our country, there is a greater recognition of the concept of justice to the victim, the retributive element of criminal law. Ours is a feudal society and the statistics reveal a gloomy picture of ever increasing

violence against women, forcing the society to increasingly acknowledge the fact that if our justice system should change to ensure that men who commit rape and other serious sexual offences are assuredly punished. The concept of retribution requires the victim and the society have the satisfaction that the criminal has been adequately punished, commensurate with the gravity of the offence. The demand of the society finds expression in the spontaneous response and agitations for prompt action in the Nirbhaya case and the jubilation when the four convicts were hanged. For someone like myself, who stands against capital punishment, the public jubilation is hard to reconcile.

5. The people of this country, particularly women, are no longer prepared to accept in silence that those accused of sexual offences go scot free. This poses a greater responsibility on the part of the prosecutors and judges, that while ensuring that no innocent man is punished, those who commit sexual offences do not go unpunished, as in the case of Bishop Franco.

6. With utmost respect to the Ld. Addl. Sessions judge, the irresistible impression that I had when I went through the judgment was that the judge completely misdirected himself, as if having identified himself with the accused and found fault with the victim, searching for reason were none existed.

7. Let me state the bare, incontrovertible facts. The victim, Mother Superior of the St. Francis Mission Home in Kerala, is the head of the convent belonging to the Missionaries of Jesus, a congregation of latin catholics. She is under the spiritual, administrative, financial control of the Bishop. Even a small matter like repair of the kitchen of the convent, is under the direct control and supervision of the Bishop. For all practical purpose Bishop Franco is the sovereign so far as the victim is concerned. The only authority above Bishop Franco in India is the Apostolic Nuncio, namely, the ambassador of Vatican in India and the Pope.

8. There are a large number of Bishop houses in Kerala, including that of the Archdiocese of Varapuzha, belonging to the latin rites for the Bishop to stay whenever he comes to Kerala on visits. However,

the Bishop chooses to stay at the Convent where men are not ordinarily allowed entry. The case of the victim is that on 5th May, 2014, the Bishop came to Kerala for the ordination of a priest. After the function the Bishop came to the convent after 10pm. As the Bishop had informed that he would be staying in the Convent, room no. 20, which was on the same floor as that of the victim, was made ready for him. The Bishop asked the victim to iron his cassock. She did accordingly and when she brought the cassock to his room, the Bishop asked her to bring the papers of the kitchen renovation. When she brought the papers to him, the Bishop locked the door and raped her.

9. The next day was the victim's sister's first holy communion. The Bishop was the Chief priest. She attended the function keeping a brave face, suffering in silence, the previous day's sexual assault on her. The Bishop and the victim reached the convent at 11pm. The Bishop commanded her to "come to his room without much drama". The victim had no other choice but to obey the command of the Bishop. She was again raped. And thereafter, for a period spanning over almost two years, whenever the Bishop had visited Kerala, he would come to the Convent, and had insisted the nun to share bed with him. The victim is the Mother Superior of the convent and she could not have easily confided in any of the sisters who are junior to her. But she did confide in PW2 Sr. Lissy Vadakkal, her spiritual guru who had advised her to keep the incident to herself and turn to prayer. Besides Sr. Lissy, she disclosed the incident to a priest in the sacrament of confession. The priest also advised her to forgive and pray.

10. The saga continued for almost two years. PW4 and PW8 felt something was seriously wrong when they noticed that the victim, their Mother, was under great stress and noticed that she had taken an unduly long time in her sacramental confession in 2016 while at Attappady. They persisted for the reason for her odd behaviour and eventually she disclosed her ordeal to them. They gave her moral and emotional support and accordingly victim complained to the priest of the local church, Bishop of Pala, the Apostolic Nuncio, and the major Archbishop

of the Syro Malabar Church, a sister Church and eventually to the police when Bishop Franco tried to silence her by demoting her to an ordinary nun, implicating her and her family in false charges.

11. It is true that in none of her complaints to the police, the archbishops, she did not give a graphic picture of the rape and she could not have, considering her circumstances. But she had told everyone that she is made to share bed with the Bishop.

12. The case at hand is comparable to the recent judgment of the Bombay High Court acquitting an accused in a POCSO case stating that no offence has been made out since there was no "skin-to-skin" contact, that the accused had touched the child over her clothes. The only reason for which the Ld. Sessions judge found the testimony of the victim, which if credible alone is sufficient to convict the man of rape, unreliable is because she did not tell the doctor and even to the PW4 and PW8, in so many words that she was raped, that there was penile penetration, but that she only said that she would be made to sleep with the Bishop. The victim gave her testimony for almost ten days. In her testimony she gave graphic details, namely that on the first day there was no penile penetration but penetration of fingers, that on the next day there was penile penetration. Yet, the addl. Sessions judge chose to disbelieve her for the sole reason that in her statements to the police and the doctor she did not give graphic statements of the incident and that the prosecution witnesses had only stated that she had complained of sexual exploitation and that she will have to leave the convent, for if she were to stay, she would be forced to share bed with the Bishop.

13. I cannot think of a greater travesty of justice. A judgment in a rape case cannot be that brief, but when something as irrational as the instant judgment, spreading across 289 pages, the common people may not be able to fully comprehend its folly. That is the difference between the instant case and the infamous POCSO "skin-to-skin" case.

(The author is the President of the National Lawyers Campaign For Judicial Transparency And Reforms)

Will ban on rallies continue? EC to decide on Saturday amid Omicron outbreak

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission would meet on Saturday to decide whether the ban imposed by it on physical rallies and roadshows to prevent the spread of coronavirus should continue.

Announcing dates for elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur on January 8, the poll panel had announced a ban on physical rallies, road and bike shows, and similar campaigning events till January 15. On January 15, the Commis-

sion extended the ban until January 22.

It had, however, granted a relaxation for the political parties to the extent that indoor meetings of maximum 300 people or 50 per cent of the capacity of the hall, or the prescribed limit set by state disaster management authorities can be held. The poll panel will hold a series of virtual meets on Saturday to seek inputs from the Union Health Ministry, experts, the five poll-bound states and respective state chief electoral officers to arrive at a decision.

Taliban to hold meeting in Norway next week

COPENHAGEN: A Taliban delegation plans to travel to Norway next week for talks with the Norwegian government and several allied countries, as well as meetings with civil society activists and human rights defenders from Afghanistan. The Norwegian For-

stan, China and Turkmenistan. Zabihullah Mujahid, the Afghan deputy culture and information minister, said Muttaqi expects to hold separate meetings with the U.S. delegation and bilateral talks with European representatives. The rights of women

political issues." Muttaqi is certain to press the Taliban's demand that nearly \$10 billion frozen by the United States and other western countries be released. The United Nations has managed to provide for some liquidity and allowed the new administration to pay

ington launched negotiations for the final withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan culminating in the chaotic end to the war in August. The Foreign Ministry in Oslo said that Afghanistan is experiencing drought, pandemics, economic



ign Ministry said Friday that it has invited representatives of the Taliban to Oslo from Jan. 23 to Jan. 25. Norwegian newspaper VG said special representatives from the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and the European Union were expected to take part.

The ministry did not comment on the newspaper's report. Norwegian Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt stressed that the visit was "not a legitimization or recognition of the Taliban. But we must talk to those who in practice govern the country today." "We are extremely concerned about the serious situation in Afghanistan," Huitfeldt said, noting that economic and political conditions have created "a full-scale humanitarian catastrophe for millions of people" facing starvation in the country.

The acting foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, will lead the Taliban delegation to Norway. The trip would be the first time since the Taliban took over the country in August that their representatives have held official meetings in Europe. Earlier, they traveled to Russia, Iran, Qatar, Paki-

and girls in Afghanistan are likely to feature prominently in the talks, along with the West's recurring demand for the Taliban administration to share power with Afghanistan's minority ethnic and religious groups. Muttaqi told The Associated Press in a rare interview in December that his government was committed to education for girls and women. Deputy culture minister Mujahid told the AP on Saturday that the new Afghan rulers aimed to have schools open for girls and women in late March, after the Afghan new year. Education for girls currently is restricted beyond seventh grade in all but 10 provinces. In the capital, Kabul, private universities and high schools have continued to operate uninterrupted. Most are small, and the classes have always been segregated.

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry said the Taliban delegation's meetings with Afghans in Norway would include "women leaders, journalists and people who work with, among other things, human rights and humanitarian, economic, social and po-

for imports, including electricity.

The U.N. has warned that as many as 1 million Afghan children are in danger of starving, and most of the country's 38 million people are living below the poverty line. Even before the Taliban took power, Afghanistan was desperately poor, with more than 54% living on \$1.90 a day or less. Earlier this week, a Norwegian delegation visited Kabul for talks on the precarious humanitarian situation in the country, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. Norwegian news agency NTB said the Taliban took part in secret talks in Norway when the current prime minister, Jonas Gahr Støre, served as foreign minister, which was from 2005 to 2012. The Foreign Ministry said Norway "for years has had a dialogue with the Taliban."

Norway also was the country that opened secret talks between the U.S. and the Taliban as America began to press for national reconciliation, hinting as early as 2013 that the conflict could not be won militarily. This led to the opening of the Taliban's political office in Doha, Qatar, where in 2018 Wash-

collapse and the effects of years of conflict. According to them, some 24 million people experience acute food insecurity and are unsure of how to obtain enough food. It is reported that 1 million children may die of starvation. It added that the U.N. estimates that famine will affect more than half of the population this winter and that 97% of the population may fall below the poverty line this year.

"Norway continues to engage in dialogue with the Taliban to promote human rights, women's participation in society, and to strengthen humanitarian and economic efforts in Afghanistan in support of the Afghan people," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. According to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, the Scandinavian country that is home to the Nobel Peace Prize has in the past been involved in peace efforts in a number of countries, including Mozambique, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Colombia, the Philippines, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Syria, Myanmar, Somalia, Sri Lanka and South Sudan.

Australia records deadliest day of pandemic with 80 deaths



CANBERRA: Australia on Friday reported its deadliest day of the pandemic with 80 coronavirus fatalities, as an outbreak of the omicron variant continued to take a toll.

But Dominic Perrottet, premier of the most populous state, New South Wales, said a slight decrease in hospitalisations gave him some hope about

the strain the outbreak is putting on the health system.

The previous record of 78 deaths was set on Tuesday. There have been just under 3,000 coronavirus deaths in Australia since the pandemic began. New South Wales, home to Sydney, reported a record 46 deaths.

They included a baby who died from COVID-19 in De-

cember, one of several historical cases that were investigated. The news came after the premier of Western Australia state, Mark McGowan, backed down on a promise to reopen the state to the rest of the country on Feb 5. In a late-night news conference on Thursday, McGowan said reopening the state as planned would be "reckless

and irresponsible" given the large number of COVID-19 cases in other states. No new date has been set for when the state might relax its border closure. The border decision means neither Prime Minister Scott Morrison nor opposition leader Anthony Albanese can campaign in the state for now. An election is due to be held by May 21.



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7 Units Of OHPC Burla Made Fully Functional IREDA to Fly High

Bhubaneswar: Bishnupada Sethi, Chairman, Odisha Hydro Power Corpo-

vide cheapest green power to the people of the state, said Mr.Sethi while re-

units was taken up through Voith Hydro Private Ltd. (India) since October 2015

capacity of Burla Power House has been increased from 275.5 MW to 287.8 MW

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet recently approved infusion of Rs 1,500 crores in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), the PSU under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. This will push the IREDA to fly high in the renewable energy sector. Thanking the Prime Minister and other Members in the Union Cabinet Committee, especially Union Minister Power, New and Renewable Energy R K Singh, for taking this decision Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA Pradip Kumar Das said now IREDA can lend Rs 12,000 crores to the renewable energy sector. This will also create additional employment opportunities for around 10,000 persons per year, he said. During the past two years, the Union Government has already allocated about Rs 700 to Rs 800 crore to the Agency in the form of dividend exemption, informed Mr.Das. "The IREDA network was stopped at

Rs 2400 or Rs 2500 crore during the past few years. Due to the exemption, our business grew to Rs 3400 crore till September

three points." Citing an example, Mr.Das said, "During the Covid-19 peak we have sanctioned loans to three first time bor-

the CMD added. The IREDA has already put a strong system in place that can change the future of renewable energy



ration (OHPC) has appreciated the sustained and coordinated efforts of the Team OHPC as at present all the Seven Units at Burla Power Station are fully functional with enhanced capacity. Similarly, all the three Units of Chiplima are also generating electric power smoothly, said a senior official of OHPC. It is a committed and relentless endeavor of OHPC to serve the state as well as to pro-

viewing the generation efforts of OHPC. Hirakud Power House at Burla, a leading hydro power station of the state, started generating electricity since December 1956. Units 5 & 6 of Hirakud Power Station, Burla, after rendering continuous service for more than 50 years, recently undergone Renovation, Modernization & Uprating (R,M&U) as per CEA guide lines. RM&U work of these

with financial implication of 158.77 Crore. On completion of RM&U work, both the Unit- 5 & 6 have been put to commercial operation w.e.f. 02.11.2021 & 09.01.2022 respectively. After R, M&U work, the capacity of both the units have been enhanced from 37.5 MW to 43.65 MW each resulting in addition of 12.3 MW of power to Odisha grid. Total hydroelectric power generating ca-

which is a cheap and green source of energy. OHPC had already Renovated, Modernized & Uprated Unit- 1, 2, 3 & 4 of Burla HEP in phased manner and fed an additional capacity of 40 MW (12x2 + 8x2) into Odisha Grid. The successful RMU of Unit- 5 & 6 will augment financials of OHPC and this additional power generation capacity will contribute to Odisha grid for peak load management.



of current financial year," the CMD said. As the network expands, the IREDA can disburse 8 times more for each rupee. So, we can now disburse eight times of Rs 1500 crore as we are a non-banking finance company, Mr.Das further informed. Elaborating about how the Agency is extending loans to the developers, he said, "A developer wants three things from a lender. Those are—speed in processing, transparency and low rate of interest. The IREDA has done a lot in these

rowers. This borrowing was done without any physical contact, on digital mode. They have not even visited our office." On September 30 last year, he said, the IREDA has sanctioned Rs 1374 crore loan, of which Rs 1100 crore was released on a single day. This was a historic day in IREDA. "Within 45 days, starting from application to disbursement, we have sanctioned a loan for the project spreading over six States. Our team worked with them for 12 to 14 hours a day,"

in India. IREDA is in the process of setting up a debt fund in the form of an Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) to tap large Institutional Investors such as Pension funds, Insurance Funds, Environmental, Social and Governance Funds, etc. AIF will also help IREDA in financing new projects of those borrowers who are nearing the exposure limit. The company is also planning to do Asset-Based Securitization (ABS) by issuance of Pass-Through Certificates, sources said.

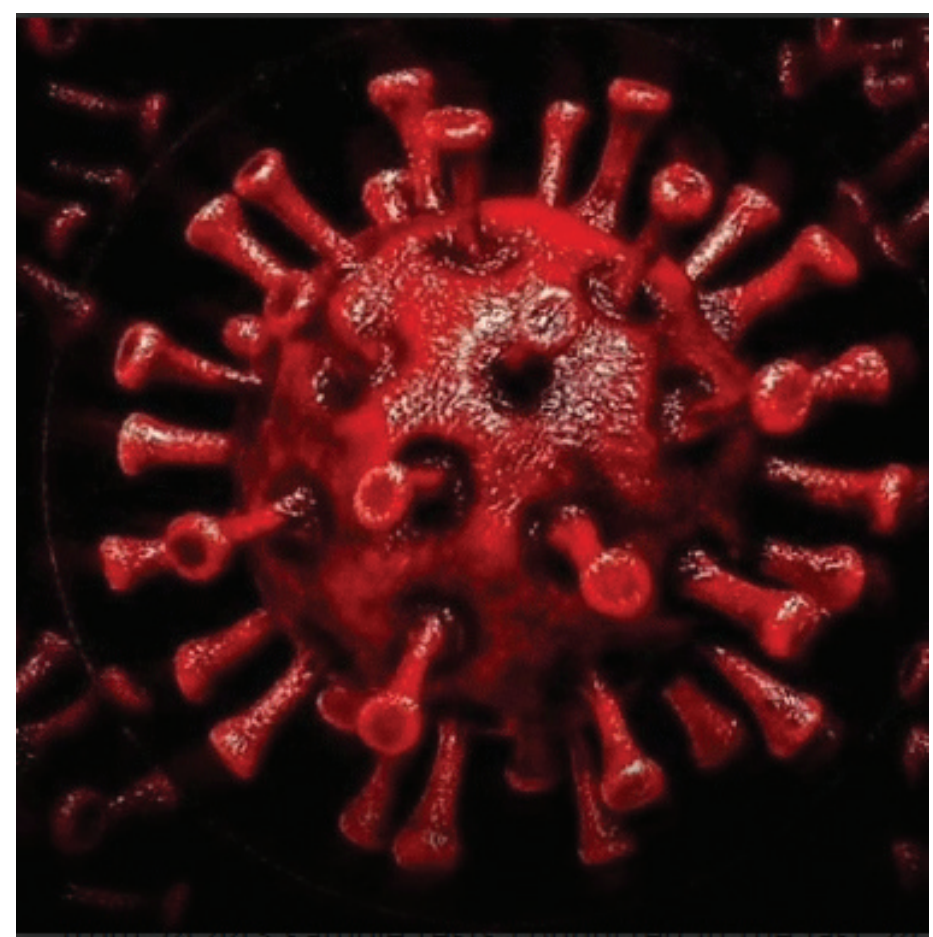
Slight Dip In Covid

Bhubaneswar: Odisha has reported a slight dip in fresh COVID-19 cases, as 9,833 more people tested positive for the disease, raising the tally to 11,87,295, a

days. At least 972 children were among the new patients, the bulletin said. The test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 13.21 per cent as the

in Cuttack. Of the six fresh COVID fatalities, two were reported from Cuttack and one each from Dhenkanal, Angul, Puri

89,702 active cases, including 32,487 in Khurda and 10,796 in Sundargarh. The two districts along with Rayagada, Cuttack, Balasore and Sambalpur are in the red zone.



health department bulletin said. The death toll mounted to 8,507 with six new fatalities, it said. The state had on Thursday logged 10,368 single-day infections and seven deaths. It recorded less than 10,000 fresh cases for the first time in nine

fresh infections were detected from 74,443 sample tests conducted in the last 24 hours. Khurda district, where state capital Bhubaneswar is situated, registered more than a quarter of the new cases with 2,946 infections, followed by 1,134 in Sundargarh and 774

Jagatsinghpur. Fifty-three other COVID-19 patients have died due to comorbidities so far, the bulletin said. At least 8,471 patients recuperated from the disease on Thursday, taking the total number of recoveries to 10,89,033. Odisha now has

SC seeks Centre's reply on PIL seeking harsh punishment for offences against transgenders

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Friday sought the Centre's response on a PIL challenging the Constitutional validity of a provision of law dealing with transgender people and seeking a direction to provide severe punishment for offences against them. "Issue notice (to the ministry of social justice and empowerment) and tag along with the other (pending) petition," said a bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai after hearing brief submissions from the

obstructs such person from using or having access to a public place to which other members have access to or a right to use; (c) forces or causes a transgender person to leave household, village or other place of residence; and (d) harms or injures or endangers the life, safety, health or well-being, whether mental or physical, of a transgender person or tends to do acts including causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse, shall be punishable with im-



lawyer for the petitioner. The apex court was hearing the PIL filed by Chandigarh-based activist Kajal Mangal Mukhi. The PIL referred to section 18 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and said that it provided lesser punishment for offences against transgender people. "Whoever," (a) compels or entices a transgender person to indulge in the act of forced or bonded labour other than any compulsory service for public purposes imposed by Government; (b) denies a transgender person the right of passage to a public place or

prisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to two years and with fine," reads the provision. The plea has sought classification of offences against transgender persons and setting of penalties in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Bonded Labour (System Abolition) Act and The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The provision on punishment for serious offences against transgender people is substantially less severe than for the same crimes committed against others as defined in the IPC.

Lamborghini, Porsche, other super luxury cars see record sales in 2021

NEW DELHI: There is no dearth of super

Brand Director for Porsche India, says the demand for the

is impressive given Lamborghini cars come at a starting



luxury car buyers in India as two leading brands in this segment- Italian supercar maker Lamborghini and Germany's Porsche- witnessed record surge in demand last year.

With the delivery of 474 sports cars in 2021, Porsche India recorded its best sales performance since 2014, marking a 62% increase over 2020. In line with the record deliveries, Porsche India's order bank grew by 165%, confirming 2021 as the brand's best ever order intake. Porsche India cars are priced between Rs 83 lakh and Rs 3.08 crore. Manolito Vujicic,

brand's luxury model range was high, with solid interest across all regions that looks likely to flow into 2022. He added, "A total of 301 cars were delivered to new and established customers during the final six months, endorsing a positive outlook leading into 2022 on the back of future-oriented facility investment plans by our associates."

Italian super-luxury car maker Lamborghini posted sales of 69 units in India in 2021, a growth of 86% in comparison to the previous year and its best figure in a calendar year. The number

price tag of Rs 3.16 crore (ex-showroom) in India.

Globally, the company recorded all-time high sales of 8,405 cars in 2021, compared with 7,430 in the year-ago period. Segment leaders BMW and Mercedes Benz also witnessed sharp recovery in sales of luxury vehicles in 2021. Mercedes sold a total of 11,242 units last year, registering 42.5% growth y-o-y.

UN chief: World worse now due to COVID, climate, conflict

Continued from page-1

UN's envoy Olusegun Obasanjo, twice with Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, and once with Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in his attempt to get a cessation of hostilities in Ethiopia between the government and forces in the embattled Tigray region.

"I hope that we are in a situation in which it might become soon possible to have a cessation of hostilities and that is where I'm concentrating most of my efforts," Guterres said. As another example, Guterres said he has also been on the phone to try to get Mali's military leaders who recently delayed elections scheduled for next month to 2026 to reduce the timetable.

He said he spoke to Mali's military ruler, President Assimi Goita, three presidents from the 15-nation West African regional group ECOWAS, Algeria's prime minister and the African Union's leader about "how to make sure that in Mali, there is an acceptable calendar for the transition to a civilian government." Guterres said he hopes Mali's military leaders will understand that they need to accept "a reasonable period" before elections.

The secretary-general believes voting should be held in "a relatively short amount of time," and said: "All my efforts have been in creating conditions for bridging this divide and for allowing ECOWAS and the government of Mali to come to a solution with an acceptable delay for the elections." Guterres said the U.N. Security Council, which does have the power to uphold international peace and security including by imposing sanctions and ordering military action, is divided, especially its five veto-wielding permanent members.

Russia and China are often at odds with the U.S., Britain and France on key issues, including Thursday on new sanctions against North Korea. On the issue on every country's front burner now, whether Russia, which has massed 100,000 troops on Ukraine's border, will invade the former Soviet republic, Guterres said, "I do not think Russia will invade Ukraine, and I hope that my belief is correct." What makes him think Moscow won't invade when Biden and others believe Russian President Vladimir Putin will send troops into Ukraine? "Because I do not believe in a military solution for the problems that exists, and I think that the most rational way to solve those problems is through diplomacy and through engagement in serious dia-

Fiscal deficit likely to stay at 6 per cent in FY23

NEW DELHI: The Centre's fiscal deficit is likely to remain around 6% in the 2022-23 as government is unlikely to go on a

pared to 6.8% budget target in 2021-22. India Ratings pegs FY23 fiscal deficit at 5.8-6%, chief economist of rating agency

range. Given that the economy is still in need of policy support, the government is unlikely to be in a hurry to move back to the



fiscal consolidation mode given the economy still needs fiscal support from the government. Most analysts and economists TNIE talked to say that the economy is still in need of a government spending boost to sustain the growth.

They peg the fiscal deficit for 2022-23 at 5.8-6.3% com-

Crisil DK Joshi pegs it at around 6%. Research firm QuantEco says the fiscal deficit could be 6.3% in the next financial year.

A finance ministry official said that the fiscal deficit in FY23 is unlikely to be very low compared to the current financial year. In 2021-22, the fiscal deficit is likely to be in the 6.6-6.8%

path of fiscal consolidation, says a note from rating agency India Ratings.

"We estimate a 26% growth in capital expenditure to Rs 7 lakh crore in FY23, from Rs 5.5 lakh crore in FY22," says a QuantEco research note. The government has set a target of reducing the fiscal deficit to 4.5% by 2025-26.

logue," Guterres said, stressing that an invasion would have "terrible consequences." The secretary-general said "we have been in contact, of course" with top officials in Russia, though the U.N. is not directly engaged in the Ukraine crisis.

Guterres is scheduled to deliver a speech to the 193 U.N. member nations in the General Assembly on Friday on his priorities for 2022. He singled out three immediate priorities that "are worrying me enormously": the lack of vaccinations in large parts of the world, especially in Africa; the need to reduce emissions by 45% in this decade to try to meet the international goal of trying to limit future global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit); and the "extremely unjust" financial situation in the world that favors rich countries.

Many developing countries have very few resources, high debts that are growing and they pay much higher interest rates than in Europe or North America, have no vaccines, and disproportionately "suffer the impacts of climate change," Guterres said. "We need a deep reform in our international financial system in order to make sure that there is more justice in the way resources are available to allow for the recovery (from COVID-19) to be possible everywhere," he said.

On another major issue, Guterres stressed that the Afghan people can't be collectively punished for "wrong things that are done by the Taliban," so it is absolutely essential to massively increase humanitarian aid, because the Afghans are in a desperate situation with the risks of deaths by hunger, and disease in a frigid winter with COVID-19.

"More than half the population is in desperate need of humanitarian aid," he said, and money needs to be injected into the economy to ensure Afghan banks operate and doctors, teachers, engineers and other workers are paid to prevent the country's economic collapse.

The issue of recognition of the Taliban government is up to member states, Guterres said, but the U.N. has been pressing the Taliban, which took power in August as U.S.-led NATO forces were departing after 20 years, to ensure human rights, especially women's rights to work and girls' education, and to make the government more inclusive and reflective of Afghanistan's diverse population. The secretary-general said he will be attending the Beijing Olympics in February "which is not a political act" but "to be present when all the world comes together for good, for a peaceful message."

BJP names 85 more UP candidates; disgruntled ex-leader enters fray as independent

Continued from page-1

said he will support Yogi Adityanath if he won as an independent candidate.

Dhakrey said he was a native of Kheragarh and the BJP had assured him the ticket from this constituency.

However, he alleged, a party leader ditched him at the last minute so that he could not contest from any other political party.

"Kheragarh is my native place. I will contest with full strength to avenge my betrayal," he told reporters.

"They fielded an outsider, who was defeated by the sitting MLA from the BJP in the 2017 Assembly elections."

"I have a strong hold in this constituency. I have worked here for the past three years, but my ticket was denied at the last moment so that I could not join any other political party," Dhakrey alleged without taking any name.

Dhakrey said he had contested the mayoral election from the Bahujan Samaj Party in 2017 and came next only to the BJP candidate, who won the polls.

He joined the BJP on March 25, 2019.

BJP leaders Uma Bharti, Pragya Thakur seek liquor ban in MP

Continued from page-1

quor it leads to all kinds of atrocities. So, these narcotics should be banned," the Lok Sabha MP stated.

In a video on social media posted by the Madhya Pradesh Congress, Thakur, while answering a query, is heard saying, "Whether liquor is cheap or costly, it works as a medicine in ayurved if used in a limited quantity. In a limited quantity, it is a medicine while in an unlimited one it is a poison. People should understand this."

Under the new excise policy for 2022-23, the government has allowed sale of liquor at all airports in the state and also select supermarkets in four big cities.

Moreover, the government has made a provision of issuing home bar licenses to those earning Rs one crore or more annually.

SEC on Urban Poll Readiness

Continued from page-1

The polling stations should ordinarily be located in Government or Government aided schools and other Government or semi-Government institutions as the furniture and equipment required for the poll would be available there and be made use of without any extra expenditure. Private clubs shall not be taken for the location of booths even though the club buildings may be used for public purposes, clarified the Commission.

The Collectors have been asked to avoid the location of polling booths in community centers.

Where no suitable public building is available, the polling stations may be located in temporary structures. But, this should be avoided as it is not safe in rain, fire, etc. Only in exceptional cases when there is no other alternative such a recourse may be taken to, said the SEC.

Such temporary structures shall be certified by the District Magistrate that there are no alternative permanent public buildings available in the ward, and setting up booths in a temporary structure is a last resort.

The location of the polling booth thus worked out, the polling area it covers and the serial number of the voters of a ward who are allotted to such booth for voting should be published in draft in the form prescribed by the Commission by affixing the same at a conspicuous place of the Ward, the notice board of the NAC/ Municipality/Corporation concerned and in the notice board of the Election Officer.

As per the guidelines, three days' notice shall be given to the public for filing of objections, if any, and to offer their suggestions on the location of the polling station.

The draft list of polling stations shall also be discussed with the representatives of the recognized political parties.

After taking into consideration the objections and suggestions received from the public and the political parties, the Election Officer shall draw the list of polling stations and booths and submit the same to the State Election Commission for approval, it said.

The Polling Stations and booths approved by the Commission for the Urban Local Body are final and cannot be altered without prior approval of the Commission. After the Polling Stations/polling booths are finalized, the Electoral Roll of each NAC/Municipality/ Corporation shall be printed booth wise, it said.

Apple to launch new iPhone SE 3, iPad Air soon

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple is reportedly planning to announce at least four products including a fifth-generation iPad Air, a new iPhone SE with 5G, and two new Macs at the launch event which is expected to take place

is expected to cost the same as the iPhone SE (2020) in China and around the world. Despite having a small-form-factor, the new device will most likely be based on the iPhone XR design.

The Apple iPhone SE



in spring. According to MacRumors, Apple may launch a fifth-generation iPad Air with an A15 Bionic chip, 12MP Ultra Wide front camera with Center Stage support and 5G for cellular models.

The new iPad Air could be announced alongside the third-generation iPhone SE in spring 2022. The new iPad Air will have the same overall design as the current model, including a single-lens rear camera.

Apple iPhone SE 3 will have the new chipset - the 5nm A15 Bionic, adding support for 5G networks. Price-wise, the phone

3 will feature 5G connectivity instead of 4G seen in the iPhone SE 2020. The smartphone is also expected to come with improved performance with upgraded internals.

In addition, Apple is also planning a redesigned 27-inch iMac with a mini-LED display for release in the first half of 2022. The new 27-inch iMac is expected to support ProMotion.

The new 27-inch iMac is expected to be powered by the same M1 Pro and M1 Max chips that debuted in the 14-inch and 16-inch MacBook Pro last year.

Defending champion Naomi Osaka suffers shock defeat to Amanda Anisimova in Australian Open

MELBOURNE: Defending champion Naomi Osaka didn't make it to a much-anticipated fourth-round contest against top-ranked Ash Barty at the Australian Open. Amanda Anisimova, a 20-year-old American ranked 60th in the world, ensured that so-called final-before-the-final won't happen when she beat the four-time major champion 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5) Friday. "I knew I had to be playing sharp if I wanted to give myself a chance," said Anisimova, who took out Olympic champion Belinda Bencic in the second round and then accounted for the 2021 Australian Open champion. After losing the first set, Anisimova knew

she needed to get more aggressive or she would be out of the tournament. It worked. Anisimova saved two match points in the third set, serving to stay in the match, and ended it with an ace. She hit 46 winners to Osaka's 21. It's the fourth time Osaka has been unable to defend a major title, and the 11th time in a Grand Slam she has been knocked out in the third round, including last year's U.S. Open. After winning the title last year — her second at Melbourne Park in three years — Osaka withdrew from the French Open in the second round and skipped Wimbledon as she took a break for her mental health. After an early loss at

the U.S. Open, she took an extended lay-off to reset and arrived at the year's first major with a seeding of No. 13. Barty advanced with a 6-2, 6-3 win over 30th-seeded Camila Giorgi on Rod Laver Arena, the match starting later and finishing earlier than the Osaka-Anisimova contest on the adjoining Margaret Court Arena. Barty has only con-

ceded eight games and spent less than three hours on court in the first three rounds at Melbourne Park. The Wimbledon champion and 2019 French Open winner is aiming to be the first Australian woman to win her home championship since 1978. Two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka's overpowered 15th-seeded Elina

Svitolina 6-0, 6-2 to reach the fourth round at Melbourne Park for the first time since 2016. Before she had a chance to analyze

the positive points from her perspective. Those included: "The amount of aggressivity I could bring point after point, applying a lot of pressure, the consistency. Taking control of my end of the court." She will next play French Open champion Barbora Krejckikova, who rallied from a set and a break down against 26th-seeded Jelena Ostapenko to win 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. Since a quarterfinal run in Australia in 2016, Azarenka lost first-round matches last year and in 2019, and missed the hard-court tournament in 2017, 2018 and 2020. The 32-year-old former No. 1 from Belarus is feeling comfortable right now, fulfilling the dual roles of player and mother in Melbourne. "I always feel privileged that I'm able to

have him here," Azarenka said. "These kind of moments are really priceless for me. To be able for me to share that with my son is pretty incredible." Fourth-round pairings that were set up Friday include fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari against 21st-seeded Jessica Pegula and No. 8 Paula Badosa against Madison Keys, who held off Wang Qiang 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2) on Friday. On the men's side, Olympic gold medalist Alexander Zverev had a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Radu Albot, a 124th-ranked qualifier from Moldova, to set up a fourth-round match against Denis Shapovalov. The 14th-seeded Shapovalov beat No. 23 Reilly Opelka 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. Wimbledon runner-up Matteo Berrettini fended off 18-year-old Spaniard Carlos

Alcaraz 6-2, 7-6 (3), 4-6, 2-6, 7-6 (5). Miomir Kecmanovic continued to make the most of the absence of fellow Serbian Novak Djokovic, reaching the fourth round at a major for the first time with a 6-4, 6-7 (8), 6-2, 7-5 win over 25th-seeded Lorenzo Sonego. He will next play 17th-seeded Gael Monfils, who beat No. 16 Cristian Garin 7-6 (4), 6-1, 6-3. Kecmanovic had been drawn to play the top-ranked Djokovic, a nine-time Australian Open champion, in the first round. But Djokovic was deported on the eve of the tournament for failing to meet Australia's strict COVID-19 regulations. Rafael Nadal was playing a late match against No. 28 Karen Khachanov., aiming to continue his bid for a record 21st Grand Slam title.



Rishabh Pant blasts career-best 85 as India post 287/6 against South Africa in 2nd ODI

PAARL: Rishabh Pant played the role of an enforcer to perfection with a career-best 85 off 71 balls as India managed to set up a competitive 288-run victory target against South Africa in the second ODI here on Friday. Pant and skipper KL Rahul (55 off 79 balls) had added 115

momentum completely shifted. India ended up with a score that was at least 20 runs less than what it could have been had Pant gone on to make a deserving maiden ODI hundred. Shardul Thakur (40 not out off 38 balls) once again used the long handle well in the company of

charge to keep the run-rate at a healthy five plus per over. Both slow left-arm orthodox Keshav Maharaj (9-0-52-1) and left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (9-0-57-2), who otherwise looked good, were made to look pedestrian by Pant. He not only lofted

van der Dussen. Magala and Andile Phehlukwayo (8-0-44-1) really kept things tight between 33rd to 43rd over with a lot of slower deliveries and cutters being mixed and matched. At the start, it was Shikhar Dhawan (29 off 38 balls), who took on rookie pacer



runs in less than 19 overs, especially the former taking the South African slow-medium pacers and spinners to cleaners. But there dismissals in quick succession saw Proteas make a comeback on a Boland Park strip where stroke-making wasn't an easy proposition for a new batter. The two Iyers -- Shreyas (11 off 14 balls) and Venkatesh (22 off 33 balls) found it a real struggle to get going with ball not coming onto the bat as the

Ravichandran Ashwin (25 not out off 24 balls) to prop up the score somewhat. Skipper Rahul dropped anchor at one end but it was more like his own runs than ones that would have really helped the team's cause as he stayed at the wicket for more than 30 overs opening the innings and barely managed a fifty plus score. It didn't hurt much during their stand as Pant with 10 fours and two sixes took

them for a six each over long-on, he played the sweep shot -- both slog sweep towards cow corner and the conventional ones square off the wicket to good effect. It was one such shot off Shamsi that brought about his downfall. Before that, rookie pacer Sisanda Magala (8-0-64-1), in his second spell varied the pace of his deliveries well to force Rahul commit into an uppish flick-shot that was taken at short mid-wicket by Rassie

Magala in the initial Powerplay overs to contribute handsomely in an opening stand of 63 before Aiden Markram's 'golden arm' once again provided the breakthrough. Dhawan played the slog sweep and found Magala at deep mid-wicket boundary take an easy catch. Virat Kohli (0) was snuffed early by Maharaj as he was foxed by the slowness of the track. Pant and Rahul then came together to resurrect the innings.




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