

Fresh dates for Nominations R Day Guidelines issued

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Election Commission (SEC) on Tuesday announced fresh dates for filing of nominations for the election to Wards and Sarpanches, Panchayat



Samiti constituencies, and Zilla Parishad constituencies where no nominations were filed or all the nominations were rejected.

Speaking to reporters here, State Election Commissioner Aditya Prasad Padhi said fresh nominations will be invited for election to about 4,000 ward member posts, seven

Sarpanchs, six Panchayat Samiti Members and few Zilla Parishad constituencies where no nominations were filed or all nominations submitted rejected,

The concerned Election Officer will issue a fresh notification on January 27 while the interested candidates can file nominations for these constituencies from January 29 to 31, Mr.Padhi said.

Thereafter, the nominations will be scrutinized on February 1, 2022, candidates can withdraw their nomination by February 4 (3PM) and the final list of candidates will be released on February 4, the Commissioner said.

Mr.Padhi said that this is the final chance for filing nominations and elections to these constituencies will be scrapped if no candidates make the cut. "The Government will then nominate representatives to these posts," he said.

Meanwhile, the final list of candidates to remain in fray for the Panchayat Election in all other places of the State will be published today.

Asked about any relaxation in the guidelines for campaigning, Mr.Padhi said the current Covid situation of the State is being monitored according to which the guidelines will be decided for the election campaigning.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In view of prevailing Covid-19 situation,

smooth celebration of Republic Day in the State.



Pradeep Kumar Jena, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) on Tuesday issued guidelines for the

As per the guidelines, only police contingents will take part in the Republic Day ceremony in all the dis-

tricts. The Government has allowed the citizens to unfurl the national flag at their home premises with a congregation of maximum five persons. Students and NCC cadets will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. The general public will not be permitted in the celebration.

Similarly, in other public/private institutions, clubs and similar places, such celebration shall be allowed with not more than 10 persons attending in strict compliance to COVID-19 appropriate behaviour. All Covid appropriate behaviour such as social/physical distancing, use of face masks and hand hygiene shall be strictly followed by one and all during the celebration, said the guidelines.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up in Bhubaneswar for the State-level celebration of Republic Day on Wednesday.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made at Mahatma Gandhi Marg at Unit-III Kharabela Nagar for the Republic Day parade. At least 62 CCTV cameras have been installed at strategic points and one control room has also been set up on Mahatma Gandhi Marg to keep an eagle eye on the area.

Moreover, 25 platoons of police personnel along with 70 officers, two units of the Special Tactical Unit will be deployed to tackle any emergency. RT-PCR test has been made mandatory for those participating in the parade, officials said.

Non-mechanised drain desilting raises stink in Millennium City

CUTTACK(KCN): The drain desilting work carried out by



Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) in the city using non-mechanized means during the day has irked locals.

Drain desilting underway at Seminary Chowk in Cuttack

city Residents said the civic body is carrying out the desilting

work using JCB long boom excavator machine. Silt, garbage and solid waste material removed from the drains are being dumped into tractor trolleys which carry them to the desig-

nated dumping yard in the city. However, it takes at least one to two hours for filling up a tractor-trolley with the silt, garbage and other waste materials removed from the drain through buckets.

During the process of filling up of the trolleys, the drain water mixed with slush continues to leak through the interstices of vehicles' walls and spills on to the roads and adjacent localities. This pollutes the environment and the foul smell emanating from the waste has only made matters worse in the affected localities.

"The civic body was

desilting the three km long medium surface drain stretching from Telenga Bazaar to Seminary Chowk via Chaudhury Bazaar Matha Sahi and Jhola Sahi. We are unable to walk on the road near Seminary Chowk which remains inundated with filthy drain water till it dries up naturally," said Akash Bastia, a local.

If the desilting work is carried out during the night, it will bring some relief to the residents. Not only the residents but also the commuters have to suffer due to the desilting work carried out during the day in the busy resi-

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Proud moment for Odisha, 6 people honored with Padma Award

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The ceremony to honour Padma

were presented by President Ram Nath Kovind. Among the

The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan

plines where an element of public service is involved. The renowned sculptor of Odisha, Sudarshan Sahoo, was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan award. It is the second-highest civilian award of the country, for his distinguished work in the field of Art.

CONTINUED ON: P-7



awards took place on Monday at the Rashtrapati Bhavan today. The awards

119 awardees are, six people of Odisha have received the highest civilian honours of India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar are among the attendees.

(for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service). The award seeks to recognise achievements in all fields of activities or disci-

India has shown unmatched resolve during pandemic, better placed to meet challenges of future: President Kovind

NEW DELHI (KCN): Asking people to celebrate "Indianness" this Republic Day, President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday said the country has shown an unmatched resolve in the face of the extraordinary challenge to hu-



mankind posed by the coronavirus pandemic and that a strong and sensitive India is now emerging.

In his address to the nation on the eve of 73rd Republic Day, President Kovind noted that democracy, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity form the bedrock of India and stressed that the observance of Fundamental Duties mentioned in the Constitution creates the proper environment for the enjoyment of Fundamental Rights.

"The diversity and vibrancy of our democracy is appreciated world-wide. It is this spirit of unity and of being one nation which is celebrated every year as Republic Day," he said. This year's celebrations may be muted due to the pandemic, but the spirit is as strong as ever, Kovind said. The President said the pandemic management was bound to be more difficult in India due to its high population and other factors. "But it is only in such difficult times that the resilience of a nation shines forth. I am proud to say that we have shown an unmatched resolve against the coronavirus," Kovind said.

Doctors, nurses and paramedics have risen to the challenge, working long hours in difficult conditions even at the risk of their lives to attend to patients.

Others have kept the nation moving, managing supply chains and utilities, he said.

Hailing the timely interventions by the leadership, policymakers, administrators and others at the central and state levels during coronavirus pandemic, Kovind said it is a testimony to India's spirit in the face of adversity that the economy is on the move again and is projected to grow at an impressive rate in this fiscal, after going through contraction last year.

"The impressive economic performance CONTINUED ON: P-7

Message

The Kalinga Chronicle family wishes its readers, hawkers, advertisers, writers and well-wishers on the Eve of Republic Day.

- Editor-in-Chief

Declaration

The Office will be closed on 26th January, 2022. There will be no publication of The Kalinga Chronicle on 27.1.2022.

- Publisher



Message

Warm Greetings to the People of Barachana – Dharmasala dist.- Jajpur, Odisha on Republic Day. May this day bring peace, progress and prosperity for everyone.

Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantray
Barachana – Dharamsala, Jajpur, Odisha

Netaji Subhash Bose 125 Birth Anniversary Celebrated at Khordha

(Khordha) In geniality of a monthly newspaper Margadarshi 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Bose was celebrated under the

nationalist temperament and britishers discrimination towards Indians would fill him with rage. In Berlin he formed the first In-



Chairmanship of Uma Shankar Prasad, Editor Margadarshi. Dr. Prof. Narayan Rao, former Registrar Berhampur University joined as Chief guest and said that "the contribution of Netaji Subhash Bose in the Indian Independence Movement is unique and instrumental. His mind blowing voice attracted every Indians. You give me blood, I will give you Independence." From his childhood he was spelled by his mother and Swami Vivekananda. From the young age he had the

dian National Army with the prisoners of war who were Indian soldiers serving the British Army and he came to be known as Netaji. He was the Chief Commander of INA. His life was filled with respect for his actions as a freedom fighter. The chief guest of the occasion Advocate Satya Narayan Lala, Educationist Jawaharlal Subudhi, Prof. Dr. Sarat Chandra Dora, Journalist Prabhat Panigrahi, Ranjit Samantaray, Pradeep Behera among others discuss the glorious achievement of Netaji Subhas Bose.

Woman BJP worker accuses Jual Oram of misbehaviour

ROURKELA (KCN): A young BJP activist created a flutter after she ransacked the party office accusing Sundargarh MP and former Union Minis-

ternoon and broke the window panes. The B-33 quarters at Sector-3 of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has been officially allotted to Jual and is used

the other side took the phone and tried to pacify her saying Jual was in an inebriated condition.

"I feel the BJP MP has no respect for

said. However, BJP's P a n p o s h organisational district president Latika Patnaik had a different story to tell. She said Gouri deliberately created the scene after being denied BJP ticket from Bisra-A zilla parishad (ZP) seat. A complaint was also lodged against the woman with Sector-3 police.

A BJP insider said Gouri had joined the party in 2018 and was made the MP's representative for over a year. With help of her supporters, she has fielded a couple of sarpanch candidates in Nuagaon block. Attempts to reach Jual for comment were futile as his cellphone was switched off.



ter Jual Oram of misbehaving with her over the phone on Monday. The woman, Gouri Mundari along with her supporters including Prashant Majhi reached the BJP office in the af-

as the BJP office. Gouri, who belongs to Jagda, alleged that she rang up Jual to discuss about the panchayat election but was shocked when the MP abused her. She claimed that another woman on

women. He should learn to respect sisters and mothers. I had heard similar complaints from other women but never expected that it would happen with me. I demand an apology from him," Gouri

Congratulations for Padmashri Award

Kolkata (KCN): Narayan Jain, Chairman, Advisory Board, Concern for Calcutta has congratulated Rupa Chairuman Prahald Rai Agarwal for getting padmashri. He also congratulated Ex-CM of WB Buddhadeb Bhattacharya for getting Padma Bhushan awards

It's Majhi vs Majhi in Nabarangpur as BJD grapples with factionalism

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): Even as scrutiny of nomination papers is over and the final list of candidates is set to be published on Tuesday, the ruling BJD finds itself in a tough spot in Nabarangpur district due to acute factionalism among its cadres. The performance of BJD in the southern districts of Nabarangpur and Malkangiri was not as per expectations in the last panchayat elections. Despite this, the

ruling party has not yet initiated efforts to improve its performance in the two districts. The problem in the Nabarangpur BJD is the presence of two heavyweights and their parallel campaign for the party. Former Congress MP Pradeep Majhi had joined BJD in November last year and was made the outfit's senior general secretary ahead of the panchayat elections. He was also made the party's panchayat

election in-charge of Nabarangpur and Malkangiri districts. However, Pradeep's growing stature in the district BJD has rankled Nabarangpur MP and district president Ramesh Majhi. Ramesh is an old hand of BJD and both the Majhis have started functioning independently of each other. The question is will the gamble played by the ruling BJD by giving more importance to

Yours hope foundation trust distributed cooked food

Khordha (KCN): Corona pandemic is turning life upside down for many, many people can be seen waiting outside the hospital for dis-

Sahoo. The entire programme was smooth function under the guidance of Mrs. Reena



charge of their relatives under going treatment at the hospital. The leading Volunteers Organization of Odisha Yours Hope Foundation Trust Distributed Cooked Food in the campus of District Head Quarter Hospital Khordha in every Sunday free families of underprivileged patients and their relatives. Who come from far off places to the DHH Khordha for often longer



treatment. Sometimes the family members of serious patients do not have time to have food. Which is the basic necessities as they are always around taking care of their close ones. The programme was inaugurated by Social Activists Subhojit Panda and Anmol



Rani Nayak, Founder & Chairman of Yours Hope Foundation Trust. Chira Anubhav Nayak, Ranjan Nayak, Jogeswar Panda,



Santosh Nayak, Pratap Parida, Bikash Paturasi, Chandan Kumar Samantaray, Anil Kumar Behera, Bikash Nayak and others member of the organisation assist the programme. General public praise this type of welfare activities of the organisation.

The Sarat Bose Academy and the Bose Legacy Foundation with the ICCR celebrated the Netaji birth anniversary this way

Kolkata (KCN): (ICCR) and Sarat Bose Academy and

of the ICCR's Governing Council and

dian Council for Cultural Relations says, "The important dimension of his life is firstly a great patriot and therefor patriotism. the second important dimension of his personality was Weller and the kind of importance gave is to his struggle. And the kind of strategic mind that was at display something all of us should be learning from. and the third the little known dimension of his personality was that at the core Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was also a spiritual person."

President of the Sarat Bose Academy Justice Ashok K Ganguly says, "Such a glow that it leaves and never lasting trend in the Indian history and also in history of the world, that is why still today Netaji is and an enigma and his immense contribution to people's freedom struggle all over the world that's not been properly evaluated even now."



News Wave India: The 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is being celebrated across the country. "You give me blood, I will give you freedom," he said, still inspiring the country's youth. On the occasion of Netaji's 125th birth anniversary, a joint venture between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations

the Bose Legacy Foundation organized a function at the ICCR's Satyajit Ray Auditorium. The program begins with the performance of the national anthem. ICCR President Dr. Vijay Sahasrabudde and President of Sarat Bose Academy, Justice Ashok Kumar Ganguly were also present. Arindam Mukherjee, a member

Madhuri Bose, RSVP has been instrumental in organizing the event. The event were feature the launch of a Cine Theatre 'The Boss Legacy inked through letters'. The theater is served in the form of a movie. The program ended with the musical tribute of Rajnath Das. Dr Vijay Sahasrabudde, president of the In-

Pradeep succeed in improving its performance. The issue is that though Pradeep has been rehabilitated in BJD with a senior post, his followers, most of whom are former Congressmen, are yet to be fully accepted by the local leaders of the regional party. However, both the leaders denied that there is any difference between them and said there is no factionalism in the party. "There is total cooperation between the two of

us and we are campaigning together," Ramesh said and added that BJD will form zilla parishads in Nabarangpur and Malkangiri. Pradeep also said that he has no difference with Ramesh. "BJD will improve its performance in both the districts," he said and added that the party is focusing on schemes launched by the State government for all sections of people. "The talk about my differences with Ramesh is

rumour," he stated. On the other hand, the BJP claimed that the party will form zilla parishads in both the districts. People are deprived of even basic necessities and corruption is rampant everywhere, former BJD MP, who joined BJP in March, 2019, Balabhadra Majhi said. People have started asking questions about the performance of Pradeep who was an MP, he said and added that the BJD will not be

able to fool the people all the time. In the last 2017 panchayat elections, BJD had secured 11 seats in Nabarangpur while the BJP and Congress had bagged 8 and 7 seats respectively. The BJD had, however, formed the zilla parishad with support from Congress members. In Malkangiri, BJD had formed zilla parishad by winning nine out of 15 seats.

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Mohanlal, Akshay Kumar to launch trailers of 'Marakkar: Arabikkadalinte Simham'



The highly anticipated trailer of Priyadarshan's 'Marakkar: Arabikkadalinte Simham' will be launched by Mohanlal and Akshay Kumar on March 6 on their Facebook and Twitter

pages at 5 pm. While Mohanlal will launch the Malayalam trailer, Akshay will release the Hindi version. ALSO READ | Mohanlal is 'Marakkar', but what about others in

Priyadarshan's star-studded period drama? Ever since the first footage was shown at the Aashirvad event a few months ago, followed by the launch of the teasers, film buffs have been wait-

ing to take a look at a more elaborate trailer. The film's promotions are going on in full swing and the makers recently the Tamil poster featuring, in addition to Mohanlal, Manju Warrier, Keerthy

Suresh, Arjun Sarja, and Prabhu. Marakkar is set to have a grand release on around 5000 screens worldwide on March 26. The big-budget period epic also stars Suniel Shetty,

Pranav Mohanlal, Kalyani Priyadarshan, Fazil, and Madhu among others. It is bankrolled by Aashirvad Cinemas, Confident Group, and Moonshot Entertainments.

Kajol's short film 'Devi' hit with plagiarism allegation



MUMBAI (KCN): An ex-student has accused the makers of Kajol-starrer "Devi" of plagiarising his short film "Four". The film depicts how nine women belonging to different strata of society are brought together by circumstance and end up forming a sisterhood after they share their stories of abuse.

Directed by Priyanka Banerjee, the short is produced by Niranjana Iyengar and Ryan Ivan Stephen. In a Facebook post, Abhishek Rai alleged the movie has "heavy resemblance" with his own short film, which he wrote and directed in 2018. ALSO READ | Devi short film review: 13 minutes, nine women

and one stark reality "Here's something I'd like to bring to everybody's notice. We at AndaKurry Productions, made a short film when we were in film school, two years back called 'FOUR' that dealt with a premise of rape victims sitting together in a room when a new victim arrives. And yesterday,

a film named 'Devi' was uploaded to LargeShortFilms's YouTube channel that has heavy resemblance and the premise is also of the film we made," Rai said. Here is the short film 'FOUR' by AndaKurry Productions: He said it is "ruthless" on the part of "Devi"

makers to claim his work as theirs. "Our film was a student (film) with very little production design, bad audio and stuff, but still it's a child of our own imagination and it's ruthless how anyone can just pick up a piece of thought and claim it to be theirs." The film is an intellectual property of

Asian Academy of Film & Television. No one has contacted him regarding any kind of query. Now, I have not been contacted by large short films or the makers of the film regarding any kind of query," he claimed. The makers of "Devi" remained unavailable for comment when contacted.

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73rd Republic Day 2022: Journey of Indian Republic

73rd Republic Day 2022: Republic Day is celebrated on 26 January and this year it falls on Wednesday. On this day, the Constitution of India came into effect after India gained independence. Read about the journey of the Indian Republic here.

73rd Republic Day 2022: Every year, Republic Day is celebrated in India on 26 January.

state. Every year, 26 January is celebrated with immense pride & happiness all over the country.

The evolution of India from a British colony to a sovereign, democratic and secular nation was certainly historical. It was a long journey that started with the

Shikha Goyal

British. The Lahore Session lined the way to the Civil Disobedience Movement.

It was made certain that 26th January, 1930 would be observed as the Purna Swaraj Day and unfurled the tri-colour flag by taking a pledge to celebrate complete Independence Day every year on 26 January. Numerous political parties of India and revolutionaries of India from all over India united to observe the day with honor

and pride. The Lahore Session lined the way to the Civil Disobedience Movement. It was made certain that 26th January, 1930 would be observed as the Purna Swaraj Day and unfurled the tri-colour flag by taking a pledge to celebrate complete Independence Day every year on 26 January. Numerous political parties of India and revolutionaries of India from all over India united to observe the day with honor



ary to commemorate the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect and the country became a republic.

Every year, 26 January is celebrated with festivities and patriotic fervor all around the country. This year India will be celebrating 73rd Republic Day. To commemorate the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, several activities were initiated in the run-up to Republic Day celebrations 2022. The main component of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is to connect the youth to our rich cultural heritage. The purpose of the activities is to find out the best talent across the country. Also, to provide an opportunity to be a part of Republic Day celebrations 2022.

This year also on the Republic Day parade, India will not have a chief guest due to the global situation arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 15 August 1947, India got independence, and that time India was headed by King George VI till the Constitution of In-

conceptualization of the vision in 1930 to its actual comprehension in 1950. A stare into the expedition that led to the birth of the Indian Republic will make our carousing more significant.

Do you know that on this day a massive parade held at Rajpath in New Delhi before the President of India reflects power, force, different regional models reflecting cultural themes and motifs?

Republic Day Wishes 2022: Quotes, Messages, WhatsApp & Facebook status, Slogans, SMS, Poems, and more

First, we will discuss the Origin of Republic Day

When India became Independent on 15th August 1947, our country did not have its Constitution and in total it was dependent on the colonial Government of India Act, 1935. Until the adoption of the Constitution in 1950 India's head was King George VI. But before this, a seed of the Indian republican nation was sown by Pt. Jawaharlal



dia came into force that is on 26 January, 1950. This is the day when India declared itself a democratic republic nation. The first President of India was Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Let us tell you that Republic Day of India is celebrated with the salute of 21 guns and the unfurling of the Indian National flag by the President of India. We know India became Independent from British rule on 15th August 1947 and adopted Constitution on 26 January, 1950 by declaring ourselves as a Sovereign, Democratic and Republic

Nehru in the Lahore Session of INC (Indian National Congress). Now, let us see the Lahore Session in detail.

The seeds of the republic nation were disseminated at the Lahore conference of the Indian National Congress at midnight of December 31st, 1929. The session was held under the administration of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. Nationalists present at the summit took an oath to mark January 26th as "Independence Day" to march towards realizing the vision of absolute independence from the



and pride.

The Cabinet Mission was arrived on March 24, 1946 and was composed of three Cabinet Ministers of England they were:

(i) Sir Pethick Lawrence, Secretary of State for India.

(ii) Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade.

(iii) Alexander, the First Lord of the Admiralty.

Do you know the main objective of this mission?

- To devise machinery for making up the Constitution of India.

- Arrangements for Interim Government.

- There shall be the Union of India which was to be empowered to deal with the defence foreign affairs and communications.

- The Cabinet mission did not accept the demand for Pakistan.

- Restricted Communal Representation.

- All the members of the Interim Cabinet would be Indian with minimum interference by the Viceroy.

- Other than Union Subjects all the residu-

ary powers will be vested with the Provinces. The representatives of Provincial Assemblies and the Princely States would be formed by a Constituent Assembly and provincial legislatures were grouped into three sections.

Group A: Hindu dominated population area like Madras, UP, Central provinces, Bombay, Bihar & Orissa

Group B: Muslim-dominated population areas like Punjab, Sindh, NWFP, Baluchistan.

Group C: Hindu and Muslim both like Assam and Bengal.

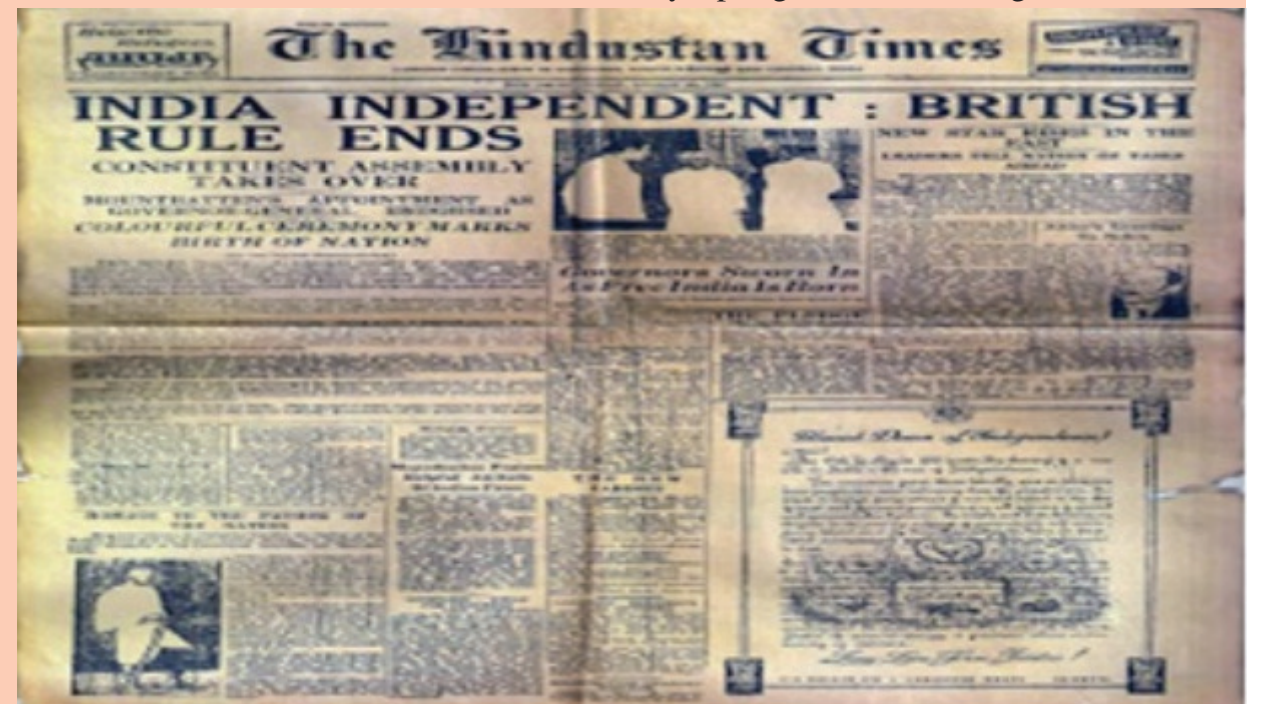
Here, it is to be noted whether the Cabinet Mission did not accept the demand of Paki-

stan but grouped the Provinces in such a way that indirectly supported the idea of Pakistan. As a result, Congress accepted the plan, Muslim League first accepted and later on July 29 rejected it and call for an Action Day for achieving Pakistan. August 16, 1946 was fixed as Direct Action Day.

What is the meaning of the 24 spokes of Ashok Chakra?

Thirdly, Indian Constituent Assembly Meet-

ings



ary powers will be vested with the Provinces.

The representatives of Provincial Assemblies and the Princely States would be formed by a Constituent Assembly and provincial legislatures were grouped into three sections.

Group A: Hindu dominated population area like Madras, UP, Central provinces, Bombay, Bihar & Orissa

Group B: Muslim-dominated population areas like Punjab, Sindh, NWFP, Baluchistan.

Group C: Hindu and Muslim both like Assam and Bengal.

Here, it is to be noted whether the Cabinet Mission did not accept the demand of Paki-

Rajendra Prasad took oath as the 1st President of India. Ever since the remarkable day, 26th January is distinguished with festivities & patriotic zeal all around the nation. The day owes its significance to the Indian constitution that was espoused on this day.

Shikha Goyal is a journalist and a content writer with 9+ years of experience. She is a Science Graduate with Post Graduate degrees in Mathematics and Mass Communication & Journalism. She has previously taught in an IAS coaching institute and was also an editor in the publishing industry. At jagranjosh.com, she creates digital content on General Knowledge.

India's first CDS General Bipin Rawat awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously



New Delhi: India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, who died in a helicopter crash in December last year, will be posthumously conferred Padma Vibhushan,

the country's second-highest civilian award. The Home Ministry announced the Padma Awards on the eve of 73rd Republic Day. General Rawat was

headed to Defence Services Staff College in Wellington to address the faculty and student officers of the Staff Course when his chopper crashed in Tamil Nadu.

He was India's, longest-serving four-star General. General Rawat's wife Madhulika Rawat and twelve other defence force personnel had also died in the helicopter crash.

IMF cuts India's economy growth forecast to 9 per cent in FY22

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's economic growth forecast to 9 per cent for the current fiscal year ending March 31, joining a host of agencies which have downgraded their projections on con-

cerns over the impact of a spread of new variant of coronavirus on business activity and mobility. In its latest update of World Economic Outlook on Tuesday, the Washington-based international financial institution, which had in October last year projected a 9.5 per cent GDP growth for India, put the forecast for the next fiscal FY23 (April 2022 to March 2023) at 7.1 per cent. The Indian economy had contracted by 7.3 per cent in the 2020-21 fiscal year. The IMF's forecast for the current financial year is less than 9.2 per cent that the government's Central

Statistics Office has predicted and 9.5 per cent that the Reserve Bank of India has estimated. Its forecast is lower than the 9.5 per cent projection by S&P and 9.3 per cent by Moody's but more than the 8.3 per cent projection by the

developing countries of 'economic turbulence, rough times' amid Omicron. A revised assumption removing the Build Back Better fiscal policy package from the baseline, earlier withdrawal of monetary accommodation, and continued



flects a mechanical pickup after current drags on growth dissipate in the second half of 2022. The forecast is conditional on adverse health outcomes declining to low levels in most countries by end-2022, assuming vaccination rates im-

prove worldwide and therapies become more effective," said the report. In a blog post, IMF's chief economist Gita Gopinath wrote that the continuing global recovery faces multiple challenges as the pandemic enters its third year. The rapid spread of the Omicron variant has led to renewed mobility restrictions in many countries and increased labour shortages, she said. Supply disruptions still weigh on activity and are contributing to higher inflation, adding to pressures from strong demand and elevated food and energy prices, Gopinath wrote.

World Bank and 8.4 per cent by Fitch. According to the IMF, India's prospects for 2023 are marked up on expected improvements to credit growth and, subsequently, investment and consumption, building on better-than-anticipated performance of the financial sector. The IMF said that global growth is expected to moderate from 5.9 in 2021 to 4.4 per cent in 2022, half a percentage point lower for 2022 than in the October WEO, largely reflecting forecast mark-downs in the two largest economies -- the US and China. ALSO READ | Covid-19, IMF warns

supply shortages produced a downward 1.2 percentage-point revision for the United States, it said. In China, pandemic-induced disruptions related to the zero-tolerance COVID-19 policy and protracted financial stress among property developers have induced a 0.8 percentage-point downgrade. The global growth is expected to slow to 3.8 per cent in 2023. ALSO READ | World Bank retains India's economic growth forecast at 8.3 per cent for 2021-22. "Although this is 0.2 percentage point higher than in the previous forecast, the upgrade largely re-

Election Commission seeks report from poll officers in UP over Samajwadi Party's 'free power' offer

LUCKNOW: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has sought a report from district election offi-

tion, the senior election official said that the ECI had sought a report from all 75 District Election Of-

had also stated in his complaint to ECI that no political party should be allowed to gratify voters to influ-

ected to office in the UP assembly polls. "It will be the number one promise on the Samajwadi Party manifesto," the Samajwadi Party chief had told the media persons while interacting with them at his party office in Lucknow a day ahead of launching the form filling campaign on January 18. "On coming to power, the SP government will give domestic consumers free electricity up to 300 units. Farmers will get free electricity to irrigate their fields. This will be our top promise," the former UP chief minister had said. "This will be the first promise in the Samajwadi Party manifesto. And everyone knows that what SP promises, it delivers," he had claimed. After launching the drive on January 19, the SP workers had shared pictures and videos of people on social media showing them registering for the free electricity scheme.



ers across Uttar Pradesh over a complaint filed alleging violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) by the opposition Samajwadi Party which launched a door-to-door campaign last week to register the voters by filling a form to avail 300 units of free electricity in future. Lawyer Yogesh Somvanshi of Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court had submitted a complaint to the ECI in this regard on January 20. Confirming the ac-

ficers and that it was a routine process followed when a written complaint was submitted. In the complaint, Somvanshi claimed that ahead of UP polls, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav not only made the oral promise of ensuring 300 units of electricity free if voted to power but he also proceeded to direct his party workers to approach voters door-to-door and get the "Samajwadi Form" filled up for availing of the sop in future. Yogesh Somvanshi

ence them for voting for a political party. It is a violation of MCC, his complaint said. The complainant had claimed that the SP's drive to register consumers to get 300-units of free electricity every month was a corrupt practice as defined under Section 123 of Representation of People's Act, 1951. On January 1, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav had promised to provide 300 units of free electricity to households and completely free power to farmers for irrigation if



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IMD issues dense fog warning for three days

BHUBANESWAR: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast dense fog in parts of Odisha in the next three days. Dense fog warning has been issued for one or two places in Balangir, Sonepur, Boudh, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Angul, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar districts on Tuesday morning. Shallow to moderate fog is likely to occur at a few places in interior districts and at one

or two places in coastal districts of the State during the period. Similarly, dense fog warning has been issued for one or two places in Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Boudh, Khurda and Cuttack districts, and shallow to moderate fog at a few places in coastal districts and at one or two places in interior districts on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. The IMD has also

forecast dense fog at one or two places in Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Gajapati and Ganjam districts, and shallow to moderate fog at a few places in south interior districts and at one or two places in coastal, Angul and Dhenkanal districts on Wednesday night and Thursday morning. "Fog will prevail in the State in the next three days due to clear sky conditions, calm winds and moisture

availability," said Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre Scientist, Umasankar Das. As per the IMD, very dense fog condition prevails when visibility is below 50 metre. During dense fog the visibility is between 200 metre and 50 metre. Dry weather is likely to prevail in the State from Wednesday onwards and minimum (night) temperature is expected to gradually fall in Odisha in next two days.

State issues admission alert

Bhubaneswar: Following the unearthing of a scam in admission to degree

"It has come to the notice of this Department that in Bhadrak (Autonomous) Col-

"After verification, if students are found to have taken admission with fake certificates,

certificates. The RTI query revealed that students with 40 percent



SFL to bridge learning gap

Bhubaneswar: The Covid-19 pandemic has caused large-scale disruption of education, and had a near universal impact on learners and teachers in schools.

In order to reach out to students, various modalities like YouTube live classes, Shiksha

ensure that all students of each class must be covered under the plan, so that no student is left behind.

Teachers will be optimally engaged for 5-6 hours daily for teaching learning activities at school and beyond school premises.



to groups, Mohalla classes etc., officials said

Darpan, Radio Pathshala etc. were continuing in the State. Still many students are lagging behind as these programs are not reaching every student.

To bridge the learning loss and smooth extension of teaching learning in schools, the School and Mass Education Department has proposed a new scheme, Student Facilitation Learning (SFL) activities for the students of Class I to XII.

Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary, School and Mass Education has directed the senior officials of Odisha School Education Program Authority (OSEPA) to go ahead with the innovative program.

For the Class I to X students, online mode of teaching has been successful to a great extent, but grossly limited by internet availability. Therefore, it is required to have a mapping of each student on their access to teaching through various modes viz. online classes, WhatsApp groups, Mohalla classes etc., officials said

As per the scheme, the Headmaster will develop a permanent Student Specific Access Plan for engaging the children through online / offline or any other mode. The teachers will develop worksheets / activity sheets for class-wise / subject-wise to understand the learning ability of the students based on the subjects taught. Further, curative assignments will be given for enriched learning, the officials said. Under the proposed scheme, teaching of students in small batches to be undertaken at school and community level locations following Covid protocols.

Regular periodic assessments will be done for the students and their results will be documented and analyzed through school records to understand the learning level of the children. Doubt clearing sessions will be conducted assessing the needs of the students. The teachers will have to explore all possible modes (online/ offline/ face to face) to reach each child of his/her class. Headmaster has to

Each school headmaster will decide the strategy to cover each child ensuring no learning loss. Google Meet, Zoom etc. may be an alternative mode of online classes. The existing school grants/funds available will be utilized for procuring zoom license etc, if required. Periodic Assessment Tests will also be conducted in regular intervals to track progress of children's learning ability.

The Government has set a target to cover up the reduced syllabus for this academic session, doubt clearing sessions on all subjects, copy correction work for each child and curative assignments for student's enrichment. Similarly, the teachers can organize small batches / workshops in the school premise/ community centers. Teachers will prepare small videos and share it to the concerned students in need.

Headmasters will have to distribute the teachers to the local habitations to facilitate home-based learning. They have to ensure that students' participation plans through a well thought out process.

Similarly, for the Class XI and XII students, each higher secondary school (HSS) will create proctorial groups. The total number of students will be divided by the number of teachers to create a group. Every teacher will act as a proctor.

Online classes at HSS level will be conducted in each subject through different platforms like Zoom, Google meet, etc. on a regular basis. Doubt clearing classes will also be held in offline mode following COVID-19 protocols. The principal will have to ensure the coverage of all students through student specific strategies and update daily online/offline attendance in SAMS portal by 4PM

To ensure daily conduct of online classes through WhatsApp group/video classes, offline doubt clearing classes. To compile HSS wise engagement of online class, offline doubt clearing class, coverage of syllabus of concerned district will be conducted weekly.

courses by producing fake Person with Disability (PwD) certificates in Bhadrak, the State Government has warned all degree colleges in the State to be aware of such fake certificates.

Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Saswat Mishra on Monday wrote to the Principals All Government, Non-Government, Self-Financing Colleges coming under the Department for verification and authentication of disability certificate of such students for the academic session 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22 studying in different higher education institutions.

lege, Bhadrak, students took admission in recent years under PwD quota submitting fake disability certificates. The matter is under enquiry and strict action will be taken against such students after the enquiry," Mr. Mishra wrote. In order to detect such malpractices elsewhere, the Principals are directed to follow certain instructions to filter out students who have taken admission with fake disability certificates. They have been directed to verify the disability certificates of the PH-OH students through CDMO of the district concerned.

appropriate steps must be taken to cancel their admission immediately," Mr. Mishra told the Principals. The college authorities were also directed to lodge an FIR against such students at the local Police Station.

All the Regional Directors of Education (Bhubaneswar/ Balasore/ Bherampur/ Sambalpur/ Jeypore) have been also informed about this move.

An RTI query was revealed that several students gained admission in the Bhadrak Autonomous College by using fake disability

marks are getting admission, by producing false person with disabilities (PwD) certificates.

On the other hand, protesters alleged that students who have secured even 80 percent marks are being denied admission.

Following this, students staged a road blockade and demonstrated in front of the Collector's office in Bhadrak.

The issue created a spark in the political circle when allegations were leveled that several students gained admission in the college by using fake disability certificates reportedly with the help of youth and student BJD leaders.

Gen Bipin Rawat, Kalyan Singh given Padma Vibhushan; Satya Nadella, Sundar Pichai conferred Padma Bhushan

NEW DELHI(KCN): Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Hindutva poster boy late Kalyan Singh and India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat who died in a helicopter crash recently were awarded

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Google CEO Sundar Pichai were conferred Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award. Late Punjabi folk singer Gurmeet Bawa, actor Victor Banerjee and former Union Home



Padma Vibhushan on Tuesday, while veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and former West Bengal CM and CPI(M) leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee were given Padma Bhushan.

Cyrus Poonawalla of the Serum Institute of India, which manufactured COVID-19 vaccine Covishield, and Krishna Ella and Suchitra Ella of Bharat Biotech, which produced India's indigenous coronavirus vaccine Covaxin, were also given Padma Bhushan.

Kalyan Singh and General Rawat were given Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award, posthumously.

Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi have been awarded Padma Bhushan. Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra and singer Sonu Nigam were awarded Padma Shri.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the President approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards, including two duo cases, this year. In a duo case, the award is counted as one. The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri awards. Thirty-four of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 posthumous awardees.

Indian economy has recovered 'handsomely' from COVID: Ex-NITI Aayog vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya

NEW DELHI: The Indian economy has recovered 'handsomely' from the pandemic-induced disruptions, former NITI

down fiscal deficit by cutting it by half-to-one percentage point in 2022-23. "We should not live beyond our means since

nomenon refers to the situation in 2013, when emerging markets witnessed capital outflows and spike in inflation after the US

tral Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is definitely an idea worth serious study and consideration.



Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya said on Tuesday, while expressing hope that the recovery will be sustained and the growth rate of 7 to 8 per cent will be restored. Panagariya suggested that the government must now signal its intention to wind down fiscal deficit by cutting it by half-to-one percentage point in 2022-23. "The Indian economy has recovered handsomely, returning to its pre-COVID GDP..Only private consumption is still below its pre-COVID-19 level," the eminent economist told PTI in an interview.

While an advanced estimate by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) places India's GDP growth in 2021-22, at 9.2 per cent, Panagariya said that this is higher than any other country this past year and the recovery has also been across-the-board. The economy, which was significantly hit by the pandemic, had contracted 7.3 per cent in the last fiscal. Panagariya noted that the dominant view among epidemiologists now is that with a large proportion of the population now having antibodies due to past infections from different variants of the virus or vaccination, there is now a high chance that the epidemic is about to enter the endemic phase. "If this indeed comes to pass, I expect the recovery to sustain and the 7 to 8 per cent growth to be restored," Panagariya said.

Panagariya suggested that the government must now signal its intention to wind

it imposes a larger debt burden on the next generation," Panagariya, who is currently a Professor of Economics at the Columbia University said.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fiscal deficit ballooned to 9.5 per cent in the first pandemic year 2020-21. The government aims to achieve a fiscal deficit of 6.8 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current financial year (2021-22).

On rising inflationary trends, he observed that inflation is a concern in the United States, where it has reached 7 per cent, the highest in the last 40 years, but not in India. "In India, it has remained within the target range of 2 to 6 per cent," he pointed out.

Retail inflation in India rose to 5.59 per cent in December 2021, mainly due to an uptick in food prices, while the wholesale price-based inflation bucked the 4-month rising trend and eased to 13.56 per cent last month, as per latest official data.

As regards the rise in the interest rate (taper tantrum) in the US, Panagariya said they may lead to some capital outflows, but he does not expect them to be significant enough to cause a repeat of summer 2013. "But I do hope that the RBI allows the rupee to depreciate a little further when such outflows take place," he said, adding that this will incentivize exports on the one hand and reduce the temptation on the part of the government to raise tariffs. Taper tantrum phe-

Federal Reserve started to put brakes on its quantitative easing programme.

Replying to a question on cryptocurrencies, Panagariya said that the government never succeeded in controlling Hawala transactions and "the same is going to be true of cryptocurrencies even if we ban them. So, a prudent course of action is to regulate rather than ban them," he suggested. Panagariya stressed that it is best to create a regulatory regime for cryptocurrencies that encourages the reporting of transactions done in them rather than force them to go underground. India is contemplating bringing a bill in Parliament to deal with the challenges posed by the unregulated cryptocurrencies. Currently, there are no particular regulations or any ban on use of cryptocurrencies in the country. He further noted that the RBI's proposed Cen-

cryptocurrencies. Currently, there are no particular regulations or any ban on use of cryptocurrencies in the country. He further noted that the RBI's proposed Cen-

Proud moment for Odisha, 6 people honored with Padma Award

Continued from page-1

Besides the five other people received the Padma Shri award from President Kovind including Shanti Devi in the field of Social Work, Purnamasi Jani in Art, Rajat Kumar Kar and Nanda Prusty in Literature and Education and Krishna Mohan Pathi in the field of Medicine.

It is noteworthy of that Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was conferred Padma Vibhushan posthumously. The award was presented to her daughter Bansuri Swaraj. Star badminton player PV Sindhu and Women's Hockey team Captain Rani Rampal were conferred Padma Shri Award.

President Ram Nath Kovind also presented the awards to noted Hindustani classical singer Pandit Chhannulal Mishra with Padma Vibhushan, singer Adnan Sami with Padma Shri and Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut with Padma Shri awards.

Former Head Scientist at ICMR Dr. Raman Gangakhedkar and Air Marshal Dr. Padma Bandopadhyay were conferred Padma Shri in the field of medicine.

On delay in privatisation of two public sector banks, Panagariya said he had feared that backtracking on farm laws will encourage others to resort to agitation to block reforms too. "This seems to be clearly the case with Bank employees who are well organized," he said.

Panagariya suggested that a prudent course for the government would be to offer Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) packages to those unwilling to work in the banks after privatization. "I think the government will recover the associated expenditure in enhanced price it will receive since the buyer will then be getting only employees who are motivated to work," he said.

In the Union Budget for financial year 2021-22, the government had announced its intent to take up privatisation of two public sector banks.

Budget 2022: What can make individual taxpayers happy Budget 2022 is approaching, and individual taxpayers are hoping for some respite in light of the dire situation caused by Covid and with inflation rising too. Apart from exempting senior citizens from submitting ITRs in exceptional circumstances, no meaningful tax relief has been offered to the salaried class in prior years, whether in the form of slab rates or other allowances. Therefore, it is high time to give some much-awaited relief to personal taxpayers and in this regard, some of the expectations of individual taxpayers are as follows:

Rationalize the slab rates for individuals: The Finance Act, 2014 was the last year when the slab rates have been amended from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh. Since then, the slab rates have remained unchanged for the past seven years, although the cost-inflation index (underlying on inflation) has climbed from 240 to 317. In general, the slab rates should be updated on a regular basis to keep up with inflation.

India has shown unmatched resolve during pandemic, better placed to meet challenges of future: President Kovind

Continued from page-1

is made possible due to improvement in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. I am happy to note that our farmers, especially young farmers with small holdings, are enthusiastically adopting natural farming," the President said.

As the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, Kovind said he was glad to note that it has been a watershed year for women empowerment in the armed forces.

"Our daughters have broken a glass ceiling, and the permanent commission has now been allowed for women officers in new areas," he said, adding that "consequently, our armed forces will benefit from better gender balance".

Also, the talent pipeline for the forces will be strengthened with women coming through Sainik Schools and the prestigious National Defence Academy, the President said.

He said the diversity and vibrancy of the country's democracy is appreciated worldwide and it is this spirit of unity and of being one nation which is celebrated every year as Republic Day.

"India is an ancient civilisation but a young republic. For us, nation-building is a constant endeavour," the President said.

"I am confident that India is better placed today to meet the challenges of the future," Kovind said, adding that new opportunities await the next generation. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi, President Kovind said he would have liked us to celebrate Republic Day by striving to become better human beings and contributing towards the making of a better India and a better world.

"My heartiest greetings to all of you, in India and abroad, on the eve of the 73rd Republic Day! It is an occasion to celebrate what is common to us all, our Indian-ness," he said.

"Two days ago, on 23rd January, all of us observed the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, who had adopted the energising salutation of 'Jai-Hind'.

His quest for independence and his ambition to make India proud inspire all of us," the President said.

Kovind said, while the text of the Constitution, dealing with the details of the workings of the State, is quite long, the preamble sums up its guiding principles – democracy, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

"They form the bedrock on which our Republic stands. These are the values that form our collective inheritance," he said.

These values have been accorded primacy in our Constitution in the form of fundamental rights and fundamental duties of the citizens, the President said.

By fulfilling the fundamental duty of rendering national service when called upon to do so, crores of our people have transformed the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the COVID vaccination drive into mass movements, he said. "A great deal of credit for the success of such campaigns goes to our dutiful citizens.

I am sure that our people will continue to strengthen the campaigns of national interest with their active participation and will demonstrate the same dedication," Kovind said. Referring to a visit to his village in Kanpur, he also urged the people to remember their roots and work for the development of their native village, city and country.

A new India is emerging – a strong India and

Non-mechanised drain desilting raises stink in Millennium City

Continued from page-1

dential areas which often create traffic problems, said locals.

The CMC should ideally adopt advanced methods and techniques for drain desilting in a densely populated city. The slushy silt and drain water mixed waste materials removed from the drains through bucket should be filtered before being dumped into the tractor trolley for safe disposal at the designated dumping yard.

CMC deputy commissioner (sanitation) Sanjibita Ray said the drain desilting work is being carried out with the mechanism at the civic body's disposal. However, steps are being taken to adopt advanced methods and techniques to clean the drains.

a sensitive India - Sashakt Bharat, Samvedansheel Bharat," he said.

Kovind thanked the constant vigil of the armed forces securing the borders and the police personnel maintaining internal security within the country that let their fellow citizens enjoy a peaceful life.

He said it is our soldiers and security personnel who carry on the legacy of national pride.

"In the unbearable cold of the Himalayas and in the excruciating heat of the desert, far away from their families, they continue to guard the motherland. It is thanks to the constant vigil of the armed forces securing our borders and the police personnel maintaining internal security within the country that their fellow citizens enjoy a peaceful life," the President said. He said when a brave soldier dies on duty, the entire country feels sad.

"Last month, in an unfortunate accident, we lost one of the bravest commanders of the country - General Bipin Rawat - his wife and many brave soldiers. The entire country was deeply saddened by the tragic loss," Kovind said.

The President said patriotism strengthens the sense of duty among citizens.

"Whether you are a doctor or a lawyer, a shopkeeper or office-worker, a sanitation employee or a labourer, doing one's duty well and efficiently is the first and foremost contribution you make to the nation," he said.

Kovind said the world has never been in so much need of help as now.

"It has been over two years now and humankind is still battling with the coronavirus.

Hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost, and the world economy has been reeling under the impact.

The world has suffered from unprecedented misery, and surge after surge of new variants have been posing new crises.

It has been an extraordinary challenge to humankind," the President said.

Citing difficulties in pandemic management, he said "we have high population density, and as a developing economy we did not have the level of resources and infrastructure needed to battle this invisible enemy".

He said there have been setbacks, unfortunately, as the virus makes a comeback with new mutations.

"Countless families have gone through a harrowing time. There are no words to express our collective trauma. The only saving grace is that many lives could be saved. As the pandemic is still widespread, we must remain alert and not let our guard down. The precautions we have taken till now have to be continued," Kovind suggested.

Wearing masks and maintaining social distancing have been essential parts of COVID appropriate behaviour, he said.

In the fight against the COVID pandemic, it has now become a sacred national duty of every citizen to follow the precautions suggested by our scientists and experts, Kovind said, adding that "we have to discharge this duty till the crisis is behind us".

The President said the 21st century is turning out to be the age of climate change, and India has taken a leadership position on the world stage in showing the way, especially with its bold and ambitious push for renewable energy. "I am sure that with this energy, confidence and entrepreneurship, our country will continue to march ahead on the path of progress and will definitely secure its rightful place, befitting its potential, in the global community," the President added.

Rohit Sharma fit to lead India against Windies; Bhuvi, Ashwin under scanner as Hardik back in radar

NEW DELHI: India's white-ball captain Rohit Sharma is "fit" and ready to lead the side against the West Indies in a six-match white-ball series starting February 6 with the three ODIs in Ahmedabad.

However, the team selection meeting, which is set to happen this week, will be an interesting one as some senior players like Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Ravichandran Ashwin, after their indifferent performance against South Africa in their 0-3 ODI series defeat, will come under the scanner.

But Rohit is ready to lead the side after a left hamstring injury ruled him out of the South Africa tour. The T20 matches against the Caribbean team are set to be held from February 16 to 20 in Kolkata.

"Rohit is fit and available for the series against the West Indies," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"By the time, the West Indies series starts, it will be more than seven and half weeks of rehabilitation and recuperation for Rohit.

"He is already training in Mumbai and is expected to be in Bangalore for the fitness test and get a formal okay from the National Cricket Academy," the source informed. Rohit set to be named Test captain too

It is almost certain that for the time being, Rohit will be named the Test captain although BCCI will be looking at other options considering his workload and the responsibility that comes with leading India in two back-to-back World Cups in 2022 and 2023.

It is understood that KL Rahul's first stint as captain hasn't gone as per expectations and for now, he will have to remain an apprentice under Rohit till he is seen to be ready to lead the national team in near future.

Under Rahul, India lost all four international games in South Africa and for men who matter in Indian cricket, he hasn't exactly come across as a proactive captain. It is understood that Rahul's performance as Lucknow Super Giants captain will be keenly monitored during this edition of the IPL. Hardik Pandya's

comeback

Hardik Pandya has been bowling in the nets and even though it is not clear whether he can bowl full tilt but Venkatesh Iyer's relative inexperience at No. 6 and Rahul Dravid's admission that the colourful Baroda man was



missed, can pave the way for his comeback against the West Indies.

"You have to remember after the T20 World Cup, Hardik was dropped and not rested because of his fitness.

The selectors wanted to send him a message after his underwhelming show at World T20

Home Sport Tennis We are determined to pull it off: Tata Open Maharashtra organisers

NEW DELHI: The breach in bio-bubble of the Indian team at the Asian Cup football event has put the organisers of the Tata Open Maharashtra under pressure but they are determined to pull off the ATP tournament, set to begin in Pune from January 31. The Indian women's team was forced out of the prestigious football tournament, being held in Maharashtra as the COVID-19 hit team could not field the required players on the field against Chinese Taipei. "These are tough times but we will make it happen. Our event is also happening in the same state. We have substantially cut down the workforce as well," Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) secretary Sunder Iyer said during a virtual interaction. "Even we won't have the ball kids this time since they can't fulfil the condition of double-vaccination. We will have ball-men this year. The players' can't have food inside the stadium, they

but he is too good a player to be kept out for long. "If not against West Indies, then he will surely be back against Sri Lanka," the source added. Ravindra Jadeja also seems to be close to attaining full fitness and will play either against West Indies or in the next assignment against Sri Lanka.

Bumrah might be rested Jasprit Bumrah's workload management is paramount for this current Indian team and there is a possibility that he might be rested for the six matches.

This is after Bumrah played all six games in South Africa which, which included three Tests and three 50-over games, and sent down the highest number of overs (104.5 overs in Tests and 30 in ODIs). However, Bhuvneshwar, whose form has tapered off, might be dropped while Ashwin might get one more series as the South Africa white-ball leg was his comeback in ODIs.

The likes of Avesh Khan and Harshal Patel could once again make it to the T20 team.

Home Sport Tennis We are determined to pull it off: Tata Open Maharashtra organisers

have to go back to their hotel. We are not even taking the players on the road for travel, they will enter the stadium from the backdoor of the adjacent hotel wall." "We are doing everything that can be done to make it happen smoothly," said Iyer, who is also AITA Joint Secretary. The MSLTA official said this year 250 odd people will work inside the stadium while the number was above 400 in the last edition. Iyer said they will try to have both fans and media inside the stadium over the weekend. By that time only 20 players will be left in the tournament and there should be space to accommodate a few.

"Once the tournament happens, it will be a statement that we can do it under such tough circumstances. Everyone has to undergo RAT every day and once someone leaves a bio-bubble, he won't be allowed back until he returns a negative RTPCR report," he said.

Neeraj Chopra to be awarded Param Vashistha Seva Medal on Republic Day



NEW DELHI (KCN): Another feather in Neeraj Chopra's illustrious career as the Tokyo Olympics gold medalist will be awarded with the Param Vashistha Seva Medal by the 4 Rajputana Rifles on Republic Day.

Neeraj Chopra is a Subedar in the Indian Army. He had enrolled in 4 Rajputana

Rifles as a direct entry Naib Subedar in 2016. He was chosen for training at the Mission Olympics Wing and Army Sports Institute in Pune.

The Haryana state will also showcase the life-size replica of Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra in the form of a tableau during the 2022 Republic

Day parade. According to the Directorate of Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana, a total of ten Olympians will be a part of the tableau.

Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal for India in the Javelin Throw event at the Tokyo Olympics. The Haryana lad is only the second In-

dian individual after Abhinav Bindra to win Olympic gold. Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra not only created history when he clinched a gold medal in the Tokyo Olympics but also fulfilled legendary athlete Milkha Singh's wish to see India bringing the biggest laurel back at the mega event in track and field event.

Barcelona's Fati elects to avoid surgery on hamstring injury

MADRID (KCN): Barcelona forward Ansu Fati will follow

recovery time should be reduced. The club did not say how long

round of 16 of the Copa del Rey last week.

because of a series of injuries. He returned to action



a conservative recovery plan to treat his left hamstring injury, the club said Tuesday. Barcelona and the player have opted to avoid surgery and his

it expects Fati to be sidelined.

The 19-year-old Fati had to be replaced in the first half of extra time in the 3-2 loss to Athletic Bilbao in the

"Unfortunately I've been enduring the worst part of soccer," Fati said on Twitter. "But I'll never give up." Fati has played sparingly this season

last week after being sidelined since November. He has five goals in 10 games this season. He was a second-half substitute against Athletic.

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