

## Unity in diversity is our identity - Jayanti Das

Rourkela (KCN): served by Sagarika Welfare Trust, the Republic Day ob-



social organization in Sector 6 of Rourkela city. As the chief guest, senior social worker of the city Harihar Routray along with Ramesh Chandra Bal, president of Rourkela Bar Association and president of social organization Sagarika Welfare Trust Jayanti Das and present office bearers and members of the organization including others were present and hoisted the national flag and observed Republic Day of India. Everyone was given a speech about it. The program was done keeping in mind the Covid rules. Chief guest Harihar Routray gave a speech related to national service, duty including the governance of the country. The

guest of honor, Ramesh Chandra Bal, President of Rourkela Bar Association, while highlighting the role of the republic, addressed the people about the integrity, dignity and peace system in the country. In the city's Sector 1 Ganju Basti and Sector 18 Samleswari Basti, the president of Sagarika Welfare Trust and social worker Jayanti Das hoisted the national flag and social worker Jayanti Das said that unity in diversity is our identity in the country. Everyone should work in the interest of the country. Many other service-oriented people including the people around participated in the program and Republic Day was observed.

## Book on freedom fighters

Bhubaneswar(KCN): A book containing mainly meant for children was released



sketches of 50 prominent freedom fighters from Odisha was released in the SOA campus on Wednesday coinciding with the country's 73rd Republic Day. Written by Prof. Siba Charan Nayak, former Dean of NIT, Rourkela, the book titled 'Odishara Pachas Swadhinata Sangramee' and

at a function by SOA Vice-chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Mahapatra. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Mahapatra said children needed to know about Odisha's freedom fighters like Jayee Rajguru, Baxi Jagabandhu and Baji Rout. He thanked Prof. Nayak for his noble attempt.

Jitendra Nath Dash), who attended the program as guest of honour, said the book would serve as a document about freedom fighters of Odisha. "It is a book meant for those in the age group of 8 to 18 and it must reach all parents," he said. Prof. Pravat Kumar Padhi, Chairman of

IMIT, Cuttack, presided over the function while SOA's Dean (Student's Welfare) Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das and Prof. Saroj Mohanty of Institute of Agricultural Sciences addressed the gathering. Among others, Ashok Basa, Past President of Institution of Engineers, former bureaucrat Rudraprasanna Dwibedi, eminent gynecologists Dr. Manorama Nayak and former Administrative Officer Mihir Dwibedi were present. Brahmanna Mishra, President of Utkal Chamber of Commerce, proposed the vote of thanks.

## TMC to raise IAS Cadre Rule amendment issue in Parliament session

KOLKATA(KCN): Trinamool Congress is all set to raise the Centre's proposed amendment to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Cadre Rule in the upcoming Parliament session scheduled to be held between January 31 and February 11, the party announced on Thursday.

In a virtual meeting with the party MPs, TMC chairperson and West Bengal chief minister

Mamata Banerjee instructed the lawmakers to demand the removal of governor Jagdeep Dhankhar as



well following a recent face-off with the constitutional head of the state.

"The central government is creating obstructions against the federal structure of the country. We will

oppose the Centre's move to transfer IAS officers, and other bureaucrats in future

to the central deputation with the state government's consent in both the houses of Parliament. We will also discuss the issue with other political parties who are against the amendment in the IAS Service Cadre Rule," said MP Sudip Bandopadhyay. Editorial: Take states on board before tinkering with IAS rules Responding to the Centre's revised pro

## General Manager Eastern Railway Shri Arun Arora Hoisted the National Flag: Eastern Railway celebrated 73rd Republic Day

Kolkata(KCN): Shri Arun Arora, General Manager, Eastern Railway hoisted the National Flag on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day celebra-

ees of Eastern Railway are discharging their duties and responsibilities with utmost dedication towards making a stronger, self-reli-



tion at Eastern Railway's Sports Complex, James Long Sarani, Behala, Kolkata on Wednesday, 26th January, 2022. He also received the salute of RPF contingent on this occasion.

Addressing the Railwaymen & their family members, General Manager, Eastern Railway, Shri Arun Arora said that officers and employ-

ment and better India. Despite many Challenges of COVID pandemic, Railway staff are overcoming them together in a determined manner by continuing their duty undauntedly to ensure transportation of essential commodities as well as passenger services and oxygen express trains to various parts of the country. CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Senior Congress leader and MLC C M Ibrahim decides to quit party

BENGALURU(KCN): Upset over not being made the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council, senior Congress leader and MLC C M Ibrahim on Thursday said he has decided to quit the party and the post. Repeatedly targeting Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah of whom he had been a close confidant for long, he said that he would soon announce his next political

move. "I'm happy that the AICC President Sonia Gandhi has re-

my next move. Congress is a closed chapter for me here on," Ibrahim said.



lieved me from the burden that was on me, I am now free to take my decision. I will soon speak to my well-wishers in the state and announce

Speaking to reporters here, he said that he had joined Congress for the sake of Siddaramaiah and to make him the Chief Minister, and re-

counted efforts that he put in this regard. "...I left a leader like Deve Gowda and quit Janta Dal, which we built for the sake of this man (Siddaramaiah), but what he gave me? people of the state who bless and support me will give a befitting replay to Congress," he added. Ibrahim, a former Union Minister and one-time close associate of former Prime Minister H D Deve

## Republic Day 2022: Odisha CM requests people's cooperation in Covid fight in R-Day address

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha Chief Minis-

In his Republic Day message, the Chief

their lives in the pandemic. Stating that

paid tributes to patriots who sacrificed their lives for the country and said that the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is an important event this year.

The Chief Minister remembered great personalities of the country including Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Veer Surendra Sai, Buxi Jagabandhu, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Sahid Laxman Rout, Sahid Baji Rout and other patriots for their role in the freedom struggle.



ter Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, called upon the people of the state to abide by guidelines to fight the third wave of COVID guidelines.

Minister said the pandemic will soon be over with everyone's cooperation and life will soon return to normal. He also paid tributes to COVID warriors who lost

the freedom movement was for equality and justice, against violence and exploitation, he said, adding that it was a great victory of humanity for the entire world. He

### District Level Republic Day-2022 Celebrated at Khordha

Khordha (KCN): District Level 73rd Republic Day-2022 celebrated in BJB High School Play Ground Khordha. The Chief

this day let's remember the freedom fighters who made selfless sacrifices for this great nation and solemnly reaffirm pledge to uphold the

who fought tooth and nail to make their beloved motherland free from the oppressive and brutal colonial regime. In 2022 the nation is praising

Gourav Madhu Sudan Das and others freedom fighters. It is the responsibility of every citizen of India to remember the sacrifices



Guest of the Occasion Revenue Divisional Commission (RDC) Central Zone, Gopabandhu Satpathy unfurled the National Flag. Only Police Contingents Participated in the Ceremony. The Cel-

idea enshrined in our constitution. Our freedom struggle was not just a political event, but it was fight for equality and justice. India's freedom was the victory of humanity, unity in diversity is the essence of India's

it's 73rd republic day. While India acquired freedom from the British Raj in 1947, it wasn't until January-26, 1950 that the Indian Constitution happened and India turned into a sovereign state. Pro-

of great leaders on the occasion, he added. MLA, Khordha, Joytrindra Nath Mitra, Collector Khordha Sangram Keshari Mohapatra, ADM, Khordha, Manoj Kumar Padhi, ADM (Revenue) Anuja Kumar Das



celebration was San Public Participation in view of the Prevailing Covid-19 Pandemic. On this auspicious occasion Chief RDC, Central Zone Gopabandhu Satpathy said " On

democracy. He remembered that freedom fighters of Buxi Jogabandhu, Jayee Rajguru, Pindiki Bahub-alendra, Krutibash Patsani, Madhab Chandra Routray and others

nouncing it a republic. Mr. Satpathy paid tributes to the great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Ballabha Bhai Patel, Utkal Mani

Pattnaik, PD, DRDA, Khordha, Diganta Routray, Sub-collector, Khordha, I. Gourav Shivaji, Superintendent of Police Khordha, Raj Kishore Dora and others Senior Officers were present.

### Rape of two more minors rocks Puri

PURI(KCN): The rape of three minor girls in as many days has sent shockwaves in the pilgrim town putting Puri police under intense scrutiny. Two more incidents of minor girls being raped in the jurisdiction of Puri Town police came to the fore on Tuesday. Shockingly, the father is the accused in one of the rape cases. These incidents come close on the heels of the rape of a minor girl by a 35-year-old man at Sidha Bakula lane on Sunday. Police said the mother of a two-year-old girl of Goudabada Sahi lodged a complaint with Town police accusing her husband of raping their daughter. The accused father was identified as Raj Kumar Karmakar. She alleged that Karmakar, an alcohol addict, used to assault her regularly

in an inebriated state. He was jailed in a domestic violence case and recently released on bail. On the day, a drunk Karmakar again thrashed her before raping their minor daughter, the mother alleged. Basing on her FIR, police registered a case and have detained Karmakar. In another incident, a five-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her

victim's parents, the girl was alone in the house when the accused, Subhasish Tripathy, reportedly committed the crime. Police registered a case and arrested Tripathy. The girl and accused were taken to the district headquarters hospital for medical examination. On Sunday, one Mahesh Mohanty had raped a five-year-old girl on the rooftop of her

jail. He was living in a rented accommodation in Puri and acquainted with the victim's family. Meanwhile, hundreds of BJP Mahila Morcha workers led by district president Jyoti Mahapatra staged protest in front of the SP office here demanding arrest of all the accused persons. They alleged that inaction of police is emboldening criminals in Puri town as two of the rape accused were recently released from jail. Additional SP Mihir Panda said while Tripathy was produced in court and remanded in judicial custody after his bail plea was rejected, the accused father is being interrogated by police. A manhunt has been launched and four police teams are conducting raids at various locations to nab Mohanty.



neighbour, a youth, in a slum within Baliapanda police limits. As per the complaint lodged by the

house. A native of Jagatsinghpur, Mohanty had criminal antecedents and was recently released from

### Ram Roti under the leadership of Dhanji Bhai Patel

Rourkela (KCN): Under the leadership of Dhanji Bhai Patel, founder and social worker



of Maa Durga Vatika Mandir located in Basanti Colony of Rourkela city, under the Ram Roti program, food distribution program was done especially to the orphans and the homeless at



various places in the city. Founder of Maa Durga Vatika Temple and social worker Dhanji Bhai Patel along with other service-oriented youth did commendable work for the benefit of society. Food was provided to the helpless people from Basanti Colony Jagannath Temple, through Plant Site Zone, from Traffic Gate, Bisra Chowk, New Bus Stand to

Rourkela Railway Station area. Social worker Dhanji Bhai Patel said that service to mankind is the service of God in true form. He told that this Ram Roti program continues for the last five years. In which food is distributed to the poor. The destitute people who are seen on the road, are physically special, whose



house is not there, people who live on the sidewalk, helpless, etc., lunch is prepared and distributed to them every day. Dhanji Bhai Patel said that food is distributed by roaming around. This work takes two to three hours a day. In the past, in this service work, Pappu, Mukesh, Kamal, Sunny and other service-oriented youths have joined hands in the distribution work. He said that he wants other service-oriented people to be involved in this service. So that they can do this commendable work of Ram Roti better. It was told that food is prepared in the Shankar temple of the plant site, bread, then rice, dalma, curry are distributed. The members told that the Ram Roti program goes on continuously, regardless of the day like sunshine, shade, rain.

### Republic Day observer at DAV, Kalinga Nagar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): ment of the mother-land and to

larly, the students virtually spoke on the presented different importance of the oc-



Kalinga Nagar observed the 73rd Re-

materialise the yogic postures and cation The entire



public Day with adhering to COVID-19 protocols. In the celebration organized under the chairmanship of the Principal of the school, S. J. Madan Mohan Panda, Chairman of the school joining as the chief guest

dom fighters by giving precedence to the country's interest. During his interaction, the chief guest encouraged the teachers and urged them to do their best in order to excel in all fields of academic excellence. On this occasion, a



hoisted the national flag and advised the students to devote themselves to the service and develop-

chorus portraying the valour and patriotism of our great freedom fighters was staged by the teachers. The students smoothly conducted under the supervision of the members of staff.

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**Ajay Devgn and Kajol are two of a kind**

Wife and husband and duo Kajol and Ajay Devgn are poles

Tanhaji is Ajay's centennial film in Bollywood. "We

lieve that hard work pays off." At a time when

more than necessary. He keeps me grounded and makes

On the use of 3D technology, the actor says, "The technol-

younger generation is robbed of Indian history. "Not much has been written about unsung warriors such as Tanhaji in school textbooks. My children have not even read about him. During the British era they did not let people read about Indian warriors. Our textbooks have not changed much since then. So, I decided to do this film. The least we can do is respect our heroes. Maybe it will bring about a change in our country. But such films require an audience connect. So, we made it a commercial film with lots of music, action and drama."



apart in their behaviour. While he is quiet and speaks in monosyllables, she is animated and happy-go-lucky. The couple is currently in a celebratory mode as they recently marked their 21st wedding anniversary and are now busy promoting their upcoming film Tanhaji together. The duo is making a comeback on screen after a decade.

didn't know that it's his 100th film. It is a happy coincidence. We'd never planned to celebrate but it has all come together. I was supposed to write about his journey on Instagram but I couldn't figure which films to mention and which not to. There are so many outstanding movies and roles that he has done," beams Kajol.

stories of celebrity marriages falling apart are on the rise, Ajay and Kajol boast of a 20-year-long relationship. "It's important to realise that marriage is a daily job and you need to nurture your husband and children. You have to give them extra attention every day. Both Ajay and I have the same priorities and we have not grown apart. Our basic topics for the day are family, children and our work. It's a good thing that I talk too much and he doesn't. I am more spontaneous and do

me realise that I am going overboard at times," says Kajol on how their marriage works.

ogy that we've used has been done for the first time in India by Indians. I formed my own company for this. The CGI has been done completely by us. I have always tried to experiment with new techniques. Our director Om Raut had done all the research before we embarked on the path. In fact, we met Tanhaji's family and they would be on the sets every day. We recreated the sets as such locales are not available in the current situation."

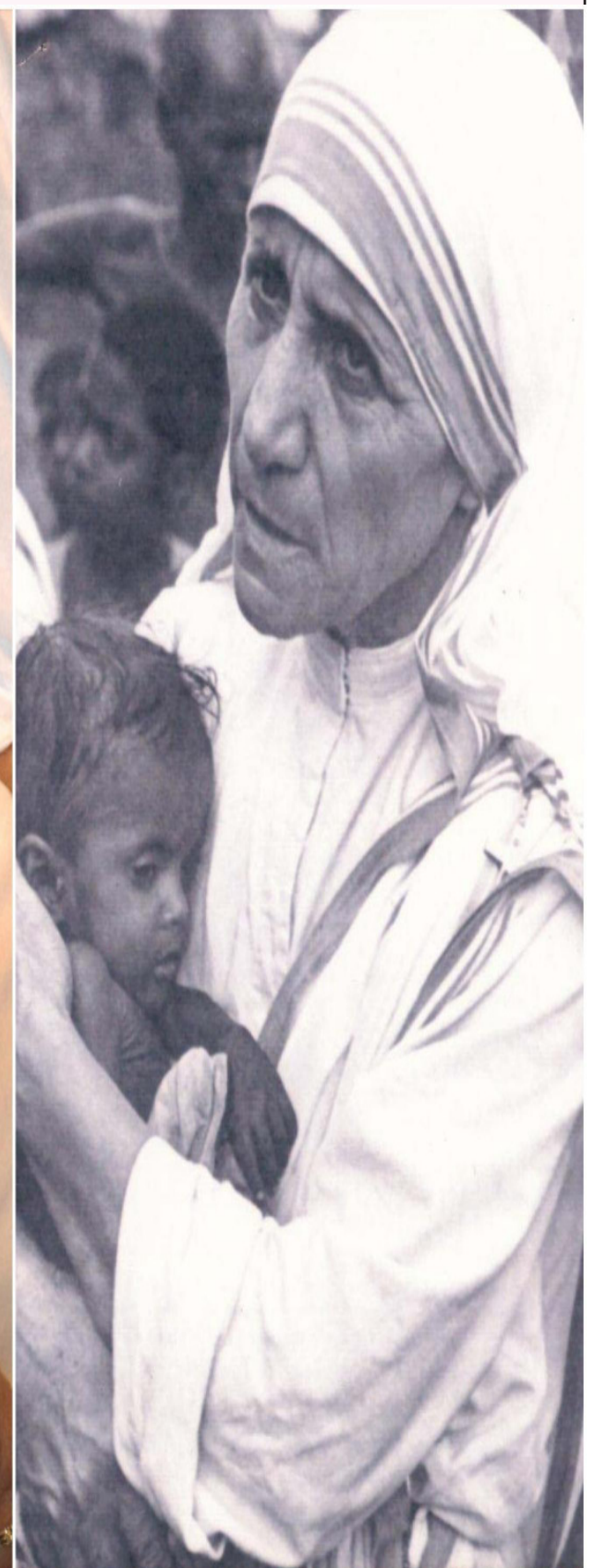
Their last film together Toonpur Ka Superhero in 2010 was also made under their own banner—Ajay Devgn Films. Incidentally,

On his journey in Bollywood, Ajay says, "Whatever work I have done has been very satisfying. People tell me to promote myself but I can't do that. I be-

The couple reveals that their children Nysa and Yug have not watched the film yet. "They don't like my movies because they feel I weep too much. They feel that I cry in happy scenes too," says Kajol. Ajay laughs and adds, "Nysa doesn't discuss much about films but Yug calls me Tanhaji Malsure when I reach home. Even when I call him he says 'Hello Tanhaji'."

The 50-year-old further rues how the

Nonetheless, Ajay says controversies could be raked up during the release. "We have tried to make an interesting film and kept the story straight so that we don't get into controversies. But the country is divided now. People can try and create some controversy or the other. I hope the youth realises that it's not easy recreating an unknown part of history in a movie," he concludes.



The Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian award and recognises 'exceptional service/performance of the highest order'.

## How much will Air India transform under the guidance of the Tata Group?

The Tata Group is soon to gain complete control of Air India airlines from 27th January. Earlier, there were speculations that Air India would be fully taken over by the Tata Group on 23rd January. The daunting challenge for the Tata Group will be to recast Air



India into a world-class airline. The service of Air India has been deteriorating for the past few decades. Its expenses were increasing while earnings plummeted. Therefore, the Tata Group will have to make concerted and strenuous efforts to bring it back on track. One of the reasons that led to its downfall was pettiness in outlook.

There has been no improvement in its service even after its purchase by Tata Group. Looking at the extent of the work, enthusiasm, and energy of the staff here, it is evident that they have lost their willingness to work. In the circumstances wherein the job is secure and the pay fixed, there is bound to be a lack of initiative. A similar instance occurred with Air India. I recently got a chance to travel to Mumbai, Banaras, Patna, etc. via Air India airlines. The situation seemed to be unsatisfactorily the same across all my travels. As before, the same distasteful food and drinks were served to the passengers on board. Due to all these reasons, Air India has suffered enormous losses worth hundreds of crores every year as passengers shifted to other airlines.

We are all aware that the Tata Group was attempting to acquire Air India for several years. Earlier the government was looking to sell only some stake in Air India, but then the government decided to sell its entire stake to the Tata group, then Tata bought Air India for a whopping sum of Rs 18,000 crore.

The Tata group already owns premium-well-functioning airline companies like

Vistara and AirAsia Airlines. Undeniably, the

conglomerate must have in store a concrete plan of action to revive Air India. If not, then why would they have bought it at all? The Former Chairman and mentor of the Tata Group, Mr. Ratan Tata, and the Current Chairman, Mr. N. Chandrasekhar, and the group of senior

**R.K.Sinha**

in-flight staff of Air India displayed a severe lack of seriousness and sensitivity regarding the best interests and well-being of their customers. They seem to be just fulfilling their duty. I regrettably witnessed that even after its acquisition by Tata, its male employees continue to work without shaving their ingrown beards, leaving a

poor impression. Apart from that, during the flight, the passengers were not even given the necessary information required by law. As a stark contrast, there is tremendous energy and enthusiasm to be seen while delivering services in their private airlines. They are working hard to achieve a specific goal and fulfil their vision. The old staff of Air India will now have to give up their obsolete ways. They should give up expectations that younger people would not be positioned in higher ranks. As everything nowadays is merit-based, the same rules shall apply. Those who prove themselves will also get a promotion. The status quo of India did not change because the significance of merit was neglected. Air India's staff should also be prepared to be transferred to any part of the country at any time. Earlier, in the event of a transfer, all of them used to line up at the doorsteps of MPs and ministers in New Delhi to ensure that they weren't transferred under any circumstances. In most cases, the bureaucrats, MPs, or



executives must be sitting at Bombay House formulating strategies for the resurgence of Air India. The Head Office of the Tata Group, Bombay House, is the place where the operations of their companies in the steel, hotels, textiles, and power division are executed.

The top executives of the Tata group must understand that even though the board of the Tata group is held in high esteem and regard in India and internationally, it has to adopt new technology and motivate the staff. Then it can regain its long-lost stature and position as the best airline. The Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) can undertake all the Information Technology (IT) related work as TCS is one of the most prominent companies in the IT sector across the world.

The quarterly profits of TCS are approaching numbers over 18000 crores. Thus, on the IT front, Air India need not fret. That can be considered a familial matter. However, any industry, especially the service sector, can only gain momentum when its staff also gears up in terms of commitment. The ground and

Group then decided that it is going to run Air India from its Airlines House located on Rakabganj Road in Delhi. The senior officers of Air India will establish their base while they continue to get directions from Mumbai. The aviation sector in India is taking a quantum leap. There will be ample opportunities for all-tier service airlines to grow by making profits for the several upcoming decades. Indians have been relying more on air travel for long distances. Air travel is now overtaking bus and rail travel. Not only is the number of air travel in the country increasing rapidly, but there is also a tremendous increase in the number of passengers going abroad. If we talk about the year 2019, then 71000 Indians were flying to foreign countries on a daily basis. Since then, there seems to have been an upward trend. That in itself is clear proof that the airlines providing the best service are bound to grow.

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

### Eve of Gandhi's Assassination on 30<sup>th</sup> January

# Gandhiji's Murder was only a Conspiracy

There is nothing that has not been said about the Mahatma. Yet there is no end to what can still be said, and should be said.

Supreme Scientist of our times in 1944 wrote: 'A leader of his people unsupported by any outward authority, a politician whose successes rest not upon craft or political devices, but simply on the convincing power of his personality; a victorious fighter, who has always scorned the abuse of force, a man of wisdom and humility, armed with resolve and inflexible consistency, who has devoted all his strength to the uplifting of his people and the betterment of their lot; a man who has confronted the brutality of Europe with the dignity of the simple human being, and thus at all times, risen superior'.

In spite of such a dazzling character the murder of Gandhiji was a great conspiracy. The announcement of Gandhi's murder wasn't rushed because they wanted to establish the identity of the murder, and more so his religion, before an announcement was made, since a malicious rumour was being spread that a Muslim had murdered Gandhi. Nathuram



wasn't revealing his identity, either. His

identity and the religion he belonged to were only revealed when Anna Gadgil, a veteran Congress man from Poona and a minister in the Union Government identified the murderer and revealed that the murderer was a Hindu Brahmin from Poona. Those weren't days of news 24\*7 and there was no mania of 'Breaking News'. There were fixed news bulletins and so, on 30 January 1948, Gandhi's murder was announced in the scheduled 6:p.m news bulletin on All India Radio. There is no sinister motive here either, as is being alleged by purveyors of lies and propagandists of the Sangha.

Recently, a plea was made to the Supreme Court of India, seven decades after Gandhi's murder, to order a new investigation in to it. The objective was malicious: to sow disinformation and mix lies in to the facts of Gandhi's murder. There is a sinister ulterior motive too, that of discrediting the Kapur Commission of Inquiry's investigations and getting its report discredited and abrogated. The Kapur Commission's investigation report is the only document that reveals the existence of a much larger and sinister conspiracy to murder Gandhi and to overthrow a democratic government and

**Uma Shankar Prasad**

replace it with a Hindu Rashtra, the involvement of the RSS and Hindu Mahasabha, both upper caste Hindu supremacist and extremist organizations in the plot, and the complicity of Savarkar, who was acquitted in the Gandhi murder trial, not because of evidence in court to convict him. Once the Kapur Commission's inquiry is discredited and its report discarded, the history of the Gandhi murder can be falsified and rewritten to suit the current ruling dispensation. Then the inconvenient truth of the Gandhi murder can be buried for eternity and replaced by convenient and more comfortable lies. Then, their ambition to create a New India, a Hindu Rashtra, where lies rule and truth is discredited, discarded, and those who dare tell the truth, persecuted, will be realized. After assuming office in 2014, Prime Minister Modi ordered the immediate destruction of over 40,000 till-then-classified documents stored in the National Archives by declaring them 'of no consequence'. There is no record to say which documents were destroyed. We will never know the information contained in them. There was no justifiable reason for their destruction. A part of history has been obliterated; some of those papers could

have been related to the Gandhi murder conspiracy—we will never know now. Those involved in Gandhi's murder may have destroyed evidence of their involvement in the plot. In Gujarat, the laboratory of the Hindu Rashtra, students in schools are being asked questions to explain why Gandhi committed suicide. Elsewhere, sanghis celebrate Gandhi's murder, re-enacting it by firing on Gandhi's photographs and performing poojas of the photograph and replicas of the gun used to murder Gandhi. Godse worship is becoming mainstream and it is patronized by the organizations involved in Gandhi's murder. Tushar Gandhi the Great-grandson of Mohandas Gandhi discovered these hide history in his book "Let's Kill Gandhi". Those who were saying about Hindu and Hindutwa, perhaps they don't have a basic o knowledge on Hindu The person who avoid to do evil deed, he is really Hindu. Sanatan Dharma's ideology is that " Akrutyang Naiba Kartyabang prana tyago pi sansthyate, Nacha Krutyang paritarjyang esaha Dharma Sanatan". Lastly It is the opinion of this writer that " Generation to come, it may be, will scarcely believe that such a man as this, ever, in flesh and blood, walked upon this earth".

(Uma Shankar Prasad, Columnist, Khorda)

# BJD Clinches First Victory

Bhubaneswar: Much before the polling are held for the three-tire panchayat elections, The Governing BJD headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has clinched the first victory as the State Election Commission declared its candidate for a Zilla Parishad zone elected uncontested.

The lone candidate for which she was declared elected uncontested and there will be no election in the Zilla Parishad Zone-2 in Bargarh district, the official said. Therefore, the elections will now be held in 852 Zilla Parishad seats instead of 853 seats, he said adding that only Zilla Parishad members contest the elections

member and 36,523 of 91,890 ward member posts. About 39 per cent of the ward members have been elected uncontested. As per the schedule of the SEC, the panchayat elections will be held in 5 phases in the state on February 16, 18, 20, 22 and 24. The votes will be counted on February 26, 27 and 28 at block offices.

The tenure of Dhinkia panchayat will be over in 2023 as elections were held in 2018 and not in 2017 with others due to law and order situation in wake of anti-displacement agitation against Posco. Presently, the Dhinkia area is also undergoing the same situation as agitations are held opposing the proposed steel plant of JSW.

The poll panel on Tuesday issued a notification giving a second chance to candidates to file their nominations for Ward, Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti seats where nominations were not filed or all the nominations were rejected.

A total 2,79,35,525 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the panchayat elections in the state this time. Meanwhile, the SEC has postponed the elections to Dhinkia Gram Panchayat in Jagatsinghpur district to next year. In a notification on Wednesday, the SEC stated that the elections to the posts of Sarpanch and 23 ward members post will not be held now. Their elections will be held in 2023, the notification



36,974 candidates were elected unopposed for different posts under Panchayati Raj Institutions. The announcement was made Wednesday a day after the last date of withdrawal of nomination papers by candidates. The SEC, Odisha, in a communication said: "K a l p a n a Pradhan (BJD) declared elected uncontested as Z.P Member, Zone No-2, Ambabhona Block in Bargarh District". Ms. Pradhan was the

with party symbols while the candidates for the post of ward member, sarpanch and panchayat samiti member fight polls in different symbols. Similarly, the SEC announced a total of 36, 974 candidates have been declared elected uncontested out of 1,06,329 posts under the three tire Panchayati raj institution. The uncontested posts included 1 of 853 ZP members, 126 of 6793 Sarpanch posts, 326 of 67693 Panchayat Samiti

# Central Asia is key to India's vision of integrated extended neighbourhood: PM Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI: Noting that Central Asia is central to India's vision of an integrated and stable extended neighbourhood, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that mutual cooperation has achieved many successes over the past three decades. He called for defining an ambitious vision for the coming years. Addressing the first meeting of the India-Central Asia Summit being held virtually, the Prime Minister said India and central Asian countries

share the same concerns and goals with regard to regional security and were all concerned about the developments in Afghanistan. He said that the meeting aims to give an effective structure to mutual cooperation, which will pave the way for the establishment of a platform for regular interaction among all stakeholders and to prepare an ambitious roadmap for cooperation.

PM Modi said that the diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries have completed 30 fruitful years. "Our cooperation has achieved many successes over the past three decades. And now, at this crucial juncture, let us define an ambitious vision for the coming years as well," he said.

The Prime Minister said India has deep relations with all of the Central Asian countries and Kazakhstan has become an important partner in India's energy security. PM Modi expressed his condolences at the recent loss of lives in Kazakhstan. Apart from discussing regional security and the Afghanistan issue, the summit will also focus on trade, connectivity, development partnership, culture, and people-to-people ties. The summit is symbolic of the importance attached by the leaders to a comprehensive and enduring India-Central Asia partnership. This is first engagement of its kind between India and the Central Asian countries at the level of leaders. The summit is also a reflection of India's growing engagement with the Central Asian countries. Prime Minister Modi paid a historic visit to all Central Asian countries in 2015. Subsequently, there have been high-level exchanges at bilateral and multilateral forums.



share the same concerns and goals with regard to regional security and were all concerned about the developments in Afghanistan. He said that the meeting aims to give an effective structure to mutual cooperation, which will pave the way for the establishment of a platform for regular interaction among all stakeholders and to prepare an ambitious roadmap for cooperation. Presidents of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are taking part in the summit. Outlining the goals of the summit, the Prime Minister said the first is to make it clear that mutual cooperation between India and Central Asia is necessary for regional security and prosperity. "I want to make it clear that Central Asia is central to India's vision of an integrated and stable neighbourhood. The second goal of today's meeting is to give an effective structure to our cooperation, which will pave the way for the establishment of a platform for regular interaction among all stakeholders and to prepare an ambitious roadmap for cooperation."

# Decisions broken the spine of the retired employees-Bisi

Rourkela (KCN): Ex-CGM, SAIL, RSP, Rourkela, Bimal Kumar Bisi wrote to Union Minister for Steel on Wednesday and said that Some of the decisions which have broken the spine of the retired employees are first The arrears on perks for 11 months were not paid due to delayed in decision making during 2007 pay revision, secondly The contribution of the company to the pension fund was provisioned from 2010 and Tax was also deducted. But later on it was not finalized and SAIL employees lost huge amount on account of interest. In fact the amount deposited last year is minuscule in comparison any of the peer PSUs. So, he requested to pay the dues as par and consider paying arrears from 2017 which is the legitimate right of the employees those who have retired from 2017. It may be noted that the retired employees are getting very less pension from EPFO and the pension fund in comparison to many loss making and small PSUs. Thirdly, Even the arrears due to the recently retired employees are also not being paid on some vogue pretext. The employees are losing huge amount on account of interest which will never be paid. He further said that SAIL is a Maha Navratna company which has been making huge profit after a spell of 3 years of loss making. But unfortunately, it has never been an Employee friendly Company. The Employees are at the receiving and due to delayed decision making by the Management under the pretext of Ministry's interference. As a result the recent pay revision has been implemented with effect from April'2020 leaving many retired employees totally anguished and frustrated. For Ex. many PSU have implemented their new pay revision from 2017. BHEL which is in the same league has implemented the same from 2017 although it

is making losses for last few years. But it was possible due the Employee friendly Management taking the right decision at the right time. There are many instances due to which the retired employees suffered immensely and no action is being taken to correct them when the financial condition of the company is very good now. The retired employees and the present employees have not received any dues which is 39 months arrear. Even if employees who have worked for 35 years, they are not getting benefits in equally with regards to all the units of SAIL. SAIL being a parent company, they should implement single rule for all units. For example, House retention after retirement, In Bokaro it's one year, but in RSP it's 6 months. If anybody stays in company quarter after two months, company is charging market rent from the Ex-Employee. Since they have not vacated the Quarter, till any alternate arrangement is made company is withholding Gratuity, Leave Encashment, Arrears of Wage Revision, Balance PRP & Pension for which they are losing huge amount interest like minimum of 20,000/- per month interest. All together an Ex-Employee is losing around 30,000/- or more per month for staying in the company allotted Quarter. Since after serving FOR 25 TO 30 Years in a Maharatna Company like SAIL. The employees are facing such a step motherly attitude by the SAIL Management after giving sweat and blood by the employee the Company is least bothered for their well being. Bimal Bisi, on behalf of all the retiring employees and executives of SAIL, RSP requested to kindly look into the matter and give a sympathetic consideration, so the employees can live a peaceful retired life.




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# Wives are proxy candidates for husbands in kendrapara

KENDRAPARA(KCN): The move to empower women by reserving 50 per cent seats for them seems to be failing its purpose in Kendrapara. Many women candidates are being fielded as proxies for their male relatives, especially for husbands. Sources said, many former male office bearers are fielding women candidates from

their families to contest in the panchayat elections under the reserved category with the hope of usurping power once the seats are won. Swagatika Jena (45) is contesting for the first time for sarpanch post from Kansar panchayat of Kendrapara block. Her husband Pradyumna (50) had been elected as Kansar sarpanch twice

in a row but this time, he chose to field his wife as the sarpanch post is reserved for women candidates. Subhadra Rout (50), who filed her nomination paper recently to contest from Chakoda for sarpanch post has a similar story. In the last panchayat polls, voters elected her husband Bharat Rout as the sarpanch of

Chakoda. "Since the husband pursued me to contest. From filling up the election form to gar-



nering votes and meeting bigwigs in the village, he is doing it all on my behalf," she said. Similarly, Shiva Prasad Biswal was a samiti member of Chakoda. Now, his 30-year-old daughter-in-law Mitali Samantray is contesting for the same post. The scene is the same in Gulanagar panchayat where Namita Swain

(30) is in the race for the sarpanch post in place of her husband Pitabas Behera, a former sarpanch. Many women candidates, sources said, are not even able to speak on village issues and depend on their male relatives to fill in for them. However, Biswanath Behera, a social worker of

Kendrapara, had a different take on the issue. "Not every woman candidate is a proxy. There are exceptions and some of them are handling their campaigns well without any male support," he said. For the upcoming polls, 125 women candidates will contest for sarpanch posts in Kendrapara district.

# 73rd Republic Day celebrated in Barbil amid Covid protocol

Barbil(KCN):73rd Republic Day was observed in various parts of Barbil city in the



district of Keonjhar amidst Covid protocol. Unlike last year Republic day was celebrated with very few people in Vikas Mahal.It is need not to say that the local residents are missing the grand observation and uniqueness of all National day observation like previous years .Barbil TahsildarAlok Patel hoisted the flag. Barbil municipality executive officer

Some of the corona warriors were honoured at the event. As always, Pratap Das moderated



the program. In similar way ,Republic Day was celebrated in many places in Barbil. The Barbil Regional Media Forum and PatanjaliPeetha jointly celebrated Republic Day in the office premises of the Forum. Professor Golak Bihari Giri hoisted the flag. On the other hand, Republic Day was also



Abhishek Patel, former Chairman Barbil municipality Dillip Mishra ,some intellectual and people were present on the occasion

observed by the Social service organisation 'SEVA' and Babu Reddy, Vice President of JSW, hoisted the flag .

# Republic Day Parade held at INS Chilika



Khordha (KCN): On the occasions of Republic Day a ceremonial parade was held in INS, Chilika on 26th January - 2022.Cmde NP Pradeep Naval Officer-in-Charge Odisha & Commanding Officer INS, Chilika laid a

wreath at the war memorial and inspected the 20 Men Guard on the occasions. He also reviewed the parade comprising of Naval Personnel and jawans of the Defence Security Corp's of INS, Chilika. On completion of the

parade he also felicitated the personnel who have been awarded various service recognitions including CNS and CINS commendations. In his address the commanding officer urged personnel on parade to uphold the basic values of

the constitution and to rededicates themselves in the service of the nation. The Commodore advised one and all to follow Covid-19 appropriate behavior and ensure that it's spread is contained. The event was conducted following all Covid protocols.

# Rotary club, Barbil conducted an eye treatment camp to mark the Republic Day celebration

Barbil (KCN):The Barbil Rotary Club,Barbil Branch has organized a free eye treatment camp on the occasion of Democracy Day. The event is being held at the Rotary Office premises. Many people from the town of Barbil and nearby villages came for treatment. 190 people were treated at the event. Of those, 56 have been identified for cataract surgery. They are scheduled to operate at the Rotary Eye Hospital in Bhubaneswar on the 30th January . The program began on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti Day, in which 363 people were tested and 53 were catalogued for contract operation. A medical team from Rotary Hospital, Bhubaneswar was present at the



medical camp and conducted the treatment. The team was consist of four members which include Durga Prasad, revanshaw sekhar

mahanta, Vijay Sahu and Abhay kumar Bal. Rotarians Ashok Thackeray, Manjinder Singh, Mukesh Thackeray, Chitrasen Swain, Balaram Gupta,

Amit Mahant, MD Arif, Ajaj Alam, MD Sahil and Mausami Majumdar were present on the occasion. The event was highly praised by the residents of Barbil..

# The Heritage School, Kolkata celebrated 73rd Republic Day

Kolkata (KCN): On 26th January, 2022,

nessed the presence of Mr. Santosh Ray,

Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of In-

mail is susceptible to alteration and their



The Heritage School, Kolkata, celebrated the 73rd Republic Day maintaining all Covid-19 protocols. The ceremony was graced by Shri Vikram Swarup, Chairman, The Heritage School in the presence of Ms. Seema Sapru, the principal of the School, teachers, students and staff members. The event also wit-

DGM, Heritage Group of Institutions and Lt. Col. Amitava Ghosh Dastidar, Campus Administrator among the others. "Republic Day marks an important milestone for our Country and this day also marks a respect to the brave heros who sacrificed their lives to bring up this glorious day for India", said Shri

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## Group centre CRPF Imphal dedicates 04 open Gymnasium Park and 01 Herbal in the name of Martyrs in the presence of their brave heart families on the occasion of Republic Day

Imphal (KCN): On the auspicious occasion of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day, this Group Centre, to honour the CRPF martyrs and to spread "Fit India Movement", dedicated 04 Open Gymnasium Park and 01 Herbal Farm in the name of martyrs in the presence of their brave families on 26/01/2022 inside the

Shaheed CT/GD Y. Shole Singh. Further other Park inaugurated by Smt. (Dr.) Pratima Sharma and Shri Suresh Sharma, DIG (PAW), M&N Sector and dedicated in the name of Shaheed CT/GD H. Punshi Singh. Fourth Park inaugurated by Smt. Sita Devi, President, RCWA, GC, CRPF, Imphal

Commandant N. Manoranjan Singh. Officers/SO/Jawan/families and Children of the Campus were present on the occasion. The brave families of the martyrs present on the occasion were honoured by the Inspector General and the wives of all senior officers. Shri Manish Kumar

DIG, Group Centre. In his address, Madan Kumar said, Fitness has always been integral part of our life. Earlier, men, women and children were always engaged in some or the other physical activities. But nowadays change in life style and ease of work due to technology has reduced the physical activities. This is creating other health issues.

He also emphasised on that only healthy body have a healthy mind. All successful people always try to manage healthy habits and keep fit and healthy.

He encouraged all the women and children to make use of the facility and lead a healthy life.

He said GC strongly believes in the initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi ji's "FIT INDIA MOVEMENT" and "Kheloge to Khiloge" and continuously having programmes to encourage the people of GC. The development of four gyms and herbal farm is the next big step in that direction.

Social distancing was maintained by all everyone during the inauguration ceremony to avoid the spreading of Covid-19 Pandemic.



campus. Shri Manish Kumar Agrawal, IPS, IG, M&N Sector, who recently taken over charge, inaugurated Open Gym Park and dedicated in the Name of Shaheed CT/GD S. Prem Kumar Singh. Further Smt. Pratibha Tripathi and Shri D.K. Tripathi, DIG (ADM), M & N, Sector inaugurated another park and dedicated in the name of

and Shri Madan Kumar, DIG, Group Centre, CRPF, Langjing, Imphal and dedicated in the Name of Shaheed HC/GD M. Biren Singh. Organic Farming inaugurated by Shri R.S. Rautela, DIG, Range, CRPF, Imphal and Shri P.K. Nayak, DIG (Int./Ops), M&N Sector and dedicated in the name of Shaheed Asstt.

Agrawal, IPS, IG, M&N Sector who was the Chief Guest of the functions, in his inaugural speech appreciated the efforts of GC, CRPF, Langjing Imphal for establishing Open Gymnasium and dedication of the park in the name of martyrs. He also said that this is result of visionary thinking of Shri Madan Kumar,

## Low-key Republic Day parade, 10 contingents to participate

BHUBANESWAR: Only 10 contingents will take part in the State level Republic Day parade, which will be held in a low-key manner due to the pandemic this year.



School students will not participate in the parade to be held at Mahatma Gandhi Marg. The parade would be commanded by IPS Rohit Sharma. DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal reviewed the full dress rehearsal and security arrangements for the parade on Monday.

"As the pandemic persists, the Republic Day celebrations will remain a low-key affair and only 10 contingents will take part in the parade. As many as 25 platoons of police force and 70 officers will be deployed to maintain the law and order situation," he said.

Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner SK Priyadarsi said adequate security arrangements have been made for Republic Day. "A five-layer security arrangement will be in place on Repub-

## Senior Congress leader and MLC C M Ibrahim decides to quit party

Continued from page-1

Gowda, had joined Congress in 2008, and had been sulking for some time now, upset with the party and Siddaramaiah.

His decision to quit the Congress comes in the wake of announcement by the party yesterday appointing B K Hariprasad as the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, the post which Ibrahim was eyeing.

The post of Leader of Opposition in the Council had fallen vacant following the retirement of S R Patil, earlier this month, on completion of his tenure as MLC.

Claiming that on his persuasion Siddaramaiah decided to contest from the second seat in Badami during 2018 assembly polls, as it was evident that he would lose in Chamundeshwari (the first seat), upset Ibrahim said, "He (Siddaramaiah) has given me a good reward through Congress, for giving him a new political life...I have accepted it happily."

Stating that he is now free to take any decision, he said, he has three more years of tenure as MLC, but has decided to resign from the post soon.

Ibrahim had earlier too indicated about quitting Congress and joining JD(S), when S R Patil, who was considered close to Siddaramaiah, was chosen as the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, over him.

Asked whether he would join JD(S) now, Ibrahim said, "whether to join JD(S) or Mamata Banerjee (Trinamool Congress) or Lalu Yadav (Rashtriya Janata Dal) or Mulayam and Akhilesh Yadav (Samajwadi Party), the thinking is going on. Will also speak to JD(S) H D Deve Gowda and H D Kumaraswamy and take the next decision." JD(S) leader Kumaraswamy had earlier met Ibrahim and invited him to return to the party fold.

To a question whether he holds Siddaramaiah responsible for his losing the Leader of Opposition post in the legislative Council, Ibrahim said, "Siddaramaiah, who is now Congress Legislature Party leader should answer that question, and I cannot get along with KPCC President D K Shivakumar because our thinking doesn't match." Ibrahim had left JD(S) after the 2004 Lok Sabha elections.

After that he was associated with "AHINDA" (a social movement forged by minorities, backwards and Dalits) in Karnataka led by Siddaramaiah before both joined the Congress. Reacting, Siddaramaiah said he would talk to Ibrahim and would not like to share his comments to media regarding what he has spoken.

Meanwhile, Kumaraswamy said he spoke to Ibrahim this morning and would welcome him to JD(S), if he decides to join the party.

"Ibrahim is a former senior leader of the party, who had had a long association with Deve Gowda....He still has affection for Gowda and JD(S), if he decides we will welcome him....last time, when we discussed, I had told him to utilise the opportunity if Congress gives him Leader of Opposition position, but he is not given the post," he said.

lic Day and no traffic will be allowed on Mahatma Gandhi during the celebrations," said Priyadarsi.

As per an order issued by the Commissionerate Police, no vehicles or pedestrians will be permitted to enter Mahatma Gandhi Marg unless specifically invited to remain present during the ceremony.

All the lanes connecting Mahatma Marg will be sealed, and sale of gas balloons has been strictly prohibited on the stretch between PMG square and Master Canteen square on January 26 from 06.30 am till the parade is over.

## General Manager Eastern Railway Shri Arun Arora Hoisted the National Flag: Eastern Railway celebrated 73rd Republic Day

Continued from page-1

He also added that all the doctors, nurses, paramedical staff of Railway hospitals deserve a special mention. Their standout efforts, sincere attention to the staff and beneficiaries have ensured that Railway staff gets the best of medical attention. Eastern Railway has installed medical oxygen generation plants at Kanchrapara, Jamalpur, Asansol & Malda Railway Hospitals of Eastern Railway. This railway successfully administered the second dose of COVID Vaccination to most of Eastern Railway employees and their dependent family members and now launched the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of vaccination & also vaccination for adolescent age group of 15 to 17 years. So far, Eastern Railway has successfully administered over 3.8 Lakhs doses of COVID Vaccination in the last one year, an achievement which the railway family is proud of.

In his address, Shri Arora highlighted that turning the pandemic crisis into an opportunity to, Eastern Railway has completed several important safety related works during pandemic crisis. 146.5 km of track renewal, 248 Nos. of turnout renewal, 322 km of deep screening, 94 Nos. of Bridge Rehabilitation Work and 4 Nos. of elimination of manned level crossings have been carried out till December 2021. During the last one year, 16.50 km of new line, 22.41 km of Doubling/3<sup>rd</sup> Line/4<sup>th</sup> line, 78 Track km of electrification have been completed which have significantly improved mobility and throughput over Eastern Railway. It is worth mentioning that, no accident involving passenger injury/casualty has taken place during 2021. With greater focus on freight traffic, Eastern Railway has achieved a freight loading of 54 Million Tones and originating goods earning of `4322 Crores upto 31st December, 2021 which are respectively 18% and 27% higher compared to the same period of the last year. The Business Development Units of Eastern Railway are striving hard to explore newer avenues in freight traffic. In 2021-22, ER has inducted a total loading of 3.7 MT leading to a substantial earning of `236 Crores. During the ongoing financial year, the Railway also introduced several new long distance trains or extended services of long distance trains like Bhagalpur-Jaynagar Express, Godda-New Delhi Humsafar Express, Jasidih-Pune Express, Jasidih-Vasco-da-Gama Express, Asansol-Ahmedabad Express, Godda-Ranchi Express etc.

Shri Arora also stated that in the field of passenger security, RPF of Eastern Railway has done an excellent job by quickly responding to any complaint or to extend hands of assistance to passengers in distress. To strengthen and supervise the women security, 'Meri Saheli' & 'Matangini Squad' consisting of lady RPF personnel have been deployed and are now functioning at all important stations.

It is worth mentioning that Eastern Railway made rapid strides in improving passenger and goods services. Installation of water recycling plants, organic waste composting plants, biogas plants, solar plants, energy saving devices, development of green patches were carried out in a big way in ER in 2021 thereby reiterating the commitment to reduce carbon footprint for a cleaner environment.

GM/ER mentioned that the commendable activities of Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ERWWO) deserves special mention. ERWWO actively participated in the all cleanliness campaigns, tree plantation, distribution of food and other social welfare programmes.

Principal Heads of Departments, Officers & employees of Eastern Railway attended the celebration of 73<sup>rd</sup> Republic Day informed Shri Ekalabya Chakraborty, Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway.

## Government settles over Rs 61,000 crore Air India debt, other liabilities before transfer to Tatas

NEW DELHI: The government has settled over Rs 61,000 crore of Air India's legacy debt and other liabilities that were left in AIAHL -- the company holding residual assets and liabilities of the airline -- ahead of the transfer of the national carrier to the Tata Group, a top official said on Thursday. The airline had a total debt of Rs 61,562 crore as of August 31, 2021.

Of this, the Tata Group took over Rs 15,300 crore and the rest 75 per cent or around Rs 46,000 crore was transferred to a special purpose vehicle, AI Asset Holding Ltd (AIAHL). AIAHL also held Air India's non-core assets such as stake in Hotel Corp of India (HCIL), paintings and artifacts and immovable properties. In an interview with PTI, Tuhin Kanta



Pandey, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) -- which ran the Air India privatisation process -- said Parliament had last month given nod for spending of Rs 62,057 crore towards equity infusion in AIAHL for repayment of dues and liabilities of Air India.

Of this, broadly about Rs 61,131 crore has been used to repay the entire debt and other liabilities such as fuel dues to oil companies, he said. "The interest outgo on the debt and other liabilities was very high and it was decided to square off the debt now."

As of August 31, 2021, the airline's total debt stood at Rs 61,562 crore, out of which around Rs 46,000 crore was transferred to AIAHL.

The airline also had about Rs 15,000 crore excess liabilities towards unpaid fuel bills and other operational creditors.

So the debt and liabilities with the government was around Rs 61,000 crore.

"Both excess debt and excess current liabilities whatever was remaining with the government, about Rs 61,131 crore, have been cleared," Pandey said.

"Whatever was to be borne by the government that the government has squared off rather than paying it off later. We found that it is carrying higher rate of interest. It wasn't worthwhile to retain it and pay it off later.

"If we take it to AIAHL and pay it later we have to pay higher rate of interest. So we have chosen to square it off straight away," he said.

Tata Group was in October last year announced as the winning bidder for Air India with a bid amount of Rs 18,000 crore.

Tatas have paid Rs 2,700 crore cash and taken over Rs 15,300 crore of the airline's debt. The deal also includes sale of Air India Express and ground handling arm AISATS.

Tata Group has already refinanced its Rs 15,300 crore debt in Air India and brought in new lenders. Tatas beat the Rs 15,100-crore offer by a consortium led by SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh and the reserve price of Rs 12,906 crore set by the government for the sale of its 100 per cent stake in the loss-making carrier.

## TMC to raise IAS Cadre Rule amendment issue in Parliament session

Continued from page-1

posal to amend the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, which is said to be aimed to acquire bureaucrats by transferring them to central deputation without the agreement of the state governments, Mamata Banerjee on January 13 wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging the revised amendment proposal is "more draconian" and "against the foundations" of federal polity. She also said the amendment will hang on the head of each IAS officer like a "Damocles sword" and will create a "fear psychosis" that is bound to impact the officers' performance, effectiveness and accountability to the state government. Sources in the party said Mamata, in Thursday's meeting, gave the MPs a roadmap to register their protest during the upcoming Parliament session.

"We will also demand removal of governor Jagdeep Dhankhar who is echoing the voice of the BJP in the state. He hit out at the Chief Minister and her government with a political aim on the premises of the Assembly which was not expected from a governor," said a TMC leader. Two days ago, Dhankhar went to the Assembly to pay floral tribute to BR Ambedkar on the occasion of National Voter's Day and slammed Mamata and her government.

"There is now rule of law in the state. It is the ruler's law that rules the state. No voter is safe in the state. People of this state had to pay a heavy price after they voted as per their choice. The post-poll violence was a reflection of it. The Chief Minister has no idea about the capacity of the governor," Dhankhar had said.

## Beijing's Olympic bubble makes a slightly surreal experience

BEIJING: For journalists covering the Beijing Winter Olympics, China's strict pandemic measures are creating a surreal and somewhat frustrating experience.



China requires electronic confirmation of the health status of those participating in or covering the Games and shunts them into a closed loop bubble upon arrival. That kept Associated Press photo editor Yirmiyah Arthur on edge during her journey from New Delhi to Beijing via Tokyo on Tuesday.

A colleague helped her download the app in Beijing, but the presence of health workers in biohazard suits reminded her that restrictions would keep her inside the bubble requiring competitors, officials, staff and journalists to stay isolated from the general public.

"I know the only experience of Beijing I'm going to experience is the Beijing I will see out of my bus window and my hotel window," Arthur said. "I'm not really going to experience China,

I'm just going to experience the Olympics within the bubble."

AP photographer Jae Hong said he had been warned about the bubble, but seeing it in effect in Beijing was still a shock.

Workers in protective suits met passengers and sent them off to hotels that were sealed off with fences, protected by round-the-clock guards, Hong said.

AP video journalist Johnson Lai is facing more stress because China has no formal relations with his self-governing Taiwan homeland that China claims as its own territory.

The lack of connection meant he was unable to complete the form in the Olympics app to get a code, which requires a test conducted at a Chinese-approved hospital.

"There's a lot of uncertain matters that we can't control. We can only apply based on their procedures," said Lai, who is forgoing celebrating Chinese New Year with his family to cover the Games.

So far, organizers say there have been 39 positive results out of the more than 2,500 tests at the airport among those who arrived for the Games since early January.

Within the bubble, there have been 33 positives out of 336,400 tests. None of the positives involved athletes. The average time spent in isolation for most has been around six days.

## Danielle Collins to play Ash Barty in Australian Open final



MELBOURNE: Danielle Collins reached a Grand Slam final for the first time with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Iga Swiatek at the Australian Open.

The 28-year-old

American will next face top-ranked Ash Barty for the title at Melbourne Park. Collins broke the 2020 French Open champion's serve in the first game of

each set and raced to 4-0 leads in both. She hit 27 winners and had only 13 unforced errors.

Collins' run to the Australian Open semifinals in 2019 was her best previ-

ous result at a Grand Slam tournament. She says she's looking forward to taking on the home favorite in the final. Collins says "we've had some incredible battles."

## Spotlight on Daniel Chima Chukwu as Jamshedpur take on Goa

BAMBOLIM: Bolstered by the signing of striker Daniel Chima Chukwu, inform Jamshedpur FC will look to continue their push for a place at the top of the table

very good attack with Greg Stewart at the heart of it and the likes of Jordan Murray adding steel.

The Men of Steel have now roped in Chima, who moved to

poned. "It will be a difficult match for a number of reasons. Of course, we have been in quarantine for such a long time and that will be a challenge mentally

ing at ninth place with 14 points from 13 games.

The Gaurs have been inconsistent throughout the season and their bane has been leaking goals from set-



when they take on FC Goa in the Indian Super League here on Friday.

Jamshedpur are placed third in the table with 19 points from 11 games, one adrift of Kerala Blasters and league leaders Hyderabad FC, who have played a match more.

Jamshedpur boast of a

Jamshedpur from SC East Bengal in the January transfer window, and the Nigerian striker will only make their attacking lineup more potent.

But for Jamshedpur, the challenge would be to get back into game mode after not playing for more than a week as two of their matches got post-

and physically for the lads. But we have managed to train at several stages. It is what is. The other challenge is we are playing a very good side in FC Goa," Owen Coyle said. Coming to FC Goa, the Derrick Pereira-coached side is winless in its last three matches and languish-

pieces, an area Jamshedpur are very strong in.

"We have lacked finishing in front of the opponent's goal. We dominated games and created chances but could not finish with maximum points. That has hurt us. We need to improve in the attacking third," Pereira said.

## After registering for 2022 auction, Dorji dreams of IPL debut in future

BENGALURU: Nestled at the foothills of the Himalayas, Bhutan is taking baby steps in cricket. In a country, where archery is the national sport and football oozes in popularity, the gentleman's game is one of the growing sports. There has been an increase in the participation of players across various levels, and the likes of



Bhutanese all-rounder Mikyo Dorji is trying to put his country's name on the global map.

Last year, the 22-year-old became the first player from the Land of the Thunder Dragon to play in a franchise-based league outside the country. He represented Lalitpur Patriots in the Everest Premier League in Nepal. Now, he is also one of the 318 overseas players, who has registered for the Indian Premier League auction, scheduled for next month. Dorji, who made his debut in 2018 against Malaysia, understands the magnitude of the cash-rich league and where he stands.

"Playing in the IPL is an ultimate dream for me. People saw that there was one player in the auction list from Bhutan and my friends started calling me. But they don't know (laughs) that this is just the initial round, and the names are going to be shortlisted further. If I am honest to myself, my name will not be there in the main list after it is trimmed. Anyways, just registering is a big deal for Bhutan," Dorji told this daily. However, the player is not new to India. It was at Saint Joseph's school in Darjeeling, India, where he took cricket seriously. He also visited the MRF Pace Foundation in Chennai in 2018 and 2019 to work on his bowling action.

It was during one of those visits that Dorji met

MS Dhoni in a team hotel and the former India captain advised him to work hard, and he has taken that very seriously, working long hours in training. He also travelled to Bengal with several others from Bhutan for a camp a couple of years ago. But, like many such teams in the lower tier, Bhutan were also affected by Covid. They have not played much cricket in the last 24 months. "For players like me, more than anything, I missed international cricket, where I could have learned further and developed," said Dorji.

With Bhutan, who became an associate member in 2017, ranked 76 in men's T20I cricket, they have a long way to go. First and foremost, they need to improve upon their quality and compete against associate nations to even make a mark. For that to happen, though the sport is growing, it needs to be more popular among the younger generation.

However, having India as a geographical neighbour has helped the sport in Bhutan. Many Bhutanese, when young, also travel to India for education, where they learn and excel at the game. Besides, some of the TV channels in Bhutan are more or less as shown in India, meaning more cricket on sports channels. Dorji is of the opinion that if any franchise picks a player from Bhutan in the near future, it will act as a major boost for the upcoming youngsters. Even when Dorji played in Nepal, the interest in the sport surged in Bhutan.

"In the future, and I hope so, if any franchise picks a player from Bhutan, it will help a great deal here. For example, Bhutan footballer Chencho Gyeltshen plays in the Indian Super League, it has helped a lot. People and parents alike have started to realise that one can make good money and career out of such sports too. The same thing can happen in cricket too if a player from Bhutan is in the IPL," added Dorji, who is looking at more realistic goals of playing franchise cricket in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh to gain experience.



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