

Devotees Throng to Trinity

Puri (KCN): Thousands of devotees visiting Shree Jagannath

The Srimandir had remained closed on December 31 to January 2 on account of a large gathering that was anticipated on those days due to the celebration of New Year 2022.

Despite chilling weather, a huge number of devotees came morning to have darshan of Lord Jagannath and his

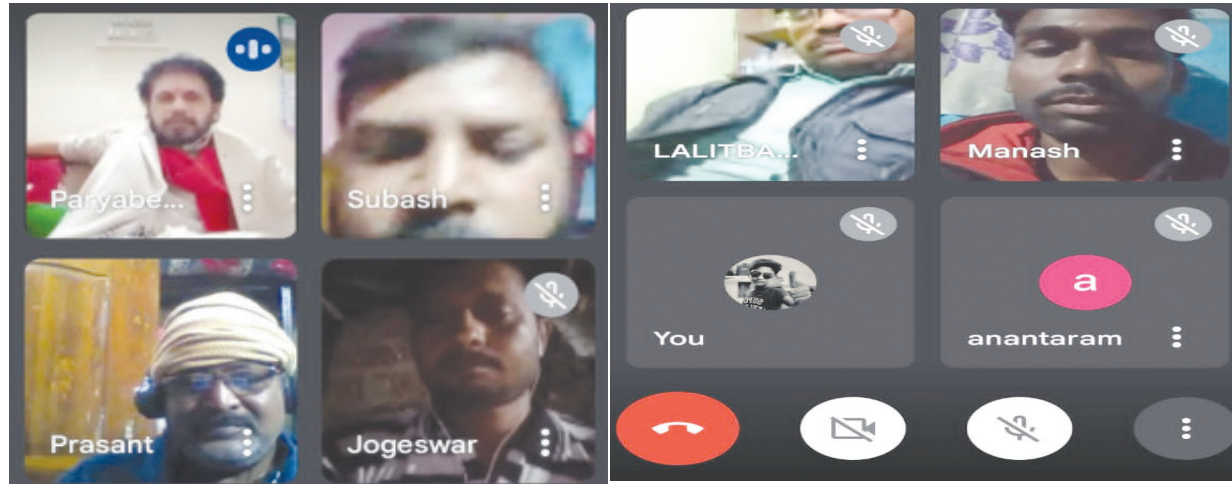


Temple here today for divine glimpse of the Holy Trinity as the temple reopened for the public in this New Year, 2022.

from various places of Odisha and outside the State especially West Bengal were seen waiting in a queue from early

siblings. Entry of devotees to the temple for the darshan of the Lords was started from 5:30 AM. **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Monthly reporters meet of people's odia daily PARYABEKHYAK held



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Fifth Monthly Reporters meet of people's odia daily PARYABEKHYAK held today on google platform. Dr Pabitra

mohan samantaray, Editor in chief, Nitish Ranjan, Bibhuti bhusan samantaray, Arvind Mekap, Prasanta Mohanty, Anantaram Pradhan,

Lalit ballav rout, Manas sethi, Subash Bihari, Yogeswar Panda and Reporters across the state were present. At the end of the meeting Dr

Samantaray wished a happy & Prosperous new year to all Reporters, Readers, writers, columnists, Hawkers, Advertisers, Well wishers and Families.

Yogi Adityanath attacks Rahul, claims his ancestors called themselves 'accidental Hindus'

AMETHI (KCN): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying who once sat on his knees

"Hindus by accident", apparently eluding to a remark, supposedly made by former PM Jawaharlal Nehru. Addressing a public meeting in Jagdishpur here after

his knees. "The priest there asked him to sit cross-legged, saying it was a temple, not a mosque," Adityanath claimed. "Now those who do

are "Hindus by accident". If it is so, then "what do they know about Hindu and Hindu tva", Adityanath said attacking Rahul Gandhi, who has sought to draw a line between the two terms in his recent speeches.



in a temple instead of cross-legged is now giving lectures on the difference between Hindu and Hindutva. The Uttar Pradesh CM claimed that the Congress leader's family has said in the past that they are

laying the foundation stone of a medical college, the CM claimed that the Congress leader was chided by a priest in a Gujarat temple when he went there during the Assembly elections and sat on

not even have this kind of 'sanskar', if they spread the propaganda about Hindu and Hindutva, then it is lack of understanding," Adityanath said. He said the Congress leader's ancestors used to say that they

Further attacking **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Admiral S.H.Sarma Passes Away

Bhubaneswar (KCN): It is with deep sorrow, I am informing of

evening, you may come to Navy House and light a diya in his memory. Cremation will be



the passing of Vice Admiral S.H.Sarma, PVSM, Veteran.



Navy House and light a diya in his memory. Cremation will be



Born in Orissa, Admiral Sarma passed away at Bhubaneswar at 6.20 PM, on the 3rd of January 2022, leaving behind many to mourn his passing. Admiral Sarma's mortal remains will be brought to his home - Navy House, A/9 Nilakantha Nagar, Bhubaneswar, by 12.30 PM on 4th January 2022. On the same

at Swargadwar the next day. You may share your condolences for the family in the Guestbook provided at Navy House. The Admiral had celebrated his 100th birthday on 1st Dec 2021. He was recently in Delhi for the celebration of the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahostav.

Ready to host SAARC Summit, India can join virtually: Pakistan Foreign Minister

ISLAMABAD (KCN): Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on Monday that his country was ready to host the 19th SAARC Summit and India can join it virtually if the leadership in New Delhi is not willing to visit Islamabad.



Addressing a press conference to highlight the achievements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2021, Qureshi accused India of making SAARC dysfunctional through its stubbornness by refusing to come to Islamabad for the Summit meeting. "I reiterate the invitation for the 19th SAARC summit. If India is not ready to come to Islamabad, it can join virtually, but it should not stop others from attending the moot," he said. SAARC - a regional grouping comprising Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka - has not been very effective since 2016 and its biennial summits have not taken place since **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

New Year gift: Odisha hikes salary of junior teachers of all primary schools by 50%



BHUBANESWAR (KCN): In a new year gift, the Odisha government on Monday decided to hike the salary of junior teachers of all the primary schools of the State by 50 per cent. The decision

taken by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will be implemented from January 1, 2022, and benefit 33,038 junior teachers. According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), 13,324 contractual and 19,714 regular teachers will get enhanced salaries as per the decision. The salary of contractual junior teachers which was Rs 7,400 has increased to Rs 11,000. The salary of regular jun-

ior teachers which was Rs 9,200 has been enhanced to Rs 13,800. The state government will have to bear an additional burden of Rs 168 crore per year for the implementation of the decision.

State Records 23 Omicron Cases

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Health Services Director Bijay Mohapatra Monday said that most of the Omicron cases in State are asymptomatic in nature and as likely, said Dr.Mohapatra. Though the variant is highly contagious, the severity caused by it to the infectee is low. Those returning from foreign countries are undergoing COVID-19 tests in the state. If found COVID positive, the samples are being sent to the ILS, Bhubaneswar for genome sequencing to ascertain the variant of the virus, he said. He also advised people to maintain social distancing, avoid crowded places and adhere to COVID appropriate behaviour. While 11 of them are returnees from Finland, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Syria, 10 are local cases, and remaining two are contacts of



many as 19 of the 23 Omicron cases detected in the state on Sunday were asymptomatic. Omicron cases are now being identified locally, for which rapid transmission is tries are undergoing COVID-19 tests in the state. If found COVID positive, the samples are being sent to the ILS, Bhubaneswar for genome sequencing to ascertain the behaviour. Notably, State on Sunday had registered the sharpest rise in Omicron cases as 23 more persons tested positive for the variant of COVID-19, taking the tally in Finland returnees. Odisha had on December 21 reported the first case of Omicron with two foreign returnees (Nigeria and Qatar) testing positive for the variant.

HC Says No To 'My Lord'

Cuttack(KCN): On the beginning of New Year 2022, the Orissa High Court has appealed to advocates to Pattanayak have made this appeal to the advocates in the scheduled business for the first working Lordship', 'Your Honour', or with the prefix 'Hon'able'. Any other form of address, consistent with 2014, had made it clear that addressing the judges as 'Your Lordship' was not



avoid addressing the court with honorifics as 'My Lord' or 'Your Lordship' and similar words. The High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice RK day of New Year 2022, on Monday. "All counsel and parties-in-person are requested to try and avoid addressing the judges of this bench as 'My Lord', 'Your the decorum of the Court, including 'Sir', should suffice", the court appealed in the business schedule note. The then Chief Justice of India, Justice HL Dattu, in mandatory. "When did we say it is compulsory. You can only call us in a dignified manner," a bench comprising justices Dattu and S. A. Bobde had said.

Odisha begins vaccination for 15-18 age group amid rapid surge in Covid cases

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Amid the rapid surge in Covid-19 cases, vaccination drive for adolescents in the 15 to 18 years age group commenced across Odisha on Monday. Apart from the existing 2,700 vaccination centres, the state government has designated 939 exclusive vaccination centres to facilitate smooth inoculation of teenagers. The vaccination was carried out in as many as 3,193 session sites on the first day, Health and Family Welfare department sources said. Beneficiaries were seen lining up at the vaccination centres for their turn in the morning. The drive at most of the centres started after 9 am. Mayurbhanj CDMO Rupabhanu Mishra said the vaccination drive carried out at the designated vaccination centres of the district remained smooth. He said the response from the teenagers was also good on the first day. A teenager, who turned up for vaccination, at one of the designated centres in Sambalpur district said the inoculation process was smooth even though she had opted for offline registration. "Though I was nervous, I felt safer and protected from the infection after getting the jab," she said. Director of Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar Dr Laxmidhar Sahoo said beneficiaries registered their names on the CoWIN portal as well as those who have opted for on-site registration are being given shots. ALSO READ | Vaccination for kids: Government cautions against mixing of jabs as over six lakh register on CoWIN Sahoo said immunisation of adolescents was highly essential as children in this age group are more active and susceptible to catching the infection. Additional district urban public health officer (ADUPHO) Antaryami Mishra, the nodal officer for vaccination in Bhubaneswar, said provision has been made for the administration of 150 doses of vaccine in each centre every day. The state has around 23.65 lakh eligible beneficiaries in the 15 to 18 year age group. With the state government planning to complete the vaccination process of teenagers within a month, the Health Department has asked school and college principals to share the list of students eligible to get the jabs. The educational institutions have also been asked to provide adequate space for inoculation on their campuses in the coming days. Health department officials said eligible teenagers can register in the CoWIN portal and also opt for on-site registration for the vaccination. Health officials said efforts are on to inoculate beneficiaries in the 15 to 18 age group at the earliest in view of the rapid surge in Covid infections and a sudden spike in Omicron cases in the state in the recent days. Over 800 cases of Covid-19 has been reported in the state in the last 48 hours. The state logged 424 more confirmed infections in the last 24 hours. Khurda district reported the highest 151 cases followed by 66 in Cuttack. Besides, the State's Omicron tally also jumped to 37 after 23 more tested positive for the new infectious variant of Covid-19 on Sunday.

State Connects Start Ups

Bhubaneswar(KCN): To revive the traditional industries with the modern age solutions, the Start-up Odisha initiative under MSME Department conducted a Start-up connect program with the SFURTI clusters here at O-Hub on Monday. Start-ups like Grozip, Swabalambi Odra Green Farmers Producer Company Ltd., Kookaburra Naturals, Fastech Fashions, NeoSanjivani, ribe stores, SigmaScott interacted with MSME Principal Secretary, Satyabrata Sahu and expressed their interest in developing the existing traditional industries with their modern solutions thereby benefiting both. "Start-ups working on home delivery/e-commerce, designing of handlooms/handicrafts for modern lifestyle, production and manufacturing of 100 percent organic foods and up in association with them", Sahu said. Implementing agency, technical agency and nodal agencies of the SFURTI Clusters across the State attended the meeting. The Start-ups in the field of hyper delivery/e-commerce, organic foods and area of handloom and handicrafts, food processing, Agri and allied activities were present and interacted with the senior officials. Among others, UN Das, Addl. Secretary, MSME, Md. Sadique Alam, Director of Industries and Sanjukta Badhai, Evangelist, Start-up Odisha attended the meeting.



National Executive Body meeting of Bhartiya Bhasa Andolan held in (Rajkot) Gujrat

Gujarat (KCN): The fifth national meeting of the Bhartiya Bhasa Andolan concluded in Rajkot, Gujrat Province on 28th December to 30 December 2021. In this meeting the work expansion of the Bhartiya Bhasa Andolan was legitimately discussed. According to resolution, the plan to reach the goal was discussed. The responsibilities of the Bhartiya Bhasa Andolan activists were also announced in meeting. The new creation of the Bhartiya Bhasa Andolan will remain as follows... National President, Mr. Arun Bhardwaj, National Executive President, Mr. Ashish Rai, National Vice President, Mr. Navin Koushik, Mr. Shankar Jha, Mr. Hari Govind Upadhyay and Mrs Mrinalini Khatri, National Minister (Rastriya Mahamantri) Mr Prashanta Varma, National treasurer, Mr. Prabhat Ranjan, National Minister, (Rastriya Mantri), Mrs Rekha

Distribution of Identity Cards to Newspaper Hawkers begins in Khordha

Khordha (KCN): A good governance example has been set by the Odisha government by announcing "As many as 7300 newspaper hawkers who have been registered under the States Unorganized Workers of partial disability the persons will get an assistance of Rs-80000." On this occasions the Principal hawkers as well. They perform a crucial function and it was felt they must be covered under a so-



relief measures for newspaper hawkers in the state. Today in Zilla Sanskruti Bhavan Khordha Information and Public Relations Department government of Odisha distributed identity card to the registered newspaper hawkers. The programme was inaugurated by Manoj Mangaraj, Media Advisor to Govt. Odisha. In his inaugural speech he said Social Security Board will get the benefits. Under the schemes in the event of a hawkers death due to an accident an assistance of Rs-2 Lakh will be provided to their next of kin and in the case of a natural death an assistance of Rs-1 Lakh will be provided. In case of a permanent disability due to accident a newspaper hawkers will get an assistance of Rs-1.5 lakh. In case Secretary of Information & Public Relations Department Government of Odisha, Bishnu Pada Sethi said " In this Scheme the state government will also provide a special assistance of 6000 each to all registered newspaper hawkers through the Chief Minister Relief Fund. The pandemic affected newspaper circulation and indirectly affected the chial security scheme as well. " In Khordha Sub-Division 167 registered newspaper hawkers were included in this scheme. In this programme MLA, Khordha, Joytrindra Nath Mitra, Collector, Sangram Kesari Mohapatra, ADM, Khordha, Manoj Kumar Padhi, DIPRO, Khordha & Bhubaneswar and other officials were present.

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Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed book

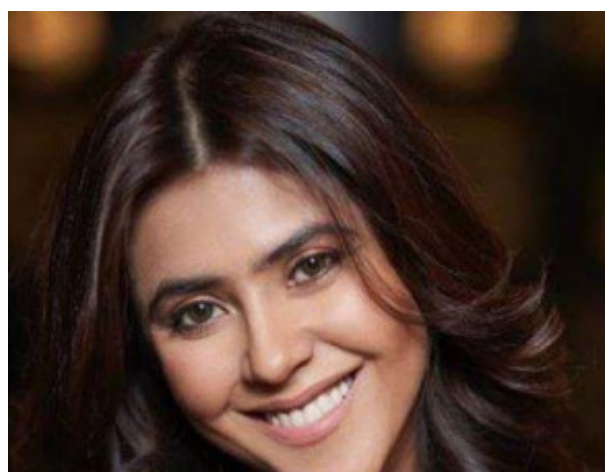


NEW DELHI: Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book #YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the cation, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of the former Chairman

of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The Supreme Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for alleged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2".



A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted interim protection to Kapoor. She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her.

Phenomenal experience: Riteish Deshmukh praises Anil Kapoor, Anurag Kashyap's 'AK vs AK'

NEW DELHI(K-CN): Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the



blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.

only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor_has outdone your entire performance in one

movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kidnapping the actor's daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

Ajay Devgn's Mayday has been creating a massive buzz because of its interest-



the icing on the cake is that Ajay Sir is directing the film. It's actually happening!

ing star cast, which includes Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh and Angira Dhar. Talented actress, Aakanksha Singh has now joined the team. Aakanksha will essaying the role of Ajay Devgn's wife in the film. She joined the shoot yesterday. Aakanksha says, "It's like a dream come true to be a part of such a big and much-awaited film. I am so excited to share the screen with Ajay Sir and Amitabh Sir; and

'Wanted to make a film on Indian Army with Shah Rukh Khan', says Director Kabir Khan

MUMBAI(KCN): Filmmaker Kabir Khan, who is gearing up for the release of his web series "The Forgotten Army: Azaadi Ke Liye", based on Indian National Army (INA), says he wanted to make a film on the subject starring Shah Rukh Khan. He added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a fee for the voiceover he gave for the series. "Shah Rukh has very graciously given the voiceover. The series is based on a true story, so there is an introduction of a few minutes before every episode along with real footage, where he has lent his voice. I talked about it with Shah Rukh earlier as well, when this was a film script. Back then, I wanted Shah Rukh to do the film. We even had a few meetings but we couldn't take it forward," said Kabir while promoting the series along with its lead actors Sunny Kaushal and Sharvari Wagh. Kabir added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a single paisa for his voiceover assignment. "When I was making this series, I thought I should ask Shah Rukh (to be the narrator) because Shah Rukh's father had involvement with this army. His father knew General Shahnawaz Khan, who was an important part of INA. So, I knew he (Shah Rukh Khan) has sympathy and attachment with Azad Hind Fauj and I called him up. It's not an easy task to ask a superstar for a voiceover but Shah Rukh instantly agreed to do it. Usually, when you discuss a film with Shah Rukh, it's a long process, but in this case Shah Rukh literally did the voiceover for us on the second day. I don't know whether he would like me to reveal this, but he didn't take a fee from us. I think the kind of attachment he has with Azad Hind Fauj reflects in his act." Incidentally, Shah Rukh did a cameo in Kabir Khan's 2017 release "Tubelight", starring Salman Khan.

Missing Civil Society in Odisha- A Perspective

In general, civil society is defined as a political organisation that regulates social conflict by



imposing laws that prevent citizens from injuring one another. The notion was employed as a synonym for the good society during the classical period, and it was considered indistinguishable from the state. When democracy does not work properly, it is quite obvious and evident that citizens must take up the responsibility unto themselves to question the system and influence other stakeholders to raise critical concerns. This is the essence of democracy. But unfortunately, this is not true in Odisha. Odisha, a state having a golden history in numerous fields such as maritime venture, arts, crafts, and excellence in sculptural superiority have now reduced to a state of indignity with headlines like Nagada, Dana Majhi, poor health services, rape of minors, and farmers suicide...my friends will criticize me of not acknowledging the recent development in sports infrastructure especially Hokey and the renewed facelift of Jagannath temple in Puri. Without any hesitation, I must confess that apart from very few positive changes in governance, the entire picture is bleak. This should ideally change. And in order to bring this change, it is expected that the governance mechanism and apparatus become more responsive and transparent, media becomes more unbiased, and civil society becomes more vibrant and vigilant in its overall approach. At this juncture, I have tried to delve into the moot question. The question is quite obvious. Why there has been no civil society movement or movement led by civil society on critical issues affecting the state of Odisha. Does the next obvious question also come to mind that; is everything well in Odisha with regard to the performance of government or governance as a whole? We all will agree to the fact that there are a whole lot of issues from the overpowering bureaucracy to the poor performance of government, in every front, there is laxity and mismanagement, but still, the voice from civil society is almost unheard of or if it exists, there is no voice at all. Let's analyze the "why" aspect of the question.

Before moving into the missing of civil society in Odisha, let us discuss at length, where Odisha stands in so far as different governance indicators are concerned and what has been the observations and remarks by different credible agencies and institutions on the performance so far.

Health Indicators in Odisha

As per the National Family Health Survey 5 (NFHS-5) the highest spike has been recorded among the children where 64.2 per cent (pc) are anaemic as compared to 44.6 pc in NFHS-4 conducted in 2015-2016. While 65.6 pc children are anaemic in rural areas, more than half of the urban children (56.2 pc) are also suffering from anaemia. Around 64.3 pc pregnant women, aged 15-49 years, are anaemic as against 51 pc during the last survey. Among non-pregnant women between the ages of 15 and 19, it is up from 51 pc in 2015-2016 to 65.5 in 2020-2021. More young women in rural areas (66.3 pc) are anaemic as compared to urban areas the latest NFHS statistics also indicated that son-preference has emerged as the new epidemic in Odisha as the sex ratio at birth (females per 1,000 males) in the last five years has come down from 932 during 2015-16 to 894 in 2020-21. The sex ratio is more alarming in rural areas as it was 885 at birth compared to 950 in the urban localities. Though, the sex ratio of the overall population of the State has improved to 1,063 from 1,036.

Primary Education in Odisha

UNESCO in its 'No Teacher, No Class: State of Education Report for India-2021', which has been released in October states that different components of education in the

state of Odisha wherein very low

levels of electrification are reported from schools in Odisha (38 per cent) and it talks about the precarious condition of school infrastructure. As many as 49,098 secondary school students in the State have dropped out before their transit to higher secondary level in recent years. They include 15,792 tribal and 11,045 from the scheduled caste category.

Agricultural Growth in Odisha

Odisha has 32.6% of the population below the poverty line (Tendulkar Committee 2011). The state's per capita income in 2017-18 was Rs. 80,991 compared to the national average of Rs 126,043. Land utilisation pattern² in Odisha has undergone considerable change over the last two decades. While land available for agriculture has declined, there is a substantial increase in fallow lands. Gross cropped area (GCA) decreased from 9.6 m ha during 1992-93 to 8.5 m ha during 2016-17 and the net sown area (NSA) fell from 41 to 36% of the total geographical area of 15.6 m ha during the same period. This decline in cultivable land can be attributed to increased salinity in soil due to frequent flooding, soil erosion and inadequate irrigation during the rabi season. The irrigation ratio (gross irrigated area as a proportion of gross cropped area) in Odisha has consistently remained below the all-India level. Odisha has abundant groundwater resources—about 16.69 lakh bcm. However, the state lags behind in the development of these resources as only 5.02 lakh bcm or 30% of the total potential has been used so far for different purposes, especially for irrigation. Deficiencies in the transmission and distribution infrastructure of power are the main reasons for the low level of utilisation of groundwater. Electricity is an important input for agriculture for use in irrigation and operating agricultural machinery and equipment and is considered as an indicator of an economy's development. However, Odisha's situation in power sales/consumption is poor, especially when it comes to the agricultural sector, resulting in the under-utilisation of groundwater resources in Odisha.

The per hectare power consumption in agriculture or power intensity in Odisha is among the lowest in the country. While Odisha recorded a power intensity of 24 KWh/ha during 2014-15, states like Tamil Nadu with 2070 KWh/ha, Haryana with 1477 KWh/ha and Karnataka with 1469 KWh/ha were the highest-ranked states in terms of power intensity. Horticulture in Odisha suffers not only from the lack of organised marketing but also from a shortage of cold storage facilities for perishable fruits and vegetables. As of 2017, Odisha had 171 cold storage, which represented a mere 2.2% of the total cold storage capacity in India. Most of these cold storages are used for keeping potatoes. More cold storage are needed for potatoes as well as other fruits and vegetables.

Child Labour In India

A survey conducted by the Odisha State labour department in compliance with honourable Supreme Court order in 2013 found that Odisha had 2.15 lakh child labour, of which 121,526 were boys and 93,696 were girls. A report prepared by V. V. Giri National Labour Institute provides national and state-level statistics on the work participation rate (WPR) of children disaggregated by age group. The survey reports of working children as young as five to nine years. Around 0.3% of children aged five to nine years in India and 0.5% in Odisha are working. It reported that in the five to 14 year age group, Odisha has 4.9% working children as compared to 3.3% in India.

Sexual Harassment in Odisha

Odisha ranked third in sexual harassment cases and dowry deaths, fourth in voyeurism along with the total IPC crimes against women. The

Pratap Kishore Mohanty

former rate is at 5.6 per 100,000 female population, greater than the national rate of 3.3 per 100,000 female population. The latter stands at 91.3 per 100,000 female population, about 1.5 times higher than the national rate of 58.8 per 100,000 female population. The state ranked seventh in kidnapping and abduction cases with a rate of 11.8 per 100,000 female population. Odisha ranks eighth in procurement of minor girls, ninth in rape (18 years above) and stalking, and tenth in cases of attempt to commit rape at 0.7 per 100,000 female population in 2018. Spousal violence is also high in Odisha. The state ranks 9th among all states and UTs where violence by the husband was reported highest. Nearly one out of three women in rural areas and one out of four women in urban areas have experienced spousal violence. 36.4% of women in Odisha have experienced some form of spousal violence.

Shrinking Space of Civil Society in Odisha

It's really deplorable to see that in spite of the fact that, there has been tremendous noise in the form of debates discussions in both print and electronic media highlighting the present state of affairs, why is it so that no big movement around such issues is not erupting in Odisha. Relating to my earlier question as to why there is no civil society movement around such bad governance specifically in Odisha, let's explore different possible factors responsible for the same.

From a concerned citizenry, we have travelled to a more selfish one, with a very little affinity towards my society. Odisha has slipped to such a state where we have taken it for granted that the present administration is maintaining the status quo and there is hardly any choice left for the people, in so far as change in the political system is concerned. As a whole, people have lost faith in the political system as a whole, wherein it hardly makes a difference whether it is BJD today or possibly BJP tomorrow. At the end of the day, the people have internalized without any convincing prophesy at their disposal that, nothing will change, irrespective of any political party or leader at the helm of affairs. This kind of attitude possibly has not aroused any public outcry for critical outbursts and social movements.

Secondly, critical thinking not getting a proper platform and influencing larger public discourse is probably because of the dearth of dynamic leaders with whom people can relate themselves to. Unfortunately, in Odisha, we have not been able to have a leader of that stature and ability who can influence the masses and nobody knows, whether we will get one in near future or not. Thirdly Green's 2017 report, Civil Society at a Crossroads, emphasizes how many civil society organizations rely on donor funding to carry out their missions. Green's 2017 research, Civil Society at a Crossroads, notes how many civil society organizations rely on donor money to achieve their goals, leading to criticisms of their grant-driven business model, particularly traditional civil society organizations' failure to achieve radical change. Traditional Civil society organizations, on the other hand, have produced tremendous on-the-ground results, such as improved maternal and child health, access to education, and holding governments and corporations accountable (Green, 2017). For three reasons, critics claim that these successes are palliative rather than revolutionary. This has led to criticisms of their grant-driven business model, including typical civil society organizations' failure to create radical change. Traditional Civil society organizations, on the other hand, have produced tremendous outcomes on the ground, such as advances in maternal and child health, access to education, and holding governments accountable.

It may so happen that due to freebies provided by the state government from time to time, the people who are getting the benefits might not be critical of such interventions, but seeing that nothing is progressing in different components of governance like health, agriculture,

economy and education, at least the intelligentsia, academics and civil society at large should ideally raise their concern. It is ironic that nothing of that sort is emerging and it's almost quite clear from the present scenario that we all like that the status quo should be maintained without any critical outburst. Being part of the unfortunate middle class we are privy to all kinds of noisy prime time debates and flooded with pieces of information starting from the Renovation of Educational Infrastructure and Quality Education in Delhi to Mohalla Clinic and Free Electricity. But we don't see any attraction to such types of governance models ensuring free, quality education, and a series of indicators of good governance practised by Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi. The possible causes of such a callous attitude might be for the following reasons.

Firstly, the number in the assembly. The thumping majority or say the sweeping win in a democracy gives a dual picture. One that the people have undaunted faith in the present political leadership but the flip side is as recently seen in many states like Delhi and Odisha, that the opposition has got no presence at all. They have simply abdicated their responsibility merely because of their weak number. The people, in general, have taken it for granted that since there is no opposition, there is no point in expecting that any critical voice will emerge. Another facet of such development might be of weak and irresponsible media. Here we are stressing upon the Odisha specific print and electronic media, where somehow our media and especially the electronic media have not been very vibrant in its functioning. I have never seen a state other than Odisha, where none of the prominent media has ever got an opportunity to get an interview from the Chief Minister. Forget about fixing accountability of misgovernance, not a single media house has ever been able to have an interview with Mr. Naveen Pattnaik. While exploring the possible causes of shrinking civil society space, one thing is quite prominent that the middle class who ideally spearhead the critical thinking and social movement, are also getting their due share of the pie in the form of 6th, 7th and so on pay commission, work from home, varieties of benefits and so on. Most importantly, in the present circumstances, a new trend has been unravelling in the form of compulsory retirement of government servants in the guise of corruption, non-performer etc. Hence a big chunk of the population, that to the middle class who is expected to spearhead critical thinking are being suppressed and co-opted. In recent times we have seen how for a temporary manner, the opposition political parties and at times the ruling party in the state, who otherwise is a tacit supporter of the Central government policies in the Parliament have staged Gherao and Dharana in the issue of Petrol & Gas price hike but that seems quite misplaced for the simple fact that they (the political parties) have given false hope to the society that they are reflecting people's grievances and aspirations and unfortunately they have given a false hope that they represent civil society in a sense.

It's high time that we as citizens of the country and people from Odisha needs to see how we can best contribute towards airing the critical voice of governance. The civil society space should always not be taken away by political parties for their petty political mileage. Hence people from all walks of life must get involved in critical thinking and givespace to such misgovernance of the government of the day. As citizens, we also need to be more innovative in seeing the future of the state and be more pragmatic in our approach in visualizing the future instead of being happy with the status quo. We as responsible citizens must come forward with suggestions and ideas as to how to bring an end to photo up politics. Let's change the way we accept politics, governance and non-responsive leaders. Let us question things at the appropriate level and channelize the grievance in a proper direction. Odisha needs its civil society to become the harbinger of change.

Academic Consultant in Sociology, Odisha State Open University, Sambalpur, Odisha

Germany calls nuclear power 'dangerous,' rejects EU plan

BERLIN: The German government said Monday that it considers nuclear energy

dangerous and objects to European Union proposals that would let the technology remain part of the bloc's plans for a climate-friendly future. Germany is on course to switch off its remaining three nuclear power plants at the end of this year and phase out coal by 2030, whereas its neighbour France aims to modernize existing reactors and build new ones to meet its future energy needs. Berlin plans to rely heavily on natu-

ral gas until it can be replaced by non-polluting sources for energy.

porters in Berlin, noting that the question of what to do with radioactive waste that main greenhouse gas when it is burned. Hebestreit said the German



will last for thousands of generations remains unresolved. Hebestreit added that Germany "expressly rejects" the EU's assessment of atomic energy and has repeatedly stated this position toward the commission. Germany is now considering its next steps on the issue, he said. Environmentalists have criticized Germany's emphasis on natural gas, which is less polluting than coal but still produces carbon dioxide the

government's goal is to use natural gas only as a "bridge technology" and replace it with non-polluting alternatives such as hydrogen produced with renewable energy by 2045, the deadline the country has set to become climate neutral. He declined to say whether Chancellor Olaf Scholz backs Economy and Climate Minister Robert Habeck's view that the EU Commission's proposals were a form of "greenwashing."

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The opposing paths taken by two of the EU's biggest economies have resulted in an awkward situation for the bloc's executive Commission. A draft EU plan seen by The Associated Press concludes that both nuclear energy and natural gas can under certain conditions be considered sustainable for investment purposes. "We consider nuclear technology to be dangerous," government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit told re-

TMC-MGP alliance consolidates position as polls draw closer in Goa

BELAGAVI: Even as the mood is upbeat in the ruling BJP and Congress camps in Goa ahead of the Assembly elections in the state, the TMC-MGP alliance is steadily consolidating its position as the polls draw closer. Two of the poll promises by the alliance like Yuva Shakti Card and Griha Laxmi Scheme which are aimed at supporting the youths and women financially, have evoked a good response in the coastal state.

largely bank on the candidates which it fields in fray, said political analyst Kishore Naik Gaonkar. A noted leader of MGP, Sudhin

two, sources said, adding that the MGP demanded nine seats but it would certainly get six to seven seats to contest. A tussle in the BJP

and the Yuva Shakti Cards will give wings to the Goan youth who are keen to shape their lives."

A conflict between loyalists and 'outsiders' in the Goa BJP with the party keen to field several candidates who recently migrated to the BJP has put the party in a spot. However, the party leadership is trying to iron out the simmering differences in the Goa unit, sources said, adding that the BJP would face the election confidently with an aim to achieve a majority to retain power.

According to political pundits, the Congress is yet to prepare itself for the big election in Goa, where TMC, MGP and AAP are expected to eat into the large Congress vote share in several of the 40 assembly segments. However, the Congress leadership is keen to field new faces to attract the voters to counter the BJP, which is also keen to have freshers in the fray rather than giving another chance to the sitting legislators, sources said.



Davlekar said, the TMC-MGP alliance is paving way for a 'new dawn' in the state which would be focused on good governance practices in the state. At the launch of Yuva Shakti Card on Sunday Davlekar said, the scheme is a tool that will empower the youth to become self-reliant.

Sources in TMC said the party had bolstered its position in Goa and the attempts made by some sections to project TMC as an "outsider" did not work as the party had no outsiders in Goa. The TMC-MGP tie-up was gaining strength and talks were in progress about seat-sharing between the

between loyal party workers and 'migrants' and the anti-incumbency against the ruling dispensation is something which may turn as an advantage for TMC-MGP alliance if the BJP leadership fails to put the house in order, source said.

Noted TMC leader Yatish Naik from Goa said, "There is a mounting anti-incumbency against the ruling BJP in Goa as the BJP government failed miserably to deliver. The two schemes which we have promised would help youth and women in Goa hugely. Already 2 lakh women have registered for Griha Laxmi Scheme

10 terrorists arrested in Pakistan's Punjab province

LAHORE: terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Al-Qaeda and Islamic State,

ism in Punjab has also been recovered from them. The CTD said that it conducted extensive intelligence-based

Okara districts of Punjab. Four members of Al-Qaeda, identified as Hamadur Rehman, Shoukat Hussain,

ism charges, terror financing, hate speech, etc. The CTD said it is also interrogating some arrested sus-



have been arrested from various parts of Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Monday. In a statement, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) said that a huge cache of weapons to be used for terror-

operations across the province and arrested five TTP terrorists - identified as Muneeb Ahmad, Rafique Haider, Muhammad Naeem, Muhammad Iqbal Khan and Ghulam Akbar from Toba Tek Singh and

Akhtar Khan and Ahmad Aftab - were arrested from Gujrat district while Muhammad Ahsan of the IS was arrested from Sargodha city. It said the arrested terrorists have been booked for terror-

pects for their alleged links with those involved in the killing of policemen in the province in terror attacks. Last month, the CTD had arrested 11 terrorists of TTP and IS from Punjab during an operation.




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Businessman Sanjay Shraavan organized a grand party on the birthday of Film and TV actor Neeraj Bharadwaj



On the birthday of versatile talented film and TV actor Neeraj Bharadwaj, businessman Sanjay Shraavan had organized a grand

party on 2 January 2022 at Queen's Park, Mira Bhayandar, Thane (East), Mumbai. The chief guest on the occasion

was CISB Founder Chairman Krishna Pimple. Everyone was welcomed with flower petal showers and aarti. Along with

the actors of the film industry, many veteran producers, directors, cameramen and others participated and made the birthday

of actor Neeraj Bharadwaj memorable. Those who attended his birthday and graced the program included Sanjay

Shraavan, CISB Founder Chairman Krishna Pimple, Sahila Chaddha, Nimay Bali, Gulshan Pandey, Ehsaan Khan,

Vijay Aidhasani, Cameraman Anil Dhanda, Director Bilal Qureshi, Singer & Actress Firdaus Khan, Jasbir Singh Thandi,

Actress Arti Joshi, Ruchi Tiwari, Dominic (Junior Govinda), Neil Aryan, Aayush Choudhary, etc.

Yours Hope Foundation Trust Distributed Cooked Food in DHH Campus Khordha

Khordha(KCN): The Volunteer Organiza-

tion of District Head Quatre Hospital

relatives undergoing treatment at the hospital. In a move to offer relief to the patients and their relatives Yours Hope Foundation Trust has started free food dis-

tribution in every week for the needy at the campus of DHH Khordha. This programme was formally inaugurated by Social activist Pradeep Kumar Sahoo, Dr. Bandana Harichandan, Dwarika Nath Samantaray and Kanhu Nayak. The entire programme was done under the guidance of Founder



tion Yours Hope Foundation Trust distributed cooked food to patients and their relatives in the cam-

(DHH)Khordha. Many people can be seen waiting outside the hospitals awaiting the discharge of their



members of the organization Basudev Behera, Jogesh Panda, Rojalin Muduli, Rani Muduli, MadhuSmita Martha, Abhisek Barik, Basanta Nayak, Chandan Kumar Samantaray, Amar Sahoo and Chira Anubhab Nayak were assist the programme. The general public praise this type of activities of the organization.

Utkal Vikash Parisad felicitated to Thana Adikari of 42 Mouza

Cuttack (KCN): Cuttack leading

of New year 2022. The UVP president Er. Prakash

a long time back the team gave their demand to the

Mohanty, Gandhi Guru Das, Asim Das, Sujit Behera,



organisation Utkal Vikash Parisad (UVP) felicitated to first thana adhikari of 42 mouza Anita Sahoo with good wishes

Chandra Sethi also thanked the honourable Commissioner of police, Collector as 42 mouza fandi turned to Thana as

Government. In this felicitating program farmer leader Deviprasad Pati, Anil Mohapatra, Biraja Busan Pati, Muktikanta

Suresh Pradhan, Bhagyadhar Tripathy, Bijaya Malik, Ajay Sing & team present.

Lockdown of retail business should be last resort in case of extreme strain on health infra: RAI

NEW DELHI: Retailers Association of India (RAI) on Monday said partial or total lockdown of retail businesses should only be considered as a last resort in case of extreme strain on healthcare infrastructure, amid a surge of COVID-19 cases in the country. Asserting that ensuring economic health and continuity of employment is as important as saving lives, the retailers' body also said emphasis should be given on strict adherence to COVID appropriate



behaviour. "Partial or total lockdown of retail businesses should only be considered as a last resort in case of extreme strain on healthcare infrastructure, amid a surge of COVID-19 cases in the country. Asserting that ensuring economic health and continuity of employment is as important as saving lives, the retailers' body also said emphasis should be given on strict adherence to COVID appropriate

steps taken by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) which has adopted a new model of reporting by mentioning number of asymptomatic patients, hospitalisations, oxygenated beds occupied and number of discharged patients on a daily basis, RAI said this is an accurate measure of the situation as it gives a realistic picture and avoids panic among citizens. "We hope all states adopt this model and

activity (based on hospitalizations rather than the positivity rate," RAI said. According to the Union health ministry's data updated on Monday, India recorded 33,750 fresh cases of COVID-19. Total 1,700 cases of Omicron variant of coronavirus have been detected across 23 states and Union Territories so far, out of which 639 have recovered or migrated.

lockdown of retail businesses should only be considered as a last resort in case of extreme strain on healthcare infrastructure as ensuring economic health and continuity of employment is as important as saving lives," RAI said in a statement. Instead, it added, "emphasis should be given on strict adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour such as masking, social distancing and sanitisation by citizens and businesses

Air India Express cabin crew call for indefinite strike from January 15

KOCHI: The Air India Express cabin crew have decided to launch an indefinite strike from January 15 if the management does not address their

staff and new recruits are for five years. We met the management nine times in the presence of the central labour commissioner to resolve the issue

70 per cent of the union members. The strike, if it does happen, will affect flight operations. "We have raised our concerns and have

labour practices followed by the management. The AIXEU has raised two issues with the management. One, to reconsider the contract period of the



concerns. Over 500 cabin crew under the Air India Express Employees Union (AIXEU) are likely to strike work. They allege that the management has shown discrimination while issuing contracts. "The contract period for cabin crew was reduced to one year from five years. At the same time, the contracts of other

but we didn't get any positive response," said Vijaykumar KK, president of AIXEU (BMS). The crew under the Air India Express Employees Union have sent a strike notice to the airline's CEO, and will proceed with their plan if the management does not reply favourably. Air India Express cabin crew form over

put forward our demands to the management. The strike notice was issued in December, 2021. No reply has been received so far," said a cabin crew member. He said that they had staged a national-level protest in front of the Air India Express headquarters in Kochi last month, raising their demands and citing the unfair

cabin crew members. The second, to offer a job to a cabin crew member who got injured and is currently in a wheelchair. "The labour commission had ordered to offer a ground staff job to the cabin crew member who got injured. Instead, the management terminated his contract. This is an unfair labour practice," Vijaykumar said.

Understand 'Open Interest' in trading

MUMBAI: The Nifty active futures contract rose along with an increase in its open interest on Friday, indicating a build-up of bullish sentiment. The price of the futures contract, expiring on January 27, rose by almost a percent to 17420, accompanied by an increase in open interest (OI) by 7% from the previous session.

The active futures refers to the near month, in this case January contract, while the mid-month futures is the February one and the far month the March contract. Terms like open interest, active futures, etc. are Greek to most retail investors. Most retail investors might not be even taking a plunge in the futures and options trade, yet taking cue from futures and options markets may help retail investors better time their investments in the equity market.

Basics of Open Interest A futures contract facilitates the purchase or sale of an underlying asset for a predetermined price on a future date.

Index derivatives trading on Indian stock exchanges is cash settled while an increasing number of stocks are being made delivery based by the exchanges.

Open interest (OI), in simple terms, is an outstanding buy or sell position on such a futures contract. The buyer or seller keeps his or her position open, rather than closing it out before the end of a session.

The effect of opening and closing out of positions intraday adds to the volume, not to the OI, which keeps rising or falling depending on whether people hold their positions beyond market closing.

The price-OI relationship can give an indication of market mood. For example, if price rise is accompanied by an OI rise, the sentiment (on the asset) is bullish. If the price falls and OI rises, the sentiment is bearish.

If the price rises but OI remains relatively flat, the asset, say, Nifty futures, is topping out and due for a correction while if the price falls and the OI change is insignificant, the asset is bottoming out.

“Apart from technicals, like charts, the price-OI relationship provides important pointers to the market or stock trend,” said SK Joshi, ED, Khambatta Securities, who in his previous role as director, finance, BPCL, set up the trading desk at the oil refiner.

Calculating OI If trader A buys a futures contract and trader B sells one contract on Monday, there is one long and one short contract. By Monday end, OI is 1.

On Tuesday, trader C sells 3 contracts which trader A buys, the total short contracts are 4 and the long contracts are 4 (B = 1 short, C = 3 short and A = 4 long). OI is 4.

On Wednesday, trader C squares off her 3 shorts by buying them back from trader A. Now, A holds 1 long contract and B holds 1 short contract, while C is out of the market, so the OI declines to 1.

This is how OI keeps changing. For every buyer, there is a seller and vice versa, which is why derivatives are called a zero sum game.

Yogi Adityanath attacks Rahul, claims his ancestors called themselves 'accidental Hindus'

Continued from page-1 Rahul Gandhi, he claimed, "Whenever the former Amethi MP is abroad, he speaks against India and when he is in Kerala, he speaks against Amethi and curses people of Amethi. No one should be so selfish that they should curse people to hide their failure."

Adityanath alleged that the Gandhi family neglected Amethi for 50 years. They never thought of its development, he said. Today, after 70 years of Independence, his government has established a medical college here, the CM said.

The chief minister said the Government Medical College will have a 500-bed hospital, 100 MBBS seats, a hostel for 460 students and it will start functioning in 2022-23.

Adityanath also dedicated to people a 200-bed district referral hospital built at a cost of Rs 86.42 crore at Tiloi.

Apparently referring to Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi, he said the brother-sister duo committed a "fraud" in the name of organising buses to ferry migrants during the coronavirus lockdown in 2020.

He said on inquiry it came to light that they had given "numbers of scooters, instead of buses" to ferry people.

Union Minister Smriti Irani, who had defeated Rahul Gandhi from Amethi in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, said he and his family kept Amethi in darkness.

"Hand (Congress symbol) caught hold of bicycle (election symbol of Samajwadi Party) and riding on cycle and elephant (BSP symbol) despised the dreams of Amethi," she said.

As soon as the elections come, the brother and sister came to Jagdishpur and talked about Hindu and Hindutva, she said.

"I want to tell them that the real Hindu is the one who is getting the Ram temple built in Ayodhya," Irani said.

The family which ruled Amethi for 50 years is roaming around the state and speaking about girls but they could not give medical facilities to sisters of Amethi, she said.

Devotees Throng to Trinity Continued from page-1 AM and will continue till 9:30 PM, as per the SOP issued by Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

The District Administration and SJTA have made adequate security arrangements at the Srimandir in view of the huge gathering of the devotees. Adequate police arrangements have been put in place to facilitate a smooth darshan of the deities with strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols.

The devotees have been urged to abide by all the rules of Covid-19 including social distancing, usage of masks and to enter the temple within the barricades.

Meanwhile, newly appointed Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Kumar Bansal along with his wife has visited the Srimandir for the darshan of Lord Jagannath and his siblings today.

"Though I was wishing to visit the temple for a long time, I could not make it. My wife was requesting me to take leave to have darshan of the Lord. Now, with the blessings of Lord Jagannath, I got posted in Odisha and today we took blessings from the Lord," Mr.Bansal said here.

Another tourist attraction point in the District, Konark Sun Temple has also witnessed a huge rush after the temple was reopened on Monday. The world heritage site had remained closed for December 31, January 1 and 2 on account of a large gathering that was anticipated on those days.



I-League suspended for six weeks after fresh COVID outbreak

KOLKATA: The I-League was on Monday suspended for at least six weeks by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) af-

latest round of tests which prompted the AIFF to suspend the league for six weeks. "The I-League stands postponed for at least

I-League was suspended for a week on Wednesday after COVID-19 breached its bio-bubble. Eight players and

Sporting, debutants Sreenidi Deccan FC and Aizawl FC had returned positive. Thirteen teams are competing in this



ter a fresh COVID-19 outbreak hit the participating teams inside the bio-bubble here. It has been learnt that the total number of COVID-19 cases now stands at 45 after the

six weeks," a top official told PTI. The I-League officials will take stock of the situation in the first week of next month and decide the future course of action.

three officials had tested positive for the dreaded virus, last week. Five players and three team officials from Real Kashmir FC, one player each from Mohammedan

year's I-League across three venues -- the Mohun Bagan Ground in Kolkata, the Kalyani Stadium at Kalyani and the Naihati Stadium at Naihati

Anything can happen if we reach knockouts: Dennerby on Indian women's team's FIFA World Cup chance

NEW DELHI: Indian women's football team head coach Thomas Dennerby has insisted that "we will fight with our lives" to reach the knockout stage of the upcoming AFC Asian Cup

huge effort. And that we will fight with our lives." Five teams from the Asian Cup, to be played in Mumbai and Pune from January 20 to February 4, will qualify directly

onship and qualified for the Women's World Cup. I still nurture a dream, and at the moment it's seeing India make it to the quarter-finals of this Women's Asian Cup. A couple of vic-

players, and I keep on telling them that the quality we have in India may surprise them all. They have played in Sweden, so maybe doors may open for some of them. We also need to



and realise their dream of securing qualification to the 2023 FIFA World Cup. Asked if he is confident of taking India to their first FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023, Dennerby did not give a direct answer but said "anything can happen" if his team reaches the knockout stage (quarterfinals) of the Asian Cup. "Let's take it step by step. Of course, we have a dream, and that starts with us being one among the eight teams in the quarter-finals of the Asian Cup," said the experienced Swede on the FIFA website. "If we can reach that level, anything can happen. I can only promise everyone that we will go out with a winning mentality and put in a

for the 2023 World Cup. Asia got six direct berths and two intercontinental play-off spots for the FIFA World Cup. Co-hosts Australia have taken one direct spot. Even the losing teams in the quarterfinals will play classification matches to decide who will feature for the two intercontinental playoff spots. The top two teams of each of the three groups and the two best third-placed teams qualify for the quarterfinals. Dennerby has served as coach of Sweden and taken Nigeria to the World Cup after winning the African Championships. Now he dreams of achieving the feat with the Indian team. "In Nigeria, we won the AFCON Champi-

onship and qualified for the Women's World Cup. I still nurture a dream, and at the moment it's seeing India make it to the quarter-finals of this Women's Asian Cup. A couple of vic-

remember that under the pandemic situation, it's hard for clubs from Europe to bring in players from India because you cannot send them for trials." "So I earnestly hope our camp in Sweden can throw up some opportunities for them." Asked about players in the current Indian team who impresses him the most, Dennerby said, "We have some players who are playing at a very good level and players with special qualities. It is hard to single one out as all of them are special." "This being a team game, it's not appropriate to specify names at the moment. But some of the girls have been very impressive. I keep on pushing them."

Spain, Poland win second consecutive matches at ATP Cup

SYDNEY: Spain and Poland remained perfect at the ATP Cup with 3-0 wins in their

very good," Bautista Agut said in his on-court interview. "I returned very well, I

Spain and Poland later both won their doubles matches to make it 3-0 scorelines.

said of Nystrom on the ATP Tour's website. "We are working on



matches Monday, their second consecutive victories in the team event. Robert Bautista Agut clinched the match for Spain by beating Casper Ruud of Norway 6-4, 7-6 (4) after Pablo Carreno Busta defeated Viktor Durasovic 6-3, 6-3. Bautista Agut improved to 9-2 in singles at the team event. "Casper is playing unbelievable tennis, (he did) an unbelievable performance last year, and today I played

made very few unforced errors and I played aggressively." Kamil Majchrzak gave Poland the early lead over Georgia with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Aleksandre Bakshi before Hubert Hurkacz clinched it with a 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-1 win over Aleksandre Metreveli. "He (Metreveli) played well in the first set and things were not going my way. But I got better with each set and am happy to get the win," Hurkacz said.

Poland can book a place in the semifinals if it defeats Argentina on Wednesday in its next group game. Majchrzak needed only 53 minutes to beat Bakshi. "I was trying to move (Bakshi) around and I think that was the key to the match," said Majchrzak, who is coached by former world seventh-ranked Joakim Nystrom. "He brings me a lot of confidence and a lot of calm in my tennis so I can feel that I am improving," Majchrzak

(developing an all-court game) but in a way that doesn't interrupt my baseline game. We will take it from the practice to the matches but it takes time." Greece plays Argentina and Serbia takes on Chile in night matches Monday. The four group winners in the 16-team tournament advance to the semifinals on Friday and Saturday, with the winners meeting in the final on Sunday.

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