

Pigeon with Chinese badge panics locals in Odisha's Kansbahal

ROURKELA(KCN): Residents of Kansbahal within



Rajganpur police limits of Sundargarh district were in for scare after spotting a pigeon with a Chinese badge, as many suspected that the fowl could have been released for spying in India amid its prolonged animosity with China. On Sunday evening, they informed the police and requested to probe the matter.

Sources said, curiosity gripped locals of Kansbahal, about 25 kms from Rourkela, after the pigeon landed at the residence of one Sarveswar Chhotray. According to Chhotray, the pigeon

differed in size from local pigeons and landed in his garden for feeding on Sunday morning. Hours later, Chhotray saw that the bird was still there and the badge on one of its legs caught his attention. The badge had Chinese words engraved on it along with a serial number which prompted him to inform police for further verification. However, police claimed that it appeared to be a domesticated pigeon that somehow reached Kansbahal.

Rajganpur SDPO Shasank Sekhar Beura said the badge did have some Chinese letters written on it but there was no

electronic device or chip attached. might be an Indian who used the Chinese



"People of different countries put badges or labels on domestic animals and birds for identification. It is possible that the owner of the bird

badge procured from a local market," he said, adding that Chhotray returned with the pigeon promising to release it.

NALCO Joins KABIL

Bhubaneswar(KCN): National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has taken a lead in order to ensure mineral security of the nation and to attain self-reliance in the area of critical & strategic minerals. Accordingly it has participated in the Joint



Venture created by Ministry of Mines-Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL).

National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL) have joined hands to form KABIL.

KABIL is mandated to identify and acquire overseas mineral assets of critical and strategic nature such as Lithium, Cobalt etc.

This initiative aimed at giving further fillip to Atma Nirbhar Bharat will

BJP and TMC take potshots at each other on social media over Goa poll sops

BELAGAVI(KCN): A day after the Goa unit of the TMC launched their second promise to the people of Goa, the 'Yuva Shakti' Card, an initiative for the youth where they can avail a col-

On its Twitter handle (@AITC4Goa), the TMC claimed the BJP 'fooled' Goans in the implementation of the Chief Minister's Rozgar Yojana (CMRY). The BJP shot back tweeting: "The Goa

CMRY is a well-structured scheme for Goans, where effective rate goes down to 3 per cent in most cases. Is TMC proposing a waiver on the need for 15-year Residence Certificate? if yes, for whose benefit? Goans want to hear from the regional party of West Bengal."

The Goa TMC claimed that BJP's 'Chief Minister Rozgar Yojana' provides credit to youth at an interest rate of 8% and that too only to those with immovable assets of more than Rs 6 lakhs. On top of it, a residence certificate of over 15 years is also mandatory. These criteria make it almost impossible for beneficiaries to even apply, let alone avail of any benefits, the TMC alleged. The TMC said its scheme is a collateral-free credit facility of up to Rs 20 lakh which is given at an interest rate of only 4% to anyone between the age of 18-45 years.

TMC leaders who are on a hectic campaign trail said the BJP's attack is proof that it is scared of the overwhelming response that the TMC and its schemes are getting.



lateral-free credit facility of up to Rs 20 lakh, the BJP mocked the TMC claiming that 'an advertising agency' (TMC Goa) is trying to rebrand schemes which the BJP launched earlier. The TMC said the BJP took to social media to attack it as the schemes announced by it were getting a tremendous response on the ground across the coastal state. It's alarming that the BJP is unaware of the details of their own scheme, TMC sources added. Both the BJP and TMC are indulging in a Twitter tussle after the latter announced two schemes -- Griha Laxmi and Yuva Shakti Card -- ahead of the polls. They also tweeted photos mocking each other's schemes and initiatives.

Over 50,000 devotees visit Srimandir, containment zone returns to Puri

PURI(KCN): Over 50,000 devotees turned up for darshan of the Trinity in Sri Jagannath temple

servitors performed Mangal alati, Mailum, Abakash before offering Gopal Bhog. Thereafter,

were allowed to enter the shrine wearing double masks and maintaining social distance. The darshan

tract administration declared the area around Hotel Sona International in Ward no 11 as micro con-



which reopened on Monday after remaining closed for three days to avoid New Year rush.

The 12th-century shrine was closed since December 31 to avoid big crowds around the New Year amid rising cases of Omicron. The temple opened at 3 am and

public darshan was allowed at 4.30 am.

Police and temple security personnel ensured that devotees adhered to the Covid safety guidelines while in queues. After furnishing complete vaccination certificate or RT-PCR negative report at the counters, devotees

continued till 9 pm.

On the day, new Odisha DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal along with his wife, ADG RK Sharma, IGP Narasingh Bhol and Puri SP K Vishal Singh visited the Sri Jagannath temple and offered prayers to Lord Jagannath. Meanwhile, the dis-

tainment zone after detection of three Omicron cases. Puri Collector Samarth Verma said swab sample of an infected tourist was sent for genome sequencing. The report came positive but by then, the visitor had left for Kolkata. This apart,

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UP CM Yogi Adityanath hits out at SP, says Akhilesh government was worshipper of Kans

ALIGARH(KCN): In a veiled attack, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday accused Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav of not doing

dreams every night to tell him that he would form the government in the upcoming assembly polls and establish "Ram Rajya" in UP.

Addressing a public gathering here after

thing for Mathura, Barsana, Vrindavan, Gokul and Baldev. Akhilesh Yadav led the Samajwadi Party government in Uttar Pradesh from 2012 to 17 and in the last assembly polls, the BJP

Members of the Azad Bharat Vidhant Vaicharik Kranti Satyagrahi cult, led by Ram Vriksh Yadav, had encroached on the 270-acre Jawahar Bagh, which was government land, for two years and clashed with police when they tried to evict them.

Ram Vriksh Yadav too was killed in the encounter.

The BJP government has given Covid vaccines and food grains at no cost to the poor, but had the SP, BSP or Congress been in power, they would have eaten the foodgrains meant for them and swallowed the money for free vaccination, Adityanath claimed. After doing so, these parties would have left like former Afghanistan president Ashraf Ghani, who fled his country after the Taliban took over, he alleged.

"During the Covid pandemic, they did not step out of their homes. Babua was not seen for 20 months. Now, the third wave of coronavirus is also coming," the chief minister said in an apparent reference to Akhilesh Yadav.



anything for Mathura and other religious places associated with Lord Krishna, and termed the previous SP government as "the worshipper of Kans".

He accused the previous government of creating a Kans that resulted in the Jawahar Bagh incident in which 29 people were killed in June 2016 when police forcibly tried to evict squatters who were backed by Ram Vriksh Yadav.

Adityanath's comment came a day after Akhilesh Yadav claimed that Lord Krishna comes to his

inaugurating 660 MW Harduaganj Thermal Power plant costing Rs 7,000 crore, he said, "While I am inaugurating the power project here, some people are dreaming in Lucknow. Lord Krishna would be coming in their dreams, and tell them to shed tears over their failures. The work that they have not been able to do, the BJP government is doing it."

Adityanath said in the dreams, Lord Krishna must have told them that when they were in power, they "failed" to do any-

came to power in the state and Adityanath was made the chief minister.

"Nobody bothered about Lord Krishna during that time. They were worshippers of Kans and used to create Kans. And when Kans was created, the incident of Jawahar Bagh took place in which SP (city) Mukul Dwivedi attained martyrdom," Adityanath alleged.

In the violence at Mathura's Jawahar Bagh park, 29 people, including two police officials, were killed during a drive to evict squatters.

Vaccination for 15th to 17th age group started in Barbil



Barbil (KCN): With the approval of the Union Ministry of Health, it has agreed to vaccinate children between the ages of 15 and 17 across India. Followed by the guidelines of government of India the vaccination programme of this age group is too arranged in CHC, Barbil of Keonjhardistrict. Youth generation has shown an immense interest for this vaccination. Accordingly a crowd was seen in

CHC Champua. Crowds were observed at the health centre in this regard. The vaccination program is being carried out under the direct supervision of Dr SoubhagyaRashmiSamal.in view of rise case of covid in Barbil Municipality and its adjoining area ,the vaccination programme will be carried out covering every area followed by awareness,said Dr Samal.

Utkal Vikash Parisad felicitated to IIC of 42 Mouza Thana



Cuttack (KCN): Cuttack Sadar leading social organisation Utkal Vikash Parisad (UVP) felicitated to first IIC of 42 mouza Thana Anita Sahoo with good wishes of New year 2022. The UVP president Er.Prakash Chandra

Sethi also thanked the honourable Commissioner of police, Collector as 42 mouza fandi turned to Thana as a long time back the team gave their demand to the Government. In this feliciating program farmer leader Deviprasad Pati, Anil

Mohapatra,Biraja Busan Pati, Muktikanta Mohanty, Gandhi Guru Das,Asim Das, Sujit Behera, Suresh Pradhan Pradhan, Bhagyadhar Tripathy, Bijaya Malik, Ajay Sing & team present.

Bus conductor beat passenger demanding extra fare than actual

Barbil(KCN): One bus passenger was attacked by a bus

Manoj Mahant of Kalingnagar area has booked one ticket for

to his destination ,conductor asked more Rs 200 against the fare.The amount asked by the conductor is two times higher than the actual fare.An argument broke out between them the conductor and other bus staff beat him severely.It is too said that conductor took him to keonjhar and again assaulted by the concerned bus owner.He was seriously injured and get admitted in to Keonjhar Dist hospital.His wife lodged a complain in keonjhar hospital demanding punishment to the culprit.It is a matter of concerned that buses plying to di ment scheduled rate. The concerned department need to look into the matter said one passenger.



conductor while protesting the extra fare asked., As per information one

Pallahada in Anima bus which plys from Champua to Keonjhar via Barbil.On his way

Motivational Strips announces semi finalists for Grow Your Buds Poetry Rendition Contest 2021

Bangalore(KCN): "Grow your Buds Poetry Rendition contest 2021" have been the greatest literary challenge for worldwide young aspirants of poetry. The contest won attention and admiration from all over the world with many students or rather young children between the age of 8 to 16 participating. The contest which was organized by Motivational Strips, the world's most active writers forum jointly with Soundarya Educational Trust caught attention of worldwide media and schools. The founder of Motivational Strips Shiju H Pallithazheth claimed that the purpose of the contest was to unturn the hidden poetry talents among the children and prepare them to be greater writers and poets of coming years. He also declared in a social media live program that choosing the semi finalists of the contest was a challenge for the jury members which comprised of Author Mary Lynn Luiz from USA, Author Dr Raja Rajeswari Seetha Raman from Malaysia, Author Penny

Wobbly from UK, Author Samuella Conteh from Sierra Leone and Author Nivedita Roy from Bahrain. There were a good number of students from schools of Gulf countries who covered a major semi final slot in the international category of the contest. The marks according to

tion. She added that it clearly indicates that much talents were innate in these children. The 25 participants who successfully sailed to the semi finals overcoming the hurdles of jury's strict guidelines are as below

International
·Aarya Singh , Indian School, Al Ghubra,

School Al Ghubra, Oman ; · Neola Dsouza, Indian School Al Ghubra, Oman ; · Rhyana Gorham, Ponus Ridge Middle School, USA ; · Ryan John Samuel, India Education School, Kuwait; · Sita Lakshmi Kishore, Indian school, Al Ghubra, Oman

Dipanpreet Kaur, Mountain Mary School, India; · Inaya Shrivastava, St. Columbus school, India ; · Priyadarshini Khan, B.D Memorial school, India ; · Sannidhi Kulkarni, Soundarya Central School, India; · Sharanya Patra, VIBGYOR HIGH , India; · Sushumma Bhadauria, The Manvendra Global school, India ; · Tamanna Deb, Montfort School, India.

The forum Director of Motivational Strips Sabrina Bryant and Soundarya Educational Trust CEO Keerthan Kumar applauded and congratulated the semi finalists. Mr Keerthan said that Soundarya Educational Trust plan to do more of such international literary contests jointly associating with Motivational Strips. He said many college webinars are also planned for university students by involving quality writers and poets from Motivational Strips, and added that the matter has already been discussed with Shiju H. Pallithazheth.

the jury were very closely interrelated and the performance of the participants had to be repeatedly watched to arrive at a justifiable and ethical verdict of the semi finalists. Motivational Strips Media spokesperson Author Sreekala P Vijayan claimed that the delay in the results occurred due to many marks being closely knitted to other participants on a uniform propor-

Oman; · Aishwarya Kalapparambath, Indian School, Al Ghubra Oman; · Anika Govil, Indian School Al Ghubra, Oman; · Fida Ancy, Indian Education School, Kuwait ; · Geetika Nambiar, Indian School Al Ghubra, Oman; ·Gouri Reghu, Indian school Al Ghubra, Oman ; · Mayugha Manoj, Indian School Al Ghubra, Oman; · Najma ahmad, Indian

· Tia Rachel George, Indian Educational School, Kuwait ; · Vitesh, Indian School, Al Ghubra, Oman. **Indian**
·Ananya Madhu Bhashini, Study Hall School, India ; · Anjan K Gowda, Soundarya Central School, India ; · Arjunveer Singh, Air Force School J & K, India; · Daisy, R. K. P Senior secondary school, India;

94th Birth Anniversary of J.B.Pattnaik Celebrated at Khordha

Khordha(KCN): 94th Birth Anniversary of former Chief Minister of Odisha and former Governor of Assam Jannaki Ballabha Pattnaik celebrated at Jannaki Ballabha Pattnaik park at Khordha. The meeting was Preside by Sanjaya Pattnaik. Remembering J. B.

Pattnaik and every one must follows the same". Participating the ceremony MLA, Jatni Suresh Kumar Routray said "J. B. Pattnaik proved that strong will power and hard work can help someone overcome any obstacles. Mr. J. B. Pattnaik was very active till his last

Prasad Mohanty, Former Vice-chancellor, North Odisha University, Prakash S a m a n t a r a y , M a h h a m a d Kefatullah Khan, Sisir Kumar Parida, Pradosh Sahoo, P r a d o s h Harichandan, Padma Charan Ray, Guru Charan Pattnaik, Biswaranjan Pradhan



Pattnaik on his 94th birth anniversary, MLA, Khandapada, Soumya Ranjan Pattnaik said "a person can overcome obstacles and achieve fame if he believes in his work and has the will power. This was the ideology of J. B.

breath." Among others MLA, Khordha, J. N. Mitra, Former MLA, Dr. Dillip Srichandan, Pruthivi Ballabha Pattnaik, son of J. B. Pattnaik, Arjya Kumar Gyanendra, Vice-president, PCC, Odisha, Mj. Khirod

and other eminent personalities paid floral tributes to the statue of J. B. Pattnaik and remembered his contributions. Kabita Rani Mishra thanked all the personalities to attend the 94th Birth Anniversary of J. B. Pattnaik.

Rourkela administration meeting with railway officials

Rourkela (KCN): A meeting was held in Rourkela Additional District Magistrate's office and in the meeting, Railway officials including ADM Dibyajyoti Parida of Rourkela, Sr. DCM Manish Pathak, Sr. DEN (West) Priyam Shankar, AEN S K Rakshit, CCI Rakesh Kumar Ray, SSE (Works) Mukesh Bhagat along with President of Rourkela Jagran Manch Amitabh Samal were present. It was decided to complete Smart road and beautification from Chaudhary Petrol Pump to Rourkela Railway Station main gate within four months, Prepaid Auto Stand,



road from BSNL Chowk to Basanti Colony within three months and beautification work of second side of Rourkela Railway Station. President of Rourkela Jagran Manch Amitabh Samal said that a demand had also been made by the Rourkela Jagran Manch for the road works from BSNL Chowk to Basanti Colony, now it has been decided to complete its work expeditiously.

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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

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



Netflix based film "a phenomenal experience". Deshmukh took to Twitter to share a poster of the movie, which features Anurag Kashyap and Anil Kapoor in lead roles. "Mind has been

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,

scene," the 'Housefull' actor's tweet further read. While Kapoor essays the role of a yesterday actor, Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. 'AK vs AK,' revolves around the story of a

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.

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

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The Supreme Court granted interim protection to Ekta Kapoor.



preme 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 in-

terim protection to Ekta 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. 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.

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 caption, 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.

Warner Bros announces Chocolate Factory prequel titled 'Wonka' to release on March 17, 2023

(GNS Bureau) Moving ahead with

The project, which has a script from

Based on Roald Dahl's popular



"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" prequel, titled "Wonka", Warner Bros has declared the release date of movie. As per media reports, Paul King of "Paddington" fame will tackle the movie, which will debut in theatres on March 17, 2023.

Simon Rich, will follow "a young Willy Wonka and his adventures prior to opening the world's most famous chocolate factory." David Heyman, whose credits includes the "Harry Potter" franchise and "Paddington", is backing the movie.

children's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", the classic story follows a poor boy named Charlie, who is one of five youngsters to win a golden ticket to tour the world-renowned, yet highly secretive, chocolate factory run by Willy Wonka.

Katrina's sister Isabelle Kaif to feature opposite Pulkit Samrat in 'Suswagatam Khushaamadeed'

(GNS Bureau) Isabelle Kaif to feature opposite Pulkit Samrat in Suswagatam Khushaamadeed. Its a social entertainer with an

sister of actress Katrina Kaif, she took to Instagram to announce her upcoming project. She wrote, "Namaste - Aadaab Ab hogi

our chemistry is quite dhamakedaar. People on the set say that we look like a patakha together. Isabelle has brought fresh



underlying message on social harmony. In this film, Pulkit will essay the role of a Delhi boy, Aman, with Isabelle playing the role of Noor who hails from the city of Agra. Isabelle Kaif is a

jaldi aapse mulaqaat! So excited to share with you guys the first look of Suswagatam Khushaamadeed." Actor Pulkit Samrat said that, "I must say that

energy on the set. She's extremely hard-working and has impressed everyone on the set. She is stunning and brings a streak of innocence to her character. She has left me mesmerised."

Reliance to AIIMS - Efficient leadership is a prerequisite for everything

R. K. Sinha

When Mukesh Ambani speaks on a subject, it is usually not possible to ignore it. He recently gave clear indications that the succession plan of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is ready. It is certainly a good thing that the chairman of the country's largest industrial conglomerate, Mukesh Ambani, has informed the nation about the possible changes in his group in the coming times.

RIL, which is active in the energy, telecom, retail, and other sectors, with an estimated seven lakh employees and lakhs of shareholders. All eyes are set on the ups and downs in Reliance as it is the biggest board of the Indian industry. Mukesh Ambani is only 64 years old and can hold onto the command of Reliance for a few more years. The top executives of all companies and institutions should prepare their potential successors in time. It is no surprise that everyone's active career comes with an expiry date. After that, they have to leave their post, either happily or under compulsion.

Therefore, it would be better if the promoter of a company, Chairman, or a person holding a responsible post of an institution should prepare one or more successors. Getting a better successor does not affect the growth of any company or institution. The transfer of power takes place without any crisis or disruption. One can continue to advise the company as a mentor or even provide guidance after stepping down from the top-most post or as the Chairman.

Mr. Ratan Tata stepped down as the Chairman of Tata group in 2017. He has since been the Chairman, Emeritus of the Tata Group. He has separated himself from everyday work. However, the Tata group still thrives by taking advantage of his limitless experience while making significant decisions. There is no substitute

for experience.

Air India was acquired by the Tata group some time back. It is believed, that Ratan Tata also wanted his group to take over Air India. After all, Air India was earlier with the Tata group. So the Tata group was also emotionally attached to it. If we talk about politics outside the industry, only those leaders are remembered, who prepare their successors impartially. That is what happens in candor-based parties like BJP. In parties like Congress, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, the axis of the party revolves around one person. The result of this is that there is a lot of political infighting within the party

company. Unfortunately, till a few years ago, in our sports federations and other federations, the same person held all the power for decades. They created obstacles, closing all the paths to new talented people coming forward. They didn't even have any new ideas and were solely bothered about sticking to the chair power. That was when we used to go to International sporting events like the Olympics to simply make a symbolic presence.

Now our players have started winning gold medals, and that too in fields like athletics. That is because we have started giving opportunities to new people in our sports federations and other

and pleasure. HDFC Bank is moving ahead and thriving even after Puri's departure.

Now take the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). The tenure of its current director Dr. Randeep Guleria is ending in March 2022. Dr. Guleria did a great job while in his post. The whole country knows him because the entire country has faith in the capabilities of AIIMS. But do you know what made AIIMS stand out as an institution of excellence? The name of that great doctor, teacher, and administrator was Dr. B.B. Dixit (1902-1977). When AIIMS was established (in 1956), the government offered Dr. Dixit to take over as its first director. He accepted it too.

Before this, he was the principal of B.J. Medical College, Pune. He was also a professor of Physiology. Some people formerly associated with AIIMS say that Dr. Dixit had told the government that he would come to AIIMS only when he would get a free hand to work. Dr. Dixit brought in the best professors and doctors to AIIMS. He used to make every appointment solely based on merit. He constantly encouraged and fostered the proper environment for research in AIIMS.

Dr. Dixit was an extremely fair person who supported truth and justice. He gifted India with a world-class medical institution in the form of AIIMS while simultaneously preparing efficient successors. The bottom line is, without efficient leadership no institution can touch heights of greatness. For an institution to thrive, it should receive just and hardworking leadership.

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



themselves. Their development and expansion are also not properly done.

It would be difficult to even count the number of times Congress has broken down. You can see the Trinamool Congress Party (TMC) in West Bengal and the National Congress Party (NCP) in Maharashtra. These are the parties that came out of Congress itself. After leaving the Congress, from Babu Jagjivan Ram to VP Singh, Narayan Dutt Tiwari, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna, etc. had also formed their parties. However, some of these leaders re-joined the Congress.

After a certain period, such a prestigious party of our country got infested with termites because a particular family took possession of it. Thereby, converting it into a private limited

federations. Until a few years ago, could we have imagined that we would be able to reach this milestone? Our players are doing profoundly well because our sports federations are showing up with energetic faces. An institution where new faces will not enter or are not allowed to enter will naturally reach a point of stagnancy. There can be no debate about this.

Those who follow the banking sector are well acquainted with Aditya Puri. He is the mastermind who created and set up HDFC Bank, which is currently among the top-tier banks in the country. After leading HDFC Bank for a long time, Puri passed away. But, he prepared many worthy successors of his own, teaching them qualities of leadership and finance. That's why the transfer of power there happened with ease

Will Delaying Vaccine Doses Cause a Coronavirus Escape Mutant?

The pandemic has entered a new phase. Millions of people around the world are now receiving their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine each day. In a few countries, including the UK, millions will wait for up to 12 weeks before they receive their second dose. Vaccinating as many people as possible with initial doses before moving on to second doses is intended as the fastest means of inducing a good level of protection within the population. But some experts say they worry that this constitutes a giant experiment in viral

infecting during the interval between jabs, that pressure could allow for the emergence of a mutant version of SARS-CoV-2 able to shake off a person's immune response—a so-called escape variant. Any such variant that also proved capable of causing severe disease could potentially spark a new, devastating wave of infections and deaths. In general, vaccine resistance among pathogens is rare. Researchers say it's almost impossible to know whether this will happen, though historical cases of human pathogens evolving vaccine resistance are rare.

Anthony Fauci, President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser on COVID-19, said last month at a virtual World Economic Forum panel that delaying the second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine could increase the likelihood of an escape variant emerging. "It may not be the case, but it gets risky," he told the audience. Scientists advising the UK government have considered the same scenario. In a paper published last month, they wrote, "in the short-term, delaying the second dose would be expected to somewhat increase the probability of emergence of vaccine resistance." But quantifying the risk is just not a great idea if one of your goals is to avoid vaccine resistance," he says. There's a chance, Bieniasz explains, that people waiting for their second dose may have a sub-optimal level of immunity that places selective pressure on the virus. If someone were to become

virologist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, referring to the risk of delayed dosing leading to the evolution of an escape variant. Every time the virus replicates there is a chance that it could mutate into a more transmissible or more deadly form. In a single individual, the odds of this happening are vanishingly small but the picture changes somewhat when you consider that tens of millions of people are currently waiting for their second dose, notes Meyer. Opportunity for escape

Almost all vaccines in use at the moment require two doses, including Pfizer/BioNTech's, Oxford/AstraZeneca's, Moderna's, Russia's Sputnik V, and Sinopharm's products. Meyer adds that the second booster dose has the effect of raising the amount of antibodies in people's blood but it also improves affinity maturation, in which B cells produce antibodies that are especially effective at binding to the virus and blocking infection. Virologists and immunologists don't yet know exactly what sort of environment would be most likely to prompt a SARS-CoV-2 escape variant to evolve. It's possible that, should a second dose be delayed beyond the manufacturer-recommended schedule of, for example, 21 days for the Pfizer/BioNTech

Chris Baraniuk

vaccine, antibody levels might gradually come down somewhat and provide a suitable environment for escape variant emergence, says Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at Georgetown University's Center for Global Health Science and Security. It's impossible to predict whether that will occur because the clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines do not provide data on how the efficacy of vaccines changes when a second dose is administered six weeks or later following the first dose. "Beyond that, it's just really hard to say, it's anybody's guess," says Rasmussen. Crucially, virologists and immunologists don't yet know exactly what sort of environment would be most likely to prompt a SARS-CoV-2 escape variant to evolve—in other words, what level of suboptimal immune response equates to the highest risk of the virus evolving a successful escape variant. There are thousands of SARS-CoV-2 variants known to be in circulation around the world, but just a few of them are thought to be noticeably more transmissible. They could be thought of as partial escape variants, suggests Meyer, because they are less susceptible to neutralization by antibodies but are not

thought to evade the broader immune response. Nobody knows what conditions allowed for the emergence of these variants in the first place. Past vaccine escape mutants In general, vaccine resistance among pathogens is rare. Famously, vaccines have succeeded in keeping the highly infectious measles virus at bay since the inoculations were first introduced in the 1960s. And Meyer notes that, while influenza viruses are known to mutate rapidly, their many variants are not generally thought to have evolved as a result of vaccination programs. A paper published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B in 2017 by Penn State's Andrew Read, an expert on the evolutionary genetics of infectious pathogens, and a colleague argues that vaccines may be less likely to cause the emergence of pathogen resistance because they act early to prevent infections and transmission, and vaccines also induce a wide variety of immune responses—from neutralizing antibodies to T and B cell activation. It's hard for a virus to overcome a variety of different immune response mechanisms all working in unison. "Together, these features drastically increase the time until resistance

emerges," the authors write.

See "SARS-CoV-2 Isn't Going Away, Experts Predict" That doesn't mean it's impossible. The hepatitis B virus appeared to evolve resistance to recombinant vaccines in the 1980s partly because the part of the virus targeted in the vaccine-induced immune response was very small. Just a few mutations likely led to the emergence of an escape variant. Reassuringly, the authors' analysis of 88 trial participants found that vaccine efficacy, in terms of reducing infection, reached 76 percent between 22 and 90 days following a single dose. This could indicate that there is actually a rather low risk of suboptimal immunity arising after just one dose of a two-dose vaccine, says Lucy Walker of University College London. "A vaccine efficacy of seventy-six percent is respectable in its own right and wouldn't be talked about as 'partial immunity' in the context of other vaccines," she says. There was also a 54 percent reduction in positive COVID-19 tests among a different subgroup of 500 trial participants who received both doses of the vaccine, regardless of whether they presented as symptomatic or asymptomatic, when compared with the unvaccinated control population. That could mean that the

unvaccinated populations," Read and his colleagues conclude in a 2015 study. Immunity at one dose In contrast, there are signs that the current COVID-19 vaccines might in fact reduce transmission, and that delaying the second dose does not lead to a significant decline in immunity. A study posted as a preprint February 1 in The Lancet examined data from participants in the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine trial. The authors' analysis of 88 trial participants found that vaccine efficacy, in terms of reducing infection, reached 76 percent between 22 and 90 days following a single dose. This could indicate that there is actually a rather low risk of suboptimal immunity arising after just one dose of a two-dose vaccine, says Lucy Walker of University College London. "A vaccine efficacy of seventy-six percent is respectable in its own right and wouldn't be talked about as 'partial immunity' in the context of other vaccines," she says. There was also a 54 percent reduction in positive COVID-19 tests among a different subgroup of 500 trial participants who received both doses of the vaccine, regardless of whether they presented as symptomatic or asymptomatic, when compared with the unvaccinated control population. That could mean that the

vaccine is able to reduce transmission. If it does, that would in turn reduce the overall risk of escape variants emerging. See "A Guide to Emerging SARS-CoV-2 Variants" "While this would be extremely welcome news, we do need more data before this can be confirmed, and so it's important that we all still continue to follow social distancing guidance after we have been vaccinated," says Doug Brown, the chief executive of the British Society for Immunology, in a statement to the Science Media Centre. Brown is a trustee of the Association of Medical Research Charities in the UK. Immunologist Akiko Iwasaki of Yale University notes that those running vaccination programs must weigh the known benefits of using vaccines now to save lives, versus the unknown probability of escape variants causing havoc.

Chris Baraniuk is a freelance science journalist based in Northern Ireland who contributes to The Scientist. He has covered biological and medical science for a range of publications, including the BBC, the BMJ, and Mosaic. He also writes about nature, climate change, and technology. His background in the humanities has long proved invaluable in his quest to bring science stories to people from all walks of life.



evolution, where the potential consequences remain troublingly unclear. Among those concerned is Paul Bieniasz, a virologist at the Rockefeller University. "Rolling out a partially effective vaccine regime in the peak of a highly prevalent viral epidemic is just not a great idea if one of your goals is to avoid vaccine resistance," he says. There's a chance, Bieniasz explains, that people waiting for their second dose may have a sub-optimal level of immunity that places selective pressure on the virus. If someone were to become

Bargarh-Nuapada railway line in Odisha gets Centre's nod

BHUBANESWAR: The Ministry of Railways has accorded in-

of Pujari, Vaishnav said, "In principle approval has been given

Road and Nuapada Road via Padampur (142 km) was com-



principle approval for a new line connecting Bargarh Road to Nuapada. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav informed about the approval in a letter to Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari on Monday.

In response to the August 5, 2021 letter

to Bargarh Road-Nuapada Road new rail line project for taking up pre-investment activity by the Ministry of Railways." Pujari had written to Vaishnav requesting for approval to the project. Survey for a new line between Bargarh

completed in 2018-19. However, the project was found to be operationally unjustified. The issue was raised in Rajya Sabha by BJD MP Prasanna Acharya in the monsoon session. The Railway Minister had then said that the rail line has been identi-

fied by Odisha Rail Infrastructure Development Limited (ORIDL), a joint venture company of the Odisha government with 51 pc stake and the Ministry of Railways with 49 pc. The State government has given its consent to bear the cost of land. While informing about the in-principle approval of the Railway Board to the proposal to ORIDL, Director of the Board DK Mishra in a recent letter said, "The cost of the land including rehabilitation and resettlement must be borne fully by the State government." Mishra said that the project execution will not commence without financial closure.

SEC Convenes All Party Meeting

Bhubaneswar: Before announcing dates for the three tier

the State. The meeting will be held here at Gita Gobinda

mentations from the political leaders for a free and fair election, he said.

The State Chief of the political parties like BJD, BJP and Congress can attend the meeting or can send their representatives to the meeting.

It indicates that the SEC is almost ready to go for the poll and soon after the meeting, the election dates are likely to be declared. Possibility is high that the Panchayat election in the State is likely to be conducted in February 2022.

The SEC has already held talks with the political parties and accordingly, State Election Commissioner (SEC) Aditya Prasad Padhi has increased the expendi-

ture limit of candidates. The poll expenditure limit for Zilla Parishad members was enhanced upto Rs 5 lakh, while for Panchayat Samiti members and Sarpanch candidate, the limit was increased to Rs 2 lakh. The Commission has also given more relaxation on use of vehicles for campaigning and increased the voting time by one hour. The counting procedure has also been changed for this time. Besides, the SEC has issued Model Code of Conduct and symbols for the candidates to fight the rural poll. It can say that the Commission is fully ready to go for the poll soon after the State completes the reservation process.



Panchayat Elections, the State Election Commission (SEC) has called an all party meeting on January 10. As per direction of State Election Commissioner, Aditya Prasad Padhi, Secretary SEC, RN Sahu has written an invitation letter to the president and general secretary of all political parties present in

Sadana on January 10 at 11.30 AM.

The tenure of Zilla Parishads will end by the second week of March 2022. So, it is necessary to conduct elections before the completion of five year tenure of the local bodies, Mr.Sahu said in the letter.

The meeting has been conveyed to get suggestions and recom-

CBI submits status report to Calcutta HC on alleged post-Assembly poll violence in West Bengal

KOLKATA: The CBI has submitted a status report to the Calcutta High Court on alleged violence in West Bengal following the assembly elections in April last year.

The CBI said the state police had referred 64 incidents to it in accordance with an order of a five-judge bench of the high court, which directed the agency to investigate heinous crimes of murder, rape and attempt to rape, while other cases related to post-poll violence were to be

decided to hand over two cases to the state SIT on the grounds of nature of offences.

It said two complaints relating to same incident of sexual assault were received by CBI which were amalgamated, resulting in registration of only one regular case for investigation.

"Remaining cases are under progress," it said. The agency said that at the time of submission of the status report, CBI had registered 50 regular cases and one preliminary enquiry into the alleged incidents of post-poll violence.

ALSO READ| Cases increase but CBI short on staff as over 1300 posts lying vacant

The CBI said it had submitted charge sheet in 10 cases while remaining cases are under progress. The division bench directed the state government to file a report in the form of an affidavit on return of people who had allegedly been left homeless out of political vendetta by the next date of hearing on January 24.

The five-judge bench presided over by the then Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal had on August 19, 2021 ordered a CBI investigation into all cases of alleged murder and crime against women regarding rape or attempt to rape in post-poll violence in West Bengal.

Passing the judgement on PILs seeking independent probe in alleged violence in the state following the assembly elections, the bench had ordered constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising three IPS officers of the West Bengal cadre to probe all other cases.

The bench had directed that both the investigations will be monitored by the high court. It had also ordered the West Bengal government to pay compensation to the victims of crime in accordance with the policy of the state, after due verification, and said the amount will be directly transferred to their bank accounts.



probed by a special investigation team of three senior IPS officers of West Bengal cadre.

The CBI, which submitted the status report before a division bench presided over by Chief Justice Prakash Shrivastava on Monday, said that out of 64 cases referred to it by the state police, 39 alleged offences were taken over by CBI, which registered regular cases, while 4 references are under process.

It said 21 cases referred to it were returned to the state police/SIT "on the ground of nature of offence", as CBI has been mandated by the order of the five-judge bench on August 19, 2021 to investigate post-poll violence cases of murder, rape and attempt to rape alone.

The CBI said it had also received 29 complaints of sexual assault from NHRC related to sexual offences till December 22, out of which it has

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

Gujrat (KCN): The fifth

discussed. According to resolution, the plan

Bhardwaj, National Working President,

National treasurer, Mr. Prabhat



meeting of the Bhartiya Bhasa Andolan concluded

to reach the goal was discussed. The responsibilities of the

Mr. Ashish Rai, National Vice President, Mr. Navin

Ranjan, National Minister, (Rastriya Mantri), Mrs Rekha Mehta and Vishall Jolly, National women head, Mrs. Poonam Goud National co-women chief, Mrs Jagruti Dave and Mrs Prativa Varma, National working committee member, Mr. Ravindra Kumar Raizada Mr. K. K. Rai, Mr. Devendra Mani Tripathi, Mr Shankar Sinha, Regional Secretary, (North East) Mr. Nirmal Das etc. Some new presidents were also announced as needed... "Delhi... Mrs. Usha Sharma, Punjab... Jasmeet Singh Bedi, Odisha... Mrs Sudasha Panda, Maharashtra... Mr Rameshwar Geete, Uttar Pradesh... Mr. Arvind Singh Raja B h a i y a , Chandigarh... Mr. Shiva Bhola, Maharashtra General Secretary... Mr Rajendra Bhai Khandare, were also nominated.

Representatives from 12 States have attended the meeting. Detailed discussions in the meeting was in view of work detail. Considering their target closely the workers are going to try their best to reach the goal.

Senior Advocate Mr Prasanta Varma has been nominated by National Executive body meeting of Bhartiya Bhasa Andolan as Rashtriya Mahamantri. It is to be noted that Mr Varma has dedicatedly worked as Adhikshya (East) and Rashtriya Upadhaskhya. Ex-Rashtriya Mahamantri Senior Advocate Mr.Ashis Ray has been nominated as Rashtriya Working President

in Rajkot, Gujrat Province on 28th December to 30 December 2021. In this meeting the work expansion of the Bhartiya Bhasa Andolan was legitimately

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

Koushik, Mr. Shankar Jha, Mr. Hari Govind Upadhyay and Ms. Mrinalini Khatri, National Minister (R a s t r i y a Mahamantri) Mr Prashanta Varma,

Mr. Arvind Singh Raja B h a i y a , Chandigarh... Mr. Shiva Bhola, Maharashtra General Secretary... Mr Rajendra Bhai Khandare, were also nominated.



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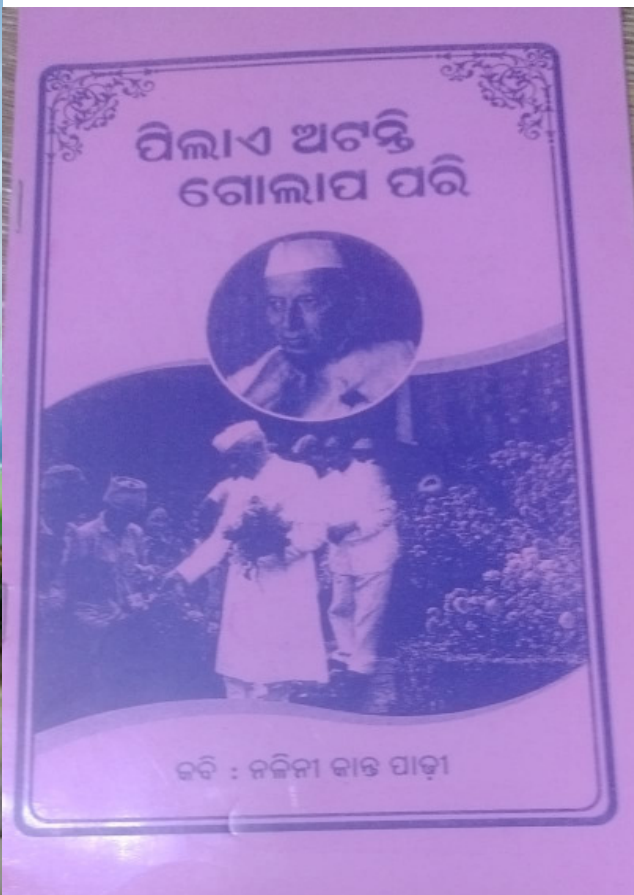
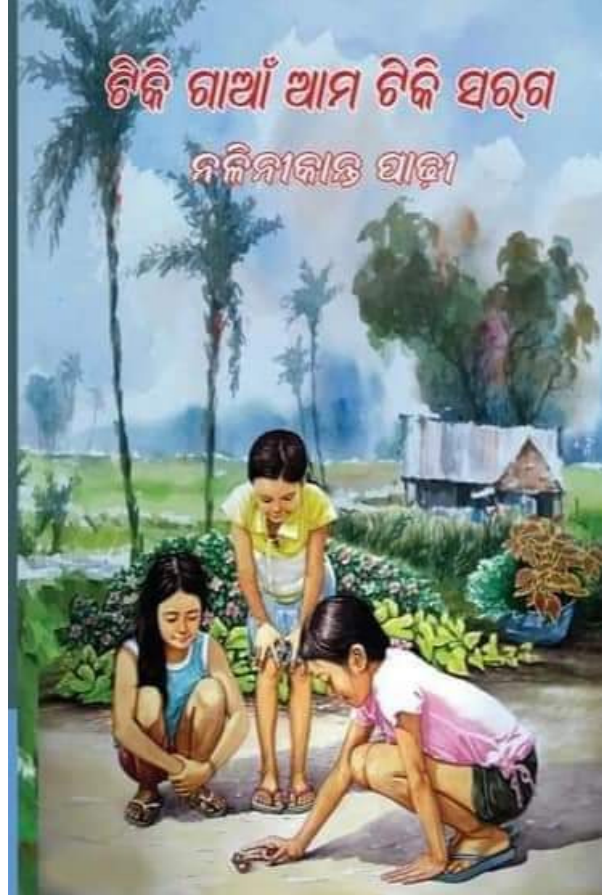


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Books Release and Poets Meet



Baliapal / Kolkata (KCN): Amid a large gathering of luminaries, Nalini Kanta Padhi's two books of poems for children entitled Tiki Amo Gaon Tiki Saraga (My Little Village My little devine) and Pilae Atanti Golap Pori (Children are Like the Roses) were released by Kalipada Panda, esteemed publisher, writer and member of Odisha Sahitya Academy in New year celebration on behalf of The Sambad Sahitya Ghara. The programme was presided over by well-known social worker Ajay Kumar Sahu. In it Prof Yosodhara Das a social worker turned poet highlighted on the key issues regarding children's literature in present scenario. Among other dignitaries whose presence grace the event were Brajendra Nath Giri,

Dayanidhi Sahu, Sukanta Kumar Giri, Jagannath Pradhan, Sujata Das, Dr. Rasmita Panigrahi. More than forty poets read poems on various issues in general and new year in particular in the concluding part of the programme. Nalini Kanta Padhi threw a curtain raiser on the elements embedded in duo released works and extended his heartfelt

gratitude to Brahma Putra Nayak. The programme came to the end with thanks giving to all by Byamakesh Sahu. That sort of miscellany was applauded by Blogger and translator Sanatan Mahakud from Kolkata, Barun Kumar Das, the editor of the online magazine Shreyashi and Saubhagya Kumar Mallick the deputy manager turned poet from Bhadrak.

Covid-19 Vaccination For 15-18 Years age group inaugurated at DHH Khordha



Khordha(KCN): The covid-19 vaccination drive for children from 15-18 years age groups was rolled out across the district of Khordha. On the occasions CDMO, Dr. Artabandhu Nayak inaugurated the vaccination centre at District Head Quatre Hospital (DHH) Khordha. During the

Covid-19 Vaccination drive for children in the 15-18 year age group total -57,290 children are targeted for inoculation in the district except Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. CDMO, Dr. Nayak encouraged the eligible teenagers to come forward and get vaccinated at nearest

session sites to safe-guards themselves as vaccination is extremely important for immunity against the Covid-19 infection. The eligible teenagers are being given COVAXIN dose by the health workers. In this vaccination drive become success District Family Planning and Immunization

Officer, Dr. Raghunath Nayak, District Public Health Officer, Prasanna Kumar Mohapatra, Deba Smita saho and others has made all the necessary arrangements at the vaccination sites where the children failing under the targeted age group will be vaccinated.

SwitchON Foundation has been recognized as a Cluster Based Business Organisation (CBBO) to form and promote 30 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) across the country

Kolkata(KCN): SwitchON Foundation has facilitated the formation of 13 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in north eastern India. These FPOs are present in the states of Meghalaya, Sikkim and Manipur with the support from NABARD, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Sikkim Organic Farming Development Agency (SOFDA).

SwitchON Foundation's approach is to create an enabling ecosystem for farmers to broaden the spectrum of livelihood opportunities available to them. Currently, SwitchON has been recognized as a Cluster Based Business Organisation (CBBO) and empaneled under



NABARD, Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Sikkim Organic Farming Development Agency (SOFDA) to form and promote 30 FPOs across the country. SwitchON Foundation also facilitates scheme linkage of the farmer members in the FPOs.

20 farmers in Meghalaya benefited from the Good Agricultural Practices of Potential Seed



Spices for Livelihood Improvement at ICAR through SwitchON's initiative. Currently, 6 FPOs are being promoted in four districts of Meghalaya with support from NABARD and NCDC. In Manipur, 2 FPOs are being promoted in two districts with support from NABARD. SwitchON Foundation is promoting 5 FPOs in two districts of Sikkim with support from SOFDA and Govt. of Sikkim.

The initial process for baseline survey and identification of Board of Directors has been done which would soon be followed by formation of Farmer Producer Companies in the state.

Vinay Jaju, Managing Director of SwitchON Foundation said, "SwitchON Foundation's role as a CBBO or Resource Institution in FPO formation has been acting as a bridge between the farmers and the external agencies, facilitating scheme linkage and promoting leadership towards a common vision. With a holistic approach, we are changing the farmers into

successful business entrepreneurs as well as promoting sustainable agricultural practices amongst them for a

better future for all." SwitchON's ecosystem approach in enterprise development involves entrepreneurship and skill building for farmers. Initial handholding support for business development is also provided to the Board of Directors of the FPOs by SwitchON. Initially SwitchON mobilises farmers to form FPOs and support in their market linkage, scheme linkages, agri-business initiation and management and trading license procurement. It also provides training on agriculture and non-agricultural capacity building to motivate farmers to take up sustainable agriculture with a sustainable enterprise. FPO management is generally done by farmers therefore they need support in various ways to develop the FPO from a farmer collective to a successful business entity. SwitchON me-

diates the risk-taking endeavours for the FPOs to enhance farmer incomes. For example, sometimes farmers are not confident enough



to negotiate with large buyers and market players, and end up selling their produce at less than their optimum prices. SwitchON comes in here and brings the farmers and buyers together, and thus the farmers get the most optimum prices of the products. FPOs have doubled farmer incomes on average, and FPO managed business activities have brought social entrepreneurship amongst them. This also is an attempt towards a change in the narrative where we encourage farmers to become entrepreneurs thus challenging the existing notion of business management only for a particular social strata.

Investors' wealth zooms by over Rs 4.76 lakh crore in first two days of trading in 2022



NEW DELHI: Equity investors are a happy lot as their wealth jumped by Rs 4.76 lakh crore in the first two days of trading in the New Year, driven by optimism in the broader market. The 30-share Sensex zoomed 382.7 points to 59,565.92 in early trade on Tuesday. The benchmark had jumped 929.40 points or 1.60 per cent to settle at 59,183.22 on Monday, the first day of trading in 2022.

Helped by the ongoing rally, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped by Rs 4,76,367.89 crore to reach Rs 2,70,76,579.44 crore in just two trading sessions. The surge in global markets fuelled the rally in domestic equities on Tuesday. In early trade on Tuesday, NTPC was the lead gainer among the pack of 30-share frontline

companies, followed by PowerGrid, SBI and Axis Bank. In the broader market, the midcap and smallcap indices jumped up to 0.42 per cent in early trade. "US markets setting record highs on the first trading day of 2022 is auspicious for global stock markets. The spectacular rally in Nifty and FIIs turning buyers with net purchases worth Rs 703 crore are bullish signals.

"If the FII buying yesterday is an indication of their renewed interest in India, financials particularly the leading banks, are likely to continue the momentum witnessed yesterday," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services. In 2021, equity investors reaped handsome rewards as their wealth grew nearly by Rs 78 lakh crore.

A Dozen Good Financial Habits, or Resolutions!

I have no clue whether resolutions work, but I guess people make them anyway. So here are some things that you can do.. Keep improving your

If you are not, go to a financial planner - Registered Investment Adviser, I mean. Improve your credit score -especially if your score is below

700 points. Look for a better job! There is no point in staying on in a bad job and complaining about the rest of your life. It is time wasted, and a lot of energy lost in cribbing. If you are a businessman start planning your exit from the business! One day you will have to exit the business anyway- being prepared for that is much better than leaving your family in the lurch and they will run from pillar to post trying to fix things which were anyway not broken! Personal finance is a family activity - involve the kids too. When your children are about 14 years of age, they understand what you are doing. It is good to involve

them and tell them why the moneys are invested, where it is invested, and how it can be accessed if you are not around. When you make an assumption. Missing a payment like electricity payment can cause a lot of inconvenience and embarrassment. Make your Will. Today. Preferably now.



financial literacy - reading books on Investing is much better than trying to 'learn' on Social media. Look after your physical health - sadly there is not enough government nudge on improving your health. Improving your health is one good way to keep away from Covid and other contagious diseases. Fitter people have also recovered faster if they have been impacted. People talking personal finance from just personal experience are shallow. It takes a lot of learning, education and personal experience to be able to teach personal finance. Personal finance is easy But boring. See if you are up to doing it.

tion that they will eventually find out, remember it could be a very expensive (and unnecessary) assumption. Make a budget and stick to it - again remember this is an easy to give advice, but difficult to do. This is also a family activity and you should sit and do it as a family. Have your expenses credit card and "borrowing" credit card separate. Make sure that even if you do borrow, all the payment is made in FULL on or before the due date Automate your expense payment and your investing - this removes the need to think every month. It also means that you will not miss any monthly utility pay-

ment. Missing a payment like electricity payment can cause a lot of inconvenience and embarrassment. Make your Will. Today. Preferably now.

Many people do not understand the need for a will. Nomination alone is not enough in case of assets like land and flat - Real Estate in particular. The nominee is just holding the asset for giving it to the 'real' owners. What it means is that your children can challenge your wife (nominee) in a worst case scenario. Also for selling the Real estate, she will need to prove that she has good title - nomination is not enough. The list is endless, but I am restricting myself to a dozen good things to implement. No, one does not have to wait for 12 months to start implement thing. Just go ahead and make these things possible! Happy 2022!

Sri Lanka announces USD 1 billion economic relief package; says won't default on debt

COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan government on Tuesday announced a USD 1.2 billion economic relief package amidst a severe foreign exchange crisis even as Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa claimed that the country will not default on its international debt despite the projection of rating agencies about its inability to meet the obligations. Sri Lanka would duly pay the USD 500 million international sovereign bond payment due in a fortnight, Finance Minister Rajapaksa told reporters here. He said that 229 billion Sri Lankan rupees (USD 1.2 billion) would be spent to accommodate the new economic relief package which includes, among other measures, a special allowance of Rs 5,000 (USD 24) per month to 1.5 million government employees, pensioners and differently-abled soldiers from January 2022.

On the question of the country's debt obligations, the minister said that the International Sovereign Bond (ISB) holders would be invited to renegotiate. "We have to repay USD 1,000 million in July, they will be asked if they would be willing to reinvest," Rajapaksa, the younger brother of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, said. "We have high debt from three countries - China, Japan and India. The total outstanding for this year would be USD 6.9 billion," the minister said. Rajapaksa said that farmers, who face a crop reduction by about 25 to 30 per cent this harvesting season, would be offered subsidies. "People owning land below one acre would be given 10,000 rupees (USD 49) subsidy to cultivate food crops," Rajapaksa said. For the plantation sector employees, each family would be given 15 kgs of wheat every month, he said. Agriculturalists have warned that the island would be facing a severe food shortage due to import controls over the foreign exchange crisis and a government decision to ban chemical fertilisers. The government has faced public protests over the high cost of living and worries in the farming community due to the loss of harvest caused by the

chemical fertiliser ban. Inflation hit double digits in November, the highest in 13 years. Rajapaksa said that the relief package will not contribute to further inflation as all expenditure will be within the budget. "There won't be any new taxes or anything," he assured. Rajapaksa said the government has not made any decision yet to seek a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Sri Lanka is currently facing a severe foreign exchange crisis with falling reserves. At the beginning of December, the reserves were sufficient for just a month of imports. In November, the island nation's only refinery was ordered to be shut due to the dollar crisis. The government has opted to import finished petroleum products instead. The government said negotiations are underway with India and Oman to work out credit lines for fuel purchases. Recently, New-York based rating agency Fitch downgraded Sri Lanka's sovereign rating to 'CC' from 'CCC', saying there is an increased probability of a default in coming months in

light of the country's worsening external liquidity position underscored by a drop in foreign exchange reserves. The rating agency said it will be difficult for the government to meet its external debt obligations in 2022 and 2023 in the absence of new external financing sources. Fitch said Sri Lanka's foreign-exchange reserves have declined much faster than it expected, owing to a combination of a higher import bill and foreign-currency intervention by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Foreign exchange reserves have declined by about USD 2 billion since August, falling to USD 1.6 billion at end-November, equivalent to less than one month of current external payments (CXP). This represents a drop in foreign-currency reserves of about USD 4 billion since end-2020, it said. The latest Fitch statement came after the finance minister assured Parliament last month that the government was confident of meeting external debt payments when they fall due. In order to tackle the reserves crisis, Sri Lanka has curtailed imports leading to shortages of essential

light of the country's worsening external liquidity position underscored by a drop in foreign exchange reserves. The rating agency said it will be difficult for the government to meet its external debt obligations in 2022 and 2023 in the absence of new external financing sources. Fitch said Sri Lanka's foreign-exchange reserves have declined much faster than it expected, owing to a combination of a higher import bill and foreign-currency intervention by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Foreign exchange reserves have declined by about USD 2 billion since August, falling to USD 1.6 billion at end-November, equivalent to less than one month of current external payments (CXP). This represents a drop in foreign-currency reserves of about USD 4 billion since end-2020, it said. The latest Fitch statement came after the finance minister assured Parliament last month that the government was confident of meeting external debt payments when they fall due. In order to tackle the reserves crisis, Sri Lanka has curtailed imports leading to shortages of essential

HDFC Life completes the acquisition of Exide Life

NEW DELHI: HDFC Life Insurance Company Ltd has completed the acquisition of Exide Life Insurance Company Limited on 1 January 2022 after it received all relevant regulatory approvals. From 1 January, Exide Life will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of HDFC Life. HDFC Life Insurance has acquired Exide Life through a cash pay-out of Rs 726 crore and issuance of 8,70,22,222 equity shares at price of Rs 685 per share to Exide Industries Limited. Post-acquisition, Exide Industries now holds 4.1% stake in HDFC Life. The process for merger of Exide Life into HDFC Life will be initiated shortly. In a statement by HDFC Life, the company said Exide Life's agency-based distribution model, strong presence in South India, experience across

tier 2 and tier 3 locations complement HDFC Life and will help expand its market and bolster its proprietary distribution. Vibha Padalkar, MD & CEO, HDFC Life said, "We recognise that the life insurance market in India is multi-faceted, where one solution might not fit all. Different distribution channels and a varied product mix help cater to different customer cohorts across the diverse Indian geography, and this acquisition is an important milestone towards our strategic objective of bringing more people into the fold of financial protection." Exide Life Insurance has total AUM of over Rs 18,000 crore (at the end of March 2021) and boasts of over 40,000 insurance advisors across 200 cities in the country. It had a total asset under management of Rs 1.91 lakh crore at the end of second quarter of 2021-22.

NALCO Joins KABIL
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cater to the requirements of crucial sectors such as e-mobility, renewable energy, medicine, aerospace, aviation etc. Based on a commissioned study and selection criteria, select source countries have been shortlisted for exploring possibilities of mineral asset acquisition abroad. So far, engagement of KABIL is under way with source countries like Australia, Argentina, Bolivia and Chile which are endowed with cited critical and strategic minerals. The primary interface has been the respective Embassies and Missions of India in those countries for sharing of information primarily with state owned organizations for taking up due diligence and investment decisions with respect to prospective mineral acreages.

Over 50,000 devotees visit Srimandir, containment zone returns to Puri
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reports of two hotel employees also came positive. The administration has collected swab samples of all the inmates and hotel staff and sent those to lab for genome sequencing. All of them have been asked to remain in hotel till their test reports arrive. Verma said the Kolkata administration has been informed about the infected patient. In view of the rise in Covid cases, the administration has deployed health workers to screen tourists at the railway station and bus stand. As many as 10 mobile squads have been engaged in inspecting hotels, restaurants, guesthouses and dharmashalas to ensure strict adherence to the SOP on Covid-19.

Novak Djokovic to play Australian Open after experts grant COVID-19 exemption

MELBOURNE: World number one Novak Djokovic said on Tuesday that he was heading to the Australian Open to defend his title after being granted a COVID-19 medical exemption to play. All participants at the opening Grand Slam of the year, which starts on January 17, need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or have the exemption, which is assessed by an independent panel of experts. The Serb has repeatedly refused to confirm if

he has been inoculated, with his participation at Melbourne Park the subject of intense speculation after he pulled out of the ongoing ATP Cup in Sydney.

"I've spent fantastic quality time with my loved ones over the break and today I'm heading Down Under with an exemption permission. Let's go 2022!" the nine-time Australian Open winner, who beat Daniil Medvedev in last year's final,

said on Instagram.

His post was accompanied by a picture of the 34-year-old at an airport, looking relaxed, with his bags on a trolley. "Djokovic applied for a medical exemption which was granted following a rigorous review process involving two separate independent panels of medical experts," Tennis Australia said in a statement.

'Genuine reason' Tournament director Craig Tiley last week confirmed a number of players had been granted exemptions, without naming Djokovic, while explaining the process involved. "There are two medical panels that assess any application, and they assess it in a blind way. They don't know who the applicant is," he told reporters.

"Against the ATAGI [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation] guidelines, an exemption gets granted or not. The reason for granting that exemption remains private, between the panel and the applicant," he added. He said on Tuesday there had to have been a "genuine reason" to grant an exemption. "Central to this process was that the decisions were made by independent medical experts and that every applicant was given due consideration," he said.

Djokovic expressed his opposition to the COVID-19 vaccine in April 2020 when it was suggested they might be obligatory so tournament play could resume. "Personally I am not pro-vaccines. I would not like it for someone to compel me to be vaccinated so I can travel. But if it becomes compulsory, what will happen? I will have to make a decision," said Djokovic. It is not the first time Djokovic has opposed the perceived medical route having been against

surgery when he had an elbow problem in 2017 -- this decision led to his split with then coach Andre Agassi. However, when his alternative remedy did not work he opted for surgery in 2018 although he regretted doing so on a personal note. "Every time I thought about what I did, I felt like I had failed myself," Djokovic told the Daily Telegraph.



Djokovic has received support from his family too over his Australian conundrum. His father Srdjan said in late November that his son would probably not play in Melbourne, accusing the organisers of "blackmail". Government officials in Victoria state, which hosts the Australian Open, had been adamant for months that only vaccinated players would be able to play the tournament. "They're the rules. Medical exemptions are just that -- it's not a loophole for privileged tennis players," the state's Deputy Premier James Merlino said recently. Confirmation that the Serbian superstar is en route sets the scene for a showdown with arch-rival Rafael Nadal, with both gunning for a record 21st Grand Slam title. The Spanish superstar is already in Melbourne preparing after recovering from the coronavirus. Fellow 20-time Grand Slam winner Roger Federer is sidelined by injury and not travelling to Australia.

Monaco hires Club Brugge coach Philippe Clement to replace Niko Kovac

MONACO: Monaco appointed coach Philippe Clement on a 2 1/2-year deal on

naco back into the elite of French soccer and on the European scene," Monaco vice

was being replaced on Thursday, with the club sixth in the league after 19

reach the Champions League, losing a playoff to Shakhtar Donetsk 3-2 on ag-



Monday after firing Niko Kovac during the midseason break. The 2017 French league champion said on its website that the 47-year-old Clement signed on until June 2024 from Belgian side Club Brugge. "His ability to bring the best out of young and talented squads while meeting higher and higher objectives throughout his career, make him the fitting person (to) bring Mo-

president Oleg Petrov said. Clement played 333 games, and scored 45 goals, as a defender for Club Brugge. He took charge in June 2019 and won two Belgian league titles to make it three in a row, after winning with Genk the previous season. "Thanks coach and lots of good luck!" Brugge said on its Twitter account. Kovac was told he

games, following a third-place finish last season. Reserve team coach Stephane Nado took charge of Monaco on Sunday for a French Cup win at second-tier Quevilly-Rouen, as last season's runner-up reached the last 16. Monaco started badly with one win from six league games, and that was against promoted side Troyes. Monaco also failed to

gregate. Monaco hired Kovac after firing Roberto Moreno in June 2020, citing the former Croatia midfielder's success while coaching Bayern Munich, Eintracht Frankfurt and his own national team. Although he led Bayern to a league and cup double in 2019, he was fired in November of that year.

Ind vs SA, 2nd Test: Shardul Thakur's seven wickets help India bowl out South Africa for 229 on Day 2



JOHANNESBURG: Shardul Thakur picked up a maiden five-wicket haul as India bowled out South Africa for 229 in their first innings on the second day of the second Test here on Tuesday. Thakur ran through

the hosts' batting line-up with figures of 7 for 61 after Keegan Petersen struck a fine half-century before lunch. Resuming at the overnight score of 35 for one, South Africa added 53 runs before losing skipper Dean Elgar for 28 but

Petersen held the other end, scoring 62 off 118 balls. The visitors were all out for 202 in their first innings. South Africa took a first innings lead of 27 runs over India. Brief Scores: India 1st innings: 202

all out in 63.1 overs. (Mayank Agarwal 26, KL Rahul 50; Duanne Olivier 3/64, Marco Jansen 4/31, Kagiso Rabada 3/64). South Africa 1st innings: 229 all out in 79.4 overs (Keegan Petersen 62; Shardul Thakur 7/61).



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