

### FIH Men's Hockey World Cup trophy tour gets rousing welcome in Cuttack

CUTTACK(KCN): The FIH Men's Hockey World Cup trophy was accorded a rousing welcome during its tour here on Wednesday. The city's 'Bhaichara' (brotherhood) was noticed during the tour with leaders of BJD, Congress and BJP taking part in the tour. CMC mayor Subhas Singh, Barabati-Cuttack MLA Mohammed Moquim and BJP's city unit

Baliyatra ground on Wednesday morning at 7.00 am, with the first stop at Chandi Mandir, followed by Shailabala Women's Autonomous College, Buxi Bazar square, Netaji birthplace, Qadam-e-Rasool, Choudhury Bazar, Naya Sadak, Balu bazar, Chandni Chowk and Bell view square.

From Bell view square, the procession then moved to CDA through the Sati Chaura chhak.

Then it travelled to Ravenshaw College via through Chahata chhak and Jobra ring road. The trophy then made its way through College Square, Ranihat and reached Barabati stadium via Mangalabag where the trophy was handed over to the concerned officials.

"The enthusiasm was visible in people as we took it to various destinations. People cutting across party lines came forward and welcomed the hockey World Cup trophy on the routes," mayor Subhas Singh said.

"It is a matter of pride for Cuttack city to host the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup's opening ceremony at Barabati Stadium," said Moquim. As per the plan, the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) had set up 15 fan parks where people watched the opening ceremony event live on big screens.



president Lalatendu Badu were found sitting together on the front of the vehicle carrying the trophy.

School and college students lined up the roads and streets to welcome the trophy. The routes through which the trophy passed too wore a carnival-like atmosphere. As per reports, the trophy which was received on Tuesday evening at Kandarpur by government officials was then taken to the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor stadium.

The trophy tour started from the lower

### Parties face 'royal' hurdle in poll-bound Tripura

GUWAHATI(KCN): The Left and the Congress are coming closer to each other in election-bound Tripura to unseat the ruling BJP but this may not be enough. The tribe-based TIPRA



Motha, which is headed by the royal scion Pradyot Kishore Debbarma, could well emerge as the kingmaker. The TIPRA Motha has not shown

CONTINUED ON: P-7

### India to take up development issues facing Global South at G-20 meetings: Sitharaman

NEW DELHI(KCN): India will take up developmental issues of the Global South at the meetings of the G-20 countries emphasising that there should not be any first world or third world, but only one world having a common future.

Addressing the ministerial session at the Global South Summit, she said India will use the G-20 Presidency to encourage collective solutions to deal with the numerous challenges facing the world, like economic slowdown, rising inflation, threat of resurgence of pandemic and risks emerging from geopolitical conflicts.

"While maintaining close relations with

developed countries, India is keen to put forward the point of view of the Global South -- our co-passengers on the path of development for decades.

"We strongly believe there should not be any first world or a third world, but just one world with a shared understanding for a common future," Sitharaman said while speaking on the theme of 'Financing People Centric Development'.

India has taken over the presidency of the G-20, which is a grouping of 20 developing and developed nations, for the current year from December 1, 2022.

The 'Global South' largely refers to countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

India is hosting the two-day summit to bring together countries of the Global South and provide them a common platform to share

their common concerns relating to various global challenges, including food and energy security triggered by the Ukraine conflict.

Sitharaman said as the world rebuilds itself from the pandemic, the Global South needs to exhibit "strong solidarity" to deal with challenges like pandemic, climate change and geopolitical tensions which are affecting efforts for development and economic growth. The Minister said that the hardships posed by

the pandemic have exposed vulnerabilities at all levels and shown that a major scale up of response mechanisms is required so that the support provided by these institutions is responsive to country-specific needs.

"We believe strengthening multilateral development banks is a key to addressing the global challenges of the 21st century," she said, adding the recent geopolitical tension and the pandemic has aggravated the global debt vulnerabilities.

"If left unaddressed, these mounting debt vulnerabilities can trigger global recession and push millions to extreme poverty. Under India's G-20 Presidency, financing for the social dimension of sustainable development is an important priority," Sitharaman said.

The Minister said as the majority of global efforts are being focussed on tackling climate issues, it is essential that world leaders also take into account the social dimension of development to tackle pressing issues like increasing social inequalities.



### President Murmu greets citizens on Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Magh Bihu, Pongal

NEW DELHI(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday greeted citizens on Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Magh Bihu, and

Bhavan said.

"These festivals are symbols of India's unity in diversity and are the carriers of our culture. They are celebrated in various forms in different regions but their aim is to strengthen the spirit of social harmony and brotherhood. We also express our gratitude to nature by celebrating these festivals," she said.

"I wish all these festivals bind different communities of India in the bonds of love, harmony and affection and bring happiness and prosperity to all," the president said. "On the auspicious occasion of the festivals of Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Magh Bihu and Pongal, I convey my greetings and best wishes to all the countrymen living in India and abroad," she said.



Pongal, and wished that the festivals bind different communities in the bonds of love, harmony and affection.

Murmu has greeted her fellow citizens on the eve of Lohri (January 13) Makar Sankranti, Magh Bihu, and Pongal (January 14), a statement issued by the Rashtrapati

### Fighting in Soledar, Bakhmut is the 'bloodiest' of the war so far: Kyiv

KYIV(KCN): Fighting in Soledar and Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine is the "bloodiest" of the war so far, Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhaylo Podolyak told AFP

Wagner mercenary outfit, have been trying to seize control of the area in the eastern Donbas region for months.

"There's a lot of blood, a lot of artillery duelling, a lot of close contact fighting, especially today in Soledar," Podolyak added, describing the battered salt-mining town as the "hottest spot in the war". Podolyak said he believes Russia is suffering "enormous" losses in the battle for the town but conceded the Ukrainian



Wednesday.

"Everything happening now around Bakhmut and Soledar are the bloodiest scenes of this war," Podolyak said in an interview.

Russian forces, especially units of the

side was also seeing casualties.

"The Ukrainian army is also losing people. It's definitely more than anywhere before," he said.

Podolyak said that, CONTINUED ON: P-7

### World is in state of crisis: PM Modi at Voice of Global South summit

New Delhi(KCN): The world is in a state of crisis and it is difficult to predict how long this state of instability will last, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday referring to various global challenges arising out of conflict, war and terrorism among others.

In his opening remarks at the Voice of Global South virtual summit, Modi flagged concerns over rising prices of food, fuel and fertilisers, the economic impact of COVID-19 as well as natural disasters driven by climate change.

"It is clear that world is in a state of crisis," he said in presence of several leaders of various developing countries.

He added that it is difficult to predict how long the "state of instability" will last.

"We, the Global South, have largest stakes in the future...Most of global challenges have not been created by the Global South, but they affect us more," he said.

Modi said India has always shared its developmental experience with our "brothers of the Global South".

As India begins its G20 Presidency this year, it is natural that our aim is to amplify the

voice of the Global South, he said. India is hosting the two-day summit to bring together countries of the Global South and

provide them a common platform to share their common concerns relating to various global challenges, including food and energy security triggered by the Ukraine conflict

The 'Global South' largely refers to countries in Asia, Africa and South America. The theme of the inaugural leaders' session is "Voice of Global South - for Human-Centric Development" while the leaders' concluding session will be on "Unity of Voice-Unity of Purpose". The summit envisages ten sessions out of which four sessions would be held on Thursday while six sessions would take place on Friday. Each session is expected to witness the participation of leaders and ministers from 10-20 countries.



# BSKY Growth 413% Tag for Basmati Rice

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Society (SHAS) Brundha D. Reviewing the progress, Dr. Brundha directed Nodal Officers in

monitoring of the number of patients in a hospital along with the treatment details. The bills against treatment of patients were also submitted, scrutinized and sanctioned online without any need for the hospital officers visiting SHAS office for payment of the bills. Presenting the updates, Joint CEO, S u b h a n a n d a Mohapatra said that in the calendar year 2021 around 1.26 lakh patients were provided cashless critical and super-specialty treatment under BSKY in different private hospitals which crossed 6.45 lakhs in the year 2022, thereby recording a growth of 413 percent. Similarly, the amount against the cashless treatment claimed by different hospitals also grew by 548 Percentage. The total amount claimed by

the hospitals to SHAS in the calendar year 2021 was around Rs. 224.87 crore. In the year 2022, the total claim increased to Rs. 1456.42 cr thereby recording a growth of 548 percentage. The number of hospitals also increased from 187 to 554 during these two years showing a growth rate of around 333 percent. The Nodal Officers appraised about the increasing rate of in-door patients in the hospitals, and expressed the hope that the trend might increase further in coming months. The Additional Director SHAS, Bishnu Prasad Mohapatra, Joint CEO (Finance) Aurabind Routray, Deputy CEO, Sambit Kumar Behera along with senior officers of the SHAS participated in the discussions.

New Delhi(KCN): For the first time in the country, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has specified the identity standards for Basmati Rice (including Brown Basmati Rice, Milled Basmati Rice, Parboiled Brown Basmati Rice and Milled Parboiled Basmati Rice) vide Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2023 notified in the Gazette of India. As per these standards, Basmati rice shall possess natural fragrance characteristic of basmati rice and be free from artificial colouring, polishing agents and artificial fragrances. These standards also specify various identity and quality parameters for basmati rice such as average size of grains and their elongation ratio after cooking; maximum limits of moisture, amylose content, uric acid, defective/damaged grains and incidental presence of other non-basmati rice etc. The standards are aimed at establishing fair practices in the trade of Basmati rice and protect consumer interest, both domestically and globally. These standards will be enforced w.e.f 1st August, 2023. Basmati rice is a premium variety of rice cultivated in the Himalayan foothills of the Indian sub-continent and is universally known

for its long grain size, fluffy texture and unique inherent aroma and flavour. Agro-climatic conditions of the specific geographical areas where Basmati rice is grown; as well as the method of harvesting, processing and ageing of the rice contributes to the uniqueness of Basmati rice. Due to its unique quality attributes, Basmati is a widely consumed variety of rice both domestically and globally



recorded a growth rate of 413 percent in the number of patients provided cashless super specialty and critical treatment in private sector hospitals. This was known from an internal review meeting taken by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of State Health Assurance

charge of the different private sector hospitals to do due diligence of the documents and bills submitted online by the hospitals against their claims for payment. It may be pertinent here to mention that SHAS adopted online web based system for real time



and India accounts for two thirds of its global supply. Being a premium quality rice and fetching a price higher than the non-basmati varieties, Basmati rice is prone to various types of adulteration for economic gains which may include, among others, undeclared blending of other non-basmati varieties of rice. Therefore, in order to ensure supply of standardised genuine Basmati rice in domestic and export markets, FSSAI has notified regulatory standards for Basmati rice that have been framed through extensive consultations with the concerned government departments / agencies and other stakeholders as well.

## Tech for Coal Dust Next Budget@2.40L CR! State Approves CAMPA Plan

New Delhi(KCN): In order to minimize and control the fugitive dust in mining areas, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), Ranchi has invented a "System and Method for Controlling Generation and Movement of Fugitive Dust". This system can be used in mines, thermal power plants, railway sidings, ports, construction sites wherein coal or other minerals/fugitive materials are stored under open sky. Apart from reducing the dust generation from open sources, it will also provide noise attenuation. Coal/Lignite PSUs under the Ministry of Coal consistently strive to produce quality



coal in an environmentally responsible manner to meet the country's energy needs. To prevent or mitigate air pollution caused by coal mining and allied activities, coal/lignite PSUs are adopting various measure. Fugitive dust is a form of particulate matter that contributes to air pollution that is generated from various sources which are exposed to air and not discharged into the atmosphere through a confined flow stream. The present invention relates to the synchronized application of windbreak (WB) and vertical greenery system (VGS) for reducing generation and dispersion of fugitive dust. The WB and VGS are erected in the upwind and downwind direction with respect to the fugitive dust source(s) respectively. The WB reduces the speed of the wind approaching towards the source and hence, it reduces the intensity of the ambient air to pick up dust while blowing over the source. The VGS acts as a filter and reduces the quantity of the residual dust moving along with the wind towards the receptors in the down-wind direction. Therefore, there is a significant reduction in the concentration of the dust in the ambient air at various receptors located in the down-wind direction.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): While Annual Budget formulation is going on in Odisha the size of the State Annual Budget for 2023-24 is likely to cross Rs.2.40 Lakh Crore Mark. According to financial analysts as a percentage of GSDP, the size of the Budget has remained within



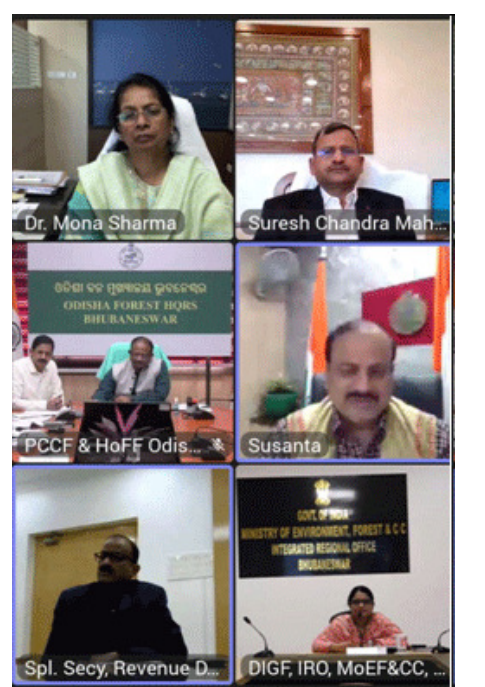
the range of 20 % – 25% with minor inter-year variations. So with Annual Budget for 2022-23 was Rs.2 Lakh Crore and with 20%-25% variation it is expected that Annual Budget for 2023-24 is likely to have a much bigger one. As per the latest IMF projection, the world economy is expected to grow 3.2% this year, before slowing further to a 2.7% in 2023. RBI has projected India's economy to grow around 7.2% during this fiscal and will have a growth of 6.5% during 2023-24. In case of Odisha, the economy is projected to register higher growth of about 8% in 2022-23

as well as in 2023-24. Analysts pointed out that the Budget formulation is now based on the micro-economic outlook and the fiscal framework envisaged in the fiscal responsibility legislation with an objective to counter the deficit bias and maintain a

dium term our focus would be on arresting the decline in the level of revenue surplus though appropriate revenue augmentation and revenue expenditure rationalization measures. Over the next three years, Odisha plans to maintain a fiscal deficit consistent with the require-

Bhubaneswar(KCN): State Level Steering Committee of State CAMPA(Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority) held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Suresh Chandra Mahapatra virtually today approved the outlay for Annual Plan of Operation for 2023-24. Additional Chief Secretary, Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Mona Sharma PCCF & HoFF, Debidutta Biswal, PCCF (Nodal & FCA) Susanta Nanda, along with senior officers from concerned departments were present in the meeting. During the discussion, Chief Secretary said that wildlife management activities extensively being carried out through CAMPA funds are to be closely monitored. The afforestation programmes are also to be monitored using CAMPA tracker and through satellite in every six months and to be verified in the field though frequent inspection by senior officers. A joint meeting with concerned Department is to be conducted to prepare a five year action plan to upgrade forest road to Grade-1 metalling and the material intensive components such as culverts and causeway need to be covered under CAMPA funding. He further stressed on relocation of villages from Tiger Reserve Sanctuary. VHF networking needs to be improved in all division ensuring all days monitoring. Engagement of forest labour under MGNREGS for 100 days work for which a definite pool will be created at the Gram Panchayat levels, he added. He also directed the concern officials to prepare a comprehensive plan to avoid Human-Animal conflict. He further stressed that Chandaka Wild Life Division needs to identify all the revenue forest patches in order

to develop elephant corridor. The Chief Executive Officer, State Authority, CAMPA, Pradeep Raj Karat presented the details of the activities proposed under CAMPA Annual Plan of Operations (APO) 2023-24 with



financial outlay of Rs.1085.94 Crore. After detailed discussion, the committee went through all the activities proposed in the APO with financial outlay of Rs.1085.94 Crore and approved the same for submission to Govt. of India for their consideration. The APO mainly focuses on taking up of plantations and other activities like maintenance of old Plantations, Forest protection, Fire protection, Simultaneous Silvicultural Operations for Bamboo forests, Soil and Moisture Conservation activities in forest lands, Wildlife management, relocation of villages from protected areas, Forest infrastructure development, Training and research, Capacity building, Forest IT & GIS, raising of 18 month old seedling, Publicity and awareness, Monitoring and Evaluation. DGPS survey of all forest areas in the state is one of the major activities among these.

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**Maara Movie Review: A grounded remake of Charlie with quite a bit of heart**

If you didn't know that Maara is the remake of the Malayalam film, Charlie, the opening shot of fireflies fluttering about is a strong hint of the magic contained within the universe of this film. Shortly, you see little Paaru in rapt attention, as a nun narrates to her the story of a soldier who's travelling across seas and jungles in a quest to find his soul. This is pretty much the story of this film as well, as Paaru (Shraddha Srinath) grows up to find herself in a similar quest for her soul, well, soulmate, in Maara (Madhavan). There's another quest for a soulmate in this film, one undertaken by Vellaiyan (a wonderful Mouli), one that is later taken over by Maara. The film is a reinforcement of the power of stories, of the stories each of our lives are. This is why there are multiple characters with their own short stories, including those of Selvi (Abhirami), the sex worker, and Kani (Sshivada), the guilt-ridden doctor. The implication is that no one story is necessarily more important than another. I got the sense that Maara doesn't think of himself as a hero or a saviour, even if those around him seem to believe that. He's merely a tool, a person who breezes through life hoping to repay the extraordinary help that Vellaiyan has done to him. I loved this touch because shorn of it, Maara, the character, could

have felt idealistic and unrelatable—which would have gone against the point of the film itself. This way, there's a reason for why Maara is the way he is, why he can't afford to stay at one place for too long. I quite enjoyed that

over the walls of Maara's home, in the designer kites, in the sketchbook and its pencil illustrations, in the sculptures... hell, even in the blotches of Maara's acid-wash hoodies. There's a call through this film, through its charac-

ters, to refuse to fall into the trap of mundanity and indifference, into routine and repetition. Maara is pretty much the film equivalent of 'Follow the white rabbit'. That's perhaps why during a conversation between Maara and a thief (Alexander Babu), you can see a neon sign in the background that reads 'White Rabbit'. The usual response to such a call is to cite a lack of financial security, and while that is a reason to be empathetic about—especially given the enviously cushy work-free existence Paaru seems to be leading in this film—we could also note how Maara, who's hardly a wealthy man (as a thief realises),

magic of life in you, it seems to be saying... notice the almost mystical beauty of existence. It's also likely that this is why the film's many shots are lit as they are, with many faces often aglow, as though in the presence of a halo. This is why the coincidences in this film become palatable. The central idea at the heart of this film is of two lonely souls in search of each other. Take note of that inexplicable attraction little Paaru feels as she sees a speeding train from within her bus. Or take note of that instinctive smile from Maara as he steps into his room, a room that Paaru has lived in briefly. In such a film, coincidences are to be

thought of as divine providence, or as one character, when speaking about Maara says, "destiny". Another likens him to a mythical character, Santa Claus, while commenting on Maara's habit of sudden appearances that usually result in joy

stead. Watch him in another scene with Paaru as she tells him about Meenakshi; watch his eyes grow wide in surprise, and almost well up under the weight of decades of mourning. Ghibran's background music and Thamarai's evocative lyrics add so much to such scenes as well. It's wonderful that films like Maara are able to offer elderly characters like Mouli's as much purpose and are able to see them for the individuals that they are, instead of simply as a crutch for a lead character. Of course, much of this credit must go to the original film, Charlie. In a world that is in a tearing hurry, at a time when films and stories are designed to be rapid for fear of making audiences impatient, films like Maara come as a welcome relief. In this film, at least two important exchanges—between Vellaiyan and Paaru, and later, between Maara and Kani—happen as wood slowly burns to ember, as tender faces are lit by the warm glow of a fireplace. It's for such moments that I'll remember this film, even if some inconsistent performances and some synthetic moments stop it from being truly great. Nevertheless, it's a film that has heart and that encourages empathy towards those around us, and if possible, to note that magicity doesn't need to be thought of as an otherworldly trait, if only we cared to pay more attention to the beauty around us.



Director: Dhilip Kumar  
Cast: Madhavan, Shraddha Srinath, Mouli  
The film is almost a homage to art—and the dreaminess inherent in it. This can be spotted throughout the film: In the pretty wall murals, in the art plastered across and drawn all

to whoever he meets. Maara himself, as he does many times in this film, underplays this notion that he's a mystical being. It's his understanding—and you will see it from his eyes when he's engaged in conversation with every single character—that each of us is magical, as are our stories. In this film with performances that range from great to over-the-top, I loved Mouli in particular, who plays Vellaiyan, an old man consumed by his unrequited love. Watch him in that scene with Paaru as he brings to her an old photo of his beloved, Meenakshi, but hesitates after seeing her be so charmed by photos of Maara in-

magic of life in you, it seems to be saying... notice the almost mystical beauty of existence. It's also likely that this is why the film's many shots are lit as they are, with many faces often aglow, as though in the presence of a halo. This is why the coincidences in this film become palatable. The central idea at the heart of this film is of two lonely souls in search of each other. Take note of that inexplicable attraction little Paaru feels as she sees a speeding train from within her bus. Or take note of that instinctive smile from Maara as he steps into his room, a room that Paaru has lived in briefly. In such a film, coincidences are to be

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**Shooting for third season of 'Four More Shots Please' to begin soon: Kirti Kulhari**

**MUMBAI(KCN):** Bollywood actor Kirti Kulhari on Thursday said shoot for her series "Four More Shots Please!" is set to commence in coming days. The Amazon Prime

Taking to Instagram, Kulhari shared her excitement to team up with her co-actors again for the new season. "And we are back #fourmoreshotsplease #season3 shoot begins

tions, the show was recently nominated in the best comedy series category at the 48th International Emmy Awards. On the film front, Kulhari is currently awaiting the release



Video series, which also features Sayani Gupta, Maanvi Gargroo and Bani J, follows a quartet of friends who deal with their relationships, work-life conflicts, ambitions and anxieties in a male-dominated society.

super soon. Lovely to be back with the crazy 3," Kulhari wrote alongside a series of candid photos with Gupta, Gargroo and Bani. Created by Rangita Pritish Nandy and produced by Pritish Nandy Communica-

of the Hindi remake of Hollywood blockbuster "The Girl on the Train", starring Parineeti Chopra. The movie, which premiere on streamer Netflix on February 26, will feature Kulhari as a British cop.

**Vijay Sethupathi, Katrina Kaif in Sriram Raghavan's next?**

It was recently revealed that Sriram Raghavan's upcoming film, Ekkis, has been put on hold. A big-budget military drama starring Varun

Santosh Sivan, is a Hindi remake of Maanagaram (2017). He is also rumoured to star in an upcoming web series directed by Raj and

Sriram Raghavan's last film was Andhadhun (2018) with Ayushmann Khurrana and Tabu. The film is getting a Tamil and Telugu re-



Dhawan, the film was delayed due to Covid-19.

DK. The unrevealed series will also star Shahid Kapoor.

make with Prashanth and Nithiin, respectively, in the lead.

Banita Sandhu clarifies on COVID-19 diagnosis, says she 'continues to test negative'

Now, rumour has it that Sriram has signed Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi for his next. If true, this is the latest Hindi project Vijay Sethupathi is attached to — the others being Laal Singh Chadha and Mumbaikar. The latter, directed by

**MUMBAI(KCN):** "October" actor Banita Sandhu on Thursday said she has continued to test negative for COVID-19 since her arrival to the country in January 3, contrary to what is being reported in media.

According to health department sources, Sandhu had tested positive for COVID-19 on January 4 in Kolkata after flying from United Kingdom and was admitted to a private hospital after she refused to be treated in a government facility.

# Tips for Preventing Cold Weather Acne

Nothing much blooms in winter, but acne may be an exception.

Acne is a chronic skin condition that can remain troublesome all year around. However, the problem could aggravate considerably, especially during the winter season.



Winter, a season known for its low humidity levels makes, the most superficial layer of our skin (epidermis) go dry which leads to acne breakouts

Winter tends to be the driest time of the year, are accompanied by dry skin that eventually increases sebum production, a type of oily and waxy substance that the small glands of the skin secrete. Sebum helps keep your skin properly moist and supple, but too much can make the cells stick to each other. This can lead to clogged pores and acne breakouts. Luckily, winter acne is both treatable and preventable

Where clogged pores and acne are concerned, prevention is better than cure. Cleansing is very important to prevent clogged pores, es-

pecially since oily skins attract more impurities. The pores

have to be free of hardened oil. Use a cleanser, which is specially formulated for normal to oily skins. A cleansing lotion or face wash may be used. For oily skin problems, like spots, pimples and acne use a medicated soap or cleanser, which helps to remove impurities without disturbing the acid-alkaline balance.

An astringent lotion is also an integral part of cleansing of oily skin, as it not only reduces oiliness, but also shrinks the pores. After washing the face, wipe it with an astringent lotion, using cotton wool. If it is too harsh, mix the astringent lotion with rose water in equal quantities and use it. Or, use a rose-based skin tonic. For oily skins, rose water can be mixed with cucumber juice in equal quantities also helps to cleanse and close the pores.

Exfoliation is an important aspect in the cleansing of oily skins to cleanse the pores. This involves the use of scrubs, which should be rubbed gently on the skin and washed off with water. They help to remove dead skin cells, refining the pores and keeping them free of hardened oil. They also improve the

**Shahnaz Husain**

skin texture. You can make a scrub at home by mixing oats with rose water and applying it on the face. Rub gently with circular movements and wash off with water. This not only helps to prevent blackheads, but also to close the pores gradually. However, do not use scrubs on pimples and acne. Also, avoid using soap and water several times a day.

You can also mix oats with egg white and apply on the areas with open pores twice a week. Wash it off when it is dry. This would work like a scrub and also tighten the pores. Dry and powdered orange and lemon peels can also be added to facial scrubs and masks.

In winter, an oily skin may also need a moisturiser, since the cold weather tends to aggravate dryness. However, avoid applying heavy and oily creams. You can apply a light moisturising lotion. Or, apply aloe vera gel. It moisturises the skin without making it oily. It also makes the skin soft and smooth. One must keep in mind to pick a moisturizer that suits their skin type.

A Vitamin C serum would help an oily skin and prevent clogged pores. Vitamin C is rich in antioxidants, keeping the skin healthy, while serums are light and normally water-

based and are thus ideal for oily skin. Orange peels are a rich source of Vitamin C. In fact, the peels are said to contain more Vitamin C than the fruit itself. Dried and powdered orange peels can be used in scrubs and masks, to absorb oil and tighten the pores. Grind fresh orange peels into a paste. Add oats and rose water and apply the pack on the face to benefit minimize pores and even blemishes. Diet is important. If the system is congested, it reflects on the skin. Keep the system cleansed by including fresh fruits, raw salads, sprouts, whole grains and yogurt in your daily diet. Drink 6 to 8 glasses of water daily. Add the juice of a lemon to a glass of tepid water and have it first thing in the morning. There are various benefits offered by flaxseed oil. Apart from health benefits, flaxseed oil can do wonders for the skin. It has abilities to hydrate the skin and enhance the texture of the skin by making it smooth and decreasing the dryness and irritation of the skin. Exercising pumps more oxygen in the body that eventually helps in keeping the skin healthy and glowing. Moreover, it will also help in keeping you warm and active.

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

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

# Salute to each bud of India that blossomed across the world



9th January is celebrated on every year as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. This day was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that

Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever. The first PBD was held in January 2003 in New Delhi. So far 13 editions of the PBD Convention have been held, the last in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in January 2015 which coincided with the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa. It is also known as Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day is celebrated to strengthen the

**Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit**

atmosphere to all Indians in India or abroad to come together and work together for strengthening economy. It's good to have such gathering of NRI but should have long term results for the working class who bring foreign remittance.

The event holds much importance as it also helps in extensive networking among the Indian community who attend it from various parts of the world. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas programme serves

## Spiritual evolution of Vivekananda

**Uma Sankar Prasad**

Swami Vivekananda had a firm faith in the unity of Godhood and the deeper unity of all religions. The real sub star of all religions lies in their principles and it is there, that unity of all religions can be seen. Spiritualism refers to the steady manifest at of the divine within, out of which goodness, purity, love and service alone can manifest. Religion becomes a science only when we seek it, and not merely when we are born in it. The fullest development of man and the happiest of inter-human relations cannot be achieved merely stressing, and over stressing the ethical aspect of any religion. According to Vivekananda, ethical religion, with its do's and don'ts can remain a base but we have to build the Superstructure of Spirituality on it. India as enlivened by Vivekananda, gently whisp-to-day in to the ears of every one of us – Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh and others.

The view of M.N.Roy is that nationalism of Vivekananda was in the nature of Spiritual imperialism. However it is pointed out that the very idea of Spiritualism is a contradiction in terms. What Vivekananda pleaded for was not imperialism but nationalism based on Spiritualism and hence Vivekananda, can be described as the father of religious and Spiritual nationalism in India. To Quote Vivekananda, "Race, religion, Government, all these together make the nation. The one common ground that we have is our sacred tradition, our religion. The one common ground that we have is our sacred tradition, our religion. This is the only common ground and upon that we shall have to build. In Europe, Political ideas form national unity. The Unity in religion, therefore, is absolutely necessary as the first condition of the future of India. What he meant by religion, was that of in fundamentals which were common to all religions, should be accepted throughout India. He emphasised the importance of one religion is bringing about unity in these words." We see how in Asia and especially in India race difficulties, linguistic difficulties, national difficulties, social difficulties, all melt away before this unifying power of religion. Therefore that 1<sup>st</sup> plank in the making of a future India, the first step that is to be hewn out of that rock of ages, is this Unification of all religions." So he has rightly been called the patriot-monk of India.

He asked the young men of the country to be fearless and work for the glory of their country. He called upon the Indians to give up their slavish mentality. Vivekananda defines religion not as a creed or dogma, but as a manifestation of the divinity that is already in man. And so we respect the human being as a spark of divinity. Vivekananda preached, the future of India "will be greater than its past." Swami Vivekananda was a great Indian saint was born as Narendranath Dutta non 12<sup>th</sup> January 1863 in the holy and divine place of Kolkata. He was a figure with "high thinking and simple living." He was a great pious leader, a philosopher, and also a devout personality with great principles.

The Author is a Columnist, Khordha

## Letter to Editor

Dear Editor  
Teachers frequently comment Environmental Education as a perfect way to integrate academic disciplines, stimulate the academic and social development of young minds and promote conservation of the natural environment. Most of the schools have been focusing on Environmental Education a lot, which transmits knowledge about the present situation and future possibilities of nature. It teaches students to examine all the issues related to the environment and therefore participates in sensible ways for preserving it.

But at present due to anthropogenic activities, environmental degradation is happening in an alarming rate with subsequent consequences such as global warming, climate change, ozone layer depletion, greenhouse effects, rise in sea water level, improper monsoon, acid rain s to mention only a handful. Though many conferences, seminars and world summits towards the protection of environment for the past two decades were

conducted, the present world is environmentally less sustainable than in the previous days. Therefore, in order to achieve the acceptable level of global environmental sustainability, the citizens must be empowered with essential knowledge and information especially in developing countries.

Educational institutions are the places where the contact of the society is more, it is possible to bring remarkable changes in the mindset of the public. To protect children living in polluted regions, environmental education represents a relevant means of prevention because this type of education encourages learner's awareness of their environment's ambient conditions, as well as their active participation in solving local problems. It is the need of the hour to propose Environmental Education with the essential elements of moral philosophy at school curriculum.

**Saikat Kumar Basu**  
378 Prince Anwar Shah Road  
Kolkata 700045  
West Bengal India

engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots.

The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is being organized in partnership with the Madhya Pradesh Government from 08-10 January 2023 in **Indore**. The theme of this PBD Convention is "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal" Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention is the flagship event of the Ministry organized every year since January 2003, with a view to connect India to its vast Indian Diaspora and bringing their knowledge, expertise and skills on a common platform. From 2003 to 2015, this was celebrated like a festival commemorating the Indian Diaspora and dedicating it to them. Indian youth and their Diaspora counterparts should come together in developing strong networks, to lead to partnerships in trade, industry, entrepreneurship and social work. The event also serves as a platform to discuss concerns and issues related to the Indian Diaspora around the globe.

The little-known event is also known as 'Non-Resident Indian Day' as it marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa in the year 1915 on January 9. It also acknowledges the contribution of Indian community living abroad in the development of India. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated over three days from January 7-9. According to our Prime Minister Narendra Modi Indian immigrants went abroad looking for opportunities, but today, that situation had changed drastically. In the global context today, India has huge strength and capital.

PBD is the most suitable time and hilarious



as a platform for them to share their valuable experiences in various fields, be it economic or social.

The point of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is to showcase India's unity and present the country as a transnational nation that incorporates the 30-million strong Diaspora and is built upon supposedly shared cultural values in a fictional historical continuum. India can become a superpower and had the potential to become a spiritual and cultural hub. Today India has changed and there are many new opportunities, all kinds of opportunities to earn and make a very good living.

Let us on the day Pavasi Bharatiya Divas; pledge to make our contribution when the entire process of development that is taking place in India.

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur  
Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad

## Last Ukraine doctors offer lifeline in shell-ridden Bakhmut

BAKHMUT: At a health centre in the front-line Ukraine city of Bakhmut, doctor Elena Molchanova ushers patients into a narrow office warmed by a wood-burning stove, where she hands out medication and fills in death certificates.

Sometimes her visitors -- the last remaining residents in the town shelled daily and cut from essential services -- are just seeking shelter from the biting cold.

The 40-year-old doctor is one of just five left in Bakhmut who are now a lifeline to some 8,000 people local officials say are still in the city.

Bakhmut has been at the heart of a grinding fight between Russian and Ukrainian forces in the past few months in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region that Moscow wants to control fully.

When the city was bustling with its pre-war

Supplies depend on what comes in from the health ministry, non-profits, or are even recovered from bombed-out buildings -- like the two wheelchairs carried in by soldiers on Wednesday afternoon.

"It's first come first served," Molchanova said.

"There are not enough insulin syringes and insulin needles. Heart medication ran out very quickly. There is enough paracetamol but that won't cure the patient."

Even if Molchanova can't always offer medical care, she, her husband and two other doctors also provide relief to Bakhmut residents by welcoming them into the basement warren next to the health centre where they live. The low-ceilinged, lamp-lit rooms are lined with high stacks of thick logs to stoke the stoves.

With a generator on hand, residents can charge phones and access a now-rare internet connection as they escape the biting cold.

Icy weather may mean Molchanova no longer worries about refrigerating insulin, but the temperatures have brought in residents suffering with colds or burns from stoves.



population of some 70,000, the hallways of Molchanova's clinic were lit, the toilet running and the welcome desk staffed.

Now, she keeps to the one office, with haphazard stacks of medical equipment, sacks of potatoes and papers piled around her.

She worries the large window behind her desk could shatter if one of the shells crashing around the city hits too close.

But she has no plan to leave.

"When I enrolled in medical school, I took the Hippocratic oath, and I cannot betray these people," she told AFP.

"They come here for medical care, and we provide it the best we can."

Fighting in Soledar, Bakhmut is the 'bloodiest' of the war so far: Kyiv

The elderly and disabled

Many of those still living in the midst of fighting in Bakhmut and the nearby town of Soledar -- described by a top Ukrainian official the "bloodiest" since Russia invaded last February -- are elderly or have disabilities.

Molchanova said the availability of medication and equipment, especially for psychiatric issues or chronic conditions like diabetes, is sporadic at best.

Russia's assault on Ukraine being painted in 'spiritual' terms

Constant shelling

For others, it has been deadly and often it is Molchanova who fills out multiple death certificates a day.

Oleksiy Stepanov came to see the doctor for a death certificate for his 83-year-old neighbour, who died at home where the windows had been blown out.

"People are afraid," Stepanov said.

Tetiana, who asked not to give her last name, came to pick up medicines for her neighbour, an 81-year-old man who is deaf, blind and bed-ridden.

"He has no clue there is a war on, that we're being shelled," she said.

Once paid by his family to care for him, she stays now of her own accord.

"I'm afraid of taking this old man with me. He's in no condition to travel," she said. "I won't leave."

It's a sentiment Molchanova shares.

Even if she doesn't understand why some people have not fled, especially families with children, she feels bound to stay and care for them.

"As long as they are here, I'll be here."

## W20 outreach prog for women grassroots leaders held in Capital

BHUBANESWAR: An outreach programme of Women 20 (W20), an official G20 engagement group focusing on gender equity, was organised here on Wednesday for exchange of ideas and best practices in gender considerations.

The curtain raiser event on Women Grassroots Leaders in Odisha served as a stage for exchanging ideas and best practices in women participation on topics such as labour, equal pay, women in managerial positions, compatibility of family and career, evaluation of gainful employment and care work, female entrepreneurship and ac-

cess to the capital market among others. The event organised by non-profit Humara Bachpan Trust (HBT), was attended by over 1,000 women and



girls from 46 communities in the city. Addressing the event, W20 India chair Sandhya Purecha said, "W20 will make sure that the ideas, opinions, propositions and suggestions of women from every corner of Odisha are incorporated and mainstreamed

into G20 Leaders' discussions and commitments for a state's cumulative growth and development." Chief coordinator of the W20 India secretariat and

founder chairperson of HBT Dharitri Patnaik spoke about the numerous initiatives taken by the Trust which commensurate with the five priority areas of the W20. She also acknowledged the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik for all the pro-women schemes and policies and for ensuring women led development. HBT executive director Arpita Patnaik also spoke. W20 and HBT during the event felicitated women and girls for their exemplary work in bringing significant changes in the field of environment and climate change, grassroots leadership, entrepreneurship, education and skill development, and gender digital divide that come under priority areas of W20. A position paper titled 'Women and Adolescent Girls as Change Agents in Climate Action' was also released on the occasion.

## Night waste collection to continue after FIH Men's Hockey World Cup

BHUBANESWAR: Intensifying sanitation measures in the Capital ahead of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has started waste collection from vendors and market areas during night from this week.

The civic body has also formed sanitation teams with a focus on round the clock cleanliness in and around Kalinga Stadium during the quadrennial event between January 13 and 29. BMC deputy commissioner Suvendu Sahoo said 57 garbage lifting

vehicles have been engaged for collection of garbage from market places, traders and street vendors.



The waste collection starts at 3 pm onwards and continues till late night, Sahoo said. He said, the service launched in view of the World Cup will continue even after the event is over. More vehicles will be engaged for this purpose.

On the other hand, BMC has designated Sahoo and an assistant health officer as the nodal officers for smooth manage-

ment of sanitation activities in and around Kalinga Stadium, where the World Cup matches will be played in the city.

The civic body has divided roads surrounding the stadium in seven different zones. About 100

sanitary workers and 12 loaders will be deployed along with required number of vehicles. Sahoo said on spot monitoring and central reporting have also been planned to ensure proper sanitation and cleaning in the area.

"For each zone there will be sanitary supervisors to report and coordinate component wise activities. Different sanitation agencies have been intimated for their specific assignment in sanitation," he said. Officials said regular fogging in and around the stadium will continue.

## WHO issues alert against substandard India-made drugs linked to deaths in Uzbekistan

NEW DELHI: The World Health Organization has warned against using two Indian cough syrups linked to the deaths of 18 children in Uzbekistan.

The WHO alert comes weeks after Uzbekistan said that 18 children died after consuming a syrup made by the company.

The results of the tests are yet to be announced by the authorities.

The Uttar Pradesh FSD also suspended the company's production license this

authorisations in other countries in the region. They may also have been distributed, through informal markets, to other countries or areas, WHO said.



Issuing a Medical Product Alert against the two substandard products, AMBRONOL syrup and DOK-1 Max syrup, manufactured by Noida-based Marion Biotech, WHO said that the firm had not provided guarantees on the safety and quality of these products. It said that Ambronol syrup and Dok 1 Max "contained unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and/or ethylene glycol as contaminants as per laboratory analysis carried out by authorities in Uzbekistan." Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are toxic to humans and could be fatal if consumed, it said in the alert on Wednes-

This is the second medical product alert issued to an Indian company by the WHO for manufacturing adulterated drugs. Last October, the world health body issued a medical alert for cough syrups manufactured by Haryana-based Maiden Pharma, which were linked to the alleged deaths of 66 children in The Gambia. After Uzbekistan's health ministry linked the deaths of 18 children to the cough syrups manufactured by Marion Biotech, the Union Health Ministry suspended production at the company. It carried out inspections and collected samples of the prod-

week. Following the WHO alert against the Noida-based company, a joint team of the Central Drug Standard and Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the Uttar Pradesh Food Safety and Drug Administration (UPFSD) conducted fresh inspections in the company, official sources said. WHO said the matter was reported to them on December 22. It said substandard medical products fail to meet quality standards or specifications and are therefore "out of specification." Both of these products - Ambronol syrup and DOK-1 Max syrup - may have marketing

It further said that "substandard products are unsafe and their use, especially in children, may result in serious injury or death." "Toxic effects can include abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass urine, headache, altered mental state and acute kidney injury which may lead to death," it added. "It is important to detect and remove these substandard products from circulation to prevent patient harm. WHO requests increased surveillance and diligence within the supply chains of countries and regions likely to be affected by these products," it said.

## WHO recommends not using Indian cough syrups in Uzbekistan

The World Health Organization on Wednesday recommended that two Indian cough syrups - Ambronol and DOK-1 Max - should not be used

were administered in doses higher than

pharmacists. The manufacturer of both these products, which have been linked to deaths of 19 children in the country, is India-based Marion Biotech Pvt Ltd. So far, Marion has not provided guarantees to WHO on the safety and quality of these products, the agency said in its statement. Marion Biotech could not immediately be reached for a comment.



Analysis by Uzbekistan's health ministry showed the syrups contained a toxic substance, ethylene glycol, and

the standard for children, either by their parents, who mistook it for an anti-cold remedy, or on the advice of

Wednesday recom- mended that two In- dian cough syrups - Ambronol and DOK-1 Max - should not be used

## US vows to defend space with Japan, deploy mobile Marines as China worries grow

WASHINGTON: The United States said Wednesday that attacks in space would invoke its defence treaty with Japan and announced the deployment of a more agile Marine unit on its ally's soil as alarm grows over China. Weeks after unveiling plans to ramp up security spending, Japan sent its defence and foreign ministers to Washington where the two countries issued a statement vowing to "modernize the alliance in order to address the increasingly severe security environment." The talks come two days before a visit by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who is touring the Group of Seven nations to kick off Japan's leadership year of the elite club and

August carried out major exercises after a defiant visit to Taipei by Nancy Pelosi, then speaker of the US House of Representatives. The United States and Japan condemned China's "dangerous and provocative" military activities and called for "peace and stability" in the Taiwan Strait.

Austin, however, played down fears that China is planning an imminent invasion.

"I won't second-guess Mr Xi but what I will tell you, what we are seeing recently is some very provocative behaviour on the part of China's forces," Austin said.

"We believe that they endeavour to establish a new normal but whether or not that means that an invasion is imminent, I seriously doubt that," he said.

A war simulation recently released by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank, found that Beijing would hit Japanese bases, causing major damage, in an invasion of Taiwan



earlier Wednesday in London also boosted defence ties with Britain.

As China makes rapid advances in satellites, the United States and Japan warned in their statement that "attacks to, from or within space present a clear challenge to the security of the alliance" that could invoke Article Five of their mutual defence treaty, which considers an attack on one an attack on both. The talks finalized a plan by the United States to send a so-called Marine Littoral Regiment, a more agile unit that can operate defences both by sea and air, to Okinawa, the southern Japanese island strategically close to Taiwan. US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the unit would be in place by 2025 from a reorganization of an existing artillery regiment. "I think this is going to contribute in a major way in our effort to help defend Japan and also promote a free and open Indo-Pacific," Austin said, using the US turn of phrase for an Asia without Chinese dominance.

He reiterated the US commitment to defend Japan including over islets, known as the Senkaku by Tokyo and the Diaoyu by Beijing, which are contested by China.

Xi Jinping, Japan PM Kishida meet as North Korea fires missile

Taiwan risks but no 'imminent' invasion Japan has been officially pacifist since its defeat in World War II but has increasingly shed past sensitivities as China under President Xi Jinping exerts itself and as North Korea keeps firing missiles, some of them over Japanese territory.

China claims Taiwan, a self-governing democracy with strong links to Japan, and in

but would most likely fail in its end goal.

Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for China's foreign ministry, told a regular press briefing on Thursday: "In conducting bilateral military cooperation, the United States and Japan should ensure that it does not harm the interests of a third party or regional peace and stability." Biden discusses Taiwan with Xi in effort to avoid 'conflict'

Addressing local concerns Okinawa, under US control until 1972, remains home to more than half of the 50,000 US troops in Japan and many have long seethed with resentment at the burden of the bases including the noise and occasional crimes by US troops.

Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada promised to "continue to work on the reduction of the impact on Okinawa" and speak to local communities.

Kishida's government said last month that Japan would increase defence spending by 2027 to two per cent of GDP -- in line with a separate goal by NATO nations, whose security concerns have also spiked due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The United States praised the spending boost as well as Japan's decision to build a "counterstrike capacity" -- being able to hit launch sites that threaten the country.

The talks with Japan come ahead of a rare visit to Beijing by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who said President Joe Biden was committed to "guardrails" on tensions.

"We're not looking for conflict. We'll manage the competition responsibly," Blinken said.

## BJP smells rat in special gram sabha under garb of Hockey World Cup

BHUBANESWAR: BJP on Wednesday hit out at the state government alleging it is spending money

state BJP general secretary Prithiviraj Harichandan said the real motive is to get its approval of the

he said, the government has allowed them to spend up to `30,000 out of State Finance Commis-

year - on January 26, August 15 and October 2 - to discuss important issues of panchayats and giving approval to list of beneficiaries selected under housing schemes.

"We have information that instruction has been issued to all panchayats to get the assent of the gram sabha to the revised list of PMAY beneficiaries which is not published since 2019," he said. BJP has been demanding that the beneficiaries list should be pasted on the wall of all panchayat offices for public view seeking suggestions and objection before it was approved by gram sabha.

Any deviation from the normal practice will be strongly opposed and his party will be forced to take recourse to gherao all block offices, he cautioned.



meant for development works in panchayat for promotion of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik ahead of the 2024 elections to Assembly and Lok Sabha.

Taking exception to government instruction to collectors, chief development officers of zilla parishads and block development officers for convening special gram sabha in all GPs on the inaugural day of the Hockey World Cup,


gram sabha to the revised list of beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana pending publication since 2019.

"It is a matter of pride for Odisha to host an international sporting event. But our objection is to project the shaky image of this government under the garb of Hockey World Cup,"

Harichandan said. When panchayats are facing fund constraints for development works,

sion grant or own source of revenue on activities like live telecast of opening ceremony by hiring projector screen or TV sets, flex print of the event with picture of the CM at prominent locations.

Harichandan quoted the circular and said the photo of the chief minister is towering over the hockey logo, sample of which was attached with the government order. He said special gram sabha met thrice a



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## Alibaba sells nearly half of its direct stake in Paytm at Rs 535.9 per share

NEW DELHI: Chinese conglomerate Alibaba is learnt to have sold a 3.1 per cent stake - nearly half of its direct shareholding - in digital financial services firm One97 Communications in an indication of exiting the Indian market, sources said on Wednesday. However, Alibaba group firm Ant Financial has not diluted its stake in Paytm and continues to hold 25 per cent of the company. "There was a big movement in Paytm's stock today as a block deal took place where 2,59,930 shares were sold at Rs 535.90 worth 13.93 crore rupees. Chinese group Alibaba is behind the deal, selling up to 3.1 per cent of its total equity of about 6 per cent," a

source closely watching the development at Paytm told PTI.

The development follows Alibaba's stake sale in BigBasket and Zomato.

"Alibaba seems to be making an exit from India as it has sold shares in other investments," the source said.

The company's shares closed at Rs 542.25 apiece on the BSE. Paytm's shares have been gaining after its associate Paytm Payments Bank received the RBI approval to appoint Surinder Chawla as its Managing Director and CEO. Email queries sent to Alibaba and One97 Communications did not elicit any immediate reply.

## Retail inflation falls to one year low of 5.72 per cent in December



NEW DELHI: Retail inflation declined to a one-year low of 5.72 per cent in December 2022, mainly due to softening prices of food items, according to official data released on

Thursday. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was at 5.88 per cent in November 2022 and 5.66 per cent in December 2021. As per the data released by the National

Statistical Office (NSO), inflation in the food basket was at 4.19 per cent in December as against 4.67 per cent in November.

After remaining above the Reserve Bank of India's

upper tolerance threshold of 6 per cent since January 2022, retail inflation declined in November to 5.88 per cent and further in December to 5.72 per cent -- its lowest level in one year.

## SBI, ICICI systemically important lenders

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) yesterday said that the State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) or institutions which are 'too big to fail'.

The RBI announced SBI and ICICI Bank as D-SIBs in 2015 and 2016. Based on data collected from banks as of March 31, 2017, HDFC Bank was also classified as a D-SIB.

to the capital conservation buffer," it added. SIBs are perceived as banks that are 'too big to fail (TBTF)'. This perception of TBTF creates an expectation of government support for these lenders in times of distress.

Because of this, these banks enjoy certain advantages in the funding markets. The framework for dealing with D-SIBs was issued in July 2014. The framework requires the central bank to disclose the names of



The current update is based on data collected from banks as on March 31, 2022.

"SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), under the same bucketing structure as in the 2021 list of D-SIBs. The additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) requirement for D-SIBs was phased in from April 1, 2016, and became fully effective from April 1, 2019," said the central bank in a statement. "The additional Common Equity Tier 1 requirement will be in addition

banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these lenders in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs). Based on the bucket in which a Domestic Systemically Important Banks placed, an additional common equity requirement has to be applied to it. The Additional Common Equity Tier 1 requirement as a percentage of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) in case of SBI is 0.6 per cent, and 0.2% for ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank.

## All 7,000 e-buses under FAME-II may ply on Indian roads next year: Official

GREATER NOIDA: All 7,000 electric buses under the FAME-II scheme are expected to ply in different cities of the country in the next one year, a senior official of the Heavy Industries ministry said on Thursday. Out of the 7,000 electric buses under the FAME-II scheme, over 3,000 e-buses are already operating in the country.

In 2019, the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II) scheme for promotion of electric mobility in the country was approved. Through the scheme, it is planned to support 10 lakh e-two-wheelers, 5 lakh e-three-wheelers, 55,000 four-wheelers and 7,000 e-buses.

Joint Secretary in the ministry Hanif Qureshi said that the government is taking steps to promote growth of the industry and for faster adoption of

electric vehicles (EVs) in the country. "Electric mobility is an important part to reduce carbon emissions. The government has launched schemes to promote EVs. FAME is a demand (driven) incentive scheme. 7,000 buses so far incentives under the scheme. I hope in the next year it will be on the road. We have more plans to incentivise buses," he said at the ongoing Auto Expo 2023. He also said that the government has rolled out a production-linked incentive scheme for manufacturing of advanced cell chemistry batteries to strengthen the EV ecosystem of the country. Speaking on the subject, Adviser (Infrastructure Connectivity - Transport and Electric Mobility) Sudhendu Sinha pitched for the quality of batteries to promote electric vehicles in the country.

## Fighting in Soledar, Bakhmut is the 'bloodiest' of the war so far: Kyiv

Continued from page-1

unlike previous urban battles in Ukraine, few civilians remain near the embattled towns of Bakhmut and Soledar.

The siege of the port city of Mariupol in the first months of the war cost thousands of Ukrainian lives, Kyiv has said.

"If in Mariupol 90 per cent of deaths were civilians, in Soledar and Bakhmut it's soldiers," he said.

"We see a completely irresponsible attitude -- to put it mildly -- from the Russian elite towards their own military personnel, who are dying there by the thousands," Podolyak said.

Ukraine hails US' multibillion-dollar military aid as Russian cease-fire said to falter He did not say how many Ukrainians had been killed or injured but estimated Russia had lost "10,000 to 15,000 men, maybe more," fighting near Bakhmut since the summer.

"For us there are losses, significant losses. For them these losses are simply extraordinary," Podolyak added.

Podolyak said Russia had deployed its best army units as well as the Wagner fighting group for the battle but that even a victory would not change the course of the war.

"From a strategic point of view, this does not make much sense for the Russian army," he said.

"For us, it's a bridgehead to advance towards Donetsk," Podolyak said, referring to the main city and pro-Russian separatist stronghold in the eponymous Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine.

"But for the Russians, there is no strategic goal. It is an open space, and our positions are more advantageous," Podolyak said.

Russia has faced a series of humiliating battlefield defeats in Ukraine's south and east following a lighting counter-offensive from Kyiv in the autumn.

Moscow has propped up its forces by announcing the mobilization of 300,000 men but critics say many of the reservists have no battlefield experience, received little training and are under-equipped.

Bakhmut and its neighbour to the northeast Soledar are the only locations on the front line where Russian forces are still on the offensive.

## Air India to launch 12 weekly flights to London Gatwick airport from March

NEW DELHI: Air India will launch 12 weekly flights to London Gatwick airport as well as operate additional services to London Heathrow airport from March, as the Tata group-owned airline strengthens its international network.

The new and additional flights to the UK will start from March 26.

"To Gatwick, Air India will operate a thrice-a-week service from cities such as Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Goa, and Kochi, and is the only scheduled airline to offer direct services to the UK's second largest airport," the airline said in a release on Thursday.

Besides, the carrier will add five weekly frequencies to London Heathrow airport.

The weekly flights from Delhi will increase to 17, from 14 currently, while that from Mumbai will go up to 14, from 12 at present.

Air India also operates three flights each from Amritsar and Delhi to Birmingham in the UK every week.

Currently, the airline has 32 weekly flights to the UK.

"This is part of the airline's ongoing endeavour to spread its wings on the international aviation map, hence, increasing its market share on international routes.

"The robust enhancement of operations is one of the major pillars of Vihaan.AI, Air India's transformational road map," the release said.

## Parties face 'royal' hurdle in poll-bound Tripura

Continued from page-1

any inclination to any party so far. During his visit to the state on Wednesday, CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury had said the party was ready for seat-sharing adjustments with the Congress as well as the TIPRA Motha.

The CPI-M has been in touch with Congress to seal the deal. However, state Congress chief Birajit Sinha told this newspaper on Thursday "nothing has been finalised yet." Congress leader Mukul Wasnik was in the state capital Agartala on Thursday, ostensibly to carry forward the alliance talk.

CPI-M state secretary Jitendra Chowdhury said he had a telephone conversation with Wasnik. He said the Congress leader would leave the state on Friday but come again soon.

"We want to thwart the split of anti-BJP votes. If the secular forces remain divided, the BJP will gain and if there is no unity among us, the BJP will rig the elections like the last time using its muscle power," Chowdhury said.

"We are having dialogues with the Congress as well as the TIPRA Motha. We consider both as secular parties," he added.

The TIPRA Motha chief Debbarma did not take phone calls. Other leaders of the party refused to comment on the issue of alliance. The BJP said it had no discussion with the tribe-based party.

"We still have our alliance with the IPFT (Indigenous People's Front of Tripura). We haven't had any talk with the TIPRA Motha. We are preparing for all 60 constituencies," BJP spokesman Nabendu Bhattacharya said.

The IPFT, which is another tribe-based party, won eight seats in 2018 and is a component of the BJP-led ruling coalition. In the past year, three of its legislators ditched the party and joined the TIPRA Motha.

Bhattacharya said even if the Congress and the Left come together, they would find no takers.

"They (Left) are weakened and going to lose the polls, so they need alliance. If they were strong enough like before, they would not have sought an alliance. The CPI-M's position is very bad. The Congress has one-two people," he added.

Of the 60 seats in the state, 20 are in the tribal areas. These had been traditionally the CPI-M's strongholds. Now, the CPI-M has virtually lost the space to the TIPRA Motha. It had appointed Chowdhury, a tribal, as its state secretary to try and win back the voters.

The TIPRA Motha holds sway in most of these seats. The BJP is influential in some. These seats will virtually decide the fate of the parties. The Left and the BJP have their support base in the non-tribal seats. The Congress enjoys the support of people in a few urban seats.

By winning 36 seats, the BJP had captured power in 2018, spanking the Left which was in power for 25 years on the trot. However, it faces a challenge this time around. The party's image took a beating under former Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb. The BJP then went into a damage control mode by removing him in May last year.

There is a perception that the BJP may not reach the halfway mark of 30 seats this election and this will make the TIPRA Motha more important. It will lend its support, possibly to the BJP, but not before a hard bargain.

# Rahul anchors India's series win with fighting fifty

KOLKATA: Under-fire KL Rahul made amends for his poor run of form as he anchored India's series clinching four-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the second ODI with a dogged 64 on a tricky Eden Gardens track.

Snubbed time and again by Indian think-tank, Kuldeep Yadav proved his mettle yet another time as he formed a lovely bowling alliance with pacer Mohammed Siraj to demolish Sri Lanka for 215 inside 40 overs after they opted to bat. The paltry chase on the quick Eden outfield however was not a cakewalk for Indian team, which lost its top-four batters for 86 runs in 14.2 overs. Needing 130 from 214 balls, Rahul was the only designated batter left as he once again proved his utility in the middle overs with an unbeaten 64 off 103 balls that took India home with 40 balls to spare.

While there was a bit of seam movement on offer and ball from spinners gripping a bit, to be fair, there was no scoreboard pressure on the home team.

## Maharishi's Birth anniversary celebrated by Maharishi public school, Baripada

Baripada(KCN): His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's 106 Birth anniversary celebrated by the students, Staff of Maharishi

The win also gave India an unassailable 2-0 series lead going into the Trivandrum ODI on Sunday.

"I won't say it was a flat wicket, or it was doing a lot that it was impossible to bat. When Sri Lanka started, I thought it was a 280-300 wicket," Rahul said after the match. Having started off with a boundary, Rahul was quick to slow down as he ran hard for his singles en route to a 93-ball fifty. The need of the hour was to play sensibly as Rahul and Hardik Pandya curbed their natural strokeplay in a decisive 75-run partnership that came off 119 balls. It was also a different Pandya (36; 53b) on display as he took time and gave Rahul a perfect support. Pandya however departed against the run of play, leaving 55 runs required from 95 balls. India earlier endured some tense moments inside the powerplay when Rohit Sharma (17) and Shubman Gill (21) departed in four deliveries after an attacking start, while Virat Kohli (4) became the third casualty to be 63/2 in 9.3 overs. Rohit took a faint edge

behind the stumps to be dismissed by Karunaratne. In the next over Shubman Gill, who wowed the packed Eden crowd with his delectable cover drives, had a soft dismissal giving a straight catch to Avishka Fernando at short midwicket off Lahiru Kumara. The pacer, who replaced an injured Dilshan Madushanka (dislocated shoulder), was

Treated as disposable time and again by the current Indian team management, Kuldeep Yadav once again displayed his skills with the ball and required calmness with the bat in his two boundaries towards end of the chase. The left-arm wrist spinner, who was mysteriously left out after a five-wicket haul in his comeback Test against Bangladesh in

Chattogram last month, got a surprise call-up after leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal pulled out with a "sore right shoulder". Kuldeep (3/51) answered the call grabbing three wickets in his first five overs, in a spell that triggered Sri Lankan collapse from being 102/1 just when it seemed that debutant Nuwanidu Fernando (50 from 63 balls) and Kusal Mendis (34 from 34 balls) had started to



all charged up when he cleaned up the last match centurion Kohli with a delivery that jagged back in. More anxiety was in store as India were reduced to 86/4 in 14.2 overs when Shreyas Iyer was dismissed leg before by a ball going down the leg.

However, Rahul, relishing his role as a No. 5 was never in tearing hurry as he anchored the chase to perfection. He needed one good stand and in vice-captain Hardik Pandya (36) he got an able ally as they put up 75 runs.

"The good thing about batting at No. 5 is you don't have to rush. You can take a shower, put your feet up and watch the game. But I always think what team needs of me. If you can read the situation when you go in, it helps you and team. Batting at No. 5 has helped me understand my game better," Rahul said.

Kuldeep shines through

frustrate Indian bowlers post Powerplay with a swift counter-attack.

But as Kuldeep ran through the Sri Lankan middle-order that included the prized-scalp of rival skipper Dasun Shanaka (2), the visitors went on to lose five wickets in the space of 43 balls to virtually lose the plot after they opted to bat on a flat deck. But some late fireworks by Dunith Wellalage (32) and Wanindu Hasaranga (21) took the team past 200-run mark before Siraj (5.4-0-30-3) polished off the tail.

Young Umran Malik also returned with figures of 2/48 from his seven overs. Replacing in-form opener Pathum Nissanka (stiff back), youngster Nuwanidu Fernando looked solid and hit a splendid half-century on debut in a 73-run partnership with Kusal Mendis (34). The Indian new ball bowlers Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj swung both ways and got some early movement.



public school, Baghra road Baripada with Gurupujan by school Administrator Ashok Kumar kar.

Chief guest Chittaranjan Palata, Secretary, OSSTA, Mayurbhanj District explained Beautifully about education and its role on shaping the future of students.

An exhibition of science, Art and craft was also organised where 23 science projects and more than 150 projects of art and crafts were displayed By students

Guests Chittaranjan Palita, Science Teacher Grampanchayat High school, Chandanpur,

works of students and awarded certificates and prizes

Mr Ashok Kumar kar spoke about Maharishi's Life and teachings of the world famous Guru who had revived the age old ancient age old Vedic scriptures in form of Vedic science, Science of creative intelligence and Transcendental Meditation & TM Siddhi Program. sweets were distributed to students. The program was conducted by teachers and supported by staff. Vote of thanks was given by Principal incharge Kajolkanti Mahapatra at the end of the program

## Maharishi public school, Bhubaneswar Celebrates it's Founder's Birth anniversary



Bhubaneswar:(KCN): His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's 106 Birth anniversary celebrated by the students, Staff of Maharishi public school, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhuba-

neswar with Gurupujan by Maharishi's Vedic pundits. Director, Maharishi public school Smt Hena Mahapatra spoke about Maharishi's Life and

teachings of the world famous Guru who had revived the age old ancient age old Vedic scriptures in form of Vedic science, Science of creative intelligence and Transcendental

Meditation & TM Siddhi Program. sweets were distributed to students at the end of the celebration The program was conducted by teachers and supported by staff.

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