

Strong connectivity essential for building developed India, says PM Modi

NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that strong connectivity is essential for building a developed India. He was speaking after virtually flagging off the world's longest river cruise, the MV Ganga Vilas, from Varanasi, which will travel 3,200 km in 51 days to reach Dibrugarh via Bangladesh, sailing across 27 river systems.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister talked about charity, tapasya and faith in our festivals and the role of rivers in them. This makes the projects related to river waterways all the more significant, he said.

Flagging off the longest river cruise from Kashi to Dibrugarh, the Prime Minister said that the river cruise will put places of tourism in north India on



The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Tent City at Varanasi, on the banks of the Ganga. Developed opposite the famed ghats of the holy city, the Tent City aims to tap the tourism potential of the region. Besides, the PM also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several other inland waterways projects worth more than Rs. 1,000 crores in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Assam during the event.

the world tourism map. "Other projects being dedicated today in Varanasi, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam worth Rs.1,000 crores will give a push to the tourism and employment potential in eastern India," he said.

Underscoring the central role of the river Ganga in the life of every Indian, the Prime Minister lamented that the area around its banks lagged behind in development in the post-CONTINUED ON: P-7

Odisha taken long strides in foodgrains production: Naveen

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said on Thursday that the state has taken long strides in foodgrain production which reached 130 lakh tonne in 2021 surpassing all past

ment and income generation.

The CM said agriculture holds the key to socio-economic development in the state and the government has laid emphasis on development of this sector through various interventions supported by a comprehensive, inclusive state agriculture policy. Agriculture and allied sectors contribute nearly 21 per cent to the gross state value added products in the state.

Naveen said services under the sector have been brought under the umbrella of 5T and Mo Sarkar with the objective of enhancing the delivery mechanism and reach out to every farmer. The chief minister also joined an orientation programme of 240 assistant managers and 26 system managers who were inducted into service in different central cooperative banks at the district level. He said the farmers will benefit from this by way of better service delivery under financial inclusion and credit dispensation.



records. Addressing an induction programme of 22 assistant agriculture officers and 53 officials of the Odisha Cashew Development Corporation, the chief minister said that food production has doubled in the state during the last 20 years. Stating that Odisha is a top performing state in cashew production, he said it has a huge potential in employ-

Hockey World Cup 2023: Panposh a hostel with a difference

ROURKELA(KCN): Its 8.00 AM. There's roughly 11 hours to go before pushback for India's opening World Cup match against Spain. The fog has started to lift but the cold winter air is lingering. The

Hostel. Situated by the Koel River, one of the main water bodies in this part of the region, the hostel has left its mark on hockey royalty including the likes of Dilip Tirkey, the current Hockey India presi-



city is on the verge of realising a life-long dream of witnessing a hockey World Cup in their backyard. Come 5.00 PM, the match between England and Wales will propel this mineral-rich, hockey-crazy city of roughly six lakh inhabitants into a select club of cities to have hosted a men's World Cup (14 if you are wondering).

But that can wait. At 8.00 AM, the region's finest hockey disciples are in a training session in one of the sport's most famous temples, Panposh Sports

dent. So, it's not a surprise to know why this hostel has a stature attached to it (many of India's World Cup and Olympics teams have had at least one player who have called this as an alma mater). It explains why Samit Barwa, a teenager who's training at the hostel, says 'it was a dream of mine' to train here. One day, Barwa, who hails from Chhend, a neighbourhood in the city, hopes to wear an Indian jersey. On Friday, though, he has a different short-term goal. While CONTINUED ON: P-7

Argentina toil to beat South Africa 1-0 in FIH men's World Cup opener

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Former Olympic champions Argentina were made to toil by world No.14 South Africa before registering a 1-0 win in the opening Pool A match of the

in succession but wasted all as South Africa defended stoutly.

After the change of ends, South Africa had the first shy at the goal in the form of a pen-



FIH men's hockey World Cup here on Friday.

After a barren and hard-fought first two quarters, Argentina, the 2016 Olympic champions, scored the winner in the 42nd minute through a field effort from Casella Maico. But it was far from rosy for the Los Leones as it was South Africa who pressed hard in the first quarter but failed to convert their chances into positive results.

In the second quarter, Argentina came back strongly and secured three penalty corners

alty corner but the opportunity was wasted. Argentina broke the deadlock in the 42nd minute when Casella capitalised on a counter-attack and scored a brilliant field goal from Toscani's pass. Down a goal, South Africa came out attacking in the fourth and final quarter, but the Argentine defence stood firm to stifle their rivals' forays and register a hard-fought win. Argentina will face world No.1 Australia on January 16 here, while South Africa will take on France in their next pool match on the same day.

'We need Western tanks': Ukraine's crews warn of frontline losses

LAYMAN(KCN): Perched on the nose of the Soviet-designed tank near the Donetsk front line, one soldier in Ukrainian commander Maksym's brigade was cradling a can of kitten

Bakhmut is the 'bloodiest' of the war so far: Kyiv pairman worked under a tank in the frozen mud carved into deep ravines by tank



food repurposed as a paraffin candle. The servicemen under Maksym's command have relied on these kinds of innovative -- if precarious -- fixes to stay warm in the belly of tanks like the T-64, one of

crews are hopeful for is proper heating. difficult, the equipment breaks" and tracks on a road leading to the front.



several ageing models that make up Ukraine's arsenal. And if lobbying in Kyiv for newer, more

"We have no spare parts to maintain the tanks and the tracks break, so if our maintenance brigade sees tanks that have been hit they take what they need."

ALSO READ | Russia says it took Soledar, Ukraine denies its capture 'Lives are our priority'

The brigade showed AFP a series of tanks near Lyman -- a now war-scarred city retaken from Russia in

Fighting in Soledar,

Nearby, a young re-

Aparajita Sarangi demands work order on PMAY by Feb-end

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): BJP MP from Bhubaneswar Aparajita Sarangi on Thursday demanded that the state government should issue work orders for the construction of houses for the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana by the end of next month.

ment must take immediate steps to issue work orders for construction of houses of all the eligible people. "All the 9.59 lakh beneficiaries should get

Addressing a media conference here, the BJP leader said the Centre has sanctioned 9.59 lakh housing units and granted Rs 7,250 crore for construction of the houses as the Narendra Modi government is committed towards the welfare of the poor. Out of the houses sanctioned by the Centre 1.42 lakh are meant for people affected by cyclone Fani in May 2019.

Describing the step taken by the Centre as significant, the senior BJP leader said the state govern-

the work orders by February and I request the state government to ensure that it is done in a transparent manner," she added.

"Many people do not have a roof over their heads. Therefore, we have to issue work orders as soon as possible," she said.



Union Minister of State for Shipping & Waterways Holds Review Meeting with Officials of SMP, Kolkata



Kolkata(KCN): The Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Shantanu Thakur, today reviewed all Port Projects of Haldia Dock Complex of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP), Kolkata. The Union Minister also inaugurated a State-of-the-art Port Server Room and 11 KV/415 volt substation at Jawahar Tower of Haldia Dock Complex.

The Chairman, SMP, Kolkata, Shri P. L. Haranadh welcomed Shri Thakur at Jawahar Tower, Haldia Dock Complex. The Minister took stock of the infrastructure and upcom-

ing projects which cater to Bangladesh, Coastal and North East States. He was apprised regarding the upcoming Projects at Haldia Dock Complex.

Shri Thakur also held a review meeting with Shri Haranadh, Shri A. K. Mehera, Deputy Chairman, Haldia Dock Complex and Heads of the Departments of Haldia Dock Complex. The Minister was briefed about the activities including ongoing Projects of Haldia Dock and Kolkata Dock. Shri Thakur appreciated the efforts of SMP, Kolkata, particularly the latest Development Projects.

Pregnant woman dies after being released from Odisha's Rayagada jail

KORAPUT(KCN): A pregnant woman, who was arrested and kept in a jail at Rayagada in Odisha for 16 days, has died due to post-delivery complications a day after her release.

Thirty-year-old Sulabati Naik, a resident of Andrakanch village under Maikanch panchayat and wife of a daily wage labourer, died on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, her family claimed.

Sulabati, who was nine months' pregnant, was among 13 women arrested by the police on December 26 last year for staging a peaceful demonstration demanding jobs in a private company as they reside in its periphery, the family said.

She went into labour soon after she stepped out of the prison on Tuesday evening and was rushed to the district headquarters hospital.

On Wednesday night the woman delivered a son and as her condition deteriorated she was referred

to the SLN Medical College and Hospital, about 70 km away from Andrakanch, her husband Baidya Naik said.

The woman died on way to the Koraput hospital at around 1.30 am, he said.

The infant has been kept under observation at the special newborn care unit of the Rayagada hospital, Baidya said.

Her relative Tulsi Naik said the woman was remanded to jail custody after her bail was rejected by a Kashipur court as police had slapped charges against her under IPC section 307 (attempt to murder) among others.

"After the court reopened on January 2, we had filed the bail application but it got delayed as police sought her remand in two separate old cases. Her bail application was finally accepted on Tuesday (January 10)," her husband said.

CM in Olly Land

Bhubaneswar(KCN): To take the Hockey World Cup fervour to across the state, fans are in for a treat at the Olly Land. Designed beautifully, the fan parks light up the night with spectacular lighting installations for picturesque photographs, eateries for people to enjoy cuisines from across Odisha, and tons of activities for all to participate in!

The zones are a highlight for fans to come celebrate hockey in a larger-than-life way.

Fans, be it young or old had their eyes beaming with excitement. From taking selfies with Olly, the official mascot for the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023, in groups, visitors were soaking in all the fun at Olly's Land. The fan parks feature food stalls, festivity, and frolic

for all those in attendance. The zone is lit up with spectacular lighting



installations to fill the space with a sense of wonder and mysticism. The fan park serves as a place to create unforgettable memories and celebrate as hockey comes home to Odisha.

Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, also graced the Olly's Land at the Kalinga Stadium on Thursday. Secretary to CM V K Pandian accompanied CM.

CM was welcomed with a rousing recep-

tion with hundreds of fans keen to catch a glimpse of their leader. The Chief

Minister waved to the fans and shook hands with young kids who had come to Olly's Land to participate in the hockey fever which has gripped the entire state. Fans will have an unforgettable experience encapsulating the true spirit of hockey at Olly's Land. A mesmerising world built with the electrifying atmosphere on the occasion of the 2023 Hockey World

Cup. These are situated in Bhubaneswar, Rourkela, and Puri Beach respectively. Olly is a representation of the critically endangered olive ridley sea turtle, which travels thousands of kilometres in the ocean. It is both the smallest and most prevalent marine turtle in the world. The Olly mascot promotes awareness for Olive Ridley while also encouraging fair play and the growth of sportsmanship from a game standpoint.

Excise enforcement on Top Gear

Cuttack(KCN): Setting enforcement on to top gear, the Odisha Excise has registered more than 44,000 cases in the state during the last nine months of this financial year. The number of cases has increased by 54 Percent compared to this time last year, thanks to the overdrive of Team Excise.

State Excise Commissioner, Ashish Kumar

cases under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act by the end of December of this financial year, while 667 people were arrested in 575 cases last year. Compared to last year, the number of arrests this year has increased by 125%. Similarly, 25388 grams of heroin were seized by the end of December, while 10193 grams of heroin

were seized till December last year. Last year 2489 kg of cannabis was seized, while this year 27801 kg of cannabis was seized.

In the review meeting, Excise Commissioner Mr. Singh directed all the superintendents to intensify the enforcement campaign against illegal



Singh took stock of the progress about the ongoing enforcement activities here on 13 January.

Top Cop Shri Singh emphasized on continuing the enforcement activities and combating the illegal liquor and drug trade.

According to the review, a record number of 44,638 cases were filed by the end of December of the financial year 2022-23, while 29,038 cases were filed during the same period in 2021-22. Compared to the last financial year, cases have increased by 54 Percent. A record 1460 people were arrested in 1294

Kuni Singer Dibyojyoti Pradhan received "Kalashree Samman - 2023"

Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : On the great occasion 19th Foundation Day of leading cultural Organization Saraswati Kala Parishad(SKP) Kandarpur,Cuttack some cultural program,Competition within school & College students around 300 students participate in Debate,Song,Quiz,Odia Essay Writing,Jhoti,Drawing,Mano Action, Modern Dance,Odissi Dance etc., observed for 3 days at Umakanta Mandap Kandarpur. In this felicitating program Junior Artist, Youth Social worker, Scholar Student Dibyojyoti Pradhan Son of Social worker Rabindra Pradhan, Mother Pious Lady Mitanjali Pradhan residence of Cuttack Sadar Fakirapada

Chairman, KVIC Reviewed Khadi Institutions at Murshidabad

Kolkata(KCN): The Chairman, Khadi Village Industries Commission Shri Manoj Kumar visited various Khadi institutions located in

was felicitated as " Kalashree Samman - 2023" for his best quality,dedication to society,good in acting,song,drawing, humble and sober nature,Social welfare activities respectively. Moreover, an ideal student Dibyojyoti qualifies best in his class exam now studying in class VII at Saraswati Sishu Vidyamandir,Kandarpur.In this felicitating & cultural program presided by Honorable president of SKP poet Pratibha Satapathy in presence of Secretary Natyakar Guru Ashok Kumar Pattanayak,Pandit Guru Padmanav Tripathy,Er. Actor Santosh Pati & all SKP team.

monthly pension to be provided under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana(PM-SYM) to ensure old



Murshidabad, West Bengal on (Wednesday) January 11, 2023. During this visit, the Chairman visited Chandrakala Lalit Mohan Resham Khadi Samiti, ChakIslampur and Bharat Khadi Institute, Lal Bagh, Berhampur and reviewed the Khadi activities carried out by the Khadi institutions.

Meanwhile, the artisans of the Khadi institutions collectively thanked him for revising the Artisan Workshed Guidelines to increase the total cost per workshed from Rs.60,000 to Rs.1,20,000. Khadi artisans across the country will be benefitted by this. Shri Kumar also instructed to take appropriate action on the proposal to provide assistance for the artisans' pension scheme.

The Chairman also assured for the minimum

age security. During his visit, the Chairman reviewed SFURTI and KRDP scheme and observed the infrastructure developed under these schemes for machinery, loom, charkha and common facility centre etc.to fully utilize the scheme and target DPR/scheme and instructed to ensure results accordingly.

Shri Kumar, attended the felicitation programme in State Level Khadi, Handicrafts and Handloom Fair organised by West Bengal State Khadi and Village Industries Board on the same day at Square Field, Berhampur, Murshidabad. Congratulating all the participants and organisers present for the grand success of the programme, he mentioned the importance of the fair on subject like economy, employment uplift

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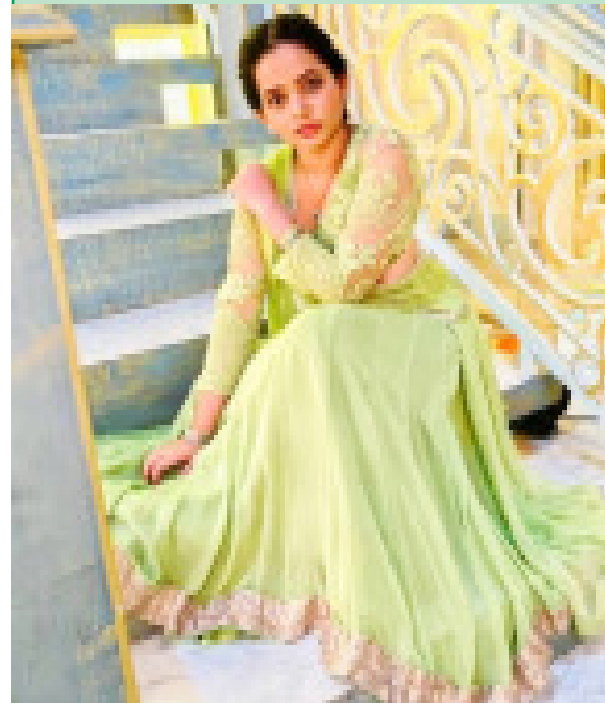
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Now a days the heroines have nothing much in the film, except to flaunt their glamour: Aarushi Sharma

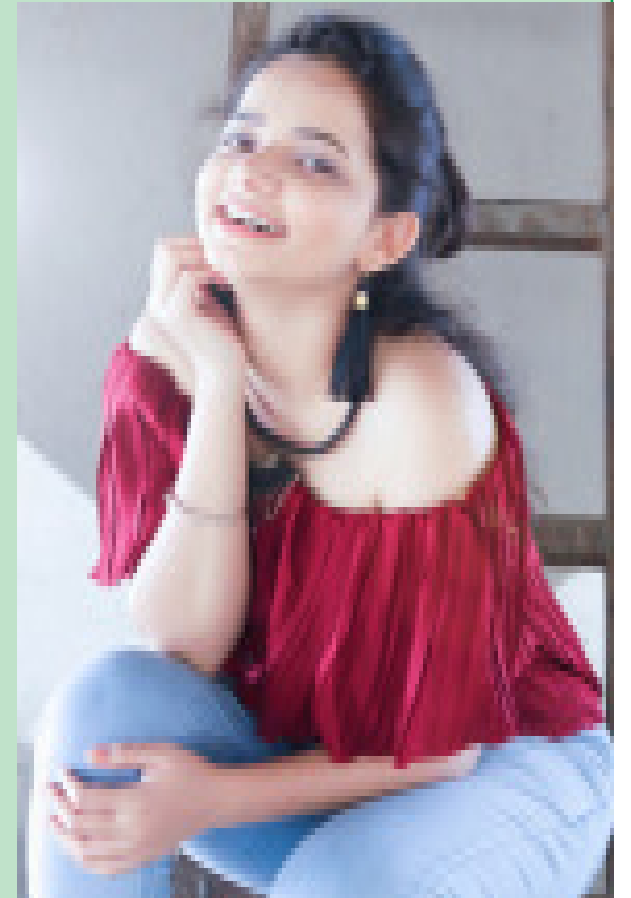
The multi-faceted talented actress “Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi” and Her performance is being widely appreciated and her role as Muskaan is now who has left an impression of her acting on TV serial “Ranju Ki Betiyaan” being highly acclaimed by the viewers.



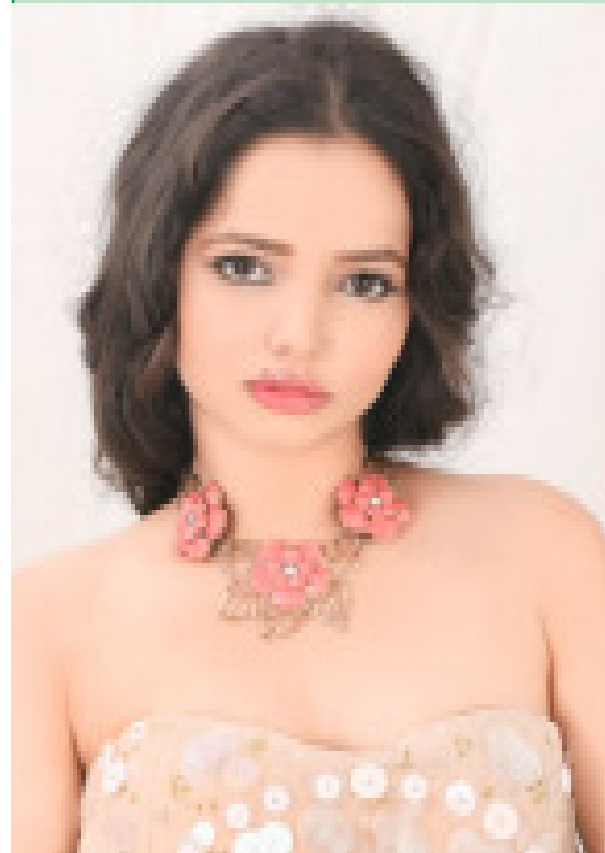
Aarushi Sharma “Muskaan” is now who has left an impression of her acting on TV serial “Ranju Ki Betiyaan” being highly acclaimed by the viewers.



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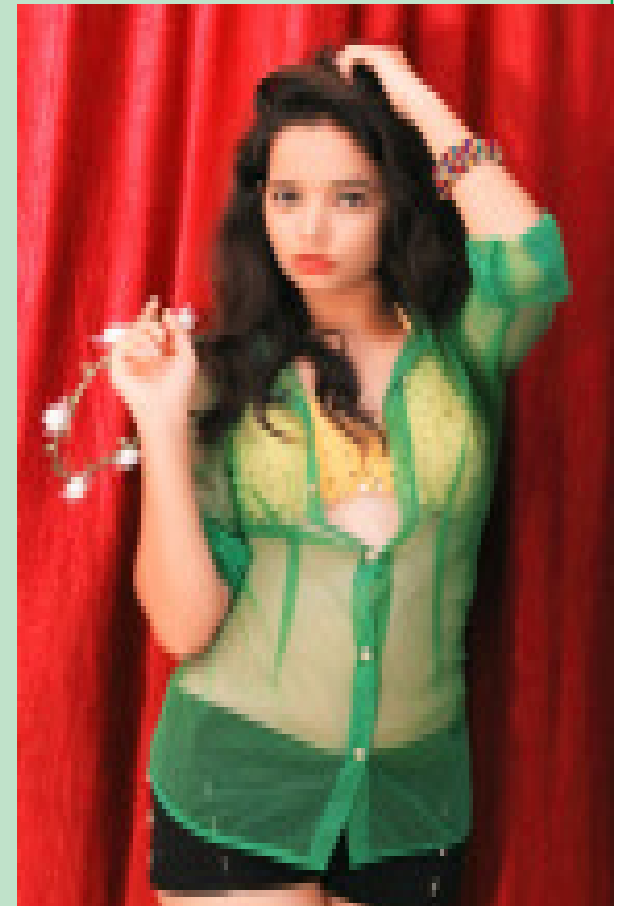
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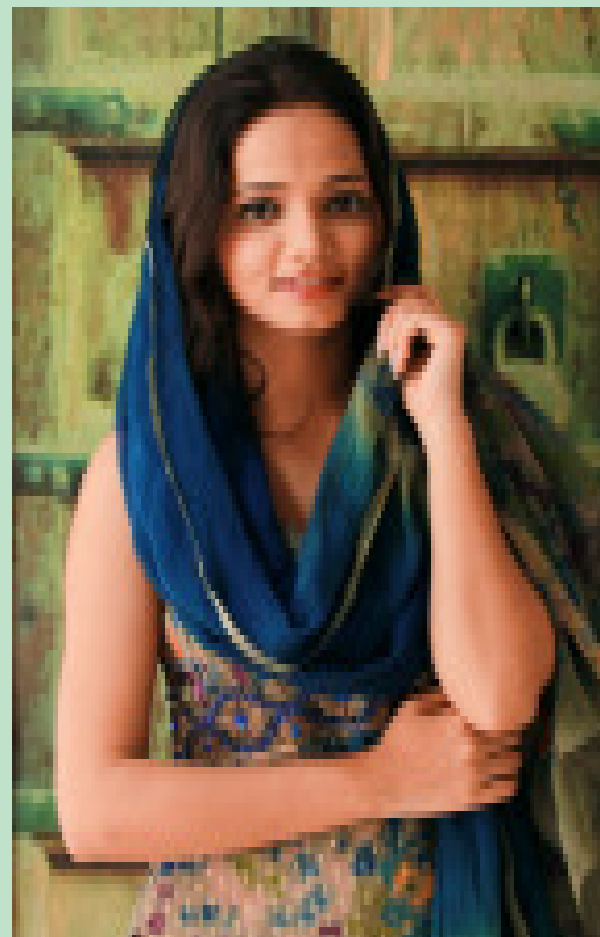
highly acclaimed by the viewers. third daughter. My mother brings us



harasses our family. Till now my role was that of an innocent and bubbly girl. But henceforth my role will be different and the viewers will be taken aback by my new role. The viewers will certainly like the new twist in the story. About her film ventures Aarushi says “I had signed a film in the South. However the project could not start early due to corona pandemic. Now it may start soon. That way (Deepshikha) and I was highly benefited by the ad films for “Parle Hide and Seek” and “Tata Tiago” car. I want to play only good and challenging roles portraying good characters. Talks are going on for many film projects, but now a days the heroines have nothing much to do except to flaunt their glamour. Comparatively there is a better scope for acting in TV serials.



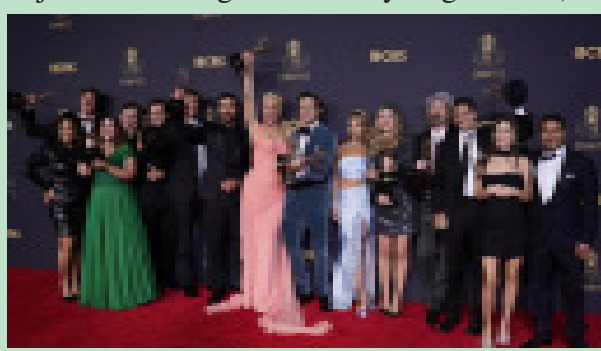
viewers’ mind with her TV serials like telecast now a days on “Dangal TV”.



About her role in “Ranju Ki Betiyaan” being highly acclaimed by the viewers. My father deserts up- we four sisters.

'Emmys So White': Netizens call out award show for 'fake diversity'

Los Angeles: The 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards concluded on a disappointing note on Monday. While setting a record for diversity, with 49 black or indigenous people of colour (BIPOC) nominated across all categories, all major acting trophies went to white actors at the Emmys 2021. According to Variety, actors that were seen as solid contenders included Billy Porter and Mj Rodriguez and Kenan Thompson and Bowen Yang (Saturday Night Live) -- has undoubtedly failed to meet the expectations of people. Calling out the event, a netizen tweeted, "Not a single Black actor won tonight. Not a single Asian actor won tonight. Not a single Latino actor won tonight." Another one wrote, "#Emmys do this every year: Nominate a diverse selection of our faves, only to give them to the same white actors and/or stories. Middle-aged white folks in conflict or British period pieces will win over nuanced, multi-dimensional plots involving characters of colour." #EmmysSoWhite has been trending all over Twitter since morning. "Black host, Black announcer hell even Black music. We do winning everything but win. #Emm-ysSoWhite," a social media user wrote while condemning Emmys 2021. "Lovecraft country won nothing tonight and 98% of the winners were white despite the amount of black talent around #EmmysSoWhite," a netizen tweeted. This time Black performers had a strong showing at the event. But all efforts went in vain when nominees of colour failed to win most categories.



(Pose'), the late Michael K. Williams ('Lovecraft Country') but in the end, all ended up empty-handed. The 2021 ceremony

Vivekananda is More Relevant in this Era of Technology

Countless sages and sages took birth on the land of India and nurtured it with their knowledge and spiritual practice. That's why India has been the most irrigated land in the world. Never had to face any kind of famine here.



Swami Vivekananda also comes in the category of those unique saints who in life took the knowledge to the masses in the simplest form. His philosophies are timeless with fluidity along with being spontaneous. They are relevant in every era. Swami ji has continuously showered on subjects like education, soul, God, illusion, salvation, liberation. His oj has grabbed headlines not only in the country but also abroad. His timeless speeches continue to be the guide of every generation, denoting authenticity.

Liberation is the essence. The whole struggle of life is just so that we can be free. The question of liberation comes only when one is in bondage. It simply means that all the ways of living are meant for bondage. It is also easily understood because whenever we do more work, we want a break from it. As soon as the work is completed, the mind and thoughts after that are only a glimpse of the state of a small one. Vivekananda's philosophy is linked to nature by being empirical. The matter of direct liberation is so deep that the aspiration of each and every atom of this creation, from root to consciousness, is liberation. Indian Vedanta presents the demand for the eligibility of wisdom and enlightenment and Vivekananda put the same Vedanta in front of the general public by linking it with reality, making it practical, logical, compatible with science.

Vivekananda's interpretation was different from the interpretations of Vedanta prevalent till that time. His approach was syncretistic and not critical or negative.

Interpretation of Karma, Resolution. His views directly relate Vedanta to life that happiness and unhappiness are associated with the individual. That person himself is responsible for this. This statement may seem strange, but when we see that a newborn is blind after birth or is suffering from many other diseases, then he was just born, where did his karma start. This life is not our only one; Karmas in our many births are likewise 'carry-forward'. Life is the work and the soul is the work. With this they powerfully present the human side that the will of man is not subject to any event. All the powers, even the natural forces, bow their heads before his will. This is the best explanation of will power. Sadhna, eligibility is necessary to make the willpower superior.

Joy is our Essence

They say that our form is Brahman. All knowledge we have inherited from the past and is contained in our consciousness. That's why many times while listening to knowledge we feel that we have heard it somewhere. It is love that is making everything happen. That's why it has been said that the basic nature of man is love and he is made of it. We do not have to bring love from outside like anger, jealousy, ego, attachment-malice have to be brought. Whenever we are afflicted by vices, it is not our original form. In the absence of basic nature, wrong actions are often recommended. Prisoners in jails are mostly in guilt because they are hurt by the work done by them. All crimes are committed by not living in the original nature.

God is everything. In his interpretation, God is like a circle that has no circumference. Every point of that ring is alive, conscious and equally active. Just as the existence of our body is insignificant in comparison to the whole universe, in the same way the existence of this world is also nothing in front of that Supreme Being. The power of God is expressed through this creation. They say that it is not in everyone's capacity to believe God as formless, for this worshipping him in some form is also a part of his devotion. It is Vedanta which shows the path of unity. Vivekananda says that God, nature and soul are one and the same, only their manifestations in different forms. God is there in all the bodies and only the form of the body may be different but there is only one consciousness in all. For example, programs happening at the same place are telecast on different televisions. Vivekananda has also proved the same by giving the example of science that the Brahman manifests itself in the souls of all of us. Referring to the law of destruction of energy, he says that the amount of energy in the world always remains the same. Only its form changes. Similarly, from a crawling insect to the soul of a man, the same One Brahman manifests.

The question is only about the degree of expression. The soul is pure in nature and complete. Absolute bliss and opulence is its nature, not misery or impermanence. Truth is the form of mind and bliss, it is his birthright. All the manifestations that we see in the world are different forms of the soul itself. Birth, death, decay, intelligence, progress, degradation, all are different manifestations of that one unbroken being. Similarly, even our ordinary knowledge, whether it is published in any form of Vidya or Avidya, is the light of the same form of knowledge of the same mind. The difference is not optical but only quantitative.

Everyone's goal is one, liberation. The main characteristic of the soul is liberation and it is very interesting that the form in which the soul gets the body, it wants to be free. It is his intention

Bombay High Court a letter, speaking on behalf of the underprivileged, minorities and women, that the requirement of the Bombay High court Rules on senior designation that an applicant for designation shall be supported by recommendation by two senior advocates "would create hurdles in female lawyers and minorities being designated" and be dispensed with.

Dear Ms. Jaising, could anything be more hypocritical than your hollow concern for women, minorities and the underprivileged. If you are truly concerned about the underprivileged, then you must support the abolition of the senior designation system which has caused unthinkable damage to the interests of the underprivileged, women and minorities.

When we got independence there was no system of senior designation. It all came much later. If you are really concerned about the "old boys club" and the unthinkable damage it has caused to the justice delivery system, you must support us in our cause for total abolition, which will be the first step in bringing a semblance of fairness and equity in the temples of justice. It will be the first step in correcting the damage caused to the institution of judiciary due to nepotism, favouritism, kinship and subjugation of the bar. It will bring an end to the apartheid in the legal profession.

Dear Ms. Jaising, the senior designation system can make even "seniors" like you a slave as we recently witnessed in Oza's case (Gujarat).

I remain in the unstinted hope that you will introspect and realise that you cannot be supporting the designation system and in the same breath be blind to the ill treatment of lawyers and litigants facilitated by the senior designation system and speak against discrimination and injustice.

With kind regards,
Yours Sincerely,
Mathews J Nedumpara

Dr. Lokendra Singh Kot

to keep moving towards getting that higher body than what he is. In the

same way this sequence continues till such a body is attained, through which the soul is able to express its highest states. Then the soul becomes free. Vivekananda says that even in this nature everything is expanding towards the new. A river is washing away the mountains and turning it into sand, it is taking it to the sea. One day this sand will gather to become a mountain and at another place it will become a river. This Sankhya philosophy also says that the original source of all powers is Prana. Similarly, his stories about Maya and illusion also say that everything in this universe is made to end one day and that is why it is all illusion. Do not see! Where we are looking for happiness and joy, in reality there is no happiness and joy but illusion. One searches for it outside but all that is only for a while whereas the real joy is all within.

Regarding the question of what is the cause of Maya, Vivekananda says that this question is contradictory. The origin of Maya cannot be questioned if an eternal and absolute element is accepted. Apart from Brahman, there is no other visible object which can be considered as the cause of Maya. But Brahma also cannot be considered as the reason for the origin of Maya because this work is beyond the cause-effect relationship. It is inconsistent to ask why beyond causality.

Life is omnipresent, philosophy of unity. Every life from a small insect to a swing is like a round-the-clock swing that stays in one body for some time and then enters another body. Those who sit on that swing keep on changing. But when one becomes aware of one's own nature, then that body becomes free of all. Vivekananda considers these sentences of the Upanishads to be correct, that

which is the essence of your soul, that is the truth. That is the soul, you are that, Svetaketu. He was not an advocate of idol worship. Why is the cross holy? Why is the face turned towards the sky during prayer? Why are there so many statues in churches? My brothers, it is as impossible to think without an idol coming to mind as it is to live without breathing, that's why Hindus use brahya symbols during worship. But keeping in mind the present history, it is said that man should not stop anywhere. But regarding the scriptures, they show that the scriptures say that Brahma worship, idol worship is the lowest stage.

Education that gives direction. Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of education emphasizes three important points in the context of what should be the real aim of education. According to Vivekananda, the ultimate aim of education should be discovery, freedom and self-confidence. What and who do we search for? We discover our courage and strength. All the people of this world have to find out that they are the smallest part of the universe. When true realization awakens in us, we become as high as a mountain and as swift as the wind. The second aim of education is freedom. But freedom of what? Swamiji has said freedom of thought, freedom of expression, freedom of self-expression. Freedom is the real characteristic of education. Education makes people independent which makes them free mentally, physically, intellectually, and spiritually. The third aspect of education is self-confidence. Educated people are always confident. This confidence is very important for us, without confidence no human being can be successful in life.

The author is a Freelance Writer and Faculty in Community Medicine Department Govt. Medical College, Ratlam-457001 MP

One Nation, One Medical Treatment

Health care including primary, secondary and tertiary care system in India has been battling with various issues apart from lower number of medical institutions and adequate human resources. The Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) states that the delivery of primary healthcare is provided to the rural population through sub-centre, Primary Health Centre (PHC), and Community Health Centre (CHC), while secondary care is delivered through district and sub-district hospitals. On the other hand, tertiary care is extended at regional / central level institutions or super specialty hospitals. Although Public Health is a State subject, the National Health Mission (NHM), a flagship programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India with its two Sub-Missions, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) supports States / UTs to strengthen their health care systems so as to provide universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care services.

But, it is a matter of great regret that the common citizens are greatly deprived of the so called various declared health schemes both by the State Governments and Central Govt. **Even, the treatment against Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent health, National Nutritional Programmes, Communicable and Non-communicable diseases varies from one hospital to other.** Most of the time, continuous conflicts are mushrooming in between the Centre and States in this regard to which the innocent patients and their relatives are falling prey.

Everybody might have witnessed that the cost, quality and procedure of medical treatment to the citizens widely differ from hospital to hospital. More importantly, the behaviour of the private, corporate and Govt. hospitals and health care units towards the patients and their attendants are visible in accordance with the status and paying capacity. Even the common patients are treated separately than the card holders in the same hospital. The treatment for the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) card holder provided by Govt. of India differs from that of a Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) card holder facilitated by the Govt. of Odisha. Unlike Odisha, different State Governments in India have their own health care facilities. The same facility varies for the card holders under Central Govt. Health Scheme (CGHS) from PMJAY or BSKY. Even under CGHS, it is separate for the employees, pensioners and public representatives. The status and cadre of the employee / pensioner play an important role. Illustratively, under CGHS, officers / officials having basic pay (as per 7th CPC) up to 36500/- are entitled for medical treatment in a General Ward while officers / officials having basic pay of Rs.

36501 to 50500/- and Rs. 50501 and above are entitled for treatment in Semi Private Ward and Private Ward respectively. As such, in a welfare country like India, we don't have uniform treatment facility for the patients. When deceases don't discriminate among rich or poor, beggar or millionaire, peasant or politician, labourer or bureaucrat, employed or unemployed, State Govt. or Central Govt. employees, cardholder or having no card, it is highly unfortunate that the entitlement of treatment highly differs from person to person basing on the social status in India. Observing this pan India gross mismatch of medical treatment to the citizens, a brief analysis of the Right to Equality may be considered proper. The Right to Equality, one of the Fundamental Rights enshrined both in the Preamble and under Article 14 to 18 of the Constitution of India states that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India. It guarantees equal rights for everyone, irrespective of religion, gender, caste, race, sex or place of birth. Especially the provisions under Article 15 are very clear and loud that no citizen shall on the above grounds only or any of them be subject to any disability, liability restriction or conditions with regard to access to shop, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment or use of wells, tanks, bathing hats, roads and places of public resort maintained by wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of general public. According to the observation and analysis on Indian Constitution by Sir Ivor Jennings, a constitutional critic and an expert on constitutional law, equality before the law means that among equals the law should be equal and should be equally administered, that like should be treated alike. The right to sue and be sued, to prosecute and be prosecuted for the same kind of action should be same for all citizens of full age and understanding without distinctions of race, religion, wealth, social status or political influence. Thus the health care units being the public institutions and mostly maintained by the State funds can't treat the patients separately basing on their social status or otherwise.

The Govt. of India is now giving several clarion calls like; One Nation - One Ration Card, One Nation - One Election, One Nation - One Identity Card, One Nation - One Fertilizer, One Nation - One Uniform, One Nation - One Language etc. In the same analogy, why can't we go for One Nation - One Medical Treatment? Since the law says to treat equally all, now time has come to think in this regard more seriously to provide equal medical treatment to all citizens without distinctions of race, religion, wealth, social status or political influence. Our learned public representatives should floor a bill in the Parliament soon and the Govt. of India needs to discuss arranging an all party meeting to honour the Constitution.

Bruhaspati Samal

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Letter to Editor

Dear Ms. Indira Jaising,

Abolition of senior designation- reg.

When it comes to transparency and reforms in judiciary, there are certain areas where we are in agreement, though there are serious differences in many other areas. On the topic of abolition of senior designation I was under impression that we agreed and on the question of abolition of the collegium we are poles apart. While you support the system of entitlement, patronage, nepotism, dynasty, of which the collegium has become a synonym, I believe that until we abolish the collegium, the culture of entitlement and kinship will continue, our judiciary has no future.

Recently, while I was in the Supreme Court a few lawyers told me that Ms. Jaising is being hypocritical that she's back to wearing the square gown. I did not believe this to be true at all. Like the doubting Thomas, I said I will not believe unless I see it for myself. A day thereafter, I happened to come across, to my total disbelief, you wearing a square gown. I couldn't resist myself from confronting you. I asked you point blank 'Madam, after denouncing the senior gown in the public domain so vocally how can you go back to quietly wearing it'. You were visibly taken aback. I told you honestly that when lawyers had told me that you had started wearing the square gown again after all that noise, I said would not believe it unless I see it with my own eyes. I am reminded of the words of Christ, "you hypocrite, first take out the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye". The explanation you offered, flimsy as could be, was that your gown was missing. Arranging a gown is hardly a task. I could have only wished that you had a better answer, though I doubt anything would be an acceptable one.

What prompted me to address this letter is the news I came across on social media that you have addressed to the Chief Justice

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More Manpower for Co-op

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday said that the cooperative sector plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of farmers by providing neces-

In recognition of the potential in service delivery to the people, the CM said that the State Government has been giving emphasis on the strengthening of their human resources and

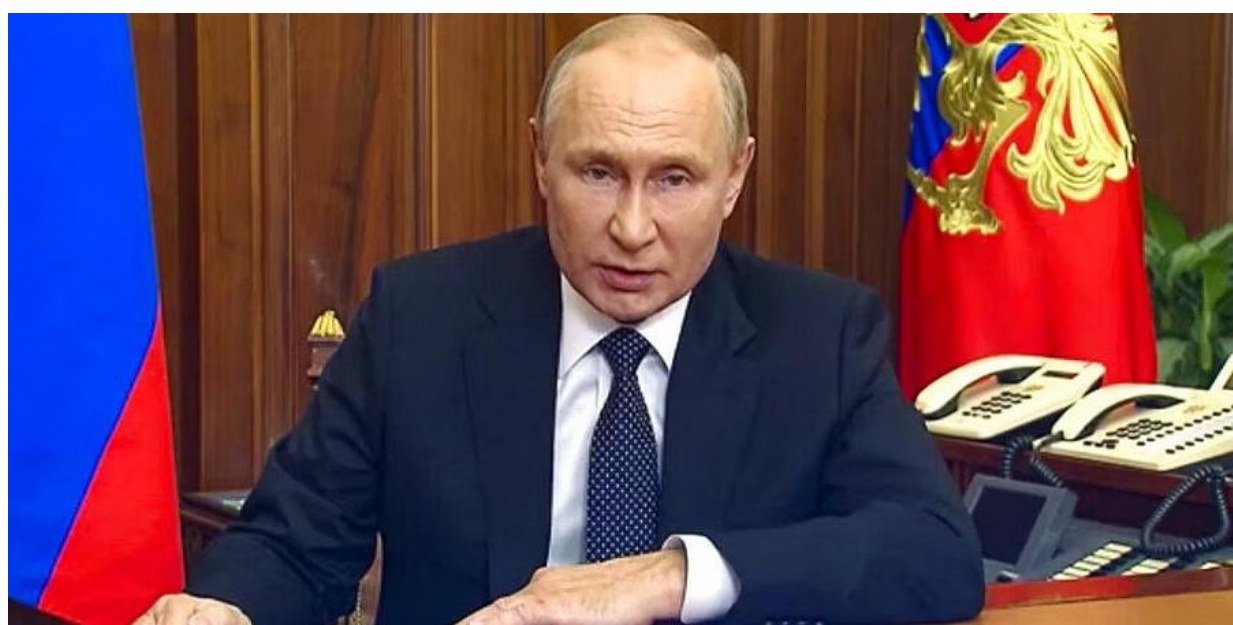


sary impetus to their agricultural operations through credit inputs and marketing support. The induction of new Managers and System professionals will enable the cooperative banks to have quality manpower at the front office and infuse professionalism in their functioning, he said at a program where as many as 240 Assistant Managers and 26 System Managers were inducted into the cooperative banks here. Secretary to CM V K Pandian moderated the Program. Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Minister Co-operation, Sanjeev Chadha, Principal Secretary Co-operation and others graced the occasion. "The farmers will benefit from this by way of better service delivery under financial inclusion and credit dispensation, he said and added, "Small and marginal farmers constitute over 90 percent of our population." He further said that the Co-operative Banks and Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) provide around 60 per cent of the total crop loans disbursed in the state. Almost the entire paddy procurement operations and procurement of other agricultural produce are done by these PACS, he added.

technology up-gradation. Core banking solutions and computerized operations of PACS have been included as important 5T interventions of the state, he added. He further said that the Government has been providing share capital assistance to the Co-operative Banks and PACS in order to strengthen their capital base and added that the Government is also providing interest subvention support to help them provide crop loans to farmers at a marginal rate of interest. "In order to facilitate the small and marginal farmers, my Government has made interest-free crop loans up to Rupees one lakh," he added. Emphasizing that 2158 PACS have gone online with Core Banking System facilities, he said, this will bring about efficient, expeditious and transparent service delivery by the PACS in the field of banking, credit and other operations. "Online operation of PACS in Odisha on the CBS platform is the first of its kind in the entire country," he asserted.

Putin says ready for Ukraine talks if Kyiv accepts 'new territorial realities'

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Russia is ready to discuss a peace agreement with Ukraine if Kyiv accepts "new territorial realities" and the need for "the removal of all barriers to Russian exports."



told Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan he was open to dialogue with Ukraine if Kyiv accepts territories occupied by Moscow as Russian, the Kremlin said Thursday. "Putin again confirmed Russia's openness to serious dialogue on the condition of Kyiv authorities fulfilling the well-known and repeatedly voiced requirements of taking into account the new territorial realities," the Kremlin said in a

phone call with Putin, his office said earlier. Russian troops occupy large swathes of eastern and southern Ukraine. READ HERE | Russia says phone use allowed Ukraine to target its troops. The Kremlin claims it has annexed the Donetsk, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions despite not controlling them in their entirety. "The Russian side emphasised the de-

COVID-19 crisis: Celebrity deaths in China spark fears over death toll

BEIJING: The growing number of Chinese public figures whose deaths are being made public is prompting people to question the official Covid death toll, according to a media report. The death of Chu Lanlan, a 40-year-old opera singer, last month came as a shock to many, given how young she was, BBC reported. Her family members said they were saddened by her "abrupt departure", but did not give details of the cause of her death, the report said. China scrapped its strict zero-Covid policy in December and has seen a rapid surge of infections and deaths. There are reports of hospitals and crematoria becoming overwhelmed. But the country has stopped publishing daily case data and has announced only 22 Covid deaths since December, using its own strict criteria. Now, only those who die from respiratory illnesses such as pneumonia are counted. On Wednesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that China was under-representing the true impact of Covid in the country - in particular deaths. The BBC reported that Chinese media divulged details surrounding the deaths of 16 scientists from the country's top science and engineering academies from December 21 to 26. However, none of these deaths were

linked to Covid in their obituaries, prompting wider speculation online.



But the deaths of Chu Lanlan and others are sparking speculation about greater losses than those reported on official accounts. According to the specialist news website Operawire, Chu Lanlan was a soprano who specialised in Peking Opera - a theatrical art in which performers use speech, song, dance and combat movements to tell stories - and was also involved in charitable causes. On New Year's Day, news of the death of actor Gong Jintang devastated many Chinese internet users, BBC reported. Gong, 83, was known to many households for his performance in the country's longest-running TV series, 'In-Laws, Out-laws'. His portrait of Father Kang had captivated fans for more than two decades since the show first aired in 2000. The cause of his death is unclear, but many social media users linked it to the recent deaths of other older people, BBC reported.

Bhubaneswar erupts in colour and light ahead of showpiece event

If you want to see Bhubaneswar in all its splendour, this is the best time. It's spruced clean, polished, painted bright, illuminated and glowing through the winter evenings.

BHUBANESWAR: If you want to see Bhubaneswar in all its splendour, this is the best time. It's spruced clean, polished, painted bright, illuminated and glowing through the winter evenings. The capital has appeared in a fresh avatar to extend a warm welcome to fans and tourists for the quadrennial event, commencing Friday. From new facades and urban horticulture to wall art and illuminated flyovers, the city is extensively decorated for the greatest show of hockey. Both Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) have carried out landscaping and streetscaping at nearly 30 spaces that otherwise were unused and encroached. These spaces along major roads and junctions in the city have now sitting areas with decorative sheds, landscaped strips and places of recreation for citizens, especially youngsters. Unused spaces under flyovers, medians, junctions and roadsides have also been decorated with attractive ornamental plants to enhance the beauty of the city. Turfing and creeper plantations along Capital Hospital Square to AG square, Governor

with murals highlighting the city's food, culture, sports, heritage and modernity. The murals at Rasulgarh Square have been curated in a way that showcases the junction as a confluence point of three cities - Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Puri. Similarly, the murals are based on a sports theme at Jayadev Vihar, a zodiac theme at CRP square, a disaster management theme at Fire station square and a heritage theme at Khandagiri. The mural works under Street Art and Murals Project (STAMP) has been taken up over nearly 3 lakh sq ft area at an investment of around Rs 3 crore. The Lalit Kala Academy and artists of national and international repute have been roped in for this purpose. Balwant Singh, vice chairman of BDA, the coordinating agency for city beautification, said the idea is to give visitors an experience completely different from what was offered in 2018. Accordingly, equal focus has been given to proper lighting, road development, sanitation, clear skyline, vending discipline, parking management, traffic-related infrastructures, face-lift of roads, cleanliness at the railway



House to Jayadev Vihar, Janata Maidan area, Damana and plantations across all major flyovers, junctions and 11.2 km stretches of median spaces have given the city a new look. The Odisha Forest Development Corporation carried out the plantation at an investment of Rs 7 crore. Plantations apart, sculptures of various themes dot the heart of the city. Pillars of the NH flyover in all major junctions speak

stations, and social dignity of homeless and beggars among others. "Effort is to ensure every agency works in tandem to give visitors the best experience during their stay in the capital," Singh said. Municipal Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said, apart from giving a facelift, BMC is focused on the cleanliness of the city to add aesthetic value to the beautification work.

5T Boost for Agri

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Government has laid special emphasis on development of the agriculture sector through various interventions supported by a comprehensive, inclusive State Agriculture Policy as it is the single largest employment providing sector in the state, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said on Thursday.

"The sector holds the key to socio-economic development in the state," he said at the induction program for 22 Assistant Agriculture Officers in the State's Agriculture department.

Besides, 53 officials also joined Odisha Cashew Development Corporation.

commitment following the 5T principles and hoped that their dedication would certainly boost the outcomes at field level.

Shri Patnaik further said that services under the sector have been brought under the umbrella of 5T & 'Mo Sarkar' with the objective of enhancing the delivery mechanism and reaching out to every farmer and every corner of the state achieving the highest level of satisfaction by farmers.

Focusing on the state's growth in agri sector, he said that Odisha has taken long strides from ship to mouth situation to become surplus in food grain production.

Moreover, the food grain production in the state has reached over 130 lakh Metric Tons during 2021 surpassing all its previous records, he said and added that it has been more than double during the last 20 years.

He said that Odisha is a top performing state in Cashew production and the crop has a huge potential in employment and income generation.

"I hope the infusion of new blood into the management of Cashew Development Corporation would vitalize the cashew sector in Odisha," the Chief Minister added.

Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain praised the vision of the Chief Minister in the growth of the agriculture sector and pro farmer policies. He highlighted the steps taken up by his department.

Development Commissioner & Agriculture Production Commissioner, Pradeep Jena advised the new officers to be closer to farmers and agri entrepreneurs, and work for taking the benefits of state policies and programs to the farmers in the last mile.



Secretary to CM V K Pandian moderated the program.

Principal Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Arabinda Kumar Padhee detailed out the orientation program of the Agri Sector organized here.

Chief Minister said that Odisha is predominantly an agrarian economy with agriculture and allied sector contributing nearly 21 per cent to the gross state value added products in the state.

He expected that the State agriculture sector would be filled up with new energy and passion for service as young officers become part of its delivery mechanism.

He advised the young officers to work with

More e-buses added to Mo Bus fleet, free shuttle for Hockey World Cup from today

BHUBANESWAR: At least 15 new electric buses were included to the existing fleet of Mo Buses in the state capital on Thursday to promote public transport as

also be introduced from January 13 to 29.

Earlier, CRUT had added 20 electric buses to the Mo Bus fleet to ensure pollution-free and com-

creasing demand of public transport, they said.

Sensing the need for better public transport during the hockey World Cup, the state government

Rourkela to ensure its citizens and tourists get seamless mobility service, especially during the World Cup, in the Steel City. CRUT of-



well as green mobility ahead of the Hockey World Cup 2023. Officials of the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), the agency responsible for the public transport service in the Capital region, said the hockey special shuttle service will

fortable rides to the commuters. Officials of the agency said the new buses started plying on different routes in the Capital region of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Khurda from Thursday. Soon 10 more e-buses will be introduced to the fleet to meet the in-

has made CRUT an integral part of the quadrennial event asking it to provide the transit services in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela - the cities where World Cup matches will be played.

Accordingly, the agency launched the Mo Bus service in

officials said to encourage citizens and visitors to choose public transport over private vehicles, they have announced that those having valid ticket or pass of the matches could commute in Mo Bus free of cost in its special shuttle services.

Art of matter: Capital city chronicles hockey journey

ENVELOPED in art, Bhubaneswar is a grand spectacle now. The City of Temples, which is hosting the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup for the second time, is celebrating not just hockey but also art in its varied mediums and styles. With the World Cup in mind, Bhubaneswar offered a rich canvas to artists from within the State, different parts of the country and abroad to explore their ideas of 'society and heritage', and 'Odisha's culture' besides hockey and create unique pieces of art over the last fortnight.

A sculpture camp for 35 local artists and an international sculpture symposium for 16 artists from other parts of the country and abroad were organised by Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi under Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department, Bhubaneswar Development Authority and Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) under the third edition of Street Art and Murals Project (STAMP 3.0). As many as 51 sculptures, in three mediums of terracotta, stone and scrap, were created at the camps for STAMP 3.0 through which, BMC and BDA aim to showcase Odisha's art

and culture to visitors travelling to Bhubaneswar from across India and different countries during the Men's Hockey World Cup, said Lalit Kala Akademi secretary Panchanan Samal. While seven artists Manas Dash, Saroj

Ranjan Ghadei in his work depicted the changing face of Odisha's sporting scene, particularly hockey. His sculpture done in both sandstone and granite was designed in a manner that it showed hockey sticks placed inside a womb,

lantern symbolises the background of Odia players who are mostly from small towns and villages and the golden ball at the centre is a depiction of their struggles to bring the sport of hockey to the place where it is today," Biswal said. Similarly,



Kumar Rout, Srikrishna Khanda, Biswajita Maharana, Biswaranjan Kar, Prithviraj Singhdeo and Narottam Das worked on terracotta murals to showcase Odisha's culture, hockey history and enthusiasm around hosting the World Cup, 10 artists worked with scrap materials. The rest of the sculptures were beautifully done in sandstone and reference to hockey was central to the work of many sculptors.

One of them, Amiya

representing Odisha which has birthed a culture of hockey. While Golakh Patra sculpted a model of an energetic hockey player and a growing city in granite, showing the emergence of Odisha as the sports capital of India and its economic growth, Binod Biswal created a lantern with hockey sticks by its sides and a golden ball at the centre.

"This work is a reflection of the struggle and hard work of Odia hockey players. The

Sudhir Ranjan Maharatha in his sculpture showed Bhubaneswar dressed as a beautiful bride for the world cup.

International artists like Khalid Abdullah, Sodong Choe, Elena Saracino, Alex Labejof and Carole Turner worked around themes of human life, femininity, and Indian culture, among other things. Meanwhile, BMC has started installation of the sculptures in various parts of the city, ahead of the World Cup that begins on January 13.



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India's forex reserves drop by USD 1.268 billion to USD 561.583 billion
MUMBAI: India's forex reserves declined by USD 1.268 billion to USD 561.583 billion for the week ended January 6, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

The overall reserves had increased by USD 44 million to USD 562.851 billion in the previous reporting week after two consecutive weeks of the slide.

In October 2021, the country's foreign exchange kitty reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves had been declining as the central bank deployed the reserves to defend the rupee amid pressures caused by global developments.

Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, dropped by USD 1.747 billion to USD 496.441 billion during the week to January 6, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

'We need Western tanks': Ukraine's crews warn of frontline losses

Continued from page-1

October that is still near heated battle lines, as Kyiv was repeating pleas for modern armour.

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba this week again pressed Western allies, which have funnelled military aid, including artillery, air defence systems and infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine.

A spotlight has been on German-made Leopard battle tanks, which Poland has said it is ready to provide but only with Berlin's green light.

Ukrainian servicemen repair a tank near Kreminna, Lugansk region. (Photo | AFP)

These more advanced tanks have upgrades to their Soviet counterparts, explained Captain Volodymyr Tchaikovsky, 54, but none so important as where ammunition is stored.

"In the Soviet tank, the crew is sitting on the ammunition, so if the tank is hit, it almost means 100 percent of the crew is dead," he said, comparing that with the Leopard, where ammunition is stored behind a protective panel instead of in the compartment.

"We are first and foremost interested in the safety of our crew and their lives are our priority. Equipment can be replaced but not the crew," said Tchaikovsky.

"It's the main reason why we need Western tanks. Everything else: GPS, night vision, thermal vision ... comes second," he said, listing key attributes of armour on his wish list. Last Ukraine doctors offer lifeline in shell-ridden Bakhmut

Not a 'silver bullet'

Mark Cancian, senior advisor for the Center for Strategic and International Studies' International Security Program, underscored this feature as well.

He said that while to some that's "a design defect" because it makes the tank larger and provides a bigger target, it's a "trade off" -- one the Ukrainians appear all for.

Cancian said the newer tanks also have better mechanisms for finding targets and hitting them at longer range compared to those used by Russia and Ukraine.

These controls can be retrofitted onto the T-72, which make up the bulk of the some 700 tanks Ukraine had when Russia invaded in February last year, according to Cancian.

Those refittings might be a better priority for Ukraine, he added, highlighting that the reported number of Leopard tanks that could be sent is "not going to be a silver bullet."

Polish President Andrzej Duda said Warsaw was prepared to send a company of Leopards without specifying the exact number, during a visit to the western Ukrainian city of Lviv on Wednesday.

Ukraine state media reported that the Polish army structure indicates a tank company has 14 tanks.

Rifts in Russian military command seen amid Ukraine fighting

With that number, and even if tens more are sent, Cancian said, "the symbolism is much more important than the actual military capability."

The Kremlin has argued that further Western donations of weapons would change nothing, and only prolong the fighting.

But for Tchaikovsky, whose 25-year-old son is a first lieutenant in his battalion, the backing means everything.

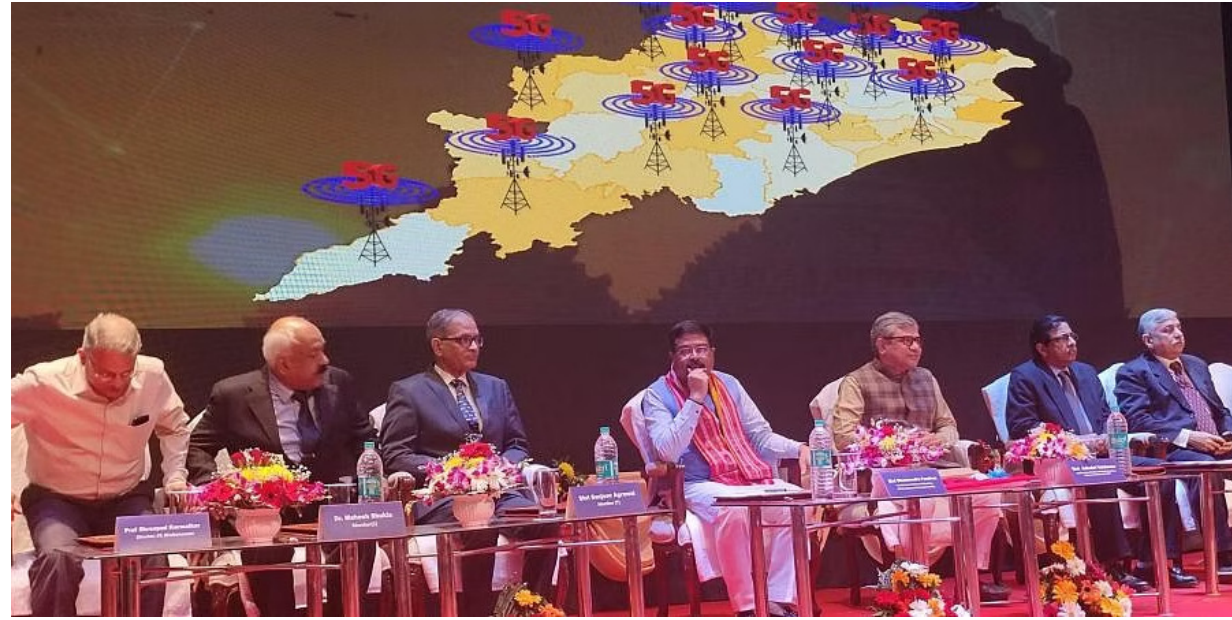
"If we don't receive foreign support, the conflict will drag on and there will be more losses," he said.

BSNL to roll out 5G service in the country by April 2024: Ashwini Vaishnaw

BHUBANESWAR: Union Minister for Railways, Communication and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday announced that BSNL would launch its 5G service by April 2024.

village of President Droupadi Murmu in the Mayurbhanj district.

Addressing the gathering, Pradhan said the roll out of 5G service is a breakthrough that will usher in infinite possibilities,



Speaking at the 5G roll out event organised at SOA University here, the minister said the Centre has infused around Rs 1.6 lakh crore to revive the state-run telecom provider, which will emerge as a strong entity in the telecom sector soon.

"The complete roll out of 4G service by BSNL across the country is expected by the end of this year. Since BSNL does not have legacy network, the 4G towers can be upgraded to 5G very fast. There will be no issues in faster roll out of 5G service by BSNL in India," he observed.

Vaishnaw and Union Minister for Education and Skill Development Dharmendra Pradhan launched the much awaited 5G service in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

ALSO READ | India must ride 5G wave to transform governance

The service will now be provided by Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel in the state in the first phase. The operators have installed 510 base transceiver stations (BTS) towers, including 410 by Jio, to provide the service.

The 5G service will be available in eight cities and towns, including Berhampur, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Puri, Balasore and Angul by March this year and the 5G network will cover entire Odisha by December 2024.

Vaishnaw said the fifth-generation cellular technology will bring a revolution at the grassroots level as it will not only be available for cell phone users, but also for many public services like health and education.

"The Narendra Modi government has sanctioned Rs 5600 crore for setting up 5000 mobile towers in around 7000 unconnected villages in Odisha. The towers will be installed by August 15, 2024. The state has also been allocated Rs 1080 crore for laying of fibre optics for high speed broadband service under the Bharat Net project," he said.

The union ministers also inaugurated 100 mobile towers set up in Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapada and Rayagada districts.

Odisha was among the states included in the phase-one roll out of 5G service.

ALSO READ | 5G technology likely to reach across India by 2024: Telecom Service Providers

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the service at four places in the country including the SLS Memorial Residential School at Pahadpur, the native

help realise PM Narendra Modi's vision of Purvodaya and pave the way for a new era in Odisha.

"From call drop to high speed 5G service, the country has experienced a revolutionary change in the telecom sector in the last few years. It has been possible only due to the auction of spectrums in a transparent manner. Though the first phase roll out will come to an end in March, Odisha got the service in the beginning of the year," he added.

Hockey World Cup 2023: Panposh a hostel with a difference

Continued from page-1

Barua is excited to watch the India versus Spain game from the Birsas Munda Stadium (all the 180 students were offered tickets for the match), his task is to take down notes of the game. "My coach has asked me to take a note and pen to jot down my observations so I will be doing that," he says, with a shyness that's hard to miss.

He truly comes alive when he's freestyling. He's known for lifting the ball — a form of 3D skill — and when he displays it in front of his teammates, you can see why he likes 'lifting the ball'. Apart from playing for the national team, he hopes to emulate idol Amit Rohidas (the current India vice-captain also came through this hostel), who enjoys a sort of cult personality in these parts. "He came from so little and look at him now. He's the man (for me)," Barua, who's a midfielder, says.

Like some of the other parts of the city, the hostel too has got a fresh coat of paint. Two sparkling blue FIH-approved astroturfs were used for sessions for the first time on Monday -- a worn-down green astro turf was in business before it was replaced -- to the delight of the trainees.

Jothikumari Toppo, another of the trainees at the hostel, says her dream is to emulate Vandana Katarriya by featuring at the Olympics. "I like Vandana," the 22-year-old forward who has been to the junior India camp in Bengaluru, smiles. "I want to ultimately play at the Olympics. But then for every Toppo and Barua, there are others who may never even have the opportunity to realise their childhood sporting dreams. For every kid who currently calls this hostel home, there have been countless many who have fallen through because of a want of the required talent to keep performing at this level.

"There is a weeding process in place," Lazarus Barla, one of the coaches at the hostel, explains. "The ones who don't perform lose their place and those slots are taken by the players who come in and this cycle continues." Barla, a former India player and very much of this parish, beams with pride when the conversation shifts to the big event. "Didn't expect this, we are living a dream," he says. "A place like Rourkela getting a Stadium like this." In the stands on Friday night, both Toppo and Barua will dream again of wearing the India jersey when they see the Indian team. On the field, 18 Indian players will start their own campaign towards realising the dream of winning the World Cup.

Results

Pool A: Argentina 1-0 South Africa, Australia 8-0 France.

Matches today:

Pool C: Malaysia vs Chile 1.00 PM, New Zealand vs Netherlands 3.00 PM (both in Rourkela).

Pool B: Belgium vs South Korea (5.00 PM), Germany vs Japan (7.00 PM) (both in Bhubaneswar).

Capital infusion in Vodafone Idea under discussion: Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

BHUBANESWAR: Debt-ridden telecom firm Vodafone Idea has various requirements, including infusion of capital, and discussions on this front are going on, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday.

Vodafone Idea (VIL), reeling under debt burden of over Rs 2 lakh crore, has opted for converting about Rs 16,000 crore of interest liability payable to the government into equity, which will amount to around a 33 per cent stake in the company while promoters' holding will come down to 50 per cent from 74.99 per cent.

"Vodafone (Idea) has many requirements. It has a particular requirement of capital. How much capital, who will infuse? All those things are under discussion at this point of time," Vaishnaw said. VIL has offered a stake to the government at a par value of Rs 10 per share and the government is waiting for the company's shares to stabilise at Rs 10 apiece.

Strong connectivity essential for building developed India, says PM Modi

Continued from page-1

Independence period, thereby leading to a massive exodus of population from this area.

Elaborating on a twin approach to address the situation, the PM said, "On the one hand, the campaign to clean Ganga was undertaken through 'Namami Gange' and on the other hand, 'Arth Ganga' was taken up. In Arth Ganga steps have been taken to create an environment of economic dynamism in the states from where Ganga passes." Addressing the foreign tourists who are travelling on the maiden voyage of the cruise, the Prime Minister said, "Today India has everything and a lot beyond your imagination. India can only be experienced from the heart, as the nation has welcomed everyone with open hearts, irrespective of region or religion, creed or country and welcomed tourists from all parts of the world."

"One can witness the extraordinary amalgamation of the heritage of India and its modernity on this cruise," the Prime Minister remarked as he shed light on the new era of cruise tourism, where new employment opportunities will be created for the youth of the country.

"Not just foreign tourists but Indians who travelled to different nations for such an experience can head towards North India now," the Prime Minister said. "Strong connectivity is essential for building a developed India," the Prime Minister said and stressed that the rivers of India will give new heights to water power, trade and tourism in the country.

The Prime Minister underlined the low usage of river waterways in the country before 2014, despite the rich history of this mode of transport in the country. Mr Modi said that, post-2014, India is harnessing this ancient strength for the cause of modern India. There is a new law and a detailed action plan for developing waterways in the country's major rivers.

"Similarly, there has been a three-fold increase in cargo transportation via river waterways from 30 lakh metric tonnes eight years ago," he said.

The Prime Minister further noted that waterways are not just beneficial to the environment but also help save money. "The cost of operating waterways is two-and-a-half times lesser than that of roadways, and one-third lesser when compared to railways," he said.

Speaking about the National Logistics Policy, Mr Modi stated that India has the potential to develop a thousands of kilometres of waterway network. He also emphasised that India has more than 125 rivers and river streams, which can be developed to transport goods and ferry people while also giving impetus to further expanding port-led development.

Referring to Ganga Vilas, the Prime Minister said that similar experiences are being planned for other inland waterways in the country in order to boost cruise tourism while keeping both budget and luxury in mind.

The voyage from Varanasi to Dibrugarh on the world's longest river cruise, the MV Ganga Vilas, covering five Indian states and Bangladesh, will cost ~50-55 lakhs per passenger.

The 51-day cruise is planned with visits to 50 tourist spots, including world heritage sites, national parks, river ghats, and major cities like Patna in Bihar, Sahibganj in Jharkhand, Kolkata in West Bengal, Dhaka in Bangladesh and Guwahati in Assam.

The MV Ganga Vilas is the first-ever cruise vessel made in India. The luxury cruise has three decks, 18 suites on board, 39 crew members, a capacity of 36 tourists and all the luxury amenities.

On board, the tourists will be served local food and seasonal vegetables. No non-vegetarian food or liquor will be on the menu.

According to Antara Luxury River Cruises, which is operating the MV Ganga Vilas, the cruise is fully booked till March 2024. Most of the tourists who have secured seats are from the US and Europe.

Messi scores in first game after World Cup as PSG wins

PARIS: Lionel Messi scored in his first game since leading Argentina to the World Cup title as French league leader Paris Saint-Germain beat Angers 2-0.

Nearly four weeks after the final against France in Qatar, Messi needed only five minutes to make an impact.

He turned neatly near the penalty area and

Belgian forward Loïs Openda equalized for Lens. Elsewhere, third-place Marseille moved within two points of Lens after winning 2-0 at Troyes.

Central defender Chancel Mbemba put Marseille ahead in the 10th after France midfielder Mattéo Guendouzi headed on a cross. Guendouzi's France teammate Jordan



threaded a pass to right back Nordi Mukiele, whose cross was turned in by 20-year-old forward Hugo Ekitiké.

Messi then started the move that led to his 72nd-minute goal, with Ekitiké and Mukiele combining quickly to put him through before he side-footed home.

His eighth league goal this season was initially disallowed for offside but then awarded following a video review.

It was otherwise a poor performance overall from PSG against a team in last place, but the Parisian club moved six points clear at the top after second-place Lens drew 2-2 at 19th-place Strasbourg.

Messi was given a warm ovation by the crowd at Parc des Princes, who chanted his name when he applauded them back. He scored twice against France in a wild 3-3 draw on Dec.

18 and converted his penalty in the shootout. Messi and PSG teammate Kylian Mbappé, who scored a hat trick in the final, are front-runners to win the next men's Ballon d'Or award.

With Mbappé rested, Messi started in attack with Neymar and Ekitiké. But PSG was asleep for stretches of the game and Angers had two good chances before Messi's goal. PSG's players warmed up wearing T-shirts with Pelé's face on.

The Brazilian great who won a record three World Cups, died in late December at the age of 82.

In Strasbourg, forward Alexis Claude-Maurice gave Lens an 11th-minute lead but five minutes later Strasbourg led after goals from midfielder Sanjin Prcic and veteran striker Kevin Gameiro.

India in tough Pool D of the Hockey World Cup

Host India are placed in a tough pool D along with strong contender England, former champion Spain and debutant Wales. The men in blue will take on Spain in their opening World Cup fixture at the



newly built Birsa Munda Stadium in Rourkela on 13th January.

India needs a winning start and so is Spain so the opening fixture is very crucial for both the teams and many experts are of the opinion that this is the best chance for the hosts to break the 48-year-long Jinx and end the competition with a podium finish.

India last won the World Cup medal—a Gold—way back in 1975 at Kuala Lumpur and since then they have never got near the podium.

Veretout made it 2-0 just after the break from Cengiz Ünder's pass.

Fourth-place Rennes fell five points behind Marseille after losing 2-1 at Clermont, which won thanks to a goal five minutes into stoppage time from midfielder Johan Gastien.

Rennes had two players sent off late on. Rennes is level on points with fifth-place Monaco, which needed a stoppage-time equalizer from top scorer Wissam Ben Yedder to draw 2-2 at sixth-place Lorient.

Nigeria striker Terem Moffi grabbed his 11th goal for Lorient, moving him level with PSG's Neymar and two behind scoring leader Mbappé.

OTHER MATCHES Lyon coach Laurent Blanc described Nantes manager Antoine Kombouaré as more than a close friend before the game.

Their teams drew 0-0, as did Brest and seventh-placed Lille. Toulouse had five different scores in a 5-0 win at lowly Auxerre.

Reims won 1-0 at Ajaccio to make it 10 league games unbeaten and Nice routed Montpellier 6-1. Midfielder Képhren Thuram the son of former France defender Lilian Thuram dribbled past several players before setting up winger Nicolas Pépé in the 15th. Thuram doubled Nice's lead in the 34th with a powerful shot.

Former Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey set up a second goal for Pépé who is on loan from Arsenal in the 56th.

Striker Andy Delort added another for Nice before midfielder Téji Savanier pulled one back for the visitors with a fine free kick.

Former Chelsea and England midfielder Ross Barkley then scored twice inside two minutes to make it 6-1.

After years of sliding down, the FIH World Rankings which culminated in failure to qualify for the Olympic Games Beijing 2008—a competition that they had won a record eight times—India is back at the top table of the global game.

A bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics was a big moment for the team, who followed it up with a third-place finish in the 2021-22 edition of the FIH Pro League. They also won the silver medal at the CWG last year.

Head coach Graham Reid is working hard to get the best out of the group, injecting a tactical discipline to their trademark skillful, fluid playing style, making them a team both respected and feared in equal measure.

However, star of the show is going to be the skipper Harmanpreet Singh, a fine defender and one of the best drag flickers in the game, who has also taken on the mantle of captain for the team. Meanwhile goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, midfield ace Manpreet Singh and striker Mandeep Singh are all capable of game-changing moments on their own as well.

England has participated in every edition of the World Cup, and are capable of creating major upsets. They have reached the semi-finals of the last three World Cup competitions but missed the podium on each occasion.

Tale of missing WC gold from Olympic champ Baskaran's trophy cabinet

The trophy cabinet at former hockey ace Vasudevan Baskaran's home in Chennai has the 1980 Moscow Olympics gold and the 1973 World Cup silver apart from numerous national and international laurels. It could also have been adorned with 1975 World Cup gold if the then 24-year-old Baskaran was not dropped from the Indian side at the eleventh hour.

"Being dropped from the side was disheartening. Any player would have felt it. In my case, the story was different. My family was backing me. Yes, I would love to have a WC gold in my gallery. I do have a silver medal but that gold is definitely missing from the cupboard. There is always a thought that it could have been very great but I moved on from there for the passion of hockey," Baskaran, who led India to their last Olympic gold, told this daily. Elaborating it further, he said, "I was dropped at the last minute while someone from Punjab was picked. I even got my kit bag and everything there in Delhi before being dropped off. Anyway, I was young then and couldn't have retaliated. I came back and played in the 1976 Montreal Olympics with almost the same squad. I went on to play till 1982. Regrets are there but not at the cost of my conscience."

72-year-old Baskaran, however, said it was his exclusion from the 1982 World Cup squad that hurt him more. The event was held in Mumbai, then called Bombay. "The 1975 episode was okay for me as the team had won but 1982 was definitely a heartbreak. The man who replaced me had not even played hockey after 1975. How can it be justified? In 1975, I was young and didn't have any problems but in 1982 I was the most senior player, I was outstanding in my position, outstanding in all departments. But here a man had replaced me who had last played seven years ago. I was there in the Bengaluru camp. There was a public agitation in Bengaluru after I was dropped and open letters were also sent to the then

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi."

Baskaran then switched to coaching and was given the reins of the junior team in due course of time. Under his coaching, the Indian team reached the final of the Junior



World Cup in 1997 eventually losing to Australia. He also coached the senior team in two World Cups (1998 and 2006) apart from the 2000 Sydney Olympics when a last-minute equaliser by Poland prevented India from reaching the semifinals.

India's chances Given his exploits as the coach, Baskaran strongly believes that India has a good chance at the World Cup. "India is in Pool D with England, Spain and Wales. All of them are good teams. The hosts should qualify but what matters is them topping the group. The first match against Spain will be crucial. Spain has a good defence and will not allow space to play. The quicker India settle down in the first quarter, the better it will be for them. We need a good and confident start," said Baskaran.

He also feels that this set of players are playing together for the past two-three, which will be an advantage for the team. "We have excellent midfielders like Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nilakanta Sharma, Surrender Kumar and Manpreet Singh. Drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh, who will also lead the side, is the team's strength. Then we have Akashdeep Singh, who can score at any time. And who can forget goalkeeper PR Sreejesh? He obviously will be a very important man for the team. Overall the team is very good," Baskaran said.

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