

400 Days To Polls, Reach Out To All Voters, Says PM Modi At BJP Meet

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a heads-up about the 2024 general elections at the BJP National Executive today and urged party leaders to increase their outreach to voters.

"We have the 400 days (until the big Lok Sabha elections) and we have to do everything to service the people. We have to create history," senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis quoted him as saying in the valedictorian's session at the two-day meeting. "PM Modi said we must pay attention to people in the 18-25 age group," Mr Fadnavis said. "He said they are

not familiar with history and the maladministration of previous governments and how we are moving towards sushashan (good governance). We have to make them aware and get them familiar with democratic ways and help them be part of good governance," he added.

The party should focus on strengthening organization in the villages, including in border areas, and its leaders must "meet people from all walks of life," Mr Fadnavis said, quoting the Prime Minister. He asked the BJP members to reach out to every section of society, including



minorities such as Bohras, Pasmandas and Sikhs, without electoral considerations.

"The BJP is no longer merely a political movement but a social movement as well that is working to transform socio-economic

conditions," PM Modi had told the 350-odd ministers, leaders and workers attending the session. India's best era ("Sarvottam Kaal") is coming and "we should dedicate ourselves to its development", PM Modi had said. On the second day

of the two-day National Executive meet, the party also extended JP Nadda's tenure as the party chief till June next year, indicating its preference to maintain continuity as it preps for the nine state elections this year and the general elections in the next.

JP Nadda Gets Extension, Will Stay BJP Chief Until June 2024

New Delhi: BJP chief Jagat Prakash Nadda will continue to head the party till June next year, the party's senior strategist Amit Shah announced on the second day of its national executive meet. The term of Mr Nadda -- who took over the party's top post from Amit Shah in 2020 -- was scheduled to end in January this year. But there was expectation that his term will be extended, with nine state elections lined up this year and general elections in 2024.

"The BJP national executive unanimously decided to extend party president JP Nadda's

term till June 2024," Amit Shah announced at a press conference. "We are confident that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Nadda, the party will win 2024 Lok Sabha polls with bigger mandate than 2019," Mr Shah said.

BJP leaders agree that Mr Nadda enjoys the confidence of PM Modi and his good performance has enabled the party to decide on an extension.

Mr Shah today underscored that the BJP won many state elections under Mr Nadda's leadership and expressed confidence that it would achieve a bigger mandate than 2019 in 2024. He

also lauded Mr Nadda's leadership during the pandemic, saying he connected the party organisation with the service of people.

Yesterday, Mr Nadda had underscored that party leaders must ensure victory in all nine state assembly polls slated for this year.

PM Modi is expected to outline the political roadmap for the party this evening in the valedictory session of the meeting, which is being attended by the party's union ministers, state chief ministers and around 350 leaders from across the country.

Adani Group Proposes To Set Up To Medical Colleges In Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Adani Group has proposed Odisha Government for establishment of medical colleges in Bhadrak and Rayagada districts on PPP mode.

"We are encouraged to note the intention of State of Odisha for establishment of medical colleges on PPP mode to upgrade medical care facilities at district level for the benefit of public at large as well as to increase medical seats in the state," Adani Foundation wrote to Shalini Pandit, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Odisha Health & Family Welfare Department.

Adani Foundation has initiated preliminary work and survey to establish medical colleges at Bhadrak and Rayagada.

However, the Foundation has expressed its interest to set up a medical college in Bhadrak district on PPP mode at the first instance.

"The entire development will be done by Adani Foundation under Adani Group CSR activity based upon mutually accepted MoU with Odisha Government," Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone CEO (Ports) Subrat Tripathy wrote. Explaining the company's contribution to development of healthcare sector in Gujarat, Tripathy mentioned in the letter that Adani Foundation had undertaken responsibility in 2008 to upgrade a district hospital of Bhuj and established a medical college on PPP mode to fulfil the vision of the then Chief Minister of Gujarat Narendra Modi.

Chadha Gets AS Rank Online MC Mandatory

Bhubaneswar: Ace Administrator Sanjeev Kumar Chadha has been empanelled in the rank of Additional Secretary (AS) in Government of India.

Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has brought out the notification here in this regard.

DoPT notification says "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the empanelment of Shri Sanjeev Kumar Chadha, IFoS (OR:89) for holding Additional Secretary/ Additional Secretary Equivalent level posts at the Centre."

Mr.Chadha is now serving as Principal Secretary of the Department of Co-operation. He is also serving as Special Secretary Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare. Mr.Chadha is Chief of Odisha State



Agricultural Marketing Board (OSAM) Board, which is spearheading the Agri-Marketing in the State. Now the Department of Co-operation (DoC) is spearheading new initiatives, thanks to the overdrive of Mr.Chadha, who is a go-getter and workaholic bringing in wide scale

reforms on the lines of 5T Charter of the Odisha Government. Recently DoC efforts for transparency for inducting new Managers in State Co-operative Bank fold were appreciated by the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Mr.Chadha is the Chief Administrator OSCB. On 12 January Chief Minister said that

the cooperative sector plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of farmers by providing necessary impetus to their agricultural operations through credit inputs and marking 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. 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.

Bhubaneswar(KCN) : As part of 5T Initiative, the State Government has made online medical certificate mandatory for renewal of driving licenses from January 26. As per the provision of Central Motor Vehicles Rule (CMVR), 1989, a medical certificate in Form 1A is mandatory for the applicant more than 40 year and applying for new LLR or renewal of DL. It is also required for all the applicants applying for any new transport DL.

At present the applicants are obtaining a manual doctor certificate in a paper format and uploading in the SARATHI portal at the time of online application. In this process the correctness of the medical certificate cannot be ascertained and fake doctor certificates are also uploaded.

In order to make it

more transparent and to ensure proper medical test by genuine doctors (MBBS degree holders with registration under MCI), State Transport Authority (STA) Odisha has developed a new online doctor registration portal where about 167 MBBS doctors having MCI registration have registered in the portal. They will issue medical certificates to DL & LL applicants through the online SARATHI portal and no uploading of form 1A would be required. The details of such doctors are available on the web portal of SARATHI.

Starting January 26, online issuance of medical certificates will be mandatory for DL & LL applicants of age more than 40 years, said Dipti Ranjan Patra, Joint Commissioner Transport, Technical.

A total of 167 doctors have registered on the portal. Any doctor with

an MBBS degree or above is eligible to register on the portal. Registration of doctors is completely free of cost, he said. The medical certificate of a person of age more than 40 year applying for issuance of Learner license/driving license or its renewal can be presented online in the form 1 (A) rather than doing it manually, Patra said. It was decided to issue medical certificates in form 1 (A) electronically under the 5T policy of the Government of Odisha to improve the ease of getting a driving license and to have better user experience and to reduce footfall in RTO offices. This will also ensure no one can upload a fake medical certificate and get a driving license. In order to make the whole system transparent, a portal is launched where in-license applicants can directly get medical certificates without hassle.

BJP On PMAY Plea

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Taking the PMAY issue to a further level, the Odisha BJP on Tuesday sought intervention of Governor Ganeshi Lal for ensuring ownership and accountability of Odisha Administration in transparent and fair allocation of PMAY-G houses to beneficiaries in Odisha. A delegation of BJP led by BJP Chief Whip Mohan Majhi submitted a memorandum to the Governor in this regard.

The Centre has ensured allotment of an additional 9.5 lakhs houses to Odisha under PMAY-G in the extended phase of PMAY extending the beneficiaries in Odisha close to 28 lakhs. However, recent

unpleasant experiences and incidents of favoritism and rampant corruption in allocation of PMAY-G houses to beneficiaries is derailing the ambitious scheme and is an outright denial of rightful houses to the eligible beneficiary, the BJP said in its memorandum.

The Ministry of Rural Development has chalked out detailed procedure and mechanism to ensure strict systemic vigil and public scrutiny so that validation of the beneficiary is truly fair and transparent, and no ineligible households are included based on favoritism.

Additionally, the mechanism of Gram Sabha Validation, Geo



Tagging, Beneficiary Aaddhar Seeding and Bank Account Verification of selected beneficiaries are also incorporated. The party said that the beneficiary registration in Awaas+ Platform has been started and, in this regard, a detailed guideline has been issued by the Director, Special Projects, Panchayati Raj and Drinking water department.

However, it is noticed that Odisha Government has completely offloaded its ownership and responsibility of fair and transparent allocation of houses to public which is hijacked by local opinion leaders/political leadership/people with vested interests, the party alleged.

Identification of ineligible beneficiaries and validation of provisional list has also

been wrested from the public without zero systemic check and balances or scope of intervention by district administration/ block/ gram panchayat level officials.

"We would like to draw your attention that in most rural areas of Odisha people will be unable to file complaints as the process requires complainants to provide his/her details and

registered mobile number, revealing his identity in public. This may create a life threatening situation for the complainant from people with vested interests/ politically influential persons," the BJP leaders said. In addition, they said, in many places people are not aware of criteria for selection and rejection of beneficiaries. In absence of awareness of rejection criteria, it is observed that provisional lists are getting approved without much intervention from the public. This jeopardizes the whole proposition of public scrutiny, they alleged. Moreover, local people don't have a strong voice against the government officials and powerful

people of that area for filing complaints against them due to various reasons. Keeping in view of the above situation, it is felt that the process and guidelines to identify the ineligible beneficiaries may not be fulfilled through filing complaints by the people. The BJP leaders requested the Governor to kindly look into the matter and issue necessary instructions to the State Government to ensure systemic check and balances with provision of adequate intervention by district block administration ensuring ownership and responsibility in transparent and fair selection of beneficiaries under PMAY-G.

Online MC Mandatory Focus on Netaji

Bhubaneswar (KCN): As part of 5T Initiative, the State Government has made online medical certificate mandatory for renewal of driving licenses from January 26.

As per the provision of Central Motor Vehicles Rule (CMVR), 1989, a medical certificate in Form 1A is mandatory for the applicant more than 40 year and applying for new LLR or renewal of DL. It is also required for all the applicants applying for any new transport DL.

At present the applicants are obtaining a manual doctor certificate in a paper format and uploading in the SARATHI portal at the time of online application. In this process the correctness of the medical certificate cannot be ascertained and fake doctor certificates are also uploaded.

In order to make it more transparent and to ensure proper medical test by genuine doctors (MBBS degree holders with registration under MCI), State Transport Authority (STA) Odisha has developed a new online doctor registration portal where about 167 MBBS doctors having MCI registration have registered in the portal.

They will issue medical certificates to DL & LL applicants through the online SARATHI portal and no uploading of form 1A would be

required. The details of such doctors are available on the web portal of SARATHI. Starting January 26, online issuance of medical certificates will be mandatory for DL & LL applicants of age more than 40 years, said Dipti Ranjan Patra, Joint Commissioner Transport, Technical.

A total of 167 doctors have registered on the portal. Any doctor with an MBBS degree or above is eligible to register on the portal. Registration of doctors is completely free of cost, he said.

The medical certificate of a person of age more than 40 year applying for issuance of Learner license/driving license or its renewal can be presented online in the form 1 (A) rather than doing it manu-

ally, Patra said.

It was decided to issue medical certificates in form 1 (A) electronically under the 5T policy of the Government of Odisha to improve the ease of getting a driving license and to have better user experience and to reduce footfall in RTO offices. This will also ensure no one can upload a fake medical certificate and get a driving license. In order to make the whole system transparent, a portal is launched where in-license applicants can directly get medical certificates without hassle.



Road Safety Week at Nexus Esplanade mall

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Nexus Esplanade mall in the state capital observed Road Safety Week on its premises on January 13. The event's theme was 'Save Yourself to Save your Family' and it was organised in association with Rapido bike taxi. Centre director of the mall Parth Pratim Nayak said the objective of the initiative was to create awareness among customers on road safety. During the event, a customer engagement activity

was organised by the mall management where general questions on road safety were asked. Those who answered correctly were presented a helmet and t-shirt by Rapido. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) organises 'Road Safety Week' from January 11 to 17 to create awareness among people on safety on road and give an opportunity to all stakeholders to contribute to the cause.

CBI finds 17 kg gold, 1.57 crore cash from retired Odisha IRTS officer

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): The Central Bureau of Investigation on Tuesday unearthed a whopping 17 kg gold worth over Rs 8.5 crore besides Rs 1.57 crore cash from the pos-

The Central agency carried out searches at various properties linked to Jena in Bhubaneswar and other places. "Property-related documents have been seized and further

1.92 crore. Searches were carried out at places in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur and about Rs 10 lakh cash was recovered from the property of Jena

vice in March 1989 and retired on November 30, 2022. Interestingly, he and his family members were found in possession of assets amounting to only Rs 4.53 lakh till



session of retired Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer Pramod Kumar Jena. Jena, who was earlier booked for accumulation of disproportionate assets, was also possessing bank and postal deposits of Rs 2.5 crore. He retired last year as the principal chief operation manager of East Coast Railway (ECoR) in November.

searches are continuing," said a CBI officer. On January 3, the central agency's Anti-Corruption Branch registered a case against Jena, a 1989 batch IRTS officer under the Prevention of Corruption Act and carried out searches. On January 4, the ACB found Jena to be possessing of disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs

the same day. The 60-year-old had amassed wealth while serving in ECoR in different positions like additional divisional railway manager, chief freight transportation manager, chief commercial manager, chief traffic planning manager, and principal chief commercial manager, CBI sources had said. Jena joined the ser-

April 2005. However, the wealth grew rapidly to the tune of Rs 4.28 crore by March 2020. The CBI had pegged the total known sources of income of Jena and his family members between April 2005 and March 2020 at over Rs 3.25 crore. Their expenditure during the same period, including the educational fee of the two girls, was calculated at Rs 88.58 lakh.

New Delhi: As part of the Republic Day celebrations 2023 and to mark the 126th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (celebrated as Parakram Diwas), the Military Tattoo & Tribal Dance performances are being showcased under the banner Adi-Shaurya: Parv Parakram kain Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on 23-24 January 2023. Themed as Military Tattoo & Tribal Dance, this event is aimed at throwing light

enlivening a slice of India with their unique and colourful costumes, headdresses, music instruments and rhythmic dance beats. The traditional dance performance to be presented during the main event include Gaurr Maria, Gaddi Nati, Siddi Dhamal, Baiga Pardhoni, Purulia, Bagurumba, Ghusadi, Balfi, Lambadi, Paika, Rathwa, Budigali, Songimukhawate, Karma, Mangho, Ka Shad Mastieh, Kummikali, Palaiyar, Cheraw & Rekham



on the contribution of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to our freedom struggle. The Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Tribal Affairs are jointly organising the event, with Indian Coast Guard being the coordinating agency. The initial practice sessions for the event began on 10 January and the reverberations of the military drums and trumpets have set the stage for the traditional dance performances to blend in representing our country's unique cultural trends and fostering the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat". About 1200 plus performers are fine tuning their art forms each day in rehearsals with each group

Pada. These events and groups are coordinated by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Indian Army is presenting its prowess in the event through Paramotor gliding, Hot Air Balloon, Horse Show, Khukuri Dance, Gatka, Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Thang-ta, Motorcycle Display, Air Warrior Drill, Navy Band and martial arts. The grand finale will also showcase a performance by famous Bollywood playback singer Kailash Kher. People interested to witness the show live at JLN stadium may do so by booking their free tickets through www.bookmyshow.com.

Pakistan learnt its lesson and wants to live in peace with India, says Shehbaz Sharif

Abu Dhabi(KCN): Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for "serious and sincere talks" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on "burning points like Kashmir." In an interview with Dubai-based Al Arabiya TV, Sharif said that Pakistan has learned its lesson after three wars with India and stressed that now it wants peace with its neighbour. "My message to the Indian leadership and Prime Minister Modi is that let's sit down on the table and

have serious and sincere talks to resolve our burning points like Kashmir. It is up to us to live peacefully and make progress or quarrel with each other and waste time and resources," Sharif said. In an interview with Dubai-based Arabic news channel, Pakistan Prime Minister said, "We have had three wars with India, and they have only brought more misery, poverty, and unemployment to the people."

Odisha budget for 2023-24 likely to touch 2.5 lakh crore

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): As the process of budget preparation continues, the state government is planning to present a budget of around Rs 2.5 lakh crore for 2023-24 which will be the biggest ever for Odisha. Though tax receipts and expenditure have improved after the Covid-19 pandemic, the government expects an increase in state share in Central taxes compared to the last finan-

ence was estimated at around Rs 95,000 crore. Official sources maintained that the growth in tax and non-tax revenue of the state has been as expected and is likely to cross the target by year end. Sources said that in the 2023-24 budget projection, the tax and non-tax resources of the state will be 20 per cent more, though a conservative estimated of Rs 1 lakh crore has



cial year. Sources said that the budget size will have an increase in the range of 10 to 25 per cent depending on the Central share to be received by the state. Official sources said the state's share in Central taxes was Rs 36,977 crore in 2022-23. The state share will have to increase at least by Rs 5,000 crore to support the Odisha budget. The revenue receipts of the state are also likely to increase and has been estimated to be around Rs 1.8 lakh crore, an increase of 15 per cent. The state plans to raise around Rs 1 lakh crore through its own resources, both tax and non-tax revenue while the total expectations from the Centre including tax share is likely to be around Rs 75,000 crore. In the 2022-23 financial year, the tax and non-tax rev-

been made. The focus will be on arresting the decline in the level of revenue surplus though appropriate revenue augmentation and revenue expenditure rationalization measures. During the last three years, the state has presented a revenue surplus budget and it is expected that this year also it will be revenue surplus. As the 2023-24 budget is likely to be the last before the general elections in 2024, announcements for all sections of people are likely to be made. Sources said as the Centre has launched its own free rice scheme, the state government is also likely to announce similar scheme. All the major schemes including the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana and KALIA scheme are also expected to continue.

CLASSIFIED

CAUTION

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. The Kalinga chronicle publication does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of The Kalinga Chronicle Publications shall not be held responsible/liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.



AUTOMOBILE



REAL ESTATE

SALE

Kawasik Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale. Contact: 2555326

SALE

Flats ready for possession before Rathayatra at Puri near Seabeach for sale. Contact: 9861078308

PURCHASE

Required a Marshal/Commandor/Boleto in good condition. Contact 2555763

Residential plots at Pahala close to NH-5 and near Pata Railway Station, Bhubaneswar for immediate sale. Contact: 0674-2556733

Residential plots at

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

Classified advertisements are released daily. The normal classified advertisement is charged @ Rs. 5/- per word up to maximum number of 50 words. Any extra word will be Rs. 8/- per word. The minimum charges for any classified advertisement is Rs. 100/-. The options for bold lettering and outlining are also available and are charged @ 7/- and 10/- per word respectively. Extra charges for photographs Rs.100/-. For Box No. Rs. 100/-.

HIRE

For hiring of Car/Jeep/Bus on monthly basis. Contact: 2555763

Gohira Chhak in front of CV Raman Engineering College beside NH-5, near Tamardo. Contact: 9238691168

PURCHASE

Simplex / Duplex building at BBSR contact: 9437002509

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required Single / Double / Triple Storiied North/East facing building at Puri. Contact 9437143483

BUSINESS

Saving 10,000/- for high return, extra earn and Foreign trip opportunity, 9238904001. Independent business work from home, training in Singapore, 9338014287.



MATRIMONIAL

BRIDE WANTED

Wanted bride for Khandayat Boy, 37plus, Caste no bar, 0674-2555763

GROOM WANTED

Wanted Groom any service/business family for a Bramhin Girl. Contact 2555226



TOURS & TRAVELS

We provide luxury coach buses (16,25,32,41,52 seater) for Picnic, Excursion, Marriage. Maa Santoshi Travels, Contact: 9861079437 For Luxury Passenger vehicle, Contact: Sagacity Tours & Travels, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Ph. 2540219

WANTED

Required Driver/Peon/Attendant/ Aya

Please Contact-8984600400

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required double/Single/ Multi storied Bungalow type North or East Facing Independent building At-Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar, V.S.S. Nagar, Mancheswar, Rasulgarh, Sallashree Vihar, Niladri Vihar.

Please Contact- 8338870595

Court proceedings reveal streaming date of Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan'



A court proceeding related to the streaming of Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film Pathaan has revealed the OTT premiere date of the film. As per reports, Pathaan will release on Amazon Prime Video on April 25, exactly three months after its theatrical release on January 25.

Although the film has been approved by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for a theatrical release, it will have to be submitted again to the CBFC for re-certification ahead of its streaming premiere. According to Bar & Bench, The Delhi High

Court asked the producers of Pathaan on Monday to provide Hindi subtitles, closed captions as well as audio descriptions for the OTT release of the film for the benefit of those with visual and hearing impairments. Since Pathaan is just eight days away from release, the court observed that directions for the inclusion of audio description and other measures for the theatrical release cannot be passed at this stage, but passed directions with respect to the release of the film on Prime Video in April, asking the CBFC to consider re-certification of the

same by March 10 after the producer prepares subtitles.

CBFC had passed the film with more than 10 cuts and granted it a U/A certificate. Among the purported cuts, there were three changes made to the controversial song Besharam Rang. These include the removal or replacement of a 'close-up shot of buttocks,' 'side pose (partial nudity)' shots and visuals of sensuous dance movements during the lyrics 'Bahut tang kiya.' The film also stars Deepika Padukone and John Abraham.

Remake of Spanish series 'Elite' to premiere on February 3 as 'Class'

MUMBAI: "Class", the Indian adaptation of the smash hit Spanish series "Elite", will debut on Netflix on February 3, the streaming ser-

Bhan, Piyush Khati and Zeyn Shaw. Tanya Bami, Series Head, Netflix India, said "Class" is a relevant and powerful story about class di-

wait for our members to catch this thrilling series," she added. It was not an easy task to develop the Indian version of



vice announced on Tuesday.

Directed by Ashim Ahluwalia, the young adult series is set at a posh school called Hampton International where three new students from starkly different backgrounds enrol for a new term and shake up the status quo.

Netflix revealed the release date of the show along with its official trailer which dropped on social media on Tuesday.

"Class" features an ensemble cast of Gurfateh Pirzada, Anjali Sivaraman, Ayesha Kanga, Chayan Chopra, Chintan Rachchh, Cwaayal Singh, Madhyama Segal, Moses Koul, Naina

"Elite", a show that enjoys a huge following across the globe, said Ahluwalia. "I was keen to make something real and

Directed by Ashim Ahluwalia, the young adult series is set at a posh school called Hampton International where three new students from starkly different backgrounds enrol for a new term

grappling with an unexpected turn of events - a journey that will keep audiences at the edge of their seats.

"The series takes an unfiltered look at the everyday dilemmas, emotions and conflicts the youth goes through. We can't

intense, something that charts the heightened emotions of teenage life. I also wanted to explore class, something we engage with daily but rarely see authentically depicted on screen," he added.

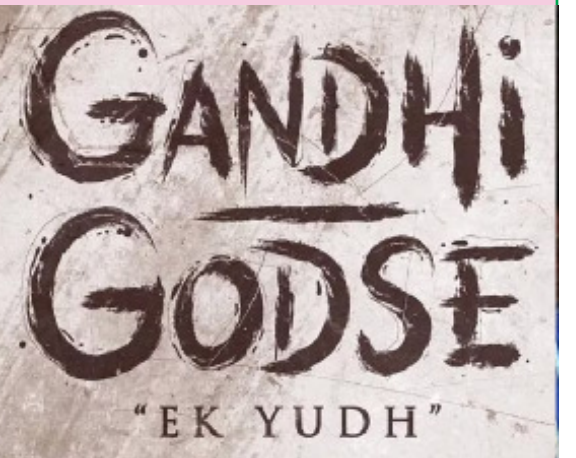
'Watch it with an open mind': Rajkumar Santoshi breaks silence on 'Gandhi Godse-Ek Yudh' row

NEW DELHI: Filmmaker Rajkumar Santoshi, whose upcoming directorial 'Gandhi Godse - Ek Yudh' recently triggered a controversy, on Monday, stated that the criticisms were based on the trailer.

He requested the critics to watch the film with an 'open mind'.

Set in post-independence India of 1947-48, 'Gandhi Godse-Ek Yudh' depicts the war of ideologies between Nathuram Godse and Mahatma Gandhi. The trailer showcased a powerful glimpse into the tumultuous

ing for the film, Santoshi said, "It has come to my notice that some people, claiming to be followers of Gandhiji, burnt my effigies and it might happen in future too. This surprises me because people who truly believe in him will never resort to violence. They will never come out on the streets with lathis and burn effigies. It only goes to show that they actually don't believe in Gandhian principles. They haven't even seen the film and are reacting to the trailer. It shows that their motive is something else."



period following India's partition. Following the trailer release of the period drama film on January 11, the Congress recently sought a ban on the film in Madhya Pradesh.

Speaking to ANI, the veteran filmmaker, who has many blockbusters such as 'Ghayal' and 'Damini' to his credit, said, "It is important because historically, Gandhiji and Godse are two leaders against whom various allegations have been levied. While there are many who respect Gandhiji, there are also those who bad-mouth him. Same is the case with Godse, with some even calling him a terrorist." "So, I felt that there should be a stage for both of them where they are put together to put forth their viewpoints and debate on them. It will enable viewers shape an objective opinion on Gandhiji and Godse. The film will make them question if they really know Gandhiji or Godse as they thought they would. As a filmmaker, we have tried to put aside our personal choices and honestly put forward the opinions of both these characters from our political history," he continued.

On the criticism he has been receive-

He added, "I request people to watch the film with an open mind and not come to theatres with any preconceived notions. Those coming with an open mind will truly enjoy the film. There's not been a single complaint against the film's previews, not even from the censor board."

Meanwhile, on Sunday, Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson, Tushar Gandhi, waded into the controversy over the film, saying, "I'm not surprised because for them (the makers of the film), Godse is a hero, and if they portray him as a hero, it should not surprise any of us. But I cannot comment on the merits or the demerits of the film because I haven't seen it and I don't intend to see films which glorify murderers."

'Gandhi Godse Ek Yudh' is set in an India of the filmmaker's imagination where Mahatma Gandhi survives an assassination bid and meets his attacker, Nathuram Godse, in prison. What follows is a fiery debate and a clash of ideologies between them.

Produced by Manila Santoshi, with music composed by maestro AR Rahman, the movie is set to hit the theatres on Republic Day, January 26.

POLITICAL DYNASTIES CRIPPLE DEMOCRACY



M.R.LALU

India's political spectrum witnessed a complete transformation when an outsider from Delhi with a layman's profile invaded it. Decades of Indian politics was full of powerful transcriptions of dynastic narratives that defined, decoded and at times demonised it in various vernaculars. Narendra Modi's invasion into the political domain of India came with an unprecedented force and it was an unpredicted exercise until a decade ago. And the main reason such an exercise seemed unrealistic and insensitively brushed under the carpet was the political force that controlled India for decades with the power it garnered by playing its political shrewdness on the innocence that India's landscape is inhabited with. The transformation seems

to be completely overtaking all narratives effectively erasing the dynastic influence. The desperation of the dynasts and their shenanigans have often been surfacing with an ostensible denial.

Would family dynasties cripple Indian politics? Before answering this, let us know who forced the desperation emanating from a total collapse of one of the dynasties to invent exercises such as a revival yatra across the country? The answer comes from the dynast himself. Rahul Gandhi from the supreme Nehru-Gandhi dynasty conclusively recognises the threat and revealingly proclaims it with all sensibility. He says that it is not the BJP but the RSS, the ideological parent of the BJP that his party is fighting its war against. His quip seems to be a deliberate portrayal of Narendra Modi as an instrument in the hands of the larger framework of the Sangh. His lamentation on the Sangh Parivar is realistic as the reach and effect of the right wing group could overthrow the decades

old dynastic supremacy. In his latest address in Haryana during his Bharat Jodo Yatra he reminisced a little bit of the Indian epic the Mahabharata and to the gathering of his party cadre he said, the RSS is the 21st century Kauravas and India's selected billionaires are standing with the Kauravas. And the 'tapasy' in him calls his party the conglomeration of the Pandavas.

To understand the significance of such an analogy, we need to know the epical importance of the two segments of the same royal family. On one side are the Pandavas the proponents of righteousness and on the other side are the Kauravas being immersed in treacherous demonization. Rahul Gandhi is seen beautifying his party with his refined vocabulary and emboldened oratory. So, the real threat according to him is not the BJP but the invasive power of the RSS. Hegemonizing India's political institutions, dynasties have transformed them into

family enterprises and Rahul Gandhi is a product of such a family enterprise. His rise to political significance in India tells us tales of a feeble democracy and its antithetical impulses. For him, political powers emerging from outside the jurisdiction of dynasties do not count to be reliable and supposed to be unsustainable. RSS, on the other hand is seen to be tabled as a platform which efficiently moulds leaders for the cause of the country. Its imagination, capturing the gist of India's ethical and cultural veracity is often misread and embezzled. The hullabaloo on the RSS chief's views on Hindutva and his latest quips on India's minority essentially resembles the restlessness of an ideological opponent being unprepared for an intellectual dialogue.

Political dynasties in India have always camouflaged their real intent by misappropriating the democratic values of the country. The latest act of undermining the

power of democracy in India was the induction of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's son into his cabinet. A healthy democracy always creates space for fresh and genuine faces. This deteriorating trend in Indian politics began with the Nehru-Gandhi family which showed the way and served licences to all the power centers that later metamorphosed into dynasties. Training centers of RSS, the shakhas, are probably busy in reversing this unethically political enterprising of the family dynasties. It keeps outsourcing its efficient cadre to the BJP and the situation emerging in the saffron party is by design dangerous for the political dynasties across the country and this caused Rahul Gandhi to come up with the Pandava-Kaurava analogy.

For a fact checking we can examine the trend in the RSS-BJP confluence. The list of its most prominent leaders deputed to the BJP by its parental organisation must startle us. Leaders like A.B.Vajpayee, L.K. Advani, Narendra

Modi, M.M.Joshi, Nitin Gadkari, Pramod Mahajan, and Ram Mahav are a selected few. The list is endless and the interesting aspect is that nobody among them comes with a family baggage. It is unnecessary to suspect their organisational efficiency. An ideological paradigm that A.B.Vajpayee is known to have brought into Indian politics is familiar to the Indian polity. Therefore, the Congress' scion is justifiably disillusioned about the RSS presence behind the BJP's dominance. When he says his fight is not against the BJP but against the ideology of the RSS, he convincingly comprehends the impact of Sangh-ism in Indian politics and the perils that the dynasty he represents has shrunk into.

Parties converted into family enterprises are evidently depicting the ideological and structural decline of India's democracy. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Tamil Nadu is wary and shaky at the rise of K. Annamalai the BJP

president of the state. Stalin's incompetence to counter the intellectual eloquence and political shrewdness of Annamalai became another reason for his son's induction into the cabinet. Annamalai, on the other hand is a disciplined party cadre of the BJP and emerging as a crucial challenger to the DMK dynasty in Tamil Nadu where its principal opponent AIADMK has shrivelled into insignificance. Annamalai's deep-rooted Hindutva conscience and his fine tuning with the Sangh have made him the suitable choice for the party.

Pundits, watchful of the degradation of the Indian political system seem to be appreciative about the manufacturing mechanics of the BJP workers by the Sangh. Undoubtedly, its new generation leaders are equally capable to row the party across turbulent political waters. Tragically, political dynasties are often seen fulfilling the familial requirements by being in power and in a democracy, if

parties stoop into familial entertainments, we will witness the downfall of the democracy and its most important institution, the parties. Irrespective of electing its new president, the Congress party is still seen heavily leaning on the Nehru-Gandhi family and the image makeover Yatra by its leader indubitably tells us the intensity of degradation the party has come across. The rise of a dynasty in any party indicates the fall of its genuine leaders and the party's disconnect from the grassroots. It seems the political discourse that the Sangh and its affiliates are trying to ignite in India's political spectrum is to question the obfuscating impact of the dynasties and their debilitation of India's democratic edifice. Rahul Gandhi's revival strides made him sense this tremor.

(Freelance Journalist/Author of "India @ 75- A Contemporary Approach") Ranni Pathanamthitta District Kerala State

Latter To Editor

Dear Editor

This pictorial story is heart breaking! This poor girl sales tea at the ferry ghat of Barrackpore (North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India) along with her dad who comes from the poor Jharkhand state of Eastern India. She used to be in school; but following the pandemic she is among several hundreds and thousands across India who are now school dropouts! The devastating economy is pushing little kids from poor, marginal communities to join hands with their family to survive by looking for extra income to support their daily needs. While India as a nation is living forward fast; but it encapsulates the story of several others whose dreams are crushed and are being pushed into perpetual poverty. While education is reaching successfully to a vast section of our population. Yet there are those unfortunate, ill fated, helpless and socio-economically deprived members of our society where education is not only a privilege; but also unaffordable in many cases for our marginal communities. If we turn a blind eye to these serious challenges, India's growth towards modernization will be hampered; and dysfunctional economic and education sector will continue to fail.

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

Sir

By winning the Golden Globe award for the best original song award, it's famous composer M M Keeravani has shown that original work always win. In today's music world where technology is fully depended upon to compose and churn tunes and songs the Naatu Naatu song tells us something different - music that comes from the heart, music that can feel the pulsebeat of the listener and music that in all ways is original and authentic can definitely win the hearts of music buffs and even win laurels. Also when cheap plagiarism is found ruling the music world 'Naatu naatu' song undoubtedly stands a class apart for its originality, creativity and uniqueness.

**M PRADYU
KANNUR
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.**

India witnesses continuous rise in hit and run cases



Hit and run is caused by the poor driving/judgment of the driver to leave the scene of the accident and escape his/her responsibilities. Serious accidents occurring on road are a matter of great concern for all of us. Not a day passes when we do not read report of at least 2 or 3 serious Hit & Run incidents. It seems our society grows more inclined to accepting self preservation taking precedence over personal responsibility; we are not as horrified as we should be at the commonality of hit and run accidents. Further Hit & run accidents often end up unresolved due to lack of defendants to be indicted for it. It is clear that unless urgent remedial measures are taken, the occurrence of these accidents and resultant casualties will go on rising. It is a problem with a

serious enforcement problem, and until the legislature and courts begin to penalize such drivers 'before' they kill someone, law enforcement will continue to consider this a minor infraction. The law says that if

Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

them. If they don't give their name and address at the time of the collision, they must report it to the Police "as soon as reasonably practicable" but, in any event, within 24 hours.

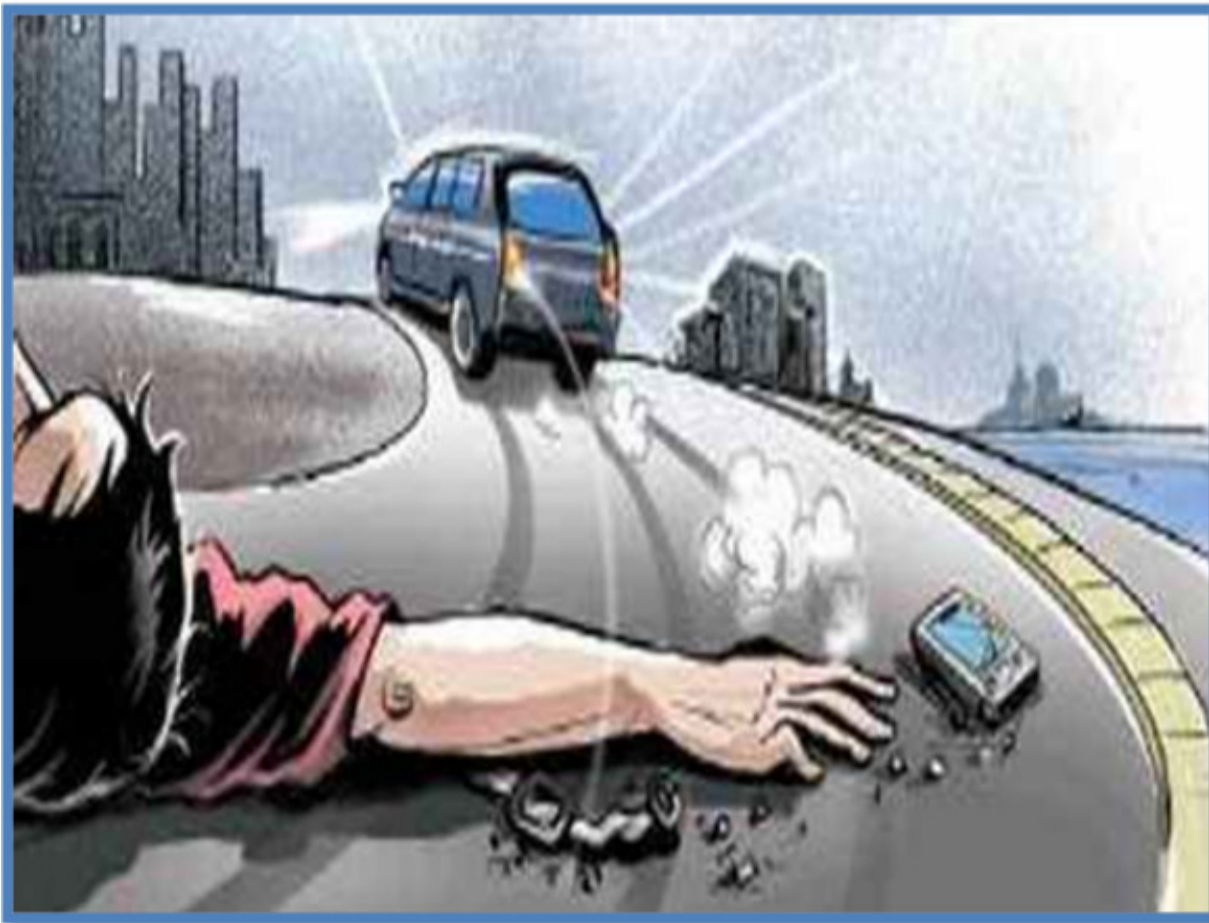
police station within seven days. The central government intends to convert 52,000 km of state highways into national highways. The upgrade - without

run cases in the country, can be booked under two categories: Section 279 or 304(A) of Indian Penal code and also under 134A and 134B of Indian Motor Vehicle (IMV) Act. Conviction rates for urban road accidents in India have

found that 60% of commercial bus drivers failed the minimum vision requirements for driving.

It is noticed that the high number of underage drivers transgressing the law by going for a joyride can be attributed to peer pressure and a feeling of youthful invincibility. Youngsters have a sense that they can get away with transgressions - a feeling of bravado whereby "I can get away with anything" but they are not at fault. The parents should be responsible enough not to allow an under-age child to drive. Children, by nature, are more reckless. They are not mature enough to understand the consequences of their actions or mistakes. To address these dangers we need to understand the dangers of underage driving. The best possible way to address this road safety hazard is to provide road safety education to both children and parents.

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



a driver is involved in an accident and damage is caused to people, vehicles, animals or property, they have to stop and provide their name, address and vehicle registration to anyone having reasonable grounds for requiring

If injury is caused to another person, the driver must also show an insurance certificate; if unable to do so at the scene, (s)he must report the accident to police within 24 hours, and take the certificate to a

instituting adequate safety measures on and along the national highways - would be undesirable, because the accidents and deaths on national highways exceeds every year with those on the state highways. Usually, the hit and

typically hovered between 5 and 10 percent. For hit-and-run cases, the lack of eyewitnesses and surveillance typically leads to a "blind" close of the case if the victim does not note the license plate number of the vehicle. The study also

Davos 2023: Ukraine's first lady urges world leaders to 'use influence', calls for unity

DAVOS: Ukraine's first lady warned world leaders and corporate executives at the World Economic Forum's annual gathering in the Swiss town of Davos that not all of them were using their influence at a time when Russia's invasion leaves children dying and a world struggling with food insecurity.

As the anniversary of the war nears, Olena Zelenska said Tuesday that parents are in tears watching doctors trying to save their children, farmers are afraid to go back to their fields filled with explosive mines and "we cannot allow a new Chernobyl to happen," referring to the 1986 nuclear disaster as Russian missiles have pounded Ukrainian energy infrastructure for months.

"What you all have in common is that you are genuinely influential," Zelenska told attendees. "But there is something that separates you, namely that not all of you use this influence, or sometimes use it in a way that separates you even more." She spoke as hundreds of government officials, corporate titans, academics and activists

from around the world who descended on the town billed as Europe's highest. The weeklong talkfest of big ideas and backroom deal-making prioritizes global problems such as hunger, climate change and the slowing economy, but it's never clear how much concrete action emerges to help reach the forum's stated ambition of "improving the state of the world." "We are all internally convinced that there is no such global problem that humanity cannot solve," Zelenska said. "This is more important now when Russia's aggression in Europe poses various challenges."

The war in Ukraine has killed thousands of civilians, displaced millions and jolted food and fuel markets worldwide. With the war raising inflation and expanding food insecurity in developing nations, Zelenska called it "an insult to mankind and human nature to have mass starvation."

Ukraine and Russia had been key suppliers of wheat, barley and other food supplies to Africa, the Middle East and Asia where many were already going hungry.

About 345 million people in 82 countries are facing acute food insecurity, according to the U.N. World Food Program, up from 135 million in 53 countries before the pandemic and war in Ukraine. Zelenska warned that the war could expand beyond Ukraine's borders and widen the crises but

"unity is what brings peace back."

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen urged the assembled executives and global leaders at Davos to keep aiding Ukraine.

"Ukraine wants to become a member of the European Union, and it is a perfect opportunity to take investment and reform to pave this way for Ukraine towards the European Union," she said after Zelenska's address. "And my call on you is: We need every helping hand on board. Ukraine deserves to have as much support as possible."

While urging unity for Ukraine, von der Leyen unveiled a major cleantech industrial plan to compete with China and the United States as the 27-nation bloc looks to stay a leader in plotting a greener future.

She said the plan would make it easier to push through subsidies for green industries and inject funding into EU-wide projects to help reach its goal of climate neutrality by 2050. The bloc also would be more forceful in countering unfair trading practices.

At Davos, a helicopter buzzed overhead in overcast skies as scores of notables, including former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, trudged through the snow and crisscrossed the Alpine town of 10,000 to attend a number of panel sessions on everything from the environment to cryptocurrencies to the fight against COVID-19.

Many concerned minds in Davos were on the devastation from a Russian missile strike that hit an apartment building in the southeastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro, killing 44 people in one of the deadliest single attacks in months.

Zelenska said "there are no day offs from war" and that "everyone in Ukraine has to risk their lives every day," but added that she believed the world would unify for peace. Her husband, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, will be beamed in by video Wednesday to complement the in-person delegation of his wife and officials such as Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov.

Davos offers a new chance for Ukrainian envoys to ramp up international support for donations of weapons like tanks and anti-rocket defences and greater pressure to further isolate and squeeze Russia's economy. France, the U.K., the U.S. and other nations are vowing to send increasingly powerful weapons to Ukraine, such as tanks or armoured combat vehicles.



Tribals launch nationwide yatra 'to free Parasnath Hill from Jains'

JAMSHEDPUR: A tribal organisation Tuesday launched the country-wide 'Marang Buru Bachao Bharat Yatra' (Save Parasnath Hill) to free it from the alleged "clutches" of the Jain community.

The month-long march by Adivasi Sengel Abhiyan (ASA) seeks to garner support from across the country to "free" Parasnath Hill or 'Marang Buru'.

ASA president Salkhan Murmu said here that its members staged demonstrations in front of 50 tribal-dominated district collectorates in Assam, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand simultaneously to press for its demand.

The ASA activists waved placards and staged dharnas during the day at Kokrajhar, Chirang and Baksa in Assam, Malda, Purulia and Bankura in West Bengal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore in Odisha, Kishanganj, Katihar and Purnea in Bihar and Jamshedpur, Bokaro and Dumka in Jharkhand, he said.

The tribals consider Parasnath Hill as the holiest 'Jeherthan' (place of worship).

Murmu, a former MP who led the dharna here during the day, said that meetings will be organised in other tribal pockets of the country by ASA to mobilise support for its demand. The Association will also submit a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu through district magistrates of all 50 districts in the five states in support of its demand before the Yatra ends in the last week of February. Murmu had earlier written to the president and appealed to her to restore the sanctity of the Parasnath Hill and hand it over to the tribals.

He accused the Jharkhand government for handing over Marang Buru to the Jain community.

"The government has betrayed the adivasi community. Marang Buru is an identity of the tribals who believe that it protects them," Murmu said.

The Jain community is protesting against the Jharkhand government's decision to turn the hill, which it considers among its holiest places, into a tourist destination.

The Shri Sammed Shikharji in Parasnath hill in Jharkhand's Giridih district, about 160 km from Ranchi, is among the holiest places of the Jains, including both Digambara and Shwetambar sects.

Twenty of the 24 Jain tirthankaras attained 'moksha' (salvation) on these hills.

Murmu said Parasnath Hill to be as significant for the devout tribals as is Ayodhya Ram Mandir for Hindus, Mecca and Medina for Muslims, Vatican city for Christians and the



Golden Temple for Sikhs.

ASA, he said, will also raise the issue of inclusion of 'Sarna' religion in the census and its opposition to government's move to include the Kurmi caste in the category of schedule tribes.

ASA will also hold a Marang Buru-Sarna Mahadharna on February 11 and Rashtrya Adivasi Ekta Mahasabha on February 14 in Ranchi.

The Jain community across the country is demanding the scrapping of a 2019 Jharkhand government notification designating Parasnath Hills as a tourist place.

It fears that it will otherwise lead to an influx of tourists who may consume non-vegetarian food and liquor at their holy site.

While the Centre stayed the Jharkhand government's move to promote tourism at the Parasnath Hill after protests by Jains, tribals claimed the land and asked for it to be freed. The Santhal tribe has a sizeable population in Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Assam and West Bengal and are nature worshippers.

Nine poll-bound states on BJP's cross hairs this year

NEW DELHI: Emphasising the political importance of the nine state Assembly polls to be held this year in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, BJP president J.P. Nadda on Monday told BJP leaders and cadre to ensure the party's victory in all states. The two-day-long BJP national executive meeting began in the national capital on Monday. The meeting was also attended by the party's top brass, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The national executive is likely to extend the tenure of Nadda, which is ending on January 20.

The national executive hailed Modi for his efforts in the global branding of India and also for strengthening the cultural and spiritual heritage of the country, citing the Kashi Vishwanath corridor, redevelopment in Kedarnath and Badrinath and the ongoing construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya among others.

The meet also thanked Nadda for his untiring efforts during the recently held Assembly elections. Modi will be giving the valedictory speech on Tuesday where he is likely to share mantras with the party leaders and cadre for the upcoming electoral battles.

The meeting, through a political resolution, also condemned the Opposition for running the negative campaign over several issues against the government and launching "personal attacks" on Modi, and asserted that Supreme Court verdicts, including Pegasus, Rafale and Central Vista cases, exposed it.

Noting that 2023 is a very crucial year, Nadda asked the party leadership to be ready with full commitment to win all the poll-going states.

That "Garib Kalyan" will be the BJP's main poll plank for the coming electoral battles was evident as 'Garib Kalyan, Hamara Sankalp' banner was donning the main entrance of the venue, which also had cutouts of Rafale, Statue of Unity, Vande Bharat train, Subhash Chandra Bose's statue under the canopy at India Gate, were erected at the venue.

"National president exhorted all the national executive members to be ready with full commitment to ensure that BJP wins all the nine Assembly elections scheduled for 2023 as a prelude to 2024 Lok Sabha elections, we have not to lose any state,"

said senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad while quoting Nadda.

To a question whether the first day of the meeting had any discussion on Nadda's tenure, the senior BJP leader replied in negative.

The meeting also assessed the party's performance during the recent Assembly polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. While the party hailed the "his-



toric and extraordinary" Gujarat mandate, it agreed to "aage theek karne ki jaroorat hai (needs to be corrected)" its efforts in Himachal Pradesh where the margin between the winning Congress and the BJP was less than one per cent.

Nadda also noted the efforts of the BJP cadre in BRS-ruled Telangana and sounded confident that the party will form government in the state ruled by BRS chief K. Chanrashekhara Rao.

As part of activities to further strengthen the organisation, Nadda informed the gathering that the party has crossed the earlier target to identify and strengthen "kamzor booths" as suggested by the PM. Nadda said the party has reached out at 1.30 lakh booths. The BJP will mark the 200th anniversary of Dayanand Saraswati on February 12 to

reach out to "address the concern of last mile marginalised person."

Citing the projects of "cultural pride", like Kashi Vishwanath corridor, redevelopment of Kedarnath and Badrinath and the construction of Ram Mandir, Nadda said under Modi's leadership, efforts are on to promote the country's heritage.

Noting how India surpassed the UK to become

the fifth largest economy and how India is the second biggest manufacturer of mobile phones and 'Made in India' efforts undertaken by the Modi government, Nadda also cited how the country saw a member of the tribal community being nominated at the highest constitutional post.

The meeting also saw a political resolution moved by Union minister Kiren Rijju, which accused the Opposition of running a negative campaign and using abusive language against the government, especially the Prime Minister.

The resolution asserted that Supreme Court verdicts exposed the Opposition's campaign against Modi and the BJP. UP deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and Karnataka minister Govind Karjol seconded the resolution.

Union minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who briefed the media about the resolution, cited a number of issues over which the Opposition had built a campaign against the government, including Rafale, Pegasus, Central Vista project, demonetisation and EWS quota, and said the Supreme Court verdicts in the government's favour on them exposed it.

"Unfounded allegations were levelled against PM Modi but the crushing legal response exposed the Opposition," she said, citing political resolution.

Sitharaman said PM Modi is seen as "an incorruptible leader who is working for the country's interest and whose leadership has found respect globally. India's image under his leadership has also been enhanced." The minister said the PM's assertion that this is not an era of war during his telephonic talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin echoed in the G20 declaration at Bali and his push for United Nations reform has been recognised.

The political resolution lauded the BJP's historic verdict in the Gujarat assembly polls and a number of bypolls to assert that it will have an impact on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. "The Gujarat mandate will have an impact on coming assembly polls and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," said Ms Sitharaman while citing data on the BJP's performance.

The meeting also noted the "permanent bridge" that PM Modi has made between him and the common man through his monthly radio show 'Mann Ki Baat.' The resolution also noted the "seva" of the PM towards the Sikh community while citing the dedication of December 26 as 'Veer Bal Diwas' to mark the martyrdom of Sikh guru Gobind Singh's sons.

Around 350 national executive members, including several union ministers and senior state leaders attended the meeting. Chief ministers of BJP-ruled states, and state unit chiefs among others are attending the meeting.

The BJP leadership was briefed about the organisational activities in poll going states of Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Karnataka by leaders of respective state units.

Dhruv Yadav became the first district president of the newly formed district Sarangarh Bilaigarh of School Safai Karamchari Sangh



Sarangarh(KCN, Chhattisgarh): On a meeting of school cleaning staff was held at Push Vatika Sarangarh, in which all the three development blocks of the newly formed district Sarangarh Bilaigarh Block president, block office bearers and members of the School Safai Karamchari Sangh of Sarangarh, Barmakela, Bilaigarh were present and in this meeting unanimously elected Dhruv Yadav, the district president of the School Safai Karamchari Sangh, the main demand of school sweepers from part-time to full-time tax collector. The main form of salary at the rate Dhruv Yadav has been appointed as the first district president of the newly formed district Sarangarh Bilaigarh to

place it before the government. What does the newly appointed District President say? Thanks and gratitude to all the block presidents, block officers and members, I have been entrusted with this responsibility, I will be committed to raising my voice against the exploitation of my colleagues, and for full-time service, and will honestly fulfill the post of district president assigned to me. Will discharge In this meeting, the following district office bearers of School Safai Karamchari Sangh were selected, District Vice President Rajkumar Yadav, District Secretary Narendra Kumar Sahu, District Treasurer Pareshwar Nand, District Media Incharge Vijay Rana

'Can meet, hug Varun but cannot accept that ideology': Rahul Gandhi on cousin

HOSHIARPUR: When Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was asked a question on the possibility of reaching out to his cousin and BJP MP Varun Gandhi, he said their ideologies do not match. "I can never go to an RSS office. You can slit my throat, but I will not go. My family has an ideology, it has a thought system," he said at a press conference here on the sidelines of his Bharat Jodo Yatra. "I can meet him, hug him. But I cannot accept that ideology, that is impossible," he said on Tuesday. His remarks on Varun Gandhi come amid speculation that the BJP MP, who often has been critical of his own party, might be joining the Congress. To a question, the Congress leader said Varun is in the BJP and if he walks into the yatra, he will face a problem, implying that the saffron party might object. He then accused the RSS and the BJP of controlling institutions. "There is pressure on all the institutions. There is a pressure on the press, there is a pressure on bureaucracy, there is a pressure on the Election Commission, they put pressure on the judiciary," he charged. Normal democratic processes in the country are now "missing", he claimed. "This is not a fight between one political party and another political party. It is now a fight between the institutions which were captured by them and the opposition. Out of which one factor is EVM," he said to a question on Electronic Voting Machines. Open 'franchise' of Rahul Gandhi's 'shop of love': Priyanka during 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in UP Gandhi, whose foot march is passing through Punjab, also took a swipe at the ruling AAP government in the state, saying Punjab should be run from Punjab only, not from Delhi. "It is a historical fact. If it is run from Delhi, then people of Punjab will not accept it. It is not political but it is a fact," he further said. Gandhi on Monday had said that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann should not be remote controlled and should run the state independently. On the Shiromani Akali Dal raising questions on

his visit to Amritsar's Golden Temple and seeking his apology for Operation Bluestar and the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Gandhi said the former prime minister Manmohan Singh had made his position and that of the Congress very clear. Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi has also done that and "I fully endorse what (former) Prime Minister Singh ji and Sonia Gandhi ji said. I have also made my stance abundantly clear in the past," he said. Gandhi then said there was no security lapse in the march on Tuesday after a man came rushing to meet him and tried to hug him. "I do not know why you are calling that a lapse. I think the person was checked by the security people, he was a bit overexcited. There is quite a lot of enthusiasm for the Yatra. Many people get overexcited and that was the case where he was a bit extra charged up, so there is no problem in that. It has happened many times before. I wouldn't call that a security lapse," said Gandhi.



The man rushed towards Gandhi to hug him during the yatra but was stopped by Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. Inspector General of Police G S Dhillon said there was no security breach. The Laal Singh Chaddha moment in Indian politics The march, which started from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7, will conclude in Srinagar by January 30, with Gandhi hoisting the national flag in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. It has so far covered Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

JP Nadda to be BJP president till June 2024


NEW DELHI: BJP president J P Nadda's term was extended till June next year at the party's national executive meeting on Tuesday, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserting that it will win the 2024 Lok Sabha polls with a bigger mandate than 2019. The widely expected development underlines the party's preference for continuity as it gears up for the all-important Lok Sabha polls next year, expected in April-May. Shah told reporters here that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, a former party president like him, moved the proposal of extending Nadda's tenure till June next year and the executive unanimously endorsed it. The BJP's parliamentary board has already approved the extension of Nadda's term as the party president. "I, on behalf of the party, express heartfelt gratitude to Nadda-ji for his committed leadership and contributions, and extend the best wishes for his future term," Shah said. With Nadda set to lead the party during the Lok Sabha elections, he will be following the foot-

steps of his predecessor Shah, whose tenure was also extended so as to allow him to spearhead the organisation during the 2019 polls. Shah expressed confidence that the BJP, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party chief Nadda, will achieve a bigger win than the last general elections. The minister lauded Nadda's leadership, saying he connected the party organisation with the service of people during the COVID-19 outbreak. "During the pandemic, our party has done a lot of significant works under Nadda-ji's leadership; be it about providing food and rations to the poor or taking people to hospitals for check-ups and treat-

ment," he added. Shah further said that throughout Nadda's leadership term, the BJP has worked on the principle of 'Seva Hi Sangathan' right from the booth till the national levels. Noting that the party won many state assembly polls under Nadda, Shah said the BJP won 73 assembly bypolls out of 120 held during his tenure. It was under Nadda's leadership that the BJP performed well in Bihar, and again formed the government in Maharashtra and Haryana, he added. Ensure party does not lose any of nine state polls in 2023: Nadda at BJP national executive The BJP won assembly polls in Assam, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Uttar

Pradesh during Nadda's tenure as the party president, Shah said, adding that it also formed the government on its own for the first time in Goa. Talking about the recent victory in the Gujarat assembly polls, Shah said, "Under Nadda's leadership, the BJP organisation converted Modi's magical leadership into votes and the party registered a record-breaking victory by winning 156 assembly seats." He further said that the booth strengthening programme and the 'Vijay Sankalp Rally' are among the biggest takeaways of Nadda's leadership. Nadda had become the BJP president on January 20, 2020 for a term of three years.





2023-2024

ADMISSION OPEN

Maharishi Public School, Baripada

STD-NURSERY TO VIII


ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2023)

- Find the Difference
- Small Classes
- Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
- Individual attention to each child.
- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL
Baghra Road, Baripada
For details
Contact :
Call-9438102188, 06792-255227
Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon
E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com

 Find us on
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada

India's exports decline 12.2 per cent to USD 34.8 billion in December

NEW DELHI: Amid global headwinds, India's merchandise exports plunged to \$34.8 billion in December, 2022, 12.2% down on-yearly basis as compared with \$39.27 billion



in the previous year, government data showed.

However, merchandise exports for the period April-December 2022 registered a growth of 9% to \$332.76 billion on a year-on-year basis. Meanwhile, imports in December also fell to \$58.24 billion as compared with \$60.33 billion in the same month of last year. Overall imports during April-December grew to \$551.70 billion as against \$441.50 billion in the corresponding period of last year. The services export for December 2022 stood at \$27.34 billion, as compared to \$25.98 billion in December 2021. Whereas services import for December 2022 stood at \$15.56 billion as compared to \$14.94 billion in December 2021. The trade deficit in the April-December period widened to \$218.94 billion, 60% increase over the previous year during the same period. Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said

despite global headwinds, India's exports have held its head high. He said India needs to revise its export targets in a way that it can reap benefits from the countries that have positive GDP growth like Brazil. He added that the World Trade Organization (WTO) has made a forecast of a slowdown in the global exports scenario and the International Monetary Fund has also made a projection of negative GDP growth in some countries.

The exports of electronic goods during the period April-December 2022 recorded \$16.67 billion as compared to USD 10.99 billion during the same period last year registering a growth of 51.56%. Exports of petroleum products in April-December 2022 was at \$70.28 billion, registering a growth of 52.15% as against \$46.19 billion in April-December 2021. More than \$6 billion worth of smartphones were exported during the period April-November 2022, the commerce ministry said.

'Need to look at sub-standard imports from China'

Import of essential items from China should continue as it is important for the overall economy of the country, a top government official said. However, he said there is a need to look into the import of items those of which are of sub-standard quality, which Indian consumers may be not aware of. ENS

Fresh round of layoffs in tech firms, startups continue in 2023

BENGALURU: With the economic slowdown, many companies are taking cost-cutting measures by laying off hundreds of employees. From Amazon, Dunzo, and ShareChat to Ola and payments firm Cashfree, the layoffs continue in 2023 as well. Amazon has laid off over 1,000 employees or 1% of its workforce in India. Though there is no official statement from the company about the number of

the office scene saying people are crying after receiving layoff letters.

Apart from Amazon, social media platform ShareChat has fired 20% of its workforce or over 500 of the employees. ShareChat in a statement said, "As we continue to keep growing, there have been several external macro factors that impact cost and availability of capital...



layoffs, as per sources, it would have fired at least 1,500 employees, including those who opted for the voluntary separation programme (VSP). Amazon employs close to 1 lakh employees in India. It is said the VSP, which the company announced in November last year, was not a hit among its employees and that the company started laying off after the deadline of the VSP - November 30. In the first week of January, Amazon CEO Andy Jassy said in a note 18,000 employees will be impacted and that it will begin communicating with impacted employees starting January 18. In India, as per sources, job cuts have been informed to employees and the whole process has been completed on January 16, and that there are no other layoffs.

Meanwhile, social media platforms are flooded with layoff stories. An employee, joined Amazon three months ago, has received layoff notice. In one of the social media posts, an employee has highlighted

As capital becomes expensive, firms need to prioritise their bets and invest in the highest-impact projects." ShareChat said it aims to sail through uncertain global economic conditions over 2023 and come out stronger. Google-backed Dunzo fired 3% of its workforce. It didn't re-

veal exact number, but it is said the sacked employees could be about 80.

"We are looking at our team structures and network design to build efficiency into our teams...Last week, we had to part ways with 3% of our team strength. Whatever the numbers, these are people who chose to build their careers with Dunzo, and it is sad to have talented colleagues leave us," said Kabeer Biswas, CEO & co-founder, Dunzo. Layoffs continue in 2023

Over 1,000 fired by Amazon in India 500 or 20% of workforce were let go by ShareChat 3% or about 80 people were fired by Dunzo Ola, Cashfree Payments too fired 200 and 80 employees, respectively

Reports say over 3K bankers globally were laid off by Goldman Sachs including 700 in India According to layoff tracking site Laysoff.fyi, 91 tech firms laid off 24,151 employees globally in 2023

Wholesale inflation below five per cent first time in two years



Wholesale inflation (WPI) in December 2022 fell below 5% for the first time since February 2021. The WPI in December 2022 was 4.95%, as per data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce.

consecutive month, WPI showed single-digit growth - in November WPI was 5.85% and in October, it was 8.67%. WPI remained above 10% from April 2021 to September 2022. "Fall in rate of inflation in December 2022 is mainly contributed by decline in prices of

eral oils, crude petroleum & natural gas, food products, textiles and chemicals & chemical products," says the statement issued on Monday. Wholesale inflation of primary articles fell from 5.52% in November 2022 to 2.38% in December 2022. "The drop in pri-

largely on account of a massive decline in prices of vegetables (36.0% yoy, a new record in the 2011-12 series) owing to seasonal factors and a high base of same period last year (December 2021: 31.5%)," says Sunil Sinha, principal economist, India Ratings & Research.

Retailers seek tax cuts to fight cheap smuggled items

GUWAHATI: The Federation of Retailer Association of India (FRAI) Tuesday sought tax cuts on daily use consumer goods to counter the high demand for smuggled and counterfeit products, which currently have a price advantage. The FRAI, a representative body of about 80 lakh micro, small and medium retailers in 42 member retail associations, raised its concern against high taxes on daily consumption items, which it felt leads

of them borrowed money to run their shops instead of depending on the government for employment, he said.

"Smugglers and criminals involved in counterfeiting activities cause financial, mental and physical harassment to millions of our members to sell their illegal products. Being poor, their small businesses are the only source of livelihood for their entire family. So it becomes impossible for them to resist or



to illicit trade in the country.

"The high taxes are creating a huge demand for smuggled and counterfeit products across the country and are forcing millions of small and impoverished shopkeepers to deal with criminals and be part of this illegal activity," the Federation said in a statement.

Prior to the Union Budget for 2023-24, FRAI is seeking reduction in taxes on daily consumer products, it said.

"FRAI has made a representation to the Finance Minister appealing to protect the interests of its 80 lakh retailers. These retailers sustain their livelihood by selling goods of daily needs like biscuits, soft drinks, mineral water, confectioneries, cigarettes etc," the statement highlighted.

It said the small retailers' pre-lockdown earnings were about Rs 6,000 - Rs 12,000 a month, while the slightly bigger shops or the medium retailers earn Rs 400 - Rs 500 per day. The micro-retailers earn as little as Rs 200 a day.

FRAI President Ram Asre Mishra said, "For quite some time now there has been an alarming rise IN smuggled and counterfeit products - particularly in daily consumption products that are sold by our members. Such illegal products are easily available across the country, including in rural markets, and their share is around 25-30 per cent of the total market." The FRAI members are mostly uneducated and belong to the low economic strata. Many

stop trading in such illegal products." Mishra said. FRAI asserted that the primary reason for the alarming growth of smuggled and counterfeit products is the extremely high taxes on 'Made in India' items for daily consumption.

"Since smuggled and counterfeit products completely evade taxes, they can easily outsell legally produced goods by selling at half price or even at one-third. This is causing the loss of thousands of crores of rupees in revenue for the Government of India," it added.

Giving the example of cigarettes, the FRAI said that the price of a legal packet of 20 cigarettes 84 mm long is typically more than Rs 300, while a consumer can buy a similar smuggled pack for Rs 80 - Rs 150 depending on the brand, demand and supply prevalent in the illegal market.

FRAI secretary Vinay Kumar said, "These shopkeepers also have to face constant harassment from government agencies like FDA, the health ministry, Tobacco Control Cell and others for stocking illegal and inferior quality goods. Caught between law enforcers, demanding customers and smugglers, life has become intolerable for our members." The Association advises its members not to engage in selling counterfeit or smuggled products. But as business for legal products is shrinking, they have no choice but to fall prey to meet the minimum earnings needed to sustain their livelihoods.

Uthappa blitz in vain as Vince makes it two in two for Giants

New Delhi: Robin Uthappa's blistering 79 went in vain as Dubai Capitals lost to Gulf Giants in their ILT20 fixture in Dubai on Monday (January 16). Uthappa's knock helped DC post a strong 182 on the board but an excellent century stand between James Vince and Gerhard Erasmus helped Giants ease home with an over to spare.

Uthappa got going in the second over of the game by taking on Sanchit Sharma for a four and a six over long on before fetching 21 runs off the same bowler in his next over to race to 41. At that point in time, Joe Root at the other end had made only 5. Chris Jordan was then

welcomed to the bowling crease with three fours as the veteran Indian batter raised a fifty off just 26 deliveries.

Root, who was pretty much a mute spectator all along, attempted a risky run and was caught short by a direct-hit from Vince. That wicket proved to be a blessing in disguise as Rovman Powell came out and smashed two sixes off the next six balls. At the halfway mark, DC had 96 on the board and looked on course to getting closer to 200. However, Uthappa's dismissal changed the equation slightly. Powell made 38 and Sikandar Raza chipped in with an unbeaten 30 but Ravi Bopara alongside the Sri Lankan trio of Dasun Shanaka, Bhanuka



Rajapaksa and Isuru Udana registered single-digit scores as the flurry of wickets ensured the batting side finished with just over 182.

Even though Rehman Ahmed gave his side a stunning start in the chase, Giants were on the backfoot pretty soon when Mujeeb Ur Rahman got rid of Rehman and Ollie Pope in the same over. With the asking rate mounting, Giants needed someone to take the initiative to bring the rate down and Erasmus stepped up with successive sixes off Shanaka.

Vince then picked Mujeeb for a six and a four to bring up fifty for the second time in two games in the

tournament before taking on Raza for another big one over deep extra cover. Udana, who made a good start with the ball, then conceded four boundaries in a single over to Erasmus as the century stand helped Giants take complete control. Erasmus added two fours to his tally while bringing up his fifty and even though he couldn't stay until the end, Vince got the job done and remained unbeaten on 83 until the end.

Brief scores: Dubai Capitals 182/8 in 20 overs (Robin Uthappa 79, Rovman Powell 38; Rehan Ahmed 3/28) lost to Gulf Giants 183/4 in 19 overs (James Vince 83*, Gerhard Erasmus 52; Mujeeb Ur Rahman 2/36) by six wickets

Shakhtar Donetsk football club to give Rs 204 crore to Ukraine soldiers family after Mykhailo Mudryk's 100 million euro move to Chelsea



New Delhi: Shakhtar Donetsk owner Rinat Akhmetov pledged Monday to give \$25 million (Rs 204 crore) to help the families of soldiers who defended the city of Mariupol when it was attacked by the Russian military. Akhmetov announced the donation one day after Shakhtar completed a deal worth up to 100 million euros (\$108 million) to sell winger Mykhailo Mudryk to Chelsea, although the

Ukrainian club said the money pledged by Akhmetov did not come from the soccer transfer. "The money will be used to cover different needs — from providing medical and prosthetic treatment and psychological support to meeting specific requests," Akhmetov said in a statement published on Shakhtar's website. During the fall of Mariupol, the fighters who held out for months

under relentless bombardment inside the Azovstal steel plant — which is owned by Akhmetov's Metinvest — became a symbol of Ukrainian resistance in the early months of the invasion. "Their acts of bravery are unparalleled in the modern history," Akhmetov said launching the "Heart of Azovstal" project.

Since Akhmetov became club president in 1996, Shakhtar has been a mainstay in the Champions League, won the second-tier UEFA Cup in 2009 and developed the Donbas Arena that helped host the 2012 European Championship. Shakhtar has been exiled from Donetsk since 2014 during a conflict with pro-Russian forces and then the war since last February. The showpiece stadium has been damaged but not destroyed, and the Ukrainian Premier League is now being played in Kyiv and the west of the country.

Sunil Joshi named spin-bowling coach of Punjab Kings

New Delhi: Sunil Joshi has been appointed the spin-bowling coach of Punjab Kings, the franchise announced on Monday (January 16). Joshi, the former India left-arm spinner, till recently had served as a member of the India senior men's selection panel. Joshi joins the coaching staff headed by Trevor Bayliss, who replaced Anil Kumble after the previous IPL season. He is part of a revamped support staff, with Wasim Jaffer and Charl Langeveldt being brought back as batting and bowling coach respectively. The Kings also changed the captain a few months back, naming Shikhar Dhawan as the skipper while releasing Mayank Agarwal. Before serving as the spin-bowling coach of the Punjab team in 2019, Joshi had also served in a similar role with Bangladesh. He also had coaching stints with Ranji teams like Hyderabad, Jammu and Kashmir, and Assam. Joshi was named as the chief selector of the India team in 2020 before Chetan Sharma took over the role, although he continued to be part of the panel till the new one was announced in January 2023.

Australian Open 2023: Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios PULLS OUT of Grand Slam with injury

New Delhi: Nick Kyrgios has pulled out of the Australian Open because of an injured knee, a day before he was scheduled to play his first-round match. Kyrgios was the runner-up at Wimbledon last year in singles and the men's doubles champion at the Australian Open and considered the host country's strongest chance to win a title at Melbourne Park this year.

Kyrgios announced his withdrawal on Monday, Day 1 of action at the year's first Grand Slam tournament. He spoke at a news conference at Melbourne Park, accompanied by his physical therapist. Kyrgios was seeded 19th in Melbourne and was



supposed to face Roman Safiullin in the first round on Tuesday. "I'm just exhausted from everything. Obviously pretty brutal," Kyrgios said of the decision to sit out. "One of the most important tournaments of my career. Hasn't been easy at all." 3 Americans, Emma Raducanu through to 2nd round Americans Jessica

Pegula, Coco Gauff and Danielle Collins reached the second round in contrasting fashion at the Australian Open on Monday (January 16). Third-seeded Pegula overwhelmed Jaqueline Cristian of Romania 6-0, 6-1 while seventh-seeded Gauff overcame a second-set wobble to beat Katerina Siniakova 6-1, 6-4. Collins, the runner-up last year to

Ash Barty and seeded 13th, battled a left knee injury while defeating Anna Kalinskaya 7-5, 5-7, 6-4. Pegula and Gauff could meet in the semifinals while Collins could play No. 1 Iga Swiatek in the fourth round. A quarterfinalist in Melbourne in each of the past two years, Pegula needed just 59 minutes to get past the 161st-ranked Cristian, who was appearing in her third Grand Slam event. "Today is just one of those days everything was working," said the American, who will play either Czech qualifier Brenda Fruhvirtova or Aliaksandra Sasnovich in the second round. "Always feels good when you win a match like that."



2023-2024



ADMISSION OPEN

Maharishi Public School, Baripada

STD-NURSERY TO VIII

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2023)

Find the Difference

- Small Classes
- Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
- Individual attention to each child.
- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Baghra Road, Baripada

For details

Contact :

Call-9438102188, 06792-255227

Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon

E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com



Find us on

Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada