

Shri Suresh Prabhu led Expert Committee for National Cooperation Policy met Union Minister for Home and Cooperatives Shri Amit Shah

New Delhi (KCN): Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah held an



interaction meeting with the Expert Committee for National Cooperation Policy headed by Honourable Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, (Former Union Minister for Multiple Ministries and India's former Sherpa for G-7 and G-20 countries) and Chairperson National Cooperative Policy Drafting committee. .

To review the progress of the new National Cooperative Policy. Shri Prabhu (who met Honourable Shri Amit Shah Ji separately also) said, "It's a pleasure

to meet Honourable Home Minister of India Shri Amit Shah Ji. He has a magnificent vision for development of cooperatives. To transform the lives of common people. Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra modi Ji has widened the horizon of aspirations of deprived sections of society." Their future can be shaped through revamped coop structure, led by Honourable Minister Of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah Ji."



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Central, State employees and workers move on for agitation

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Under the banner of National Joint Council of Action (NJCA) comprising Railway Federations, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers including National Federation of Postal Employees and All India Railwaymen Federation (AIRF), the Annual General Body Meeting of East Coast Railway Shramik Union was conducted on



18.01.2023 in Rail Auditorium, Bhubaneswar which was addressed by Com. Shiv Gopal Mishra, Chairman NJCA and Leader (Staff Side), National Council Joint Consultative Machinery as Chief Speaker. Criticising the policy deficiencies of the Central Govt., he stressed upon restoration of Old Pension

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Authorities worried about Badrinath riches in Joshimath

DEHRADUN(KCN): Amid rising concerns over subsidence-hit Joshimath, authorities are worried about where to keep the riches of Badrinath safeguarded at Narsingh temple.

Though authorities claim the temple is secure as of now,

they have begun looking for alternative locations nearby where the riches con-



tain a huge quantity of gold and silver

case the situation in the town worsens further.

The worst-hit Singdhar ward and JP colony are located at an aerial distance of just half a kilometre from Narsingh temple adding to the worries of authorities

besides other offerings can be kept in

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Giridhar Gamang, son likely to join BRS soon

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): Former Chief Minister Giridhar Gamang and his son Sishir are all set to join the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) soon. Talking to

now become Naveen vs who. "As BJP is a national party, it should project a leader who can take on the BJD and Naveen Patnaik. But the BJP is not prepared to project



mediapersons on Tuesday, Sishir stopped short of announcing their resignation from the BJP. He, however, said that the state unit of the saffron party has leadership issues and not reposing faith on any state leader to take on the BJD led by Naveen Patnaik.

The BJP leader said that the electoral politics in Odisha has

any leader in the state," he said. Gamang and his son had met Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Friday at Hyderabad. Two days later, another former MP from Koraput Jayram Pangi also met Rao on Sunday at Hyderabad. Sishir admitted that the BRS has requested them to contact like-minded people from the area who can join the party along with them.

Biju Dakota returns home

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The iconic Dakota DC-3 aircraft, used by former Odisha chief minister and legendary leader Biju Patnaik finally reached the capital city Bhubaneswar on Wednesday evening.

Three long-wheel trucks carrying the dismantled parts of the plane reached the city. Hundreds of people were seen today waiting along the National Highway connecting Kolkata with Bhubaneswar to have a glimpse of the dismantled Dakota aircraft used by the legendary leader Biju Patnaik. People were seen clicking pictures with the aircraft on the highway.

The dismantled Dakota (DC-3) VT-AUI aircraft will be reassembled and then positioned

at a designated place at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here. This aircraft is part of Kalinga Airlines, founded by Biju Patnaik. Kalinga Airlines was



operating a dozen Dakotas from its headquarters in Kolkata.

According to historian Anil Dhir, the highest 14 planes were there in Kalinga Airlines, of which four were four

CONTINUED ON: P-7

BJP seeks Governor intervention in selection of PMAY beneficiaries

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Claiming serious discrepancies in the provisional list of PMAY beneficiaries the BJP on Tuesday sought the intervention of Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal requesting him to direct the state government to prepare the final list in fair and transparent manner and ensure that not a single eligible person is deprived of the housing scheme. A delegation of the BJP legislators and office-bearers led by Opposition chief whip Mohan Majhi went to Raj Bhawan

and submitted a memorandum to the Governor through his secretary. "We sought the intervention of the Governor after we found out that a large number of people who were in the 2019 permanent waiting list for PMAY-Gramin assistance are missing from provisional list on display for public scrutiny. Even families whose house were badly damaged by cyclone Fani do not figure in the provisional list," Majhi told reporters. He said complaints

are pouring in from all the districts about favouritism shown to BJD workers and supporters who are not eligible for housing assistance under this flagship Central scheme.

"After three rounds of survey of all households, the state government had published a provisional list in 2019 inviting objection from the public. The complaint boxes were never opened. We have every reasons to believe that the government has the evil design to dis-



tribute houses on party line. We will not allow the BJD trickery to succeed this time," Majhi said. Describing the ruling party as anti-poor, he said the state government is making all efforts to corner all benefits of Central welfare schemes for its party workers. This is precisely the reason for which the BJD has been demanding opening of special window of Awaas+ to extend the housing scheme benefit to party workers ahead of the election.

Naveen reviews Mo Sarkar, asks depts to strengthen database

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has asked the district collectors to collect more feedback on implementation of different government programmes and schemes. Reviewing the implementation of Mo Sarkar initiative by different departments, the chief minister asked the chief secretary to review and strengthen the system in this regard. Besides, he also asked different departments to strengthen their database.

The CM took stock of the performance of Revenue and Disaster Management, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Housing and Urban Development, Mis-

sion Shakti and Health and Family Welfare departments.

iting different government offices are asked about the behaviour of the of-

According to the chief minister's office (CMO), 263 services of 31 departments have been included in Mo Sarkar. Under the initiative 3.77 crore feedbacks have been received till date while nine of its 11 parameters have shown improvement.

ment in sub-registrar office, getting approval for building plans, submission of bills and obtaining caste certificates. The chief minister advised these departments concerned to strengthen their service rendering processes.

Chief secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said that services rendered by the departments have improved during the last one year when the last review of the Mo Sarkar initiative was taken. ST secretary VK Pandian said there is need to strengthen the feedback system. Stating that there are some problem in the process of retired people getting pension, he said steps will be taken to resolve these issues.

The chief minister advised these departments concerned to strengthen their service rendering processes.

The Mo Sarkar initiative was launched by officials and whether steps have been taken



the chief minister on October 2, 2019. Under the Mo Sarkar initiative, people vis-

to resolve their problems. He had last reviewed its implementation in May, 2021.

The feedback revealed that people were facing problems in file move-



Adani, Ambani, Tata names are thine,
It's our voted leaders' formulated policy, it's
not thine,

Five trillion dolar economy with Tatas,
Adanies, Ambanies,
Will they give dollars in the accounts of dis-
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Can't they adopt villages and cities,
Let the naked be enrolled not in bank and

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policies are in the ends of line of receiving.

I am not sleeping inspite of sleeping pills,
History says, guns, votes, media is sleeping
without sleeping pills.

12 December 2022
LD House
Amlatola, Chaibasha
Jharkhand

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worldly-famous arts that resides here in
Puri, Odisha. For the fact, the state also
hosts an International Sand Art Festival.

PALM LEAF PAINTINGS



From the days when communication was
done through writing, the Palm Leaf
Painting or locally
known as Talapatra
Chitra is an ancient
form of art in
Odisha. This is one
of the art forms in
the state which are
considered sacred.

JHOTI CHITA,



Work. A mystical artwork of Odisha, Horn
Work showcases an impressive fashion
design. In this art, Horns of Cows and Buf-
faloes are used to produce utility products

like jewelry, ashtray,
and comb.

PAPIER MACHE



Most of the arts in
Odisha have world-
wide acclamation and
Papier Mache is one
of them. The art is
practised in almost
every region of the state and involves the
use of waste cloth, natural fibres, and pa-
pers.

APPLIQUE WORK

In the village of Pipli, there prevails a tra-
ditional art form - Applique Work. It is a



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WATCH 'Manikarnika' trailer: This Kangana Ranaut-starrer looks like bits from a Bhansali product



MUMBAI(KCN): Finally it comes. The trailer of the beleaguered historical "Manikarnika - The Queen Of Jhansi" brings to us a furious, ferocious and feral Kangana Ranaut, who tells the 'gora log', "We both want Jhansi. But you want to rule. I want to serve." Well, precisely. The Rani Of Jhansi was passionately dedicated to her

kingdom. I don't see much of that dedication in the trailer. Much of it is devoted to displaying its leading lady's skills on horses and with swords. The trailer gives us an epic primer on 'Kangana Rides The Horse', 'Kangana Swats The Enemy', 'Kangana Bays For Blood', so on and so forth. There is so much of the talented ac-

triss' efforts to appear queenly, the trailer barely offers a glimpse of the impressive supporting cast, namely Danny Denzongpa, Atul Kulkarni, Suresh Oberoi and others who flit by in this steamroller view of a woman warrior's day-out binge. Threadbare thunder in a fancy teacup. Alarmingly and annoyingly, the film

wears a thick and heavy Sanjay Leela Bhansali hangover. In the way the camera zooms in and pans the long stretches of the battle scenes, I was taken back to Bhansali's "Bajirao Mastani". In fact one of Kangana's derring-do in a battle sequence here, she gambols over her army to strike was a move identical to Ranveer Singh's in

"Bajirao Mastani". ALSO READ: Ready to do a good movie down south, says actress Kangana Ranau So is Kangana's Jhansi Ki Rani, Bajirao or Mastani or both? It's a highly derivative world created by people who seem to have the resources but not the vision. We could do with a lot more chutzpah when recre-

ating such an important chapter from Indian history. It's not all a wash-out, though. Kangana seems to convey sufficient fire and elasticity. Her accent is a downer, though. This is the way the trailer moves: uplifting one moment down to being a disappointment the next. Let's hope the film is not as uneven in tone.

When Julia Roberts realised she was famous

LOS ANGELES (KCN): Actress Julia Roberts, 51, revealed that the first time she realised she was famous was when she was in a bathroom stall at age 21 and a fan asked her for an autograph. The actress had just starred in the 1988 film "Mystic Pizza" at the time of her bathroom encounter.

The Oscar-winner told the story during an appearance on an episode of a podcast, reports dailymail.co.uk. ALSO READ: 'Ben Is Back' film review She had her fame awakening after returning home to Georgia to visit her mother and younger sister. The three caught a movie and

Roberts stopped by the bathroom afterward. "It was after the movie was over and I was in the bathroom and there was a woman in the bathroom who said, 'Hey, girl in stall number one, were you in 'Mystic Pizza?'" she said. The pushy fan proceeded to slip something under the stall and asked the "Mystic Pizza" star to sign it.

Hansika in Mohanlal's next Tamannaah Bhatia and Shruti Hassan are the new gal pals

It seems Mohanlal-B to @Hansika for her While Rockline



Unnikrishnan team's untitled film is getting bigger and bigger. After Vishal and Srikanth, another popular south star Hansika Motwani will be making her Mollywood debut through the film. The update was announced by the director himself on his official Facebook page. "I wish great luck

new release Bogan. She will have a very special appearance in my Mohanlal film produced by Mr Rockline Venkatesh," posted Unnikrishnan. According to the director, who had last teamed up with Mohanlal for Mr Fraud, VFX and special effects will have a lot of importance in the the big budget project.

Tamannaah Bhatia has been bonding with her contemporary Shruti Hassan. talk everyday due to their busy schedules, but they always make sure to make time on for Shruti. Tamannaah says, "Shruti is a sweetheart and a dear



friend. Since we both have tight schedules, we don't get much time to spend with each other the rest of the year, so I needed to be at her birthday party so that I could be with her. I have been attending her birthday since the last three years and making sure to be with her on her special day."

Survival of Richest: The Indian Experience

Oxfam India has recently published a report titled "Survival of Richest: The India Story". The title shows alarming situation of widening inequality in India. The journey for Charles Darwin's "Survival of Fittest" to "Survival of Richest" is not fascinating at all.

Inequalities are growing in India – this has been corroborated by scholars and government bodies alike. The impact of inequality is especially stark at the margins of the Indian society, with some communities such as the Scheduled Tribes (STs) suffering from physical remoteness and systematic exclusion from the means to achieve vertical mobility. Furthermore, the concentration of wealth continues to be around primordial characteristics

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

Recycling of waste glass needed in the country

One of the ways of reducing the consumption of natural sand is to utilise wastes as an alternative material. Recycling of wastes could reduce the demand for virgin natural resources and help to dispose of them effectively. The volumes of wastes generated each year in the country is alarmingly increasing due to a rise in the pollution. When it comes to solid waste the world produces nearly 2.0 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste every year, which is expected to grow to 3.4 billion tonnes by 2050. The increasing price and diminishing reserves of construction sand encourage a need to develop its sustainable and cost-effective replacement, helping the transition towards a circular economy. Traditional construction sand can be replaced by waste glass. Waste glass is a derivative of natural sand and could potentially show similar geotechnical behaviour. Using crushed waste glass as an alternative to traditional sand would potentially offer a double-duty benefit by helping to address the geo-environmental challenges of natural sand depletion and disposal of ever-increasing waste glass, together.

Natural aggregates are widely used in a range of applications. Presently, the construction industry is the biggest consumer of natural resources in the world. It is a common practice to crush and screen the rock formations to different specifications, producing aggregates suitable for different construction applications. The consumption of aggregates is expected to increase at a rate of 5% per annum in India. Major sources of natural construction aggregates include crushed stone, gravel, and sand. In the country alone, nearly 300 million tonnes of aggregates are extracted each year, which is expected to further increase in the coming years. A key concern for sustainable infrastructure construction is the continuous diminution of readily-available construction aggregates. Environmentally, the extraction and logistics of aggregates release carbon footprint, which is harmful to the ecosystem. Consequently, nowadays, construction materials are increasingly being evaluated by their ecological footprint. Natural sand is a widely used raw material and has become the second-most widely consumed natural resource on planet Earth, after freshwater. It is estimated that between 32 and 50 billion tonnes of sand and gravel are extracted globally each year, which is largely used in construction. As an example, the construction of a medium-sized house requires 200 tonnes of sand; a hospital needs 3000 tonnes of sand, and each kilometre of highway construction needs 30,000 tonnes of sand. Studies show that sand is currently being extracted at a rate far greater than its renewal. Indiscriminate mining of sand could endanger animal species and habitats, harm aquatic life and cause biodiversity loss. It could also cause beach erosion, making coastal communities vulnerable to floods and causing loss to the eco-tourism industry. It is, therefore, necessary to find ways to reduce the demand for natural sand and to look for sustainable and low-carbon alternatives. In this regard, research has proven that the potential use of ever-increasing waste glass as a sustainable alternative to depleting natural and manufactured sand in geotechnical construction is feasible. The findings showed that the geotechnical behaviour of crushed waste glass is similar, or sometimes even superior, to traditional construction sands. Overall, the crushed waste glass could potentially serve as an alternative and smart geo-material, ultimately promoting the recycling of waste glass, reducing the burden on landfill and conserving natural resources, all helping the transition towards a circular economy.

Vijaykumar H K
Raichur, Karnataka
Environmentalist

such as caste. On one hand, inherited wealth and caste privilege

continue to shape power and influence and on the other hand, we see the persistence of marginalization among historically disadvantaged who are trapped in intergenerational poverty.

Oxfam India's 2023 India Supplement reveals some stark findings proving that the gap between the rich and the poor is indeed widening. Following the pandemic in 2019, the bottom 50% of the population have continued to see their wealth chipped away. By 2020, their income share was estimated to have fallen to only 13% of the national income and have less than 3% of the total wealth. Its impact has been exceptionally poor diets, increase in debt and deaths.

This is in stark contrast to the top 30% who own more than 90% of the total wealth. Among them, the top 10% own more than 80% of the concentrated wealth. The wealthiest 10% own more than 72% of the total wealth, the top 5% own nearly 62% of the total wealth, and the top 1% own nearly 40.6% of the total wealth in India.

The country still has the world's highest number of poor at 228.9 million. On the other hand, the total number of billionaires in India increased from 102 in 2020 to 166 billionaires in 2022. The combined wealth of India's 100 richest has touched INR 54.12 lakh crore. The wealth of the top 10 richest stands at INR 27.52 lakh crore – a 32.8% rise from 2021.

Imposing a tax on the wealth of the richest has been advocated over the years. The rationale behind this has been that the wealth accumulation by the creamiest layer of the country is massive and taxing it can generate huge revenue, which can then be redirected for the development of the social sectors of the country. This has the potential to redistribute the resource accumulation by the rich to the poor as well, and can then reduce poverty and inequality

Pradeep Kumar Panda

in the country. The wealth tax is likely to be the most direct and powerful tool to restore tax progressivity at the very top of the distribution. A wealth tax with a high exemption threshold specifically targets the richest and could resolve this injustice.

Revenues from progressive taxation has the capacity to fund the country's health and education system. 3% of wealth tax on the Indian billionaires can fund the National Health Mission, the largest healthcare scheme in India with an allocation of INR 37,800 crores for 3 years. Taxing the top 10 billionaires at 5% will help cover the entire cost of Tribal healthcare for five years.

Taxing all of India's billionaires at 2% would support the requirement of INR 42,033 crores for the nutrition of the malnourished in the country for 3 years. To raise the expenditure on health to 3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a total expenditure of INR 1,06,600 crores would be required. This money can be raised by taxing the top 100 billionaires at 2%.

Taxing the wealthiest 10 billionaires at 1% would be enough to cover this shortfall for 1.3 years. Taxing them at 4% would cover the entire amount of funds required for two years. Taxing the top 100 Indian billionaires at 2.5%, or taxing the top 10 Indian billionaires at 5% would cover the entire amount required to bring the children back into school.

The rising wealth inequality calls for immediate interventions to reduce the existing inequalities and enhance the access to public services for the poor. The wealthiest elites have undue influence over policy making and politics, which allow them to accrue even more wealth. We must break this vicious cycle. This means taxing the net wealth of the top 1% on a permanent basis, with higher rates for millionaires, multi-millionaires and billionaires.

The government should reduce the GST slabs on essential commodities, which form the majority of the poor and middle classes spending habits, and

hike the taxes on luxury goods. This will lead to revenue generation, which is progressive in nature and reduce the burden on the poor.

Enhance the budgetary allocation for health to 2.5% of GDP by 2025, as envisaged in the National Health Policy, to reinvigorate the public healthcare system, reduce Out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditure and strengthen health prevention and promotion. Establish medical colleges with district hospitals, particularly in hilly, tribal or rural areas where health infrastructure is poor. This would facilitate the availability of medical services and human resources as well as increase the number of medical professionals in the country. Strengthen Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and government hospitals with adequate number of doctors, nurses, paramedics, equipment and other infrastructural requirements as per Indian Public Health Standard (IPHS) norms to make quality health service available within kilometers radii of peoples' residence or workplace. Enhance the budgetary allocation for education to global benchmark of 6% of GDP, as committed in the National Education Policy. The government must frame a year wise financial roadmap to achieve the 6% mark. Reduce existing inequalities in education by spending more on programmes (for example: Pre Matric and Post Matric scholarships) meant for improving the educational status of students from marginalized sections (SC/ST/Girls).

Inflation and, consequently, rise in cost of living hurts the poor and middle class more. 90% of India's labour force in the informal economy is without any safety net to protect them from the heavy blows to the economy. To this end, it is essential to ensure social protection for our workforce, especially those in the informal sector, and strengthen monitoring and tracking mechanisms that ensure protection of the labour class of the country.

The Author is an Economist

Towards the Future: A look at the Modernization of the Sentinels

Rahul Bharatbhusan Kamble

India is Celebrating its 75th Army Day on Sunday to commemorate Gen. Cariappa taking over as the First Army Chief on 15th the January, 1947. Over the timeline, the legacy of Indian Army has come a long way ahead and at present, stands studded on the brink of changing warfare dynamics. As the cloud of fighting a two-front war is hanging over New Delhi, the diplomats are having a tough time as they are busy buying time. Though,



in the era of Nuclear weapons, it seems far from the reality that either of our adversaries will get involved in a full-blown conventional war. However, the legacy which China owns of being a non-reliable and expansionist country, nothing can be neglected. On the other hand, a ever hostile Islamabad exists, which continuously lurks to find an opportunity to reinforce itself behind Chinese aggression. Thus, it becomes very crucial to understand the preparedness of the Indian armed forces. Although India has the fourth most powerful military power in the world, still the armed forces are facing a huge challenge of modernization. Looking at the threat perceptions of India, it is important to overcome those challenges. In recent times the dimensions of warfare have changed considerably and therefore Defence policy perspectives have to take into account our responses to a short war situations as well as proxy wars. It therefore becomes imperative that arming and modernisation of forces with the right capability and technology cannot be delayed any longer. With this in view, Atma-Nirbharta or Self reliance in defence will have to address two important areas i.e. maintenance of existing assets and acquisition of next generation weapon systems and platforms.

The country cannot have too many dependencies and Indigenous production has to be the Vision. We need to therefore, establish a "Production Eco System", which shall meet our requirements. The key areas which would need our emphasis would relate to design and development of technology and utilisation of all our national resources and capability in terms of the Public sector, Private sector, Academia, Industry and start ups. A lot of programmes are on the roll to acquire a modern rifles, machine guns and protective gears.

The army has already begun the process to acquire the same. The long standing Made in India 'INSAS' rifle is being replaced by the American SIG Sauer rifles, as the standard rifle for the Infantry. Apart from this, 2023 is going to be a milestone year, as the long awaited AK 203 Kalashnikov Rifles will start to arrive, as a result of a joint collaboration between Ordnance Factory Board and Russia. Apart from this, India is reorganizing its mechanized force to achieve strategic mobility for a quick thrust into enemy territory. Further, to add teeth to its firepower India has successfully ordered and inducted M777 howitzers from the USA and inducted new variant of DRDO developed Pinaka Multiple rocket launcher, which can fire a salvo of 12 HE rockets in just 44 seconds and has a range up to 90 km. The system mounted on TATA truck adds a feather to its mobility. Also, the DRDO developed Automated Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) or also known as 'Indian Bofors' is what many believe, a game changer and is looked upon with promising eyes. All other Indigenous developments which the Army is keenly desperate to have hands on, include a wide array of missiles, Small arms ranging from pistols and Sub machine Guns to Sniper rifles, attachments of the same, Armoured vehicles to Main Battle Tanks, High altitude clothing and bullet proof jackets, Melee weapons and further on. However, with all these inductions and many others in the pipeline, the major issue that Indian the army still faces is the availability of funds for future procurement. Since modernization is a continuous process, it cannot be halted once new procurement is made.

Apart from the Arsenal, Army is also on the verge of a major restructurization after necessary approval. The concept of IBG or Integrated battle groups Once introduced in the Structurizational strata, these light brigade-level all weather formations, which are capable of taking swift action, will be the need of the hour in coming decades. The aim of this reform is to cut the overall strength to about 1,50,000 personnel in 5-7 year span. This ultimate goal is to make the Army leaner and finer as well as stout. Cutting the personnel size will save adequate fund for equipping existing soldiers. In addition, a lot other transformational changes are being implemented organizationally, which is a positive sign. The creation of the Theatre Commands is a work at hand and may take a few years. In addition,

the aspects as discussed above, needs to be deliberated and implemented with meticulous forethought to make the Army leaner but with more agility. The creation of more counter-offensive Formations, which can be deployed at short notice, would become the key issue to raise India's strategic deterrence against China and thus prevent a war.

It is an undisputed fact that countries, which upgrade its military ahead of time, deter the adversary from waging war. Today's soldier needs to be technically savvy, physically and mentally robust. Indian armed forces also need a long term strategy which includes improving teeth to tail ratio, improving command, control, communication, intelligence and developing a large indigenous arsenal. However, over the period of time, Indian armed forces decided to carry out extensive and far-reaching reforms with the aim to enhance its warfighting capabilities. A lot is required to achieve the strategic objective and the military has the key role to play in attaining those objectives. Thus, it becomes crucial for the Indian Armed Forces to look into the loophole in the limited time frame and work to overcome those loopholes in a time-bound manner. The process of modernizing the largest standing army in the world is without a doubt, an arduous task. The whole transition remains in the public domain because of the continuous tussle of the army with hostile neighbours.

Unfortunately, what many ignore or do not grasp is the fact that modernization of the armed forces is a time-consuming, tedious process and requires a clear vision, strategy and a shared common National goal. It cannot be something that changes with the change in the government. It is like adding a block to an existing one. National security is not the scenario where one runs for water after seeing the house on fire. It is the timely analysis of threat and building strategies to avert them. Both China and Pakistan are continued to orchestrate its destabilizing design against India. While Indian Army has to defend multiple fronts, either of our adversaries remain far from the threat perception levels as Delhi's. Although, history has it, that, it is not the machine but the man behind the machine that shifts the outcome of the war. However, undermining the adversary's capability itself goes against the basic principle of war.

The author is an Internee Dentist from Mumbai.

CMs from four states inaugurate second phase of eye screening programme in Telangana's Khammam

HYDERABAD: The chief ministers of four states formally inaugurated the second phase of 'Kanti Velugu', an eye screening programme, in Khammam on Wednesday. They also inaugurated the newly constructed Khammam district Collectorate complex. Chief Ministers Arvind Kejriwal of Delhi, Bhagwant Mann of Punjab, Pinarayi Vijayan

vated by the State government and opened recently. The visiting leaders had all praises for the architectural wonder of Yadadri. The chief priests of Yadadri and Vedic scholars performed special pujas. However, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and CPI leader D Raja did not attend the pujas, though they were inside the temple premises.



of Kerala along with Telangana Chief Minister and BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao will address a massive public meeting of Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) this evening. All three CMs including the former CM of Uttar Pradesh Akhilesh Yadav and CPI general secretary D Raja arrived in Hyderabad last night. They held a meeting with the BRS president and CM Chandrasekhar Rao at Pragathi Bhavan.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Yadadri temple, the abode of Lakshmi Narasimha, by two choppers. The Yadadri temple was reno-

The Chief Ministers and top leaders also attended a photo exhibition that was organised in the premises of Sri Yadagiri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple. Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao explained the importance and renovation of the temple to visiting leaders. After the visit to Yadadri, the leaders left for Khammam. Post lunch, they will address the public, where the BRS chief is expected to announce the party's future plans. The leaders of AAP, CPM, CPI, SP and BRS will also be addressing the public meeting in Khammam in a while.

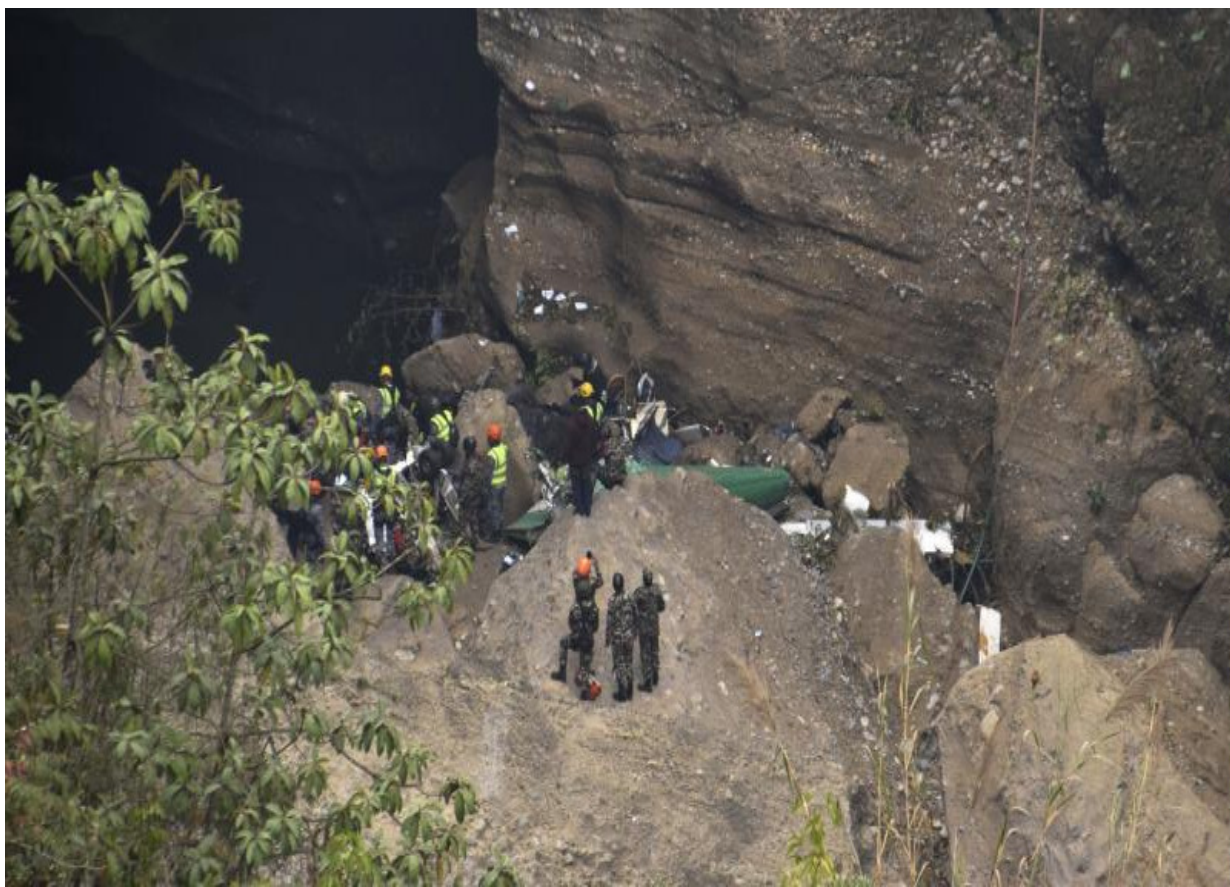
Nepal plane crash: Search continues for last missing person

Kathmandu: The search for the last missing person in the Nepal plane crash resumed on Wednesday after rescuers on Tuesday pulled out one more body from the crash site where a Yeti Airlines aircraft carrying 72 people, including five Indians, had plunged in a river gorge in the resort city of Pokhara.

Two days after the fatal crash, a woman's body was found deep down in the Seti River gorge on Tuesday. With this, the bodies of 71 people who died in the crash have been retrieved. The search for the missing person started early morning on Wednesday with the help

Bishal Sharma, 22, Anil Kumar Rajbhar, 27, Sonu Jaiswal, 35, and Sanjaya Jaiswal. As many as 48 bodies of the deceased have been brought to Kathmandu, the report added. The dead bodies except that of the locals and those who could not be identified and those of foreigners were flown to Kathmandu on Tuesday afternoon.

The bodies of the 48 victims have been brought to Kathmandu via Nepal Army helicopters for post-mortem at Maharajgunj-based Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospi-



of divers and four drones, rescuers have given up hope of finding the missing person alive, MyRepublica newspaper reported.

The Yeti Airlines aircraft took off from Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport at 10:33 am on Sunday and crashed on the bank of the Seti River between the old airport and the new airport in Pokhara, minutes before landing.

Fifty-three Nepalese passengers and 15 foreign nationals, including 5 Indians, and four crew members were on board the Yeti Airlines aircraft when it crashed.

The five Indians, all from Uttar Pradesh, have been identified as Abhisekh Kushwaha, 25,

Superintendent of Police Dinesh Mainali of Kathmandu Police Range said the bodies will be handed over to the respective families only after the completion of an autopsy.

"Forensics experts are currently working to complete the autopsy of the deceased. After we get the autopsy report, we will hand over the mortal remains of the deceased to the respective family members," he said.

Meanwhile, a team of experts from France arrived in Nepal on Tuesday to study the ATR plane crash of Yeti Airlines that took place in Pokhara on January 15. A nine-member expert team from the company that manufactures the ATR aircraft has reached Pokhara.

US, Ukraine top military chiefs meet in person for 1st time

A Military Base In Southeastern Poland: The top U.S. military officer, Army Gen. Mark Milley, traveled to a site near the Ukraine-Poland border on Tuesday and talked with his Ukrainian counterpart face to face for the first time ? a meeting underscoring the growing ties between the two militaries and coming at a critical time as Russia's war with Ukraine nears the one-year mark.

Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met for a couple of hours with Ukraine's chief military officer, Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi, at an undisclosed location in southeastern Poland. The two leaders have talked frequently about Ukraine's military needs and the state of the war over the past year but had never met. The meeting comes as the international community ramps up the military assistance to Ukraine, including expanded training of Ukrainian troops by the U.S. and the provision of a Patriot missile battery, tanks and increased air defense and other weapons systems by the U.S. and a coalition of European and other nations.

It also marks a key time in the war. Ukraine's troops face fierce fighting in the eastern Donetsk province, where Russian forces ? supplemented by thousands of private Wagner Group contractors ? seek to turn the tide after a series of battlefield setbacks in recent months.

Army Col. Dave Butler, a spokesman for Milley, told two reporters traveling with the chairman that the two generals felt it was important to meet in person. The reporters did not accompany Milley to the meeting and, under conditions set by the military, agreed to not identify the military base in southeastern Poland where they were located.

"These guys have been talking on a very regular basis for about a year now, and they've gotten to know each other," Butler said. "They've talked in detail about the defense that Ukraine is trying to do against Russia's aggression. And it's important ? when you have two military professionals looking each other in the eye and talking about very, very important topics, there's a difference." Butler said there had been some hope that Zaluzhnyi would travel to Brussels for a meeting of NATO and other defense chiefs this week, but when it became clear on Monday that it would not happen, they quickly decided to meet in Poland, near the border.

While a number of U.S. civilian leaders have gone into Ukraine, the Biden administration has made it clear that no uniformed military service members will go into Ukraine other than those connected to the embassy in Kyiv. Butler said only a small group ? Milley and six of his senior staffers ? traveled by car to the meeting.

EAM Jaishankar reaffirms India-Maldives development ties during Male visit

NEW DELHI: India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday reviewed India's joint projects with the Maldives and reaffirmed the strong development partnership between the two countries.

between India and Maldives in Noonu Manadhoo which included an academic collaboration between Cochin University and Maldives National University, India providing two sea ambulances to

for a high-impact community development scheme. A number of socio-economic development projects are planned to be implemented throughout Maldives under this funding. An MoU was also

changed by Indian High Commissioner to Male, Munu Mahawar and Maldivian Minister of State for foreign affairs Ahmed Khaleel.

In addition, Vice Chancellors of both Maldives National University and Cochin University of Science and Technology exchanged an MoU on capacity building to facilitate exchanges and cooperative initiatives between the two universities in the area of education, research, development instruction, community service, staff and student exchanges.

"We discussed the full spectrum of our special bilateral partnership with a focus on development cooperation, capacity building and people-to-people ties. The partnership with India has made a real difference in the lives of people. My visit was an opportunity to see tangible results," EAM added.



Jaishankar, who is in Male, as part of a three-day visit to the Maldives and Sri Lanka, said the synergies between India's neighbourhood first and Maldives' India first policies have made both nations good neighbours and strong partners. A number of significant Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed

signed for the development of a sports complex in Gaafu Dhaal Gadhdhoo. "This project will establish a centre which will promote youth empowerment through sports and contribute to the overall community development," according to a statement issued by the Maldivian government. The MoUs were ex-



Inter School Competition for Republic Day organised at Barbil

Barbil (KCN): National Day Observation committee, Barbil organised an inter-school



athlete competition for Republic day in Vikas Mahal, Barbil. The in the district of Keonjhar, Odisha. Various schools under Barbil Municipality area including adjacent villages participated in the competition. The

programme inaugurated after the unfurling of flag in the ground followed by a march by school students. Laxman Mahanta, Chairman, Barbil Municipality as Chief Guest while Santosh Barik, SDPO Barbil as Guest of honour attended on the occasion. Physical Education teacher of different schools conducted all events' has been instrumental in its advent to inculcate sportsmanship spirit in students; a sanctum where academics and sports amalgamate said Laxman Mahanta. Santosh Barik appreciated all the participants and spoke about an unlimited potential in every individual that can be honed at every opportunity and at every stage. Diffrent organisation and sports fraternity joined hands to give the programme a new horizon as COVID Pandemic had deserted the glamour of observation since last two years. Pratap Das, the Chairman of NDCC has coordinated all the events along with all members of NDCC. All winners of competition will be awarded on Republic day said Pratap Das.

DGFT on EoDB

New Delhi (KCN): The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has notified the amended rules for calculation of Composition Fee for extending Export Obligation under Advance Authorization Scheme by amending Para 4.42 of Handbook of Procedures (2015-20) vide Public Notice No.52/2015-20 dated 18th January, 2023.

the process more tedious and strenuous for exporters. However, the revised

conceptions. Automation of the process will reduce the need for manual

calculations, which will further improve the efficiency of the process. The process of automation is being taken up under the IT-revamp project of DGFT and shall be notified separately. Simplification of calculations also helps in the "Ease of Doing Business" objective by reducing the complexity and making the process more straightforward for exporters.

By simplifying the calculations for Composition Fee, the DGFT is working towards this objective by making the process more efficient and easier to understand for exporters. This will ultimately lead to trade facilitation and ease of doing business.



Santosh Sarangi, DGFT favors the simplification of calculations for Composition Fee helps in automation and faster service delivery by making the process more efficient and easier to understand. The previous formula for Composition Fee was convoluted and difficult to understand, which made

Composition Fee formula, which is based on a specific rate for different levels of the 'CIF value of Authorisation', is more straightforward and easier to calculate. This will help automate the entire Export Obligation extension process with minimal human intervention, further eliminating the risk of errors and mis-

calculations and paperwork, which will ultimately lead to faster service delivery. This will be beneficial to exporters as it will reduce the time and effort required to complete the Export Obligation extension process. Additionally, automation will also reduce the risk of errors and misconcep-

Adani Plea for MC

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Adani Foundation (AF) is eager to set up Medical College at Bhadrak in Public Private Participation (PPP) Mode. AF is the CSR arm of Adani Group.

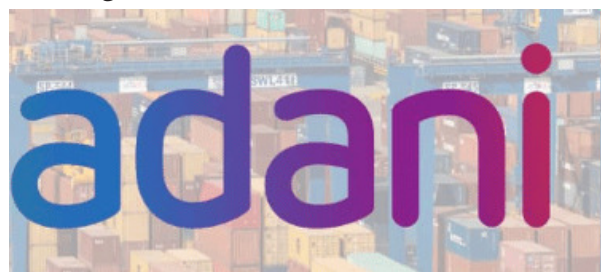
Shalini Pandit, Secretary Health & Family Welfare has been approached by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ports of Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), Subrat Tripathy in this regard, said sources.

While AF initiated preliminary work and survey to establish Medical College at Bhadrak and Rayagada, it has expressed interest to establish Medical College at Bhadrak on PPP Mode at the first instance.

This entire development for Medical College will be done by Adani Foundation under Adani Group CSR activity based upon mutually accepted Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Odisha. Adani Group is running one of the biggest Non Major Ports at Dhamra in Bhadrak District.

Way back in 2008, Adani Foundation undertook to upgrade District Hospital of Bhuj in Gujarat and established Medical College on PPP Mode. At that time Prime Minister Narendra Modi was Chief Minister Gujarat. AF was handed over the 300 Bedded District Hospital at Bhuj along with 25 acres of land on 99 years of lease to set up Medical

Collegewith 150 MBBS Seats. At present the District Hospital, Bhuj is having over 900 Beds, which are available for treatment of patients of the entire region. Further the Medical College offers MBBS and 60 Plus seats of Post Graduate (MD/MS) Courses. One of the most interesting parts of the Medical College is that Adani Group has foregone the Management Quota from Day One and handed it over to Government of Gujarat, said sources.



Adani Group is encouraged over the initiative of Government of Odisha, which is setting up Medical Colleges at District level and upgrading Health Care facilities in the far flung areas for the benefit of Public at large as well as increasing Medical Seats in the State.

Accordingly, Adani Group has requested the support of the State Government in this regard, so that the AF will be able to go ahead in this endeavor, said sources.

Establishment of a Medical College at Bhadrak is a longstanding demand. People of Bhadrak have been requesting the State Government to set up MC for quality healthcare for long.

Now with Adani Group showing interest in this regard, it will go a long way in helping out the people of this Coastal Zone with quality health care facility.

Cyber security for Banks

New Delhi (KCN): Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, organised a half-day symposium on cyber


future cyber threats and also perspectives on the revised draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill.



security titled Financial Services Cyber Security (FINSCY) here today.

Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary, DFS, inaugurated the symposium. The symposium provided an opportunity for senior officers from Government agencies and Departments, and financial services sector regulators, as also senior executives and CISOs of Banks, Insurance Companies, and FIs to share their ideas, practices, and concerns on cyber security measures currently in place in the financial services sector, the readiness of the sector for

The symposium was attended by senior officers of the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government agencies viz., CERT-In, NCIIPC, Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre; Regulators in the financial services sector viz., RBI, IRDAI, and PFRDA; Public Sector Banks and Insurers, leading Private Sector Banks and Insurers, and major financial institutions such as NABARD, SIDBI, EXIM Bank and National Housing Bank.



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Leadership program launched to nurture young Indian optometrists

New Delhi(KCN): IVI has launched the eighth Young Leaders Program (YLP) 2023 for optometrists.

The inaugural talk, on 'Leadership and Management', was delivered by IVI's CEO

a leadership role and for achieving excellence in eye care education and practice."

"Optometrists are in the frontline of eye health and vision care and our program will aim to developing leadership skills, including



Vinod Daniel.

The YLP is supported by Hoya and will be organised from January to June this year. Sanjay Tiwari, Managing Director, Hoya Lens India, also spoke to the participants at the inaugural session.

The eighth YLP saw interest from applicants from across India. Thirteen optometrists representing corporates, NGOs and institutions were selected to be part of this year's program.

Mr Daniel said "A key objective of IVI's Young Leaders Program is to nurture optometry professionals to help them take up

provide the participants with mentorship and networking opportunities," Mr Daniel added. Over six months through lectures and workshops, the program will cover people management, interpersonal skills, communications, soft skills in leadership, strategic leadership, systems thinking, the role of corporate social responsibility in eye care, leadership to advance optometry in India, entrepreneurship, change management, partnership building, networking, upgrading optometric education and research in India, and SDGs & eye health – UN Targets for 2030.

Master da Surya Sen Indian Freedom Fighter remembered on punyatithi

Kolkata (KCN,Partha Roy) Master Da Surya Sen (22March 1894 -12 January 1934) ,Indian freedom fighter was remembered and glowing tributes were paid in a national seminar organised by Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) on 12th January 2023 in Kolkata.

Masterda Surya Sen attained his martyrdom on 12th January 1934 in Chittagong , Bangladesh.

Under the leadership of Surya Sen, the Chittagong Uprising was initiated on 18th April, 1930.

Master Da was great inspiration to future generations of Indian revolutionaries who were fighting British colonial government for freedom of India.

Surya Sen was a teacher of Mathematics in school and became famous as Masterda (i.e. the teacher) among the students and common people.

On 12th January 1934, the British colonial Government hanged Masterda Surya Sen.

Rupendra Kumar Chattopadhyay (Azad Fellow, MAKAIAS) and Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh Director MAKAIAS .

Goutam Biswas had said, the fire of revolution that Surya Sen and other revolutionaries had kindled, inspired Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to led it further.

The impact of Delhi March ("Delhi Cholo") by Indian National Army (INA) under the leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose had played a decisive role in India's independence.

Pradipta Roy spoke on the revolutionary organisation of Surya Sen. According to Roy, no other revolutionary leader had to bear the torture that Surya Sen had to face.

Arindam Mukherjee spoke on "Master Da " s role and contribution in Indian freedom struggle as well as process of paying homage to Master Da can strengthen Indo-Bangladesh relationship. Shri Mukherjee proposed that efforts should be initiated to create a research centre and museum in memory of Surya Sen in Chittagong as a joint initiative of India and Bangladesh. Shri. Mukherjee said that an advice may be given to the B a n g l a d e s h Government for taking initiative to include the places related to the memories of Chittagong Uprising and Surya Sen in the tourism map of Chittagong in near future. He suggested a "Chair" should be created in the name of Surya Sen at any renowned university in joint collaboration of India and Bangladesh.



To pay homage to great Indian revolutionary as India is celebrating 75 years of India 's independence , Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata (An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India) had organised a seminar titled, 'Master Da Surya Sen and his Revolutionary Associates: A Historical Analysis' on 12th January 2023 at Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Kolkata.

Shri Goutam Biswas (Assistant Professor, Department of History, P.N. Das College, Palta, West Bengal), Pradipta Roy (Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Scottish Church College, Kolkata) and Arindam Mukherjee (Vice President, MAKAIAS, Kolkata & Director, Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, India) spoke on Master Da in august presence of Professor

Director of MAKAIAS, Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh said in his concluding remarks that the Master Da and his associate revolutionaries got their inspiration from the Geeta and the writings of Swami Vivekananda. Dr. Ghosh has said that the 12th January has another relevance—it is the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. Dr. Ghosh opined that there is need to pen down the contribution of the Indian revolutionaries in more elaborate manner. Ghosh suggested the biographies of the freedom fighters should be included in academic syllabus in schools and universities. The fellows of MAKAIAS, many other dignitaries and eminent citizens were present in the seminar. The seminar began with National Song, " Vande Mataram". The programme concluded with the National Anthem.

Microsoft to lay off staff again from today: Reports

SAN FRANCISCO (KCN): Microsoft is readying to cut more positions from its global workforce as tech giants continue paring headcount to ride out rough economic conditions, according to media reports on Tuesday.

The computer industry stalwart could announce layoffs in its engineering divisions as early as Wednesday, Bloomberg News reported.



A Microsoft spokesperson told AFP that the company would not comment on what it referred to as "rumor."

The Washington state-based company, which industry trackers say has more than 220,000 workers, trimmed its ranks of employees twice last year.

A new layoff announcement would come a week before Microsoft is to report its earnings for the final three months of last year.

"Over the last few weeks we have seen significant headcount cut reduction from stalwarts Salesforce and Amazon," Webdash analyst Dan Ives said in a note to investors.

Webdash is expecting staff cuts of another 5 to 10 percent across the tech sector, Ives told investors.

"Many of these companies were spending money like 1980's Rock Stars and now need to reign in the expense controls ahead of a softer (macro-economic conditions)," Ives wrote.

Amazon announced in early January that it plans to cut more than 18,000 jobs from its workforce, citing "the uncertain economy" and the fact the online retail behemoth had "hired rapidly" during the pandemic.

The job-slashing plan is the largest among recent layoffs that have impacted the once-unassailable US tech sector, including at giants such as Facebook-owner Meta.

Some of the Amazon layoffs would be in Europe, CEO Andy Jassy in a statement to staff, adding that the impacted workers would be informed starting on Wednesday, January 18.

Major platforms with an advertising-based business model are facing budget cuts from advertisers, who are reducing expenses in the face of inflation.

Meta announced in November the loss of 11,000 jobs, or about 13 percent of its workforce. At the end of August, Snapchat let go about 20 percent of its employees, around 1,200 people.

And in early January, IT group Salesforce announced it was laying off around 10 percent of its employees, or just under 8,000 people. Twitter was bought in October by billionaire Elon Musk, who promptly fired about half of the social media platform's 7,500 employees.

An unknown number more resigned in protest of his policy changes.

Authorities worried about Badrinath riches in Joshimath

Continued from page-1

ties.

Lord Vishnu, the presiding deity of Badrinath is worshipped at Narsingh temple in Joshimath after the portals of the Himalayan temple are closed for winter.

The riches of Badrinath are also brought down to the Narsingh temple during winter.

"There are no cracks yet in the Narsingh temple and its premises. But as a precautionary step we have made an alternative plan as to where to shift the riches if it becomes inevitable," Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee chairman Ajendra Ajay said.

"We have explored the alternative locations and found a guest house in Pipalkoti most appropriate for the purpose," Ajay said.

"Some people have also suggested a location in Pandukeshwar," he said.

"However, there is no need as yet to shift the riches anywhere. We pray to the lord that such an eventuality does not arise," he said.

The riches contain 30-35 kg silver and 40-45 kg gold amid other offerings, he said.

Central, State employees and workers move on for agitation

Continued from page-1

System instead of New Pension System, Constitution of 8th Central Pay Commission, Payment of 18 months D A Arrear, Regularization of Contractual, Contingent and Part-time Workers including Gramin Dak Sewaks with Status and Pension and all such issues confronted by the State and Central Govt. employees and workers throughout India.

Addressing the meeting as Hon'ble Speaker, Com. Bruhaspati Samal, General Secretary, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers briefed the minutes of the meeting dated 8th December, 2022 and 7th January, 2023 held in New Delhi jointly by the NJCA, Confederation of C G Employees and Workers, All India State Govt. Employees Federation (AISGEF), Teachers' Federation and Paramilitary Pensioners' Association with unanimous resolution to organize various agitational programmes throughout the year 2023 to achieve the above demands. To bring complete awareness among the employees and workers from all sections, there will be National and State Level Conventions during January, online petitions will be submitted during February, District level rallies during March, gate-meeting and reviews during April, District level mashaal juloos during May, rallies in State capitals during June, mega rally in July and August during monsoon session of the Parliament and Bharat Band during September, 2023.

Along with AIRF and Confederation State leadership, the meeting was participated by leaders and representatives of AISGEF, Odisha State Govt. Employees Coordination Committee, Odisha Secondary School Teachers' Association (OSSTA), Anganwari Workers' Association and from various Central Govt. service unions / federations viz; Income Tax, Institute of Physics, GST, AIAIT, CPWD, GSI, CWC, RMRC etc. and leaders from AISF, AITUC and CITU.

It was unanimously decided to revive NJCA Odisha uniting all sections of employees and workers in the State of Odisha to conduct the above programmes successfully throughout the year 2023. There will be no rest till demands are achieved. The joint convention in Odisha under the banner of NJCA will be held on 5th February, 2023.

The meeting was successfully conducted under the able leadership of Com. P K Patsani, General Secretary and Com. Sunil Mitra, Dy. General Secretary, East Coast Railway Shramik Union.

Biju Dakota returns home

Continued from page-1

belonged to Biju Babu and remaining were hired by him. At least nine were crashed while one is in Indonesia, another brought to Odisha. There is no information available of the remaining three aircrafts of the Kalinga Airlines, he said.

The plane remained abandoned for decades on the premises of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata. The aircraft weighed over 8 tonnes and was around 64 feet 8 inches long.

The State Government started the process to bring back the Dakota plane in 2017. On December 13, 2017, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had written to the State Government and proposed to shift the plane from Kolkata. The AAI had also offered all assistance and support to the State Government in procuring the aircraft.

The State Government again wrote to AAI on January 22, 2020, and informed that it should be displayed near Biju Patnaik's statue outside Bhubaneswar airport. The process was stalled for two years due to the Covid pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

The vintage Dakota aircraft reached temple city during the Men's Hockey World Cup. It is a significant achievement for the State to showcase to visitors, especially foreigners. The Odisha government has engaged a specialised team to reassemble the dismantled parts after the vehicles carrying them arrive at the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) in Bhubaneswar. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has allotted 1.1 acres of land for this purpose at the BPIA Bhubaneswar. Now, people will be able to see the symbol of Biju Babu's bravery in the city.

Dutee 'provisionally suspended' for doping offence; athlete says no such communication

CHENNAI: India's top sprinter Dutee Chand has apparently tested positive for banned substances and has been provisionally suspended. According to a document, she has tested positive for drugs classified as Selective Androgen Re-

ceptor Modulator (SARM). National record holder in 100m and Asian Games medalist Dutee, however, denied this and said she has received no such communication from anyone so far. "I also got some social media screenshots sent to

NADA that has apparently been sent to Dutee has said that she tested positive for SARMs. The urine sample apparently was collected out-of-competition in Bhubaneswar on December 5. She tested positive for andarine and its me-

tabolites, enobosarm (ostarine) and ligandrol (LGD-4033) - all considered SARMs. Her provisional suspension is from the date of sample collection. The offence can attract a ban up to four years for such offence. If she accepts the offence then there is a provision to reduce the ban by a year. Usually, the final outcome of the AAF is done after a B sample test and a hearing. The Athletics Federa-

tion of India said it cannot say much on this on technical grounds. But AFI did say that when the anti-doping violation occurred (date on which sample was collected) she was not part of a national camp. "She was not with any national camp for some time now and was practicing on her own," said a top official. "She was training outside AFI's jurisdiction and we did not know where she was during that period." Of late, ligandrol has been detected in quite a few samples in the country. It is a Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator (SARM) that was developed to treat elderly patients suffering from muscle and nerve damage. It is illegal to buy anywhere in the world as the American company developing it has still not approved it for human consumption. But the drug is freely available on the black market especially in eastern European countries, with many online sites selling it. There were even reports that it was being used on racehorses.



ceptor Modulator (SARM). It is banned at all times under S1.2 of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) list of prohibited substances. The S1.2 comes under 1 Anabolic Agent - 2. Other anabolic agents, including, but not limited to: "Clenbuterol, selective androgen receptor modulators, [SARMs, e.g. andarine, LGD-4033 (Ligandrol), enobosarm (ostarine) and RAD140], tibolone, zexanerol and

me but so far I have not received any such communication from NADA or WADA," she told The New Indian Express on Wednesday. "I have lived in controversy. There's always one thing or the other. And I have been competing in the highest level and I never had any doping offence so far. On top of that there was no competition in December either. The document needs to be verified properly." An Adverse Analytical Finding report of

ceptor Modulator (SARM). It is banned at all times under S1.2 of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) list of prohibited substances. The S1.2 comes under 1 Anabolic Agent - 2. Other anabolic agents, including, but not limited to: "Clenbuterol, selective androgen receptor modulators, [SARMs, e.g. andarine, LGD-4033 (Ligandrol), enobosarm (ostarine) and RAD140], tibolone, zexanerol and

Indian women's hockey team crushes South Africa 7-0

CAPE TOWN: Indian women's hockey team registered another big win on the tour of South Africa, crushing the hosts 7-0 in the second match, with stalwart Rani, returning after a long injury lay-off, scoring her second goal in the series. Following their 5-1 win in the tour opener, the FIH Women's Nations Cup champions showed the same intensity on Tuesday with Uditia opening the account in the ninth minute.



The team led by goalkeeper Savita put more pressure on the hosts in the second quarter with Vaishnavi Vithal Phalke, who made her senior international debut in the opening

match on Monday, scoring the second goal in the 22nd minute.

This was followed by a field goal by experienced forward and former captain Rani, who last played nearly six months back in the Pro League.

India doubled their 3-0 lead by the end of the second quarter with Sangita Kumari, Navneet Kaur and Vandana Katariya scoring in the 25th, 26th and 27th minutes.

Though the third quarter did not see any goals being scored, India ended the proceedings with Vandana completing her brace in the 58th minute. India will play their third match against South Africa on Thursday.

Two minors raped at Patia railway over-bridge

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Two minor girls were allegedly raped by two youths at the Patia railway station here late on Monday night. The two - aged 12 years and 14 years who live with their families in Patia - were alleged to have been kidnapped by two youths



when they had gone to the railway station in the evening. The youths took them to the railway over-bridge, tied them up with a rope and raped them, said government railway police quoting the complaint lodged by the family members. The accused, said to be

in the age-group of 25 to 30, also allegedly threatened them with dire consequences if they revealed the matter to others. The matter came to light when the girls reached home in the morning and informed their family members.

The Childline received the information and reported the matter to zone ACP and Infocity Police. Both the police and Childline team went to the crime spot with the victims. Later, mother of one of the girls with help of Childline, went to GRP to lodge an FIR. A GRP officer said acting on the complaint, they have launched an investigation. The youths, however, are absconding, they said. Police said, the accused could be acquainted with the victims.

Wales agree equal pay for football internationals



LONDON: The Football Association of Wales (FAW) became the latest governing body to agree on equal pay deals for men's and women's internationals on Wednesday. The deal comes into place immediately and covers the period up to and including the 2026 men's World Cup and 2027 women's World Cup.

A joint statement released by Wales men's and women's teams said: "Together Stronger has been the mantra across the Cymru national teams for us all, both on and off the pitch as we look to put Wales on the world stage." "As part of the FAW's strive towards equality, we are now proud to announce that together, our men's and women's

teams have agreed to an equal pay structure for future international matches." World champions the United States, and European champions England, Spain and Norway are among nations who have introduced equal pay for male and female players for representing their countries. "We hope that this will allow future generations of boys

and girls to see that there is equality across Welsh international football, which is important for society as a whole," added the players' statement. "With this agreement in place, we will now look ahead to the Euro 2024 and 2025 qualifying campaigns, as we aim to see further success across both our senior teams in the near future."

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