

## Be wary of BJP or it'll swallow you: Congress to Conrad Sangma's NPP in Meghalaya

GUWAHATI(KCN): The Congress has cautioned the National People's Party (NPP), which heads the ruling coalition in Meghalaya, to be wary of the BJP or be swallowed by it.

Citing an example, the Congress said the BJP had penetrated into Assam by riding piggyback on the regional Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and almost swallowed it. All India Congress Committee media coordinators Bobbeeta Sharma and Matthew Anthony told journalists in Shillong that the NPP might face a similar fate.

The NPP is least perturbed. The party said it is No 1 in Meghalaya and efforts are on to further consolidate it.



"We don't need to agree or disagree to anything which any other political party may say. We are doing our job. We are the No 1 party and we are working hard to build it further. We are confident," NPP spokesperson

Ampareen Lyngdoh told this newspaper. The BJP had forged an alliance with the AGP in 2016 to avoid the split of anti-Congress votes. The Congress, under the then Chief Minister Tarun

Gogoi, was going great guns after having formed the government three times in a row. However, the BJP's alliance with the AGP and the Bodoland People's Front turned out to be a masterstroke. The three-party combine ousted the Congress from power and formed a coalition government. CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Guv Medal for Cops

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has selected 20 Police Officers under different categories for the award of Governor's Medal for the year 2022. They have been selected for their outstanding services for mankind.

Under Category-I (Additional DGP/IGP/DIGP), two senior IPS Officers, Ravikant, IG and Resident Commissioner, New Delhi and Sanjaya Kumar Kaushal, IG, Vigilance

will receive the prestigious Governor's Award during upcoming Republic Day celebration in Bhubaneswar. Similarly, Dr. Kanwar Vishal Singh, Superintendent of Police, Puri and Bijaya Chandra Pradhan, Commandant, SAP, have been selected under Category-II.

Ananta Charan Pati, Additional SP, Special Branch, headquarters and Arun Kumar Swain, ACP, Zone-I, Cuttack, UPD will receive the award under Category-III.

Further, under Category-IV, Ashish Chandra Jena, Inspector, STF, CID CB, Bhubaneswar, Prashant Kumar Sahoo, Inspector, Aska, PS, Ganjam and Prasanna Kumar Pradhan, Inspector (Armed), Boudh have been selected.

Adwaitananda Swain, Sub-Inspector, CID CB, Cuttack; Amiya Kumar Routray, Sub-Inspector (Armed), OSAP 4th SS Bn., Malkangiri;

Namita Nayak, SI, Vigilance Balasore Division; Rabindranath Sahu, ASI, Special Branch, Bhubaneswar; Dasmanta Kumar Parida, ASI, Bhubaneswar, UPD; Dibyaranjan Tripathy, Havildar, RO, Angul would also receive the State-level Award. Moreover, Amit Kumar Kar, Constable/14, DIB Bhadrak; Bijaya Kumar Sunasagada, Constable, Cyber Cell Gajapati; Pradeep Kumar Behera, Sepoy,

OSAP, 4th Bn., Rourkela; Adarmani Nayak, Constable, BPSPA, Bhubaneswar and Krishna Chandra Mishra, Constable, Vigilance Berhampur Division have been selected for the Governor's Award.

## Farmers hit streets over mandi mismanagement

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The anger of farmers over mandi mismanagement and irregularities in paddy procurement spilled over to the streets in all the coastal districts on Thursday with agitating farmers throwing paddy on the roads and staging dharna near the offices of the district collectors to voice their protest.

The complaints of the farmers are common. They alleged that they have to forgo 5-10 kg



DRM Waltier Sri Anup satpathy Attended the Chaiti festival at Rayagada as Chief guest along with Sri Saptagiri Ulaka, Hon'ble MP, Koraput, Collector, SP and officials of District Administration

## Nadda to launch BJP's 'Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra' in poll-bound Karnataka

Bengaluru(KCN): The Bharatiya Janata Party national president JP Nadda will flag off the nine-day state-wide Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra from Vijayapura in poll-bound Karnataka on Saturday, the party said. With Assembly elections due in the state in about four months, the BJP has intensified its poll campaign by launching the nine-day public outreach programme from Vijayapura. The campaign is be-

ing launched two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Yadgir and Kalaburagi where he kickstarted irrigation, drinking water and highway projects and distribution of Haku Patras (land title deeds) to the nomadic tribe Lambanis.

Nadda will reach Kalaburagi by a special flight on Saturday morning and reach the Gnana Yogashrama at Vijayapura and offer tributes to Sri

Siddheshwara Mahaswamiji, who



passed away recently, the state BJP media cell in-charge Karunakara Khasle said in a statement. The BJP president will then proceed to Nagathana Assembly

Sankalpa Yatra, which will go on till January 29. According to party sources, the Yatra will involve door-to-door campaign and

## RSS' attempt to appropriate Netaji on his birth anniversary triggers consternation in Kolkata

KOLKATA(KCN): India's 'revolutionary capital' has become the epicentre for a different kind of battle – this time over its own icon – Subhas Chandra Bose, the legendary hero of the country's freedom movement, who enjoys more than a cult status in this megalopolis.

Much to the consternation of some Kolkatans, the RSS will possibly for the first time in its history hold a mega-rally to commemorate his birth anniversary at the iconic Shahid Minar, a scene for many protest rallies before and after India's Independence, including some addressed by Bose himself. The Hindutva outfit's leader Mohan Bhagwat has already flown into the former capital of British India and will be the chief speaker at the public programme on January 23, which is likely to be held around the same time when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will be garlanding Bose's statue with its hand pointing towards Delhi, near the Red Road. Quite naturally, the RSS's move has set the proverbial cat among the pigeons with emi-

nent thinkers, the Congress, Communists and TMC frowning in disapproval.

"His ideology of secular, democratic principles, his staunch opposition to British rule was diametrically opposite to that of the RSS and the Hindu Mahasabha, and he had during his lifetime made this clear," said Prof Aditya Mukherjee, eminent historian and author of several books on India's freedom struggle.

Both the Congress, of which Bose, also called by the honorific Netaji, was president twice, the Forward Bloc that he founded and the TMC, which draws inspiration from him, will be organising functions as will tens of thousands of schools, youth clubs, gymnasiums and apartment blocks across this team-

ing city.

Netaji in Nagaland: The untold story Festoons and buntings are being readied to decorate various Bose statues from the Red



Road caped Subhas, to the Netaji on a charger at Shyambazar's five point crossing to the more humble painted busts at various by-lanes of Kolkata manufactured by the dozen at the insistence of local enthusiasts.

While clashes are unlikely between rival po-

litical or ideological groups, a war of words that has already sprung up is likely to cloud the INA's emblem of springing tiger, a logo adopted from Mysore's Tipu Sultan.

"After more than one and a quarter century of his birth, all political parties across the spectrum are trying to appropriate Netaji ... (but) to live up to an icon, one has to live up to his ideals ... when will that happen?" said Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, TMC MP and life-long Bose researcher, with a wry smile.

For its part, the Hindutva outfit claims Bose and RSS founder Dr Hegdewar had met at some stage before Independence and the organisation had been paying tribute to Netaji for many years.

At Netaji Bhavan on Elgin Road, where Bose lived, and which is now a museum and research centre, a staid programme far away from the political bickering will be conducted by his grandnephew Prof Sugata Bose, where members of INA families will be present and a Sufi ensemble from AR Rahman's KM Music Conservatory will perform. CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Social message, hockey dominate Subarna Lok Mahotsav

SONEPUR(KCN): The colorful Subarna Lok Mahotsav that concluded here on Wednesday resonated with socio-cultural messaging. The FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 also dominated its narrative. The four-day festival witnessed performances by over 200 artistes from several districts of Odisha besides a 'Lavni' group from Nagpur, Maharashtra. A city fest was organised where the denizens enjoyed performances of groups

festival was organised on a large scale this year to deliver new performances to the people. Our efforts to popularise hockey across the town as well as gram panchayats were no less," Sonepur collector Aboli Naravane said.

The promotion of hockey began in the district around a month back.

The administration had launched a campaign 'Subarnapur hela Hockeypur' and a vehicle called the 'Hockey Ratha' moved across all the 109 gram panchayats of the district. Sarpanch of each gram panchayat was given a hockey stick to popularise the game as part of the campaign. The ratha

covered all the panchayats and ended with the inaugural ceremony of the World Cup on January 11.

The screening of the inaugural programme was organised at the Rameshwar Ghat followed by several cultural performances. A massive rice husk mosaic made by artist Sudarsan Pattnaik on the theme of hockey was huge draw. Apart from the collector who performed a dance, SP, Vigilance, Sarah Sharma sang a folk song and Sonepur ADM, SN Dash performed a magic show during the festival.



like Rapper Big Deal and Prince Dance Group.

Apart from the performances, a Pallishree Mela was also organised by ORMAS at the venue. A footfall of more than 5000 people was recorded on each day of the festival which is so far considered the highest attendance the folk festival has ever witnessed. Though Subarna Lok Mohatsav is organised every year around April, it was scheduled in January this year to celebrate the spirit of hockey along with folk arts.

"We were overwhelmed by the crowd which was huge for a small town like Sonepur. The

## Crime Branch takes over probe into BSKY card fraud

CUTTACK: Crime Branch of Odisha police has taken up the investigation of the Biju Swasthya Kalyna Yojana (BSKY) health card fraud, a week after five persons including

on January 9.

During investigation, the owner and staff of South Point Hospital in collusion with brokers were found to have withdrawn several lakhs by generating fictitious and false bills without the required hospitalisation of patients. The 'gullible' card holders were given the impression that their cards will be renewed and they were handed out `2,000 each by the unscrupulous staff of the hospital.



owner and staff of a city-based private hospital were arrested on the charge of embezzling BSKY card funds by duping gullible residents of 42 Mouza locality. The CB team which has assumed charge of investigation and is said to have seized several important documents relating to BSKY fraud from South Point Hospital located at Arunodaya Nagar here.

"We will pray court for police remand of all the five under trial prisoners (UTPs) arrested earlier in connection with the case to interrogate them to ascertain the antecedent and also the extent of embezzlement in state government's flagship programme, BSKY scheme," said Behera.

The fraudulent misuse of BSKY health card fraud in the private hospital came to fore, after one Krushna Chandra Bhoi, ward member of Aranch village in 42 Mouza filed an FIR in this connection with the local police

The 42 Mouza police had arrested five accused persons including owner of the private hospital Binay Santuka (49), hospital's administrative officer Subhranshu Sekhar Rout (27) security manager Umakanta Saseni (49) of Bantunia and two brokers- Laxmidhar Lenka (52) and Trinath Behera (65). As many as 14 BSKY cards were seized from their possession.

Meanwhile, as per the instruction of state government, Cuttack CDMO Satyabrata Chhotray has issued closure notice to Panda Nursing Home in Athagarh for embezzlement of BSKY funds.

"After BSKY fraud was revealed in South Point Hospital, different private hospitals and nursing homes in Cuttack are under the scanner. Explanation has been sought from two reputed private hospitals in Cuttack after allegation of BSKY health card fraud," said Chhotray.

## Farmers hit streets over mandi mismanagement

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The anger of farmers over mandi mismanagement and irregularities in paddy procurement spilled over to the streets in all the coastal districts on Thursday with agitating farmers throwing paddy on the roads and staging dharna near the offices of the district collectors to voice their protest.

The complaints of the farmers are common. They alleged that they have to forgo 5-10 kg of paddy per quintal under the pretext of the paddy not being of fair average quality. The minimum support price being `2,040 per quintal, each farmer is losing about `200 per

lance. Dubbing this as 'jizya' tax, convener of Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan Akshya Kumar



told this paper that not a single farmer is spared from paying it. The proceeds from the

## Bhubaneswar gets seven new mini parks



BHUBANESWAR (KCN): The capital city on Thursday got seven new mini parks that will add more green cover, apart from creating recreational space for residents in Kalinga Nagar area here. Mayor Sulochana Das along with other officials of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) inaugurated the parks in Kalinga Nagar, K5, K4, K3A and K1 localities. The total area of the parks is less than half acre each and have been built at an investment in the range of Rs 35 lakh to 47 lakh. The facilities include yoga podium, open gym jogging track, drinking water and toilet, benches and children's play area among others. These small parks also have illumination and wa-

ter spray facility. Plantation along 150 metre radius of these parks have also been planned, officials said. BMC officials said the parks have been developed under Mukhya Mantri Karma Tatpara Yojana (MUKTA) scheme to support Self Help Groups (SHGs). Under the community driven initiative the MSHGs along with

community members are involved in planning and execution of the projects. While the state capital has 64 such parks in 67 wards, officials said steps are being taken to create at least 50 such parks in residential areas of the city. After the inauguration of seven, the remaining parks will come up in other different parts of the city in a phased manner.

## BJP warns Odisha govt over delay in conduct of OBC census

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): BJP on Thursday asked the state government to follow the steps taken by states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and conduct caste-based census to provide 27 per cent reservation to the vast majority of people belonging to other backward classes (OBC) in the state. Coming down

ward Classes (OSCBC) there is hardly any progress in the proposed caste census as the commission is not getting desired support from the government. "We have met the commission four times demanding caste survey in the state. The commission expressed its helplessness saying that it is not get-



heavily on the BJD government for adopting dilatory tactics in conducting OBC census in the state, BJP OBC Morcha president Surath Biswal on Thursday told a media conference that the state government passed a resolution in the Assembly in September 2021 to complete caste-based census before holding elections to the three-tier Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies.

Nearly three years after constitution of the Odisha State Commission for Back-

ward Classes (OSCBC) there is hardly any progress in the proposed caste census as the commission is not getting desired support from the government. "We have met the commission four times demanding caste survey in the state. The commission expressed its helplessness saying that it is not get-

## Farmers hit streets over mandi mismanagement

over the callous attitude of the district administration they hit the streets and demonstrated before the offices of the district collectors," Kumar said.

Massive protests of aggrieved farmers are reported from Khurda, Nayagarh, Puri, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Keonjhar districts. Agitating farmers were seen putting paddy sacks on the roads and in front of the residential office of some district collectors. Kumar said that 14 protesting farmers of Jagatsinghpur district have been forwarded to court while farmers are sitting on dharna in Kendrapara till this report was filed.

## 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 cases such claims are found to be false.



### SALE

Kawasaki Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale. Contact: 2555326

### PURCHASE

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



### REAL ESTATE

Flats ready for possession before Rathayatra at Puri near Seabeach for sale. Contact : 986 1078308

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



### 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

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

### PURCHASE

Simplex / Duplex building at BBS R contact : 9437002509

### ACCOMMODATION WANTED

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



### 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 : Sagasity 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

# When success isn't enough

Despite being successful, a few actresses have admitted that they don't have work, though they exude confidence that they will come back stronger.

A couple of days ago, in a lengthy Insta post, Anchal Singh made startling revelations of the difficulty she has had in finding auditions and jobs in the last six months. The young actress was part of two web series, Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein and Undekhi Season 2, this year, and her performance won rave reviews. Anchal's case isn't an isolated one! The likes of Nia Sharma, Shweta Tiwari, Natasha Doshi, Ester Noronha, etc., too have admitted that



they have been missing in action (MIA), despite getting noticed for their performance earlier.

### Tomorrow will be better!

It's rare to see celebrities being transparent about their professional and personal lives. So, in an industry where treading a diplomatic path is the need of the hour, why are actresses admitting to lack of work?

Ester Noronha says the problem is that actresses are forced to fit people's expectations.

"So what if I am out of work? It means I am prepared to wait to get better work tomorrow. Even if I taste success, if my next film doesn't do well, I am back to Square One" she comments, adding that it is important to understand the reason for being without work. "It could be out of choice, majboori (helplessness), expectations, or other reasons," she points out. "Success does make us happy, but it is not a validation of our ability. Our work ethics drive us. Over time, I have

realised that we have put ourselves under pressure for no reason," Ester adds.

What are these young actresses trying to communicate by acknowledging that they don't have work? Aren't they apprehensive that they may be labelled and not be considered for future projects? Or are they trying to



show audiences what they are missing out on? "It's a case of a woman speaking confidently and standing up for herself; nothing can affect her," explains Ester. "Even a seasoned actress like Neena Gupta asked for work on her Insta, so what's wrong in accepting that you don't have work?"

### Believe in yourself

If an actress is brave enough to admit that she finds getting work tough, she is coming from a place where she's being unapologetically honest. She has nothing to lose!

Natasha Doshi reveals that she often faces the question, "What next?" When she has no work, she doesn't have any qualms about admitting it. Acknowledging that it does take a lot of strength to own it, she says, instead of ignoring the situation, people should actually

pay heed to what is being said, and appreciate the frankness. "Celebrate women's bravery, because there's no point in having a voice if you don't use it. Your voice can be used to create change," comments Natasha.

"Of course, to be this honest, you need to be confident which stems from your belief in yourself. That should exist irrespective of your work status. Don't seek validation from work. And truthfully, that is very hard. But whether you have work or not, believe in yourself," Natasha stresses.

### Keep looking!

Young actress Divi Vadhya, who won applause



for her performance in Bigg Boss 4, says today's women are progressive. Commenting that anyone would feel low for lack of work, she says actresses should constantly make an efforts to find opportunities. "Since most actresses don't have mentors, it is challenging to come up with strategies to bag films. I have been through a phase where there was little work, but again, I have done a few films which haven't been released. Unless those films are released, people can't see my work. How can filmmakers think of us if we don't have enough visibility," she asks.

## Shakunthalam set for release on February 17



The film team informed that the movie is being presented in a 3D format to give a unique feel to the audience and make it a visual wonder. — DC Image

The release of Shakunthalam, starring Samantha in the lead role, has been finalised. According to the film's team, the multi-lingual would be unveiled on February 17 in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi.

The film based on poet Kalidas' Sanskrit

drama Abhigyana Saakuntalam is being readied for release by ace director Guna Sekhar. In this epic drama of love and romance, Samantha enacts the title role of Sakuntala while Dev Mohan is her lover, King Dushyant. The shooting is complete and the film is currently in the post-production stage.

Mohan Babu, Prakash Raj, Madhubala, Goutami play other key roles. Neelima Guna is producing the film under the banner

Gunasekhar Team Works. Ace producer Dil Raju is presenting the movie. The film team informed that the movie is being presented in a 3D format to give a unique feel to the audience and make it a visual wonder. Aditi Balan, Ananya Nagalla, Jisu Sen Gupta portray other roles. With dialogues by Sai Madhav Burra photography by Sekhar V. Joseph, music by Mani Sarma, the film is getting ready to enthrall the audience soon.

# Kanpur all the set to become another Gurgaon or Noida

N.R. Narayana Murthy, the conscious-keeper of Indian corporate world and one of the founders of IT giant Infosys, often talks about



his days as a student of IIT, Kanpur. He was there in venerable temple of education in the late 60s. Now, the question is being asked in business and corporate world: Will Narayan Murthy consider investing in the

city of his alma -mater even as the Yogi Adityanath government in UP is going all out to woo investors from India and abroad to invest in India's biggest state in terms of population? Well, UP government would surely knock the doors of Narayan Murthy, the father in law of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. It goes without saying that if he takes some affirmative steps towards Kanpur in terms of investment, it would a long way for the state. It is already there in Noida.

Well, the UP government is keen to make Kanpur as another Noida or Gurgaon. It has the potential to become like these cities as it has a very rich history of business, industry and now it has a formidable infrastructure that can match any big metro city. As recently as couple of decades ago, Kanpur was a very vibrant Industrial town with mills and workers were all around. Considered as the Manchester of the east, Kanpur had several cotton mills working on 24x7 basis. However, all such mills started crumbling from early 70s slowly but surely. They were started shutting one by one for plethora of factors. Thus,

Kanpur became the city of unemployed workers.

"The story of Kanpur's textile mills is one of bureaucratic and political insensitivity in pre-liberalisation era and one of plunder in the liberalisation age. It is also the most important example of transition of a city that was called 'Manchester of the East' at one time to a decadent dumping yard corrupted by communal and anti-labour politics," says Ajoy Ashirwad Mahaprashasta, who has done research on the decline of Kanpur as a premier Industrial town of India.

As it is said that bad time gives way to better time and Kanpur is all set to see flurry of activities. It should become a favourite destination for the big ticket corporate houses of the world. It has good transport infrastructure like roads and metro, schools, colleges, hospitals and airport too. Further, the rock like determination of the state Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to transform the city of Kanpur situated on the banks of Ganga. Like any other part of Uttar Pradesh the law and order situation is very investors friendly in Kanpur too. Nobody can think of creating ruckus. There is zero tolerance for anti-social elements under the watchful eyes of state government.

Pitching Uttar Pradesh as a safe investment destination, state officials are assuring industrialists of a strong law and order situation devoid of fear and free of land mafia. "You must have seen that before 2017, there used to be riots every other day, now the law and situation in the state is very strong. We formed an anti-land mafia task force and va-

**Vivek Shukla**

cated over 64,000-hectare land from

their clutches," they say. Fact of the matter is that today no goon can collect tax from any businessman or contractor or harass them in Uttar Pradesh. Even political donations cannot be taken forcibly.

Yogi Adityanath has already met representatives of more than two dozen US companies exploring investment opportunities in the State and assured them his government's commitment to providing an investor-friendly environment. Led by Boeing, the delegation that included major US firms such as Facebook, Adobe, Coca Cola, Mastercard, Monsanto, Uber, Honeywell, P&G, Oracle and GE Health and Cargill has shown keen interest in investing in the State. Now the onus is on the officials of UP to apprise investors steps taken by their government to facilitate investors in the State and the measures taken in this regard.

See, investors are attracted to any city/ state/ country if there are opportunities to make money. They will assess the attractiveness of a city's opportunities by estimating their likely return or profit, and will be drawn to cities which offer them the best combination of scale, risk and return. One should not forget that cities are complex economies, so a huge number of factors impact this return. As a result, investors consider a wide range of city characteristics and behaviours when assessing the attractiveness of a city. This includes: Growth rate of businesses and jobs, Resilience of the economy to shocks, Quality and affordability of infrastructure, Skill-level of the workforce, and quality of educa-

tion and research, City environment, and liveability, governance, Scale of the city, population size, and the number of jobs and businesses, Amount and type of land/assets available, Taxation and incentives and Construction costs.

Noted Delhi based Chartered Accountant Rajan Dhawan says that investors are particularly drawn to cities with highly-skilled workers, such as Kanpur, Chennai and Noida, as these enable cities to attract productive, well-paid jobs in innovative, knowledge-based industries. A well-educated workforce is more resilient to economic changes, due to its ability to adapt, and has greater spending power and therefore a greater appetite for investment, than a low-skilled workforce. Returning to Narayan Murthy again as Uttar Pradesh is all set to attract investors during the Global Investors Meet to be held in Lucknow on 10-12 February 2023, one should not be surprised if other alumnus of IIT Kanpur now becoming big time Industrialists would also invest in the city of their youth and alma-mater. The big-ticket CEOs like Arvind Krishna, IBM, Bhaskar Pramanik, CEO of Microsoft India, Mukesh Bansal, Founder of Myntra, Som Mittal, former President of NASSCOM, Sangeet Paul Choudary CEO & founder of Platformation Labs, Lalit Jalan, CEO of Reliance Infrastructure and Prashant Pathak, Chairman of Investment Committee of Business Development Bank of Canada, CEO of Ekagrata Inc too were students of IIT, Kanpur. Who knows that all these CEOs and others toying with the idea of investing in Kanpur too?

The Author is a columnist and former Editor

## Five days a week will lead to higher productivity and improve the efficiency of bank employees

The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) have decided to go on

**Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit**

acts of suicides being committed by the officers of the Banks.

two-day strike from January 30 demanding a five-day working week for bank staff, among others. Apart from 5 day week, the UFBU is also demanding immediate commencement of negotiations on the charter of demands for wage revision, updating of pension for retirees and resolution of residual issues like updation of



pension, immediate start of negotiations on charter of demands for wage revision and adequate recruitment in all cadres, among others. As per reports, the united Forum of Bank Unions has been trying

for the last 28 months to resolve the remaining issues, however, no positive response was given by the Indian Banks' Association. The 11th wage settlement of bank employees occurred on November 11, 2020, between the Indian Banks' Association and the United Forum of Bank Unions, the umbrella body of trade unions in the banking sector.

Some of the issues related to the agreement, in which a 5-day week in banks, stagnation increment is not given to banks by the Indian Banks Association, besides promotion and salary, pension fixation issues etc. Two Saturdays (2nd and 4th) were declared off in 10th bipartite settlement, signed on the 25 May 2015. This was termed as a great achievement by bank unions, who have been asking for five-day week. Before two Saturdays off, all Saturdays were half day working, as such, technically no benefit was passed on in terms of working hours. The demand of bank employees' is not unreasonable because Central Government and most State Government offices work only five days. A five-day week is already available in the international banking system. It is also available here - the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), central and state governments, and companies in the public sector work for (only) five days a week.

The working conditions in the Banks have been strenuous. Poor infrastructure, lack of adequate staff has made the officers work till late in the night, resulting in poor health, huge pressure on the officers, which culminates in serious work-leisure mismatches, life style diseases and of late, repeated

With the advancement of technology, most of the transactions can be processed without physically visiting branches. Since 2015, the banks have developed various alternative delivery channels for



delivery of various services and most of the services like, fund transfers, bank statements, cheque book requests, loan applications, cash withdrawal, transaction enquiry, account opening, life certificates etc. are available online without human intervention. In a letter to the Indian Banks' Association, the All India Bank Employees' Association has proposed that working hours per day may be increased by 30 minutes and the present working hours may be advanced by 30 minutes in the morning. It has also proposed increasing the existing customer service hours/non-cash transaction banking hours by 30 minutes. According to AIBOC, India is in the midst of digital revolution. As per experts, India is set to leapfrog many advanced countries in this space. Customers in the country are leaning towards digital adoption of financial services faster than previous estimates. There will be a paradigm shift in banking transactions from the brick and mortar banking to digital transactions concept. It is quite evident that the work pressure in the banking industry is the highest in the country and due to this branch banking should be done only during weekdays, keeping in mind the health of employees and their ability to perform. Having five days a week will lead to higher productivity and improve the efficiency of bank employees. Don't we think, 5 days week will also be a positive step in the direction of Digital India in conformity with PM's vision?

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

## Elon musk-the twitter owner Elon reeve musk F. R. S. is a business magnate and investor

He is the founder of, C. E. O. and chief engineer of space-x, angel investor

**Pratap Chandra Sahu**

pany which is now producing all kinds of electric vehicles including the

latest cyberruck. He founded his third company space exploration technologies corporation or space-x in 2022 with the intention of building spacecraft for commercial space travel. By 2008 space-x was established and N. A. S. A awarded the company the contract to handle cargo transport for the international space station with plans for astronaut transport in future so as to replace N. A. S. A's own space shuttle missions. In may 2012 space-x has made history when the company launched its falcon 9 rocket with an unmanned capsule going to the international space station with supplies for the astronauts stationed there. This marked the first time that a private company had sent a spacecraft to the international space station. In march 2017 space-x saw the successful test flight and landing of a falcon 9 rocket made from reusable parts, a development that opened the door for more affordable space travel. The company enjoyed another milestone moment in 2018 with the successful test launch of the powerful falcon heavy rocket. Elon

U. S. A. He graduated in economics and stayed on for a second bachelor's degree in physics. At that time the internet boom was starting. So he decided the three major topics of concern for developing his life's mission to the internet, renewable, and space travel. He joined the internet revolution by starting his first company named Zip2 in partnership with his brother. The company provided content for the new website of both the new york times & chicago tribune. The brothers sold the company over U. S dollar 300 million. With that money they started an on line financial services/payments company by name x.com, which was later renamed as paypal. Their payments product became an instant success. In October 2022 he became a billionaire when paypal was acquired by ebay 1.5 billion dollars. He became the major share holder of telsa motors, a company formed in 2003 by investing by ebay 70 million dollars of his personal funds into it. The company is dedicated to producing affordable, mass marketing electric cars as well as battery products and solar roofs. He now overseas all product development and design of the company's products. He turned around the loss making com-

start a company in 2006, called solar city, for providing solar-powered systems in individuals, business and the government. In 2016 telsa motors purchased the company. Elon founded the musk foundation which is dedicated to space exploration and the discovery of renewable and clean energy sources. In 2019 he pledged to donate one million dollars to the team trees campaign, which aims to plant 20 million trees round the world. He changed his own twitter name to treelon. Elon musk is a visionary genius who appreciates the TRUE definition of struggle, hunger and hard work to success. He is a revolutionary engineer, inventor and visionary leader. He became a multi-millionaire in his late 20s when he sold his startup company, zip2 to a division of compaq computers. He is self-made billionaire and an ingenious innovator of modern times, shaping the future in many areas.



Nabarangapur

## JDS a divided house in KR Pet of Mandya

BENGALURU: The early announcement of candidates for 93 Assembly seats by Janata Dal Secular (JDS) for the forthcoming As-



sembly polls in the State had triggered dissent in Krishnaraja Pet Assembly segment of Mandya where a section of JDS workers have opposed the candidature of H.T. Manju while demanding the ticket for their leader B.L. Devaraj.

The candidature of Manju was announced by JDS leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and opposing the candidature of Manju, supporters of Devaraj held a public meeting in KR Pet town on Wednesday and wanted the party leaders to rethink on the candidate announced for KR Pet and demanded ticket of Devaraj. Both, B.L. Devaraj and H.T. Manju, are Zilla Panchayat members in KR Pet.

KR Pet Assembly seat has been a bastion of JDS until 2019 when its MLA Narayan Gowda switched loyalties to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and in the bypoll, Narayan Gowda of BJP defeated JDS nominee Devaraj. It was the first win for BJP in Mandya district which is a stronghold of JDS. Now, Narayan Gowda is the Minister for Sports in the Basavaraj Bommai cabinet.

## J&K-leg of Bharat Jodo Yatra begins, Sanjay Raut among several leaders in attendance

Kathua (J-K): Braving winter rains, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi started his Bharat Jodo Yatra from Hatli Morh in this border district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday with several prominent leaders, including Shiv Sena (UBT's) Sanjay Raut also joining the foot march.

Gandhi donned a black raincoat over a white T-shirt. The yatra was scheduled to start at 7 am but was delayed by an hour and fifteen minutes apparently due to the inclement



weather.

The march, which started from Kanyakumari on September 7, entered Jammu and Kashmir from Punjab on Thursday evening and is scheduled to end in Srinagar on January 30. Several Congress leaders, including the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit president Vikar Rasool Wani and his predecessor G A Mir, accompanied Gandhi during the final leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said, "I have come to join the Yatra on behalf of my party. The atmosphere in the country is changing fast and I am seeing Gandhi as a leader who is raising his voice on real issues."

Hoping to reclaim the lost seat, sources in KR Pet on Thursday stated that despite losing KR Pet bypoll, JDS has a strong base in the constituency. Regarding the selection of Manju as JDS nominee, the source said, Manju is a youth leader and had worked hard for the success of party nominees in local elections. The sources felt that JDS might want to groom a youth leader and selected Manju as their candidate for KR Pet.

JDS nominee Manju, speaking to Deccan Chronicle, said, prior to the selection of candidate for KR Pet seat, three surveys were conducted by JDS on winning factors of the candidates.

On the dissent, he said, the party leaders will initiate steps to settle the issue and accused that the BJP and Congress leaders have indulged in tactics to halt the pace at which JDS is going in the seat.

Over the public meeting held by Devaraj supporters in KR Pet, Manju said the public meeting had more of BJP and Congress workers than JDS party workers. "Nothing can stop JDS from winning KR Pet in the forthcoming poll," he exuded confidence.

Earlier at a public meeting in KR Pet, JDS leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy had stated that he would not bow under pressure from leaders especially ticket aspirants and had stated that he tried to convince disgruntled leaders but nothing substantial happened. To elicit his reaction, JDS rebel leader B.L. Devaraj did not respond to repeated phone calls to him.

"The way people are connecting with this yatra is heartwarming. He is a leader and that is why he is on the roads. The people will choose (who would be their leader), he added.

The march entered Jammu and Kashmir through Lakanpur on Thursday and halted there for the night following the flag handover ceremony which was attended by a galaxy of prominent leaders including National Conference president Farooq

Abdullah.

A tight security ring, comprising of police and CRPF personnel, was thrown around Gandhi as he started walking along with his supporters despite the rains which lashed wide parts of Jammu and Kashmir since early on Friday morning.

Many Congress activists and supporters carrying tricolours turned up a couple of hours before the start of the yatra which will cover 25 km before halting at Chadwal in the Kathua district for the night. There will be no march on Saturday.

Youngsters carrying placards and garlands were seen waiting at different places along the Jammu-Pathankot National highway where the yatra is scheduled to pass.

## New Zealand's Ardern has many possibilities for a second act

WELLINGTON: When Jacinda Ardern announced this week she was stepping down as New Zealand's prime minister, speculation began almost immediately about what she might do for a second act.

When she leaves, she will have accumulated 15 years experience as a lawmaker and five-and-a-half years as leader. She will also be just 42 years old. Observers say she has all sorts of career possibilities open to her.

Ardern said she was leaving the job because she no longer has "enough in the tank to do it justice" and has no immediate plans for her own future other than to spend more time with her fiancé and 4-year-old daughter.

"I'll have to admit I slept well for the first time in a long time last night," Ardern told reporters Friday, adding that she felt both sadness and relief.

Stephen Hoadley, an assistant professor of politics and international relations at the University of Auckland, said he couldn't imagine Ardern would remain at home over the long term, given her energy and skills.

"She has the potential, she has the ability, she has the profile, she has the acceptability to do a whole lot of things," Hoadley said. "Give her a few weeks to rest up, and to refill the tank, to use her phrase. But I would imagine by the end of this year, she'll be off and running on a whole new career line."

Hoadley pointed to the career path of Helen Clark, another former New Zealand prime minister who went on to become a top administrator at the U.N., leading the development program.

"Jacinda could be tapped by any number of United Nations, or charitable, or philanthropic, or other kinds of organiza-

tions," Hoadley said.

"There are many, many possibilities, and her profile is so high that I think she would have her pick."

Climate Change Minister James Shaw, who first met Ardern in about 2007 and has re-



mained friends, said he was in shock but also not wholly surprised when Ardern told him of her plans to resign.

"It's been a really intense five years," Shaw said.

On top of a busy legislative program, Shaw said, Ardern had needed to steer the country through a series of crises, including a mass-shooting at two Christchurch mosques that left 51 people dead, a volcanic eruption that killed 22, and the coronavirus pandemic.

On top of that, Ardern also bore the brunt of a growing number of threats, Shaw said, and a toxic, misogynistic online culture that had grown worse in recent years.

"What I hope is that she can get some time at the beach with her family, uninterrupted, for a while," Shaw said.

He said he believes Ardern when she says she doesn't yet have firm plans for the future.

"I think she could do pretty much whatever she wants from this point," Shaw said.

"Jacinda is one of the most selfless, determined, publicly-minded people I have ever met," Shaw added. "So I would imagine that whatever it is, it will be in the public interest."

## Urination incident: DGCA slaps Rs 30 lakh fine on Air India, suspends pilot

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA on Friday said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on Air India as well as suspended the license of the pilot-in-command of the New York-Delhi flight in which a person allegedly urinated on a female co-passenger.

In the incident, which happened on November 26, 2022, the watchdog has also slapped a fine of Rs 3 lakh on Air India's Director of in-flight services for failing to discharge her

crew members of that flight as to why enforcement action should not be taken against them for dereliction of their regulatory obligations.

DGCA examined the written replies of Air India and the personnel involved, and decided on the enforcement actions.

A "financial penalty of Rs 30,00,000 has been imposed on Air India for violation of applicable DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements



duties.

The enforcement actions for violation of applicable norms come nearly two months after the incident happened while it came to the notice of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) only on January 4.

On Thursday, Air India imposed a four-month flying ban on Mishra, who is in jail now. Earlier, the airline had barred him from flying for 30 days.

In its statement on Friday, DGCA said enforcement actions have been taken in the incident which came to the notice of the regulator only on January 4.

The watchdog had issued show cause notices to Air India's Accountable Manager, Director in-flight services, all the pilots and cabin

(CAR)," the regulator said.

Further, the watchdog said the license of the pilot-in-command of the said flight has been suspended for three months for failing to discharge his duties as per Rule 141 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and applicable DGCA CAR.

A financial penalty of Rs 3 lakh has been imposed on Director-in-flight services of M/s Air India for failing to discharge her duties as per applicable DGCA CAR, it added.

The incident of passenger misbehavior occurred on AI-102 flight from New York to Delhi on November 26 last year, wherein a male passenger conducted himself in a disorderly manner and allegedly relieved himself on a female passenger, DGCA said.

# In Pakistan, trans men search for inclusion, visibility

LAHORE: Aman, a 22-year-old transgender man from the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore, says he was always close to his father. When he was little and it was cold out, his father held his hands to warm them. When he was at university, his father would wait until he got home to eat dinner together, regardless of how late it was. Now they are cut off. Aman's decision to live as a man has cost him everything. His parents and five siblings no longer speak to him. He dropped out of university and had to leave home. He has attempted suicide three times.

Trans men face deep isolation in Pakistan. The country, with a conservative Muslim majority, has entrenched beliefs on gender and sexuality, so trans people are often considered outcasts. But trans women have a degree of toleration because of cultural traditions. Trans women in public office, on news programs, in TV shows and films, even on the catwalk, have raised awareness about a marginalized and misunderstood community. The Pakistani movie and Oscar contender "Joyland"

caused an uproar last year for its depiction of a relationship between a married man and a trans woman, but it also shone a spotlight on the country's transgender community. Trans men, however, remain largely invisible, with little mobilization, support or resources. Trans women have growing activist networks — but, according to Aman and others, they rarely incorporate or deal with trans men and their difficulties.

"It's the worst," said Aman. "We are already disowned by our families and blood relatives, then the people we think are our people also exclude us." Trans women have been able to carve out their space in the culture because of the historic tradi-

tion of "khawaja sira," originally a term for male eunuchs working in South Asia's Mughal empire hundreds of years ago. Today, the term is generally



associated with people who were born male and identify as female. Khawaja sira culture also has a traditional support system of "gurus," prominent figures who lead others.

But there is no space within the term or the culture surrounding it for people who were born female and identify as male.

"Every khawaja sira is transgender, but not all transgenders are khawaja sira," said Mani, a representative for the trans male community in Pakistan. "People have been aware of the khawaja sira community for a long time, but not of trans men." He set up a nonprofit group in 2018 because he saw nothing being done for trans men, their well-being or mental health.

Trans people have seen some progress in protecting their rights. Supreme Court rulings allow them to self-identify as a third gender, neither male nor female, and have underscored they have the same rights as all Pakistani citizens.

Although Mani was involved in the trans rights bill, most lobbying and advocacy work has been from transgender women since it became law.

"Nobody talks about trans men or how they are impacted by the act," said Mani. "But this is not the right time to talk about this because of the cam-

paigned by religious extremists (to veto changes to the act). I don't want to cause any harm to the community." Pakistani trans man Aman, who asked not to be identifiable in the photo, looks out at his home after an interview with The Associated Press, in Lahore, Pakistan. (Photo | AP)

Another reason for trans men's low visibility is that females lead a more restricted life than males in Pakistan, with limits on what they can do, where they can go and how they can live. Family honour is tied to the behaviour of women and girls, so they have less room to behave outside society's norms. On a practical level, even if a girl wanted to meet trans people and get involved in the community, she wouldn't be able to because she wouldn't be allowed out, said Aman.

Coming from a privileged and educated family, Aman said his parents indulged him as a child, letting him behave in ways seen as male and dress in a boyish way. He wore a boy's uniform to school. But there came a time when he was expected to live and look like a girl. That meant fewer freedoms and the prospect of marriage. He didn't want that life and knew there were operations to change his gender. But his father told him he was too young and would have to wait until he was 18, apparently hoping he would grow out of it.

Aman had nobody to speak to about his gender identity struggles. He used social media and search engines, making contact with a trans man in India who connected him with a WhatsApp group of trans men in Pakistan.

Aman grew his hair long and dressed like a girl "just to survive" while still at home, he said. He also felt he shouldn't do anything to jeopardize the family's honour.

"These restrictions created a war in my mind," he said. "You have to socialize, and it was difficult for me because I had to socialize as a girl."

He wasn't allowed male friends because of the taboos around mixing with the opposite sex, nor was he allowed female friends because his parents feared it would lead to a lesbian relationship.

## Seats in Odisha colleges rise but hostels remain a concern

BHUBANESWAR: In the new academic session, getting a hostel seat will become even more difficult than getting a seat in a good state-run degree college or university. Although the Higher Education department has increased the seat strength in all existing regular courses, self-financing (SF) courses and courses being offered on PPP (public private partnership) mode in various degree colleges and universities to improve the gross enrol-

only regular students get hostel seats.

For the new academic year, the seat strength of almost all regular courses has been increased to either 64 or 96 seats each and the number of SF seats at PG level has been nearly doubled. "After the Higher Education department started granting permission to open new courses or increasing seats, major colleges in the state have nearly seven to eight SF courses now. The number used to be

within two to three previously. Although the idea is to bring more students into the higher education fold, no thought has been given to setting up hostel facilities for them," said a vice-chancellor, requesting anonymity. He added the private parties that are al-



lowed to open SF courses do not look into hostel accommodation for students unless the parent institution has extra hostel seats to spare. "Currently, even 30 per cent of regular students are not getting hostel seats. With the seat strength rising, even regular students have to opt for mess or rented accommodations," he further said.

Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari said every college that needs additional hostel seats can approach the department and it would be provided infrastructure grants for the purpose. "But for that, the institution has to show that the course will continue over the years and not be stopped within a year or five years," he said.

According to reports, the existing hostel seats in 1,024 degree colleges and 13 public universities are only catering to 70 per cent of the regular students. These degree colleges have 1,806 SF seats. Although universities grant hostel seats to both regular and SF students, the problem arises when it comes to government degree colleges where

## IOA forms seven-member committee to probe 'MeToo' allegations against WFI chief

NEW DELHI: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Friday formed a seven-member committee, includ-

boxer Mary Kom and wrestler Yogeshwar, the panel also includes archer Dola Banerjee and Indian

and Yogeshwar along with IOA president PT Usha and joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey. Shiva Keshwan was a

against Singh, a day after threatening to lodge multiple FIRs against the WFI chief. In a letter ad-




ing M C Mary Kom and Yogeshwar Dutt, to probe the allegations of sexual harassment against Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by top grapplers. Besides legendary


Weightlifting Federation of India (IWLF) president Sahdev Yadav. The decision was taken during IOA's emergency Executive Council meeting which was attended by the likes of Abhinav Bindra,

special invitee to the meeting. This comes after the agitating wrestlers had earlier in the day reached out to the IOA, demanding the formation of an enquiry committee to probe the allegations

dressed to the IOA president, the wrestlers alleged financial misappropriation (of funds) on part of the WFI and claimed that the coaches and sports science staff at the national camp are "absolutely incompetent."



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

## HR Leadership Conclave by Assocham



Kolkata (KCN: Parth Roy): The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) hosted the HR (Human Resource) Leadership Conclave and Awards 2023 at the New Marion Hotel, led by Assocham Patron Member and Chairman, MGM Minerals Pankaj Lochan Mohanty. The conclave's inaugural session was attended by high dignitaries including Former Chief Secretary Bijay Patnaik, President, Vedanta Ltd. (Odisha, Chhattisgarh), Tapan Kumar Chand, Brig. Dr. Somnath Mishra, Former Vice Chancellor - Sikkim Manipal University, Prof. Mahadeo Jaishwal, Director, IIM Sambalpur, Prashant Hota, Group Head CSR Education Sustainability, Jindal Steel & Power Ltd., MD, Ecosuite and Mentor & Advisor of ASSOCHAM, Pradeep Ranjan Chowdhury. The theme of the conclave was Next Generation Human Resources (HR), which highlighted the present and future of

human resource management. According to the attendees, such workshops aim to provide a platform for industry partners to develop strategies to harden the true potential and meet the various challenges that businesses face in the current era. During the session, the guest highlighted the important aspects of HR in the industry, manpower for the industry, workforce management, digitalization, its impact on business, management skills, new technologies, and sustaining high growth in tandem with the changing trends. Similarly, the guest also



emphasized on increasing investment in human resources in the trade sector. The guest expressed the hope that this workshop will contribute significantly to the development in the field of human resource management. The person who has given special contribution in the field of HR was awarded on this occasion. In the end, Pradeep Kumar Nayak, Nodal Officer of Assocham Odisha branch expressed his vote of thanks.

## Jewellers move away from SEZs



CHENNAI: The Covid pandemic shrank the share of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in gold jewellery exports from 57 per cent in 2019 to 11 per cent in 2021. The government is planning to introduce a new bill, Development of Enterprise and Services Hub Bill 2022 to improve economic activity of SEZs. India's gold

jewellery exports have grown over the years, rising from \$7.6 billion in 2015 to \$12.4 billion in 2019. The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act introduced in 2005 has played a key role in boosting India's exports over the last two decades. Gold jewellery exports through SEZs grew from just 23 per cent in 2015 to 57 per cent in 2019, according to the

World Gold Council. However, the pandemic negatively impacted jewellery fabrication and by 2021 the share of exports via SEZs had collapsed to 11 per cent. This drop can also be attributed, in part, to the withdrawal of income tax exemption that SEZs enjoyed for nearly two decades and ended in 2020. However, the government is

considering the introduction of a new SEZ policy, which should ease the export process. With the proposed draft — the Development of Enterprise and Services Hub Bill 2022, or DESH Bill, the government intends to go beyond export-oriented manufacturing and focus on boosting additional economic activity, generating employment, and integrating various industrial hubs.

## India to be USD 3.7 trillion economy in 2023: RBI

MUMBAI: At a time when the world is staring at recession, the Indian economy will consolidate its position in the global economy. The size of Indian economy is expected to reach \$3.7 trillion during this year, making it the fifth largest economy in the world, said Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bulletin.

"At current prices and exchange rates, India will be a \$3.7 trillion economy in 2023, maintaining its lead over the UK as the fifth-largest economy in the world," said the RBI in its recent bulletin released on Thursday. As per the International Monetary Fund's

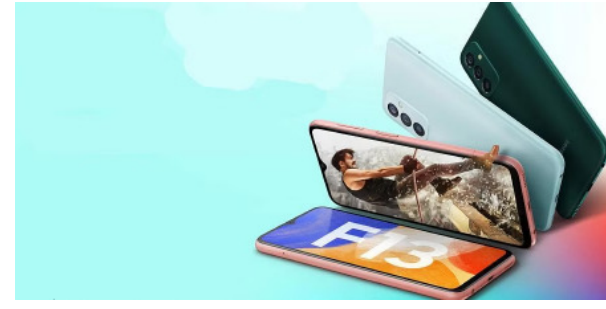
(IMF) calculations, India will move into fourth place in 2025 and into third place in 2027 as a \$ 5.4 trillion economy, noted the bulletin. On the inflation front, the central bank targets to bring prices further down. It targets to restrict inflation under its tolerance zone of 2-6 % during the current year.

"Recent data arrivals indicate the first milestone of monetary policy is being passed, bringing inflation into the tolerance band. The objective during 2023 is to tether inflation therein so that it aligns with the target by 2024, the second milestone," said RBI.



## Samsung tops smartphone market in India

NEW DELHI: South Korean tech giant Samsung grabbed the top position in the Indian smartphone market, shipping 6.7 million units in Q4, 2022, for the first time



in past 20 quarters. As per Canalis research, Samsung pipped Chinese mobile maker Xiaomi, which lost its leadership position in Q4, 2022, and fell to third place with shipments of 5.5 million units. The second place went to mobile maker Vivo, which shipped 6.4 million units, mainly via offline channels.

After 20 quarters, Xiaomi lost its leadership position in Q4. For full-year 2022, Xiaomi was still the number one vendor. OPPO and Realme remained in fourth and fifth place with shipments of 5.4 million and 2.7 million units, respectively. The research noted India's smartphone shipment fell to 151.6 million units in 2022, falling 6% as against 2021. The year 2022 began with intermittent supply issues and low demand caused by global macroeconomic headwinds.

## Nadda to launch BJP's 'Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra' in poll-bound Karnataka

Continued from page-1

BJP membership drive and strengthen the party base at the booth level. During the state-wide programme for the next nine days, which will kickstart from Vijayapura, the BJP intends to enroll over one crore new party workers.

"Our party has 39 electoral districts in 312 Mandals across 224 constituencies. There are 58,186 booths spread in Karnataka. This Vijaya Sankalpa Yatra will be launched at a time across the state," the BJP state general secretary and former MLC Siddaraju told PTI. The BJP's campaign involves five programmes — door-to-door campaign to reach out to two crore people, wall painting with the permission of house-owners, digital wall painting, membership drive and interaction with beneficiaries, he explained. According to Siddaraju, the door-to-door campaign will also involve pasting stickers on houses and vehicles with the permission of the owner.

The members of the family will be encouraged to become BJP members by giving a missed call to the party's dedicated phone number, he added.

At most places, the party will organise an interaction with beneficiaries of various government schemes.

## Be wary of BJP or it'll swallow you: Congress to Conrad Sangma's NPP in Meghalaya

Continued from page-1

The AGP had dished out a sterling performance, winning 14 seats. The BJP-AGP alliance continued but the latter suffered in the 2021 polls with its tally of MLAs going down to nine. In both elections, the BJP had won an identical 60 seats.

The BJP has two MLAs in Meghalaya. One of them is a minister. However, the party's ties with alliance partner NPP are on the rocks after it cornered the latter on the issue of alleged corruption.

The Congress had emerged as the single largest party in the 2018 elections but the BJP was instrumental in forming the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) and capturing power. Some smaller regional parties are also the components of the ruling coalition.

Meanwhile, the Congress said Meghalaya urgently needs to be free from corruption and scams which are clogging the system of governance.

"There is so much of corruption that even the state BJP president was compelled to comment against its ally NPP. The BJP issued a statement where it slammed the NPP for denying people development projects due to corruption, lack of policies, intent, and incompetence," the Congress said in a statement.

The Congress had won 21 seats in the last elections but after a series of defections, it is now left with no MLA. Meghalaya will go to polls on February 27.

## RSS' attempt to appropriate Netaji on his birth anniversary triggers consternation in Kolkata

Continued from page-1

While Professor Bose declined to comment as he was busy with arrangements for his function, another of Netaji's relative, grandniece Madhuri Bose, author of 'The Bose Brothers and Indian Independence, pointed out that the revolutionary's "whole life was an example of inclusive, secular character of our country".

"Everyone is welcome to pay homage to Netaji," she added, but also said that she and many others in the family felt a true homage will be to live up to Bose's belief "that the state and modern Indians must rise above caste, religion, and race to create an inclusive society".

Netaji died in air crash, tales of 'afterlife' attempts to exploit his popularity: Sugata Bose Bose, who was born in Cuttack in 1897, lived for the most of his life in Kolkata and after chucking away a prestigious job as an ICS officer, joined the ranks of the Congress. A born orator and administrator, he is remembered for his stint as Mayor of Calcutta.

After breaking with the Congress over norms to be followed in the freedom struggle, he first set up the Forward Bloc and then escaped from home confinement during 1941 to set up the INA and wage war against Britain from Singapore and Burma.

The CPI(M), which too, has in the past been accused of similarly co-opting Netaji as an icon after vilifying him during the Second World War as "running dog of Tojo", felt RSS's attempt to project a secular leader as one of their own was incongruous.

"They cannot name one freedom movement icon as their own... so they appropriate Gandhi and Sardar Patel, who were Congressmen till their end... Subhas Bose, a very progressive and secular-minded person is now on their radar.

Even Bhagat Singh who became a Communist, they have sought to appropriate," pointed out Saira Shah Halim, CPI(M) leader and social worker.

Roy pointed out that serious researchers like him had been trying to get the government to declassify a manuscript prepared by a team of historians led by Dr PC Gupta for Ministry of Defence titled 'History of the INA for years.

"Both the Congress and the Narendra Modi government have stonewalled our attempts... letters to the PM have not yielded any results," he claimed.

"They (BJP-led central government) have disbanded the Planning Commission; that was an organisation envisioned by Netaji for planning this country's development..." the TMC leader lamented.

Kingshuk Chatterjee, head of the department of History at Calcutta University and an alumnus of Presidency College, where Bose studied, tried to analyse the reason for political parties appropriating icons sometimes across centuries and ideological spectrum by tracing the origins of this trend.

"Appropriation of icons by political parties to serve their own purposes is pretty routine affair in the Indian political landscape," he explained, adding that this was largely because of the "language of politics that Congress chose to speak right from 1947, that of drawing political legitimacy from the freedom struggle".

Having been a platform for all shades of political opinion, the Congress could easily claim just about everyone, either "on account of them being associated with the Congress, or because the party espoused pretty much every single political cause within the template of the freedom movement", Chatterjee said.

This forced all political parties "to speak the same language, justifying their own political legitimacy in terms of their association with protagonists of the freedom struggle".

"The Congress claims Subhas as originally/basically a Congress-man; Forward Bloc claims him by virtue of having being founded by him; the Left Front occasionally tried to establish his socialist credentials; the BJP of course means to appropriate everyone as standing for their ideology," he pointed out. "Gandhi, they have almost claimed, and maybe someday they may claim Nehru as well.

There is and would be nothing incongruous about such appropriations," Chatterjee said with a smile.

## Tottenham defending like a 'relegation team': Conte

LONDON: Antonio Conte admits Tottenham are defending like a "relegation team" as they lose ground in the race to finish in the Premier League's top four.

Conte's side crashed to a second successive defeat on Thursday after blowing a two-goal lead in their 4-2 defeat at Manchester City. Fifth-placed Tottenham have conceded 21 goals

said on Friday. "The progress you see if you start to see the players play with the personality, to start the game with the will and desire to have the ball.

"In other side, compare to last season, we are doing less and to concede 21 goals in the last 10 (league) games, this is usually a team that fight for a relegation zone." Having taken a 2-0 lead at half-time, Conte's team allowed City to score twice in two minutes after the break to kickstart their comeback.

Conte questioned the mentality of his players, who endured a similar poor run last season only to recover to eventually to secure Champions League qualification. Achieving that goal this season could be a lot harder, with fourth-placed Newcastle five points ahead of them with a game in hand. "It doesn't depend on the single part. You attack with the whole team and you defend with the whole team," Conte said when asked for the solution to Tottenham's defensive woes. "We have to improve the spirit, the collaboration, the desire. Maybe we have forgotten to suffer and to understand that if we want to win then maybe you have to suffer like last season. "I dream, I want to play Champions League. There are 18 games in the Premier League. We need to dream of something important, but at the same time to be realistic."

Depay scored 14 goals in 42 matches for Barca after signing for the Catalan giants from Lyon in 2021. But injury problems and the arrival of Poland striker Robert Lewandowski from Bayern Munich led to Depay only making four appearances for Xavi Hernandez's men this season.

## Memphis Depay joins Atletico Madrid from Barcelona

in their past 10 league matches, with that leaky defence a significant factor in a damaging run of just one win in their past five games.

Tottenham's defensive frailties were on full display at the Etihad Stadium as mistakes from Hugo Lloris and Clement Lenglet contributed to their dispiriting loss.

Conte is growing frustrated with the blunders and urged his players to make improvements in defence ahead of Monday's trip to Fulham.

"Progress doesn't depend on the final result," he

MADRID: Atletico Madrid have signed Netherlands forward Memphis Depay from La Liga rivals Barcelona for three million euros (USD 3.25 million), the two clubs an-



nounced on Friday.

The 28-year-old has signed a two-and-a-half year deal with Atletico after an injury-hit spell at the Camp Nou.

The transfer could cost Atletico up to an extra one million euros in add-ons.

Barcelona said the deal included an option for them to buy versatile Belgian international Yannick Carrasco from Atletico.

## Indian team fined 60 per cent of match fees for slow over rate in New Zealand ODI

RAIPUR(KCN): The Indian team has been fined 60 per cent of its match fee for maintain-

ter time allowances were taken into consideration for Wednesday's series

ery over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," the ICC said in a statement.

dmanabhan and fourth umpire Jayaraman Madanagopal levelled the charge. Riding on Shubman



ing a slow over-rate against New Zealand in the first ODI in Hyderabad.

Javagal Srinath of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after India were ruled to be three overs short of the target af-

opener. "In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fee for ev-

India captain Rohit Sharma pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Anil Chaudhary and Nitin Menon, third umpire K N Ananthapa-

Gill's magnificent double hundred, India emerged winners by 12 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Chasing an imposing target of 350, New Zealand were bowled out for 337 in 49.2 overs in the high-scoring game.

## Australian Open 2023: Medvedev knocked out by 'thrilled' Sebastian Korda

MELBOURNE: Sebastian Korda stunned two-time losing finalist Daniil Medvedev at the Australian Open on Friday, adding the Russian to a growing list of top seeds crashing out early. The 31st-ranked American, son of 1998 Australian Open champion Petr

Korda, blasted past the seventh seed 7-6 (9/7), 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) on Rod Laver Arena to race into the last 16. Korda's upset teed up a clash with Polish 10th seed Hubert Hurkacz -- who battled past Canada's Denis Shapovalov 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 1-6, 4-6, 6-3 -- for a place in the quarter-finals.

"An unbelievable match, I sort of knew what I had to do and I stuck with it even when I was going up and down with the emotions," said the 22-year-old Korda, adding that his game plan was "just go for it".

"I'm thrilled right now, I played amazing." Medvedev was a losing finalist at the last two Australian Opens, to Novak Djokovic in 2021 and then in a demoralising five-set defeat 12 months ago against Rafael Nadal after leading by two sets.

He was attempting to become only the fourth man in the Open era to reach three consecutive Melbourne Park finals after Djokovic, Mats Wilander and Ivan Lendl.

But that quest is now over as he joined defending champion Nadal, second seed Casper Ruud and eighth seed Taylor Fritz as high-profile first-week casualties at the season-opening Grand Slam.

Djokovic remains in the hunt for a 10th title,

but has a hamstring injury and confessed on Thursday he was "worried" it could derail his tournament.

Korda displayed his credentials when he pushed Djokovic to the brink in the Adelaide International final this month, earning a championship point before the Serb rallied to win in three close sets.

The Florida native bounced back to claim a pair of victories in Melbourne against Cristian Garin and Yosuke Watanuki before meeting former world number one Medvedev.

Korda started aggressively, earning four break points in an 11-minute opening game before putting one away to take an early edge.

The Russian had minor treatment on his right hand at the changeover before Korda consolidated for 2-0.

The American dominated from the baseline in some lung-busting rallies and broke again for 4-1, before the Russian came roaring back with two breaks to level it up at 4-4.

It went to a thrilling tiebreak with Korda converting on his third set point after an 85-minute slugfest.

Korda, coached by former Czech star Radek Stepanek, broke early again in the second set with Medvedev having no answers this time.

He began the third in the same vein, breaking immediately as the Russian wilted under the onslaught.

Medvedev again rallied to take it to another tiebreak before exiting the tournament at the earliest stage since 2018.



## MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL

Nurturing awareness Moulding Future

### ADMISSION OPEN FOR

PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

A great Place to grow @ MPS

Laugh  
Play  
Learn  
Share

Call now for Application:

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

### MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

N-3 B/14-15, IRC Village,  
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar

PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)

E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com

Find us on  
facebook.com/maharishiplayschool

FOLLOW US  
ON TWITTER  
twitter.com/maharishiplayschool