

BBI connects RRK

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, the much-awaited flight service to Steel City began on Saturday. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik flagged off the maiden flight operation in presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia also joined the inaugural function through videoconferencing from New Delhi. In a tweet, the Chief Minister said, "Glad to

cially to coordinate between SAIL and DGCA for the flight service to Rourkela Airport under UDAN ahead of the World Cup. It will offer seamless connectivity to sports fans coming to celebrate hockey in Odisha, he added.

"This route, being started under the UDAN scheme, is an important flight from the perspective of development of the mineral industry as well as the Hockey World Cup 2023



have flagged off the 1st flight to #Rourkela Airport. Thank Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji for the support to improve connectivity to the hinterland of #Odisha under #UDAN. It will boost connectivity, commerce & tourism, fulfilling aspirations of people of the region."

Shri Patnaik also thanked the Union Civil Aviation Minister for all the efforts, espe-

starting January 13," Shri Scindia said in a tweet.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, "Aspirations of people of Rourkela and Odisha take yet another flight." He added that 'Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji yet again delivers his promise to the people of Odisha.' However, both the Union Ministers have expressed their resentment **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Pact with Chicago varsity

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Chicago Trust, India, to set up a Data, Policy, and Innovation Centre (DPIC) in Odisha that will enable rigorous, evidence-based governance while using

new advances in econometrics, data science, and machine

between CEO of Odisha Computer Application Centre

Dr Leni Chaudhari, Executive Director University of Chicago Center in Bhubaneswar here in the presence of Electronics and Information Technology Minister Tusharkanti Behera. The scope of this programmatic partnership will involve re **CONTINUED ON: P-7**



The MoU was signed (OCAC) Manoj Kumar Pattnaik and

President Murmu presented 7th edition of the Digital India Awards

Kolkata (Partha Roy): President informed that this year has 22 Digital India awardees across 7 categories that have brought about positive changes at the district, state, and national levels. Speaking on the occasion, The President said that social justice should be the prime objective of digital innovations. India would develop into a knowledge economy only when the digital divide is substantially bridged through the use of technology. She expressed confidence that India is setting the right example of ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised sections of society, and strengthening eco-

conomic, social, and cultural rights in our journey towards Digital Antyodaya. The President said that the Digital India Awards 2022 acknowledge, inspire, and motivate not only Government entities but also startups to attain the vision of a digital India. The awards are but a step towards transforming India into a digitally empowered society where people's potential is unleashed by the effective use of digital governance. Congratulating the award winners, she said that it was heartening to see the diverse range of innovations made to benefit the people - from citizen empowerment and data-sharing platforms to

the ease of doing business. The President said that India's story of

tation, and inclusion. She emphasized the need to create col-

laborative platforms to find innovative solutions to make the world a more acces-

sible and equitable place. The President said that Indian IT compa-

the value of Indian talent. India should leverage prevailing policies and enable for software and hardware products by building innovative Made-in-India technologies. Smt. Drapudi Murmu also praised National Informatics Centre (NIC), She mentioned that Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and its organisations, especially National Informatics Centre (NIC), has been doing an excellent job of providing a hassle-free Government-Citizen interface. President is happy to note that Indian IT companies have done a remarkable job in making the world realise the value of Indian talent. She further added after proving its prowess in software, India

should strive to become a hub for software products. India should leverage prevailing policies and enable the ecosystem to position the country as a global powerhouse for software and hardware products by building innovative Made-in-India technologies. The President said that data is the cornerstone of creating new knowledge, insights and thus solutions; and leads to whole new fields of application. India should focus on democratising the use of government data so that young technology enthusiasts can use it to build localised digital solution



digital transformation is a story of innovation, implemen-

laborative platforms to find innovative solutions to make the world a more acces-

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the ecosystem to position the country as a global powerhouse

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Ukraine hails US' multibillion-dollar military aid as Russian cease-fire said to falter

KYIV(KCN): Ukraine's president is praising the United States for including tank-killing armoured vehicles in its latest multibillion-dollar package of military aid, saying they are "exactly what is needed" for Ukrainian troops

locked in combat against Russian forces. The White House announcement Friday of \$3.75 billion in weapons and other aid for Ukraine and its neighbours on NATO's eastern flank came as Moscow **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Somyashree from Jajpur shine at Tata Steel Young Astronomer Talent Search (YATS)

~Selected among top 20 students of Odisha, to visit ISRO facility~

~More than 77,500 students from 300 schools of Odisha participated in YATS 2022~

Kalinganagar(Sapan Kar): Somyashree Sneha Dash from N. C. High School, Jajpur emerged as a proud winner from the Jajpur district in the Tata Steel Young Astronomer Talent Search (YATS) 2022 programme. She was selected in the top 60 winners out of 3537 students who participated from Jajpur district in the activation round. Subsequently, in the final round of selection held at Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Bhubaneswar, Somyashree clinched a spot in the top 20 students of Odisha. Dr. Anshuman Swain, YATS alumnus of 2009, currently Harvard Society Fellow and James McDonnell Foundation

opportunity to visit one of the premier facilities of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and receive a first-hand experience of space science in May 2023.

YATS, organised since 2007, is aimed at creating awareness in the field of astronomy and space science among the students and popularise the great contribution of the legendary Odia astronomer Pathani Samanta to the field. YATS 2022-23 included an open quiz-conducted physically in schools (for students of classes 6th to 10th) and a written competition: conducted in schools as well as online (for students of classes 9th and 10th).



Complexity Fellow at Harvard University, Cambridge felicitated Somyashree along with the other winners.

Another student of the district Kuni Haibru from Govt. High School, Tomka, Jajpur was also selected in the top 60 and was felicitated by the dignitaries in the final day event.

Somyashree daughter of Suvendu Kishore Dash and Puspalata Dash, is delighted with this recognition. She said, "Earlier I have a plan to become doctor. But after participating in the Young Astronomer Talent Search (YATS) now I want to become an Astronomer in future. The overall experience is very good. I really able to learn many things regarding space science and astronomy. Thanks to Tata Steel for providing me this opportunity. It's like a dream comes true for me."

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik, addressed the students with a video message and congratulated top 20 winners of the contest.

Among others present on the occasion were Smt Sanjulata Behera, Additional Secretary, Science & Technology Department, Government of Odisha and Director, Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Bhubaneswar, Dr Karuna Kar Nanda, Director, Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, Sarvesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Communications, Tata Steel.

YATS has been organised in association with Pathani Samanta Planetarium since its inception in 2007.

This season, around 77, 500 students from 300 schools across 30 districts of Odisha participated in the annual flagship event of Tata Steel in the state. The theme for this edition was "Time to unravel the universe". The winners will get the

Elephant tramples four persons to death in Odisha's Angul

ANGUL/BHUBANESWAR(KCN): In yet another incident of human-wildlife conflict, an adult elephant that strayed close to human settlements trampled four persons to death in Angul Forest Division early in the morning on Saturday.

The deceased are Subash Biswal from Chheliapada, Anirudhha Sahoo from Angarabandha, Ramesh Swain from Barasingha and Ajay Samal from Gada Santiri. All were in the age group of 45 to 60 years. RCCF Angul M Yogajayanand said the elephant that strayed into crop fields and gardens of nearby villages in Angul range of the division attacked the persons early in the

morning. All deaths took place after 4.30 am, he said. The RCCF said forest staff reached out to the families of the deceased persons, while the Angul Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) initiated the process for the early release of Rs 4 lakh compensation to these families after the incidents were reported.

"Around 10 per cent of this compensation will be released immediately," Yogajayanand said. He further said that the forest staff of Angul Division are on alert and constantly tracking the movement of the pachyderm that has now moved into the forests of Talcher range.

Giving more details, Angul DFO Vivek Kumar

Concern for Calcutta honours Narayan Jain

Kolkata(KCN): Jan 6. Concern for Calcutta, a city based NGO facilitated last evening Advocate Narayan Jain a well Known Tax expert in Calcutta Club on his election as National Deputy President of All India Tax Practitioners (AIFTP). AIFTP is an organization which has important role in Influencing National Tax policy and has more than 11000 members all across the country.

Jain is the author of famous Books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" as well as "Income Tax Pleading & Practice" published every year. He delivers lectures on income tax in various Seminars and writes columns for newspapers. KS Adhikari said that

Jain is a multi-faceted personality and also an environmental

Binani, Samir Dutt, B G Roy, Tapan Gooptu, Debasis Roy Rajendra

Burman recounted Jain's immense contribution to the proliferation of Concern for



activist associated with Concern for Calcutta and Calcutta Citizens Initiative. He has been spearheading a campaign against single use plastic carry bags for last five years.

The function was presided over by Concern for Calcutta president KS Adhikari, and attended by past presidents Mamta

Khandelwal (Consul of Niger Republic), Deepak Jain, Solicitor RL Auddy, Pawan Paharia and Governing Body members. CM Bachawat (former Finance Secretary of Government of West Bengal and Member West Bengal Taxation Tribunal), Samir Dutt, BG Roy, Dr. Purnendu Roy, Vice President Ramakant

Calcutta which was founded in 1984. The Governing Body members Ashok Purohit (Secretary), Jagat Baid, Prof. Pradyot Banerjee, Bibhas Maiti, Seema Sonthalia, Joeta Basu, Lekha Sharma, Dr Pratibha Kothari, Sonali De., Vineeta Burman, KN Gupta, JK Sharma, Adv Mujibur Rahman, Vinod Kankaria also actively participated.

26 Students of KISS selected for lectureship through SSB, will teach at Autonomous colleges

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In an encouraging development at the beginning of 2023, Kalinga Institute of Social Sci-



ences (KISS) has got a special reason to celebrate as 26 of its students have received their offer letters for lectureship through the State Selection Board (SSB).

On Saturday the successful students of KISS had a courtesy call on the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr. Achyuta Samanta in KISS campus. Dr. Samanta congratulated all the students and felicitated them for their success.

These successful KISS students will teach at various Autonomous colleges

of Odisha in subjects like Odia, History, Commerce, Education, Economics, Philosophy, and Mathematics.

These successful students also include many from Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs).

It can be noted here that due to qualitative education and a pedagogic environment every year hundreds of students from KISS University are getting employment opportunities both in the government

and private sectors. This year also KISS alumni are getting placed as doctors, engineers, civil judges, Odisha Administrative Service officers, forest rangers, bank officers, and police personnel, in organizations like Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), and many more.

Dr. Samanta expressed his happiness over the success of the KISS alumni and added that it is possible due to the quality of education and training at KISS University.

said the full-grown female elephant was a part of the 25-member herd moving in the Mandargiri reserve forest of Angul for the last few days.

"Last night the elephant got separated from the herd and moved towards fields of nearby villages where it had a direct encounter with four villagers," he said. Sources said the elephant first attacked Subash Biswal at a crop field in Chheliapada village. It then went to Angarabandha village where it attacked Anirudhha Sahoo who was working in his garden. Thereafter, the jumbo moved close to Barasingha and mauled Ramesh Swain who had gone to a nearby forest. It later attacked Ajay

Samal in Gada Santiri. Locals said the first three persons died on the spot in the attack, while the fourth person succumbed to the injuries while being taken to Angul hospital. The incident triggered panic among locals in the entire Angul Range. The villages who alleged apathy on part of the forest department in preventing elephants from straying into crop fields and human settlements in the area demanded an early solution to the matter. The Angul DFO said the field staff are continuously tracking the movement of the elephant which is heading towards the forests of Dhenkanal division. "Efforts are also on to bring down such conflicts in the division," he said.

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Mahesh Narayanan: Ariyippu is my most satisfying work yet

In today's digital era, where privacy has become a luxury for many, scandalous videos being leaked online is an everyday thing. It's a pertinent, universal subject that has been explored in several films worldwide. With his latest film, Ariyippu, writer-director Mahesh Narayanan also attempts the same by interweaving it with a few other relevant topics like imbalances in marital life, patriarchal conditioning, migration among skilled labourers, and the crumbling economy during the pandemic.

Unlike his previous films, Mahesh has eschewed all the so-called commercial elements in Ariyippu, and as intended, the film has had a successful run in several international festivals across the world. It all started with its world premiere at the 75th Locarno International Film Festival, followed by screenings at the British Film Institute, Busan International Film Festival, IFFI, and IFFK. Despite the successful run at the festival circuit, Mahesh feels that the 'real test' is on December 16, when the film comes out for public viewing on Netflix. "So far, the reception has been great, but unless and until it reaches the common audience, we can't be complacent. December 16 is the D-day."

Mahesh, an editor-turned-filmmaker is known for helming hard-hitting films like Take Off, CU Soon, Malik, and Malayankunju. There's an interesting pattern to all his films—he borrows inspirations from real-life incidents, craftily blends them with fictitious elements and then sets them in distinctive terrains. Mahesh admits that Ariyippu also germinated from a similar thought. "It was sometime in 2015 during the Take Off days when I accidentally came across this news article about a bank employee in Mumbai approaching the high court about a lookalike video circulating through porn websites. She wanted the judge to issue a declaration stating that she wasn't the same woman. The judge was sarcastic saying that it can't be used as a legal document anywhere. But the woman was determined, and she got it issued. This incident sparked an idea."

When asked about how the pandemic and migrant labour issues came into the picture, Mahesh explains in detail the chain of events that lead to the making of Ariyippu. "A certain incident should affect me, and then I'll let it marinate and travel with me for some time. That's how most of my films are born. This incident of a woman's fight for a declaration stayed with me for long. I initially thought of setting the story in a bank, but

changed it later because I'm someone who keeps rewriting my drafts every six months to ensure it stays relevant. During the pandemic, I visited a few factories in Kochi and interacted with the workers there. They were among the first to ring the bell saying that, 'look, there's something ominous coming our way'. They sensed it from the unusually huge quantity of orders and their long work shifts. From there, I also heard stories about how these skilled labourers migrate to other Asian countries like Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. They don't take the usual route through Mumbai or Chennai. They move to places like Delhi, where most of the embassies are, live in the city's outskirts, work there for 6-8 months, attend recruitment programmes and then get the paperwork done. I found their journey interesting. What if such a couple

Over the last few years, Kunchacko Boban's career has seen a remarkable shift. The actor, who was known for his 'chocolate hero' image, had to consciously make some tricky career choices to get rid of that tag. In Ariyippu, he does scenes that one wouldn't have expected from him a few years back. The actor chuckles in delight when I mention it. "These are words that I've always longed for. This is my 25th year in cinema, and in pursuit of trying to reinvent myself, I've been doing a variety of genres and different character shades lately. It's a process that started during my Gulumal (2009) and Traffic (2011) days. Interestingly, Mahesh has been a constant in all my landmark films, mostly as an editor. Naturally, he knows me inside out, as a person and as a performer. In Ariyippu, he wanted to push my limits and make me do a

character which I've never done before." Like Kunchacko Boban, Divyaprabha has also had a long association with Mahesh Narayanan. Her breakout role came in his directorial debut Take Off (2017). Later, she did a noteworthy role as Fahadh Faasil's sister in Malik. Ariyippu marks her maiden film as a lead actor. "As an actor, I always believe in having a healthy rapport with the director. With Mahesh sir, since it's my third film, I'm well aware of what he expects from me."

However, the actor admits that it was not easy to get into the shoes of Reshmi. "She is completely different from me, in terms of the way she talks or walks. I could only connect to her emotions. So I had to prep a lot, which included visiting factories in Kochi and Faridabad and observing the body language and mannerisms of the working class people."

Kunchacko Boban also has a similar acting process of observing and learning, but he believes that it's the well-compiled bound script and shooting in chronological order that helped him pull off Hareesh's character. "Hareesh was alien to me when Mahesh first narrated the subject. But when I finally got the bound script, I could understand everything about the character. There were even well-defined backstories for Hareesh and Reshmi, which is not there in the film. Similarly, shooting in chronological order in real locations did wonders to our performances." Mahesh quickly adds that this is the first film where he got the liberty to shoot in chronological order. "Given a chance, I would want all my films to be shot this way, but there's a problem with logistics. With Ariyippu, in which I'm also part of the production, I wanted to shoot it in order to help my actors perform with ease. In that sense, this is my most satisfying work yet."



Another year filled with both great and not-so-great films. It was tricky to pick just 10 but we managed to narrow it down. From the Tamil blockbuster 'Vikram' to Amitabh-Rashmika's tear-jerker 'Goodbye', here are some of our favourites.

Anti-Corruption Start from You

One would find that corruption is so deep-rooted menace, that it has eaten into the vitals of society, distorted all values and made mincemeat of morality,



truth and virtue. Like the air we breathe, it has become all-pervasive and entered every sphere of life. It is now regarded as a fact of life and an evil that we have to live with. Sometime one wonders whether

time has come to accept this menace as the price of socialism, progress and civilization. Our society has become extremely corrupt and we cannot hope to weed out corruption completely; we can simply minimise it.

The opportunities of bribery and palm greasing have increased greatly with the dawn of independence and the growth of democracy and industry, the

system of licenses and permits for setting up enterprises etc. The loud talks of anti-corruption

measures, stringent laws and deterrent sentences have no meaning. The philosophy of corruption operates interestingly. So long as there are people to offer bribe, there are also people to take it, directly or indirectly.

Promises and oaths of honesty are soon made and forgotten. However, measures calculated to produce a social climate both among public servants and in the general public are essential.

Poor salaries compel lower level officials to be corrupt. The standard of living is constantly rising, soaring prices of essential commodities have broken the back and we indulge in corrupt ways for our children's sake and since everyone else does it, why not us? Must we be the only angels on earth? Every man, it is said, has his price. When

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

the entire economic and social set-up breathes of what is called "SPEED MONEY" to

push things through, it is almost impossible to resist temptation- human beings are, after all, human beings. People accept bribes under the table, then come out to raise anti-corruption slogans at the top of their voice and urge others to be honest and pure.

It is not difficult to locate the causes of corruption. Corruption breeds at the top and then gradually filters down to the lower levels. Our politicians have been making promises from time to time and pledging to do so many things but shedding only crocodile tears. If there is corruption in the administration, the ruling party leaders or ministers are at first and finally responsible for it. Their philosophy is guided by the familiar saying, "Touch one, touch all; therefore touch none". If the ministers are honest they can prevent corruption in the whole administrative machinery of the government.

Today the people's confidence is shaken. Everything is bogus, their representatives have no religion or faith or justice and fair play. False returns are filed. Taxes are not realised honestly. There is much waste and extravagance in public expenditure, people are burdened with fresh and heavier imports. Crimes are increasing at an alarming rate. Who is responsible for this? Corruption is primarily and ultimately responsible for all this. It is so deep-rooted that it is very much

difficult to root it out completely. The fact is that everybody in the ruling party wants to be a minister or at least a member of some board or corporation to make money. The spirit of selfless service to the people has evaporated.

The one thing that needs to be ensured is proper, impartial, and unbiased use of various anti-social regulations to take strong, deterrent, and timely legal action against the offenders, irrespective of their political influences or money power. Several steps have been taken to make the bureaucracy more efficient, performance-oriented and accountable. The Government is committed to ensuring probity among public servants and to protect them from frivolous allegations. Firm and strong steps are needed to curb the menace and an atmosphere has to be created where the good, patriotic, intellectuals come forward to serve the country with pride, virtue, and honesty for the welfare of the people of India. Corruption may also be controlled by openness, transparency and information costs, intergovernmental competition, localism, party competition, decision rules, collective action problems and public administration.

Let us be honest and admit that our conduct and character lack that grace and strength which are the distinguishing marks of free people everywhere. Once we have realised this, it should not be difficult to end corruption at all levels of life.

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

Judgements of the Supreme Court are no law of the land but only precedents, binding only if it is not per incuriam/ Repeal Article 141 to bring an end to the tyranny and abuse of precedents

Law is a simple subject. It ought to be simple because it is all about regulating the conduct of our society, institutions and government. It does not require a great intelligence to understand that it cannot be as complex as rocket science. However, if you enter a lawyers chamber you will find large volumes of law reports, text books and commentaries. Judgements in simple cases, for instance, arising out of a dishonor of a cheque, matrimonial dispute, bail, recovery of debt due to a bank, etc sometimes one will find running into hundreds of pages. Often a litigant, unfamiliar, finds for instance involved in a cheque bounce case or a motor accident case or a matrimonial dispute, that in a judgement running into more than a hundred pages there is hardly any discussion regarding his case but extraction after extraction, pages after pages of cases decided in the past between third parties. The litigant is aghast, he wonders why the judge has taken so much time to discuss about some past cases where he has discussed practically nothing about his own case. However, lawyers and judges find nothing wrong. Why the lawyers and the litigants perceive things so differently? The reason is simple. The lawyers from the very first day of their practice find their seniors citing large number of judgements in support of their respective cases and the judge listening to them patiently and religiously referring to the judgements that were cited, nay, quoting them extensively. He would have found the seniors are unable to argue more than one or two minutes without citing judgements even on a simple issue as non observance of principles of natural justice. There are only two principles of natural justice- a) hear the other side, b) nobody shall be a judge of his own cause. But there are thousands and thousands of reported judgements on the same issue enough to fill many almira's.



Mathews J. Nedumpara

the bench and the majority view of the bench.

I don't think it is an inalienable right of the bench to notice the difference between doctrine of res judicata and stare decisis (precedent). Their agenda was to rule the country using judiciary as a pawn. They emasculated the Parliament by asserting that the judgment of the Supreme Court in Kesavananda Bharati is the law of the land, binding on the citizens who were not parties to the case and the posterity. The powerful lobby in Delhi further usurped to themselves the executive and legislative powers of "we the people", using PIL as a tool. A powerful lawyer in Delhi, a PIL Petitioner today claiming himself to represent the people of this country file PILs and decide what falls in the province of the executive and legislative policy. They using PIL even rewrote the constitution and decided that judges shall appoint themselves. The constitution does not contain any provision for Collegium. They created it by further cementing the myth that judgements of the Supreme Court are law of the land which will prevail over the written constitution. Alas, in the NJAC case, the Supreme Court held that a judgement of the Supreme Court in Judges 2 case is the basic structure of the constitution and it cannot be dismantled even by a Constitution amendment.

I know for certain that the elite class of lawyers staunchly support and safeguard the myth which best serves their vested interests, the judgements of the Supreme Court is the law of the land. Because an all powerful Supreme Court would mean that they could bring everything under the sun to the jurisdiction of the court and make rich dividends. There is another class of lawyers, the vast majority who genuinely believe that the judgements of the Supreme Court, a large mass in terms of numbers and volume contain new principles of law which the court has evolved for the first time where none existed.

I have been a doubting Thomas for pretty long and particularly since 1994 when I went through the Judges-2 case to my great shock. The question which I have been raising, which no one has answered till date, if Article 141 means reason for the decision, a principle as a precedent, tell me one principle which never ever existed in common law which the Supreme Court has evolved for the first time. Nobody has been able to cite any principle except the basic structure and PIL, both has no foundation for jurisprudence. The British had codified common law principles into statutes, a mammoth task which they undertook soon after they took over the governance of India in 1858. There is no need for us to unduly cite large number of decisions in the course of the hearing and for the judges to refer them in their judgements because it is absolutely counter productive and meaningless. That will make the judgements break and the decisions less perverse and intelligible to the litigants. It will certainly mean a great disadvantage to the lawyers who make huge amounts of money and cause enormous waste of judicial time.

To part with, the solution I suggest is completely dispense with the practice of needless citations and long judgements. There are judges and lawyers who believe that they become immortal by using difficult and uncommon words by extensively relying on dictionaries and books on synonyms and idioms and phrases. We must consciously propagate that the best legal literature is the simplest one and our real model are the likes of Lord Dennis, Benjamin Curdazo, Vivian Bose, K.K. Mathew and not those who use flowery and bombastic languages.

The recent judgement of Supreme Court in Pattaswami (right to privacy) is a classic example of how a subject which Justice Chettor Shankaran Nair in Madhavi vs Tilakan has dealt with in 4 pages being made incomprehensible one by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court by a judgement running into hundreds of pages.

(The author is the President of the National Lawyers Campaign For Judicial Transparency And Reforms)

Mitigation and measure tackle environmental pollution

Any natural and negative changes in

Pratap Chandra Sahu

and natural actions. Water pollution is

all dimensions like chemical, physical and biological characteristics of any component of the eco-system i.e air, water or soil which can cause harmful effects on various forms of life and property is called environment pollution. It has existed for centuries. But evidence suggests that since the industrial revolution, containments in atmosphere have been growing day by day and resulting in severe damage to earth. Hazardous waste, toxic chemicals and plastic have found their way in ecological food chain. Environmental pollution is primary reason for raise of global warming and many incurable diseases. Environmental pollution is the addition of containments into natural environment that causes detrimental effects to nature, natural resources and mankind.

Pollutants are containments that get introduced into natural environment, beyond permitted limits and caused undesired effects or adversely affects the usefulness of a resource. They can be classified into primary and secondary pollutants. The primary pollutants such as carbon dioxide and plastic remain in form in which they were added to the environment. Secondary pollutants are formed due to interaction of primary pollutants amongst themselves, ozone is one of secondary pollutants, which is formed when hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxides combine in presence of sunlight. Burning of fossil fuels, sewage etc. can cause human made pollution, whereas volcanic dust photo chemically formed ozone in natural resources of pollutants. On the basis of degradability, pollutants can be biodegradable or non-biodegradable. Biodegradable pollutants such as paper products, vegetables etc. are broken down naturally by micro organisms and are not harmful to environment. Non-degradable pollutants such as polythene, plastics etc can not be broken down into smaller, harmless or simpler substance. Depending on the nature of pollutants and also subsequent pollution environmental components the pollution can be categorized as air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, noise pollution and radioactive pollution.

Air pollution takes place when damaging stuff including particulate matter and biological molecules are dumped into earth's atmosphere. It can result from both human

any contamination of water with chemicals or other hazardous substances that are determined to human, animal or plant health. Soil pollution is defined as build up in soils of persistent toxic compounds, chemicals, salts, radioactive materials or disease causing agent which have adverse effects on plant growth and animal health. Deforestation and soil erosion also play important role in soil pollution. Noise pollution is also known as sound pollution is propagation of noise with harmful impact on activity of human or animal life. The sources of outdoor noise world wide is mainly caused by machines, transport and propagation system. Radioactive pollution occurs when there is presence radioactive materials in the environment especially where their presence is accidental and when it presents an environment threat due to radioactive decay.

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrities of the eco system with maximum protection of public health and environment. Reduce, re-use & re-cycle to conserve natural resources and landfill space. Volunteer for cleanups in your community. One can get involved in protecting one's watershed too.

One can help other & understand the importance and value of natural resources. Usage of energy efficient light bulbs can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Support environmentally sound policies that reduces energy growth rates emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, ground water and drinking water.

Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous waste. Don't discharge chemicals into water ways and choose non-toxic chemicals in the home and public places. Buy less plastic and bring a re-usable shopping bag.

Decisions and actions taken by individuals to a very large extent determine the quality of life for everyone. So every one should be aware of various environmental issues and consequences of their actions on environment.

Nabarangapur

Create awareness on state govt's failures: Pradhan to BJP workers

BHUBANESWAR: Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday beneficiaries. But the state government spends only around Rs 185 crore for dis-



beneficiaries should be provided rice without any political motive and there Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana as it is not being implemented in Odisha.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana as it is not being implemented in Odisha.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana as it is not being implemented in Odisha.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana as it is not being implemented in Odisha.

China suspends social media accounts of COVID policy critics

BEIJING: China has suspended or closed the social media accounts of more than 1,000 critics of the government's policies on the COVID-19 outbreak, as the country moves to further open up. The popular Sina Weibo social media platform said it had addressed 12,854 violations including attacks on experts, scholars and medical workers and issued temporary or permanent bans on 1,120 accounts. The ruling Communist Party had largely relied on the medical community to justify its harsh lockdowns, quarantine measures and mass testing, almost all of which it abruptly abandoned last month, leading to a surge in new cases that have stretched medical resources to their limits. The party allows no direct criticism and imposes strict limits on free speech. The company "will continue to increase the investigation and cleanup of all kinds of illegal content, and create a harmonious and friendly community environment for the majority of users," Sina Weibo said in a statement dated Thursday. Criticism has largely focused on heavy-handed enforcement of regulations, including open-ended travel restrictions that saw people confined to their homes for weeks, sometimes sealed inside without adequate food or medical care. Anger was also vented over the requirement that anyone who potentially tested positive or had been in contact with such a person be confined for observation in a field hospital, where overcrowding, poor food and hygiene were commonly cited. The social and economic costs eventually prompted rare street protests in Beijing and other cities, possibly influencing the party's decision to swiftly ease the strictest measures. As part of the latest changes, China will also no longer bring criminal charges against people accused of violating border quarantine regulations, according to a notice issued by five government departments on Saturday. Individuals currently in custody will be released and seized assets returned, the notice said. The adjustments "were made after comprehensively considering the harm of the behaviours to the society, and aim to adapt to the new situations of the epidemic prevention and control," the official China Daily newspaper website said in a report on the notice. China is now facing a surge in cases and hospitalizations in major cities and is bracing for a further spread into less developed areas with the start of the Lunar New Year travel rush, set to get underway in the coming days. While international flights are still reduced, authorities say they expect domestic rail and air journeys will double over the same period last year, bringing overall numbers close to those of the 2019 holiday period before the pandemic hit. The Transportation Ministry on Friday called on travellers to reduce trips and gatherings, particularly if they involve elderly people, pregnant women, small children and those with underlying conditions.

People using public transport are also urged to wear masks and pay special attention to their health and personal hygiene, Vice Minister Xu Chengguang told reporters at a briefing. Nonetheless, China is forging ahead with a plan to end mandatory quarantines for people arriving from abroad beginning on Sunday. Beijing also plans to drop a requirement for students at city schools to have a negative COVID-19 test to enter campus when classes resume Feb. 13 after the holiday break. While schools will be allowed to move classes online in the event of new outbreaks, they must return to in-person instruction as soon as possible, the city education bureau said in a statement Friday. However, the end of mass testing, a highly limited amount of basic data such as the number of deaths, infections and severe cases, and the potential emergence of new variants have prompted governments elsewhere to institute virus testing requirements for travellers from China. The World Health Organization has also expressed concern about the lack of data from China, while the U.S. is requiring a negative test result for travellers from China within 48 hours of departure. Chinese health authorities publish a daily count of new cases, severe cases and deaths, but those numbers include only officially confirmed cases and use a very narrow definition of COVID-related deaths. Authorities say that since the government ended compulsory testing and permitted people with mild symptoms to test themselves and convalesce at home, it can no longer provide a full picture of the state of the latest outbreak. On Saturday, the National Health Commission reported 10,681 new domestic cases, bringing the country's total number of confirmed cases to 482,057. Three new deaths were also reported over the previous 24 hours, bringing the total to 5,267. The numbers are a fraction of those announced by the U.S., which has put its death toll at more than 1 million among some 101 million cases. But they're also much smaller than the estimates being released by some local governments. Zhejiang, a province on the east coast, said Tuesday it was seeing about 1 million new cases a day. China has said the testing requirements being imposed by foreign governments — most recently Germany and Sweden — aren't science-based and has threatened unspecified countermeasures. Its spokespeople have said the situation is under control, and reject accusations of a lack of preparation for reopening. Despite such assertions, the Health Commission on Saturday rolled out regulations for strengthened monitoring of viral mutations, including testing of urban wastewater. The lengthy rules called for increased data gathering from hospitals and local government health departments and stepped-up checks on "pneumonia of unknown causes."

'Hemant Soren is tribal but Jharkhand government is anti-tribal', says Amit Shah

RANCHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Hemant Soren, claiming the Jharkhand government was working against the interests of the Tribal community. Speaking at the BJP's Vikas Mahasankalp rally on Saturday, Shah claimed the Jharkhand government was "anti-tribal" despite having a tribal Chief Minister and accused Soren of playing vote bank politics. "The Chief Minister of this state is a tribal, but his government is anti-tribal. Corruption is at its peak in this government, which is favourable for mediators and people who are grabbing tribal land," said the Home Minister. The "greed of vote bank politics" can never be greater than the welfare of Jharkhand's tribals, he said. The senior BJP leader claimed the tribal diaspora won't forgive Soren for playing with

their future and will teach him a lesson in 2024. "Intruders have forcefully been marrying the tribal girls in order to grab their land...I have come here to warn Hemant Soren that he must stop these infiltrators or the people of Jharkhand will never forgive you," said Shah. Shah alleged that Hemant Soren had fooled youths in the name of education, duped Moolwasi (native) in the name of jobs and deceived tribals in the name of 1932 Khatiyani (bill defining Jharkhand's locals on the basis of land survey records of 1932). "Survey of Chaibasa was done in 1964, now they say that jobs will be given to the locals on the basis of the 1932 Khatiyani...now tell me whether people of Chaibasa will ever get a job? Why you are dividing the state in the name of 1932 Khatiyani?" questioned Amit Shah further adding, "Just increase the number of jobs and if you have no guts to do it... Then please vacate the seat, we will take the state on the path of development." "Tribal-Non-tribal, backward-tribal... What is this? Why you are up to ruining Jharkhand, despite the fact that people of this state made you the Chief Minister and you have handed over the entire government into the hands of robbers," the senior BJP leader alleged. The BJP has always respected tribals and for the first time in the history of India, a poor tribal woman Droupadi Murmu was made the President of India, he added. The Union Home Minister claimed the BJP had also increased the budget for tribals from Rs 21,000 crore to Rs 86,000 crore, brought drinking water to 1.3 crore tribal households, constructed toilets in 1.43 tribal households and increased the number of Adivasi Eklavya Vidyalaya from 167 under the Congress' rule to 680 under the saffron party's rule. Counting the achievements of the Raghubar Das Government in Jharkhand, Shah asked Hemant Soren to tell the people here what he has done during the last three years. "Hemant Soren has done nothing during the last three years....he has done corruption, he has squandered the tribal land to the infiltrators, he has been doing vote bank politics in spite of protecting the tribal men and women," said Shah. He expressed confidence that this time the people will definitely vote for change as they want to change this "useless and corrupt" government in Jharkhand.

'Hard to see people die before your eyes', say firefighters on Ukraine's frontline

BAKHMUT: In the war-torn Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, the chief of a small group of firefighters lines up his small team in front of the national flag, and wishes them a happy new year. For the nine stationed permanently in the city centre fire station, it has been a year of war and fire. They are posted in the eastern region of Donetsk where Bakhmut has become the epicentre of fighting. But their chief Oleksiy Migrin, jovial and good-natured, does not often complain. "The year 2022 has been tough on a personal level, and tough for Ukraine," he tells the team. "Take care of yourself, remember that your families are waiting for you. Next year we will win." He rounds off his speech with a "Slava

According to the fire chief, thousands of civilians are still hanging on there -- possibly as many as 10,000 living in terrible conditions. "They don't have the means to leave," he said. "Their destroyed houses, their cellars, that's all they have left." The nine firefighters in the barracks can describe their daily routine in a few words: "Demine, evacuate, put out fires, provide water, clear the rubble," he said. Others come in to reinforce from across the region, but they are apprehensive about having too many people based in the same place. "It's too dangerous," explains Nikita Nedytko, the second-in-command at the fire station barracks. Eleven firefighters have been killed in the Donetsk region since the beginning of the Russian invasion, he said.



Ukraini!" ("Glory to Ukraine"). The firefighters are in one of the hotspots of fighting in eastern Ukraine, where Russian forces -- and the Russian paramilitaries of the Wagner Group -- have been trying to seize the city for the last six months. Inside the station, the men drink coffee near humanitarian aid boxes delivered from Kyiv, which are filled with duvets, medical kits, and cake. There have been heavy losses on both sides here, and enormous destruction in Bakhmut, which had a population of some 70,000 before the war started in February 2022. What was once "a pretty town full of flowers of trees" now looks like a wasteland. 'Changed radically': How Ukrainian women are fighting for freedom of their nation A Ukrainian firefighter serves coffee at his fire station in the city of Bakhmut, eastern Ukraine, on December 31, 2022. (Photo | AFP) 'All they have left' "There is no longer any civilisation outside," says Nadya Petrova, who has been living for months in the back of her cellar.

In Bakhmut, one of his own men was killed when a wall collapsed during a clearing operation after a bombardment. Now the team do two-day rotations and then take a day out in "safer" towns a few miles away from the frontline. READ HERE | Bosnian kids send gifts to Ukraine for New Year; evoke war-time memories in their parents Ukrainian firefighters stand with their Christmas gifts. 'The hardest thing' Thirty-year-old Nedytko -- who is originally from Bakhmut and has a one-year-old son -- says one of the hardest things is coping with the emotional weight of their work in war-time. "We've had a lot of pain, and suffering. We had no experience of that," he told AFP. His family has retreated to Dnipro, about 260 kilometres (161 miles) west by car, where he goes every two months to see them. He recalls a mother and her daughter they found embracing, dead under the rubble, and how they had to break the news to the father. He says they have had to listen to the cries of people calling for help. For Nedytko, the "slightest wrong move on our part" could cost a life. "The hardest thing is to see people die before your eyes," he says. "The saddest thing is to see the children who have remained here."

Talcher Fertilizer by Oct'24

Talcher: The ambitious Talcher Fertiliser Plant will be dedicated to the nation by October 2024, Union Fertilizer Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said while reviewing the progress of the FCIL Talcher unit here in the presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday.

"India's agriculture sector requires fertilizers for the sector to flourish and the country is currently dependent on imports and domestic production of fertilizers. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister, India set out the target to become *aatmanirbhar* in this field as well," Mandaviya.

India's domestic production of urea will see a major boost with five new fertilizer plants coming up in the country. Four of these plants are already functional while Talcher is a coal

construction and erection activities of the project were reviewed carefully.

The two Ministers also took stock of the project status and held a review meeting with key functionaries of TFL, PDIL (consultant of the project) and the representatives of Promoters of TFL.

They emphasized upon the importance of the plant in the National context and instructed the officials of TFL and PDIL to meet the deadline for commissioning of the plant.

Mandaviya emphasized on the coordinated efforts among all stakeholders for timely commissioning of the plant.

TFL has been mandated by the Government to revive the erstwhile Talcher plant of FCIL by setting up a new coal gasification based urea plant with the installed capacity of 12.7



gasification plant which will become functional by October 2024, he said.

Revival of FCIL Talcher unit is being undertaken by Talcher Fertilizers Ltd. (TFL), a company promoted by GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL), Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF), Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Fertilizers Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL).

Mandaviya said that the Government is taking significant steps in making the country *Aatmanirbhar*. Fertilizer is one of them. By utilizing new technological interventions like coal gasification in our fertilizer plants and using our own resources like coal, India is moving towards self-sufficiency in the Urea sector, he said.

With this vision, the Government of India has been reviewing the progress of Talcher unit which will be India's largest and first coal gasification urea plant, added the Union Minister.

Mandaviya also said that this endeavor will be a significant step towards ensuring energy security of the country through harnessing the vast coal reserves of the country in a manner which is more environment friendly than direct fired coal projects.

While reviewing the work progress, Mandaviya & Pradhan were provided an overview of the project in the model room and thereafter visited the plant site wherein the

Lakh Metric Ton per annum (LMTPA).

Since the project promotes coal gasification, it shall also aid in meeting the stated aim of gasifying 100 MT of coal by 2030.

The project will also provide impetus to the economy of Odisha in particular and eastern India in general thereby also propelling India towards *Atma Nirbharta* (self-reliance).

Coal gasification plants are strategically important as coal prices are non-volatile and domestic coal is abundantly available. Talcher plant will also reduce dependence on imported Natural Gas for production of urea leading to reduction in natural gas import bill. Further, the gasification process adopted in under construction Talcher unit is more environment friendly as compared to directly coal fired processes thereby supporting commitments made by India under Conference of Parties (CoP).

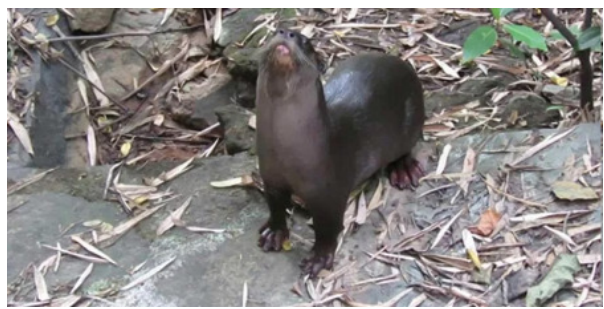
The revival of closed units of FCIL and HFCL had been the top priority agenda of the Modi Government to augment the availability of domestically produced urea. Start of all five plants of FCIL/HFCL would add 63.5 LMTPA indigenous urea production capacity in the country. Out of five, four plants i.e. Ramagundam, Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni Fertilizer Plants have already started urea production in the country and Talcher plant is expected to start by October 2024.

Otter makes pond on IISc-Bangalore campus its home, keeps up mystery

BENGALURU: The curious case of the lone otter continues to fox researchers at India's premier institution Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, five years after it made its appearance. The why and how of the Smooth-Coated Otter's journey to the campus and its survival, remains a mystery.

The otter was first sighted around five years ago at the Centenary Pond on the campus. It was sighted occasionally, and had vanished temporarily, but has again popped up. Researchers on campus are baffled as to how it came into the water body, and

assert that no one introduced it. Also, this is only the second water



body in Bengaluru where the Smooth-Coated Otter has been found, the other being Hessarghatta Lake. Some researchers contemplate that it may have swum in from Sankey Tank, as the two water bodies are connected by an underground drain. Others question how it even came into Sankey Tank, because the last

time otters were sighted there was around 15 years ago. Yet others

have come through the drains, but the high levels of pollutants and toxins cannot be ruled out. The Centenary Pond at IISc is rainwater-fed and was created in 2009."

The otter has also caught the attention of the Karnataka forest department. Chief Conservator of Forests S S Lingaraja said there is no otter in Bengaluru's lakes as most of them have lost their connectivity, and the channels are also not well-maintained. Its sighting at IISc has raised a lot of curiosity and will be assessed in detail, he said..

wonder if it could have come from the Arkavathi-Vrishabhavathi valley, but how it survived the polluted water bodies is another question altogether. TV Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, said: "No one knows how it came. It is still a puzzle and we have thought of all angles. It could

Ambapalli village in Odisha brings out an actor from each family

BARGARH: For the last 75 years since Dhanuyatra is being celebrated in Bargarh, Ambapalli village turns into Gopapura, and has sent hundreds of performers to the stage from each family who have been enacting various roles in Krishna Leela for decades now. Be it as small a role as Gopal Balak and Gopi or as important as Krishna and Balaram, there

come forward themselves. It is overwhelming to see how Dhanuyatra has evolved over the years."

Another resident of Ambapalli, Panchanan Birtia has been participating in Krishna Leela for more than 30 years. While he participated for the first time in 1985 and played the role of Krishna for two consecutive years, he has



are times when more than one member of each family participates in the Krishna Leela. Bipin Bihari Birtia, now in his mid-70s, started participating in 'Krishna Leela' at the age of 10. He recalled, "Back in our days, women were hesitant to participate in stage plays. Those characters were also played by men. I have played different roles for over 16 years including that of Gopi, Yashoda and Rohini."

Interestingly, in 1980, Bipin's daughter, Minakhi became the first woman to play the character of Radha. Now in her 50s, Minakhi said, "Everyone voluntarily decides to play a part in Krishna Leela. It has become a tradition over the decades. Children grow up seeing their family members or those in their neighbourhood participating in it and they

donned several other roles subsequently.

"Our spirits are at peak during Dhanuyatra. Call it devotion towards Krishna or a custom, we feel fortunate to participate in the enactments of Gopapura. Even if someone does not participate in the play, he/she expresses his/her solidarity by decorating the houses and drawing rangoli to welcome Krishna. The festival binds us together," said Panchanan.

This year, Panchanan's daughter Baishnabi is playing the role of Radha. Similarly, Samrat Mahapatra, who is playing the role of Krishna this year, has already played the role of Gopal Balak in the past. While Bargarh town transforms into Mathura during the open-air festival, Ambapalli village on the other side of Jeera river, considered Yamuna, becomes Gopalpur.



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India should strive to become hub of software products, focus on democratising govt data: President

NEW DELHI: After proving its prowess in the field of software, India should strive to

solutions. "We should leverage the prevailing policies and avail the ecosystem to

pandemic, which has benefitted the rest of the world as well. "Digital India is also playing an important

developed 5G technology and the rollout of the 5G services will transform



become a hub for software products, President Droupadi Murmu said on Saturday.

While speaking at the 7th edition of Digital India Awards, Murmu said that India should focus on democratising government data to help technology enthusiasts in the country develop localised digital

position the country as a global powerhouse of software and hardware products by building made-in-India technology," Murmu said. She said India has emerged as an important country for use of technology for people-centric governance, especially during the

role in enhancing the country's profile on the world stage. This becomes all the more relevant as India takes over the presidency of G20 which is a milestone event," Murmu said. India formally assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022. She said India has unveiled indigenously

governance as well. "We should focus on democratising government data so that young technology enthusiasts can use it to build localised digital solutions," Murmu said. At the event, the President conferred awards to 22 government entities in the field of digital

Ukraine hails US' multibillion-dollar military aid as Russian cease-fire said to falter

Continued from page-1 said its troops are observing a short cease-fire for Orthodox Christmas, celebrated Saturday.

Ukrainian officials denounced the unilateral 36-hour truce as a ploy and said it appeared to have been ignored by some of Moscow's forces pressing ahead with the nearly 11-month invasion.

Russia's Defense Ministry insisted Saturday that its forces along the 1,100-kilometer (684-mile) front line were observing the cease-fire but returned fire when attacked. The latest package of U.S. military assistance was the biggest to date for Kyiv. For the first time, it included Bradley armoured vehicles — known as tank killers because of the anti-tank missiles they fire.

In his nightly televised address on Friday,

group. Ukrainian and Western officials portrayed the announcement as a Russian attempt to grab the moral high ground and possibly snatch battlefield initiative and momentum from Ukrainian forces amid their counteroffensive of recent months.

The pause was due to end Saturday night — at midnight Moscow time, which is 11 p.m. in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv.

The Ministry of Defense in Britain, a leading supplier of military aid to Ukraine, said Saturday in its daily readout on the invasion that "fighting has continued at a routine level into the Orthodox Christmas period."

In the fiercely contested Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine, regional Gov. Serhiy Haidai reported continued Russian shelling and assaults. Posting Friday on Telegram, Haidai said that in the first three hours of the cease-fire, Russian forces shelled Ukrainian positions 14 times and stormed one settlement three times. The claim couldn't be independently verified.



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called it "a very powerful package."

"For the first time, we will get Bradley armoured vehicles — this is exactly what is needed. New guns and rounds, including high-precision ones, new rockets, and new drones. It is timely and strong," he said.

He thanked U.S. President Joe Biden, U.S. lawmakers and "all the Americans who appreciate freedom, and who know that freedom is worth protecting."

Ukrainian officials dismissed the Kremlin-ordered cease-fire that started Friday for Orthodox Christmas Eve as a ploy to buy time for Russia's struggling invasion forces to re-

Ukrainian authorities on Saturday also reported attacks elsewhere in the previous 24 hours although it wasn't clear whether the fighting was before or after the cease-fire's start.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said Russian forces carried out a missile strike and 20 salvoes with rockets, and targeted settlements in the east, north-east and south.

The head of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region on Saturday reported two civilian deaths the previous day from Russian strikes in the fiercely contested city of Bakhmut and to its north, in Krasna Hora.

India looking at multilateral agreements that are fair, equitable for all sides: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI: Negotiations for bilateral free trade agreements with several countries are "well on track" and India is also looking at some multilateral pacts that are fair and equitable for all the member countries, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

India has recently implemented a free trade agreement (FTA) with the UAE in May 2022 and on December 29, 2022 with Australia to boost bilateral trade and investments.

The country is negotiating FTAs with countries including Canada, European Union and the UK.

"We are well on track in discussions with several other countries to look at bilateral trade agreements. We are looking at one or two multilateral trade agreements also where we believe we can get benefit," Goyal said while virtually addressing the 27th Wharton India Economic Forum.

In a trade agreement, two or more countries either significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them.

Besides, they ease norms to promote trade in services and investments. The minister said that it is in India's interest to enter into bilateral free trade agreements.

"It's essential that agreements are balanced and they are in the best interest of both the countries, they address the sensitivities of both the countries and help us protect certain sectors which we need to protect," Goyal added.

He said that India can not make every product efficiently and that imports are important for those goods.

On the other hand, India is competitive in several sectors such as labour oriented areas

Pact with Chicago varsity

Continued from page-1

searchers from the University of Chicago providing data analysis and evaluation assistance to the Government of Odisha schemes and policies to benefit the State districts and blocks.

Talking about the collaboration, Manoj Pattnaik said, "We are excited to work with the researchers at EPIC India and help lead Odisha to become a leading data Center hub. Using evidence-backed research, we hope the DPIC will act as a Center of excellence for collecting big data from many sources, analyzing that data using contemporary econometric and statistical models, and producing the necessary creative policy guides."

Under this partnership, researchers from the University of Chicago will aid the Government of Odisha in conducting research, monitoring, impact evaluation, and project implementation in the energy and environment, health, education, agriculture, and water & sanitation sectors.

Along with that, the partnership will also entail capacity development of personnel and institutions for creating a hub for modern data analysis and knowledge sharing.

Outlining the different contours of DPIC with its technical and application possibilities, Dr. Anant Sudarshan, Senior Fellow at the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago, said, "To enable rigorous, evidence-based governance under the program, we have outlined a three-pronged strategy that would include creating a hub for modern data analysis, field pilots using randomized control trials and training and capacity building."

Talking about the collaboration, Leni Chaudhari, Executive Director of the University of Chicago Center in India, said, "We have previously joined Government of Odisha in rolling out the ground breaking Star Rating Program for industries, and we are looking forward to this new partnership that will help source big data efficiently and design innovative energy and environment solutions. We aim to bring our expertise in applied research on innovative policy ideas to develop mechanisms that facilitate increased energy access and reduced health and environmental problems."

The creation of this hub for modern data analysis in Odisha is a pioneering step in using data to advance innovations and drive policy decisions.

like textiles, leather, footwear, and pharma and for that these, trade agreements would be beneficial.

Due to this, "we decided that we must talk to like-minded countries particularly countries which have a rule-based trading order, which are transparent in their economic systems as India is and enter into arrangements which are win-win for both the sides and which are fair, equitable and balanced," the minister said.

Talking about Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which India decided not to join, he said it was a very unfair and unbalanced agreement and one of the member countries (China) in the RCEP group has a "very opaque" trading system.

Further, he said that going forward it is important to focus on quality products and services.

"In 2022, India did 74 billion financial transactions digitally. It is more than Europe, the US and China combined. India is working towards becoming a high quality, high technology and a service-oriented economy, well equipped to meet the needs of the rest of the world," he added.

BBI connects RRK

Continued from page-1

for the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's picture in hoardings and advertisement issued by the Odisha government on kickoff of the flight operation.

The UDAN scheme, which is being implemented, is a vision of Prime Minister Modi. Absence of PM's picture in the advertisement is definitely a matter of sadness, the Civil Aviation Minister said.

"Either in the matter of airports or airlines, we should run behind the credit. We believe in work together. We are committed to render better services to the people. I hope this matter will reach to the Chief Minister," he said.

Similarly, Pradhan and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi too criticized the State Government over the issue. Shri Pradhan termed the absence of PM Modi's pictures in advertisement and hoardings as 'unfortunate'.

There could be differences of opinion in politics but there is a need to be united whenever it's a matter of Odisha's interest, Shri Pradhan said.

"Prime Minister during his recent Bali visit had spoken about the historic Bali Yatra. He (PM) had been taking Odisha's name at several international events. But, it is unfortunate that the Odisha Government did not even thank the PM and Civil Aviation Minister for the flight service," he said.

The BJP leader said it would have been appropriate if the PM's picture was also included in the advertisement and hoardings.

"It is not the tradition of Odisha. And today's event was only possible due to the efforts of the Prime Minister. I am sure the Chief Minister must not be aware of such a thing," Shri Pradhan added.

Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi said, "The Centre has contributed 100 percent of the funds but unfortunately there is no picture of the Prime Minister in any of the hoarding and advertisement. It is shameful that not a single official associated with the State Government acknowledged it. All of us as well as the people of Odisha wanted to hear a thank you from the Chief Minister."

Commenting on this, Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu said, "Opposition is in the habit of bringing allegations."

Alliance Air will operate the flight service between Bhubaneswar and Rourkela with a capacity of 72 passengers. While the inaugural flight took off today, the routine flight services will start from January 12.

As per schedule, the aircraft will take off from Bhubaneswar at 2:55 PM and reach Rourkela at 3:50 PM every day. On its return journey the flight will take off from Rourkela at 4:15 PM and arrive in Bhubaneswar at 5:10 PM.

As far as the fare is concerned, the Bhubaneswar – Rourkela fare has been set at Rs 2803 and the return fare is priced at Rs 2721.

Cristiano Ronaldo adds to list of stars to end career in soccer outpost

Cristiano Ronaldo is not the first soccer superstar to head off to one of the world's supposed minor leagues in the latter years of his career.

The temptation for one last huge payday, to be a trailblazer in a nation looking to boost its standing in the sport, or just to try something different often can be too big to resist. Not every player bows out right at the top like Zinedine Zidane — even if France great was sent off in the last game of his career, the World Cup final of 2006.

Others, like Pelé, Johan Cruyff, Zico, Xavi Hernandez, and now the 37-year-old Ronaldo at Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr, find themselves prolonging their careers at unlikely soccer outposts usually for vast amounts of money.

Here's a focus on a few of them, across five different countries:

Pelé
It was a move that changed U.S. sports history. Pelé, the Brazil great and owner of an unprecedented three World Cup winners' medals, signed for the New York Cosmos in 1975 after being wooed by the team for four years. Pelé's 2 1/2 seasons there — he earned \$2.7 million, according to the Cosmos' then-general manager Clive Toye — put U.S. soccer on a path to hosting the World Cup in 1994 and launching Major League Soccer two years later. The Cosmos' average attendance nearly tripled in Pelé's first year and continued to grow. He scored 37 goals in 64 matches in the North American Soccer League and did all the PR work required in his mission to make soccer mainstream and underpin a surge in youth participation. "We would not be where we are today," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said, "if it wasn't for Pelé deciding to come to the United States." So many top players have since made their way to the U.S., typically to end their careers and for lifestyle reasons: Franz Beckenbauer, Johan Cruyff, George Best, David Beckham and Thierry Henry, to name just a few.

Zico
Zico is almost as fondly remembered in Japan as he is in his native Brazil. After two highly successful

spells at Flamengo, either side of two years at Udinese in Italy, the playmaker quit his playing career, only to come out of retirement at the age of 38 to help usher Japanese soccer into professionalism. He played for four seasons at Kashima Antlers from 1991-94, a period which took in the inauguration of the J-League in 1993. Zico remained in Japan until 2006, staying at Kashima as its technical director and then coach before becoming the national team's coach for the four-year cycle up to



the 2006 World Cup. He has since been elected into Japanese soccer's Hall of Fame and is known as the "God of Football" in Japan. Along with England great Gary Lineker, who also played in Japan at the start of the league, Zico is regarded as a key figure in the development of Japanese soccer and its growth in popularity. Dunga, Hristo Stoichkov and most recently Andres Iniesta, Spain's World Cup winner from 2010 who has played for Vissel Kobe since 2018, are other major names to have played in Japan.

Xavi Hernandez
Xavi wasn't the first star player to land in Qatar's top league but he might have had the most prominence, given he arrived midway through 2015 — at age 35 — on the back of being the Barcelona captain who lifted the Champions League trophy

weeks earlier. The league had been running for more than 40 years by that point and, since the turn of the century, had enticed high-profile players such as Marcel Desailly, Pep Guardiola and Gabriel Batistuta in 2003 and 2004 and Raúl González in 2012. Even Brazil great Romário came over to the tiny, oil-rich emirate to play, if only for three games in 2003 at a reported cost of \$1.5 million for Al-Sadd, Qatar's biggest club. That was before Qatar, in 2010, won the right to host the 2022 World Cup.

In that 12-year stretch, Xavi — one of Spain's greatest players — was the most famous soccer import, his stint in the country lasting six years and following a plan that saw him take his coaching qualifications and be a World Cup ambassador. He was a player for Al-Sadd from 2015-19 and then coached the team from 2019-21 before returning to Barcelona as its coach.

Alessandro Del Piero
Del Piero, the majestic Italy World Cup-winning forward, is comfortably the biggest name to have played in Australian soccer after his two years with Sydney FC (2012-14) on what was described by the club as the "largest professional sporting contract in Australian history" — a reported \$2 million a season. Del Piero scored 24 goals in 48 games but, as a rare superstar to play soccer in Australia, said his greatest satisfaction was aiding the growth of the game Down Under as TV viewership and Sydney's attendances swelled. A record 35,000 spectators watched the 38-year-old Del Piero's debut, Sydney's membership grew beyond 10,000, and the club's chairman, Scott Barlow, said it lifted

the "A-League onto the world stage." No other player, past or present, in the A-League comes close to matching Del Piero's gravitas — former Liverpool and England striker Robbie Fowler had short stints at two Australian clubs before the Italian's arrival, and Dwight Yorke spent a season at Sydney before that — so, in a sense, it has been a missed opportunity in a country where rugby league and cricket is king. Australian soccer did get a timely uplift at the recent World Cup in Qatar when the national team reached the last 16.

Didier Drogba
In 2012, Chinese clubs made a concerted push to attract top stars to its highest league — the Chinese Super League — after getting over the fallout of a corruption scandal that damaged its reputation. Not enough, though, to dissuade Didier Drogba to sign for Shanghai Shenhua as perhaps the biggest draw of this first batch of leading players that also included Nicolas Anelka. Drogba, then aged 34, was a huge deal at the time, not least because the Ivory Coast striker had just led Chelsea to its first Champions League title by scoring a late equalizer in regulation time and then the clinching penalty in the shootout of the 2012 final. Drogba called it a "leap into the unknown," with Shenhua chairman Zhu Jun willing to pay Drogba a reported \$300,000 a week to help drag his team up the league and Chinese soccer officials hoping it would boost the country's hopes of becoming a major global player. Drogba lasted six months before returning to Europe with Galatasaray in a messy split and China never has managed to compete with Europe as a go-to league. However, Guangzhou Evergrande became the first Chinese team to win the Asian Champions League, in 2013 — they won it again in 2015 — and another wave of top players arrived in 2017, including Carlos Tevez, Alexandre Pato and Oscar.

ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup warm-up fixtures announced

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the fixtures and ven-

was initially earmarked as one of the venues, but wet outfields caused by per-

Hammanskraal Oval. In the afternoon of January 9th, the United Arab Emir-

School. England will face Indonesia at Tuks Oval for the third match of



ues for the warm-up matches ahead of the inaugural ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup.

This historic event will see 16 teams compete in 41 matches between January 14 - 29, 2023 across four venues in Benoni and Potchefstroom.

Participating teams will play two official warm-up matches on 9 and 11 January 2023 in four venues around the Gauteng province, namely, St Stithians College, Steyn City School, Tuks Oval and Hammanskraal Oval. Braamfischerville

istent inclement weather in the province in the last few weeks resulted in the matches being moved to Steyn City School.

ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup Warm-Up Fixtures India will play Australia in its warm-up match on January 9 at Steyn City School. Scotland will face the United States of America on the same day at St Stithians College.


India's arch-rival Pakistan will also be in action on January 9 at Tuks Oval while Indonesia will also take on Zimbabwe at

ates will play Sri Lanka at St Stithians College, hosts South Africa will meet Bangladesh at Steyn City School, New Zealand will square against Rwanda at the Tuks Oval and the last match of the day will pit West Indies against England at the Hammanskraal Oval. India will lock horns with Bangladesh in its second warm-up game at St Stithians College on January 11 for the first game of the day. In the second game, the United States of America will be up against the United Arab Emirates at Steyn City

the day. Rwanda will be up against Ireland at the Hammanskraal Oval in the day's fourth warm-up game.

Hosts South Africa will take on Australia at the St Stithians College on the fifth of the match day. Sri Lanka will have the challenge of Scotland against them at Steyn City School in the sixth match.

Zimbabwe will be pitted against the West Indies in the seventh match of the day at the Tuks Oval while the last warm-up game will see Pakistan square off against New Zealand at the Hammanskraal Oval.



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