

North Carolina Jagannath Temple Hosted Car Festival



North Carolina (Sujat Mahapatra): Celebration of Annual Ratha Yatra in North Carolina Indian community with participation of people from different countries, color, religion and beliefs, exemplifies "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", The world is one big family. This year's celebration was to be grand. The grandeur of the occasion was because the Ratha or Chariot that is used in the festival was newly built. What made the building of the chariot so special was the fact that it was built entirely by volunteers who did not have any professional experience in chariot building work. The volunteers worked as a band of brothers who combined their skills and determination to build something spectacular. A 26 feet Ratha was built in less than 9 months

with volunteers working on weekends irrespective of the weather to build one of the biggest chariots in the Americas! On July 9th Rath Jatra was observed in Hindu temple at HSNC Morrisville. The festival schedule was planned in advance with volunteers dividing themselves in various groups such as Food preparation and distribution, Ratha decoration, Puja preparation, Traffic Management among other categories. The volunteer groups coordinated among themselves various details of the festival. The festival preparation began a day earlier when cooking was done for almost two thousand devotees who were expected at the Ratha Yatra festival. Various volunteers helped cook the prasada items in the HSNC temple's



kitchen. There were certain sweet dishes that were cooked by volunteers at home also. Similarly the Ratha decoration team assembled the Ratha and decorated it for the festival. The festival began at 9:00 AM on 9th July 2022, with Pahandi of Lord Balabhadra, followed by Maa Subhadra and then of Lord Jagannath from the temple to the chariot. HSNC formally recognized the Jagannath Seva Society for building the Ratha and presented them with the memento. This was followed by Odissi Dance and Bhajan singing in front of the chariot. The chariot pulling was started thereafter at 11 AM. The chariot was pulled by many hundreds which was accompanied by kirtan by ISKCON devotees and Ghanta playing and bhajan sing-

ing. The Ratha was pulled to Gundicha temple where the cultural program took place along with the serving of Prasad to all devotees free of cost. The cultural programs included classical dances, skits and devotional songs. The cultural program went on until 4 PM. Afterwards the lords were returned to the chariot and the Bahuda started, in which they returned to their temple from Gundicha temple. After Lord Jagannath was back in his temple along with his siblings they were decorated with gold ornaments which is known as "Suna Basha" at 6 PM. Morrisville's weather held up just enough for the festival to conclude before torrential rains started. It was as if the rain god Indra himself obliged Lord Jagannath to let him complete his Ratha Yatra.

FoodPro on 21 July

Bhubaneswar(KCN): To support the food processing ecosys-

Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment is go-

2022. The event will be a unique gathering of investors, manufacturers, food processors, startups, policy makers, and organizations from the Indian food ecosystem. Aim of the event is to draw more investment, new skills and technologies into the food processing sector of the state and to give better exposure to SHGs, FPOs, cooperatives and individual units involved in food processing activities.

MSME Minister Pratap Keshari Deb on Monday launched the teaser video of Odisha FoodPro 2022 on July 21,

2022. He was impressed upon the incessant effort of the Government to foster the food processing sector in the State.

Deb also emphasized on bringing in large scale investments from various sources which will lead to inclusive growth of the sector as well as will generate more employment.

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Odisha has embarked upon a journey from India's best kept secret to become India's most developed food processing State, he added. CONTINUED ON: P-7



tem in the state, MSME Department in collaboration with

ing to organise Odisha FoodPro 2022 on July 21,

Congress's Jana Sampark Yatra to focus on south, western districts

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) has decided to focus on the Western and South-

ern Districts of the State for the revival of the party organisation before the 2024 general elections. The Jana Sampark Yatra launched by the OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak from Iram in Balasore district last month has now moved over to Southern districts. OPCC spokesperson Manoranjan Das said that the Yatra recently held in Nabarangpur district evoked a good response from people. The aim of the party is to reclaim the organisational base which was depleted after former MP Pradip Majhi quit the party to join the BJD.

Das said that several local Congress leaders who had crossed over to the BJD with Majhi are now in touch with the party to come back. He said they will be CONTINUED ON: P-7



ern Districts of the State for the revival of the party organisation before the 2024 general elections. The Jana Sampark Yatra launched by the OPCC

Odisha bans entry of journalists to schools, Pradhan says 'inappropriate'

BHUBANESHWAR(KCN): The Odisha government has banned the entry of journalists to schools in some areas after news channels

the fourth pillar of democracy, cannot be stopped from entering a public institution.

The Dhenkanal District Education Officer (DEO) on Saturday directed Block Education Officers and school headmasters not to allow unauthorised entry of journalists into schools and classrooms, and to report such matters to the police.

A similar directive was also issued in the Kendrapara district.



showed how students were poor in mathematics, triggering a political row.

Hitting out at the state government over its decision, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the press, which is

The government's move came after some news channels showed how students were in mathematics -- with class 5 pupils unable to recollect simple tables, official sources said. "It is inappropriate to CONTINUED ON: P-7

Naveen's support for NDA's Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu puts Odisha BJP in a bind

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The BJD has taken the wind out of the sails of the BJP's State unit by going the whole hog and extending its support to the NDA nominated Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announcing his party's support to Murmu even before receiving a formal request from the NDA government or its Presidential candidate has once again proved his political astuteness, killing two birds with one

stone - keeping his party's friendly disposition to the BJP at Centre and shutting the voice of the principal Opposition in the State.

While conveying the message to the people of the State in general and the tribal constituents in particular that the guiding principle of the BJD is 'State first and party next', the Chief Minister has successfully cornered his share of goodwill from the tribal communities which constitute CONTINUED ON: P-7



BJD organized Blood Donation Camp & Tree Plantation Programme

Khordha(KCN): On the occasions of 25th Foundation Day of Odisha ruling Biju Janta Dal(BJD) the

MLA, Rajendra Kumar Sahoo, Tanuja Patsahani, Prakash Chandra Sahoo, Satya Narayan

Rajendra Kumar Sahoo thanked the blood donors and organizer of the camp. The blood donation

of Odisha have been extending support to our party for years together. Our chief has been created for



party organized blood donation camp & tree plantation programme under the leadership of MLA, Begunia & Bolagarh & Chairman Khordha District Planning Committee, Rajendra kumar Sahoo at Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra, under Radha Kanta Pur GP. The programme was Co-ordinated by BYJD, State General Secretary Abyakta Harihar Khadnga. The camp was inaugurated by

Pradhan, Dipti Ranjan Sahoo, Rupakanti Sahoo, Shantilata Ramsingh, Sarapancha Julita Das, social activist Malaya Ranjan and others. In this blood donation camp young girls and youths were voluntarily donates their blood. 47 units blood were collected in this camp. Till now in Begunia & Bolagarh Assembly Constituency more than 4180 units blood were collected. MLA,



camp are being organized by the party under its ongoing Jeevan Bindu programme. Tree plantation programme also organized in the campus of Radha Kanta Pur High School. In his media reactions MLA, Mr. Sahoo said " Under the leadership of Naveen Pattnaik, BJD, has been serving Odisha since long with the grace of Lord Jagannath, the people

serving the people of Odisha. " BJD has been undertaking various programmes to benefit the people and Jeevan Bindu, tree plantation programme among the prime programme. This has been extremely successful in the assembly segment of Begunia & Bolagarh under the leadership of MLA, Rajendra Kumar Sahoo. This programmes is being organized throughout the year.

5 summer essentials for your next beach holiday

Kolkata (KCN): Packing for a holiday should never feel like a chore. Especially when you're jet-setting to white beaches or planning your next outfit for a beach sundowner. You don't want to pack extra nor do you want to pack less. Packing the right number of things, especially for your skin and body to ensure it stays hydrated and moisturized becomes imminent. Fiamo lists down a few things to carry as part of your essentials for your next beach holiday –

1. Waterproof Bag – As much as being around water is magnificent, the fear of having your belongings soaking might keep you away. You may not want to sit far away from the water just to protect your belongings and miss out on most of the fun at the beach. A multi-functional waterproof bag can be your perfect companion. You can use them to store your gadgets and other valuables or for wet swimsuits post your morning dip.
2. Swimsuit coverup for that 'beach to brunch look' – Sport on your swimsuit or your bikini for a stylish dip. Swimsuits are basic while going to any beach but carry and wear a cover-up, add that extra charm, and turn your outfit from sporty swimwear to a brunch or dinner outfit. Pick a flattering and colourful cover-up to add oomph to your outfit and transform your look.
3. Water bottle – Hydration, the most important aspect when you're out in the heat. Water is a necessity and one we can afford to forget while we're out baking in the summer sun. Taking with you a good water bottle will help you stay hydrated even when you are middle of nowhere. A stainless-steel insulated water bottle can be a perfect idea as these bottles are meant to keep the beverages at your desired temperature.
4. Body Wash – All

that sand and seawater often leaves a lingering smell and becomes difficult to wash off. Pack a travel bottle of the Fiamo Menthol and Magnolia Cooling Shower Gel, it's de-

home post the day's activities, Fiamo will leave your skin feeling soft and happy

5. Sunscreen – A major red flag is burnt skin. For a beach-in-a-bottle vibe, pack a hydrating non-oily and non-patchy formula which will keep your skin protected and your holiday smooth sailing. Dermafique's Soleil Defense [All Matte] is a sun care system powered by revolutionary Full Light* Technology. It is designed to protect your skin from the entire Sun Spectrum with RSF 90, PA++

Lazing around on a beach chair with the wind in your hair and the beautiful melody waves crashing on the shore whilst you browse through a magazine is the ultimate vacation dream. These essentials on your checklist will definitely make your trip much more enjoyable! Get ready and go enjoy that sun!



licious fragrance and unique formulation will bring your body temperature down by 3 degrees and put you in that vacay mode instantly! The refreshing gel cleanses your body gently and effectively while being easy to carry. Be it a quick shower outside a shack or a luxurious bath at

Bengaluru's Jagannath Temple hosts Sunabesha

Bengaluru(KCN): The gold ornamenta-



tion ceremony and Return Car Journey of Lord Jagannath were celebrated in



Bengaluru with pomp and splendour. After the Bahuda Yatra of the Four Deities from their Nine days sojourn at Aunt's house, they were decorated in the rarest golden attire on board the chariot. The Devotees were spell bound and overwhelmed by having a glance of Lord of the Universe in His Rajadhiraj dress and having a majestic look atop the colourfully decked up chariot stationed in front of the Temple



at Agara. Due to corona interruptions the devotees were denied to have the glimpse

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of the Gods and Goddess in this royal postures for last two years. As a result unprecedented enthusiasm and unparalleled enchantments witnessed among the spectators this year to have a holy darshan of Lord and get themselves purified. The scene of matching of eyes between devotees and GOD was just momentous and mesmerising.

Earlier the Bahuda Yatra was hosted with tremendous fanfare and unusual spiritual fervour. To mark the Occasion, all the four Deities were offered special Puja at Shri Gundicha temple inside the nearby Ram Mandir. Then the Idols were taken in a grand procession from the

Adap Mandap to the aesthetically decorated chariot stationed in front of the Temple. In the afternoon Trustee of the



temple Prof. Sitikantha Sadangi conducted the traditional sweeping of the chariot called Chhera Pahanra. At about 3.00 p.m. the much awaited pulling of the chariot started amidst the chanting of hymns, raising the slogans like Hari Bol, Jai Jagannath and playing of musical instruments like Ghanta, Mardala, Cymbals, Jhanja and Mrudanga by the servitors and devotees. The Juggernaut rolled down 600 metre towards the main temple being pulled by a spirited crowd of around 10,000 people. Both the Car and Return Journey Festi-



vals were well managed and highly successful because of the able and active role played by the Temple's Management Committee, which include Managing Trustee Kamakshi Prasad Panda and Trust Board Members like Nihar Samantara, Dr. Pratap Pani, Justice Jagannath Prasad Udgata, Haraprasad Mohapatra, Manoj Patra, Punyashloka Khuntia, Manoj Mohapatra, Prakash Samantray, Chakradhar Swain and N.R.B. Pattanaik.

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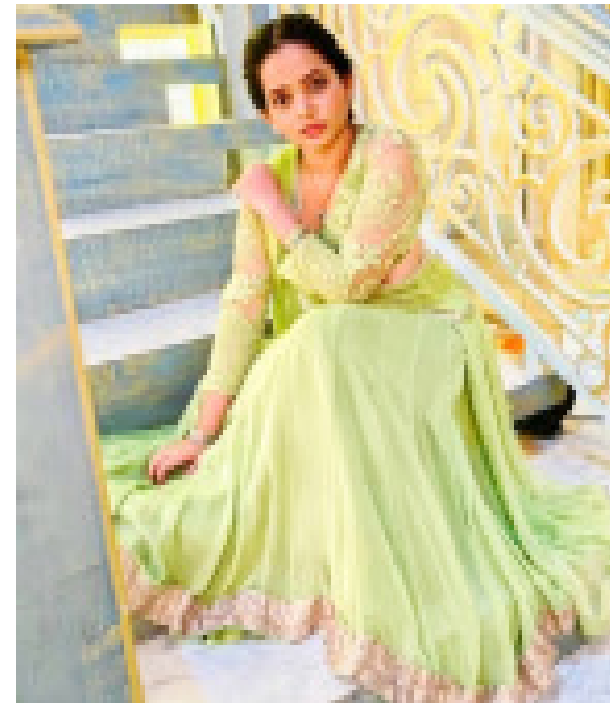
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Now a days the heroines have nothing much in the film, except to flaunt their glamour: Aarushi Sharma

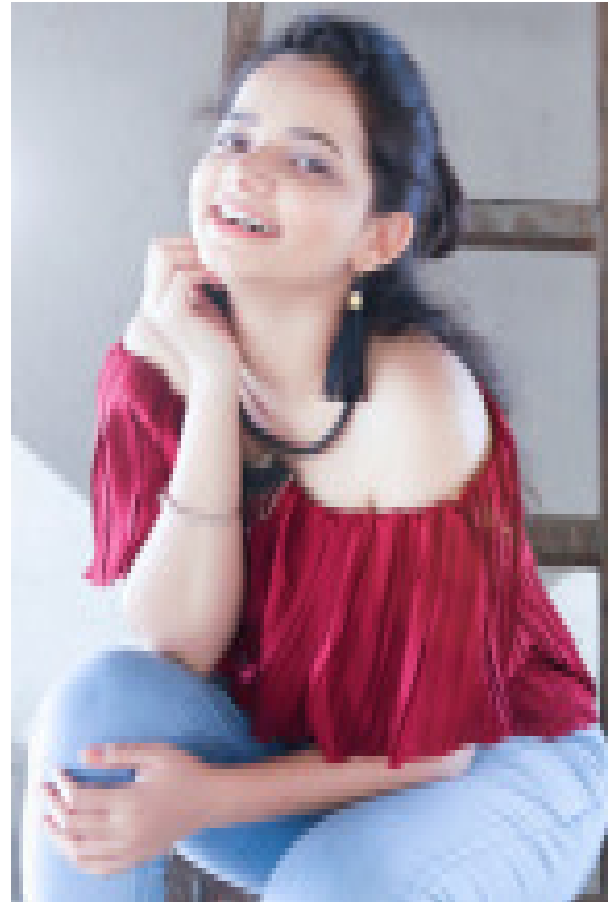
The multi-faceted talented actress “Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi” and Her performance is being widely appreciated and her role as Muskaan is being



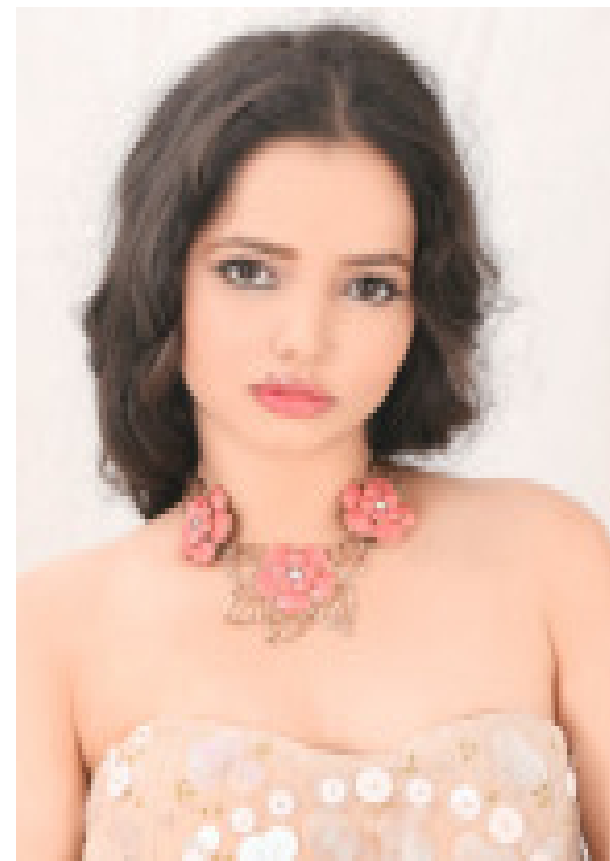
Aarushi Sharma “Muskaan” is now who has left an in-



ciated and her role as Muskaan is being



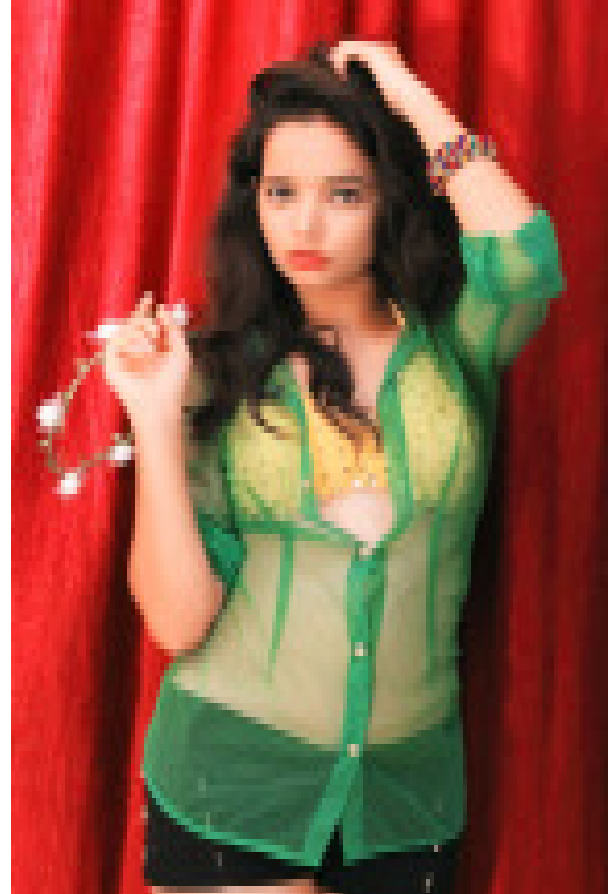
M i s h r a start soon. That way (Deepshikha) and I was highly ben-



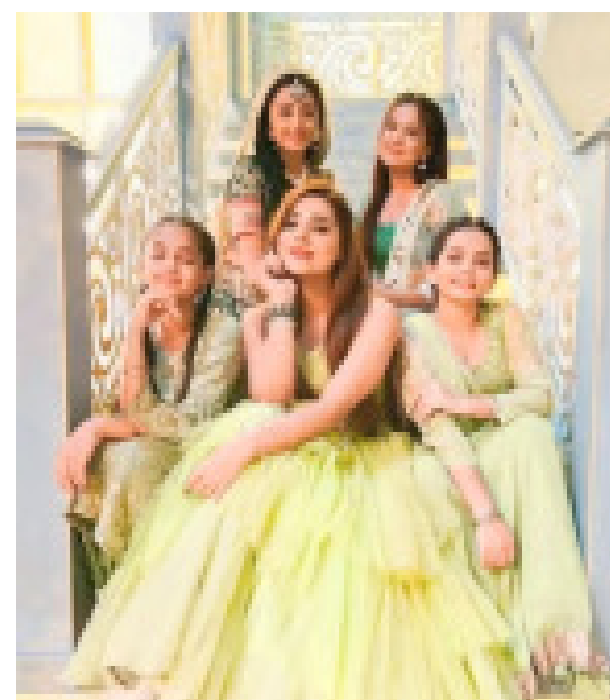
delible impression of her acting on TV serial “Ranju Ki



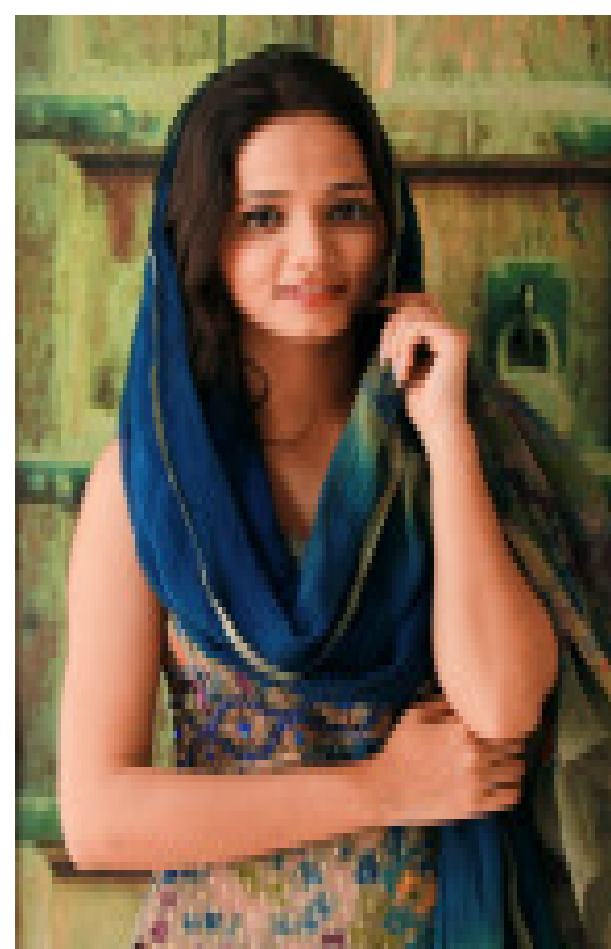
highly acclaimed by the viewers. third daughter. My mother brings us



harasses our family. Till now my role was that of an innocent and bubbly girl. But henceforth my role will be different and the viewers will be taken aback by my new role. The viewers will certainly like the new twist in the story. About her film ventures Aarushi says “I had signed a film in the South. However the project could not start early due



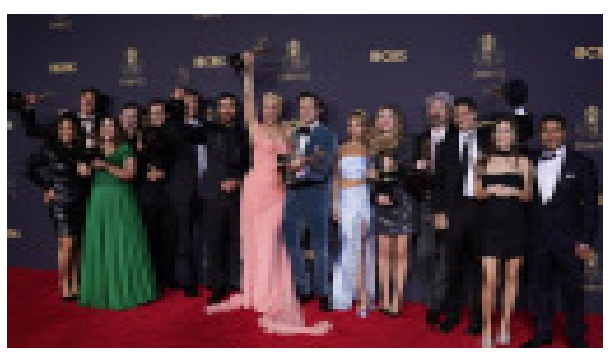
viewers' mind with her TV serials like telecast now a days on “Dangal TV”.



About her role in “Ranju Ki up- we four sisters. My father deserts

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

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



Mj Rodriguez ('Pose'), the late Michael K. Williams ('Lovecraft Country') and Kenan Thompson and Bowen Yang ('Saturday Night Live') -- but in the end, all ended up empty-handed.

Conviction for Common Intention & Amp; Common Object

Under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 there are two provisions relating to conviction for common intention under Section 34 and under Section 149 IPC for common object. In the said both sections the "common" word is common. Section 34 of the Code contemplates that when a criminal act is done by several persons in furtherance of the common intention of all, each of such persons is liable for that act. In the same manner as if it were done by him alone. Section 149 of the Code contemplates that if an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly in prosecution of the common object of that assembly or such as the members of the assembly knew to be liable to be committed in prosecution of that object, every person at the time of committing that offence is a member of the same assembly is guilty of that offence. The Hon'ble Supreme Court for the first time deals with the distinction between Section 34 and Section 149 in the case of Nanak Chand Versus State of Punjab (1955) 1 SCR 1201. In the said judgment the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the distinction between the provisions of Sections 34 and 149 of the Indian Penal Code for dispelling the confusion between the two sections. As per the said judgment, the principal element in Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code is the common intention to commit a crime. In furtherance of the common intention several acts may be done by several persons resulting in the commission of that crime/a crime. Under such situation Section 34 provides that each one of them would be liable for that crime in the same manner as if all acts resulting in that crime had been done by him alone.



Radha Shyam Jena

There is no question of common intention in Section 149 of the Code. An offence may be committed by member of unlawful assembly and the other members also liable for that offence although there was no common intention between the person and the other members of the unlawful assembly to commit that offence provided the condition laid down in the section are fulfilled. Thus if the offence committed by that person is in prosecution of the common object of the unlawful assembly or such as the members of that assembly knew to be liable to be committed in prosecution of the common object. Every member of the unlawful assembly would be guilty of that offence. Although there may be no common intention and no participation by other members in the actual commission of that offence.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court further clarifies that the difference between the object and intention is that the object may be common, the intentions of several members of the unlawful assembly may differ and indeed may be similar only in respect of namely that they all are unlawful while the element of one respect namely that they are all unlawful, while the element of participation in action which is leading feature of Section 34 is recommitting of

the offence. Subsequently, a case came before the Hon'ble Supreme Court under appeal against the order of the Allahabad High Court titled Suraj Pal Versus State of Uttar Pradesh (1955) 1 SCR 1332 wherein a person was charged along with others under Sections 302 and 307 of the Indian Penal Code each read with Section 149 of the Code. The Hon'ble Supreme Court held his convictions and sentences for substantial offences under Section 302 and 307 of the code are erroneous. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has further held that the absence of specific charges under Section 302 and 307 read with Section 149 of the Code is a serious lacuna in the proceedings. In as much as the framing of specific and distinct charge in respect of every distinct head of criminal liability constituting an offence is the foundation for a conviction and sentence therefor. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has clarified the serious lacuna in the judgment of the High Court that the conviction in the circumstances under Section 302 and 307 of the code and sentences of death and transportation for life cannot be maintained unless the court is satisfied on the facts of the case that the accused has not been prejudiced in his trial. Whether or not in such a situation the questioning of the accused during the course of his examination under Section 342 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (the new code Section 313 of Cr.P.C. 1973) in relation to the offences under Section 302 and 307 of the Indian Penal Code can be relied upon as obviating the likelihood of prejudice has to be determined with reference to the facts and circumstances of the case.

The above mentioned two cases came before the Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court titled Willie (William) Slaney Vs The State of Madhya Pradesh (1955) 2 SCR 1140 for discussion and further clarification in regard to the framing of the charges under Section 34 and 149 of the Code wherein the constitution bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has elaborately clarified that the code does not use the word "illegality" nor define "irregularity" and "illegality". The object of the charge is to give the accused notice of the matter he is charged with and does not touch jurisdiction. The basic object of framing charge in a criminal case is to give an opportunity to the accused a notice of the matter charged with and does not touch jurisdiction. Therefore an object of framing a charge against an accused is the necessary information conveyed to him in other ways and there is no prejudiced the trial is not validated by the mere fact that the charge was not formally reduced to writing. The essential part of law is not a technical formula of words but the reality whether the matter was explained to the accused for defending himself or through his lawyer at the time of trial to explore the veracity of the facts and the law to follow the facts for appropriate punishment under the law. In the case of Willie (William) Slaney Vs The State of Madhya Pradesh, the con-

flict arose between the common intention and the common object. In the case of Nanak Chand Versus The State of Punjab (1955) 1 SCR 1201 and Suraj Pal Vs The State of U.P. (1955) 1 SCR 1332 the court does not use the word "illegality" nor defined "irregularity" and illegality can only mean an incurable irregularity, incurable because of prejudice leading to a failure of justice, the question of prejudiced is a question of fact to be decided by the court in each particular case. If both the cases examined and analyzed it would appear that there is no conflict of view between Nanak Chand Vs The State of Punjab and Suraj Pal Vs The State of U.P. In considering whether a defect is illegal or merely irregular then several facts will have to be considered including its gravity to determine if it falls within one class or the other. The more recent attitude of the judicial committee is summed up. The distinction drawn in many of the cases between an illegality and irregularity is one degree rather than of kind.

In that case an endeavor was made in the argument to draw a distinction between cases calling under Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code and those under Section 149 of the Indian Penal Code. It was contended that even if no separate charge is necessary when Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code and those under Section 149 of the Indian Penal Code. It is respectfully submitted that for clarifying the distinction between the Section 149 of the IPC and Section 34 of the IPC the Supreme Court referred the following cases: "The following cases afford no difficulty because they directly accord with the view we have set out at length above. "In Lachman Singh v. The State it was held that when there is a charge under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code read with section 149 and the charge under section 149 disappears because of the acquittal of some of the accused, a conviction under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code read with section 34 is good even though there is no separate charge under section 302 read with section 34, provided the accused could have been so charged on the facts of the case. The decision in Karnail Singh v. The State of Punjab is to the same effect and the question about prejudice was also considered. Pandurang, Tukia and Bhillia v. State of Hyderabad also presents no difficulty because though the point was taken in that case it was expressly left open at page 1093.

From there we come to Suraj Pal v. The State of U.P. That was a case in which a number of accused were charged under sections 307/149 and sections 302/149 of the Indian Penal Code. It was found that there was no common object to kill, so all the accused were acquitted under section 149. But the evidence disclosed that the appellant had himself made an attempt on the life of one man and had himself shot another dead. Accordingly, the High Court convicted him under sections 307 and 302 of the Indian Penal Code respectively, though there was no separate charge under either of those sec-

tions. Those convictions were challenged here. This Court held that the omission to frame a charge is a serious lacuna but despite that the real question is whether that caused prejudice. The learned Judges then proceeded to determine the question of prejudice on the facts of that case. The conclusion reached on the facts was that prejudice was disclosed, so an acquittal was ordered."

In the matter William Versus The State of Madhya Pradesh, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has clarified that Section 149 has a specific offence and without applying its provisions a member of an unlawful assembly could not be made liable for offence committed not by him but another member of that assembly.

Therefore, the case is not similar to the one where there is a charge under Section 302 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code when Section 149 is ruled out the liability of murder ceases to be constructive. In the said Judgment the Hon'ble Supreme Court has categorically observed : Section 34, 114 & 149 of the Indian Penal Code provide for criminal liability viewed from different angles as regards actual participants accessories and men actuated by a common object or common intention and the charge is a rolled up one involving direct liability and constructive liability without specifying who are directly liable and who are sought to be made constructively liable. The facts in each case has to be considered separately after being analyzed in order to decide that which was prima facie invalid is deemed to be valid by virtue of its provisions.

In the case of Bikau Pandey & Ors. Versus State of Bihar (2003) 12 SCC 616 wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the word "object" means the purpose or design or in order to make it common. It must be shared by all. In other words, the object should be common to the persons who composed the assembly, that is to say they should aware of it and they should conquer in it. Common object is different from common intention as it does not require concert and a common meeting of minds before the attack.

In the case of Suresh & Anr. Versus State of U.P. (2001) 3 SCC 673 the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that liability of accused who was only present at the scene of the offence. Section 34 of the IPC makes accused liable for ultimate criminal act done by several accused persons in furtherance of common intention of all of them. It does not require separate individual acts by all the accused persons. Therefore, in view of the above analysis of the Supreme Court Judgment common intention and common object in prosecuting the studies, there is no distinction between the Section 34 and 149 of the IPC. The difference can be analyzed taking into the facts entirely the nature and the gravity of the case under Section 34 and Section 149 of the IPC.

The author is a Advocate Supreme Court Advocate, 209, New Lawyers' Chamber, BhagwanDass Road, New Delhi-110001, Email id: rs.jena@yahoo.co.in

Rail Link for Coal Mine Odisha Exports 4560 Cr Seafood

New Delhi: The first stretch of the Mahanadi Coal Railway Ltd (MCRL), being set up to transport coal from Talcher Coalfields, is expected to be functional in 2022, and ensure faster movement of coal rakes to Paradip and Damra ports, decongest the rail network, and reduce the transportation cost considerably.



To ensure efficient coal evacuation, construction of rail lines started in a phased manner in Talcher Coalfields namely MCRL. The Ministry of Coal has identified construction of MCRL Phase I & II project as a high Impact project under PM GatiShakti. The MCRL was incorporated on 31.08.2015 with 64 per cent share of Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL), 26 per cent of IRCON and 10 per cent share of Industrial Development Corporation of Odisha (IDCO). The Alignment of the project traverses through Angul district in Odisha. Angul and Jarapda are existing stations of the Indian Railways network. Balram is an existing loading station in Talcher –Balram private siding of MCL.

Under the MCRL's Phase-I, the 14-km-long Angul-Balram corridor, expected to be

operationalised by this year, will have movement of 25 MT coal from MCL mines in Talcher Coalfields.

Phase-II, the 54-km-long Balram-Jarpada-Tentuloi span, is expected to be commissioned by December 2025 and provides connectivity to allocated coal blocks on the southern side and central part of Talcher Coalfields.

Work is progressing rapidly, as notification for land acquisition and forestry clearances have been obtained, the Ministry said, adding that this line will cater to evacuation of around 58 MT coal from CIL and non-CIL coal blocks in Talcher.

The Ministry said that shipping routes are much cheaper compared to the rail network and will improve coal availability in the southern and western region of the country.

The rail corridor will improve faster movement of coal rakes to Paradip and Damra ports thereby decongesting the rail network and this will also reduce transportation cost considerably.

Talcher Coalfields of Mahanadi Coalfield is one of the largest with about 52 BT of coal resources, which is 15 per cent of total prognosticate coal resources in the country. Of the available resources in Talcher Coalfield, more than 63 per cent (33 BT) lies within 300 metres depth, presenting significant potential for open cast mining, Coal Ministry said in a statement here on Monday.

Talcher coalfields produced more than 95 Million Tonne (MT) coal during FY22 and likely to produce about 200 MT in FY 2024-25 and about 300 by FY 2030 from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and allocated coal blocks, it said.

Murmu's nomination PM's token of respect for Odisha: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

BERHAMPUR(KCN): Droupadi Murmu's candidature for the President's post is a token of affection and respect of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Odia people, Union Education and

daughter Droupadi Murmu for the country's highest constitutional post," said Pradhan. Odisha has been made the development laboratory of Union Government led by the Prime Min-

Prime Minister Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat, Souvagya Yojana, Jal Jeevan programme, Ujjwala scheme and other central schemes. Huge funds have been provided to Odisha

port comes up, it would benefit the people of Ganjam and enhance the economy of the region.

"To make Odisha developed and give jobs to every youth, we have to make Odisha Modimaya," he



Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Sunday. The Union Minister was on a one-day visit to Ganjam where he addressed a massive public meeting of party workers at Golanthara. "On behalf of 4.5 crores Odias, I convey my gratitude to the Prime Minister for nominating tribal

ister, he said and exhorted BJP workers to take Narendra Modi's welfare programmes to each household. "Modi hai toh mumkin hai," he told the BJP workers' gathering, organised to celebrate eight years of the Modi Government. He said the people of Odisha have benefitted immensely under

during the last eight years for the development of road, railway and airport sectors, he added.

He said the long-standing demand of the people of Ganjam for the establishment of an airport at Berhampur will be fulfilled by Modi Government soon after State Government provides land for the purpose. Once the air-

said. Pradhan also dedicated the new boys' hostel of IISER, visited the campus and planted saplings. He hoped that IISER will promote science in the country. He visited the Tara Tarini shrine and offered prayer to the Goddess. Earlier, he was accorded a grand reception at several places in Ganjam by BJP activists.

Bhubaneswar: Odisha, which is 4th largest State in aquaculture production in the country, has exported seafoods worth Rs 4560 crore during last financial year.

This was informed by Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Ranendra Pratap Swain while speaking at a seminar on "Diversified Aquaculture with Special Focus to GIFT" here at Krushi Bhawan on Monday.

Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) in association with Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department have organised the seminar.

Swain inaugurated the seminar as chief guest and congratulated MPEDA for rendering essential service to the aquaculture farmers and exporters of India which has made record all time high exports figures i.e. 7.7 billion US \$ during 2021-22 in spite of Covid-19 Pandemic.

Swain expressed his pleasure on the overall fisheries development of Odisha and said the total production was 9.91 lakh Metric tons during last financial year.



Seafood exports from Odisha touched a record Rs 4560 crores during last year and all credits goes to the farmers, hatchery operators, feed manufacturers, exporters, researchers and workers who contributed for the fish production and exports, he said.

Diversification of species and Best Management Practices (BMP) must be adopted in an intensive manner so as to ensure the eco-friendly and sustainable aquaculture for better production. Some sort of rectification in policy and more funding towards R&D is required to scaling up the socio-economic development of the farmers through aquaculture activities, he said.

Swain said Odisha deserved to be No.1 State in India in aquaculture for which the present Government is highly committed and he assured that all the help required for the sector will be extended.

"The Chief Minister has introduced the 5T system in Odisha for good governance which is unique in our Country. It is time to learn from diversified aquaculture from other countries such as Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, China and even our neighbour Bangladesh where they grow more than 50 varieties of fish," said the Minister.

This has made those countries to grow speedily in

Eleventh hour invite keeps Mamata away as Smriti Irani inaugurates Sealdah metro station

KOLKATA: Amid controversy over the way Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was invited for the event, the Sealdah metro railway sta-



tion of the East-West Metro corridor was inaugurated by Union minister Smriti Irani on Wednesday.

Sources at the Nabanna, the state secretariat, said the invitation to the CM was received but she will be travelling to north Bengal on Monday but the Trinamool Congress, slammed the BJP government at the Centre, alleging that the CM was invited at the eleventh hour following mounting public criticism.

"This is nothing but last-minute realisation by the Metro on its mistake in the face of mounting public criticism They knew the CM's plan to visit north Bengal, but still they organised the event so that she is not available," alleged TMC MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

TMC MP Sudip Bandopadhyay and TMC MLA Paresh Pal were invited to the event.

With the inauguration of the new facility, Sealdah has been connected with the IT hub in Sector V, Salt Lake. The services will be available for common people from July 15. The BJP alleged the TMC unnecessarily is

aquaculture and make their farmers very prosperous. In any business, product diversification is key for growth and enduring success.

Diversification gives vast options to farmers and the entire sector and makes them very resilient to various shocks including disease epidemics, climate changes and market fluctuations, he pointed out. Similarly, diversification gives consumers a wide range of seafood options. In spite of a marathon achievement in vannamei production in the last one and half decades, still introducing more and more viable species must be included in the brackish water culture system to enhance the production and accelerate the foreign export, said the Minister.

Use of unused water bodies and sustainable exploitation of aquaculture resources must be emphasized by the department. Like trending now, aquaculture infrastructure development must be on the peak priority list.

Odisha Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding with MPEDA-RGCA for developing and renewing of Odisha Shrimp Seed Production and Research Centre (OSSPARC) hatchery in Gopalpur for seabass and P. monodon seed pro-

duction centre which is a dream project of the Chief Minister. With the joint effort of MPEDA, the Department of Fisheries can do more projects in Odisha State, which is well known for mineral deposits and it will be well known for "Odisha Machha" hereafter, added the Minister. Delivering the keynote address, R. Raghu Prasad, Principal Secretary, Fisheries and ARD said the department of Fisheries has introduced Go-SUGAM portal to make an ease of "application process" for the beneficiaries under different schemes/components.

Odisha really required an alternative species for freshwater aquaculture and thus GIFT Tilapia can fulfil the requirements, he said. Odisha has 4.18 lakh ha of Brackish water resources and 480 Km of coastline for fisheries development of the State. These brackish water and coastal lines are very important for Odisha for augmenting fish production by introduction of diversified species.

Through introduction of circular cage culture in Hirakud Reservoir, Odisha has immense potential to produce additional 1.25 lakh MT of fish from major reservoirs in collaboration with the PFCS members and private entrepreneurs, said Director of Fisheries, Smruti Ranjan Pradhan

raising hue and cry knowing well that the CM was invited and sometimes, such incitation process takes time.

"None of our elected representatives in the Parliament and in the Bengal Assembly get invitations from the state government to attend official events. The TMC should hold a mirror to itself," said BJP's national vice-president Dilip Ghosh

The Metro Railway Kolkata, which is a part of the Indian Railways, on Sunday night said they sent the invitations for the programme to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), local MP Bandyopadhyay and local TMC MLA Paresh Pal.

The TMC has been claiming that the railways scheduled the inauguration on Monday, knowing very well that the chief minister would be not in the city to attend it.

Also, the invitation was sent to her office at the "last minute" under public pressure. Banerjee is on a tour to northern West Bengal.

Criticising the TMC, BJP leader Rahul Sinha said the ruling party is "paying for its past sins".

"During the Left Front government, Mamata Banerjee, as the railway minister, did not invite then chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee to official functions on several occasions. So they should be the last to talk about courtesy," he said.

"Even then, the chief minister, and the local TMC MP and MLA were invited, but they want to make an issue out of it," Sinha added. The foundation stone for the East-West Metro project, which will connect Howrah to Kolkata and Salt Lake when fully operational, was laid in February 2009 by the then chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee.

Plantation Programme Organized by SAMPARK a social organisation

Khordha(KCN): Social Organization SAMPARK organized plantation programme

Subham Ram, Journalists, Prabhat Mishra, Pradeep Behera, Subhranshu Ranjan



in Smart Cremation Ground at TLC, road

Khordha. In this occasions ADM, Khordha, Manoj Kumar Padhi, Sub-Collector, Bhubaneswar, Debabrata Sahoo, Former Register, Berhampur University, Prof. Dr. Narayan Rao, DCO-cum-Incharge, DIPRO, Khordha, Chaudhury Arabinda Das, Vice-Chairman, Khordha, Municipality, Sourya Ranjan Mohanty, Director SAMPARK, Uma Shankar Prasad, Secretary, Lalit Mohan Swain, Advisor, Radheshyam Bhagat, Social Activist's, Pradyumna Mohanty, Ram Shankar, Kashi Nath Ray, Itishree Sahoo,



the existence of trees in the world. With a message to " Saplings a Plants and Save the Nature".

Wait For 2739 Cr GST Compensation

Bhubaneswar: The State Government is yet to receive over Rs 2739 crore as part of GST compensation from the Government of India.



According to a statement given by State Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari in the Odisha Legislative Assembly, the Centre is yet to release GST companion of Rs 1167.50 crore due for the financial year 2021-22 and Rs 1571.83 crore for the first two months of the current fiscal.

As per the provisions of GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, if the states' GST revenue does not grow by at least 14 per cent over the base year (2015-16), the Centre has to pay the shortfall amount, on a bi-monthly basis for the first five years of implementing the GST Act. The Union Government has implemented the Goods and Services Tax (GST) since July 1, 2017.

The Government of India has released GST compensation of Rs 2348.08 crore in the financial year 2017-18 against the protected revenue of Rs 10,769.79 crore, Mr.Pujari said.

Similarly, he said, Rs 4241.08 crore has been sanctioned to Odisha in 2018-19 against the protected revenue of Rs 16,370.08 crore

Samantaray, Jayanta Ray, Educationist S a t y a b a d i Baliarsingh and others were saplings plants in the premises of Cremation Ground. The main purpose of tree plantation is to save the endangered environment and to beauty our life. Trees are valuable gifts of nature. They are known as the best friends of human beings. They benefits us in various ways. The lives of men and other animals and insects are in conceivable without

the existence of trees in the world. With a message to " Saplings a Plants and Save the Nature".

the existence of trees in the world. With a message to " Saplings a Plants and Save the Nature".

Adhar Pana for Trinity

Puri(KCN): A day after the sibling deities of Shree Jagannath Temple dazzled in their golden attire on the occasion of Suna Besha, they were offered a special holy drink called 'Adhara Pana' on their respective gigantic chariots on Monday. After performing the daily 'nitis' of the deities, the Trinity were adorned with new clothes for 'Sahana Mela'.

Nine large barrel-shaped pitchers, filled with the drink, were placed before the three deities (three on each chariot). The juice is offered as a token to the lips of the deities deified in their individual chariots to break their fast or ekadasi. The priests recited 'Sodasa

Upachar' and of- were smashed on the



fered the drinks to the deities. 'Adhara' means 'Lip' and 'Pana' is a sweet-scented drink. Soon after the completion of the rituals, the barrels

floor of chariots making Adhar Pana to spill all over the wooden floor. As per the rituals, the smashing of these earthen pots is made to ensure that

devotees do not get it and all the minor deities or the Parswa Devtas present at the side of three chariots consume it and get satiated once they consume the Pana.

The Rath rakshyaks who accompanied the sibling deities to Shree Gundicha temple during Rath Jatra and guarded the deities on the chariots, will get the holy drink.

Lord Jagannath and his siblings would remain on their respective chariots for another day and enter the sanctum sanctorum of the temple tomorrow in a ceremonial 'Pahandi' procession to be conducted by the Daita servitors. Before entering the temple, the deities would be offered Rasagolla Bhog on the chariots.



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IndiGo to 'rationalize' salaries of aircraft maintenance technicians following mass sick leaves

NEW DELHI: IndiGo on Monday said it will rationalize the salaries of its aircraft maintenance technicians following mass sick leaves. A sizeable number of the airline's aircraft per cent of IndiGo's domestic flights were



"rationalize" the salaries of its aircraft maintenance technicians and remove "anomalies cause by the pandemic", according to internal communication.

maintenance technicians went on sick leave on Saturday and Sunday in Hyderabad and Delhi to protest against their salaries, sources said. On July 2, around 55

delayed as a significant number of its cabin crew members took sick leave, with sources saying they ostensibly went for an Air India recruitment drive.

IndiGo had slashed the salaries of a large section of its employees when the COVID-19 pandemic was at its peak.

S C Gupta, IndiGo's Senior Vice President (Engineering) sent an email to aircraft maintenance technicians Monday, stating that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the aviation industry as a whole including IndiGo has been through an unprecedented challenging period over the last 30 months.

PTI has accessed the email sent by Gupta. The technicians' commitment towards the airline has remained steady

fastly consistent through this rather difficult period, he mentioned.

"I am apprised of a few of your concerns about salary increases and I understand that during the last two years we have not been able to revise your compensation in accordance with historical levels," he noted.

"I have reviewed this with our Leadership and our HR Group and I am pleased to share that we have agreement on rationalizing the anomalies caused by the pandemic. The letters re-

flecting this rationalization will be issued to you over the next two weeks and will be with effect from August 1, 2022," he mentioned.

He said he is confident the technicians will continue working with the same zeal and accountability as always. New airline Akasa Air, revamped Jet Airways and Tata group-owned Air India have started hiring processes and this has created a churn in the aviation industry, with many employees looking at greener pastures.

Delhi courses academy impresses international digital marketing competition, wins second position

NEW DELHI: Digital marketing is not just a soft skill but also a means to revolutionize conventional and digital businesses into various dimensions. Thus, digital marketing has become a prospective educa-



tional course, and the Delhi Courses Academy proves to be a leading institute with ace teachers. Delhi Courses Academy has recently won the second position in an internationally acclaimed Online Marketing Academic Challenge.

The IOMAC awarded four students of the Delhi Courses Academy for their commendable performance in an online marketing competition. The one-month-long competition that tested participants' skills was organized by the Online Marketing Academic Challenge team.

The IOMAC is an annual competition held in the Asia Pacific, Middle East, and Africa region to identify the skills of digital marketers and appreciate them. The competition offers outstanding students from around the world the opportunity to showcase their skills in digital marketing.

Delhi Courses Academy was represented by four students: one consisting of teams that performed exceptionally well in terms of knowledge acquisition and presentation skills. The Delhi Courses Academy team outperformed hundreds of participants who enrolled in the competition. Also, the Delhi Courses Academy won the fifth rank in 360-degree digital marketing planning.

IOMAC is a platform that encourages students to create effective and profitable digital marketing strategies for businesses. The participants are divided into teams, and they have to create a strategy that would improve the company's brand image along with sales.

To effectively create a return on investment (ROI), the teams are then provided with a budget. This budget will create genuine money for their clients, who are real-life businesses needing help to flourish. The students must provide a report before and after their campaign that details the planning and implementation of strategies, and the insights they acquired from putting the campaign into action. The reports are then sent to judges, who examined them and decided whether or not the teams were successful in their endeavors.

Congress's Jana Sampark Yatra to focus on south, western districts

Continued from page-1

admitted to the party soon at a function to be held here.

The Yatra will move to Kalahandi and Nuapada districts on Monday where the party targets to build on the existing base. Das, however, said that the district was once a stronghold of the party before losing space to the BJD and BJP. The yatra will move to those areas in the district where it had a strong base, he added.

Congress has a legislator from the Nuapada district. The yatra will then move to the Kandhamal district from Nuapada. Das said that the party has possibilities in several constituencies of the district where it had MLAs in the past. After taking over as the new president of the OPCC, Pattanayak announced that the party will launch Jana Sampark Yatra in all 30 districts.

Naveen's support for NDA's Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu puts Odisha BJP in a bind

Continued from page-1

around 23 per cent of Odisha's population.

Patnaik is the first Chief Minister in the country who even went the extra mile to seek support from a traditional political rival like Congress despite pronouncements by senior leaders of the grand old party that they will toe the party line and vote for Opposition-sponsored nominee Yashwant Sinha.

The State BJP which has been engaged in a shadow fight with the BJD for so long has been left in a quandary. "The Chief Minister by extending his party's support to Murmu has turned the tables on the state BJP. The periodical murmurs of the party against the ruling BJD will have little impact as the message has gone louder to the people," admitted a senior leader of the party.

"The BJD support to Murmu, no doubt, is for the larger interest of the BJP at the national level. The party will reap the benefits in the coming elections in other states once Murmu is elected as President of India, but it will bring no reward for the State BJP when its popularity is on the wane," the sources added. Reacting to the comment of a party MP that the BJD's support of the Murmu was a political compulsion, another BJP leader said he was surprised to see the poor reading of the situation. Perception matters a lot in politics, he added.

"The Chief Minister has astutely turned a disadvantageous situation into an opportunity, while in a similar situation his counterparts in other states are in a fix. States ruled by regional parties and partners of Opposition camp are now contemplating to switch sides and vote for Murmu else it will prove detrimental for them," the BJP leader said.

Odisha bans entry of journalists to schools, Pradhan says 'inappropriate'

Continued from page-1

impose restrictions on media's entry into school campuses. In a democratic setup, a school is a public institution. Media should not create disturbance in the process of learning, but the fourth pillar of democracy cannot be denied entry into campuses for the purpose of collecting news," Pradhan said.

BJP MP Aparajta Sarangi, who is well known for her work as the state's school and mass education secretary, said she was surprised with the directive.

"It is unfortunate and the order should be withdrawn immediately," she said. Senior Congress MLA Suresh Routray said it was not the first time that such restrictions were imposed on journalists.

"They are yet to get entry into the assembly in the name of COVID-19. Journalists have been denied entry to the state secretariat for two years and also the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack," he said.

Defending the government, School and Mass Education Minister SR Dash said the press has the right to highlight wrongs, but reporters of some web portals were entering campuses without permission and disturbing the atmosphere of the schools. Different journalist associations in the state also opposed the move, demanding its roll back.

FoodPro on 21 July

Continued from page-1

In giving the welcome address, Principal Secretary, MSME Department, Ranjana Chopra briefed about the upcoming event and the roadmap of the food processing sector the State is going to adopt in the upcoming years. She showed optimism on Odisha becoming a key hub in the country in food processing in near future and a destined global hub for the eastern part of the world.

A brief interactive session was held among entrepreneurs from all categories like micro entrepreneurs, established industrialists and Self-Help Groups. They highlighted the business ecosystem that has been provided by the State and its important role in their success. The programme was also addressed by, inter alia, Agriculture Production Commissioner cum ACS Sanjeev Chopra, Executive Chairman of Startup Odisha Omkar Rai, Principal Secretary of Industries Department Hemant Sharma, Director of Industries Md Saddique Alam, MD IPICOL Bhupendra Singh Poonia and MD APICOL Pravat Kumar Roul.

Adani Group's spectrum bidding plans to fuel competition in auctions, enterprise 5G: Analysts

NEW DELHI: The Adani Group's entry into spectrum bidding will intensify competition in upcoming auctions as well as the enterprise

direct spectrum assignment.

"The question is why would Adanis bid in auction versus awaiting a direct spectrum assignment? Adani's

GHZ and 26 GHz bands for provision of private enterprise 5G network services," said Credit Suisse.

ALSO READ | Tech

Adani Group foraying into consumer mobility in the future is "non-zero".

"While the Adani group has expressly denied intentions of entering the consumer mobility business, we believe that market participants may still view this as a low, distant possibility given the sector's history. However, it would require a meaningfully higher capital commitment," said the report.

A total of 72,097.85 MHz of spectrum worth at least Rs 4.3 lakh crore will be put on the block during the auction, set to commence on July 26, 2022.

The auction will be held for spectrum in various low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), mid (3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands.

While the 5G spectrum in nine frequency bands will be auctioned, the Notice Inviting Applications -- the bid-related document issued by the Telecom Department -- said tech firms will be allowed to take the 5G spectrum for their captive non-public network on lease from the telecom companies.

The bid document said direct allocation of spectrum to tech companies will follow a demand study and sector regulator's recommendation on aspects such as pricing and modalities of such allocation.

entry will create uncertainty over spectrum pricing in the 5G auctions which was expected to see bidding competition primarily between Bharti Airtel and RJio," it said in a report.

Goldman Sachs observed that while the group has said it does not intend to be in the consumer mobility space, "we believe if the Adani Group does end up buying spectrum in the upcoming auction, it could potentially increase competition in enterprise 5G, in addition to opening the doors for the Adani Group to expand into consumer mobile services over time."

Globally, 5G services have been launched in three bands -- 700MHz (coverage), 3.5GHz (5G coverage and capacity) and 26GHz (capacity and low latency).

"However, with Adani group ruling out offering consumer mobility services, we believe that its participation in 5G spectrum auctions will be limited to 3.5

firms unveil plan for 'space-based' 5G network

It added that the group's foray to provide standalone 5G enterprise network solutions was a tad "unclear" given that globally, 5G enterprise use cases are still under pilot stages.

Credit Suisse also questioned the rationale behind bidding for 5G spectrum in auctions when the Centre has already allowed private enterprises to set up captive non-public network by acquiring spectrum from the government for nominal cost and without any licence fees.

"Whereas, acquiring a 100 MHz block on pan-India basis in 3.5 GHz band is likely to cost Rs 317 billion (Rs 31,700 crore) and 500 MHz in 26 GHz band is likely to cost another Rs 35 billion (Rs 3,500 crore). Of course, these come with comfortable payment terms," it wrote.

Credit Suisse felt that the possibility of



5G space, brokerages said on Monday. Billionaire Gautam Adani's group on Saturday confirmed it is in the race to acquire spectrum, which it said will be used to create a private network to support its businesses from airports to power as well as data centres. "As India prepares to roll out next generation 5G services though this auction, we are one of the many applicants participating in the open bidding process," the company had said, adding its intention is not to be in the consumer mobility space.

On Monday, BofA Securities in a note on the Adani Group's plans to bid in 5G auctions said, "We consider this news flow negative for incumbent telcos as it increases competition in upcoming auction bidding as well as in the long-term opportunity to target the enterprise space."

Brokerage CLSA wondered why Adani would bid in auction versus awaiting a di-

Diogo Jota looking to cement place in Liverpool strike force

BANGKOK: Diogo Jota said Monday he was looking to cement a place in Liverpool's strike force for the new season following the departures of Sadio

eclipsed by the star-power of centre Mane last season. But with the Senegal player's departure for Bayern Munich for a three-year deal, speculation has

Of course, with the years you add extra responsibility," Jota told LiverpoolFC.com. "Of course that allows me to be one of the senior players,

Jota said "hopefully I can be on the scoresheet often and that's what I want: to help the team and score goals so we can win football matches".



Mane, Divock Origi and Takumi Minamino. The 25-year-old Portuguese forward, speaking from Thailand ahead of the clash in capital Bangkok against Manchester United on Tuesday night, was sometimes

grown about how manager Jurgen Klopp will redistribute his centre players. "Obviously those (three) departed and only one arrived -- well, Fabio (Carvalho) as well but I'm not sure where he is going to play yet.

with that comes extra responsibility as well but I think that I am ready for that." ALSO READ | Ronaldo 'not for sale' insists Manchester United manager before Liverpool clash Speaking about the upcoming season,

The player picked up an "unlucky" hamstring injury while on international duty over the summer, but was optimistic about his form. "I just had the summer to recover well and start the pre-season at 100 per cent," he said.

Djokovic hopes for virus rule change to allow him to play US Open

LONDON: Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic is hoping US authorities change entry rules in time to allow him to compete at the US Open, even though he refuses to be vaccinated against coronavirus.

The Serbian top seed beat Nick Kyrgios in four sets on Sunday to win his seventh title at the All England Club and 21st Grand Slam crown overall



-- leaving him just one behind Rafael Nadal. Now he is targeting a fourth US Open crown after losing to Daniil Medvedev in the final last year. But as things stand, his unvaccinated status means he will not be allowed into the United States to play in the tournament, which starts next month. "I'm not vaccinated and I'm not planning to get vaccinated so the only good news I can have is them removing the mandated green vaccine card or whatever you call it to enter United States or exemption," said the 35-year-old. "I don't think exemption is realistically possible... I think it's just whether or not they remove this in time for me to get to the USA." The Serb was deported from Australia over his vaccination status in January, preventing him from defending his Australian Open title. Djokovic admitted it had been a difficult start to the year and it had taken him months to recover. "It has affected me definitely in the first several months of the year," he said. "I was not feeling great generally. I mean, mentally, emotionally, I was not at a good place. "I wanted to play, but at the same time when I went out on the court in Dubai, the first tournament of the year, I just felt so much pressure and emotions

happening. "I wasn't feeling myself on the court. I realised at that point that it's going to take some time, that I have to be patient, and sooner or later I will get myself in the state, optimal state, where I would like to be." 'Tough year' Djokovic's coach, former Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic, said it had been a "tough year" for the player. But he said he never doubted Djokovic would recover, describing him as "heroic". "People like him you don't doubt," he said. "He's a great champion. They say maybe took him a long time, but it didn't take him a long time. "It took him the exact time that he needed to recover and to digest all the things that happened to him." Djokovic, whose Wimbledon triumph was his fourth in succession at the All England Club, said he was now taking a much-needed holiday. "I am on vacation," he said. "Whether or not I'm playing any tournament soon, I'll definitely be resting for the next couple of weeks because it has been quite an exhausting and demanding period for me the last few months. "A lot of tennis, which I was very happy about. I got what I wanted here. Then I'll wait hopefully for some good news from the USA because I would really love to go there." The former world number one said he did not feel under pressure to play a certain schedule. "I achieved that historic No. 1, weeks for No. 1, that I worked for all my life. Now that that's done and dusted, I prioritise Slams and big tournaments really and where I want to play, where I feel good." Djokovic also said he felt lifted by the Wimbledon crowd on Sunday -- he has often faced an uphill battle to win fans over when he has been playing Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal. "I did definitely feel support and feel love from the crowd today, so I'm very grateful for that," he said. "Obviously it's not a secret that any player would like to have people backing him during the match because at the end of the day this could make a quite big difference with how you feel mentally."

Jabeur slips in rankings after pointless Wimbledon final

PARIS: Despite playing her first Grand Slam final at Wimbledon two days earlier, Ons Jabeur

plays as a Kazakh also gained no reward for her first grand slam title and remains ranked

Czech Karolina Pliskova, who lost last year's final to the now retired Ashleigh Barty,

(+1), 10. Emma Raducanu (GBR) 2717 (+1), 11. Cori Gauff (USA) 2647 (+1), 12.



dropped three places to fifth in the WTA rankings on Monday. The WTA, like the ATP on the men's side, decided not to award ranking points for the Grand Slam event after Wimbledon barred Russian and Belarusian players due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Even so a Russian-born player won the competition. Elena Rybakina, who

23rd in the world. Tunisian Jabeur lost the 430 points she collected for her quarter-final appearance at Wimbledon last year. Poland's Iga Swiatek remains untouchable in first. Behind her Estonian Anett Kontaveit climbed one spot to second place. Greece's Maria Sakkari jumped two places to third as Jabeur slid.

fell eight places to 15th. Rankings 1. Iga Swiatek (POL) 8336 pts, 2. Anett Kontaveit (EST) 4326 (+1), 3. Maria Sakkari (GRE) 4190 (+2), 4. Paula Badosa (ESP) 4030, 5. Ons Jabeur (TUN) 4010 (-3), 6. Aryna Sabalenka 3267, 7. Danielle Collins (USA) 3131 (+1), 8. Jessica Pegula (USA) 3087 (+1), 9. Garbine Muguruza (ESP) 2886

Darya Kasatkina 2635 (+1), 13. Belinda Bencic (SUI) 2635 (+3), 14. Leylah Fernandez (CAN) 2588 (+1), 15. Karolina Pliskova (CZE) 2477 (-8), 16. Simona Halep (ROM) 2415 (+2), 17. Barbora Krejcikova (CZE) 2353 (-3), 18. Jelena Ostapenko (LAT) 2302 (-1), 19. Veronika Kudermetova 2090 (+2), 20. Victoria Azarenka 2016 Selected: 23. Elena Rybakina (KAZ) 1805




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