

## Air Arabia flight with 222 passengers makes emergency landing at Kochi airport, everyone safe

KOCHI(KCN): An Air Arabia flight from Sharjah to

A full emergency was declared at the Kochi airport at 6:41 pm af-

spokesman. The Air Arabia G9-426 landed at runway

withdrawn after an endurance period of one hour and 50 min-



Kochi with 222 passengers and seven crew had an emergency landing at the Cochin International Airport on Friday evening following hydraulic failure.

ter the flight, which was scheduled to land at 7:13 pm, reported hydraulic failure. "Full emergency was declared at Kochi airport at 18:41 hours," said the airport

09 at 7:29 pm. "All passengers are safe, and no issues/incidents were reported," he said. Though the emergency declared at the airport was to be

utes, the runways were cleared faster for resumption of operations due to fast and timely interventions. While the towing

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## NIRF 2022 Rankings: KIIT 20th Best University in India



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University has been ranked 20th best in the country among all public and private universities in the NIRF India Rankings 2022, which was released by Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister in New Delhi on 15th

July 2022. KIIT-DU has improved its position in this annual national-level ranking exercise compared to last year when it had achieved the 21st position. Different Schools of KIIT also fared exceedingly well in the prestigious ranking. KIIT's consistent improvement in the

ranking list, being placed among top 20 universities in the country, is a testament to its sustained focus on imparting quality education and research activities. "I firmly believe that slow and steady wins the race, and wish KIIT to keep climbing up the ladder and continue to strive towards ex-

cellence", said Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS. The staff, students and parents expressed their happiness over the performance of KIIT and hailed Dr. Samanta and his efforts in guiding the institution towards excellence and improving academic performance year after year.

## Laxmikant Bajpai appointed BJP's new chief whip in Rajya Sabha ahead of monsoon session

NEW DELHI (KCN):

pointed as the BJP's new chief whip in

Joshi said on Friday. Bajpai, a former Uttar Pradesh BJP president, succeeds Shiv Pratap Shukla who retired from the house recently. "Laxmikant Bajpai is appointed as BJP chief whip in Rajya Sabha," Joshi said. Bajpai has served as a member of the

Uttar Pradesh assembly for four terms. Meanwhile, the BJP has again appointed Piyush Goyal as its leader in the Upper House. The party is yet to take call on its deputy leader in the House after the retirement of Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.



Sabha member Laxmikant Bajpai was Friday ap-

the House, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad

## Odisha Assembly session stalled over Congress leader's remark against Droupadi Murmu

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The furore over Congress spokesperson Ajoy Kumar's statement on NDA Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu rocked the Assembly on Thursday, forcing the Speaker to adjourn the

mand an unconditional apology from Congress and passing of a censure motion against the party in Odisha Assembly," he said. However, Congress whip Tara Prasad Bahinipati said that the BJP members are cre-



House till 4 pm.

BJP members raised the issue as soon as the House assembled for the day at 10:30 am. Raising anti-Congress slogans they rushed into the well demanding an apology from the Congress members and a censure motion to be passed in the House for the derogatory remark against Murmu.

Congress members also rushed to the well of the house opposing the BJP members for stalling the proceedings for an issue which is not connected to the State. Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha had to adjourn the House till 11:30 am and then till 4 pm after the BJP members did not pay any heed to his request to raise the issue during the zero hour.

The BJP members took strong exception to the statement of Ajoy Kumar, a former Lok Sabha member from Jharkhand that Murmu, though a decent person herself, represents the 'evil philosophy of India' and should not be made the symbol of tribals.

Stating that the remarks against Murmu was unfortunate, Opposition chief whip told mediapersons outside that this is not the personal opinion of Kumar, but the views of its leader Rahul Gandhi and the party. "We de-

ating disturbance in the Assembly only for publicity. "There is no point in disturbing the Assembly proceeding as it is run on the money of the people of Odisha. The BJP members are doing this only to get publicity," he said.

After the House was adjourned, the BJP MLAs holding banners staged a dharna on the Assembly premises and waved placards against the Congress. They also held a rally outside and condemned the Congress for being 'anti-tribal, anti woman and anti-Odia.' 31 schemes announced in 12 years by government

BHUBANESWAR: The State government has introduced 31 schemes in the State during a 12-year period from 2010 to 2022. Minister for Planning and Convergence Rajendra Dholakia revealed this in the Assembly in a written reply to a question from Bhabani Shankar Bhoi (BJP).

The Minister said that out of this, 16 schemes were announced and implemented in two years from 2017 to 2018. The Minister, however, admitted that some of the schemes have been stopped after the 2019 general elections while some have been changed.

## Shiva's Muslim devotee set for his sixth Kanwar Yatra, wants no Hindu-Muslim row over it

NOIDA(KCN): A Muslim man in western Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district is all set to participate in his sixth Kanwar Yatra, and in an apparent departure from the past he has informed the district authorities about this. Wakil Malik, 42, says he follows Islam but has faith in Lord Shiva too.

Malik, who lives in Bhaishwal village of Shamli's Garhipukhta tehsil, told PTI. "I have faith in Mahadev. During my previous Yatras there has not been any problem and both the Hindu and Muslim communities in my village have no issues with my practice," he said.



Every year, during the auspicious month of Shravan, many Shiva devotees visit Haridwar, Gaumukh and Gangotri in Uttarakhand to fetch the waters of the Ganga. This holy water is then offered by these "kanwars" to Lord Shiva.

"I have been on Kanwar Yatras to Haridwar five times in the past but like others I couldn't go during the Covid pandemic. I want to take part in the Yatra and make it my sixth trip,"

on me to do it. I don't do it with an ill-intention towards anyone. 'Galat nahi karte kisi ka. Prabhu ka naam lete hain' (I don't wrong anyone, I just chant the name of the Lord)," he added.

Malik said he has given it in writing to the district administration and the local police that he would undertake the Yatra this time also and sought their assurance so that "nothing unnecessary or

Malik, who has four daughters, a son and a wife at home, said he works as a daily-wage labourer.

He said his family does not mind him taking part in the Hindu procession.

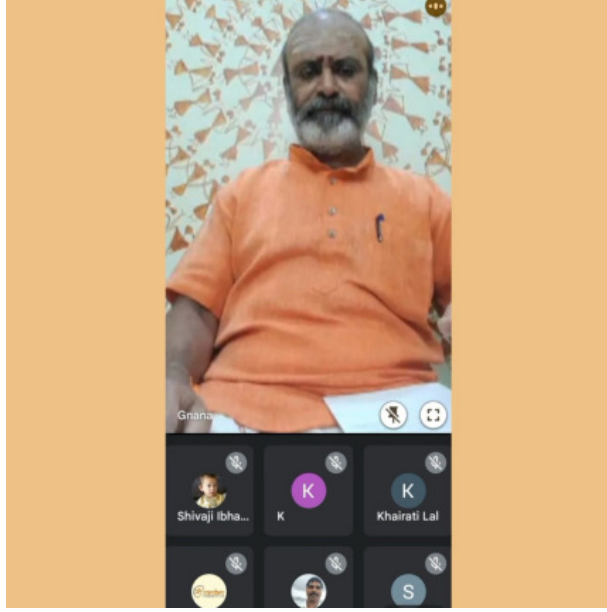
"They know I like going on Kanwar Yatra and I do it on my own. There's no pressure

CONTINUED ON: P-7



## Webinar on the occasion of Guru Poornima

Cuttack (KCN): Anandam Foundation organised a webinar on the auspicious occasion of Guru Poornima on 13th July 2022, Wednesday from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM through Google Meet platform.



It started with 3 Omkar & Shanti Path followed by a Guru Bhajan by Anunika Sharma. Honorable Speaker Shri G.Krishnaswamy (Founder, Vivekananda Bharat Seva Foundation, Madurai) gave a talk on "Bharatiya Sanskriti mein Guru ka mahatva". He said that, "Success cannot be achieved in any field of life without the guidance of a Guru. In Indian culture, Guru tradition has been going on for centuries, Guru is considered to be the best, his place is placed above God."

At last, the Vote of Thanks was given by Shri Ajit Kumar Barik (Treasurer, Anandam Foundation). It was concluded with Shanti Mantra. Overall participation was 42. The whole program was conducted by Shubhangi Upadhyay.

## NAAC A Graded Autonomous Engineering College HITK tops in Kolkata in NIRF 2022

Kolkata (KCN): Proud to state that Heritage Institute of Technology (HITK) an autonomous engineering college

this, the blessings from the stakeholders have made all the difference," said Mr. Agarwal, CEO,



topped the NIRF list among private engineering colleges in Bengal. Recently the Institute bagged NAAC A grade in the second cycle and now topped the NIRF chart. The Institute received around 4 crores research grant from various statutory agencies and the alumni members of the Institute is spread across the world in leading organizations apart from becoming top entrepreneurs. "I congratulate the entire team and the trustee members whose untiring efforts had yielded results. And above

Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata. Students of the Institute secured placements in Google, Amazon, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and many more. Few of them secured internships in Microsoft, Amazon etc. "Ranking within a band of 201-250 among more than 1000 engineering colleges and universities in India is really a remarkable feat achieved by the Institute. I congratulate the faculty and staff for this," said Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, HITK.

# Say 'NO' to Acne this Monsoon!

**Kolkata (KCN):** Monsoons are all about nostalgia, binging on deep fried snacks and enjoying a hot cuppa. However, a major flipside to this otherwise beautiful season is the havoc it wreaks on the skin. The humidity in the air causes the skin to become greasier which leads to acne, inflammations, or breakouts. So how can one combat these multitude of problems with just a face serum? Read on to find out how this beauty tonic could be the only solution you need to keep your skin healthy and radiant.

**Skin-type friendly:** A good Serum is suitable for all skin types. It can provide lightweight moisturization for oily skin, rejuvenation, and radiance for dull skin. It can also help reduce spots, pigmentation, and uneven skin tone. For acne prone skin, serum with Salicylic Acid works well, whereas for dry skin Hyaluronic Acid is a better bet. Also, look out for Vitamin C, it is a super antioxidant ingredient that removes, spots, dullness, uneven skin tone and brightens the skin!

**Hydration:** Irrespective of the season, it is important to hydrate and nourish the skin. Considering that a serum is made up of smaller molecules that seep deeper into the skin than any average cream or moisturizer, it delivers an extremely high

## Spark Minda Forays into Consumer Space with the launch of Protective Head Gear (Helmets)

Delhi(KCN): Minda Corporation Limited (referred to as "Minda Corp" or the "Company"; NSE: MINDACORP, BSE: 538962), is the flagship company of the Spark Minda Group, launched 17 helmet models with 145 variants in the Indian retail market. The launch marks Spark Minda's foray into the B2C space at a time when India is emerging as the largest and fastest growing helmet market globally.

During the next few years, the company plans to add 200+ distributors and open exclusive Spark Minda branded outlets across the country, making the distribution network more robust. The Protective Head Gear will be available across three customer segments-Economy (Knight series), Mid (Garrison series) and the Premium (Armored series) category.

Spark Minda also announced the launch of 1500 fiber parts (Plastic-molded, painted components for two-wheelers) to meet the growing demand of 2W riders across the country. This number is targeted to increase to 2400 in the next two years, representing the largest range of fiber parts available in the country.

Mr. Ashok Minda, Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, Minda Corporation Ltd. said:

"The last six decades have seen Spark Minda ushering industry leading solutions in the automotive industry. The amalgamation of the group's experience along with its impetus on extensive research has lodged it well ahead of its league when it comes to developing products for the future.

India is the fastest growing major economy in the world. Our foray into the consumer business category will not only make us a part of this iconic growth story of the country, but also reinforce our commitment to provide the highest standards of safety for 2W riders across the country."

Mr. Neeraj Sharan, CEO, Aftermarket Division, Minda Corporation Ltd. said:

"India is world's biggest helmet market with 40-45% of the sector still being served by unorganized players. The launch of this extensive product range will bring a significant disruption and help us become one of the leading players in the helmet segment. We want to ensure that certified helmets are available to every 2W rider in India. Going forward, the company plans to expand the merchandise portfolio by launching a range of new products and have the largest range of Fiber parts for our 2W riders in the country." Currently, the aftermarket division at Spark Minda has a network of 500+ distributors and 12,000+ retailers across India with 12 prod-

uct lines including Locks, Wiring Harness, Instruments, Auto Electrical components (Starter Motor), Flasher, Relays, CDI, Wiper, Cable, Filter, Lubricant, Brake shoe, Clutch plate, and Bearing.

About Minda Corporation (BSE:538962; NSE: MINDACORP) Minda Corporation is one of the leading automotive component manufacturing companies in India with a pan-India presence and significant international footprint. The Company was incorporated in 1985. Minda Corporation is the flagship company of Spark Minda, which was part of the erstwhile Minda Group. The Company has a diversified product portfolio that encompasses Mechatronics; Information and Connected Systems and Plastic and Interior for auto OEMs. These products cater to 2/3 wheelers, passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, off-roaders and after-market. The Company has a diversified customer base including Indian and global original equipment manufacturers and Tier-1 customers.

For assimilating the latest technologies, Minda Corporation has a dedicated R&D facility and collaborations with the pioneers and leaders of the automobile industry. This has provided Minda Corporation with the cutting-edge in product design and technology to meet strict international quality standards.

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Safe Harbor

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eral market, macro-economic, governmental and regulatory trends, movements in currency exchange and interest rates, competitive pressures, technological developments, changes in the financial conditions of third parties dealing with us, legislative developments, and other key factors that could affect our business and financial performance.

Minda Corporation undertakes no obligation to publicly revise any forward-looking statements to reflect future / likely events or circumstances.

**Planetarium At Pilgrim Town**

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has decided to set up a District Science Centre cum Planetarium in pilgrim town Puri at a cost of Rs 25 to Rs 30 crore.

This was informed by Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda in the State Legislative Assembly here on Friday.

While replying to questions asked by MLAs during the Question Hour, Mr.Panda said the district administration has identified 3.700 acres of land in Sidhamhvir Mouza establishment of the project.Puri being the holy destination for a larger number of pilgrims and tourists round the year, has enough potential for a larger footfall including students and general public, he said.

The Minister further said that the proposed Science Centre and Planetarium would provide unique experience of experimental learning to students and general public with interactive models and concepts on general science, gallery on marine resources, Lord Jaganath culture, models, exhibits on ancient scientific knowledge behind various rituals, temple heritage and constructions besides exposure to the space and strongly shows.

Further, he said, the Government also proposed to set up a Nature Museum on the Satkosia biosphere in Angul district. The proposal has been approved by the Chief Minister and a suitable site for the project will be identified and cost will be decided depending upon the sustainable site, scope and nature of work.Mr.Panda said the decision to set up the museum at Satkosia was taken as it has immense potential for students, researchers, wildlife experts, photographers to study on its flora and fauna and a point of attraction for tourists.

Satkosia is one of the best ecosystems in the country representing a diverse flora and fauna extravaganza which is also the meeting point of two bio-geographical regions of India—the Deccan peninsula and the eastern ghat contributing immensely to biodiversity.

for INR 210/-

**Easy Application:** A drop or two of this beauty elixir will provide a much-needed nourishment and prep your skin for monsoons. Use your fingertips to gently apply the serum to your face and neck and then lightly tap, pat, and smoothen it out and voila you're done!

Let the expert serum work hard to take care of your skin while you sit back and enjoy the monsoons.

**Dr. Aparna Santhanam, Dermatologist & Skin Expert to ITC Charmis, says,** "Monsoons bring with them a host of skincare problems right from skin oiliness to acne, rosacea and pore inflammations. It is important to adapt your skincare routine to suit the season and opt for a beauty solution that is made with efficacious, lightweight formulations to help hydrate and nourish the skin. I recommend the use of a face serum that comprises essential skincare ingredients such as Hyaluronic Acid and Salicylic Acid that hydrate and exfoliate without making the skin oily. An added benefit of Vitamin C will serve as a powerful antioxidant that will help reduce dullness, spots and uneven skin tone, thereby giving you an inherently radiant skin."

**Non-sticky formulation:** Serums are water or emulsion-based formulations hence they have a light gel like or watery, non-sticky texture that absorbs quickly into the skin quenching the skin's thirst for moisturization and leaving it with a fresh, dewy smooth finish.

**Budget buy:** A serum is a hero product that can eliminate the need for single purpose skincare products such as creams or moisturizers. Charmis Deep Radiance Face Serum is Dermatologist & Clinically tested to offer specific skin benefits of Hydrated Clear Radiance. It goes 15 layers deep into the skin with its potent ingredients of Vitamin C, Hyaluronic Acid and Salicylic Acid. Available

concentration of active ingredients. It also re-adjusts the excess sebum on the face to make the skin look healthy and well-moisturized.

**CHARMIS DEEP RADIANCE VITAMIN C FACE SERUM**  
HYALURONIC & SALICYLIC ACID  
HYDRATED CLEAR RADIANCE  
PENETRATES DEEP INTO THE SKIN  
NON STICKY | QUICK ABSORBING

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## Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed book

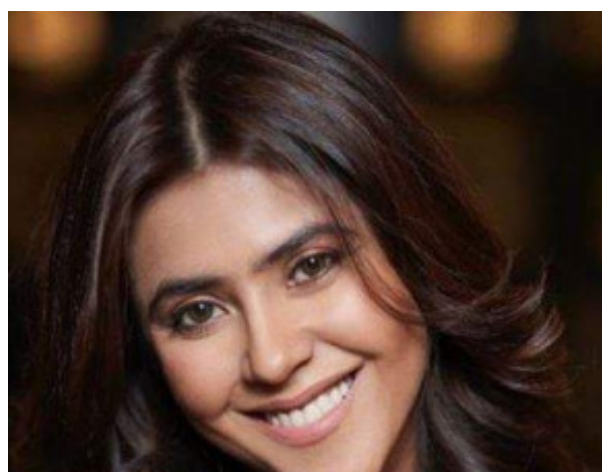


**NEW DELHI:** Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book #YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the cation, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of the former Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

## SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** The Supreme

leged objectionable content in her web



Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for al-

leged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted interim protection to

## Phenomenal experience: Riteish Deshmukh praises Anil Kapoor, Anurag Kashyap's 'AK vs AK'

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the

blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted

only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor\_has outdone your entire performance in one

movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kidnapping the actor's



Netflix based film "a phenomenal experience". Deshmukh took to Twitter to share a poster of the movie, which features Anurag Kashyap and Anil Kapoor in lead roles. "Mind has been

Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

scene," the 'Housefull' actor's tweet further read. While Kapoor essays the role of a yesterday actor, Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. 'AK vs AK,' revolves around the story of a

daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

## Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

Ajay Devgn's Mayday has been creating a massive buzz because of its interest-

the icing on the cake is that Ajay Sir is directing the film. It's actually happening!



ing star cast, which includes Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh and Angira Dhar. Talented actress, Aakanksha Singh has now joined the team. Aakanksha will essaying the role of Ajay Devgn's wife in the film. She joined the shoot yesterday. Aakanksha says, "It's like a dream come true to be a part of such a big and much-awaited film. I am so excited to share the screen with Ajay Sir and Amitabh Sir; and

It's an important role and I am lucky that the first muhurat shot of the film had me in it." Ajay Devgn took to social media to announce that the shoot had begun yesterday. "Happy to officially begin Mayday in a start-to-finish shooting schedule. Seek blessings from the Almighty and my parents. Nothing is complete without the support of all my fans, family and well-wishers. Releases on 29th April 2022 (sic)" he posted.

## 'Wanted to make a film on Indian Army with Shah Rukh Khan', says Director Kabir Khan

**MUMBAI(KCN):** Filmmaker Kabir Khan, who is gearing up for the release of his web series "The Forgotten Army: Azaadi Ke Liye", based on Indian National Army (INA), says he wanted to make a film on the subject starring Shah Rukh Khan. He added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a fee for the voiceover he gave for the series. "Shah Rukh has very graciously given the voiceover. The series is based on a true story, so there is an introduction of a few minutes before every episode along with real footage, where he has lent his voice. I talked about it with Shah Rukh earlier as well, when this was a film script. Back then, I wanted Shah Rukh to do the film. We even had a few meetings but we couldn't take it forward," said Kabir while promoting the series along with its lead actors Sunny Kaushal and Sharvari Wagh. Kabir added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a single

paisa for his voiceover assignment. "When I was making this series, I thought I should ask Shah Rukh (to be the narrator) because Shah Rukh's father had involvement with this army. His father knew General Shahnawaz Khan, who was an important part of INA. So, I knew he (Shah Rukh Khan) has sympathy and attachment with Azad Hind Fauj and I called him up. It's not an easy task to ask a superstar for a voiceover but Shah Rukh instantly agreed to do it. Usually, when you discuss a film with Shah Rukh, it's a long process, but in this case Shah Rukh literally did the voiceover for us on the second day. I don't know whether he would like me to reveal this, but he didn't take a fee from us. I think the kind of attachment he has with Azad Hind Fauj reflects in his act." Incidentally, Shah Rukh did a cameo in Kabir Khan's 2017 release "Tubelight", starring Salman Khan.



## Draupadi Murmu will Enhance the Decorum of Presidentship

By declaring Draupadi Murmu as its candidate for the country's fifteenth presidential election, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance has raised the value of the tribal community, especially by bringing tribal life into the mainstream. This decision shows the political acumen and maturity of the BJP.

She is a tribal daughter who will be the first tribal to reach the highest constitutional post and the second woman President of the Republic of India, which will give new strength to the democracy of India, along with the world. India is also changing rapidly. A new political vision, a new political environment is taking shape in the all-pervading turmoil, in this era, with Draupadi Murmu becoming the President, not only the dignity of this highest constitutional post will get a new record, but the national existence and identity will also be strengthened. Because her image has been that of a knowledgeable and soft-spoken politician of settled democratic traditions.

It is expected that her presence as the constitutional head of the country will reassure every Indian, especially tribal women, for their peaceful and safe life. Only the tribal can feel the pain of the tribal - that is, the pain of the reality that has been experienced. In my view, it is not surprising if Draupadi Murmu emerges as the biggest female heroine to raise the voice of the tribal and the oppressed in today's world. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had sent a Muslim APJ Abdul Kalam to Rashtrapati Bhavan and now Narendra Modi first made a Dalit Ramnath Kovind the President and now Draupadi Murmu, a Scheduled Tribe, is being elevated to the highest post of the executive, which is certainly a healthy, ideal and aware democracy & as a sign of auspiciousness.

The credit for the presentation of Draupadi Murmu as a brilliant and historic presidential candidate goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP President J.P. Nadda's strategy. Murmu's nomination is only sharpening the edge of lower class

politics on which BJP has been working hard for a long time. The neglect of the tribal community across the country has been in the news since independence; Modi has been active since the beginning for the interest and welfare of the tribal's, affecting about 11 percent of the total electorate and about 25 percent of the total voter turnout.

Particularly, the BJP, comprising Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and J.P.Nadda, is giving special attention to the tribal community so that it can bring itself out of the limited identity of the urban party. When the names of presidential candidates were being discussed, I was hoping to get some names from the tribal community itself. Murmu was on top of them. Certainly, having a tribal woman in Rashtrapati Bhavan will enhance the image of BJP among the tribal community, whose direct impact can be seen in states like West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Gujarat.

Narendra Modi has not only stunned and surprised the nation but has been doing miracles with his decisions; the same has been done by announcing the name of Draupadi Murmu. Because many targets have been hit with this one arrow. The BJP has been struggling hard in these states due to the presence of very powerful regional parties like Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, BJD in Odisha and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in Jharkhand. Whereas in all these three states the dominance of Congress is negligible. In such a situation, by sending Draupadi Murmu to Rashtrapati Bhavan, BJP will not only be able to ease its fight, but will also be successful in making its place in these states. The elections in Gujrat are in front, there is also a tribal community in abundance, the effect of this decision will be seen there as well. On the other hand, for the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, its fight against the conversion of a large number of tribal's on behalf of Christian missionaries may also become easier now.

BJP has been showing efficient and mature politics in these years. Their leadership, showing strategic acumen, made a tribal-Dalit-backward uprising over the years by making a person from a caste-backward background the Prime Minister, a person from a Dalit background as the

Lalit Garg

President and now a tribal woman as the presidential candidate.

The meaning has changed. It has been given the name of social harmony, after a tribal politician becomes the President, there will be justice for the tribal and backward class, it is believed. It is wrong to say that the President in India is only an office of symbolic importance.

Coming from a Dalit background, President K.R. Narayanan took a tough stand on the communal violence in Gujarat in 2002, forcing the then state government to change its stand on some matters, while President Giani Zail Singh, who came from a backward background, took many of the intoxicated Rajiv Gandhi government. The issues were sweated. Ramnath Kovind also strengthened the democracy of the country with his decisions taken from time to time. There is every possibility that Draupadi Murmu will be elected as the President and after taking oath of this office, she will also display the same determination and make her tenure memorable for the country, which is free from terror, free from scams and free from communalism. In which Dalit, Adivasi and backward classes should get an equal and fair lifestyle of living.

Being a candidate from a simple family to the highest office of the country is a testimony to the glory of Indian democracy. Nothing can be better than being Draupadi Murmu's candidate as President and marching towards being elected is an inspiration to crores of people with similar backgrounds. This will not only give more strength to Indian democracy, but will also increase its fame. There is no doubt that Draupadi Murmu has been an ordinary politician, but India has a history that ordinary people have done 'extraordinary' things. Draupadi Murmu was born on 20 June 1958 in Baidposi village of Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. His father's name is Biranchi Narayan Tudu. They belong to the tribal ethnic group, the Santhals. She graduated from Rama Devi Women's College. After this Draupadi started the job from the state secretariat of Odisha. She is married to Shyam Charan Murmu. In 1997, she became a local councilor for the first time by winning the election of Nagar Panchayat for the first time. Three years later, she got a chance to become an

MLA from the same constituency of Rairangpur, first in 2000, and then twice as a minister in the BJP-BJD government. In 2015, she was made the first woman governor of Jharkhand. Former President V.V. Giri was also born in Odisha, but he was originally from Andhra Pradesh.

Murmu's life witnessed many crises and struggles, which shows her vitality. Apart from being a widow in her youth, she didn't feel any mental breakage even with the death of two sons. During this, she continued to encourage the entire family including her only daughter Itishree. Her eyes moistened when she was being administered oath as the Governor of Jharkhand. She is an ideal and courageous woman of religious rites. They have a special influence on Indian culture and rituals. Two days before the announcement of the name of her presidential candidate, she went to my son Gaurav Garg's in-laws' house in Rairangpur, and while feeding the cows, asked the operators there to pray for me. Perhaps she had some hope and possibility that her name might be announced. Gaumata heard the call of her heart.

Today, the fire of communal hatred is being deliberately fuelled in the country. All kinds of crises are being created, it is a great irony of democracy that heads are counted here, not brains. Our democracy is suffering because of this, it has been suffering. More heads are coming, not the brain. There are more masks of caste, religion and class, less faces of humanity. By deceitful use of intelligence, they create a maze of equations, from which Abhimanyu did not learn to get out. In fact, the people who drive democracy need such training so that a new definition of democracy can be rewritten.

This vision made Draupadi Murmu's role not only important but decisive as well. Therefore, by placing this burden on Draupadi Murmu, the country wants to be sure that the rule of the constitution is from Arunachal Pradesh to the President. It will run uninterrupted till Bengal and the country's borders will be completely safe because the President is the supreme commander of the armies. This will be the first time in the history of India that the dignity of the office will be increased by placing a powerful tribal woman as the President.

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## SRI LANKA crices -excruciate

Sri Lanka appears headed for all party government, following whose formation the current council of



ministers would resign, the situation in the island nation does not seem to offer a solution to the crises. For the proposed all-party government will have to prove its merit only with a synchronised effort to sort out the current crises on all fronts such as political, economic, cultural, and social. For, in other words, the current crises has little to do with the economy per se but has every thing to do with a comprehensive failure on multiple fronts. Historically speaking, Sri Lanka (Ceylon at the time of its formation on February 4, 1948) never really enjoyed a stability that was expected then. Though the country can boast of some of the finest leaders in

the past 74 years. Sri Lanka could never claim to

have visionaries among its top leadership. Experience shows that most Sri lankan national leaders took piecemeal decisions that lacked the foresight much needed for a small country to conduct its affairs in a cogent manner. All those short coming over time have now manifested in the current crises that has also dimensions of diplomatic and strategic failure.

When all party government steps in, it will have to begin the task of reconstruction of a broken nation in a slow and patient manner—one step at a time and consolidating it before taking the next one. That would mean taking the common people, too, in to the confidence and taking them along. In other words, the new, all-party government will have to create a credible narrative so that the common people moving angrily in the streets are convinced of the right intentions of the

Uma Sankar Prasad

new government. In still other words, it will have to convinced the common people of its political integrity. In still other words, the new government will have to communicate to the common people its good will and the good purpose.

Until that happens, the crises in the country would continue to get deeper and move from bad to worse to worst. With only faint hopes of getting some economic assistance from outside to tide over the immediate crises, the situation, in all likelihood, may remain volatile. And that would make the challenge all the more difficult to handle. It is from this angle, therefore, that we describe the situation as of a deepening crises. India is always there to help its tiny neighbour- in every which the manner. Of course, the Indian High Commission in Colombo has scotched the rumours that India may move its troops in to Sri Lanka. Barring that, India has often lent a helping hand

to the island-nation at all times. In the current crises, India has emerged as the most credible friend for Sri Lanka, having sent in not just money but also oil and food grains and medical assistance.

But the new Sri lankan government will have to handle the issues with other countries, with China in particular. It is globally believed that current crises in Sri Lanka has been caused by several factors, CHINA being the most prominent. That has been the case with many other countries as well. For when China enters a country, its aims as draining that country's resources dry. Its aim is not to help the country, but to dominate it somehow, make it subservient and make it economically weak. Now it is the proper time for island-nation to tackle such challenges. The purpose is to remind the new government of the issues that it would be needed to sort out in the most urgent manner but without making haste.

The Author is Columnist, Khordha



# 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.

## Primary agriculture cooperative societies secretaries in soup for paddy procurement lapse

JAGATSinghpur: The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, on Wednesday, directed the assistant registrar of cooperative societies to take action against eight

from farmers. As a result, nearly 8000 tokens with a mandate to procure 3 lakh quintal paddy lapsed and no effort was made to renew those.

growers do not enter the fray but the secretaries of the PACS allegedly did not adhere to the rule to facilitate private agents to sell their paddy. A few days later, the

Salijanga, Kaduapada, Odisso of Jagatsinghpur block and rest five from Naugaon, Biridi, Balikuda, Erasama and Raghunathpur



secretaries of primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS) for wilful violation procurement policy norms during 2021-2022 which led hundreds of farmers to lose their harvested paddy. The Civil Supplies department, sources said, had issued tokens to nearly 45,381 farmers of the district for procurement of 11.73 lakh quintal paddy during kharif 2021-2022. The administration had engaged 33 millers against the actual requirement of 42 which apparently caused delay in lifting of paddy

Aggrieved, hundreds of farmers under the banner of Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan had staged dharana in front of Collector's office demanding lifting of paddy from them. But neither the administration nor Civil Supplies department fulfilled the demands. Even now, the paddy are lying damaged at different paddy procurement centres (PPCs), the farmers alleged. Similarly, the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department had instructed iris scan of each farmer before procurement to ensure fake paddy

administration sought the intervention of Cooperation and Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare department to conduct an inquiry into the alleged irregularities during paddy procurement. District Civil Supplies Officer Sujata Mishra said, as per instructions of the administration, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department conducted an inquiry into the allegations. "We have submitted a report to the authorities about the irregularities," Mishra added. Reliable sources said that out of eight PACS, secretaries of

blocks have been identified for violation of the paddy procurement clauses and agreement. Assistant registrar of cooperatives societies, Jagatsinghpur, Siba Prasad Mohanty however, denied disclosing the names and panchayats of PACS secretaries though he acknowledged receiving the letter from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies to take action against defaulters. "The department has not yet received the list of defaulting PACS secretaries," Mohanty said.

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

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

## Sri Lanka's ruling party to support Wickremesinghe in parliamentary vote to elect Rajapaksa's successor

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's ruling SLPP party on Friday decided to back interim president Ranil Wickremesinghe in the parliamentary vote to be held next week to elect the successor to Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who resigned after unprecedented protests against his government.

Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) General Secretary Sagara Kariyawasam said that their support would be extended to Prime Minister Wickremesinghe, who was on Friday sworn in as the interim president until Parliament elects a successor to Rajapaksa.

The party decided to support 73-year-old Wickremesinghe, who was once its arch-rival, despite the SLPP breakaway Dullas Alahapperuma declaring his candidacy.

The former information minister became the first to announce candidature at the vote which is to take place on July 20.

Alahapperuma said he was expecting cross-party support as an apolitical candidate in the presidential race to fill the void for the balance term of the "disgraced" Rajapaksa.

Rajapaksa agreed to step down after thousands of protesters stormed his official residence, blaming him for the unprecedented economic crisis that has brought the country to its knees.

He, however, fled to the Maldives without resigning from his office.

From the Maldives, he went to Singapore on Thursday from where he sent in his resignation.

Alahapperuma was among the group of 10 SLPP MPs who declared independence from the ruling coalition as the political crisis triggered by the economic crisis came to the fore.

Wickremesinghe has just his seat in the 225-member assembly hence would be solely dependent on support from the SLPP.

The main Opposition SJB leader Sajith Premadasa is yet to announce his candidacy. He has the support of 50 plus MPs.

Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, is under the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil, the worst in seven decades, leaving millions struggling to buy food, medicine, fuel and other essentials.

The party also lauded former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa for the services he rendered to the nation and highlighted his decisive role in bringing peace to the motherland by ending 30 years of terrible



terrorism. In a statement on the resignation of Rajapaksa, who resigned hours after landing in Singapore on a "private visit", Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) said that political leaders in the world of politics mostly attempted to take political power, and relinquishing power and positions was a very rare sight in the world of politics.

The 73-year-old former president resigned two days after the embattled leader fled the country in the face of massive protests against his government for mishandling the economy that bankrupted the country.

Referring to the civil war with the LTTE, it pointed out that Rajapaksa played a decisive role in bringing peace to the motherland by ending 30 years of terrible terrorism.



# SOA Rises in NIRF Rank Wait For 2739 Cr GST Compensation

Bhubaneswar: Founder President of SOA Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak is happy as continuing its pre-eminent position in academics and research, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here climbed several notches to be placed 16th in the country in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings for 2022.

NIRF rankings for 2022 was released by the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi on Friday. SOA, nationally ranked 20th in the university category by NIRF last year, had improved its position in four different categories and broke into the top ten bracket in two others in the 2022 rankings. Two of the SOA institutes, Institute of Dental Sciences (IDS), faculty of den-

tal sciences, and SOA National Institute of Law (SNIL), faculty of legal studies, figured in the top ten bracket in the country for the first time.



The 15-year-old Deemed to be University was ranked 30th in the overall category (37th in 2021) this time while it was ranked 18th in medical sciences, 27th in engineering and 10th in dental sciences categories. Entering the fray for the first time, SOA's faculty of law was ranked 9th in the country while the university was placed 45th in research category.

SOA had recently reached a huge milestone when the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited the univer-

sity with the highest Grade A++ with a Cumulative Grade Points Average (CGPA) of 3.88 out of 4. Ever since the NIRF ranking was introduced by the Ministry of Education in 2016, SOA has been the youngest university to be continuously ranked among the top 25 universities in the country. Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, SOA's fac-

ulty of medical sciences, was ranked 21st by NIRF in 2021 while the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), faculty of engineering and technology, and Institute of Dental Sciences (IDS), were ranked 32nd and 14th respectively last year. SOA's latest ranking meant that it was the third best university in the east while its faculties of medical sciences and dental sciences occupied the number one position among the eastern states. It's faculty of law was positioned third in the eastern region. Founder President of SOA Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, expressing happiness over the ranks obtained by the university, congratulated the faculty and other employees for their continuous and relentless effort to make SOA successful in every field.

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 compensation 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 while Rs 5331.91 crore has been released by the Centre during 2019-20 as GST compensation. The protected revenue was estimated at Rs 18,661.89 crore in the year 2019-20.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the Union Government has sanctioned partial compensation of Rs 4243.42 crore against the protected revenue of Rs 21,274.55 crore during the financial year 2020-21. Moreover, the Government of India has also released Rs 3822 crore to Odisha Government as back-to-back loan to meet the GST revenue shortfall. In total, the State has received Rs 8,065.42 crore in the year 2020-21. The protected revenue for the year 2021-22 was estimated at Rs 24,252.99 crore, of which the Centre has provided Rs 6,430.20 crore as back-to-back loan and the State Government has been demanding the Centre to release balance Rs 1167.50 crore dues, said Mr.Pujari in his reply.

For the current financial year, the protected revenue is estimated at Rs 27,648.42 crore, of which Rs 4608.07 crore has been earmarked for the first two months. Accordingly, the revenue shortfall for the first two months of the current FY is estimated at Rs 1571.83 crore, which is due till data, informed the Finance Minister.

As per the GST Act, the compensation should be paid till June end. However, the State Government has been demanding the Centre to extend the compensation period for another five years.

During the 47th meeting of the GST Council held on 28-29 June, 2022 at Chandigarh, Minister Mr.Pujari raised the issue of GST compensation.

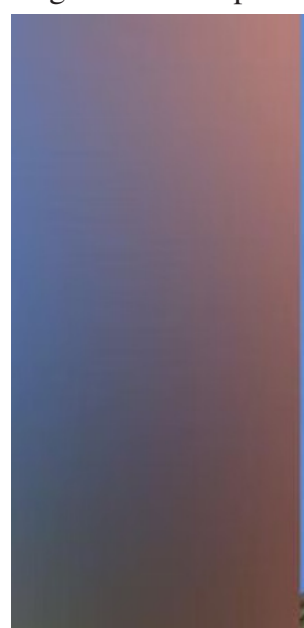
He stated that, if GST compensation is discontinued after June, 2022, the resource gap in the State would increase and cause large fiscal shocks. It would also lead to reduction in the Capital expenditure and cause contraction of the State economy.

The Minister accordingly requested the GST Council to extend the compensation window by another five years in the interest of revenue resources of the State.

## Construction for Subarnarekha river mouth port underway: Odisha minister Tukuni Sahu

BHUBANESWAR: The State government on Thursday informed the Assembly that primary construction works have begun for the pro-

posed river mouth based port in Balasore district. Responding to a query of BJD MLA Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu said that in addition to the existing major port at Paradip and minor ports at Dhamra and Gopalpur, the State government has planned to build 12 more minor ports for which sites have already been identified.



The Minister said that the 12 more minor ports will come in Kendrapara district, Jatadhar in Jagatsinghpur, Astaranga and Baliharachandi in Puri district and Palur and Bahuda in Ganjam district. She further informed that concession agreement has been signed with Creative Port Development Private Limited (now Subarnarekha Port Private Limited) for constructing a port at the river mouth of Subarnarekha and Navayuga Engineering Company Limited for developing the Astaranga Port.

While Techno Economic Feasibility report have been prepared for developing ports at Bahabalpur, Bahudra, Akhadashali and Bahuda and

stone for it on February 13, 2019 and the preliminary work has started. The Astaranga Port that requires 3899.987 acres of

land is entangled in a land row as locals are protesting against the project. The written reply of the Minister is however silent over the quantum of investment attracted by the State for these port projects. Responding to another question of Patnaik, the Water Resources Minister said that the Central Water Commission has neither taken the Odisha government into confidence nor sought its views while allowing construction of multiple barrages.

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# England faces first-ever red weather warning over extreme heat wave

LONDON: The UK's Meteorological Office on Friday issued a first-

spokesperson Grahame Mudge. "The warning covers an area from London

"Our lifestyles and our infrastructure are not adapted to what is coming. Please treat

along with disruption to rail and air travel. The UK Health Security Agency



ever red extreme heat warning for parts of England, including London, next week as temperatures have continued to soar in the last few days.

A red warning, the highest used by the Met Office under its alert system, means a risk to life is likely as temperatures could hit 40 degrees Celsius.

The unprecedented warning implies there is a danger to life across all age groups and is classed as a national emergency.

"We've just issued a red warning for extreme heat for Monday and Tuesday, which is the first such warning ever issued," said Met Office

up to Manchester and then up to the Vale of York. If we get to 40 degrees Celsius, that's a very iconic threshold and shows that climate change is with us now. This is made much more likely because of climate change," he said.

The Met Office warns "adverse health effects" may be experienced by many and will not be limited to those most vulnerable to extreme heat.

Met Office chief executive Penny Endersby described the extreme heat forecast as "absolutely unprecedented" and urged the public to take warnings seriously.

the warnings we are putting out as seriously as you would a red or amber warning from us for wind or snow, and follow the advice," said Enderby.

"Stay out of the sun, keep your home cool, think about adjusting your plans for the warning period," she said.

The UK's national weather service also warned there is a high risk of failure of heat-sensitive systems and equipment, potentially leading to localised loss of power and essential services, such as water or even mobile phone services.

The public have also been warned to expect delays on roads,

(UKHSA) also issued its highest heat alert at level four, which it says is reached when a heatwave is so severe and/or prolonged that its effects extend outside the health and social care system. This means that fit and healthy people could be susceptible to illness and death and not just high-risk groups, UKHSA said. "The hot weather is being treated as a national emergency with contingency plans in place," Downing Street said. For other parts of the United Kingdom, the already existing amber warning has been extended to the rest of England, Wales, and parts of Scotland.

## 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 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 direct spectrum assignment.

"The question is why would Adanis bid in auction versus awaiting a direct spectrum assignment? Adani's 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 GHz and 26 GHz bands for provision of private enterprise 5G network services," said Credit Suisse.

ALSO READ | Tech 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

## 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



educational 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.

billion (Rs 3,500 crore). Of course, these come with comfortable payment terms," it wrote.

Credit Suisse felt that the possibility of 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.

Odisha Assembly panel pushes for mega park to make State as 'toy hub' BHUBANESWAR: With India gradually making its place as a global toy hub - the latest statistics revealing a 61 per cent rise in exports in the last three years - Odisha is keen to join the country's toy story. Pitching for a fast-mover advantage, the Assembly standing committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has recommended the State government to set up mega toy park in Odisha.

The recommendation of the standing committee headed by BJP MLA Mohan Majhi came in the wake of Central government approving eight toy manufacturing clusters in five states at a cost of Rs 2,300 crore last year. The committee emphasised the huge opportunities in the toy industry that will, in turn, give a huge boost to the local MSME sector.

## Shiva's Muslim devotee set for his sixth Kanwar Yatra, wants no Hindu-Muslim row over it

Continued from page-1

untoward happens to me or my family".

This is the first time he has taken this step.

He said local police officials have assured his safety.

He said he did not want his Yatra to cause any unnecessary Hindu-Muslim religious row.

"That is why I have informed officials. The local police officials have shared their phone numbers with me and told me I can call them anytime I need," he said.

Malik estimates that he would have to walk over 250 km on foot.

"I will leave on July 22 and hope to reach Haridwar. I will take the holy Ganga water from there and start for Pura Mahadev temple on the Meerut-Baghat border," he said.

"The Pura Mahadev temple is where I will offer Ganga water to Lord Shiva and then return to my village in Shamli and offer the holy water at the local temple," Shiva's Muslim devotee added.

He said has even got the 'muhurat' (auspicious time) for offering the Ganga water at Pura Mahadev.

That's 7.17 pm on July 26.

Meanwhile, Shamli district administration's nodal officer for Kanwar Yatra Arvind Kumar said he is not aware of Malik's case, and added that everyone has religious freedom in the country.

"There is no restriction on anybody as such for participating in the Kanwar Yatra.

It is a matter of faith for people and everyone has the freedom of religious practice," Kumar, the additional district magistrate, told PTI.

He said all preparations for the Yatra, taking place after two years due to the pandemic, have been made.

Shelter camps have been set up along two 60-km road stretches in Shamli for pilgrims and potholes and hanging power cables fixed to ensure a hassle-free Yatra, the officer said.

"Meat shops along the routes will remain shut while the operation of liquor vends will be discouraged by us during the Yatra period. No unauthorized 'bhaang' shops will be allowed on the routes," he added.

Lakhs of devotees are expected to cross through Shamli during the Kanwar Yatra this year, the official said.

## Air Arabia flight with 222 passengers makes emergency landing at Kochi airport, everyone safe

Continued from page-1

commenced with 'towbarless' (scooping up the nose wheel and lifting it from the ground) push back at 8:11 pm, the full emergency was withdrawn at 8:22 pm.

"A concerted effort and timely coordination have helped Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) to see through the airport emergency situation. Though such a situation occurred after a long period, it was proved that the safety systems worked effectively. We could resume operations in 45 minutes," said S Suhas, managing director, CIAL. The airport authorities said there were only two diversions from Kochi airport following the emergency landing.

While flight G8 336 was diverted to Kannur at 6:40 pm, another flight 3L 125 was diverted to Coimbatore airport at 7:50 pm.

"GO FIRST G8 336 was diverted to Kannur at 1940 hrs and Air Arabia 3L125 was diverted to Coimbatore at 1950 hrs," airport authorities said.

CIAL said that all, including 222 passengers and seven crew members, were safe.

However, there was no immediate response from the airline.



## Spectacular Welcome to Chess Olympiad Torch Relay at KIIT & KISS

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Today, the entire KIIT family comprising students and staff put up an impressive show of support for the upcoming Chess Olympiad at Chennai. Students of both KIIT and KISS lined either side of the main road to the campuses and extended a

India is the first-ever country to start the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay as per the Olympic tradition. Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India launched the historic torch relay at Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi on 19th June 2022. It will reach



Chennai, the host city of the 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad from July 28 - August 10, 2022.

The relay reached Bhubaneswar as a part of its journey through 75 iconic cities of India over 40 days to mark the celebration of the 75th year of the country's independence. It was first taken to Lok Seva Bhawan upon its arrival at the Biju Patnaik International

spectacular welcome to the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay with thunderous applause.

The relay passed through amid unprecedented reception with over 50,000 cheering students lining the road - 30,000 from KISS and 20,000 staff and students from KIIT. KIIT & KISS Founder Prof. Achyuta Samanta, KIIT-DU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sasmita Samanta and Registrar Prof. J. R. Mohanty, Chess prodigies Padmini Rout and Aparajita Gochhikar, All Odisha Chess Association President G.C. Mohapatra, Secretary Debabrat Bhatt, All India Chess Federation Joint-Secretary Ranjan Mohanty and were present.



Airport here. Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha welcomed the torch relay at the Lok Seva Bhawan. Chess Olympiad Organising Committee Member and

KIIT-KISS Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta was also present there to welcome the Chess Olympiad Torch.

## Pakistan Cricket Board wants Sri Lanka to retain Asia Cup hosting rights despite civil unrest

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board will support Sri Lanka in its bid to host the Asia Cup from August 27 despite civil and political unrest in the island nation.

Sri Lanka have managed to successfully host Australian cricket team without any security breach despite civil unrest after former president Gotabaya Rajapakse fled the country in the midst of acute financial crisis.

A PCB source said that chairman Ramiz Raja had spoken to top SLC officials and assured them that Pakistan will push for the Asia Cup to remain in Sri Lanka as scheduled from August 27 to September 11. "The PCB chairman has assured his counterpart that Pakistan wants Sri Lanka to host the regional event as it would mean revenue earnings for the host country and will also boost their tourism," the source said.

The source also said that the PCB had also assured the Sri Lankan cricket authorities that the Pakistan team will play its Test matches in Galle and Colombo despite the ongoing unrest in the country.

He informed that although no official Asian Cricket Council (ACC) meeting is scheduled in the coming days, all the members being present during upcoming ICC Board meeting in Birmingham from August 22, will give them a chance to discuss a range of issues including hosting rights for the next Asia Cup in Pakistan.

"Since all the ACC members will be present, there will be discussions on the sidelines and Pakistan is clear that Sri Lanka must host the Asia Cup unless their board decides otherwise," the source added "Pakistan's point of view is clear that it has a long standing relationship with Sri Lankan cricket and both have always supported each other in times of

need."

Raja to protest against BCCI's demand for bigger IPL window

It is a well documented fact that Raja, a former Pakistan captain is against BCCI's move to have a dedicated two and half month IPL window in the next FTP calendar starting 2023.

With Pakistani players not allowed in the IPL since Mumbai terror attacks, Raja feels that there is no reason that he can support BCCI's move.

"Pakistan's stance is clear. Since its players are not allowed to play in the IPL nor does BCCI have bilateral cricket ties with Pakistan, what is it going to gain from supporting an extended IPL window," the source questioned. A country's cricket board gets 10 per cent of its player's earnings if he gets a chance to play in the IPL.

"If BCCI pushes for an extended IPL window, Ramiz will insist that one country should not be isolated and made to suffer while other boards get benefits from it."

PCB to rope in Adelaide Oval's head curator The PCB has apparently shelved the idea of importing drop-in pitches and has now hired an Australian curator to help in the process of improving its pitches at major international venues.

Damien Hough, head curator of Adelaide Oval who is due to reach Lahore on Friday will also be briefing local curators on how to prepare day and night Test matches in Pakistan.

Hough will be in Pakistan for two-weeks and he will be visiting Karachi, Multan and Rawalpindi during his whirlwind tour.

He will inspect the pitches there and also give lectures and briefings to groundstaff and local curators.

Hough is believed to be one of the world's best curators with a 26-year experience.

## Manchester United begins Australian tour with 4-1 win



MELBOURNE: Manchester United overcame an early deficit to beat the A-League's Melbourne Victory 4-1 as new manager Erik ten Hag's winning start to the pre-season continued before a crowd of 74,157 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday.

Three days after United beat Liverpool 4-0 to open its overseas tour in Bangkok, the Victory took advantage of some apparent jet lag by the visitors to grab a 1-0 lead in the fifth minute when Chris Ikonomidis scored. But United led at halftime after a deflected Scott McTominay strike and a close-range

Anthony Martial goal.

The Dutch manager, hired by the English Premier League team in April, changed all 10 outfield players at halftime, just as he did against Liverpool. Marcus Rashford's finish from an Eric Bailly through ball provided the highlight of the second half that ended with an own goal from Tahith Chong's cross.

United next plays on Tuesday against Crystal Palace, also at Melbourne, before it faces Aston Villa next Friday in Perth, Western Australia.




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