

China plans to build new highway along LAC with India: Report

BEIJING(KCN): China plans to build a new highway along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India as part of Beijing's efforts to strengthen its strategic position and project its power, a media report said on Wednesday.

The highway, spanning from Lhunze county in Tibet to Mazha in Kashgar, Xinjiang region,

Under the plan released last week, the highway known as G695 is expected to run through Cona county, which lies immediately north of the LAC, Kamba county bordering Sikkim and Gyirong county near the border with Nepal, the report said.

The planned road would also go through Burang county between Tibet, Nepal and India as well as Zanda county in Ngari prefecture, parts of which are held by India, it said.

The details of the new construction remain unclear, but the highway, when completed, may also go near the hotly contested areas such as the Depsang Plains, Galwan Valley and Hot Springs on



is among 345 construction plans proposed in the new national programme, which aims to build a total of 461,000 kms of highway and motorway by 2035, as China seeks to revive its faltering economy with infrastructure investment, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

Lhunze county, according to reports, formed part of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as part of South Tibet.

the LAC, it said.

There was no official reaction here to the news report in the Hong Kong media. India has said previously that it keeps an eye on all the activities along its border.

The report of the new highway plan along the LAC comes at a time when India and China made efforts to resolve the over two-year eastern Ladakh standoff. The two countries have so far held 16 rounds

CONTINUED ON: P-7

'Satisfy hunger with tadka of jumlas': Rahul slams government over GST on essential items

NEW DELHI(KCN): Congress leader



Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the imposition of GST on packaged food items, saying the PM who listens to even the unsaid

words of "friends" will also have to listen to the people and take back this move. He said the recipe of "Gabbar" for people struggling with inflation is to make less, eat less and "satisfy hunger with the 'tadka of jumlas'".

The Congress leader said it is "cruel" on

with inflation: Make less, eat less, satisfy hunger with the 'tadka of jumlas'.

The prime minister, who listens to even the unsaid words of 'friends', will now also have to listen to the public and withdraw this GST," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

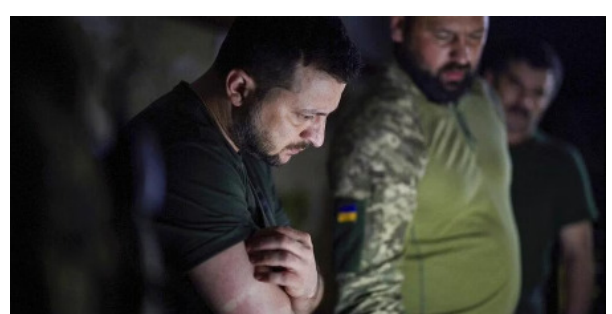
The Congress and other parties have been seeking an urgent discussion in Parliament on the issue of inflation and GST rates.

Parliament has witnessed disruptions over the issue ever since the start of the

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Ukraine's history of rampant corruption and shaky governance resurfaces as 'Russia war' goes on

WASHINGTON(KCN): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's dismissal of senior officials is casting an inconvenient light on an issue that the Biden administration has largely ignored since the outbreak of war with Russia: Ukraine's history of



rampant corruption and shaky governance. As it presses ahead with providing tens of billions of dollars in military, economic and direct financial support aid to Ukraine and encourages its allies to do the same, the Biden administration is now once again grappling with longstanding worries about Ukraine's suitability as a recipient of massive infusions of American aid. Those issues, which date back decades and were

not an insignificant part of former President Donald Trump's first impeachment, had been largely pushed to the back burner in the immediate run-up to Russia's invasion and during the first months of the conflict as the U.S. and its partners rallied to Ukraine's defense.

But Zelenskyy's weekend firings of his top prosecutor, intelligence chief and other senior officials have resurfaced those concerns and may have inadvertently given fresh attention to allegations of high-level corruption in Kyiv made by one outspoken U.S. lawmaker.

It's a delicate issue for the Biden administration. With billions in aid flowing to Ukraine, the White House continues to make the case for supporting Zelenskyy's government to an American public increasingly focused on domestic issues like high gas prices and inflation. High-profile supporters of Ukraine in both parties also want to avoid a backlash that could make it more difficult to pass future aid packages.

U.S. officials are quick to say that Zelenskyy is well within his right to appoint whomever he wants to senior positions, including

CONTINUED ON: P-7

India's Covid vaccination drive big on speed and scale: PM Narendra Modi



NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India's vaccination drive against COVID-19 is big on speed and scale, and noted that people have shown remarkable faith in science and taken their doses in a timely manner.

Modi made the re-

sponding to a tweet by Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates, congratulating the prime minister for the milestone of 200 crore Covid vaccine doses having been administered in India.

"Congratulations @narendramodi for yet another milestone of administer-

ing #200crorevaccinations. We are grateful for our continued partnership with Indian vaccine manufacturers and the Indian government for mitigating the impact of COVID19," Gates said in a tweet.

Responding to him, Modi said India's vaccination drive against

big on speed and scale. It has been powered by the collective efforts of many, including scientists, doctors and nurses, he added.

"At the same time, the people of India have shown remarkable faith in science and taken their doses in a timely manner," the prime minister said.

Rumblings of discontent emerge in Yogi Adityanath government 2.0

LUCKNOW(KCN): Rumblings of discontent have started emerging in Yogi government 2.0 just four months into governance. While Dinesh Khatik, junior minister of Jal Shakti, left the state government baffled by announcing his resignation on Wednesday, cabinet minister for PWD, Jitin Prasada, was said to be upset with the action taken by the CMO against

his Officer on Special Duty (OSD) and five other senior officials of the department over complaints of irregularities and corruption in transfer and posting of engineers. Minis-



ter of State for Jal Shakti, Dinesh Khatik, considered to be an influential Dalit leader, sent his resignation from cabinet through a letter written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah here on Wednesday. In his letter, the minister claimed to be a victim of bureaucratic indifference saying he was being ignored by the officials of his department.

While announcing his resignation, Khatik, a two-time MLA from Hastinapur, complained that the officials of the level of principal secretary neither listened to

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Law & Order Peaceful: CM

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The overall law and order situation in the State remained by and large peaceful. During the period, the State has been relatively free from any form of communal discord, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said in Assembly here on Wednesday. The Elections to PRI 2022, Urban Local

police stations for cybercrime & economic offences have been created, he mentioned. Further, the Chief Minister said, recruitment process is going on for filling up of about 1730 posts in the rank of SI/ASI in police and posts in various ranks of jail as well as under fire services.



Bodies 2022 and Elections to different Co-operative Societies were conducted peacefully in the State. The Rath Yatra of Lord Shri Jagannath with devotees participating in lakhs after two years was also conducted smoothly due to elaborate Police arrangements, said the CM.

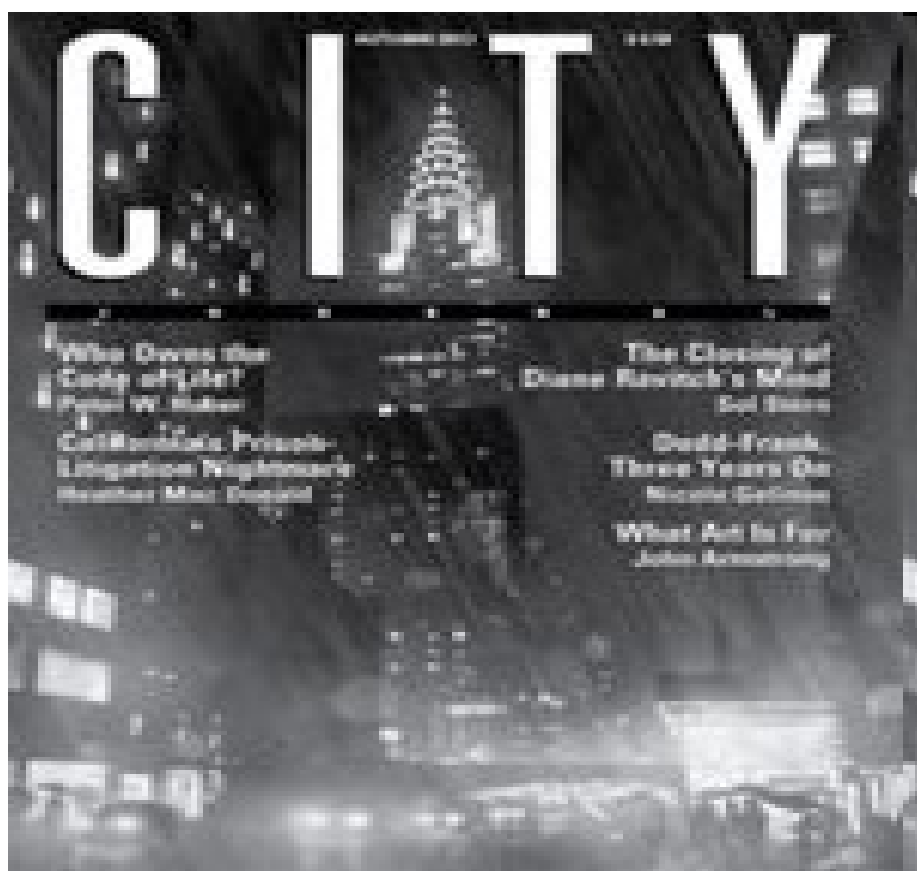
Intensity of overall Maoist violence has come down in the State. The Panchayat Elections have been conducted incident free in LWE affected areas with high voter turnout despite determined efforts by Maoists to hinder the poll process.

A total of 944 posts in various ranks were created for Odisha Police last year. Dedicated

The Prisons Development Board has been constituted in order to improve and modernize the infrastructural facilities in Prisons. "My Government has also recently enhanced the daily wages of the convicts based on the level of their skills. As part of social inclusion and upliftment of all sections of society, transmitters were given permission to apply for the post of Sub-Inspectors in Odisha Police," he said.

The Government has also created several institutional mechanisms like Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Units, Investigation Units for Crime against Women, Mahila and Sishu Desks and Crime Against

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I'm from Jharkhand, do you know?

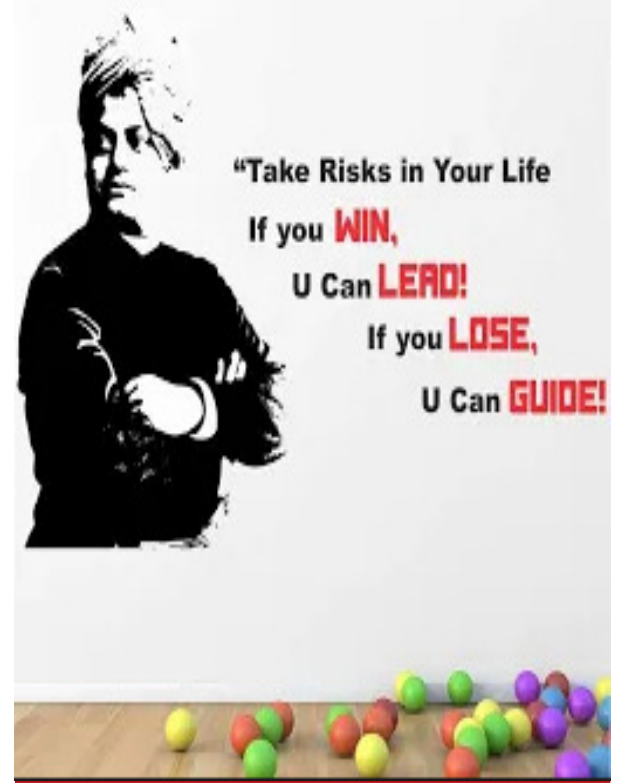
Dwit David Philip

We are just out from mum's womb,
Delights us still, mother's lap and peer group,
Dream I have, that I can't express, as I can't frame now,
Being asleep, I smile and also I cry,
Mother tells me, while sleeping, "I am more beautiful, expressive and different".
Ho is my language,
Yet, to understand Hindi and English, our adults they know,
Mama is telling me, I have to learn, even though I don't know that.
From land, my parents get grains, pulses and vegetables,
Some time, we eat chicken, meat and fish that my mother cooks,
I get fun out of chocolates and biscuits, while she purchases ration.
I see pictures in television and news papers, though the letters and words I don't know,
Those are different, unlike my village, I know,
Father tells me, "those are big cities and towns",
He tells me, one day, I have to go there down.
He doesn't know, how much I'm scared of them now,
That doesn't match mine, anything around.
I'm a Ho, from Jharkhand do you know?



Chaibasha, Jharkhand, India

Quotation of the Day



What is Art for?

For decades, Western culture has been reluctant to assign an inherent value or a purpose to art—even as it continues to hold art in high esteem. Though we no longer seem comfortable saying so, our reverence for art must be founded on a timeless premise: that art is good for us. If we don't believe this, then our commitment—in money, time, and study—makes little sense. In what way might art be good for us? The answer, I believe, is that art is a therapeutic instrument: its value lies in its capacity to exhort, console, and guide us toward better versions of ourselves and to help us live more flourishing lives, individually and collectively.

Resistance to such a notion is understandable today, since "therapy" has become associated with questionable, or at least unavailing, methods of improving mental health. To say that art is therapeutic is not to suggest that it shares therapy's methods but rather its underlying ambition: to help us to cope better with existence. While several predominant ways of thinking about art appear to ignore or reject this goal, their ultimate claim is therapeutic as well.

Art's capacity to shock remains for some a strong source of its contemporary appeal. We are conscious that, individually and collectively, we may grow complacent; art can be valuable when it disrupts or astonishes us. We are particularly in danger of forgetting the artificiality of certain norms. It was once taken for granted, for instance, that women should not be allowed to vote and that the study of ancient Greek should dominate the curricula of English schools. It's easy now to see that those arrangements were far from inevitable: they were open to change and improvement.

When Sebastian Errazuriz created dollar signs out of ordinary street markings in Manhattan, his idea was to jolt passersby into a radical reconsideration of the role of money in daily life—to shake us out of our unthinking devotion to commerce and to inspire, perhaps, a more equitable conception of wealth creation and distribution. (One would completely misunderstand the work if it were taken as an encouragement to work harder and get rich.) Yet the shock-value approach depends upon a therapeutic assumption. Shock can be valuable because it may prompt a finer state of mind—more alert to complexity and nuance and more open to doubt. The overarching aim is psychological improvement. Shock can do little for us, though, when we seek other adjustments to our moods or perceptions. We may be paralyzed by doubt and anxiety and need wise reassurance; we may be lost in the labyrinth of complexity and need simplification; we may be too pessimistic and need encouragement. Shock is pleasing to its adherents in its assumption that our primary problem is complacency. Ultimately, however, it is a limited response to impoverished thinking, timid or ungenerous reactions, or meanness of spirit.

Another way of addressing these shortcomings is to pursue a deeper understanding of the past. Vittore Carpaccio's painting *The Healing of the Madman* offers a rare visual record of the Rialto Bridge—then still made of wood—before it was reconstructed, so it has much to teach us about the architecture of Venice circa 1500. It's also highly instructive about ceremonial processions, the prominent civic role of religion (and its intersection with commerce), how patricians and gondoliers dressed, how ordinary people wore their hair, and much else. We also gain insight into how the painter imagined the past; the ceremony depicted took place over 100 years before the picture was painted. We learn something about the economics of art—the image is

part of a series commissioned by a wealthy commercial fraternity.

In a less scholarly way, the richness with which a past era becomes visually present allows us to imagine what it would have been like to clatter across the wooden bridge, to be rocked along the canals in a covered gondola, and to live in a society in which belief in miracles was part of the state ideology.

We value historical information of this kind for various reasons: because we want to understand more about our ancestors and how they lived and because we hope to gain insight from these distant people and cultures. But these efforts lead back, eventually, to a single idea: that we might benefit from an encounter with history as revealed in art. In other words, the historical ap-



proach does not deny that the value of art is ultimately therapeutic—it assumes this, even if it tends to forget or dismiss the point. Hence the irony (to put it gently) of scholarly resistance to the idea of art's therapeutic benefit. Erudition is valuable only as a means to an end, which is to shed light on our present needs.

Opening a window onto the Venetian past: Carpaccio's *The Healing of the Madman*.
Opening a window onto the Venetian past: Carpaccio's *The Healing of the Madman*.

Another approach sees art as a succession of discoveries or innovations in the representation of reality. In this almost scientific way of evaluating art, we elevate artists who pioneered new techniques, much as we prize explorers and inventors from history ("Who discovered America?" "Who built the first steam engine?"). Leonardo da Vinci is crucial, in this view, because he was an early adopter of sfumato, an artistic technique for showing shapes without using outlines.

Likewise, Paul Cézanne's *Mont Sainte-Victoire* is seminal for being one of the earliest works to emphasize the flat surface of the canvas. In his image of the mountain as seen from Les Lauves, his property near Aix-en-Provence, Cézanne uses blocks of paint to symbolize shrubs—though they are, on closer examination, equally colored marks forming an abstract pattern. (This is most apparent if the top half of the painting is covered.) We are presented not with the illusion of three-dimensional space but with the admission that this is a two-dimensional work. Cézanne's approach is so familiar to sophisticated enthusiasts that it seems almost embarrassing to point out that his technique explains little about the work's value to us. The worth of an invention can be assessed externally only in terms of the genuine benefits that it brings. Technical discussions reveal only the changes in methods of design or production. The new ways

John Armstrong

are not good in themselves; they are good only if we have reason to believe that they are better than the old. Hence the technical view of art has a buried assumption: it presupposes that the works in question are beneficial to us. It does not explain why this should be so but, like the historical approach, takes this for granted. Technical advances are valuable insofar as they bring new, or enhanced, therapeutic resources to the art form.

If one agrees with Hegel that art is the sensuous presentation of the idea (or ideal), it remains to be explained why such a presentation is valuable. What is the nature of our troubles or aspirations, such that art is something that we need? The therapeutic thesis is not simply another idea about art's value. It homes in on the only area in which such value could be explained: art's capacity to improve our lives. Art can be: A corrective of bad memory: Art makes the fruits of experience memorable and renewable. It is a mechanism to keep our best insights in good condition and make them publicly accessible. A purveyor of hope: Art keeps pleasant and consoling things in view, fortifying us against despair.

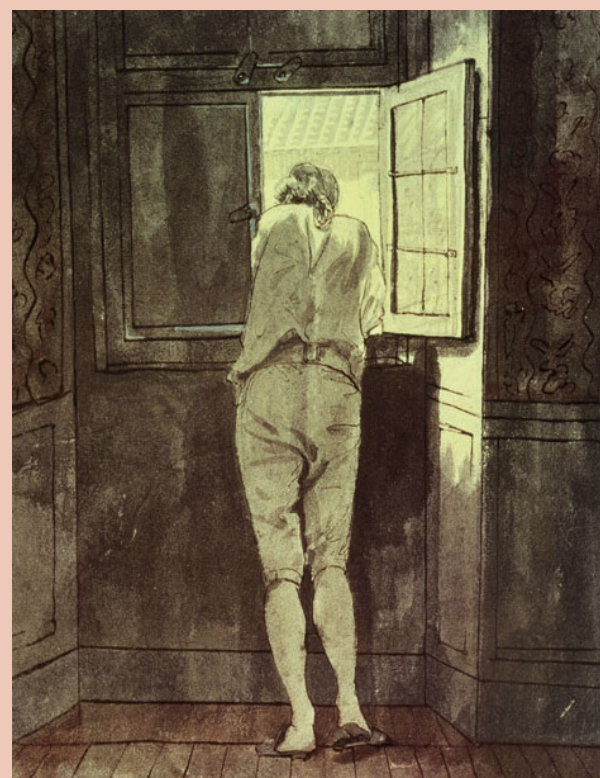
A source of dignified sorrow: Art reminds us of the legitimate place of sorrow in a good life, so that we recognize our difficulties as elements of any noble existence.

A balancing agent: Art encodes with unusual clarity the essence of our good qualities; it holds them before us to help rebalance our natures and direct us to our best possibilities.

A guide to self-knowledge: Art can help us identify what is central to life but difficult to put into words. Visual art helps us recognize ourselves.

A guide to the extension of experience: Art is an immensely sophisticated accumulation of experience, presented to us in well-organized forms. We can hear the voices of other cultures, extending our notions of ourselves and the world. At first, much art seems merely "other"—but we discover that it contains ideas that we can make our own, in ways that enrich us.

A tool of re-sensitization: Art saves us from our habitual disregard for what is all around us. We



recover our sensitivity and look at the familiar in new ways. We are reminded that novelty and glamour are not the only solutions.

Consider, for example, Tischbein's *Goethe at the Window of His Roman Apartment*. We see the great man from behind: a slipper falls casually from his foot as he leans out, and the dim coolness of the room and the bright sunshine of the street make a powerful contrast. Some might see in this work an attempt to preserve the lessons learned on holiday. Away from home and work, in the warm South, Goethe became (like most travelers) a slightly different—and, in some ways, better—version of himself. The drawing attempts to memorialize the good version of the self and make that more prominent and more readily accessible when one has returned to familiar surroundings. The point is not so much to recall that Rome was interesting as to encapsulate who one became there. Goethe could hardly take the Italian weather back to Weimar; what he could do was hold on to the insight into his nature and needs that he gained while away. Hence it is a pity if one is more likely to encounter such images on the walls of a pensione in Trastevere than in a subway station in a metropolis, where its meditative qualities are more needed.

Tischbein depicts Goethe in his Roman apartment.

In *Rocky Reef on the Sea Shore*, Caspar David Friedrich uses a striking, jagged rock formation, a spare stretch of coast, the bright horizon, far-away clouds, and a pale sky to induce a mood. We might imagine walking in the predawn hours, after a sleepless night, on the bleak headland, away from human company, alone with the basic forces of nature. The lower portion of the sky is formless and empty, a pure silvery nothingness, but above it are clouds that catch the light on their undersides and pass on in their pointlessness, transient way, indifferent to our concerns.

The image of nature does not refer directly to human relationships or to the stresses and tribulations of daily life. Its function is to give us access to a state of mind in which we are acutely conscious of the largeness of time and space. The work is somber, rather than sad; calm, but not despairing. And in that condition of mind—that state of soul, to put it more romantically—we find ourselves, as so often with works of art, better equipped to deal with our intense, intractable, and particular griefs.

Friedrich's *Rocky Reef on the Sea Shore* evokes the largeness of time and space. Friedrich's *Rocky Reef on the Sea Shore* evokes the largeness of time and space.

The idea that art's value should be understood in therapeutic terms is not new. In fact, it is the most enduring way of thinking about art, having its roots in Aristotle's philosophical reflections on poetry and drama. In the *Poetics*, Aristotle argued that tragic drama can elevate how we experience fear and pity—two emotions that help shape our experience of life. The broad implication is that the task of art is to help us flourish, to be "virtuous," in Aristotle's special sense of that word: that is, to be good at living, even in challenging circumstances.

This understanding of art has been in abeyance in recent decades, but it is, I believe, the only plausible way of thinking about art's value. Other approaches, as we have seen, must tacitly assume it, even when they deny it. To consider art from a therapeutic point of view is not to abandon profundity but to embrace it and to return art to a central place in modern culture and modern life.

Writer is a philosopher and senior advisor to the vice chancellor at the University of Melbourne; he is the coauthor, with Alain de Botton, of *Art as Therapy*, published by Phaidon in October.

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Disney's Marvel unit files lawsuits to keep rights to 'Avengers' characters from copyright termination

WASHINGTON: Disney's Marvel unit has filed lawsuits to including Stan Lee, Steve Ditko and Gene Colan. Marvel has faced terminations from termination provisions of copyright law, authors or their



acquire full control of 'Avengers' characters including Spider-Man, Iron Man, Black Widow and others. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the complaints come against the heirs of some late comic book geniuses in-

The legal document seeks "declaratory relief that these blockbuster characters are ineligible for copyright termination as works made for hire." Reportedly, if Marvel loses, Disney would have to share ownership of characters worth bil-

Hollywood Reporter. Patrick Ditko, Don Larry also filed Rico and Keith termination notices to Dettwiler. The cases will focus on the creation of famous comic book characters and who should be deemed the statutory author. One of the complaints filed on Friday asserted, "Marvel had the right to exercise creative control over Lieber's contributions and paid Lieber a per-page rate for his work." If the plaintiffs win, Disney would have to share profits with the others and hold on to at least a share of character rights as co-owners. As per The Hollywood Reporter, the termination provisions of copyright law only apply in the United States, allowing Disney to continue to control and profit from foreign exploitation.

'Kanyadaan' an outdated ritual or important custom? Alia Bhatt's ad sparks debate

The bride, pretty, radiant and in red, sits in front of the sacred fire, her family, the groom and his parents around her, the love flowing like a balmy breeze. And in that arguably most precious moment, she looks into the camera and asks, "why must a woman be commodified through the custom of 'kanyadaan' literally 'donating a daughter'." The ad for a lehenga brand featuring Bollywood star Alia Bhatt as the much-indulged daughter and granddaughter has fired debate on social media platforms and elsewhere on the age-old tradition of giving away the daughter.

modities to be given away or 'donated.' Women have agency, selfhood and can make decisions about their lives on their own so my wedding reflected exactly that by not including a ritual like 'kanyadaan'," the actor told PTI. She even engaged a female priest for her wedding to emphasise gender equality. "It is time for young couples to define how they want to get married and if their ceremony is truly representative of their personalities and love for each other," said the actor, who is also the United Nation's National Goodwill Ambassador from India. The ritual of giving away the bride is, of course, not just about Hindu weddings.

away and you have nothing to do with me anymore. You're severing ties like I'm some object basically that you're giving away. My parents did understand it but the issue was 'this is how it is, has been and will be'." Actor Kangana Ranaut was among those who disagreed. Criticising the ad in an Instagram post, she said, "Humble request to all brands. Don't use religion, minority, majority politics to sell things. Stop manipulating naive consumers with shrewd divisive concepts and advertising. Please stop mocking Hindus and their rituals." One of the Twitter users echoed similar sentiments.

Many term it Hindu phobic for casting aspersions on a ritual that is part of the warp and weft of society, others appreciate it for calling out the patriarchy that underscores the custom and there are those that feel it should have gone even further in its rejection. "There is a growing number of young women who are beginning to think about the issue, especially as increasing number joins the workforce, has access to ideas (via social media etc) that are critical of 'women as property' concept. This ad reflects that," sociologist Sanjay Srivastava told PTI. In the 1.41 minute ad, Bhatt, the self-assured woman of today who also does a selfie pout with her father while at the 'mandap', recalls her lifetime of 'othering' in a monologue - her fond grandmother saying she would one day go to her own home, her father not reacting when people called her "paraya dhan" (alien property) and her mother calling her a 'chidiya' which would fly away one day. The Manyawar ad ends with the grooms' parent also joining in in the ritual (though it is unclear whether they too are giving away their son) and Bhatt's bride saying it should be 'kanyamaan' (respect for the girl child) and not 'kanyadaan', and asking, "Am I a thing to be given away?" Her angst finds a wide echo. Actor Dia Mirza, who decided to do away with the rituals of both "bidai" and "kanyadaan" when she got married to businessman Vaibhav Rekhi, said they wanted the wedding to reflect their "beliefs and not outmoded ideas." "Neither of us believes that women are com-



"Our traditions are not regressive, your mindsets surely are! Kanyadaan is a sacred tradition, where a father/parent parts with their most precious and cherished daughter, a bitter-sweet emotional moment filled with hopes, promises and dreams," the user wrote. Women's rights activist Shabnam Hashmi said the attacks on the ad "reflects the highly patriarchal mindsets of our society". "It is a very progressive advertisement and raises important questions of women's dignity and equality," Hashmi told PTI. Sociologist Shrivastava added that people reacted negatively because there is an increasing intolerance against anything that is seen to question 'Indian traditions'.

It is also a vital part of a Christian wedding service where the father walks down the aisle with his daughter and "hands her over" to the waiting groom. Brought up on tradition and a diet of popular culture, including movies, both Indian and western, many women have now begun to question the patriarchal traditions of wedding ceremonies across societies. Mumbai-based IT analyst Meghna Trivedi, who got married in February last year, said the ritual of 'kanyadaan' does not make sense in today's day and age but had to undergo the ritual anyway. Trivedi, a Gujarati who married a Punjabi, said she asked the priest to find another way but he maintained 'kanyadaan' is a "must". "What you mean by 'kanyadaan' is that you're giving away your daughter to somebody else and that is something you have to do in your life and it's related to your duties as a parent that now your daughter belongs to another family," she told PTI. "But I'm still my parents' daughter after I got married. 'Kanyadaan' is like you're giving me

The reaction, he said, also reflects a "male anxiety" about the changes that are happening in addition to the current climate where it has become difficult to question anything Indian/Hindu. There were also those who felt the ad didn't go far enough. "The idea should not be to perpetuate the custom but to break away from it," said a young woman, who welcomed the ad and the questioning of traditions but would have preferred that it didn't end with the parents of both sides taking part in it. A radical break would have been more effective in sending out the message, she said. However, a debate reflects a churn. And in that sense, any discussion is welcome, even if it has unlikely beginnings in an ad for a bridal lehenga.

Bricks, Russian aggression and global economic crisis

BRICS, a grouping of major emerging economies - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa - has become one of the trending buzzwords in global public opinion lately. After Iran and Argentina applied to join the BRICS mechanism, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Egypt also plan to knock on the door of the BRICS for official membership, Sputnik quoted BRICS International Forum President Purnima Anand as saying. If the trend tells anything, it is the growing charm of BRICS' strength and values, as well as the loss of attraction in the current West-dominated global governance. Crises have been surfacing on a global level since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Quite a few countries, especially those in the West, are being confronted with crippling inflation, untenable energy costs, looming recessions and food shortage. Yet BRICS countries have shown much less sensitivity and vulnerability than the US and European countries amid these challenges.

The reason stems from BRICS members' own strength and enhanced cooperation within the group. According to the World Bank, Russia holds the world's largest natural gas reserves, the second largest coal reserves, and the eighth largest oil reserves. Brazil has diverse agricultural products and vast mineral wealth. Their different advantages plus the promotion of BRICS' cooperation on food supply and the exchanges of national currencies have made the group less impacted by the global crises. More importantly, BRICS countries have the will, and, to different degrees, capability, to fix the deficit in global governance. In this regard, BRICS has already launched a series of innovations. Take the BRICS-led New Development Bank (NDB). The initial subscribed capital is equally distributed

Letter to Editor

Meta Platform Facing Human Rights Risk

Recently, the research done in our nation by Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) agency on the Meta platform, which incorporates Facebook, Instagram, and Whatsapp discovered that these social medias are exposed to higher risks of human rights including limitations on the liberty of expression, information and risk of hatred that ignites malevolence due to the actions by third parties which largely appearing terrifying now. Also according to study these third parties intervention may also lead to hatred that instigate discrimination, violence, Indiscriminate rights; infringement of an individual's right to privacy as well as security of this platform. This unprecedented indepth research reports seems to be intimidating not only to Meta platform but also to other social media platforms. Furthermore this research report is exclusively of our nation. To overcome this HRIA has to develop recommendations regarding incorporating, monitoring, content moderation, product interventions and many more so that Meta platform can study them and use them as a regard to identify and guide relevant actions which fixes the issues swiftly that are reported as of now.

Vijaykumar H.K., Raichur

among the founding members - the five BRICS countries.

The voting power of each member is also equal based on their shares in the capital stock of the bank. This example, just a tiny part of the BRICS cooperation though, shows that BRICS is a group where the five countries are on a completely equal footing, with equal rights to speak, vote, and make decisions. This is nothing like any Western alliance, where there is always a dominant role who has the biggest say

Pratap Kishore Mohanty

When the West compares BRICS with G7 and NATO, it has turned a blind eye to the fact that G7 has long become a rich countries' club, and NATO's mentality is still trapped in the Cold War. Whenever G7 attempts to put up a show to discuss various global issues nowadays, all it really cares about is the containment of China and Russia.

But BRICS advocates a win-win for the entire world, that is, a win-win not just for the developing countries, but also for the developed powers. This is the biggest difference between BRICS and Western blocs. In the past, developing countries had not enough strength to reach the goal. Now the timing has come.

Regulations or legal procedures for BRICS enlargement are under discussion. It is thus unlikely that BRICS will absorb new members any time soon before relevant principles and rules are carried out. But when Turkey, a NATO ally, applies for BRICS membership, it mirrors BRICS, be it its capacity or ideas, and represents something much cooler than US-dominated rules and orders. At least it signals that the world needs reformed governance where Western voices are not the only sound.

When it was formed in 2009, the group was expected to reshape the global economy and create a new financial order to help the developing world. Its success can be described at best as moderate, but its importance can't be overstated. BRICS nations have a combined population of 3.23 billion and their combined GDP is more than \$23tn. The BRICS may seem irrelevant because it hasn't really moved the needle forward on its long-standing efforts to usher in viable global economic alternatives to the US-led existing system. While China has been more open about its support for Russia, India, South Africa, and Brazil have tried to walk the diplomatic tightrope over the war. They haven't openly criticized Russia but have advocated talks to end the war. But a lot has changed since the war started. The economic impact of the war and the West-led sanctions is showing across the world - inflation is up in many countries, global supply chains have been disrupted and there are fears of food shortages. Russian commentators have been talking about the importance of the BRICS nations in blunting the impact of the sanctions. Therefore, how should BRICS navigate the challenges that the Russian-Ukrainian war presents? Will it cause a sizable diversion from the BRICS to aim to balance a world system dominated by the west? Will it strengthen BRICS' position as the driving force behind changes to global economic governance? Or will its members' geopolitical concerns continue to cloud its focus? Whether the current crisis is viewed as a game-changer and an opportunity to challenge the current system, which is dominated by

unilateralism and exclusion, depends on how BRICS will adapt to the new circumstances.

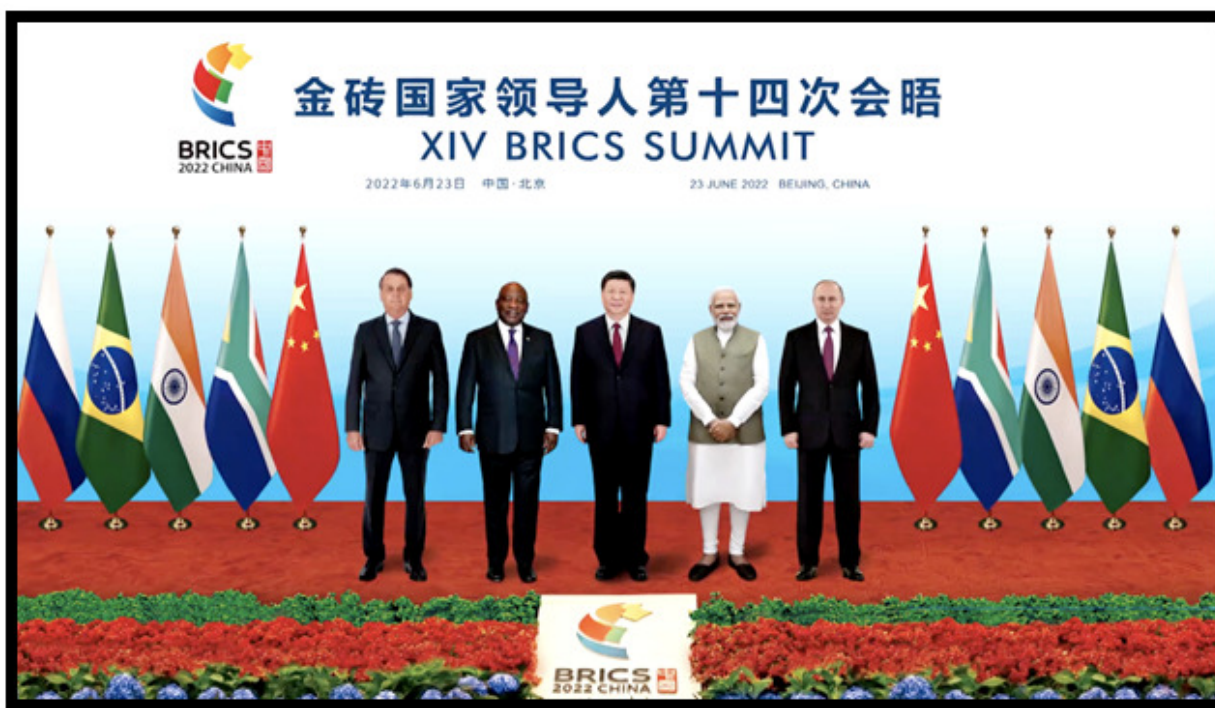
The BRICS countries comprise a potent group in terms of global power standing from an economic, military, technological, social, and cultural perspective. They make up more than 40% of the world's population and occupy more than a quarter of its landmass across three continents, with an estimated combined population of 3.23 billion. Together with the two countries that are expanding the quickest in the world, India, and China, they represent more than 25% of the global GDP, or \$23.53 trillion.

A place for potent new narratives to emerge from the BRICS is created by the new geopolitical reality, where so much is in flux and unclear. The next potential target of a similar form of total economic warfare used by the West against Russia might be the BRICS nations. The current circumstance is the perfect opportunity to take stock of the BRICS countries, especially in light of their frequently contentious relationships with the West. It is now imperative that the BRICS and other like-minded nations work diligently to establish a second economic bloc independent of US-led institutions and the dollar. At this point, BRICS partners' unity is crucial. In opposition to US and EU sanctions, it is anticipated that BRICS partners will stand with Russia. Individual members who do not consider themselves allies and who want to avoid this conflict will be acting against their country's interests. In their interactions with the West, China, Brazil, South Africa, and India all have a lot at risk. The west has not yet predicted that the BRICS nations will comply with the sanctions equally. However, expecting them to maintain this mentality is naive and impractical.

Can BRICS endure the Western economy's and institutions' strength? The BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) and Contingent Reserve Arrangement have successfully been established, demonstrating BRICS's standing as a club of somewhat developing powers (CRA). Although China, India, and Russia are members of the group, less than 20% of world trade is conducted inside the BRICS. The group lacks international message channels, cards, or payment methods. The Western lenders should have had some competition from programmes like the New Development Bank. BRICS cannot immediately replace the West's economic might, but the way the West responded to the situation in Ukraine shows how urgent it is to move now and do more to deal with potential financial instability.

BRICS must undoubtedly be strengthened. The timeline and organization need to be re-evaluated. Now is the time to reconsider the notion of enlarging the BRICS by inviting new participants. Once more nations are added, the development objectives for BRICS to pursue its principles and ideals to protect will be strengthened with renewed vigour. It is important to actively promote the goal of evading sanctions and developing Western alternatives to the financial, logistical, and other systems. It ought to transform BRICS into the G20 for emerging nations.

The Author is a Academic Consultant in Sociology, Odisha State Open University Sambalpur, Pratapk68@gmail.com



SBI contributes Rs. 4.70 crore to Army Central Welfare Fund

Mumbai(KCN): Endeavoring to support the Armed Forces, the State Bank of India (SBI),

takes pride in its commitment to providing financial and banking services to the Defence Personnel across the country. At SBI, we continuously aim to innovate and devise banking solutions that add value to the lives of border heroes and their families. We feel gratified to see these heroes pledge their lives for the safety of our nation. Therefore, to do our bit, we promise to support the Defense Forces to the best of our abilities.”



country's largest lender, has contributed Rs. 4.70 crores to Army Central Fund. Primarily, the funds will support the activities at the Indian Army Paraplegic Home at Mohali and other related welfare activities for disabled Personnel / Veterans.

Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI, handed over the cheque to the Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj Pande, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, at the Army HQ, New Delhi in the presence of Shri P C Kandpal, DMD (SBI) and Shri Devendra Kumar, CGM (SBI), Lt. Gen C.B. Ponnappa, AVSM, VSM, Adjutant General (Indian Army)

On the occasion of the cheque handover, Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI, said, “SBI

Husband murders wife, arrested by police

Barbil(KCN): An unfortunate incident took place in Raika village of Serenda panchayat under Barbil police station in Kendujhar



district. Nagu Munda, a 29-year-old man, beat his wife to death with a wooden stick. Raika is a tribal-dominated village, and the locals depend on wages and forests to make ends meet. Lack of work is a constant source of frustration in most of the families in this village. Along with alcohol addiction is too a major problems which ruin many families. According to neighbour Nangu Munda had an altercation with his wife, Mene Munda, on the evening of the 18th, for some reason, and Nangu Munda hit his wife on the head with a wooden stick and Mene Munda died at the spot. Seeing this Mangu fled away from the village. She married Mene less than 10 years ago in Balita village near Nangu village They have also lost their son for the past four years and now have a 3-year-old daughter. The Ward member of Raika village Mani Munda gave a written allegiance of the events in Barbil police station. Investigating the matter Barbil police arrested Nangu Munda under Section 302 of the IPC and taken to court.

responsibilities under Corporate Social Responsibility through various initiatives promoting inclusivity and sustainable growth. Beyond its CSR activities, SBI has always accorded paramount importance to servicing the Country's Defence Forces. One such effort is SBI setting up 500-plus Defence Intensive Branches and a dedicated team of Defence Banking Advisors. SBI also extends a bouquet of banking services and privileges under the Defence Salary Package with enhanced benefits crafted to deliver ease, comfort, and convenience to the Defence Personnel through its vast network of branches, ATMs, and digital banking channels.

15 Mines for Auction

Bhubaneswar: The State Government has lined up 15 mineral blocks for auction during the current financial year, Union Coal and Mines Minister Prahlad Joshi informed Lok Sabha on Wednesday. Replying to a question raised by Keonjhar MP Chandrani Murmu, the Union Minister said, as per the provisions under Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation (MMDR) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder, the State Governments are empowered to grant mineral concessions for the minerals located within their respective jurisdiction and to collect the revenue generated there upon. He said the State Government proposes to auction 15 mineral blocks during the year 2022-23. The Government has lined up seven iron ore mines, four bauxite, two manganese, a limestone & dolomite and another copper & nickel blocks for auction during the current year. Laupada, Rengalaberha N-E extension & Nuagaon West, Alaghat West, Gandhalpada



West, Kendudihi North, Roida-I and Jhumka-Pathiriposhi West iron blocks for auction.

Similarly, Ballada, Nunapali, Sijimali and Kutrumali bauxite mineral blocks have been put in papers for auction this year. The other proposed mines to be auctioned this year include Tunmura Limestone & Dolomite mine, Bhanjikusum Manganese Block, Dudhisasol East Copper Block and Kutinga Manganese Block. The State Government has issued Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for auction of 4 mineral blocks on March 29, 2022. The mines are— Koira, Kadodihi Iron ore Block, Orahuri Manganese & Iron ore Block, Kusumdihi Manganese & Iron ore Block and Kedesala NorthEast Iron ore block. All four mines are located in Sundergarh district. During the last five years, the State had successfully auctioned 34 mineral blocks, which includes 18 iron ore mineral blocks and five composite mines of iron and manganese ores.

Odisha government to pilot 'Grain ATM' to dispense PDS ration

BHUBANESWAR: The State government will soon pilot a project to dispense ration through automated teller machines (ATMs) to beneficiaries covered under national and State food security programmes. Informing this to the Assembly on Tuesday, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak said the facility will be introduced in the urban areas of the State in the first phase. Initially, the service will be available in Bhubaneswar, he added. A special code card will be provided to the beneficiaries to avail the service. The ATM will be equipped with a biometric system having a touch screen, where the beneficiary will have to enter the Aadhaar or ration card number. On biometric authentication, foodgrain prescribed

by the government to the beneficiaries will be pro-



vided through the machines. Majority of the beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and State Food Security Programme (SFSP) are provided rice.

“Grama Sabha” of Narbheram company envisage protest of villagers

Barbil(KCN): Public resistance against Narbheram Steel and Power limited proved as tribals boycotted the “Gram Sabha “for forest clearance and conversion of forest land to non forest land held at Tanto village. As per report the Narbheram power and steel company intends to acquire land of 27.29 acres for it's proposed pelletisation plant . As per schedule, representative of district



administration and police forces reached the venue on the day and began proceedings with some residents and Narbheram officials. Very few participants were observed at the venue and chairs remains vacant till the end of the meeting. Padmshri Tulasi Munda shows her discontent saying “ We have rights, you cannot just take our jungle away! “The company was operating in the area since last 30years in other name “K.N.Ram &co”,but it's contribution for the surrounding villages are negligible rather it has frightened locals many times using police. As per primafaci observation ,out of three participant , two did objection and one supported with condition. Hence the public hearing is postponed and extended further said one officials.

Students of Barbil Sishu mandir students feliciated

Barbil (KCN): The Saraswoti Sishu Mandir School on



Wednesday, an YouTube singer popular for her album " Har Har Sambhu" also feliciated on the occasion. School principal Dambudhar Mahanta, Chan-drgupta Prasad, president, Mr Kar secretary, Giridhari Lal,Senior Corospondant along with parents of the students also present on the occasion.

Maoist under control

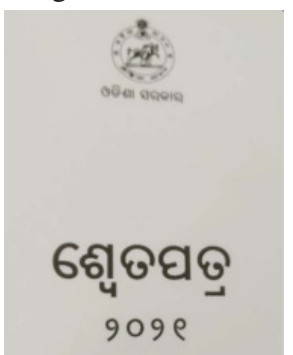
Bhubaneswar: The overall Left-wing extremism scenario in the State has remained well under control during 2021, as per Home Department White Paper tabled in the Odisha Assembly on Wednesday. The intensity of CPI Maoist perpetrated violence declined, the cadre strength of Maoists dwindled, the area of influence of the banned outfit shrunk and the mass support base of the Maoist slackened during the year, it said.

Out of the 10 districts of State presently affected by Maoist activities, the situation has remarkably improved in most of the areas including in Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri and Kalahandi-Rayagada- Kandhamal axis due to pro-active security and administrative response. However, the situation remained dynamic and challenging in a few pockets, said the White Paper.

A total of 28 Maoist-related incidents including 21 exchanges of fire on police initiatives were reported in the State during the year in which two civilians were killed and one security personnel attained martyrdom. While seven hard-core CPI Maoists were neutralised in separate incidents of anti-Maoist operations by security forces in Malkangiri, Kalahandi, Bolangir, and Bargarh districts, as many as 36 were arrested in connection with their involvement in Maoist activities and 21 surrendered during the period. The security forces recovered 30 guns, 48 IEDs and a huge quantity of ammunition, explosives materials and other articles. The proactive steps were taken to augment the security cover in the core Maoist-affected areas and create a secure atmosphere for development activities in those areas, the white paper said. It claimed that focus was given to ensure time-bound implementation of the Surrender and Rehabilitation Scheme as a part of the composite endeavour to integrate CPI Maoist cadres in the mainstream society. No terrorist activity has been noticed in the state during 2021.

Total 1,55,420 cognizable cases including 1394 murder, 552 dacoity, 2826 robbery, 5133 burglary, 13,024 theft, 5138 swindling, 2220 rioting, 3327 rape, 10,983 MV accident and 110823 misc cases were reported in the State during 2021.

The State government has signed several partnership agreements with the World Food Programme (WFP) in 2021. Transformation of the public distribution system and paddy procurement, grain ATM and smart mobile storage units are some of the projects to be taken up under the agreement. The country's first 'Grain ATM' was set up in Gurugram, Haryana last year. This machine has been installed under the World Food Programme and it is called the 'Automated, Multi Commodity, Grain Dispensing Machine'. Uttarakhand government has also introduced the Grain ATM. HOW IT WORKS ATM will have a biometric system Beneficiary has to enter his/her Aadhaar or ration card number Once authenticated, grains will be provided through ATM



Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance partners with DBS Bank India; To offer life insurance solutions to the bank's customers

Mumbai / Pune (KCN): Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of India's leading private life insurers, and DBS Bank India, the wholly owned subsidiary of DBS Bank Ltd., Singapore, have announced a strategic partnership to offer a wide array of life insurance solutions to the bank's 3M customers. Through this partnership, Bajaj Allianz Life and DBS Bank aim to empower the customers to *Live More and Bank Less* by investing in life insurance products that best meet their life needs in a planned manner. New and existing customers across the 550+ branches of DBS Bank can now choose from Bajaj Allianz Life's retail products including term, savings, retirement, and investment products.

Mr. Prashant Joshi – MD & Head, Consumer Banking Group, DBS Bank India said, "Our partnership with Bajaj Allianz Life will pave the way for all DBS Bank customers to enjoy comprehensive end-to-end life insurance solutions. Customers across the 550+ physical network of DBS as well as digibank users will be able to avail all the

Company's brand promise of Life Goals.Done. drives it to launch innovative insurance solutions, backed by a robust set of digital assets. Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has constantly transformed to offer tech-enabled state-of-the-art services to enhance customer delight. The Company continues to engage with customers through several unique

first foreign banks in India to start operating as a wholly owned, locally incorporated subsidiary of a leading global bank. DBS provides an entire range of banking services for large, medium and small enterprises and individual consumers in India. In 2016, DBS launched India's first mobile-only bank, digibank, with ~1 million savings accounts. In

DBS Bank's 3M customers can now choose from Bajaj Allianz Life's retail products including term, savings, retirement and investment products

offerings by either visiting any of our branches or with just a tap on the app. This initiative is a part of our ongoing endeavour to support every customer in securing a financially sound

platforms such as Life Goals Mantras, Plankathon, and much more. **About DBS** DBS is a leading financial services group in Asia with 18 markets. Recognised for its global leadership, DBS has

November 2020, Lakshmi Vilas Bank was amalgamated with DBS Bank India Limited. The bank now has a network of over 500 branches across 19 states in India.

DBS provides a full range of consumer, SME, and corporate banking services. As a bank born and bred in Asia, DBS understands the intricacies of doing business in the region's most dynamic markets. DBS is committed to building lasting relationships with customers, as it banks the Asian way. Through the DBS Foundation, the bank creates impact beyond banking by supporting social enterprises: businesses with a double bottom-line of profit and social and/or environmental impact. DBS Foundation also gives back to society in various ways, including equipping communities with future-ready skills and building food resilience. With its extensive network of operations in Asia and emphasis on engaging and empowering its staff, DBS presents exciting career opportunities. The bank acknowledges the passion, commitment, and can-do spirit of our 30,000+ staff representing over 40 nationalities. For more information, please visit/ www.dbs.com.



Mr. Tarun Chugh – MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance and Mr. Prashant Joshi – MD & Head, Consumer Banking Group, DBS Bank India, along with other officials from both the companies, signed the corporate agency agreement in Mumbai. **Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Tarun Chugh, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance said,** "This is a prestigious partnership and we are glad to offer powerful and value-packed products backed by new-age efficient services for the large customer base at the Bank. I'm confident that with our collective focus on customer delight the team will set higher benchmarks in the industry, while enabling many more life goals."

future with us." **About Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance is one of India's leading and fastest growing private life insurers. The company is a partnership between two powerful and successful entities in their own right – Bajaj Finserv Limited, one of India's most diversified non-banking financial institution and Allianz SE, one of the world's leading asset manager and insurer. Commencing its operations in 2001, Bajaj Allianz Life has expanded its presence across the country. It serves millions of customers through its 509 branches, 96,000+ agents (as on 31 March 2022), comprehensive set of trusted partners and its online sales channel. The

been named "World's Best Bank" by Euromoney, "Global Banks of the Year" by The Banker and "Best Bank in the World" by Global Finance. The bank is at the forefront of leveraging digital technology to shape the future of banking, having been named "World's Best Digital Bank" by Euromoney and the world's "Most Innovative in Digital Banking" by The Banker. In addition, DBS has been accorded the "Safest Bank in Asia" award by Global Finance for 13 consecutive years from 2009 to 2021. DBS was also ranked No. 1 on Forbes' list of the World's Best Banks in India for two consecutive years. DBS Bank has been present in India for 28 years, opening its first office in Mumbai in 1994. DBS Bank India Limited is among the

Common cleaning mistakes that will ruin your home

Kolkata(KCN): Everyone loves to live in a clean house. Even if you are not a cleaning fanatic, a sense of peace and satisfaction comes with a clean home. While we all have our unique routines and cleaning methods, we all tend to get creative with the internet full of DIY videos. However, not all the practices which may seem right actually work for the benefit of your home. At times, even simple-looking steps are enough to ruin your home. To your rescue, here are tried and tested cleaning 'mistakes' shared by home makers



that you can avoid to keep your home safe: **Using bleach to clean Mold:** While mold is a standard problem that we face in our houses, but exposure to mold can cause serious health problems such as asthma or other respiratory illnesses. But using bleach to tackle mold is a common mistake. In fact, this hack worsens the situation. "While it may work to remove the black stains, the water travels down to the root of the mold and helps it thrive. In addition, applying bleach on mold may even cause it to grow in surrounding areas that were once unaffected. The best way to thoroughly tackle mold issues is to call a professional to eradicate them completely," said Poonam Asthana a home maker in Banaras.

Using Chemical-based floor cleaners: A common myth about floor cleaners is the more potent the chemical, the cleaner is floor. However, it is a common mistake. Reena Dutta, from Delhi said, "Strong chemical-based floor cleaners can injure health because they contain toxic chemicals that release harmful gases and other indoor pollutants. It is advisable to improve the indoor air quality of your home by replacing harsh chemical cleaners with natural herbal products like ITC Nimyle. Nimyle is a 100% natural action floor cleaner with Neem, designed to effectively kill germs and clean your floors and conform to an eco-friendly product's quality, performance, and safety expectations."

Using bleach to remove stains on a fabric sofa: Stains on a fabric sofa can often be a nightmare if not treated properly. However, never use bleach or diluted chemical cleaner on a fabric sofa as that can damage the sofa. "The bleach can remove the colour of the couch along with the stain, and in addition, it can quickly 'eat' through the fabric, leaving a small hole after daily use. The last thing you want is to ruin the fabric cover or buy a new sofa completely," said Sangeeta Verma from Mumbai

Using the same cloth throughout your home: People often use one cloth to clean multiple surfaces and things. But it is advisable to use multiple clothes throughout your home; otherwise, you are just spreading germs from one space to another and not cleaning. "What is best practice is to have different microfiber cloths for different areas and make sure to wash them after each use," said Shraddha Sinha from Pune.



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Rumblings of discontent emerge in Yogi Adityanath government 2.0

Continued from page-1

him nor inform him about the meetings and other developments taking place in the JalShakti department.

Khatik claimed that the officers were deliberately ignoring him as he belonged to a scheduled caste.

The copy of the letter is doing rounds on social media. Khatik did not attend the cabinet meeting chaired by CM Yogi on Tuesday relinquishing the security and official vehicle provided to him. However, he put only the officers on target saying that he was being made to feel that the MoS should not expect anything more than an official car. However, the minister did not say anything about his senior Swatantra Dev Singh, who is also state BJP chief.

Khatik also made claims about prevailing corruption in departmental transfers and postings. Referring to an instance where he sought information on July 9 about transfers after receiving complaints of irregularities and corruption, the minister said that he was yet to get the response from officials concerned. He even claimed that the PM's favourite Namami Gange project was also marred by corruption on the ground.

On the other, another Yogi minister, Jitin Prasada, heading PWD, is believed to be disenchanted with the action initiated by Chief Minister's Office against the officers of his department over the irregularities found in transfer and postings of engineers.

As per the sources, Prasada met CM Yogi Adityanath after the cabinet meeting to discuss the issue on Tuesday and believably met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi to put forth his stand. However, he rejected the claims of discontent saying he was working under CM Yogi Adityanath who had the policy of zero tolerance to corruption. "In case of anomalies, action is imperative," he said.

The office of CM Yogi Adityanath cracked the whip on the PWD officials removing Prasada's OSD Anil Kumar Pandey on Monday over his alleged role in irregularities including involvement of money in transfer and posting of engineers. It was followed by the suspension of five senior officers of the department in the matter.

The CM had taken the notice of complaints of anomalies in departmental postings on July 12 and had set up a probe committee comprising Agriculture Production Commissioner Manoj Kumar Singh and senior IAS officer Dvesh Chaturvedi.

As per the official spokesperson, on the basis of recommendations of probe report, besides Pandey's removal, the axe of suspension fell on five officers including PWD Head of the Department and Engineer-in-charge Manoj Kumar Gupta, Chief Engineer (Project and Planning) Rakesh Kumar Saxena and Senior Staff Officer Shailendra Kumar

'Satisfy hunger with tadka of jumlas': Rahul slams government over GST on essential items

Continued from page-1

Monsoon Session on Monday.

A five per cent GST has kicked in on pre-packed and labelled food items such as cereals, pulses and flour weighing less than 25 kg.

For a commodity measured in litres like curd and 'lassi', the limit is 25 litres. Rejecting criticism, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had on Tuesday said the five per cent tax is being levied after a nod from all states, including the non-BJP ruled.

Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala had also agreed on imposing the levy, she said.

In a series of tweets, Sitharaman said states levied sales tax or VAT on foodgrains in the pre-Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime and the present levy on cereals, pulses, flour, curd and lassi is an exercise to curb tax leakage.

The decision, she said, was taken by the GST Council, where all states are represented, through a consensus.

Rahul Gandhi, who had been calling GST 'Gabbar Singh Tax', on Wednesday described it as 'Grahasti Sarvnaash Tax', suggesting that it will be a body blow for common households.

Yadav, Administrative officer Pankaj Dixit and head clerk Sanjay Kumar Chaurasia. Even a vigilance probe has also been ordered into the transfers in PWD.

UP Dalit minister writes to Shah announcing his resignation, cites 'bureaucratic indifference'

Over the action on the officers of his ministry, Prasada said strict action would naturally be taken if irregularities were detected. "This will be coupled with more changes as per the requirement. There is no question of unhappiness or discontent," maintained Prasada.

"We are following the policy of zero tolerance to corruption and working under CM Yogi to come up to people's expectations," he added. He, however, accepted that he had sought time to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah a week back but was yet to get it. Anil Kumar Pandey, who was removed on Monday, has been with Prasada since he was a Union Minister in UPA II. He called him when he took over as a minister in Yogi government after joining the BJP last year in June and appointed him as his OSD. Prasada is a member of UP legislative council.

Meanwhile, sending out a word of caution to all his ministers following a series of irregularities in PWD and health department, CM Yogi said that no act of corruption would be tolerated. He asked the ministers to take all the decisions on merit instead of depending on their personal staff completely.

The CM was speaking to the group of ministers after Tuesday's cabinet meeting. Yogi also asked the cabinet ministers to take their juniors along. Probably being in the knowhow of the discontent of Khatik, CM Yogi categorically told the cabinet ministers to work in tandem with Ministers of state keeping them abreast of all the developments and inviting them to departmental meetings.

China plans to build new highway along LAC with India: Report

Continued from page-1

of talks to disengage troops at different points.

At Sunday's 16th round of talks between the top military commanders of the two countries, it was learnt that the Indian delegation sought resolution of pending issues in Depsang Bulge and Demchok. India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC were key for the overall development of the bilateral ties.

Last month External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar asserted that India will not allow any unilateral attempt by China to change the status quo or the LAC.

At his meeting with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the side-lines of recent G20 foreign ministers in Bali, Jaishankar conveyed to Wang the need for early resolution of all the outstanding issues in Eastern Ladakh.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas. Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry. As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process last year on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area. China has been ramping up infrastructure in Tibet.

Last year it launched a high-speed bullet train connecting the provincial capital Lhasa with Nyingchi, the Tibetan border town close to Arunachal Pradesh.

On Tuesday, new satellite images emerged indicating the construction of a Chinese village East of the Doklam plateau on the Bhutanese side, a region that is considered important for India's strategic interest.

Chinese President Xi Jinping travelled by bullet train during his rare visit to border areas in Tibet.

The massive development of rail, road and airport development vastly improved the Chinese military's ability to move men, materials and weapons to the border areas at a faster pace. Tibet has five airports including at Nyingchi, Shigatse and Ngari located close to the Indian and Nepal borders.

Authorities in Tibet accelerated 15 key construction projects last year, including the middle section of the highway from the regional capital Lhasa to Xigaze. Tibet completed an investment worth 20.1 billion yuan (about USD 3.2 billion) in fixed assets for road transport last year, according to an official media report.

Ukraine's history of rampant corruption and shaky governance resurfaces as 'Russia war' goes on

Continued from page-1

the prosecutor general, and remove anyone who he sees as collaborating with Russia.

Yet even as Russian troops were massing near the Ukrainian border last fall, the Biden administration was pushing Zelenskyy to do more to act on corruption — a perennial U.S. demand going back to Ukraine's early days of independence.

ALSO READ | Russian President Putin warns West of further cut-in oil flow, price rise as consequences of sanctions

"In all of our relationships, and including in this relationship, we invest not in personalities; we invest in institutions, and, of course, President Zelenskyy has spoken to his rationale for making these personnel shifts," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters on Monday.

Price declined to comment further on Zelenskyy's reasoning for the dismissals or address the specifics but said there was no question that Russia has been trying to interfere in Ukraine.

"Moscow has long sought to subvert, to destabilize the Ukrainian government," Price said. "Ever since Ukraine chose the path of democracy and a Western orientation this has been something that Moscow has sought to subvert."

Still, in October and then again in December 2021, as the U.S. and others were warning of the increasing potential for a Russian invasion, the Biden administration was calling out Zelenskyy's government for inaction on corruption that had little or nothing to do with Russia. "The EU and the US are greatly disappointed by unexplained and unjustifiable delays in the selection of the Head of the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor Office, a crucial body in the fight against high-level corruption," the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv said on Oct. 9.

"We urge the selection commission to resume its work without further delays. Failure to move forward in the selection process undermines the work of anti-corruption agencies, established by Ukraine and its international partners," it said. That special prosecutor was finally chosen in late December but was never actually appointed to the position. Although there are indications the appointment will happen soon, the dismissal of the prosecutor general could

Law & Order Peaceful: CM

Continued from page-1

Women and Children Wing with commensurate manpower.

All women related heinous crimes are being treated as "Red Flag Cases" and Special Public Prosecutors are engaged for these cases. All Police Stations of the State are being covered under elaborate CCTV coverage and installation of CCTV has been completed in 584 Police Stations out of 593 Police Stations.

To deal and prevent growing cyber-crime, 15 Cyber Crime and Economic Offence Police Stations have been established in the State.

All Police Stations of the State are covered under "Mo Sarkar" in order to achieve the highest level of accountability and transparency through the feedback from the complainants/ citizens. More than 78 thousand random calls were made to the citizens who visited Police Stations. More than 90 percent of citizens have given good ratings to the police.

Stating that people are the soul of democracy, the Chief Minister said the hallmark of good governance is citizen satisfaction. Mo Sarkar is an important transformative initiative under the 5T Charter of governance.

All departments have a charter approved for implementation of transformational initiatives and service delivery under 5T. Mo Sarkar has been implemented across the departments and more than 3 lakh citizens have expressed their satisfaction through Mo Sarkar calls and actions have been taken on the basis of their feedback towards institutional transformation. To ensure timely & hassle-free delivery of public services, the Government has notified 412 numbers of Public Services relating to 31 Departments under Odisha Right to Public Service Act.

Regarding recruitment, he said, Odisha Public Service Commission, Odisha Staff Selection Commission and Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission have been tasked to conduct recruitment examinations on a regular basis. During 2021-22, around 12,810 candidates have been sponsored by OPSC, OSSC and OSSSC to various Departments of the Government.

Government has introduced the Odisha Civil Services (Out of turn Promotion) Rules, 2020 for out of turn promotion of Government Employees having exceptional and exemplary achievements in furthering good governance and ease of public service delivery, he stated.

complicate the matter.

The administration and high-profile lawmakers have avoided public criticism of Ukraine since Russia invaded in February. The U.S. has ramped up the weapons and intelligence it's providing to Ukraine despite early concerns about Russia's penetration of the Ukrainian government and existing concerns about corruption.

Russia fines Google \$360 Mn over Ukraine content Rep. Victoria Spartz, a first-term Republican from Indiana, has made half a dozen visits to Ukraine since the war began. And she was invited to the White House in May and received a pen used by President Joe Biden to sign an aid package for Ukraine even after she angrily criticized Biden for not doing more to help.

But in recent weeks, Spartz has accused Zelenskyy of "playing politics" and alleged his top aide Andriy Yermak had sabotaged Ukraine's defense against Russia. She's also repeatedly called on Ukraine to name the anti-corruption prosecutor, blaming Yermak for the delay.

Ukrainian officials have hit back. A statement from Ukraine's Foreign Ministry accused Spartz of spreading "Russian propaganda" and warned her to "stop trying to earn extra political capital on baseless Swiss hospitals will not treat Ukraine war wounded

U.S. officials gave Spartz a two-hour classified briefing on Friday in hopes of addressing her concerns and encouraging her to limit her public criticism. She declined to discuss the briefing afterwards but told The Associated Press that "healthy dialogue and deliberation is good for Congress."

"We're not here to please people," she said. "It's good to deliberate." Hours later, Spartz gave a Ukrainian-language interview broadcast on YouTube in which she called again for the appointment of an independent prosecutor.

"This issue should be resolved as soon as possible," she said in the interview. "This is a huge problem for the West, so I think your president should address this issue soon."

Rep. Jason Crow, a Colorado Democrat who sits on the House Armed Services and Intelligence committees, said he had seen no evidence to support allegations that Zelenskyy's inner circle was trying to help Russia. But as the war continues, part of the long-term American strategy in Ukraine will have to include addressing waste and mismanagement of resources, he said.

In order to bring efficiency in the administration, the Government has also issued instructions containing procedures to deal with cases of premature retirement of Government Servants with doubtful integrity or due to inefficiency in public service delivery.

Total 164 Government servants have been sent on compulsory retirement/dismissal from Government service/pension has been withheld.

During the financial year 2021-22, a sum of Rs.367 crores has been utilized for Covid management from the donations received under CMRF. Adequate assistance has been provided to indigent persons out of CMRF for their treatment of major ailments.

For quick redressal of public grievances and to ensure timely disposal of pension cases, e-Abhijog Public Grievance Portal has been converted to JANA SUNANI Portal with effect from November 1, 2021. During this period, more than 16,000 numbers of grievances have been disposed of through this system.

The office of the Lokayukta has started functioning since March 20, 2019. In the court of Lokayukta, 499 numbers of cases have been disposed off out of 775 cases instituted in the year 2021.

"My Government has adopted a Zero Tolerance approach to corruption. We have been taking a number of steps to strengthen the State Vigilance so that they can discharge their mandate more professionally and serve the people in a better way," he said.

The State Vigilance, during the year has registered 267 criminal cases against 475 persons and has also initiated 373 enquiries against the public servants. 272 accused persons have been arrested in Vigilance cases, the CM informed the House.

The State Government firmly believes in honesty, transparency and high morality in public life. "We have made it mandatory for all public representatives as well as Government employees at all levels to submit their property statement every year which will be made available in public domain for absolute transparency," he added.

"In democracy, people are supreme and we are here to serve them. My Government is committed to promote and implement all policies aimed at overall development of the State and to provide a safe and secure environment to all its citizens. Our special focus is to ensure inclusive growth of the people and ensure transparent pro people Governance," Mr.Patnaik concluded.

Paika Bidroha memorial to come up over 9.68 acre land at Odisha's Khurda

BHUBANESWAR: The State government has decided to provide 9.68 acres of land at Khurda to the Ministry of Culture for the construction of Paika Bidroha Memorial at



Barunei foothills, the battleground of Paika Bidroha. The land would be provided free of premium, capitalised value and incidental charges.

The Cabinet presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, approved 17 proposals related to different sectors. The Cabinet decisions were placed in the Assembly by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjan Pujari.

It has waived Rs 31.97 crore for providing land to the Culture Ministry to set up the memorial which will boost tourism besides assisting research scholars and historians. The Cabinet also cleared a proposal for the construction of Dharamshala in Baselisahi area in Puri at a cost of Rs 135.60 crore.

The project will be implemented under the Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme and completed in 24 months by Srijji Krupa Projects Limited, which has been roped in through tender.

The Cabinet gave its approval to a new State-sector scheme, State support to MGNREGS, to arrest distress migration in 20 migration-

For Ukrainian high jumper, world championship silver feels like gold

EUGENE: The second-place finish at world championships was beside the point for Ukraine's best high jumper, Yaroslava Mahuchikh.

"For me, it's gold," she said Tuesday night, as she looked down at her newly won prize, one nobody would have been right to expect four months ago after she took a three-day car trip to flee her hometown and get away from the bombing.



Mahuchikh left shortly after her country came under siege by the Russian military. The war grinds on. Though thousands of civilians and soldiers are dying, Mahuchikh felt it was her duty to keep doing what she does best, if for no other reason than to give people back home something to be happy about. And, she said, to show Ukraine is strong.

"We will fight for our independence and for our territory," she said. "And of course, finally, we will win." She came into the biggest high jump contest of the year as a favourite, in part because the three-time defending champion, Maria Lasitskenskaya, is from Russia and not allowed to compete in major events due to the war. The Ukrainian finished behind the surprising Eleanor Patterson of Australia, who had one fewer miss than Mahuchikh at 2.02 meters (6 feet, 7 1/2 inches), which made the difference between first and second.

Still, this was a night to celebrate for Ukraine, and for Mahuchikh, who said she felt the warmth from the stands, where the yellow-and-blue Ukraine flags dotted a few seats and fans cheered for her before every jump. "Now, everything is for our Ukrainian people, and everything you do, you want to show the good results," she said.

The silver medal goes alongside the gold she won at the world indoor championships in March. That came shortly after she escaped her hometown of Dnipro, which had come under attack by Russia and, she said, is under siege today.

She is one of 22 Ukrainian athletes in Eugene this

prone blocks of four districts - Balangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada.

The government will provide additional 200 days of work over and above the guaranteed 100 days of work mandated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 in these 20 blocks.

The entire cost towards payment of wages, unskilled wage rate notified by the State government per person per day, beyond the guaran-

teed 100 days of wage employment under MGNREGA, will be borne by the State Government under the new scheme.

A mega pipe water supply project to provide safe drinking water in Rayagada district also got the Cabinet nod. Around 35,404 people of 129 villages under 15 gram panchayats of two blocks will benefit. Similarly, 16,032 people of 58 villages under seven gram panchayats of Ramanguda block and 19,372 people of 71 villages under 8 gram panchayats of Kolnara block in Koraput district will be provided with safe drinking water through mega drinking water projects.

The Cabinet also approved the proposal for relaxation of the provision under para 6.6 of the Action Taken Report on recommendations of the Fifth State Finance Commission regarding assignment of taxes out of SGST in lieu of entry tax for Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) to accommodate the salary and other establishment charges of District Rural Development Authority (DRDA) employees after their merger with the Zilla Parishads.

week for the championships, all of whom have been training far from home — some in Portugal, others in Spain, still others in Poland and Mahuchikh most recently in California after stops in Serbia, Germany and Turkey.

Her teammate, Iryna Gerashchenko, finished fourth — also a spectacular result given her plight after bombs started falling near her home in Kyiv. After sheltering in her parents' basement for about a week, she left without spikes and trained for a time in tennis shoes.

"Things are a bit better, but at the same time, the war is going on," said Gerashchenko, whose jump of 2 meters (6 feet, 6 3/4) was a personal best. "It's very hard to live the life before, the previous life. But I'm very happy that my parents are safe." Mahuchikh's medal gives Ukraine two at the half-way point of worlds.

A night earlier, Andriy Protsenko won bronze in the men's high jump. His victory comes months after he was trapped for nearly six weeks in his hometown of Kherson, which is near the Crimean peninsula and under Russian occupation.

"It made me realize that anything is possible," said Ukrainian hurdler Anna Ryzhykova, who finished second in her preliminary heat shortly before Mahuchikh took to the field. "He trained one month in an occupied city where he was risking his life. It's amazing." World Athletics president Sebastian Coe was on hand. His federation was one of the first to banish Russians from these major events, a decision made, he said, because there was no fairness in allowing in athletes from an aggressor nation while those from the country under attack were living such fragile existences.

"Some of them are living at their training camps and can't get home, some are wondering where loved ones are," Coe said. "Their houses have been destroyed. It's inconceivable. I don't think any of us have that within our framework of reference." Mahuchikh said her mom, sister and niece are safe in Germany. Her dad and grandfather remain in Dnipro, where she said they can sometimes hear artillery firing.

There is no timeline for when she might get back to her home country to show off the silver medal.

"I wish I could come back home to our airport, to speak to our journalists, and with our relatives," she said. "But I can't do it now. The Russians have taken that opportunity from me."

Roma confirm signing of former Juventus forward Dybala



ROME: Roma on Wednesday announced the signing of Paulo Dybala on a three-year contract after the Argentina forward's deal with Juventus expired.

"I arrive at a team that is growing, with a club that continues to lay an increasingly solid foundation for the future

and a coach, Jose Mourinho, with whom it is a privilege to work," Dybala said in a statement.

The 28-year-old had been touted for a move to Serie A runners-up Inter Milan, which would have ensured Champions League football next season.

Roma finished sixth in Serie A last season.

Sky reported that the contract was worth six million euros (USD 6.08m) per season including bonuses.

Dybala spent a trophy-laden seven years in Turin, scoring 115 goals for Juve, but has been

dogged by injuries over the last two seasons.

He joined Juve from Palermo in 2015, going on to win five Serie A titles and four Italian Cups.

He also played in the team which reached the 2017 Champions League final but lost to Real Madrid.




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