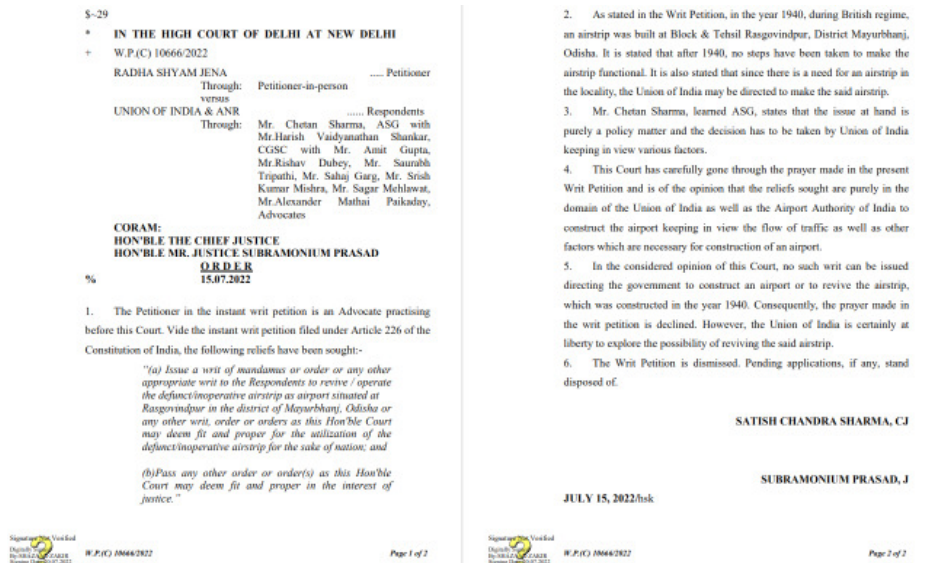


The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi granted liberty to the Union of India for reviving the Rasgovindpur Airstrip situated at Mayurbhanj, District Odisha

New Delhi (KCN): A public interest litigation was filed by a practicing lawyer Mr. Radha Shyam Jena in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for reviving the Rasgovindpur airstrip situated in the District of Mayurbhanj, Odisha. Mr. Jena has submitted in the writ petition that after the second World War the airstrip has not been made functional which has spread in an area of 600 acres. After second World War, the said airstrip has been abandoned by the British India Government.

Mr. Jena before the Hon'ble High Court during the hearing has submitted that the Union of India be directed to revive the airstrip for proper utilization. The Learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for the Union of India submitted before the Hon'ble High Court since it is a policy matter, the Union of India has to take

a decision. After hearing the Petitioner Mr. Jena (in-person) and the Learned Additional Solicitor General, the Hon'ble High Court although was pleased to dismiss the writ



petition, however, the Hon'ble Court was pleased to grant liberty to the Union of India to explore the possibility of reviving the said airstrip. Screenshot of the order passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi is as under: Now the Union of India should ponder over the observation of the Hon'ble High Court in the interest of the public.

Grand celebrations at President-elect Droupadi Murmu's school and college in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Grand celebrations

dent broke, students and teachers of

Droupadi Murmu. They are also aspiring



were held at newly-elected President Droupadi Murmu's alma mater Capital Girls' High School here at Unit-II on Thursday. Murmu had studied in the high school from Class VIII to XI (1970 to 1974). After the news of her becoming the Presi-

school distributed sweets to celebrate the victory of their illustrious alumnus, who will be the first tribal woman to take up the highest office in the country, when she is sworn-in on July 25. "The students have drawn inspiration and motivation from

to attain huge success in their lives," said in-charge principal of the school, Renubala Jena. Some students of Murmu's hometown Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district are staying in the school's Kuntala Kumari Adivasi Girls' Hostel, and her

Veteran politician Dinesh Gunawardena appointed Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister

COLOMBO: Senior politician Dinesh Gunawardena on Friday took over as Sri



Lanka's prime minister as President Ranil Wickremesinghe swore in his new Cabinet. A stalwart of Sri Lankan politics,

Gunawardena, 73 earlier served as the foreign minister and education minister. Top UN official in Sri Lanka calls for inclusive consultations to resolve economic crisis He was appointed as Home Minister in April by then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The prime minister's post fell vacant after Wickremesinghe, 73, was on Thursday sworn in as the country's eighth president after Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country and then resigned as president. He has called for bipartisanship to address the unprecedented economic crisis the country is facing.

Governor Ganeshi Lal, CM Naveen Patnaik hail 'daughter of Odisha' Droupadi Murmu

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and leaders cutting across party lines congratulated the President-elect Droupadi Murmu after her massive victory in the election. Describing Murmu as the daughter of Odisha, the Governor said that being the first ever tribal President is a matter of pride for all. He wished her a fulfilling tenure.



mon people, Pradhan said that it has strengthened women empowerment and raised hopes among the common and ordinary people. The victory was celebrated at the official resi-

The Chief Minister took to Twitter to congratulate Murmu on being elected as 15th President of India. Terming her as daughter of Odisha, the Chief Minister said it is indeed a very proud moment for everyone in the State that she has been elected for the highest office in the country.

"Her journey from a humble beginning to becoming the first citizen of the country is indeed inspiring and her journey is a shining example of women empowerment. Wish her the very best for a fulfilling tenure ahead," he added.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met Murmu in her residence at New Delhi and congratulated her. Stating that her victory is a victory for all tribals and com-

CBSE Class 10 results announced, 94.4 per cent students clear exam

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Central Board of Secondary Education on Friday announced



Class 10 results, which showed that 94.40 per cent of students cleared the exam with girls

outperforming boys by a margin of 1.41 per cent. This is the first time that the CBSE has announced both class 10 and 12 results on the same day.

"The (Class 10) result has been announced," a CBSE official said.

CBSE Class 12 results: Girls outshine boys, 92.71 per cent pass

The pass percentage of girls stood at 95.21 per cent while 93.80 per cent of boys cleared the exam.

The pass percentage of transgender candidates is 90 per cent.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik to attend swearing-in ceremony of Droupadi Murmu on July 25



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief minister Naveen Patnaik will attend the swearing in ceremony of 15th President of India Droupadi Murmu at New Delhi on July 25. He will leave for New Delhi on Saturday on a four-day trip and return to the state on July 26.

The chief minister spoke to the President elect and wished her on behalf of people of Odisha. He said that all 4.5 crore people of Odisha are proud of her achievement. "Spoke to the daughter of Odisha, President-Elect Smt Droupadi Murmu over phone and wished

her all the very best on behalf of people of Odisha. Entire family of 4.5 crore people of Odisha are proud of her achievement," he tweeted.

The BJD had announced support to the NDA Presidential candidate and campaigned in her support by urging Congress MLAs of the state to vote for her. Murmu was elected as the 15th President of India on Thursday, securing 5,77,777 votes against Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha's 2,61,062 votes. Ram Nath Kovind's tenure as the 14th President will end July 24.

Essential Tips on How to Stay Safe During this Monsoon

Kolkata (KCN): The monsoon season is here and along with its beauty and greenery it brings



in various diseases and infections which can be of threat to you and your family. Malaria, Dengue, Typhoid, etc are common diseases that are at their peak during this time. It triggers flu, common cold, cough, and sore throat. The good part is that these can be avoided by following some basic everyday precautionary measures.

Chef Kunal Kapur said, "During the monsoon months, everyone needs to be responsible for what they eat and how they consume it. The first essential step in doing so is ensuring that the vegetables and fruits bought from the market are cleaned well and stored correctly. For cleaning them I trust only Nimewash, a vegetable and fruit wash which effectively eliminates majority of the

germs from fruits and vegetables with its 100% Natural Action. You can either pour the liquid into water and soak the fruits and vegetables in it or spray the liquid using the spray bottle. Easy to use, not time-consuming and fulfils the purpose of keeping your family away from consuming



pesticides and germs and providing them with healthy food."

More tips that should be kept in mind during the monsoon to stay away from unwanted germs:

- Drop in temperature causes health issues like running nose, sore throat and fever. Include hot food in your diet and avoid any frozen raw foods.
- Soaking your hands in water for prolonged time can aggravate cold. Minimize contact with water at home. For example: washing dishes can be one of the reasons behind it. To make the chore quick use Nimeasy dishwashing gel as it removes food stains and heavy grease from the utensils easily.
- Wash your hands or use sanitiser frequently to keep them clean and germ free. This easy step will keep you protected from picking up symptoms of common cold and cough. Introducing these simple habits into our day-to-day life will help us keep ourselves and others around us safe and healthy.

BJP party fore fronted against negligence of Jagannath Steel to local resident

Barbil(KCN):The Bharatiya Janata Party, Barbil in the district of Keonjhar demonstrate protest against Jagannath Steel and Power plant for the negligence shown to the public



live surrounding the plant . Villages like Hayatpur,Ulliburu,Nimitur etc villages are directly impacted by the plant. The plant's fly ash is dumped into the village's water source and smokes affect their health. The residents

had demanded rehabilitation and permanent jobs for those among them who had been displaced. They had also asked the company's administration to take effective measures for abatement of air pollution caused by the fly ash. and air. But the company remained silent on the issue of permanent jobs and pollution abatement measures in their note. said Sunil Das ,BJP leader. The Circle president of the party Brajkishore Sahu urged for immediate action to

resolve the issue of locals unless they will go for massive strike against the company.Anita Bhoumik ,Paramjit Singh and hundreds of party workers were also participated in the protest.

The public hearing of Baigaburu OMDC mines ends with lot of hope by locals

The public hearing for environmental



clearance for reopening of Baigaburu

mines leased area of 21.52 hector to OMDC limited located at Ulliburu village under Joda mining zone of Keonjhar district in Odisha.

The public hearing was organised by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) and Keonjhar administration at OMDC bungalow premises at Barbil. The meet, which lasted around 3 hours, was presided over by Keonjhar ADM Jadumani Mahala in



Police arrested 3 accused for illegal transportation

Barbil (KCN): Barbil police arrested two accused persons in custody for cheating and illegal transportation of sponge iron lumps .As per information on dt.16.03.2022 at 05.00 om, Santosh Singh ,the Proprietor of

miscreants Surendra Yadav of Vill- Chaitarwa, Ward No - 03, West Chawparan, Bihar, Dyutibandhu Patra of Koira, Vikas (Driver) and others illegally transported the said material to another place. He had too



Orissa Transport, Jamshedpur did an affair that the vehicle bearing regd. no- BR32 - GB - 0375 loaded with sponge lump of 28,940 Mt through "Black Bug" online truck load portal from M / s Rungta Mines Ltd, Karakhendra, Barbil to M / s A B Brothers Industries Pvt Ltd. Mandi Govindgarh, Punjab of value Rs.11,43,998/- is missing and not reached the destination as assigned. Some

deposited Rs.56,000 / - as advance for the load of the said vehicle in the bank account of Surendra Yadav. Based on his complain, Barbil police investigated the matter and arrested the accused under 406/407/420/120 - B/34 IPC.The similar case has happened with Rungta company earlier fingers the involvement of some close officials of the company rumours by public.

Inter school indoor sports competition for ICSE held at Barbil

Barbil.(KCN):The inauguration of indoor sports competition of all inter school Odisha ICSE Students is held on 21st July at the indoor stadium located in PHED road of

sports. He explained the benefits of playing sports, how it helps to stay fit both mentally and physically. He further told how this generation youth is deviating themselves to



Barbil in the district of Keonjhar. The Sports was inaugurated by the lighting of the lamp of the chief guest Subir Ahamad CEO of Jagannath Steel .Sumant Dhir ,Vice president ,Jyoti Patra ,Head HR and Sister Karuna ,principal St.Mary school,Barbil In the speech, the chief guest asked the students to focus more on playing various

internet based games rather than playing actual indoor and outdoor sports. . Sumant Dhir said talent is attained from practice and not by birth. So Supporting at a very young age can nurture the talent and will encourage them to build a career for them in that domain.100 students from five schools were participated in the competition.

Souvenir of Biswa Nath Samanta Inaugurated

Khordha(KCN): Rich tributes were paid to eminent freedom fighter, social activist, lawyer & senior journalist of Khordha Late- Biswa Nath Samanta in his second Shradha Divas at Shanti Kalyan Mandap, Khordha. Dr. Mrutunjya Mishra Co-ordinated the programme. Former Vice-chancellor North Odisha University, Maj. Khirod Prasad Mohanty preside over the meeting. Other guest of the occasions were MLA, Jatni, Suresh Kumar Routray, MLA, Khordha, Joytrindra Nath Mitra, MLA, Begunia, Rajendra Kumar Sahoo, Senior journalist and columnist

Pradosh Pattnaik, Prof. Dr. Narayan Rao, Prasad Harichandan, Basanti Mohapatra, Sanjaya Pattnaik, Krupasindhu Biswal among others paid tribute to Late- Biswa Nath Samanta and said, he will be remembered for eternity as a true Gandhian. His life works and word's will continue to inspire and motivates us in our task's of nation building's". Elder son Atal Samanta, Aurobinda Samanta, Ajaya Samanta and grandson Somanath Samanta and his family members were present. On this occasions the Chief Guest inaugurated the Souvenir of Late-Biswa Nath Samanta.

the presence of RO Keonjhar Prashant Kar. Of the at least 52 representations received during the hearing, most

supported the reopening proposal. This is to note that the original lease deed of Baigaburu iron ore mines executed for years in the year 1971 and Further extended in 1980, 1990, and 2021.But the said mines get closed in October 2010 due to lack of Forest and environment clearance. All OMDC

owned mines and IDC owned iron pipe plant of Kalinga had been the main source of bread and butter of its surrounding area. But closure of these two Government enterprise largely affected the local populace .However amidst good support of people with a hope of employment of local populace the meeting conducted successfully. Company officials assured for all measure will be taken for environment friendly mining and employment of locals. This remains to see the hope of local get materialised or mishandled by middle man likely to involve in further process during operation.

CLASSIFIED

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Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed



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 jagaaiye!! (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.

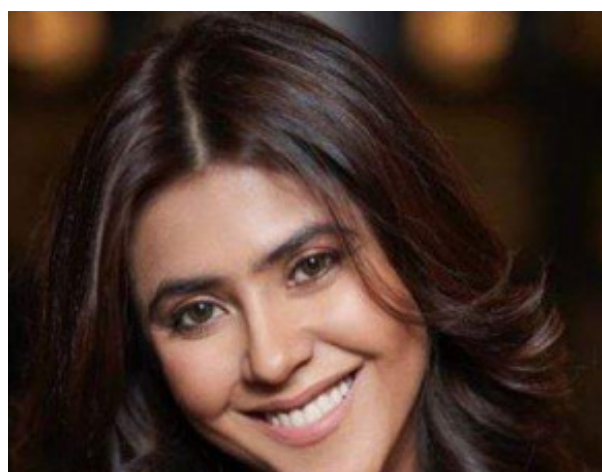
SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The Supreme

leged objectionable content in her web

Kapoor. She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her.

The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.



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

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

around the story of a movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kid-



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

napping the actor's 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 charged a fee for the voiceover he gave for the series.

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.

"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

Skin fasting for refreshed skin

Skin fasting is a new-age beauty trend of taking a break from all of your current skincare products or routine and letting your skin naturally do its magic. Basically, it's like the fasting you practice with your diet, except this is for the skin and is in the spotlight owing to social media

Skin fasting is basically done by the non-application of any product or ingredients or reducing the use of skin care products you use and finally stopping them altogether to allow your skin to breathe, rest, and reset but basic skincare shouldn't be avoided especially cleansing and sunscreen. Anyone, especially whose skin requires a reboot, can try skin fasting to let it relax and allow it to naturally replenish and heal. This trend is also beneficial to treat the harmful effects caused by any skincare product.

Absolutely nothing is applied to the skin ex-

cept basic skin care. No serums, hydrators, or moisturizers. Letting your skin's own natural sebum [oil] do all the balancing and protecting is the main action. It's important to listen to your skin throughout the process, which can last anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. Just like any other trend, you have to be quite cautious of trying it out as well. The method is not one-size-fits-all, and listening to your skin in real-time is the safest way to proceed when testing skin fasting. Skin fasting is ultimately successful on a case-by-case basis. Especially, people with sensitive skin should slowly inculcate fasting into their regimen. Those with skin sensitivities may benefit from skin fasting. It gives the skin time to not have any active ingredients that can trigger inflammation. Skin fasting is more beneficial to those with dry skin and those experiencing trouble with their skincare routines like oily, uncontrolled acne, rosacea, melasma, or other skin disorders will not benefit from a full skin fast of any length. These skin types need regular nourishment.

Shahnaz Husain

it is recommended to switch out one product for a certain period of time only so that you can reconstruct your routine instead of resetting it all together. It helps the skin to recover in situations where it acts adversely toward certain products or ingredients. It can guide you to stop using products that irritate your skin. Removing these products can result in sharp changes simply by fasting from them. The skin secretes sebum, which is the natural oil of the skin. It is believed that skin fasting helps to regulate the secretion of oils and thus achieves a balanced skin. It protects the good health of the skin and also helps cell renewal. The youth and beauty of the skin depend on healthy cell renewal. Skin fasting is a way of restoring good health of the skin and rejuvenating it. Skin fasting will certainly help those who use a lot of products and make-up cosmetics. Whether skin fasting helps you or not depends on your individual skin type. If you have dry and dehydrated skin, you should avoid skin fasting. For normal to dry skin, one may fol-

low skin fasting when the weather is humid. Skin "brushing" is a system that may be followed while abstaining from the normal skincare routine. Skin brushing helps the elimination of toxins. The entire surface is brushed, using a rough cloth, or a natural bristle brush. Begin from the feet and go upwards. Then brush from lower to upper arms. Go across the shoulders and back. Brush gently on the chest and abdomen. My experience is after following skin fasting for one night, you can try the tissue paper test to see if your skin's oil-moisture balance is restored. Put dry and clean tissue paper on your face. If the tissue sticks to your face but falls off if you lean over, your skin is normal and the balance is restored. This is what skin fasting helps to achieve. Skin fasting is a way of detoxifying your skin and achieving a healthy glow. The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

A Surge in Pandemic Research Shines a Spotlight on Preprints

Scientific papers can take months or even years to get published in an academic journal. Preprints, on the other hand, can be deposited into online repositories and are typically made available within a day or two of submission. So when COVID-19 started spreading rapidly across the globe, scientists worldwide turned to preprint servers to share their findings at the pace needed to address the crisis.

Preprints have long been a fixture in the physical sciences. The longest-standing preprint server, arXiv, was launched for the physics community in 1991. The biomedical sciences, however, took much longer to embrace preprints. The first preprint server for biology, bioRxiv, was established in 2013, and medRxiv, a preprint server for the health sciences, came to life just a few years ago, in 2019. Today there are dozens of preprints servers that cover many different disciplines—and the pandemic has accelerated their use.

One study found that 28.7 percent of COVID-19 preprints were cited in at least one news article, compared to 1 percent of preprints unrelated to the pandemic.

"This is the first global health crisis in which preprints have played a major role in disseminating information rapidly," says Jessica Polka, the executive director of ASAPbio (Accelerating Science and Publication in biology), a nonprofit that advocates for open and innovative communication in the life sciences. "Even beyond the academic research community, I think many people learned about preprints for the first time. . . . [Preprints have]

Letter to Editor

Proper Policing required

In an half a decade Naxal attack case i.e., in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh State, the innocent 120 tribals got acquitted by National Investigation Agency court on last week from all allegations is surely leading to a terrible commentary on policing. The poor investigation conducted by the Chhattisgarh Police resulted in pain for both the accused and for the 26 CRPF troopers who were killed by Naxals during 2017 (since justice is not being served till today). Imagine being imprisoned for 5 long years in a disgusting place for doing nothing; more than one hundred innocent tribal people had to endure that simply because some police officers didn't perform their duties properly. Proper Policing required in the nation.

VijayKumar H.K., Raichur

entered into the consciousness of both scientific and nonscientific communities."

The use of preprints was on the rise before COVID-19, but the global health crisis has given them a huge boost in popularity, notes Gaetan Burgio, a geneticist at the Australian National University and one of bioRxiv's affiliates—members of the scientific community who screen submissions and act as advocates for the service. But even as posting preprints becomes more common, certain sectors of the scientific community remain hesitant, pointing to issues such as their lack of peer review. Likewise, while some funding agencies and journals adopt more preprint-friendly policies, others have not. Last month, for example, the Australian Research Council (ARC) caused an uproar among scientists on social media when it barred grant applications that cited preprints.

See "Opinion: The Rise of Preprints Is No Cause for Alarm"

"The pandemic has probably heightened the response that [the ARC has] received [after] making that decision, because so many people realize just how beneficial [preprints] can be," says Jonathon Coates, a postdoctoral researcher at the William Harvey Research Institute in the UK. "I think a couple of years ago we would have still had a reaction, but it wouldn't have been quite as strong."

A flood of preprints Preprints have made up a large chunk of the COVID-19 literature to date. According to a study by Coates, Polka, and their colleagues, of the approximately 125,000 COVID-19-related scientific articles published in the first 10 months of the pandemic, more than 30,000 (around one-quarter) were preprints. "Normally you would find around three or four percent of the biomedical literature as preprints each year," Coates says. "A lot of people have actually been turning to them for the first time."

The largest number of COVID-19 preprints appeared on medRxiv. Researchers also posted their work onto more than a dozen other preprint servers, including bioRxiv, arXiv, and SSRN, a server for studies in the social sciences.

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During the pandemic, journalists and policymakers have also paid increased attention to preprints. Coates and Polka's study found that 28.7 percent of COVID-19 preprints were cited in at least one news article, compared to 1 percent of preprints unrelated to the pandemic. They also discovered that preprints were cited in 52 of 81 COVID-19 policy documents from three large health authorities—the European Centre for Dis-

Diana Kwon

ease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the United Kingdom Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (UK POST), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Sarvenaz Sarabipour, a systems biologist at Johns Hopkins University, has seen the benefits of being able to rapidly disseminate research during the pandemic: a preprint Sarabipour and her colleagues published on bioRxiv last spring kick-started policy changes in advance of the study's publication in *Nature Human Behavior* in March of this year.

Sarabipour's group had examined more than 200 academic meetings worldwide and made suggestions for how to improve facets such as inclusivity and sustainability. When the team posted the preprint in early April 2020, "it was exactly the time when researchers were thinking about going online for conferences because of the pandemic," Sarabipour recalls. "A lot of people contacted us and said, 'I read your article and actually implemented these changes to virtual conferences in 2020 and 2021.'"

To preprint or not to preprint? Some in the academic community remain skeptical of preprints' benefits, however, and point to potential drawbacks. "The problems people have generally have with preprints is that they're not peer reviewed," Coates says. "And the assumption is they speed up science, and therefore the science they're doing is rushed."

I think that the overall trend is in a pro-preprint direction.

—Jessica Polka, ASAPbio

Indeed, some members of the scientific community have recently noted that the speedy nature of preprints, and their lack of peer review, could lead to the spread of misinformation. As one example, a widely publicized preprint claimed that there were signs of HIV "insertions" within the SARS-CoV-2 genome. Although it was quickly withdrawn, that preprint became fodder for conspiracy theories that the coronavirus was bioengineered. "[I]nstances such as this one described showcase the need for caution when acting upon the science put forth by any one preprint," the authors of a commentary in *The Lancet Global Health* wrote last spring.

Swapnil Hiremath, a nephrologist and associate professor at the University of Ottawa in Canada, agrees that bad science gets published in preprints. There is "a lot of garbage that comes out," he says. However, he adds, "one can argue that the peer reviewed literature is similarly flawed—it also has a lot of garbage." According to a list kept by Retraction Watch, a total of 137 COVID-19-related

manuscripts have been taken down by journals or preprint servers during the pandemic—and only 22 of those have been preprints.

While most preprints never make it to the published literatures, some studies suggest that for those that do, there is minimal difference in the quality between the preprint and published versions. Coates, Polka, and their colleagues compared preprints to their published versions. In a study posted on bioRxiv earlier this year, the team found that among preprints that were posted between January and April 2020 and published in a peer-reviewed journal in that same time period, the conclusions of abstracts usually did not change. Moreover, the figures and tables only underwent minor changes between the preprint and peer-reviewed manuscripts, suggesting that few additional experiments or analyses were carried out. A similar study by another group, published in a peer-reviewed journal last December, also found little difference between 2016 preprints and their peer-reviewed versions.

In response to the growing usage of preprints, many funding agencies, such as The Wellcome Trust, the European Research Council, and the National Institutes of Health, have changed their policies to accept—and in some cases, encourage—the use of preprints in grant applications. The ARC's decision to bar preprints was "the first policy that I had heard of from a funder that discourages the citation of preprints," Polka says. Similarly with journals, while there are some that have such anti-preprint policies, "I think that the overall trend is in a pro-preprint direction," Polka tells *The Scientist*.

Whether these practices will remain once the pandemic is over remains to be seen. Hiremath and others say they hope that preprints are here to stay, since even prior to the flood of papers that came with COVID-19, they saw issues with the peer-review system, including its lack of transparency and the sometimes-false sense of validity it provides. "I think we do need to rethink what peer review is and how we validate science or how we decide what science is good or not," Coates says. "Because the current system—I don't think works."

Diana is a freelance science journalist who covers the life sciences, health, and academic life. She's a regular contributor to *The Scientist* and her work has appeared in several other publications, including *Scientific American*, *Knowable*, and *Quanta*. Diana was a former intern at *The Scientist* and she holds a master's degree in neuroscience from McGill University. She's currently based in Berlin, Germany.

'Sir, I swam without fear,' President-elect Murmu had once told her teacher

RAIRANGPUR (MAYURBHANJ): What a feat to have been achieved by the country, when it is celebrating Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav (75th years of Independence)! India has elected a tribal, and that too a woman, as the First Citizen of the country. As the counting of votes showed a clear victory of Droupadi Murmu in the Presidential elections, the tribal lands of Odisha, which

of strong water currents. "One day, it was raining cats and dogs. Only six persons could make it to the school that day - four students and two teachers including me - daring the narrow treacherous hilly roads and flooding rivulets," recounted Behera. ALSO READ | Why Droupadi Murmu is important



had been waiting with bated breath for the declaration of her elevation to the topmost post of the country, dived headlong into celebrations.

At her residence in Rairangpur town of Mayurbhanj district, family members of Murmu, though, are still to come to terms with what they term as a "miracle". "It is yet to sink in. Even after being informed by the Prime Minister's Office twice on the evening of June 21 about her nomination for President's post, we could not believe our ears," Taranisen Tudu, the 52-year-old younger brother of Murmu told this paper at her Rairangpur residence.

"Today, as she is set to become the President, we cannot but look back at the journey of struggles, hardships and personal tragedies she has gone through to reach here. She is a symbol of courage and will discharge her duties with dignity and uphold the values and honour of the post," he said.

Twelve years junior to Murmu, Taranisen and his wife have been living with her after she lost her husband and two sons. For everyone, who has known or been associated with Murmu, she is nothing short of inspiring.

ALSO READ | In Droupadi Murmu, India gets its youngest and first president to be born after Independence

The way she has endured the harshest knocks of fate and conducted herself in public life is no short of an inspiration for all. Her election marks a new chapter in India's story of women's as well as the under-privileged sections' empowerment, said Basudev Behera, her school teacher.

Fondly remembering her school days at Uparbeda Middle English School, Behera said she was always keen on studies and nothing could stop her from coming to school.

Reaching the school during rainy days was a herculean task because of narrow and slippery road obstructed by numerous streams. One major stream (Uperbeda nullah) on the way to school was difficult to cross because

"To my utter surprise I saw a completely drenched Droupadi in the school. I wondered how could she navigate the dangerously overflowing stream which is impossible for even an able-bodied person to cross. She said, Sir I swam across without any fear," he said.

Droupadi not only struggled her way to become a graduate but the first girl of the area to be a matriculate. Only four boys of her village had passed High Schools Certificate examination by that time.

Recalling her honesty and uprightness, Behera said headmaster of the school Bishweswar Mahanta had given her a geometry box as she could not afford one. On the last day of her school, she returned the box to the headmaster.

When the Headmaster said that the school had gifted it to her, she replied that she could not take it as she did not earn it as a prize or for any outstanding performance. Since the geometry box belongs to the school, she had no right over it.

"There are many facets to Droupadi's life and the list is long. A good athlete, Murmu was a very compassionate person from her childhood. As she always cornered first prize in athletic events and her best friend Jamuna (who is no more) always came second, Murmu once deliberately underplayed her potential to see that her friend became winner," said Behera.

Murmu's childhood endurance brought enough strength in her to pay back when opportunity came her way. As MLA of Rairangpur she did not waste time in ensuring pucca roads at almost all villages and used her local area development fund generously for fulfilling basic needs of the people.

She has also formed a Trust, named SLS after her husband and two sons, which is running a residential high school at Pahadpur providing free education to about 100 students. Trust vice president Muna Pratihari said Murmu spent considerable time in the school after her Governorship ended.



New Delhi: Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal has said that the Ministry has issued directions for Preparation of Comprehensive Master Plan for ports with planning horizon of 2047.

Indian Ports Association, an apex body of Major Ports, has been directed to integrate all Port's Master Plan with respect to vision 2047 and

prepare a comprehensive Plan & report for Major Ports, said Union Minister. Sagarmala is an ambitious national initiative aimed at unlocking the full potential of India's coastline and waterways. The vision of this flagship program of Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways is to reduce logistics cost and catalyse port-led industrial and infrastructure development along the coastline. As a part of Sagarmala Programme, more than 800 projects at an estimated cost of around 5.5 lakh crore have been identified for implementation during 2015-2035. Further, under holistic development of coastal districts, a total of 567 projects with an estimated cost of around Rs. 58,000 crore have been identified. The concept of "port-led development" and the projects identified there under, are focused on - Port Modernization, Port Connectivity, Port-led Industrialization, Coastal Community Development, and Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transport. This information was given by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mr. Sonowal in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

ATC Loss Down to 26%

Bhubaneswar: Odisha is the first State in the country to implement power sector reforms with the enactment of the Orissa Electricity Reform Act, 1995. Due to such reform, the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss has come down from 57 per cent in 2000 to 26 per cent in 2022.

This was informed by Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb in the Odisha Legislative Assembly on Friday.

Informing about some major outcomes of the power sector reforms, Mr. Deb said, "Odisha is a power surplus state now. Around 2000 MW generation capacity has been added in the last two decades in the form of 1320 MW thermal capacity by OPGC, 560 MW of renewable energy capacity & 109 MW of small Hydro capacity." Similarly, he said, the

number of 33/11 KV sub-stations have gone up from 448 to 1,135 while the number of distribution transformers have also increased

EHT capacity has also increased from 4,235 MVA to 24,420 MVA. As a result, the Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Ltd



around 97 per cent households in the State have been electrified under various schemes launched by both State and Central Governments.

Odisha has one of the lowest power purchase costs with no retail tariff hike from the financial year 2002 to 2010. The retail tariff has been increased by Rs 2 in the last 20 years and by only 80 paise in the last 8 years. Industrial tariff is also amongst the lowest in the country, Mr. Deb claimed. Stating that the State is prioritising the use of renewable energy, he said Odisha has been able to meet 98 per cent of the RPO target in FY 2021-22. "Odisha has set examples in the past in restoration of power supply in the quickest possible time following cyclones like Phailin, Hudhud, Fani, Amphan, Yaas etc.," he added.

from 40170 in 2000 to 2,70,583 in 2021. The number of EHT (extra high tension) Grid Sub-station in the State has been increased from 58 to 178. Similarly, the (OPTCL) has achieved 99.9 per cent transmission system availability which is one of the best in the country, said the Energy Minister. He further informed that

EMC attracts 914 Cr invest

New Delhi: The Greenfield Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) in Info-valley, Bhubaneswar, has attracted investment commitment of about Rs 914 crore from seven companies.

Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar has informed this in Rajya Sabha on Friday in a written reply to a question raised by BJD member Sasmit Patra.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified the Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) scheme



in October, 2012 to provide support for the creation of world-class infrastructure along with common facilities and amenities for attracting investments in the electronics sector.

Under the scheme, Odisha Industrial Development Corporation (IDCO), a State Government undertaking, accorded approval for establishment of Greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Cluster in 2016 with project cost of Rs.200.76 crore including Central Grant-in-aid of Rs. 93.09 crore, he said. This EMC is poised to attract an investment

of about Rs. 979 crore and have potential to generate 10,000 employment opportunities. An investment commitment of about Rs 914 crore has already been received from 7 land allottees with employment potential of 4,603 persons, said Mr. Chandrasekhar. Similarly, the MeitY launched Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) scheme in the year 2019 to promote tech entrepreneurship through financial and technical support to incubators engaged in supporting ICT start-ups primarily engaged in using

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Boozie's 10 minute liquor delivery service to launch in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: **Boozie**, the service that has taken Kolkata by storm with a first of its kind 10-minute liquor delivery platform is all set to launch operations in Odisha after receiving an NOC from the Odisha Excise Department.

Odisha, primarily Bhubaneswar has been a stupendous market for liquor sales, with one of the highest percentage of population which consumes liquor. Surveys indicate that the percentage is almost double of the country's average.

"After receiving an overwhelming and unprecedented response in Kolkata,

we wanted to expand further in the Eastern Cluster. We welcome the progressive move by Odisha Government to issue NOCs to aggregators like Boozie. Bhubaneswar is rapidly growing from a Tier II city to a smart metro with a huge demographic of E-com users. In-app analytics, brand feedback and on ground user data in Kolkata have all pointed that there is a void in the market for an efficient, cost effective delivery service in the Liquor segment. We have been able to capture 25% of the market share in the first month of our

operations in Kolkata." Said Vivekanand Balijepalli, Founder and CEO of Boozie. Boozie has been offering premium delivery services at affordable and almost negligible delivery fee, which seems to have got the customer's nod. So how has Boozie been able to achieve this, we asked Vivekanand.

He said "We have been very strategic in our selection of stores, optimising our rider force, usage of technology to anticipate the trends, keeping retailer interests intact to come up with a robust model that can be a plug

and play in Bhubaneswar. This coupled with sale of our in house FMCG products such as Packaged Drinking Water, Club Soda, Tonic Water, Ginger Ale etc. and Snacks ensures the viability of the model. I believe a BOOOZIE is one who enjoys a drink responsibly, smartly and unapologetically. We want to ensure we provide this to our fellow BOOOZIE's."

This one-stop-shop for everything to do with liquor seems to be the need of the hour in Bhubaneswar and for that matter all over the country.

Dabur launches "Dabur Himalayan Shilajit" this Prime Day!

Kolkata (KCN): India's leading science-based Ayurveda Company Dabur India Ltd today announced the extension of its Most Trusted



Healthcare/Energiser brand Dabur Shilajit with the launch of 'Dabur Himalayan Shilajit' during Prime Day on Amazon.in, a natural health booster to improve overall health and support healthy ageing. Prime Day, the biggest and the most awaited shopping event of the year for Prime members on Amazon.in is two days of great deals, savings, blockbuster entertainment, new launches, and much more. It kicks off July 23, 2022, at 12:00 AM and runs through July 24, 2022. "Dabur Himalayan Shilajit is 100% Pure, with no fillers and additives. It is a natural revitalizer that contains more than 80% Fulvic Acid to provide superior anti-oxidant benefits that inhibits the formation of free radicals and subsequently reduce oxidative stress. Sourced from high altitudes of the Himalayas, making it a rich source of 80+ trace minerals and 10 vital minerals. It is loaded with benefits of Ayurveda to im-

prove overall well-being and we are excited to launch this during Amazon Prime Day this year" said Mr. Ajay Singh Parihar, Head of Marketing-OTC Healthcare, Dabur India Ltd said.

Priced at Rs. 1450 for 15g. It can be easily consumed by mixing a pea sized ball (250 mg- 500 mg) in a glass of lukewarm water. The product will be launched on Amazon India.

"With the growing focus on health and immunity, customers prefer products that help improve their overall well-being. We are delighted with the launch of "Dabur Himalayan Shilajit", a natural health booster, for our customers on Amazon.in during the upcoming Prime Day on 23rd and 24th July. Dabur is a household name and brand of choice when it comes to ayurvedic and natural health care products. Through this association, we take a step further in our effort to offer customers a vast and diverse selection, unmatched value, fast and reliable delivery, and a great shopping experience on Amazon.in." said Mr. Nishant Raman, Amazon India Director - Core Consumables. "Dabur Himalayan Shilajit has the benefits of Rasayana which improves immunity, fights fatigue and reduces risk of diseases. It contains Medhya which helps relieve stress and anxiety to promote mental well-being. It also has the goodness of Balya to strengthen bones and muscles to build stamina and vitality. Dabur, being the pioneer in the field of Ayurveda, is committed to offering the safest and most effective Ayurveda-based solutions for the health and well-being of every household. The launch of Dabur Himalayan Shilajit is another step forward in the direction of launching products based on the age-old knowledge of Ayurveda in modern-day convenient formats" Mr. Parihar Added.

STD.-XII CBSE Board result

Commendable performance of DAV, Kalinga Nagar

Ipsita Patra & Lipsita Sahoo top the school list with highest percentage of 97.60% in science and 96.60% in commerce respectively.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Students of DAV, Kalinga Nagar have fared very well with a thumping result in the recently published CBSE AISSC-2022 Examination. They have made the Alma mater glorious by securing 100% Pass Percentage with First Division in Both Science and Commerce with

100% Pass with First class in Both Science and Commerce with School average of 86.74% & 83.12% respectively.

secured second position with 96.80% and Adyasha Priyadarshini Acharya has secured third position with 96.40%. Similarly in Commerce, out of 23 students, 69.56% students have secured above 80% marks, and 100% students have secured above 60%. Lipsita Sahoo has topped the list of meritorious students with 96.60%



School average of 86.74% & 83.12% respectively. The Highest percentage of the school in science has reached 97.60% and 96.60% in commerce respectively. In science, out of 71 students 11.26% Students have scored above 95%, 36.61% students have scored above 90% marks, 83.09% students have scored above 80% marks, 100% students have scored above 70% marks. Ipsita Patra topped the list of meritorious students with 97.60% while Satyam Smitodaya Nayak has



while Subham Sekhar Jena has secured second position with 94.80% and Rashmi Prabha Das has secured the third position with 93.80% respectively. Chairman of the school, Sj Madan Mohan Panda, Regional Officer, DAV Institutions, Odisha Zone - I Dr. K.C Satapathy and Principal of the school Mr Bipin Kumar Sahoo congratulated the students & the teachers for their success & effort even during this crisis.

CBSE not to declare merit lists for class 10, 12 exams to avoid unhealthy competition

NEW DELHI: The day.



Central Board of Secondary Education will not declare merit lists for class 10 and 12 exams to avoid "unhealthy competition" among students, Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said on Fri-

The CBSE did not announce merit lists in 2020 and 2021 as the results were declared on the basis of an alternate assessment scheme because exams could not be conducted due to the COVID-19 pan-

demic. CBSE Class 10 results announced, 94.4 per cent students clear exam "As per earlier decision of the board, no merit list will be declared to avoid unhealthy competition among students. The board is also not awarding first, second and third division to its students," Bhardwaj said. "The board will issue merit certificates to 0.1 per cent of students who have scored the highest marks in subjects," he added. The results for the 2022

examination for classes 10 and 12 were announced on Friday. CBSE Class 12 results: Girls outshine boys, 92.71 per cent pass While 92.7 per cent of students cleared the Class 12 exam, 94.40 per cent passed the Class 10 exam. In Class 12, 1,34,797 students scored above 95 per cent and 33,432 scored above 90 per cent. In Class 10, 64,908 candidates scored above 95 per cent and 2,36,993 scored above 90 per cent.



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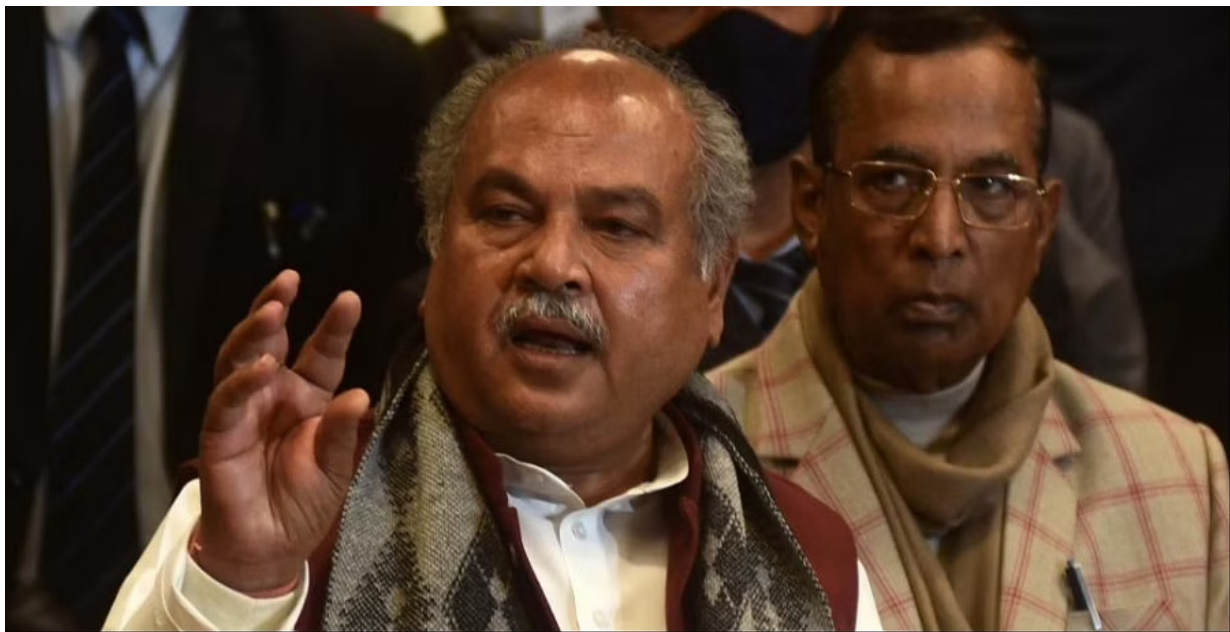


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No adverse impact of wheat export ban on farmers' income; domestic prices above MSP: Tomar



NEW DELHI: Neither there is a wheat crisis in the country, nor an adverse impact of the export ban of the commodity on farmers' income, agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar informed Parliament on Friday. Domestic wheat prices are ruling above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) even after the export ban, he said. Tomar, in his written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, said the country's wheat production is pegged

at 106.41 million tonnes in 2021-22 according to the government's third advance estimate. The government's third wheat estimate is slightly lower than the previous year, but the minister said it is above the average annual wheat production of 103.89 million tonnes achieved during the last five years from 2016-17. In 2020-21, the country's wheat production stood at 109.59 million tonnes. According to the

minister, "There is no wheat crisis in the country, as India produces wheat more than its domestic requirement. In order to manage the overall food security of the country and to support the needs of the neighbouring and vulnerable countries, the minister said the government prohibited the export of wheat (on May 13)." However, exports will be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the central government to other countries to

meet their food security needs and based on the request of their governments, he added. Asked if the export ban has affected the income of wheat growers, Tomar said, "There is no adverse impact on the income of wheat growing farmers because, despite a ban on wheat export, farmers are getting good remunerative prices." The country had exported a record 7 million tonnes of wheat in fiscal 2021-22.

Sensex extends gains for 6th day to reclaim 56K mark; bank, finance stocks shine

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark Sensex stretched its winning run to the sixth straight session on Friday to reclaim the 56,000-level due to robust gains in banking and financial stocks amid a largely positive trend in overseas markets. The 30-share BSE benchmark rose 390.28 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 56,072.23. During the day, it advanced 504.1 points or 0.90 per cent to 56,186.05. The broader NSE Nifty climbed 114.20 points or 0.69 per cent to 16,719.45. Among the Sensex constituents, UltraTech Cement, HDFC, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Titan Company, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Hindustan Unilever were the lead gainers. Infosys, NTPC, Power Grid, Wipro and IndusInd Bank were the major laggards. The market breadth was in favour of the bulls, with 18 of the 30 Sensex stocks closing in the green. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge went higher by 0.21 per cent, while the midcap index dipped by 0.17 per cent. A total of 1,781 stocks advanced, while 1,541 declined and 147 remained unchanged. Among the BSE sectoral indices, bank jumped 1.49 per cent, followed by finance (1.36 per cent), basic materials (1.26 per cent) and realty (0.37 per cent).

Power, tech, telecom and IT were among the laggards. "Equities witnessed strong rally this week with benchmark indices like BSE-30 and Nifty-50 index posting returns of 4 per cent. The market rally was broad-based with positive returns seen in BSE Midcap, BSE Smallcap and the majority of sectoral indices. BSE Metal, BSE IT and BSE Capital Goods indices moved higher by more than 5 per cent this week. Equity markets seem to have received support from the hope of peaking inflation amid a decline in commodity prices and the slowdown in FII selling. In fact, FIIs have been buyers for some days so far in July 2022," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail) at Kotak Securities, said. In the near term, markets will be tracking the upcoming Fed Reserve meeting, currency movement and quarterly results, he added. The rupee, meanwhile slipped, 5 paise to 79.90 against the US dollar. In Asia, markets in Tokyo and Hong Kong settled higher, while Seoul and Shanghai ended lower. Markets in Europe were trading in the green during mid-session deals. The US equity markets had ended higher on Thursday. "Increased foreign investment and solid quar-

terly results are increasing domestic demand. Among broad-based buying, banking stocks outshined due to healthy quarterly earnings. European markets traded with modest gains, while investors digested the latest ECB monetary policy as it joined the global peers in policy tightening," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.51 per cent to USD 103.33 per barrel. "Falling crude oil prices and rebound in FII inflows into the domestic market helped benchmark Sensex to close above the psychological level of 56,000. The fear of aggressive rate hikes by both the US Fed and RBI seems to be moderating, which is giving investors some room to lap up stocks of companies with good fundamentals. Extending the rally for the sixth straight session, investors bought banking and select automobile stocks," Amol Athawale, Deputy Vice President - Technical Research, Kotak Securities Ltd, said. Foreign institutional investors were net sellers on Friday, offloading shares worth Rs 675.45 crore, as per exchange data. "Markets extended gains and rose over half a per cent, in continuation of

the prevailing trend. After the initial uptick, the benchmark oscillated in the range but finally settled around the day's high. Gains in banking, realty and auto supported the surge while IT, pharma and energy witnessed profit-taking. Meanwhile, the broader indices traded mixed," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd. Markets ended on a bullish note for the sixth day in a row, as jubilant investors took heart from this week's signs that foreign funds (FIIs) have trickled back into Indian stock markets. FIIs have been net buyers on all the trading days of this week, according to Prashanth Tapsee, Vice President (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd. Domestic equities continued its northbound journey on the back of positive global cues and better than expected Q1FY23 earnings. Nifty opened higher and sustained momentum to close near day high with gains of 114 points (0.7 per cent) at 16,719 levels. "Global markets were positive despite a surprise rate hike of 50 basis points by the European Central Bank, its first hike in 11 years and weak German manufacturing PMI Data," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

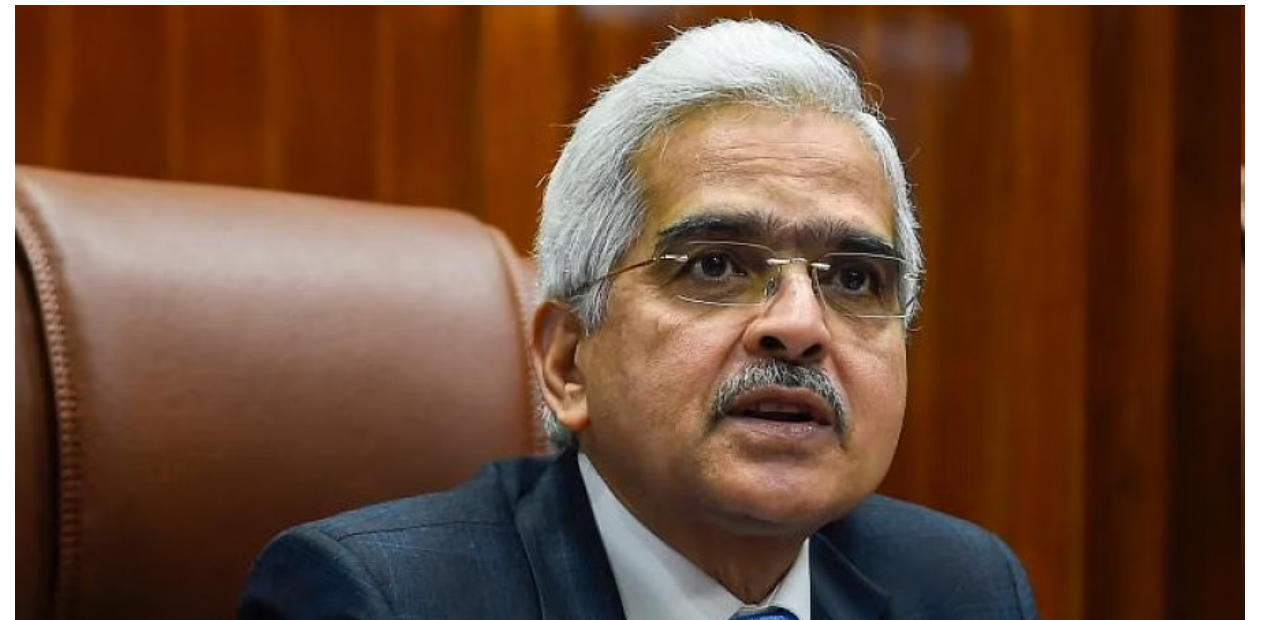
'You buy umbrella to use it when it rains': RBI Governor on using forex reserves to tackle currency volatility

MUMBAI: Amid the rupee falling against the US dollar, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said "you buy an umbrella to use it when it rains!", indicating that the central

"After all, this is the very purpose for which we had accumulated reserves when the capital inflows were strong. And, may I add, you buy an umbrella to use it when it rains!,"

market economies due to the country's resilient macroeconomic fundamentals. The recovery is gradually strengthening, the current account deficit is modest and inflation is

bonds and an increase in overseas borrowing limits for companies, to boost foreign exchange inflows and curb the fall in the rupee. Further, Das said a predominant part of



bank is using foreign exchange reserves to deal with currency volatility. Das also said that by eschewing sudden and volatile shifts, the central bank has ensured that expectations remain anchored and the forex market functions in a stable and liquid manner. He also noted that the central bank will continue to engage with the forex market and ensure that the rupee finds its level in line with its fundamentals.

The governor said in recognition of a genuine shortfall of supply of forex in the market relative to demand because of import and debt servicing requirements and portfolio outflows, the RBI has been supplying US dollars to the market to ensure that there is adequate forex liquidity.

Exim Bank mulls raising USD 3.8 billion in FY23 by issuing bonds in global markets: MD Harsha Bangari

NEW DELHI: The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) plans to raise USD 3.8 billion through foreign currency fund mop-up in the current fiscal year under its global medium-term note (GMTN) programme, a top official said. Being a policy bank, fully owned by the union government, the bank also has a budgeted allocation of Rs 1,500 crore for the current fiscal year. "For FY23, Exim Bank has a budgeted allocation of Rs 1,500 crore by the government. Typically that would be required by the bank for its growth as well as to maintain the required capital adequacy ratio," Harsha Bangari, Managing Director, Exim Bank said. She said during the cur-

Das said. The country's foreign exchange reserves had declined by a massive USD 8.062 billion to USD 580.252 billion in the week ended July 8. On Thursday, the rupee touched an all-time intra-day low of 80.06 against the US dollar but managed to recover the lost ground and closed at 79.05 against the greenback. "I would like to reiterate that we have no particular level of the rupee in mind, but we would like to ensure its orderly evolution and we have zero tolerance for volatile and bumpy movements," Das said while speaking at the banking conclave organised by Bank of Baroda. According to him, the rupee is holding well compared to currencies of advanced and emerging

stabilising, he said and added that the financial sector is well-capitalised and sound. Due to the RBI actions, including measures to encourage inflows, the movements of the rupee have been relatively smooth and orderly, the governor pointed out. Earlier this month, the RBI had announced a slew of measures including liberalising norms for foreign investments in government

the outstanding External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) is effectively hedged. As per the RBI's internal research estimates, the optimal hedging ratio for India is 63 per cent. Taking into account natural hedges and the exposure of public sector companies, the optimal hedge ratio condition is comfortably satisfied in the case of the stock of ECBs in the country's external debt, he said.

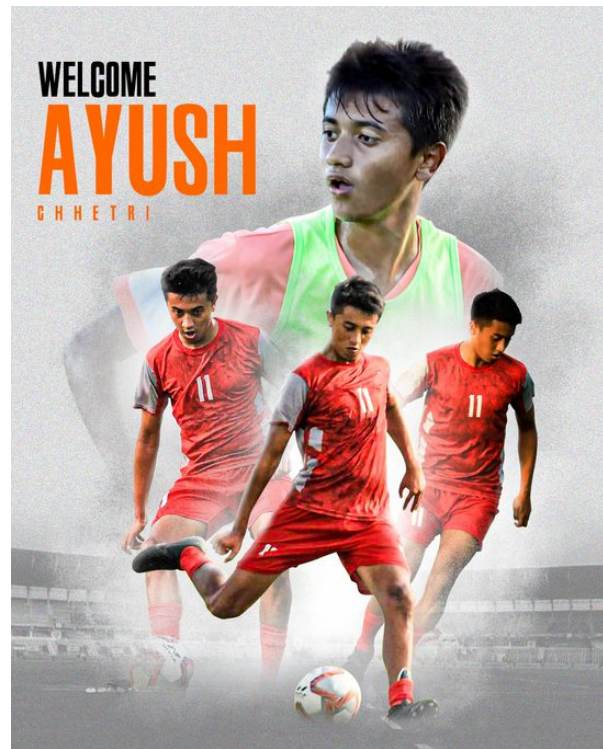
EMC attracts 914 Cr invest

Continued from page-5 emerging technologies leading to handholding of approximately 2,000 tech start-ups over a period of 5 years. Under the above scheme, two incubation centres at KIIT Technology Business Incubator, KIIT University and Foundation for Technology & Business Incubation (FTBI), NIT Rourkela have been approved. As of now, about 15 start-ups have been on-boarded in both the centres, said the Union Minister. For promoting IT/ITES/ESDM industry and tech start-up ecosystem in the State, four STPI Centres at Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Rourkela and Balasore have been made operational. More than 250 IT/ITES companies including major giants like Infosys, TCS, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Mindtree and Capgemini etc. have registered under Software Technology Parks (STP) scheme and have their back office/branch office in the State. These IT/ITES units located in Odisha have exported about Rs 2,566 crore in the financial year 2021-22. The STPI is also coming up with four new STPI centres at Angul, Jajpur, Sambalpur & Koraput (Jeypore), he stated. The STPI has been implementing Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS) with focus on 12 Tier-II cities including Bhubaneswar with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 95.03 crore over a period of 3 years. The scheme targets to support 300 innovative start-ups with seed funds of up to Rs. 25 lakh. Similarly, the MeitY through STPI, has established 20 Centre of Entrepreneurship (CoE) across India including two located in Bhubaneswar. These CoEs are targeted to provide comprehensive support & infrastructure for start-ups & innovators engaged in these sectors. Moreover, 21 BPO/ITES units are either operational or completed their tenure providing employment to 2,520 persons in the State under India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS).

ISL: Youngster Ayush Chhetri signs three-year deal with FC Goa

PANAJI: FC Goa have roped in young midfielder Ayush Chhetri for a three-year

Consistent performances with the Mizoram-based club's youth sides helped him earn a promotion to the first team and earlier last



year in the 2021-22 season, he was handed his debut in the I-League.

Ravi Puskur, the club's Director of Football also expressed his thoughts on Ayush Chhetri's signing. He said, "Ayush is a signing which is largely focused towards the future planning of the team. He's been a very bright prospect in Indian football for the past few years now and we've always looked at trying to bring him in at the right time."

"Given his experience in the I-League last season, we felt he was ready to make the step up and rub shoulders with the players in the ISL on a daily basis. We're confident that with time he'll step up and become a vital asset for the club in the years to come," he added. The 19-year-old went on to make 10 appearances for Aizawl FC in I-League 2021-22. On April 1 this year, the midfielder scored his maiden league goal against eventual champions Gokulam Kerala and followed that up with strikes against NEROCA FC and Sudeva Delhi FC.

In a short span of time, Ayush Chhetri has proven his abilities as a player who can make an impact on both ends of the pitch.

deal. Born in the state of Mizoram, Chhetri started playing football at the very young age of five. He rose to prominence for the first time when he got selected to Aizawl FC's U15 and U18 teams for the Youth League.

"FC Goa is one of the best football clubs in the country and I'm happy to join them. Playing in the Indian Super League (ISL) was one of my biggest dreams and I'm thankful to FC Goa for giving me the opportunity," Chhetri said in a statement.

"Being a midfielder, I love to play with the ball. The Club encourages footballers like me and follows a possession-based style of playing the game, and that attracted me to them. When I spoke to the management, they made me feel welcome and assured me that I would be an important part of their plans. That is something that I look forward to," he added.

Shubman Gill, Shikhar Dhawan take India to 308/7 in first ODI against West Indies

PORT OF SPAIN: Shubman Gill made a classy 64 in his ODI

Shreyas Iyer, who has had his troubles of late with the short ball, was

seph for a six before he delighted the crowd with a perfectly placed punch

plays one format and had a lean run in England, paced his innings well with Gill going strong at the other end. The southpaw collected 10 fours and three sixes. His go-to-shot was the slog sweep off left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie.

The other left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein impressed by getting the ball to turn sharply. India were set for a 350-plus score but Dhawan's dismissal for the seventh time in the 90s led to a middle-order collapse with the visitors reduced to 252 for five from 213 for one.

Sanju Samson (12) squandered a good opportunity to make an impact while Suryakumar Yadav (13) fell to a loose shot. Deepak Hooda (27) and Axar Patel (21) took India past 300 with a 42-run stand for the sixth wicket.



comeback while skipper Shikhar Dhawan missed out on a hundred by three runs before the West Indies restricted India to 308 for seven in the series opener here on Friday. Gill, playing his first ODI since December 2020, played some sublime strokes in his 52-ball knock while Dhawan (97 of 99 balls) took his time before changing gears.

back amongst the runs with a fluent 54 off 57 balls.

The opening duo of Gill and Dhawan shared an 119-run stand off 106 balls before the former was run out in the 18th over against the run of play. Gill, one of the most watchable batters when in full flow, was very comfortable against the fast bowlers. Gill hooked Alzarri Jo-

off the back foot for a boundary.

He was equally attractive playing the cover drives when the ball was pitched up.

His innings comprised six fours and couple of sixes. It took a brilliant direct hit from West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran to dismiss him. It was Gill's maiden ODI fifty in what was his fourth game. Dhawan, who only

West Indies win toss, opt to bowl against India in 1st ODI



PORT OF SPAIN: West Indies skipper Nicholas Pooran won the toss and elected to field against India in the first ODI of the three-match series here on Friday.

Senior India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was ruled out of first two ODIs af-

ter sustaining a knee injury.

Pooran informed that all-rounder Jason Holder is down with COVID-19 and will miss out, while Kyle Mayers was included in the playing XI after his recovery from an injury.

For India, Sanju Samson and Shreyas

Iyer have made it to the playing XI.

Teams: India: Shikhar Dhawan (C), Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Sanju Samson(wk), Deepak Hooda, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj, Yuzvendra Chahal, Prasadh

Krishna. West Indies: Nicholas Pooran (C), Shai Hope(wk), Brandon King, Shamarh Brooks, Kyle Mayers, Rovman Powell, Akeal Hosein, Romario Shephard, Alzarri Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Jayden Seales.




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