

US: Shot that killed journalist likely fired from Israelis



WASHINGTON(KCN): US officials have concluded that gunfire from Israeli positions likely killed Al-Jazeera journalist

Shireen Abu Akleh but that there was "no reason to believe" her shooting was intentional, the State Department said Monday.

The finding, in a statement from State Department spokesman Ned Price, came after what the US said was inconclusive

tests by independent ballistics experts under US oversight of the bullet fragment recovered from Abu Akleh's body.

Putin declares victory in embattled Donbas region of Luhansk

POKROVSK(KCN): Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday declared victory in the eastern Ukrainian region of Luhansk, one day after Ukrainian forces

taken control of Luhansk, which together with the neighbouring Donetsk province makes up Ukraine's industrial heartland of Donbas.

that the military units "that took part in active hostilities and achieved success, victory" in Luhansk, "should rest, increase their combat capabilities."

Sunday. Luhansk governor Serhii Haidai said on Monday that Ukrainian forces had retreated from the city to avoid being surrounded. "There was a risk of



withdrew from their last remaining bulwark of resistance in the province. Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin in a televised meeting Monday that Russian forces had

Shoigu told Putin that "the operation" was completed on Sunday after Russian troops overran the city of Lysychansk, the last stronghold of Ukrainian forces in Luhansk.

Putin's declaration came as Russian forces tried to press their offensive deeper into eastern Ukraine after the Ukrainian military confirmed that its forces had withdrawn from Lysychansk on

Lysychansk encirclement," Haidai told the Associated Press, adding that Ukrainian troops could have held on for a few more weeks but would have potentially paid too high a price. CONTINUED ON: P-7

PM Modi unveils 30-foot statue of Alluri Sitarama Raju in Andhra's Bhimavaram

VIJAYAWADA(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday unveiled the 30-foot statue of revolutionary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju in Bhimavaram in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The statue was unveiled on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Alluri

Sitarama Raju also known as Manyam

part of Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav.

State Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. After unveiling the statue, Modi addressed a public meeting at Peda Amiram near Bhimavaram where he paid tributes to Alluri and recalled how the revolutionary freedom fighter led tribals and youth to revolt against the then British government.



Dora. The Centre is organising various events on the occasion for one year as

Modi reached Gannavaram airport from Hyderabad and was received by Andhra Pradesh

Japan sights China, Russia warships near disputed islands

TOKYO(KCN): Japan protested to Beijing after spotting Chinese and Russian warships just outside its territorial waters around the disputed East China Sea islands on Monday. Japan's Defense Ministry said a Chinese frigate sailed inside the "contiguous zone," just outside Japanese territorial waters around Senkaku Islands, which Beijing also claims and calls the Diaoyu, for several minutes Monday morning.

The Chinese warship's presence was confirmed about 40 minutes after a Russian frigate had entered the waters for more than an hour, the ministry said. It was not immediately clear what was behind the latest Chinese-Russian military activity in the

area. Japanese defence officials mentioned a possibility that the ships may have been there to avoid a typhoon. Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiji Kihara said Japan

land, territorial waters and air space," Kihara said. There was no violation of the territorial waters, he said. In Beijing, China justified the frigate's entry and criticized

make such irresponsible remarks." Japan sees China's increasingly assertive military activity in the East and South China seas as a threat to regional stability. Toyo is especially



lodged a protest expressing "grave concern" to Beijing over the incident.

"The Senkaku islands are an inherent part of Japan's territory historically and under international law. The government will deal with the matter calmly but firmly to protect the Japanese

Tokyo's protest. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the islands are Chinese territory. "The activities of Chinese vessels in waters nearby are lawful and justified," he said at a regular news conference. "Japan has no right to

sensitive to Chinese activities near the disputed islands. Kihara said that Monday's incursion into the contiguous zone, which is between the territorial sea and the wider exclusive economic zone, by the Chinese warship was a fourth such event since June 2016.

Rath yatra: Chariot pulling ends at Haribaldevjew temple in Dwitiya Srikhetra

BARIPADA(KCN): A sea of devotees poured onto the Grand Road of Haribaldevjew temple here to pull the chariot of Lord Jagannath on



the third day of Rath Yatra on Sunday. The Rath Yatra festival at Baripada, known as Dwitiya Srikhetra, is a 13-day affair. While the chariot of Lord Balabhadra had reached Mausi Maa temple earlier, the ones of Lord Jagannath and Devi Subhadra arrived at the destination on the day. Lord Jagannath's chariot reached Mausi Maa temple at around 5.30 pm. The chariot of Devi Subhadra was pulled only by women devotees.

Rajya Sabha Member Mamata Mohanta took part in the chariot pulling. Expressing her happiness, the MP said prior to this, she had

not got the opportunity to pull the chariots of the Trinity. But this year, she was lucky. "Due to the blessings of Lord Jagannath, I was able to participate in chariot pulling. I thank the district administration and police for conducting the mega event smoothly," she added. As per official reports, over two lakh devotees thronged the Grand Road on the day. Police personnel, both in plain clothes and uniform, were deployed on the Grand Road for crowd management and smooth conduct of Rath Yatra. A drone camera was also engaged to keep a watch on the activities of the crowd. The entry points to the Grand Road were closed for vehicles. Traffic on several other routes was diverted for the festival. Mayurbhanj SP Rishikesh D Khilari said police had requested devotees not to wear any ornaments while pulling the chariots. No untoward incident was reported during the three days of Rath Yatra.

The car festival at Dwitiya Srikhetra is unique. While the Trinity reaches Mausi Maa temple on the same day at Puri, the chariot pulling at Baripada is a three-day affair.

Congress slams BJP for taking 'false' credit for Brahmani bridge opening in Odisha

ROURKELA(KCN): The Rourkela district Congress committee (RDCC) on Sunday



criticised the BJP for taking "false" credit for the partial opening of the second Brahmani bridge of NH-143 for light motor vehicles on July 1.

A Congress team comprising former RDCC president Biren Senapati visited the new bridge. Senapati said in April 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the construction of the second Brahmani bridge in two years. Now, a three-lane portion of the bridge has been haphazardly completed. Completion of another three-lane portion would take several more months. "While commuters are suffering for years, the local BJP leaders have no shame in declaring that the Prime Minister's promise has been fulfilled," he alleged.

Senapati pointed out that the development of NH-143 was taken up by the Congress-led UPA-II government at the CONTINUED ON: P-7

ITC Savlon launches Savlon Powder Handwash Natak Manisha Gachhara Chhai released



Kolkata(KCN): ITC Savlon is known for redefining norms and has demonstrated innovative design-thinking approach in responding to consumer needs. In its efforts to address the problem of access, and to make hand hygiene affordable at the last mile, Savlon launches the new Savlon Powder Handwash. Priced at just INR 10/

one Savlon Powder Handwash sachet makes 200ml liquid handwash that provides more than 120 washes. This reduces the cost per use to just 8 paisa, redefining value for the value-conscious consumer. Savlon Powder Handwash Sachet is available across retail outlets in India. Backed by Savlon's trusted 99.9% germ protec-

tion, Savlon Powder Handwash addresses the issues of hygiene through improved accessibility, and affordability. The Powder handwash sachet design uses ~91% less plastic compared to a 200ml handwash pump. This unique pack encourages consumers to make sustainable lifestyle choices without having to compromise on

value. ITC Savlon has been at the forefront of this unprecedented outbreak and has been persistent in its efforts to serve the national priority. A key step has been to accelerate innovations that can offer significant anti-viral & anti-bacterial protection that is convenient, affordable and accessible to everyone.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The leading socio cultural organization of the state working in the field of cultural development along with social activities releases the printed book of its displayed script play "Manisha Gachhara Chhai" during the celebration of holy Rathayatra. In a glittering function organized for the purpose presided over by its president Dr. Prakash Chandra Panigrahi at the utkal rangamanch auditorium of the odissi research centre joining as guests the deputy mayor of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation Manjulata Kanhar, the corporators of ward No.14 and 22 Monalisha Sahoo and A c h y u t a n a n d a

Swain, odisha nrtya guru Prangya Pattnaik, Director of the play Bulu Biswal, educationist Ranjan Prasad Das released the book and express the book will be accepted by the people in large. Based on the day to day happenings of the family, struggle, sacrifice and a different concept other than the general story and published by lucky publication was highly praised and awarded at the state level jatra tournament at Nimapada.

Scripted by the well known writer Smruti Ranjan Mohanty, music composed by Manash Bal, choreographed by Master Tikan and the lively cast by Prakash, Bata Krushna, Buna, Kalilash, Niranjana, Kabi, Alok, Narayan Pratap, Bipin, Jagannath, Bibhuti, Balakrushna, Arjun, Madan, Tapas, Pradeep, Lori, Mili, Gudi, Puja, Kuni in the play has made the Natak a graceful one. Among others the secretary of the asso-

ciation Biswajit Pattnaik (Silu), the co-writer of the book and the cultural secretary of the association Bata Krushna Panda, member Gobinda Biswal were coordinated the programme. To note the association along with the social activities has been organizing a two whole night jatra taking the local talents for last 27 years in a row and displayed more than 45 social related plays. In the context, moving a step ahead instead of the regular printed books the script play was organized and the printed version of the play is released for the consumption of the different cultural association of the state. The effort of the association is applauded by the local intellectuals.



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Remembering Sridhar Sahoo

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Lost untimely during the corona pandemic the retd. Govt. official, President of Niladrivihar Residents Association,

Association Manmohan Pattnaik the renowned spiritual guru Biswanath Satapathy, retd. Vice-chancellor of Utkal University of Culture

soul. To note late sahoos joined the govt. office by clearing OPSC in 1978 and retd. as the deputy secretary of the GA deptt. in 2011. After retirement he engaged himself in different social related activities and created a name and fame for a prolific yoga guru

and urged to form a smruti committee, to publish a souvenir while throwing a light on his life and deeds. Among others Arun Kumar Dey, Manoj Biswal, Rabi Panda, Bipin Bihari Samal, Jyoti Ranjan Das, Biswanath Mohanty, the members of the family and the near dear ones



Social worker, a prolific yoga teacher and a disciple of jayguru late Sridhar Sahoo was given an emotional tribute on his 1st death anniversary. In a tribute ceremony organised for the purpose in the premises of Niladrivihar Durgapuja Mandop under the chairmanship of senior Advocate & advisor of the

D. N. Jena, President of Niladrivihar Youth & Cultural Association Dr. Prakash Chandra Panigrahi, social worker Manoj Kumar Sahoo (Akhi), Secretary of the residence association Debendra Kumar Patra, Senior member Mihir Mishra and Bira Kishore Mishra were paid a deep tribute to the departed



and in establishing jayguru institutions. His untimely death has created a blank space in the society and an irreparable loss opined the guests

were present and coordinated the function. The family members of late Sahoo expressed their heartfelt thanks for the graceful presence of everyone.

Forest Festival Week observed by plantation at 42 Mouza

Cuttack Sadar(KCN)

sion of Forest Festival

activist and environmentalist Basant Kumar Panda and "Samarpita Cuttack Pariwar" Adhikari Durga Charan Pradhan jointly planted the trees. Three years ago, Mr. Panda heard news about the shortage of Tulasi (Sacred Basil) for the worship of Lord Shree Jagannath. From the media after that, the collection plantation started Tulashi & Molly (Jasmine) flower garden. Since then, he has been visiting Bhagwat Darshan and service to God Tulsi (Basil),

Malli (Jasmine) flowers and fruit items every Thursday to visit Puri district Shri Jagannath. By the way Many other devotees like him in the 42 mouza have been cultivating Tulsi gardens like this and supplying Tulsi in the service of Lord Sri Jagannath. The Tulasi tree absorbs large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and continuously provides oxygen. Moreover Tulasi tree, one of the holy trees, also has a lot of benefits and immunity for human society.



: Cuttack Sadar 42 Mouza tree planting program has been organized on the occa-

Week and Holy Rath Yatra at Berhampur GP Shriram village.Social justice

Export Rise in Major Sectors

New Delhi(KCN): Santosh Sarangi, Director General Foreign Trade (DGFT) is happy as the country has achieved a monthly value of merchandise export in June 2022 amounting USD 37.94 billion, an increase of 16.78% over USD 32.49 billion in June 2021.

Mr.Sarangi discussed about India's merchandise export in April -June 2022-23 with officials. While it is USD 116.77 billion with an increase of 22.22% over USD 95.54 billion in April -June 2021-22.

Value of non-petroleum exports in June 2022 was 30.12 USD billion, registering a positive growth of 5.53% over non-petroleum exports of USD 28.54 billion in June 2021. The cumulative value of non-petroleum exports in April -June 2022-23 was USD 92.49 billion, an increase of 11.92% over USD 82.65 billion in April -June 2021-22.

Value of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports in June 2022 was USD 26.75 billion, registering a positive growth of 4.0% over non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports of USD 25.72 billion in June 2021. The cumulative value of non-

petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports in April -June 2022-23 was USD 82.43 billion, an increase of 12.19% over cumulative value of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports of USD 73.47 billion in April -June 2021-22.

Petroleum products (98.01%), Electronic goods (50.66%) and RMG of all Textiles (44.67%) led the way in high increase in exports during June 2022.

India's merchandise import in June 2022 was USD 63.58 billion, an increase of 51.02% over USD 42.1 billion in June 2021. India's merchandise imports in April -June 2022-23 was USD 187.02 billion with an increase of 47.31% over USD 126.96 billion in April -June 2021-22.

Value of non-petroleum imports was USD 42.84 billion in June 2022 with a positive growth of 36.36% over non-petroleum imports of USD 31.42 billion in June 2021. The cumulative value of non-petroleum imports in April -June 2022-23 was USD 126.95 billion, showing an increase of 32.18% compared to non-oil imports of USD 96.04 billion in April -June 2021-22.

State Registers 15K Rape Cases

Bhubaneswar(KCN): State has registered over 15,000 rape cases during the period from 2019 to 2022, Minister of State (MoS) for Home, Tusharkanti Behera informed Assembly, Monday.

While giving a written reply to a question asked by Congress MLA Santosh Singh Saluja, the Minister said a total of 15,713 rape cases have been registered between 2019 and 2022 in Odisha.

Of the total cases registered, in 10,129 cases women were the victims while 5,584 sexual assaults cases against minors were reported, he said.

While 4,585 rape cases were registered in 2019, 4,630 cases recorded in 2020. The state has witnessed a steep rise in the rape cases in 2021 with 5,198 cases. This year till April, Odisha has registered 12300 rape cases, Mr.Behera said.

Out of the total rape cases reported in the period, 1635 minor rape cases were registered in 2019, while the state had witnessed 1,646 minor rape cases in 2020 and 1871 in 2021. In 2022 (till April), 868 rape cases have been registered of which 432 cases are sexual assaults against minors. Similarly, the state has also registered 3756 dowry torture and 341 dowry homicide cases in 2019, whereas, 320 dowry homicide and

3759 dowry torture cases were reported in the next year (2020), Mr.Behera informed the House.

In 2021, 293 dowry homicide and 4953 dowry torture cases against women reported in Odisha. Moreover, 1442 dowry torture and 85 dowry related homicide ceased registered till April of 2020, he added.

The state has witnessed a steep rise in non-dowry related torture against women during the last three years. While 2532 such cases were reported in 2019, the cases increased to 3153 in 2020 and 4889 in 2021. Besides, 1430 non-dowry torture

against women were recorded in Odisha during first four months of the current year.

In a written reply to a question of BJD Member Prafulla Samal, MoS Home said 5826 out of 7603 missing girls have been traced during the three years. The reply of Minister indicates that 1777 girls are still missing. The Minister also informed that 1096 cases of missing of minor boys have been reported in Odisha during 2019 to 2021. Of which, 907 boys have been traced out.

Moreover, the state has recorded missing of 25,973 women during the period, of which 9920 were rescued or traced out while 16,053 women are still missing in the state.



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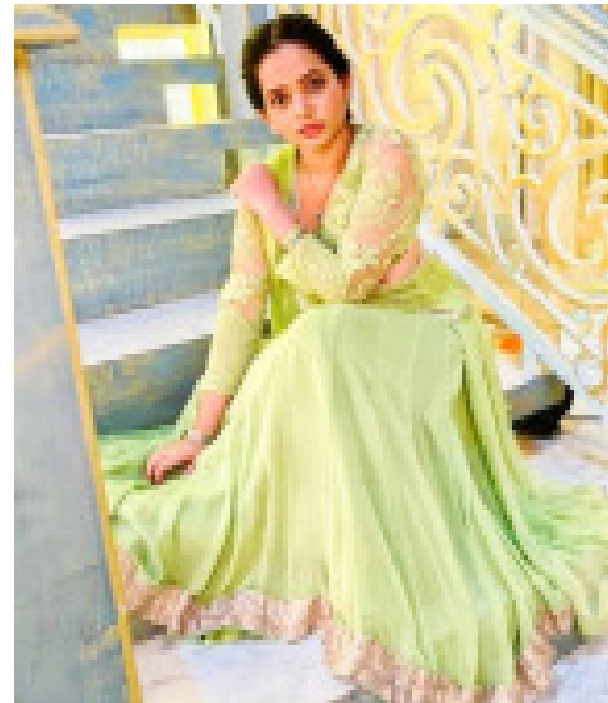
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Now a days the heroines have nothing much in the film, except to flaunt their glamour: Aarushi Sharma

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



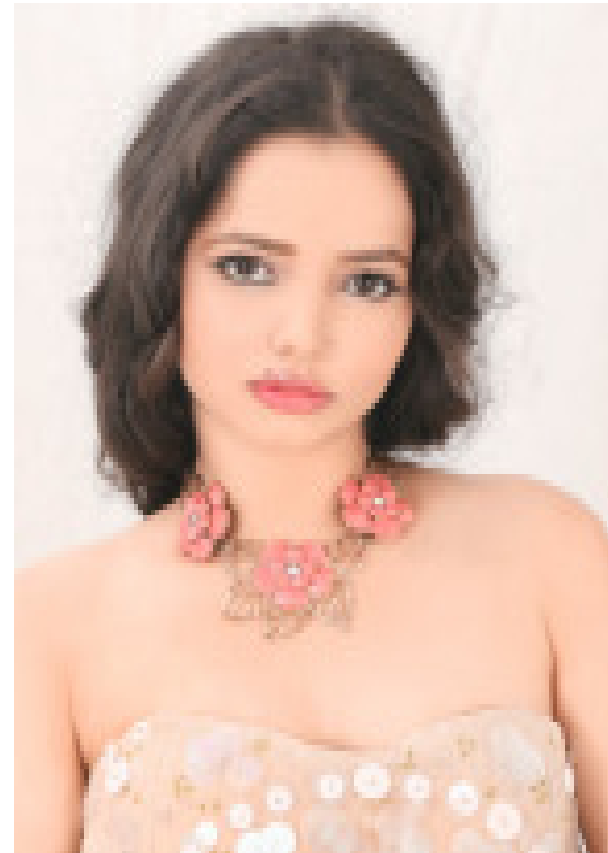
Aarushi Sharma “Muskaan” is now who has left an impression of her acting on TV serial “Ranju Ki Betiyaan” being



ciated and her role as Muskaan is being



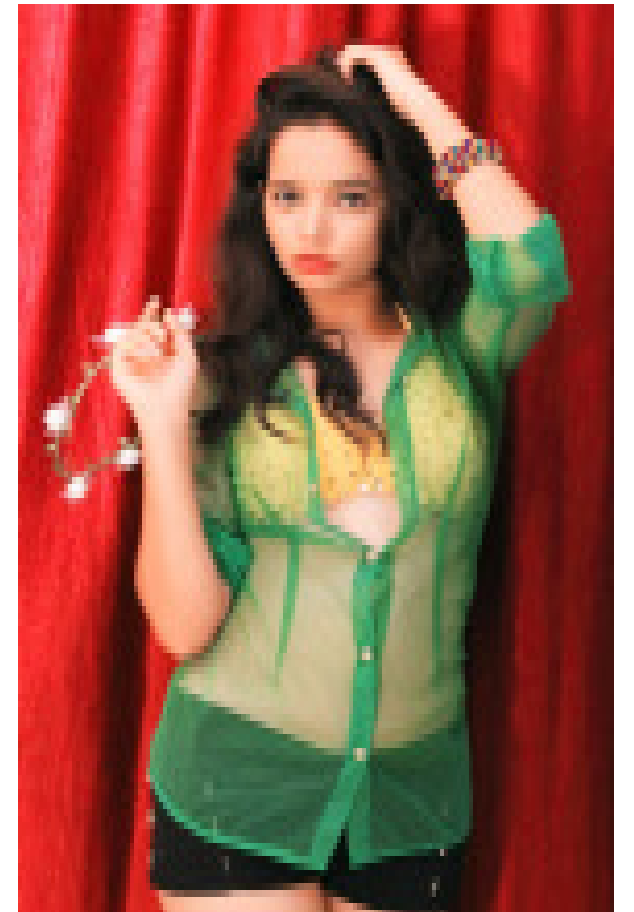
(Deepshikha) and start soon. That way harasses our family. I was highly ben-



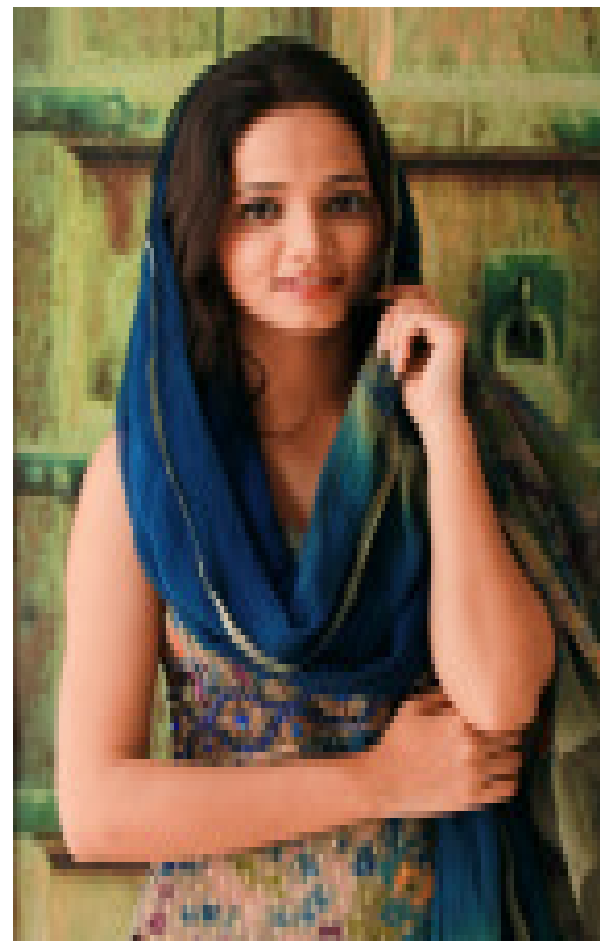
delible impression of her acting on TV serial “Ranju Ki



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



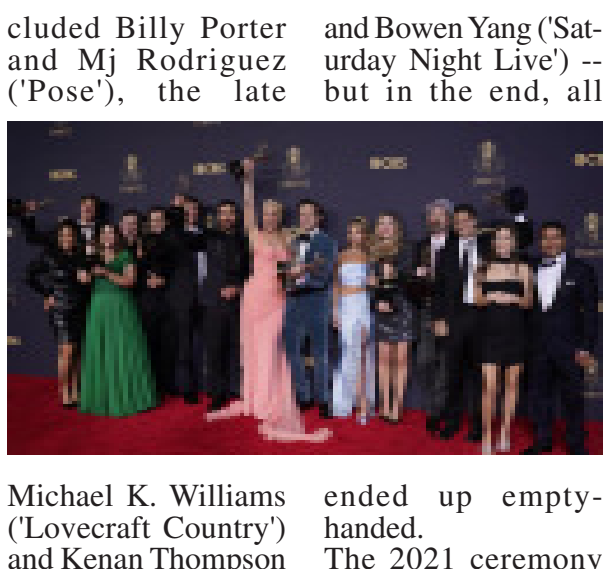
viewers' mind with her TV serials like telecast now a days on “Dangal TV”.



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

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

Los Angeles: The 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards concluded on a disappointing note on Monday. While setting a record for diversity, with 49 black or indigenous people of colour (BIPOC) nominated across all categories, all major acting trophies went to white actors at the Emmys 2021. According to Variety, actors that were seen as solid contenders in-



Michael K. Williams ('Lovecraft Country') and Kenan Thompson ended up empty-handed. The 2021 ceremony

has undoubtedly failed to meet the expectations of people. Calling out the event, a netizen tweeted, "Not a single Black actor won tonight. Not a single Asian actor won tonight. Not a single Latino actor won tonight." Another one wrote, "#Emmys do this every year: Nominate a diverse selection of our faves, only to give them to the same white actors and/or stories. Middle-aged white folks in conflict or British period pieces will win over nuanced, multi-dimensional plots involving characters of colour." #EmmysSoWhite has been trending all over Twitter since morning. "Black host, Black announcer hell even Black music. We doing everything but win. #EmmysSoWhite," a social media user wrote while condemning Emmys 2021. "Lovecraft country won nothing tonight and 98% of the winners were white despite the amount of black talent around #EmmysSoWhite," a netizen tweeted. This time Black performers had a strong showing at the event. But all efforts went in vain when nominees of colour failed to win most categories.

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

efitted by the ad films for “Parle Hide and Seek” and “Tata Tiago” car. I want to play only good and challenging roles portraying good characters. Talks are going on for many film projects, but now a days the heroines have nothing much to do except to flaunt their glamour. Comparatively there is a better scope for acting in TV serials.

Udaipur brutality and some points to ponder

The Udaipur shocker has become a gruesome tale of brutality executed in the name of religion. Once again there was uproar against radicalization, but of course, this time it was limited within the boundaries of Rajasthan. Bubbles of repercussion elsewhere got easily settled. The democratic minds in India are determined not to talk too much about this bone-chilling persecution. Not only India but also the world across, a sense of understanding is effervescent, that there is no escape but fall prey to the contradictions of beliefs which draw justice lines around the conscience of human intelligence. For India, this incident of beheading a Hindu shopkeeper is not less than the beheading of its democracy. The horror was capable enough to send feelers across India's social canvass, significantly reminding its people that it is not the percentage of population of a certain community that matters but the sense of unity that a thought can bind and blindfold its people. Kanhaiya Lal Teli's killing is seen to be justified as a reaction, a spontaneous outrage, an aftermath effect of the TV debate, which literally shook the country a little while ago and much to its surprise the West Asian friends of the Modi dispensation came rattling and the BJP, in its diplomatic U-turn acted against its media faces. Paradoxically, India's precariousness is evident from its efforts to balance between its democracy and a theocracy terrifyingly pulling its ugly head from the dungeons of theology. The horror in Udaipur was an act mostly determined to bring the idea "Kill one, frighten a thousand", a lesson that the plural social establishment should diligently learn from.

It's time for us to realize the quantum of

mistrust and enmity that we as a nation

M. R. LALU

were beaten to death on April 16, 2020 in

the town of Palghar in Maharashtra by a frenzied mob. The country should have expected a majoritarian outrage. Neither the political establishment nor the judicial system could so far bring justice to the poor sadhus. What might have led an unruly mob to kill two saffron clad men? Outcries in the name of minority rights are often heard in India. But no leaf fell in support of the sadhus and the intellectuals refrained from writing columns condemning the bloodcurdling lynching and most of the visual media remained silent. The whole intention behind the Udaipur barbarity was to defend a particular ideology and dance in tune with its pre-emptive gesticulation, which if not whole, a section of the supporters in India are aspiring to follow. Let us not deny the fact that assistance to build an ecosystem of horror in the name of religion practically comes from across the borders. But the real issue of concern lies in the increasing number of its takers in India. It is unnecessary to go into the details of the issue that turned two young Muslim men to become heinous barbarians. Their act of crime was in consonance with or a replica of medieval savagery. There were multiple instances in which Hindus and Muslims pitched bitter battles in the streets in India. From Kashmir to Kerala hostility was evidently purported by an ideology which remained suffocated with its extremist and exclusive beliefs and whenever it was expected to shake hands with others in amity it disappointed the country with enmity. There is no denying the fact that India's recalcitrant neighbour; the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, does everything that it can to bleed India by a thousand cuts. But the political narrative that India is habituated to build is to deliberately camouflage the dubious intentions with which the youth in a particular community get

radicalized. After Udaipur, the reasons behind the gruesome murder of a chemist in Amravati are unravelling. Both murders were executed as a particular community got offended on the Nupur Sharma episode and the shopkeepers from both the cities got their fate sealed forever for their alleged support for the former BJP spokesperson in the social media. Evidently, a democratic nation is seen to be digging in the heels, a futile exercise to maintain its constitutional values when it is clobbered hard by its own flattered demography. A tussle between democracy and a theocratic mindset in the slippery landscape of India's political hypocrisy is what the country is witnessing at present. And the barbarity that an uncivilized medieval period was known for is getting prominence in India and Udaipur and Amravati are its hapless victims. Do not forget, this sickness or call it madness is an outcome of the education that many young children receive in seminaries run by semi literate people. The boy, seated on the shoulders of a young man shouting blood thirsty slogans in the Alappuzha district of Kerala was an example of a parallel education system that injected hatred at a younger age distancing people as infidels and believers. The brutal killings of innocent people in the name of religions may be chest thumping for many in the mohallas of Jihad. Such episodes of bestiality are enough to topple the entire edifice of democracy. A country run by the rule of law cannot budge anymore with this fiendishness. We need fast track courts to speed up the legal proceedings to deal with such crimes. The more the religions agree to reforms, the more peaceful would be the religious space in the country.

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What's the Evidence for Fluvoxamine in COVID-19?

Fluvoxamine is a type of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor currently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration as a treatment

for obsessive compulsive disorder, although it is also prescribed for depression. An off-patent drug, fluvoxamine is cheap and widely available, making it potentially attractive as a repurposed COVID-19

treatment—if it can be shown to be effective. The drug drew splashy headlines last October, when a study reported that it lowered hospitalization risk among COVID-19 outpatients. But debate on this and other fluvoxamine data has been swirling for some months now.

Currently, National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines state there is insufficient evidence "to recommend either for or against the use of fluvoxamine for the treatment of COVID-19." The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) recommends the drug only be considered for COVID-19 in the context of clinical trials.

Recently, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) turned down an emergency use authorization request, filed late last year by University of Minnesota infectious diseases researcher and physician David Boulware, that would have provided official backing for doctors to prescribe the drug as an early treatment for people infected with SARS-CoV-2.

The agency "determined that the data are insufficient to conclude that fluvoxamine may be effective in the treatment of nonhospitalized patients with COVID-19 to prevent progression to severe disease and/or hospitalization," it announced in a document widely shared online this week.

In the wake of this latest decision, here's a look at the available evidence on the drug's efficacy against COVID-19, as well as perspectives of scientists and health experts about what that evidence means.

What do the clinical data on fluvoxamine show? Despite a recent uptick in media coverage of the drug, most discussions about fluvoxamine's efficacy in COVID-19 patients draw on data from two randomized controlled trials of un-

vaccinated adults that were published before this year.

The first, dubbed STOP COVID, was launched as a preliminary study in 2020 by Washington University in St. Louis psychiatrists Angela Reiersen and Eric Lenze. Reiersen has written about how she came up with the idea to test the drug while ill with COVID-19, having read that fluvoxamine could dampen inflammation and improve survival in mice models of sepsis.

Different people have come to very different conclusions about whether or not fluvoxamine should be considered a viable treatment for COVID-19.

The STOP COVID results, published in JAMA in late 2020, hinted that 100 mg of fluvoxamine taken three times a day for 15 days could reduce an infected person's risk of clinical deterioration, as assessed through a combination of measures including reported shortness of breath and a need for supplemental oxygen or decrease in oxygen saturation.

Limitations including a small number of trial participants and a reliance on patient-completed surveys for data collection meant that "larger randomized trials with more definitive outcome measures" would be needed to determine clinical efficacy, the authors wrote in their paper.

The second published study, which Reiersen and Lenze also worked on, was part of the TOGETHER trial, a multi-arm study designed to evaluate repurposed drug treatments in high-risk outpatients with COVID-19. The fluvoxamine arm included more than 1,400 participants in Brazil, about half of whom took a placebo and half took 100 mg of fluvoxamine two times a day for 10 days.

The results, which sparked the spate of media coverage in October when they were published in The Lancet Global Health, showed that treatment was linked to a statistically significant, moderate reduction in the risk of hospitalization due to COVID-19—provided that "hospitalization" included emergency room visits of at least six hours, a definition the study authors justified based on the way Brazil was operating field hospitals at the time. The drug didn't show an effect on mortality in the study's main analysis.

In addition to these studies, there are at least two unpublished datasets from trials that failed

Catherine Offord

to find evidence of fluvoxamine's benefit as an early COVID-19

treatment. STOP COVID 2, a follow-up to STOP COVID, tested 100 mg twice a day. This trial was stopped early for futility last year, according to an NIH summary, "after lower than expected case rates and treatment effect were observed." Reiersen tells The Scientist that the team had trouble recruiting patients and is planning to publish its data soon.

A separate trial run by Boulware and colleagues at Minnesota, known as COVID-OUT, was also recently terminated early for futility. That trial used doses of 50 mg, taken twice daily. Boulware tells The Scientist that the team plans to release the COVID-OUT data when possible. What are health experts saying about the evidence?

Different people have come to very different conclusions about whether or not fluvoxamine should be considered a viable treatment for COVID-19.

Major US health organizations have taken a relatively consistent line: that there's not enough evidence to say the drug works. In updates posted in the last few months, the NIH and IDSA note a lack of data on fluvoxamine's effect on death rates, as well as difficulties interpreting the TOGETHER trial's definition of hospitalization and differences in adherence to treatment between the fluvoxamine and placebo groups. The FDA—which, in an unusual move, issued a 27-page summary detailing its reasoning for rejecting Boulware's request—echoed those concerns in its decision earlier this month. It additionally highlighted the negative findings from COVID-OUT, uncertainty about the drug's mechanisms of action, and the availability of already approved antiviral drugs such as Pfizer's paxlovid for US patients.

Various physicians and health experts concur with the view that there's not enough evidence to recommend fluvoxamine as a COVID-19 treatment. In late April, Abhijit Duggal, vice chair of critical care at the Cleveland Clinic, told MarketWatch: "Based on existing data, this is not something that we feel needs to be looked at as a standard of care for patients with COVID. . . . In the day and age of COVID, there's a lot of things that have been introduced based on

data that would not have really stood the test of scientific rigor in any other situation."

Justin Morgenstern, an emergency physician in Toronto who has tracked research on potential COVID-19 treatments on his blog First10EM, tells The Scientist he thinks fluvoxamine should not be prescribed for the disease based on available data. (Ontario is one of a couple of regions in North America that have updated their local health guidance to suggest physicians consider fluvoxamine as a treatment in high-risk patients.)

From a statistical perspective, given the huge number of compounds tested against COVID-19 in the last two years, it's highly likely that some show moderately positive trial results despite no real health benefit, he adds, making replication of findings essential. With as many fluvoxamine trials stopped for futility as trials that found an effect, "there's a reasonable chance that it's in that false-positive, or chance-alone finding," he adds.

The debate around fluvoxamine highlights the need for better and faster ways of organizing and evaluating clinical research, particularly for off-patent drugs that lack the logistical and financial support provided by the pharmaceutical industry.

Others have expressed more enthusiasm about fluvoxamine. University of Wollongong epidemiologist and public health researcher Gideon Meyerowitz-Katz, who has collaborated with the TOGETHER trial's Edward Mills on an unrelated project, calls the TOGETHER trial a "fantastic piece of research [that] shows a convincing benefit" for fluvoxamine. The study asked its questions in "a robust, scientific way," he says, adding that some of the negative reaction to it seems unjustified.

After undergraduate research with spiders at the University of Oxford and graduate research with ants at Princeton University, Catherine left arthropods and academia to become a science writer. She has worked in various guises at The Scientist, starting as an intern in early 2016 before becoming a correspondent. As senior editor, she now writes articles for the online and print publications, and edits the magazine's Notebook, Careers, and Bio Business sections.

Second Convocation of KISS Deemed to be University

Warm-heartedness is key to solving most of the world's problems: His Holiness Gyetrul Jigme Rinpoche

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, celebrated its second annual convocation ceremony on 4th July 2022. "I have been profoundly touched during my visits to KISS and I get a feeling that the voice of the tribal community of India is here", stated His



Holiness Gyetrul Jigme Rinpoche, Master of Tibetan Buddhism and Spiritual Director of the Ripa International Center in his convocation address.

Congratulating the graduates, His Holiness Gyetrul Jigme Rinpoche urged them to carry a sense of gratitude for the rest of their lives as so many people have contributed to their success. "From ecology to economy, real life is challenging and one can succeed only by accepting diversity. Warm-heartedness is the key to solving most of the problems the world is facing today", he told a packed auditorium. The real meaning of education is to help others, he said, while advising students to contribute to the overall good of humanity.

The University conferred Honoris Causa Degrees of D.Litt. upon four personalities of international repute – Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune; Mr. Pavan Sukhdev, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, Founder and CEO of GIST Advisory Switzerland SA; Dr. Ricky G. Kej, Internationally Renowned Indian Music Composer and 2 Times Grammy Award Winner; and Mr. Erik Solheim, President, Green Belt and Road Institute. "What KISS does and what KISS focuses on, make this recognition very special", said Dr. Rajiv Kumar in his acceptance speech. KISS has the transformative potential for the country, he said, while congratulating Dr. Samanta. It is essential to focus on human capital, natural capital and social capital, along with GDP, which merely conveys a notion of produced capital, remarked Mr. Pavan Sukhdev, while commending the role of KISS in developing human capital. KISS is developing human capital, taking those who need development the most, he added.

Thanking KISS for the recognition, Dr. Ricky G. Kej said, the planet is facing a serious envi-

Modi's security scare? AP Police denies lapse as black balloons released near PM chopper

VIJAYAWADA: In what is termed as a security breach by the State BJP unit, a group of Congress leaders released black balloons into the air as a protest against the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the State without fulfilling the assurances he made before the elections. Police, however, said there was no security breach and arrested four Congress leaders for the protest. The AP Congress Committee (APCC) gave a call to release black balloons into the air as a mark of protest against

the failure of the Centre to fulfill the assurances made to the State during Modi's visit to the State. After finishing his two-day visit to Hyderabad, Narendra Modi arrived at Gannavaram airport in the morning where Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, and other officials welcomed him grandly. From there, the dignitaries were supposed to reach Amiram village near Bhimavaram in 17 choppers to take part in the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of

revolutionary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju. Minutes before Modi's arrival, Congress workers Sunkara Padmashree and two others were seen walking toward the airport holding placards and black balloons to stage a protest against BJP and Modi. "Immediately, we took three Congress leaders Sunkara Padmashree, Challa Savithri, and Kishore into our custody and booked them under sections 353, 341, 188, and 145 of IPC," Krishna district SP P Jashuva told TNIE.

However, some other leaders managed to release black balloons from the terrace of a building while the choppers carrying Modi and others took off. Responding to this, BJP State president Somu Veerajulu suspected a 'bigger conspiracy' behind the release of balloons when three dignitaries including the Prime Minister, Chief Minister, and Governor were taking off and demanded a detailed probe into the incident. Veerajulu said he would lodge a complaint with the Union Home Ministry.

India Fraternity Forum (I.F.F.) has been active in the service of Hajjaj for over twenty years

New Delhi (KCN): India Fraternity Forum (I.F.F.) has been active in the service of Hajjaj for over twenty years. Makkah, Saudi Arabia: India Fraternity Forum (IFF), which has consistently been at the forefront of social service in the Gulf nation, has been active in the service of Hajjajis this year like every year. Seventy thousand Hajjajis from India have already entered Makkah for the 2022 Hajj. India Fraternity Forum (IFF) has been continuously serving Hajj pilgrims in Madinah, Makkah, Aziziya, Mina and Arafa for the past twenty years. This time arrangements are being made for the Hajjajis coming from the Hajjaji residence of Aziziya to the Holy Haram for Juma Namaz by stopping at the bus point and giving them proper guidance to reach their place of residence. He

is engaged in humanitarian service by making water system. Also, India Fraternity Forum (IFF) is doing it daily through the sponsoring of some Hajjajis because it is convenient to cook for some Hajjajis. Apart from that they are visiting the rest room of all the Hajjajis and making them aware about covid and other virus disease and their health while going out sun. And women volunteers are also engaged in service especially to serve women pilgrims. Women volunteers are visiting the building where women Hajjajis are staying and are helping them as a suitable solution and consolation for their problems. Shakir Haque Nelyadi, the vice captain of the India Fraternity Forum IFF team serving Hajj-2022, said in a press release that our team is continuously ready to serve the Hajjajis 24 hours a day Smove to dig up "justice" :

It's a new era for funding on both sides of abortion debate

NEW YORK: The Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade has ushered in a new era of funding on both sides of the abortion debate.

With the legality of abortion now up to individual states to determine, an issue long debated by legislators and philanthropists — when it was largely theoretical because only the Supreme Court could change it — suddenly has real-world ramifications for people across the country. And donors on both sides will now be expected to put money behind their words.

"I think we will see funding that's going to be a lot less performative and a lot more realistic," said Leslie Lenkowsky, a professor emeritus in public affairs and philanthropic studies at Indiana University. Those kinds of gifts are already starting to arrive.

Donations are pouring into nonprofit groups in what experts call an example of "rage giving." Yet few believe the additional funding for their causes will be enough to address the increased demand for help either for women to obtain abortions or to support babies put up for adoption or into the foster care system.

At The Brigid Alliance, a New York nonprofit that provides funding and logistical help for people seeking abortions, the number of donors more than doubled to 6,000-plus after the leak in May of a draft of the Supreme Court ruling, according to Sarah Moeller, the group's director of resource development. Once Roe was overturned last month, their number of donors doubled again within three days, with people contributing anywhere from \$5 to \$50,000. Even so, Moeller said, the donations can't begin to match the need.

10-year-old child in Ohio denied abortion after Supreme Court verdict

"Since September, when Texas implemented their six-week ban, we saw a 900% increase in requests for our services," she said. "We expect that we'll continue to see surging rates as the dominoes fall after this ruling."

The Brigid Alliance helps about 125 people a month with abortion logistics and expenses — about \$1,200 per person. Most requests come from women in the South, Moeller said, and inflation has increased many of the costs. "I think it's going to be impossible for every individual who needs abortion care to be able to get to their appointments," Moeller said. "We're doing everything that we can to grow in order to meet increasing demand. And every single person who is able to help makes a huge difference. But the volume is just incalculable at this point."

At Americans United for Life, which provides anti-abortion policy expertise to legislators around the country, donations are coming in heavy numbers from Americans of all ages and backgrounds, said Tom Shakely, the group's chief engagement officer. Even so, he said, the group remains "a multimillion-dollar David

reproductive justice. "There are a lot of gaps and voids that both the states and philanthropy created, because of their practices — the ways that they frame abortion as a rights issue, not a health issue," she said. "I think anybody who has the capital and the access should be paying for people's abortions. Whether that's the state, whether it's philanthropy — I think everybody has a responsibility."

Google to delete user location history on US abortion clinic visits

Aaron Dorfman, the committee's president and CEO, suggested that philanthropy's responsibility, in part, is to fund programs that the government can't or won't. "It's a perfectly appropriate role for donors to step up in this way — to both meet an urgent need and also lay a framework for a better government that more fully meets the needs of its citizenry," he said. "Part of how philanthropy can do that is by investing in power-building work at state and local levels to support community organizing, and advocacy work that really helps change how government functions and who it is responsive to."

Dorfman noted that conservative funders have long supported their work in that way, while liberal funders have tended to be more reticent. The result, Collins-Calhoun said, is that many abortion-rights groups have been overwhelmed. "We're a few days out from the decision, and state and local leaders are exhausted," she said. "They haven't been sustained. Many of them are trying to figure out what to do next because they weren't funded for this moment."

Leaders on both sides of the issue say they recognize that they'll have to quickly find their way through this new reality. "We're really at one of these moments in our country that could be very, very important," Lenkowsky said. "Are we going to rise to the challenge here? Or are we going to keep going on business as usual?"

Lenkowsky said. "Are we going to rise to the challenge here? Or are we going to keep going on business as usual?"

Really!" But in the interview, which took place Saturday at the Vatican, he repeated his oft-stated position that he might resign someday if failing health made it impossible for him to run the Church. Asked when that might be, the 85-year-old said: "We don't know. God will say." Francis said he had suffered a "small fracture" in his knee, which was treated with laser and magnet therapy. The knee pain forced



Pope Francis denies resignation rumours

VATICAN: Pope Francis has rebuffed Reuters news agency suggestions he may after weeks of speculation.



be readying to resign, saying in an interview published Monday that rumours he was suffering from a serious illness were "court gossip". "It never crossed my mind", Francis told

him to indefinitely postpone a July trip to Africa. He denied rumours that he had been diagnosed with stomach cancer during his colon operation in July 2021, saying it was merely "court gossip". Francis will travel to Canada this month, after which he said he would like to travel to Moscow and Kyiv if possible. The pontiff has repeatedly offered to help mediate in the war, saying he was hopeful for an invitation to visit Russian President Vladimir Putin following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February.

Covid-19: New cases in Odisha go up to 346, positivity rate increases to 2.68 per cent

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha on Sunday witnessed a big spike in new Covid-19 cases with 346 people testing posi-

(TPR) shot up to 2.68 per cent from 1.7 per cent in a day. The TPR rose to 9.91 per cent in Khurda, 5.22 per cent in

Nuapada and five each from Rayagada and Sambalpur. Although Puri reported four cases, health experts fear

Covid beds with oxygen supply ready in most of the district headquarters. Health authorities said they are keeping a close



tive for the virus in the last 24 hours. While the infections went up by nearly 50 per cent (pc) during the period, it was the highest surge in over four months. The State had logged 428 cases on February 22 when the third wave was receding. Of the fresh cases detected from 12,897 tests in 18 districts, the maximum 202 cases were from quarantine and 144 local contacts. The test positivity rate

Cuttack, 2.99 pc in Sambalpur, and 2.23 per cent in Sundargarh. The active cases in the State have gone up to 1,310. The number of infections jumped by 100 pc in Khurda in 24 hours as the district recorded 189 cases, of which 90 pc were from the Capital city Bhubaneswar, followed by 51 from Cuttack, 13 from Sundargarh, seven each from Balasore, Jagatsinghpur and

the pilgrim town that witnessed a congregation of lakhs of devotees on the occasion of Rath Yatra on July 1 may see a spike in the coming days. Not only in Puri, large congregations of devotees and visitors were also seen in districts like Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Kendrapara and Keonjhar for the annual Car festival. Anticipating a surge in cases, the State government has kept

watch on the rising trend and initiating measures as appropriate. Director of Health Services Dr Bijay Mohapatra said the infections are mostly urban-centric and the disease severity is less among the patients as less than one pc people is hospitalised. "The second half of July is crucial as cases may arise due to the festival. But, we are ready to tackle any exigencies," he added.

Second 'ragging' death in three months but Odisha remains silent on menace

BHUBANESWAR: In little over three months, Odisha has seen the second death of a college student alleged due to ragging. On Saturday, a first-year history student of BJB Autonomous College ended her life after leaving a suicide note in which she blamed three of her seniors for harassment. In April, a first-year MBBS student of Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Balangir district died by suicide after he was allegedly tortured by seniors. In this case, the student had informed his parents of the harassment before taking to extreme steps. Even after the two deaths, the Higher Education department has maintained a stoic silence on the issue. Despite every college - both general and technical - having anti-ragging cells, the menace seems to have no end in the State. In fact, Odisha has always remained in the top-5 states across the country when it comes to ragging as per the anti-ragging helpline (1800-180-5522) of the University Grants Commission. The Supreme Court has mandated several regu-

lations that every higher educational institution must follow including submission of anti-ragging affidavits by students during admissions at colleges, regular visits by anti-ragging cell authorities to hostels where newcomers have been accommodated, providing them brochures/information booklets containing the telephone numbers of the UGC anti-ragging helpline and installation of CCTV cameras in common areas of the colleges and hostels. Sources in the BJB College informed that there



is just one functional CCTV camera in the hostel where the victim was staying. Currently, a student can register a ragging complaint with the anti-ragging cell of his/her institution or with the UGC helpline or by mailing the complaint to toodishaantiraggingcell@gmail.com. Superintendent of the BJB hostel Jyoti Rath said all the newcomers in the hostel were sensitised on not tolerating ragging and to reach out to her or other college authorities if they are ragged. "Had she or her parents informed us about the harassment meted out to her, we would have taken action," she said. However, most institutions appear insulated from anti-ragging norms except the submission of anti-ragging affidavits during the admission. "If the wardens or anti-ragging cell members made regular visits, the Balangir case would have never happened. In the case of the Bhima Bhoi MCH student, there was evidence of harassment by seniors but so far, no action has been taken against either the warden who

is responsible for the safety of the hostel students or the accused students," sources said. Although scores of ragging cases are being reported every academic year in Odisha, the only stringent measure taken so far was the rustication of 12 students of VSSUT-Burla for assaulting a third-year student on September 22 last year. Prior to that in 2019, the same institute had imposed a meager fine of Rs 2,000 on each of the 52 students who were accused of ragging 50 juniors. The New Indian Express reached out to Secretary of the Higher Education department Saswat Mishra on the issue but he did not comment. Meanwhile, members of the BJB College Students Association took out a rally demanding justice for the deceased. The three seniors who allegedly caused her mental harassment should be identified and stringent action taken against her, they demanded.

Ragging free campus abhiyan seeks CBI probe after BJB college student commits suicide

BHUBANESWAR: Ragging Free Campus Abhiyan (RFCA) on Sunday sought Crime Branch inquiry into the alleged suicide of a Plus III first-year girl in BJB Autonomous College due to harassment by the seniors. The body also renewed its demand for enactment of the Prohibition of Ragging Act in line with other States to prevent such cases in Odisha.

RFCA convenor Tejeswar Parida said the Prohibition of Ragging Act has already been enacted in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, UP, and West Bengal. He

demand that State Government order CB probe into the death of the girl stu-

dent. He also sought the State government should immediately enact the

Prohibition of Ragging Act to make campuses ragging-free. Political parties should take up the matter for discussion in the Assembly, he said. Apart from this, he demanded a State-level anti-ragging task force be created to stop incidents of



framed by the members of the judiciary at the Central level for their implementation in Odisha. A helpline desk also needs to be set up at the HRPC office to deal with the grievances related to ragging in educational institutions, Parida said.

Prohibition of Ragging Act to make campuses ragging-free. Political parties should take up the matter for discussion in the Assembly, he said. Apart from this, he demanded a State-level anti-ragging task force be created to stop incidents of

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Windfall tax on crude oil: Govt rakes in Rs 1.3 lakh crore; here's what brokerages say

NEW DELHI: The windfall taxes imposed by the government on domestic crude oil production and fuel exports will hit ONGC's earnings severely while shaving off up to USD 12 per barrel in refining margins for Reliance Industries Ltd.

The new levies will give the government up to Rs 1.3 lakh crore additional revenue, brokerages said.

In a surprise move, the government on July 1 increased import duties on gold (by 5 per cent), added export duties on petrol and ATF (Rs 6/litre; USD 12 per barrel) and diesel (Rs 13/litre; USD 26/bbl) and slapped a windfall tax on domestic crude production (Rs 23,250 per tonne; USD 40/bbl).

imports and help the external balance marginally.

"Yet, Friday's (July 1) measures will serve squarely to raise revenue for the government." Duties on crude oil should raise an additional USD 3-4 billion (net of lower royalties, income taxes and dividends) while the gold duty can raise USD 1.5-2 billion annualized.

Export taxes on diesel/petrol can raise close to USD 9 billion gross per annum, it said adding the revenue for current fiscal will be 75 per cent of these numbers.

"The government intent appears to be to maximise revenues from upstream producers by capping their upside from higher oil prices as well as disincentivising refined product ex-



This follows earlier duties imposed on steel (15 per cent) and iron ore (up 20-45 per cent). While the export tax will be applicable on only-for-exports refinery of Reliance Industries (RIL), the restriction on product exports wherein at least 30-50 per cent is first supplied domestically will not apply to SEZ units. HSBC Global Research in a note said in May 2022, the government announced a cut in the excise duty of Rs 8 per litre on petrol and Rs 6 a litre on diesel, which is estimated to have reduced its revenues by Rs 1 lakh crore. "The additional excise duty just announced and effective from July 1, 2022 aims to fill this revenue gap. We estimate these taxes could generate Rs 1.2 lakh crore in government revenue and could also discourage the export of products which are being diverted away from the domestic market."

The windfall tax on crude production could generate revenue of Rs 65,600 crore and tax on export products another Rs 52,700 crore if they were to be continued for the full year.

Kotak Institutional Equities said the taxes will result in additional tax revenues of Rs 1.3 lakh crore on an annualized basis and Rs 1 lakh crore for the rest of FY2023 assuming the government retains the taxes for the entire year.

UBS estimated that the government can raise Rs 1.38 lakh crore annually from additional taxes. "Based on diesel and gasoline export volumes in past year and estimate for FY23, we estimate additional revenues of Rs 68,000 crore on three transportation fuels. Similarly, windfall taxes on crude can raise Rs 70,000 crore in additional revenues."

Nomura said the windfall taxes could potentially impact RIL's GRM by USD 12 per barrel (Rs 47,000 crore on an annualised basis). Goldman Sachs said it saw limited earnings risk for RIL (despite wide scenarios of USD 1.5-12.7 risk to gross refining margins or GRMs from new taxes) as the spot implied GRM run rate is over USD 27 per barrel.

HSBC said while the new tax will lower ONGC earnings by Rs 30 per share, its impact on RIL would be Rs 36 a share.

"We continue to believe the loss on its domestic marketing margin is still greater than the export tax, and thus, we believe RIL is likely to continue to export significant amounts," HSBC said.

Indian crude oil basket hits 10-year high; petrol, diesel prices unchanged

JP Morgan said while the duties on steel/iron ore helped reduce domestic prices and curb inflation, a higher tax on gold should decrease

ports by private refiners to ensure domestic fuel availability isn't compromised," Citi said in a note.

The USD 40 per barrel windfall tax is "a material negative for ONGC in particular where earnings are likely to be severely impacted," it said.

On the top of the new levy, ONGC will continue to pay oil 20 per cent (a fifth of the oil price) as OIBD cess and another 10-20 per cent royalty.

The net realisation for ONGC will be around 40 per cent of the oil price.

The gross refining margin (GRM) impact for RIL assuming two-thirds of its diesel, petrol and ATF were being exported, could be USD 9-10 per barrel, Citi said adding the firm must be currently earning USD 25 per barrel GRM. "The earnings impact for RIL is likely to be less material given offsets from marking-to-market for current GRM strength, which would likely preclude earnings upgrades rather than drive major downgrades."

Kotak said it does not "see much merit in the government's decision to impose export duties on exports from RIL's SEZ refinery. The government has cited increased exports of diesel and gasoline and lower availability of such products for the domestic market as a key reason to impose the exports tax. However, RIL's SEZ refinery was set up for exports and its products were not intended for sale in the domestic market."

It said demand-supply analysis of petroleum products shows that there is enough availability of diesel and petrol for the domestic market even excluding volumes from RIL's SEZ refinery.

Haitong said India's total diesel demand is 80-83 million tonnes while the total PSU diesel supply is 65-68 million tonnes.

"Therefore, the rest can be met by private players like RIL and Nayara Energy. Similarly, total consumption of petrol in India stands at 30-31 million tonnes while PSUs supply is 21-22 million tonnes. Therefore, one-third of India's consumption can be fulfilled through private players."

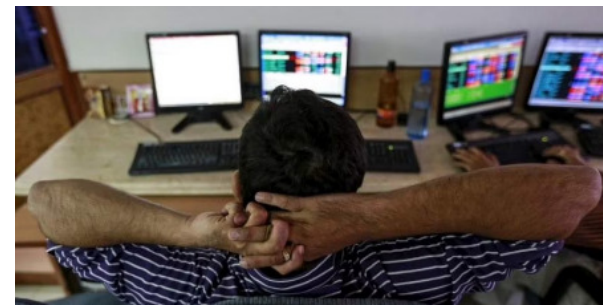
According to CLSA, RIL's GRMs may be hit by USD 5-6 per barrel due to the new tax. It said the new taxes would give the government extra annual revenue of Rs 1.1 lakh crore (\$14 billion), negating the Rs 97,000 crore revenue loss from the excise duty cut done about six weeks ago.

Credit Suisse said the impact on RIL from cess on the export of petroleum products is about USD 7-8 per barrel, translating to an annualized impact of USD 3.5-4.0 billion on EBITDA.

Good days ahead? Market bounce may extend to 16000-plus levels

MUMBAI: The markets, which exhibited resilience on Friday, recovering from the day's low even as Reliance tanked 7%, could attempt to con-

Sensex's recovery from intraday lows is being read by analysts that the market is not yet in a mood to relent to bearish pressure, for now.



tinue its upward bounce underway since last week.

Weekly options' build-up suggest resistance at 15900, which if broken could witness Nifty testing 16000-16200 levels in the coming week.

Key support is at 15500. Levels for Sensex roughly translate into 53,400, 53760 and 54432 as resistances and 52080 as a key support in the coming week.

On Friday, Nifty made a low of 15511.05, but recovered on domestic buying, even as index heavyweight Reliance cracked 7% on news of the export tax on refined products. With Reliance accounting for almost 14% weight on the index, Nifty and

"Friday's recovery despite RIL's sharp correction signals a continuation of the pullback rally that got underway last week toward 16200," said Siddharth Bhamre, research head, Religare Broking.

Rajesh Palviya, technical head at Axis Securities, expects a maximum pullback through 16100 at which level he expects significant selling.

"We are in pullback mode from lows, from an oversold zone so we might see an extension of the bounce to a max of 16100," Palviya said. Friday's recovery was led by the Bajaj twins, HDFC, HUL, Wipro and Infy, which countered the fall in RIL.

If rupee was a man, right now he's somewhat footloose and fancy-free

Bombay: The Indian currency, unmindful of its commitment to the economy, is touching new lows each day. Last week, it tore into 79 against the US dollar and now seems steadfast on cracking 80. The RBI, which has all the powers to lord over the exchange rate, is intervening prudently and is instead letting the rupee find a level of its liking. Perhaps, for now.

The one thing that's weakening INR is higher demand for dollars. High imports led by soaring crude oil prices and sharp capital outflows (India being one of the worst among emerging Asian peers) are together raising the demand for dollars, depreciating rupee.

Since January, the domestic unit is down 5.6%



against the greenback over last year, prompting the central bank to spare \$41 billion out of its over \$600-billion-odd forex reserves war chest it built in the past two years. But that move has sliced India's import cover to single digits -- for the first time in three years. According to Barclays, RBI, under Governor Shaktikanta Das has a strong preference for currency stability and the ferocity of pressure on the currency can be seen from the fast depletion of forex reserves. That said, allowing INR to gently weaken for now could be the right strategy, allowing the import-export imbalance, or the trade deficit, to improve. A weakening rupee boosts exports, though given the slack in global demand, exporters aren't particularly enthused. Others believe, the central bank is letting the exchange rate adjust to new realities, which in turn could act as a natural macro stabilizer.

Moreover, as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman noted, the INR was relatively better placed than other global currencies against the greenback and pegged against other currencies, rupee is holding its ground, firmly.

Congress slams BJP for taking 'false' credit for Brahmani bridge opening in Odisha

Continued from page-1

Centre and NHA contractor Gammon Infrastructure started work in 2011 but was forced to quit in 2014 as the Odisha government failed to provide the required land. The Congress leader urged the local wing of NHA to ensure the quality of work as waterlogging was taking place on the completed portion of the bridge. Besides, a portion of the approach road built a few days back has developed depression, he said.

Putin declares victory in embattled Donbas region of Luhansk

Continued from page-1

"We managed to do centralized withdrawal and evacuate all injured," Haidai said. "We took back all the equipment, so from this point withdrawal was organized well."

The Ukrainian General Staff said Russian forces were now focusing their efforts on pushing toward the line of Siversk, Fedorivka and Bakhmut in the Donetsk region, about half of which is controlled by Russia. The Russian army has also intensified its shelling of the key Ukrainian strongholds of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, deeper in Donetsk.

On Sunday, six people, including a 9-year-old girl, were killed in the Russian shelling of Sloviansk and another 19 people were wounded, according to local authorities. Kramatorsk also came under fire on Sunday. An intelligence briefing Monday from the British Defense Ministry supported the Ukrainian military's assessment, noting that Russian forces will "now almost certainly" switch to capturing Donetsk. The briefing said the conflict in Donbas has been "grinding and attritional," and is unlikely to change in the coming weeks.

While the Russian army has a massive advantage in firepower, military analysts say that it doesn't have any significant superiority in the number of troops. That means Moscow lacks resources for quick land gains and can only advance slowly, relying on heavy artillery and rocket barrages to soften Ukrainian defences. Russian President Vladimir Putin has made capturing the entire Donbas a key goal in his war in Ukraine, now in its fifth month. Moscow-backed separatists in Donbas have battled Ukrainian forces since 2014 when they declared independence from Kyiv after the Russian annexation of Ukraine's Crimea. Russia formally recognized the self-proclaimed republics days before its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

In his nightly video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy acknowledged the withdrawal but vowed that Ukrainian forces will fight their way back.

"If the command of our army withdraws people from certain points of the front where the enemy has the greatest fire superiority, in particular, this applies to Lysychansk, it means only one thing: We will return thanks to our tactics, thanks to the increase in the supply of modern weapons," Zelenskyy said.

Since failing to take Kyiv and other areas in Ukraine's northeast early in the war, Russia has focused on Donbas, unleashing fierce shelling and engaging in house-to-house combat that devastated cities in the region.

Russia's invasion has also devastated Ukraine's agricultural sector, disrupting supply chains of seed and fertilizer needed by Ukrainian farmers and blocking the export of grain, a key source of revenue for the country. In its Monday intelligence report, Britain's defence ministry pointed to the Russian blockade of the key Ukrainian port of Odesa, which has severely restricted grain exports. They predicted that Ukraine's agricultural exports would reach only 35% of the 2021 total this year as a result.

As Moscow pushed its offensive across Ukraine's east, areas in western Russia came under attack Sunday in a revival of sporadic apparent Ukrainian strikes across the border. The governor of the Belgorod region in Western Russia said fragments of an intercepted Ukrainian missile killed four people Sunday. In the Russian city of Kursk, two Ukrainian drones were shot down, according to the Russian Defense Ministry.

Manchester United agree deal to sign Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen: reports



LONDON: Manchester United have agreed a deal in principle to sign Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen on a free transfer, according to reports on Monday. United manager Erik ten Hag made the three-year contract offer to Eriksen after the Dane's impressive comeback with Brentford. The 30-year-old is reported to have a verbal agreement with United and will officially complete his move to Old Trafford after a medical. Eriksen's impending switch to United completes an incredible return after his brush with death last year. He had a cardiac arrest on the pitch in Copenhagen while playing for Denmark at the European Championship and was forced to leave Inter Milan after recovering due to Serie A health regulations.

Djokovic sees Jannik Sinner in himself ahead of Wimbledon clash

LONDON: Novak Djokovic admits he can see a lot of Jannik Sinner in himself as the pair face off for a place in the Wimbledon semi-finals on Tuesday. Six-time defending champion Djokovic is in familiar territory, targeting an 11th semi-final at the All England Club and 43rd at the Slams. Italian 20-year-old Sinner is yet to get past the quarter-finals of a major. "I kind of see a little bit of myself in his game from the back of the court, playing flat backhand, constantly staying on the back of the line, trying to put pressure on opponents," said Djokovic. The Serb easily won the pair's only previous

defibrillator, proved his form and fitness during a loan spell at Brentford in the second half of last season.

He played 11 times in the Premier League for Brentford, scoring once and providing four assists.

Eriksen was also targeted by his former club Tottenham, but was impressed by Ten Hag after training with Ajax as part of his return to football following the cardiac arrest.

Ten Hag, who took charge at United in the close-season after leaving Ajax, is looking to revamp his new team after they finished a disappointing sixth in the Premier League last term.

United missed out on a place in this season's Champions League and could see Cristiano Ronaldo depart after the Portugal striker reportedly demanded a move to a team in Europe's elite club competition.

Matteo Berrettini, who was runner-up to Djokovic last year. Berrettini was the first Italian man to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals since Davide Sanguinetti in 1998.

"It's going to be a tough match against Novak, of course. I mean, he's playing very, very good. I will try my best. That's the minimum I can do," said Sinner.

Djokovic will hope the Wimbledon schedulers are kind to him after he hit out at having to play the last match on Centre Court on Sunday.

His four-set win over Tim van Rijthoven ended just in time to avoid the 11:00 pm local curfew.



meeting in straight sets on clay in Monte Carlo last year.

But beanpole Sinner impressively dismissed Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz in the last 16 on Sunday, saving all seven break points faced. Before this Wimbledon, he had never won a grass court match.

Sinner has been breaking new ground since his teens.

In 2021, he became the youngest player in the year-end top 10 since Juan Martin del Potro in 2008.

Earlier in the year, still 19, he became the first teenager to win an ATP 500-level event in Washington.

He was also the first Italian finalist in the history of the Miami Masters last year.

Physical frailties, however, are never far away. He had to retire from his fourth-round match against Andrey Rublev at the French Open last month with a knee injury.

In Miami, foot blisters forced a pull-out when facing Francisco Cerundolo while illness in Indian Wells meant he handed a walkover to Nick Kyrgios.

Italian landmark By making the last eight at Wimbledon, Sinner follows in the footsteps of

Had the match gone on, Djokovic would have had to return on Monday.

"I don't see a reason why there wouldn't be an earlier start," said Djokovic of a Centre Court programme that starts at 1:30 pm.

"If you're scheduled last on the Centre, you're going to end up a match under the roof, which changes the conditions, the style of play, the way you move on the court.

"It's more slippery. The lights. It's really an indoor tournament."

In Tuesday's other quarter-final, British ninth seed Cameron Norrie tackles David Goffin of Belgium. Both men are attempting to make the semis of a Slam for the first time.

Norrie is the last British player left in singles. Goffin defeated Frances Tiafoe of the United States in the longest match at this year's Wimbledon -- four hours and 36 minutes -- to reach the quarter-finals for the second time.

Goffin missed Wimbledon in 2021 after suffering an ankle injury before a knee problem forced him to shut down his season after the US Open. Before this year, his most recent match at Wimbledon was a sobering 2019 quarter-final defeat to Djokovic, who allowed him just six games.

Birmingham Test: India 245 all out, set England 378-run target

BIRMINGHAM: India set England a record-breaking target of 378 runs in the series-deciding test on Monday after getting bowled out for 245 on Day 4.

England has a tough task on its hand to level the series 2-2 with plenty of time left in the test match. England's best successful run chase in a test came against Australia at Leeds in 2019 when it made 362-9 to win by one wicket.

Skipper Ben Stokes claimed three quick wickets after lunch to finish with 4-33 as India's tail folded inside half an hour into the second session.

Matthew Potts (2-50) and Stuart Broad (2-58) struck in the first session after India resumed on 125-3, but lost the last seven wickets with the addition of 120 runs.

Earlier, England hit back with four wickets in an intriguing first session but India still stretched its lead to a strong 361 by reaching 229-7 by lunch.

England's ploy to use the part-time off spin of Joe Root inside the first half hour didn't work before it switched back to Broad.

Cheteshwar Pujara (68), who had completed his half-century in the last over of the third day, started off well by hitting James Anderson for two boundaries in one over, but fell off Broad's third ball.

Pujara had been patient throughout his over 3-1/2 hour knock, leaving dozens of balls outside the off stump before he cut hard at Broad and was caught at backward point.

Shreyas Iyer's (19) inability to cope against

the short deliveries yet again got exposed on English wickets when he played a tame pull shot against Matthew Potts (2-50) and was caught at mid-wicket.



First innings century-maker Rishabh Pant (57) completed his half century with a boundary off his pads to fine leg against Broad before Root plucked a fine catch as the left-hander attempted an extravagant reverse sweep against left-arm spinner Jack Leach.

Potts continued to threaten India's tailenders with short balls and Shardul Thakur got struck on the helmet twice before he finally holed out at deep fine leg while attempting a hook shot against the tall fast bowler.

Stokes then folded India's tail which put up a staunch resistance in the first innings.

Mohammed Shami holed out off a short delivery; first-innings century maker Ravindra Jadeja (23) played onto England skipper and Jasprit Bumrah was caught in the deep after striking a six over fine leg.

England has successfully chased down close to 300 runs in the last three test matches which led them to clean sweep the New Zealand 3-0.

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