

90.55 % cleared HSC exam

Bhubaneswar(KCN): About 90.55 per cent of 5,26,818 students have cleared the



Class X examination, which was conducted by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) on offline mode.

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Dash on Wednesday announced

the result of the annual High School Certificate (HSC) examinations.

Dash said 5,71,909 students have filled their forms for the examination. However, 5,26,818 students had appeared in the exam, of which 5,17,847 have passed and 8,699 failed, he said.

Out of the passed-out students, 2,56,877 (88.77 per cent) are boys and 2,60,970 (92.37 per cent) are girls. As many as 8,119 students have secured A1 grade (above 90 per cent) and 54,889 got A2 (80 to 90 per cent) grade. Similarly, 1,20,312 students have been accorded B1 grade, 1,42,599 B2, 1,16,111 C grade, 59,245 D grade, 14,647 E grade and 7790 got F grade.

Similarly, 1.42 per cent students have scored more than 90 per cent in the examination this year, said the Minister.

A total of 1,170 schools have registered cent per cent results while three schools- two in Malkangiri district and one in Angul- recorded zero results. While there was one student each in the two schools in

Malkangiri, Angul school had two students, the Minister informed.

The pass percentage was 97 per cent last year. The result was announced by assessment of class 9 performance of students, said Dash.

The High School Certificate (HSC) examination, Madhyama (Sanskrit) examination and State Open School Certificate examination was held till May 6 in offline mode across 3540 centres in the State.

Meanwhile, BSE President Ramasish Hajra informed that the students can apply for rechecking. Online applications will be invited for rechecking from July 11 to 25. However, students of Madhyama (Sanskrit) can apply for rechecking in offline mode, he said.

PM Modi to inaugurate 31 projects worth Rs 558 crore in Kashi on Thursday

LUCKNOW(KCN): Coming to his Parliamentary constituency for the first time after



Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be inaugurating

31 projects worth Rs 558 crore and lay the foundation of 13 new development projects of Rs 1,220 crore before addressing a public meeting at Sampurnanand Sports stadium during his 6-hour stay in Varanasi on Thursday.

All schools, colleges and educational institutions will be closed by 11 am in view of the PM's visit.

"PM Modi's almost 6-hour stay in his parliamentary constituency will start with taking stock of the Akshya Patra centralised kitchen, where mid-day meals

Dalai Lama turns 87; Tibetans in exile celebrate his birthday in Dharamshala

DHARAMSHALA(KCN): Tibetans in exile on Wednesday celebrated the 87th birthday of the Tibetan spiritual leader, the 14th Dalai



Lama, in the north Indian hill town of Dharamshala.

The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) of the Tibetan government-in-exile organized the Dalai Lama's 87th birthday in Dharamshala. The Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama turned 87 on Wednesday.

Hundreds of Tibetans including monks, nuns, school students, and foreign supporters gathered at the main Buddhist temple,

Tsuglagkhang here.

The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jairam Thakur virtually attended the event.

Sikyong Penpa Tsering, ministers of his cabinet and the members of the Tibetan parliament-in-exile including other guests also attended the birthday celebration.

American actor Richard Gere was also present at the event. Tibetans across the

world are set to celebrate the 87th birthday of the Dalai Lama.

The Dalai Lama, throughout his life in exile, has achieved prominence among the world's political, religious, and social leaders as a universal icon of peace, harmony and non-violence.

Exiled Tibetans, monks, Richard Gere celebrate Dalai Lama's 87th birthday in Dharamshala. CONTINUED ON: P-7

Presidential polls: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik reaches out to all MLAs for support to Droupadi Murmu

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday started his campaign for the NDA Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu by seeking the support of Congress MLAs as well as the only Independent legislator in the Assembly ahead of her visit to the State on July 8.

Independent MLA from Rayagada Makaranda Muduli met the Chief Minister at Naveen Nivas in the evening. Describing Murmu as the daughter of Odisha and pride of the State, Naveen sought his support to which he agreed. Naveen reiterated his appeal to all the members of the Assembly to ensure every vote in Murmu's favour.

"Independent MLA Makaranda Muduli met me today. Requested his support for the daughter of Odisha, Smt Droupadi Murmu in the Presidential election which he agreed to. She is the pride of Odisha. Reiterate my appeal to all members to ensure every vote in her favour," he tweeted.

Organisational secretary of the BJD Pranab Prakash Das also met leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Narasingh Mishra at his chamber in the Assembly during which the Chief Minister had a telephonic discussion with Mishra seeking his support for the NDA Presidential candidate.

"Spoke to Odisha Congress Legislature Party

Leader Narasingh Mishra seeking support for Smt Droupadi Murmu. It is a matter of great pride for Odisha. Appealed him to ensure the victory of the daughter of Odisha to the highest office of the country," he tweeted.



A three-member team of BJD leaders including Das, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak and MLA Pranab Balabantray met president of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Sarat Pattanayak at his Kalinga Vihar residence here and sought the party's support. Murmu and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had recently sought the support of the Congress members. They had separate telephonic discussions with Mishra. The Congress leader, however, said that the party has already taken a stand from the very beginning. Stating that the Congress has its own candidate, Mishra said Presidential election is not a matter of caste, creed and locality. "We stand by our ideological commitment," he added.

CONTINUED ON: P-7

EU lawmakers back gas, nuclear energy as sustainable in green labelling system



BRUSSELS(KCN): European Union lawmakers voted Wednesday to include natural gas and nuclear in the bloc's list of sustainable activities, backing a controversial proposal from the EU's executive arm that has been drawing fierce criticism from environmental groups and will likely trigger legal challenges.

As the EU wants to set the best global standards in the fight against

CONTINUED ON: P-7

53 per cent population in 12 to 14 age group in Bhubaneswar yet to take COVID vaccine

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Even as there is a spike in fresh

daily cases on Tuesday, said the authorities have been asked

children," Kulange said. The Commissioner also informed

masters of around 174 schools have been asked to furnish details of the children in this age group with the block education officer to allow BMC to take measures for their vaccination on school premises.

Meanwhile, the active case tally of Bhubaneswar crossed 500 mark on Tuesday as the city reported another 170 cases in the last 24 hours. Kulange said sensitisation programmes will be taken up at ward level involving local corporators, ward level officials and staff of BMC and volunteers to raise awareness among public to check the spread of the virus.



COVID-19 cases in the State Capital in last one week, around 53 per cent children in 12 to 14 age group in the city have not been vaccinated yet. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange, who chaired a meeting with school officials following spike in

to find out the students who have not been vaccinated yet and speed up their inoculation process. "We found most of the parents are still hesitant to inoculate their kids who are eligible to get the vaccine. Schools have been asked to sensitise parents and encourage them for vaccination of their

that they have decided to introduce mobile vans for vaccination of school children in the city. Sharing more details, an official from the BMC said out of 24,000 eligible students in 12 to 14 age groups, only 47 per cent, around 11,300 approximately, have been inoculated. Principals and head-



I fear

Dwit David Philip

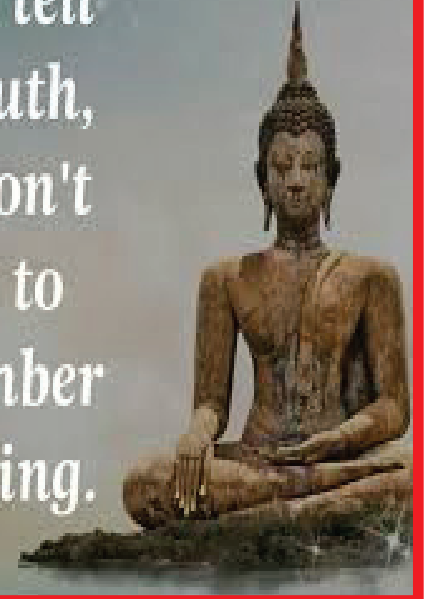


I fear the day, again it's down,
Have to approach the water point I'm denied,
Have to go for open defecation I'm restricted
Have to buy, food in cheap, vendors deny,
Have to do manual labour with sweats and tears,
Have to hide under the roof, they own,
Have to approach my due as grace not my payment
Have to retire to the bed of nightmare, "you are a failure every where",
I say, "I am an Indian",
They say, "you are under NRC, NPR, CAA Act"
"Have no voter card, no adhar card it's fake,"
Fled to Detention camp,
Water, toilet, food, shelter, bed every thing is there,
Don't fear, birds fly there in open sky,

Laheerithana, Bihar Sharif,
Nalanda, Bihar, 803101, Attachments area

Quotation of the Day

If you tell
the truth,
you don't
have to
remember
anything.



Indian Art and its Vibrant History

From early petroglyphs to a flourishing contemporary art scene, India's vibrant artistic legacy is the result of a variety of cultural influences. The diversity of art from this area—which includes anything created in the historical regions of modern-day India, Bangladesh, and areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan—is reflected in vivid, distinct, and enchanting styles that represent many different civilizations. Because some of the world's major religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam either began or flourished in India, much of Indian art is based in religious or political subject matter. Here, we uncover the history of Indian folk paintings, architecture, and sculpture, and explain how each evolved from the sociopolitical influences reflective of the period from which they originated.

A Brief History of Indian Art

Archaeologists discovered evidence of prehistoric rock art—carvings or drawings on cave rocks—in



this area dating back at least 290,000 years. The oldest examples are the Bhimbetka petroglyphs found in central India. These consist of cupules, which are non-utilitarian hemispherical cup-shaped depressions that are hammered out of the rock surface. This type of rock art was the primary form of cave painting throughout the Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, often depicting animal and human forms.

The earliest known Indian art sculptures were produced by the Indus Valley Civilization between 2,500 B.C. and 1,800 B.C. They created small terracotta and bronze figures that also represented humans and animals such as cows and monkeys. In the 6th century B.C., the rise of Buddhism paved way for religious-themed art, often in the form of stone and bronze sculptures. During this time, religious artists also experimented with the creation of



vast temples carved in stone and decorated with Greek-influenced columns.

Sculpture was a common practice among Indian Buddhists and Hindus. Hinduism continued to be a main focus of Indian art for centuries, as sculptures of deities like Shiva were commonly produced. By the 16th century, Islam gained importance under the Mughal Empire and art production grew under Islamic rulers. During this time, the arts prospered and in 1631 construction began on the Taj Mahal. British involvement in India began in the 18th century, during which time they established art schools to promote European styles. As a result, local art styles merged with foreign influences and traditional art forms were often romanticized or exaggerated to appeal to European buyers. In 1947, India gained independence from the British empire which pushed local artists to search for a new style. Contemporary Indian art incorporates traditional elements and influences from the rich history of the country.

Each region of India offered its own distinct style of art. Religious motifs are some of the most common subject matter, often featuring mythological human and animal forms as well as elaborate ornamentation. The three most prevalent art forms to span India's history are painting, architecture, and sculpture.

Each style of painting that emerged in India represented traditions, customs, and ideologies passed down from previous generations. Though early paintings existed on walls or as murals, the art form was eventually transferred to more modern materials such as paper, canvas, cloth, and other mediums. Below are some of the most popular Indian folk art painting styles.

Some of the most popular paintings from India are Madhubani paintings. This style originated in the Mithila region of Bihar as a form of wall art, but wasn't widely known to the Western world until British civil servant and art historian W.G. Archer stumbled upon their brilliance in 1934 while inspecting damage from an earthquake near the border of India and Nepal.

The Madhubani style is represented by a simple and evocative portrayal of culture and tradition, typically depicting mythological scenes. Artists juxtapose vibrant imagery with pared-down patterns, often bearing floral, animal, or bird motifs. The art form is practiced in many different styles including Bharni, Katchni, Geru, Godna, and Tantric.

These small works created mostly as illustrations for manuscripts were initially found on palm leaves, painted for merchants who carried them throughout their travels across the subcontinent in the 10th and 12th centuries. The art form became increasingly important throughout the Mughal and Rajput courts. Miniature paintings were highly detailed and intricate, drawing from Persian techniques. Themes ranged from religious and historical scenes to depictions of everyday life.

Another early form of painting, this style dates back to the 12th century B.C. near Orissa, an eastern Indian state on the Bay of Bengal. The small villages within the area still produce this style of painting today. Pattachitra literally translates to "cloth picture," aptly describing this traditional, cloth-based type of scroll painting. Known for its intricate details and mythological narratives, the paintings call upon angular, bold lines and draw extensively from Mughal-era influences.

Warli folk paintings, a form of indigenous Indian art, date back 2,500 years. The style originated in Maharashtra, a state spanning the western part of Central India, where it is still widely practiced today. Typically created on the walls of huts, Warli paintings utilize linear and monochromatic hues and an elementary style of execution that resembles cave painting. Contrary to other types of tribal art, which feature an abundance of colors, this style utilizes earth-tones and neutral shades to depict daily activities of local people such as farming, dancing, and hunting.

Though Madhubani, Pattachitra, Warli, and miniature painting are some of the most prominent styles, there are several other types of Indian folk paintings that derive from different periods and regions within the subcontinent, which include:

Thanjavur paintings: This South Indian painting style flourished between the 16th and 18th centuries. Thanjavur paintings are colorful panel paintings done on a wood plank, usually depicting a deity as the primary subject matter of the composition.

Kalamkari: This type of hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile is produced in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. It was traditionally used for making narrative scrolls and panels and has a strong connection to Persian motifs.

Gond paintings: Developed by the Gond tribe of Central India, this type of art celebrates the natural world, depicting anything from lush greenery to animals. The paintings are created using a series of intricately arranged dots and dashes.

Phad paintings: Phad paintings date back thousands of years as a religious form of scroll painting that

depicts battlefields, adventure stories, and folk deities.

Abindranath Tagore, "Bharat Mata," 1905

Founder of the Bengal School of Art, Tagore's painting is of great and historical value as it depicts a woman, dressed like a sadhvi (virtuous woman) in a sacred, saffron sari, holding a book, sheaves of



paddy, white cloth, and garland in her four hands. Amrita Sher-Gil was one of India's most important modern artists. This was the first painting by the artist to be offered by Christie's, and one of only eight works by the artist to be auctioned globally.

Much like paintings, Indian architecture took on various styles and forms over the years. Many of these structures have become globally renowned, such as the Taj Mahal and South Indian Temples. Architectural styles have changed over time and modern structures reflect influences from a variety of countries as a result of India's global discourse. Cave architecture was one of the earliest forms, created by Hindus, Jains, and Buddhists who produced whole temples from rock. One of the most famous rock-cut temples is the Kailasa Temple, located in the Ellora Caves in Maharashtra, India and known for its size and sculptural treatment. Beginning around the 5th century B.C., large, free-standing temples emerged. Indian architecture often included religious elements such as an altar and shelter for worshippers seeking enlightenment.

Throughout the 12th century, architecture produced for Islamic patrons emerged after Muhammad of Ghor made Delhi a Muslim capital in 1193. The Delhi Sultanate—which formed in 1206 and reigned over large parts of the Indian subcontinent for 320 years—came from Central Asia via Afghanistan and preferred a style of architecture largely derived from Iranian influences.

Muslim leaders hired local craftsmen to build large structures, much different than those previously built in India. This included mosques, which featured open courtyards surrounded by covered hallways that were oriented towards sacred cities. A variety of Indo-Islamic architectural styles emerged, which fused local and Islamic traditions and influenced modern Indian, Paikistani, and Bangladeshi architecture.

Modern Indian architecture still honors and upholds tradition while meeting the needs of a growing population. Modern structures didn't appear until India gained independence from the British in 1947. At that time, the Indian Punjab government commissioned famous Swiss-French architect and designer Le Corbusier to lead urban planning of the city of Chandigarh. With the project emerged a renewed interest in and rebirth of Indian architecture.

This pillar, built in the 4th century, features Sanskrit inscription in Brahmi script that states it was created in honor of the Hindu god Vishnu. The pillar showcases India's prowess in metallurgy, a branch of science that focuses particularly on the properties, production, and purification of metals. Built in the 13th century, this impressive temple is dedicated to the Hindu sun god Surya. It was carved from stone in the form of a 100-foot-high chariot with immense wheels and horses.

One of the seven wonders of the world, this mausoleum was built in the 17th century under Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. The architectural marvel bears a combination of Hindu and Indo-Islamic techniques.

A gilt copper alloy figure of Avalokiteshvara Indian,

Himalayan & Southeast Asian Art
Gilt copper alloy figure. Sold for \$377,000 via Bonhams (March 2015).

Sculpture continues to be a favored medium for artistic expression in India, primarily as a form of religious art. Buildings were profusely adorned, and subject matter largely consisted of abstracted human forms used to illustrate the principles of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. Female deities such as Shakti, Kali, and Brahma were often depicted in Indian sculpture.

Indian sculpture extends from the Indus Valley, where terracotta figurines were some of the first sculptures to be produced. Throughout the Mauryan Dynasty, which spanned from the 4th to 2nd centuries B.C., large stone pillars appeared at crossroads and important sites. They often had lotus-shaped tops and figures of lions which were symbols of imperial rule. Many large stone images of gods were produced during this period, followed by smaller



versions that were placed on Buddhist monuments. Stupas, burial mounds, were surrounded by ornately carved gateways featuring an array of religious symbols. More mature Indian figurative sculpture began appearing in the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C.

Over the succeeding centuries, a wide range of styles and traditions subsequently flourished throughout different areas. One of the most prominent structures is the Elephanta Caves, a collection of cave temples predominately dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, constructed from the mid-5th to 6th centuries A.D. By the 9th and 10th centuries, Indian sculpture had reached a form that changed relatively little compared to what it is today and was used primarily as part of architectural decoration.

Ramkinkar Baij, The Perambulator. Sold for INR4,200,000 via Pundole's (April 2015).

In the early 20th century, Indian sculpture adapted to western academic art traditions, and styles were greatly influenced by realist artists who worked on secular subjects at British art schools. There was a significant departure from ancient and traditional forms depicting myths and deities. In the 1940s and 1950s, painter and sculptor Ramkinkar Baij worked to fuse both Western art and traditional Indian forms, experimenting with unconventional materials such as concrete, gravel, and cement. This experimentation lives on in contemporary Indian sculpture, which equally borrows from traditional techniques and subject matter while exploring new approaches.

This bronze statue is believed to be nearly 4,500 years old. Made of delicate metal, it depicts a young girl with a plethora of bangles on her arms, similar to that of women from Banjara, a community with origins in Rajasthan. Constructed by Mauryan emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century, this series of columns is scattered throughout India. The most famous pillar, the Lion Capital of Sarnath, features four lions on their hind legs with their backs touching. It was adopted as India's National Emblem in 1950.

Situated in the Maharashtra region, this group of rock-cut Buddhist caves includes a variety of cave paintings and sculptures. Constructed in the 2nd century, they are largely considered to be India's best surviving specimens of art and architecture. From prehistoric rock carvings to contemporary interpretations of traditional styles, Indian and South Asian art continues to demonstrate the breadth of artistic and cultural influence that has informed and shaped its aesthetic over the course of Indian art history. While traditional works of art showcase religious motifs and mythological depictions, contemporary works match the cultural and ideological diversity of the nation.

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Rajinikanth thanks fans, colleagues, political leaders for wishes on Dadasaheb Phalke honour

CHENNAI: Superstar Rajinikanth, the recipient of prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, for the year 2019, has expressed his gratitude to fans, film fraternity colleagues and political leaders for their heartfelt wishes. The Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday announced that the award, which is Indian cinema's highest honour for an artiste, will be presented to Rajinikanth on May 3. "For all the love, statement posted on the microblogging site, the 70-year-old arayanan Rao Gaekwad, who sacrificed a lot to make Tamil people, "who have given me my life, and my fans angal". The director also



gious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, for the year 2019, has expressed his gratitude to fans, film fraternity colleagues and political leaders for their heartfelt wishes. The Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday announced that the award, which is Indian cinema's highest honour for an artiste, will be pre-

greetings & wishes I've received from eminent political leaders, my film fraternity friends & colleagues, well wishers, media, every person who took the time to wish me & my beloved fans from across India & all over the world. My deepest gratitude and thanks," the veteran actor said in a Twitter post on Friday. On Thursday, in a

cinema icon had dedicated the award to his friend, bus driver Raj Bahadur, elder brother Sathyanarayana Rao Gaekwad and all those who made him the superstar that he is now. "I dedicate this award to my friend and bus driver Raj Bahadur, who discovered my acting talent and encouraged me, my elder brother Sathyan-

me an actor while struggling with poverty, my guru K Balachander, who created this Rajinikanth," he had said. IN PICS | And the Phalke Award goes to Thalaivar: The Superstar and his chemistry with big-wigs He also remembered his producers, directors, technicians, distributors, theatre owners, media, the

across the world. "Rajinikanth, whose real name is Shivaji Rao Gaekwad, tried his hand at several odd jobs before landing as a bus conductor. He soon quit the job to pursue his acting dreams. It was noted director K Balachander who spotted Rajinikanth at a film institute and roped him to star in his 1975 film "Apoorva Rag-

gave the actor his screen name Rajinikanth. The cinema icon has delivered several superhit films such as "Billa", "Muthu", "Sivaji" and "Enthiran", among others. He has also starred in Bollywood movies such as "Hum", "Andha Kanoon", "Bhagwaan Dada", "Aatank hi Aatank" and "Chaalbaaz".

Rang De review: A breezy entertainer with a dash of freshness and in a less annoying manner. The story has potential in its premise but doesn't translate effectively on screen. The director couldn't build enough tension as we watch how Arjun-Anu's friendship turns sour. He occasionally struggles to haul up a coolness that the script doesn't possess. The real problems surface when Venky arms up and resorts to using tired cliches to milk the emotional conflict between the lead characters. For example, Anu's mother (Rohini Molleti) encourages Arjun and his wrongdoings but doesn't support her daughter's goal to study abroad. The humour dries up and the narrative goes off the rails about ten minutes into the second hour. The sub-plot involving Vineeth and Abhirami too lacks real depth and it stretches the narrative needlessly. The climax scene in which Arjun makes the confession to Anu fails to pack an emotional wallop. Yet you are willing to overlook all these loopholes because all the characters have their own insecurities, which make them endearing and relatable. The film also attempts to be mature about sexual abuse and the concept of motherhood.

Malaika Arora receives first dose of COVID-19 vaccine

MUMBAI: Actor-host Malaika Arora on Friday received the first dose of the coronavirus vaccine. The 47-year-old actor

win this #WarAgainstVirus. Don't forget to take yours soon!" she wrote in the caption. Arora also gave a

(and yes I am eligible to take the vaccine)," she added. The actor, known for featuring in movies such as "Dil Se",

Salman Khan, Sanjay Dutt, Sharmila Tagore, Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Mohanlal, Jeetendra, Kamal Haasan,



shared the news in an Instagram post, along with a photo of hers receiving the vaccine jab at a centre in Lilavati Hospital. "I took the first dose of the COVID vaccine. Because #wereinthistogether! Let's go warriors, let's

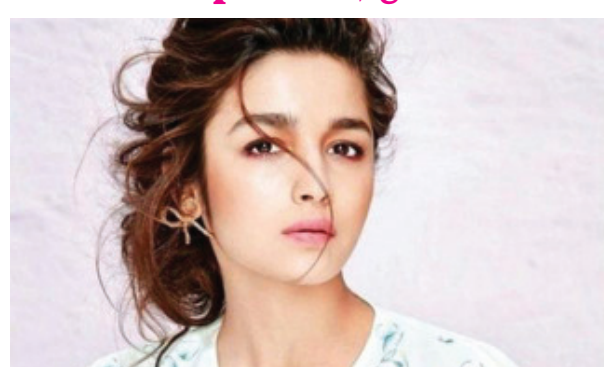
shout-out to frontline healthcare staff for being "caring and vigilant". "A special mention to our amazing frontline workers, who were so caring and vigilant and went about doing everything with a smile. Thank You

"Kaante", "Kaal" and "EMI", had contracted the virus in September 2020. She recovered after briefly quarantining at her home. Arora is the latest Indian film celebrity to be vaccinated after Amitabh Bachchan,

Nagarjuna, Rohit Shetty, Neena Gupta, Rakesh Roshan, and Johnny Lever. Last week, the government had announced that from April 1, all people above 45 years of age would be eligible to get COVID-19 vaccines.

Covid-19: Alia Bhatt tested positive, goes under home quarantine

Mumbai (GNS): Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt has tested Covid-19 positive and has been under home quarantine. Alia took to Instagram stories to share her diagnosis late night. She wrote, "Hello all, I have tested positive for



Covid-19. I have immediately isolated myself and will be under home quarantine. I am following all safety protocols under the advice of my doctors. Grateful for all your love and support. Please stay safe and take care."

Monsoon make up tips

Summer's sweltering heat may be gone, but step out, especially



Shahnaz Husain

for a date night or a special occasion. Monsoon & Makeup traditionally never went hand in hand and it has always been really difficult to maintain your look. The rainy season brings patchy foundation, dripping mascara, smudging lip colour, and unmanageable hair. Monsoon may be the worst season for makeup lovers. Dealing with melting makeup is certainly a big task during monsoons. While it may not be the wisest idea to step out with layers of make-up and succumbing to nature's tantrums, going completely barefaced isn't an option either. So, what do you do?

Waterproof make-up products may be more suitable. They contain ingredients like fats, waxes, and

silicon, which do not allow the make-up to get wet and become runny.

A powder-based foundation will last longer in the humid weather. Also, using a primer is very essential before applying the makeup, the reason being that it acts as a barrier between your skin and the makeup. This is the

most essential step for prepping up your skin and holding the

makeup for a longer time

If you can get hold of a light-textured primer, it would be good for the monsoons. It would help to absorb oil and sweat and thus help the foundation last longer. During the monsoons, a powder or gel primer may be better. Stay away from heavy foundations. Or, leave out foundation and go for compact powder. Compact powder is pressed powder and lasts longer than loose powder. Also, they reduce the oily look. Compact powders are also ideal for touching up. Carry wet tissues and compact powder in your handbag, to refresh both skin and make-up.

If you want to apply foundation, apply an astringent lotion first, using cotton wool. After a few minutes, wrap an ice cube in a clean cloth and apply it on the skin, for a few seconds at a time. This also helps to close the pores. Or, try cold compress with chilled rose water. It closes the pores, refreshes the skin, and adds a glow. Go for a water-based foundation, adding a drop or two of water for a lighter coverage.

The trend is towards the natural look, with less blush-on. A faint flush would be suitable. Powder blushers are easier to apply and are best for humid weather. Apply on the cheekbones and slightly below it. You can use your fingertips to dot the area with a blusher. Then, blend with the brush, outwards and slightly upwards, making sure there are no harsh lines or a blotchy effect.

Using waterproof eye makeup basics (liner, kohl, and mascara) are recommended in rainy weather to save your makeup from dripping away.

First apply a light shadow over the eyelid and a dark one in the crease of the eyes. Light grey on the eyelid would look glamorous. Apply a line of black waterproof eyeliner close to the lashes on the upper lid. Extend

the liner outwards and slightly upwards, beyond the outer corner of the eyes. For the lower lid, apply liner as close to the lower lashes as possible, but start from the middle of the lower eyelid and take the line towards the outer eyes. Apply waterproof mascara, in two coats, waiting for a few minutes after applying the first coat.

Use brow gel for your brows to give it the best look. Also, try using brown waterproof mascara for your eyebrows.

Gloss and cream lipstick should not be used as they would bleed in the humid weather. For the lips, frosted sheen, or glimmer would be good, instead of too much gloss. Opt for soft mattes, pink shades, or soft browns instead of the bold and bright reds. Go for earthy colors. Keep your lipsticks in the fridge during the monsoons.

Tips to make your make-up last longer: For oily skin, the use of an astringent lotion before foundation or the powder will help make-up last. After applying astringent lotion, wait for a few minutes, and then apply foundation.

When you apply powder, press the powder all over the face and neck, with a slightly damp sponge. This helps it to set and last longer.

Compact powder, rather than loose powder lasts longer and provides a smooth finish. Carry powder compact to touch up make-up. Blot the make-up with tissue. Liquid eyeliners last longer than eye pencils.

Applying foundation on the lips before helps lipstick last longer.

"Make-up is all about enhancing your features. Since humidity is at its peak, keep it minimal and use a lightweight foundation or powder-based foundation as it lasts longer in humid weather.

It's best when it's neither too much nor too little. The right kind of shades matter. Less is more, that's the beauty of makeup.

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

the humidity is here to stay.

With the advent of the monsoon, the humidity will be at its peak and that will lead to sweating and dripping of makeup

While rainy days are fun and romantic if you stay in, Heat, humidity, and rain; all put together can be pretty disastrous if you have to

How Wildfire Smoke Raises Infectious Disease Risk

Alongside a global pandemic that has killed millions, residents of the American West have for two consecutive summers confronted unprecedented wildfire seasons. So far this year, roughly 43,500 wildfires have charred more than 5



million acres, and fires continue to grow in frequency and intensity. With them come a number of human health concerns, including the risk that bodies worn down by exposure to smoke could more easily succumb to infectious diseases. Teasing out the effects of wildfire smoke on health is both urgent and difficult. "With wildfires, we're generally looking in the rear-view mirror, looking retroactively," says Sheryl Magzamen, a respiratory epidemiologist at Colorado State University. While air pollution from cars can be studied in real time by placing sensors near roads, she adds, wildfires are sporadic and unpredictable. "Where they are and when they happen and where the smoke goes is really complex." But a burgeoning inter-

est in respiratory diseases born out of the pandemic are bringing together wildfires and human health in new ways. While many effects are ascribed to smoke making lungs more susceptible to diseases such as influenza and COVID-19, early research indicates that in addition, smoke may itself also be a vector for spreading pathogens. "Even though it's upsetting to think about sometimes, it's an exciting time to be doing this kind of work," Magzamen tells The Scientist. "There's energy and motivation that maybe wasn't there before."

San Francisco's famous Golden Gate Bridge was barely visible through the smoke on September 9, 2020.

© ISTOCK.COM, JASONDOIY

How dangerous are hazy skies? The health effects of air pollution are well-documented, and scientists are beginning to probe wildfire smoke as a particularly damaging subset. Dirty air—full of exhaust from cars and factories, dust, smoke, metals, and pollen—kills an average of 9 million people worldwide each year, and a global study published today (September 8) in The Lancet Planetary Health attributed 33,500 deaths each year directly to wildfire pollution. For decades, scientists have

linked exposure to particulate matter in pollution to increased incidences of asthma, allergies, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, dementia, and certain cancers. "There's really no part of the body it doesn't touch," says Mary Prunicki, the director of air pollution and health research at Stanford University's Sean Parker Center for Asthma and Allergy Research.

Fine particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM2.5) are considered to be the most dangerous component in air pollution, including smoke. That's because the particles are so small that they can pass through the lungs and enter the blood. "There's localized inflammation in the lung itself, but when the particle size is small enough, that inflammation and other problems can now happen throughout the body," Prunicki tells The Scientist.

See "Q&A: Pollution Linked to 15 Percent Increase in COVID-19 Deaths" Inside our lungs, PM2.5 interferes with oxygen exchange and negatively affects lung function, making it hard to breathe deeply and disrupting the ability of cilia in the lungs to clear mucus and the potential irritants it contains, including viruses. Once it passes into the blood, PM2.5

Amanda Heidt

also causes inflammation in the heart and brain and primes our immune system to react aggressively to allergens and bacteria, leaving us more vulnerable to viral pathogens such as influenza.

A small increase in the daily average summer PM2.5 was associated with an increase in the subsequent winter influenza rate of between 16 and 22 percent.

A study in rural Montana found that periods of dense wildfire smoke were associated with unusually bad influenza seasons in the winters that followed. University of Montana computational ecologist Erin Landguth, who led the study, says she originally expected smoke exposure in the weeks before flu season started to have the strongest association with the number of cases. Instead, PM2.5 levels from months before—during the height of the fire season—correlated most strongly with influenza cases: a small increase in the daily average summer PM2.5 was associated with an increase in the subsequent winter influenza rate of between 16 and 22 percent. "We were not expecting to see that long, long delay, but we threw a bunch of modeling at it and sure enough, it always popped out," she says.

This and research on fires is leading scientists to a better understanding of the unique risks posed by wildfire smoke, and recent evidence has shown that it may actually be more dangerous than other types of air pollution such as car exhaust. A study published in Nature Communications found that in Southern California, PM2.5 attributed to wildfire smoke was associated with a 10 percent increase in hospitalizations for respiratory events—the highest rise attributed to any source the team studied—and that wildfire-specific PM2.5 appeared to be up to 10 times more harmful to human health than that from other sources.

One reason may be that PM2.5 stemming from wildfires has a different composition than particulate matter from other sources. Wildfires burn wood, which can cause respiratory issues—as in the case of eucalyptus—but they might also burn rubber, metal, plastic, glass, or other synthetic materials, creating smoke that is more toxic when inhaled. Indeed, research in mice has shown that the respiratory toxicity of wildfire PM2.5 is three to four times greater than equal doses of ambient air pollution. Evidence of the long-

lasting damage caused by wildfire smoke in particular exists for people as well. For 50 days in 2017, smoke from across the West blanketed Seeley Lake, Montana, with a daily average air quality index of 221 micrograms per cubic meter (anything over 150 micrograms per cubic meter is considered unhealthy). Researchers at the University of Montana tracked 95 residents of the area over the next two years. Just after being exposed to smoke, roughly 10 percent of the participants had disrupted lung functioning similar to asthma, as measured by a spirometer. One year later, that number jumped to almost 46 percent, dropping only slightly to 34 percent the year after that.

People don't need to be near fires to be affected by their smoke, either. Because fires produce erratic wind patterns that can transport particles high into the atmosphere, smoke from fires on the West Coast darkened the skies over Manhattan in July. Like other types of air pollution, PM2.5 becomes oxidized and produces more free radicals as it ages, and because wildfire-derived PM2.5 often starts out as more inherently toxic because of what gets burned, it could also cause more damage once it enters the body,

although the specifics of this effect are still under investigation. "We don't yet know whether acute exposure to a less toxic type of smoke is 'better' than a smaller quantity of more toxic smoke," Magzamen tells The Scientist. "But if we keep having these fires, I think we'll probably find out."

The wildfire smoke-COVID-19 connection The increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires has taken place in tandem with another emergency: the COVID-19 pandemic. When the virus first appeared in the US in the spring of 2020, many residents were contending with evacuation orders prompted by wildfires alongside stay-at-home orders.

More than a year later, researchers are now releasing studies that document how that all played out. In Reno, Nevada, residents in 2020 encountered smoke from fires burning across several states, even those that were hundreds of miles away. "Normally, you would have really beautiful views, but even right now I'm looking out and you can't see the buildings downtown," says Daniel Kiser, a data scientist at the Desert Research Institute in Nevada who spoke to The Scientist in August, as several fire burned nearby. "It's just not a

fun experience."

Kiser worked with a local hospital to study whether exposure to wildfire smoke was associated with the rate of positive SARS-CoV-2 tests in Reno. He measured PM2.5 using an array of four sensors and supplemented his readings with data from the EPA. From a local hospital, he received almost 36,000 test results. Between August 16 and October 10, 2020, the time period that year most affected by the smoke, positive cases rose by more than 17 percent (178 additional cases out of a total of 2,881). "I wouldn't say that we were particularly surprised by what we found," Kiser says, adding that smoke may make otherwise asymptomatic cases into symptomatic ones, or make symptoms more severe, "which might motivate [patients] in turn to go get tested when they might not otherwise have."

The smoke from California wildfires as seen by satellites on August 19, 2021

Midway through her master's degree in marine science, Amanda realized how few scientists felt comfortable speaking about their work. She challenged herself to share her research and ultimately went on to complete a second master's in science communication at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Formerly an intern at The Scientist, she joined the staff in March 2021 as assistant editor, writing for all sections of the print magazine and website and editing The Scientist to Watch, Foundations, and Short Lit sections from her home in Utah. Read more of her work at www.amandaheidt.com.

MGM supports police skill boost



Bhubaneswar: Ace Philanthropist, Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, Chairman MGM Group is known for extending support for Public Causes.

And when a requirement was felt to improve English Speaking skill of Police personnel in Twin City, he immediately agreed for the purpose.

In fact Commissionerate Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack has joined hands with the British Council, on a project 'Communicating with Confidence - a training for Police

personnel', a programme to enhance professionalism and public communication of police personnel and officers with regards to communication in English.

An MOU was signed today between the Commissioner of Police and British Council of India represented by Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director (East & Northeast India).

MGM Group Chairman Pankaj Lochan Mohanty announced his support to sponsor the educational program. Twin City Police

Commissioner Saumendra Kumar Priyadarshi, Additional Police Commissioner Uma Shankar Dash, DCP Bhubaneswar-Prateek Singh, DCP Cuttack-Pinak Mishra graced the occasion.

MGM Foundation, the CSR arm of MGM Group has been an integral part of this collaboration and sponsored the training program.

KISS Bhubaneswar has also agreed to collaborate and sponsor the training program.

The British Council in partnership with

Commissionerate police, Bhubaneswar - Cuttack, will deliver training for Commissionerate police, Bhubaneswar - Cuttack.

By the end of the proposed course, the participants will be more confident in using English as a medium of communication during investigations and public dealing. It will also equip our officers to deal effectively with many visitors/foreigners/international athletes/tourists.

The training module is 34.5 hours in duration and it will be imparted both online and offline mode.

Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei asks employees to give ideas to boost falling sales

BEIJING: Crippled by heavy US sanctions, telecom conglomerate Huawei is seeking ideas from employees on how to build a better future and get revenues back on track, the media reported on Wednesday.

Huawei Founder Ren Zhengfei has written a memo to employees, calling them to contribute ideas about the company's future direction, reports South China Morning Post. The memo comes at a time when the Chinese

"Your innovation should have business value, rather than just being an idea," he added.

ALSO READ | Australia ban on Huawei due to 'security concerns' first shot in deteriorating relations: Chinese envoy
Huawei's consumer business, which includes smartphones, suffered the most from the US sanctions. The company's revenue was down by half from a year earlier to \$38.24 billion. In May this year, Canada moved to ban Chi-



nese telecommunication giants Huawei and ZTE from its 5G networks in order to ensure the "long term safety of our telecommunications infrastructure".

Following the steps of its partners -- including the UK, the US, Australia and New Zealand -- Canada decided to ban the two Chinese tech companies by the start of 2028. US President Joe Biden in November last year signed the law to ban Huawei and ZTE from getting approval for network equipment licences in the country.

Earlier, the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designated Huawei and ZTE as national security threats to communications networks -- making it harder for the US firms to buy equipment from them.

company is struggling to find a revenue source that matches the profitability of its once-thriving smartphone business. "Huawei's strategy should not be decided by a handful of people as it should come from tens of thousands of experts who study our future direction and the path to get there," Zhengfei said in the memo. He urged 6,000 experts and hundreds of thousands of engineers to join the discussions. "The transformation from ideas to projects and products will depend on the review by decision makers, and I hope everything the company does is within boundaries and creates short or long term value," the Huawei CEO stated.

13,409 villages in state yet to get piped drinking water: Odisha minister Pradip Kumar Amat

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The State government on Tuesday informed the Assembly that 13,409 villages in Odisha are yet to get piped drinking water. Replying to a written question by Congress MLA Tara

targeted to connect all the villages with piped water by the end of 2024.

He said that a saturation plan has also been prepared for Koraput district to provide tap water to all hamlets and slums

ment has put up sign boards of 'Har Ghar Jal' everywhere, the picture in the field is quite different. "Our constituents are constantly probing when their houses will be connected with tap water but we have no

tion," Sethi said. Referring to the mega drinking water project at Rajakanika in Kendrapara district that it is hanging fire due to opposition from locals, Sethi said this project on completion will meet



Prasad Bahinipati, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Pradip Kumar Amat said pipe water connections have been provided to 33,884 out of 47,293 villages of the State. The government has

by the targeted period. Participating in the discussion, BJP MLA Bishnu Sethi said the State government has utterly failed to meet the basic needs of the people.

Though the govern-

answers. Many times we have to say that the government is not listening as we are in the Opposition. Shall the people represented by Opposition members have no right to get tap water, they ques-

the drinking water and irrigation need of Chandbali, Dhamra, Tihidi and Basudevpur blocks of Bhadrak districts. He urged the Minister to see that the project is executed soon.

Athlete PT Usha, music maestro Ilaiyaraaja nominated to Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI: Legendary athlete PT Usha and



for every Indian. Her accomplishments in sports are widely known but equally commendable is her work to mentor budding athletes over the last several years. Congratulations to her on being nominated to the Rajya Sabha," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Twitter.

He also shared his pictures with Usha and Ilaiyaraaja along with his congratulatory messages in separate tweets.

"The creative genius of @ilaiyaraaja Ji has enthralled people across generations. His works beautifully reflect many emotions. What is equally inspiring is his life journey- he rose from a humble background and achieved so much. Glad that he has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha," Modi said.

The Rajya Sabha had vacancies in the nominated category.

music maestro Ilaiyaraaja were among prominent personalities nominated to Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Philanthropist and administrator of the Dharmasthala temple Veerendra Heggade and noted screen writer V Vijayendra Prasad were also nominated to the Upper House of Parliament.

"The remarkable PT Usha Ji is an inspiration

Prez accepts resignations of Naqvi, RCP Singh; Irani given charge of Minority Affairs Ministry



NEW DELHI: President Ram Nath Kovind accepted the resignations of Union ministers Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Ram Chandra Prasad Singh with immediate effect, according to a Rashtrapati Bhavan statement on



Wednesday. Minority Affairs Minister Naqvi and Steel Minister Singh submitted their resignations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, a day before the completion of their Rajya Sabha term.

With Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi's term ending, no Muslim among BJP MPs According to the Rashtrapati Bhavan statement, "As advised by the Prime Minister, the President has directed that Smriti Zubin Irani, Cabinet Minister, be assigned the charge of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, in addition to her existing portfolio." Cabinet Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has been assigned the charge of the Ministry of Steel, in addition to his existing portfolio.

DAV, Kalinga Nagar observes its 26th foundation Day

Silver Jubilee Year given crowning touch with holy havan



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The yearlong jest and jubilation organized to mark the silver jubilee year by the DAVians of, Kalinga Nagar reached its culmination with observation of its 26th Foundation Day in its premises today. As a holy spark to this memorable occasion, a sacred Havan was organized in the school premises early in the morning. It was followed by the prize giving ceremony organized to acknowledge the achievements of students of the different schools in

various competitions organized throughout the year. The welcome song sung by the students bewitched the audience. In his welcome address to the dignitaries, Principal Sri Bipin Kumar Sahoo highlighted the glorious trajectory of the school from its humble beginning to its majestic presence till date. In the brief but powerful address, Chairman of the school Sj Madan Mohan Panda recounted the long struggle that the school had to pass

through in order to reach its present stature. The dignitaries present on the occasion includes the former Chairman of the school and Vice Chairman of DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur, Sj Sarat Chandra Misra, Founder Principal and Regional Director, DAV Institutions, Odisha, Dr K.C Satapathy, ARO, Dr Sujata Sahoo, Manager of the school Dr B h a g a y a t i Nayak, Chairman of DAV Unit-VIII Sj Bijay Kumar Pattnaik, Principals

of DAV Public schools of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, Members of PTCC and School Managing Committee. The dignitaries inaugurated the Jubilee Kids' park and took part in a plantation drive after the programme. The entire programme was successfully organized by the function department of the school with the wholehearted cooperation of all the members of staff and was telecast through You tube Live streaming.

BLK-Max Hospital becomes 1st private player in Delhi to partner with Government under its Drug Resistant TB Control Program

New Delhi(KCN): North India's leading healthcare provider BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital has become the first private hospital in Delhi and third in India to tie-up with the Government to treat Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (DR-TB), with newer anti-tubercular medicines, for free of cost. This newer drug is available only at Government design-

ated centres and BLK-Max Hospital is the first one to administer this in the Delhi region. This is yet another patient centric step taken by the leading healthcare provider. Delhi State TB Control Office, recently proposed to partner with BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital to provide DR-TB treatment services to patients residing in Delhi and seeking care in private sector. The partnership will ensure that the patients seeking care in private sector also receive the diagnostic, treatment, and patient care services as per the standardised PMDT guidelines. Tuberculosis is a major public health concern in developing nations and India accounts for over 25 % of the global burden, according to WHO. Among these TB patients, the ones who are diagnosed with drug resistant TB (DR-TB) have the worst outcomes and can transmit the infection to their household members and the community. Pertaining to the fact that since decades, more than half of the TB patients have been diagnosed and treated in the private sector, this constructive partnership is aptly aimed to provide the required support and complete care to the DR-TB patients.

According to the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, one of the major concerns in eliminating the global concern of TB is India. India has the highest number of TB cases in the world and hence requires a war-footing effort in for a successful national eradication program.

"In 2021, India notified at least 21 Lakh TB patients, out of which around 50,000 were found to be multidrug resistant/ rifampicin resistant (MDR/RR) patients. While on the other hand, a total of 1.1 lakh TB patients with 80,000 patients were diagnosed in the public sector in Delhi alone. Delhi has a large number of urban slums, migrant population and hence a high transmission rate. It accounted for closer to 2,000 drug-resistant tuberculosis patients in the same year," added Dr Nayar.

It is promising to note that the Government of India has been paying adequate attention on prevention, detection and treatment of the disease. Union Health Ministry plans to eradicate TB by 90% by 2028 and reduce mortality due to the disease by 95 per cent by 2030 under the Revised National TB Control Programme



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Puja Curtains go up with KHUTI PUJA at Mohammad Ali Park

Kolkata(KCN): Youth Association of Mohammad Ali Park heralded the autumnal ritual with the Khuti Puja today on Wednesday to mark the start of Durga puja proceedings this year located at Mohammad Ali Park Durga Puja, near MG Metro station. Youth Association of Mohammad Ali Park is one of the eye catcher puja of the city for its innovative concept and celebration style. This Puja is particularly famous for its unique style of pandals and also for the social work which the committee carries out throughout the year.

The occasion was glittered by the presence of various eminent personalities like: Sri. Vivek Guta, MLA; Smt. Rehana Khatun, Councillor & Borough Chairman. The Key Committee members who were present at the Khuti Puja were: Sri. Manoj Poddar (Chairman) / Ram Chandra Badopalia (Chief Patron) / Om Praksh Poddar (Vice Chairman) / Pramod Chandak (Working President) / Dulal Moitra (Vice President) / GC Shaw, Bimal Jhunjunwala, Md. Shahid, Bijay Agarwal (Organiser) / Pawan Kr. Bansal, Deoki Nandan Dhelia, Ashok Ojha, Ganesh Sharma, Pawan Sharma (Joint Secretary) / Subhash Chandra Goenka (Treasurer) / Surendra Kr. Sharma (Secretary).

With Khuti Puja happening all over the city and Dhaks playing alongside, Youth Association of Mohammad Ali Park marked the heralding of the Durga Puja with the presence of these renowned personalities. Youth Association of Mohammad Ali Park takes immense pride to celebrate the 54th year with much opulence and creativity. The

Committee has always tried to create a niche amongst all contemporary pujas by bringing about uniqueness through the concept and in the thought process that goes into the festivity like pandal creation, idol, ambience, safety and communal harmony. Youth Association of Mohammad Ali Park has been known for its state of the art presentation over the years and hopefully this year will be even grander.

Speaking to the media, Mr. Surendra Kr Sharma, General Secretary of Md. Ali Park Durga Puja said, "After its huge success over the years, where we have been receiving multiple awards from different segments, the entire team of Youth Association of Mohammad Ali Park is fully charged up once again for this year also. In the past years our puja has drawn many lakhs of visitors every day. In the midst of these pujas all over, just wait and watch for our part of glitters. We are confident that people would appreciate our effort this year too." he added inviting everyone to come to the puja with family and friends.

About Youth Association of Md. Ali Park: One of the most popular Durga Pujas of Central Kolkata that one must visit is the Mohammad Ali Park Durga Puja that is held every year and showcases magnificent architecture. The Mohammad Ali Park Durga Puja Samity has won several awards in different categories and hence it is also considered as one of the prestigious Durga Puja in Kolkata which is organized by the Youth Association established in 1969. This is one of the most prestigious clubs of North & Central Kolkata.



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LPG price hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder; to cost Rs 1,053 per 14.2-kg cylinder

NEW DELHI: Cooking gas LPG price on July 6 was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder, the third increase in rates since May on firming international energy prices. Non-subsidised LPG

May 19. Prices have gone up by Rs 244 per cylinder since June 2021. Of this, Rs 153.50 increase happened since March 2022. Petrol and diesel prices, however, continue to be on freeze

non-subsidised rate). Originally, non-subsidised cooking gas was the one that consumers used to buy after exhausting their quota of 12 cylinders at subsidised or below-market rates.

2,012.50 per 19-kg cylinder in the national capital, down from Rs 2,021 per cylinder. International oil prices have been on the rise this year. They jumped to a 13-year high of USD 140



now costs Rs 1,053 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital, up from Rs 1,003 previously, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Common households pay non-subsidised rates for the cooking gas they buy, after the government restricted subsidy to just poor beneficiaries who got connections under the Ujjwala scheme. This is the third increase in the LPG rate since May and the fourth this year. The price was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder on March 22 and again by the same quantum on May 7. Rates went up by Rs 3.50 per cylinder on

for the third straight month. The pause followed rates being hiked by a record Rs 10 per litre in a matter of 16 days beginning March 22. In May, the government cut excise duty on petrol by Rs 8 per litre and diesel by Rs 6 per litre to cool soaring inflation. At that time, the government also stated that Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy on cooking gas will be limited to only 9 crore poor women and other beneficiaries who got free connections under the Ujjwala scheme and the remaining users will pay the market price (also known as

However, the government stopped paying subsidy on LPG to households in mid-2020. Non-subsidised LPG costs Rs 1,052.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Mumbai, while it is priced at Rs 1,079 a bottle in Chennai and Rs 1,068.50 in Kolkata. Rates differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT. Prices are higher in states with higher taxes. Alongside, oil firms also reduced the price of commercial LPG cylinders -- the ones used by establishments like hotels and restaurants. It now costs Rs

per barrel in March before shedding some of the gains. Brent was trading at USD 103.92 per barrel on Wednesday. To compound things, the Indian rupee tumbled to Rs 79.24 to a dollar, making imports costlier. India relies on overseas purchases to meet about 85 per cent of its oil requirement, making it one of the most vulnerable in Asia to higher oil prices. While India has surplus oil refining capacity, it does not manufacture enough LPG to meet domestic demand and imports significant quantities from nations such as Saudi Arabia.

Ola likely to lay off up to 500 employees in cost-cutting exercise

NEW DELHI: As Bhavish Aggarwal focuses his energies

dated teams" to keep its "strong profitability intact".

it focuses on its electric two-wheeler and electric car verticals. Ola has so far shut down Ola Cafe, food panda, Ola Foods, and now Ola Dash. "Ola has reassessed its priorities and decided to shut down Ola Dash -- its quick commerce business. Ola will also be reorienting its Ola Cars business to focus more on strengthening the go-to-market strategy for Ola Electric," the company had said in a statement. It added that Ola Cars' infra, technology and capabilities will be "repurposed towards growing Ola Electric's sales and service network". Ola winds up q-commerce platform 'Ola Dash', to repurpose Ola Cars unit for Ola Electric. Ola now aims to in-

vest more towards its electric car, cell manufacturing, and financial services businesses. Ola Electric, amid several high-profile exits, is also facing scrutiny over faulty batteries in its electric two-wheelers, among other EV players like Okinawa Autotech, Pure EV, Jitendra Electric Vehicles, and Boom Motors, by the government. Alarmed at the unabated EV fire incidents, the Centre has now sent show cause notices to EV manufacturers, warning them why a penal action should not be taken against them for delivering faulty electric two-wheelers to the public. The EV makers have been given time till July end to respond in detail to the notices.



towards Ola Electric, the ride-hailing platform Ola is planning to lay off up to 500 employees across departments as it aims to cut cost and streamline operations amid the ongoing funding winter. According to reliable sources, SoftBank-backed Ola has asked senior executives to find employees in their teams on performance basis who can be asked to go. The company is reportedly looking at "leaner and consoli-

Ola, which has delayed its IPO plans, has also reportedly shopped its global investment plans to further expand overseas. The company currently has nearly 1,100 employees in its core ride-hailing business and directly competes with Uber. Last month, Ola shut down its used vehicle business Ola Cars as well as Ola Dash, its quick-commerce business. The company shut Ola Cars within one years of its launch, as

SpiceJet shares bounce back; settle over two per cent higher

NEW DELHI: Shares of SpiceJet bounced back on Wednesday, rising more than 2 per cent amid value-



buying at lower levels in tandem with a positive trend in the equity market. Since Monday, the scrip has been on a downward trend amid multiple instances of its planes suffering technical glitches in recent weeks. The scrip, which tanked 7 per cent to hit its 52-week low of Rs 35 during the day on the BSE, later recovered all the lost ground and climbed 2.12 per cent to settle at Rs 38.45 apiece. It jumped 6.24 per cent to Rs 40 during the trade on Wednesday after opening at Rs 37.10 apiece.

PM Modi to inaugurate 31 projects worth Rs 558 crore in Kashi on Thursday

Continued from page-1

for primary school students are prepared," said district magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma. The PM will also inaugurate the three-day Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam, which will adopt the Varanasi Declaration on Higher Education showcasing India's extended vision and a renewed commitment to help achieve the goals of the higher education system. At a seminar organised by the ministry of education in association with the University Grants Commission and Banaras Hindu University at the Rudraksh Convention Centre, the roadmap for effective implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 would be taken up. Modi will then leave for neighbouring Sampurnanand sports stadium to address a public meeting, said Sharma.

Dalai Lama turns 87; Tibetans in exile celebrate his birthday in Dharamshala

Continued from page-1

Moreover, he has been successful in exposing the true nature of the anti-democratic, anti-religious, and anti-humanistic attitude of China and the untold sufferings of the Tibetans under the Chinese administration. China has always interfered in the matters of Tibet and has tried to prevent the people from exercising their spiritual practices. It continues to sinicize Buddhism, recently by imposing a ban on sharing religious content on social media. The Dalai Lama has won widespread international support for the Tibetan independence movement. He has been fighting with non-violence for the last many decades and has been convincing the international community on the right to their homeland, and culture, the restoration of the thousands of Buddhist monasteries that were destroyed by China, and the freedom of hundreds of Tibetans captured by Beijing.

Presidential polls: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik reaches out to all MLAs for support to Droupadi Murmu

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The OPCC president also said that the BJD is doing its work and the Congress will stand by the united Opposition candidate. After visiting Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Assam, Murmu is scheduled to come to Odisha, her home state on July 8. According to sources, Murmu will separately meet the BJD and BJP MLAs. She will also have a one-on-one meeting with the Chief Minister at Naveen Nivas. She will meet the BJD MLAs at a conference hall in the Assembly and the BJP legislators at the State guest house. UPA candidate Yashwant Sinha's visit to Odisha on July 6 has been cancelled at the last minute as he is unwell. In the 147-member Assembly, BJD has 112 members while the BJP has 22. The Congress has nine MLAs while CPM has one member. The House has only one Independent member besides two members expelled from the BJD.

EU lawmakers back gas, nuclear energy as sustainable in green labelling system

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climate change, the decision could tarnish the bloc's image and question the region's commitment to reaching climate neutrality by 2050. The European Commission earlier this year made the proposal as part of its plans for building a climate-friendly future, dividing member countries and drawing outcry from environmentalists as "greenwashing." EU legislators from the environment and economy committees objected last month to the plan, setting up Wednesday's decisive vote in Strasbourg, France. But MEPs rejected their resolution in a 328-278 vote, with 33 lawmakers abstaining. The result was announced in a salvo of applause.

An absolute majority of 353 was needed to veto the proposal. If the European Parliament and member countries don't object to the proposal by July 11, the delegated will enter into force and apply as of next year. Greenpeace immediately said it will submit a formal request for internal review to the European Commission, and then take legal action at the European Court of Justice if the result isn't European Union chief warns danger of complete cut-off of Russian gas

"It's dirty politics and it's an outrageous outcome to label gas and nuclear as green and keep more money flowing to (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's war chest, but now we will fight this in the courts," said Ariadna Rodrigo, Greenpeace's EU sustainable finance campaigner. European Parliament rapporteur Bas Eickhout rued "a dark day for the climate and the energy transition."

The green labelling system from the European Commission defines what qualifies as an investment in sustainable energy. Under certain conditions, gas and nuclear energy will now be part of the mix, making it easier for private investors to inject money into both.

With the EU aiming to reach climate neutrality by 2050 and to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, the commission says the classification system is crucial to direct investments into sustainable energy. It estimates that about 350 billion euros of investment per year will be needed to meet the 2030 targets.

Introducing gas and nuclear in the equation has divided the 27 member countries amid Russia's war in Ukraine, and even the parliament's political groups.

Luxembourg's energy minister, Claude Turmes, said he deeply regretted the European Parliament's failure to block the commission's plan, adding that his country together with Austria would move ahead with legal efforts to block the labelling of nuclear and gas as sustainable.

Protests that had started on Tuesday continued Wednesday outside the EU legislature as lawmakers debated the issue.

Environmentalists warned the vote could set a precedent for lawmakers elsewhere to label polluting forms of energy as sustainable.

"We have now officially validated greenwashing by law," said Tsvetelina Kuzmanova of the campaign group E3G.

"The process and the decision have been entirely political, not scientific, to only benefit a small number of member states," she said. "This would not stand a chance in court and will only create more uncertainty for financial markets and jeopardize EU's climate ambition."

The youth activist group Fridays for Future said billions of euros could be pumped into gas infrastructure and nuclear power plants as a result of the decision, diverting much-needed funds from renewable alternatives.

One argument for rejecting the proposal is that it will boost Russian gas sales at a time when it is invading neighbouring Ukraine, but the European Commission said it had received a letter from the Ukrainian government backing its stance.

European Commissioner Mairead McGuinness quoted from the letter from Ukraine's energy minister Tuesday: "I strongly believe that the inclusion of gas and nuclear in the taxonomy is an important element of the energy security in Europe, especially with a view to replacing Russian gas."

"I don't think we should second-guess this letter," McGuinness said.

Russia's war in Ukraine has prompted the 27-nation bloc to sever ties with Russian fossil fuels. Member countries have agreed to ban 90% of Russian oil by year-end in addition to a ban on imports of Russian coal that will start in August.

But the EU hasn't included gas — a fuel used to power factories and generate electricity — in its own sanctions for fear of seriously harming the European economy. Before the war in Ukraine, it relied on Russia for 25% of its oil and 40% of its natural gas.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta insists Frenkie de Jong is not for sale



BARCELONA: Barcelona president Joan Laporta said Wednesday that Dutch midfielder Frenkie de Jong is not for sale despite rumours of a departure to the Premier League.

De Jong "is a Barca player and unless we have a need or interest in selling him, we don't want to sell him," Laporta said as the club unveiled new signing Franck Kessie.

"We know he has offers. If at some moment we were interested, we would consider it, but right now, we're not selling the player," Laporta insisted.

De Jong, 25, has been heavily linked with a move to Manchester United and a reunion with former Ajax boss Erik ten Hag, who is preparing for his first season at Old Trafford.

Dhawan to lead India in away ODI series against Windies; Rohit, Kohli among those rested

NEW DELHI: Shikhar Dhawan was on Wednesday named India captain for the three ODIs against the West Indies in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, while Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant were among those who have been rested for the series beginning on July 22 in Port of Spain, Trinidad. Two other senior players, Jasprit Bumrah and



Mohammad Shami have also been rested. Hardik Pandya, who recently made his India comeback following a successful IPL, is also not a part of the side.

Deepak Hooda, Sanju Samson, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Avesh Khan, who are not part of ODI squad for the series in England beginning July 12, have been included in the 16-member team for the West Indies tour.

Shubman Gill, who last played an ODI in December 2020, has also got the selectors' nod.

Ravindra Jadeja has been named Dhawan's deputy for the series.

Dhawan, who only plays ODI, had first captained the side during the tour of Sri Lanka last year when the Test specialists were in England.

There has been criticism from some quarters regarding the appointment of too many captains of the Indian team over the past one year

Laporta revealed the club had made an offer to France international Ousmane Dembele, whose contract with Barca expired at the end of June.

"Ousmane is no longer a Barca player, but we made him an offer," said Laporta. "He hasn't accepted it yet, but he wants to continue talking."

"We're going to carry on speaking, at least for now."

Laporta also acknowledged having lunch with Jorge Mendes, the agent of Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo who is reportedly looking to leave Manchester United.

"We discussed the transfer market in general, but I'm not going to specify if he spoke to me about a player in particular," said Laporta.

with Bumrah, Pant, Rahul, Hardik, Dhawan leading the side due to scheduling and injury issues, and as part of workload management. All three games will be played in Port of Spain.

The games in the West Indies are the only ODIs India will play before the T20 World Cup in Australia and therefore, senior play-

ers being rested doesn't come entirely as a surprise.

After the ODIs, India will play five T20Is against the West Indies in the Caribbean and the United States, the squad for which is yet to be announced.

Considering every T20I game is important before the World Cup in Australia, the senior players are likely to return for the five-match series to be played from July 29 to August 7.

The T20I matches will be played in Trinidad, St Kitts and Lauderhill in Florida.

The ODI Squad: Shikhar Dhawan (captain), Ravindra Jadeja (vice-captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Prasidh Krishna, Mohd Siraj, Arshdeep Singh.

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