



A delegation of Indian National Congress Rajya Sabha MPs met Hon'ble Vice President of India and Rajya Sabha Chairman Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and apprised him of the brutal violation of privileges of MPs by the Delhi police & urged him to deal with the matter appropriately. The eight MPs delegation constituted Shri KC Venugopal, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Shri P Chidambaram, Shri Jairam Ramesh, Shri Neeraj Dangi, Shri Nasir Hussain, Smt. Ameer Yajnik & Smt. Jebi Mather.

Odisha government constitutes SIT to probe Athagarh elephant deaths

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Faced with severe criticism over a series of elephant deaths un-

angles such as alleged connivance of staff, criminal negligence and wilful conceal-

ment of facts. The carcass of a male tusker, suspected to have been killed and buried, was exhumed on Wednesday by forest officials near Kharada village within Baramba range where the STF of the Crime Branch had dug out remains of a male and a female elephant earlier this month.

The constitution of SIT by the Forest, Environment and Climate Change department came after skeletal remains of three elephants were recovered from the Athagarh forest division.

The carcass of a male tusker, suspected to have been killed and buried, was exhumed on Wednesday by forest officials near Kharada village within Baramba range where the STF of the Crime Branch had dug out remains of a male and a female elephant earlier this month.

The STF team had excavated skull and skeleton of two elephants at two different sites - one over revenue land of Bhaluabereni village adjacent to Talachandragiri reserve forest and the other over a private land of Mahatbandha village near Chandragiri reserve forest on June 2 and 3 respectively.

"The recovery of skull against Sonia and Rahul. If the BJP thinks that the Congress will be suppressed by such tactics, they are wrong as all party workers and leaders stand by Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, he added.

The march was joined by former OPCC president Niranjan Patnaik, leader of the Congress Legislature Party Narasingha Mishra, party legislators Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Ramesh Jena, Jayadev Jena and Suresh Kumar Routray.

Monsoon Reaches Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre on Thursday informed that the southwest monsoon has reached Odisha.

After a brief delay, the southwest monsoon has advanced into some parts of southern Odisha. Under its influence, few southern districts experienced rainfall activities today, said the Met Centre.

and skeleton of two elephants inside a single Beat area of one section in Badamba range indicates that there is a serious lapse by the departmental staff and it has given rise to allegations of their connivance and wilful concealment of facts," an office order of the Forest department read.

On Wednesday, taking cognisance of the deaths of elephants, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) had asked the State government to take stringent action in the matter as per the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and submit an action taken report at the earliest.

Meanwhile, the Wildlife Wing has already booked and arrested three watchers and a forest guard under the Wildlife Protection Act. Two foresters are absconding. Three range officers have been placed under suspension over negligence in duty.

Agnipath protests: Union ministers, CMs urge students not to be 'deceived'; political blame game starts

NEW DELHI(KCN): Amid students' protests over the Agnipath scheme for recruitment into the armed forces, Union ministers and chief ministers of the BJP-led states defended the

diers.

In a statement, Choubey said Prime Minister Narendra Modi always thinks and works for the welfare of the country.



"We assure you that this programme is a constructive step to bring in long-term positive results. Lakhs of youngsters will not only benefit from this, but the nationalistic sentiments within them will also be strengthened," he said.

Those selected under the scheme will get priority in central and state government jobs, he added.

step on Thursday, saying it will open new avenues for youngsters, and urged them to keep away from those inciting them.

Echoing similar sentiments, Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the scheme is a grand campaign for developing skilled manpower in the country. Describing the scheme as "historic", Tomar said, "It will open new avenues for youngsters and pave the way for their better future."

Similarly, Yogi Adityanath and Pushkar Singh Dhami, the chief

Continued on: P-7

Presidential elections 2022: BJD skips Mamata Banerjee's Opposition meet

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Amid reports that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the upcoming Presidential election, the ruling BJD skipped the Opposition parties meeting convened by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday to build consensus on a joint candidate.

However, there has been no confirmation either

date Ram Nath Kovind in the 2017 election. However, surprising political pundits, the Chief Minister had extended BJD's support to Opposition vice-presidential candidate Gopal Krishna Gandhi in the same year.

Senior vice-president of the BJD Prasanna Acharya said that the Chief Minister took the decision to stay away from the meeting called



by the Chief Minister's office or BJD sources regarding Rajnath's discussion with Naveen. This is not the first time that the BJD has stayed away from meetings by Opposition political parties on the President's election. The last time too the regional party had abstained from a meeting by the Opposition for deciding on a candidate to oppose the NDA. The BJD had extended support to NDA candi-

by Mamata taking into account all aspects and keeping the interest of the State in mind. He said that the Chief Minister will take an appropriate decision at the appropriate time. The Chief Minister had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah at New Delhi on May 30 triggering speculation that he had discussed the Presidential election with the two leaders.



der mysterious circumstances in the Athagarh forest division, the Odisha government on Thursday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the incidents and suppression of facts.

The three-member SIT headed by Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (Angul circle) will carry out a thorough and comprehensive investigation into the deaths.

The team comprising Conservator of Forest (ET) and an officer of Special Task Force (STF) of Crime Branch not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police will also probe various

National Herald case: Congress leaders in Bhubaneswar protest ED summons to Gandhis

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Congress leaders and workers on Monday marched to the of-



office of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here as a part of the nationwide protest against summons to party president Sonia Gandhi and former president Rahul Gandhi in connection with the National Herald case. Stating that the ED summons were completely unconstitutional, president of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Sarat Pattanayak alleged that the BJP-led government is misusing Central agencies to intimidate political opponents. He demanded immediate withdrawal of case

Environment Excellence Award

Barbil (KCN): Another feather in the cap for JSW Steel Ltd (Odisha Operation) as its Jajang iron ore mine bagged the prestigious Kalinga "Environment Excellence Award" during a gala event held at the New Marriion hotel in Bhubaneswar on Saturday. The award was received by Ram Sharma, AVP (Mines operation), Jajang iron ore mine, along with the environment department team, led by Suresh Kumar Mohapatra. The company was adjudged with the award in the Five-Star (Highest conferred) Category

for the Performance Year 2021. JSW Steel was bestowed with such an honour for its best practices in environmental management here. COO of JSW Steel (Odisha & Jharkhand) Ranjan Nayak, Project Head (Odisha) Ashesh

Kumar Padhy and Mines Operation Head (Odisha) BRK Padhi congratulated the team for the achievement. The event was organized by IQEMS (Institute of Quality & Environment Services) and State Pollution Control Board, Bhubaneswar. Recently, JSW Narayanposhi and Jajang iron ore mines bagged awards for sustainability practices from Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) Bhubaneswar Chapter. JSW Narayanposhi Mines bagged an award in reclamation and rehabilitation category while Jajang iron ore mine received awards for publicity and propaganda linked to sustainability initiatives.



award was given away during valedictory cum award ceremony of the National Seminar on Sustainable

Moj successfully hosts the first 'Moj DayOut' for its creators in Kolkata

Over 85 popular Moj creators came together to create exciting content in Bengali at the event

Kolkata(KCN): Moj, India's number one short-video platform, recently hosted its first exclusive event, Moj DayOut, in Kolkata for its talented Bengali creator community. The event witnessed over 85 creators coming together to collaborate and create exciting content. Popular Bengali creators who attended the Kolkata event included Deep Mitra, Priya

traditional content on Moj and enjoy engaging with their community in Bengali. At our maiden event in Kolkata, it was amazing to see the energy of aspiring young creators. They bonded with each other over creativity, similar struggles, and background. We believe that popular content and creators will emerge from West Bengal in the near future."



Mitra, Mouli Dutta, Sukant Kundu and Mou Chatterjee. The budding Bengali creators had the opportunity to meet and interact with seasoned creators and explore ideas for future content collaborations. During the one-day event, creators exchanged content ideas and helped one another by sharing their journey, learnings, insights, and even simple tips and tricks for creating engaging short videos. Recognizing the potential of West Bengal's young talent, Moj plans to launch a slew of new initiatives to foster a robust community of creators, promoting and encouraging the city's talented youth to create relevant content for the platform. Speaking about the event, Shashank Shekhar, Sr. Director, Content Strategy and Operations, Moj and ShareChat, said, "We are excited to see active participation and enthusiasm from the talented youth of West Bengal on Moj. They create contemporary as well as

Popular Bengali Moj creator with 1.9 million followers, Deep Mitra, added, "Meeting such amazing, like-minded Bengali creators at Moj DayOut in Kolkata was inspiring. I'm excited to be a member of this dynamic group of content creators whose creativity knows no bounds. This was a fantastic learning opportunity for all of us. I'd want to express my gratitude to Moj for creating an initiative like Moj DayOut, which enables us to share our knowledge and improve our abilities." The creators at the event showcased their talents across various content categories like dance, comedy, and acting, where hashtags such as #KolkataCollab, #GameOfRolls, #KeuJaaneNa, #TomakeChai, #Pyarelaal, #BengaliComedy were trending. The day was packed with opportunities for learning, collaboration, and fun, with the opportunistic location of Raajkutir IHQL Selections, Kolkata.

Vi Introduces SonyLIV Premium Add-on Pack for its Postpaid Users

K O L K A T A (KCN): To provide worry free binge experience, Vi, the leading telecom operator, today introduced SonyLIV Premium add-on pack option for its Postpaid Users. The new Postpaid special pack offers 30 day access to SonyLIV premium content clubbed with 10GB of free data at a monthly

subscription fee of just Rs.100 (including Taxes), which gets added to the user's postpaid bill. Vi Postpaid Users can now binge watch popular movies, shows, live sports, exclusive content and more on both Mobile and TV. From sports properties like UEFA Champions League, WWE,

Bundesliga, UFC to originals like Scam 1992 - The Harshad Mehta Story, Maharani, Tabbar, Rocket Boys, Gullak Season 3; regional content like Salute, Kaanekkaane, Shantit Kranti and James and international shows The Good Doctor, Fantasy Island and Magpie Murders, SonyLIV has a bouquet of

attractive content offerings appealing to audiences across age groups and interests. In addition to this, Vi offers a rich content library for its customers under Vi Movies & TV (Vi MTV) on the Vi app. Vi MTV app has 450+ live TV channels, live news channels and premium content from other OTT apps.

World Blood Donors Day -2022.Odisha Mo-Parivar Organized Blood Donation Camp

Khordha(KCN): On the occasions of World Blood Donors Day-2022, Odisha Mo-Parivar Organized Blood Donation Camp at PWD, IB, Khordha. The Programme was Co-ordinated by Khordha District Odisha Mo-Parivar Co-



ordinator Dillip kumar Hota. The Blood Donation Camp was Inaugurated by MLA, Khordha, Joytrindra Nath Mitra. World Blood Donation Day-2022 was observed annually for Worldwide to Raise Awareness about the need of Safe Blood and Blood Products and also to thank Blood Donors for their life saving noble act. Donating Blood is essential for saving lives and it also offers an arrays of physical and mental health benefits to the donors. The World Blood Donors Day slogan for the year-2022 is " Donating Blood is an act of Solidarity, Join the efforts and Save Lives ". In order to draw attention play in sav-

ing lives and enhancing solidarity within communities." Total- 48 units of Blood Collected in this Camp. President Zilla Parishad Khordha, Mrs. Rupa Shree Rani Gumansingh, Vice-Chairman, Panchayat Samiti, Khordha, Prakash Kumar Samantaray, Biju Mahila Janta Dal State Vice-President Mrs. Basanti Mohapatra, Khordha District Odisha Mo-Parivar, Assistant Co-ordinator, Srikumar Khuntia, BYJD, State Secretary Rudra Nath Dutta, BCJD, State General Secretary, Nasim Khan, Representative of Khordha Municipality, Ward no-13 Councillor, Rajesh Pradhan,



Khordha, District, BCJD, Digital Secretary, Goutam Mishra, Councillor Khordha Municipality Ward no-6, Kamal Pradhan, Khordha District BYJD, General Secretary Sangram Pradhan and among others were present and encourage the blood donors.

Multinational Company EXFO Joined with Spread Happiness Foundation to extend the CSR activity

Bellaguntha(KCN): Whether it is a social service or literature or environmental protection or the fight against corona. Spread Happiness Foundation, a voluntary organization lead by Soumya Ranjan

attack in April last year, was instrumental in transporting his body to Vitamati. Kalu Nayak of Sorda area, who died in an accident in Kerala in February this year and Spread Happiness Foundation has won the hearts of the Dadan family by transporting Gandhi Patra's body to its village in April and again buried the body of Ranjan Mallick, 37, of Nuagaon in Sorda block of Ganjam district, along with his two other brothers in



Mohapatra, a youth from Bellaguntha in Ganjam district, has taken the lead in everything.



Tamil Nadu, has reportedly succeeded. Ranjan was working as a daily labor in the Shantiped area of Coimbatore, last Thursday night he was bitten by a venomous snake. Ranjan's two brothers rushed him to a local government hospital, where he died on Saturday after undergoing two days of treatment. After the autopsy of Ranjan there, the Spread Happiness Foundation, started working in collaboration with Mr. Mahesh, a member of the local voluntary organization Sewa Bharati and Perianaikenpalayam police station, to do the needful arrangements to bring Ranjan's body to Odisha to his home town. With the help of Indian Railway the body was carried by special wagon to Berhampur station then Ambulance was arranged for his hometown. His funeral was held in his village with a mournful atmosphere. The Ganjam district labor officer also assisted in the work and in follow-up with the Founder of the Organization. Locals, including Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra, president of the Spread Happiness Foundation, have demanded Odisha government to provide immediate assistance to widows and helpless three girl of late Ranjan. After seeing from differ sources such activities, A multinational Company named EXFO Electro Optical Engineering Pvt. Ltd. has joined his helping hand with Spread Happiness Foundation in carrying out various Social activities all over India for betterment of society as a Corporate Social Responsibility. Students from Nirma University Mrs. Isha Mishra ,Riya Choudhary from Ahmedabad ,Gujarat and Ashutosh Tripathy and Somit Das from Gandhi Nagar,Gujrat have also joined their hands in carrying various activities related to Art of Giving as well as creating awareness among under privileged kids at Ahmedabad under the guidance of General Secretary Anand Kumar Mohapatra.



Since its inception, many public benefit programs have become popular during the past years. The organization has been instrumental in solving various problems of migrants living in various part of country like Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Kerala as well as in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The organization's activity gradually spread from Maharashtra to other states of India, including Odisha, Kerala and Gujarat. Organization has launched various programs to raise awareness of children in Odisha and outside Odisha, including the implementation of corona awareness, environmental protection programs. In addition, the organization has come under fire for distributing hygiene kits at various leprosy centers and collecting blood stem cells for the first time in Odisha. In the meantime, the organization has played a key role in bringing the bodies of several Dadan workers to its native land within a year, creating a unique identity of its own. Chittaranjan Mohanty, 44, of Patkura areain Kendrapara district, who died of a heart

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'Shakeela' trailer falls flat, lacks the punch expected in a star biopic



The trailer of Indrajit Lankesh's Hindi language film "Shakeela" doesn't hold much to impress. From using modern-day Hindi music to cliched film sets, it feels like a repackaging of Vidya Balan's 'Dirty Picture' except that this version fails to bring the charm Vidya brought to the

screen. The film, as described by the filmmakers of 'Shakeela', is "inspired by life events of a famous star Shakeela who predominantly starred in southern cinema." It features Richa Chadha as the titular adult actor who was one of the biggest stars of the 1990s ar-

iving from Kerala who went on to act in several adult films in languages spanning Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada, while Pankaj Tripathi is the male lead. The film is described to "portray the hardships of the actress as she had to face a lot of criticism, insults and betrayals from

her own family members and the film fraternity who were influential in getting her films banned." The main reason for the success of 'Kinnarathumbikal', one of the films that catapulted her into the limelight, was solely her screen presence and energy, and with no other male lead in the

movie. Trying to fill in the gaping hole left by Silk Smitha in the low-budget softcore industry, Shakeela made her own mark with around 250 movies in her kitty -- heralding the 'Shakeela Tharangam' (The wave of Shakeela). Meanwhile, the Shakeela that

Indrajith is trying to portray doesn't look like she has much story to tell. The screen-space also seems to be overpowered by star cast Pankaj Tripathi. Let's hope the full length movie holds more than what the trailer showed. The film is produced by Sammy Nanwani and Sahil Nanwani, with music by Meet Bros and Veer Samarth.

Priyanka Chopra reveals husband Nick Jonas likes her 'natural' looks, calls him 'appreciator'

WASHINGTON(K-CN): Nick Jonas has

Chopra. The actor re-

2019 and revealed how her husband is

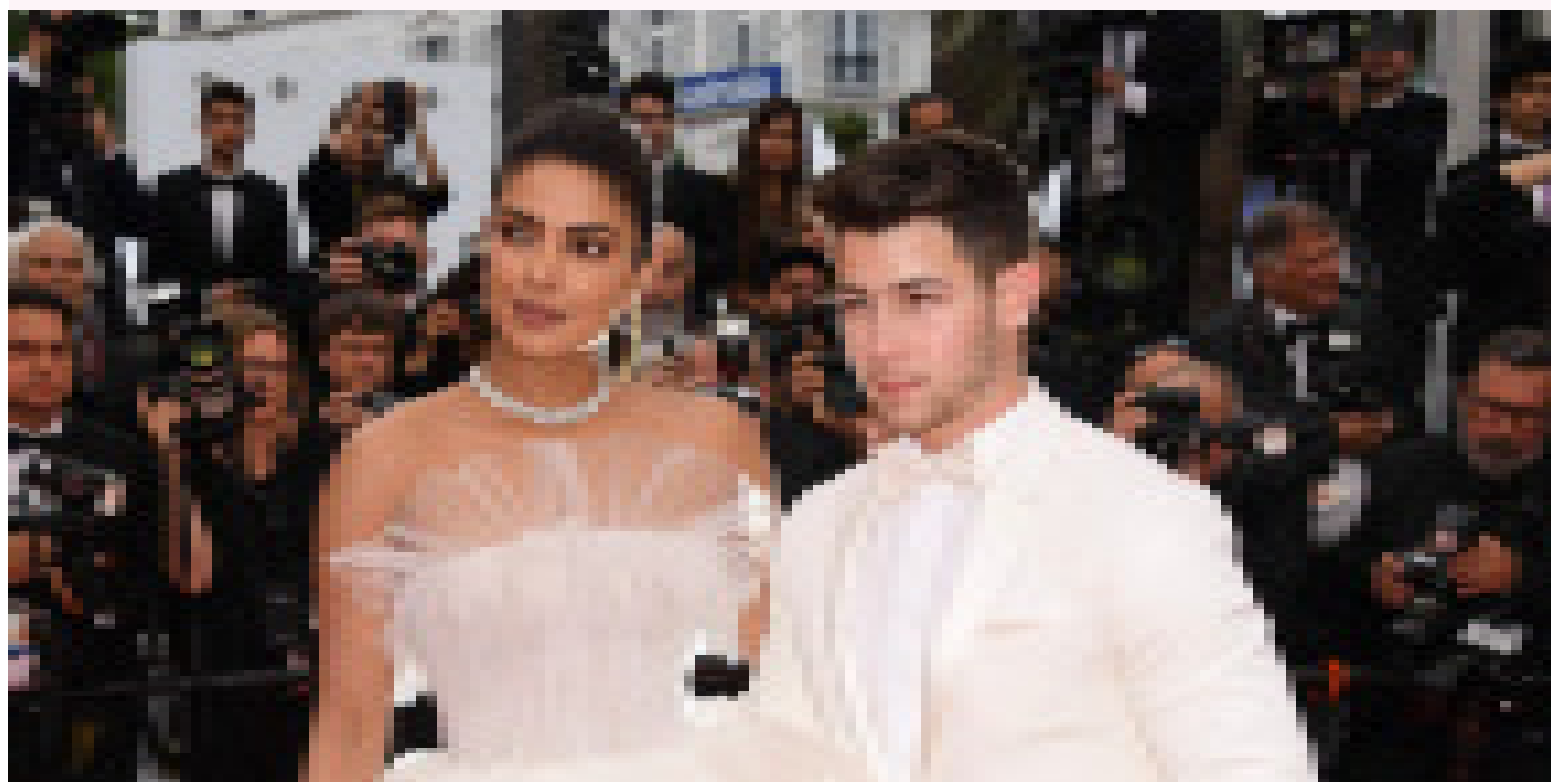
natural or a more glamorous look.

"there are days when he likes a really natu-

went all out for the event, wearing a sheer black top with a pussycat bow, a white blazer paired with a matching pair of pants. Adding a pop of colour to the whole look, she opted for striking pink eye makeup with a matching bold lip colour.

Earlier this month, Priyanka joined her fellow J sisters Sophie Turner and Danielle Jonas in celebrating the first night of their husbands' 'Happiness Begins' tour. All three women rocked Jonas Brothers T-shirts.

The actor shared that it was "really cool" that they all decided on coordinating their outfits since they "have such distinct personalities."



nothing but love and admiration for his wife Priyanka

cently spoke to People at Beautycon Festival Los Angeles

full of admiration for her whether she decides to go for a more

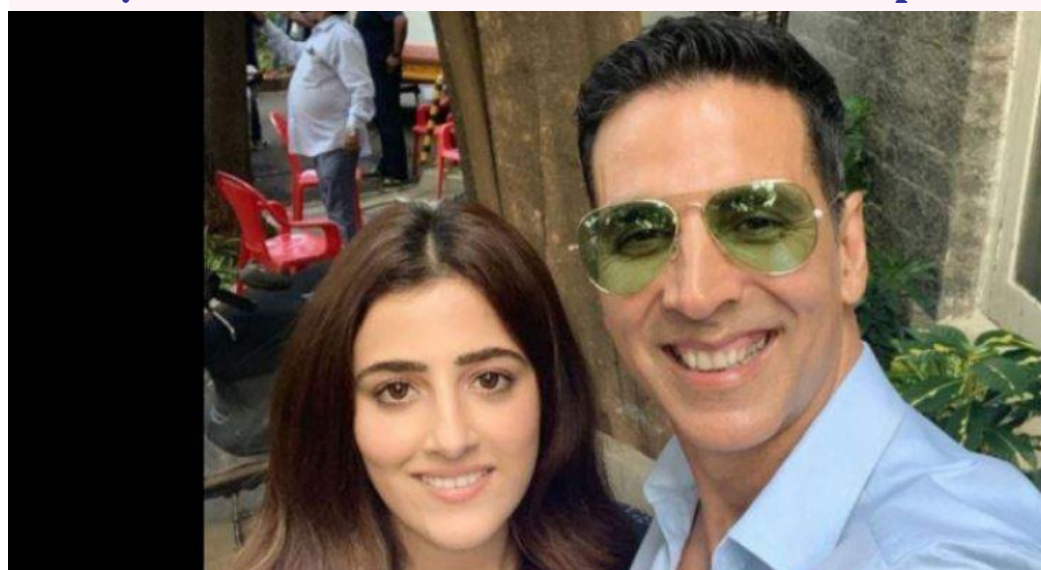
"He likes a bit of both," the 'Quantico' star, said, adding that

real thing."

The 'Mary Kom' actor added, "He's an appreciator. He's someone who can appreciate both things."

In honour of Beautycon, Priyanka

Akshay Kumar shoots with Kriti Sanon's sister Nupur for music video



MUMBAI(KCN): Actor Akshay Kumar on Sunday shot for singer B Praaks new single with actress Kriti Sanon's younger sister Nupur.

written by Jaani. B Praak has previously lent his voice to the song "Teri Mitti" in Akshay's film "Kesari".

ALSO READ: Akshay Kumar has a namesake actor in

London! The song will also feature renowned Punjabi singer Ammy Virk.

A lot of pictures are doing the rounds on the internet in which Akshay is seen

posing with Nupur and Ammy at the St. Xavier's college in Mumbai.

On the work front, Akshay will be seen in "Housefull 4" and "Good Newwz" this year.

Just 'normal' to exclude women in decision making process: Adil Hussain

MUMBAI(KCN): Actor Adil Hussain has offered support to the growing group of female artistes who are asking the reason for women's absence from the Bollywood delegation of producers and actors that recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues faced by the film industry.

On Tuesday, an 18-member panel, including Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar, Ajay Devgn, Siddharth Roy Kapur,

Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Prasoon Joshi, met Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

The meeting of the delegation came under fire on Wednesday for its exclusion of female representation with some activists and filmmakers pointing out that it was 2018 and asking, "Where are the women?" Adil took to Twitter to criticise the panel that met the prime minister.

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International Yoga Das on June-21

Yoga for Health Beauty and Immunity

How often do we consider yoga as a tool to enhance beauty, mental peace and boost our immune system? Our immune system is of utmost importance and plays a significant role in keeping us fit, beautiful and healthy.



While there are many ways to stay calm, healthy and look attractive this time of year, yoga has proven to be one of the best ways to not only avoid getting sick but to strengthen your overall immune system along the way.

Yoga helps us fight infections by boosting our immune system, reducing stress and strengthening our body's functions and systems which leads to healthy and attractive outlook.

As the country continues to battle the Covid-19 pandemic, India's traditional system of Yoga has been established as a means to boost immunity and improve overall health and well-being. A consistent yoga practice – along with certain poses in particular – can support and boost the immune system.

Lack of sleep, poor nutrition, and stressful life all lead to a weakened immune system and vulnerability to sickness.

In addition to the basic measures taken this time of year—getting enough sleep, eating whole foods, stressing less—yoga is a proactive way to take control of your health so you can feel cheerful, all year long.

In this fast-moving world where one hardly gets time to take care of himself, here we bring to you a complete yoga routine that you can follow to maintain your immunity.

You do not have to be born beautiful. You can acquire beautiful, supple, glowing and flawless skin by treating yourself from inside through selection of yoga poses and exercises

rather than relying on expensive cosmetics and time consuming salon treatments .

You can enhance your beauty with yoga by incorporating strict guidelines in your daily life. Regular yoga practice pranayama, and meditation aid you in reverse the signs of ageing including wrinkles, saggy skin, crow's feet and fine lines amongst other .

Pranayam helps purifying the blood because of the increased intake of oxygen, which is very crucial for improving immunity. Yoga is one of the most effective and time-tested natural immunity boosters that can lead to a healthy, sickness-free body.

Mindfulness meditation can have benefits for health and performance, including improved immune function, reduced blood pressure and enhanced cognitive function.

Those who regularly practice yoga and meditation have a certain glow about them that comes from within and radiates outward .Yoga helps lower stress hormones that compromise the immune system, while also conditioning the lungs and respiratory tract, stimulating the lymphatic system to oust toxins from the body, and bringing oxygenated blood to the various organs to ensure their optimal function which helps us to remain healthy and attain inner beauty .

Mindfulness meditation can have benefits for health and performance, including improved immune function, reduced blood pressure and enhanced cognitive function. Meditation produces more antibodies in people. It significantly increases left-sided, anterior brain activation (pattern indicating positive emotions) in meditators (compared to non-meditating controls) and that this activity was associated with the rise in antibodies

The practice of yoga may greatly aid in helping you look more youthful and more refresh. I have always said that a strong immune sys-

Shahnaz Husain

tem, good health and beauty are complimentary to each other

. Unless you are healthy from the inside, you cannot reflect true beauty. For a flawless skin, shiny hair and a slim figure, good health must be on top of the list. In fact, I promoted the Ayurvedic principles of holistic health, with yoga as an integral part of the program. This concept of holistic beauty care was unique and caught on worldwide. In fact, I believe that yoga is very relevant to our modern lifestyle, in terms of both health and beauty. Personally, it has been a part of my life and I have experienced its numerous benefits.

The appeal of Yoga lies in the fact that it helps both body and mind. It not only works on all the muscle groups, but also increases vitality, tones the internal organs, stimulates the nerve centres, relieves stress and clears the mind which boost immunity and gives you attractive personality and beauty from within . Although it is an ancient Indian discipline, it has also gained relevance as a means of attaining a well-balanced personality and delaying the visible signs of ageing. The other important aspect of Yoga is that it involves breath control and specifies the inhalation and exhalation of breath during the exercises. Thus, it helps oxygenation which boost immunity imparts a feeling of physical and mental exhilaration. This is so important for beauty, because feeling good is an integral part of looking good .

Yoga improves blood circulation, including the circulation of blood to the skin surface. This is so important for the good health of the skin, as it helps to supply essential nutrients to the skin. It also promotes the removal of toxins through the skin which boost immunity. This is so important, especially in cases of skin congestion. It tones the skin, improves oxygenation to the skin, imparts a beautiful glow and keeps the skin youthful and free from problems. The

same goes for the hair. Yoga helps to promote blood circulation and oxygenation to the scalp and hair follicles. This helps to supply nutrients in the bloodstream to the hair follicles. It promotes hair growth and keeps the scalp healthy.

When we talk of beauty, we do not talk only about the beauty of the face. It also includes the figure, giving it suppleness, good posture and grace. Where the appearance is concerned, a slim figure can take years off and helps in staying youthful for a longer time. It supplies oxygen to every tissue and this, itself makes way for both health and beauty. If you are leading a life that does not provide enough physical activity, you are actually encouraging ageing. Exercise is a potent remedy for pre-mature ageing, not only because it strengthens the body, but also keeps it looking trim ,fit and enhances immunity in body . The yogic asanas are designed to keep the spine and joints flexible and supple. They make the body strong and agile, tone the muscles, improves blood circulation, imparts vitality and enhances both beauty and good health .

Many beauty problems are triggered off by stress. Since yoga helps to induce relaxation and reduce stress, it certainly helps in dealing with stress-related conditions like acne, hair loss, dandruff, etc. Studies conducted on those who practice yoga have shown that positive changes also occur in the personality, in attitudes, emotional stability, self-confidence. It has a direct effect on the mind, emotions and mood. In fact, it is a regular stress-buster and puts the glow back on the skin. You will feel instantly rejuvenated and good about yourself. Indeed, the benefits of Yoga reflect as external beauty. For a flawless skin, shiny hair and a slim, graceful figure, make yoga a part of your daily life . .

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

Religion and politics - A disruptive combination

India has been witnessing an avalanche of criticisms and diplomatic deadlocks and attempts to downsize its democratic credentials from inside the country and from



international platforms. All began with a TV debate and of course the insidiousness that the discussion was loaded with was terrible. The controversies began

with the TV debate in which the BJP spokesperson is alleged to have made unkind remarks on the prophet. Discontent with the level of a volcanic eruption has been brewing since the Gyanvapi survey started. There is no doubt that nobody in a democratic setup should be forced to hold his tongue when a decent expression of views is mandated. Now, whoever began to break the decorum showering derogatory remarks on the opponent's religious beliefs should be held responsible for the backlash that as a country India had to face in the wake of the controversies. The entire debate was evidently an accentuation on the divisive and the polemical essence with which the religions could be exhibited. The radicalized arrogance of a particular section of the believers flooding to the streets with sloganeering and stone-pelting with children placed in the front and holding populous cities to ransom is a dangerous trend. We need to count this as a new normal and the country is sure to become susceptible across its landscape to such violent flare-ups purely endorsed by religions which try to establish hegemony through intimidation and upsetting tendencies. This needs to be seen as a well calibrated trend taking place to make its presence felt and also a challenge to the precariousness that India's democracy is. Religions with a genuine cultural background both in essence and practice need not to raise their fists intending to forcefully establish their credibility. They get noticed naturally, essentially with an urgency to bring about

peace and serenity in a world of chaotic, destabilizing and hurtful transgressions.

The most challenging task is to identify the real face of religions that keep dictating moral values to their believers and the hypocrisy with which they function. It was not peace that the Semitic religions entered into the galis and mohallas of countries across the globe. There was always bloodshed and violence and ruthless intimidations and slaughtering of native beliefs. Instantaneous violence in the name of fabricated victimhood in a country like India can throw it into a slanderous ditch from which it would never be able to come out. And they, including the liberals and azadi seekers in India maintain a radio silence on atrocities committed on minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh and to take an example from India, we can easily read into the plight of the Kashmiri pandits. The real trauma is, nobody, not even the trained secular fire-fighters of minority protection, blow their whistle against the persecution of the pundits in the Muslim majority state in India. Attacking someone's religious beliefs is condemnable. But it should be the same for all. One side is getting severely aggrieved and the other side is dictated to maintain calm, is a double standard. Religions with the history of invasion and infringement and a lack of moral backing, always excited to ill-treat a non-believer, with principles that endorse criminal coercion and interference, definitely lack the moral binding to beat their breast in victimhood. Efforts to correct the historic wrongs should be treated as the right of those who lost their antiquity to brutality. Pressing their voices to impress and appease a well attuned vote bank is what India has been witnessing for decades. This was the reason why the country went on choosing a party that tilted for the majority emotions and an eye-opener to those who blindfolded a major part of the country's population deliberately concealing its past. Now, the parties that once celebrated favouritism to their chosen vote

M. R. LALU

bank with a hard-nosed political insensitivity in a

democratic setup are the backbenchers choking to hold their breath while assiduously focusing to substantiate their views; sometimes even at the cost of defaming the country abroad. This is tragic. Losers win their battle by decently losing it. But mountainous political indecency was the reason that a major section of the voters in India pushed the country to take its saffron turn.

Now, the question is who should be blamed for the hullabaloo that the streets of India are infested with. The reverberating discontent in the majority and the minority sides is due to an unpardonable, unholy hobnobbing between religions and political parties, which is capable of overthrowing the idea of secularism that we have been proudly drum-beating for years. Nupur Sharma got tightly sandwiched between the hypocrisy of religion and politics in India. The hysteria and violence in the name of religious beliefs, deliberately attempting to destabilize the unity that India is established on; needs to be condemned and the fiasco that such agitations throw this country into, should be rated as an effort to play into the hands of its enemies. Attempts to humiliate a country which has housed religious multiplicity for centuries - panting, but bravely barricading the onslaughts of terror and its subsequent subjugation should not be overlooked. Elements of dissatisfaction and the mindset that keeps burning the wounds again and again would rather deepen the crisis. India for no reason should succumb to the political low that the parties and the religions would drag it through. The BJP with great suffocation might have rated its spokesperson and office bearer as fringe elements. This was a shock for maximum of its rank and file which used to enjoy badmouthing in the TV debates and now is wedged and clueless and unprepared to identify the makeover that the party's central leadership has given it. Imagine the level of animosity that the maulavis, dharmgurus and

spokespersons of different parties meet their followers in the channels with. Maximum parties are unwilling to stop their 'vocal cords' from vibrating against their opponents.

Undoubtedly, India's diplomatic tenacity would help it come out of the deadlock internationally, but the wound and the scar that the warring tongues of religion and politics have been etching on the amiability of its existence, would remain unhealed. I think it is time for the leaders in politics and religious bodies to maintain restraint without precipitating the heat further so as to avoid a devastating wildfire. Bigots frequently jump into action when a country's defencelessness swings between vehemence and divisiveness which indeed is an entrapment that we have chosen to bury ourselves in. This needs a congenial conversation, a course correction, and the initiatives in this direction need appreciation and acceptance. While one party takes its strategic leaning to the majority, the minority is favoured with the same spirit by another party. This trend of separation and discordance by the parties after intruding into the religions have, undoubtedly been shaking the ground of harmonious coexistence. Ideological clash between monotheism and polytheism and its retaliating effects seen in the streets in the form of mob violence, would determinately weaken a nation. Choosing neither side, a large number of people in the west are turning agnostics. Forcefully hammering one religious faith on people, however pure and holy that is, would bring repercussions and nobody for that matter, would like to remain submissive to the dry principles that calls for bloodshed and beheading in the name of faith. In India the trend is pertinently gaining momentum and the fashion is to criticize everything that India culturally represents in the pretext of criticizing the government. When religion and politics come together, they make a disruptive combination.

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Faulty aircraft, inconsistent pre-flight alcohol tests: DGCA finds multiple safety violations among airlines

NEW DELHI: Aviation regulator DGCA on Thursday said it has audited 30 out of total 32 flying training organisations (FTOs) in India since March 21 and found them violating multiple safety regulations.

"Aircraft were being operated with faulty or unserviceable instruments such as fuel gauges, stall warning, etc, the DGCA said. The pre-flight alcohol test regulations were not followed at multiple FTOs," it stated.



Consequently, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has suspended the approval of one FTO, issued a warning letter to two accountable managers, and suspended four certified flying instructors (CFIs), three Deputy CFIs and one assistant flying instructor (AFI), its statement noted.

The regulator found in the audit that "the facilities at the airfield/training organization are not being maintained as per the requirements -- runway surface was found worn out, wind sock was found torn or nonstandard.

"Few of the instructors, student pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers did not undergo BA (breathalyser) test or submit undertaking prior to commencement of duty/exercise of privileges," the DGCA noted.

In a few cases, the testing equipment being used were not in compliance with the requirements or calibrated as required, it added. The DGCA said it observed false logging in official documents.

"In few cases, dual flight was logged as solo flight and in few other cases, the taxi time was calculated towards the instrument flying time of the student pilot," it added.

There were deficiencies in the ground training of student pilots, it said. Student pilots were not appropriately briefed and trained on emergencies and essential exercises before being released to operate solo

flights, it said.

There was "ad hocism in the allocation of trainers as trainers were frequently changed and thereby affecting the learning experience of student pilot", the regulator noted.

The emergency response plan was not practiced and contained obsolete contact details, the DGCA said.

The emergency response plan is of great importance when an incident occurs.

"Based on these audit findings and findings in a recent accident, enforcement action has been issued i.e., warning letter to two Accountable Managers, suspension orders to two CFIs (certified flying instructors) for a year, two CFI for 3 months, one Deputy CFI for a year, two Deputy CFI for 3 months, one AFI (assistant flying instructor) for 3 months and one student for 3

months," it noted.

"In addition approval of one FTO has been suspended. Enforcement actions against other individuals/FTOs are at various stages," it added. During the last couple of months, there have been numerous incidents and accidents at FTOs across the country.

Two training aircraft were involved in separate non-fatal accidents in India on March 16, following which aviation regulator DGCA had ordered a safety audit of all flying training organisations (FTOs).

In the first accident, the pilot had allegedly forgotten to open the landing gear in Jamshedpur in Jharkhand, while the second plane crash-landed on the runway in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur.

The audit then commenced on March 21.

Russian President Vladimir Putin seen struggling to stand in new video



Russian President Vladimir Putin was seen shaking, and struggling to stand in a recently-released video. This has led to worldwide speculations and concerns regarding his health. According to the New York Post, he was present at an awards ceremony at the Kremlin when this happened. The video going viral on social media about

the same is yet to be authenticated.

The video depicts the 69-year-old Russian president swaying back and forth after awarding filmmaker Nikita Mikhailov the State prize of the Russian Federation on June 12.

Putin's health has always been a subject that has claimed international attention, especially after the inception of the

Ukraine war.

Recently, the world came to know of the bizarre practice of the President's guards carrying his poop and urine back to his home country in a special carrier, whenever the man is travelling abroad. This reportedly is done to conceal information about Putin's health and his potential illnesses from the outside world.

Putin's bodyguards collecting his poop, urine on foreign trips, Here's why

One of the rumours about Putin's bad health condition in recent times is that the President only has a maximum of three years to live, according to a Russian intelligence source. However, Russian officials have denied all such speculations as per reports.

India China Bilateral Trade has tremendous potential for growth : Consul General Zha Liyou

Kolkata (KCN): China is back to normal after pandemic and open for business declared His Excellency Mr. Zha Liyou Chinese Consul

General in Kolkata. ment from China to India can increase many fold if ease of doing business and investors friendly investment policies are developed by the state and central governments .

Chinese Consul General said " Commodities from China and Made in China products have good market in India which include high quality infrastructure development technologies , products and services.

China can provide high quality products and



General in Kolkata.

Consul General Zha Liyou was addressing a Special session on " India- China Relations : Bilateral and Regional context " organised by one of the oldest chamber of commerce in India ,Calcutta Chamber of Commerce (established in 1830)on Wednesday 15th June 2022 in Kolkata .

Addressing the members of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce and members of business community ,Consul General Zha Liyou emphasised that there exist a great potential to expand bilateral trade between India and China in post Covid pandemic. He said that like India, China believes in universal values and is consistent with its values . Even during pandemic trade between India and China continued and efforts were made to fulfil all commitments by China despite large scale challenges, including supply of emergency medical equipments like oxygen concentrators to West Bengal to make effort to save lives during the pandemic.

Zha Liyou emphasised that there is scope for increase in bilateral trade between eastern states of India & China in upcoming times. He mentioned one Chinese company has signed MOU during Bengal Business Global Summit 2022 to set up business in West Bengal.

Zha Liyou mentioned four key points to boost trade between India and China.

Zha Liyou said "Trade and investment are mutually transferable especially for both India and China who have both huge domestic markets and international markets. Consistent and continuous trade will follow more investment. "

Consul General said " Foreign Direct Invest-



services at reasonable price."

Zha Liyou said "there exist great scope to promote Indian tourist destinations to Chinese tourists who are high spending tourists. China has largest number of Buddhist population in the world alongwith 33,000 Buddhist monasteries. However, to attract Chinese tourists in India infrastructure in Buddhist pilgrimages centres need to be upgraded to high quality international standards as well as both surface and air transportation systems to these tourist places to be qualitatively upgraded for quicker movement of tourist from place to place cities to cities. "

Earlier ,Ms. Shailja Mehta , President of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce in her welcome address mentioned two-way trade between India and China is making great contribution in global economy as both nations are emerging as economic powerhouse of world economy.

Chinese Consul General talked about his visit & positive experience to all Buddhist population village of Maniabandha in Odisha. Zha Liyou ,also, mentioned about his visit to women's skill training centre in Lalitgiri village in Odisha.

The special session concluded with call "Let us work together to boost trade & investment for healthy India-China Relationship"

Congress leader Sheikh Hussain arrested over anti-PM remarks, released on bail

NAGPUR: Nagpur Congress leader Sheikh Hussain, who is facing an FIR for

ments against Modi during a protest on Monday.

The demonstration

provoke breach of the peace) of the Indian Penal Code (both offences are bailable in

Nagpur city Congress president Vikas Thakre, who was at the police station



allegedly making derogatory remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was arrested on Thursday and later released on bail, a police official said. Hussain, a former Nagpur city Congress president, was booked by the Gittikhadan police on late Tuesday night after local BJP leaders submitted a memorandum to DCP (Zone I) Sandip Pakhale over his objectionable com-

was held near the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office in Nagpur by the Congress to protest the central agency's questioning of party MP Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald money laundering case.

The police later registered an FIR under sections 294 (punishment for obscene acts committed in public or obscene words spoken in public) and 504 (Intentional insult with intent to

nature) against Hussain on the basis of a complaint lodged by Vinod Damodar Kanhare, president of the West Nagpur BJP unit.

An officer of the Gittikhadan police station told PTI that Hussain was arrested in the case and subsequently released on bail.

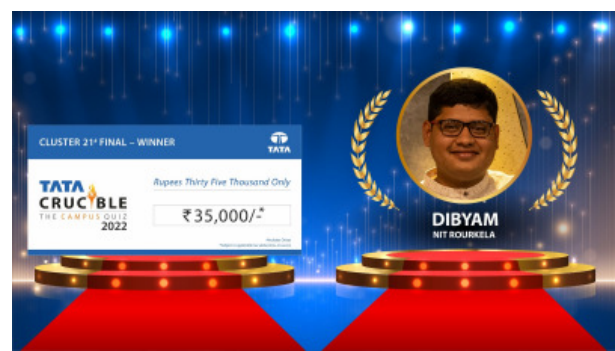
If a person is arrested for a bailable offence, he is entitled to be released on bail at the police station itself. Talking to reporters,

when Hussain was released on bail, said there was no such urgency in acting in the matter.

"There are many criminals in the city who are facing charges under MCOCA (a tough law against organized crime), but are absconding. If someone says something about a politician, is there such an urgency to act against him? We will speak to the Commissioner of Police about it," he said.

Dibyam Debasish Sahu from NIT Rourkela emerges as winner of the Cluster 21 Finals of Tata Crucible Campus Quiz 2022

Rourkela (KCN): Dibyam Debasish Sahu from NIT Rourkela emerged victorious in the Cluster Finals of Tata Crucible Campus Quiz 2022, the online edition of India's largest business



quiz for campuses. The Cluster 21, Finals representing the Orissa region, was a thrilling affair, with participants showcasing their quick thinking and sharp quizzing abilities. The winner took home a cash prize of Rs. 35,000/- and will now compete in the Zonal Finals to qualify for the National Finals. Utkarsh Shrivastava from Xavier Institute of Management Bhubaneswar, was declared runner-up, winning a cash prize of Rs. 18,000/-.

Mr. Hemant Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industries Department & Chairman, IPICOL, Government of Odisha was the chief guest at the event and gave away the prizes in a virtual prize distribution ceremony.

PRANAKRUSHNA IN UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY

Paid a tearful tribute on his 1st death anniversary

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Lost untimely during the corona pandemic the ex-officer of Orissa Forest Development Corporation, President of Lord



Ishaneswar Temple Trust, Former office by lighting the lamp and paid a deep trib-



bearer of Niladri vihar Residents Association, Social worker, a religious minded personality, unani-



mously head, always seeking for the welfare of the society, a loving, ever active and widely acclaimed personality of the capital city Late Pranakrushna Panigrahi was given a tearful tribute on his 1st death anniversary. Dr. Keshba Chandra Satapathy, the regional

Stepping up to the challenges posed by the pandemic, Tata Crucible quiz evolved into an online format since 2020.

For the online version of the Campus Quiz, the country has been divided into 24 Clusters and after two levels of online prelims, top 12 finalists from each Cluster will be invited for Wild Card Finals out of which top 6 finalists will then compete in the 24 online Cluster Finals. These 24 Clusters are further grouped into four zones- south, east, west, and north and each zone will comprise of 6 Clusters.

The Winner from each of the Cluster Finals will then qualify for the Zonal Finals. Winners at the four Zonal Finals will directly qualify for the National Finals. The runners-up from the four Zonal Finals will compete in a Wild Card Final, and 2 out of the 4 runners-up will then qualify for the National Finals. In all, 6 Finalists will compete at the National Finals and the top scorer will be crowned as the National Champion who will receive a grand prize of Rs. 2.5 lakhs along with the coveted Tata Crucible Trophy.

All finals are being streamed on a deferred basis on Tata Crucible Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube channels. Noted quizmaster 'Pickbrain' Giri Balasubramaniam known for his masterful, unique, and witty style is the host of the quiz. The Co-sponsors for this edition are Tata Motors, Tata Play, Mia By Tanishq, Tata 1 mg and Tata CLiQ.

hospital Dr. Sanghamitra Mishra, Asst. regional Officer



of DAV Institutions Dr. Sujata, Principal of DAV, Unit-8 Ipsita Dash, veteran educationist Bhagyabati Nayak, film personality Premanjan Parida, popular medical personalities Dr. R. K. Mohapatra, Dr.



Basanta Kumar Pati, Dr. Ashok Acharya, Dr. Samir Sahoo, Dr. Ashok Kumar Nanda, Dr. N. K. Pattanaik, Dr. Sudipta Sahu, Dr. Prabhajan Raysamanta, finance head of Apollo Hospital Amar Kumar Behera, senior official Alok Kumar Behera, Director operation of KIIMS Hospital Somyakanta Satapathy, Inspector in-charge of Baragada PS Biswaranjan Nayak, former Deputy Collector of Angul District Basudev Satapathy, Former top officials of BSNL Balaram Pal & Abanindra Mohanty were paid a deep trib-

Khordha Model Police Seized 21 Gram Brown Sugar. Two Held

Khordha (KCN): As per direction of SP, Khordha, Siddhartha Kataria under the supervision of Sushil Kumar Mishra, SDPO, Khordha, DSP, Sanjaya Kumar Pattnaik, I/C Khordha Model Police Station a team was formed. On getting reliable information raid was conducted in Nanda Sahi Gurujanga, Khordha with the leadership of SI, Sukanta Dalei, SI, Padmalochan Behera, SI, Sasmita Behera along with Khordha Model PS, Staffs and Special Squad. Accused



person namely Singh (25) and Lipsa were apprehended while they were selling the brown sugar in their house. During raid 21 grams of brown sugar approximate cost Rs. 2 lakhs, cash of Rs. 25,520/-, one Yamaha Scotty bearing registration no-OD-33-AC-2005 were recovered from their possession. Case has been registered against the accused person vide Khordha model PS, case no-283/22, U/S-21(b)/29 of NDPS Act. and the accused was forwarded to the judicial court of Khordha.

Showers bring down temperature levels in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: The daytime temperature dipped in many parts of Odisha on Wednesday under the influence of pre-monsoon showers. Nabarangpur received 46.2 mm rainfall, Nayagarh 31 mm and Daringbadi 26 mm between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm on the day. In the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Wednesday, Hatadihi in Keonjhar district received 63.2 mm rainfall, Athagarh in Cuttack

district received 62 mm rainfall and Thakurmunda in Mayurbhanj district received 59.4 mm rainfall. "The rainfall activity has increased as the flow of moisture and pre-monsoon clouds from the east has strengthened towards Odisha. The south-west monsoon is expected to advance into some parts of south Odisha within 24 hours," said Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre Scientist, Umasankar Das.




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Markets stumble for fifth day as Fed hike triggers

recession fears; Sensex, Nifty close at over 1-year lows
MUMBAI: Equity benchmarks reeled for the fifth straight day to finish at over one-year lows on Thursday, in tandem with weak global equities, after the US Federal Reserve hiked rates by 75 basis points to tame surging inflation.

The US central bank delivered its biggest interest rate hike since 1994 and indicated further policy tightening this year as the focus shifts to taming price rise which has soared to over four-decade highs.

The Fed also projected slowing US economic growth.

Across-the-board selling played havoc on the domestic indices, with index majors Reliance Industries and HDFC twins contributing most to the decline.

Despite a smart rally in morning trade, the BSE benchmark Sensex failed to hold on to the gains and plummeted 1,045.60 points or 1.99 per cent to settle at 51,495.79 -- the lowest in over 12 months.

ALSO READ | Contactless cards account for 16 per cent of face-to-face transactions in De-



ember 2021: Visa

On similar lines, the NSE Nifty plunged 331.55 points or 2.11 per cent to close at 15,360.60.

Investors lost Rs 5.54 lakh crore in Thursday's session, with the market capitalisation of all BSE-listed firms standing at Rs 2,39,20,631.65 crore.

Barring Nestle India, all Sensex stocks closed in the red, led by Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, Wipro, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, NTPC, and Bajaj Finserv, tumbling as much as 6.04 per cent.

"The early gains led by an in-line Fed policy was dampened as recessionary fears haunted global sentiments. A cut in growth projection and hints of continuation of aggressive policy in the next meeting instilled chances of a recession in the US economy.

"In this current scenario, safe sectors will be those that are least impacted by inflation and aggressive policy like finance and services. Defensives like consumption, IT, pharma and telecom are worthwhile on a long-term basis," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, said as the street prepares for further front-loaded action by central banks in a bid to anchor spiralling inflation, its impact on conJet fuel prices hiked by 16 per cent; touch new record

"A mere glance at the stocks hitting one-year lows today is reflective of the risk-off mood on the street as only a handful of FMCG stocks displayed a green tick among frontliners," he added.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tumbled 2.87 per cent and the midcap index lost 2.34 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices ended lower, with metal cracking 5.48 per cent, followed by basic materials (3.55 per cent), industrials (3.06 per cent), telecom (3.04 per cent), realty (2.69 per cent), teck (2.51 per cent), IT (2.48 per cent) and utilities (2.39 per cent).

As many as 2,754 stocks declined, while 620 advanced and 100 remained unchanged.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower, while Tokyo and Seoul ended marginally higher.

Markets in Europe were trading sharply lower in mid-session deals after the Swiss National Bank raised its policy rate for the first time in 15 years.

Wall Street had ended with smart gains in the overnight session on Wednesday as the Fed rate hike was in line with expectations. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.66 per cent to USD 117.68 per barrel.

The rupee on Thursday recovered from its record low to close 12 paise higher at 78.10 (provisional) against the American currency, tracking the overnight weakness of the dollar and falling crude oil prices.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital market, as they sold shares worth Rs 3,531.15 crore on Wednesday, as per exchange data.

Jet fuel prices hiked by 16%; touch new record

NEW DELHI: Jet fuel prices on Thursday were hiked by the steepest ever 16 per cent to cataclysmic rates to an all-time high in step with hardening international oil rates.

The price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) -- the **Agnipath protests: Union ministers, CMs urge students not to be 'deceived'; political blame game starts**

Continued from page-1

ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, also assured the students that they will give "preference" to "Agniveers" for selection in their respective state police forces and other jobs.

"Agnipath Yojana will give a new dimension to youngsters' lives. It will lay a golden base for their future," Adityanath said in a tweet while urging young people not to be deceived. Underlining that the Uttarakhand government is committed to providing employment opportunities to youngsters, Dhama urged them to stay away from any kind of misleading news. Congress Thursday hit out the government over the Agnipath scheme for recruitment of soldiers on a short-term basis, saying it carries multiple risks and subverts the longstanding traditions and ethos of the armed forces, and may turn out to be a case of "penny-wise and security foolish".

Congress leader P Chidambaram said retired defence officers have almost unanimously opposed the scheme, and he believes that many serving officers share the same view.

He addressed a joint press conference with party leaders Ajay Maken, Sachin Pilot and Pawan Khera.

"The Agnipath scheme is controversial, carries multiple risks, subverts the long-standing traditions and ethos of the armed forces and there is no guarantee that the soldiers recruited under the scheme will be better trained and motivated to defend the country," Chidambaram said in a statement.

The Congress leader said the first concern is that the Agnipath soldier will be trained for six months, will serve for another 42 months, and after that 75 per cent of the recruits will be discharged.

"It appears to us that the scheme makes a mockery of training; inducts into the defence forces an ill-trained and ill-motivated soldier, and discharges a disappointed and unhappy ex-soldier into the society," he said.

He said the age of recruitment - 17.5-21 years -- raises numerous questions as a large part of the youth will be totally excluded from serving in the defence forces.

The stated objective of savings on the pension bill is a weak argument and has not been established beyond doubt, he said, adding that on the other hand, the short six-month period of training and unusually short 42 month period of service may have negative consequences on quality, efficiency and effectiveness.

"We fear that the scheme may turn out to be a case of 'penny wise and security foolish'," he said.

Chidambaram said several distinguished defence officers have pointed out that a fighting soldier must take pride in his unit, must be willing to lay down his life for his country and comrades, must not be risk averse and must be capable of exhibiting leadership.

"They fear that each one of these objectives will be in jeopardy under the scheme," he said. The Congress leader said announcements by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Education on post-discharge opportunities appear to be after-thoughts.

"They show that the scheme was poorly conceived and hastily drawn up. A major change in the mode of recruitment should have been examined thoroughly and a pilot scheme should have been tried and tested."

"Nothing of that sort has been done," he said, noting that several experts have suggested alternative models to address the issues of inadequate recruitment to the defence forces.

There is no indication that the alternatives were examined, he claimed.

"Given the situation on our borders," the former home minister said, "it is imperative that we have soldiers in our defence forces who are young, well-trained, motivated, happy, satisfied and assured of their future."

The Agnipath scheme does not advance any of these objectives, he said.

"It is our duty to warn the country of the con-

fuel that helps aeroplanes fly -- has been increased by Rs 19,757.13 per kilolitre, or 16.26 per cent, to Rs 1,41,232.87 per kl (Rs 141.2 per litre) in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retail-sequences of a hastily drawn up scheme. We would urge the government to keep the Agnipath scheme in abeyance, hold wide consultations with serving and retired officers, and address the issues of quality, efficiency and economy without compromising on any of the three considerations," the Congress leader said.

The government has claimed that there is no change in the Army recruitment system under 'Agnipath' scheme and the number of personnel to be recruited in the first year of its rollout would only make up to three percent of the armed forces.

There have been widespread protests against the new model of Army recruitment.

The government unveiled Agnipath on Tuesday -- calling it a "transformative" scheme-- for the recruitment of soldiers in the Army, Navy and the Air Force, largely on a four-year short-term contractual basis.

Under the scheme, around 46,000 soldiers will be recruited this year between the ages of 17-and-a-half years and 21 years into the three services, the defence ministry said.

Trains were set afire, window panes of buses smashed and passersby, including a ruling BJP MLA, pelted with stones in Bihar by Army job aspirants whose protest against the short-term recruitment scheme continued for the second consecutive day.

Protests against the scheme also took place in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Hundreds of young people took to the streets in Haryana's Gurugram, Rewari and Palwal while scores of youngsters in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr and Ballia districts staged protests against it.

Amid the protests, government sources said no change is being done to the Army's regimental system under it and the numbers of personnel to be recruited in the first year of its roll out would only make up three per cent of the armed forces.

The scheme is aimed at increasing opportunities for youths to serve in the armed forces and the recruitment of the personnel under it will be around triple of the current enrolment in the armed forces, they said without specifying the duration of the comparison.

On the criticism that the short-duration tenure of 'Agniveers' will harm the effectiveness of the armed forces, the sources said such a system exists in several countries, and hence, it is already "tested out and considered best practice for an agile army".

The Opposition came down heavily on the government over the scheme and demanded a rollback.

"No rank, no pension, no direct recruitment for 2 years, no stable future after four years, no respect shown by the government for the army," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi, attacking the Centre over the scheme.

"Listen to the voice of unemployed youths of the country, don't take 'agnipareeksha' of their patience by making them walk on 'Agnipath', Mr. prime minister," the former Congress chief said.

In a tweet in Hindi, Priyanka Gandhi said there are many dreams for the future in the eyes of those preparing for recruitment in the armed forces such as serving the country and their parents.

"What will the new army recruitment scheme give them? After 4 years, no job guarantee, no pension facility = no rank, no pension. @narendramodi ji don't crush the dreams of the youth," she said.

Questioning various provisions of Agnipath, BJP MP Varun Gandhi said it will give rise to more disaffection among the youths and asked the government to make its stand clear.

In a letter to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Varun Gandhi said the young population has shared their questions and doubts with him about the radical changes in the soldiers' recruitment process which also proposes that the 75 per cent of the recruits under the scheme will retire after four years of service without pension.

The Left parties demanded that the Agnipath scheme be scrapped and be taken up in Parliament for discussion, alleging that it does a "disservice" to India's national interests.

ers.

The hike, which comes on the back of a marginal 1.3 per cent (Rs 1,563.97 per kl) cut in rate earlier this month, takes jet fuel prices to record high across the country.

"The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) strongly disapproves the 'Agnipath' scheme that does disservice to India's national interests. Professional armed forces cannot be raised by recruiting 'soldiers on contract' for a period of four years. This scheme, to save pension money, severely compromises the quality and efficiency of our professional armed forces," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said in a tweet.

CPI general secretary D Raja tweeted, "Finding jobs has become literally a 'Path of Fire' under Modi. Govt is trying to hoodwink the restive youth by #AgnipathScheme. It'll make our army contract based & jeopardise the future of our youth. It should be withdrawn immediately! Youth deserve proper, secure jobs!" Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to the central government to give the youth the chance to serve the country throughout their life, not just four years.

Samajwadi Party president Yadav also hit out at the central government over the Agnipath scheme.

"The security of the country is not a short-term or informal issue; it expects a very serious and long-term policy. The negligent attitude that is being adopted regarding military recruitment will prove to be fatal when it comes to the protection of the future of the country and the youth," Akhilesh said in a tweet.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati hit out at the Union government over the scheme, terming it "unfair towards rural youth".

She urged the Centre to "reconsider" its decision immediately.

The government unveiled Agnipath on Tuesday -- calling it a "transformative" scheme-- for the recruitment of soldiers in the Army, Navy and the Air Force, largely on a four-year short-term contractual basis.

Under the scheme, around 46,000 soldiers will be recruited this year between the ages of 17-and-a-half years and 21 years into the three services, the defence ministry said.

Former Punjab chief minister and BJP ally Amarinder Singh on Thursday suggested a rethink on the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment to the armed forces, wondering why the government had to make such "radical" changes.

"It will dilute the long existing distinct ethos of regiments," said Amarinder Singh, who is a former Army captain.

According to a statement, he wondered why the government needed to make such "radical changes" in the recruitment policy, which has been working "so well for the country for so many years".

"Hiring soldiers for four years, with effective service of three years, is not at all militarily a good idea," said Amarinder Singh, whose party Punjab Lok Congress is an ally of the BJP in Punjab.

After the completion of the four-year tenure, 25 per cent of the recruits from each specific batch will be offered regular service.

The move triggered protests across the country, with several political parties and the youth criticising the decision.

Amarinder Singh too opposed the "all-India, all class" recruitment policy.

He said different regiments like the Sikh Regiment, Dogra Regiment, Madras Regiment and so on have their own distinct ethos, which is very important from the military point of view and which seems to have been overlooked.

He said it will be very difficult for recruits from different cultural backgrounds to adjust to a culturally different environment that is exclusive to a particular regiment and that too within such a short span of time, which effectively comes to less than three years.

The already existing short duration tenure system of seven and five years is fine, but four years, which once training and leave period are excluded, effectively comes to less than three years, will not be workable, he said.

"It will never be workable for a professional army which is faced with tough challenges on both eastern as well as western theatres," he remarked.

Brazilian defender Dani Alves leaves Barcelona for second time



BARCELONA: Dani Alves is leaving Barcelona for a second time, five months after the veteran Brazil right-back returned to the Spanish club he helped lead to 23 titles.

The 39-year-old Alves played for Barcelona from 2008 to 2016, winning the Champions League

three times and six Spanish leagues among other trophies. He started a second stint with Barcelona in January as a free agent on a contract that expired this summer.

Alves scored one goal in 17 appearances last season, which Barcelona ended without a title.

He finished his Barcelona career with 408 appearances in total, the second most for a non-Spaniard behind Lionel Messi. "I would like to thank all the coaching staff for the opportunity they gave me to give something back to this club and wear this marvelous shirt again," Alves wrote

on Instagram. "I hope you don't miss my craziness and daily dose of happiness too much." Alves has also played for Paris Saint-Germain, Juventus and Sevilla. He did not say what his future plans are. He has said he hopes to make Brazil's squad for the World Cup in Qatar.

Casper Ruud loses opening-round match at Queen's Club

LONDON: Casper Ruud endured a tough transition from clay to the grass courts, with the top seed losing his opening-round match at

Norwegian joining an illustrious list containing Andy Murray, Pete Sampras and Jimmy Connors. "I can't really believe it," Peniston said. "It

feels like a dream. I didn't get much sleep last night, it doesn't feel real. "Obviously Casper is an unreal player, he did so well at the French Open so I knew it was a tough ask. But you have to step on the court knowing you've got a chance to win — so that's what I did." Ruud is a clay-court specialist who has a pretty low opinion of the grass. He recently said "grass is for golf

back immediately and then win another tiebreaker. Matteo Berrettini, the second seed and reigning champion, had no such problems



the Queen's Club in straight sets to an opponent ranked No. 180 on Tuesday.

Nine days after playing — and losing — to Rafael Nadal in the French Open final, Ruud was beaten 7-6 (4), 7-6 (2) by little-known Briton Ryan Peniston, a 26-year-old in his first ATP Tour main draw.

It was only the seventh time the top seed has lost a first-round match at Queen's in the Open era, with the

timing throughout the match and also needed treatment on his hip after taking a tumble on the baseline. Peniston won five points in a row on his way to taking the first-set tiebreaker, not long after Ruud had slipped while on set point.

Ruud also fell early in the second set but broke Peniston for the first time to make it 4-3, only for the British No. 7 to break

in the first match of his title defense when he won 6-3, 6-3 against a more established British player in Dan Evans, who won the grass-court Nottingham Open on Sunday.

KL Rahul set to miss England tour; would get treatment abroad for groin injury

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to send 30-year-old KL Rahul, who is down with a recurring groin injury, abroad for treatment.

The opener will miss the fifth test against England in Birmingham.

According to sources, the Indian Vice Captain was asked to appear for

fitness test at NCA on Saturday. But as his progress from injury wasn't satisfying, BCCI has decided to rule him out of the tour. Against this backdrop, BCCI has decided to send him abroad for treatment. Rahul is likely to go to Germany for treatment.

Rahul suffered an injury to his right groin on June 8. ALSO READ | In-

dian team to assemble in Delhi on June 5, South Africa squad arrives on June 2

As reported by Cricbuzz, BCCI secretary Jay Shah has confirmed that Rahul will head to Germany for the treatment and won't be available for the England series which comprises the rescheduled Edgbaston Test fol-

lowed by a white-ball series.

"That is correct, the board is working on his fitness and he will be going to Germany soon," BCCI secretary Jay Shah was quoted as saying in a report by Cricbuzz on Thursday. It has also been learned that Rahul may leave for Germany by the end of this month or in early July.

Chanu wins gold at Khelo India Women Weightlifting League event

NAGROTA BAGWAN: Olympic medallist Mirabai Chanu won the gold medal

166kg (75kg+91kg) finished second and third respectively. After starting off with

and conditioning coach in the USA for the same. The former world

Gyaneshwari lifted a whopping 21kg less than the Manipuri while the gap 25kg for Jhilli.

The tournament will help the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLFF) maintain a robust national ranking system while also providing additional competition to the lifters of the country.

In the 49kg Youth event, Maharashtra's Aarti Tatgunti emerged champion with a lift of 148kg (65kg+83kg), while Panchami Sonowal of Assam lifted 143 kg (63kg+80) to secure the second spot. Haryana's Himanshee lifted 132 kg (63kg+69kg) to get herself the third position. Gyaneshwari also claimed the top spot in the junior 49kg event with a 170kg (78kg+92kg) lift while Sanju Devi, who lifted 154kg (70kg+84kg) and V. Rithika, who hoisted 153kg (67kg+86kg), were second and third respectively.



comfortably but could not better her national record in snatch at the inaugural Khelo India Women Weightlifting League tournament here on Thursday.

The Tokyo Olympics silver medallist lifted a total of 191kg (86kg+105kg) to stand atop the podium in the ranking event for women in the senior, junior and youth categories.

Gyaneshwari Yadav 170kg (78kg+92) and former 45kg Asian Weightlifting Championship gold medallist Jhilli Dalabehra

a successful 86kg lift, the 27-year-old Chanu failed to hoist 89kg in her second and third snatch attempts.

The national record and her personal best in the section stands at 88kg, which Chanu had lifted during the National Championships in 2020.

Chanu has been working on tweaking her snatch technique, once considered her weakness. She has been consulting Dr. Aaron Horschig, a former weightlifter turned physical therapist and strength

champion, who will be vying for a third Commonwealth Games medal in the quadrennial event next month, has been targeting the 90kg mark for a couple of years.

In the clean and jerk, she hoisted 105 kg in her first attempt, a far cry from her world-record lift of 119kg. She did not attempt a second or third lift in the section.

The gulf between Chanu and the other Indian lifters in the category was on full display as the second placed-lifter



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