

Tech Care for Embankments Ministers sign for Murmu

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In an aim to strengthen vulnerable saline embankments in the coastal areas,

nology (NIOT) Chennai to get technical guidance for development of climate resilient coastal

ences (MoES) has agreed to the State's request, the Water Resources Department has prepared a

proved the draft MoU, which has been now sent to NIOT, which will seek approval of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India. Soon after the Ministry's approval, the MoU will be signed in a special event here, the sources said.

Earlier, the Water Resources Department had written a letter to the Director of NIOT along with the Director of IIT, Madras and the Chairman of Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Two Cabinet Ministers of Odisha, Jagannath Saraka and Tukuni Sahu are in New Delhi to attend the nomination filing of NDA presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu.

Odisha's ST & SC Development & Law Minister Mr.Saraka and Water Resources, Commerce & Transport Minister Ms.Sahu have signed as proposers in the nomination papers of Murmu on Thursday. The BJD has taken this move after BJD President JP Nadda spoke to Mr.Patnaik in this regard.

"BJP President Shri @JPNadda ji spoke to me about the filing of nomination of Smt #DraupadiMurmu ji for #PresidentElection. My cabinet colleagues

Shri @saraka_fan and Smt @TukuniSahu will sign nomination papers today and attend the event tomorrow," tweeted the Chief Minister. Her nomination papers are being prepared at Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi's residence, sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior Ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah, and BJD President J P Nadda will be among her other proposers. Union Ministers and senior BJP leaders are signing on as proposers and seconders at Mr.Joshi's residence.

Similarly, several BJP leaders from Odisha including 10 MLAs also visited Delhi to remain present during the filing of nomination papers by the NDA candidate.

As Smt.Murmu is a daughter of Odisha, BJD president Mr.Patnaik yesterday appealed to all the members of Odisha Legislative Assembly, cutting across party lines, to extend unanimous

support to elect her to the country's highest



office. Meanwhile, Smt.Murmu reached New Delhi this morning. She will file the nomination on June 24.

"Landed in New Delhi Just ago, will be filing my nomination for the Up-coming Presidential election tomorrow i.e June 24th. Seeking blessings from crores of Indians. Jay Mahaprabhu Jagannath Dev," Smt.Murmu tweeted.

Smt.Murmu, who was welcomed by BJP leaders at the airport, is staying at the Odisha Bhawan. She called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a brief statement issued before she left for the national capital, Smt.Murmu said, "I thank all and seek cooperation from everyone for the presidential election. I will meet all voters (lawmakers) and seek their support before July 18."

If elected, she will be the first tribal president of India and the second woman in the post.

Presidential polls: BJD sends two ministers to Delhi to attend nomination event of Droupadi Murmu

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): As rightly speculated that the selection of former Jharkhand Governor Droupadi Murmu as NDA's presidential candidate would divide

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who is on a 10-day foreign tour, said two ministers of the State Cabinet will sign nomination papers of Murmu and remain present

Law, ST and SC Development, Minorities and Backward Class Welfare Jagannath Saraka and Minister for Water Resources, Commerce and Transport

Murmu. Murmu leaves for Delhi, seeks cooperation from all for presidential polls "BJP President Shri @JPNadda ji spoke to me about the filing



opposition votes, the BJD went one step ahead by sending two of its Ministers to attend the nomination event.

BJD supremo and

during the filing of nomination at New Delhi on Friday. Informing this on social media on Thursday, Naveen said he has sent Minister for

Tukuni Sahu to be present at the time of filing of nomination papers after BJD president JP Nadda spoke to him about the nomination of Smt #DraupadiMurmu ji for #President Election. My cabinet colleagues Shri @saraka_fan and

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the State Government will very soon sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Institute of Ocean Tech-

embankments. After the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai under the Ministry of Earth Sci-

draft MoU for this purpose, official sources said on Thursday.

The Finance Department has also ap-

BJP has 'broken' dream of lakhs of youth: Rahul Gandhi on Agnipath

NEW DELHI(KCN): Attacking the BJP over the 'Agnipath' scheme, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said the ruling party has

of youth to serve the nation. Such a storm will rise from these tears that will destroy the arrogance of power of the prime minister,"



"broken the dream" of lakhs of youth to serve the country and asserted that a storm will rise from their tears that will break Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "arrogance of power". Taking to Twitter, Gandhi posted a video of a young man in tears expressing anguish over having lost the chance to join the armed forces. "There has not been any recruitment in the armed forces for the last two years. 2018-19: 53,431; 2019-20: 80,572; 2020-21: 0; 2021-22: 0," the former Congress chief said.

"By bringing 'Agniveers' on a four-year contract, the BJP has broken the dream of lakhs

Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

Addressing Congress parliamentarians and legislators from across the country who converged at the party headquarters here on Wednesday to express solidarity with him after he was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate, Gandhi had alleged that the BJP government "which calls itself nationalist" was "weakening" the armed forces through the 'Agnipath' scheme.

He had also said Modi will have to withdraw the military recruitment initiative just like he rolled back the farm laws.

Several parts of the country witnessed protests after the announcement of the scheme that seeks to recruit youths between the age bracket of 17-and-half years to 21 for only four years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years.

For 2022, the upper age limit has been extended to 23 years.

Congress not to vote Murmu

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Congress MLAs in Odisha will not sup-

in favour of her in the presidential election," Mishra told re-

also criticised the BJD government and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who had called upon all the MLAs to support Murmu as she is from Odisha.

"If Naveen Patnaik has so much sympathy for Odia people, why did he send a non-Odia, BJP nominee, to Rajya Sabha? Did not he find any Odia suitable for the Upper House?" he questioned, hinting towards Ashwini Vaishnaw, who is now serving as Railway Minister in Modi's Cabinet.

The National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu will file her nomination papers Friday, June 24. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, top NDA leaders and two State Ministers will join the event in New Delhi.

On the direction of Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik, two State Cabinet Ministers Jagannath Saraka and Tukuni Sahu are in New Delhi to attend the nomination filing of NDA presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu. ST & SC Development & Law Minister Saraka and Water Resources, Commerce & Transport Minister Sahu have signed as proposers in the nomination papers of Murmu Thursday. The BJD has taken this move after BJD President JP Nadda spoke to Patnaik in this regard.



port NDA's presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu as she has been inspired by BJP and RSS ideology, said senior Congress lawmaker Narsingha Mishra on Thursday.

"As Murmu is inspired by the RSS ideology, neither me nor my party members will cast a vote

porters. "The opposition parties at the Centre including the Congress have already chosen its candidate for the election. So, there is no chance in turning back on our candidate and supporting another, which will be against our party," he said. The Congress leader

ABRSM observes Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Bhubaneswar(KCN): On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (75 years of India's Independence), the Odisha State unit of Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasang (ABRSM) organized a 2-day seminar in the Post-Graduate Department of Sanskrit, Utkal University on 17th and 18th last.

Goswami, Dr. Pabitra Kumar Ratha, Dr. Dharmendra Das participated in the seminar and highlighted certain hidden facts of Indian history. They urged the people to follow the basic principles of Indian culture and tradition in order to make India Vishwa Guru. Dr. Pabitra Kumar Ratha delivered the introductory address and Dr. Narayan Mohanty proposed vote of thanks both the days. Mr. Deepak Kumar Mahanta anchored the programme.



Historian, Educationist and Social Worker Khurdha (KCN): Kalinga Paika Sangathan, Sahid Raghunath Samiti, Khordha Jilla Bhasha Samiti, Khordha Jilla Baristha Nagarika Mancha Vice-President, Sankat Mochan Bidyamandir, Khordha Aaitihasik Samaj Member, Odisha Bhasha Pratisthan, Khordha Head Post Office Advisory Committee Associate Editor, AAMARI SATYA

Surakhya Sammilani, Sambad Sahitya Ghara, Aryavart Ancient Academy, Odisha State Brigade School, Trinath Charana Kala Sansad, Konark Sahitya sansad, Palla Saraswati Sishu Mandir, Khordha Itihaas Sankalan Samiti Advisor, Utkal Vikash Parisad,

International Yoga Day was celebrated



Delang(KCN): The leading voluntary organisation Intellectual Club, Ghoradia has celebrated eighth International yoga Day 21 June 2022 at the premiss of the Govt. UP School, Gada Beguniapada of Delang Block. Yoga guru Sri Pankaj Behera joined the function and spoke about the importance of yoga for healthy living and its importance to body, as well as various yoga practices such as Sun salu-

asans ,pranayama etc. Sri Dillip Kumar Dhaudia, Founder of Club/Journalist prased the programme & He said that yoga is vital for physical health as well as mental and spiritual progress. Around 50 participants participated in the yoga programme. Social worker Hemant Behera, Baburam Das, Hapina Jena were present and coordinated camp.

Inox green energy services limited files DRHP with SEBI

Inox Green Energy Services Limited(IGESL) is a major wind power operation and maintenance ("O&M") service provider within India has filed DRHP with SEBI on 17th June 2022. The company plans to raise funds through initial public offering (IPO) aggregating up to Rs. 740 crore comprising of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs. 370 crore and offer for sale aggregating up to Rs. 370 crore. IGESL intend to utilise net proceed from the issue towards Repayment and/or pre-payment, in full or part, of certain borrowings availed by the company including redemption of Non-Convertible Debentures in full and balance amount for general corporate purpose. Inox Green Energy Services is a subsidiary of Inox Wind Limited ("IWL") which is listed on the National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited and is part of the Inox GFL group of companies ("Inox GFL Group"). IGESL is engaged in the business of providing long-term O&M services for wind farm projects, specifically the provision of O&M services for wind turbine generators ("WTGs") and the common infrastructure facilities on the wind farm which support the evacuation of power from such WTGs. Company has an established track record in the wind energy O&M industry of more than nine years due in large part to the synergistic relationship it share with its parent company, IWL (which commenced operations in the wind energy space in the financial year ended March 31, 2010). It enjoy synergistic benefits as a subsidiary of IWL, which is principally

engaged in the business of manufacturing WTGs and providing turnkey solutions by supplying WTGs. It offers a variety of services including wind resource assessment, site acquisition, infrastructure development, EPC of WTGs and through it providing long-term O&M services for wind power projects. Pursuant to an exclusivity agreement between IWL and the company, it provide exclusive O&M services for all WTGs sold by IWL through the entry of long-term O&M contracts between the WTG purchaser and the company for terms which typically range between five to 20 years. Due to this exclusivity agreement, IWL's order book is an important indicator of future revenue and growth for the company. As of March 31, 2022, its portfolio of O&M contracts (consisting of both comprehensive O&M contracts and common infrastructure O&M contracts) covered an aggregate of 2,750 MW of wind projects spread across eight wind-resource rich states in India with an average remaining project life of more than 20 years. Of the 2,750 MW capacity, 1,922 MW was attributable to its contracts for comprehensive O&M services and 828 MW was attributable to its common infrastructure O&M contracts. In general, its comprehensive O&M contracts cover the provision of O&M services to both WTGs installed on a wind farm and the common infrastructure facilities, such as electrical substations and transmission lines, which support the wind farm; its common infrastructure O&M contracts relate only to the provision of O&M services on the common infrastructure facilities. The counterparties to O&M contracts feature

a mix of leading independent power producers ("IPPs") (approximately 71.27%), public sector undertakings ("PSUs") (approximately 14.62%) and corporates (approximately 14.11%). Due to its exclusivity agreement, IWL's order book is an important indicator of future revenue and growth for the company. As of March 31, 2022, IWL had entered into binding contracts for the supply of 2 MW capacity WTGs with an aggregate capacity of 780 MW. Further, IWL had also received letters of intent, which are non-binding and which therefore may not lead to execution of any form of binding contract, for its new 3.3 MW capacity WTGs with an aggregate capacity of 524.7 MW. IWL's order book included orders for WTGs with aggregate capacity of 1,304.7 MW. The order book includes executed binding contracts for WTGs for an aggregate capacity of 780 MW and signed letters of intent for an aggregate capacity of 524.7 MW which are non-binding and which therefore may not lead to execution of any form of binding contract. As of March 31, 2022, its O&M services portfolio consisted of an aggregate 2,750 MW of wind farm capacity and 1,375 WTGs. This included a total capacity of 1,178 MW for various customers in Mahidad, Rojmal, Sadla, Savarkundla and Dayapar in Gujarat; a total capacity of 632 MW for various customers in Kukru, Nipaniya, Jaora and Lahori in Madhya Pradesh; a total capacity of 560 MW for various customers in Dangri, Rajasthan; and a total capacity of 196 MW for various customers in Vaspert, Bhendewade and South Budh in Maharashtra.

Heritage Alumnus bagged Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Appreciation

Kolkata (KCN): Proud to state that Dr. Surjendu Maity (DR) for the patients suffering from

on research and development," said Prof. Basab Chaudhuri,

the former Vice-chancellor of West Bengal State University Registrar of the University of Calcutta.



Surjendu Maity an alumnus of the Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata, from the Department of Chemical Engineering bagged the Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Appreciation 2021 for his Ph.D. research project at IIT Guwahati. The research project was done in joint collaboration with Mr. Subhradip Ghosh and Dr. Tamanna Bhuyan from IIT Guwahati guided by Dr. Dipankar Bandyopadhyay, Centre of Nanotechnology, IIT Guwahati, and Dr. Dipankar Das, Department of Ocular Pathology, Uveitis & Neuro-Ophthalmology Services, Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya, Guwahati. Surjendu's research project focuses on the Quantification of B-2-microglobulin (B2M) in human tears can help in detecting the onset and growth of the dreaded eye disease diabetic retinopa-

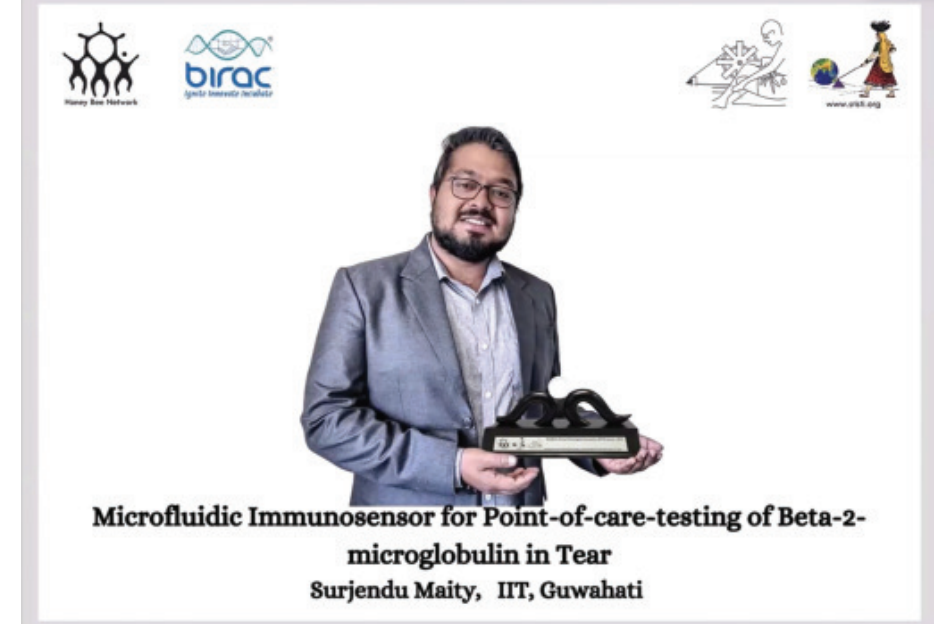
diabetes mellitus. "I was quite sure that this research will prove beneficial to society and I am thankful to my mentors who have guided me to make this project successful," said Dr. Surjendu. "During his college days, Surjendu had a keen interest in research and development. I wish him all the best for his future endeavors," said Prof. Sulagna Chatterjee, Head of the Department, Department of Chemical Engineering, Heritage Institute of technology. "In the past, many of our alumni members have won this award. They have done some wonderful research in helping Thalassemia patients, patients suffering from Parkinson's disease, and many more. At Heritage, we create a strong research ecosystem in the Institute so that students can pursue higher studies once they complete their B.Tech programme and focus

cellor of West Bengal Barasat and former versity of Calcutta.

8th International Day of Yogo programmes at Maher

Chennai(KCN): Associate Centres of Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research (Deemed to be University), one of the Indian Yoga Association, New Delhi organized the Common Yoga Protocol(CYP) prac-

tical demonstration on 21st June at the campus. Hundreds of MAHER students and scholars participated in the yoga demonstrations. Apart from that, a number of Yoga programmes were organized on the eve of 8th International Day of Yoga 2022, through online mode for the past two months including World record Yoga Programmes , One week International Faculty Development Programme on " Holistic approach to illness" , a number of programmes to bring awareness on Common Yoga Protocol, Cultural programmes, Literary activities, Quiz programmes, Workshops, Webinars, Dis-



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Madhavan: I have never been conscious of my image

In the melting pot of Indian cinema, the crossing over of talent between various industries has always

reimagined the concept to suit the actors in the Tamil version, while maintaining the essence of Charlie.

tied down by, say, cellphones? Many a time, in a relationship, it is not just about the sights and

erful and independent women. Alaipayuthey, Minnale, Irudhi Suttru, Vikram Vedha... all the wives, lovers in these films have been strong characters. There are no scenes where they fall on my feet... In fact, there has been just one film where I had to slap my heroine, and I still regret doing that scene. Shradha is a beautiful woman, a worldly-wise person. I enjoy working with professionals like her. There were quite a few hurdles when it came to the shooting of Maara... I hate to work simultaneously on many films because it isn't easy for me to slip in and out of characters. We started Maara before Rocketry, but after the first schedule of Maara, we weren't satisfied with what we had shot. We went back to the drawing

board and decided to reshoot the film. My career is a prime example that our lives are determined only by the decisions we make. I have done a lot of things that were considered wrong in Tamil cinema. In Hindi, they called me a Tamil actor. In Tamil, some called me a Hindi actor. But as I knew both languages well, and knew enough about the industries, it all worked out well for me. All the decisions I took were scary, but thankfully, everything fell into place. The result of my perseverance is that I'm in a position where I am forced to say no to almost three projects every day. You take time out to wish your fans on social media. You maintain a constant connection with them. Do you believe the exclusivity of a star is a

myth right now? Some of the biggest superstars of the world do this. Why does a Salman Khan or a Shah Rukh Khan need a Twitter account? Doing this is not just to show how good a person one is. People want to know if reel heroes are real-life heroes too. And you can't put up with this facade for too long because the audience will see right through it. If someone wants a birthday wish, it hardly takes me a few seconds to send out a tweet. But for them, that acknowledgment could give them a lifetime of happiness. It is a boon that God has given us artists. I am able to spread happiness with almost no effort. This world could do with a lot more happiness. We should be worthy of our devotees.



been happening. While women actors have straddled cinema across languages with ease, it hasn't quite been the case with our male stars, even with the likes of Rajinikanth. Arguably, the exception in this trend is Madhavan, who has been successful across languages for a couple of decades now. "When I decided to do OTT, I didn't care whether people would tag me as 'a not-so-big actor'. When I decided to act in 3 Idiots, I didn't care when people told me I could lose my Tamil market. When I did Anbe Sivam, they said my Hindi market could get affected, and again, I didn't care. I have never been image-conscious," says Madhavan, in a video interaction with the media over a Zoom call. What is it about Maara, the remake of Malayalam film, Charlie, that made you say yes to the project? This is more an adaptation of Charlie than a remake. We have

My favourite aspect of Charlie is its world. Similarly, Maara will feel like a breath of fresh air. It is a simple world with simple problems and simple solutions. These days, when we meet someone, we exchange numbers and relationships are developed only in the digital world. We deal with their online persona, but they may be a completely different person in real life. The relationship gets strained. In Maara, the lead character doesn't even have a cellphone; both main characters judge each other by their real-life actions. Considering that they don't meet for a long time in the film, there is almost a cosmic connection between them. Also, both Shradha Srinath and I have a sort of vagabond-ish outlook to life. We feel it necessary to interact with people. So, in many ways, I share Maara's philosophies about life. Have you fantasised over how life would be if we were not all

sounds, but even something like, say, fragrance, that is important... All that is missing in this digital age. We don't look beyond our social media personas. I miss the 'getting to know' part. I'm not sure if I need this much information about people. Of course, issues like privacy etc... are there, but I miss discovering something novel about a person after meeting, conversing, and understanding them over a period of time. During Alaipayuthey, I remember waiting for a week for a review. There was a sense of anticipation, and there was joy in that wait. Now, we see reviews even before the first show. Our chemistry is key to this film because we have very limited scenes together. If that doesn't work out, then our relationship in this film sinks. In all my films, utmost importance is given to women characters; I only enjoy such stories. I come from a family of strong, pow-

We still need to be extremely mindful of virus: Shilpa Shirodkar after receiving COVID vaccine

MUMBAI: Shilpa Shirodkar recently became the first Indian celebrity to receive COVID-19 vaccine but the actor believes that people must not become complacent and

hesitation about getting vaccinated as she has complete trust in science. "There were no concerns at all in my head. I spoke to my family, my sister (actor Namrata

nation at the centre. She revealed that her husband and daughter will receive their first dose of the vaccine next week. "I'm just another simple human, like any other who faced

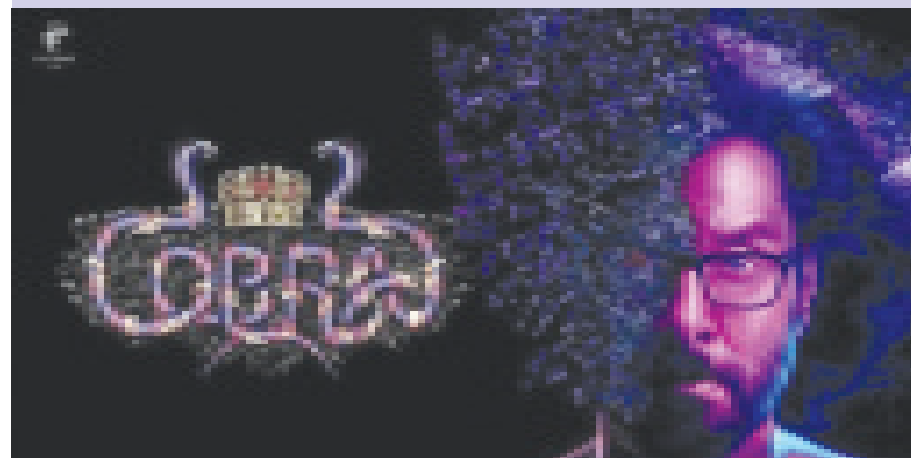


should continue wearing face masks to protect themselves from the virus. Shirodkar, known for starring in 1990s blockbuster such as "Kishen Kanhaiya", "Hum", "Khuda Gawah" and "Aankhen", had revealed on Thursday that she received the coronavirus vaccine in Dubai, where she has been living with her family for the past two years. The actor had shared a selfie on Instagram, in which she was seen wearing a mask with a small bandage on her upper arm. "Vaccinated and safe! The new normal...here I come 2021. Thank you, UAE," she had captioned the image. Talking to PTI, the 51-year-old actor said she received a jab of Sinopharm vaccine on Wednesday and will be getting her next dose after 21 days. Shirodkar asserted that she had no

Shirodkar) and they all encouraged me. We all have to get it someday. I have always been sure that I would get vaccinated once there would be clarity on it. I trust the system and I trust science," Shirodkar said. But despite getting the vaccine, the actor said she will still not let her guard down against COVID-19, which has claimed the lives of over 19 lakh people globally since it emerged in China in late 2019. She urged others to continue to follow the rules and regulations from the authorities. "I believe the masks are not going anywhere for a while. We have to be extremely mindful and protect ourselves from the virus," she added. Shirodkar said the vaccine rollout process in UAE is simple and well-organised as a person can just walk in and get the vacci-

troubles during the pandemic. Everyone must be a responsible citizen of the world. When the vaccine is made available they should go take it. Let's all fight this virus together," she said. Shirodkar also thanked the frontline health workers for keeping everyone safe and alive during the pandemic, and hopes that the year 2021 will bring everyone closer. In India, the drug regulator has approved Oxford vaccine Covishield, being manufactured by the Serum Institute, and indigenously developed Covaxin of Bharat Biotech for restricted emergency use in the country. The country is preparing for the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and the second nationwide mock drill was conducted on Friday.

'Cobra' teaser: Vikram gives goosebumps with getups and maths



The teaser of Ajay Gnanmuthu's Cobra released on Saturday and viewers were taken in with a surprise with lead actor Vikram's physical transformation and many getups, which was initially perceived just as a 'promotion' strategy. The first look poster of the movie itself cited that 'maths' will be a major plot device in the movie. Going by the teaser, Vikram

apparently plays a maths teacher who has an alter ego 'Cobra', who is an international thief. Veteran cricketer Irfan Pathan, who is seen as an Interpol officer, is hinted to be the primary antagonist who chases Vikram's character. KGF-fame Srinidhi Shetty will be playing the lead actor's love interest and other cast members include Robo Shankar, direc-

tor KS Ravikumar and Malayalam actor Roshan Matthews and music is composed by AR Rahman. Earlier the action thriller was aiming for a May 2020 release when COVID-19 struck and the crew, which was shooting in Russia had to return with 25 per cent of production work left. However, shooting resumed last month.

The Woman Tribal Draupadi Murmu Gives Heights to Presidential Race

Draupadi Murmu has been declared by the Bharatiya Janata Party as its presidential candidate for the fifteenth presidential election 2022, which shows good political skills and maturity. She is a tribal representative who will be the first tribal to reach the highest constitutional post and the second woman President of the Republic of India, which will give new strength to the democracy of India, along with the world. India is also changing rapidly. A new political vision, a new political environment is taking



shape in the all-pervading turmoil, in this era, with Draupadi Murmu becoming the President, not only the dignity of this highest constitutional post will get a new record, but the national ex-

and welfare of the tribals, affecting about 11 percent of

the total electorate and about 25 percent of the total voter turnout. Particularly, the BJP, comprising Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and Nadda, is giving special attention to the tribal community so that it can bring itself out of the limited identity of the urban party. When the names of presidential candidates were being discussed, I was hoping to get some names from the tribal community itself. Murmu was on top of them. Certainly, having a tribal woman in Rashtrapati Bhavan will enhance the image of BJP among the tribal community, whose direct impact can be seen in states like West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Gujarat.

Narendra Modi has not only stunned, surprised, but has been doing miracles with his decisions, the same has been done by announcing the name of Draupadi Murmu. Because many targets have been hit with this one arrow. The BJP has been

Lalit Garg

from a Dalit background, President K. R. Narayan took a tough stand on the communal violence in Gujarat in 2002, forcing the then state government to change its stand on some matters, while President Giani Zail Singh, who came from a backward background, stunned the intoxicated Rajiv Gandhi government with a thumping majority. The issues were blown away. Ramnath Kovind also strengthened the democracy of the country with his decisions taken from time to time. There is ample possibility that Draupadi Murmu will be elected as

President, but India has a history that ordinary people have done 'extraordinary' things. Draupadi Murmu was born on 20 June 1958 in Baidposi village of Mayurganj district of Odisha. His father's name is Biranchi Narayan Tudu. They belong to the tribal ethnic group, the Santhals. She graduated from Rama Devi Women's College. After this Draupadi started the job from the State Secretariat of Odisha. She is married to Shyam Charan Murmu. In 1997, she became a local councillor for the first time by winning the election of the Nagar Panchayat for the first time. Three years later, he got the



istence and identity will also be strengthened. Because her image has been that of a knowledgeable and soft-spoken politician of settled democratic traditions.

It is hoped that her presence as the constitutional head of the country will reassure every Indian, especially women, tribal for their peaceful and safe life. Only the tribal can feel the pain of the tribal - that is, the pain of the reality that has been experienced. It is no surprise, in my view, that Draupadi Murmu emerged as the greatest female representative to raise the voice of the tribal's and the oppressed in today's world. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had sent a Muslim APJ Abdul Kalam to Rashtrapati Bhavan and now Narendra Modi is consecrating first a Dalit, Ramnath Kovind and then Draupadi Murmu, a Scheduled Tribe, to the highest post of the executive, which is certainly a healthy & progressive decision.

The credit for the presentation of Draupadi Murmu as a brilliant and historic presidential candidate goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP President J.P. Nadda's strategy. Murmu's nomination is only sharpening the edge

struggling hard in these states due to the presence of very powerful regional parties like Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, BJD in Odisha and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in Jharkhand. Whereas in these three states the dominance of Congress is negligible. In such a situation, by sending Draupadi Murmu to Rashtrapati Bhavan, BJP will not only be able to ease its fight, but will also be successful in making its place in these states. The elections are in front of Gujarat, there is also a tribal community in abundance, the effect of this decision will be seen there as well. On the other hand, for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, its fight against the conversion of a large number of tribals on behalf of Christian missionaries may also become easier now.

BJP has been showing efficient and mature politics in these years. His leadership, while showing strategic acumen, made a man from a caste-backward background as the Prime Minister, first from a Dalit background as the President and now by declaring a tribal woman as the Presidential candidate. The meaning of bulge has changed. It has been given the name of so-



the President and after taking oath of this office, she will also display the same determination and make her tenure memorable for the country, which is free from terror, free from scams, inflation and free from communalism. In which Dalit, Adivasi and Backward Classes

opportunity to become an MLA from the same constituency of Rairangpur, first in 2000, and then a minister in the BJP-BJD government twice. In 2015, she was made the first woman governor of Jharkhand. Former President V.V. Giri was also born in Odisha, but he was origi-



should get an egalitarian and fair lifestyle of living. Being a candidate from a simple family to the highest office of the country is a testimony to the glory of Indian democracy. Nothing could be better than being Draupadi Murmu's candidate as President and marching towards getting

nally from Andhra Pradesh. Murmu's life witnessed many crises and struggles, which shows her vitality. Apart from being a widow in her youth, she did not break even with the death of two sons. During this, she continued to encourage the whole family including her only daughter Itishree. Her eyes moistened when she was being administered oath as the Governor of Jharkhand. She is an ideal and courageous woman of religious rites. There is a special influence of Indian culture and rituals in them. Two days before the announcement of the name of her presidential candidate, she went to a cowshed in Rairangpur which is in law's town of my son Gaurav Garg while feeding the cows there, and told the operators there that you pray for me. Perhaps she had some hope and possibility that her name might be announced and fortunately Gaumata heard the call of her heart. Today, the fire of communal hatred is being deliberately fuelled in the country. All kinds of crises are being created; it is a great irony of democracy that heads are counted here, not brains. Our democracy is suffering because of this, it has been suffering. More heads are coming, not the brain. There are more masks of caste, religion and class and less faces of humanity. By deceitful use of intelligence, they create a maze of equations, from which Abhimanyu did not learn to get out. In fact, the people who drive democracy need such training so that a new definition of democracy can be rewritten. This vision made Draupadi Murmu's role not only important but also decisive. Therefore, by placing this burden on Draupadi Murmu, the country wants to assure that the governance of the Constitution from Arunachal Pradesh to West Bengal; it will run uninterrupted and the country's borders will be completely safe because the President is the Supreme Commander of the armies. This will be the first time in the history of India that the dignity of the office of a tribal woman will be increased by placing her as the President.



of lower class politics on which BJP has been working hard for a long time. The neglect of the tribal community across the country has been in discussion since independence, Modi has been active since the beginning for the interest

cial harmony, after a tribal politician becomes the President, there will be justice for the tribal and backward classes, it is believed.

It is wrong to say that the President in India is only an office of symbolic importance. Coming

elected is an inspiration to crores of people with similar backgrounds. This will not only give more strength to Indian democracy, but will also increase its fame. There is no doubt that Draupadi Murmu has been an ordinary politi-

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World Writers Celebrate Motivational Strips 4th Anniversary in grandeur

Bengaluru (KCN): Motivational Strips, the worlds most active writers forum's celebrated

Avoid factors that make writers tense
Be open to all without bias or fence



its 4th anniversary in grandeur. An influx of greetings flooded the forum from writers across the globe in forms of poetry, tributes and literary presentations on Sunday. The forum's varied international government literary associates greeted the forum members expressing solidarity in Motivational Strips' vision to enhance literary quality world wide.

The Founder and President of Motivational Strips Shiju H Pallithazheth unveiled the four core values that Motivational Strips Global Administration decided to adopt coinciding with the 4th anniversary celebrations. The administration decided to follow the values as below Say a big no to nonsense

view all literary opportunities through powerful lens

The forum Director of Motivational Strips Sabrina Bryant from its US office congratulated the members and praised their ownership in the forum's upkeep. Motivational Strips global administration commissioned a new media coordination office in Bengaluru while appointing Poet Sreekala P Vijayan as its chief consultant and Poet Dipanpreet Kaur to assist her in media activities. Motivational Strips is the world's most active writers forum with writers from 167 countries active in it. The visitors to the forum crosses 7.5 million every month

Urge for Credit Flow

Bhubaneswar: Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari on Thursday asked all banks functioning in the State to enhance credit flow to housing and education sectors. Addressing at the 167th Session of SLBC meeting held here at State Convention Centre on Thurs-

day, Mr.Pujari said the two segments which need due attention by all banks under priority sector are housing and education, where the annual credit plan (ACP) achievement is only 34% and need to be improved substantially. Development Commissioner, Pradeep Kumar Jena, APC and ACS, Agriculture Sanjeev Chopra, CEO of UCO Bank Soma Shankar Prasad, Principal Secretary, Finance, Vishal Kumar Dev, Secretaries and Senior officials of various departments, RBI, NABARD and SBI attended the meeting.

sector by disbursing Rs 44,257 crore loan against the target of Rs 46,586 crore. The increase is due to higher lending under Agriculture Term Loan. He advised the commercial banks to improve their performance in the crop loan segment. Majority of the crop loan in the

among Women SHGs during next 5 years. Banks have disbursed credit to the tune of Rs. 6836 crore against the target of Rs. 6002 crore which is 114%. However, the average loan size for SHGs is only Rs. 2.2 lakh which is a major hindrance for transforming them into enterprises.



day, Mr.Pujari said the two segments which need due attention by all banks under priority sector are housing and education, where the annual credit plan (ACP) achievement is only 34% and need to be improved substantially. Development Commissioner, Pradeep Kumar Jena, APC and ACS, Agriculture Sanjeev Chopra, CEO of UCO Bank Soma Shankar Prasad, Principal Secretary, Finance, Vishal Kumar Dev, Secretaries and Senior officials of various departments, RBI, NABARD and SBI attended the meeting. Stating Odisha is one of the fastest growing economies in the country, the Finance Minister said, over the years, Odisha has been successfully transformed from a poverty ridden state to an economically vibrant state following pri-

Annual Credit Plan Achievement above Rs 1 lakh crore for the year 2021-22. He congratulated all banks for disbursing credit to the tune of Rs 1.03 lakh crore which is more than 93% of Annual Credit Plan target for the year 2021-22 as compared to their achievement of 88% in 2020-21. Mr.Pujari expressed happy to note that banks have surpassed the ACP target for MSME, Agri-Allied Sector, Export credit, Social Infrastructure and Financial target for SHGs for the year 2021-22. He urged all banks to continue the momentum and increase the total credit of take and help expand the credit outreach in the state. Agriculture continues to be the major source of livelihood for the people of the State. Banks have achieved 95% of the Annual credit plan under this

State is still provided by Cooperative Banks (around 60%) and commercial banks account for only 36% of total crop loan. MSME sector is the backbone of our economy and plays a significant role in employment generation. The ACP achievement for this sector in FY 2021-22 is Rs. 42691 crore which is 103% of the target i.e. Rs. 41325 crore. However, the growth in credit to this sector over the last year is less than 10%. Further, low ticket size of loan under PMEGP, PMFME and PMMY is a challenge for the entrepreneurs to expand and sustain their business. The banks are advised to increase the lending as well as the ticket size of loans for overall growth of the sector. The State Government has fixed a target of Rs 50,000 crore to be disbursed by banks

Centre working closely with Assam government to overcome flood challenge: PM Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thurs-

day the Centre is continuously monitoring the flood situation in Assam and is working closely with the state government to provide all possible assistance to overcome the challenge. Over the last few days, parts of Assam

have witnessed flooding due to heavy rainfall, he noted and said operations and assisting those who are affected. The Air Force

helping those who have suffered, the prime minister said.



that his government is working closely with the state to provide all possible assistance to overcome the situation. "Army and NDRF teams are present in the flood affected areas. They are conducting evacuation

has conducted over 250 sorties as a part of the evacuation process," he said. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, ministers of the Assam government and officials are working round-the-clock in districts and

"I pray for the safety and wellbeing of all those in affected areas and once again assure all possible support," he said. The state is reeling under a devastating flood with 54.50 lakh people affected and 101 people losing their lives so far this year.

Indian Swimmer Sanjeev and Arjun Tokas, father-son duo who created world record crossing Bonifacio Channel, honored at 'Press Club of India'

New Delhi (KCN): The 'Press Club of India' today felicitated Sanjeev Tokas and Arjun Tokas, the father-son duo who created a world record crossing the Bonifacio channel, in the presence of senior journalists and dignitaries at the premises of 'Press Club of India'. Indian swimmer Sanjeev Tokas, apart from being the Asia Masters gold medalist, has also won many other medals for the country. Recently, Sanjeev Tokas, along with his 16-year-old son, swimmer Arjun Tokas, on June 6, 2022, made his name

said, "It is a matter of pride for me that I have added another world record to the name of my country. It was a difficult task to think of this kind of swimming in the initial days, but I had full faith in my hard work

ference between swimming in the sea and swimming in the swimming pool. There was a lot of danger but my father was with me. Nothing could have been a bigger thing for me than this. I thank all my assis-

Press Club of India President Umakant Lakheda has congratulated the father-son swimming pair for setting such a unique first world record, successfully crossing the Bonifacio Channel in France. Manoj Kumar Sharma, a senior member of 'Press Club of India' expressed happiness to welcome the swimming pair of father-son who made the nation proud. He says that it is a matter of pride for the country, this pair is a true example that we Indians are no less than anyone in the world. Namah, President of



in the field of swimming in the first such world record, which is now discussed all around. The pair successfully crossed the Bonifacio Channel from Corsica, France to Sardegna, Italy, in just five hours and three minutes against challenging weather, winds and obstacles. It has become the first father-son duo swimmer in the entire world to achieve such a world-renowned feat. Commenting on his achievement, swimmer Sanjeev Tokas

and skills, due to which I was able to cross this dangerous Bonifacio Channel with my son for a total of 20 kilometers. During this time due to bad weather and dangerous sea waves, I also felt at times in danger of my life. But keeping the spirit of doing something in the name of the country paramount, we went ahead. After establishing the world record with his father, swimmer Arjun Tokas said, "It is no less than a dream for me. There is a big dif-

tants." Vijay Shankar Chaturvedi, former Management Committee member of Press Club of India and General Secretary of Yamuna Yuvak Kendra, congratulated the father-son duo. Vijay Shankar Chaturvedi said, "both of them are proud for our country and also an inspiration for many father-sons. I wish them this duo went further and one day win a medal for the country in the Olympics games as well."

the Namah Foundation, appealed to the Chief Minister of Delhi and the Sports Minister of India to give grants to such players. So that the youth and talents of the country come forward to shine." Umakant Lakheda, President, Press Club of India and Ajay Yadav, Director of Yamuna Yuvak Kendra, honored the father-son duo, hjn Sanjeev and Arjun Tokas, who crossed the Bonifacio Channel, with medals, track-shoots, trophies and bouquets.

Naveen appeals for Draupadi

Bhubaneswar: Extending his support for NDA's Presidential candidate Draupadi

from other parties including BJP, Congress, CPI (M) and an independent member to support Murmu.



Murmu, Chief Minister and BJD Supremo Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday appealed to all MLAs of Odisha Legislative Assembly to support her.

The BJD Big Boss, who is in Rome today, has made this appeal message to all party legislators through twitter. "Appeal all the members of Odisha Legislative Assembly, cutting across party lines, to extend unanimous support to elect the daughter of #Odisha - Smt #DraupadiMurmu to the country's highest office," tweeted the Chief Minister.

Naveen became the first non-NDA party to announce support to Murmu in the race for Raisina hills. Moving a step forward for the tribal lady from Odisha, he appealed to MLAs

The CM had, yesterday, revealed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier discussed Murmu's candidature with him. In the 147-seated Odisha Legislative Assembly, the BJD has 114 members (including one expelled member), BJP has 22,

Congress-9, CPI (M)-1 and an independent. Besides, excluding one, the BJD and BJP have all MP seats in Odisha. So, this will definitely give a boost to the BJP to win the prestigious election of India. Notably, the BJD had supported NDA candidates for the poll during the last two presidential elections held in 2017 and 2012.

During the last presidential poll in 2017, Patnaik had supported NDA candidate Ram Nath Kovind after receiving a call from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Similarly, Mr. Patnaik was the first to propose the name of PA Sangma for the presidential election held in 2012 against UPA nominee Pranab Mukherjee.

CM Patnaik appeals for unanimous support to 'daughter of Odisha' as President

BHUBANESWAR : A win for Droupadi Murmu, the Presidential nominee of the BJP-led NDA govern-

ment, is getting brighter - almost certain, to be precise - with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik throwing Biju Janata Dal's weight behind the daughter from Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district of the State.



In a clear message to the Mamata Banerjee led non-BJP aggregates which have been trying hard to secure BJD support for Yashwant Sinha, the Chief Minister on Wednesday made an appeal to all MLAs of Odisha to extend their support to Murmu. Droupadi Murmu Naveen, who is currently on a tour to Rome, made the appeal through social media. "Appeal all the members of Odisha Legislative Assembly, cutting across party lines, to extend unanimous support to elect the daughter of #Odisha - Smt #DraupadiMurmu to the country's highest office," he tweeted.

Naveen who congratulated Murmu shortly after the BJP Parliamentary Board chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced her candi-

dature for the top post of the country also made it clear that he had prior knowledge about the BJP choice.

dependent. The regional party has a numerical strength of nine out of 10 seats in Rajya Sabha, while

NDA Presidential candidate.

Expressing his gratitude to the PM, Pradhan said Modi has once again made Odisha proud by choosing Murmu for the top post. Earlier, talking to mediapersons, State BJP president Samir Mohanty said the PM has once again proved that the party stood for the cardinal principle of 'Antyoday', the welfare of the people in the last mile.

Celebrations at Murmu's school, college

Bhubaneswar: A day after Droupadi Murmu's nomination as NDA's Presidential candidate was announced, students and teachers of Capital Girl's High School at Unit-II and Ramadevi Women's University, where she studied, celebrated by distributing sweets. Murmu studied in the Unit II Girls High School during 1974. After completing her schooling, she pursued her higher studies in Ramadevi University, erstwhile Ramadevi Women's College, from 1975 to 1979. During this period, she stayed in Kuntala Kumari Sabat girls hostel at Unit II. School officials said Murmu along with Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal had attended the alumni meet of the school in 2019 during diamond jubilee celebration of the institution. "It will be a historic day for our school if she is elected as the President of India. Being an alumni of this school, her achievements have filled our hearts with pride. She is an inspiration for all of us," said a teacher of the school.



ing with the Prime Minister on May 29, the Chief Minister had told media that there was no discussion on the Presidential election and neither the BJP nor the Opposition political parties have approached him in this context. In a house of 147 members, the BJD has 114 legislators while the Opposition BJP has 22 members, Congress nine and one in-

Odisha Pradesh Congress, the State unit of BJP celebrated Murmu's nomination by bursting crackers and distribution of sweets.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan who was instrumental in getting Murmu the gubernatorial post of Jharkhand Governor in 2015 is believed to have played a significant role in her selection as

Road Map for Airports

Bhubaneswar: With a move to start commercial operation of airports at Rourkela, Utkela, Rangeilunda and Malkangiri, State Government in the Department of Commerce & Transport has chalked out detailed Road Map. Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary Commerce & transport is reviewing progress on regular interval as timelines are set for the purpose.

While Rourkela Airport is all set to start commercial operation as on 31 October, much before Men's FIH Hockey World Cup scheduled to be held on January 2023, MoU between SAIL and AAI will be renewed soon.

Timeline has been set for all sorts of activities and follow up action is being taken up by senior officials of Department of Commerce and Transport. Rourkela Airport will be expanded according to Master Plan, which will cater larger airline users. Alliance Air will be taking dry run with

ATR 72 aircraft for compatibility study and timeline has been set.

Jeypore Airport will be re-seeking 2B Aerodrome Licens-

3C category Airports soon, accordingly all sorts of infrastructure are being improved with long term vision, officials say.

In fact for Jeypore



ing from Directorate General Civil Aviation (DGCA) for commercial operations.

Similarly, resubmission of application of 2B Aerodrome License to DGCA is in the process.

While both Jeypore and Utkela Airports will be upgraded to

airport Rs.232 Crore Master Plan is set, which will have a 1800 Meter long runway to facilitate 72 seater flight. Accordingly Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared.

Rangeilunda Airstrip will be upgraded to 2B Category airport as Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has

selected the airstrip for development under UDAN 4.1.

This project will be supported by the State Government as it will be a State sponsored project and accordingly Rs.50 Crore has been earmarked in the Odisha Budget for the purpose, officials admit. DPR will be prepared for developing existing airstrip for 2B category Airport for development of infrastructure in Rangeilunda for operation of scheduled flights under RCS UDAN.

Malkangiri Airstrip will have a revised project report with escalation of project cost and accordingly over Rs.54 Crore has been estimated.

Way back in 2019, Malkangiri Airstrip was planned with a cost of Rs.28.76 Crore and now it has been revised with a cost of Rs.54.15 Crore.

Detailed Timeline has been set for completion of airport infrastructure, licensing and operationalization of the facility by January 2024.




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MLA Somnath Bharti organises awareness and educational camp to spread awareness on menstrual hygiene

NEW DELHI (KCN): AAP Senior Leader and Malviya Nagar MLA Shri Somnath Bharti organised an awareness and educational camp to spread awareness on menstrual hygiene at Begumpur Community Centre today. Over 250 women of menstruating age from Indra and Balmiki camps attended the program named, 'Khul Karo Baat, Swachhta Saheli Ke Sath'. The program was organised by NGO

speaking about their general health concerns and look for timely diagnosis and treatment. She is a friend these ladies can confide in about their health condition and share queries. Ms. Gurpreet Kaur, program head at Bridging The Gap Foundation was given a new name "Pad Didi" by attendees. Today Bridging The Gap Foundation embarked on its new journey to reach out to the women in the ur-



'Bridging The Gap Foundation' to educate uninformed menstruating women on menstrual hygiene and bust many myths attached

to the monthly cycle. Social awareness movie 'PadMan' was shown to the women attendees to dismiss myths attached to menstruation on the occasion. Swachhata Sahelis were also appointed as part of the program to remain connected to menstruating women as and when needed.



Dr. Simran Kumar, doctor at Mohalla Clinic, Shivalik Road and Dr. Mansi Arya educated the women attendees on menstrual hygiene and helped them overcome all doubts they had. With the help of NGO Humanity Infinite, Shri Somnath Bharti also committed a monthly supply of sanitary pads to 500 menstruating girls and women who can't afford them but want to switch over.

While addressing the event, Shri Bharti advised all the attendees to focus on their health and visit Mohalla Clinics to use the free tests facility provided by CM Shri Arvind Kejriwal for getting checked routinely. Today being fathers' day, the MLA regarded the awareness camp as a fathers' day gift to all the daughters of the area and distributed Sanitary Pads to them.

Mohalla Clinic doctor, Dr Simran Kumar, MBBS, interacted with these women and encouraged them to speak openly about their issues. She was also identified as their first 'Swachhta Saheli'. A 'Swachhta Saheli' could be a teenager or young adult in school or college, an anganwadi worker / Asha worker / nurse or any woman in the society who can teach the uninformed women about the simple concept of menstrual hygiene and make them

ban villages and JJ clusters with its ambitious project ' _Khul Karo Baat Swachhta Saheli Ke Sath_

With the aim to encourage women to adopt menstrual hygiene practices and use sanitary pads or other equivalent measures during their monthly cycle. Shri Bharti appealed to each attendee and also to those who were watching him live through Facebook to ensure that uninformed women in their vicinity etc are supplied with the sanitary pads and other hygiene products. He also appealed to join the revolution of 'Swachhta Saheli' to make all women safe against the diseases caused due to unhygienic conditions during menstruations.

He further took a challenge to make Malviya Nagar assembly the first assembly to educate every uninformed woman on menstrual hygiene and help them switch over to sanitary pads or menstrual cups or something of equal efficacy.

Through this event he also requested everyone to be a part of this movement in one or more of the following ways.

To Commit as many Monthly Sanitary Pads one can afford, alternatively to donate towards this noble objective. To commit time and expertise, if you are a doctor or para medical staff, in achieving the objective of making every menstruating woman commit to good menstruating practices including switching over to sanitary pads or cups or something similarly effective. To take the pledge to speak to all uneducated/uninformed women who come in contact like maids, support staff on this and help them as detailed above.

World Bank approves USD 245 million loan to modernise India's railway logistics infra

NEW DELHI: The World Bank has approved a USD 245 million loan to sup-

per cent of emissions in the freight sector. Trucks also accounted for about

Dedicated Freight Corridor-3 (EFDC) is also supported by the World Bank.

ational capacity strengthening of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) as a commercial organisation and equip it to provide multimodal logistics services.

"India is increasingly focused on multimodal transport, particularly with railways as the central pillar of efficient logistics in the freight transport segment," said Saroj Ayush and Martha B Lawrence, World Bank Task Team Leaders for the project.

"The project will help leverage private sector efficiency for integrating rail transportation into cargo supply chains."



port India's efforts to modernise rail freight and logistics infrastructure, the international financial institution said in a statement on Wednesday. The Rail Logistics project will help India shift more traffic from road to rail, making transport -- both freight and passenger -- more efficient and reducing millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) each year.

The project will also incentivise more private sector investment in the railway sector. Indian Railways is the fourth-largest rail network in the world having transported 1.2 billion tonnes of freight in the fiscal ending March 2020. Yet, 71 per cent of India's freight is transported by road and only 17 per cent by rail. The statement also said that the capacity constraints of Indian Railways have limited the volumes and reduced the speed and reliability of shipments.

As a result, it has been losing market share to trucks over the years; in 2017-18, its market share was 32 per cent, down from 52 per cent a decade earlier. Road freight is the largest contributor to GHG emissions, accounting for about 95

12.3 per cent of road accidents and 15.8 per cent of total road transport-related deaths in 2018. Rail emits about one-fifth of trucks' GHG emissions, and with Indian Railways planning to become a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030, it has the potential to eliminate 7.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases each year, it added.

"While reducing greenhouse gases, the new project will also benefit millions of rail passengers in India as railway lines get decongested with freight moving to dedicated lines," said Hideki Mori, Operations Manager and Acting Country Director, India, World Bank. "Integrating railways with the wider logistics ecosystem is also key to reducing India's high logistics costs, which are much higher than in developed nations. This will make Indian firms more competitive."

The loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) was approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors and has a maturity of 22 years, including a grace period of seven years.

The new Eastern Tata Group-owned? Air India offers to re-hire pilots post retirement for five years

MUMBAI: Tata Group-owned Air India has offered to re-hire pilots post their retirement for a five-year period as the airline looks for stability in operations amid talk of acquiring 300 single-aisle planes, according to internal communication. Air India is considering re-hiring these pilots as commanders, it said. This comes even as the full-service carrier rolled out a voluntary retirement scheme for its employees, including cabin crew, and at the same time recruiting the fresh blood in the once-state-controlled carrier as well. Pilots are the most-expensive asset for an airline and get paid the highest compared to other key roles such as cabin crew and aircraft maintenance engineers. Moreover, shortage of adequately trained pilots in the domestic aviation industry has always been an issue.

Presidential polls: BJD sends two ministers to Delhi to attend nomination event of Droupadi Murmu

Continued from page-1

Smt @TukuniSahu will sign nomination papers today and attend the event tomorrow. #OdishaLeads," tweeted Naveen.

The BJD is the first non-NDA party to extend its support to "daughter of the soil" Droupadi Murmu who is set to become the next President of India. A day after NDA announced its presidential candidate, Odisha Chief Minister had appealed all members of the legislative assembly cutting across party lines to extend unanimous support to elect the daughter of Odisha to the country's highest office. BJD' support has ensured around 52 per cent of the first preference votes for the NDA candidate. The Odisha BJP has also decided to send 10 of its MLAs to attend the nomination filing event. The legislators will leave for the national Capital on Thursday.

Earlier in the day, Murmu was given a rousing reception at Biju Patnaik International Airport amid tight security as she left for New Delhi to file her nomination papers. Tribal dance was performed and hundreds of her supporters greeted her at the airport.

Tech Care for Embankments

Continued from page-1

(INCOIS), Hyderabad for this purpose. Of which, NIOS has come forward to join hands with the State Government, they said.

The NIOS will provide technical guidance and design & drawing of climate resilient coastal protection measures for the State of Odisha. The State is facing challenges due to extreme flood and cyclonic events causing large scale loss to the human life and property in the coastal districts. Odisha has a long coastline of about 480 km along its 6 districts.

The coastal belt faces extreme climate change events like cyclones and super cyclones every alternate year resulting in large-scale devastation to life, property and infrastructure. Besides, shoreline erosion and tidal surges are main threats to the communities living along the coast.

The State has identified some extremely vulnerable saline embankments in coastal districts and intends to initiate measures for strengthening these coastal embankments using the best technological solution available.

To protect Odisha's coast which is vulnerable to tidal surge, the Water Resources (WR) Department has chalked out a plan to construct a 380 km saline embankment at an estimated investment of Rs 1,944 crore.

A detailed project report (DPR) is being prepared under the supervision of the Water Resources department for the first-phase construction of a 380 km saline embankment.

India jump two places to 104 in FIFA ranking after impressive Asian Cup qualification campaign

NEW DELHI: The Indian football team reaped a good harvest of its impressive Asian Cup qualification campaign as it gained two places to

losing to Costa Rica 0-1 in the intercontinental play-off earlier this month. India's ranking among Asian Football Confederation

qualification campaign earlier this month when they won all three of their league matches to top group D and secure a place in the 24-team Finals

months after taking the top spot from Belgium (2nd). Argentina jumped one place to third at the expense of France (4th) who paid the



jump to 104th in the latest FIFA world rankings released on Thursday. The Blue Tigers are placed just below New Zealand (103rd), who missed out on a 2022 FIFA World Cup spot after

members, however, still remained static at 19th place. Iran retained the top spot among AFC countries at 23rd place. The Sunil Chhetri-led side had their best ever Asian Cup quali-

to be held in 2023. This was India's fifth overall qualification and the first time the country qualified for back-to-back Asian Cups. In the overall rankings, Brazil remained on top, three

price for four winless games in the UEFA Nations League. England, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and Denmark complete the top-10. The next FIFA world ranking will be out on August 25.

India vs Sri Lanka 1st Women's T20: Clinical visitors choke hosts by 34 runs, take 1-0 lead

DAMBULLA: The Indian bowlers choked the Sri Lankan women's team after Jemimah

dismissing opener Vishmi Gunaratne (0) in the second over. The senior off-spinner was at her miserly

Shafali Varma compounded Sri Lanka's misery by dismissing Ama Kanchana (11) in the death overs to

dismissed by Aththapatu on 31 while trying to go for a maximum. Smart bowling by the



Rodrigues's vital knock on return to secure a convincing 34-run victory in the first T20 International here on Thursday.

best in the powerplay and returned with figures of 3-1-9-1 to stymie Sri Lanka's progress early on. Deepti also took a stunning catch running in from deep square leg to give Radha her second wicket of the day.

leave them tottering at 104 for five. The second match of the series is slated for Saturday. Opting to bat, India lost opener Smriti Mandhana (1) in the third over of the game, the 25-year-old becoming the victim of veteran spinner Oshadi Ranasinghe while looking to free her arms.

Lankans ensured that they soon got their biggest breakthrough when Harmanpreet (22) was trapped in front of the wicket by spinner Inoka Ranaweera in the 11th over.

Defending a modest 139, left-arm spinner Radha Yadav (2/22) made her presence felt right after the powerplay by dismissing the dangerous-looking Sri Lankan captain Chamari Athapaththu (16) and Harsitha Madavi (10) in three balls.

Deepthi Pooja Vastrakar in the middle overs en route to a tidy spell of 4-1-13-1. Deepti Sharma gave India a flying start,

She hit a tossed-up delivery straight to Chamari Aththapatu at mid-on. Sabbhineni Meghana was out for a golden duck, sent back to the dressing room by old warrior Ranasinghe. Losing two wickets early and under pressure in the hot and humid Dambulla, it was left to the duo of Harmanpreet and Shefali Verma to take control of the situation.

Ranaweera picked two more wickets to send back wicketkeeper batter Richa Ghosh (11) and Pooja Vastrakar (14) to reduce the visitors to 106 for six in 17 overs and leave Jemimah with the task of giving the Indian total a semblance of respectability.

Reduced to 27 for three inside seven overs, Sri Lanka never managed to get going in the run chase, which was further derailed by some tight bowling by seamer Deepti Pooja Vastrakar in the middle overs en route to a tidy spell of 4-1-13-1.

The hosts needed 78 runs in the last five overs and Kavisha got going with a flurry of boundaries against Harmanpreet Kaur and Radha. But it proved insufficient as the Indians choked the home team's run rate while denying the Islanders any six in their innings.

A well-settled Verma was the next to go,

hitting three fours and a six, with Deepti Sharma playing the second fiddle with a 17 off 8 balls.

Serena Williams' comeback cut short by doubles partner Ons Jabeur's injury



EASTBOURNE: Serena Williams' return to tennis action has been cut short after doubles partner Ons Jabeur withdrew from the Eastbourne tournament because of a knee injury. The WTA event had seen tennis great

Williams, 40, play her first two competitive matches since she limped out of last year's Wimbledon in tears with a hamstring problem. The American and Tunisian partner Jabeur made it through to the semi-

finals with a narrow last 16 win over Maria Bouzkova and Sara Sorribes Tormo, before a more convincing quarter-final victory in straight sets against Shuko Aoyama and Chan Hao-ching. Williams will now

focus on Wimbledon where she has accepted a wild card into the women's singles in a bid to win a record-equaling 24th Grand Slam title. She will find out who she faces in the first round when the draw is made on Friday.



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