

Gopalpur Port on Health Care

Gopalpur(KCN): Corporate Social Responsibility Medicine and pediatric, Sarpanch B



Ltd (GPL) has launched mobile health check-up camp at Haripur village under Kalipali panchayat with an aim to provide quality healthcare to people living in the port periphery. The programme has been launched under the (CSR) initiative of the Gopalpur Port. Vice president of Gopalpur Ports Ltd (HR/IR) Ajay Kumar Mishra, Assistant Vice President (HR/IR) Chitraranjan Bahinipati, six doctors with specialisation in genecology. Laxmi Patra and Samiti Member Bikash Kumar Behera of Kalipali panchayat were present on the occasion. Over 300 people from different villages under the panchayat participated in the camp

No end to celebrations as Murmu files nomination for Presidential election

BARIPADA(KCN): community when they achieve something exceptional," the party," he said. Tribals in different pockets in the dis-



tribal women and men danced to the tunes of traditional music and burst crackers in front of they said in unison. Tribal women and men dancing in front of Murmu's house at Rairangpur Tudu said, adding,



the house of NDA's presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu on Friday. Not only Rairangpur Municipality, the celebrations continued across the district for the third day in a row. Dressed in typical tribal attire, the men and women continued the merry-making from morning till noon. "This is how we pay our respects to someone from our | Express Sagram Tudu, a relative of Murmu said it is a historic feat for all tribes across the country and thanked the NDA to have selected one of them for the highest position in the country. "If the tiny hamlet of Rairangpur in tribal-dominated district could be considered for the presidential post, it shows everyone is equal in the eyes of they feel blessed and are showering Murmu with all their affection. Former MP Laxman Tudu who participated in the event, expressed happiness and thanked the NDA for giving priority to a tribal lady for presidential candidate. "The NDA always gives equal priority to tribals and non-tribals and it has proved it. The country is celebrating her achievement," he said.

BJP targets Odisha Congress for not supporting Murmu

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The BJP on Friday be the President of the country. But in party is backtracking," he said. gress should not forget that in a democ-



targeted the State Congress for deciding not to support the NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu and said that it reflected its anti-tribal policy. BJP State unit president Samir Mohanty told mediapersons that it is a matter of pride and honour for all Odia people that a tribal woman from the State is going to stand of rejoicing and extending support, the State Congress has announced its decision not to support her candidature, he added. "The Congress should not forget that it has been elected to power many times due to the cooperation of the tribals. But when it comes to extending its support to them, the grand old Stating that for the first time in the history of Independent India, a tribal woman has been nominated to President post, the BJP leader said the Congress is not able to accept it. But the BJP in the 1997 presidential election had openly supported the candidature of KR Narayanan, he added. The State BJP president said the Con-

'Biggest cowardly attack on democracy': Parties slam Congress on Emergency's 47th anniversary

NEW DELHI/ LUCKNOW/ JAIPUR(KCN): the Emergency declared 47 years ago, saying it was the "biggest cowardly attack" on the country's democracy and that the day it was imposed will always be remembered as a dark chapter in independent India's history.



The BJP on Saturday attacked the Congress over

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav said that the memories of Emergency send a chill down the spine, but he also used the occasion to slam the current BJP government alleging the "danger of an undeclared Emergency is hovering over the country" today. The Emergency, declared

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Trinity Recover From Fever

Puri(KCN): After 12-day long rigorous herbal treatment duration from illness and weakness developed due to fever followed were presented to Maharaj on a silver plate after being in the deities recovered from illness completely and are ready for the world famous Ratha Jatra of Lord Jagannath has begun



ing Anasara rituals, Lord Jagannath and siblings along with Sudarshan recovered completely from illness here at Srimandir. The final phase of secret rituals of deities during their stay at Anasara Ghar (sick chamber) ended yesterday. They were offered dasamula (herbal medicine) for a speedy recovery ing divine bath on Snana Purnima. Daitapati servitors take out a procession and enter Raja Prasad (royal palace) here and convey the good news to Gajapati Maharaj about the recovery of the deities. As part of the Raja Prasad Bije rituals, medicines like Karala, Srichandan and silk garments formed of the Lord's recovery. "The preparation for Nabajauban Besha of Lord Jagannath will begin tonight. This is also a secret ritual of the deities at Srimandir," said a servitor. Lord Jagannath and His siblings had fallen sick a day after having a lavish bath using 108 pitchers of water. Now, to give darshan to lakhs of devotees in fresh look on Nabajauban Darshan at Natamandap and Netrautsav scheduled on June 29. Meanwhile, chariot construction works have reached the last stage. 'Duarabedhas' have been fixed to chariots. With the fast recovery of Lords from fever, the processing in Puri. The devotees can have glimpse of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Sudarshan on chariot on Ratha Jatra as well as inside Gundicha temple during 9-day-long Ratha Jatra, which is also called Ghosha Jatra, commencing from July 2.

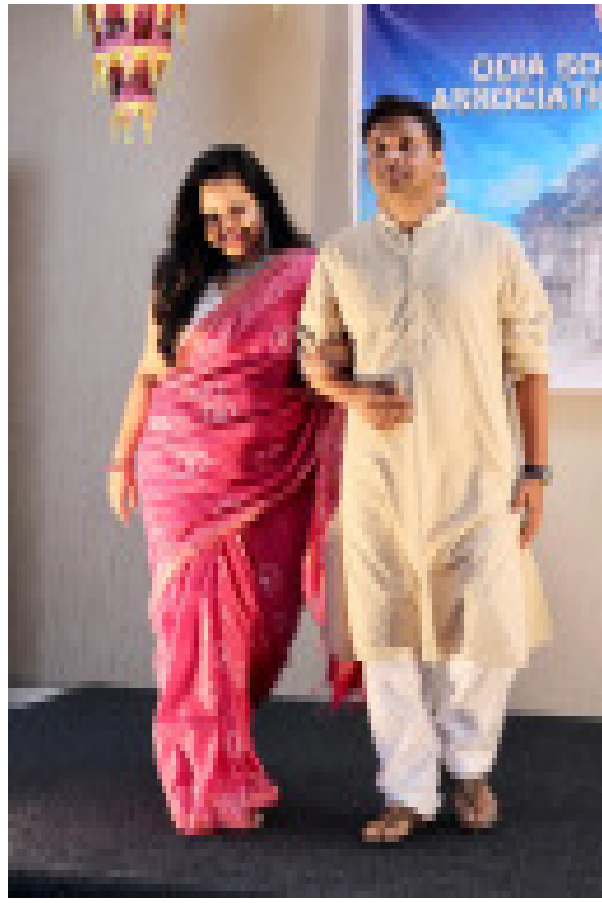
Non Resident Odias in Netherlands Host Raja Festival

Amsterdam(KCN): Odia Socio Cultural Association, Netherlands (OSCAN) recently

hosted Raja Festival with pomp and splendour. The Ceremony Venue, Historic Hall, 'Spirit of India' in the city of Utrecht was decked up aesthetically befitting to the Grand Occasion and was wearing the elegant look of a Mini Odisha. The entire ambience of the meeting place was agog with Festive fervour. Hundreds of Odia Families along with their Friends, relatives and well

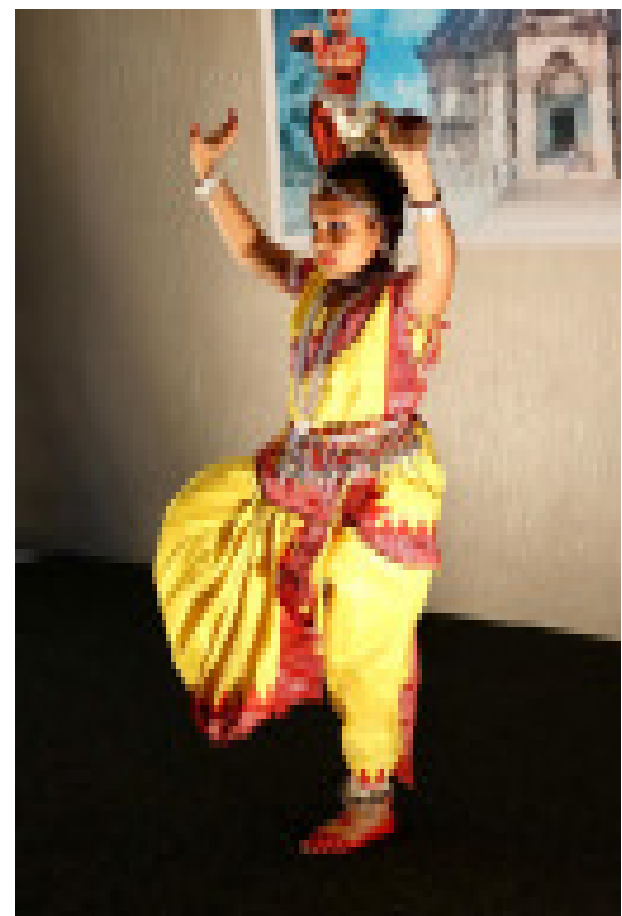
chancements. The Odia community in Netherlands had a special reason to go for a massive and spirited celebration because the Raja Milan was being observed offline after a gap of two years due to Corona disruption.

The Festival was inaugurated by Lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Chief Guest, the



Country Head of Infosys – Netherlands, Puneet Shukla. In his speech Shri Shukla showered profuse

praises on Team OSCAN for their noble endeavours in promoting and propagating Odisha's Rich Art, vibrant culture and lofty tradition in Netherlands. In a video message, streamed during the



function the Chairman of the World Odisha Society, Kishore Dwibedi had lauded the efforts of OSCAN in celebrating and popularising the Fairs and Festivals signifying the essence and fragrance of Odisha

Kids. The special attractions of the spectacular Extravaganza include the presentations



of Mangalacharan item in Odissi Dance, singing of the song titled 'Mo Odisha' and staging of several fulfilled competitions, Fashion Show and Quiz like Recital of Hulahuli, Putting up of Alata, wearing of Saree and getting make up.

The whole arrangement of the Festival was smoothly managed and neatly executed by OSCAN's Core team which include President Saswat Padhi and senior members like Paritosh Mohapatra, Sushil Das Mohapatra, Lopamudra

in Europe. The distinguished guests appreciated the social and charitable services undertaken by OSCAN in Odisha during Corona Pandemic and Fani cyclone period. They also wel-



comed the series of Seminars being conducted by OSCAN to impart technical and skillful training to Odia students aspiring for pursuing higher studies in Netherlands. The highlight of the Festival was a colourful cultural Jamboree presented by male and female members of OSCAN along with their



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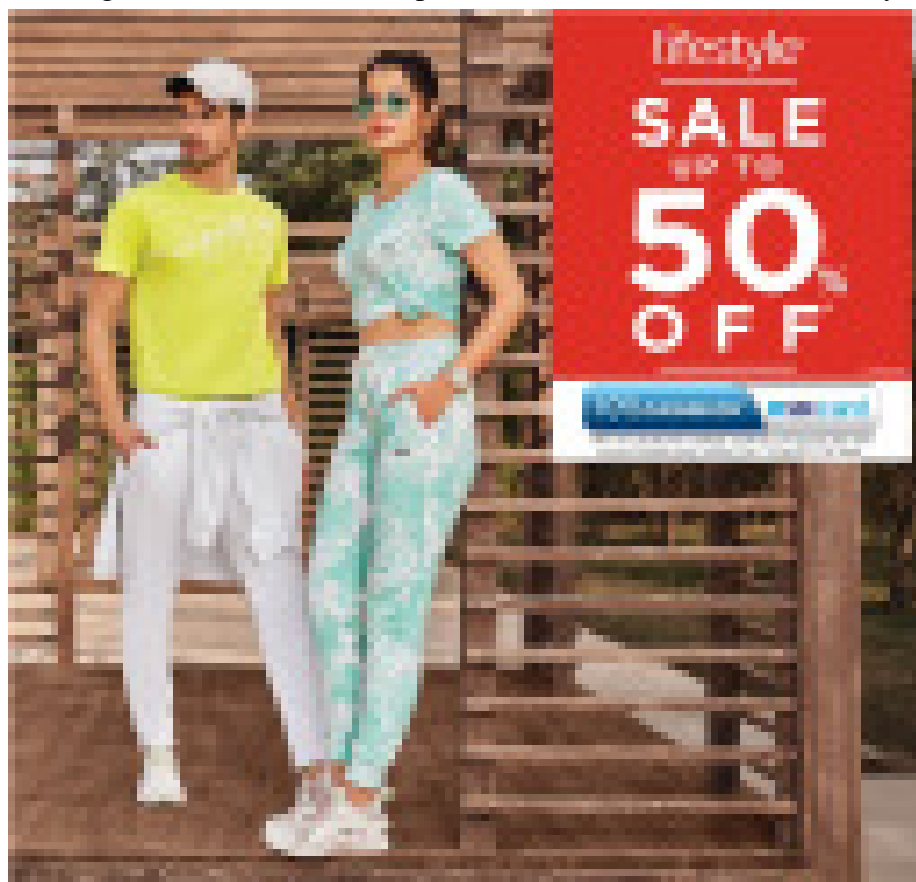
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Nayak, Aurobindo Ghadai, Debadatta Dash, Deepak Parida, Leoshree Mohapatra, Somnath Lenka, Anshuman Mishra and Suvendu Acharya. The Raja Milan – 2022 Festival was supported by Nobel Hypotheken – Netherlands, Jansen Smit Makelaars en taxateurs – Netherlands, AAONXT – Odisha, Om Ayyan Infra – Odisha and SJPD Builder – Odisha.

Lifestyle announces its most-awaited SALE of the Season

Kolkata(KCN): Lifestyle, India's leading fashion destination for the latest trends, has announced its much-awaited 'SALE' which is now live.



along with many more exciting deals on latest styles across top fashion brands. Fashion shoppers can

look at giving their wardrobes a stylish makeover as Lifestyle

from Lifestyle's unique portfolio of brands like Forca, Ginger, Melange, Kappa, Code, Fame Forever, and many more, as well as from a wide variety of leading brands like Vero Moda, Levi's, Puma, Loreal, Titan, Biba, ONLY, Louis Philippe, Tommy Hilfiger, Van Heusen, United Colors of Benetton and many more. Make the most of the latest trends in Apparel, Beauty, Watches, Fragrances, Footwear, Handbags, and Accessories, as you get them all at irresistible offers and attractive prices.

The Lifestyle Sale will be valid across all Lifestyle Stores, online at lifestylestores.com and on the Lifestyle app available for Android and iPhone users.

Silver Cladding Of Shreemandir Doors

Puri(KCN): For silver cladding of the Kalahata gate of Shree Jagannath temple here, 500 Kilogram (KG) of silver stored in the District Treasury has been shifted to Neeladri Bhakata Niwas under tight security on Saturday.

The work for construction of silver cladding plates for the Kalahata Dwara will be completed within this month end. So, work inside the temple or installation of silver cladding on the Kalahata Dwara will be done during the upcoming Rath Jatra when the Trinity will be on a nine-day visit to



of Kalahata dwara will be completed during the Rath Jatra period (July 2 to 11) as per the wish of Lord Jagannath," Mr. Jena

said. He also informed that silver cladding of eight doors have

already completed last year. A devotee had donated silver for Surya Mandir, one of the eight doors. Earlier on Novem-

ber 26 last year, the precious metal was shifted from the strong room to the treasury house as per the order of Puri District Collector. Silver sheets with intricate designs have been installed on the gigantic wooden doors- Jay Bijaya Dwara, Beheran Dwara, Satapahach Dwara, West Bhog Mandap Dwara, Adi Narasingh Temple Dwara, Bimala Temple Dwara and Mahalaxmi Temple Dwara. Nearly two tonnes of silver have been used for the silver cladding work at Puri Shree Jagannath temple. A devotee from Mumbai has donated around 1300 KG of silver for the purpose.

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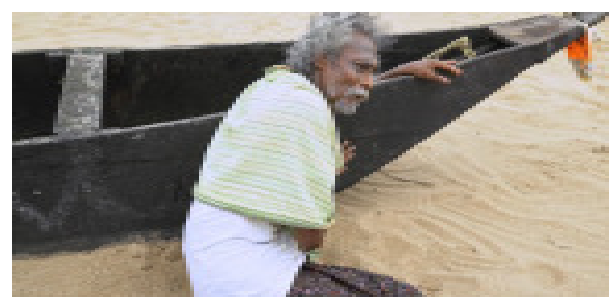
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Best Film Award in the 'Livelihood and Sustainable Technologies' category for the short film 'Sani' at the "11th CMC Vatavaran Film Festival & Awards"

Bombay (KCN, nologies' category at maker Shyam special interest in tional awards. mother of Odisha. Sanjay Sharma Raj): the '11th CMC Bagegal, Dr. G. B. K. making films based Director Dr. S K Das The river is closely



The short film "Sani - The Son of River" at the 11th CMC Vatavaran Film Festival and Awards



Mahanadi" produced under the banner of Social Image Production' and directed by Dr. S K Das was presented with the Best Indian Film in 'Living and Sustainable Tech-

Rao, directors of the festival, etc. S K Das was given a prize of Rs 50,000, trophy and certificate. For which he expressed his gratitude to all the people of the festival committee and the jury. Dr. Sweta Kumar Das (S K Das) pursued a career in

on social issues like women empowerment, farmer suicides, caste system, 'Sani' is based on the livelihood of the



says, "The short film associated with the

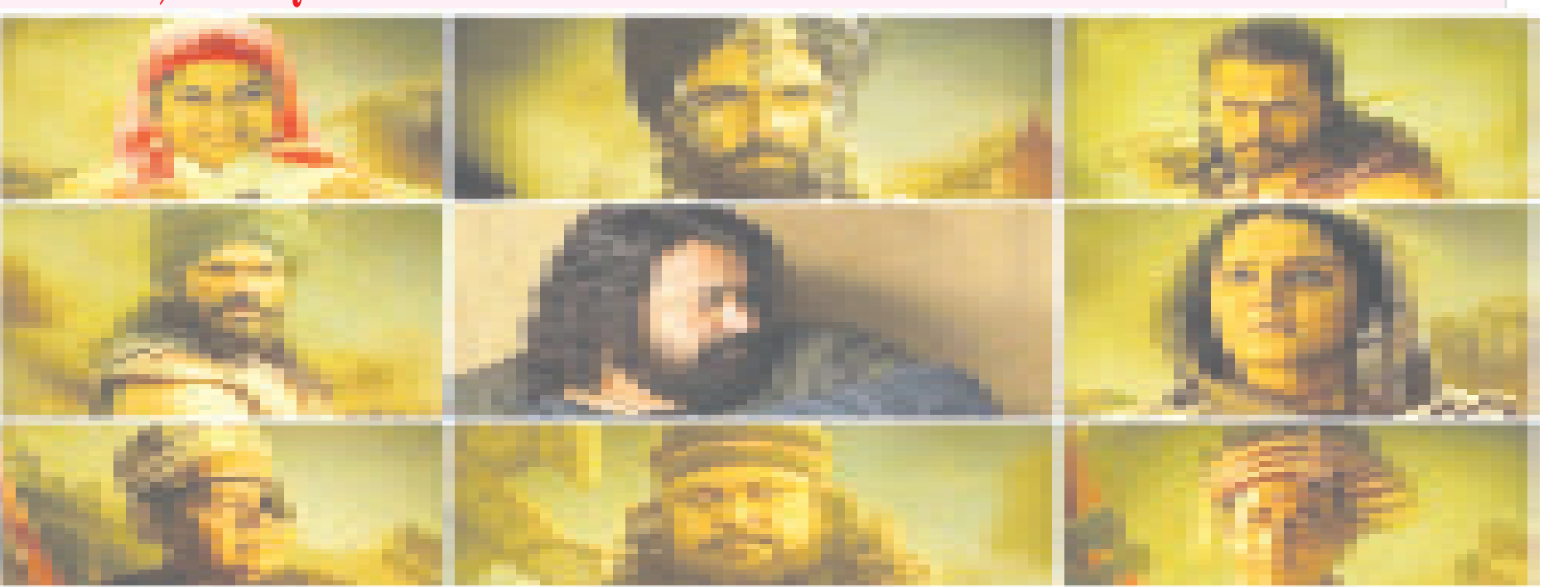


lives, caste system, 'Sani' is based on the livelihood of the



ner of 'Social Image Production' and directed by Dr. S K Das was presented with the Best Indian Film in 'Living and Sustainable Technologies' category at the 11th CMC Vatavaran Film Festival and Awards. He has a disaster management and current social superstition. The short film 'Mask' directed by him won many national and international awards. Mahanadi river and the livelihood of fishermen in Odisha. This film is made in Odia language. River Mahanadi is considered as the people. It is shown in this movie how the fishermen community have to face the water dispute between the two states."

Mohanlal, Akshay Kumar to launch trailers of 'Marakkar: Arabikkadalinte Simham'



The highly anticipated trailer of Priyadarshan's 'Marakkar: Arabikkadalinte Simham' will be launched by Mohanlal and Akshay Kumar on March 6 on their Facebook and Twitter pages at 5 pm. While Mohanlal will launch the Malayalam trailer, Akshay will release the Hindi version. ALSO READ | Mohanlal is 'Marakkar', but what about others in Priyadarshan's star-studded period drama? Ever since the first footage was shown at the Aashirvad event a few months ago, followed by the launch of the teasers, film buffs have been waiting to take a look at a more elaborate trailer. The film's promotions are going on in full swing and the makers recently the Tamil poster featuring Mohanlal, Manju Warrier, Keerthy Suresh, Arjun Sarja, and Prabhu. Marakkar is set to have a grand release on around 5000 screens worldwide on March 26. The big-budget period epic also stars Suniel Shetty, Pranav Mohanlal, Kalyani Priyadarshan, Fazil, and Madhu among others. It is bankrolled by Aashirvad Cinemas, Confident Group, and Moonshot Entertainments.

Violence in the name of dissent turns democracy a lame duck

The streets of India are becoming battlefields on a daily basis and every passing day gives us a jolt of revolt. The hornet's nest reactions that we frequently witness these days are enough to bring the country on its knees. A



sense of deliberate and well calibrated exercise of outrage is seen across its landscape. Most of the parachute landed reforms by the Modi regime is seen to be blown away in the air itself by the mob frenzy and the

impact of it goes beyond borders with more audience interestingly leaning on to manipulate and dictate terms to the world's largest democracy. Is the country at war, the war that it is fighting from inside more hazardously than the one that it has been against its war-mongering neighbours? If that is the case, India has no reason to drumbeat its democratic principles anymore. If the democratic values that we designed and defined for the wellbeing of a pluralistic society are not capable enough to maintain amity and balance, there should be efforts to revisit them and modify with respect to the demand of the time. We have so far been of the opinion that the enemies from across the borders are the real threat. But the latest developments in the country educate us that the real threat is from within, which India as a country is struggling to handle, mostly bound by the liabilities that a democratic setup has actually thrown us in. By turning the whole land into a warzone with public properties destroyed, and a mob fury toppling the essence of our democratic edifice to a deplorable and laughable stage, justifying arson and destruction as a right to express dissent, the parties and the stakeholders of violence are doing a severe injustice to the country. The incendiary mob is trying to challenge the nation's audacity to pick iron gloves to crush its pig-headed outrage.

A steady shift of violence from the Gyanvapi to the

Agnipath in less than two weeks has terribly shattered the minds of people, who uphold the values that the country principally espoused for generations, but seeing them fall apart writhing and wriggling, a sense of anxiety is simmering across India. The political involvement to tarnish the reputation that India has been successfully building on a global canvas is visible. This must be the result of a silent hopelessness that some parties have been going through - a predicament that they got entrapped in since 2014. No probable comeback at sight, most of them frantically jump into vehemently unethical and political slugfests bringing the country into the middle of a terrible trap. The government at the centre seems to be failing to explain its reforms before they are hard pushed on the polity. Every reform, for that matter, needs to be possibly put for public debate and the government must exhibit tenacity and patience and afford to look for the views evolving without prejudiced dispositions. Unless being authoritarian, no reforms can be hammered on the country. Radical reforms with long standing effects need thorough consultations in a democratic setup. The mystery behind the hullabaloo and violence leading to mass destruction of public property is gradually turning discernible. Should we call this an outcome of the nervousness that the Congress has been reeling under since the ED began to grill Rahul Gandhi on the National Herald case? The Agnipath has turned out to be a heavenly subject for the Congress party as its political horizon is clouded with bad times. The unquestionable authority of the Gandhi family in the Congress party is seen principally shaken and browbeaten and unable to take on to the country's saffron political upsurge. It has taken a silhouetted representation by turning the party cadre into an unruly mob as the Con-

M. R. LALU

gress scion sat facing the ED and the Agnipath gave it a tip off moment to empty its anger further.

The mythological intensity and tenacity the government maintained while dragging Rahul Gandhi to the ED's table was criticized, but the suspicion on the Gandhi family on the National Herald case is escalating. Of course, it is untimely to comment on his culpability now. But the party that he leads needs to be tutored on how a democratic country functions when it comes to crippling the corrupt. If the corruption charges that are levelled against him are not true, his party needs to maintain restraint until he comes clean. This indeed would raise his brand value as a politician. The present depiction of disruptive behaviour by the party cadre pretending to be unleashing its aggression against the defence reform, and a genuine cause that it is trying to paint the arson and violence as, is a cowardly attempt to shield the complexity of a political huddle that Rahul Gandhi is naturally pulling his party into. The Congressmen have probably been thrown into a trap by the BJP by letting it unleash horror in the streets in the name of the ED investigation, in effect an act that the Congress party was articulating, mostly fearful of the damage the outcome of the investigation can cause to the Gandhi family and the party. An investigation, which could have been a silent process, was brought to limelight by the immaturity of its cadre, rampaging into the streets deliberately playing a victim card for its leader. This outrage and turbulence that the party designed was particularly meant for deepening the crisis that the country was already in due to the controversial remarks on the prophet by the BJP spokespersons.

Again, the uninterrupted and infuriating violence since Gyanvapi seems to have been a framework of this desperation which could successfully throw the country into flames.

Local offences which should have remained mere trifling issues within the boundary of the country were overstuffed to the level of attracting global attention. The episodes spanning from Gyanvapi to the grilling of Rahul Gandhi by ED to the Agnipath, a sequence of deliberate interventions both internal and external were intended to break the brittle bones of democracy. Narratives to camouflage guilt and paint the initiatives of the government as attack on the democratic principles, allowing hostilities to bristle and ignominious attitude being permitted to precipitate, the visible apathy with which the parties deal the essence of India is insidious. A recipe for national disaster that the political ignobility in the country has developed, injects India's veins with venom of hatred and the effect of the sedative has the power to shrink the ideological structure that we built the nation from where it began to pulsate the idea of acceptance and inclusiveness in principle and practice. By disturbing this equilibrium, the dynamism of the country's democratic values would be tyrannised. We need enough cultural backing as a country to understand the perception battle that the parties have been pitching for years. Carried away by a flash flood of controversies that the political desperation is trying to cause; every common citizen is getting entrapped in a whirlpool of chaos, unable to catch hold of the protective embankment of the democratic values which the politics in India turned slippery and feeble for the last few decades. We need tremendous intellectual involvement not emotional to understand the melodramatic impulse of politics, which often takes diplomatic somersaults in frequent intervals.

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Kolkata's home-grown fine-dining biryani brand-'Biryaniishk', floated by an academician &

Ritwik Mukherjee



strategy consultant-turned restaurateur- Dr Saugata Banerjee, which has already started giving the city's traditionally stronger biryani brands like Shiraz, Nizam, Aminia, Arsalan and relatively newer ones- Paradise from down South, Karim's from Delhi a run for their money-albeit in a somewhat different category, has now lined up an ambitious plan of expanding pan India and some overseas destinations at an appropriate time through the franchise route. Speaking to Ritwik Mukherjee exclusively, Saugata Banerjee, founder and director, The Biryani Company, shares his views on how Kolkata's biryani culture and biryani business are evolving and seeks to drive home the point that good food is sold without alcohol.

Excerpts:

RM: You were formerly a Professor, an International Management Consultant and a Corporate Chief Executive. So How did the Biryaniishk journey start?

Banerjee: BIRYANISHK, previously known as The Biryani Company, began its journey of producing the most authentic Biryani and Mughlai delicacies nearly 8 years ago, when we came back to India and gave up my corporate job to do something on my own. Being a foodie myself and coming from a foodies' family (especially, Biryani lovers), this was like a natural choice. My vision was simple: "It should be food that my family and I would love to eat without having to worry about its effect on our health!" Thus, being the passionate epicurean that I am, I engaged Master Chefs across India to create a delectable menu

without using any artificial or harmful ingredients.

RM: How does "Biryaniishk" stand out from other popular biriyani joins of Kolkata like Shiraz,



Arsalan, Aminia et al, and now Paradise from Hyderabad?

Banerjee: Biryaniishk is completely different from the rest because we showcase detailed Kolkata and Awadhi (Lucknowi delicacies) cuisine unlike the others, which is customised to the taste buds of Kolkatans. Biryaniishk is a complete Royal Dining Experience. Be it the architecture, the ambience, the costumes, artefacts, background music and the recipe we wanted our customers to go back with an experience which they wouldn't have imagined sitting in Kolkata.

We tried to recreate the essence of the old world Lucknow or Awadh, as it was known then, in every corner. The crockery and cutlery resemble the grandeur of the era. Besides, keeping in mind the growing health conscious-

INTERVIEW

ness among the connoisseurs of good food, we have been very particular about health and hygiene factor and also about not using artificial

colours, dalda. Mind you that we only use whole spices.

RM: Are you sticking to any particular genre of biryani or are you experimenting with vari-



ous forms?

Banerjee: Quite significantly, the Lucknowi (Awadhi) Biryani is the footprint of the Moghuls left on the eastern part of India. From Lucknow the biryani moved to Kolkata when, in 1856, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was deposed by the British. His team of cooks moved with him and so did the biryani. In Kolkata the biryani entered poorer homes, which could not afford meat every day, so the meat was replaced by potatoes. Aurangzeb is believed to have invaded the South and installed the Nizam-ul-Mulk who later as the Asfa Jahi ruler became the Nizam of Hyderabad. That explains the movement of the Biryani down south.

But with the passage of time, Kolkata's Biryani or Awadhi cuisine has traversed a long way from New Market's cosy corner called Nizam, or Aminia, or Shiraz or Arsalan to plush fine dining joints. Experiments are still on to add fresh gastronomical delights to this time-tasted Nawabi cuisine.

Being foodies ourselves, we had thought of carrying on with this gastronomical experi-

ments. Our passion for food continues to drive us to gift Kolkatans various types of healthy Biryani without compromising on the taste factor.

RM: Where and how do you position "Biryaniishk" brand?

Banerjee: "Biryaniishk" is a complete Royal Dining Experience and the Best Biryani in town...that's how we plan to position it. In Home Delivery segment also, we want to be among the top ones, when it comes to Biryani, Kebab and other Mughlai cuisine. We serve all over Kolkata and we have our own fleet. And mind you that Kolkata is one of the fastest growing F&B market. And Bengalis' love towards Biryani and Chinese has always been on top of everything.

It is experiential dining with a regal ambience and delicious food that takes you back in time. Only superior quality meat, superfine long-grain rice, most select whole spices, real saffron, sunflower oil and desi ghee are used. Dalda and artificial colours or flavourings are strictly banned from our imperial kitchens! Our signature Kebabs and Saalans bring alive the recipes of royal Bawarchi khans that would otherwise be lost in time. That's how we would like to position Biryaniishk.

RM: How many outlets do you have currently and what is the plan like, going forward?

Banerjee: At present, we have two Royal Dining restaurants in Mudiali and Patuli. The decor is imperial and classy, the food is mouth-watering and the service is regal—stepping inside Biryaniishk is a transformational experience that will take you back to the days of the Nawabse! We also have a coastal cuisine restaurant under the brand name; Pappadam and we serve food at one of the most prestigious clubs in Kolkata. From 2022, we are planning to move outside Kolkata and prove that good food is sold without alcohol. We are keeping our fingers crossed at this point in time, but we have plans to make our presence in different cities. We have actually lined up an ambitious plan of expanding pan India and some overseas destinations at an appropriate time through the franchise route.

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

We reject India's plan to hold meeting of G20 countries in Kashmir: Pakistan Foreign Office

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Saturday that it rejects India's attempt to hold a

Constitution was withdrawn and the erstwhile state was divided into two

Security Council for over seven decades. "Contemplating the holding of any G20-

Tensions between India and Pakistan have spiked since New Delhi abrogated Ar-



meeting of G20 countries in Kashmir, hoping that members of the grouping will be fully cognisant of the imperatives of law and justice and would oppose the proposal outright.

Jammu and Kashmir will be hosting the 2023 meetings of G-20, an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies, with the union territory administration on Thursday setting up a five-member high-level committee for overall coordination.

This will be the first major international summit to be held in J&K after its special status guaranteed under Article 370 of the

union territories in August 2019.

Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said in a statement that Islamabad had taken note of news items appearing in the Indian media indicating that India might be "contemplating to hold some G20-related meeting in Jammu and Kashmir". "Pakistan completely rejects any such attempt by India," Ahmad said.

He said it was a well-known fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognised "disputed" territory between Pakistan and India, and has remained on the agenda of the United Nations

related meeting/event in JK, in utter disregard of the globally acknowledged 'disputed' status of the territory, is a travesty that the international community cannot accept under any circumstances," the spokesperson said.

He hoped that in case of any such controversial proposal from India, the G20 members will be fully cognisant of the imperatives of law and justice and would reject it outright. Ahmad said that Pakistan also strongly urges the international community to call upon India to revoke its actions of August 5, 2019, and free all political prisoners.

Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy.

Pakistan also halted bilateral trade with India. India has repeatedly told Pakistan that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country. India has told Pakistan that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Islamabad in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

Alleging BJP govt interference, Sobha Oza resigns as Madhya Pradesh women's rights panel head

BHOPAL: Madhya Pradesh Women's Commission (MPWC) chairperson Sobha Oza has resigned from her post alleging interference from the BJP-led state government and biasness in handling cases of atrocities against women.

Talking to IANS, Oza claimed that she was forced to resign from the post.

Oza said that when she had joined the com-

mission, there were 10,000 cases of atrocities against women in Madhya Pradesh; now these numbers have crossed 17,000.

On the question why the commission remained silent despite crimes against women increased sharply in Madhya Pradesh, Oza said she was not allowed to discharge her duty. "The commission was not allowed to function as per rules. Government nominated member has high influence and biasness in resolving cases against women atrocities. As per the rule, at least two members of the commission should be present during hearing of a case, but for the last two years, only government nominated member has been handling the cases. I tried my best to provide justice to the victims, but the government created hurdle," Oza said.



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She further alleged that the government put pressure on the commission to take biased decision in cases in which BJP leaders or workers are accused. "They were trying to keep me out from the commission after BJP government came to power in March 2020. But, the high court ordered state government



Oza also alleged that the office of MPWC was locked by BJP supporters soon after the Congress government lost its power. "In March 2020, BJP workers had locked the commission's office, office bearers were pressurised not to follow chairperson's direction. The commission had been almost defunct for the last two years, which made me realise that I should resign. If I can't discharge my duty for which I am here, then why should I stay here," she said.

Oza said she will now fight for women on streets. "I will take the issue of atrocities against women and will expose the BJP government's bias," she stated. "Being here in office, I was not allowed to reach out to women, but now I am free. I will raise their voice. Madhya Pradesh has become the hub of women trafficking. I won't need any post to discharge my duty for women," she added.

Oza, a Congress leader, is a prominent woman face in the party, who worked in several capacities before taking charge as chairperson of Madhya Pradesh Women's Commission in 2018.

Russia pushes to block second city in eastern Ukraine

KYIV: Russian forces are trying to block a city in eastern Ukraine, the region's governor said Saturday, after their relentless assault on a nearby city forced Ukrainian troops to begin withdrawal after weeks of intense fighting.

Russia also launched missile attacks on areas far from the heart of the eastern battles. Serhiy Haidai, governor of the Luhansk region, said on Facebook that Russian forces are attempting to blockade the city of Lysychansk from the south. That city lies next to Sievierodonetsk, which has endured relentless assault and house-to-house fighting for weeks.

After Haidai said Friday that Ukrainian forces had begun retreating from Sievierodonetsk, military analyst Oleg Zhdanov said some of the troops were heading for Lysychansk. But Russian moves to cut off Lysychansk will give those retreating troops little respite.

Russian bombardment has reduced most of Sievierodonetsk to rubble and cut its population from 100,000 to 10,000. Some Ukrainian troops are holed up in the huge Azot chemical factory on the city's edge, along with

about 500 civilians.

Sieverodonetsk and Lysychansk have been the focal point of the Russian offensive aimed at capturing all of eastern Ukraine's Donbas region and destroying the Ukrainian military



defending it — the most capable and battle-hardened segment of the country's armed forces. The two cities and surrounding areas are the last major pockets of Ukrainian resistance in the Luhansk region — 95% of which is under Russian and local separatist forces' control. The Russians and separatists also control about half of the Donetsk region, the second province in the Donbas.

Some 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) to the west,

four Russian rockets hit a "military object" in Yaroviv, Lviv regional governor Maksym Kozlytskiy said. He did not give further details of the target, but Yaroviv has a sizable military base used for training fighters, including

foreigners who have volunteered to fight for Ukraine. That base was hit by Russian rockets in March, killing 35 people. The Lviv region, although far from the front lines, has been hit by other rockets during the war, destroying fuel storage areas. About 30 Russian rockets were fired on the Zhytomyr region in central Ukraine on Saturday morning, killing one Ukrainian soldier, regional governor Vitaliy Buchenko said.

In the north, about 20 rockets were fired from Belarus into the Chernihiv region, the Ukrainian military said.

A senior U.S. defense official, speaking in Washington on condition of anonymity, on Friday called the Ukrainians' move out of Sievierodonetsk a "tactical retrograde" to consolidate forces into positions where they can better defend themselves. This will add to Ukraine's effort to keep Russian forces pinned down longer in a small area, the official said. Following a botched attempt to capture Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, in the early stage of the invasion that started Feb. 24, Russian forces have shifted their focus to the Donbas, where the Ukrainian forces have fought Moscow-backed separatists since 2014.

After repeated Ukrainian requests to its Western allies for heavier weaponry to counter Russia's edge in firepower, four medium-range American rocket launchers have arrived, with four more on the way.

The senior U.S. defense official said Friday that more Ukrainian forces are training outside Ukraine to use the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, and are expected back in their country with the weapons by mid-July. The rockets can travel about 45 miles (70 kilometers). Also to be sent are 18 U.S. coastal and river patrol boats.

The official said there is no evidence Russia has been successful in intercepting any of what has been a steady flow of military aid into Ukraine from the U.S. and other nations. Russia has repeatedly threatened to strike, or actually claimed to have hit, such shipments.

Oceans saved us, now can we return the favour?

PARIS: Humanity must heal oceans made sick by climate change, pollution and overfishing in order to rescue marine life and save ourselves, experts warned ahead of a major UN conference opening Monday in Lisbon. By absorbing -- decade after decade -- a quarter of CO2 pollution and more than 90 percent of excess heat from global warming, oceans have kept Earth's terrestrial surface liveable. Our species has returned the favour by dumping mountains of plastic waste into the sea, emptying the deep blue of big fish, and poisoning coastlines with toxic chemicals and agricultural runoff that create dead zones bereft of oxygen. "At least one-third of wild fish stocks are overfished and less than 10 percent of the ocean is protected," Kathryn Matthews, chief scientist for US-based NGO Oceana, told AFP.

"Destructive and illegal fishing vessels operate with impunity in many coastal waters and on the high seas." Nearly \$35 billion in subsidies that aggravate overfishing will fall under a harsh spotlight in Lisbon, despite first steps towards a partial ban put in place by the World Trade Organization (WTO) last week. At the same time, ocean water made acidic by CO2 along with vast marine heatwaves lasting months or longer are killing coral reefs that support a quarter of marine life and provide livelihoods for a quarter of a billion people. "We have only begun to understand the extent to which climate change is going to wreak havoc on ocean health," said Charlotte de Fontaubert, the World Bank's global lead for the blue

economy. "It's scary" Jointly hosted by Portugal and Kenya, the five-day UN Ocean Conference -- delayed from April 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic -- brings together thousands of government officials, businesses, scientists and NGOs in search of solutions. While they do not all see eye-to-eye on what needs to be done, they largely agree on what is at stake. "If we don't do the right thing, we might end up with a dead ocean," Rashid Sumaila, a fisheries expert and professor at the University of British Columbia, told AFP. "Think about that -- Oh man, it's scary." Pollution that could, on current trends, see as much plastic in the seas as fish by mid-century is also on the agenda, with proposals ranging from recycling to outright banning of plastic bags. From East Asian factory ships prowling the high seas to artisanal fishing boats hugging tropical coastlines, how to make wild fisheries sustainable will be high on the Lisbon agenda. The new watchword is "blue food" -- sustenance from the sea that is both sustainable and equitable. "Wild ocean fish can provide a climate-friendly, micro-nutrient protein source that can feed one billion people a healthy seafood meal every day -- forever," said Matthews.

rampant antibiotic use. Year-end summits The conference may report trend lines for wild fisheries -- which peaked in the 1990s -- and seafood farming for the first time, with each producing about 100 million tons per year. The Lisbon meet will see ministers and even a few heads of state, including French President



Odisha govt sets 9-month deadline to complete first phase work of Srimandir Parikrama Project



BHUBANESWAR: The State government has decided to complete all the construction work under the first phase Srimandir Parikrama Project in Puri within the next nine months. Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra, who reviewed the progress of the construction work, asked the district administration to complete

all work within nine months. The first phase of the project has been estimated at Rs 331.28 crore. The ground-level work has made good progress. Work on the outer access road on all three sides, six toilets, three shelter pavilions, a mini clock room and an electric room are progressing on a war-footing.

Mahapatra visited the site on Thursday evening and spoke to the engineers and workers. He reviewed their work plan and set a timeline for the completion of different tasks. According to the official sources, the corridor will have five principal zones, buffer no entry zone, inner pradakshina path,

landscape zone, outer Pradakshina path and public convenience zone. The corridor will be decorated with stones, wood trees, shrubs and flower beds related with Jagannath culture. District Collector Samartha Verma along with senior engineers of Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation were present during the review.

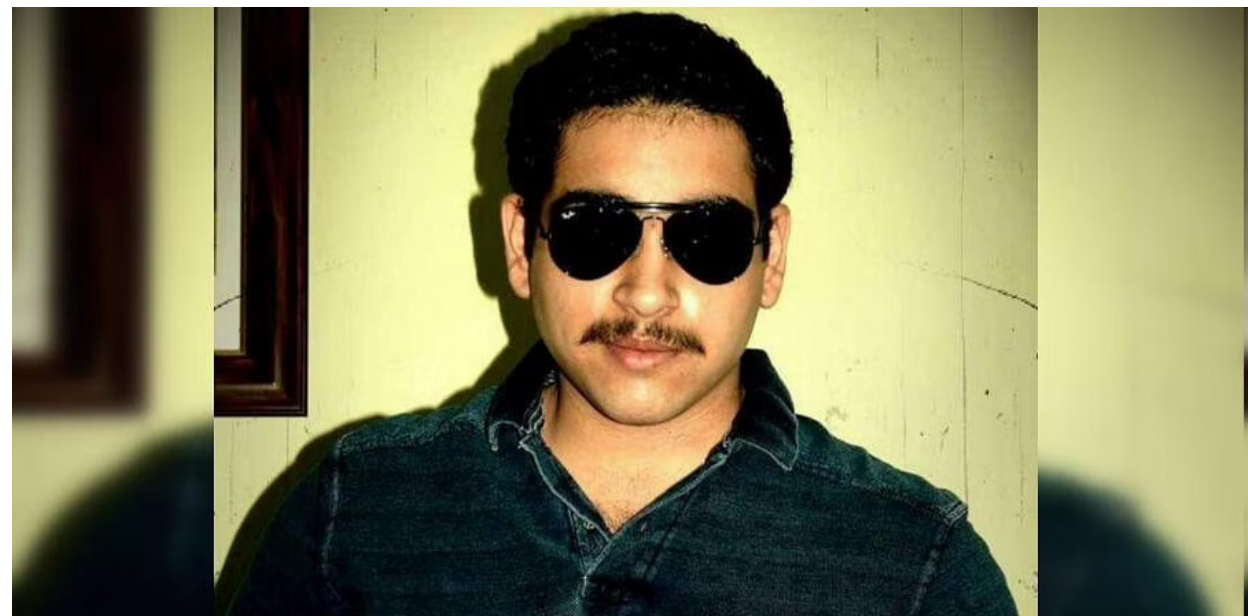
Arrested Punjab IAS officer Sanjay Popli's son shot dead, family alleges murder

CHANDIGARH: Arrested Punjab Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer Sanjay Popli's son

ing people," the distraught mother of Kartik Popli said. The incident comes days after the Punjab

standing downstairs and after some time we heard the sound of gunshots. The Vigilance people murdered

Popli and one more person were arrested by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau last week under allega-




died of gunshot injuries on Saturday. While the police said Kartik Popli, died by suicide, his family, however, has claimed he was murdered. "They tortured my child and killed him. They tortured my domestic help for evidence. The entire vigilance bureau and the DSP are under the pressure from the chief minister. This is the way they are kill-

Vigilance Bureau arrested IAS officer Popli and his accomplice on corruption charges. Anu Preet Kular, a relative of Sanjay Popli alleged that the "Vigilance people murdered him". "Vigilance team asked Sanjay Popli to sign on something otherwise it won't be good for his son. They locked him in a room and took his son upstairs. We were

him." SSP Kuldeep Chahal said that the boy allegedly shot himself in the head with his father's licensed pistol. "The vigilance team had arrived (at IAS Sanjay Popli's house) for an enquiry and heard a gunshot. After verification, they realized that his son had shot himself with his licensed gun. He was taken to a hospital," SSP Chahal said.

tions of corruption. He was sent to a four-day police remand. As his remand was ending today, the vigilance team had landed up at his residence today for another inquiry. Officials said that several gold and silver coins, cash, mobile phones and other electronic devices were recovered from the residence of arrested IAS officer today.



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'How much for my kidney?' Inflation sparks distress, global wave of protests for higher pay, aid

WASHINGTON: Rising food costs.

of an appalling pandemic that fueled in-

antees amid soaring fuel prices. Months

"I came here to defend the purchasing

Parerenyatwa Hospital in Harare, on June,

"As far as this cost of living that keeps increasing is concerned, we realized that the authorities have betrayed the people," said Issaka Porgo, president of the civil society coalition behind the protest in the West African country. Protesters condemn the military junta, which ousted the democratically elected president in January, for giving themselves a pay raise while the population faces rising prices. The International Monetary Fund says inflation will average about 6% in ad-

vanced economies and nearly 9% in emerging and developing economies this year. Global economic growth is projected to slow by 40%, to 3.6%, this year and next. The IMF is calling on governments to focus support packages to those most in need to avoid triggering a recession. The slowdown comes as the COVID-19 pandemic is still gripping industries worldwide, from manufacturing to tourism. Climate change and drought are hitting agricultural production in some countries,

prompting export bans that push up food prices even further.

Rising food prices are particularly painful in low-income countries, where 42% of household incomes are spent on food, said Peter Ceretti, an analyst tracking food security at risk advisory firm Eurasia Group.

"We will see more protests, probably broader and angrier, but I do not expect destabilizing or regime-changing protests," he said, as producers adjust and governments approve subsidies.



21, 2022. (Photo | AP)

A villain who was loved by all: Odia actor Raimohan Parida dies by suicide

Continued from page-1
each day of his three-decade-long acting career, be it in films, tele-serials or jatra.

On June 10, the 58-year-old actor's latest film 'Biswanath' had hit the theatres and recently, he finished dubbing for his last film 'Om Swaha' which is being directed by Dileep Panda. Born in Keonjhar, Raimohan had no godfather in the industry. Drama was his first love. After graduating from Karanjia Mahavidyalaya, he arrived in Bhubaneswar to pursue a degree from the drama department of Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya.

But it was his love for negative characters and conviction for the roles that he was offered that catapulted him to being one of the finest villains of the industry after Hara Pattnaik. Raimohan and Ashrumochan Mohanty debuted in the Odia film industry together in a film 'Sagar' which was directed by Raju Singh and released in 1989. The film was based on the Chabirani rape and murder case and Raimohan played a small negative role in it. While dubbing for the film at Kalinga Studio, Raimohan was noticed by Raju Mishra who offered him another small villain role in his film 'Chaka Akhi Sabu Dekhuchi'.

After the two films, Bijay Bhaskar offered him the character of main villain in 'KotieManisha Gotiye Jaga' in 1991 which helped him establish himself in a negative role. In fact, the year 1993 came as a turning point in his career when he essayed the antagonist in three back-to-back films including 'Rana Bhoomi' and 'Pathara Khasuchi Bada Deulu' directed by Raju Mishra. "Raimohan was the villain in almost all the films directed by Mishra which brought him to the limelight. The only movie where he essayed a positive character was Mishra's 'Sata Michi' (2003) where he played the role of the heroine's brother and this film got him the Special Jury Award, his only State film award," said film historian Surya Deo.

Besides, he had played the character of a transgender in 'Asibu Kebe Saji Mo Rani' (2010). Also known for his dialogue delivery, one of his dialogues that became an instant hit with the film lovers was 'Heiti Anani Jyoti Mashtrani' in the film 'Ranabhumi'. "There's an interesting story behind this dialogue. Producer of Ranabhumi had a habit of using the words 'heiti anani' and Raimohan picked it up for his dialogue which became very popular," Deo said.

What also brought him fame was the negative characters that he played opposite veteran actor and his teacher at Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya Bijay Mohanty. Films like 'Sindura Nuhe Kelaghara', 'Pathara Khasuchi Bada Deulu', 'Janmadata' that he did with Mohanty were well appreciated. In his over 30-years of acting career, he did over 90 films including some in Bengali language and in between, he also experimented with 'jatra' shows. In 2002, Raimohan entered the thriving 'jatra' industry and went on to do nearly 40 shows. Such was his popularity in 'jatra' that tickets were sold in his name.

Soaring fuel bills. Wages that are not keeping pace. Inflation is plundering people's wallets, sparking a wave of protests and workers' strikes around the world.

This week alone saw protests by the political opposition in Pakistan, nurses in Zimbabwe, unionized workers in Belgium, railway workers in Britain, Indigenous people in Ecuador, hundreds of U.S. pilots and some European airline workers. Sri Lanka's prime minister declared an economic collapse Wednesday after weeks of political turmoil.

Economists say Russia's war in Ukraine amplified inflation by further pushing up the cost of energy and prices of fertilizer, grains and cooking oils as farmers struggle to grow and export crops in one of the world's key agricultural regions. As prices rise, inflation threatens to exacerbate inequalities and widen the gap between billions of people struggling to cover their costs and those who are able to keep spending.

"We are not all in this together," said Matt Grainger, head of inequality policy at anti-poverty organization Oxfam. "How many of the richest even know what a loaf of bread costs? They don't really, they just absorb the prices."

Oxfam is calling on the Group of 7 leading industrialized nations, which are holding their annual summit this weekend in Germany, to provide debt relief to developing economies and to tax corporations on excess profits.

"This isn't just a standalone crisis. It's coming off the back

increased inequality worldwide," Grainger said. "I think we will see more and more protests."

READ HERE | Label your money as 'for now' and 'future'; Inflation can significantly threaten your



savings. The demonstrations have caught the attention of governments, which have responded to soaring consumer prices with support measures like expanded subsidies for utility bills and cuts to fuel taxes. Often, that offers little relief because energy markets are volatile. Central banks are trying to ease inflation by raising interest rates.

Meanwhile, striking workers have pressured employers to engage in talks on raising wages to keep up with rising prices. Eddie Dempsey, a senior official with Britain's Rail, Maritime and Transport Union, which brought U.K. train services to a near standstill with strikes this week, said there are going to be more demands for pay increases across other sectors.

"It's about time Britain had a pay rise. Wages have been falling for 30 years and corporate profits have been going through the roof," Dempsey said.

Last week, thousands of truckers in South Korea ended an eight-day strike that caused shipment delays as they called for minimum wage guar-

anteed amid soaring fuel prices. Months earlier, some 10,000 kilometres (6,200 miles) away, truckers in Spain went on strike to protest fuel prices.

Peru's government imposed a brief curfew after protests against fuel and food prices turned violent

power of citizens because demonstrating is the only way to make change," protester Genevieve Cordier said. "We cannot cope anymore. Even with two salaries ... both of us are working, and we cannot get our head above water."

READ HERE | Normal monsoon, interest rate cut may reduce inflation by year-end: Economists. In some countries, a combination of government corruption and mismanagement underpin the economic turmoil, particularly in politically gridlocked countries like Lebanon and Iraq.

The protests reflect a sense of growing financial insecurity. Here's how that has played out in Africa: — Health care professionals in Zimbabwe went on strike this week after rejecting the government's offer of a 100% pay rise. The nurses say the offer does not come close to skyrocketing inflation of 130%.

— Kenyans have protested in the streets and online as the price of food jumped by 12% in the past year.

— One of Tunisia's most powerful labour unions staged a nationwide public sector strike last week. The North African country faces a deteriorating economic crisis.

— Hundreds of activists this month protested the rising cost of living in Burkina Faso. The U.N. World Food Program says the price of corn and millet has shot up more than 60% since last year, reaching as high as 122% in some provinces.

Health workers led by nurses take part in a demonstration over salaries at

in April. Truckers and other transport workers also had gone on strike and blocked key highways. Protests over the cost of living ousted Sri Lanka's prime minister last month. Middle-class families say they're forced to skip meals because of the island nation's economic crisis, prompting them to contemplate leaving the country altogether. The situation is particularly dire for refugees and the poor in conflict areas such as Afghanistan, Yemen, Myanmar and Haiti, where fighting has forced people to flee their homes and rely on aid organizations, themselves struggling to raise money. "How much for my kidney?" is the question most asked of one of Kenya's largest hospitals. Kenyatta National Hospital reminded people on Facebook this week that selling human organs is illegal. For the middle class in Europe, it's become more expensive to commute to work and put food on the table. "Increase our salaries. Now!" chanted thousands of unionized workers in Brussels this week.

India vs Sri Lanka Women's T20I: 'Bowlers did a good job', says Smriti Mandhana

DAMBULLA: Star India opener Smriti Mandhana hailed her side's bowling unit for getting the job done as they clinched the three-match Women's T20 International series against Sri Lanka with a five-wicket win in the second match here on Saturday. India dished out an impressive bowling display in both spin and pace departments, choking Sri Lanka to a paltry 125/7 after the home side were 87 for no

likes of Deepti Sharma, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Radha Yadav. During her knock of 34-ball 39, Mandhana became the second fastest Indian woman to score 2,000 runs T20I runs. She reached the feat in her 84th innings, becoming the third Indian woman after the legendary Mithali Raj (70 innings) and current skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (88 innings) to cross the mark.



loss inside 14 overs. In reply, India overcame some early hiccups to secure the series-clinching win and take an unassailable 2-0 lead. "They (bowlers) did a really good job today and also in the last match to defend 139," Mandhana said at the post-match press conference.

The Indian bowlers struggled to get a breakthrough early on as the Sri Lankan opening duo of skipper Chamari Athapaththu (43) and Vishmi Gunaratne (45) gave them a solid start. "We didn't have to tell them much. It was just about following our game plan as a bowling unit and sticking to it. We knew one or two wickets here and there will get us back in the game. Our bowlers were really patient with it. Definitely, we leaked a few runs with some misfields here and there but I'm sure we will come back stronger," he said.

The Romesh Powar-coached team has left out the likes of Jhulan Goswami, Shikha Pandey and Sneha Rana, and fielded the likes of Pooja Vastrakar, Renuka Singh, Simran Bahadur and Meghna Singh. The Indian spin attack, on the other hand, had the

Mandhana and her opening partner Shafali Verma got off to a flier and the left-hander said it was about backing their strengths.

"Me and Shafali had a game plan going today. We knew which bowlers to target, we know each other's strengths and weaknesses, it was about our strengths. Later on after the power-play, it was more about singles and doubles and not whom to attack as we had only 126 to get. It was about rotating strike and dealing in one and twos," he said.

After the departure of Mandhana, India stuttered in the middle overs but skipper Harmanpreet Kaur anchored the chase with an unbeaten 31 from 32 deliveries. Mandhana said the wicket was difficult to bat on. "It was keeping a bit low, and of course it was on the slower side. So it wasn't an easy pitch to bat on. You had to really work hard on your runs but once you get used to the pace and bounce of the wicket, runs came in," she concluded.

The final match of the T20I series is slated on Monday, before the three-match ODI series begins at Pallekele on July 1.

Serena Williams to play 113th ranked player in Wimbledon opener, Raducanu face tough opponent

WIMBLEDON: Serena Williams will begin her Wimbledon comeback by facing Harmony Tan, a 24-year-old from France who is ranked 113th and owns a 2-6 career record in Grand Slam matches.

According to The Guardian, Emma Raducanu has drawn one of the most difficult first-round opponents she could have faced at Wimbledon in the form of Alison Van Uytvanck while Andy Murray and Serena Williams were both handed favourable opening matches.

The placement of Williams in the women's bracket was the most anticipated aspect of Friday's draw at the All England Club. She is making her first appearance in singles at any tournament since she hurt her right leg and stopped playing during the first set of her first-round match at Centre Court a year ago.

Because of her lack of activity over the past 12 months, Williams — who has been No. 1 in the rankings — is outside the WTA's top 1,200 this week and so could have ended up anywhere in the field and against any opponent in the first round. She only returned to the tour this week by playing two doubles matches at a tuneup event in England and was awarded a wild-card invitation to Wimbledon.

While the 40-year-old American's track record would merit a seeding, the All England Club now adheres strictly to the rankings in determining how it seeds players.

Williams has won seven Wimbledon championships, part of her total of 23 Grand Slam singles titles, a record for the professional era. Tan, meanwhile, will be making her debut at the grass-court tournament.

If Williams gets past Tan, next up could be a match against Sara Sorribes Tormo, who is seeded 32nd but has never been past the second round at the All England Club or the third round at any major in 19 past appearances.

The third round potentially would put Williams against a tougher test: No. 6-seeded Karolina Pliskova, who was the runner-up to Ash Barty last year at Wimbledon and also reached the final of the 2016 U.S. Open — beating Williams in the semifinals there.

Barty retired at age 25 in March and so is not

defending her title when play begins on Monday. That also leaves open the question of which woman will have the honor of playing the first match at Centre Court on Tuesday, a slot traditionally reserved for the prior year's champion. The two most likely choices would seem to be No. 1 Iga Swiatek, who enters on a 35-match winning streak and is coming off a title at the French Open, or Simona Halep, who won the 2019 trophy at Wimbledon, beating Williams in the final, but did not get the chance to begin things at Centre Court in 2020, when the tournament was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, or in 2021, because she was injured and unable to play.

The projected women's quarterfinals based on seedings are Swiatek vs. No. 8 Jessica Pegula, Pliskova vs. No. 4 Paula Badosa, No. 2 Anett Kontaveit vs. No. 5 Maria Sakkari, and No. 3 Ons Jabeur vs. No. 7 Danielle Collins.

The potential men's quarterfinals are top-seeded Novak Djokovic vs. No. 5 Carlos Alcaraz, No. 3 Casper Ruud vs. No. 7 Hubert Hurkacz, No. 2 Rafael Nadal vs. No. 6 Felix Auger-Aliassime, and No. 4 Stefanos Tsitsipas vs. No. 8 Matteo Berrettini.

Djokovic won his third consecutive Wimbledon title — and sixth overall — by beating Berrettini in last year's final.

Djokovic will get the honor of starting play on Centre Court on Monday, when he will face 75th-ranked Kwon Soon-woo of South Korea. Although Djokovic's ranking has slid to No. 3, he leads the men's seeding because No. 1 Daniil Medvedev and No. 2 Alexander Zverev are not in the field. Medvedev is Russian, and all players from that country and Belarus were banned by the All England Club because of the war in Ukraine. Zverev is recovering after tearing ligaments in his right foot during his French Open semifinal against Nadal, who went on to win his 14th championship there and men's-record 22nd overall at the majors.

Andy Murray, who won two of his three Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon, was drawn to face James Duckworth in the first round, while three-time major champion Stan Wawrinka goes up against No. 10 Jannik Sinner, and Nick Kyrgios faces British wild-card entry Paul Jubb.

'Huge opportunity for me': Paul Pogba's brother Florentin joins ATK Mohun Bagan on two-year deal

KOLKATA: Indian Super League (ISL) club ATK Mohun Bagan on Saturday announced the signing of Florentin Pogba, the elder brother of French football star Paul Pogba, on a two-year contract.

The Guinean central defender, who was playing in the French Ligue 2 for FC Sochaux-Montbéliard, will strengthen the Mariners' defence.

"F Pogba is Green Maroon," said ATK Mohun Bagan FC in a tweet. "Florentin Pogba leaves Sochaux-Montbéliard. One year from the end of his contract, the Guinean International wanted to discover a new champi-

onship and has transferred to ATK Mohun Bagan FC, which plays in the Indian championship," said Sochaux-Montbéliard in a statement.

The 31-year old played 62 matches for Sochaux-Montbéliard after signing up for them in the summer of 2020. Pogba has also played for French Ligue 2 club Saint-Etienne and American club Atlanta United.

ATK Mohun Bagan, who won the ISL thrice in the guise of ATK, finished fourth in the league standings last season. They made the play-offs but lost to eventual champions Hyderabad FC in the semi-finals.

"This is a new oppor-

tunity for me. It will give me a chance to know the country,

This is the second major signing for ATKMB ahead of the



new championships and many clubs. I am able to enter the field with a club rich in tradition. It's huge to me," said Florentin Pogba.

The 6-foot 4-inch defender also has the experience of playing for the junior French national team before moving to Guinea to play at the senior level. Florentin Pogba has 31 international caps for Guinea after making his debut in 2010.

AFC Cup 2022 inter-zone play-off semifinals in September. On Thursday, ATK Mohun Bagan had announced the signing of 29-year-old central defender Brendan Hamill, who played for Australian A-League side Melbourne Victory, on a two-year deal. Indian midfielder Ashique Kuruniyan from Bengaluru FC also signed up for ATK Mohun Bagan on a five-year deal earlier this month.

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