

Academic audit to soon occur for higher educational institutions in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): All the public universities and autonomous colleges in the State will now have to face academic audit which will help them in applying for National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) grades and National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking. This was informed by the Higher Education Minister Arun Sahoo and Secretary Saswat Mishra during a workshop on 'NAAC accreditation, NIRF

ranking, autonomous status, academic audit' organised by the



department at Rama Devi Women's University on Wednesday. The process will begin in July and for this purpose, the department has roped in 22 auditors (academic experts). The Minister stressed

on the need of radical changes in the higher education system in

universities and 32 autonomous colleges to make the higher education system teaching-learning centric. "Higher educational institutions should transform themselves keeping in tune with the changes so that they remain relevant today," he said. Among others, Vice-chairman of the Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC) Prof Ashok Das, VC of RD Women's University Prof Aparajita Choudhury were present.

the State to make it students-centric. "Although there have been many positive changes in the higher education sector, much more needs to be done," he said. Mishra appealed to authorities of all the

Centre to set up 'PM Shri Schools' to prepare students for future: Education minister

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Centre is planning to set up 'PM Shri schools', which will be aimed at preparing students for the future. It will also be the laboratory of the new National Education Policy (NEP), said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thurs-

edge-based economy."

"We are in the process of establishing 'PM Shri schools' which will be fully equipped to prepare students for the future," said the minister at the event, which was attended by state education ministers. Tamil Naidu boycotted the meeting to protest the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP). He said these state-of-the-art schools will be the "laboratory of NEP 2020."

Highlighting that the "new generation" cannot be deprived of 21st-century knowledge and skills," he said, he would like to

"encourage and solicit suggestions and feedback" from all the states and union territories and the entire education ecosystem for creating a futuristic ben-

can fire precision-guided rockets up to 80 kilometers (50 miles). Ukrainian troops will be trained in the UK to use the equipment, he said.



day. Addressing the two-day National Education Ministers' Conference in Gujarat, Pradhan said, "School education is the foundation on which India will become a knowl-

UK pledges missiles to Ukraine; new US ambassador in Kyiv

KYIV(KCN): Britain pledged Thursday to send sophisticated medium-range rocket systems to Ukraine, joining the United States and Germany in equipping the embattled nation with advanced weapons for shooting down aircraft and knocking out artillery. Western arms have been critical to Ukraine's success in stymieing Russia's much larger and better-equipped military during a war now in its 99th day. But as Russian forces closed in on a key city in recent days, the Ukrainian government said its fighters needed better rocket launchers to prevail. Russian forces continued to pound towns and cities overnight and to tighten their grip on the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk. The UK Defense Ministry reported that Russia had captured most of the city, one of two in Luhansk province that had remained under Ukrainian control. British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said the UK would send an unspecified number of M270 launchers, which



The British government says the decision to provide the launchers was coordinated closely with the US government, which said Wednesday that it would supply High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems to Ukraine. The two missile systems are similar, though the American one has wheels while the British one -- also US -built - runs on tracks. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has pleaded for more and better weapons and sometimes accused the West of moving too slowly in providing them. CONTINUED ON: P-7

public service," the CM said. He advised the PRI representatives to ensure that not a single person is deprived of availing government benefits and face problems to get public service. Appealing to the elected members to protect the rights of women, poor and vulnerable people, the Chief Minister asked them to always remain with the people during their good and bad times. Speaking about the 5T model of governance, he asked them to utilize the 5T mantra in the development of the

Brajrajnagar by Poll Results Tomorrow

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The result of by-election



tion to Brajrajnagar Assembly constituency in Jharsuguda district will be out tomorrow. Speaking about the preparedness made for the counting, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sushil Kumar Lohani on Thursday said the counting of postal ballots at Jharsuguda Engineering College will start first at 8 AM and

of EVMs at 8.30 AM.

As many as 14 tables will be in place for the counting. Three staff will be allotted for each table for the counting process which will take place in 20 rounds, Lohani said.

A counting assistant, a counting supervisor and a micro observer have been allotted in each table. In total, 60 counting personnel will be deployed for the counting, he said. The counting will be supervised by agents of each contesting candidate. "We are expecting that the counting will be finished around 3 PM and the final result will be declared," the CEO said.

Besides, a three-tier security arrangement will be in place at the counting centre, he said.

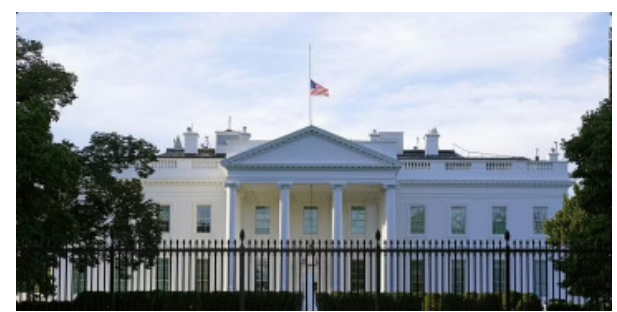
Security personnel including CRPF, State Armed Police and District Executive Force will be there at the counting centre to prevent any untoward incident during the counting process, said Jharsuguda SP Rahul Jain. The fate of 11 candidates will be decided tomorrow. The BJD fielded Alaka Mohanty as its candidate in Brajrajnagar assembly segment, while the BJP nominated former MLA Radharani Panda. Ex-assembly speaker Kishore Patel is contesting the by-election on a Congress ticket. The by-poll was necessitated following the untimely demise of BJD's Kishore Mohanty's in last December.

US House panel taking up gun bill in wake of mass shootings

WASHINGTON(KCN): The House is beginning to put its stamp on gun legislation in response to mass shootings in Texas and New York by 18-year-old assailants who used semi-automatic rifles to kill 31 people, including 19 children.

The House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on Thursday to advance legis-

lation that would raise the age limit for purchasing certain



semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21. The bill would make it a federal offense to

import, manufacture or possess large-capacity magazines and

executive branch's ban on bump-stock devices and so-called ghost guns that are privately made without serial numbers. The Democratic legislation, called the Protecting Our Kids Act, was quickly added to the legislative docket after last week's school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. A vote by the full

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Protect Poor & Vulnerable; CM

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik urged the newly elected members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to protect the rights of women, poor and vulnerable

people of the society. Addressing the Orientation Programme of the newly elected PRI Members including ZP Presidents, Block Chairpersons and Sarpanches, the Chief Minister advised them to consider the issues of the villages as their own problem and make sincere efforts to resolve it.



Congratulating the newly elected PRI representatives, he said that this time, a large number of women had won panchayat elections and taken leadership. Biju Babu's dream for women's empowerment has been realized, he

public service," the CM said. He advised the PRI representatives to ensure that not a single person is deprived of availing government benefits and face problems to get public service. Appealing to the elected members to protect the rights of women, poor and vulnerable people, the Chief Minister asked them to always remain with the people during their good and bad times. Speaking about the 5T model of governance, he asked them to utilize the 5T mantra in the development of the

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Every Block Observed "A Day for Children" in Puri

Puri (KCN): A day for Children observed at each block of Puri district. The Child

Lady Supervisor, PRI members were also participated. The grievances and

Kumar Parida & Ms Kamala Moharana, SW, Ms Rojalini Patra, Counselor

Rajguru Child Rights Club of Matitota, Puri. The organization



Development Project Officer of respective block were conducted the meetings, rally, awareness among children and stakeholders for providing proper care & protection to each children. Oath at each block level has taken for prevention of child marriage, child labour, child trafficking etc. All block level Officers, Anganwadi worker,

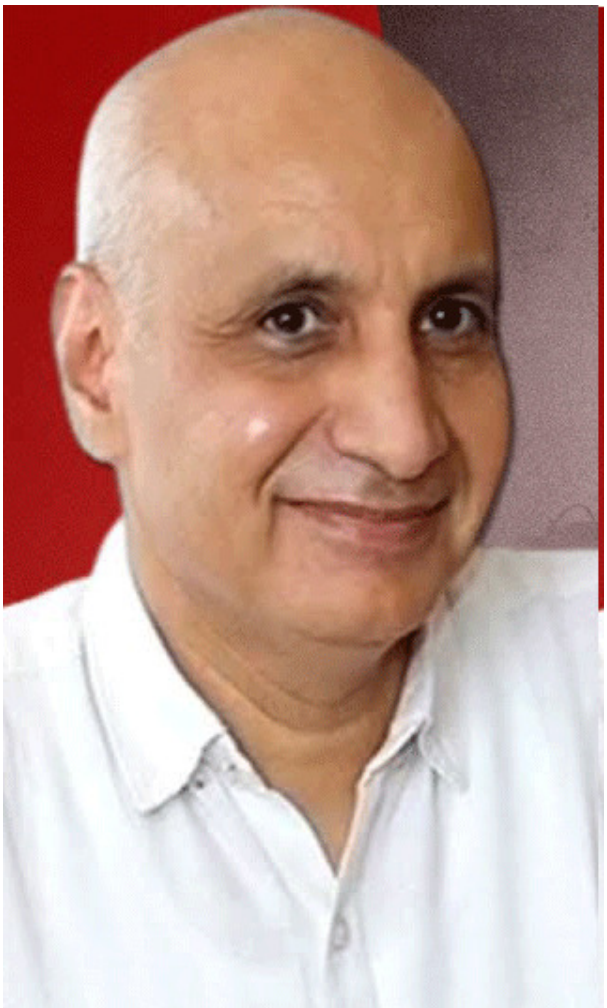
appeals from Grampanchayat level were discussed and proceedings submitted to district. Accordingly the district will observe the day. Every officials of District Child Protection Unit of Puri district participated at block level meetings. Mr Santosh Kumar Sahoo, LPO, Ms Snigdharani Sahoo, PONIC, Mr Bijay

were attended the meeting at different blocks. The Child Club Members observed "A Day for Children" In afternoon, Mr. Manoj Kumar Tripathy, District Child Protection Officer & Mr. Subhanarayan Satapathy, Protection Officer (IC) were observed a day for Children with members of Jai

Aapnanka Sebare was conducted the programme and felicitated the DCPO. Total 30 participants including child members, president, Secretary & all the facilitators of the organization were joined in the programme. Children were presented their creativities like; art, yoga, song, debate etc and the DCPO gave prizes and sweets to the children.

Prep meet for Rath Jatra

Puri (KCN): To ensure peaceful conduct of the Annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his Siblings, the second Coordination meeting between all stakeholders was held here under the chairmanship of Law Minister Pratap Jena on Wednesday. Vir Vikram Yadav, Chief Administrator Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) said the administration is geared up with all arrangements for the festival to be witnessed and participated by over 10 lakhs of devotees after a gap of two years. Taking stock of the progress and arrangements for hosting the grand annual event scheduled for July 1 next, Jena asked all concerned officials to make proper arrangements drinking water, toilet, power supply, etc for the devotees. The senior officers



expressed concern over power supply and transport sectors stating that these two important departments failed to comply with the target fixed in the last meeting. The Law Minister directed these department heads to comply with the target before the final meeting positively. The meeting discussed the construction of three Chariots to be used in the fete, health and hygiene, supply of power, drinking water and essential commodities, pilgrim transport, traffic and security arrangements being made by concerned departments. The Health and Family Welfare Department was asked to fill up all 55 vacant posts of doc-

tors and support staff. The Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) informed that 14 first-aid centres will be opened at various places of Badadanda while 29 ambulances will be pressed into service.

Massive sanitation programmes are being done to prevent an epidemic outbreak, six food inspectors are deployed to control food adulteration, the CDMO said.

Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Mr. Yadav informed about the steady progress of chariot construction.

The Puri Municipally executive officer (EO) said that about 872 street lights and 349 LED lights will be installed in various parts to illuminate the pilgrim city during the Rath Yatra. This apart, 23 vehicle

parking places and seven mobile toilets will be made operational, he told at the meeting. Pilgrims will enjoy insurance cover for any injury, accident and death within the civic body limits during the festival. The power supply engineer said uninterrupted power will be supplied to Puri through three power grid stations. The railway will run an additional 137 trains from various destinations to Puri during the festival and keep 250 coaches on reserve to meet the demand for booking. As many as 35 additional ticket booking counters will be opened while 500 railway protection forces will be deployed for the festival, East Coast Railway officials said.

Social worker Activist Dr. Nrusinghananda Mahapatra felicitated in Maharashtra (Mumbai)

Kandhamal (KCN): Kandhamal district Phulabani a very well known social worker Activist Dr. Nrusinghananda Mahapatra this year bagged in Mother Teresa National award in Maharashtra. On occasion of Samata Sahitya Academy's national conference held in Damadr Natya Gruha Ambedkar road, Parel in Mumbai this prestigious award has been honoured to Dr. Mahapatra in presence of notable guests. Social Workers in the country. Sri Megharaj Rajbhosle, a Senior literacy person in the state was the chief guest in the conference along with Acharya Tatnlal Soagra,. President All India Marathi Film Corporation & Vice Presiden of Film Feration. India. Boywood actor Sri Arjun Yadav ,Hemangi Rao, Goldman Dadus and Dr. Sneha Despnade, an eminent Social worker, Dr. DD Tendeker, President of Maharashtra Bajar Peth and other eminent Personality in the state of Maharashtra were present during the felicitation. Towards Nrusinghananda's solidarity jobs in the field of Social works and social dedicated work charitable trust for disable persons need artificial limb, blind stick, wheel chair curricular activities the guests and audiences were cheered and extended their great thanks to Nrusinghananda as he was represented from the Lord Jagannath's state, Odisha. Starting from Jay Jagannath in his

speech Dr. Mahapatra also extended thanks to the organisation and said this award will give him an energy forth coming days he will add



a boost to continue his social services. Your inspirational quotes have brought many social changes. Your innovative style of leadership have ignited a fire in every heart that dares to dream. You are the pillar of confidence in women empowerment. Youths of Odisha experienced your magnanimous contribution in their track of success. The digital revolution of the state, witnessed your valued leadership while positioning the international forum. In this regard he also gave his thanks to all social workers in his district to support him in every need. In a special moments Dr. Mahapatra requested all audiences an guests even to our Odia Community People, rather than saying hello over cell phone we should say Jay Jagannath. However, towards this new achievements the members of Kandhamal districts Social workers federation along with all Kandhamal district conscious senior citizens forum, an education in the local have wished him.

Garuda Ready for Chilka

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In an aim to attract tourists across the globe, soon there will be a commercial operation of Luxury Houseboat 'Garuda' in the Chilika Lake. All arrangements are

comfortably with premium luxury. The boat was constructed with an investment of more than Rs 3 crore. It is indigenously designed, developed and manufactured in

check-ups and safety instructions), then they will have Lunch on boat lounge (serves Odisha cuisine and seafood) at around 1.30 PM, sightseeing of birds and dolphin and

Chairman of the Vikash Group of Institutions, who is a dynamic entrepreneur has taken up the project, thanks to the support extended by the Odisha Government in Departments



made and it is all set to launch a luxury houseboat, Garuda, set up by Vikash Eco Resorts in Chilika. First of its kind Luxury Houseboat in Chilika, Garuda is 105 feet long, 22 feet wide, having dual engines and designed for climatic conditions of Chilika, officials said on Wednesday.

The officials said that it is a two floors housing boat with two Suite Rooms, 4 Premium Rooms, Bar & Restaurant. There is an open-air lobby in the upper deck for meetings/conferences. The lounge in the lower floor is air conditioned with a bar and good to accommodate 30 people

Barkul, Odisha. The project was approved by Odisha Tourism through a single window mechanism. Vikash Eco Resorts have received licenses and statutory clearances from Chilika Development Authority (CDA), Directorate Ports and Inland Water Transport, they said.

This luxury boat can be booked by six individual couples and will generally have a 24 hours package. The packages consist of overnight stay along with full board meals, activities and cruising covering different islands in Chilika. Guests can check-in with welcome drinks (along with health

scenery at 2.30 PM, activities and events at halt at Island around 4 PM. Sunset snacks along with coffee /tea will be served in the evening. Fun activities and musical evening will be organised in the evening at Deck with Barbeque. Following this, a multi cuisine dinner buffet will be served to the tourists at the boat. On the next day, the operator will serve sunrise drinks (herbal tea/coffee) at the deck followed by breakfast. Then, the tourists will visit and enjoy the lake on the way back to the Jetty. Check out will be done at the starting point at 9.30 AM. D Murali Krishna,

of Tourism, Forest, Environment & Climate Change and Commerce & Transport. Senior IFS Officer and Eco-Tourism Enthusiast, Susant Nanda, Chief Executive Chilika Development Authority is happy over the development. Mr.Nanda, a proactive mandarin has been supportive of Eco-Tourism and such an innovative and tourist attracting initiative in Chilika Lake. Travel and Tourism Experts are upbeat with such an Eco-Tourism Project, which is executed with all systemic care, thanks to efforts of Gautam Agrawal of Vikash Resorts.

CLASSIFIED

CAUTION

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. The Kalinga chronicle publication does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of The Kalinga Chronicle Publications shall not be held responsible/ liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.



AUTOMOBILE



REAL ESTATE

SALE

Kawasaki Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale. Contact: 2555326

SALE

Flats ready for possession before Rathayatra at Puri near Seabeach for sale. Contact: 9861078308

PURCHASE

Required a Marshal/Commandor / Boleto in good condition. Contact 2555763

Residential plots at Pahala close to NH-5 and near Pata Railway Station, Bhubaneswar for immediate sale. Contact : 0674-2556733 Residential plots at

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

Classified advertisements are released daily. The normal classified advertisement is charged @ Rs. 5/- per word up to maximum number of 50 words. Any extra word will be Rs. 8/- per word. The minimum charges for any classified advertisement is Rs. 100/-. The options for bold lettering and outlining are also available and are charged @ 7/- and 10/- per word respectively. Extra charges for photographs Rs.100/-. For Box No. Rs. 100/-

HIRE

For hiring of Car / Jeep / Bus on monthly basis. Contact : 2555763

Gohira Chhak in front of CV Raman Engineering College beside NH-5, near Tamando. Contact : 9238691168

PURCHASE

Simplex / Duplex building at BBSR contact : 9437002509

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required Single / Double / Triple Stored North/East facing building at Puri. Contact 9437143483



TOURS & TRAVELS

We provide luxury coach buses (16,25,32,41,52 seater) for Picnic, Excursion, Marriage. Maa Santoshi Travels, Contact : 9861079437 For Luxury Passenger vehicle, Contact : Sagasity Tours & Travels, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Ph. 2540219



MATRIMONIAL BRIDE WANTED

Wanted bride for Khandayat Boy, 37plus, Caste no bar, 0674-2555763

GROOM WANTED
Wanted Groom any service / business family for a Bramhin Girl. Contact 2555226

WANTED

Required Driver/Peon/Attendant/ Aya

Please Contact-8984600400

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required double/Single/ Multi storied Bungalow type North or East Facing Independent building At-Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar, V.S.S. Nagar, Mancheswar, Rasulgarh, Sallashree Vihar, Niladri Vihar.

Please Contact- 8338870595

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, Sanjay Sharma Raj):

with the Best Indian Film in 'Living and

tal of 21 National and International

M.Phil and PhD from Jawaharlal

'Mask' directed by him won many na-

River Mahanadi is considered as the



The short film "Sani - The Son of River

Sustainable Technologies' category at

Films were Awarded in 10 categories. It was judged by many veterans like film maker Shyam Bagegal, Dr. G. B. K. 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.

Nehru University, New Delhi. He has a special interest in



tional and interna-

mother of Odisha.



Mahanadi" produced under the ban-

the '11th CMC Vatavaran Film Festival and Awards' held in Chandigarh on 23 April 2022. This year a to-

Dr. Sweta Kumar Das (S K Das) pursued a career in Odisha Administrative Service after completing MA, making films based on social issues like women empowerment, farmer suicides, caste system, disaster management and current social superstition. The short film

making films based on social issues like women empowerment, farmer suicides, caste system, disaster management and current social superstition. The short film



tional awards.

The river is closely associated with the livelihood of the people. It is shown in this movie how the fishermen community have to face the water dispute between the two states."



ner of 'Social Image Production' and directed by Dr. S K Das was presented Mohanlal, Akshay Kumar to launch trailers of 'Marakkar: Arabikkadalinte Simham'

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, in addition to Mohanlal, Manju Warriar, Keerthy Suresh, Arjun Mohanlal will launch the

Chandrakant Shirsat retired after working 40 years in Malad Post Office, Mumbai

Mumbai(KCN): Regardless of the rain,

On this occasion, a grand farewell ceremony was organized

Postal Employees and other union officials expressed their views. The postman

feelings. It is sad to leave everyone but what can we do? I thank everyone for



cold and heat, the ceremony was organized



and all the staff got very emotional.

supporting me." On this occasion,



postman always de-

by all the employees



livers letters to the people. One such hardworking and talented postman turned overseer is Chandrakant Gangaram Shirsat, who worked for the last 40 years in the Malad Delivery Post Office, Zakaria Road, Malad (West), Mumbai and he retired on 31 May, 2022.

of Malad, Delivery Post Office. The Post Office was grandly decorated. During the program, the Overseer Shirsat was honored by Postal Postmaster Sandhya Jharapkar with a shawl, coconut and flower bouquet and other people gave gifts. All the Post Office employees, National Association of

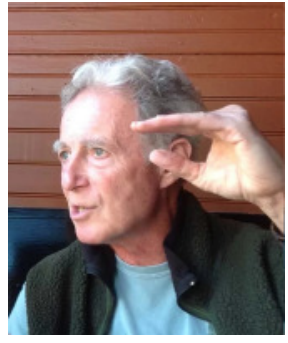


There was an atmosphere of both happiness and sorrow at the same time. Chandrakant Shirsat said, "40 years passed very well but the last 6 months were very difficult due to mixed

many postmen and officials of the post office and union like Santosh Lad, RN Rahte, Santosh Paste, VD Naik, Sanjay Kalokhe, Sadanand Naik Apraj etc. were present and made the program successful.

A Divided America with Liberty and Justice for None

It is hard to know where to begin when examining the failure of America's self-



touted democracy to nurture the foundational institutions central to functioning federal governance. Wherever you begin, the end point is pretty grim. As if to under-

score this point, America again has come face-to-face in Buffalo, NY with the carnage wrought by a heavily armed racist participating in a glorious "fantasy" scripted by others without any meaningful federal institutional response beyond the myopic notion that "justice" will be done.

Grim Realities and Failing Institutions
This comes in the wake of the US Supreme Court leak that gave powerful voice to a new American tableau that looks even worse than those threatening days before Roe v Wade. In this instance, a cabal of right-wing religious extremist justices now have the gavel and are speaking loudly for a national minority who really believe that men can do whatever they want with their bodies, but women cannot. And further, that conception produces a life force that must be protected at all costs, except by controlling access to firearms that kill a whole bunch of those blessed fetuses after their flight from the womb, and sometimes while still there.

There is more. Cornerstones of the American myth are under attack and at risk every day now, without a pause. And there is no meaningful federal institutional response. The Congress can't function at all. The executive branch is slow to respond to anything and so compromised by political angst that half measures are the best that can be hoped for. And the US Supreme Court has become a politicized intellectual cesspool providing incomprehensible legal guidance from the 18th century to a nation trying to grapple with the 21st century. Voting rights are diminished by blatantly racist gerrymandering and erased by new laws making it even harder for the urban poor and people of color to vote. These blatantly anti-democratic measures go unchecked by federal legislation that should unequivocally declare that this will not continue. Massive campaign "contributions" to promote the very worst that we can be serve to corrupt America's politics without any meaningful federal response that unequivocally declares that this will not continue.

Guns that kill and maim our people are everywhere in America. It is estimated that 40% of the guns in the world in civilian hands are in the US, which accounts for about 4% of the world's population. Think about that for a minute. Then, be outraged that there has been no meaningful federal institutional response that unequivocally declares that this will not continue, not after Sandy Hook, and not after Buffalo, and not after all the dead bodies in between. And now, nineteen elementary school children in gun nut Texas will be added to

the list with no change in sight.

Then think about the less obvious but maybe even more tragic consequences of the failure of federal institutions to confront the preventable and the perverse: poverty and hunger, even war, access to meaningful healthcare and mental health services, dangerous and puerile censorship of the harmless while harmful hatred goes unchecked, a threatening social media framework, cruel and inhumane immigration policies, and the rampant integration of religious dogma into every nook and cranny of our lives. And this is the short list.

Even those of us committed to good governance as a prerequisite to meeting collective societal needs have had enough. Sadly, their numbers are now added to the numbers of those who have been conditioned for decades to believe that

Larry Beck

vide fertile ground for an ahistorical perspective spewed by those who lust for a purified White Christian world.

The danger to America's institutions presented by these new Christian soldiers is that their message of fear and doom is so polluting the body politic that it seems to have paralyzed those who know better and who serve in positions bearing the responsibility for generating a meaningful government response. That paralysis has taken the form of an unwillingness or incapacity to engage with a singular message that will stridently raise the required warning flags and will penetrate the huge cave of the willfully ignorant. Unfortunately, fear is a far more persuasive motivator than "OK, here is the real problem, now let's sit down and try to figure out a meaningful

torical anomalies have served to pro-

fied the checks and balances inherent in America's constitutional framework. For much of the second half of the 20th century, a majority of the justices seemed to comprehend that a modern nation that was grappling with racial and social justice issues, entrenched poverty, income and educational inequality, and vast healthcare deficits needed a rule of law with a conscience. It seemed to work for a while.

Now even that institution has participated in its own undoing by operating within a culture of secrecy with no ethical code at its core, and by studiously denying any collective accountability for the impact of their pronouncements. To make matters even worse, the present Supreme Court is dominated by an obvious right-wing cohort that came to be through the perfidy of a majority of the justices and their political allies. Bla-



government cannot function effectively to meet their needs and that any effort to do so is part of some conspiracy to undermine the very rights that dedicated public servants are sworn to protect.

Yet it would be hard to deny that a significant element of the anger directed toward government institutions and those responsible for their operations is centered on a palpable sense that government just isn't working to meet the challenges it was intended to meet. At the federal level, the absence of a constructive response to so much that is so wrong shouts loudly to many that the last best institutional responders have fallen silent.

While much of the focus on institutional dysfunction is properly centered on recent history and present-day failures, the problem is compounded by its foundational document, the US Constitution. It was ratified in 1788, and the initial amendments that contain the Bill of Rights were ratified in 1791. This was long before there were things like corporations, fetal ultrasound, ghost guns, the internet, and nuclear weapons. Mar-a-Lago wasn't even a lagoon back then. And each Black person in the land was somehow counted as 3/5 of a White person. Shamefully, these and other his-

solution."

No one seems able to fully articulate that you cannot be afraid of losing something unless you believe you had it in the first place. And that is where the right-wing politicians, preachers, and their media allies enter the narrative by callously trafficking in the delusion of a past American greatness that is threatened by progressives, liberals, academics, scientists, Democrats, Black and Brown people, Jews and Muslims. To be clear and unequivocal about this, the new Christian soldiers are most afraid of awakening to find that they are fighting so hard to recapture a moment that never existed.

The Death of Checks and Balances

In the face of this tyranny of a fading minority, the American majority is left to fight back with flawed institutions that have been delegitimized and undermined for decades. The institutional checks and balances envisioned in the late 18th century seem to check nothing and balance nothing in the early 21st century.

No other foundational federal institution better illustrates this than the US Supreme Court. There was a day not so long ago when the Supreme Court seemed to be the institution that codi-

tant lies from individual justices about their adherence to fundamental legal principles served to conceal their adherence to a right-wing social agenda that got them noticed in the first place and now further delegitimizes the Court.

So, in the end, if it seems that modern-day rule of law principles and the sense of social justice that they can spawn are gone and that America's federal institutions now produce more darkness than light, there may be nowhere left to go to seek that more perfect union. However, one thing should be certain in this void – that the time for intellectual curiosity about the fate of the nation is long gone. Those who care about any of this have to find the courage to make those who don't care very uncomfortable with their complacency.

Larry Beck is a lifelong leftist and activist. He has practiced criminal law as both a prosecutor and defender. For much of the last 15 years, he has been an international consultant working in the developing world on criminal law reform, governance and judicial reform issues. Beck has traveled to over 80 countries, worked in over 25 and lived abroad for extended periods. He was a Peace Corp volunteer in Costa Rica in the early 1980s.

Journalist detained in China denied calls, partner says

SYDNEY: The Australian partner of a journalist who has been detained in China for nearly two years said Thursday she is being denied the chance to speak with her family and consular staff, and her health is declining due to a poor prison diet.

Journalist Cheng Lei, an Australian who was born in China, was detained in August 2020 on charges of suspicion of sharing state secrets. In March, she was tried in Beijing, but Australian diplomats weren't allowed inside

He said she once joked with him that his Starbucks coffee cost more than a week's worth of her food.

"Fortunately, we're dealing with about the strongest person I know, mentally, emotionally, but there have been really difficult health challenges along the way," Coyle told Sky News.

Coyle said he still has no idea what Cheng is supposed to have done wrong. He said she wasn't even that interested in politics, instead



the courtroom. Since the trial, Chinese authorities have deferred announcing a verdict. Cheng, 46, had worked as a business journalist for Chinese state broadcaster China Global Television Network.

Speaking about the case publicly for the first time in an interview with Australia's Sky News, Cheng's partner Nick Coyle said he was worried "big time" for her health and about the lack of access she was getting to her family and Australian consular staff.

Coyle told Sky News that her regular 30-minute consular video meetings have been suspended indefinitely, apparently due to China's tough coronavirus restrictions.

"I find that just totally unacceptable," Coyle said. "These monthly consular visits have literally been what's kept her going for 20 months."

"She's been able to make no phone calls with anybody. She's had maybe three visits from her lawyer, just to prepare for the trial," Coyle said. "She's had not one phone call with family, with her children. Nothing. Nada."

Cheng is the mother of two children who live in Australia, and her parents also live in Australia.

Coyle worked as chief executive of the China-Australia Chamber of Commerce in Beijing before leaving China due to fears he had for his safety.

Coyle said Cheng had some health issues and her condition had declined since she had been detained and fed a poor and inadequate diet.

focusing on business.

"It doesn't make any sense to me," he said. "It never has."

Her detention came during a time of deteriorating diplomatic relations between China and Australia.

At Cheng's trial in March, Australian Ambassador to China Graham Fletcher told reporters outside the court that he'd been told he couldn't attend because the trial involved state secrets.

"This is deeply concerning, unsatisfactory and very regrettable," Fletcher said at the time. "We can have no confidence in the validity of the process which is conducted in secret."

Australia would continue to advocate for Cheng's rights and interests in accordance with the consular agreement between China and Australia, Fletcher said at the time.

After the trial, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the verdict would be announced at an unspecified later date. Wang said that because the trial involved state secrets it was held in closed session, but Cheng and her defense lawyer had been present.

China does not recognize dual citizenship and Chinese-born defendants are often not afforded the same treatment as other foreign nationals, particularly when facing espionage charges. Born in China, Cheng graduated from the University of Queensland. She worked as an accountant and financial analyst in Australia before moving to China in 2001, where she has worked since as a journalist.

Pakistan court grants pre-arrest bail to Imran Khan till June 25 in 'Azadi March' cases

PESHAWAR: A Pakistani court on Thursday granted a three-week pre-arrest bail to ousted prime minister Imran Khan in 14 cases regis-



tered against him in connection with the arson and vandalism by his supporters during the recent Azadi march organised by his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, according to media reports.

The Peshawar High Court (PHC) granted Khan the bail to the 69-year-old former prime minister against a surety of Rs 50,000, the Geo News reported.

Khan reached out to the court for protection against his possible arrest in case he marches to Islamabad again. PHC Chief Justice Qaiser Rasheed accepted the plea. Khan attended the hearing in-person.

In the petition, Khan's lawyer Babar Awan said there were 14 FIRs registered against his client that accused him of inciting violence, the Ex-

press Tribune reported.

On May 27, Islamabad police filed separate cases against 150 people, including PTI Chairman Khan and party leaders Asad Umar, Asad Qaiser among others over allegations of arson and vandalism in Islamabad during the long march on May 25.

The judge granted the PTI leader bail till June 25 and subsequently forwarded the orders to the additional sessions judge of Islamabad.

Khan has been instructed to appear before the Islamabad sessions court before June 25, the Dawn News reported.

Khan was removed from office in April through a no-confidence vote but he refused to accept the outcome and blamed that the US was involved in toppling his government.

The PTI chairman has been protesting ever since and calling fresh elections because, in his words, the incumbent coalition government led by Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party was "imported" and not a true representative of the Pakistani people.

Khan led his thousands of PTI supporters to Islamabad last Wednesday in a protest and had planned to stage a sit-in until new elections were announced but abruptly called off the sit-in at the last minute after making it to the capital.

However, he had threatened to return after six days if the government failed to give a date for snap polls in the country.

TTD invites Andhra Pradesh CM, Governor to Amaravati Balaji temple fete



VIJAYAWADA(KCN): Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has invited Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan for the Maha Sampr-

okshana fete of the newly-built Sri Venkateswara temple at Amaravati from June 5. TTD chairman YV Subba Reddy on Wednesday invited Jagan Mohan Reddy to

the fete. He was accompanied by TTD JEO Veerabrahmam. Subba Reddy also extended an invitation to Governor Harichandan urging him to participate in the fete on June

9. The TTD chairman called on the Governor at Raj Bhavan and presented the invitation for the five-day celebrations beginning June 5 and concluding with Maha Sampr-okshana on June 9.

Rajya Sabha polls: Around 40 Rajasthan Congress MLAs, some Independents leave for Udaipur hotel

JAIPUR: Around 40 Rajasthan Congress MLAs and some Independents left for a hotel in Udaipur as the party tries to keep its flock to-

backing media baron Subhash Chandra, who has filed nomination as an Independent. The Congress has fielded three candi-

per House of Parliament from Haryana and his term is going to expire on August 1. The filing of papers by him as an inde-

pendent candidate on Tuesday held a meeting with 10 of 13 independent MLAs in Rajasthan. Earlier on Wednesday, BJP leader



gether before the June 10 Rajya Sabha elections.

The MLAs boarded a luxury bus from the chief minister's residence in the Civil Lines and left for Udaipur around 5 pm.

The bus was escorted by a police team.

The legislators and other leaders, who attended a state Congress workshop at a hotel in Jaipur, were called at Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's residence for lunch.

After the lunch, the MLAs left for Udaipur in the bus. The party has decided to shift the MLAs to Udaipur fearing poaching by the BJP, which apart from fielding one official candidate is

dates. This is not the first time when the ruling Congress in the state has shifted its legislators to a hotel.

The Congress decision reminds of two instances in 2020 when the party shifted its MLAs to a hotel ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls and during a political crisis triggered by the rebellion of party leader Sachin Pilot and 18 MLAs close to him.

The fresh move came after media baron Subhash Chandra, who is backed by the BJP, filed his nomination papers as an independent candidate for the Rajya Sabha polls.

Chandra is currently a member of the Up-

pendent candidate had prompted Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to allege that the BJP wants to indulge in horse trading.

Gehlot made the statement as the ruling Congress with its 108 MLAs in the state Assembly is set to win two of the four seats.

After winning two seats, the Congress will have 26 surplus votes, 15 short of the required 41 to win the third seat, which makes the support of Independent MLAs crucial. On the other hand, the BJP has 71 MLAs in the state Assembly and set to win one seat, after which it will be left with 30 surplus votes.

Gehlot and the Con-

Rajendra Rathore targeted CM Gehlot, saying the Congress leader himself is an expert in "elephant trading", referring to the election symbol of the BSP, whose six MLAs had defected to the Congress in 2019.

The Bahujan Samaj Party also wrote to Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra and Assembly Speaker C P Joshi demanding that the six party MLAs who had defected to the Congress be barred from voting in the Rajya Sabha polls. Reacting to this, state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra had said the six MLAs had merged with the Congress and now they are party legislators.

State to Train PRI Members Not India-related issue: MEA on procurement of Russian crude oil

Bhubaneswar: In an aim to expedite the process to achieve the goal for development of empowered Panchayats, the Panchayati Raj

The objective of the orientation program is to adopt a holistic approach for proper implementation of all schemes and welfare programs of the Government at village level.

The Orientation Programs are being organization in active participation of 10 line Departments, Mission Shakti, Revenue & Disaster Management, Women & Child Development, Health & Family Welfare, Sports & Youth Services, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development, Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare, SSEPD and SC, ST Development.

The training program will be taken up at 106 Centers across the State. For which, 700 Master Trainers along with senior officials of various Departments have been engaged. All arrangements have been made to complete the training of ZP Presidents, Block Chairpersons and Sarpanches in the next three months.

The training of ZP Presidents and Block Chairpersons will be conducted at the State Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRDPR) during June to August while Sarpanches will impart training at district-level in June.

The ZP Members will get training at SIRD&PR in between July and December while training will be provided to all Panchayat Samiti Members during June, July and August. The Ward Members will impart such training at district and block level from July to December, 2022.

Training will be provided on development of leadership at Panchayat level, proper implementation of 5T Action Plan, delivery of basic services with participation of people, qualitative implementation of Government schemes, citizen centric e-administration and execution of schemes of different Departments at grassroots. The PRI members will also get training on development of leadership among women and make them financially empower; partnership with women SHGs, youths in PRIs; disaster management and proper utilization of funds to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).



and Drinking Water (PR&DW) Department has launched a massive training program for more than One Lakh newly elected Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Ashok Kumar Meena, Principal Secretary Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water has said that the State Government has targeted to provide the training to all 1,06,352 PRI Members, which include 30 Zilla Parishad Presidents, 822 ZP Members, 314 Block Chairmen, 6,479 Panchayat Samiti Members, 6,749 Sarpanches and 91,913 Ward Members.

Mr. Meena said that accordingly, Department of PR&DW has prepared a detailed plan to provide required training to every PRI member within six months to enhance the quality of the Panchayati Raj System using 5T Principle of Odisha Government.



NEW DELHI: India once again asserted on Thursday that its procurement of crude oil from Russia is guided by its energy security requirements.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said many countries have taken policy decisions with a

similar perspective and procurement of oil from Russia is not an India-related issue.

"We have consistently maintained that our approach is guided by our energy security requirements. You would note that many regions and countries have taken policy decisions re-

cently with a similar perspective," he said.

Bagchi was responding to a question on the continuation of India's procurement of crude oil from Russia. "We would like to reiterate that this is not an India-related issue at all," he said. There has been some disquiet in western capitals

over India's position on the Ukraine crisis as well as its decision to procure discounted Russian oil. India is yet to condemn the Russian attack on Ukraine and has been pressing for an immediate cessation of violence and a resolution of the crisis through diplomacy and dialogue.

Truck driver arrested over road rage in Bhubaneswar



BHUBANESWAR: A truck driver allegedly attacked a car owner in an incident of road rage at Vani Vihar area on Wednesday night. According to the police, the truck driver hit the man's car following which a heated exchange broke out between the two. The truck driver reportedly called his associates to the spot and they thrashed the car driver.

The car driver was rushed to a hospital by the police and is currently undergoing treatment. After the police detained the truck driver in connection with the incident, his associates visited Saheed Nagar police station and demanded his release. "The truck driver has been detained and an investigation has been launched," police said.



MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL

Nurturing awareness Moulding Future

ADMISSION OPEN FOR

PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

A great Place to grow @ MPS

Call now for Application:

Laugh
Play
Learn
Share

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

N-3 B/14-15, IRC Village,
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar

PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)

E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com



Find us on
facebook.com/maharishiplayschool



FOLLOW US
ON TWITTER
twitter.com/maharishiplayschool

No LPG subsidy to households, Rs 200 LPG dole limited to Ujjwala beneficiaries

NEW DELHI: The government has limited subsidy on cooking gas LPG for only 9 crore poor women and other beneficiaries who got free connections under the Ujjwala scheme and the remaining users including households will pay the market price.

Oil Secretary Pankaj Jain at a news briefing said no subsidy is paid on cooking gas since June 2020 and the only subsidy that is provided is the one that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on March 21.

"There was no subsidy for LPG users since the early days of Covid. Since then the only subsidy is one which had been introduced now for Ujjwala beneficiaries," he said.

Sitharaman had while announcing a cut in excise duty on petrol by a record Rs 8 per litre and that on diesel by Rs 6, stated that Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries will get Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy for 12 bottles in a year to help ease some of the burden arising from cooking gas rates rising to record levels.

A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder costs Rs 1,003 in the national capital.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries will get Rs 200 subsidy directly in their bank



account and the effective price for them would be Rs 803 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

For the rest, it will cost Rs 1,003 in Delhi.

The Rs 200 subsidy will cost the government Rs 6,100 crore, she had said.

"Subsidies by definition are not designed to get entrenched and increased. Subsidies by definition have to be degressive," Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said at the same conference.

The government ended subsidies on petrol in June 2010 and on diesel in November 2014. The same on kerosene ended a couple of years later. And now subsidies on LPG for most have effectively been ended.

However, unlike petrol, diesel and kerosene, there is no formal order ending the subsidies. The country has nearly 30.5 crore LPG connections.

Of this, 9 crore have been provided under PM Ujjwala Yojana.

On prices, Puri said the rates of "LPG for domestic consumers have gone up by just 7 per cent in last 6 months whereas the Saudi CP (the benchmark used to price LPG) has gone up by 43 per cent. This is the reality."

Non-subsidised or market priced LPG, which most users other than Ujjwala pay, have gone up by Rs 103.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder since October 2021 and by almost Rs 200 in one year.

A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder was priced at Rs 809 in June 2021.

Its prices were raised by about Rs 90 in the next four months.

Prices were hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder in March and then again in May, rates went up by Rs 3.50.

"We have been, thanks to sound policies, insulating our users from the tremors in the international market and the turmoil," Puri said referring to the rise in rates in Saudi CP and the ones in India.

He also refuted reports of a drop in the purchase of refills by Ujjwala beneficiaries once they exhaust their first cylinder post getting free connections.

This was attributed to the high prices of LPG. "It is completely untrue," he said.

Users taking only one refill has come down from 181 crore during 2019-20 to 1.08 crore in 2021-22 and a majority of customers have taken more than one refill.

Also, the per capita consumption of Ujjwala users has increased from 3.01 to 3.68 cylinders during 2021-22.

Tomato prices to stabilise in southern states in two weeks: Food Secretary

NEW DELHI: Union Food Secretary



Sudhanshu Pandey on Thursday said retail to-

UK pledges missiles to Ukraine; new US ambassador in Kyiv

Continued from page-1

After Western-supplied arms helped Ukraine fend off Russian attempts to storm the capital, Moscow shifted its focus to seizing all of eastern Ukraine's industrial Donbas region.

Military analysts think Russia is hoping to overrun the Donbas before any weapons that might turn the tide arrive. It will take at least three weeks to get the precision US weapons and trained troops onto the battlefield, the Pentagon said.

But Defense Undersecretary Colin Kahl said he believes they will arrive in time to make a difference in the fight.

Kyiv also is set to get a diplomatic boost with the formal installation of a new US ambassador to Ukraine.

US Ambassador Bridget Brink was set to hand her credentials to Zelenskyy on Thursday. Brink will be Washington's first ambassador in Kyiv since former US President Donald Trump abruptly forced out Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch in 2019. She later became a key figure in the first impeachment proceedings against Trump.

Ahead of her Senate confirmation last month, Brink promised senators she would work to make Russia's invasion of Ukraine a "strategic failure". Her work in Kyiv is expected to focus on coordinating Western weapon shipments.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Wednesday that Moscow does not trust assurances that Ukraine will not use its new rocket launchers to fire on Russian territory. "We believe that the US is deliberately and diligently pouring fuel on the fire," he said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called Ukraine's repeated push for more weapons was a "direct provocation intended to draw the West into the fighting". He warned that US-supplied multiple rocket launchers would raise the risk of an expanded conflict.

Meanwhile, Russian forces kept up their bombardment of the Donbas and other parts of Ukraine while ground troops made an inching advance in the east. A regional governor said Russian forces now control 80% of Sievierodonetsk, a city that is key to Moscow's efforts to complete its capture of the Donbas. Ukrainian forces and Russian-backed separatists have fought in the eastern region for eight years, and the separatists held swaths of territory before the Russian invasion.

The only other city in Luhansk province that the Russians have not yet captured, Lysychansk, is still fully under Ukrainian control, he said, but is likely to be the next target. The two cities are separated by a river.

Moscow's forces also stormed the town of Komyshevka in the southeastern Zaporizhzhia region, large parts of which are under Russian control, the Ukrainian General Staff said Thursday.

In the western Lviv region, a Russian missile hit rail lines that were a key conduit for supplies of Western weapons and other supplies, officials said.

Zelenskyy has said Ukraine was losing between 60 and 100 soldiers a day in the fighting. He turned the focus to children in his nightly video address, saying 243 of them have been killed in the war, 446 have been wounded and 139 are missing.

The real numbers could be higher, he added, as his government doesn't have a full picture of areas under Russian occupation.

Zelenskyy also said 200,000 children are among the Ukrainians who have been forcefully taken to Russia and dispersed across that vast country: "The purpose of this criminal policy is not just to steal people but to make those who are deported forget about Ukraine and unable to return".

mato prices should stabilise in the next two weeks in southern states, where the rates have increased sharply due to crop damage owing to local rains.

As per the data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry, retail tomato prices are ruling between Rs 50 and 106 per kg in several locations.

The same situation prevails in Maharashtra as well.

Barring Delhi, where tomato is being sold at **Centre to set up 'PM Shri Schools' to prepare students for future: Education minister**

Continued from page-1

hmark model in the form of PM Shri schools. He said the 5+3+3+4 approach of the NEP covering preschool to secondary school lays emphasis on early childhood care and education programme (ECCE), teacher training and adult education.

Also, the focus has been given to the integration of skill development with school education and prioritising learning in the mother tongue.

"The next 25 years are crucial to establishing India as a knowledge economy that is committed to global welfare. We all have to collaboratively work together, and learn from each other's experiences and successes to make learning more vibrant and take India to greater heights.

"I encourage education ministers of all states and union territories and also seek active participation from all stakeholders for developing our National Curriculum Framework as well as developing quality e-content for expanding the reach of digital education and for universalising education," the minister said. Best practices in education coming from different states and union territories will act as a cumulative force in transforming India's youth as global citizens, he added.

Praising the education models of some of the states, he said, "The education fraternity can immensely benefit from models of Karnataka, Odisha, Delhi, Meghalaya, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Haryana."

"Experience and knowledge sharing from all state education ministers and a structured and outcome-based discussion at the conference today will lead us one step further towards transforming our learning landscape, in line with the NEP 2020," Pradhan said.

Protect Poor & Vulnerable; CM

Continued from page-1

villages. "This will make your village and panchayat a role model for others," he stated. Stating that the public has put their trust in them, he advised the PRI members to never let the people down and serve them considering their trust as a sacred responsibility. It will earn them places in the hearts of the people forever, added the Chief Minister.

The function was attended by Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Pratap Jena, who highlighted the role of Panchayat Raj Institutions in the development of the State and the various developmental programmes being taken up by the department.

Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said that all the infrastructure of the Panchayat has now been mapped out through GPS technology. This will help the public to resolve their grievances immediately, he said.

Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Arun Sahoo said the Chief Minister has taken steps to empower women and youth in the State and strengthen the Panchayats. "If everyone will work in accordance with the 5T mantras, we will be able to bring massive transformation in the State," Sahoo said. Mission Shakti Minister Tukuni Sahu said the Chief Minister has given women a chance to do social work. In Odisha, women have been empowered.

In his welcome address, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said that the PRI has been strengthened financially. A lot of money is being given for the development of the Panchayats. This training programme is very important for its fruitful utilization, he said.

Ashok Kumar Meena, Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, offered vote of thanks. The event was attended by 1,06,352 PRI representatives.

Rs 40 per kg, retail prices in other metro cities were ruling high on June 2.

Tomato was sold at Rs 77 per kg in Mumbai and Kolkata, and at Rs 60 per kg in Chennai on Thursday, the data showed.

"In Delhi, tomato prices are stable. In southern India, prices have risen because of the damage to the crop due to local rains," Pandey told reporters. Actual production and arrivals are more.

There is no problem on the production side, he said, adding that the government has discussed this matter with states.

"It (prices) should stabilise in the next two weeks," he added.

The secretary also mentioned that even onion production and procurement is ahead of the last year's schedule.

"We have already procured 52,000 tonne so far from the rabi season which is far more than the last year's 30,000 tonne," he said.

US House panel taking up gun bill in wake of mass shootings

Continued from page-1

House could come as early as next week.

With Republicans nearly in lockstep in their opposition, the House action will mostly be symbolic, serving to put lawmakers on record about gun control ahead of this year's elections.

The Senate is taking a different course, with a bipartisan group striving toward a compromise on gun safety legislation that can win enough GOP support to become law.

Those talks are making "rapid progress", according to Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, one of the Republican negotiators.

But Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, the Democratic chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, defends the proposals as popular with Americans. He says it's time for Congress to act.

"You say that it is too soon to take action? That we are politicising' these tragedies to enact new policies?" Nadler said in prepared remarks for Thursday's hearing obtained by The Associated Press.

"It has been 23 years since Columbine. Fifteen years since Virginia Tech. Ten years since Sandy Hook. Seven years since Charleston. Four years since Parkland and Santa Fe and Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh."

He added, "Too soon? My friends, what the hell are you waiting for?" Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, the ranking Republican on the committee, told Fox News he'll press his GOP colleagues to oppose the bill.

"I'm going to do everything I can to encourage my colleagues to oppose this, hodgepodge of bills that I don't think would have made one difference in tragedies that we've seen recently," Jordan said.

Any legislative response to the Uvalde and Buffalo, New York, shootings will have to get through the evenly divided Senate, where support from at least 10 Republicans would be needed to advance the measure to a final vote. A group of senators has been working behind the scenes this week in hopes of finding a consensus.

Ideas under discussion include expanded background checks for gun purchases and incentivising red-flag laws that allow family members, school officials and others to go into court and secure an order requiring the police to seize guns from people considered a threat to themselves or others.

The broader bipartisan group of almost 10 senators met again Wednesday, a very productive call, said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., in an interview. "There's a tenor and tone, as well as real substantive discussion that seems different," he said.

Blumenthal has been working with a Republican member of the group, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, on a proposal to send resources to the states for red-flag laws. He said he was "excited and encouraged" by the response from the group.

"It really is time for our Republican colleagues to put up or shut up," Blumenthal said. "We've been down this road before."

President Joe Biden was asked on Wednesday if he was confident Congress would take action on gun legislation.

"I served in Congress for 36 years. I'm never confident, totally," Biden said. "It depends, and I don't know. I've not been in on the negotiations as they're going on right now."

Messi inspires Argentina to 3-0 Finalissima win over Italy

LONDON: Energized at Wembley by Lionel Messi's assists, Argentina's players threw their superstar teammate in the air after he inspired them to a sec-

pearance, there is no sign of the 34-year-old Messi slowing down with the chance to win a first World Cup title later this year. "What we experi-

having got past Giorgio Chiellini. The 37-year-old Italy captain came off at halftime of his 117th and final international appearance. The win was

threw Messi in the air before catching him. It was a painful return for the Italians to Wembley Stadium where they won Euro 2020 last year and as



ond title in a year. National team success is finally coming for the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, late in his trophy-filled club career. Argentina collected the first Finalissima trophy on Wednesday by beating Italy 3-0 in a meeting of the South American and European champions, with Messi having helped Argentina win the Copa America last July for his first major title with the national team. And judging by the two assists on his record-extending 161st Argentina ap-

enced here was beautiful," Messi said. "We knew it was going to be a nice game and a nice setting in which to be champions." The opener was created by Messi's solo brilliance taking him past Giovanni Di Lorenzo and the Argentina captain squared for Lautaro Martínez to slot past goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma in the 28th minute. Martínez turned creator in first-half stoppage time by threading a pass-through for Ángel Di María to chip Donnarumma,

wrapped up in the fourth minute of stoppage time with Messi gaining possession on the half-way line and ramming to the edge of the penalty area where he evaded Di Lorenzo's challenge to set up the substitute Paulo Dybala to strike low into the net. It sealed a second trophy success at Wembley for Messi after the 2011 Champions League win with Barcelona over Manchester United. As they celebrated on the Wembley field, the Argentines

they face up to a second successive failure to qualify for the World Cup. Argentina will head to Qatar in November with another trophy — one created as part of a UEFA-CONMEBOL partnership that challenges the global supremacy of FIFA. The choice of London as the location for the game was vindicated by more than 87,000 packing into Wembley, with UEFA picking the stadium despite the unrest at the Euro 2020 final caused by England fans.

Will be fully fit in 6-8 weeks, says Ajinkya Rahane on hamstring injury

MUMBAI: Out-of-favour India batter Ajinkya Rahane said it would take at least six to eight weeks to recover fully from the hamstring injury he had sustained while playing for Kolkata Knight Riders

again for my rehab and recovery. It's been on track," Rahane told PTI. "So right now my only focus is on getting better. Get fit as soon as possible and be on the field. I am not sure (when) I

India won the series 2-1 after losing the first Test in Adelaide. Turning out for KKR, Rahane scored 133 runs from seven matches in the just-concluded IPL, but the

management) gave me a lot of freedom to play my game and I thought it was something special. Playing under (then KKR head coach) Brendon McCullum, I learnt a lot." Rahane, who scored a match-winning 112 in the 2020 Melbourne Test that scripted the turnaround for India, said it was a "special" knock.



ers in this year's Indian Premier League. Rahane had sustained the injury in KKR's second last game and was subsequently ruled out of the remainder of the tournament. "That (injury) was really unfortunate. But my rehab is going really well. I am recovering really well. I was in Bangalore (at the NCA) for nearly 10 days and I am going there

will be able to get (fully) fit, it is expected to be around 6-8 weeks but at this moment it is about taking one day at a time, one week at a time," added the elegant right-handed batter. Rahane was speaking after the trailer launch of web-series 'Bandon Mein Tha Dum' to be streamed on 'Voot Select', based on India's 2020-21 Test series triumph in Australia.

Mumbaikar termed his experience as a "good one". "My experience with KKR was really good. I really enjoyed playing for KKR and the atmosphere there was really good. It is kind of a family atmosphere. We enjoyed each other's success on and off the field but unfortunately we couldn't qualify for the play-offs," he added. "They (KKR team



Bopanna-Middelkoop suffer heartbreaking defeat to bow out of French Open

PARIS: India's Rohan Bopanna and his Dutch partner Matwé Middelkoop saved two match points but their dream run at the French Open ended with a semifinal defeat at the hands of Marcelo Arevalo and Jean-Julien Rojer, here on Thursday. The 16th seeds, Bopanna and Middelkoop, who have played some exhilarating tennis throughout, lost 6-4 3-6 6-7 (8-10) to the 12th seeded pair from El Salvador and the Netherlands in



the men's doubles match that lasted two hours and seven minutes. No Indian has played in a Grand Slam men's doubles final since Leander Paes' 2013 US Open triumph and Bopanna was bidding to become the first Indian in nine years to achieve the feat. The first and last time Bopanna featured in a Grand Slam final was in 2010 with Pakistani partner Aisam-ul-haq Qureshi, losing the title clash to legendary Bryan brothers -- Bob and Mike. Rojer's first serve accuracy was a huge factor in the outcome of the match. While serving for the opening set, Middelkoop

was down by two break chances but saved both to make it deuce. The Dutch player then fired an ace to get to advantage point and Bopanna sealed the set with a backhand volley winner. Bopanna sent forehand on net at 30-all to face a break point but served big to save that. The Indian's second serve was attacked again in the sixth game that resulted in him facing another break chance but saved that too. He sealed that game with a stunning cross-court forehand winner that passed Rojer, who was standing in the middle of the court. The Indo-Dutch pair too earned a break chance when Bopanna found a service return winner off Rojer but their opponents saved it. The 12th seeds though did not miss the crucial chance in the eighth game as they broke Middelkoop for a 5-3 lead. Arevalo served out the set at love to force a decider. There was no break of serve in the deciding set and Super tie-breaker was required to decide the winner. Bopanna and Middelkoop fell behind 2-5 with the Indian making three errors -- first an overhead smash, a forehand return error and then a backhand return. Bopanna and Middelkoop logged four straight points from 2-7 to make it a close affair and even saved two match points but Arevalo converted the third. With this defeat, India's challenge ended at the clay-court major.

2021-2022

ADMISSION OPEN

Maharishi Public School, Baripada

STD-NURSERY TO VIII

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2021)

- Find the Difference
- Small Classes
- Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
- Individual attention to each child.
- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL
Baghra Road, Baripada

For details
Contact :

Call-9438102188, 06792-255227
Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon
E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com

Find us on
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada