

Women power on show as BMC mayor candidates hit poll trail

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Just two weeks to go, the municipal elections in Odisha capi-

Lingaraj Temple to seek the blessing of the Lord on the first day of their cam-

make it No 1 Smart City in India," she said. Mund visited differ-

issues the city is grappling with. Apart from mayoral candidates, corporators aspirants in 67 wards also intensified their campaign. Flanked by supporters with flags and banners, they visited different localities of the city for door-to-door campaigning.

Sources in BJP said campaigning will be strengthened further after launching of party's manifesto in next couple of days. "We are going to highlight the massive failures of urban governance in the State capital over the last one decade," said a party leader.

Bhubaneswar district Congress president Biswajit Dash said, his party candidates prefer direct contacts with voters after Covid restrictions were lifted.

A total 12 mayoral candidates and 366 corporator candidates filed their nomination papers for the urban elections. Scrutiny of the nominations will be held on March 9.



tal Bhubaneswar is priming for a fascinating triangular fight with mayor candidates of BJD, BJP and Congress hitting the campaign trail on Tuesday, marking the International Women's Day.

The mayor post, reserved for women, is going to be a direct election for the first time. The urban local bodies' polls will be held on March 24. BJD mayor candidate Sulochana Das and BJP nominee Suniti Mund, who filed their nomination papers on Monday, visited

paingning. A former journalist, Das visited the 11th-century shrine in the morning and soon embarked on campaigning. She covered at least six wards attending various meetings and programmes including events organised by different communities to celebrate women's day. "I am overwhelmed with the support received from women and community members in different wards. If elected, I will ensure all-round development of the city and

ent wards to attended party programmes and convey women's day greetings to community members. Congress mayor candidate Madhusmita Acharya also campaigned aggressively in different wards. For BJD, the poll plank is the clear-clean image of CM Naveen Patnaik and the 5T governance for the development of the city.

Opponents BJP, Congress and Independent candidates, on the other hand, have reached out to voters with the various civic

Uttar Pradesh polls: SP chief Akhilesh Yadav asks party workers to foil all conspiracies by BJP

LUCKNOW (KCN): The BJP is attempting fraud as the SP-led alliance is going to win the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Wednesday, exhorting party workers to foil the ruling party's conspiracies.

"Treat the counting centres as the pilgrimage of democracy. Go there and stand firm,"



Yadav said in a tweet. Foil every conspiracy by the ruling party to manipulate the election results, he said. "The SP alliance is winning, that is why

the BJP is trying CONTINUED ON: P-7

PM Narendra Modi chairs meeting to review COVID-19 situation



NEW DELHI (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the COVID-19 situation and the public health response to the pan-

demic, government sources said. Home Minister Amit Shah and Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya attended the meeting besides a number of senior government offi-

cials. The meeting comes amid a steady decline in the number of COVID-19 cases nationwide, with most of the restrictions lifted. India logged 4,575

new coronavirus cases, taking the total tally to 4,29,75,883, while the active cases dipped to 46,962, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Wednesday.

Opposition fails to field candidates in many seats in Odisha



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): A clear picture of the position of different political parties in the urban local body (ULB) elections has started to emerge after the filing of the nomination papers which concluded on Monday. It has come to light that except for the ruling BJD, the Opposition BJP and Congress have failed to field candidates in all wards going to

polls on March 24. Sources said that though the BJP has somehow managed to field candidates in a majority of seats, the Congress is in dire straits as the party has failed to place its nominees in at least 100 wards in the entire State. In some notified area councils (NACs), the party is reported to have failed to field candidates for even chair-

person posts. While the BJD is facing the problem of plenty and a large number of rebels, the Congress camp is pessimistic from the beginning. Several leaders pointed out that an election cannot be fought without resources, particularly money. Many senior leaders of the party like Santosh Singh Saluja and Ganeswar Behera

have publicly pointed this out without any response. Meanwhile, efforts are being made by the BJD to persuade rebel candidates to withdraw nomination papers. Observers and district presidents have been asked to persuade the large number of rebels to withdraw nominations by the end of withdrawal of candidature on March 14.

Goa Congress chief Girish Chodankar moves SC against Bombay HC verdict upholding Speaker's order

NEW DELHI(KCN): Goa Congress chief Girish Chodankar has approached the Supreme Court against the Bombay High Court verdict which had upheld the Goa Assembly Speaker's order dismissing two petitions seek-

ing disqualification of 12 MLAs who had switched over from their parties to the ruling BJP in 2019.



The Goa bench of the Bombay High Court had delivered the verdict on February 24 on the separate pleas filed by Chodankar and an MLA of the Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP). The Goa Pradesh Congress Committee presi-

dent had filed a petition in the matter relating to 10 party MLAs, who had switched over to the BJP in July 2019.

The MLA of the MGP had also filed a similar plea in the matter pertaining to its two MLAs,

who too had joined the BJP in the same year by splitting the regional party. In his plea filed in the apex court, Chodankar has said that the high court has committed a "grave error" in upholding

the Speaker's order on the "mistaken premise" that since the 10 MLAs constituted two-third of their legislature party CONTINUED ON: P-7

Designate Russia as 'terrorist state': Ukraine President urges UK Parliament

LONDON (KCN): Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged British MPs to designate Russia as a "terrorist state" after President Vladimir Putin ordered a special

ter Boris Johnson.

"Please increase the pressure of sanctions against this country (Russia) and please recognise this country as a terrorist state.



Please make sure that our Ukrainian skies are safe. Please make sure that you do what needs to be done and what is stipulated by the greatness of your country. Glory to Ukraine and glory to the United Kingdom," he said.

While the West has imposed crippling sanctions on Russia, it has not yet cut off the supply of Russian oil to Western countries. Though Zelenskyy has sought a no-fly zone over Ukraine, the US and its allies seem unlikely to accept this to protect Ukrainians from Russian airpower. In an emotional address, Zelenskyy invoked Britain's war-time Prime Minister Winston Churchill's words, promising to fight Russian troops in the air, sea and on the streets. "We will not give up CONTINUED ON: P-7

Classical Dance-A slice of Indian culture through the Art of watercolour paintings

Probing through the everyday neighbourhood places in your city for work, shopping or any other purposes, you are not just prone to experience the scent and distinct flavour of your place, but you pass through years and years of culture and tradition, which has made your city what it is today. Each city of India has its own influence on history through the rich customs and traditional art, transcended from one generation to another. If you are someone who regrets having missed all these deeply-etched impressions of civilization around you in this fast paced world, there is a way to consume the glorious heritage in its true form and essence without using a time machine. Artistic depiction of Indian culture India is a land where various traditions, culture, religions, languages, music and

In fact, the first nature-art pact started with cave paintings, where humans used earthly pigments to illustrate their worldly thoughts. However, art evolved with time and artists began to explore the marvels of nature through breath-taking landscapes and also began to dig deep into the vast complexities of the human mind for a direct connection with the Nature. Without any doubt, Nature has been the first inspiration for all art forms to take birth in this world. One such art form with a rich legacy is the Indian classical Dance that has been here for more than 2000 years. Classical art forms in India have always been universal in their approach, opening the profound gateways of positiv-

Sahaya Denish

nature. Such striking dance patterns and variations have been captured by several artists over the years who have closely followed the evolution of Indian Classical dance. With widely prevalent painting techniques out there, the bond between art, nature and Indian classical dance forms a full circle through the rich and organic Watercolour paintings on the conventional dance forms of India. Exploring splendid watercolour paintings on Indian Classical Dance Watercolour is known as the master medium due to the fact that it brings instant involvement through the emotional quotient of the subject, artistically represented using pigment colours. Most eminent artists agree that

Watercolour paintings are the best way to go about describing nature and the cultural variations in every country. In fact, Watercolour paintings play an important role in the diversity of arts. 1. Getting Started To begin with, Dance is a very old tradition of India, which infuses the principle of celebration through spirituality. Most of the Indian classical Dance forms largely rely on devotional scriptures to narrate philosophical tales that enhance the quality of human life. These watercolour paintings are so emotionally absorbing that you get connected to the abstract world of Dance instantly.



much more merge seamlessly, while also securing a well-crafted place for themselves in the dazzling aesthetic history of India. But what really integrates the ethnic beauty and the traditional identities of each Indian State and Union territories?? The sparkling manifestations of Art. Indian Art brings in various folds of art forms like painting, pottery, sculpture, weaving and much more under its wing for a stunning representation of Indian glory. While these art forms record the lively cultural diversity in India, they also become a part of the country's movement that intensifies the creative sensibilities of the masses. Putting the spotlight on Indian painting, the artistic expression found its way to the surface through channelled inspirations of individual artists. As a matter of fact, Indian paintings have seen the light since the Indus valley civilization period, after which most artwork during the Kings' era was focused on murals and miniatures. At a time when classical melodies and divine dance forms took the centre stage, India's artistic excellence multiplied at every turn with enthralling strokes, capturing the brimming essence of these elegant art forms. The stellar bond between Artwork, Nature and Indian Classical Dance The mesmerizing rhythm and the impulses of the natural world have always encapsulated artists, hypnotizing them with its beauty.

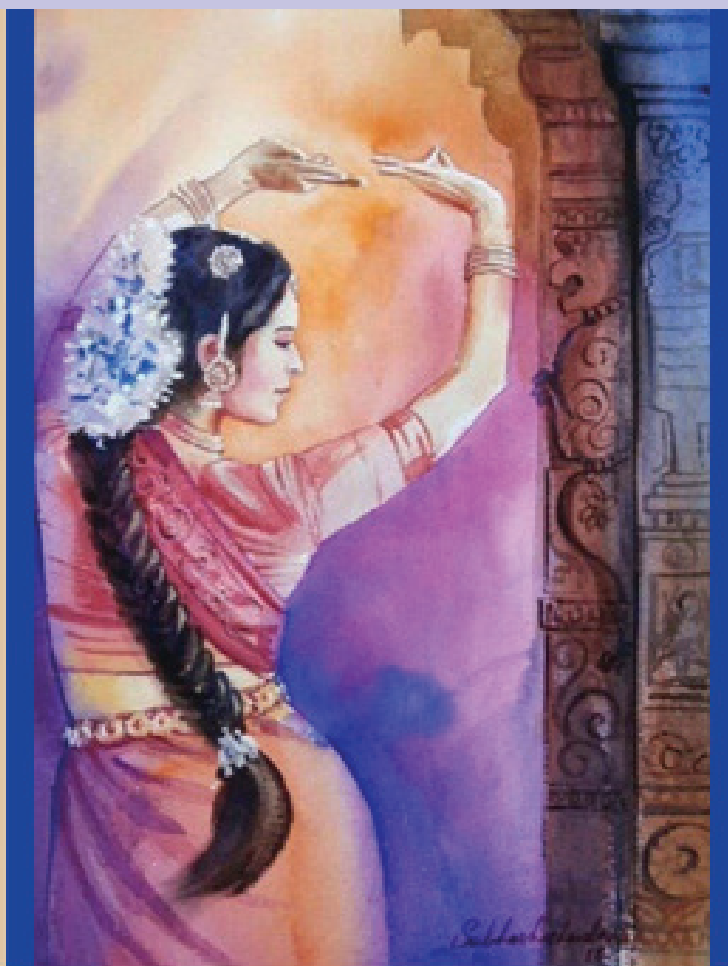
ity through spiritualism. On the same note, Indian classical dance forms are no different and are built on the same principle to create a transcending effect on human lives through the portrayal of nature. For example, in the famous composition called Chaliye Kunjan in Bharatanatyam, the Nayika demands her beloved partner to spend time with her by elaborating the propositions of

Watercolour paintings are the best way to go about describing nature and the cultural variations in every country. In fact, Watercolour paintings play an important role in the diversity of arts. 1. Getting Started To begin with, Dance is a very old tradition of India, which infuses the principle of celebration through spirituality. Most of the Indian classical Dance forms largely rely on devotional scriptures to narrate philosophical tales that enhance the quality of human life. These watercolour paintings are so emotionally absorbing that you get connected to the abstract world of Dance instantly.

With time, India saw the development of ethnic dance forms and styles through a dedicated platform with institutionalised procedures at the helm. 2. The blend of different cultures Although there are only eight classical dance forms officially recognized in In-

dia, every State has its own dance culture, filled with different folk history and traditions. Some of the prominent classical dance forms originating from different States in India are Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, Odissi and Kathakali from Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha and Kerala respectively. Bharatanatyam, which is based on the celestial rhythm of Carnatic music, along with Kuchipudi and Odissi are charismatic disciplines used to devote oneself to their supreme belief through the realms of Art. Kathak and Kathakali, both the dance forms are incredible tools of storytelling as they portray rooted tales of their place of origin. For example, the animated Indian Folk dance painting of the "Namaskara" pose in Bharatanatyam is always a treat to watch for all Indian art enthusiasts. Similarly, the amazing Kathak watercolour paintings mostly capture the magnificent swirl with a dynamic splash of colours. The best part about these classical dance forms are the varied attires and ornaments they use to propagate their art. Efficient artists who recreate these salient features in their paintings elevate the visual sense in the viewers for a rich profusion of emotions. 3. Discovering the inner beauty Indian classical dance forms are nothing but expositions of the Divine in human form through various styles and storytelling techniques. The physical, spiritual and esoteric nature of these dance forms are complex in nature that they invoke a holistic effect on the viewer. Watercolour painting on Indian Classical Dance seizes the moment by bringing out various untold emotions conveyed through eyes, hands and facial movements, allowing us to retrospect the hidden inner beauty that is absolutely enlightening. Impact of Indian Culture on Art It is very evident that the Indian Culture has impacted the entire Art spectrum positively with numerous mosaic fragments on the ever glorious history of the country. To put it differently in an even more precise manner, there can be no better way to understand India's true colours other than exploring these radiant art works. Having said that, whenever you feel far away from your culture and traditions in this constantly evolving modern world, feel free to purchase a watercolour painting on Indian classical dances or any other art form of your choice, for there is nothing like a Indian Wall Art that can take you back in time, allowing you to steer your own version of a satisfying alternate reality.

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Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed book

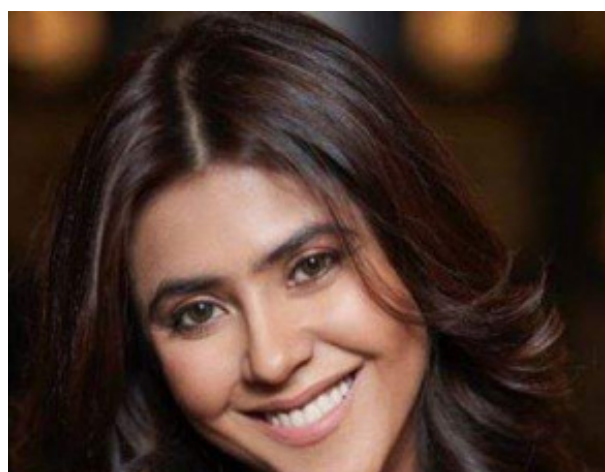


NEW DELHI: Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book #YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the cation, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of the former Chairman

of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The Supreme Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for alleged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2".



A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted interim protection to Kapoor. She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her.

Phenomenal experience: Riteish Deshmukh praises Anil Kapoor, Anurag Kashyap's 'AK vs AK'

NEW DELHI(K-CN): Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the



blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.

only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor_has outdone your entire performance in one

movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kidnapping the actor's daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

Ajay Devgn's Mayday has been creating a massive buzz because of its interest-

the icing on the cake is that Ajay Sir is directing the film. It's actually happening!



ing star cast, which includes Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh and Angira Dhar. Talented actress, Aakanksha Singh has now joined the team. Aakanksha will essaying the role of Ajay Devgn's wife in the film. She joined the shoot yesterday. Aakanksha says, "It's like a dream come true to be a part of such a big and much-awaited film. I am so excited to share the screen with Ajay Sir and Amitabh Sir; and

It's an important role and I am lucky that the first muhurat shot of the film had me in it." Ajay Devgn took to social media to announce that the shoot had begun yesterday. "Happy to officially begin Mayday in a start-to-finish shooting schedule. Seek blessings from the Almighty and my parents. Nothing is complete without the support of all my fans, family and well-wishers. Releases on 29th April 2022 (sic)" he posted.

'Wanted to make a film on Indian Army with Shah Rukh Khan', says Director Kabir Khan

MUMBAI(KCN): Filmmaker Kabir Khan, who is gearing up for the release of his web series "The Forgotten Army: Azaadi Ke Liye", based on Indian National Army (INA), says he wanted to make a film on the subject starring Shah Rukh Khan. He added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a fee for the voiceover he gave for the series. "Shah Rukh has very graciously given the voiceover. The series is based on a true story, so there is an introduction of a few minutes before every episode along with real footage, where he has lent his voice. I talked about it with Shah Rukh earlier as well, when this was a film script. Back then, I wanted Shah Rukh to do the film. We even had a few meetings but we couldn't take it forward," said Kabir while promoting the series along with its lead actors Sunny Kaushal and Sharvari Wagh. Kabir added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a single

paisa for his voiceover assignment. "When I was making this series, I thought I should ask Shah Rukh (to be the narrator) because Shah Rukh's father had involvement with this army. His father knew General Shahnawaz Khan, who was an important part of INA. So, I knew he (Shah Rukh Khan) has sympathy and attachment with Azad Hind Fauj and I called him up. It's not an easy task to ask a superstar for a voiceover but Shah Rukh instantly agreed to do it. Usually, when you discuss a film with Shah Rukh, it's a long process, but in this case Shah Rukh literally did the voiceover for us on the second day. I don't know whether he would like me to reveal this, but he didn't take a fee from us. I think the kind of attachment he has with Azad Hind Fauj reflects in his act." Incidentally, Shah Rukh did a cameo in Kabir Khan's 2017 release "Tubelight", starring Salman Khan.

“A growing number of billionaires is a sign of failure”

It is no secret that economic inequality has risen exponentially in the last few decades, both in India and globally. According to the



World Inequality Report 2022, India is one of the most unequal countries in the world in terms of both income and wealth inequality. It is estimated that in

2021, the top 10 percent of Indians held 57 percent of the total national income while the bottom 50 percent's share was just 13 percent.

The pandemic has sharply exposed and amplified these inequalities. Another recent report on inequality from Oxfam India found that in 2021, the combined wealth of billionaires in India doubled—the same year when 84 percent of Indian households saw a decline in their incomes and 4.6 crore

nurses per 1,000 people—a clear indicator of an under-

resourced healthcare system. And we saw what an underfunded health system does to its people, particularly during the second wave of COVID-19, where everything from hospital beds, oxygen, and essential medicines to vaccines was in short supply. To change this, the government must have resources to invest in social infrastructure, such as education, healthcare, and housing, because they are the best drivers of equality. But how do we generate new resources to fund social welfare? The answer is two-fold.

1. Higher taxes on the super-rich

There is clear evidence to show that a direct tax on the super-rich—be it in the form of a wealth tax, wealth surcharge, or inheritance tax—can be used to fund measures that combat inequality. For instance, a 1

Amitabh Behar

more robust public health system. All these are interlinked, and as a sector, it's important for us to understand that we cannot work in silos and our solutions cannot be microscopic. Because the issue of inequality is systemic—we live in an economic system that favours the super-rich.

It is responsibility of the state—rather than philanthropy—to guarantee an individual's basic fundamental rights.

Often the common argument against raising taxes to fund government systems is that they are inefficient. There's this concern that if you put in more resources, it will not go to the right places. However, there's enough evidence to tell us that this is not the full story. Data shows that the government investments in public services actually improve outcomes and reduce inequality.

The real story is that

there are vested interests in favour of maintaining the status quo. There exists an unfortunate nexus between policy makers in the government and the super-rich. And therefore, as a society, we are not able to make decisions that may be detrimental to the interests of the super-rich. And that is the problem we need to overcome. Take, for instance, the fact that till 2015, India had a wealth tax. Similarly, last year India also lowered the corporate tax rate from 30 percent to 22 percent to attract investment, which resulted in a loss of INR 1.5 lakh crore and contributed to the increase in the country's fiscal deficit.

This concentrates wealth in the hands of the rich, making them even richer. It's critical, therefore, that we talk about reintroducing these taxes because the government needs these resources to fulfil its objectives of promoting social welfare.

The other argument against taxation is that many of the super-rich engage in charity, and that is one way in which they help reduce inequality and promote social justice. While this is true to some extent, it is the responsibility of the state—rather than philanthropy—to guarantee an individual's basic fundamental rights. Why should anyone depend on the whims and fancies or even the charity of another individual? The fundamental idea of any modern state is to ensure some basic fundamental rights to its citizens, such as health, education, and social security. So why should society depend on the super-rich and their decisions about when, how, and to whom to give money? The Indian Constitution guarantees the right to education, the Directive Principles of State Policy talk about the right to health, and the onus lies on the state to deliver these. Any philanthropic work that happens needs to be done over and above millionaires paying their fair share of taxes.

What role can each stakeholder play?

As a society, there are multiple tangible steps that we can take to reduce inequality and build a more just and equitable society. One of the first things we must do is start acknowledging how a growing number of billionaires is not a sign of success; it is a sign of the failure of the economic

system we have created—particularly when we look at these numbers in the context of millions of people sliding into poverty. There needs to be a shift in the public narrative to talk about how the business-first policies that we have are leading to greater inequality.

Fighting inequality is not about targeting individual billionaires but the economic system that allows the concentration of wealth at the top while the majority continue to live in misery without their rights. Here's what different stakeholders can do:

1. The super-rich

To begin with, the billionaires and the millionaires need to pay their fair share of taxes. Globally, we are already seeing the emergence of groups such as Patriotic Millionaires and Millionaires for Humanity, who are asking governments to tax them more so that they can contribute towards national development and building a more equitable society.

2. Businesses

In addition to paying their share of corporate taxes, businesses need to start thinking about how they can ensure living wages for everyone so that people can live a life of dignity.

Businesses also need to start looking at their supply chains, where many inequalities are amplified and reproduced. What we are increasingly seeing now is that the main business is fairly compliant on labour laws. But most also have a very limited part of their process happening in their own factories—a large part of it is outsourced to other organisations in the supply chain. So holding the supply chain accountable is critical.

3. The government

The government needs to tax more—implement more direct taxes, a wealth tax, an inheritance tax, and higher corporate tax. We also need to ensure that once there are greater revenues with the government, they're invested in the right places, like education, health insurance, and social security.

4. Civil society

The role that civil society can play here is one of catalysing change. Civil society needs to consistently talk about the growing inequality and not buy into this idea that wealth will be created at the top and then eventually get distributed. Beyond that, it needs to continue the work it does on education, health, gender justice, Dalit empowerment, and climate justice, all of which address inequality. Because taken together, these end up becoming double or triple discrimination for people.

The last and arguably biggest piece is holding the government and businesses accountable—accountable to the standards the Constitution sets for the state and that governments and businesses are setting for themselves.

As we grapple with the growing challenge of inequality, it is apparent that we cannot morally accept a society where some of us slept comfortably during the lockdown while thousands of others walked in extreme heat without food, pushed out of the very cities they built. And while the challenge in front of us is growing, there is also hope that will push us to come together and work harder to build a more equal society

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people slid into poverty due to the pandemic.

These numbers tell a clear story about the obscene levels of inequality we're witnessing. And it's important that we start talking about and addressing this right now because it's morally unacceptable to have an unequal society of this kind. We cannot have a few families and individuals accumulating record wealth while most people on the planet suffer from climate change, lack of healthcare, and hunger. It's not viable economically, and it is socially and politically dangerous.

colourful blocks painted as buildings with windows - wealth tax

For the last two to three decades, we've known that the health system and the healthcare infrastructure are severely underfunded | Picture courtesy: Max Pixel

What needs to change? The COVID-19 pandemic showed us how inequality is not just an issue for economists but something that affects each one of us. Take for example the case of India's health budget. For the last two to three decades, we've known that the health system and the healthcare infrastructure are severely underfunded—we have invested just about 1.25 percent of our GDP towards health. India ranks the lowest in the number of hospital beds per thousand population among the BRICS nations—Russia scores the highest (7.12), followed by China (4.3), South Africa (2.3), Brazil (2.1), and India (0.5). India also ranks lower than Bangladesh (0.87), Chile (2.11), and Mexico (0.98). Data shows that India currently has about 1.7 trained nurses per 1,000 people, against the WHO norm of four

percent wealth tax on the 98 richest billionaire families could finance India's flagship public health insurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat, for more than seven years. Even with a 1 percent wealth surcharge, the super-rich will continue to be richer than they were pre-pandemic. So from an economic perspective, the decision makes sense. And India isn't the first country to be talking about this. Recently Argentina successfully imposed a new wealth tax on the super-rich to help pay for its COVID-19 response.

2. Ensuring that people pay their fair share of taxes

If we want to build a more equal society, we also need to ensure people pay their fair share of taxes. Last year, the Tax Justice Network did a study that showed that globally USD 427 billion is lost to tax evasion every year. And this is true for India as well. In 2012, Professor Arun Kumar estimated that the size of India's black economy was 62 percent of the GDP and that it was growing at the staggering rate of 20 percent.

While taxation is an important piece when it comes to solving the inequality puzzle, it is one of many available solutions. What we need is an integrated approach where different sectors and stakeholders each play a part. For example, Oxfam can publish an inequality report advocating for higher wealth taxes and investments in social welfare. But at the same time, we need somebody—say, for instance, the National Coalition for Education—to seek accountability from the government in terms of the investments it's making in education. And simultaneously, we need a civil society collective such as Jan Swastha Abhiyan talk-

Film Actress Namrata Singh Deo Felicitated Best Young Lady Talented Award

Khordha(KCN): On the occasion of world International Women Day Social and Cultural Organisation of Odisha Prerana and Achiev-

on.They have been able to prove their mettle as successful".In the beginning of the function Prerana Green Army Chief Dr.Dillip



ers Foundation felicitated Young Talented Women of our society at Geeta Govinda Sadan.The event was graced by Chief guest Speaker Odisha Legislative Assembly Surya Narayan Patro.Other guest of the occasion member Human Rights Commission Asim Amitabh Das, Odisha Planning Committee Vice-Chairman Sanjay Das Burma, Former Chief Secretary Odisha Sahadev Sahoo, Advocate Gopal Krishna Mohanty,Prof.Maj. Kalpana Das, Broadcasting Director,Dipti Mishra, Advocate Bishnu Prasad Patra, Odisha Bira Mohasangh President Dr.Prakash Srichandan, Director Achievers Foundation Arundhati Sundaray, India Physiatory Society Additional General Secretary Dr.Suwendu Mishra were present.Speaker Surya Narayan Patro said" the global evidence shows that women have been performing exceedingly well in different spheres of life be it academic, politics, administration, social work and so

Srichandan delivered welcome speech and stated the aims and objectives of the functions.Dr.Srichandan explained that" Prerana and Achievers Foundation hosted a felicitation programme to recognise the efforts of influential women of the society.The need for empowerment and autonomy of women and improvement of their social and economic conditions for the achievements of sustainable development.The women who were felicitated in the occasion were Dr.Susama

Mishra, Kuntala Kumari Literature Award,Sarita Patel , Ramadevi Social Service Award,Prof.Saroj Lakhmi Patel ,Malati Chaudhary Seva Award ,Bini Samal,Parbati Ghosh Smaraki Cine Award,Prof.Surekha Sundari Swain, Nandini Satpathy Seva Award,Dr.Swadhinia , Odisha best talented women award, Susmita Das, Best'Singer Award, Namrata Singh Deo,Best Cine Actress Award,Manasi Pal,Best Serial Artists Award,Nil Panda Best Actor Award,Minati Singh, Mousumi Mohanty and Sub-Editor daily newspaper Sakala , Anuradha Barik,Best Journalist Award, Rojalin,Gungun,Sibani Mundra, Gayatri Mohanty,Best Anchor Award, Miss team India Milan Kumari Panda,Best Women Talented Award, Ambika Pattnaik,Best Youth Talented Award, Rochhana Mohapatra,Best Scholar Students Award and other social activists award also presented in this programme.

Odisha: Portion of flyover caves in; three injured, more feared trapped under debris

CUTTACK: At least three people were injured and some others were suspected to have been trapped under the debris as a portion of the flyover connecting Chhatra Bazar and Malgodown in Odisha's Cuttack caved in on Wednesday, police said. There are no reports of any fatality so far, they said. Although the injured persons were not yet identified, they are believed to be either vegetable vendors or daily labourers.

About 20 vegetable vendors used to sell their products on the roadside under the flyover, as per locals. Cuttack District Magistrate cum Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani reached the spot and said, "Three persons were rescued and sent to the hospital. This is an unfortunate incident. The government will certainly probe it.

No exam on 22-24 March

Bhubaneswar: Following the instruction of the State Election Commission (SEC), the Higher Education Department has directed all

ment degree colleges, the Higher Education department has asked not to schedule any examinations on these dates. Earlier, the SEC had

Besides, students in urban areas are eligible to vote in these elections on March 24, 2022. "It has been brought to the notice of the

Universities have issued the programme as communicated by the Higher Education Department," the Commission said. In view of the above,



universities and degree colleges not to hold any examination during March 22 to 24 on account of the Urban Poll. In a letter to the Vice-Chancellors of all universities, principals of all government/ non-govern-

informed the Department that some of the colleges both government and aided have been identified as polling booths for the Urban Poll. These college buildings will be utilized for polling booths from March 22 to 24.

Commission that some of the universities in the State have issued a programme for 5th Semester examination for degree classes which clashes with the poll schedule issued by the Commission. It is further understood that the

the Commission directed that the examinations scheduled from March 22 to 24 should be deferred so that general elections to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) could be held smoothly in the State.

NLMC for Land Monetization

Bhubaneswar: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the setting up National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) as a wholly owned Government of India company with an initial authorized share capital of Rs 5000 crore and paid-up share capital of Rs 150 crore.

NLMC will undertake monetization of surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other Government agencies. The proposal is in pursuance of the Budget Announcement for 2021-22.

With monetization of non-core assets, Government would be able to generate substantial revenues by monetizing unused and under-used assets.

At present, CPSEs hold considerable surplus, unused and under used non-core assets in the nature of land and buildings. For CPSEs undergoing strategic disinvestment or closure, monetization of these surplus land and non-core assets is important to unlock their value. NLMC will support and undertake monetization of these assets.

This will also enable

Women power on show as BMC mayor candidates hit poll trail

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Just two weeks to go, the municipal elections in Odisha capital Bhubaneswar is priming for a fascinating triangular fight with mayor candidates of BJD, BJP and Congress hitting the campaign trail on Tuesday, marking the International Women's Day. The mayor post, reserved for women, is going to be a direct election for the first time. The urban local bodies' polls will be held on March 24. BJD mayor candidate Sulochana Das and BJP nominee Suniti Mund, who filed their nomination papers on Monday, visited Lingaraj Temple to seek the blessing of the Lord on the first day of their campaigning. A former journalist, Das visited the 11th-century shrine in the morning and soon embarked on campaigning. She covered at least six wards attending various meetings and programmes including events organised by different communities to celebrate women's day. "I am overwhelmed with the support received from women and community members in different wards. If elected, I will ensure all-round development of the city and make it No 1 Smart City in India," she said.

productive utilization of these under-utilized assets to trigger private sector investments, new economic activities, boost local economy and gener-

maximum value realization.

In these cases (e.g., on-going CPSEs and listed CPSEs under strategic disinvestment), NLMC will

based selection process.

Recognizing the wide range of specialized skills and expertise required for asset monetization in real



ate financial resources for economic and social infrastructure.

NLMC is also expected to own, hold, manage and monetize surplus land and building assets of CPSEs under closure and the surplus non-core land assets of Government owned CPSEs under strategic disinvestment.

This will speed up the closure process of CPSEs and smoothen the strategic disinvestment process of Government owned CPSEs. These assets may be transferred to NLMC to hold, manage and monetize these assets.

NLMC will also advise and support other Government entities (including CPSEs) in identifying their surplus non-core assets and monetizing them in a professional and efficient manner to generate

undertake surplus land asset monetization as an agency function. It is expected that NLMC will act as a repository of best practices in land monetization, assist and provide technical advice to Government in implementation of asset monetization program.

NLMC will have necessary technical expertise to professionally manage and monetize land assets on behalf of CPSEs and other Government agencies. The Board of Directors of NLMC will comprise senior Central Government officers and eminent experts to enable professional operations and management of the company.

The Chairman, non-Government Directors of the NLMC will be appointed through a merit-

estate market research, legal due diligence, valuation, master planning, investment banking, land management etc. It has been decided to hire professionals from the private sector, similar to other specialized Government companies like National investment and infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and Invest India. NLMC will be a lean organization with minimal full time staff, hired directly from the market on contract basis. Flexibility will be provided to the Board of NLMC to hire, pay and retain experienced professionals from the private sector.

Going forward, Department of Public Enterprise, Ministry of Finance, will set up the company and act as its administrative ministry.

Power of Income Tax Survey now given again to all authorities

Kolkata (KCN): Income Tax Department Central Wing organised a Work-

SM Surana feliberated on the Effect of changes in provisions of Search

He also pointed out that substituted provisions of Reopening the assessments are to



shop on Amendments relating to Survey and Search recently at Aaykar Bhawan Poorva, Kolkata.

*Advocate S.M. Surana, President ITAT Bar Association, Kolkata and Advocate Narayan Jain , Chairman Representation Committee & former President, Direct Taxes Professionals' Association addressed as Guest Speakers.

Assessment & Reassessment procedures proposed in the Finance Bill 2022.

Explaining the provisions Adv Narayan Jain said that powers of conducting Income tax survey were confined to Investigation wing and TDS wing but now amendment proposed by the Finance Minister confers the powers to all authorities of Income Tax.

be followed with effect from 1st April, 2021.

Shri Naveen Chandra, Pr. CIT Central 1, Kolkata presided over. Shri RB Mishra, CIT Central 2 and Shri S. Venkatramani, CIT OSD and many senior officials graced the workshop. It was followed by interesting Question Answer session.

Yoga for Women Programme on International Women's Day

Kolkata(KCN): On the eve of International Women's Day a special programme on "Yoga

for Women" was jointly organised by Vivekananda Rock Memorial & Vivekananda



be a Home Maker or Service Holder, always she under goes a tremendous stress. All women

need to practice Yoga everyday to Manage their Home and Work Place. It would help them to lead a healthy, stress free and balanced



Kendra Kanyakumari, Pachimabanga Pranta, Netaji Nagar Karyasthan and Sri Ramakrishana Sevashrama, Tikatal, Khordha, Odisha. On this occasion a special virtual Yoga session with emphasizing on the common women health issues like Obesity, Diabetes, Back pain, Knee pain, Thyroid, Menstrual Disorders, Pregnancy (Pre & Post Natal) etc are conducted by Yoga & Wellness Expert Mr. Sanatan Mahakud. A women may

life. Regular Yoga practices, Proper Diet, Relaxation, Recreation and Prayer are the most essential for each and every women, said Mr. Mahakud. Even though programme was open to all, it was mostly attended by the members and well wishers of Vivekananda Rock Memorial & Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari, Pachimabanga Pranta, Netaji Nagar Karyasthan and Sri Ramakrishana Sevashrama, Tikatal, Khordha, Odisha.

International Women's Day by Sai Aradhana Dance Academy

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Std.VI were divided To commemorate the into three categories



Priyadarshini Pattnaik. The senior art teacher of the locality Sapan Kumar Giri joined as the Judge for the programme and distributed the certificates to all the students. To note here that the Academy is taking initiative to develop and expose the inner talents of the students by organising such kind of programme along with the dance activities. The Parents applauded the effort of the academy.

Panchayat Development my AIM : Ideal Lady Manjulata Barik

International Women's Day an Art competition among the small children is being organised by the Sai Aradhana



Cuttack Sadar (KCN): Social worker, Social Reformer, Hombler, sober & Pious lady, Smt. Manjulata Barik won as PS Member of Isini-Berhampur GP the time of Corona she participated in organising blood donation camp, nose mask & sanitizer distribution, the public have lots of faith in her Seva work for

and given the separate topics as to put colour in picture, School Girl & Raja Mahostav. More than 60 students were par-



Dance Academy at Dr. A. P. J Abdul Kalam Park near Kalinga Nagar. The students from LKG to participated in the programme conducted by the secretary of the Academy Pragnya

Nischintakoili Block district Cuttack. For information Manjulata Working with many leading Social organizations doing a variety of Seva in all times, in the betterment of society. Manjulata Barik is trying their best for the development of their locality, so she anticipates co-ordination of the educated public at all times.

India Nepal friendship will get a new perspective:Dr. Vipin Gaur, General Secretary, Newspapers Association of India met Shri Yadu Nath Paudel, Counsellor at the Embassy of Nepal

Kolkata (KCN): Dr. Vipin Gaur, General Secretary, Newspapers Association of India met Shri Yadu Nath Paudel, Counsellor (Culture) of Nepal at the Embassy of Nepal, India and Nepal friendship is very good and will always be good and its biggest medium is culture which connects the two countries through film music and cultural programs "Said Yadu Nath Paudel, Counsellor (Culture). Yadu Nath Paudel, Counsellor (Culture) has been working for India Nepal Friendship, Culture for a long time. Yadunath was also the Chief District Officer in 3 districts of Nepal. He was a government officer in Nepal for a long time and worked in many departments. Our culture reflects our lifestyle and the lifestyle of Countries is the same. Some

time back Indo Nepal also organized at Film and Culture Forum Marwah Studios presided over by His Excellency of Nepal

rum was formed by ICMEI President Dr. Sandeep Marwah, NAI General Secretary Dr. Vipin Gaur and former Prime Minister Shri K. P. Oli, after that Nepal Film Festival was

Embassy to India Nepali films should be promoted in the festival and people of Nepal origin should be included in the program along with the Indians "Said Dr. Vipin Gaur



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Land Support for Highways

Bhubaneswar: Additional Chief Secretary Revenue and Disaster Management Satyabrata Sahoo Wednesday directed all officers of NHA to use minor minerals from authorized sources and after paying due royalty to con-



cerned authorities.

Also, officers of NHA were impressed upon to sensitise their contractors and concessionaires in this regard.

At a review meeting Mr. Sahoo also directed the National Highway officials to complete the stretch between Cuttack and Angul at the earliest while stressing on completion of the projects after land acquisition.

The ACS expressed satisfaction over the progress in land acquisition since the last review meeting and directed the officials not to delay the acquisition of land for national highways, state highways and Biju Expressway. He advised the officials to immediately make the payment of compensation immediately after acquisitions and complete the record of rights formalities before handing over the land to the National Highway Authorities.

Notably, since the last review meeting of NHA, Rs. 120 crore has been disbursed to the beneficiaries after due process following the extant rules.

Land acquisition of a 100m stretch in Kumkela village of Gurundia Tehsil and 300m in

Rajamunda on the National Highway 23 from Rourkela to Rajamunda has been completed and handed over to the Officers of NHA. Similarly, 90 percent of land acquisition has been completed in Nabarangpur district on National Highway 130 CD under Visakhapatnam and Raipur Economic Corridor.

Similarly, 70 percent of land acquisition has been completed in Koraput district on the 44KM road from Kaliagura to Baunshagura on National Highway 130 CD.

Hearings have been started for National Highway 49 in the Jashipur Bypass in the Arbitration Tribunal.

Since the last review meeting, RoRs have been corrected in 109 villages and land has been recorded in the name of NHA after mutation cases.

Additional Chief Secretary directed all officers of NHA to use minor minerals from authorized sources and after paying due royalty to concerned authorities.

Also, officers of NHA were impressed upon to sensitise their contractors and concessionaires in this regard.

Officers of NHA were instructed to expedite the completion of National Highway Work of National Highway 55 between Cuttack and Angul.

Additional Chief Secretary expressed his displeasure for the tardy progress in that stretch of National Highway.

He emphasised upon the expedition of construction work of National Highways after land acquisition.

Mr. Sahoo expressed his satisfaction in land acquisition of different projects of National Highways, State Highways and Biju Expressway since the last review meeting.

Also, he emphasised upon expedition in land acquisition for National Highways, State Highways and Biju Expressway as these are important mediums of communication within the State.

"Any delay in land acquisition of such projects shall not be condoned" told the ACS in no uncertain terms. Emphasis was laid upon handing over the land to NHA or the requisitioning authorities after due mutation proceedings consequent upon land acquisition.

Such monthly review meetings will be held to review the status of land acquisition for NHA, State Highways and Biju Expressway.

LIC gets market regulator SEBI's approval for IPO



MUMBAI: The market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the initial public offering proposal of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), sources said on

Wednesday.

The SEBI's approval came 22 days after the government-run LIC filed a draft paper for the IPO.

LIC had filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the market

regulator SEBI on February 12.

Sources said the SEBI has issued the observation letter to the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the IPO. This is one of the fastest approvals given by the market regulator

for an IPO.

As per the DRHP, up to 31,62,49,885 (31.62 crore) equity shares will be on offer through the offer for sale (OFS), representing 5 per cent of the equity stake of Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Ukraine effect: Steel and allied industries reel under price hike

CHANDIGARH(KCN): Russia and Ukraine account for nearly 20 per cent of the global export of steel. In the aftermath of the war, the price of steel has gone up in India by Rs 14,000 per tonne. This has affected construction, auto-parts and bicycle industries. To save the domestic steel consuming industries, PM Narendra Modi has been urged to intervene and ban the export of iron ore, withdraw duties and customs on import of steel and impose a 10 per cent export duty. Talking to The New Indian Express, president of the All Industries and Trade Forum, Badish Jindal said, "Fifteen days back, steel ingot prices were Rs 47,000 per tonne. Today, it is

Rs 61,000 per tonne. It's almost a 25 per cent rise. Due to this, steel-consuming industries have suffered losses of Rs 50,000 crore." "On Monday, we wrote to the PM demanding ban on export of iron ore, withdrawal of all duties and customs from import of any kind of steel and a 10 per cent export duty on steel and steel products to save the domestic industry. Otherwise, the industry will close down," he added. Jindal added that the state owned steel companies have also increased their rates by Rs 5,000 to Rs 8,000 per tonne from March 1. "From Rs 54,000, it has gone over Rs 60,000. Indian steel companies

Designate Russia as 'terrorist state': Ukraine President urges UK Parliament

Continued from page-1

and we will not lose, we will fight until the end, at sea, in the air. We will continue fighting for our land. Whatever the cost. We will fight in the forests, in the fields, on the shores, in the streets," he said.

In his address, Zelensky gave a day-by-day account of the attack by Russia, which began a fortnight ago.

He described how it was a war Ukraine "didn't start and we didn't want", but his country now had to fight.

"We do not want to lose what we have, what is ours.. just the same way as you once didn't want to lose your country when the Nazis started to fight your country and you had to fight for Britain," he added.

And quoting Shakespeare, he said the question for Ukraine is "to be, or not to be.. it's definitely yes, to be".

He concluded his speech by saying: "Do what you can, do what you must, because greatness obliges greatness, of your state and your people."

It marked the first time a foreign leader has directly addressed MPs in the Commons after Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle had confirmed his request.

Prime Minister Johnson said President Zelensky had "moved the hearts of everybody" watching, and pledged to "press on with tightening the economic vice" around Russian President Putin.

Labour leader Keir Starmer also praised "the bravery [and] the resolve" of the president and his people, adding: "He has shown his strength and we must show him - and the Ukrainian people - our commitment and support."

Zelensky's address followed Johnson's meetings with the leaders of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic to discuss the crisis in the region and the need to boost security efforts in central Europe.

Zelensky, a former comedian and actor turned politician, has been centre stage as Russian President Putin's forces began an armed conflict with Ukraine on February 24. Last week, he received a standing ovation when he spoke to the European Parliament, also via video link.

He has been in regular phone contact with Johnson, who launched a week of diplomacy to create a coalition against Russia's actions in Ukraine.

He hosted Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte at Downing Street on Monday and later spoke with US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to maintain pressure on Russia to isolate Putin diplomatically and economically.

It came as a plan to fast-track UK sanctions against allies of Vladimir Putin got through the House of Commons at rapid speed, backed by all parties on Monday.

The UK government says its Economic Crime Bill will stop wealthy Russians from using the City of London for money laundering much quicker.

During the debate, condensed into a single day to try to get the measures into place as quickly as possible, UK Home Secretary Priti Patel said: "The UK must send a strong signal that it will not be a home for corruption."

"The bill, which now goes to the House of Lords and is expected to become law later this month, contains several measures to tackle oligarchs and companies associated with Putin.

On February 24, Russian forces launched military operations in Ukraine, three days after Moscow recognised Ukraine's breakaway regions - Donetsk and Luhansk - as independent entities.

Goa Congress chief Girish Chodankar moves SC against Bombay HC verdict upholding Speaker's order

Continued from page-1

and had decided to merge with another party, they would enjoy the protection granted under Para 4 of the Tenth Schedule by invoking the "deeming fiction" contained in para 4(2). Para 4 of the Tenth Schedule deals with disqualification on ground of defection not to apply in case of merger.

"The impugned judgement effectively holds that 2/3rd of the legislature party members by themselves can initiate and conclude valid merger of a political party under Para 4 of the Schedule X (Tenth) without any reference/role attributable to the original political party in the entire process," it said.

The plea claimed that the high court judgement "completely ignores" the basic pre-conditions for claim of valid merger in terms of Para 4 of the Tenth Schedule which are required to be cumulatively complied with.

"The first condition is that there must be a merger of the original political party with another political party and the second condition is that subsequent to the decision of such merger of the original political party, 2/3rd members of the legislature party should agree with and adopt such merger," it said.

The plea alleged that the high court judgement has given an "erroneous interpretation" by construing the merger of the original political party merely at the hands of two-third of any legislature party, "completely disrobing" the original party of any role with respect to its merger.

"It is also apposite to consider the ramifications of the application of the erroneous interpretation to Para 4(2) as given by the high court in the impugned judgement, that is, if Para 4(2) is completely distinct from Para 4(1), then every legislature party which is able to muster 2/3rd of its members can merge with any other party it may see fit, for extraneous reasons that are antithetical to the intent and purpose of Schedule X (Tenth)," it said.

The Goa Assembly Speaker had on April 20 last year dismissed the disqualification petitions filed by Chodankar and the MGP MLA. The high court had said that the order passed by the Speaker rejecting the disqualification petitions "cannot be said to be militating against the object of introduction of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution on the touchstone of political and constitutional morality".

In the 2017 polls to the 40-member Goa Assembly, the Congress had emerged as the single largest party by winning 17 seats. But, the BJP, which bagged 13 seats, then quickly forged an alliance with some regional outfits and independents to form government. Polls to elect the new Goa Assembly were held on February 14 this year and the counting of votes is scheduled for March 10.

Uttar Pradesh polls: SP chief Akhilesh Yadav asks party workers to foil all conspiracies by BJP

Continued from page-1

to commit fraud," Yadav added.

The SP president had on Tuesday accused the ruling BJP of trying to steal votes and claimed a truck carrying EVMs was "intercepted" in Varanasi, but the Election Commission clarified that the machines were for training officials on counting duty and were not used in the elections.

In a statement issued late on Tuesday night, the office of the chief electoral officer of Uttar Pradesh said that "rumours were spread by people of some political party by stopping the vehicle and alleging that these EVMs were used in elections".

"According to the report sent by the district election officer (of Varanasi), it was found during the investigation that these EVMs were marked for training.

"To train the officials involved in counting duty, a session has been organised for March 9 (Wednesday)," it said.

Reports from districts suggested SP workers were checking vehicles of government officials near strong rooms where EVMs have been stored in Karhal, Badaun, Ballia and Sultanpur.

In Bareilly, ballot boxes and other election items were found inside a large garbage collection bin of the local municipality in Baheri area, and in Sonbhadra district, ballot slips were recovered from a box inside the vehicle of additional district magistrate, reports said.

Shreyas, Mithali, Deepti nominated for ICC's 'Player of the Month' award



DUBAI: Talented Indian men's team batter Shreyas Iyer, women's team captain Mithali Raj and star all-rounder Deepti Sharma were on Wednesday nominated for the ICC's 'Player of the Month' award for their performances in February.

The nominations in the men's category also feature UAE batter Vriitya Aravind, and Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee. In the women's category, New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr is on the list

alongside Mithali and Deepti.

Iyer was in unstoppable form in the month of February and played a vital role in India's white-ball domination. He started the month with a player of the match-winning 80 against West Indies in the final ODI and a 16-ball 25 in the last T20I.

With India opting to rest players and injury to Suryakumar Yadav, Iyer was promoted to No.3 in the T20I series against Sri Lanka. He scored three unbeaten fifties

in three games and finished with 204 runs at a blistering strike rate of 174.35 and was awarded the Player of the Series for his exploits. Mithali was one of the few shining lights for India in the ODI series against New Zealand. She was the highest run-scorer for India and the second-highest overall with 232 runs, including three fifties, averaging 77.33 with a strike rate of 82.56. In the final ODI, she played the role of the finisher to perfection, remaining unbeaten

on 54 as India chased down 252 with four overs to spare. With that, India ensured that they finished the series with a win in their kitty. All-rounder Deepti was brilliant with both the bat and ball in the series against New Zealand. She took the most wickets (10) in the ODI series and was handy with the bat as well, aggregating 116 runs in five matches. She grabbed a four-for in the second ODI and followed it up with a 69 not out in the next match.

Robert Lewandowski's 11-minute hat trick helps Bayern advance in Champions League

MUNICH: Whatever hope Salzburg had of overcoming Bayern Munich was extinguished by Robert Lewandowski scoring a hat trick in 11 minutes.

the Austrian team in Bavaria.

"That was a statement win," Bayern captain Manuel Neuer said. "I think we showed a different side of ourselves today and

competitions.

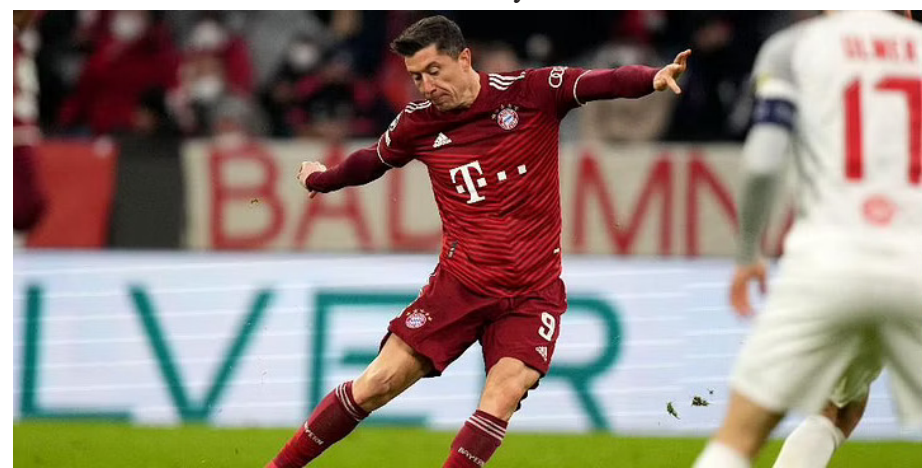
It took only 12 minutes to score his first against Salzburg, from the penalty spot after being brought down by Maximilian Wober. The defender

if you don't make them count, it is difficult. We gave everything but it wasn't enough. It had nothing to do with attitude, focus or the match plan. They simply have been better in all aspects — that's it."

Coman seized the ball off Mohamed Camara to set up Gnabry in the 31st to shoot under Köhn. Müller scored nine minutes into the second half before Kjaergaard struck a superb left-footed consolation for the knockout phase newcomer.

But Müller swept in his 52nd Champions League goal in the 83rd after exchanging passes with Lewandowski and Sané in the buildup. The rout was completed with an assist from the striker who started it. Lewandowski back-heeled the ball for Sané to net the seventh in the 85th.

"Today we had the luck that was completely missing in Salzburg," Müller said. "We could have gone 1-0 down after five minutes. You're always a little dependent on situations like that, but overall we were better."



It was game over by the time Lewandowski's third hit the net in the 23rd minute on Tuesday to make it the quickest treble ever seen at the start of a Champions League match.

A second leg that started at 1-1 was tilted 4-1 in Bayern's favor by the striker's scoring masterclass. An 8-2 aggregate win to reach the quarterfinals was completed by further goals from Serge Gnabry, a double from Thomas Müller, and Leroy Sané. At least Salzburg avoided complete humiliation of not scoring with Maurits Kjaergaard netting for

didn't concede as many chances on the break. We were also more stable in defense, which obviously gives us hope that things can continue in that vein." Tuesday's other round of 16 game was far tighter with Liverpool relying on its 2-0 victory at Inter Milan to advance after losing 1-0 at Anfield.

It was three weeks ago when Bayern was reliant on a late equalizer from Kingsley Coman to avoid losing the first leg. After failing to score — or even hit the target in Salzburg — Lewandowski has now taken his season tally to 42 goals in all

fouled him again and Lewandowski converted his penalty again in the 21st. The third came from open play, running onto Müller's pass and then knocking a shot past the advancing goalkeeper Philipp Köhn from the edge of the penalty area.

The previous quickest hat trick from the start of a Champions League match came in 24 minutes from Marco Simone for AC Milan against Rosenborg in 1996. "Today it was an opponent on a different level," Salzburg defender Rasmus Kristensen said. "We had some chances but

Ramkumar bows out of Indian Wells Masters' qualifying event, Prajnesh advances in Mexico

INDIAN WELLS: event but Prajnesh to 17th seed and wild card Ryan R a m k u m a r Gunneswaran ad- 124th ranked Harrison 6-3 6-4. His next opponent



R a m a n a t h a n ' s winless run against Liam Broady continued as the Indian Davis Cupper suffered his fourth straight defeat against the Briton to bow out of the Indian Wells Masters' qualifying

vanced at the Mexico Challenger tournament. Ranked 170, Ramkumar came into the tournament after winning both his singles in the Davis Cup tie against Denmark. He lost 2-6 6-3 4-6

Broady in the opening round of the hardcourt event. Meanwhile, left-handed Prajnesh made a winning start at the Challenger 100 event in Monterrey, knocking out American

is also an American in Alex Rybakov, who disposed off the challenge of Rubin Statham 7-5 6-3. Prajnesh did not get to play a single match in the home Davis Cup tie against Denmark.




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