

HR India Organized National HR Conference and Awards 2022

New Delhi (LN Beborata, Special Correspondent), Yesterday "HR India" organised its National second mega event and National HR awards at Max tower, Sector 16, Noida. The seminar was started by lightning the lamp by senior delegates who participated in the event followed by Ganesh Vandana by Ritu ji . After that, the founder of HR India cum chief organiser of the event Samar Mahapatra briefed about the aim behind the creation of HR India as well as its achievements. The

day long conclave began with two panel discussions consisting of various panelists such as Mr. Dwarakanath, S.Y. Siddiqui, Mr. Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra, Ms Minakshi Arora, Ms Debajani Roy and others. The topic of discussion during the second session was of "Emerging strategy in the new World order" and "New DNA of leadership". Mr Ananda Pillai, Mr D.K. Bakshi, Dr. Radha R Sharma, Ms. Gouri Das, Dr Aauil Busrai also participated in this discussion. During Panel discus-

sion all the panelists presented the unique work they /their organisation is doing for providing better employee experience. Nearly about hundred HR professionals working in different private sectors as well as in public sector from all over the India participated in this conclave. In this event, HR India National award for best HR innovation 2022 along with prize amounting of rupees one lakh presented to " Mo Sahay" group for their outstanding contribution towards providing employ-

ment opportunities to people who lost their jobs during the covid-19 pandemic period. Deepak Moharana , Advocate Anita Mohapatra , Ms. Debajani, Ms. Bishupriya , Bijaya Nabami, Shudhanshu Sekhar Padhi and other volunteers coordinated with Samar Mahapatra to make this event successful. HR India felicitated all the participants with memento. Lastly the founder of the organisation Samar Mahapatra gave thanks to all for successfully organising the conclave.

High Rise Complex for Lawmakers

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The proposed multi-storied apartments to accommodate the



Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in the State Capital will be ready in the coming two and a half years, Speaker Surya Narayan Patro said on Monday. Mr.Patro convened a

review meeting today to hold discussions with the concerned officials about the construction.

After the review, he told reporters that March 30 is the last date for filing a tender and India's top most construction companies are participating in the bidding for the project. "It will take 10 to 15 days to finalise the tender and then the work order will be awarded. Subsequently, the present MLA quarters will be demolished to

CONTINUED ON: P-7



Respectful Homage to Former Janata dal President, Opposition Leader and Korei MLA Veteran Leader Late Sri Ashok das on his Birthday anniversary..

Give world peace a chance!

Kolkata (KCN): World is in turmoil. With Russia and Ukraine raging battle

President, Calcutta Citizens Initiative while addressing a Press Conference on

and she appealed for immediate stopping of the War and settle the matters by way of

there is need to stop war. USA has dispatched thousands of soldiers to the borders of Ukraine with European nations offering support to beleaguered Ukraine refugees. In present circumstances, prospect of a full scale world war is looming large, she said.

The other panelists were Smita Bajoria, Consul General of Denmark; Rajendra Khandelwal, Consul of Republic of Niger; RK Jaiswal, Consul of Republic of Maldives and RK Handa, former

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik writes history, selects women presidents for 70 per cent Zilla Parishads

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Reposing faith in the leadership of women and fulfilling Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's promise to prioritise their representation in public sphere, the ruling BJD on Sunday selected women

of 50 per cent. All the larger districts of Mayurbhanj, Ganjam, Koraput, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Bolangir, Sambalpur and undivided Koraput except Nabarangpur are now headed by women.



Zilla Parishad (ZP) presidents in 21 out of the 30 districts, which comes to a whopping 70 per cent of the total posts in the State. The BJD also created history by having ZP heads in all the 30 districts of the State. This is for the first time that a political party has formed the parishad in every district. This is also for the first time in the country that women leaders are heading so many district bodies at the grassroots level, going beyond the statutory requirement of reservation

The party announced that "young, educated and talented" party workers have been chosen to the top district post with a view to mentor them for leadership positions. Twenty three-year-old Saraswati Majhi, a graduate hailing from the remote Kashipur block, has been selected as the youngest ZP president in Rayagada district. Similarly, Samari Tangul (26) from the Maoist-affected Swabhimana Anchal has been elected to the post in Malkangiri district. She has studied till plus two. Kumudini Nayak who has been elected as the president of the Sambalpur ZP is from remote Bamra block. The average age of the ZP presidents has come down drastically with as many as 15 districts having parishad chiefs below the age of 40. Age of presidents in 23

CONTINUED ON: P-7



that began 2 weeks ago, with no sign of abatement, it is apprehended that the world is on the threshold of a possible World War III, said Narayan Jain,

World Peace. Advocate Ruby Mukherjee, President, Vaish World Foundation also expressed concern on rising tension in the world

discussion. India as well as other countries should play an active role in restoring peace. Dr. Mamta Binani, President of Concern for Calcutta said that

Closing Ceremony of Odisha Inter-University Competitions 2022

Baripada (KCN): The Odisha Inter-University Competitions 2022 organized by Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanjdeo University ended with a high note on Monday with a ceremony at the Baripada stadium and Univer-

ceremony of the games, the parade of the players was headed by the police band. The chief guest of the ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kishor K. Basa put out the game torch and lowered the game's flag to declare the games closed. Later, a prize distribution ceremony was held in the Auditorium open arena of the University campus. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Basa distributed the trophies and certificates to the winners. Among others who were present were Chairman PG

Council Prof. P. K. Satapathy, Registrar Mr. Sahadev Samadhia, Comptroller of Finance Mr. Sukdev Tarei, Senior Professor Dr. A. K. Biswal, Secretary Sports Council Dr. Indrajit

Naik. Prof. Basa in his address, thanked the entire University staff, students, all the players, match officials, Principals of all the affiliated colleges, Principal & Staff of Baripada College, Principal & staff of Loyla public school, members of Shakhahanga Panchayat, members Mayubhanj Athletic Association, members of Mayurbhanj Athletic Association, members of Station Bazar Athletic Association and other sports institutions of Baripada, the mem-

bers of the print and electronic media, and the public of Mayurbhanj for their wholehearted support in making this event a grand success. He also thanked Mr. Vineet Bharadwaj, Col-

lector, Mayurbhanj, Shri Abani Mohanty, Mayurbhanj District Sports Officer, Mayurbhanj District Information Public Relation Officer Shri Rabindra Kumar Nayak for their support in organizing this event.



sity auditorium. As many as 1100 players, 100 managers, and 100 officials participated in the event sponsored by the Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Odisha. In the closing



In the games played on late Sunday and Monday, In men's football, Sambalpur University became champion while Utkal University was runners-up. 3rd position

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Meeting of Vivekananda Kendra at Bonobondhu Parishad, Siliguri



Kolkata (KCN): A special meeting of Vivekananda Kendra, West Bengal Branch and Bonobondhu Parishad, Siliguri was organised with some distinguished persons of Siliguri along with some interested ones to discuss on how to start activities on regular basis at Siliguri. It was decided that Swadhaya Varga and Motivational Strips advisor attended a webinar with Malaysian Government as a panelist to uplift Malaysian literature.

Kendra Varga would be conducted on regular basis, initially online, which would be converted to offline mode later on. Three budding youth Susri Annapurna Sharma, Sri Dipankar Das, Sri Rahul Das joined for the first time and showed their keen interest in Swadhaya Varga. Under the guidance of Shri Purnendu

Shekhar Das, Shri Bikas Mukherjee, Shri Samarnath Chatterjee the youth group would handle the varga to create link, send messages and contact the participants. Uttarbanga Vibhag Swadhaya Varga would be held on Saturdays between 7 to 8p.m. Local people who present in the meeting were Smt. Soma Raha, Shri

Bikas Mukherjee, Shri Roshan Sharma, Susri Annapurna Sharma, Susri Anunika Sharma, Shri Dipankar Das, Shri Nilanjan Das, Shri Samarnath Chatterjee From Vivekananda Kendra Smt Manjari Das, Shri Pradeep Jayaswal, Smt Malabika Chatterjee and Dr Purnendu Shekhar Das were participated in the meeting.

Bengaluru (KCN): Dr. Raja Rajeswari Seetha Raman was one of the panellist invited by DBP to discuss on Malay Language & Malay Literature in Global Stage via virtual platform recently. The questions raised by YBhg. Prof. Datuk Seri Dr. Awang Sariyan the moderator of the session who is also the Chairman of Board of Directors, DBP were on :

1. The potential of Malay Language/ Malay Literature and Translation in World Stage.
2. Dr Raja Rajeswari Seetha Raman's role in Motivational Strips as the Sr. Advisor for Malay Lit & Translations
3. The role of translation in the globalization of Malay Lit & Translation. The other two panellists were Aminuddin Yahaya and Jufitri Joha. This event was held in line with Malaysian Prime Minister's statement recently at Bangkok that the Malay language should be used globally. In short, all three panelists agreed with PM's statement. Dr Raja Rajeswari further stressed that her role in Motivational Strips, the world's most active and largest forum is in line with the Malaysian Prime Minister's statement. DBP and MS has collaborated and discussions are ongoing to kickstart the maiden joint project soon. Prof. Dr Awang stressed that there is no single language in the world and every language is unique and we learn a lot from each language. That's the reason why God created the world with diverse languages. Unity in diversity. Dr. Raja spoke about the various opportunities opened worldwide through the joint project between Motivational Strips and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka collaboration. The Motivational Strips Global Administration has applauded the approach and its founder Shiju H. Pallithazheth has assured that Motivational Strips and Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka (DBP) will work closely in the coming years.

Trilochan Patra won as Sarapancha of Paramahansa GP

Cuttack Sadar (KCN) : Youth Social worker, Social Reformer, Homble, sober person & popular actor Mr. Trilochan Patra (Ashok) won as Sarapancha of Paramahansa GP Cuttack Sadar Block. For information Ashok



associate with many cultural & social organizations doing a variety of seva work in all times and development of culture, Odisha tradition, in the time of Corona pandemic he distribute nose mask, sanitizer with the help of youth mass sanitize public place. He is trying his best for the development of their Gram Panchayat in Health, Sanitation, Education, Awareness, Plantation and much more.

MSME Development Forum launched in West Bengal

Kolkata (KCN): MSME Development Forum launched in Kolkata recently with noted Corporate lawyer Advocate Dr. Mamta Binani as its President to facilitate development and expansion of MSME sector in West Bengal and in eastern India. The Forum aims to bring large no. of small entrepreneurs in unorganised sector in urban, semiurban and rural areas under MSME umbrella to

small industrial towns to spread awareness about various schemes and benefits offered by Central & State Governments to various categories of industries under MSME sector.

sector in semi urban and rural areas will create large number of new jobs in those areas. This will facilitate rural residents to get job near their home. The launch event was graced by Chairman of the MSME development forum Rajnish Goenka, Promad K Goenka Secretary General MSMEDFWB and other senior government official looking after MSME sector. Mamta Binani mentioned she plans to

Handicrafts development Park where hi-tech toys to handicraft toys will be made not only to meet needs of the country but efforts will be made to export toys and other products. The Forum will promote international collaboration in MSME sector including technology transfer & FDI. Mamta Binani also mentioned the forum will facilitate high technology transfer, financing, collaboration to strengthen role of MSME sector in Space Technology, automobile, Pharma and in large no. of industries. Under leadership of Mamta Binani MSME Development Forum West Bengal will give thrust to entrepreneurship development as well as ex-



help small entrepreneurs to get benefits



of various schemes of Government of India and State government.

The Forum will help small entrepreneurs with all relevant paperworks, tax & other legal compliance issues. As MSME sector is one of largest job creator in India and expansion of MSME

carry forward vision of West Bengal Chief Minister Smt. Mamta Banerjee and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "Atmanirbhar Bharat". She will initiate efforts to set up Toy manufacturing &

tend cooperation to exist ing industries to upgrade technology & infrastructure to fine tune them in line with global sustainable development goals and to tackle climate change issues.

Truck driver association demand facilities at work place

Barbil, 14th March. (KCN). A meeting of the Odisha Truck Drivers Association was held at

with hectic work schedule round the clock. Although the central government, the Odisha government have provisions for the well-being of the truckers engaged under the Transport Act and the Mining Act. But due to lack of interest of government officials and mining company, no facilities of truckers were facilitated at mining place and railway siding under the Joda



Barbil in presence of press fraternity. They urged truck drivers have dedicated themselves in the field of transporting of mining materials from dawn to dusk, but no one is paying attention to the problems that arise in their workplaces. Neither the mining company nor the Government machinery are worried of their problem, they are confronting in their day to day life. In order to load and unload minerals at mining place and railway siding as well, they wait hours. Neither they have any facilities for drinking water nor any place to have their food. They envisage day to traffic congestion along

mining zones. In the recent past the National Green Tribunal has directed all state Government and union territories to avail the facilities of restrooms, toilets, canteen, medical care, fast aid and even washing system in all mining place. Their health condition and panic life affect their health condition and family life as well. "The government should think of this problems on priority. They too demand district administration to avail these facilities form district Mineral Fund. "Otherwise, they will go for a strike in the coming days," said Prabhakar Malik, a union leader.

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: 2555328

PURCHASE

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

SALE

Flats ready for possession before Rathayatra at Puri near Seabeach for sale. Contact: 986-1078308

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



BUSINESS

Saving 10,000/- for high return, extra earn and Foreign trip opportunity, 9238904001. Independent business work from home, training in Singapore, 9338014287.



MATRIMONIAL

BRIDE WANTED

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

GROOM WANTED

Wanted Groom any service / business family for a Brahmin Girl. Contact 2555226

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

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

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

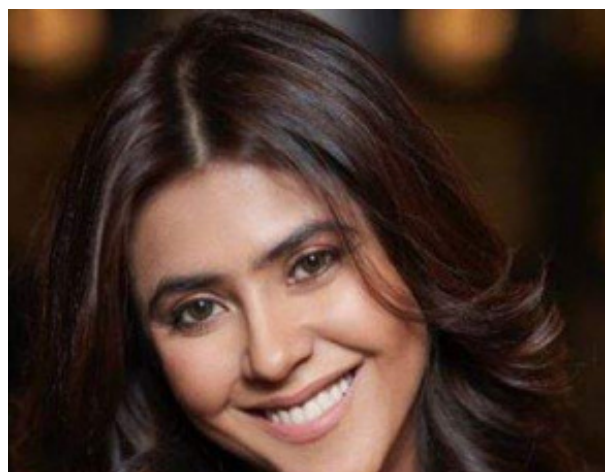


NEW DELHI: Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "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".



Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer

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. 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.

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.

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.

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

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

Joshi, met Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

On Tuesday, an 18-member panel, including Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar, Ajay Devgn, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Prasoon

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

Huma Qureshi floored by love of Ajith fans



CHENNAI: Actress Huma Qureshi, who plays the female lead in the just released Ajith-starrer 'Valimai', is overwhelmed by the love shown to her by Ajith's fans. The actress, who

plays a cop in director H Vinoth's Valimai, has been garnering praises for her performance in the action entertainer. In particular, her action blocks have come in for praise.

Pleased with the response to her performance, Huma Qureshi says: "I am literally amazed by the love and affection of enthusiastic Ajith fans. I want to extend my thanksgiving to Ajith

Kumar fans". "Working with Ajith sir has been a long-run dream that has come true now. I thank Ajith sir, producer Boney Kapoor, and director H Vinoth for gifting me this role,

which had so much importance. It was an amazing experience overall, and shooting for this movie has endowed me with an everlasting positive vibe." The actress, who

made her debut in Tamil with the Rajinikanth-starrer 'Kaala', is currently working in various regional languages, including the movie 'Double XL' with Tamil actor Mahat Raghavendra.

Somebody should protect the Shias of Pakistan from extinction

It is a matter of grave concern that more than 60 Shia worshippers were killed and over 200 injured while offering Friday prayers in a heart-wrenching suicide bombing at a Shia mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan.



Almost all the unfortunate killed were said to be Shia Muslims. One cannot help but notice that the attackers specifically targeted Shia Muslims and their place of worship.

Another fact that can't be overlooked is that it has become difficult for Shia Muslims to live peacefully, even in an Islamic country such as Pakistan. They live their lives with a sword dangling over their heads, in a state of perpetual fear. That is the ground reality of Pakistan which was founded to provide a haven for Muslims or was forcibly built by Jinnah litigants.

The gruesome attack on the Shia Mosque in Peshawar is not the first of its kind. There have been constant atrocities and brutalities committed towards Shia Muslims in Pakistan. The Shias currently constitute 10 to 15 percent of the population of Pakistan. Their numbers have dwindled from 25% that stood at the time of the partition. Their community has been repeatedly falsely accused of charges of terrorist attacks and blasphemy. Certain prohibited organizations in Pakistan continue to openly demonstrate their hatred against Shia Muslims. The majority of such demonstrations are concentrated in places like Lahore, Quetta, Peshawar, etc. Over there, distorted and provocative literature that creates an atmosphere against Shia Muslims is widespread. These unfortunate circumstances are the core reasons behind the injustices committed against the Shia community. The attacks on Shias are not a law and order issue. However, the rulers of Pakistan believe this or pretend to do so. From the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan to the Home Minister, Sheikh Rashid, everyone claims that those who

attacked the Shia Masjid will be punished. Despite

their claims, the attacks against Shias there continue to rise. If the report of the Human Rights Organizations of Pakistan is to be believed, then since 2001 till now, more than three thousand Shias have been killed in attacks and target killings. It has been observed that attacks on Shia mosques in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces are persistent. It is imperative to mention that at one time, in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province,

R. K. Sinha

Parliament of Pakistan refused to recognize Ahmadiyyas as Muslims. Ahmadiyyas believe that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmet was the Prophet of Allah. Islam considers Prophet Muhammad to be the last Prophet and considers those who declare themselves to be Prophets after him as infidels. Would you believe that Ahmadiyya people in Pakistan have to sign an affidavit after applying for a passport that states that the founder of the Ahmadiyya sect was a

Ahmadiyya Muslims like him changed in the seventies when the

untouchables in Pakistan. The condition of Ahmadiyya, Shia Muslims, and other religious minorities such as Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians has deteriorated. The population of Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan was around one crore in 1947. It did not include East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). However, as of now only 12 lakh Hindus and 10 thousand Sikhs remain. Where did such a massive amount of Hindus and Sikhs vanish? What happened to them?

Hindus and Sikhs are treated as second-class citizens in Pakistan. In the Sindh and Punjab provinces of Pakistan, cases of abduction and forced marriage of Hindu girls have been coming to the fore again and again. The injustice meted out to them also has a long story. Christians have also been cut like carrots and radishes. Christians are the second-largest minority group in



there was a lot of influence of the Frontier Gandhi. But, it seems that with the passage of time, these values seemed to have been forgotten. Today there is no one to fight for the rights of Shias in Pakistan.

It is becoming increasingly hard for anyone other than Sunni Muslims to live in Pakistan. The closed society and fanatics did not spare even the great scientist of their country, Abdus Salam. Salam Saheb, who did his brilliant work in physics and guided the initial stages of Pakistan's nuclear program, should have been the hero of Pakistan. Instead, he was mistreated and shunned because he belonged to the Ahmadiyya community. Now, traces of his name and work have been erased from the school books because he was an Ahmadiyya Muslim. His grave was disrespected and vandalized.

Ahmadiyya Muslims in Pakistan have been declared non-Islamic and are considered Kafirs. The lives of Abdus Salam and millions of other

fraud and that his disciples are not Muslims? It is worth noting that the very foundation of the Ahmadiyya community was laid down on 23 March 1889 in the Qadian town of Gurdaspur, India. It is a strange coincidence that the Muslim League in Lahore was passing a resolution in favor of Pakistan after 51 years from the foundation of the Ahmadiyya sect. In this resolution, an independent Islamic country was being demanded. This dates back to March 23-24, 1940. In his infamous speech on the resolution passed in favor of the Muslim League's demand for a separate Muslim nation, Jinnah said, "Hindu-Muslim are two separate religions. They have two distinct views. Both have different cultures, traditions, and histories. The heroes of both are also different. That's why the two can't live together at all." But in the country he built after a lot of bloodsheds, only some sections of the Muslims came to be called Kafirs. Among them were Shia and Ahmadiyya. Apart from the Shias, there are many

Pakistan after Hindus. In Pakistan, 1.6 percent of the population of about 180 crores are Christians. In the last few years, many terror attacks have been executed targeting Christians within Pakistan. In March 2015, there were two bomb blasts in the churches of Lahore, in which 14 people lost their lives. In 2013, 80 people were killed in the Peshawar church blasts. In 2009, 40 houses were torched by a mob in Punjab, killing eight people. In 2005, Christians had to flee their homes in Faisalabad, Pakistan, following rumors of burning the Quran. Violent mobs torched churches and Christian schools. Since 1990, many Christians have been convicted on charges of insulting the Quran and blaspheming the Prophet. It is indeed disheartening that one of our closest neighbors, who was separated from us in the name of religion, is so illiterate and cruel that it keeps killing its people ruthlessly.

(The writer is a senior editor, columnist, and former MP)

Vajpayee, Modi and the people's monk

Election results from the five states that went to polls recently were almost on the expected lines. The results are sure to change narratives in the days to come and the consolidation of



power by the BJP in the four states by making a comeback would compel the regional parties to strategize their policies well before the 2024 general elections. And now

this is going to be a cautious move as many aspiring regional leaders are trying to put themselves on the national pedestal with meager public support outside their states.

Most of them would be seen skeptically holding hands with the like-minded and taking the most delicate move that they know would break any time at the wink of a slight disagreement. The BJP has successfully transformed the nature of politics, and the style with which it went on winning elections left all the other parties clueless. This winning spree has effectively demonstrated the existential crisis some parties began to experience and the Congress is sure to suffer this crisis with no scope of return probably possible in the near future. Rahul Gandhi's tweet soon after the results, had nothing new to reciprocate except with the same hackneyed stuff "Will try to learn from the defeat." Legitimizing defeat as an achievement, the party and its leadership have not yet educated themselves to learn lessons from its multiple downfalls. What probably the party failed to conceptualize is to generate a sense of commitment in politics to counter the style and system and superiority with which the BJP did it. BJP's return to power in a state such as Uttar Pradesh should become a subject of study for other parties. A state driven by caste dynamics and various other polarizing

situations, BJP's victory in Uttar Pradesh for the second time should tell us the electioneering tactics with which it successfully crushed the electoral prospects of its main challenger the Samajwadi Party.

Most of the parties in India, perhaps underideological compulsions, kept the BJP at bay for the fear of being reprimanded as communal. This gap was the space that the BJP sagaciously used to build its pro-nationalistic narratives. L.K. Advani's Rath Yatra was an apocalyptic beginning the party started its journey with and since then the electorates of India have been watching the ups and downs the BJP has been through. From the temple movement in 1992 to the beginning of the construction of the Ram temple in 2021 in Ayodhya, the party has been consistently banking on what its critics call the Hindu Nationalism presumably designed by the Sangh Parivar. Though the Rath Yatra could turn the political spectrum in the country storm-tossed, the BJP could establish its presence as a national party in the following years and that was the beginning of the fall of the Congress. Though L.K. Advani's dream to become the Prime Minister remained unfulfilled, his aggressive Rath Yatra could begin the discourse of Hindu Nationalism in India, infuriating many but fertilizing to the extent of BJP grabbing power throughout the country.

From 13 days to 13 months to a full five year in government, A.B. Vajpayee, one of the most admired Indian politicians taught the Indian polity the possibility and dynamics of coalition politics. His long parliamentary stint of six years was filled with great oratory and poetic diplomacy. He was one of the best Hindi orators that the Indian Parliament had ever seen. As a young parliamentarian, after Nehru's death, Vajpayee's obituary speech in

M. R. LALU

Parliament is known to be one of his best renditions. BJP never had dearth of such great orators. From Vajpayee to Modi, the party had orators who could connect with the assemblage cutting across borders of states conveniently conveying the idea of India. His tenure as the Prime Minister had been tempestuous with the Kandahar plane hijack and his well-conceived but terribly failed Lahore Bus diplomacy. His bus to Lahore could not reach its diplomatic destination as an inimical Pakistan from behind the hills in the Himalayas conspiratorially began to intrude into the Indian territory. With his innate politeness and statesmanship, Dr. Manmohan Singh remained a genuinely accepted personality throughout his tenure but pitifully failed to communicate with the electorate in the standard of the masses.

The success that the BJP made under the leadership of Narendra Modi is a mixture of this connection that he managed to maintain so far with the people and the reputation he was able to secure for his country internationally. Entry of Yogi Adityanath into the state politics of Uttar Pradesh was evidently a representation that the party was rumored to have showcased as its Hindutva symbolism. The level of intellectual animosity with which he was vilified in India and abroad was terrible. From the Washington Post's "Militant Monk", he could catapult himself to the level of the "People's Monk" of Uttar Pradesh, winning hearts of people with multiple welfare schemes introduced for all. Successfully implementing welfare schemes, carefully quashing the populist caste definitions of the opposition, the saffron clad man rallied his party into a comfortable victory.

Modi and Yogi were not always in the good books of the media. After the Gujarat train

carnage and the subsequent riots, Modi, as the Chief Minister of Gujarat was equally vituperative in India and abroad with a lot of hate-mongering happening against him. Yogi, for that matter, was equally subjected to exasperating media trials when the country was at the peak of its mounting covid cases, and from the holy Ganges emanated the stinking smell of unidentified dead bodies. His Anti-Romeo Squads had broken the backbones of eve-teasers and made the state a place for women to freely venture out alone. Despite the multiple welfare schemes that he could effectuate and the humongous mandate that he managed to win in his favor, it is too premature to take him to be a potential successor to Modi. Congress leaders in the party, confining themselves in the political cocoon of Lutyens' Delhi, are still unable to figure out the reach of the BJP and its leaders especially Modi among the electorate. Yogi's entry into the bandwagon as a strong man winning the most populous state second time, definitely strengthens the party's prospects further. Small regional parties are nibbling at the vote bank of Congress without much damage being caused to the BJP and the general elections 2024 will be an interesting event to look forward to, as ripples of a third front in formation is visible in the horizon. But the leaders to stitch the coalition are still clueless without knowing where to begin the stitching, on a cloth which is mostly torn and tattered. One thing is sure, they cannot jump into the fire of electoral politics with the slogan "Modi Hatao" again. This time they have to face the influence of the duo, Modi and the saffron clad Yogi nationally, probably learning from their winning strategies, before making brusque political somersaults.

The author is a Freelance Journalist / Social Worker, Meppurathu House, Puthusserimala P.O -Ranni, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala State. Email: mrlalu30@gmail.com

UK rights group threatened under China sweeping security law

LONDON: Britain's foreign secretary on Monday accused Chinese authorities of trying to silence free speech after a UK-based human rights group said Hong Kong police threatened it with a prison sentence and fines for allegedly violating China's national security law. Hong Kong Watch said it received a formal warning from Hong Kong police accusing it of

'seriously interfering' in Hong Kong affairs and jeopardising China's national security by activities including lobbying foreign countries to impose sanctions against China or Hong Kong. The letter warned that the group could face a fine of HK\$100,000 (£9,800) and that its chief executive, Benedict Rogers, could face three years in prison.

The move is one of the first times that a foreigner living abroad has been targeted under China's sweeping national security law, which

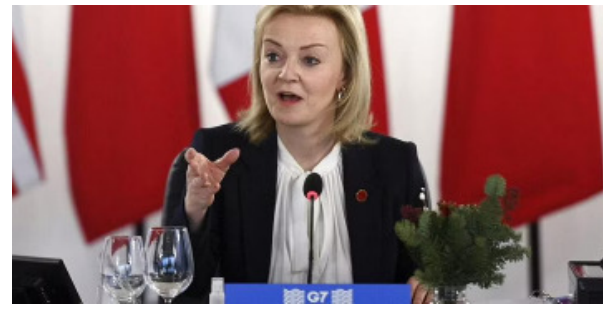
up for freedom and democracy is unacceptable and will never succeed," she said.

Rogers said his group will not be silenced by the warning and will continue to speak out for Hong Kong rights and freedoms.

Hong Kong, a former British colony that long enjoyed civil liberties and freedoms not seen elsewhere in mainland China, was promised a high degree of autonomy for 50 years when it was handed over to Chinese rule in 1997.

But in recent years Beijing has tightened its grip on the city and many have fled abroad after the introduction of the security law, which criminalises what authorities describe as secession, subversion of state power, terrorism and foreign collusion in intervening in Hong Kong's affairs.

Since 2020, media outlets critical of the government have been closed, the opposition has been shut out from elections and all the city's major pro-democracy figures have either been jailed or have sought asylum abroad.



was imposed in 2020 as part of Beijing's increasing crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong following months of anti-government protests.

"The unjustifiable action taken against the UK-based NGO Hong Kong Watch is clearly an attempt to silence those who stand up for human rights in Hong Kong," British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said in a statement.

"Attempting to silence voices globally that speak

Make 'The Kashmir Files' entertainment tax-free: BJP in Lok Sabha



NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday demanded that the recently-released movie 'The Kashmir Files' should be exempted from entertainment tax, while BSP pitched for its ban, arguing that such films create feelings of hatred among various communities.

Participating in the debate on Jammu and Kashmir Budget in Lok Sabha, BJP member Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said the film is exposing the bitter truth and hence it should be exempted from entertainment tax. Janata Dal (United) member Sunil Kumar

Pintu too demanded that the movie should be made tax-free, saying the movie reveals the plight of Kashmiri Pandits. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) member Danish Ali, however, said that whether it is "Kashmir Files or Gujarat Files", films which create feelings

of hatred should be banned. The film is based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley in 1990. The movie, which released last week, is written and directed by Agnihotri and stars Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty and Pallavi Joshi.

Govt formation: BJP appoints Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh as observers for UP, U'khand

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday appointed its top leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, as central observers for government forma-

tion in the four states where it returned to power. In the latest round of assembly elections, the BJP won Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Manipur, and on its own it touched the halfway mark in Goa. Punjab was won by the AAP. The BJP parliamentary board, its apex decision making body, appointed Shah

as the central observer for Uttar Pradesh and party vice president Raghubar Das as co-observer. Singh along with co-observer Union Min-

istry by its general secretary Arun Singh. Union Minister Kiren Rijju is the co-observer for Manipur and his cabinet colleague L Murgan is the co-observer for



tion in the four states where it returned to power. In the latest round of assembly elections, the BJP won Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Manipur, and on its own it touched the halfway mark in Goa. Punjab was won by the AAP. The BJP parliamentary board, its apex decision making body, appointed Shah

Meenakshi Lekhi has been assigned to oversee the selection of the leader of the legislature party in Uttarakhand. Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Narendra Singh Tomar have been appointed as observers for selection of the leader of the legislature party in Manipur and Goa, the BJP said in a statement issued

Goa. While it is all set that Yogi Adityanath will again be elected as the legislative leader in Uttar Pradesh, the party has to take call on deputy chief ministers in the state, as one of the two in the previous government, Keshav Prasad Maurya, lost the elections along with 11 ministers. In Uttarakhand it is

arithmetic in its favour, the BJP has appointed its heavyweights, former party presidents Shah and Singh, for ensuring smooth formation of government in both Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The senior leaders as observers will look to select a team in these four states which can effectively steer the ship till next general elections.

SOA student bags trophy



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Amrit Mohanty of SOA Deemed to be University won the individual men's badminton event in the first Odisha Inter University Competition (Games and Sports) held at Baripada on Sunday. Mohanty, a first year student of Computer Science in SOA, de-

feated his rival from Fakir Mohan University 21-15, 21-16 in the final. He had earlier demolished his other opponents in straight sets as well on his way to the final. The champion was presented a cash award of Rs. 30,000 and a trophy. Abinash Tripathy, an-

other SOA student, finished runner up in the Table Tennis men's singles event losing 11-7, 9-11, 7-11, 11-8, 9-11, 8-11 to his rival in the final. He received a cash prize of Rs. 25,000 and a trophy. Besides badminton and table tennis, the other events included basketball, volley-

ball, cricket, chess, football, kabaddi and carom. SOA's Founder President Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, Dean (Students' Welfare) Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das and Sports Officer Ms. Sunita Barma have congratulated the two students for their excellent show.



Puri Airport Tech Feasible; Center

New Delhi: The proposed Greenfield Airport in Puri is found to be technically fea-

State (MoS), Civil Aviation VK Singh said a multi-disciplinary team from Air-

greenfield airport. The report prepared by the team after its visit to the proposed site at Girala near Sipasarubali area on Puri-Bramhagiri road has been sent to the Government of Odisha on August 5, 2021, informed Singh.

"As per the report, prima facie, on visual assessment, development of greenfield airport at the proposed site appears to be technically feasible subject to Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS) survey and removal of identified obstacles," he said while replying to a question of MP Prashanta Nanda. Putting the ball on State's court, he said, "The responsibility of implementation of the airport project, including necessary approvals from Government of India, rests with the concerned project propo-

nent i.e. the State Government." However, he further said, "So far, no proposal in the prescribed format for establishment of a greenfield airport at Puri has been received by the Ministry of Civil Aviation." On New Year's Day in 2021, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposing to set up an international airport at Puri in the name of Shree Jagannath International Airport. The Rath Jatra of Puri is a world-famous annual event attracting lakhs of pilgrims and visitors from across the world. Therefore, the State proposed the airport to help in bringing Lord Jagannath devotees from across the world to Puri and promote Shree Jagannath culture across the globe.



sible during the pre-feasibility study of the site identified by the State Government. Informing this in Rajya Sabha today, Union Minister of

ports Authority of India (AAI) visited Puri in June 2021 for conducting pre-feasibility study of the site identified by the Odisha Government for establishment of a

US official says Russia seeking military aid from China

WASHINGTON: A US official said Russia asked China for military equipment to use in its invasion of Ukraine, a request that heightens tensions about the war as top aides from the US and China governments met Monday in Rome. In advance of the talks, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan bluntly warned China to avoid helping Russia evade punishment from global sanctions that have hammered the Russian economy. "We will not allow that to go forward," he said.

could be a pretext for Putin's forces to attack Ukraine with chemical or biological weapons. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has put China in a delicate spot with two of its biggest trading partners: the US and European Union. China needs access to those markets, yet it also has shown support for Moscow, joining with Russia in declaring a friendship with "no limits". In his talks with senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi, Sullivan will indeed be looking for limits in what Beijing

cal weapons labs with US support. They say China is effectively providing cover if Russia moves ahead with a biological or chemical weapons attack on Ukrainians. When Russia starts accusing other countries of preparing to launch biological or chemical attacks, Sullivan said Sunday, "it's a good tell that they may be on the cusp of doing it themselves". Pentagon spokesman John Kirby, on ABC's - This Week, said, "We haven't seen anything that indicates some sort of

community has assessed that Russia used chemical weapons in attempts to assassinate Putin detractors such as Alexei Navalny and former spy Sergei Skripal. Russia also supports the Assad government in Syria, which has used chemical weapons against its people in a decade-long civil war. China has been one of few countries to avoid criticising the Russians for its invasion of Ukraine. China's leader Xi Jinping hosted Putin for the opening of the Winter Olympics in Beijing, just three

BJP's ways endangering 'purity' of politics: Akhilesh

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh

Yadav said that 'purity' of politics is in trouble due to BJP's "politics of deceit" and because of this democracy was in danger. He said that his party will continue to raise the voice of the people vigor-

ously inside and outside of the Assembly House. "The country is going to celebrate an 'Amrit Mahotsav' celebrating 75 years of independence, but values ?? of the freedom struggle have been sidelined," Akhilesh said. "The very foundation of democracy is in dan-

ger," he said. The leader of the party which recently lost election to the BJP, said that "independent role" of the Election Commission was essential to safeguard the constitution. "Democracy and the Constitution are tested in elections," he said. Akhilesh alleged that BJP did nothing in public interest in its five years of ruling the state, and now when it is in power again, the solution to people's problems are nowhere in sight. "In fact, in the assembly elections, public became a victim of the BJP's politics of 'Bhay aur bhram' (fear and confusion)," he said. Party spokesperson R a j e n d r a Chowdhury said that in the past five days, Akhilesh has met dozens of newly-elected MLAs and alliance partners, and the party's thousands of supporters to discuss the election results.



Russia on Monday denied it needed China's help. "No, Russia has its own potential to continue the operation, which, as we have said, is unfolding in accordance with the plan and will be completed on time and in full," said Dmitry Peskov, President Vladimir Putin's spokesman. Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said the talks with the US were underway around 11:50 am. Rome time (1050 GMT), but gave no details. The prospect of China offering Russia financial help is one of several concerns for President Joe Biden. A US official said that in recent days, Russia had requested support from China, including military equipment, to press forward in its ongoing war with Ukraine. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, did not provide details on the scope of the request. The request was first reported by the Financial Times and The Washington Post. The Russians have seen significant losses of tanks, helicopters and other materiel since the start of the war more than two weeks ago. Ukraine, while over-matched by Russian forces, is well-equipped with anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles. The Biden administration is also accusing China of spreading Russian disinformation that

will do for Moscow. "I'm not going to sit here publicly and brandish threats," he said Sunday, making the rounds of Sunday news shows. "But what I will tell you is we are communicating directly and privately to Beijing that there absolutely will be consequences, if China helps Russia, backfill, its losses from the sanctions." Without giving details, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Monday that the "Ukraine situation will definitely be a hot topic" at the meeting, which had been scheduled before Russia invaded its neighbor. Asked at a daily briefing about the reported Russian request for assistance, Zhao responded: "The US has been spreading disinformation targeting China recently over the Ukraine issue. It is malicious." "What is pressing now is that all parties should exercise restraint and strive to cool down the situation, rather than fueling the tension," Zhao told reporters. "We should promote diplomatic settlements instead of further escalating the situation." The White House said the talks will focus on the direct impact of Russia's war against Ukraine on regional and global security. Biden administration officials say Beijing is spreading false Russian claims that Ukraine was running chemical and biological

imminent chemical or biological attack right now, but we're watching this very, very closely." The striking US accusations about Russian disinformation and Chinese complicity came after Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova alleged with no evidence that the US was financing Ukrainian chemical and biological weapons labs. The Russian claim was echoed by Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao, who claimed there were 26 bio-labs and related facilities in "which the US Department of Defense has absolute control". The United Nations has said it has received no information backing up such accusations. There is growing concern inside the White House that China is aligning itself with Russia on the Ukraine war in hopes it will advance Beijing's "vision of the world order" in the long term, according to a person familiar with the administration view who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to comment publicly. Sullivan said on CBS that the Russian rhetoric on chemical and biological warfare is "an indicator that, in fact, the Russians are getting ready to do it and try and pin the blame elsewhere and nobody should fall for that." The international

weeks before Russia invaded on Feb. 24. During Putin's visit, the two leaders issued a 5,000-word statement declaring limitless "friendship". The Chinese abstained on UN votes censuring Russia and has criticized economic sanctions against Moscow. It has expressed its support for peace talks and offered its services as a mediator, despite questions about its neutrality and scant experience mediating international conflict. But questions remain over how far Beijing will go to alienate the West and put its own economy at risk. Sullivan said China and all countries are on notice that they cannot basically bail Russia out give Russia a workaround to the sanctions, with impunity. Chinese officials have said Washington shouldn't be able to complain about Russia's actions because the US invaded Iraq under false pretenses. The US claimed to have evidence Saddam Hussein was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction though none was ever found. On CNN, Sullivan said the administration believes China knew that Putin "was planning something" before the invasion of Ukraine. But he said the Chinese government "may not have understood the full extent of it because it's very possible that Putin lied to them the same way that he lied to Europeans and others.

ADMISSION OPEN

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

STD-I TO V

25% SEATS ARE RESERVED FOR EWS STUDENTS IN STD - 1 ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

FIND THE DIFFERENCE

- SURVEILLANCE THROUGH CCTV CAMERA
- SMALL CLASSES
- CONGENIAL ENVIRONMENT
- INTIMATE, SAFE & SECURED PLACE
- INDIVIDUALS ATTENTION TO EACH CHILD
- EXPERIENCED & LOVING TEACHERS
- SPECIOUS PLAYGROUND
- AC ACTIVITY ROOM
- TRANSPORT FACILITIES

MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL

PLAYGROUP (2+), NURSERY (3+), LKG, UKG, STD I TO V

N-4/F-24, IRC VILLAGE, NAYAPALLI, BHUBANESWAR - 751015

PH : (0674) 2558884 2550786, 9348320060

E-mail : maharishipublic13@gmail.com, Website : www.maharishipublicschool.com

India hopes for oil from Iran, Venezuela; Ukraine effect? WPI inflation rises to 13.11 per cent in February; crude prices spike

NEW DELHI: India, the world's third-largest energy-consuming and importing nation, is pinning hope on resumption of crude oil supplies from Venezuela and Iran as well as higher production from OPEC+ nations to help cool international oil prices that have hit multi-year highs. It will also evaluate the Russian offer to sell crude oil at discounted prices after considering aspects such as insurance and freight required to move the fuel from the non-traditional supplier.

Replying to supplementaries during question hour in the Rajya Sabha, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said oil export from Venezuela and Iran had been hit due to sanctions.

The two nations are among those with the highest oil reserves in the world and were significant suppliers to India before US sanctions halted purchases.

"It is our hope and expectation that oil, not only from Venezuela, but other countries under sanction, will become available," he said.

"I am hopeful that we will all use collectively, our margin of persuasion...to request the international community to make more oil available including from Venezuela". "Indian oil companies will enter into agreements with Venezuela and "equally (with) Iran" no sooner their oil comes into the market," he said.

Stating that there are reports that the nuclear issue, which had led to sanctions on Iran, is likely to be resolved, the minister said "that will also bring more oil into the market."

ALSO READ | IOC signs pact with APSEZ to expand crude oil volumes at Mundra Port

He hoped that "apart from oil which will become available by countries who, hitherto, were not supplying on account of sanction, existing OPEC plus will increase their production" to cool oil prices.

International oil prices had hit a 14-year high of USD 130 per barrel earlier this month before retracting. It was trading at over USD 108 on Monday.

But retail petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged for a record 130 days in a row.

At USD 81-82 per barrel.

Asked about the reported Russian offer to sell its crude oil and other raw materials at discounted prices with payment through a rupees-rubles transaction, Puri said the government will explore all options which are available. "Let me again reiterate that in a situation like the one characterised by the



pandemic in the last two years and in the last few weeks by a war or a military action taking place between Russia and Ukraine, the government will explore all options which are available," he said. The minister said he has had discussions with the Russian government officials.

"Discussions are currently underway. There are several issues which are required to be gone into like how much oil is available either in Russia or in new markets or with new suppliers which may be coming in the market. Also, there are issues relating to insurance, freight and a host of other issues including the payment arrangements," he noted.

He promised to report any arrangement that is worked out between Indian oil companies and their counterparts in the Russian Federation or with Iran or any other countries where more oil is coming up.

"It is a dynamic evolving situation characterised by military warfare," he added.

Puri was repeatedly interrupted by Opposition members who alleged that he was skirting the questions they had put to him.

"I would be happy if some of the 'military quotient' is less here, and, I will get a chance to explain things to my distinguished colleague in greater detail," he said.

Puri said the price of petrol and diesel at the retail point or at the bunk is determined by international price, cost of insurance, freight, exchange rate, refining margins and a number of other factors.

On November 4, 2021, excise duty on petrol was cut by Rs 5 per litre and that on diesel by Rs 10 to provide relief to consumers

reeling under record-high prices.

ALSO READ | Costlier crude oil pushing up raw material prices: Jindal Steel & Power MD

International rates have since climbed to multi-year highs but retail prices have remained at the November 4 levels.

"I thought that all the elected representatives would be rejoicing at the fact that the

evolving geopolitical situation," he said. In November 2021, in a bid to control inflationary pressures, the Government of India, in consultation and parallelly with major energy consumers, had agreed to release 5 million barrels from its strategic petroleum reserves.

"Government of India is ready to take all appropriate action, as deemed fit, for mitigating market volatility and calming the rise in crude oil prices," he added.

On taxes being raised on petrol and diesel at the onset of the pandemic, Puri said they were raised for a particular purpose.

"The question is, raising of taxes, levying of taxes are done depending upon the situation at that point of time," he said.

After the Union government's decision to cut excise duty, all but nine states also cut local sales tax or VAT.

"We are willing to take such steps as are necessary to control the price," he said.

He added that rates in India have gone up only by 5 per cent as compared to over 50 per cent in countries like the US, Canada, Germany, and the UK.

"We should be rejoicing that. Instead, what we are hearing from the distinguished member is why it has not gone up," he said.

price paid by the consumer has remained steady during that period but I did not see that," he remarked.

To a separate question, his junior colleague and Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli in a written reply said the geopolitical situation between Russia and Ukraine has resulted in a steep increase in global crude oil and gas prices.

"Government of India is closely monitoring global energy markets as well as potential energy supply disruptions as a fall-out of

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik writes history, selects women presidents for 70 per cent Zilla Parishads

Continued from page-1

districts is below 50. The average age of ZP presidents has come down to 41.

Another important feature is the educational qualification of the elected candidates. While 18 ZP presidents have completed graduation, 26 out of the 30 have studied up to at least plus two level. Sources in the party said that educated candidates with good reputation and without any criminal cases have been chosen by the Chief Minister for the post.

Preference to OBC candidates has also been given as per the announcement made by the Chief Minister. Out of the 18 unreserved posts including women, 12 OBCs have been made president. In Ganjam, Naveen's home district, an OBC woman has been elected to the post.

Taking to Twitter, the Chief Minister congratulated the elected ZP presidents separately and expected that the districts will witness development to fulfill the expectations of the people.

Educated women selected as ZP heads

Another important feature is the educational qualification of the elected candidates. While 18 ZP presidents have completed graduation, 26 out of the 30 have studied up to at least plus two level. Sources in the party said that educated candidates with good reputation and without any criminal cases have been chosen by the Chief Minister for the post.

Preference to other backward classes candidates has also been given as per the announcement made by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Out of the 18 unreserved posts including women, 12 OBCs have been made president. In Ganjam, Naveen's home district, an OBC woman has been elected to the post.

Taking to Twitter, the Chief Minister congratulated the elected ZP presidents separately and expected that the districts will witness development to fulfill the expectations of the people.

On Sunday evening, a cultural programme was organized in the University auditorium. Ollywood actress Ms. Manisha Dhar who is also a student of MSCB University enthralled the audience with her dance performance.

Also, another student, Ms. Elina Dhar of MSCB University performed ShivTandav Chhau dance, Prem Kumar an employee of MSCB University sang a melodious song. Students of the Department of Santali performed a Santali folk dance. The audience got mesmerized by Chhau dance performed by the artists of Uttar Sahi Chhau Pratishtan of Baripada. Later Jhumar song was performed by the artists of Maa Dwarashuni Jhumar Anushthan of Rairangpur. The cultural programme was coordinated by Sri Umesh Sahu, Sri Somanath Singh.

Vegetable inflation was 26.93 per cent in February, against 38.45 per cent in the previous month.

"The high rate of inflation in February 2022, is primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, chemicals and chemical products, crude petroleum & natural gas, food articles and non-food articles etc as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and

February rose to 13.11 per cent on hardening of prices of crude oil and non-food items, even though food articles softened.

As per the government data released on Monday, WPI inflation has remained in double digits for the 11th consecutive month beginning April 2021.

Inflation last month was 12.96 per cent, while in February last year, it was 4.83 per cent.

Inflation in food ar-

icles, however, eased to 8.19 per cent in February from 10.33 per cent.



Industry Ministry said in a statement. Inflation in manufactured items was 9.84

39.41 per cent in the previous month, on rising prices of crude oil globally.

The Reserve Bank last month kept its key repo rate -- at which it lends short-term money to banks -- unchanged for the 10th time in a row at 4 per cent, to support growth as well as manage inflationary pressures.

High Rise Complex for Lawmakers

Continued from page-1

give way to multi-storeyed apartments," he added.

"In the MLA colony, seven legislators are yet to vacate their quarters. They have been asked to vacate their quarters by March 25. Thereafter, the process of pulling down the old houses and construction of new buildings will take off," said Patro.

While a budget amounting to Rs 275 crore has been earmarked for the project, Rs 50 crore has already been provided to the Chief Engineer of the Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC).

The Finance department of the Odisha government will provide the remaining Rs 225 crore.

The apartments will be 10-storeyed and 11-storeyed ones, housing a total of 300 quarters. Of those, while 130 quarters will be for legislators, there will also be 25 Type-V and 105 Type-VII quarters. This apart, some quarters will also be meant for IAS officers.

The buildings will also have market complexes, medical facilities and a banquet hall to accommodate 2000 people at a time. The buildings will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities.

Give world peace a chance!

Continued from page-1

Director General of Police, WB.

All the Speakers pleaded for giving Peace a chance without any delay as the consequences of War are damaging across the world. It was pointed out that in recent time the power hungry nations are on rampage both in Asia and Europe. China's overtures in Ladakh area, Taliban's occupation of Afghanistan's, Chinese constant threat of dismantling Taiwan's sovereignty after gobbling up Hongkong are signs of a world in turmoil.

On this occasion Pilot Mahasweta Chakraborty who brought more than 800 students from Ukraine to India was also felicitated by Calcutta Citizens Initiative and Concern for Calcutta. She also shared her experience during evacuation flights..

On this occasion singers Samadrita Ghosh and Sumit Roy presented song on World Peace and Diptiman Basu recited a poem. Dr Manas Roy also addressed. Former President of Concern for Calcutta KS Adhikari thanked all. KN Gupta, Sonali De, JK Sharma, R.D. Kakra, Annapurna Mishra, Dr Dipankar Adhya, Indrani Netram, I.P. Goenka, Subroto Mukherjee, Subrata Sinha and others actively contributed for the success of programme.

We all need world peace and not any war, said participants in one voice.

Ex-tennis pro Stakhovsky in Ukraine 'with a gun in my hands'

About 1 1/2 months after the last match of Sergiy Stakhovsky's professional tennis career, the 36-year-old Ukrainian left his wife and three young children in Hungary and went back to his birthplace to help however he could during Russia's invasion. "I don't have the words to describe it. I would never imagine in my life that it would come to this — that I would be in my home city ... with a gun in my hands," Stakhovsky said Saturday, rubbing his left cheek with his palm during a video interview with The Associated Press from what he said was a residential build-



ing in Kyiv, Ukraine's beleaguered capital. "A lot of people are saying that they're waking up and hoping ... it was just a bad dream. But, you know, on Day 16, (that) doesn't work anymore," he said. "First couple of days, (it's) surreal. You don't believe that it's actually happening. And the next thing you know, you get used to it, and you're just trying to find a way of helping your country to actually survive."

At age 12, eyeing a life in tennis, Stakhovsky began splitting his time between Ukraine and the Czech Republic to improve his game. He turned pro in 2003, won four titles in singles and another four in doubles, and earned more than \$5 million in prize money. Highlights included rising to a best ATP ranking of No. 31 in 2010, reaching the third round of Grand Slam tournaments six times, and pulling off one of the biggest upsets in the sport's history when he ended Roger Federer's record streak of 36 consecutive major quarterfinal appearances by beating him 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5), 7-5, 7-6 (5) in the second round at Wimbledon in 2013.

In January, Stakhovsky walked away from the sport after losing to American J.J. Wolf in the first round of qualifying for the Australian Open. Retirement did not go as planned. On Feb. 24, Russia began attacking Ukraine. In the wee hours of Feb. 28, Stakhovsky arrived in Kyiv. "You're one second safe. The next second, something flies in, and no one is safe," he said. He said he's received hundreds of messages of

support from members of the tennis world -- players, coaches, officials -- and mentioned a few by name: Richard Gasquet, Lucas Pouille, Aljaz Bedene and Novak Djokovic, the 20-time Grand Slam champion whose text messages Stakhovsky shared via social media.

ALSO READ! 'Will use gun if I have to': Ukraine's Sergiy Stakhovsky, who beat Roger Federer at Wimbledon, joins war against Russia

Working with what he described as a branch of the Ukraine armed forces that can only be used inside the city premises — he said it was created "a couple of years back to actually support the infrastructure of the city in case of war, which nobody actually believed in, but unfortunately did happen" — Stakhovsky said his days are divided into two-hour shifts followed by six hours off.

That "off" time, he said, is often spent with what he called humanitarian efforts. "Just trying to do whatever we can on a 24/7 basis," Stakhovsky said, "because otherwise, you're going to go crazy."

He said he still has family who live and have remained, in Kyiv, including his grandmother, father, and brother.

As for how long he will stay, Stakhovsky isn't sure. "I hope not long," he said. "I hope this will get resolved rather fast and short." Later this month, his daughter turns 8 and one son turns 4; the other son is 6 1/2. He did not tell them where he was going — and why — before he left.

"They're fairly young and I just don't believe they would understand the meaning of war. And I don't believe they would understand any of it. My wife knew ... but she never asked the direct question, and I never told her directly. So when ... I told her 'I'm leaving,' she started crying. So there was not really a conversation," he recounted. He said communicating with the children now is not any easier.

"It's tough to call with kids because every time they ask, 'When are you coming?' or 'What are you doing?' I'm just, 'I don't know, honestly.' For me, it's not the right decision to be here and it was not the right decision to stay home. Any of this is not right," Stakhovsky said.

"But I am here because I believe that the future of my country — and the future of my kids, and the future of Europe as we know it — is under great danger. And if there's anything I can do to change the outcome, I will try to do it."

Premier League: Man Utd's Ronaldo breaks all-time FIFA record with hat-trick against Spurs



MANCHESTER: Cristiano Ronaldo produced a hat-trick to lift Manchester United into fourth place in the Premier League on Saturday as Tottenham Hotspur were beaten in a 3-2 thriller at Old Trafford.

With the treble against Spurs, Ronaldo has lifted

himself on top of FIFA's all-time scorers' list.

Ronaldo arrowed in a superb goal from distance to give the hosts a 12th-minute lead. Harry Kane's penalty drew Spurs level on 35 minutes after Alex Telles had handled Dejan Kulusevski's cross. Ronaldo restored

Man Utd's lead three minutes later, slotting in Jadon Sancho's pass following a sweeping move. Spurs levelled for a second time on 72 minutes when Sergio Reguilon's cross was turned into his own net by Harry Maguire. But with eight min-

utes remaining, Ronaldo headed in a Telles centre to surpass the all-time goals record with his 807th career strike for club and country. A first win in three lifts Man Utd to fourth with 50 points. Spurs are five points back in seventh, having played two matches fewer.

India complete Lankan series-whitewash with massive 238-run win in second Test

BENGALURU: India extinguished whatever little spark Sri Lanka showed and wrapped up the second Test inside three days for a comprehensive 238-run win, completing a 2-0 whitewash of the Islanders, here on Monday.

Two wins against Sri Lanka fetched India 24 points but Rohit Sharma's men remain in fifth position in World Championship table due to 'low percentage points' (54.16).

They have 77 points in their kitty. A herculean task at hand, Sri Lanka took the field on the third day with a lot of determination but it was always going to be tough to negotiate the Indian attack on a track that has been offering turn and uneven bounce from day one. Resuming at 28 for one in pursuit of an improbable 447-run target, the Sri Lankan batters, led by skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (107), resisted the Indian attack for some time before folding for 208 in the post-tea session.

Left-handed Karunaratne, one of the most consistent performers for Sri Lanka in recent times,

raised his 14th Test century with a boundary off Jasprit Bumrah.

He took some time to settle but worked the ball around swiftly, consistently placing them in the gaps.

Bumrah (3/23) eventually sent him back with slightly seaming ball that beat his bat to shatter the stumps.

The lethal Indian fast bowler, who consistently made life tough



for the Lankans, returned with match figures of 8 for 47, having taken a fifer at home for the first time in the first innings.

Ravichandran Ashwin (4/55), Axar Patel (2/37) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/48) did their bit in wrapping up the Lankan innings.

India now have won all three pink-ball Tests at home, having beaten Bangladesh (in Kolkata, 2019) and England (in Ahmedabad, 2021)

before.

Visitors' early positive intent, something which has not been witnessed much in this series, resulted in a rare productive batting session for the Lankans who collected 123 runs for loss of three wickets. Adopting a positive yet cautious approach, both Kusal Mendis (54 off 60 balls) and Karunaratne used their feet with confidence to

counter the Indian spinners. Mendis was impressive on both front and back foot as he pulled and cut the short-pitched stuff and used his feet to cut down the spin.

Karunaratne too charged down the wicket, following a similar plan but Mendis was more expressive. Mendis completed his fifty with a single off Jadeja but was beaten by flight on an Ashwin delivery and was

stumped by Rishabh Pant.

That brought about the end of their fighting 96-run stand for the second wicket. From there on, it was a downward slide for the visitors. Jadeja cleaned up Angelo Mathews (1) and Ashwin had Dhananjaya de Silva (4) caught at forward short-leg.

Karunaratne was ruled caught behind by umpire off Jadeja but the Lankan skipper survived, using DRS with replay showing that the ball had kissed the thigh pad and the bat before reaching Pant's gloves.

He completed his fifty with a single off Axar, who replaced Ashwin from the pavilion end. A small partnership began to develop between Karunaratne and Dickwella (12) even as Mohammed Shami troubled the batters with his pace. Axar broke the 55-run stand when he had Dickwella stumped and also sent back Charith Asalanka (5) by having him caught in backward short leg, where skipper Rohit Sharma took simple catch. Like the first innings, Dickwella did not build on a start.




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