

Everybody should welcome Karnataka HC's judgement on hijab: Rajnath

NEW DELHI(KCN): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said the Karnataka High Court's judgement backing a ban

society or a country if there is no respect for women. India's approach towards women has traditionally been positive and progressive," he said.

"Today you have seen that the Karnataka High Court has given a judgement. I think everybody should welcome it," he said. Singh was speaking at the event organised by the FICCI Ladies



on wearing of hijabs in educational institutions should be welcomed by everybody.

In an address at an event, Singh said no country or society can develop if it does not respect women.

"I can say very confidently that there cannot be development of a

Organisation (FLO). The defence minister said the dress code of schools and colleges must be followed by everyone of every religion.

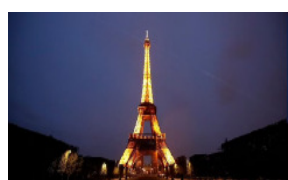
Referring to the judgement, he said the court held that India's daughters may be from any religion or region, CONTINUED ON: P-7

The Eiffel Tower grows even higher, thanks to new antenna

PARIS(KCN): The Eiffel Tower grew by six meters (nearly 20 feet) on Tuesday after engineers hoisted a new communications antenna at the very top of France's most iconic landmark.

Tourists watched from the Trocadero esplanade as the new

digital radio antenna was helicoptered up. With the new antenna,



the Eiffel Tower grew from 1,063 feet tall. The Eiffel Tower

company's president, Jean-François Martins, told The Associated Press that scientific progress is an integral part of the Iron Lady's 133-year history. "It's a historical moment this morning, because the Eiffel Tower is getting higher, which is not so common," he

said. "From the invention of the radio at the beginning of the 20th century to right now, decades after decades, the Eiffel Tower has been a partner for all the radio technology," Martins said. The Eiffel Tower was 1,024 feet high when it was inaugurated on March 31, 1889.

Poll debacle: Sonia Gandhi asks PCC chiefs of five states to resign

NEW DELHI (KCN): Heads have started to roll after the poll Debacle in five states as Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi has asked state party presidents to put in their papers. The

Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa & Manipur to put in their resignations in order to facilitate reorganization of PCCs."

Those who have been asked to resign include Navjot Sidhu

meet, which authorised Sonia Gandhi to undertake "necessary and comprehensive" organisational changes.

"The CWC unanimously reaffirms its faith in the leadership of Sonia Gandhi

said. The CWC statement said that the recent Assembly election results of five states are a cause of serious concern for the Indian National Congress. The party accepts that due to



party suffered massive defeats in five states which went to polls in February and March.

Randeep Surjewala, General Secretary of the party said, "Congress President, Sonia Gandhi has asked the PCC Presidents of Uttar

(Punjab), Ganesh Godiyal (Uttarakhand), Name-irakpam Loken Singh (Manipur), Ajay Kumar Lallu (UP) and Girish Chodankar (Goa). The decision comes two days after the Congress Working Committee (CWC)

and requests the Congress President to lead from the front, address the organisational weaknesses, effect necessary and comprehensive organisational changes in order to take on the political challenges," the CWC resolution had

shortcomings in our strategy, we could not effectively expose the misrule of BJP state governments in four states and overcome the anti-incumbency in the state of Punjab in a short time after effecting a change of leadership.



Grand Demonstration of Journalists across the Nation at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on 30th March 2022 organised by Working Journalist Of India affiliated to Bhartiya Majdoor sangh under the leadership of Narendra Bhandari, Secretary general and Anoop Choudhary, President supported by Many Media Bodies and Trade union



Biden to sign budget bill with Ukraine aid but no virus cash

WASHINGTON(KCN): President Joe Biden on Tuesday is set to sign a bill providing \$13.6 billion in additional military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine as part of a \$1.5 trillion government spending measure that omits COVID-19 aid the White House says is urgently needed.

The COVID spending was a casualty of negotiations over the larger government bill. The White House had asked for \$22.5 billion for vaccines and treatment, but that was trimmed during talks to \$15.6 billion and ultimately dropped altogether as rank-and-file Democrats rebelled against proposed cuts in state aid to pay for the new spending.

In a Tuesday call with governors, White

House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients highlighted "severe consequences" that the lack of additional funding would have on the nation's response, including federal support for states, according to an administration official.

COVID-19 and that state allocations of life-saving monoclonal antibody treatments will be slashed by 30% to prolong their supply. The administration says it also needs more money to purchase more antiviral pills and prophylactic

variant-specific booster, should one arise.

The \$1.5 trillion bill to fund the government for the current year that runs through Sept. 30 is being enacted five months behind schedule. But the money for Ukraine to fight



The White House says that without additional funding, the federal government will stop accepting new claims next week for treating uninsured people for

treatments for people who are immunocompromised, as well as to buy more vaccine doses in the event regulators recommend additional booster shots or a

Russia's invasion became a bipartisan rallying point for the measure as Congress urged Biden to take more aggressive steps against Russian

Speaker calls for all party meet today

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Speaker of the As-

sembled to begin on March 25.

of the session as legislators are busy with

ment motions.

Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal will deliver the inaugural address on March 25. The vote of thanks on the Governor's address will be discussed in house for three days on March 25, 26 and 28. Finance Minister Niranjana Pujari will present the vote on account for 2022-23 on March 30 and the appropriation bill will be passed on March 31. The Speaker said that the all party meeting will discuss ways for the smooth conduct of the house.



sembly Surjya Narayan Patro has called for an all party meeting on Tuesday ahead of the six-day session of the Assembly which is sched-

The meeting is usually convened two days before the start of the Assembly session. But this time, it has been convened 10 days before the start

the urban local body elections. The Speaker told mediapersons that the session will include question hour, zero hour and adjourn-

NFPE Odisha accelerates rigorous campaign for two days nationwide strike on 28th and 29th March, 2022

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The entire working class of the Country will go on two days nationwide general strike on 28th and 29th March, 2022 with participation of major Central Trade Unions along with their affiliated Unions, Associations and Federations and all the constituents of Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers including National Federation of Postal Employees

employees, Pension and Status to Gramin Dak Sewaks, regularization of casual workers, ceilingless bonus and compassionate appointment, 5 time bound promotions, 5 days week for postal employees etc. In this connection, NFPE, Odisha State Coordination Committee is continuously organizing camapinprogrammes throughout the State under the leadership

Federation of Postal Employees, Odisha Circle branch comprising Gramin Dak Sewaks, MTS, Postman, Mail Guards, Postal / Sorting Assistants, Sub-Postmasters and Postmasters. All the participating leaders while stressed upon the importance of the genuine demands, opined that the Govt. is compelling the workers and employees to go on strike since all our appeals and petitions

which the agitational activities of the C G employees will be more rigorous in future culminating to indefinite strike. Similar resolution has also been adopted in the recently concluded Joint Circle Conference of All India Postal Employees Union, Postman and MTS and All India Postal Employees Union, Gramin Dak Sewaks, Odisha Circle branch held in Puri from 12th to 14th March, 2022. In addition to Com.



(NFPE), the biggest Federation of the largest postal network of the world for settlement of as many as 49 genuine demands affecting the common citizens of India in general and the Central Govt. employees including postal employees in particular, viz; privatization / corporatization of Central Govt. establishments, attack on trade unions, unemployment issues, unexpected price rise of essential commodities, anti-labour codes, New Pension System, release of arrear DA/DR withheld for 18 months from January 2020 to June 2021, revision of minimum wage and fitment formula as assured by the group of Cabinet Ministers in 2016, constitution of 8th Central Pay Commission and 5 Years wage revision of Central Govt.

of Com. Bruhaspati Samal, All India General Secretary / Circle Secretary of All India Postal Employees Union and Chairman of the State CoC of all affiliated Unions, Associations under NFPE. Recently two consecutive meetings have been organized by the NFPE State CoC, first on 14.03.2022 in the premises of Bhubaneswar GPO and the 2nd on 15.03.2022 in the campus of the office of the Chief Postmaster General, Odisha Circle, Bhubaneswar which have been attended by the Divisional Secretaries and their representatives of all the 22 Postal Divisions of Odisha Postal Circle and also participated by the Circle Secretaries of all the affiliated unions / associations of National

in this regard have gone futile for years together. It is felt that the demands as raised are universal affecting the life and livelihood of workers, peasants, unorganized workers and the jobless youth of the country. Before being a Central Govt. employee, we are the citizens of India and the general issues and policies before the issues as like as other sections of working class are also affecting the livelihood, family and social life of the C G employees. It was unanimously resolved to participate enmasse in the two days nationwide general strike on 28th and 29th March, 2022 to bring a thundering success and to mount pressure on the Central Govt. to come forward for a fruitful negotiation with the Staff Side for early settlement of the all the genuine demands failing

Bruhaspati Samal, the above meetings were addressed by Com. Debabrata Mohanty, Deputy Secretary General, NFPE CHQ, New Delhi, Com. R N Dhal, General Secretary, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers, Odisha State CoC, Com. Srikant Mallick, Ex-All India President of All India Postal SBCO Employees Association, CHQ, New Delhi, Com. Sapan Mohanty, Circle Secretary, All India RMS & MMS Employees Union, Group-C, Odisha Circle branch, Com. Alok Kumar Mallick, Circle Secretary, All India Postal SBCO Employees Association, Odisha Circle branch, Com. Dipti Ranjan Mohanty, Asst. Circle Secretary, AIPEU, Group-C, Odisha Circle and Com. Harmohan Dash, Divisional Secretary, AIPEU, Postman and MTS, Bhubaneswar Division.

JSW gets command centre

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Country's one of the

mally inaugurated by Ranjan Nayak, COO

Odisha BK Das said, "The CCCC will pro-

duce pilferages." Das also stated that the CCCC connects all 4 mines through cloud to the Barbil office which will be integrated with the central surveillance system and fleet management system. Adding further, Das said that the CCCC with digital intervention will create an error free system, reduce Turnaround Time (TAT), increase productivity and eliminate pilferage and enhance dispatch efficiency.



leading steel manufacturers JSW Steel Ltd inaugurated the Central Command Control Centre (CCCC) at its Barbil office on March 11, 2022. The CCCC was for-

(Odisha) of JSW Steel Ltd. Nayak congratulated the Odisha team for being one step ahead on digital technology. In this connection, Head of IT Division, JSW Steel Ltd,

vide a real-time visibility of dispatch operations, tracing of each fleet and dispatch vehicles from pit to port. Also, it will make it easy to monitor and control the operation and to

CBSE resolves Term-I Odia paper anomalies in 24 hours, move benefits 28,000 students

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Central Board of Secondary Education

schools benefiting 28,310 students. The students who had

Accordingly, the CBSE constituted an expert committee and

sent the revised performances of students



(CBSE) on Tuesday said that it has resolved the anomalies pertaining to the results of the Class X Odia paper in the term-I exams following the intervention of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. CBSE officials said they have communicated the revised performances of the students to concerned

appeared in the term-I Odia language paper had earlier alleged discrepancies in the answer key published on March 11. After receiving the grievances, the Union Minister asked CBSE to resolve the issue within 24 hours. ALSO READ | CBSE appoints expert panel to examine discrepancy in Odia paper answer key

examined the errors in the answer key raised by the students and schools. Issuing a statement, the CBSE said the expert committee formed on March 14, submitted its report at 6 pm on the same day and based on the answer key approved by the expert committee, the Board re-evaluated the OMRs of Odia paper and

to the concerned schools within 24 hours. Board officials said they have already activated an online dispute redressal mechanism to address grievances of the students pertaining to the term-I exam results from March 11. The facility will be available for the students till March 26.

Public transport to get a heat break

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The State government has decided to restrict public trans-

its heat wave action plan for this year. "Timing of public transport services will

drinking water, ice packs and ORS packets in buses. Temporary passenger sheds will be set up near the bus stops having facilities of drinking water. 'Jalachhatras' will also be opened at bus stands/stops for the passengers and water kiosks would be set up on the high-

has been appointed the nodal officer. Control rooms at district-level will function round the clock during the heatwave. The department said bus/truck associations in districts and NGOs will be instructed to create public awareness about the heat wave and the health hazards associated with it. Transport Commissioner Arun Bothra will decide when the restrictions on public transport will be imposed. A copy of the letter has been sent to All Odisha Bus Owners' Association to comply with the above guidelines.



port services during peak hours of summer season to ensure passengers do not face health issues due to the heat. In a letter to the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), Commerce and Transport department has listed out the standard operating procedures and guidelines as part of

be rescheduled so that plying of buses during peak heat wave hours between 11 am and 3 pm is restricted. Overcrowding of passengers in the public vehicles shall be avoided," said Commerce and Transport Department's Joint Secretary Kishore Chandra Das. Provisions will be made for safe

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

SALE

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

PURCHASE

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

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

Residential plots at

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

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

HIRE

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

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

PURCHASE

Simplex / Duplex building at BBSR contact : 9437002509

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

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



TOURS & TRAVELS

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



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 Bramhin Girl. Contact 2555226

WANTED

Required Driver/Peon/Attendant/ Aya

Please Contact-8984600400

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

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

Please Contact- 8338870595

'Shakeela' trailer falls flat, lacks the punch expected in a star biopic



The trailer of Indrajit Lankesh's Hindi language film "Shakeela" doesn't hold much to impress. From using modern-day Hindi music to cliched film sets, it feels like a repackaging of Vidya Balan's 'Dirty Picture' except that this version fails to bring the charm Vidya brought to the

screen. The film, as described by the filmmakers of 'Shakeela', is "inspired by life events of a famous star Shakeela who predominantly starred in southern cinema." It features Richa Chadha as the titular adult actor who was one of the biggest stars of the 1990s ar-

iving from Kerala who went on to act in several adult films in languages spanning Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada, while Pankaj Tripathi is the male lead. The film is described to "portray the hardships of the actress as she had to face a lot of criticism, insults and betrayals from

her own family members and the film fraternity who were influential in getting her films banned." The main reason for the success of 'Kinnarathumbikal', one of the films that catapulted her into the limelight, was solely her screen presence and energy, and with no other male lead in the

movie. Trying to fill in the gaping hole left by Silk Smitha in the low-budget softcore industry, Shakeela made her own mark with around 250 movies in her kitty -- heralding the 'Shakeela Tharangam' (The wave of Shakeela). Meanwhile, the Shakeela that

Indrajith is trying to portray doesn't look like she has much story to tell. The screen-space also seems to be overpowered by star cast Pankaj Tripathi. Let's hope the full length movie holds more than what the trailer showed. The film is produced by Sammy Nanwani and Sahil Nanwani, with music by Meet Bros and Veer Samarth.

Priyanka Chopra reveals husband Nick Jonas likes her 'natural' looks, calls him 'appreciator'

WASHINGTON(K-CN): Nick Jonas has

Chopra. The actor re-

2019 and revealed how her husband is

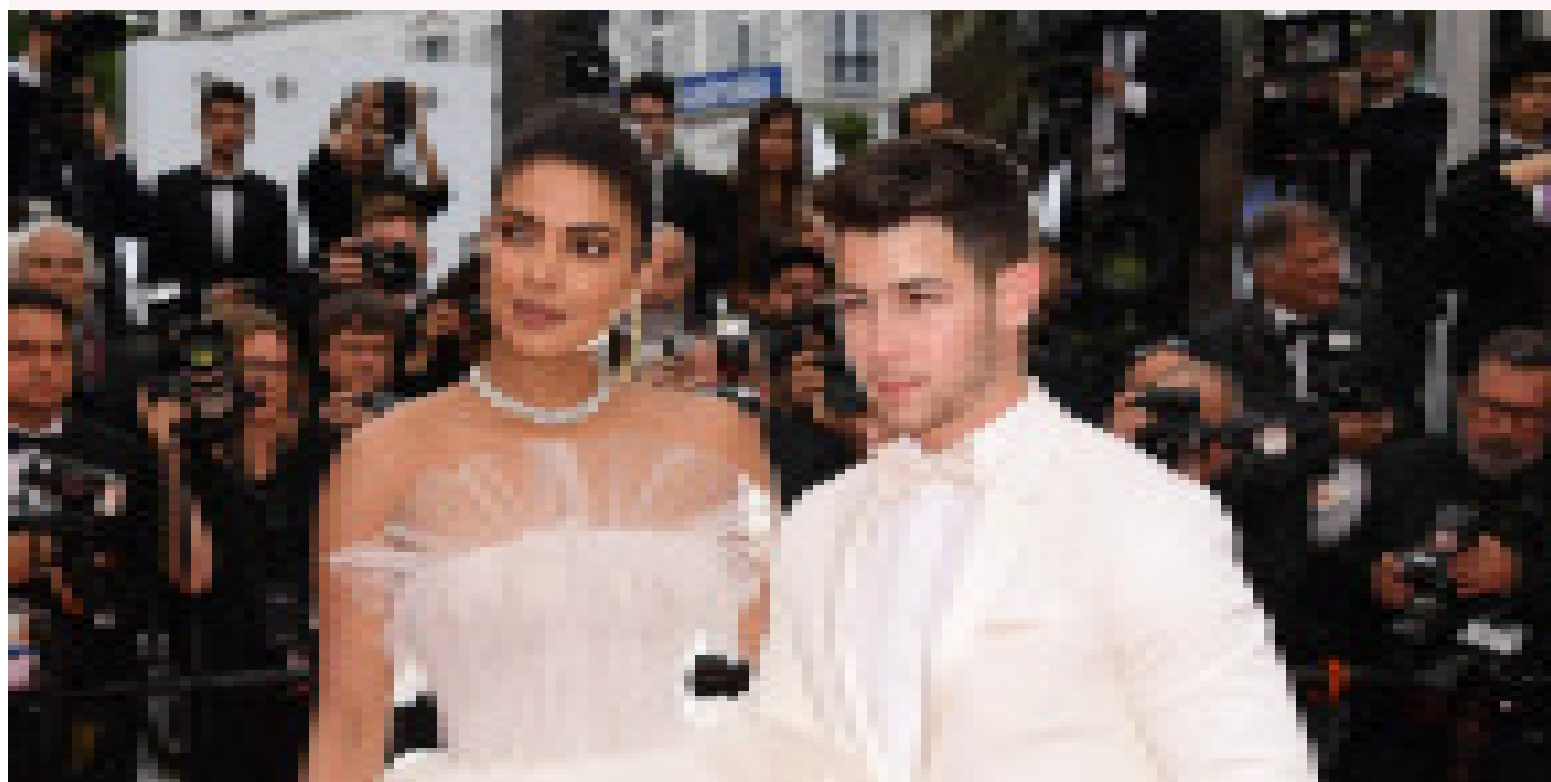
natural or a more glamorous look.

"there are days when he likes a really natu-

went all out for the event, wearing a sheer black top with a pussycat bow, a white blazer paired with a matching pair of pants. Adding a pop of colour to the whole look, she opted for striking pink eye makeup with a matching bold lip colour.

Earlier this month, Priyanka joined her fellow J sisters Sophie Turner and Danielle Jonas in celebrating the first night of their husbands' 'Happiness Begins' tour. All three women rocked Jonas Brothers T-shirts.

The actor shared that it was "really cool" that they all decided on coordinating their outfits since they "have such distinct personalities."



nothing but love and admiration for his wife Priyanka

cently spoke to People at Beautycon Festival Los Angeles

full of admiration for her whether she decides to go for a more

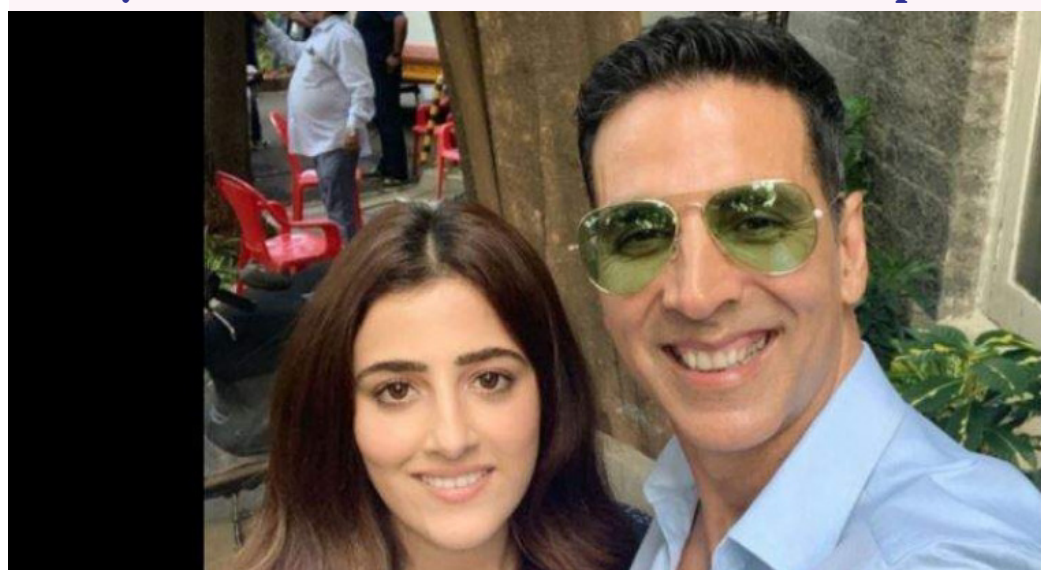
"He likes a bit of both," the 'Quantico' star, said, adding that

real thing."

The 'Mary Kom' actor added, "He's an appreciator. He's someone who can appreciate both things."

In honour of Beautycon, Priyanka

Akshay Kumar shoots with Kriti Sanon's sister Nupur for music video



MUMBAI(KCN): Actor Akshay Kumar on Sunday shot for singer B Praaks new single with actress Kriti Sanon's younger sister Nupur.

written by Jaani. B Praak has previously lent his voice to the song "Teri Mitti" in Akshay's film "Kesari".

ALSO READ: Akshay Kumar has a namesake actor in

London! The song will also feature renowned Punjabi singer Ammy Virk.

A lot of pictures are doing the rounds on the internet in which Akshay is seen

posing with Nupur and Ammy at the St. Xavier's college in Mumbai.

On the work front, Akshay will be seen in "Housefull 4" and "Good Newwz" this year.

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

MUMBAI(KCN): 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.

On Tuesday, an 18-member panel, including Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar, Ajay Devgn, Siddharth Roy Kapur,

Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Prasoon Joshi, met Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

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 criticize the panel that met the prime minister.

Basic Structure theory is dead and what was found in the NJAC case is its ghost

Basic structure doctrine is attacked on the premise that it is too vague and hazy, and hence cannot be a ground for determining whether a constitutional amendment is valid or not. Concepts like secularism, republican form of government, independence of judiciary etc. are concepts which are capable of definite meaning and it is absolutely rational to say that the Parliament ought not have the power to abrogate these basic features of the Constitution. There can hardly be two opinions on this aspect. But what has missed the attention of the Court, the government and the lawyers concerned is that the issue is not at all a justiciable one. It is for the people of this country to decide whether any amendment which would destroy the basic features of the constitution be permitted or not, and that decision, the Parli-



Mathews J. Nedumpara

ment being a body representing the people, is entirely left to it. It is for the Parliament (the people of this country) to decide whether an amendment which would destroy the basic structure of the constitution be permitted or not. I am not saying that the Courts have no power at all. The Courts can step in when an amendment of the constitution destroys the basic structure, leads to the infringement of fundamental rights. If an amendment to the constitution does not at all infringe the fundamental rights, then there is no reason to worry about the same, for an amendment to the constitution while it destroys the basic structure, does not at all infringe fundamental rights, then such an amendment is entirely harmless. One cannot imagine of a judgment in recorded history which is more illogical and against the first principles of jurisprudence than judgment

of the Supreme Court in Kesavananda Bharati. The SC recognized what a great blunder the judgment in Kesavananda Bharati is in IR Coelho, 2007, when it held that a legislation which is violative of fundamental rights cannot be protected by allowing it to be included in the 9th schedule of the constitution. That was the recognition of the primacy of the fundamental rights as upheld in Golaknath case (6:5), as the law of the land. The Kesavananda Bharati case is dead and what was found in the NJAC case is its ghost. Whether to amend the basic structure or not, for example, whether to bring in presidential form of government instead of Parliamentary form of govt, is for the people of this country (Parliament) to decide. If on the contrary, india is made a theocratic state, where practice of religions other than Hinduism is prohibited, then that will entail in violation of the funda-

mental right to practice the religion of ones choice. Such a constitutional amendment is amenable to challenge on the ground of violation of fundamental rights. Here, what i say is nothing but the first principle of jurisprudence- ubi jus ibi remedium, where there is infringement of a right, law will provide a remedy. The trouble with Kesavananda Bharati is that it held that the Parliament is competent to abrogate fundamental rights but not basic structure. Still worse, it expressly said that it is overruling Golaknath which held that the Parliament has no power to abrogate fundamental rights. In IR Coelho, the SC tacitly admitted the manifest error in Kesavananda Bharati and reaffirmed that the Parliament has no power to abrogate fundamental rights.

(The author is the President of the National Lawyers Campaign For Judicial Transparency And Reforms)

India's gig workers: Overworked and underpaid

According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the unemployment rate in urban India stood at 9.4 percent between January and March 2021, with an even higher proportion of youth unemployment (22.9 percent). In the same time period, more than 11 percent of the urban workforce reported working for less than 36 hours in a typical week. During the pandemic-induced lockdown in 2020, urban unemployment had reached unprecedented peaks (approximately 21 percent in April–June 2020). Moreover, employment in much of urban manufacturing and service industries tends to be highly seasonal and contractual, with greater casualisation being reported over the last decade.



Abhishek Sekharan

many to earn less than minimum wage for 12–15 hour work days. Many also lacked access to insurance, safety equipment, and affordable healthcare. Research on delivery and taxi-driving sectors has shown that platforms rely on a pool of migrant workers from historically dispossessed communities who already had severely limited claims to social security during the pandemic. Despite these layers of precarity, platform workers remain ineligible to claim social security under existing schemes, even ones with the most significant coverage such as the PDS. In the case of the PDS, exclusion may have resulted from outdated definitions of urban poverty—households eligible for PHH ration cards under the National Food Security Act must not possess four-wheeler vehicles or internet-enabled laptops/computers. There are other restrictions on families that possess two-wheelers. This immediately introduces barriers for delivery workers and taxi drivers, who have to self-invest in many of these assets, often by entering into long-term debts, to sustain their livelihoods. These workers, apart from ride-hailing drivers, also did not explicitly figure in any of the targeted relief packages offered by governments. Such conditions pushed many workers into chronic debt. A delivery boy on a bike—gig workers Employment guarantees could be a way to combat insecurities associated with dynamic and piecemeal earnings | Picture courtesy: PixaHive/CC BY

The Code on Social Security 2020, for the first time, recognised platform workers as eligible for social security benefits, albeit with many limitations. It fails to recognise these workers as employees, and also introduces several exclusionary eligibility criteria for social security benefits. More importantly, the code fails to uphold the accountability of gig platforms beyond a nominal mandatory contribution to the gig workers' social security board. Other labour codes, as already implemented, do not mention platform work/workers, thereby precluding their rights to minimum wage, occupational safety, and decent work. Even as gig workers' organisations continue to struggle to achieve legally enforceable protection, their inclusion in UEG programmes could serve as a step towards short-term measures that safeguard rights. But how can this be done?

Reimagining urban public works
Public policy responses during the pandemic have encapsulated an expanded imagination of 'public works'. Urban infrastructure systems were expanded through state–platform partnerships to enhance access for under-serviced neighbourhoods and regions. For instance, the Delhi government partnered with Swiggy to deliver cooked meals to migrants living in temporary shelters during the lockdown. In another move, governments also tied up with Ola and Uber to provide free transportation facilities to frontline workers. However, these works are rarely included within considerations of 'public works' under UEG proposals. Employment in UEG proposals is mainly prescribed under work commissioned by urban local bodies (ULBs); within this framing, platform workers would be forced to work in

manual jobs such as building, repair, and renovation. Many are also attracted to 'professional' designations. Therefore, manual work as currently proposed under UEG schemes may be unattractive for many gig workers.

1. Addressing on-demand service needs of public institutions and recognised employers
Given the intention to universalise coverage to all who demand work, gig work—particularly in transportation and delivery sectors—should be explicitly covered within these proposals. This can be achieved by experimenting with the experiences of public institutions such as hospitals and government offices, who relied on platforms for their service needs during the pandemic, ranging from logistics, last-mile delivery, and mobility. Jean Drèze suggests that other publicly recognised employers such as schools and colleges could be involved in the governance and implementation of the UEG scheme. Many of these institutions have capacities to meet their service needs through engaging gig workers, including demand for services such as cleaning, disinfection, and repair and maintenance of assets.

2. Ensuring flexibility
The promise of flexibility in terms of determining one's own work and working hours remains a central attraction of gig work. Despite this, research on platform labour has pointed out that this flexibility is seldom instrumentalised due to gamification of work through incentives, ratings, and algorithmic manipulation. However, lessons from some of the current UEG models can be adopted to restore flexibility and control over work outcomes while expanding coverage to gig workers under UEG schemes. For instance, Drèze's proposal to cover both part-time and full-time work to accommodate women's unpaid care responsibilities may be applicable to gig workers. Furthermore, several existing measures under state programmes, such as Kerala's AUEGS, which stipulates the provision of work within a five-kilometre radius, could be experimented with. The provision of affordable, quality, and subsidised public transport facilities to UEG job stamp holders through partnerships between states and non-motorised ride-hailing workers is a way in which daily wage workers, such as rickshaw pullers and tuk-tuk drivers, can be covered under UEG schemes.

3. Anticipating benefits and challenges
Employment under UEG stipulates payment of daily minimum wages. But, like many informal sector workers, gig workers have been excluded from such legal assurances under the Code on Wages 2019. Employment guarantees could be a way to combat insecurities associated with dynamic and piecemeal earnings. As proposed by Drèze's model, allowing worker collectives to be engaged as placement agencies might offer a solution here. These collectives could set wage floors to ensure that invisibilised costs related to platform work are appropriately taken into account. The inclusion of gig workers within UEG proposals cannot be a substitute for regulatory measures that enforce safeguards. ULBs can also consider partnering with platforms in the form of placement agencies for job

cards issued by them. This would mean that all workers registered with the platform immediately become eligible for UEG benefits. This must be done alongside setting wage floors and dissociating incentives and work availability from gamification tools such as ratings. These measures will help tackle multiple challenges that gig workers routinely grapple with, such as information asymmetries, dynamic pricing, and insecurities related to earnings and long working hours, while ensuring availability of minimum wage work. Such ULB–platform partnerships have already emerged during the pandemic and prevented platforms from unilaterally reducing wages by stipulating base pay rates and limiting platform power to charge high commissions and supervise quality of service provision.

4. Ensuring minimum wage considerations
Currently there is no clarity on how gig workers' wages are determined. Swiggy, for instance, has categorised wages for delivery workers under three heads: per order pay, surge pay, and incentives. Another major determinant of earnings is commissions, which most platforms charge for each task (delivery/trip/haircut), ranging from 10–35 percent. To replicate the elasticity of minimum wage considerations according to states, development zones, industry, occupation, and skill levels, there is a need for comprehensive public data on earnings and payment structures, which is currently available only with platforms. Worker unions have demanded that minimum wages be pegged to the number of hours worked in a day, where working time will be calculated by accounting for all time-rated factors, such as waiting time, commute, and total time taken to complete shifts. While many of these considerations are complex, they are important to determine fair unemployment allowances in cases where such forms of employment guarantees become more feasible. The inclusion of gig workers within UEG proposals cannot be a substitute for regulatory measures that enforce safeguards such as minimum wages, occupational health and safety, and decent work. Nevertheless, as experiences from other countries have shown, enforcing such regulations is a long-term process, particularly against the global tide towards greater flexibility and labour precarity. In the interim, schemes such as UEG could be particularly rewarding for gig workers while paving the way for universal social protection. As we continue to debate the shape that the UEG programme should take in India—whether it should be framed as an employment generation scheme or as a scheme that provides unemployment insurance—we must remember to include gig workers in these discussions.

The author is a researcher at the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), a nonprofit research institute working on issues related to technology and its impact on our society. At CIS, he contributes to research on labour rights in the platform economy and the Future of Work, with an aim to influence worker-centric policy formulation. His interests primarily lie at the intersections of informal work, urbanisation, and gender relations in the Global South. He has training in applied economics and interdisciplinary urban studies.

Biden to sign budget bill with Ukraine aid but no virus cash

WASHINGTON(KCN): President Joe Biden on Tuesday is set to sign a bill providing \$13.6 billion in additional military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine as part of a \$1.5 trillion government spending measure that omits

"severe consequences" that the lack of additional funding would have on the nation's response, including federal support for states, according to an administration official. The White House says that without ad-

ditional funding, the federal government will stop accepting new claims next week for treating uninsured people for COVID-19 and that state allocations of life-saving monoclonal antibody treatments will be slashed by 30% to prolong their supply. The administration says it also needs more money to purchase more antiviral pills and prophylactic treatments for people who are immunocompromised, as well as to buy more vaccine doses in the event regulators recommend additional

booster shots or a variant-specific booster, should one arise. The \$1.5 trillion bill to fund the government for the current year that runs through Sept. 30 is being enacted five months behind schedule. But



COVID-19 aid the White House says is urgently needed. The COVID spending was a casualty of negotiations over the larger government bill. The White House had asked for \$22.5 billion for vaccines and treatment, but that was trimmed during talks to \$15.6 billion and ultimately dropped altogether as rank-and-file Democrats rebelled against proposed cuts in state aid to pay for the new spending. In a Tuesday call with governors, White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients highlighted

the money for Ukraine to fight Russia's invasion became a bipartisan rallying point for the measure as Congress urged Biden to take more aggressive steps against Russian President Vladimir Putin. Roughly half the \$13.6 billion would arm Ukraine and cover the Pentagon's costs for sending U.S. troops to other Eastern European nations that might see the war spill past their borders. Much of the rest is for humanitarian and economic assistance, strengthening regional allies' de-

child care, renewable energy, biomedical research, law enforcement grants to communities and feeding programmes. It also directs money to minority communities and historically black colleges, renews efforts aimed at preventing domestic violence against women and requires infrastructure operators to report serious hacking incidents to federal authorities. Republicans won an almost 6% boost for defense and prevailed in retaining decades-old restrictions against using federal money to pay for nearly all abortions.

fenses and protecting their energy supplies and cybersecurity needs. The \$1.5 trillion government spending bill includes a nearly 7% increase for domestic initiatives, with beefed-up spending for schools, housing,

Nurse dies in Odisha's Paradip Port Trust hospital, murder charge on chief medical officer

PARADIP: Sudden death of a 33-year-old nurse who had last year brought molestation charges against a doctor of Paradip Port Trust (PPT) Hospital has snowballed into a huge controversy with family members accusing the chief medical officer (CMO) of torture. Basing on the allegation, police have registered a case of murder against CMO Prahallad Panda and begun investigation. The nurse, Nibedita Jena, had gone to the office of the CMO on Saturday to reply a show-cause notice. During the official proceedings, she became unconscious and was shifted to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar where she succumbed on Sunday. Alleging torture and harassment by the hospital authorities, family members and locals staged a dharna in front of the hospital. Her father Birabhadra Jena accused the CMO of physical torture leading to her death and demanded stern action against him failing which he said protest would be intensified. In August last year, Nibedita was attending a patient after her duty hours in the hospital when she was allegedly molested by a medical officer. According to her complaint, the doctor Badal Singh allegedly touched her inappropriately and asked her to get into a relationship. He apparently kept pursuing her despite her refusal. Nibedita went on to lodge an FIR and Paradip Model police detained and interrogated Singh, only to release him later after serving notice under section 41 of CrPC. But after his release,

the family said, the doctor kept molesting Nibedita in the hospital. Even as case was under investigation and a departmental inquiry was initiated, the hospital authorities reportedly started mounting pressure on the nurse and issued show-cause notice to suppress the case. The 33-year-old had sought intervention of Chairman, Paradip Port Trust and urged for protection for her job. She met the Chairperson of Mahila Commission last month. On Saturday, Nibedita had gone to meet CMO Panda to reply to the show-cause notice. During the proceedings, family members said, she fainted because Panda allegedly physically abused her. She was then rushed to AMRI hospital in Bhubaneswar where she succumbed a day later. As the news spread, locals gathered at the hospital and demanded immediate arrest of all the accused. They called off the stir later after CISF personnel pacified them. Jagatsinghpur SP Akhileshwar Singh said, police have registered a case of murder basing on allegations of the family members and investigation is underway. IIC of Paradip Model Police Station Subhalaxmi Pujari informed that a murder case has been registered against the CMO of PPT Hospital. "Post-mortem will be conducted at Kujang hospital after which the body will be handed over to the family. Exact reason behind the death will be known after we get the autopsy report," she said.

People suffering consequences of Centre's wrong policies: Rahul on rising inflation



NEW DELHI: Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi hit out at the BJP-led Centre on Tuesday over high inflation and reduced rates of fixed deposits and provident fund, and said the common people are

facing the consequences of its wrong policies. He also asked if it was not the responsibility of the government to provide relief to people. "Common citizens are facing the consequences of the wrong policies of the

government: FD: 5.1 per cent (down), PPF: 7.1 per cent (down), EPF: 8.1 per cent (down). Retail Inflation: 6.07 per cent (up). Wholesale Inflation: 13.11 per cent (up). Is it not the responsibility of the government

to provide relief to people?" Gandhi asked in a tweet in Hindi. The Congress has been attacking the Centre over reduction in the rate of provident fund deposits and the rising inflation.

Iran returns passport of detained UK charity worker

LONDON: Iranian authorities have returned the passport of

Siddiq, her local lawyer in the U.K. "I also understand

taken into custody at Tehran's airport in April 2016. She was

Zaghari-Ratcliffe's local lawyer, Hojjat Kermani, also told



a U.K. woman who has been detained in the country for almost six years, raising hopes of progress in negotiations toward her release. Charity worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe remains at her parents' home in Tehran, said Tulip

that there is a British negotiating team in Tehran right now," Siddiq said on Twitter. "I will keep posting updates as I get them." Zaghari-Ratcliffe, who has dual U.K.-Iranian citizenship, served five years in prison after being

later convicted of plotting to overthrow the government in Iran, a charge that she, her supporters and rights groups deny. She has been held under house arrest and unable to leave the country since her release.

The Associated Press she had received her British passport. However, Kermani said she remained banned from leaving the country. "We hope that these negotiations will be concluded soon," he said.

Centre Rejects Code 4C Request

New Delhi: The Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has informed that Code 4C operation is not feasible at Rourkela airport within the available land. Mr.Scindia made this statement in Rajya Sabha while giving a reply to a question of BJD MP Amar Patnaik. Few days ago, Patnaik had also written a letter to the Civil Aviation Minister demanding a 4C license to the Rourkela airport. Rourkela airport is owned by Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and is operated by SAIL as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Airports Authority of India (AAI). Currently, the airport is licensed for Aerodrome Reference 2B operations (suitable for 20 seater type of aircraft), Scindia said. The Government of India has approved a Scheme Revival/upgradation of Airports/Heliports/Water aerodromes to support Regional Connectivity Scheme-UDAN. Several airports included in the awarded UDAN routes are upgraded/developed under this scheme, he said. Based on the bids received under UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme with ATR-72 type of aircraft, AAI, the implementing agency, has undertaken upgradation of the airports for Code 3C (suitable for ATR type of air-

craft) operations. SAIL, Rourkela has accorded permission to use 146 acres of land for development of the Airport to Code 3C Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) category. The Union Minister informed that the Rourkela airport was identified for operations of RCS flights connecting Rourkela with Kolkata and Bhubaneswar in the first round of bidding under UDAN. Later, the said routes were cancelled due to non-compliance of the Agreement by the Selected Airline Operator (SAO). Subsequently, in December, 2018, the AAI received a bid in the third round of UDAN bidding for 'Bhubaneswar-Rourkela-Bhubaneswar' route with ATR72 type Aircraft. The SAOs under UDAN are obligated to commence RCS flight operations on a RCS route within a period of six months from the issuance of Letter of Award or within two months from the readiness of airport, whichever is later, unless any extension is granted by the Implementing Agency. At present, 1349 feet of existing serviceable runway is not discarded at Rourkela airport for ATR 72 type of aircraft operations under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) conditions, he further informed.

Bhubaneswar municipal polls: Jagannath Nagar road stinks with waste water

BHUBANESWAR: Waste water overflowing on road is the most pressing issue for the residents of

and absence of any sewage line in Jagannath Nagar has always been a talking point. A road in the

some of the residential units and apartments directly onto the street on Road No 1 - the most busiest

nience to the commuters. Besides the stench emanating from the sewage water has made living of the households miserable, apart from posing the risk of serious health hazards in the locality," said an elderly resident living on Road No 1.

An official from the engineering wing of the Civic body admitted that in the absence of sewage channel, the residential units and apartments are releasing waste water to road. He also said residents, not having sewage link were supposed to create soak pit on their premises to prevent draining of waste water to road, which is not being ensured due to lack of enforcement.

BMC drainage wing officials said an estimation has been made for construction of drain on 2 km stretch connecting Road No 1 to Ganguana to address the waste water and water logging problem.



Jagannath Nagar locality here ahead of the urban local body (ULB) polls on March 24.

The issue will play a key role as voters may favour the candidate who assures them a solution to the problem. Prabhat Kumar Martha is contesting on a BJP ticket, while Sridhar Jena is BJD's face in the locality that falls under Ward No 32 of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). Poor drainage system

residential area with around 800 households remains flooded with waste water throughout the year.

Residents of the locality allege despite repeated grievance to the BMC the issue has remained unresolved for years. The civic body has also not been able to revive the drainage channel under the road constructed years ago.

In the absence of a sewage line, waste water is released by

route of the locality that connects Mahadev Nagar, Sarala Nagar and Road No 5 of the locality with Canal road and Jharpada.

Residential and commercial blocks release their waste water to the road every time their temporary storage facilities get filled. Waste water of roadside eateries and shops also flow on the road in the absence of a drain.

"The water flows directly on road causing serious inconvenience

Pre-municipal poll violence raises ugly head in Bhubaneswar, 11 arrested

BHUBANESWAR: Pre-poll violence has raised its ugly head in the Capital ahead of urban elections on March 24. At least 11 persons were arrested on Sunday for their alleged involve-

ment in the violence that took place within Laxmisagar police limits of the city on Friday. The arrests were made on the basis of FIR lodged by two rival groups, said to be the members of BJD and BJP. Sources said that clash took place following attack on the family

of the BJP corporator candidate from Ward No 33 Dharitri Jena, by the rival group. The husband, brother-in-law, and three other family members of the corporator candidates

and five of BJD have been arrested, while more are expected to be booked after analysis of the available CCTV footage and witnesses present on the spot, police said.



were allegedly attacked by the rival group near Laxmisagar police station where they had gone to lodge an FIR in connection with the tearing of posters. The police, however, also received a counter FIR and the arrests were made following investigation. So far six activists of BJP

A police official also informed that two injured persons of BJP are also undergoing treatment in a private hospital. Moreover, the Laxmisagar incident is the first major political clash prior to the urban elections. However, officials said at least eight complaints and counter-complaints

have been received so far since the commencement of the poll process. Accordingly, they said that local police stations have been directed to intensify regular patrolling. "The incidents of poll violence are being dealt stringently," said Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Das.

Officials in charge of elections said they are also receiving complaints of poll related violence. However, the cases are being immediately referred to the Commissionerate Police for necessary action at their end.

Time for CM to prove violence has no place in democracy: Pradhan

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The BJP on Saturday came down heavily on the BJD for the increasing poll violence in the State. In a scathing attack on the ruling



party, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the Banpur incident in which Chilika MLA Prasanta Kumar Jagadev rammed his vehicle into a crowd is not just inhuman but heart wrenching. Expressing concern over the increasing political violence in the State, Pradhan said perhaps the Banpur incident is the first of its kind in the State when a sitting MLA owing allegiance to the ruling party made an attempt to mow down innocent people in front of a block office in broad daylight.

"Harshesht possible language will be inadequate to condemn the incident. The Chief Minister should demonstrate in action that

he really believes that 'there is no place of violence in democracy'," Pradhan tweeted.

Condemning the murder attempts on BJP workers at Banpur and Bhubaneswar on Friday night, the Union Minister said it is a matter of great regret that the State government is yet to take any action against the BJD hooligans who indulged in large scale violence during the panchayat elections. Wishing speedy recovery of the people who have been hospitalised after the murderous attempts by the suspended BJD MLA and ruling party workers, Pradhan demanded swift action against the culprits.

National BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said this kind of cold-blooded crime and hooliganism is not acceptable and demanded quick and stern action against Jagadev. After visiting the injured party workers who were admitted in different hospitals of the city, State BJP president Samir Mohanty said a lady activist of the party is in a serious condition in the ICU. Others are in AIIMS, SUM and Capital hospitals.

BJP State general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan also demanded immediate arrest of Jagadev. Alleging that the MLA was in an inebriated condition, he slammed the police for not taking action against Jagadev who is facing serious charges in other cases too.




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

No PSB bank employees found involved in Rs 14,349 crore ABG Shipyard bank fraud case: Sitharaman

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said no public sector bank employees were

said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

The loan to the company was later approved for restructuring

Ltd in connection with loan fraud. Accordingly, in view of the findings of FAR, the account of ABGSL, having

countability," Sitharaman said. The minister also informed that a complaint with the Central Bureau of Inves-

CBI say they have questioned ex-ABG Shipyard CMD Rishi Agarwal. SBI filed the revised complaint with CBI on August 25, 2020, and the final complaint, based on further discussions, was filed on December 14, 2020," she added. Sitharaman said the CBI has registered a first information report (FIR) against the company and its directors on February 7, 2022.

As many as 27 banks and financial entities were engaged in the consortium lending to ABGSL at the time of loan arrangement, including the erstwhile banks: Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC), Syndicate Bank, Dena Bank, Andhra Bank, and Laxmi Vilas Bank.

The top lenders with the highest amount of exposure to the company are: ICICI Bank Rs 7,089 crore; IDBI Bank Rs 3,639 crore; SBI Rs 2,925 crore; Bank of Baroda Rs 1,614 crore; Punjab National Bank Rs 1,244

crore; Exim Bank Rs 1,327 crore; Indian Overseas Bank Rs 1,228 crore; Bank of India Rs 719 crore; Standard Chartered Bank Rs 743 crore. ALSO READ: ABG shipyard case: Are bank frauds now part of the system?

Erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce, now merged into PNB, had an exposure of Rs 714 crore; Syndicate Bank (now Canara) Rs 408 crore; Dena Bank (now BoB) Rs 406 crore; and Andhra Bank (now Union Bank of India) Rs 350 crore.

Among others, IFCI loaned Rs 300 crore, SBI Singapore Rs 458 crore; and SICOM Ltd Rs 260 crore.

Touted as the biggest bank fraud case, the CBI had booked ABG Shipyard Ltd and its former chairman and managing director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal along with others for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks on February 14, 2022.



found to be involved in the Rs 14,349 crore bank fraud by ABG Shipyard Ltd (ABGSL), and CBI has registered a case against the company and its directors last month.

ABG Shipyard was sanctioned loan under consortium arrangement led by ICICI Bank, and the account was declared as non-performing asset (NPA) by the lender banks in August 2013 and afterward, Sitharaman

turing under corporate debt restructuring (CDR) in March 2014 by CDR empowered group.

Sitharaman said that post-failure of the CDR and classification of the account as NPA, the lender banks appointed EY to conduct a forensic audit of the company. The agency had submitted the forensic audit report (FAR) in January 2019.

ALSO READ: CBI grills former CMD of ABG Shipyard Pvt

principal exposure of Rs 14,349 crore and interest accrued thereon, was declared as fraud by the lead banks on April 25, 2019, she said.

"As per input received from public sector banks, staff accountability has been conducted and no staff lapses/staff involvement in the said fraud has been observed in examination of post NPA staff accountability/post fraud re-examination of staff ac-

tivation (CBI) was filed by the State Bank of India (SBI) on November 8, 2019, and subsequently, in a meeting of the joint lenders in January 2020, it was decided that SBI should file the complaint on behalf of all consortium lenders. Accordingly, the mandate was garnered from all banks, with the last mandate being received on August 25, 2020.

ALSO READ: Biggest bank fraud ever?

Air India now fastest airline from Delhi to London and it's the Russia factor at play

NEW DELHI: Among the four airlines that are currently offering direct flights to Lon-



don from Delhi, Air India's flight duration is the shortest at nine hours. This is because

GMPF seeks immediate resumption of mining in Goa

NEW DELHI: The Goa Mining People's Front (GMPF), which represents the cause of lakhs of people employed in the mining sector, on Tuesday said it has appealed to the central government to facilitate the immediate resumption of mining in Goa.

This comes at a time when the mining ban in Goa has completed four years.

"As the Goa mining ban completes four years, the Goa Mining People's Front has appealed to the government at the Centre and the newly elected MLA's in the state to facilitate the immediate resumption of mining," it said in a statement. The iron ore industry in Goa came to a standstill after the Supreme Court quashed 88 mining leases in February 2018, affecting the livelihoods of over three lakh mining dependents in the state with over 75,000 jobs in the state. "The state government has been promising the resumption of mining activities since he took over the charge as the chief minister and has made umpteen attempts to convince the central leadership for a solution but the attempt has not yielded any results yet," the statement said. The central BJP leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah, have again assured the solution within six months resolving the Goa mining stalemate during the recent election campaigning.

"The GMPF now demands that the promise of a solution within six months be treated as an agenda to deliver and not just another election gimmick like in the past," it said.

they continue to fly on the earlier flight path, which crosses parts of Russia and Eastern Europe.

"We continue to operate our flights on the earlier route as the airspace is open. It is not a 'no fly zone' so it is safe," said a source from Air India.

Vistara, a joint venture between Tata and SIA, takes 9 hours 20 minutes to reach London from Delhi, as they are not flying over Russia. British Airways (BA) and Virgin Atlantic are taking longer routes to avoid flying over Russia as a result of which it is taking longer to reach their destination.

While BA is taking close to 10 hours, Vir-

gin Atlantic is taking around 10.35 hours to complete the journey.

Meanwhile, the fares on the Delhi-London sector have sky-rocketed. There are two reasons behind this. Firstly, there are limited services and secondly the high cost of aviation turbine fuel (which has risen by Rs 19,000 per kilo litre since January this year) has led to the increased airfare. Besides, when you take a longer route you also burn more fuel so fares go up.

For a one-way ticket between Delhi to London, Air India charges Rs 81,852, Vistara Rs 95,154, British Airways Rs 1.42 lakh and Virgin Atlantic Rs 1.35 lakh. These are more than the return fare one would pay earlier on this sector.

Softbank representative to step down from boards of Paytm, Policy Bazaar

NEW DELHI: Japanese investor Softbank will pull out

change in investment made by Softbank in these companies, the

the position within a couple of days.

"As part of global



its representative from the boards of Indian listed entities Paytm and Policy Bazaar as part of its global policy, a source said on Monday.

There will be no

source said.

Softbank managing partner Munish Verma is currently a board member in both Paytm and Policy Bazaar who will step down from

policy, Softbank's representative will step down from the board of listed companies in India. At present, there are two Indian entities in this case- Paytm and

Policy Bazaar. These companies have been informed about the decision," another source aware of the development said.

The source said that Softbank in 90 per cent of the portfolio companies globally has exited within six months.

"The Indian companies need to inform stock exchanges. The development will take place in a day or two," the source said. Softbank declined to comment on the matter while a query sent to Paytm and Policy Bazaar did not elicit any immediate reply.

Everybody should welcome Karnataka HC's judgement on hijab: Rajnath

Continued from page-1

but no restriction on them is acceptable.

"If there is a 'dress code' of a school and college, then anyone from irrespective of religion and faith should follow the dress code. And the court has given its judgement corresponding to this," Singh said.

The defence minister also said that the government has taken a number of steps to strengthen the role of women in the armed forces. "The armed forces will see a larger participation of women in the coming years due to the recent steps taken by the government," he said.

"Today, women are not only working in the Army in every wing, but now we are also giving permanent commission to them. Today, admission is being given to boys as well as girls in every Sainik School. The doors of NDA (National Defence Academy) have also been opened for women," he said.

Singh said that about 200,000 women took the entrance exam last year for entry into the NDA with great enthusiasm. "The percentage of women in the Indian Army will increase significantly in the coming times," said Singh.

The defence minister also highlighted a number of schemes rolled out by the government in the last few years on skill development, employment generation and entrepreneurship. He said these schemes have paved the way for the holistic development of women and given them the confidence to forge a new identity.

Singh made special mention of 23-year-old Vinita Singh who left a salary package of Rs one crore and launched her own startup, which has now become a Rs 300 crore company.

He said this inspiring story has been made possible due to the policy brought out by the government to promote startups in the country. "In 2014, only 500 startups were working in the country. By 2022, this count has crossed 60,000," he added.

Singh reiterated the government's commitment to promoting women entrepreneurship in India, saying that according to a study, if obstacles in the way of women are removed, at least 1.5 crore new businesses can be started, creating about 6.4 crore additional jobs, according to a defence ministry statement.

He added that this ecosystem of women entrepreneurship will inspire more women and new businesses will emerge. At the event, rich tributes were paid to Bharat Ratna Late Lata Mangeshkar. Singh remembered the Nightingale of India, saying that she will always be alive in the heart of every Indian. FLO president Ujjwala Singhania and other members of the organisation were also present.

Biden to sign budget bill with Ukraine aid but no virus cash

Continued from page-1

President Vladimir Putin.

Roughly half the \$13.6 billion would arm Ukraine and cover the Pentagon's costs for sending U.S. troops to other Eastern European nations that might see the war spill past their borders. Much of the rest is for humanitarian and economic assistance, strengthening regional allies' defenses and protecting their energy supplies and cybersecurity needs.

The \$1.5 trillion government spending bill includes a nearly 7% increase for domestic initiatives, with beefed-up spending for schools, housing, child care, renewable energy, biomedical research, law enforcement grants to communities and feeding programmes.

It also directs money to minority communities and historically black colleges, renews efforts aimed at preventing domestic violence against women and requires infrastructure operators to report serious hacking incidents to federal authorities.

Republicans won an almost 6% boost for defense and prevailed in retaining decades-old restrictions against using federal money to pay for nearly all abortions.

Mithali Raj, Smriti Mandhana slip in ICC Women's ODI Rankings

DUBAI: India skipper Mithali Raj's descent in the ICC ODI rankings continued as she slipped three places to seventh while opener Smriti Mandhana dropped to 11th in the latest standings released on Tuesday, taking into account the ongoing World Cup in New Zealand.

Raj, who slipped a couple of places last week, has 696 points after she was dismissed for 31 and 5 against New Zealand and West Indies

respectively. She is currently joint seventh with Australia opener Rachael Haynes.

Mandhana, on the other hand, moved out of the top 10 to 11th despite hitting 123 against West Indies on Saturday.

Veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami, who became the leading wicket-taker in World Cups, has also slipped two places to be sixth in the bowlers' chart while Deepti Sharma main-

tained her sixth place in the all-rounders' list. Sophie Ecclestone, Amy Satterthwaite, Marizanne Kapp and Laura Wolvaardt have all taken major leaps in the rankings after their

ping in with a vital 32 runs.

In the batting charts, New Zealand's Satterthwaite and South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt have been the two big gainers.

Satterthwaite scored 75 in New Zealand's 62-run win against India and then scored 44 as her side crumbled to a 141-run defeat against Australia.

Her performances have seen her rise up to No.3 in the batting rankings, up to five spots.

Wolvaardt, who scored 75 and 77 in South Africa's victories against Pakistan and England respectively, rose seven spots to break into the top 10 of the batting charts, at No.5.

In the all-rounders' charts, Hayley Matthews has seen her stocks rise after steady performances for the West Indies.

She scored 45 and 43 in West Indies' matches against England and India, while also registering figures of 2/40 and 1/65 in those games. This has seen her gain two spots, up to No.2 in the charts.

Ashleigh Gardner has also gained two spots to move up to No.7, after her star showing in the match against New Zealand, where she scored an unbeaten 48 and registered bowling figures of 2/15.



BWF World Rankings: Lakshya Sen climbs a spot to 11th, PV Sindhu static in 7th position

NEW DELHI: Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen rose a

men's singles list which is being headed by Olympic

ishung runners-up at the German Open last week after his title-

Sania Nehwal occupies the 28th position. In the men's doubles

sizzling performances in the ongoing World Cup.

Despite England failing to win a single match at the World Cup, Ecclestone has been a shining light for her team, bowling with great discipline.

Her performances have seen her rise to the No.1 spot in the bowling charts, overtaking Australia's Jess Jonassen.

The other big gainer in the bowling charts is Marizanne Kapp, who registered the best-ever figures of her international career during South Africa's three-wicket win against England.

Her 5/45 helped South Africa restrict England to 235/9 and she made a handy contribution with the bat as well during the chase, chip-



place to 11th in the men's singles chart, while double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu is static at the seventh spot among women in the latest BWF world rankings issued on Tuesday. Sen has risen remarkably over the last few months in the BWF rankings riding on his impressive performances at the world stage. He currently has 70,086 points in the

champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, followed by Japan's Kento Momota and another Dane Anders Antonsen.

India's Kidambi Srikanth dropped a rung in the chart to be in the 12th spot with 69,158 points, while B Sai Praneeth also dropped a place to be in the 19th position. Sen rose up the chart riding on his sensational form over the last six months, fin-

winning run at the India Open and his bronze medal feat at the World Championships in December last year.

HS Prannoy and Sameer Verma are the next best placed Indians at the 24th and 26th spots respectively.

Among women, Sindhu has maintained her seventh spot with 90,994 points, while another Olympic medallist

rankings list, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are static at eight spot, while the next best Indians are MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila in the 40th position.

The women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy are also static at 19th spot, while the mixed doubles combination of Ponnappa and Rankireddy occupy the 25th position.

Christian Eriksen? returns to Denmark squad for first time since collapse



COPENHAGEN(KCN): Christian Eriksen has been recalled to the Denmark squad for the first time since he collapsed after a cardiac arrest during a European Championship game in June. The 30-year-old

playmaker, who has been fitted with an implantable cardioverter defibrillator, has resumed his playing career in the last month at English Premier League club Brentford. Denmark plays a

friendly away against the Netherlands on March 26 and hosts Serbia on March 29 as it prepares for the World Cup in Qatar in November.

"Christian is in a pretty good physical




condition," Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said.

"I saw him against Burnley last Saturday where he was the best player on the pitch. He is a player who thinks faster than most people do."

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