

## Launch of new MSME Development Forum team All Set for Urban Poll

Kolkata (KCN, ABHIJIT SETH, KOLKATA): Kolkata recently witnessed the grand launch of a new team of MSME (Micro, Small &

program to boom MSME in West Bengal. MSME Development Forum, a NGO was founded by Mr. Rajnish Goenka, Board Member of MSME Ministry, Government of India who is currently the forum's Chairman.

[\* File contains invalid data | In-line.JPG \*]

The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Rajnish Goenka, Chairman MSME Development Forum,



Medium Enterprises) Development Forum, West Bengal and felicitation of Dr. Mamta Binani as the President of the MSME Development Forum. The Forum started its operations back in the year 2014 and has organized various events, summits, workshops, expos and seminars all over India and abroad as well. MSME Development Forum, West Bengal chapter has been active since last 5 years and now a new team is being led by Dr. Binani as its President with more than 40 executive team members to promote and conduct awareness



New Delhi; Dr. Mamta Binani, President MSME Development Forum, WB; Mr. Suresh Karmali, Chief General Manager National Small Industries Corpor-

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## Center Spends 255 Cr For UDAN In Odisha

New Delhi (KCN): The Government of India has made expenditure of Rs 255.71 crore for the revival and development of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) airports in the State of Odisha under Revival/upgradation of airports/heliports/water aerodromes scheme till December 2021.

Union Minister of State (MoS) for Civil Aviation, VK Singh informed this in Rajya Sabha on Monday.

While giving a written reply to a question asked by BJD MP Sasmit Patra, the Minister said Jharsuguda, Rour-

kela, Utkela, Jeypore and Rangeilunda are the airports in Odisha

18 routes have been operationalized, as on 16 March, 2022, he



that have been identified/awarded under UDAN.

A total of 60 routes have been awarded under UDAN for the State, out of which,

said. Mr. Singh said the Selected Airline Operator (SAO) under UDAN are obligated to commence Regional Connectivity

Scheme (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.

Similarly, Amarda Road, Angul, Barbil, Birasal, Gudari, Hirakund, JayKayPur, Lanjigarh, Nawapara, Padampur, Rairanpur, Raisuan, Sukinda, Therubali, Tushra and Utkela are the unserved airports available in the UDAN Scheme document for the

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## Plane carrying 132 crashes in China, casualties unknown

BEIJING (KCN): A China Eastern passenger jet carrying 132 people crashed in southern China on Monday, aviation authorities said, with state media reporting it led to a fire on a mountain and the number of casualties unknown. The Boeing 737 flight from Kunming city to the southern hub of Guangzhou "lost airborne contact over Wuzhou" city in the Guangxi region, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) said in an online announcement.

"At present, it has been confirmed that this flight has crashed," the CAAC said, adding

that it had activated its emergency response and "dispatched a working group to the scene". The plane was carrying 123 passengers and 9 flight crew members, the CAAC said.

An earlier state media report had said there were 133 people on board.

State broadcaster CCTV reported that the plane crashed in Teng county near Wuzhou and "caused a mountain fire", citing the provincial emergency management bureau.

The report added that rescue teams were dispatched to the scene.

One villager told a CONTINUED ON: P-7



Bhubaneswar (KCN): The State Election Commission (SEC) has made elaborate arrangements for the General Election to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the State.

candidates are there for the election to councillor and corporator seat.

The election will be held at 1672 wards in 106 Municipalities and NACs and 165

Pattamundai Municipality, Kamakhyanagar NAC and Purusho-ttampur NAC. As per norms, the State Government can nominate persons for the vacant posts,

officials will be deployed and they will reach their respective polling booths by March 23 afternoon, he said.

Mr. Padhi said elaborate security arrangements have been made to ensure smooth conduct of the elections. Total 195 platoons of police force will be deployed for the poll, of which 30 platoons of force will be deployed

in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), 20 platoons for Cuttack Municipal Corporation and 10 platoons for Berhampur Municipal Corporations. Besides, 300 mobile parties will also be engaged. Out of the 300 parties, 109 units will be deployed in the three corporation towns during the election, the Commissioner said.

He further informed that one constable/havildar/armed police will be deployed in each booth. However, for sensitive/hypersensitive booths, one constable/havildar along with one armed police personnel will be engaged. Apart from this, 1/4th force led by a police officer will be there to guard one cluster booth.



Aditya Prasad Padhi, State Election Commissioner reviewed arrangements with senior officers of SEC here on 21 March.

The election to 109 ULBs including three Municipal Corporations, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack & Berhampur is scheduled to be held on March 24 while results will be declared on March 26.

Speaking about arrangements made for the poll, State Election Commissioner Aditya Prasad Padhi said 6,411 candidates have remained in the fray for election. While 569 candidates have remained in the battle field for the post of chairperson and mayor, 5,842

wards in three Corporations. Over 40.55 lakh voters are eligible to cast their votes in the election for which voting will be done in between 8 AM to 5 PM, Mr. Padhi said.

The voters will cast their votes in 2,989 booths in 106 Municipalities and 1384 booths in three Corporations, he informed.

The State Election Commissioner further said three corporators of BeMC and 58 councillors of different NACs and Municipalities have been elected unopposed. Besides, no candidate has filed nomination for the post of councillor in one ward in each of

he said.

There are 16 candidates in the race for the post of Mayor in CMC and Chairperson in Baripada Municipality whereas 18 candidates are in fray for the Jeypore Municipality Chairman post. Two ballot units will be given in all booths in these ULBs, said Mr. Padhi. Two EVMs will be used in each booth-one to elect Mayor/Chairperson and another for Corporators and Councillors. For the first time, there will be a none-of-the-above (NOTA) option for voters in the EVMs.

One presiding officer and four polling officers will be engaged in each booth. In total, 22,000 polling

## Ukraine rejects Russian demand for surrender in Mariupol

LVIV (KCN): Ukrainian officials defiantly rejected a Russian demand that their forces in Mariupol lay down arms and raise white flags Monday in exchange for safe passage out of the besieged strategic port city.

Even as Russia intensified its attempt to bombard Mariupol into surrender, its offensive in other parts of Ukraine has floundered. Western governments and analysts see the broader conflict grinding into a war of attrition, with Russia continuing to barrage cities.

In the capital Kyiv, Russian shelling devastated a shopping centre near the city centre killing at least eight people.

The encircled southern city of Mariupol on the Sea of Azov has seen some of the worst horrors of the war, under Russian pounding for more than three weeks. Strikes hit an art school sheltering some 400 people only hours before Russia's offer to open two corridors out of the city in return for the capitulation of its defenders, according to Ukrainian officials.

Ukrainian officials rejected the Russian proposal for safe passage out of Mariupol even before Russia's deadline of 5 a.m. Moscow time (0200GMT) for a response came and went.

"There can be no talk of any surrender, laying down of arms," Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Irina Vereshchuk told the news outlet

Ukrainian Pravda. "We have already informed the Russian side about this."

Mariupol Mayor Piotr Andryushchenko also dismissed the offer shortly after it was made, saying in a Facebook post he didn't need to wait until the morning deadline to respond and cursing at the Russians, according to the news agency Interfax Ukraine.

Russian Col. Gen. Mikhail Mizintsev had offered two corridors — one heading east toward Russia and the other west to other parts of Ukraine. He did not say what Russia planned if the offer was rejected.



The Russian Ministry of Defense said authorities in Mariupol could face a military tribunal if they sided with what it described as "bandits," the Russian state news agency RIA Novosti reported.

Multiple attempts to evacuate residents from Mariupol and other Ukrainian cities have failed or only partly succeeded, with bombardments continuing as civilians tried to flee. City officials said at least 2,300 people have died in the siege, with some CONTINUED ON: P-7

1969 Matric Batch of GS Bidyapitha, Sidheswarpur old students get together

Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : Cuttack Sadar Kandarpur GP historical school Gopal Smruti Bidyapitha at Sidheswarpur 1969 Matric Batch(BSE Odisha) friends get together program held at Maa Kulaisuni Oitha Athanga. In this program all remember their old past



memories & plan for development work of their own school with the addition of Mo School Avijan. This program observed with grand success in presence of Hemanta Das,Radhashyam Bhuyan,Dr.Lingaraj Hota,Gouranga Satapathy,Prafulla Kar,Smt.Satyabhama Jena,Janaki Pradhan,Pramila Sarangi,Rabindra Bhol,Dola Gobinda Lenka,Trilokya Nath Routray,Mohan Sundar Parida,Nanda Kishor Rouf,Rabindra Nath Sahoo,Bijaya Ram Beura,Nityananda Tarai,Bharat Majhi,Biren Das,Sarat Jena and all friends.

No Decision On NALCO Disinvestment

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Union Government has not taken any decision for disinvestment of National Aluminium Company (NALCO). Union Minister of Mines and Coal, Pralhad Joshi informed this in Rajya Sabha while replying to a query of BJD Member Prasanna Acharya on Monday. "Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) and Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) are the two CPSEs under Ministry of Mines which have already been privatized through disinvestment. However, no decision has been taken by the Government for disinvestment of NALCO," Joshi said. "The NALCO has been a profit making Company since inception and has been the 2nd highest net foreign exchange earning CPSE in 2020-21," he said. Government of India is the major shareholder of NALCO since inception, there has been Dividend contribution to National Exchequer. However, as the State Government is not having any shareholding, there has been no Dividend contribution to the State Exchequer, he said. Informing about the dividend paid by company for the last five years to Government of India (Gol), the Minister said NALCO has paid Rs 511.73 crore in 2016-17, Rs 546.95 crore in 2017-18, Rs 545.92 crore in 2018-19, Rs 265.38 crore in 2019-20 and Rs 236.4 crore in 2020-21.

BJP can metamorphose the dream of Barbilian in to reality -Dillip Mishra

Barbil.21st March.(KCN).As the municipal election in Barbil is approaching, various political parties have been tied their knot to conquer . The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has too started campaigning in all nuke corner of the city . BJP leader Dillip Mishra was the last term chairman. He is too contesting this time for the chairman portfolio .He briefed his achievements during his tenure and shown his confident to bag the victory. He has released his mandate describing his achievements and plan for the development of Barbil. At a press conference today, he said in 47 hutting area in all 15 wards of Barbil were developed with paved roads , drinking water and electricity, while 55 Anganwadi houses, community halls and meeting houses were built in each ward. Efforts have been made to make the city pollution-free by paying special attention to drain construction and clean-up. Parks have also been set up at various locations for recreational purposes. Community toilets have been built up in every wards. Health being a primary needs some infrastructure also provided to meet the need. The have

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Khordha BJP Released Sankalp Patra for ULB polls

Khordha(KCN): As campaigning for the March -24 urban poll Khordha town BJP released Sankalp Patra. In a press meet at Anuj shree Kalyan

Candidate Mrs. Kunilata Swain released the Sankalp Patra to make contesting candidates accountable for their poll promises. Speak-

tardy pace of different development projects in Khordha Municipality area. Be it swachhata campaign or drainage problems or road net



Mandap, Khordha, BJP, Odisha State Executive Committee Member Kalu Charan Khandayatray, Senior BJP, leader Nikunja Kishore Pattnaik and Khordha Municipality BJP Chairperson

ing to the media on BJP's agenda for ULB polls Chairperson Mrs. Kunilata Swain said " Khordha people want to change this time. They are totally dissatisfied with the

work all the projects have been hanging fire for several years. She appeals the people to cast their valuable votes in favour of BJP candidates in upcoming ULB polls.

Independent Councillor Candidate Susanta Kumar Jena Put Up Fight Despite Fund Crunch

Khordha (KCN): With barely few days to go

of the town is now dotted with party flag and

publicity messages on loudspeaker. The inde-



for the crucial election to Urban Local Bodies

life size cut outs banners of candidates

pendent candidate are falling behind to some



major political parties including the BJP,

contesting the polls. Though the major po-

extent. However it has not deterred their spirit and they are looking forward to give the heavy weights from different established political parties a tough fight. Susanta Kumar Jena who well known among the slum dwellers and the locality of ward number -8 of Khordha municipality said that he is fighting for the councillor post of ward number -8 with contributions from the voters. The voters of ward number -8 may prove to be a decisive factor in the ULB poll of Khordha municipality. His hopes are high and the motivation is helping him to march ahead. Over priority is now to cover every households and touch the voters through door -to-door campaigning. I am reaching out to the voters by focusing on various agenda.



BJD and Congress have stepped up campaigning in Khordha Municipality areas. Every nook and corner

litical party are spending lavishly on creating the buzz through billboards, posters, leaflet and blaring

SUMUM bags SIGMA Awards

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Continuing with its tradition of winning awards and creating benchmarks, SUM Ultimate



hospital, was chosen as the 'Best CEO and Administrator of the Year' while SUM Covid Hospital, run by SOA, was picked as the 'Best Covid Hospital of the Year' for its efficient handling of the pandemic as it treated hundreds of patients over the last two years. Dr. Dash received the honours from Mr. Anurag Singh Thakur, Union minister for In-

formation and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports at the Six Sigma Healthcare Excellence Awards function held recently at New Delhi. Mr. Atul Kochar, CEO of NABH, was also present. The Six Sigma Award, considered the Oscar of healthcare sector, has boosted SUMUM's credentials as the leading healthcare service provider in eastern India. SUMUM, an initiative of SOA, is a multi-specialty tertiary and quaternary care hospital with 375 beds, ICUs and 14 modular operation theatres which has been extending comprehensive healthcare in over 30 specialties. Besides being a front-runner in extending healthcare facilities as it is known for its renowned specialists, it has excellent infrastructure and the latest in medical equipment. The hospital, having NABH, NABL and HCCP accreditation, offers an affordable pricing structure, quality assurance and transparency of outcome.

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

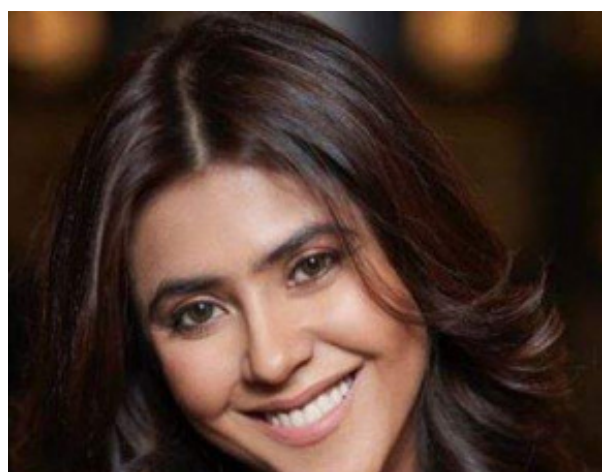


**NEW DELHI:** Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book #YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the cation, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of the former Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

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

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** The Supreme

leged objectionable content in her web



Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for al-

leged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted interim protection to

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

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

blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted

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

movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kidnapping the actor's



Netflix based film "a phenomenal experience". Deshmukh took to Twitter to share a poster of the movie, which features Anurag Kashyap and Anil Kapoor in lead roles. "Mind has been

Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

scene," the 'Housefull' actor's tweet further read. While Kapoor essays the role of a yesterday actor, Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. 'AK vs AK,' revolves around the story of a

daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

## Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

## Necessity of Labour Courts and Labour Tribunals

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 did not contain a provision for dealing with the adjudication of the



Industrial Disputes. There was serious criticism that a large number of industrial disputes remained unresolved due to the lack of any appropriate adjudicating institutions under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (hereinafter referred as "Act").

By the Industrial Disputes (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1956, the old Section 7 was substituted with Section 7, 7-A, 7-B and 7-C. The second schedule of the Act was also inserted by the said Amendment Act, 1956. The earlier system of tribunals under the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act, 1950 a three tier system of original tribunals were substituted and manned by personal of appropriate qualification. Reference to the national tribunals will be made by the Central Government and they will cover disputes which involve the questions of national importance or which are of such a nature that establishment situated in more than one State are likely to be interested in or affected by the dispute.

**Section 7 : The Labour Courts**  
“(1) The appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute one or more Labour Courts for the adjudication of industrial disputes relating to any matter specified in the Second Schedule and for performing such other functions as may be assigned to them under this Act.

- (2) A Labour Court shall consist of one person only to be appointed by the appropriate Government.
- (3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the presiding officer of a Labour Court, unless—
  - (a) he is, or has been, a Judge of a High Court; or
  - (b) he has, for a period of not less than three years, been a District Judge or an Additional District Judge; or
  - (d) he has held any judicial office in India for not less than seven years; or
  - (e) he has been the presiding officer of a Labour Court constituted under any Provincial Act or State Act for not less than five years.

(f) he is or has been a Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) or Joint Commissioner of the State Labour Department, having a degree in law and at least seven years' experience in the labour department including three years of experience as Conciliation Officer:

Provided that no such Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner or Joint Labour Commissioner shall be appointed unless he resigns from the service of the Central Government or State Government, as the case may be, before being appointed as the presiding officer; or

(g) he is an officer of Indian Legal Service in Grade III with three years' experience in the grade.]

**Section 7A: Tribunals:** (1) The appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute one or more Industrial Tribunals for the adjudication of industrial disputes relating to any matter, whether specified in the Second Schedule or the Third Schedule [and for performing such other functions as may be assigned to them under this Act].

- [(1A) The Industrial Tribunal constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (1) shall also exercise, on and from the commencement of Part XIV of Chapter VI of the Finance Act, 2017, the jurisdiction, powers and authority conferred on the Tribunal referred to in section 7D of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (19 of 1952).]
- (2) A Tribunal shall consist of one person only to be appointed by the appropriate Government.
- (3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the presiding officer of a Tribunal unless—
  - (a) he is, or has been, a Judge of a High Court; or
  - (aa) he has, for a period of not less than three years, been a District Judge or an Additional District Judge;\*\*\*]
  - (b) he is or has been a Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) or Joint Commissioner of the State Labour Department, having a degree in law and at least seven years' experience in the labour department including three years of experience as Conciliation Officer:

Provided that no such Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner or Joint Labour Commissioner shall be appointed unless he resigns from the service of the Central Government or State Government, as the case may be, before being appointed as the presiding officer; or

(c) he is an officer of Indian Legal Service in Grade III with three years' experience in the grade.]

(4) The appropriate Government may, if it so thinks fit, appoint two persons as assessors to advise the Tribunal in the proceeding before it.

- [7B. National Tribunals.—(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute one or more National Industrial Tribunals for the adjudication of industrial disputes which, in the opinion of the Central Government, involve questions of national importance or are of such a nature that industrial establishments situated in more than one State are likely to be interested in, or affected by, such disputes.
- (2) A National Tribunal shall consist of one person only to be appointed by the Central Government.
- (3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the presiding officer of a National Tribunal [unless he is, or has been, a Judge of a High Court].
- (4) The Central Government may, if it so thinks fit, appoint two persons as assessors to advise the National Tribunal in the proceeding before it.]

The Industrial Tribunals are constituted for the adjudication of the Industrial Disputes relating to any matter whether specified in the second schedule or the third schedule. The National Tribunals are constituted for the adjudication of the Industrial Disputes which in the opinion of the Central Government involve questions of national importance or are of such nature that the industrial establishments situated in more than one State are likely to be interested in or affected by such disputes. Under the Second Schedule Part A, the following subjects are to be adjudicated by the labour court under Section 7(1A) and Part B of the Second Schedule the following offences under the Central Acts such as the Trade Union

Act, 1926; The Payment of Wages Act, 1936; The Factories Act, 1948; The Minimum Wages Act, 1948; The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948; The Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and the Working Journalist and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Services & Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955; The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961; The Maternity Benefits Act, 1961; The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970; The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972; The Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976; The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; The Inter-State Migrant Workman (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.

**7A: Tribunals**  
The Industrial Tribunals deal with the subjects not only relating to the second schedule but also third schedule. The subjects under second schedule have been mentioned hereinabove but the following subjects under the third schedule to be dealt by the Industrial Tribunals are as under:

- (i) Wages including the period and the mode of payment;
- (ii) Compensatory and other allowances;
- (iii) Hours of work and rest intervals;
- (iv) Leave with wages and holidays;
- (v) Bonus, profit sharing, provident fund and gratuity;
- (vi) Shift working otherwise than in accordance with the pending orders;
- (vii) Classification by grades;
- (viii) Rules of discipline;
- (ix) Rationalization;
- (x) Retrenchment of workman and closure of establishment; and
- (xi) Any other matter that may be prescribed.

However the Section 7-B of the I.D. Act deals with the function of National Tribunals. The Central Government refers the Industrial Disputes for adjudication where in the opinion of the Central Government involve the question of national importance or are of such a nature that the industrial establishment situated in more than one state are likely to be interested in or effected by such disputes. For referring the disputes there is a provision under Section 10 of the Industrial Disputes Act which deals with the procedure for referring a dispute to boards or tribunals.

**Section 10A deals with the award**  
“[10A. Voluntary reference of disputes to arbitration.—

(1) Where any industrial dispute exists or is apprehended and the employer and the workmen agree to refer the dispute to arbitration, they may, at any time before the dispute has been referred under section 10 to a Labour Court or Tribunal or National Tribunal, by a written agreement, refer the dispute to arbitration and the reference shall be to such person or persons (including the presiding officer of a Labour Court or Tribunal or National Tribunal) as an arbitrator or arbitrators as may be specified in the arbitration agreement.

- [(1A) Where an arbitration agreement provides for a reference of the dispute to an even number of arbitrators, the agreement shall provide for the appointment of another person as umpire who shall enter upon the reference, if the arbitrators are equally divided in their opinion, and the award of the umpire shall prevail and shall be deemed to be the arbitration award for the purposes of this Act.]
- (2) An arbitration agreement referred to in sub-section (1) shall be in such form and shall be signed by the parties thereto in such manner as may be prescribed.
- (3) A copy of the arbitration agreement shall be forwarded to the appropriate Government and the conciliation officer and the appropriate Government shall, within [one month] from the date of the receipt of such copy, publish the same in the Official Gazette.

[(3A) Where an industrial dispute has been referred to arbitration and the appropriate Government is satisfied that the persons making the reference represent the majority of each party, the appropriate Government may, within the time referred to in sub-section (3), issue a notification in such manner as may be prescribed; and when any such notification is issued, the employers and workmen who are not parties to the arbitration agreement but are concerned in the dispute, shall be given an opportunity of presenting their case before the arbitrator or arbitrators.]

- (4) The arbitrator or arbitrators shall investigate the dispute and submit to the appropriate Government the arbitration award signed by the arbitrator or all the arbitrators, as the case may be.
- [(4A) Where an industrial dispute has been referred to arbitration and a notification has been issued under sub-section (3A), the appropriate Government may, by order, prohibit the continuance of any strike or lock-out in connection with such dispute which may be in existence on the date of the reference.]
- (5) Nothing in the Arbitration Act, 1940 (10 of 1940), shall apply to arbitration under this section.]

**Section 11 A: Powers of Labour Courts, Tribunals and National Tribunals for giving appropriate relief in case of discharge, dismissal of workman:**  
“[11A. Powers of Labour Courts, Tribunals and National Tribunals to give appropriate relief in case of discharge or dismissal of workmen.— Where an industrial dispute relating to the discharge or dismissal of a workman has been referred to a Labour Court, Tribunal or National Tribunal for adjudication and, in the course of the adjudication proceedings, the Labour Court, Tribunal or National Tribunal, as the case may be, is satisfied that the order of discharge or dismissal was not justified, it may, by its award, set aside the order of discharge or dismissal and direct reinstatement of the workman on such terms and conditions, if any, as it thinks fit, or give such other relief to the workman including the award of any lesser punishment in lieu of discharge or dismissal as the circumstances of the case may require:

Provided that in any proceeding under this section the Labour Court, Tribunal or National Tribunal, as the case may be, shall rely only on the materials on record and shall not take any fresh evidence in relation to the matter.]”

**Section 12 deals with the duties of the Conciliation Officer:**

**R.S. Jena**

“(1) Where any industrial dispute exists or is apprehended, the conciliation officer may, or where the dispute relates to a public utility service and a notice under section 22 has been given, shall hold conciliation proceedings in the prescribed manner.

- (2) The conciliation officer shall, for the purpose of bringing about a settlement of the dispute, without delay, investigate the dispute and all matters affecting the merits and the right settlement thereof and may do all such things as he thinks fit for the purpose of inducing the parties to come to a fair and amicable settlement of the dispute.
- (3) If a settlement of the dispute or of any of the matters in dispute is arrived at in the course of the conciliation proceedings the conciliation officer shall send a report thereof to the appropriate Government [or an officer authorised in this behalf by the appropriate Government] together with a memorandum of the settlement signed by the parties to the dispute.
- (4) If no such settlement is arrived at, the conciliation officer shall, as soon as practicable after the close of the investigation, send to the appropriate Government a full report setting forth the steps taken by him for ascertaining the facts and circumstances relating to the dispute and for bringing about a settlement thereof, together with a full statement of such facts and circumstances, and the reasons on account of which, in his opinion, a settlement could not be arrived at.
- (5) If, on a consideration of the report referred to in sub-section (4), the appropriate Government is satisfied that there is a case for reference to a Board, [Labour Court, Tribunal or National Tribunal], it may make such reference. Where the appropriate Government does not make such a reference it shall record and communicate to the parties concerned its reasons therefor.
- (6) A report under this section shall be submitted within fourteen days of the commencement of the conciliation proceedings or within such shorter period as may be fixed by the appropriate Government:

[Provided that, [subject to the approval of the conciliation officer,] the time for the submission of the report may be extended by such period as may be agreed upon in writing by all the parties to the dispute.]

**Section 15 deals with the duties of the Labour Courts, Tribunals and National Tribunals:**

[15. Duties of Labour Courts, Tribunals and National Tribunals.—Where an industrial dispute has been referred to a Labour Court, Tribunal or National Tribunal for adjudication, it shall hold its proceedings expeditiously and shall, [within the period specified in the order referring such industrial dispute or the further period extended under the second proviso to sub-section (2A) of section 10], submit its award to the appropriate Government.]”

**Section 16 deals with the form of report or award.**  
“[16. Form of report or award.—(1) The report of a Board or Court shall be in writing and shall be signed by all the members of the Board or Court, as the case may be: Provided that nothing in this section shall be deemed to prevent any member of the Board or Court from recording any minute of dissent from a report or from any recommendation made therein.

(2) The award of a Labour Court or Tribunal or National Tribunal shall be in writing and shall be signed by its presiding officer.]”

**Section 17A deals with the commencement of the award.**  
“[17A. Commencement of the award.—(1) An award (including an arbitration award) shall become enforceable on the expiry of thirty days from the date of its publication under section 17:

Provided that—

- (a) if the appropriate Government is of opinion, in any case where the award has been given by a Labour Court or Tribunal in relation to an industrial dispute to which it is a party; or
- (b) if the Central Government is of opinion, in any case where the award has been given by a National Tribunal, that it will be inexpedient on public grounds affecting national economy or social justice to give effect to the whole or any part of the award, the appropriate Government, or as the case may be, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that the award shall not become enforceable on the expiry of the said period of thirty days.
- (2) Where any declaration has been made in relation to an award under the proviso to sub-section (1), the appropriate Government or the Central Government may, within ninety days from the date of publication of the award under section 17, make an order rejecting or modifying the award, and shall, on the first available opportunity, lay the award together with a copy of the order before the Legislature of the State, if the order has been made by a State Government, or before Parliament, if the order has been made by the Central Government.
- (3) Where any award as rejected or modified by an order made under sub-section (2) is laid before the Legislature of a State or before Parliament, such award shall become enforceable on the expiry of fifteen days from the date on which it is so laid; and where no order under sub-section (2) is made in pursuance of a declaration under the proviso to sub-section (1), the award shall become enforceable on the expiry of the period of ninety days referred to in sub-section (2).
- (4) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (1) and sub-section (3) regarding the enforceability of an award, the award shall come into operation with effect from such date as may be specified therein, but where no date is so specified, it shall come into operation on the date when the award becomes enforceable under sub-section (1) or sub-section (3), as the case may be.]”

**Section 17B deals with the payment of full wages to workman during pending proceedings in higher courts.**

“[17B. Payment of full wages to workman pending proceedings in higher courts.—Where in any case, a Labour Court, Tribunal or National Tribunal by its award directs reinstatement of any workman and the employer prefers any proceedings against such award in a High Court or the Supreme Court,

the employer shall be liable to pay such workman, during the period of pendency of such proceedings in the High Court or the Supreme Court, full wages last drawn by him, inclusive of any maintenance allowance admissible to him under any rule if the workman had not been employed in any establishment during such period and an affidavit by such workman had been filed to that effect in such Court:

Provided that where it is proved to the satisfaction of the High Court or the Supreme Court that such workman had been employed and had been receiving adequate remuneration during any such period or part thereof, the Court shall order that no wages shall be payable under this section for such period or part, as the case may be.]”

**Section 18 deals with the settlement and awards so far the binding is concerned.**

“[(1) A settlement arrived at by agreement between the employer and workman otherwise than in the course of conciliation proceeding shall be binding on the parties to the agreement.

(2) [Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3), an arbitration award] which has become enforceable shall be binding on the parties to the agreement who referred the dispute to arbitration.]

[(3)] A settlement arrived at in the course of conciliation proceedings under this Act [for an arbitration award in a case where a notification has been issued under sub-section (3A) of section 10A] or [an award [of a Labour Court, Tribunal or National Tribunal] which has become enforceable] shall be binding on—

- (a) all parties to the industrial dispute;
- (b) all other parties summoned to appear in the proceedings as parties to the dispute, unless the Board, [arbitrator,] [Labour Court, Tribunal or National Tribunal], as the case may be, records the opinion that they were so summoned without proper cause;
- (c) where a party referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) is an employer, his heirs, successors or assigns in respect of the establishment to which the dispute relates;
- (d) where a party referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) is composed of workmen, all persons who were employed in the establishment or part of the establishment, as the case may be, to which the dispute relates on the date of the dispute and all persons who subsequently become employed in that establishment or part.”

**Section 19 deals with the period of operation of settlements and awards.**

- “(1) A settlement [\*\*\*] shall come into operation on such date as is agreed upon by the parties to the dispute, and if no date is agreed upon, on the date on which the memorandum of the settlement is signed by the parties to the dispute.
- (2) Such settlement shall be binding for such period as is agreed upon by the parties, and if no such period is agreed upon, for a period of six months [from the date on which the memorandum of settlement settlement is signed by the parties to the dispute], and shall continue to be binding on the parties after the expiry of the period aforesaid, until the expiry of two months from the date on which a notice in writing of an intention to terminate the settlement is given by one of the parties to the other party or parties to the settlement.
- [(3) An award shall, subject to the provisions of this section, remain in operation for a period of one year [from the date on which the award becomes enforceable under section 17A]:

Provided that the appropriate Government may reduce the said period and fix such period as it thinks fit: Provided further that the appropriate Government may, before the expiry of the said period, extend the period of operation by any period not exceeding one year at a time as it thinks fit so, however, that the total period of operation of any award does not exceed three years from the date on which it came into operation.

- (4) Where the appropriate Government, whether of its own motion or on the application of any party bound by the award, considers that since the award was made, there has been a material change in the circumstances on which it was based, the appropriate Government may refer the award or a part of it [to a Labour Court, if the award was that of a Labour Court or to a Tribunal, if the award was that of a Tribunal or of a National Tribunal] for decision whether the period of operation should not, by reason of such change, be shortened and the decision of [Labour Court or the Tribunal, as the case may be] on such reference shall, [\*\*\*] be final.
- (5) Nothing contained in sub-section (3) shall apply to any award which by its nature, terms or other circumstances does not impose, after it has been given effect to, any continuing obligation on the parties bound by the award.
- (6) Notwithstanding the expiry of the period of operation under sub-section (3), the award shall continue to be binding on the parties until a period of two months has elapsed from the date on which notice is given by any party bound by the award to the other party or parties intimating its intention to terminate the award.
- [(7) No notice given under sub-section (2) or sub-section (6) shall have effect, unless it is given by a party representing the majority of persons bound by the settlement or award, as the case may be.]”

The labour courts or tribunals play a vital role in dispensing with the justice between the employers and the employees / workers. Labour courts have been endowed with the authority to exercise the power of adjudication of the disputes and any order is passed by the labour courts/tribunals are binding upon the parties to the disputes. The role of the labour courts / tribunals is of public importance and quasi-judicial in nature. The appropriate government may by notification constitute one or more labour courts for the adjudication of the Industrial Disputes relating to any matter specified in the second schedule and for performing such other functions as may be assigned to them under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

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# World Odisha Society Hosts 'Shakti Utshav'

Toronto/ Sydney/ Manchester/Seoul/ A b u D h a b i / Day by World Odisha Society, Chief Guest Prof Lal underlined



New Delhi / Bhubaneswar/ Cuttack (KCN): World Odisha Society (WOS) can play a dominant role worldwide in establishing Peace, harmony and tranquillity, asserted



that the creator of whole cosmos, Adishakti has always been engaged in caring, upbringing and protecting Her creations. The Festival was attended by prominent NROs from different Countries, Representatives of Odia Diaspora Worldwide and Members of World Odisha Society. Speaking during the virtual Convention as Guest of Honour the Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly Dr Surjya Narayan Patro observed that Women have been excelling in every professions stretching from Politics, Education, IT, Defence, Science, Administration and Judicial services. Dr Patro presented strong ar-

## Delhi- Doha flight emergency landing: 283 Passengers flown out to destination in alternative flight

KARACHI/NEW DELHI: A Qatar Airways flight from New Delhi to Doha made an emergency landing early Monday in Pakistan's southern city of Karachi after it de-



veloped a "technical fault", according to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) here. Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) spokesman Saifur Rehman confirmed that Qatar Airways' flight QR-579 had landed

Doha-bound flight of Qatar Airways QR579 had taken off from New Delhi at 3.20 (India time) and made an emergency landing in Karachi around 5.30 in the morning. "The captain declared an emergency after detection of

gument in favour of providing women their due rights. Delivering her speech the Founder of WOS



Dr Arundhati Debi of World idisha Society Kishore Dwibedi CMO of Rourkela based ESI Hospital



the requisite reformation and restraint to manage both Home and Society efficiently. Dr Debi emphasised that guaranteeing proper respect, justice and opportunity to women

informed that WOS's countries enrolment has been increased to 63 nations. President of WOS's Women's Wing Dr Sunanda Mishra Panda highlighted that the Supreme Prowess of the

Mother of whole Universe has been proved ages after ages. In a powerpoint presentation, the

ress Archita Sharma gave a clarion call to commence the mission of empowering Women from each household of the country. Presenting vote of thanks the General Secretary of the Women's Wing of WOS Dr Chidatmika Khatua, declared that Women's power is invincible, unparallel and indomitable. In the creative presentations section Ollywood Singer Antara Chakraborty and eminent vocalist Abantika Patnaik enthralled the audiences

Dr Archana Barik placed highest priority on the provision of Health, Hygiene and Safety for the mother. Admitting the fact that Delhi is still far away, Chief Speaker, noted Ac-

writer Snehalata Canada Dr Tanmay Prusty received much Panda, Vice President



colades for her highly spirited and prolific poetry recital acumen. Banojini Nayak from Singapore presented and moderated the entire session in a smooth and seamless manner. Nandan Dwibedi ably handled the digital control room. Distinguished Dignitaries present include President of Australia Odia Samaj Dr Nalini Pati, General Secretary of Odisha Samaj UK Siba Ranjan Biswal, Founder of KANSA from

## 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 involvement 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 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 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. 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.

# Odisha Govt ready to implement PM-ABHIM SOA Launches Drugs Awareness

BHUBANESWAR: Despite being one of the three states and Union territories that have not



joined the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), Odisha government has decided to implement the PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

The PM-ABHIM is a pan-India health scheme for strengthening health care infrastructure at the grassroots. Launched in October 2021 with an outlay of Rs 64,180 crore, it aims to accomplish the vision of comprehensive health care across the country in the next five years.

The Health and Family Welfare department has designated Odisha State Health and Family Welfare Society as the single nodal agency for implementing the new health infrastructure scheme in the State. As part of the scheme, Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres will be set up at 17,788 sub-health centres in

the rural areas in seven high focus states, including Odisha and three northeastern states.

As many as 11,044 health and wellness centres along with 3,383 block public health units will be established in urban areas in 11 high focus states/UTs. Integrated district public health laboratories will be set up in all districts apart from critical care hospital blocks in government medical colleges or district headquarters hospitals which cater to a population of more than five lakh.

"The Centrally-sponsored scheme (CSS) will fill the critical gaps in public health infrastructure, especially in critical care facilities and primary care in both the urban and rural areas," said a senior health official.

Despite constant persuasion by the Centre, the Odisha government has refused to implement AB-PMJAY on the pretext that the Union Ministry of Health did not fulfil the State's demands. The State has been demanding the inclusion of 70 lakh families in the scheme and not to make Aadhaar card mandatory for patients seeking treatment at government hospitals.

Instead of AB-PMJAY, the State has implemented its flagship Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) health assurance scheme covering 3.5 crore people from 93 lakh families. Men and women have been provided an annual health coverage of Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh respectively under the State scheme.

## Lensman Manas Swain Murder: Former Odisha I&PR Director Arrested

Bhubaneswar: Odisha police arrested former Information & Public Relation (I&PR) Director (Technical) Niranjn Sethi in connection with the sensational murder case of cameraman Manas Swain.

Niranjn Sethi along with his associate identified as Ranjan Nayak has been arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder case. "Niranjn Sethi, who is the retired OIS Officer, is accused of conspiring to murder Manas Swain, physical assault and disposing of the body following murder," informed

news portal, who is suspected to be the key conspirator behind murder of the cameraman, is still at large.

According to reports, Manas Swain, a resident of Godipokhari village in Ranpur area of Nayagarh, was working as a cameraman in a Bhubaneswar-based web portal 'Sampoorna' run by Sarmistha Rout.

On February 7, he had been to Chandbali area in Bhadrak district to shoot a wedding event, but disappeared. On March 12, his body was recovered from Badhipatna hills in



Bhadrak Additional SP Jatin Panda today. "Manas was assaulted physically at 'Dayal Ashram', an old age home located on outskirts of Bhubaneswar, and was hit with a fatal weapon," police added.

"We have ample of evidence against Niranjn Sethi," the official said.

When asked about the cause behind murder, Panda said, "We are looking for the microchip of the camera that would reveal the truth."

Sethi and another accused Ranjan Nayak were arrested following interrogation in connection with the murder case.

Source said that Sethi was picked up from his residence in Bhubaneswar late on Sunday for interrogation in the case.

Reportedly, police found a mobile phone belonging to the deceased cameraman from a tea seller in Chandikhol area in Jajpur district.

Earlier, Chandbali Police had arrested three accused persons in the case. With this, the number of arrestees increased to five so far. However, Sarmistha Rout, the owner of a

Rajsunakhala area of Nayagarh.

Also Read: The curious case of Odisha cameraman's murder and an accused woman On the other hand, complaints were filed at Ranpur, Bhubaneswar and Chandbali by Manas' family members regarding his missing. Acting on the complaints, police nabbed Bhagyadhar Nayak, a driver who took Manas to Chandbali for video shoot. During interrogation, he disclosed entire incident.

Based on his statement, Chandbali police with help of police personnel from Ranpur exhumed the body from Badhipatna hills in Nayagarh district.

During the probe into the case, police also arrested two others identified as Vivek Nayak of Dhamada village in Ranpur and Krushna Chandra Nayak of Old Town area in Bhubaneswar in connection with the murder of Manas Swain.

Initial probe indicated that Manas Swain was killed for possessing a microchip that is suspected to have contained some obscene video clips.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Drugs and crime are two sides of the same coin and it is imperative for the younger generation not only to keep away from narcotics but also battle the menace for the betterment of the society, Commissioner of Police, C u t t a c k - B h u b a n e s w a r Commissionerate Police Soumendra Priyadarshi, said on Monday.

"Narcotic substances have been ruining families and derailing society. It is for the youth to fight this menace to safeguard the society," Priyadarshi said while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'Youth for Drug Free Society: Challenges and Perspectives' at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here.

Quoting statistics, Priyadarshi said the police had arrested 303 persons in connection with crimes

in recent months which included looting and snatching in Bhubaneswar city of whom 128 were found to be drug ad-

against drug menace in the twin cities, Priyadarshi said everyone should join this battle. He called upon the

Suwendu Narayan Mishra of the Department of Psychiatry in IMS and SUM Hospital, Dr. Hara Prasanna Das, Chair-



man, Manaba Adhyayana Kendra and Dr. Paresh Chandra Mohanty, Director of Talent Stigma.

A slogan writing competition held to mark the occasion was won by SOA Community Radio 90.4. The slogan was written by RJ S u b h r a s i m a Mohanty.

Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, SOA's Dean (Students' Welfare) welcomed the guests while Prof. Bijay Kumar Sahoo, Dean of IAS proposed the vote of thanks.

students of SOA to actively participate in the campaign against drugs and spread the message in the society that this menace needed to be fought valiantly.

Dr. Uma Shankar Das, Deputy Commissioner of Police, who attended the program as honoured guest, said everyone should join the battle against narcotics to make the society crime free. SOA's Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda presided over the event which was addressed by Prof.

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# India, Australia set to conclude Rs 1,500-crore early harvest trade deal this month

NEW DELHI: India and Australia are on course to ink an early harvest trade deal by end of this month while Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison is set to unveil a Rs 1,500-crore investment package to boost the bilateral ties at a virtual summit with PM Narendra Modi on Monday. The likely finalisation of the early harvest or 'Phase-one' of the comprehensive economic cooperation agreement was confirmed by Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell on Sunday.

"We are hopeful of signing the Phase one (early harvest) trade deal by end of this month," O'Farrell told reporters.

At present, the bilateral trade volume is estimated at around USD 12 billion and it is expected to witness an increase following the signing of the early harvest trade deal on goods and services. Monday's summit follows the historic first virtual summit between Modi and Morrison in June 2020, when the India-Australia relationship was elevated to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.

Diplomatic sources said the summit will reflect that Australia and India are "top tier partners" and they are ready for wider ambition and practical progress in a fast-changing world.

They said Morrison will announce a Rs 1,500-crore investment package (Australian dollar 280 million) for expanding cooperation in a range of areas including clean technology and critical minerals and the space sector. At the summit, the two sides are expected to make a specific announcement on cooperation in rare earth minerals.

Australia accounts for 55 per cent of global lithium production and it possesses over 20 per cent of global lithium deposits. Union Mines Minister Prahlad Joshi is likely to travel to Australia soon to explore specific projects relating to rare earth minerals. The sources said Rs 152 crore of the total package will be set aside for setting up of new centres to further enhance bilateral ties, a separate amount of Rs 97 crore will be for skill development programmes and Rs 136 crore will be earmarked for boosting space cooperation. The financial package of Rs 1,500 crore will form the largest ever Australian government investment in the India-Australia bilateral relationship, they said.

The sources said an announcement is likely to be **Ukraine rejects Russian demand for surrender in Mariupol**

Continued from page-1

buried in mass graves.

Tearful evacuees from devastated Mariupol have described how "battles took place over every street."

Ahead of the latest offer, a Russian airstrike hit the school where some 400 civilians had been taking shelter and it was not clear how many casualties there were, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video address early Monday.

"They are under the rubble, and we don't know how many of them have survived," he said. The fall of Mariupol would allow Russian forces in southern and eastern Ukraine to unite. But Western military analysts say that even if the surrounded city is taken, the troops battling a block at a time for control there may be too depleted to help secure Russian breakthroughs on other fronts.

Ukrainians "have not greeted Russian soldiers with a bunch of flowers," Zelenskyy told CNN, but with "weapons in their hands."

U.S. President Joe Biden was expected to talk later Monday with the leaders of France, Germany, Italy and Britain to discuss the war, before heading later in the week to Brussels and then Poland for in-person talks.

Zelenskyy has been pleading with the U.S. for more aircraft and advanced air-defence systems, while NATO members on the alliance's eastern flank have also been looking for missile defence systems from the U.S. and Britain.

More than three weeks into the invasion, the two sides now seem to be trying to wear down the other, experts say, with bogged-down Russian forces launching long-range missiles at cities and military bases as Ukrainian forces carry out hit-and-run attacks and seek to sever Russian supply lines.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Ukrainian resistance means Russian President Vladimir Putin's "forces on the ground are essentially stalled."

"It's had the effect of him moving his forces into a woodchipper," Austin told CBS on Sunday.

The strike on the art school was the second time in less than a week that officials reported an attack on a public building where Mariupol residents had taken shelter. On Wednesday, a bomb hit a theatre where more than 1,000 people were believed to be sheltering.

There was no immediate word on casualties in the school attack, which The Associated

made at the summit having an India-Australia young defence officers exchange programme.

The programme is likely to be named after India's first Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Bipin Rawat, who died in a helicopter crash in December. The two sides are also expected to firm up a letter of intent on the migration and mobility of citizens of the two countries. Australia is also likely to announce the return



of 29 Indian artefacts from its museums.

The sources said Modi and Morrison will focus on building a robust bilateral architecture considering the post-pandemic world.

"Prime Minister Morrison will make announcements on a range of creative new initiatives to lift the relationship to even a higher level," a source said. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said Modi and Morrison are expected to commit to closer bilateral ties in trade, critical minerals, migration and mobility, and education.

"The virtual summit will lay the way forward on new initiatives and enhanced cooperation in a diverse range of sectors between India and Australia," it said. "Prime Minister Modi and I will discuss deepening our trade and investment relationship and harnessing new economic opportunities to support our mutual economic recovery and growth," Morrison said in a statement on Friday.

Ties between India and Australia have been on an upswing in the last few years.

In June 2020, India and Australia signed a landmark Press could not independently verify. Ukrainian officials have not given an update on the search of the theatre since Friday, when they said at least 130 people had been rescued and another 1,300 were trapped by rubble.

City officials and aid groups say food, water and electricity have run low in Mariupol and fighting has kept out humanitarian convoys. Communications are severed.

Some who were able to flee Mariupol tearfully hugged relatives as they arrived by train Sunday in Lviv, about 1,100 kilometres (680 miles) to the west.

"Battles took place over every street. Every house became a target," said Olga Nikitina, who was embraced by her brother as she got off the train. "Gunfire blew out the windows. The apartment was below freezing."

In Ukraine's major cities, hundreds of men, women and children have been killed in Russian attacks.

In Kyiv, eight people were killed by shelling in the densely populated Podil district not far from the city centre Sunday, emergency officials said. It devastated a shopping centre, leaving a flattened ruin still smouldering Monday morning in the midst of high-rise towers. The force of the explosion shattered every window in the high-rise next door and twisted their metal frames.

In the distance, the sound of artillery rang out as firefighters picked their way through the destruction. Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said Russian shelling also hit several houses in Podil.

Russian troops have been shelling Kyiv for a fourth week now and are trying to surround the capital, which had nearly 3 million people before the war.

Britain's defence ministry said Monday that Ukrainian resistance had kept the bulk of Russian forces more than 25 kilometres (15 miles) from the city centre, but that Kyiv "remains Russia's primary military objective."

The U.N. has confirmed 902 civilian deaths in the war but concedes the actual toll is likely much higher. It says nearly 3.4 million people have fled Ukraine. Estimates of Russian deaths vary, but even conservative figures are in the low thousands.

The Ukrainian prosecutor general's office says at least 115 children have been killed and 148 injured.

Some Russians also have fled their country amid a widespread crackdown on dissent. Russia has arrested thousands of antiwar protesters, muzzled independent media and cut access to social media sites like Facebook and Twitter.

deal for reciprocal access to military bases for logistics support. The Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) allows militaries of the two countries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies, besides facilitating scaling up of overall defence cooperation.

The Australian Navy was part of the Malabar naval exercise hosted by India in November 2020 as well as last year. The navies of the US and Japan were also part of it. Australia was part of the Malabar exercise this year as well. Australia on Sunday said the Quad member countries have accepted India's position on the Russian attack on Ukraine and that no country would be unhappy as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been using his contacts to call for an end to the conflict.

Separately, diplomatic sources said India's position on the Russian invasion appeared to be driven by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's policy in 1957 that India was not in the business of condemnation and it focusses on creating a space for resolution of conflicts. The crisis in Ukraine is expected to figure in Modi's virtual summit with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Monday amid some disquiet in the West over India's position on the conflict. Unlike its Quad partners -- the US, Japan and Australia -- India has not condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and has been maintaining that the crisis should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

"The Quad countries have accepted India's position. We understand that each country has a bilateral relationship and it is clear from the comments of the MEA (Ministry of External Affairs) and Prime Minister Modi himself that he has used his contacts to call for the end of the conflict and no country will be unhappy with that," Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell told reporters.

The Australian envoy was asked about increasing disquiet in the West over India's position on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its purchase of discounted crude oil from Russia. On Friday, Morrison said the situation in Ukraine and its implications for the Indo-Pacific will figure in his virtual summit with Modi. The diplomatic sources cited above said India's position on Ukraine is reflective of Nehru's policy in 1957 that India was not in the business of condemnation and it was in the business of creating a space for resolving conflicts.

"No one has ever accused India of supporting what is going on in Ukraine. What India seems to be doing is trying to operate within the policy outlined by Nehru 65 years back," said a source.

**Plane carrying 132 crashes in China, casualties unknown**

Continued from page-1

local news site that the plane involved in the crash had "completely fallen apart" and he had seen nearby forest areas destroyed by a fire caused when the plane crashed onto the mountainside.

Fears for the fate of the jet spread on Monday afternoon as local media reported that China Eastern flight MU5735 had not arrived as planned in Guangzhou after taking off from Kunming shortly after 1:00 pm (0500 GMT). There was no immediate response from China Eastern when contacted by AFP. The airline had changed its website to black and white colours on Monday afternoon.

"The exact location of the accident was Langnan township in Teng county," a local official told AFP, without giving further details.

Flight tracker FlightRadar24 showed no more data for flight MU5735 after 2:22 pm local time, when it had reached Wuzhou. It showed that the plane had sharply dropped from an altitude of 29,100 feet to 3,225 feet in the span of three minutes, before flight information stopped.

China had enjoyed an enviable air safety record in recent years in a country crisscrossed by newly built airports and serviced by new airlines established to match the country's breakneck growth over the last few decades.

A Henan Airlines flight crashed in northeastern Heilongjiang province in 2010, killing at least 42 out of 92 people on board although the final toll was never confirmed.

It was the last Chinese commercial passenger flight crash that caused civilian casualties. The deadliest Chinese commercial flight crash was a China Northwest Airlines crash in 1994 which killed all 160 onboard.

Most of the passengers onboard the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, which disappeared in March 2014 en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, were from China.

Referring to Japanese PM Fumio Kishida seeking Modi's cooperation in convincing Russian President Vladimir Putin to maintain a free and open international order, the sources said it reflects India's significance and expectations from it.

The situation in Ukraine figured prominently in summit talks between Modi and Kishida on Saturday. After the talks, Kishida said at a media briefing that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has "shaken" the roots of international order and asserted that attempts to alter the status quo by using force in any region should never be tolerated.

There has been increasing uneasiness in the West over India deciding to purchase discounted crude oil from Russia.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said on Tuesday said that India taking the Russian offer of discounted crude oil would not be a violation of the US sanctions on Moscow but underlined that countries should also think about "where you want to stand" on the Russian action.

An India-Japan joint statement, issued after talks between Kishida and Modi on Saturday, said the two leaders expressed serious concern over the conflict and pitched for an immediate end to violence and resolution of the situation through dialogue and diplomacy. After the conflict began, Modi has held three telephonic conversations with Russian President Putin and spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy twice. On March 3, the leaders of the Quad countries held a virtual meeting to discuss the Ukraine crisis. A joint readout released by the White House had said that US President Joe Biden, Modi, Morrison and Kishida discussed the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine besides assessing its "broader implications".

"They agreed to stand up a new humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mechanism which will enable the Quad to meet future humanitarian challenges in the Indo-Pacific and provide a channel for communication as they each address and respond to the crisis in Ukraine," it said.

**Center Spends 255 Cr For UDAN In Odisha**

Continued from page-1

State.

However, no valid bid has been received for operations of UDAN flights from these airports, till completion of the 4.1 round of bidding under the scheme, he informed.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN (UdeDesh ka Aam Nagrik) on October 21, 2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable for the masses.

UDAN is a market driven scheme. Interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN, added the Union MOS.

**Launch of new MSME Development Forum team**

Continued from page-1

ation (NSIC), Kolkata; Mr. Debabrato Mitra, Joint Director MSME Development Institute, Kolkata; Mr. Pramod Kumar Goenka, Secretary General MSME Development Forum, WB; and Mr. Sidharth Mandal, Assistant General Manager- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) among others. A detailed explanation about the facilities provided by Government under Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Government of India were given out during the event.

Dr. Mamta Binani, President, MSME Development Forum, West Bengal said, "The motto of West Bengal Chapter is to give information, support, advocacy for start-ups, Women Entrepreneurs, Schedule Caste Start-ups, establish udyam by new policy developed by government. MSMEs are an important sector for the Indian economy and have contributed immensely to the country's socio-economic development. It not only generates employment opportunities but also works hand-in-hand towards the development of the nation's backward and rural areas".

The Government of India has introduced MSME or Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in terms with Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act of 2006. These enterprises are primarily engaged in the production, manufacturing, processing, or preservation of goods and commodities. According to the annual report by the Government (2018-19), there are around 6,08,41,245 MSMEs in India. In India, MSMEs contribute nearly 8% of the country's GDP, around 45% of the manufacturing output, and approximately 40% of the country's exports.

## Top government officials review Hockey World Cup plans

**ROURKELA:** A high-level team of Odisha government comprising Chief

The stadium is billed to be India's largest with a seating capacity of more than

projects under the Smart City Mission include Rourkela-One, a traffic com-

derway for the transformation of another 100 in the district. Under the



Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapara and 5T Secretary VK Pandian on Friday reviewed the ongoing infrastructure projects at Rourkela ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023.

The top government officials took stock of the ongoing works at Birsa Munda International hockey stadium at Chhend Colony here which is scheduled to co-host the showpiece event along with Kalinga Stadium at Bhubaneswar.

20,000. It is being executed by the IDCO. Industries Secretary Hemant Sharma, Sports, and Youth Services Secretary R Vineel Krishna, and IDCO Managing Director Bhupender Singh Poonia were also part of the team. Attending a review meeting at Rourkela airport, the Chief Secretary directed officials of Sundargarh administration to ensure timely completion of all ongoing projects before the mega event. The

mand center, tribal museum, convention hall, market complex, recreational facilities, roads, and beautification among other things. The team also visited the government high school at Uditnagar here and reviewed the progress of the second phase high school transformation programme of the State government under the 5T Initiative. In the first phase, 67 government high schools in Sundargarh have been transformed while efforts are un-

programme, government high schools are being given a complete facelift with the addition of facilities like smart classrooms, e-library, modern science laboratory, playground, toilet, and clean drinking water. Among others, Rourkela MLA Sarada Prasad Nayak, Sundargarh Collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan and Commissioner of Rourkela Municipal Corporation Dr S u b h a n k a r Mohapatra were present.

## Pakistan recovers to restrict Australia to 232-5 in third test

**LAHORE:** Pakistan recovered from dropped catches to restrict Australia to 232-5 and deny Usman Khawaja a second consecutive century on Day 1 of the third and final test on Monday. Fast bowler Naseem Shah, the only Pakistan change from the second drawn test at Karachi, picked up 2-36 to lead a fightback in the last session after Australia won the toss and opted to bat on another slow and low-bouncy wicket. Cameron

mid-wicket. But the ball spun away sharply and took the thick outside edge of the bat. Naseem was finally rewarded for his disciplined bowling when he had Steve Smith (59) trapped leg before wicket and also found the outside edge of Travis Head (26). Smith faced 169 balls and hit six fours before he was undone by Naseem's delivery, which came back sharply and hit the batter's knee in front of the stumps. Head's below-par se-

bat and struck his pads. Warner didn't go for a television referral. Marnus Labuschagne then got his second duck in the series when he drove recklessly in the same over and got a thin outside edge. Pakistan went with the extra pace option in the bowling attack and included Naseem in place of all-rounder Faheem Ashraf. Australia retained the same XI which toiled for nearly 172 overs on the last two days of the second test but couldn't force a win at Karachi, where Babar played a marathon inning of 196. Australia's historic first tour of Pakistan in 24 years has added significance going into the series decider. Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium is hosting its first test in 13 years since a terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka team's bus in 2009 that led to a lengthy absence of international cricket in Pakistan. No players in the starting XI have played a test match at the Gaddafi Stadium, where Babar made his one-day international debut against Zimbabwe in 2015 when Pakistan started its campaign to win back the confidence of foreign teams and the resumption of international cricket. Azhar Ali is the most senior cricketer in the Pakistan XI, having played 93 tests, but is featuring in his first test in his hometown.

Khawaja and Smith thwarted Pakistan. Khawaja didn't score a boundary over the first hour and also survived a sharp chance on 12 when Azam couldn't get down in time to hold onto an edge in the slip. Smith also had an early escape on 19 when left-arm spinner Nauman Ali couldn't hold onto a sharp return catch immediately after Khawaja's edge slipped under Babar's hands. Pakistan's fast bowlers bowled in



Green was unbeaten on 20 and Alex Carey was not out on 8 when bad light stopped play two overs before the scheduled close. The Pakistan-born Khawaja, who scored 160 and 44 not out at Karachi and 97 runs in the opening test draw, fell for 91 when Babar Azam plucked a brilliant one-handed shin-high catch in the slip. Khawaja batted for nearly 5-1/2 hours for his resilient 219-ball knock before he tried to flick off-spinner Sajid Khan (1-65) to

ries continued and despite getting a reprieve on 7 when Sajid couldn't grab a chest-high catch of his own bowling, he couldn't last long enough. Khawaja and Smith had revived Australia from the early jolt of Shaheen Shah Afridi (2-39) with a 138-run stand in almost four hours before Pakistan hit back with three late wickets. Left-arm fast bowler Afridi had picked up two wickets in his second over to cut Australia to 8-2 before

short spells but both Smith and Khawaja negated the reverse swing on a flat wicket with the mercury hovering around mid-30 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit). Earlier, Smith and Khawaja led Australia's recovery and carried the visitors to 70-2 by lunch before adding further 75 runs in the second session. David Warner (7) was pinned on his crease by a delivery which seamed back into the left-hander, beat the

## Spanish League: Barcelona makes statement with big win at Real Madrid

**MADRID:** Barcelona's players had just returned to the locker room when Gerard Piqué put out a message on Twitter.

"We are back," it read. Piqué and his teammates had stayed on the field at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium celebrating the team's commanding 4-0 victory over Real Madrid in the Spanish league. They jumped and sang along with the few hundred visiting fans still left at the mostly empty venue. Inside, coach Xavi Hernández waited to embrace each player as they returned. "Vamos, vamos! (Let's go!)," was the common exchange.

It was the type of statement Barcelona needed in a difficult rebuilding year following the departure of Lionel Messi and the collapse of its finances.

The rout on the road against the team's biggest rival — which had been comfortably leading the Spanish league and had just eliminated Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League — reassured Barcelona that it's on the right path.

"This can change the dynamic of the present and the future," Xavi said. "We hadn't been having many reasons to celebrate in the recent past and today we made a statement. You can say we are on our way back. We competed against Real Madrid in their stadium and could have won by more goals. It was spectacular."

Barcelona has finally found its stride after a slow start to the season, which included being eliminated from the Copa del Rey and Spanish Super Cup. Xavi revamped Barcelona's offence and it has thrived recently with a more vertical attacking style that damages opponents with quick and efficient bursts. The club has outscored opponents 24-5 in its last eight matches in all competitions thanks in part to new signings Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Ferran Torres. Aubameyang scored twice and Ferran added another Sunday to take their combined tally to 15 goals since joining the club this year. Ronald Araujo scored the other Barcelona goal

against Madrid, which had won the last five consecutive "clásicos." "This reinforces our project, reinforces our style, reinforces me as a new coach" Xavi said. "There is no doubt this is how Barcelona has to compete."

Xavi neutralized Madrid after counterpart Carlo Ancelotti tried to use Luka Modric as a false-nine to replace the injured Karim Benzema, Madrid's top player this season and the league's scoring leader. "We were able to play well behind the lines when their midfielders moved up and that allowed us to create many scoring chances," Xavi said. "This victory gives us great confidence to keep working hard. We showed ourselves that we can compete against anyone."

Ancelotti took the blame for the loss, saying his tactics were wrong. He tried to use Mariano Diaz up front in the second half but it also didn't work. Eden Hazard was



on the bench but didn't play. "I told the players it was my fault," the Italian said. "It wasn't a good plan. Barcelona played better and deserved the victory." Barcelona's impressive rout also earned praise from outside Spain.

"It was a pleasure to watch this amazing performance tonight," Bayern Munich forward Thomas Muller wrote on Twitter. The victory kept Madrid from opening a 12-point lead over second-place Sevilla with nine matches to go. Barcelona is 12 points adrift with a game in hand. The Catalan club had been near midtable early in the season. "They are letting us dream about winning the league, and dreaming is free," said Barcelona veteran Dani Alves, who made his 400th appearance with the club Sunday. Barcelona's next league match is at home against Sevilla, which is three points ahead. Barcelona is also in the quarterfinals of the Europa League after failing to get past the group stage of the Champions League for the first time in nearly a decade. "We have to stay humble. We didn't win a title today," Xavi said. "We celebrate now and then we have to start thinking about our next match."




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