

## Motivational Strips founder applauds credentials of its Administration members

Kuala Lumpur (KCN): The Malaysian Ministry of Communication & Multimedia honoured distinguished artists in the field of writing, musical arts, theater arts,

She was honored for her invaluable contribution to National literature and theatre arts. Dr Raja Rajeswari joined Motivational Strips, the worlds most active writers forum six

Bahasa Dan Pustaka (DBP). Both the entities agreed upon literary joint efforts to empower Malay literature worldwide while supporting global literature. Motivational Strips

mostly selfless in their efforts to take literature to greater scales and well embellished with authentic and distinguished government Honours. Motivational Strips



film arts, fine arts and dance arts yesterday. Motivational Strips Sr Advisor for Malay Literature and Translations Dr Raja Rajeswari Seeta Raman was one of the distinguished poet cum translator honoured by the Malaysian Government during the occasion.

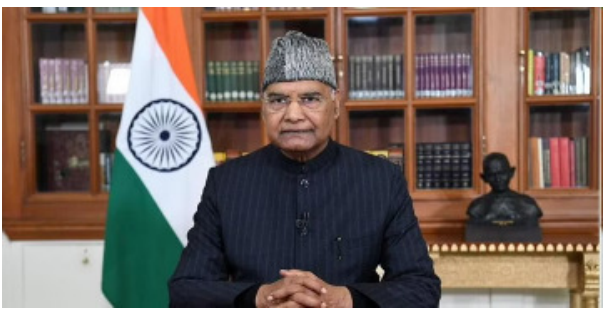
months ago as its Sr Advisor to focus on Malay Literature and Translations. Subsequent to her new role, Dr Raja along with the founder of MS had initiated the association of Motivational Strips with Malaysian Government's highest literary authority Dewan

Founder and President Shiju H Pallithazheth stated during the occasion "It's a blessing that most of the forum administration members have accumulated literary expertise, trust and good will from the global fraternity of literary aspirants. They are

Media Spokesperson Sreekala P Vijayan informed our correspondent that MS founder Shiju H and it's forum Director Sabrina Bryant had extended their congratulations note to Dr Raja Rajeswari on the occasion.

## President confers Padma Shri on 5 Odias

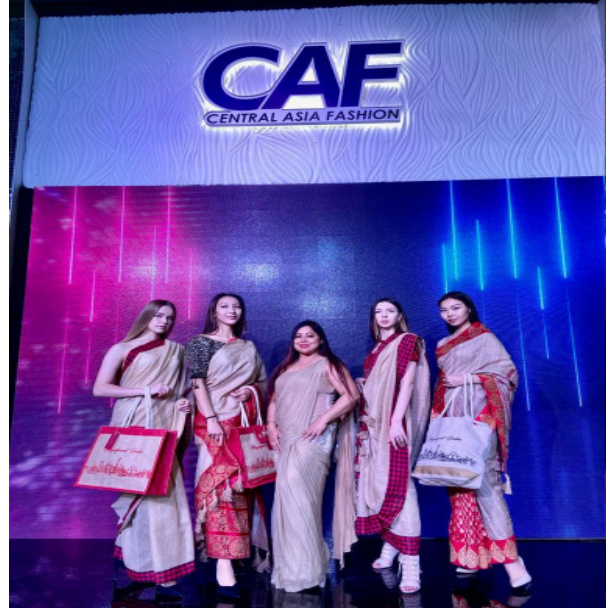
BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The prestigious Padma awards for the year 2022 were conferred upon five eminent Odias for their contribution to various sectors at the Civil Invest-



ment Ceremony-I held in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on Monday. This year, the government has selected seven eminent person-

## Chaitali Das CEO Rakshak Foundation highlighted UN SDG's by promoting environment friendly jute, Daughter of India applauded in Kazakhstan

Kolkata (KCN): Ms the 29th "CENTRAL ASIA FASHION."



Commerce organised the India Pavilion at Khazakistan walked the ramp with

alities from Odisha to receive the Padma awards. President of India Ram Nath Kovind conferred Padma Shri - India's fourth highest civilian honour - on litterateur Narasingha Prasad Guru, singer Dr Shyamamani Devi, biologist and academician Prof Aditya Prasad Dash and social activist Baba Balia. The Presi-



dent also conferred Padma Shri on Dr Guruprasad Mohapatra posthumously for civil service. The award was

## Chaitali Das CEO Rakshak Foundation highlighted UN SDG's by promoting environment friendly jute, Daughter of India applauded in Kazakhstan

ecofriendly Jute bags from Ms Chaitali



Das's creation and my label Jute Story printed - It was 'Magnificent India' at the CENTRAL ASIA FASHION CAF IN KHAZAKSTAN IN

## Odisha: Former public relations official to Governor, CM held in cameraman murder case, sordid details emerge

BHUBANESWAR/BHADRAK(KCN): In a shocking twist to the murder of cameraman Manas Swain, police on Monday arrested Niranjana Sethi, a retired officer of the Odisha government who once served as public relations officer (PRO) with the Governor and Chief Minister's office.

The Odisha Information Service (OIS) officer was allegedly present when Swain was forcibly brought to an old age home in Bhubaneswar where he was beaten to death and his body disposed of in Nayagarh district, Additional SP of Bhadrak Jatin Panda told the mediapersons. Niranjana had last month retired as Director (Technical) of Information and Public Relations department. He was the Raj Bhavan PRO when Gopala Ramanujan was Governor between February 13-December 13, 1997. He had also worked as PRO of former chief minister Giridhar Gamang between February 17, 1999 and December 6 the same year.

So far, police have arrested five persons in connection with the case - Niranjana, Ranjan Nayak, Bhagyadhar Nayak, Bibek Nayak and Krushna Chandra Nayak. However, the alleged mastermind of the crime, Sarmistha Rout, a Bhubaneswar-based web channel and vernacular periodical Sampurna's editor, is still absconding. Manas had earlier worked with the web channel of Sarmistha for about six months but quit in January after a fallout with her.

Why he quit and what led to his murder remains under investigation but Sethi's links

have opened a can of worms in the I and PR department because he is believed to have facilitated accreditation for Sarmistha's vernacular daily.

The periodical was allegedly recommended for government accreditation during the last days of Niranjana's tenure as Director (Technical). It was given an advertisement tariff



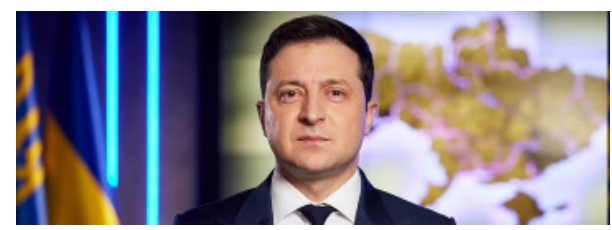
which was also higher than other periodicals, sources say. How all this escaped the notice of the higher-ups of the department remains a mystery.

Police said initial investigation suggests that Manas was murdered as he was in possession of a memory chip having some sensitive content related to some high profile people. Manas had visited Palashpur village in Bhadrak district on February 6 to shoot a wedding. He was on his way to Digachhia on a two-wheeler the next morning when at least five persons - Sarmistha, another woman, Ranjan, Bhagyadhar and Bibek waylaid him.

Sarmistha asked Manas for the memory chip. When he said the memory chip was in Bhubaneswar, they bundled the cameraman into the car and took him to an elderly people's shelter home - Dayal Ashram, run by Sarmistha, near Sundar-

## Ukraine President Zelenskyy to address Japanese parliament

TOKYO (KCN): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is set to virtually deliver his address to the Japanese parliament on Wednesday to rally



international support for his country's fight against Russian invasion.

Japan, unlike in the past, has been acting

## 61 BJD candidates win uncontested in Odisha urban polls

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The winning spree of ruling BJD in the urban local body polls has started with 61

hyanagar NAC in Dhenkanal district and Purusottampur NAC in Ganjam district.

March 24. Around 30 platoons will be posted in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

elections, the SEC said campaigning for the three municipal corporations, 47 municipalities and 59 NACs will end at 5 pm on March 22. Polling will be held from 8 am to 5 pm, while counting of votes will take place on March 26. Over 22,000 personnel will be engaged in poll work.

He said that the highest number of 18 candidates are contesting for the post of chairperson of Jeypore municipality. Besides, 16 candidates each are in the fray for the post of Mayor of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation and chairperson of Baripada municipality. As mayors and chairpersons are being elected directly, two EVMs will be used at each booth - one for councillor/corporator and the other for chairperson/mayor, he added.



candidates of the party emerging victorious uncontested from different wards. The elected candidates include three from the Berhampur Municipal Corporation. Besides, no nomination papers have been filed in one ward each of Pattamundai municipality in Kendrapara district, Kamak-

Announcing this at a media conference here on Monday, State Election Commissioner (SEC) Aditya Prasad Padhi said that councillors to these three wards will be nominated by the State government. The SEC said that 195 platoons of police will be deployed to ensure incident free elections on

while 20 and 10 platoons will be deployed in Cuttack and Berhampur municipal corporations respectively. Besides, 300 mobile parties will be deployed, of which 109 will be engaged in the three municipal corporations. Stating that over 40.55 lakh voters will cast their votes in the

# E-Library inaugurated

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a historic move, the High Court of Orissa has dedicated e-Libraries for the Bar Associations of the 30 Districts and 2 outlying stations in Koraput and Rourkela in an event organized through virtual mode here on

tended the event. All India Reporter (AIR) online, Manupatra and CO ROM version of Orissa Law Times (OLT) have been made available in the e-Libraries provided to the Bar Associations. The infrastructure for the e-Library

lawyers in the State would be benefited by the e-Libraries. Justice Arindam Sinha, Judge, High Court of Orissa and Chairman, High Court's Library Committee, speaking on the occasion, highlighted the importance of e-Library in

challenges faced by the budding lawyers in keeping themselves abreast with the latest judicial pronouncements of the Supreme Court and High Courts. He said that the objective of dedicating e-Libraries to the Bar Associations was to



Tuesday. Chief Justice of the High Court, Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar and Judges of the High Court of Orissa were present on the occasion. The District Judges, Judicial Officers and Office Bearers of the Bar Associations of all the 30 Districts at

and the subscription for the journals have been provided by the High Court. Nirmal Kishore Rath, the President of Federation of All Orissa Bar Associations addressed the occasion. Rath welcomed the initiative of the High Court as historic and said that thousands of

the legal profession. He expressed hope that the provision of e-Libraries would help the young lawyers in remaining updated in developments in the field of law. Chief Justice Dr. S. Muralidhar, delivering the keynote address, discussed the

facilitate the young aspirants in accomplishing their ambition of becoming good lawyers. The Chief Justice said that he was confident that best use of e-Libraries would be made by the Bar Associations. This initiative of the High Court has been hailed by the legal fraternity of the State.

## President Kovind presented Padmashri Award to Shri P R Agarwala

Kolkata(KCN):President Kovind presents Padma Shri to Prahalad Rai

Agarwala ji, being the Chairman of Heritage Institute of Technol-



Agarwala for Trade & Industry. He is the Chairman and founding member of RUPA and its group companies. Pradip Agrawal, CEO of Heritage Group of Institutions said, "we are very proudly mention that such an honour to Sri Prahlad Rai

ogy and Founder Trustee, Kalyan Bharti Trust, is a prestigious gift on the completion of 20 years of the Institute. I must salute on his humbleness and greatness as he feels that such an award is recognition for his entire family as well as for the entire society."

## Cuttack poll candidates switch to cooler times as heat hits campaigning

CUTTACK(KCN): The rise in mercury levels seems to have thrown campaigning of different political parties for Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) election out of gear. Empty roads and streets in the city speak volumes about the scorching heat with temperature hovering above 38 degree Celcius. Campaigning has turned out to be a tough task for the candidates and party workers, who have been forced to rework their strategies ahead of polls on March 24. They are now seen campaigning either during the morning hours or from the evening to late in the night. Congress Mayor candidate Giribala Behera said, "We are campaigning in two phases from 8 am to 12 noon and from 4 pm to 11 pm now." The ruling BJD candidate Subhas Singh prefers campaigning during morning hours and after 5 pm. "We start campaigning at 7 am and take a break at 11.30 am. We again begin our campaign after 5 pm," said Singh. "Starting the campaign by 6 or 7 am in the morning and staying indoors between 11 am and 4 pm is the way of beating the heat and meeting the voters," said BJP's Mayor candidate Sritam Das. Moreover, the three major political parties are now found to be holding their workers' meeting during the evening hours. Campaigning in this weather is almost like a punishment for all politicians who are used to air conditioners, said Akhila Odisha Jhopadi Patti Mahasangha President Brundaban Das Azad, who is contesting for the Mayor post as an Independent. "I don't care about the prevailing heat wave conditions. I visit voters in sahis and slums while providing water to citizens during the peak time of the heat wave during the day," said Azad.

## Suresh Prabhu MP, former Railway Minister and UP CM Yogi Adityanath meet at Parliament house

Kolkata (KCN): meeting with Chief Minister of UP Honourable Sri Suresh Prabhakar Honourable Shri



Prabhu, MP (and former Union Minister for Multiple Ministries) had a congratulatory Yogi Adityanath Ji at parliament House a few days ago. He was accompanied by Ms Uma

# Police arrests Jagadev

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Senior lawmaker Prasanta Kumar Jagadev, who plowed his car into a crowd at Banapur in Khurda district on March 12, arrested here on Tuesday. Mr. Jagadev, who was under treatment in a hospital in Bhubaneswar after being beaten by the mob during the incident, was arrested after discharge from the hospital, police said. After producing the MLA before a local court in Bhubaneswar, he will be taken to Banapur police station.

tion for the post of block chairman was

dent, the irate people thrashed the MLA se-

car of the Jagadev was damaged and overturned by the irate people.

In September last year, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had suspended Mr. Jagadev following a video that has gone viral in which the MLA was thrashing a BJP leader of his Chilika constituency. The MLA is infamous for his 'indecent' behaviors. In August 2020, a junior engineer had registered a complaint alleging misbehavior by Mr. Jagadev over booking a guest house. Prior to that in 2016, he was in media limelight for allegedly assaulting a lady Tehsildar.



This incident happened on March 12 morning near the Banapur block office where indirect elec-

underway. Several people and cops were injured in the incident. Following this inci-

verely, who was first admitted in Tangi hospital and later shifted to a hospital in Bhubaneswar. The

# Lack of transparency in Supreme Court collegium proceedings: Hansaria

CUTTACK(KCN): Constitutional expert Vijay Hansaria on Monday questioned the lack of transparency of collegium proceedings regarding recommendation for appointment and transfer of judges despite a specific reso-

Challenges' organized by the High Court Bar Association. Hansaria pointed out that on October 3, 2017, the collegium of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra and the four senior-most judges resolved that

sions, the collegium resolutions have been uploaded on the website from October 3, 2017 till October 3, 2019. But no resolutions have been uploaded on the website since October 15, 2019. Instead, only statements are up-

downward" in the status of the Chief Justice and judges of the High Courts. "This needs to be stopped as the High Court is the final court for a vast majority of the country and if its stature is eroded,



lution of the Supreme Court. Hansaria, a senior advocate of Supreme Court, was delivering the Soudamini Pattnaik Law Lecture on 'Judicial Independence: Perspective, Accountability and

the resolutions and also the reasons shall be put on the website of the Supreme Court "to ensure transparency and yet maintain confidentiality in the collegium system." In accordance with the aforesaid deci-

loaded. None of the websites of the 25 High Courts of the country has uploaded the collegium resolutions passed by the respective High Courts. Hansaria also expressed serious concern over "drift

the independence of judiciary is at crossroads," he said. Hansaria said the status of High Courts and Chief Justices have been diluted in recent years by their repeated transfers.



Sabha. Great to meet him again with my family, as he begins his new

innings. His renewed efforts to put Uttar Pradesh on fast development track. Con-

gratulations Yogi Adityanath Ji on winning historic victory. For the first time in the Electoral History of UP has an Honourable Chief Minister won re-election for

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**Vikrant Massey's 'Cargo' to be screened at South by Southwest festival in US**



**MUMBAI(KCN):** Vikrant Massey-starrer "Cargo" will have its North American premiere at the 2020 edition of South by Southwest (SXSW) festival. The science fiction film, written and directed by Arati

Kadav, also features Massey's "Mirzapur" co-star Shweta Tripathi and actor Nandu Madhav. The story revolves around a lonely demon Prahastha who has been working on a spaceship for years for the Post Death

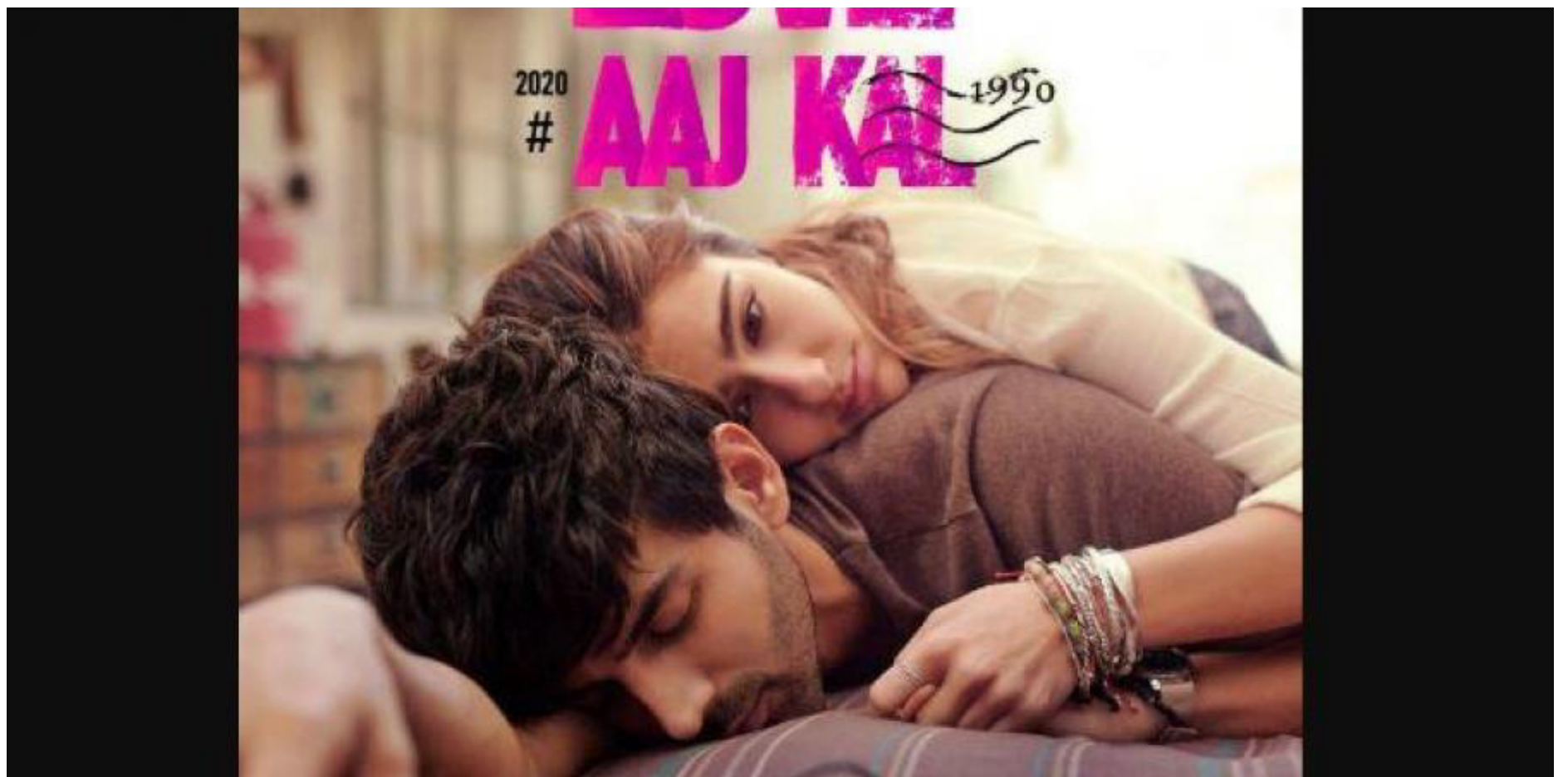
Transition services with the help of a female astronaut where dead people are recycled for rebirth. "Cargo" will be screened under the Global section of the film festival which will run from March 13 to 21.

Vikrant, who most recently featured alongside Deepika Padukone in "Chhapaak", said it makes him "proud" that the film has been chosen for the prestigious film gala. "Cargo" is one of the first Indian sci-fi

films to be there. And I feel blessed for receiving so much applause not just from the country but across the world. People have loved Chhapaak, they have embraced it with open arms and now 'Cargo' being selected

at this big a platform, I feel really fortunate," the actor said in a statement. "Cargo", which had its India premiere at the 2019 MAMI Film Festival under the spotlight section, is produced by Arati, Navin Shetty, Shlok Sharma and Anurag Kashyap.

**First look of Imtiaz Ali's Love Aaj Kal two released**



Kartik Aryan and Sara Ali Khan are the new romantic pair in Imtiaz Ali's Love Aaj Kal. Yes, the film's titled just that, not Love Aaj

Kal 2 or Aaj Kal. In a poster, we get a glimpse of their characters, Veer and Zoe, nodding off on top of each other. The poster also re-

veals the film's timeline, which will run from 1990 to 2020. "Meet Veer and Zoe, captured in their element. It's in these

simple, candid moments that love plays peekaboo, right? Love Aaj Kal," Imtiaz wrote. "Meet Veer and Zoe. Come get wound up

in our whirlwind wonderland Love Aaj Kal trailer out tomorrow," Sara added. The new Love Aaj Kal was shot in

Himachal Pradesh, Mumbai, and Rajasthan. The sequel also stars Randeep Hooda. The film is slated for Valentine's Day release.

**No proof to link Netflix's '13 Reasons Why' to high US suicide rates: Study**

**NEW YORK(KCN):** Contrary to the findings of a 2019 study that associated the Netflix series "13 Reasons Why" with an increase in monthly suicide rates among youth after the show's release, a new analysis finds no evidence to draw such a link. The reanalysis, published in the journal PLOS ONE, revealed that after controlling for the dramatic increase in adolescent suicide in recent years, the show's release had no clear effect. "Our reanalysis casts

considerable doubt on the show having an effect on boys," said study author Dan Romer and research director of the Annenberg Public Policy Centre (APPC) from the University of Pennsylvania in the US. The reanalysis found that the increase in the suicide rate for boys observed in the original study by Jeffrey Bridge and colleagues for three months after the series' release was no longer evident after controlling for the ongoing trend in adolescent suicide.

In addition, the increase seen during the first month of the release began the month prior to the release, making it difficult to attribute the rise to the show. The reanalysis found no effects in the subsequent months of that year. The original time-series analysis of suicide rates found an additional 195 suicide deaths among boys ages 10 to 17 during the nine months following the series' release, on March 31, 2017, but did not find a similar result among adoles-

cent girls. Romer said he questioned that finding for two reasons: "First, contagion would be expected to be stronger for girls than boys because this show focuses on the suicide of a high school girl. Second, the prior analysis didn't take into account strong secular trends in suicide, especially in boys from 2016-2017." When the first season of the Netflix show appeared in 2017, it created widespread concern that its graphic portrayal of a teenage girl's suicide

would lead to imitation among vulnerable young people, especially adolescent girls. The first such study found evidence of a jump in suicides among boys ages 10 to 17 in the three months following the show's release, but no effect for girls. Romer said that analysis relied on a forecasting method to project the likely trend in suicide for 2017. But that forecast failed to anticipate the actual trend. A second study by different researchers, published in JAMA

Psychiatry had a similar problem, Romer said. That study found an effect in boys and girls 10 to 19 years old in the three months following the series' release. But it similarly failed to control for the secular trend in suicide, again making it difficult to separate the effects of the show from the trend. APPC's reanalysis did find a modest rise in the suicide rate among adolescent girls during the first month following the release of "13 Reasons Why," but it was not statistically reliable, the researchers said.

# An open letter from Ukraine

“Ukraine’s defiance of Russia’s heinous invasion has outperformed all expectations.



Ukraine’s defiance of Russia’s heinous invasion has outperformed all expectations. Many in the West were perplexed by Ukrainians’ devotion to their freedom and democracy. Losing our country would be a death sentence for us. And it is for this reason that we fight - defeat is not an option. Many in the West were perplexed by Ukrainians’ devotion to their freedom and democracy. Losing our country would be a death sentence for us. And it is for this reason that we fight - defeat is not an option.”

This statement was delivered by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to a joint session of the United States Congress as well as to parliaments across Europe. He also requested further military aid and the formation of a no-fly zone for humanitarian rather than military reasons. Many countries have moved up to offer crucial military and humanitarian aid. However, given Russian President Vladimir Putin’s stated determination to escalate the violence, Ukraine still requires additional assistance.

While the US, Poland, and many other freedom-

**Pratap Kishore Mohanty**

loving countries stand firm in support of Ukraine, some European states are willing to tolerate a Ukraine partially controlled by Russian invaders if it means they can continue to buy Russian gas and oil and conduct business as normal.

However, doing business as normal today entails accepting Russian bombings on maternity wards and theatres packed with citizens seeking refuge. These crimes are part of Russia’s blockade of Mariupol, which has left hundreds of thousands of people without food, clean water, energy, or communication. There have been almost 1,200 civilians killed. Russia broke an agreement on a humanitarian corridor nearly as soon as it was established. This is how wars are fought. In 1999, it did it in Grozny, and in 2015, it did it in Syria. It is now being done in Ukraine. This is a savage drive to obliterate Ukraine — its people, culture, and history — from the map.

Many people anticipated incorrectly that Ukraine would fall in 72 hours, but few foresaw the mass crimes that Russian troops would commit, despite their lengthy history of total contempt for human life and a hunger for blood and devastation. Only the formation of a no-fly zone to protect humanitarian corridors, as the US and its friends and partners did in Iraq in

1991, Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1993 to 1995, and

Libya in 2011, would put an end to the bloodshed. Despite the fact that these countries were not members of NATO, the West intervened to stop the barbaric targeting of civilians and to permit humanitarian aid, saving countless lives. If the West would not do it now, we will request the necessary armaments so that we may do it ourselves. If not, the West’s collective conscience will be burdened by the loss of people, infrastructure, enterprises, and historic buildings and monuments. President Biden said on March 11 that the US “will not wage a war against Russia in Ukraine.” The truth is that Russia is already at war with the West, not simply Ukraine. Russians are battling for the ideals that Ukraine shares with the West in order for the West to acknowledge Moscow’s sole right to determine how other countries should live. You may be reluctant to go to war, but the Russian aggressor has made the choice for you. A new world order has emerged. Those who stay by Ukraine and fight for shared ideals will lead it, while those who do not will lose political, economic, and ideological power. This new paradigm is being forged by the United States, Poland, and many other countries, but President Zelenskyy is the unchallenged leader. He has demonstrated fortitude and resilience in

front of NATO and the European Union, and he has galvanised the West as a whole around the need to safeguard democratic ideals.

Ukrainian troops, on the other hand, are facing a Russian force that is just getting started. A Russian force that continues to obliterate Ukrainian cities with indiscriminate cruise missile and MLRS bombardments. Ukrainians are eager to fight this battle for both the West and themselves, but we won’t be able to do so without the requisite military hardware. We need the defensive lethal assistance President Zelenskyy has requested repeatedly: fighter jets, air and missile defence systems, drones, anti-armor weapons, guns, ammunition, protective equipment. If we don’t get the equipment we need to succeed, Putin won’t stop in Ukraine. He will go for NATO next. For the time being, Ukrainian military, people, and volunteers from all over the world are heroically repelling Russian invaders. The people of Ukraine have demonstrated that they can lead the fight for democracy against tyranny. We just need more support. We say to all freedom-loving people all throughout the world, “This is your battle, too.” Help us win it. If not, the harshest dictatorship since World War II will triumph over Europe.

Academic Consultant in Sociology, Odisha State Open University, Sambalpur

# Boundless Agony

Addressing a joint session of the US Congress via a video link, Ukraine’s president Volodymyr Zelenskyy requested



the lawmakers to help his country fight the Russian aggression. Asking for an enforcement of a no-fly zone and supplies of weapons, he probably made the

world know about the last attempt of retaliation his country was planning to make. Surrounded by the Russian force, Ukraine’s capital Kyiv at any time from now would come to its knees. This war has almost crushed the tiny nation with no scope of return in its recent future. What can a war be defined as? Maybe there are many definitions that we can quote from. But no definition is genuinely capable to justify the destruction and calamity a war can inflict. War, in many ways, is an attempt to draw justice lines between the winner and the loser. World history without the history of wars does not make it complete and realistic. As Putin’s Russia pounced on Ukraine spitting fire from the skies, a toothless Biden looked on with the magic wand of sanctions in his hands and the rest of the world reacted with little cough and sneeze and some countries like India chose to take a diplomatic nap. This is the present situation. Whatever, wars hold the potentiality to not only bring catastrophe in the blink of an eye, but their shackling effects remain for long. In the case of Russia and Ukraine, both will be susceptible to the effect of a ‘shake after the fall’ and the subsequent horror of silence. What next? Is it the end of human history? Probably not. Every war is capable of bringing a halt to human progress but definitely it takes a new turn, a new beginning. Just before the invasion began did

the world take a sigh of relief from the deadly pandemic.

**M. R. LALU**

People across the globe witnessed massive shortages of resources, disruptions and price inflation pushing millions to die an unholy death without being able to receive even the last rites as per their religious norms. Countless unidentified dead bodies thrown into pits with an unceremonious burial being awarded to them, with no remorse of any kind, except one thing which was universal and common for everyone and that was death. Without being discriminative on the rich and the poor, it gained an acceptance of identity realizing that it was the only phenomenon that everybody was equally eligible to come across. Now the world is once again paying for the ruthlessness that it is drowned in, with the essence of humanity probably shrinking to the level of an outmoded perception. With the war barely showing any sign to settle, energy prices are sure to skyrocket. Common man around the world is once again deemed to pay a heavy price for his innocence and the unpardonable silence on the wrath that the war is all about. The most disruptive question is, between the pandemic and the war, which one is going to ruin the world substantially, though a large part of the world does not directly come under the fire of Putin’s missiles. Shelled, fired and destroyed to the last brick, the land of Ukraine will lie screaming and yelling at the world with an excruciating shudder, raising the most significant question ever, as why the powerful international conglomerations to protect human rights and ensure safety, failed to gain peace for it. The Russian troops are targeting its hospitals, schools, and residential areas with millions of innocent Ukrainians crying for international aid and a safe evacuation. More alarming is the requirement of food and

medicine and other essential commodities without

which human life is at a standstill. Zelenskyy’s symbolic repudiation has accelerated the damage that his country is suffering. A puppet government is what the Russian invasion’s immediate achievement is predicted as going to be. For the rebuilding of Ukraine and its massive infrastructure requirement, the invader would also have to find more resources than what he may actually have in his country’s exchequer. This is going to cause severe economic imbalance in Russia too. Every war with its catastrophic destruction would make the world take charge of the massive exodus that it triggers. Unfortunately, the mental agony of the families that got separated and whose dreams terribly squeezed under the wreckage would go for years. And to the soldiers, who took part in the war and managed to pull through, would undergo huge mental and physical health issues disrupting the congeniality of their families. It is not only the direct victim who suffers the negatives of the war, but the one who pugnaciously invaded also would undergo the same situation. To put words into perspective, for Putin, his blitzkrieg is a corrective step that he is taking on an unruly brother who seemed to have had a provocative derailment. And the war is an action in the direction of the liberation of a tiny nation from its Eurocentric impulsion. One thing is sure, Ukraine is at the brink of an egregious collapse. It seems to have been overenthusiastic to grab an access to NATO for which it is paying a heavy price shedding blood and tears. Though the Ukrainian president, an antithesis to Putin, promised to withdraw his country’s plan, Russia is committed to continue its authoritarian hostility. Failing to stretch

an open and adequate defense aid to Ukraine, the west and the western press has chiseled a hero out of Zelenskyy, who dared to stand face to face against the Russian tyranny. Ukraine’s dilemma is, it is deeply geographically befuddled between its gigantic neighbor and the European conglomeration. With my intense pursuit of the latest development on war, what literally surprised me was a Ukrainian soldier with weapons in his hands, was reciting a verse from the Bhagavad Gita to a media person from India. The verse was Lord Krishna’s words to a rattled Arjuna at the warfront of Kurukshetra trying to raise him from the mental decline that he had fallen into. Krishna said “O Son of Kunti, either you will be killed on the battlefield and attain the heavenly planets, or you will conquer and enjoy the earthly kingdom. Therefore, get up and fight with determination.” The soldier found this verse the best and accurate for him to rely on, as he stands up against the acrimony of the invader with a readiness to embrace death or win a war for his country. The spirit to kill and die fighting the “peacekeeping duties” of Mr. Putin, is the highest mission that the Ukrainians are involved in. The world is still clueless on the turn that the war is potential to take and probably unprepared to face its nasty effects beyond borders. Every war is a reminder to the people, a lesson, that the dream for a new paradise never comes from turning their living space a hell. Now let us eagerly wait for what our gigantic neighbor, the dragon, has in its mind. Is Taiwan an easy catch for the dragon or is it India it can easily meddle with?

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## After praising India for its foreign policy, Imran back to old ways by lashing out over Kashmir

NEW DELHI: Two days after praising Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan for his foreign policy, he lashed out at India while addressing the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Islamabad. He was speaking at the 48th meeting of the OIC foreign ministers in Islamabad. Imran Khan said that Pakistan has not acted to stop the narrative of 'Islamic terrorism', which went unchecked after the 9/11 attacks. Imran referred to the shooting at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2019 and claimed it was a result of stereotyping of Muslims into "moderate" and "radical" categories. "Once that happens, how is the man in the street in Western countries, how is he supposed to differentiate between a moderate Muslim and a radical Muslim? Hence, this man walks into a mosque and shoots everyone he could," Imran said. The two-day meeting of the OIC foreign ministers will focus on the theme of "building partnerships for unity, justice and development". Forty-six of the 57 OIC member states are being represented at the ministerial level. Interestingly, in a first, China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, attended this meeting on Tuesday. Though mention was made of Palestine and other Muslim nations like Syria regarding human rights violations, there was no mention of the Uyghurs.



India and its independent foreign policy, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has changed tack and lashed out at it while raking up the Kashmir issue. He was speaking at the 48th meeting of the OIC foreign ministers in Islamabad. Imran Khan said that Pakistan has not acted to stop the narrative of 'Islamic terrorism', which went unchecked after the 9/11 attacks. Imran referred to the shooting at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2019 and claimed it was a result of stereotyping of Muslims into "moderate" and "radical" categories. "Once that happens, how is the man in the street in Western countries, how is he supposed to differentiate between a moderate Muslim and a radical Muslim? Hence, this man walks into a mosque and shoots everyone he could," Imran said. The two-day meeting of the OIC foreign ministers will focus on the theme of "building partnerships for unity, justice and development". Forty-six of the 57 OIC member states are being represented at the ministerial level. Interestingly, in a first, China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, attended this meeting on Tuesday. Though mention was made of Palestine and other Muslim nations like Syria regarding human rights violations, there was no mention of the Uyghurs.

## Scrap civil aviation ministry to create holistic transport ministry: Mahua Moitra

NEW DELHI: TMC MP Mahua Moitra on Wednesday demanded that the civil aviation ministry be scrapped and merged to create a holistic ministry for transport as it was no longer in the business of running a national airline.

Participating in the discussion in Lok Sabha on the demand for grants of the civil aviation ministry, she said that with the

"The proposal I put forward is that now that this ministry is no longer in the business of running a national airline, why does it even need to be a separate ministry, what is it actually doing? Why not merge the ministry of civil aviation with the ministry of road transport or the shipping ministry and create a holistic ministry for transport?" Moitra said.



privatisation of Air India last month there was no point in discussing that as it was already a "fait accompli" and "we need to move on".

"We can only hope that this government has put in enough rules and reasonable processes for aircraft to be made available from the private sector for emergencies as and when required by the government of India, as we have seen in the case of Ukraine and many others in the last few years," she said. Moitra pointed out that since 2014, Air India formed 60-95 per cent of the civil aviation ministry's budget.

The sale of Air India, basically an airline that cost the exchequer about Rs 120,000 crore in the past 10 years due to "gross mismanagement", is being now lauded as a landmark success, she said, slamming the government.

Pointing to the decrease in the amount for regional connectivity scheme UDAN scheme and the Air India privatisation, she asked that with a "paltry" budget expenditure of Rs 1,240 crore what is the need for a separate ministry of civil aviation.

"People should be aware that there is no country in the world apart from India and Bangladesh, which has a separate and independent ministry for civil aviation.

Everyone has evolved as they have sold and privatised their national carriers," she said, citing the examples of the US, UK, Canada, Germany, Singapore and Japan as countries which do not have a separate ministry.

The Airports Authority of India, a mini ratna and a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), is now the mainstay of the entire civil aviation ministry and barring the regional connectivity subsidy of about Rs 600 crore, which incidentally is a huge under performer, there are no big sums to be managed here at all, she argued.

Even the important air navigation services is solely mandated to AAI, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, the regulator, does nothing accept issue civil aviation circulars and conduct routine audit checks, she pointed out.

The government should stop focussing in building so many airports for "bragging rights" and focus on facilities at existing ones, she asserted.

"Merge the ministry, do away with the separate demands for grants, reduce duties on aviation turbine fuel (ATF), better still bring it under GST," she suggested.

"Keep the Maharaja out of the skies by all means, but let us keep the aam aadmi flying high," Moitra added.

After a competitive bidding process, the government had on October 8 last year sold Air India to Talace Private Limited - a subsidiary of the Tata Group's holding company - for Rs 18,000 crore.

Conglomerate Tata Group took over Air India in January and vowed to turn the loss-making carrier, it had founded but had lost control nearly seven decades back, into a world-class airline.

demographic structure of the occupied territory [Jammu and Kashmir] in complete contravention of the fourth Geneva Convention. India is doing so by bringing settlers from outside," he alleged while addressing the OIC meet.

"We have failed both the Palestinians and the people of Kashmir. I am sad to say that we have been able to make no impact at all," Imran Khan said. Muslim nations had not acted to stop the narrative of 'Islamic terrorism', which went unchecked after the 9/11 attacks. Imran referred to the shooting at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2019 and claimed it was a result of stereotyping of Muslims into "moderate" and "radical" categories. "Once that happens, how is the man in the street in Western countries, how is he supposed to differentiate between a moderate Muslim and a radical Muslim? Hence, this man walks into a mosque and shoots everyone he could," Imran said. The two-day meeting of the OIC foreign ministers will focus on the theme of "building partnerships for unity, justice and development". Forty-six of the 57 OIC member states are being represented at the ministerial level. Interestingly, in a first, China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, attended this meeting on Tuesday. Though mention was made of Palestine and other Muslim nations like Syria regarding human rights violations, there was no mention of the Uyghurs.

the official said. "In a brief #shootout at #Soura area of #Srinagar City, SgCT Amir Hussain Lone R/O Kupwara got injured & attained #martyrdom. We pay rich #tributes to the #martyr & stand by his family at this critical juncture," the Kashmir Zone Police said in a tweet. Earlier, a police official had said that a constable named Imran was fired upon by terrorists during the search operation.

## Rajya Sabha witnesses two adjournments over fuel price hike

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha proceedings in the pre-lunch session were washed out on Tuesday as opposition parties, including the Congress and the TMC, forced two adjournments over a hike in the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders.

Opposition MPs trooped into the well of the House shouting slogans, not allowing the listed items to be taken up. The proceedings were first adjourned till 12 noon and then till 2 pm.



The petrol and diesel prices were hiked by 80 paise a litre on Tuesday, while the domestic cooking gas (LPG) rates were increased by Rs 50 per cylinder as the state-run oil firms ended the over-a-four-and-a-half-month-long election-related hiatus in rate revision, fanning inflation fears.

This was the first forced adjournment due to disruptions after 12 consecutive full sittings of the Rajya Sabha.

All eight sittings of the first part of the Budget session of Parliament and the first four sittings of the ongoing second part were without any forced adjournments.

The previous record of 13 full sittings of the House without forced adjournments was set in the Monsoon session in 2019.

The Rajya Sabha missed the opportunity of setting a new record after three years on Tuesday, a senior official said.

The disruption-free run was interrupted when the House was adjourned by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu during the Zero Hour as Trinamool Congress (TMC) members insisted that their notice on price rise under Rule 267 be admitted.

No sooner had the listed papers were laid on the table of the House, Opposition MPs were on their feet, raising the issue of price rise.

Naidu said he had not accepted the notices given by Shaktisinh Gohil (Congress), Dola Sen (TMC), V Sivadasan, Elamaram Kareem and John Brittas (CPI-M) under Rule 267, requiring setting aside of the listed agenda to take up a discussion. He said the issue can be discussed during demands for grants of the ministries concerned.

Not satisfied, the TMC members stormed into the well of the House carrying placards. The Congress, Left, Samajwadi Party and Shiv Sena members were also on their feet, some of them shouting slogans.

Amid the slogan-shouting, Naidu asked the protesting MPs to return to their seats. He ordered that nothing that the protesting MPs said would go on the record. With the opposition MPs unrelenting, the chairman said this will lead to the foregoing of the Zero-Hour submissions of 19 members.

Hariवंsh asked TMC leader Derek O'Brien to call his party colleagues back to their seats and allow the Question Hour to proceed, saying precious national resources have been spent.

As the opposition members continued with their vociferous protest, he then adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm. The House resumed normal functioning in the post-lunch session.

## Police constable killed in gunfight with terrorists in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: A constable was killed in a brief shoot-out between police and terrorists in the Soura area of Srinagar on Tuesday, officials said.



The terrorists fired on Constable Amir Hussain Lone of Kupwara at Balochipora in the Soura area during a cordon-and-search operation around 2.30 pm, they said. Hussain sustained critical bullet injuries and was rushed to a hospital, where he died, a police official said.

The area has been cordoned off, and the search is going on, the official said. "In a brief #shootout at #Soura area of #Srinagar City, SgCT Amir Hussain Lone R/O Kupwara got injured & attained #martyrdom. We pay rich #tributes to the #martyr & stand by his family at this critical juncture," the Kashmir Zone Police said in a tweet.

Earlier, a police official had said that a constable named Imran was fired upon by terrorists during the search operation.

## Ukraine retakes Kyiv's key Makariv suburb; battle for Mariupol rages

KYIV: Ukrainian forces said they retook a strategically important suburb of the capital early Tuesday, while Russia's attack on the embattled southern port of Mariupol raged unabated, with fleeing civilians describing relentless bombardments and corpses lying in the streets.

While Russian forces carried on with the siege of Mariupol after the southern port city's defenders refused demands to surrender, the Kremlin's ground offensive in other parts of the country advanced slowly or not at all, knocked back by lethal hit-and-run attacks by the Ukrainians.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry said that on early Tuesday, Ukrainian troops forced Russian forces out of the Kyiv suburb of Makariv after a fierce battle. The regained territory allowed Ukrainian forces to retake control of a key highway and block Russian troops from surrounding Kyiv from the northwest. But the Defense Ministry said Russian forces battling toward Kyiv were able to partially take other north-west suburbs, Bucha, Hostomel and Irpin, some of which had been under attack almost since Russia's military invaded late last month.

With troops bogged down in many places, Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces are increasingly concentrating their air power and artillery on Ukraine's cities and the civilians living there. Russia's invasion has driven more

than 3.5 million people from Ukraine, according to the United Nations. The UN has confirmed over 900 civilian deaths but said the real toll is probably much higher.

Estimates of Russian deaths vary, but even conservative figures are in the low thousands. A senior US defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the military's assessment, said Russia had increased air sorties over the past two days, carrying out as many as 300 in the past 24 hours, and has fired more than 1,100 missiles into Ukraine since the invasion began.

US President Joe Biden, who is heading to Europe later in the week to meet with allies, suggested Monday evening that worse may be still to come. "Putin's back is against the wall. He wasn't anticipating the extent or the strength of our unity. And the more his back is against the wall, the greater the severity of the tactics he may employ," Biden said. Biden reiterated accusations that Putin is considering resorting to using chemical weapons. In a video address Monday night, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed those who have fought back against Russia. "There is no need to organize resistance. Resistance for Ukrainians is part of their soul," Zelenskyy said. Talks between Russia and Ukraine have continued by video but failed to bridge the chasm between the two sides.

# Stage set for grand swearing-in ceremony for second Yogi government

LUCKNOW: The stage is set for a grand swearing-in ceremony of the second Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh at the sprawling Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ikana stadium in the state capital on March 25.

According to sources, an all important meeting of the BJP legislature party to elect its leader will be held Thursday evening, in which Union Home Minister Amit Shah and former Chief

Minister of J h a r k h a n d electing Yogi Adityanath as the liberate on the constitution of the unit president of the party



Raghubar Das will take part as observer and co-observer. The formality of

new chief minister will be done in the meeting, they said on Tuesday. Shah will also de-

ministry in the meeting with the newly elected MLAs, they said. On Monday, state

Swatantra Dev Singh and general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal had held a meeting with party office bearers, during which they were assigned with responsibilities for the swearing-in ceremony. After coming to

power with full majority in 2017 assembly elections, the BJP had chosen Adityanath, the five-term MP from Gorakhpur, as the state CM, and had also made him the leader of the BJP legislature party. On March 19, 2017, Yogi took the oath as chief minister of UP along with two deputy Chief ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma, as well as other ministers. During the recently concluded assembly elections, BJP and its allies together posted victory on 273 of the total 403 seats. The party set a record of forming

a government with full majority for the second consecutive term after a gap of 37 years in the politically important state. Congress was the last party to have achieved the feat in 1985, when it returned to power with full majority under Narain Dutt Tiwari. BJP state general Secretary Govind Narayan Shukla said elaborate preparations are underway at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee stadium on the Shahid Path for a grand swearing-in ceremony. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a large number of central ministers and eminent personalities from

different fields are expected to be present there. A letter on behalf of Shukla has been sent to the party's many regional and district in-charge, presidents, and district presidents, thanking them for the party's victory and urging them to attend the event. Through the letter Shukla tasked the office bearers with the job of preparing a list of attendees and arrange for them the invitation and admit cards. The office-bearers were also asked to visit a temple and perform a 'puja' between 8 am and 10 am on the day ministers take oath.

## Boyfriend charged with Indian-origin student's murder in London

LONDON: A 22-year-old Tunisian man who was arrested earlier has been charged with the murder of Indian-origin student Sabita Thanwani and appeared in custody at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court in London on Tuesday. Maher Maaroufe, who the police said had been in a relationship with the student, was hunted down by Scotland Yard after the discovery of Thanwani's body in her student accommodation in Clerkenwell area of London on Saturday. He was arrested on suspicion of the 19-year-old psychology student's murder and assault on Sunday. A post-mortem examination carried out at Whittington Hospital in London on Monday gave the cause of Thanwani's death as sharp force trauma to the neck, the Metropolitan Police said. "Detectives investigating the death of Sabita Thanwani in Clerkenwell have

charged a man with murder. Maher Maaroufe, 22, of no fixed address, has also been charged with assaulting an emergency worker," the MeT Police said in a statement.

irreplaceable angel" whose life was cut "tragically short". The family said: "Sabita was the most caring and loving person we have ever known. She inspired us every day of her

had been in a relationship with Sabita but he was not a student. He is a Tunisian national of no fixed address," Detective Chief Inspector Linda, who is leading the investigation, had



"Detectives from the MeT's Specialist Crime Command are investigating and continue to provide support to Sabita's family," the statement added. Thanwani, a British national, was found with serious injuries to her neck at Arbour House student flats in Clerkenwell area of London and pronounced dead at the scene on Saturday. On Monday, her family paid tribute to their "beautiful and

precious 19 years of life. Her mission was to help everyone. She was studying psychology at City University to make this happen. Her whole life was ahead of her, a life where her radiant smile and incredible heart could only spread warmth and kindness." Over the weekend, the MeT Police had issued an urgent manhunt for Maaroufe, who had reportedly been with Thanwani on Friday. "Maaroufe

said in her appeal. A spokesperson for City, University of London said it was working closely with Unite Students, which runs the student accommodation where the body was found. "As a university, we will do everything we can to support our students and staff and we will continue to fully support the police with their investigation," a university spokesperson said.

## India's new envoy to China Pradeep K Rawat meets Shanghai Cooperation Organisation chief



BEIJING: India's new Ambassador to China Pradeep K Rawat on Tuesday met the Secretary-General of the

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Zhang Ming here and discussed various initiatives proposed by India

and the country's upcoming presidency of the eight-member grouping. "Ambassador Pradeep K. Rawat

met SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming today," the Indian Embassy here tweeted.

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## Indian Oil Corporation? sets up shared service centre with IBM Consulting

NEW DELHI: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, has set up a shared service centre (SSC) for vendor invoice management in collaboration with IBM Consulting. "IndianOil Shared Service Centre Vendor Invoice Management is a sizable digital initiative which

business process operations teams at the centre will process vendor invoices, resolve queries, handle exceptions, make payments and maintain the master files using on-premise OpenText Vendor Invoice Management (VIM) for SAP Business Suite on HANA. "The project is

and automation solutions to provide IndianOil with increased visibility of key process metrics. The SSC will also make AI-enabled self-service chatbots available for vendors, which can be leveraged to get updates on invoices and status of payments. The facility was inaugurated by

the size and scale of IndianOil. Helping deliver enhanced bottom-line growth, IBM is proud to be IOC's long-standing strategic technology partner in its digital transformation. The collaboration leverages our deep industry expertise, the best of our global talent and world-class prac-



synergizes invoice processing from a centralized office based in Noida (Delhi NCR)," IBM said in a statement. The centre will be staffed by employees from both IOC and IBM Consulting's business process operations and is equipped to process over 1.5 million invoices annually. The IOC and IBM Consulting's busi-

substantially unique in comparison to other oil marketing companies' vendor invoice management projects," it said. The SSC for vendor invoice management is equipped with the latest digital technologies like optical character recognition (OCR), a vendor portal and ticketing tools. IBM Consulting will also deploy leading analytics

Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Director (Finance), IOC in the presence of John Granger, senior vice president, IBM Consulting. IOC, which has been leveraging technology, sees significant benefits for its business in setting up SSC. Granger said, "The SSC underscores the powerful impact of technology on companies with

practices rooted in hybrid cloud and AI. "Gupta, remarked, "IndianOil Shared Service Centre introduces centralised processing for accounts payable function across the length and breadth of India. The adoption of advanced digital technology supports enhanced vendor experience by increasing on-time payments and faster query resolutions.

## India ranks 51st in global list of annual rise in housing prices: Report

NEW DELHI: India ranks 51st in annual

and 6.3 per cent, respectively, in the

per cent in Q1 of 2021 and 0.5 per cent

aging Director Shishir Bajjal said:



appreciation in housing prices with a 2.1 per cent rise in rates during the October-December quarter of the last year, according to property consultant Knight Frank. In its latest research report titled 'Global House Price Index Q4 2021,' Knight Frank said that India has climbed up five spots to the 51st rank in Q4 of 2021 against the 56th rank in Q4 of 2020.

Turkey witnessed the highest annual price growth rate by 59.6 per cent in the year to Q4 2021, followed by New Zealand (22.6 per cent), Czech Republic (22.1 per cent), Slovakia (22.1 per cent) and Australia (21.8 per cent). Malaysia, Malta and Morocco markets recorded a decline in housing prices by 0.7 per cent, 3.1 per cent

year 2021.

Global House Price Index tracks the movement in mainstream residential prices across 56 countries and territories worldwide using official statistics.

The index tracks nominal and real price growth in local currencies. The rankings on the price movement have been accounted basis the nominal price growth change.

The average annual price change across 56 countries and territories was recorded at 10.3 per cent, according to the report. As per the data, housing prices increased by 2 per cent year-on-year in Q1 (January-March) of 2020.

However, prices declined by 1.9 per cent in Q2 of 2020, 2.4 per cent in Q3, 3.6 per cent in Q4, 1.6

in Q2 of 2021.

After a gap of five quarters, the housing rates increased 0.1 per cent in Q3 of 2021 and 2.1 per cent in Q4 of 2021.

Knight Frank India Chairman and Man-

Continued from page-1

received by his wife Anjali Mohapatra. Dr Mohapatra was the secretary in the department of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) when he died of Covid-19 related complications in June last year. He worked through his illness to coordinate oxygen supplies in the country during the second wave of Covid.

Guru received the award for his extensive work in Koshali language in which he compiled a dictionary 'Koshali-Odia Abhidhan' consisting of 17,000 Koshali words. Similarly, Dr Devi is known for her contribution to the development of Odissi music in a career spanning more than seven decades. Prof Dash who is the Vice-Chancellor of AIPH University, has significantly contributed in the field of vector-borne and tropical diseases affecting the marginalised communities. Likewise, Baba Balia founder of Sishu Ananta Ashram and Ananta Balia Trust, is known for his philanthropic works including women empowerment. Eminent writer Pratibha Ray and para-Olympian Pramod Bhagat will receive Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri respectively during the Civil Investiture Ceremony-II which is scheduled to be held on March 28.

"Influenced positively by the pandemic, the recovery in housing prices is a global phenomenon, which was supported by government policy measures and cost inflation in many overseas markets.

## Crypto mining cost not to be allowed as deduction under I-T Act: FinMin

NEW DELHI: Infrastructure cost incurred in the mining of cryptocurrencies or any virtual digital assets will not be allowed as deduction under the income tax act, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Chaudhary said the government will come out with a definition of virtual digital assets (VDA) with a view to levy 30 per cent tax on income from the transfer of such assets.

He said currently cryptocurrencies are unregulated in India. The 2022-23 Budget has brought in clarity concerning the levy of income tax on crypto assets. From April 1, a 30 per cent I-T plus cess and surcharges, will be levied on such transactions in the same manner as it treats winnings from horse races or other speculative transactions.

The minister said while computing the income from transfer of VDA, no deduction in respect of any ex-



penditure (other than the cost of acquisition) or allowance is allowed. "The (Finance) Bill also proposes to define VDA. If any asset falls within the proposed definition, such virtual asset will be considered as VDA for the purposes of the Act and other provisions of the Act will apply accordingly," he said. He further said "infrastructure costs incurred in the mining of

VDA (eg crypto assets) will not be treated as cost of acquisition as the same will be in the nature of

capital expenditure", which is not allowable as a deduction under the I-T Act. Also, loss from the transfer of VDA will not be allowed to be set off against the income arising from the transfer of another VDA. The Budget 2022-23 also proposed a 1 per cent TDS on payments towards virtual currencies beyond Rs 10,000 in a year and taxation of such gifts in the hands of the re-

recipient. The threshold limit for TDS would be Rs 50,000 a year for

specified persons, which include individuals/HUFs who are required to get their accounts audited under the I-T Act. The provisions related to 1 per cent TDS will come into effect from July 1, 2022, while the gains will be taxed effective April 1. Separately, the government is working on legislation to regulate cryptocurrencies, but no draft has yet been released publicly.

## Ukraine President Zelenskyy to address Japanese parliament

Continued from page-1

tough against Russia, in line with other Group of Seven countries, though Tokyo's steps have triggered Moscow's retaliation. A compromise could set a bad precedence in East Asia, where China is increasingly making assertive military actions.

Zelenskyy's speech, expected to be about 10 minutes, will be shown in a meeting room at the lower house - the more powerful of Japan's two-chamber parliament which Prime Minister Fumio Kishida belongs to. Zelenskyy has made virtual addresses to the US Congress, as well as parliaments in Europe, Canada, and Israel. Foreign dignitaries, including former US President George W Bush and former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, have delivered their addresses in person during visits to Japan as state guests, but an online speech by a foreign leader is unprecedented.

On Monday, Russia announced a decision to discontinue peace treaty talks with Japan over the disputed Kuril islands and withdraw from joint economic projects there, citing Tokyo's sanctions against Russian invasion of Ukraine.

## Chaitali Das CEO Rakshak Foundation highlighted UN SDG's by promoting environment friendly jute, Daughter of India applauded in Kazakhstan

Continued from page-1

DIA through Ms Das highlighted HERITAGE and JUTE which are both ECOFASHION and ecofriendly.

Ms Chaitali Das and the Indian Delegation thus supported India's and the United Nation's Sustainable Development and eco friendly goals.

Lifestyle Jute for climate action is a smart lifestyle statement for Global-promotion Ms Das as the Daughter of India rocked jute in Kazakhstan.

Every Indian present gathered around the stage and applauded her efforts.

## Odisha: Former public relations official to Governor, CM held in camera-man murder case, sordid details emerge

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pada. Manas was confined in a two-storeyed building for the entire day on February 7 where he was allegedly assaulted. While the shelter home for the elderly people is running on the ground floor, the first floor of the building is lying vacant.

The accused served Manas dinner on February 7 night and left the building. They found him dead when they returned to the spot the next day. According to police, the culprits buried Manas' body near Nayagarh district's Budhipatna area at about 8 pm on February 8. Niranjana was aware and part of all the planning related to kidnapping as well as disposal of the body, police said.

In an attempt to mislead investigators, one of the accused Krushna wrote a letter posing as Manas. In the forged letter purportedly written by Manas, it was mentioned that he admitted to his mistake, returned the 'stolen' memory chip to Sarmistha after which she asked him to leave.

Bhagyadhar, Bibek and Krushna were apprehended on March 12, following which the body remains of Manas were recovered the same day. "Sarmistha has direct involvement in the murder. Raids are being carried out in various places to trace and nab her," said an officer of Bhadrak Police. Chandbali Police had registered a case under Sections 301, 302, 363, 364, 467, 471 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code on February 14 and further investigation is continuing. Manas, a native of Nayagarh district's Ranpur, is survived by his wife and their three-year-old son.

## Sweden's reliance on Zlatan Ibrahimovic wanes as young stars emerge

STOCKHOLM: Zlatan Ibrahimovic being unavailable for a big Sweden game would typically be a matter of national angst. Not so much these days. Sweden's reliance on its all-time leading scorer - and possibly the country's greatest ever player - has waned following the emergence of a crop of gifted attacking players who are about half his age. Anthony Elanga, a 19-year-old wide forward, is enjoying a breakthrough season at senior level - at Manchester United, no less. Dejan Kulusevski (21), is proving to be a revelation at Tottenham following his move in the January transfer window. Then there's the 22-year-old Alexander Isak, the striker whose dynamic performances during last year's European Championship made observers sit up and take notice. Suddenly, Sweden going into the World Cup qualifying playoffs against the Czech Republic on Thursday without the enigmatic brilliance of the 40-year-old Ibrahimovic isn't the daunting task it once would have been. Ibrahimovic is suspended for the game in Stockholm and, if Sweden wins, might not be fit enough to start a match against Poland on Tuesday, when a place in the tournament on Qatar will be on the line. He is recovering from an Achilles tendon injury. For Sweden coach Janne Andersson, though, Ibrahimovic still has a huge role over the next week. "He can contribute his experience here. I see him as a half-leader who can push, guide and give tips to the younger players, so he has an important role even if he does not play on Thursday. I can say that I

have the greatest confidence in him in that role," Andersson said. Elanga is in Sweden's senior squad for the first time after making his way into United's team despite a list of illustrious attackers at the English club, headed by Cristiano Ronaldo, Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho. His fearlessness has really stood out this season and Andersson is delighted to have Elanga on board, given the teenager could have opted to play for Cameroon or even England, where he moved at the age of 11 with his mother and sisters. Elanga isn't likely to start against the Czechs, and Andersson does not feel under any pressure to play the youngster simply to "lock him in" to the Sweden team. "I do not reason like that - he has said that Sweden applies to him, 100 per cent. I trust what he said to me," Andersson said. "If we're talking about someone like Anthony, if we were to chase a game then we could bring him in (the team). If we defend and counter, then we can use him that way, too. Will he play from the start? He will not do that, if nothing unforeseen happens. But he can definitely jump in for us," he added. Isak looks to be a lock at center forward. Playing just off him will be Emil Forsberg, a wide forward at Leipzig who has been the team's main attacker for a while, especially when Ibrahimovic was in international retirement from 2016-21. Ibrahimovic might retire from national team duty again if Sweden loses to the Czechs. Or maybe after the World Cup, if Sweden gets there.

## Women's World Cup: Spinners run riot as India thump Bangladesh by 110 runs in must-win clash

CHENNAI: With multiple teams eyeing two spots in the semifinals, India needed a clinical performance against Bangladesh on Tuesday and that is exactly what they delivered,

the big wicket of Nigar Sultana. Bangladesh were down to 28 for three. Things got only worse from there as Poonam and Rana picked up a couple of wickets in quick suc-

cession. Bangladesh slumped further to 35 for five. Salma Khatun and Lata Mondal tried to revive the innings and slowly build a partnership. Together they added 40 runs for the sixth wicket, scrapping a boundary here and there. Brought in to break the stand, Goswami delivered with the wicket of Khatun, reducing Bangladesh to 75 for six. Mithali brought Rajeshwari back on immediately from the other end to tighten the screws. Lata Mondal, however, persisted through the spell and India had to bring back Vastrakar to break the partnership as the set batter was out for 24 runs. It was only a matter of time from thereon as Bangladesh were bowled out for 119 as India completed a clinical win by 110

runs, giving their Net Run Rate a massive boost. Rana was the pick of the bowlers taking four wickets for just 30 runs. Earlier, Mithali Raj opted to bat on a used surface with a fore-

jumped out to attack Ritu Moni only to be stumped. Mithali Raj got out for a first-ball duck, chipping one to the cover fielder. India were down to 74 for three. Harmanpreet got run



winning by 110 runs, with the spinners stepping up to the occasion. It came as no surprise when Rajeshwari Gayakwad opened the bowling with Jhulan Goswami as Poonam Yadav had come in for seamer Meghna Singh. Rajeshwari relished bowling with the new ball on the surface that offered turn and bounce as it took just three overs for her to provide the first breakthrough to remove Sharmin Akhter while defending a par total of 230. Pooja Vastrakar followed up with a full and straight delivery trapping Fargana Haque on the pads. In no time, Mithali Raj understood the conditions on offer and brought spin from both ends. Sneha Rana, who has had a good tournament so far with the ball, got

cast for rain to surprise many. With not much change in the batting order, Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana started off the proceedings positively with the former taking the attack to the Bangladesh bowlers early on. Verma applied caution and calculated risks in equal measure, picking up the vital boundaries in almost every over. Although the spinners kept Mandhana quiet at one end, Verma was milking them at the other. They brought up yet another 50-run stand between them in just the tenth over and looked set for a big score, cruising at 72 for nil after 14 overs. That is when the collapse started. Mandhana pulled Nahida Akter straight into hands of backward square-leg. Two balls later, Verma

out shortly after and India were in trouble. Richa Ghosh and Yastika Bhatia forged hands to revive the innings. They were in no hurry as the duo took their time to settle in and slowly built a partnership. When it seemed like it was going to be a big one, Nahida came back to remove Ghosh for 26 runs from 36 balls. Yastika, too, got out immediately after reaching her half-century, with India trying to make the most of the last few overs. From 176 for five, Rana and Vastrakar took India to 229 for seven in 6.5 overs. Rana made a 23-ball 27 while Vastrakar remained not out with 30 runs from 33 balls. Brief scores: India 229/7 in 50 overs (Yastika 50, Shafali 42) beat Bangladesh 119 all out in 40.3 overs (Rana 4/30, Goswami 2/19)

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## Daniil Medvedev, Aryna Sabalenka top seeds at ATP and WTA Miami Open

MIAMI: Daniil Medvedev will try to reclaim the world number one ranking and top seed Aryna Sabalenka chases her first final in 10 months at the ATP and WTA Miami Open. Men's play starts on Wednesday and women's play begins Tuesday in the hardcourt tournament at Hard Rock Stadium, where highest seeds receive first-round byes.

Serbia's Novak Djokovic moved into the top spot of the rankings this week, bumping out reigning US Open champion Medvedev after a three-week stay following his third-round exit at Indian Wells. The 26-year-old Russian, runner-up at the past two Australian Opens, would return to the top spot with a semi-final run at Miami. Medvedev only reached his first Mi-

ami quarter-final last year, when he lost to Roberto Bautista Agut, so a last-four

Brisbane in 2019. Also in Medvedev's quarter of the draw is defending champion

Sakkari fourth. Australia's top-ranked Ashleigh Barty is not in the



spot would mark a best-ever run in Miami. And Medvedev has a potential second-round matchup with former world number one Andy Murray, provided the Briton gets past Argentina's Federico Delbonis. Murray, a 34-year-old Scotsman and three-time Grand Slam champion, won the Miami crown in 2009 and 2013 but lost his only meeting with Medvedev in

Hubert Hurkacz of Poland. Germany's Alexander Zverev is the second seed with Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas third and Italy's Matteo Berrettini fourth. Sabalenka, of Belarus, fell to fifth in this week's rankings and has not reached a WTA final since last May on Madrid clay. Poland's Iga Swiatek is the second seed with Estonia's Anett Kontaveit third and Greece's Maria

field, but former world number ones Naomi Osaka and Simona Halep are in the draw. Romania's Halep could face Britain's 19-year-old Emma Raducanu, the reigning US Open champion, in the third round. Japan's Osaka could meet Canada's 19-year-old Leylah Fernandez, the 2021 US Open runner-up who ended Osaka's title defense last year at New York, in the third round.




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