



Chief minister Naveen pattnak, 5 T Secretary V K Pandian and Wife W & CD secretary Sujata Kartikeyan cast their vote in Bhubaneswar while BJD Organization Secretary Pranab prakash das standing in a que at a polling booth in Bahabalpur, Jajpur Town

## All five AAP candidates elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Punjab

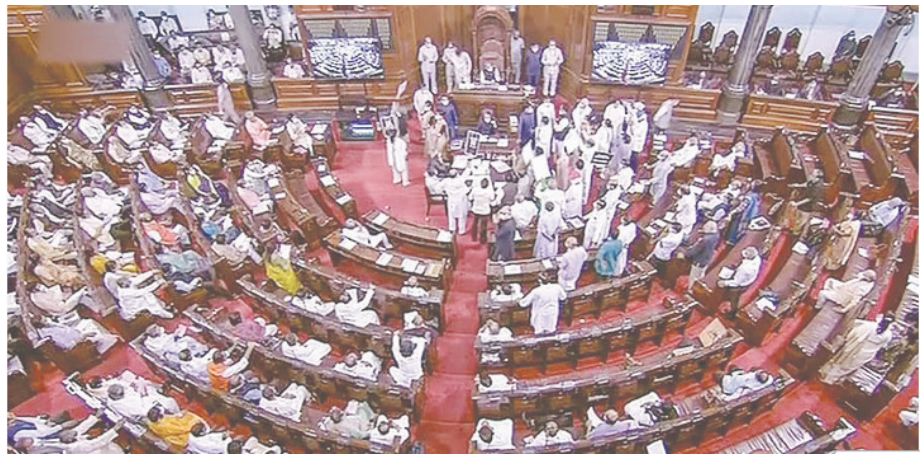
CHANDIGARH (KCN): All five Aam Aadmi Party nominees for the Rajya Sabha party leader Raghav Chadha, Lovely Professional University founder Ashok

candidature. All the five candidates have been elected unopposed to

The term of five Rajya Sabha members from Punjab -- Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa (SAD), Naresh Gujral (SAD), Partap Singh Bajwa (Congress), Shamsheer Singh Dullo (Congress) and Shwait Malik (BJP) - will expire on April 9.

Harbhajan Singh is a former spinner of the Indian cricket team. Hailing from Jalandhar, Singh also captained Mumbai Indians and Kings XI Punjab in the IPL. Ashok Mittal is the founder of Phagwara-based Lovely Professional University

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Sabha polls have been elected unopposed from Punjab, officials said on Thursday. The AAP had nominated former cricketer Harbhajan Singh,

Mittal, IIT Delhi professor Sandeep Pathak and industrialist Sanjeev Arora for the March 31 elections. Thursday was the last day for the withdrawal of

Rajya Sabha, said Returning Officer Surinder Pal. No other political party had nominated any candidate from Punjab for the Rajya Sabha elections.

## Odisha CM walks to polling booth, sends message about his good health

BHUBANESHWAR(KCN): Sending a clear message to the people of Odisha on his health

53 of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), covering a distance of around quarter kilometer.



condition, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday walked from his residence to a polling booth for exercising his franchise in the elections to urban local bodies. Accompanied by security personnel, Patnaik walked from his residence 'Naveen Niwas' to Aerodrome Upper Primary School in ward no.

panchayat polls, Patnaik who is often criticised for remaining indoors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, claimed that he was fit and fine while visiting Shree Lingaraj Temple in the city. The chief minister had also said he was in perfect health and committed to serving the people of Odisha. This

Later, he came out of the booth and showed the waiting camera persons the indelible ink mark on his left hand index finger.

This is not the first time that Patnaik attempted to send a message to the people about his health.

On February 18, in the midst of the panchayat polls, Patnaik who is often criticised for remaining indoors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, claimed that he was fit and fine while visiting Shree Lingaraj Temple in the city. The chief minister had also said he was in perfect health and committed to serving the people of Odisha. This

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## 65% Polling In ULB Poll

Bhubaneswar(KCN): State Election Commissioner Aditya Prasad Padhi has said that nearly 65 per cent of voters exercised their franchise in the 106 Urban Local Bodies while about 54 percent people turned out to cast their votes in three municipal corporations polling for which was held on Thursday amidst sporadic report of violence. The polling was by and large peaceful barring some incidents in iso-

lated places, SEC Mr.Padhi told Media. He said that the voting percentage may go up after final report is available. Stating that voting in some places were delayed due to EVM glitches.



Mr.Padhi said the SEC has ordered re-polling in ward number-8 under Umakote Notified Area Council (NAC) in Nabarangpur district on Friday due to wrong ballot paper

for the post of chairperson. Replying to a question the violence at Dhamnagar NAC and Bhadrak Municipality, SEC Mr.Padhi said the decision regarding re-polling in these places would be taken after receiving reports from the district collector. As many as 40.55 lakh voters were eligible to cast their votes in 109 ULBs including the three municipal corpora-

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## Ukraine refugees' hopes of return waning weeks into war

MEDYKA(KCN): As Russia launched its war in Ukraine last month, exhausted and frightened refugees arrived in neighbouring countries. They carried whatever they could grab in a hurry. Many cried. They still do. The United Nations says that more than 3.6 million people

would end pretty soon," Olha Homienko, a 50-year-old woman from Kharkiv said. "First of all, nobody could believe Russia would attack us, and we thought that it would end quickly." Now, Homienko said, "as we can see, there is nothing to look forward to."

northern town of Chernihiv, said she still thought the Russian invasion must be some kind of "misunderstanding." Lutsenko said she couldn't comprehend why Russian President Vladimir Putin makes Ukrainians suffer so much. "Why is he bombing peaceful homes?"

border between Ukraine and Poland where refugees have been coming since the start of the invasion.

Medyka Mayor Marek Iwasieczko clearly remembers Feb. 24, the first day of the war.

"That day was a big surprise for me. Suddenly the huge number of people appeared in Medyka," Iwasieczko recalled. "They had been travelling for four days. They came terribly exhausted, it was still cold, they were freezing."

Though the Medyka authorities had prepared some facilities in advance for the arrival of refugees, the town was still overwhelmed with the thousands of people arriving at the same time and needing shelter, food, medicines and most of all, warmth and comfort. Iwasieczko also said everyone believed to the last moment that the war would be avoided.

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have fled Ukraine since the war started exactly one month ago Thursday in what is the biggest movement of people in Europe since World War II. Unprepared, most refugees believed they would soon be back home. That hope is waning now. "At the beginning, we thought that this

Homienko's hometown of Kharkiv is among several Ukrainian cities and towns that have been encircled and shelled heavily by the Russians. Refugees coming from besieged towns have told of destruction, death and hunger.

Natalia Lutsenko, from the bombed-out

Why there are so many victims, blood, and killed children, body parts everywhere?" Lutsenko pleaded. "It is horrible. Sleepless nights. Parents are crying, there are no children anymore." After fleeing her home, Lutsenko came to Medyka, a small town on the

## Odisha civic polls: 110 sensitive booths in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESHWAR(KCN): Around 7.25 lakh

porator candidates in 67 wards.



voters will exercise their franchise in the elections to Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to decide the fate of 12 mayor candidates and 289 cor-

The State Election Commission has stressed on security arrangements at 110 sensitive booths identified in the city and its periphery. According to

Commissionerate Police, out of 705 booths where polling will take place, around 15 per cent are sensitive booths where security arrangements have been tightened.

Following the pre-poll violence in Laxmisagar, security measures have been beefed up in some of the polling stations in wards 32 and 33. Apart from 30 platoons police force and 55 mobile patrolling

units, around 500 additional police personnel will be deployed in the city to maintain law and order. Sulochana Das is the Mayor face of BJD, while Suniti Mund is contesting for the post for BJP. Congress has fielded M a d h u s h m i t a Acharya. Meanwhile, the Khurda administration announced closure of all educational institutions in the district on Thursday.

# “KHUSI” NGO extended a Nobel support to control a sever forest fire



Barbil(KCN): Forest fires are a regular phenomenon in Barbil range often observed during the fire season in Thakurani Reserve forest under Barbil fire range. This season usually start fro February to April every year. Every year large areas of forests are affected by

fires of varying intensity and extent. . Precious forest resources including carbon locked in the biomass is lost due to forest fires every year, which adversely impact the flow of goods and services from forests in these area. There was a severe fire occurred at Thakurani forest

.The intensity of blaze is so vigorous that it was difficult to control by that time. Forest department including the volunteers of “Khusi” the incredible Bharat NGO rushed into the place. There are two highly inflammable zone said to be escaped by the voluntary effort of

these volunteer. One LPG Gas and an explosive godown were closer to the incidence. The prompt attempt of Khusi and fire brigade team could save the area from an unprecedented accident ,said one volunteer. Khusi is well praised by the locals .

# JSW Bags Excellence Award

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha State Productivity Council on received by Biswaranjan Padhi and senior officials



State Biodiversity Board, Rajiv Kumar has presented Jajang Iron Ore Mines of JSW Steel Limited with the “Best Productivity Excellence Award”.

Wednesday during its 47th Annual General body meeting. The top recognition was bestowed for its innovative ideas like safety management system, digital logistics management system, trace & track, fleet & fuel management system and QA/QC management systems. The award was

officials Shri Vijay Kumar and Shri Basanta Kumar Sahoo from the Chief Guest Mr.Kumar, Senior IFS Officer and Chief of OSBD at New Marrion hotel. COO (Odisha) of JSW Steel Limited Ranjan Nayak Project Head (Odisha) Ashesh Padhy, Mines Head (Odisha)

congratulated the team for their efforts and commitments. Recently, JSW Steel bagged the first position in ICT category at the CII Odisha Annual Meeting. The steel producer clinched the prestigious award in ICT segment through digital intervention for best practices model.

# PM Park for Ganjam

New Delhi: The Odisha Government has submitted a proposal to the Centre for establishment of a PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) park in Ganjam district. This was informed by Minister of State (MoS) for Textiles Darshana Jardosh in Lok Sabha on Wednesday. Replying to a question of Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, the Union Minister said that the Union Government has approved setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in Greenfield/Brownfield sites to develop world class infrastructure including plug and play facility with an outlay of Rs 4445 crore for a period of seven years up to 2027-28. All State Governments were requested to send proposals along with the Preliminary Project Report to the Ministry for consideration. The last date for submission of proposals was March 15, 2022, she said. Jardosh said a total of 17 preliminary project proposals have been received from State Governments. All the proposals are under scrutiny for consideration by the Project Approval Committee, she said. While Madhya Pradesh has submitted proposals for

setting up four such textile parks in the State, Karnataka has demanded two such parks. However,



Odisha has demanded for only one PM MITRA park

# Dadi's best kept secrets for a healthy, happy, sustainable home

Kolkata (KCN): Sustainability is not a concept. It's a way of living. A lifestyle which has become increasingly important, as we need to protect our planet from man-made damages. Indians have been following eco-friendly and sustainable practices since ancient times, and one such practice Indians swear by for sustainability is 'Dadima k Nuskhe'. It is not only because of the easy approach or availability of the ingredients but also because of nostalgia; it reminds most of us of our childhood days. So here are some tips by Dadis for a healthy, happy, sustainable home. Savita Joshi, 62, says using harmful chemicals to clean our home is equally bad for the environment as for us. "My mother used to squeeze neem extracts for cleaning the floor back in the

day, as it has powerful anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and several other medicinal properties. Not only my mother, but for thousands of years, neem leaf powder or neem oil has helped Indians ward off germs. I also tried to follow her methods for a while, but it is impractical in today's busy life. So I chose a 100 % natural action eco-friendly floor cleaner that harnesses the goodness of neem. After cleaning with Nimyle, the floor also becomes safe for kids and pets to play. Plants are our best friend, believes 65-year-old Mona Verma. "Keeping plants in and around your home act as natural air purifiers, and some plants are particularly effective absorbers of harmful pollutants emitted from carpets, furniture, and Electronic devices. While

choosing the plants, we should not always look for easy maintenance or its beauty, but it is crucial to pick them as per their benefits. By surrounding your home with plants, one can also reduce the house's internal temperature by at least two to three degrees and minimise the usage of air conditioners. These sustainable practices go a long way in reducing carbon footprints. Vijaya Gauri, 72, says that finding ways to save water in our day-to-day activities is extremely crucial. "People tend to use excess water in the kitchen, especially while washing the utensils. I feel by implementing just 2 simple steps in your daily kitchen routine will help us prevent wasting water. First, avoid using multiple vessels for cooking a single dish, and second, soak the vessel in a bit of water as

soon as you finish cooking. These steps will help us save water as there won't be many utensils to clean, and the ones used won't require too much water for scrubbing and washing. I also rely on dish wash gel-like ITC's Nimeasy, which uses enzyme technology to remove stains and grease easily from the utensils. Being a neem-based product, Nimeasy also helps eliminate bacteria." Kumkum Mehata, a grandmother of 2, said that one should avoid plastic in the kitchen. "From water bottles, containers, plates, grater-chopper, tiffin, spatulas to spoons and straws, nowadays everything is plastic. While plastic objects are pocket friendly, we should opt for more sustainable products made of clay, iron, stainless steel or even brass, and try to avoid plastic as much as possible."

# Reiki master teacher and practitioner course organized by divine bliss foundation



Kolkata (KCN): A Reiki Master Teacher and

Practitioner Course was held at Pragyan Bhawan, Divine Bliss

Foundation, Kolkata on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2022. This Master Teacher and Practitioner Course was conducted by Dr. Suresh Kumar Agarwal a Traditional Reiki Master Teacher. Mrs Geeta Sinha, Mrs. Madhumita Ganguly, Mr. Satya Prakash Tewari, Mr. Suresh Kumar Gupta, Mr. MD. Badruddin, Mrs. Chandra Chatterjee and Mrs. Sarita Jaiswal were completely engrossed in the learning session.

There was also a practical session demonstrated by Dr. Agarwal for a better learning and understanding of the participant. The participants were awarded with the certificate of Reiki Master Teacher and Practitioner course, they were also Honored with a sash after the completion of the course. Dr. Namita Chakraborty, Dr. Chandranath Chattacharyya, Ms. Priti Sharma and Mr. Alok Chakraborty were the conveners of the programme..

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**'The Lemonade' Author Kankane Rakhi Surendra Releases Second Part of Story Collection "2nd Serving of The Lemonade - A collection of sweet, salty, and sour stories!"**

Mumbai(KCN): Kankane Rakhi Surendra reveals that



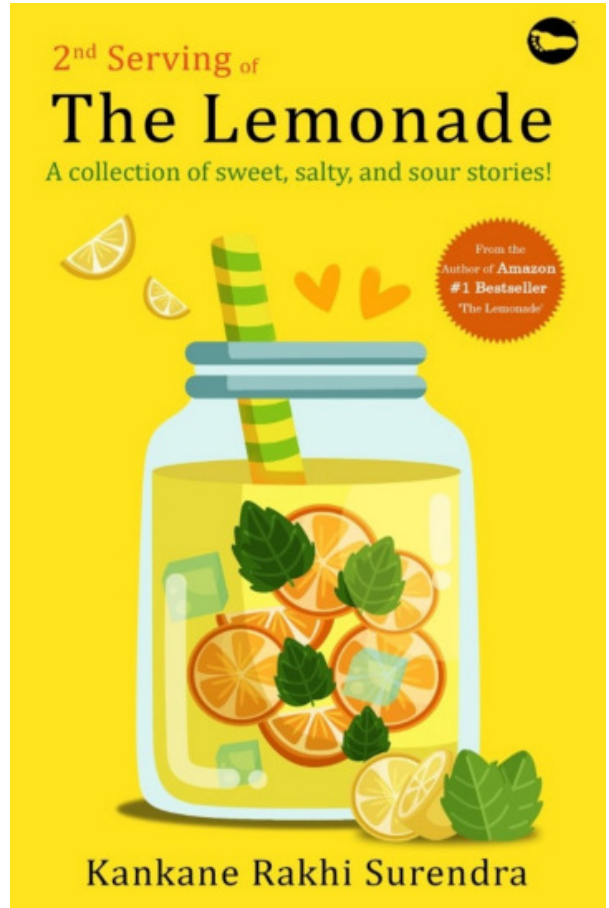
Surendra, author of Amazon #1 bestseller in short stories 'The Lemonade' has come up with the second book of her series '2nd Serving of The Lemonade - A collection of sweet, salty, and sour stories!', which is a collection of fictional stories with a non-fictional motive.

Rakhi, with her series 'The Lemonade', brings a collection of short stories that are about life's challenges, relationships, and one's approach towards life. They talk about accepting whatever the situation is at the present moment and deriving something positive out of it.

Talking about her latest book, author

gives you lemons, make 'lemonade.' Rakhi says, "Not all days of life are same. Life is full of sweet, salty, and sour experiences. So, on the days when we face adversity or misfortune, accepting it and finding something positive in it, is the best way to deal with it. I feel this is the secret of leading a good life."

Stories by Rakhi in her book drive us to think and tackle the problems of life more maturely. The book is available for readers



quote by Dale Carnegie, 'When life is hard, turn it into an opportunity.' The book is available on Amazon, Kindle, and Flipkart

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

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

Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan

Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. 'AK vs AK,' revolves around the



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

Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir, only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor has outdone your entire performance in one scene," the 'Housefull' actor's tweet further read. While Kapoor essays the role of a yesteryear actor,

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

**Signing 'Indian 2' has been a step up in my career, says Kajal Aggarwal**

CHENNAI (KCN): Actress Kajal Aggarwal, who teams up with actor-filmmaker Kamal Haasan for the first time in the upcoming Tamil film "Indian 2", says signing the project has been a step up in her over a decade-long career. Last seen on screen in Telugu film "Kavacham", Kajal has already begun prepping for her role in

"Indian 2". "I'm really thrilled to be part of the project. I'm quite excited about my role and the skills I will get to learn on the job. I see signing 'Indian 2' as a step up in my career," Kajal told IANS along the sidelines of the launch of beverage brand 7Up's new campaign, 7Up Ponneram. Ponneram translates to golden times in English. Kajal said her

career's golden times started when she signed S.S. Rajamouli's "Magadheera". "My golden times started when I signed 'Magadheera'. I have seen many ups and downs in my profession but it was only after I did 'Magadheera' did my career catapult to the next league. It earned me a lot of recognition which I enjoy even today," she said.

**Social Worker Kiritbhai Chavda honored by Shri Desai Sai-Sutar Gyati Mandal Mumbai**

Mumbai(KCN, Raj): On the anniversary of the death of Pujya Sant



Sanjay occasion of



Sharma 45th death of Param

Shiromani President of Bajrangdas Bapa, a program of devotional songs and bhajans was organized by Shri Desai Sai-Sutar Gyati Mandal Mumbai on 22 January 2022 at Desai Darji Wadi, Kandivali (East), Mumbai. On this occasion, social worker Kiritbhai Amritlal Chavda was honored by the organization. He was honored for his contribution to the society and for being appointed as the editor of the Mumbai Tarang Gujarati edition. On this occasion, the

President of the organization Shri Kantilal Keshav Lal Mistry, Vice President Chhotubhai Kalabhai Gohil, Trustee Shri Bachubhai Nanjibhai Sarvaiya, General Secretary Sunilbhai M Gohil, joint secretary Shri Rohitbhai Parsotamdas Rathod, Dilipbhai Patel etc. participated in the program and became engrossed in devotion. Remembering the revered saint Shiromani Bajrangdas Bapa from the heart.

## Shaheed Bhagat Singh could have been the solution to all Indo-Pak conflicts

For the past seven decades, India and Pakistan have never had civil or cordial relations. The two neighbours have engaged



in multiple wars over time. The disputes between them persist perpetually, while new conflicts arise each day. Despite numerous reasons for the controversy,

Bhagat Singh is such a versatile personality that the people of both countries look up to him with respect and adoration. Shaheed Bhagat Singh is one of the undisputed heroes of India. And the fact that he is loved equally in Pakistan, despite being a non-Muslim, makes him the first of his kind.

His birth anniversary and martyrdom are celebrated with immense zeal and enthusiasm in the Pakistani city of Lahore and a few other places. As punishment for the alleged crime of killing a British Officer, Shaheed Bhagat Singh and his two companions, Shaheed Raj Guru and Shaheed Sukhdev, were hanged in the Lahore Central Jail on 23 March 1931. Several organizations in Pakistan have been continuously demanding to declare him the hero of their nation. He is especially respected in the Punjab province of Pakistan. If we talk about India, he is a national hero, revered by all. Shaheed Bhagat Singh is not limited to being just a patriotic revolutionary. Until his death, the Muslim League had not begun demanding a separate nation for the Muslims. The Muslim League started demanding the partition in 1940, after it introduced a resolution for the formation of a Separate Islamic Nation on 23 March 1940 in Lahore. That was the same city where Bhagat Singh and his companions were hanged to death. After nine years of Bhagat Singh's passing, the Muslim League made its formal demand for Pakistan.

In an orthodox country like Pakistan, usually, only a Muslim is awarded the status of a hero. Shaheed Bhagat Singh stands out in this respect. He did not associate himself with

any religion and called himself an atheist. He has

written an essay on the subject that gives a detailed account of him as an atheist. Despite this, he is respected even in the fiercely dogmatic country of Pakistan. Unfortunately, some elements are hell-bent on proving him a true Sikh. In our province of Punjab, repeated efforts are made to prove him as a Sikh. He may have been born in a Sikh family which originally belonged to the Arya Samaj, but in the latter stages of his life, he never associated himself with any particular community. Shaheed Bhagat Singh is often misrepresented in idols and statues. While



sometimes he is portrayed wearing a turban, in the others he is shown in a hat. His statues have been installed in the Parliament House and the Delhi Legislative Assembly. He is depicted in a bronze statue, wearing a turban in the Parliament House, but in the Delhi Assembly, he is wearing a hat.

On April 8, 1929, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw a bomb in the Central Assembly (now Parliament House). After a long gap of that incident, the statue of Bhagat Singh was installed in the Parliament House in the year 2008. That gave rise to a lot of uproar and commotion. Those who have studied Bhagat Singh claim that Bhagat Singh did not wear a turban from 1928 till the day he was hanged to death on 23 March 1931. Some historians and even relatives of Bhagat Singh believe that he was not fairly portrayed in the statue installed in the Parliament House. If Bhagat Singh used to wear a European-style hat, why was he

**R.K. Sinha**

Jawaharlal Nehru University, who researches Bhagat Singh, says that it is fallacious not to depict him in a hat. However, Bhagat Singh is shown wearing a hat in the half-statue installed in the Delhi Legislative Assembly. This has been strongly criticized, and opposed by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGC). They claim that Bhagat Singh was a Sikh, and he should be portrayed as a Sikh in his statue. An incorrect tradition seems to have started in our nation, where we recognize national figures by their caste or religion.

shown in a turban? Chamanlal, a former professor at the

has decided to build a memorial here instead. Before Independence, Faisalabad was called Lyallpur, and Shaheed Bhagat Singh was born here. Bhagat Singh's family had an ancestral home in Faisalabad's Banga village, where he grew up. If the governments of both, India and Pakistan open their doors to the significant sites related to Shaheed Bhagat Singh for the people of each other's countries to visit, it will be a monumental and positive initiative. There seems to be no expiration date for the complex issues between India and Pakistan. However, the people of both countries should be allowed and encouraged to meet

However, Bhagat Singh still inspires crores of people of India and Pakistan due to his revolutionary ideas. He stands before us as the most powerful symbol against administrative and police injustice and imperialism. Bhagat Singh was probably the first thoughtful revolutionary and keen political thinker of the country. He used to continuously read and write. Before and even after him, there has been no reflective revolutionary of his stature. However, the communists keep trying to prove him as one of their own on the sole basis that he had read Karl Marx, but in reality, he was a true nationalist.

The Bhagat Singh Memorial Foundation wants to transform Bhagat Singh's ancestral house in Faisalabad, Pakistan into a memorial to preserve his legacy. The Government of Pakistan had given the status of a heritage site to this house, but due to lack of proper maintenance, the foundation

and interact with each other on matters pertaining to history and culture. When the Kartarpur Corridor can be opened, what is the harm in allowing the citizens of both nations to visit the important sites associated with Bhagat Singh's life?

Kartarpur Sahib is located in the Narowal district of Pakistan. It is three to four kilometers away from Dera Baba Nanak in the Gurdaspur district of India and about 120 km from Lahore. It was the residence of the first Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and it was here that he also died. After that, a Gurudwara was built here in his memory. One can only hope that someday, following the path of Guru Nanak Ji and Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Pakistan will at some point be victorious in getting rid of its reputation as a terrorist country.

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

## Imran's Praise to India:- Only a pretend

Pakistan Prime Minister Mr.Imran Khan has found time and inclination to heap



praises on India's Foreign Policy. He has stressed that India's Foreign Policy is Independent and for the betterment of the people, highlighting

how India has benefitted itself immensely in a scenario riddled with conflicting pushes and pulls. India is amused! And then there one unpleasant twist for Mr. Imran Khan, Reportedly, the Pakistan Army has asked the Prime Minister to step down after the meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Countries in Islamabad is over. India continues to be amused.

The details of domestic politics apart, it is obvious that Pakistan is almost at a doomsday tipping point with the developments over the past some time. It is quite unlikely that Mr Imran Khan will follow the diktat of the military junta and step down like a good boy—which is

actually not. In the past few days, he has

threatened of dire consequences for those who would wish to topple him (which possibly include the junta). Obviously, Pakistan's domestic scene is going to witness a drama that is so usual to its internal affairs. And the developments thereby will tear the country asunder, to say the least.

Pakistan-watchers have interpreted Mr Imran Khan's praise of India's foreign policy as his attempt to tone down the sharpness of the Opposition attack against his politics and policies. A clamour has been raising all over in Pakistan that uncalled for hostilities against India must be given up and a more sensible approach should be taken to improve bilateral relations with New Delhi. Possibly, Mr Khan's unabashed appreciation of India's "independent" foreign policy is to be assuage the angry emotions of the opposition that has already tabled a motion of no-confidence against the flashy Prime Minister.

**Uma Shankar Prasad**

Prime Minister makes little sense. In fact it is quite preposterous on part of Mr Imran Khan to issue a certificate of excellence to India's foreign policy citing some examples of its virtue, Mr Khan has followed only a shallow approach without understanding that India's wide acceptability in an outcome of years of patient approach to building relationship with different countries by respecting their individual susceptibilities and compulsions and still pursuing India's national interests. This has been in sharp contrast to the waywardness of Pakistan's handling of external affairs, which came to the fore when Imran Khan visited Moscow on the very day Russia moved in to Ukraine.

In the past some months, the relation between Prime Minister Mr Imran Khan and Army Chief General Bajwa were getting strained more and more. The Prime minister was rather in a defiant mood—which General Bajwa could not handle. That led to a rift that kept widening every

As for India, the praise by Pakistan

passing day. This was quite in tune with Pakistan's political culture since its formation in 1947. The Army has always had an upper hand in Pakistan's internal or external affairs—which came to fore once again. That is the reason the Army is now reported to have told Mr Khan to step down immediately after the OIC convention is over.

The Prime Minister has geared up for a fight. He has threatened to expose many people in critical positions. He has told the opposition that it would have to tackle his one million supporters before its members could approach the Parliament complex. And in that of trying various tricks to counter the opposition game-plan. Mr Imran Khan has heaped praises on India for its foreign policy. These words of praise sound so incongruous, so superficial and pretend full that the global diplomatic community must have felt amused and even disgusted, who knows?

Uma Shankar Prasad, Columnist, Khorda.

## BJD suspends 5 members for 'anti-party' activities

PARADIP(KCN): A day ahead of ULB polls, five BJD leaders including general secretary of urban BJD unit Saroj Parida were suspended from the party for allegedly indulging in anti party activities. The five are contesting as independent candidates under the banner of Aama Paradip Aama Pragati



secretary of urban BJD unit Saroj Parida were suspended from the party for allegedly indulging in anti party activities. The five are contesting as independent candidates under the banner of Aama Paradip Aama Pragati

(APAP) party supported by trade unions. If sources are to be

believed, factionalism within the BJD here came to the fore after party leaders reportedly ignored some grassroots workers aspiring to fight elections. Rather they took BJP and the Congress supporters into confi-

dence and gave them the party tickets. The BJD rebels are now contesting against the party candidates to make their win difficult by dividing votes, sources added. President of urbanBJD unit, Paradip, Basant Kumar Biswal informed that general secretary of urban BJD unit Saroj Parida contesting from ward no 19, Jagannath Rao from ward no 18, Lova Behera from ward no 3, Santosh Biswal ward no 14 and Golakh Sahoo from ward no 15 have been suspended for

their anti party activities. The rebels however feel that their contesting the elections has panicked the party leaders and the suspension was imminent. General secretary of urban BJD unit Parida said we are not involved in anti-party activities but the people at the helm have indulged in petty politics by giving party ticket to candidates from other parties ignoring us who have slogged all these years for the party. "Local voters will give the party a befitting reply in the polls," he added.

## No Tariff Hike For Next Fiscal

Bhubaneswar: The power consumers of Odisha heaved a sigh of relief as the State Electric Regulator on Thursday kept the power tariff unchanged for the next fiscal.

Regulatory Commission (OERC) Secretary Priyabrata Patnaik said the Distribution Power Companies (DISCOM)s would not pass on the increase in power pur-

chase costs to the consumers in the 2022-23 financial year as there was regulatory surplus of Rs.355 crore. Mr.Patnaik, Secretary OERC announced a rebate of 3 per cent if the payment was made by the Low Tension (LT) domestic consumers through the digital mode. Earlier, it was at 2 per cent. The rural LT domes-

ting load factor is more than 60 per cent, OERC Secretary Mr.Patnaik said. The decision came after the OERC held a hearing last month with all the stakeholders, including the power distribution



This is a major relief for the people who are already reeling from the twin blows of spiraling inflation and hike of fuel prices.

Odisha Electricity

## Adityanath elected leader of BJP legislature party, to take oath as UP CM on Friday

LUCKNOW: Yogi Adityanath was on Thursday unanimously chosen the leader of the BJP legislature party in Uttar Pradesh in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit

Ashish Patel and Nishad Party chief Sanjay Nishad were present with their MLAs in the meeting. Addressing the MLAs, Adityanath said he wants to

chase costs to the consumers in the 2022-23 financial year as there was regulatory surplus of Rs.355 crore.

Mr.Patnaik, Secretary OERC announced a

rebate of 3 per cent if the payment was made by the Low Tension (LT) domestic consumers through the digital mode. Earlier, it was at 2 per cent. The rural LT domes-

tic consumers will get an additional rebate of 10 paise per unit. The LT small industrial supply consumers will avail a rebate of 10 paise per unit if their monthly operat-

companies that wanted a hike. The current rate for 0-50 units is Rs 3, Rs 4.80 for 50-200 units, Rs 5.80 for 200-400 units and Rs 6.20 for more than 400 units, he said.



Shah. Adityanath will now visit the Raj Bhawan to meet Governor Anandiben Patel and stake claim to form the government. The meeting of the newly elected party MLAs was held at Lok Bhawan here in which the name of Adityanath was proposed by senior party leader Suresh Kumar Khanna. Baby Rani Maurya, Surya Pratap Shahi and others seconded the proposal. Apna Dal (S) leader

thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party's central observers Shah and Raghubar Das that after getting absolute majority under the PM's leadership, he was elected the BJP legislature party leader. Adityanath said he had no administrative experience when he became chief minister for the first time and thanked PM Modi and Amit Shah for guiding him to provide good gover-

barrier that was seen in the implementation of the schemes of the Centre in the state collapsed during the past five years. "People for the first time felt that house for the poor could also be built. For the first time, it was felt that money can go directly into the account of the poor," he said.

In a state like Uttar Pradesh, festivals can now be celebrated in a peaceful manner, he added. Adityanath said the prime minister's mantra of "sabka saath, sabka vikas" made impact despite

casteism and supported nationalism, development and good governance, he said, apparently referring to the results of the just-concluded UP Assembly polls. On the occasion, Amit Shah hailed Yogi Adityanath, saying no party returned to power in UP in 37 years. UP went through political instability as parties practised casteism, dynasty politics, he added. Adityanath's swearing-in ceremony will be held on Friday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top BJP leaders.

## Flight with 165 on board rolls back at Bengaluru airport

BENGALURU: Altogether 165 passengers aboard an AirAsia India flight which had reached

national Airport at 10.36 am, four minutes before schedule. It was the lack of coordination between

mal sequence that is followed after landing, he said, "Whenever the landing of the flight is com-

craft slide behind by 100 feet." Remedial action was taken by the pilot and the flight halted. "If any other aircraft had been taxiing behind it at that time, there would have been a collision endangering the passengers," he said, adding that such an incident is a rare occurrence.



Bengaluru from New Delhi survived a major scare on Tuesday, when their aircraft moved nearly 100 feet in the reverse direction, after it had safely landed and parked.

aircraft engineers on the ground and the Flight Captain that led to the situation, said a source. Narrating the sequence of events, the source said the flight had landed safely and proceeded to the remote parking bay (which is not located near the aerobridge or the terminal) and not in the regular parking bays where aircraft are stationed when not operating. This was because the flight was to return to Delhi immediately (I5 741, 11.20 am)

pleted, the pilot puts the brakes on and then cuts off the engine. Engineers on the ground place chocks (wedge-shaped rubber or wooden blocks) in front and behind all the wheels to prevent the aircraft from rolling. The engineer then signals that the chocks are in place and the pilot releases the brakes. In the incident on Tuesday, the pilot had released the brakes probably assuming the chocks were already in place and this made the air-

A spokesperson of the airline said they are investigating the incident in detail. In a statement, he said, "While parking at the Bengaluru airport on March 22, an AirAsia India Airbus A320 aircraft rolled back. The pilot applied the brakes gently as per established procedures and stopped the aircraft. It was then towed and repositioned." Due to the incident, there was a delay in disembarkation of passengers, which had a cascading effect on the flight's return trip to Delhi that got delayed by 18 minutes. It left at 11.38 am.

## Need to develop all-weather deep-water port in India, says Shashi Tharoor in LS

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Thursday stressed on developing an all-weather deep-water port near international sea routes, saying "a vast majority" of container ships coming to India are transhipped to Colombo and elsewhere due to the lack of significant domestic ports here. This has also given China a tremendous dominance in the Indian Ocean, he said in the Lok Sabha while participating in a discussion on

coastlines in the world. "We should have developed our ports, which I am sorry to say, we have not yet done so," he said, adding it's because the resources, given to the ministry by Parliament since 2017-18, remains "underutilised" The Congress MP also questioned the government's policy, saying "there is a piquant situation that India prohibits Chinese firms from investing in building our ports but in effect, we are condoning trans-



demand of grants for the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. "Colombo is transhipping more Indian goods...than any of India's major ports. In fact, all the so-called major ports (in India) put out together does not match that in Colombo," Tharoor said. "Now what's worrying about this is (that) there is a serious geostrategic angle for us being dependent upon Colombo for such a large portion of our goods. Because it is, after all, a port where the Chinese are extremely active. A Chinese firm has just been awarded an eastern container terminal at Colombo port," the former minister of state for external affairs added. He said the development of ports in India is "important" as ships carry 90 per cent of the world's goods around the globe. "And, in India's case, it's even more because 95 per cent of the volume of cargo come to our country by shipping, not by any other means," Tharoor added. He said India has a wonderful and one of the most impressive

shipment of the lion's share of our cargo via a port operated exclusively by China". "And, where Chinese navy vessels and submarines were regularly calling for resupply," he added. Noting that shipping is growing bigger, he said larger ships require deeper ports. In the case of India, it has to be "unfortunately extremely expensive", created through dredging, Tharoor said. The major shipping lines are not stopping at Indian ports because of "very high" logistics cost involved, he said, adding, "This, in fact, means that our economy is helping to pay for foreign ports." Tharoor said the solution to the problem is available in his Lok Sabha constituency Thiruvananthapuram and urged the government to declare Vizhinjam port as "a major port". "The Vizhinjam port is an amazing place. It is right there in the international shipping lines and it has an extremely decent connection which can be improved by the government. It has a natural deep draft of 20-24 four metres," he said.

## Audit finds gaping holes in performance of Odisha's urban local bodies

BHUBANESWAR: Even as Odisha government claims to have successfully implemented several schemes in the urban areas of the State, an audit revealed that the urban local bodies



(ULBs) did not get the performance grants of 14th Finance Commission to the tune of Rs 333.58 crore due to non-achievement of service-level benchmarks in water supply, waste management and storm water drains.

The Ministry of Urban Development has set benchmarks at the national-level for service provision in four key sectors - water supply, sewerage, solid waste management and storm water management. Since monitoring the performance and improvements is envisaged as the goal of the service-level benchmarking, Odisha failed to achieve the target resulting in loss of Central assistance.

As per the interim report of the performance audit carried out by Accountant General, the ULBs in the State did not utilise the funds provided for creation of capital assets by the Central and State Finance Commissions. The expenditure on solid waste management was not commensurate with the funds available with the ULBs, resulting in accumulation of unutilised balances of Rs 964.83 crore by March 2020.

The ULBs inspected were not collecting user fee from 2017-21 resulting in short realisation of user fee of Rs 160.71 crore, found the audit. The audit observed that Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) made two contracts for mechanical sweeping between October 2018 and December 2018 (Package-I for 172 km and Package-II for 146.59 km) at Rs 5.23 crore and Rs 5.08 crore per year for three years, respectively.

The agencies were paid interest free advance of Rs 13.37 crore (between October 2018 and October 2020) without any agreement clause for payment of advance which remained unadjusted as of March 2021. It was also observed that prior to adoption of mechanical

sweeping, manual sweeping was done in those areas and BMC did not make any revision in the scope of manual sweeping till March 2021 leading to overlapping of works and unwarranted maintenance cost of Rs 10.32 crore per year. The test checked ULBs had not conducted any survey during the period 2015-20 but adopted per capita estimate for waste generation that had low level of reliability. As the ULBs did not prepare short-term or long-term action plans for waste management, the planning and selection of infrastructure projects in ULBs were driven by perceived availability of funds rather than need-based analysis.

The ULBs were able to process only one to two per cent of waste collected. They were operating disposal facilities without valid authorisation from pollution control board and necessary environmental clearance. The landfill sites operated were in violation to Municipal Rules and lacked basic infrastructure. There was evidence of unscientific dumping and burning of mixed waste in the landfills, the audit found.

While there was significant shortage of manpower for executing waste management, monitoring of waste management was deficient at all levels and attaining the objective of sustainable cities and communities was a distant dream. The performance audit on 'Waste management in Urban areas/Smart cities' was conducted for the period from 2015-16 to 2019-20. Out of 114 ULBs, 21 ULBs were selected by using stratified random sampling method based on population of 2011 census in cities.

AUDIT REPORT  
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## Stamp Dealers Meet and Exhibition being held at Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Eastern India Philatelists' Association is holding a three day Philatelic Exhibition and Dealers Meet at Hotel Keshari from the 25th to the 27th March 2022. The theme of the exhibition is Netaji Subash Chandra Bose and philatelists will be showing stamps, covers and postal ephemera on the INA and Netaji. This is the 6th Dealers meet being organised by EIPA, after a gap of nearly three years due to the Covid crisis.

More than 25 dealers from all over the country and abroad are participating in the dealers meet. The exhibition and the dealer booths will be open from 10 am till 6 pm. There will a wide variety of stamps, coins, covers, books, postal

ephemera and collectibles available at the venue. There will be the release of a special cover on the State Animal of Odisha on the 25th afternoon. An auction of stamps will be held on the evening of the 27th in which many lots will be put up for bidding. Philatelists from all over the country are participating in this meet.

EIPA is now one of India's frontline philatelic organisation, with a pan Indian membership base. Founded under the guidance of the Late Bijoyshree Routray, it has grown into a premier stamp group with many of its members winning national and international prizes.

## Birbhum killings: BJP central team visits district, assures help to kin of victims

BOGTUI/KOLKATA: A fact-finding committee of the BJP on Thursday visited Bogtui village in Bengal's Birbhum district, where eight



people were burnt alive earlier this week, and spoke to the locals as well as the relatives of the victims there.

The team, comprising former Uttar Pradesh DGP Brij Lal, Mumbai ex-police commissioner Satya Pal Singh and Bengal BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar, assured all help to the families of those killed in the violence that broke out after

a TMC panchayat official's murder.

"We have come here to witness the situation in the aftermath of the mass murder. This (TMC) government has lost its moral right to govern. What happened in Bogtui is a shame for humanity," Majumdar told reporters after visiting the village.

"The chief minister had been claiming that all culprits will be punished. The police, on the other hand, were trying to hush up the matter," he alleged.

BJP president J P Nadda had formed the five-member committee on Tuesday, which includes four MPs, to visit the site of the fire tragedy and probe the matter.

Former IPS officers K C Ramamurthy and Bharati Ghosh are the two other members of the BJP panel.

Taking a tough stance, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said suspects of the Birbhum killings would be hunted down and arrested unless they surrender.

## International Women's Day 2022

Kolkata (KCN):The concept of "Women's Empowerment" is one of the most significant chapters already. Social leaders really do desire to ensure our gender equality in enriching our best "Global Movements" and they really do enable the same for maintaining an exclusive societal legacy in a very conforming manner.

According to this said concept "Kolahal (NGO)" has organised an enlightening programme in connection with "International Women's day 2022" at one of the most famous restaurants in Kolkata on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. The prime objective was to felicitate some of the very promising women because of their incredible contributions for cultural, social, national and global

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2. BIPLAB ROY, Assistant Commissioner, Sales Tax & Noted Painter
3. PARES PAL, Social Activist
4. SUBHANKAR NAG, Business Man
5. TANMOY BISWAS, Founder Member of Pother Disha (Social Charitable






- accomplishments already.
1. DR. SHANTA MOULIK, Educationist And Professor of B.T. College, Naihati.
  2. DOLAN MAJUMDAR, Noted Actress
  3. AARTI BR. SINGH, Psychologist and Entrepreneur
  4. SUMITRA BISWAS, Woman Entrepreneur
  5. PAMPA BANERJEE, Bengali Teacher and Director of Kalplog Abritti Shikha Kendra
  6. ALISHA DAS, Gold Medallist from The University of Calcutta. Researcher in Psychology
  7. SUDESHNA BHATTACHARJEE, Woman Entrepreneur
  8. AYANTIKA RUDRA PAL, Business Head, Novlish Educare
  9. SUSMITA DEY, Health Care Professional. Associated with Apollo Gleneagles

**Organization)**  
6. APARUP CHAKRABORTY, Sports Personality  
7. DEBASHIS PAUL, Social Activist  
8. ARABINDA KUNDU, Business Man & Financial Consultant  
9. DHRUBJYOTI BANNERJEE, Business Leader Regional Sales Manager (RSM), Adani Groups  
All the esteemed guests and awardees have deciphered their most invaluable view points about the precious programme and they all have supported the team "Kolahal" for our successful future consequences.  
Apu Kundu, Biplob Roy, Saurav Bhattacharjee and Dr. Rudrarup Gupta have been organizing this fascinating event for last 3 years with a ton of high-end moral supports and indomitable spirits. They really desire to enhance the real conceptual value of "kolahal" over the coming years for engaging magnanimous victory in style.

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# More pain for common man? After LPG, CNG and piped cooking gas price hiked

NEW DELHI: After hike in rates of petrol, diesel and LPG, the prices of CNG and cooking gas piped to household kitchens (PNG) in the national capital were hiked on Thursday by Re 1. CNG price in NCT of Delhi has

heat the government faced on the issue in Parliament on the two previous days. In Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad, CNG will cost Rs 61.58 per kg and in Gurugram the price is at Rs 67.37 per kg.

(petrol) at an underlying crude price of USD 100-120 per barrel," Kotak Institutional Equities said in a note. According to CRISIL Research, the price of crude oil (raw material for making petrol and diesel) has

120, the hike required would be Rs 15-20 per litre. India is 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs and so retail rates adjust accordingly to a global movement. The issue of price rise figured in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, with opposition protesting the additional burden on common man already reeling under the pressure of high inflation and commodity price rise.



been increased to Rs 59.01 per kg from Rs 58.01, according to the information posted on the website of Indraprastha Gas Ltd - the firm which retails CNG and piped cooking gas in the national capital. This is the third increase in CNG rates this month, which follows a spike in input (natural gas) prices across the globe.

On the previous two occasions, rates had gone up by Rs 0.50 per kg. Following the firming up of international gas rates, IGL has been raising CNG rates periodically. Prices have gone up by about Rs 5.50 per kg this year alone.

Also, the price of piped natural gas that households get for cooking purposes has also been increased by Re 1 to Rs 36.61 per standard cubic meter in Delhi. The increase follows Rs 1.60 per litre hike in petrol and diesel prices affected during the last two days and a Rs 50 per cylinder raise in the cooking gas LPG rates.

After rising by 80 paise per litre on March 22 and 23, petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged on Thursday, possibly because of the

Similarly, PNG cost has increased to Rs 35.86 per SCM in Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad and to Rs 34.81 in Gurugram. Prices vary from city to city depending on the incidence of local taxes such as VAT. A record 137-day hiatus in petrol and diesel price revision ended on March 22, with an 80 paise per litre increase in rates and a similar proportion hike followed on Wednesday.

On March 22, the price of a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder was increased to Rs 949.50 in the national capital. In some places, the LPG price has touched Rs 1,000. Prices had been on a freeze since November 4, ahead of the assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab - a period during which the cost of raw material (crude oil) soared by USD 30 per barrel. The rate revision was expected soon after assembly elections ended on March 10, but it was put off. Oil companies are now recouping the losses. They "will need to raise diesel prices by Rs 13.1-24.9 per litre and Rs 10.6-22.3 a litre on gasoline

averaged USD 100 per barrel in the current quarter and a full pass-through would require a Rs 9-12 per litre increase in the retail prices. And if the average crude oil price rises to USD 110-

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## Odisha CM walks to polling booth, sends message about his good health

Continued from page-1

clarification came in the backdrop of increased discussion over his health by the opposition camp.

"Whenever there are elections, there are these rumours. But I assure you that I am in perfect health and committed to serving the people of Odisha," the 75-year-old chief minister had said during the panchayat elections.

The opposition BJP and Congress, however, said that the chief minister should start attending his office in Lok Seva Bhawan and Assembly proceedings regularly to prove his fitness.

Though Patnaik has been attending official meetings virtually, he has not gone to the assembly and his office since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patnaik, who is also the president of the ruling BJD, did not campaign during both the panchayat and urban polls and avoided mingling with the people, 'perhaps due to the pandemic', a senior minister said.

The chief minister himself abides by COVID appropriate behaviour and asks people to follow it, the minister said.

## All five AAP candidates elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Punjab

Continued from page-1

(LPU), the first private university in the state and one of the largest in India.

Raghav Chadha, 33, is the AAP's co-incharge of Punjab affairs and considered by the party as one of the architects of its victory in the state Assembly polls.

Sandeep Pathak, an associate professor at IIT Delhi, was also instrumental in strategising the AAP's victory in the state polls. He did his Ph.D from Cambridge University of UK.

Sanjeev Arora, a businessman from Ludhiana, runs the Krishna Pran Breast Cancer Charitable Trust. He founded it after his parents lost their lives to cancer. The trust has treated more than 160 cancer patients free of cost.

Arora is also on the governing board of Dayanand Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana and is also a member of the apex council of the Punjab Cricket Association.

# FishInn to invest Rs 1,000 crore in Telangana

HYDERABAD: Another huge investment has landed in Telangana. FishInn, an exporter of tilapia fishes in the world will be investing Rs 1,000 crore in the State.

Manish Kumar, Chairman and CEO of FishInn



took the decision at a meeting with IT & Industries Minister KT Rama Rao in the US.

He said the company has decided to develop a fully integrated freshwater fish culture system in the State of Telangana at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore. The company will start world-class operations at the Mid Manair reservoir in Rajanna Sircilla.

Manish Kumar said the company will continue to operate in various sectors such as hatcheries, feed manufacturing, cage culture, fish processing and exports. "Company is likely to export about 85,000 metric tonnes of fish from the State every year once it starts full-scale

## Ukraine refugees' hopes of return waning weeks into war

Continued from page-1

"Everything was prepared, even though we were not sure whether all this would be necessary, we did not know that the war would start, that this would be Putin's way of doing things," he said. A month later, "we are dreaming about the stabilization and the end of this situation ... We are tired but we are going to help until the end."

In Przemysl, another Polish town where refugees from Ukraine arrive by train, 66-year-old Nelya Kot from Chernihiv said she remembers waking up to the sound of air raids and explosions when the war started on Feb. 24. "I thought maybe it was a drill, but then realized that if it were only a drill you wouldn't hear explosions," she said. "At that moment my daughter called and said 'Mom, Russia has attacked us.'"

One month later, Kot added, people in Chernihiv drink river water to survive. Kot's nephew was killed while waiting for bread, and devastation is everywhere, she said.

"Today, (in Chernihiv) there is no water, no gas, no electricity in the city, Kot gasped. "People are in total isolation, they drink water from the Desna River."

To ease the strain on the countries accepting refugees, the European Union announced moves Wednesday to help its member states assist the millions of refugees in accessing schools for their children, health care, accommodation and work.

The measures also aim to help facilitate the movement of refugees between countries that can house them in the EU and other countries such as Canada and the United Kingdom, which already have large Ukrainian communities.

Mostly women and children - Ukrainian men from age 18 to 60 have been banned from leaving the country and stay to fight — the refugees have sought to rebuild their lives in neighbouring countries, seek jobs and start schools. Some have moved on other nations where they have relatives.

Maria Tykha, a 29-year-old refugee also from Kharkiv, still doesn't know what he will do next. After arriving Thursday to Przemysl by train, she said "I just can't believe that it is possible in the 21st century."

In Medyka, the refugees are still arriving, though in smaller numbers and in warmer weather. On Wednesday, children could be seen clutching their favourite toys, women carrying babies and people arriving with their dogs, whom they refused to leave behind.

Lutsenko was sitting on her bed in a sports hall that has been turned into a refugee centre, with dozens of beds lined up in one central area. She too had thought the war would be over in just a few days.

"Nobody thought it would last this long, for a month," she said. "I believe that Ukraine will win and I believe in our army. I still believe."

operations," he added.

On this occasion, KTR said with this investment, the fishing industry in Telangana will get expertise of international standards. He said the investment would provide employment to about 5,000 people.

The company was advised to give preference to the Telangana youth, especially those who depend on the fisheries industry and the expatriates of Mid Manair. KTR has advised CEO Manish to use the skills they already have in fish farming.

## 65% Polling In ULB Poll

Continued from page-1

tions of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur.

While 65 per cent of voter turn out was registered in 106 NACs and Municipalities, the voting was low in three corporations, he said. While Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) reported 65 per cent voters turn out, it was 50 per cent in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and 47 per cent in Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC).

While fate of 569 candidates are sealed in the EVMs for the Mayor, Chairpersons. At least 5842 candidates are in the fray for the Corporator or Councilors posts. The counting of votes is scheduled to be held on March 26, the SEC said.

The ULB polls, which was held after a gap of about 9 years, was however, interesting as the people for the third time got opportunity to elect the Mayors or Chairpersons directly. In 1979 and 1992 Chairpersons of Urban Bodies were elected directly. In both cases Biju Patnaik did this for strengthening Urban Bodies Chiefs.

Meanwhile, the SEC said that as many as 73 candidates have been elected to the posts of Councilors or Corporators uncontested. While the ruling BJD candidates won the polls smoothly without any contest, one each from BJP and Congress also got elected in the process. Independents were elected uncontested in two places, the SEC said.

Meanwhile, reports of isolated violence were received from the districts of Ganjam, Bhadrak, Puri, Bolangir, Kandhamal and Cuttack. The people of Gadakana area in BMC area gheroed the polling booth in ward number.

Report from Dhamnagar NAC in Bhadrak district said that a BJP supporter was seriously injured due to stabbing when he opposed booth rigging by rival party workers.

"The injured person has been shifted to SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack. The situation is under control after a group clash," said Bhadrak SP Charan Singh Meena.

In another incident, the of BJP workers allegedly thrashed Patnagarh MLA Saroj Meher's brother Pradeep Meher for allegedly distributing money among voters to influence them at Kolpada in Bolangir district.

A man was also assaulted by a group of people in ward no. 53 of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) when he was allegedly distributing cash among the voters. He was handed over to police.

In Nayagarh, an independent candidate's husband and his associate attacked Khandapada block Vice Chairman Sisir Sahu in front of a booth at Khandapada Women's College over political rivalry. Police started an investigation into the incident on the basis of a complaint filed by Sahu.

A report from Ganjam district said that 3 BJP workers were allegedly injured in a group clash in front of the party's office in Chikiti NAC. Four bikes and a car belonging to BJP state executive committee member Manoranjan Dyan Samantara, were damaged. Tension also prevailed at Ankuli Bauri Sahi under Ward 40 of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) after the agents of different political parties found an Electronic Voting machine (EVM) inside a car parked outside booth 233. BeMC's deputy commissioner Adwitya Swain explained that the EVM was kept on standby to be used in case any machine malfunctioned.

A BJP polling agent also suffered injuries in an attack by opponents at booth-9 of Ward No-7 in Pipili in Puri district. The seriously injured agent has been admitted to the Pipili government hospital, police sources said.

## IPL 2022: MS Dhoni steps down as CSK captain, hands over reins to Ravindra Jadeja

MS Dhoni who has been the CSK captain from the inaugural season of the IPL in 2008 has decided to step down ahead of the 2022 edition. All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja who is with CSK since 2012 will take charge as skipper. Dhoni will, however, continue as a player. "Dhoni will continue to represent Chennai Super Kings this season and beyond," said CSK in a statement. Jadeja will be only the third player to lead CSK after Dhoni and Suresh Raina.

play the IPL after announcing his international retirement in his inimitable style, his decision to hand over the CSK leadership to Jadeja was not entirely surprising.

Dhoni knew that he can't go on forever and the 33-year-old Jadeja, who is at the peak of his prowess, is ready for the challenge. The southpaw was CSK's number one retention before the auction ahead of Dhoni, Moeen Ali and Ruturaj Gaekwad.

The announcement still took CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan by surprise but he said "if Dhoni takes a decision, it has to be in the best interest of the team". "See whatever decision MS takes it is in the best interest of the team. So there is nothing to worry for us. We respect his decision. He is always there to guide us. He has always been the

guiding force and will continue to be the guiding force," Viswanathan.

Asked if the 2022 edition can be his last season, the CEO added: "I don't think it will be his last season. As long as he is fit, we want him to play. That is my wish, I don't know about him (what he thinks)."

On Jadeja's ascension as captain, Viswanathan said the all-rounder is primed to do well. "See Jaddu will do well. He is probably in the best form of his career. He will definitely do well under MS' guidance. Jaddu has been with us for 10 years and he very well knows the team culture," he added.



Dhoni (40) who had announced his international retirement following the 2019 World Cup, had led CSK to their fourth title last season. CSK will play KKR in the inaugural match of IPL 2022 at the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday.

The World Cup-winning captain has always been his own man when it comes to leaving captaincy or announcing his retirement. He quit Test captaincy and also the five-day game in the middle of a series in Australia in 2014. And when he thought Virat Kohli was ready to lead India across formats, Dhoni made way for him in 2017.

Though the inspirational leader carried on to

## Ukrainian women's soccer club adjusts to life in Germany

COLOGNE: On the day Russian troops surged into Ukraine a month ago, the players of women's soccer club FC Kryvbas were heading to the airport on their way to a training camp and games in Turkey. They had to abort the trip as Russian missile strikes hit their

"I am very glad we arrived here with all our team, that we managed to keep the team. But honestly speaking I cannot say that football is a priority for me now," Kryvbas midfielder Liubov Mozga said Wednesday at training. "Peace on our land is a priority for

recovery, and signing new Ukrainian and foreign players to fill out a young squad in the process of a rebuild, she said on social media the day before.

The players were already on the bus when rocket strikes hit the city. They took refuge in a hotel and

house refugees, and they're able to use their host club's modern training facilities. Kryvbas was third in the Ukrainian league when the war began and competitions were suspended. It's not clear when they could resume.

Kryvbas captain Anna Ivanova said she can't adapt to life



home city of Krivvi Rih.

The players are now living and training in Germany with support from Cologne, a soccer club with teams in the men's and women's Bundesliga competitions.

The players and staff of Kryvbas have managed to stay together, but focusing on training is far from easy.

me now." Kryvbas had booked a training camp with two friendly games in the Turkish resort city of Belek starting Feb. 24, and the players were looking forward to meeting up with teammates who had been away on duty with the Ukrainian national team.

Kryvbas coach Alina Stetsenko's thoughts were on modernizing fitness training and

ended up staying there for two weeks. The players eventually made their way to Germany with the help of Artur Podkopayev, a former player for the Kryvbas men's youth teams who was living in the country and asked Cologne for help.

Now the players are staying in a hotel in Cologne which has been converted to

in Germany while her family remains in danger at home.

"Being here in a secure place, while your family is under shelling is very difficult," Ivanova said. "We are worried for our families. They are in touch, they are hiding in bomb shelters. Unfortunately, there are missiles flying, the sirens turn on, so their nights are not quiet. Same way, our nights aren't quiet as well."

## 'Wait and see': Ashleigh Barty hesitates to speak on future plans after shock retirement

BRISBANE(KCN): Ashleigh Barty was coy about her future on Thursday, telling media "you'll have to wait and see" as speculation mounts about what comes next after her shock retirement from tennis. The world number one and three-time Grand Slam champion stunned the tennis world on Wednesday by quitting aged just 25, saying she had fulfilled her dreams and was "spent physically".

It sparked an outpouring of praise for the down-to-earth Australian, led by Serena Williams. Barty spoke publicly for the first time on Thursday since her announcement but repeatedly deflected questions on her future plans. "You'll have to wait and see, I'm not giving you everything right now. It's alright, you can be patient. Patience is a virtue. We'll see," she told reporters in Brisbane.

Barty previously walked away from tennis to play in cricket's Big Bash

League, with local media speculating a return to the crease could be on the cards, or even becoming a professional golfer or

self "a homebody". "I have always wanted to have the time to contribute more in other ways. And I think now I have got that oppor-

perspective and sparked retirement thoughts.

But her coach Craig Tytzer admitted she had been thinking



playing Australian Rules.

"I have seen some brilliant photoshops as a jockey, lawn bowls. I love sport, I'm a sport nut like a lot of Australians are. I'll be lured to it. I have always been an athlete in the sense of trying different things, but we'll see how we go," the multi-talented Barty joked.

She did confirm she wanted to work more with Indigenous Australians and spend time with her mum and dad, calling her

tunity and I've been fortunate enough to have so many opportunities given to me from tennis, and now I'm ready to really give back in ways that I'm passionate about," Barty said.

Marriage is on the horizon to long-term boyfriend Garry Kissick. A date has been set, but Barty would not say when. In a social media message on Wednesday, Barty said achieving her life-time dream of winning Wimbledon last year changed her

about it as far back as her breakthrough Grand Slam success at the French Open in 2019. "The first thing she said to me was, 'Can I retire now?'. I sort of went, 'Hang on, I'm not ready for that'. It's not a shock to me. Ash does her own thing and when we started together she wanted to do it the way she wanted to do it. I think it's the right time," he said alongside Barty.




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