

Congress leaders from Haryana meet Rahul Gandhi, suggest measures to strengthen party

NEW DELHI(KCN): Congress leaders from Haryana met Rahul Gandhi here on Friday and deliberated on the party's strategy going forward and ways to strengthen it.



The leaders discussed the challenges before the party in Haryana, especially after the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) victory in neighbouring Punjab, and how to address

those. Various leaders put forth their views before the former Congress chief, who gave



a patient hearing to all of them. The meeting lasted for three hours, after which Gandhi met some leaders individually. Gandhi also sought the views of the party leaders to strengthen the organisation and reach out to the grassroots level.

The leaders suggested several measures to strengthen the party and how to reach out to the



people. Some called upon the leadership for early decisions on revamping the organisation in the state, which has not been done for several years. Among those who attended the meeting were AICC in charge of Haryana Vivek

Bansal, former chief minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda, Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja, AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, Kuldeep Bishnoi, Kiran Chaudhary, Rajya Sabha MP Deepinder Singh Hooda and Captain Ajay Singh Yadav.

Selja later told reporters that there are issues that need to be addressed, including strengthening the party at the grassroots. People expressed their views and Rahul Gandhi heard each of them, she said. Bhopinder Hooda said everybody kept their views on how the party can be strengthened. **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Naveen attends Assembly

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at-

years. Before attending the session, Mr.Patnaik

which have earlier announced to attack the government over



tended the Budget session of Odisha Legislative Assembly which commenced here on Friday amid strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines. He is attending House after two long

also presided over a meeting of the Governing BJD Lawmakers Meet held in the Assembly premises and advised the Members on how to face the challenges of the opposition parties

the alleged rise in the poll related violence and deteriorating law and order situation across the state. "The government is prepared to debate on any issue raised by the opposition mem-

bers. The party will also raise issues like central negligence towards Odisha and price rise of essential items and fuel," said Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mr.Arukha. Though Mr.Patnaik used to attend official meetings and assembly proceedings during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic through virtual mode, the opposition members used to criticise him for not attending the House.

Several times, Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra on record alleged that Mr.Patnaik attended **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

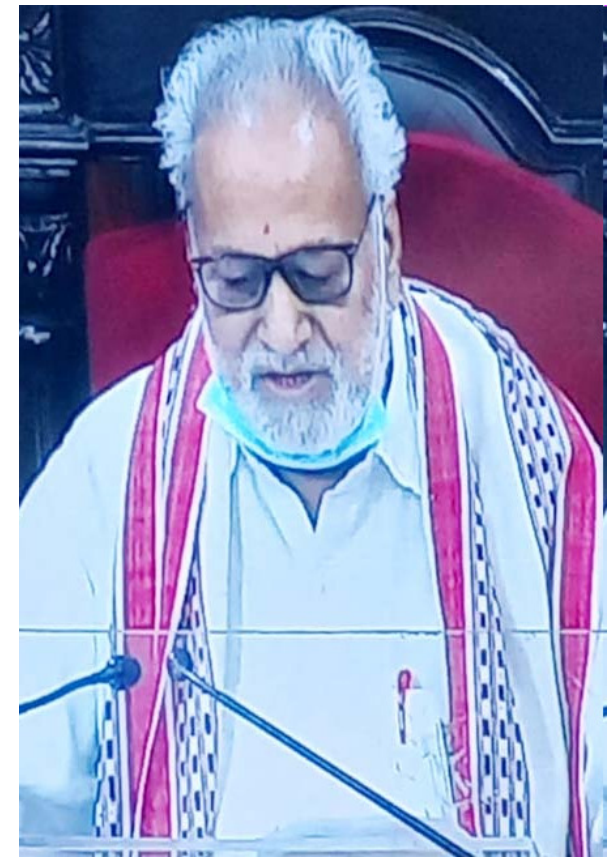
All Time Mineral Revenue Record

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The year 2021-22 has been a year of high collection of mining revenue. The current financial year collection stands at Rs.31,049 crore till December, 2021, which is an all-time record, said Governor Ganeshi Lal here on Friday.

While addressing the Assembly on the inaugural day of Budget Session, the Governor said, "As a mineral rich State, Odisha has vast reserves of high grade Iron ore, Bauxite, Chromite, Manganese ore, coal and other minerals. My Government has been implementing the IT based mineral administration under Integrated Mines Mineral Management System to augment 'ease of doing business' in the mining sector."

Against the total mining revenue collection of Rs.46,347

which is an all-time record, he said. Against an annual tar-



crore over the last five years up to 2020-21 the current year collection stands at Rs.31,049 crore till December, 2021,

get of Rs.1,300 crore of revenue generation from minor minerals for the current financial year, Rs.448.36 crore has already

been collected. Similarly, Motor Vehicle Tax of Rs.1,117 crore has been collected against a target of Rs.1,765 crore during the period, the Governor said.

Similarly, he said, against the annual target of Rs.5,500 crore of excise revenue during 2021-2022, the collection till date stands at Rs.3,653 crore.

"My Government's Commercial Taxes and Goods & Services Tax organization has been awarded Tax India On-Line National Taxation Award 2021 in Gold category as the best Reformer State and Gold Award in the SGST/State VAT Category," he further said.

The Governor said his Government has been able to collect **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Odisha: Short budget session likely to be stormy

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The six-day budget session of the Assembly beginning on Fri-

in the murder of cameraman Manas Ranjan Swain. Besides, the unprec-

during which he ran over his car on a crowd leaving several persons injured, will



day is likely to be stormy with the Opposition BJP and Congress ready to attack the BJD over the issue of alleged involvement of some ruling party bigwigs

edented violence during panchayat elections and unruly behaviour of expelled BJD MLA from Chilika Prashanta Jagadev in front of Banpur block office

be the major issues during the session. Opposition chief whip and senior BJP leader Mohan Charan Majhi told media-persons that the alleged involvement of

some ruling party ministers in the murder of the cameraman will be raised by the party in the House during the session.

Leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Narasingh Mishra said that the unprecedented violence during the panchayat elections, deteriorating law and order situation and alleged involvement of ministers in the murder of the cameraman will be the major issues during the session. Besides, hike in the prices of petroleum products and unsold paddy of the farmers will also be raised.

Yogi Adityanath, jumbo cabinet of 52 sworn-in at glittering ceremony

LUCKNOW(KCN): After receiving a decisive mandate in recently concluded Assembly election, Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, took the oath of office and secrecy second time to become the first chief minister to return to power after completing a successful tenure of five years after a span of 37 years in UP.

Yogi Adityanath led his jumbo 52-member cabinet to take oath of office at an extravagant swearing-in ceremony at Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Friday afternoon.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, and CMs of all BJP-ruled states including Nitish Kumar of Bihar, were among the galaxy of leaders present at the mega event. Adityanath and his cabinet were administered oath by Governor Anandiben Patel at the jam-packed stadium.

Yogi was followed by the two deputy CMs,

including Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brijesh Pathak, to take the oath. Maurya has been retained as the Deputy CM for a second term



despite his defeat from his traditional Sirathu seat in recently concluded elections. Having been a prominent OBC face of the BJP,

Maurya's association with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP)-

Bajrang Dal makes him important for the BJP.He had won the 2014 general elections from the Phulpur parliamentary constituency of Prayagraj district. **ALSO READ :** Adityanath takes oath as Uttar Pradesh CM; Maurya, Pathak to be deputy CMs However, Brajesh Pathak has been elevated to replace Dr Dinesh Sharma as the second Deputy CM. Brajesh Pathak, was a cabinet minister for Law in the previous Yogi

Adityanath government. A prominent Brahmin face of the party, he has won from the Lucknow Cantonment seat in 2022 polls. In 2017, Pathak jumped the ship from Bahujan Samaj Party to join BJP. He represented Unnao in Lok Sabha during 2004-2009.

The Yogi cabinet 2.0, comprises of 18 cabinet rank ministers, 14 ministers of state with independent charge and 20 state ministers. Meanwhile, 32 new faces have been given place in the new cabinet. Of 32, nine new faces have got cabinet rank, seven Minister of State with Independent charge and 16 Ministers of State.

Two BJP allies including Apna Dal (S) and NISHAD party have also secured a berth each as cabinet minister.

However, over two dozen (26) ministers, including some prominent faces, of the previous cabinet have failed to make it this time. Prominent among **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

SOA on water call

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Students of the Institute of Business and Computer Studies (IBCS), faculty of management sciences of SOA, observed the World Water Day on Tuesday by taking a pledge to conserve water and make judicious use of the precious liquid. Prof. Anup Kumar Samantaray, Dean of IBCS, led the students and faculty members in taking water for the future generations while Mr. Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar



Several guests, who attended the program, spoke on the prevailing water situation and outlined measures required to conserve water for the future. Mr. K.K.Sahoo, Head of Federation of Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), Odisha chapter, stressed on the need for preserving

Saket Agarwal, Director, Devank Enterprise, highlighted the problem of falling ground water level due to indiscriminate use and wastage. Mr. Satyanarayan Mishra, Marketing Head of Janki Pipes, focused on the importance of water for the survival of humankind. SOA's Pro Vice-

Nanda, Dean (Students' Welfare) Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das and Coordinator Dr. Duryodhan Jena also spoke. More than 150 students and faculty members also participated in a rally focusing on the theme 'Ground Water: Making Invisible Visible' chosen for the current year.

Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Dean (Students' Welfare) Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das and Coordinator Dr. Duryodhan Jena also spoke. More than 150 students and faculty members also participated in a rally focusing on the theme 'Ground Water: Making Invisible Visible' chosen for the current year.

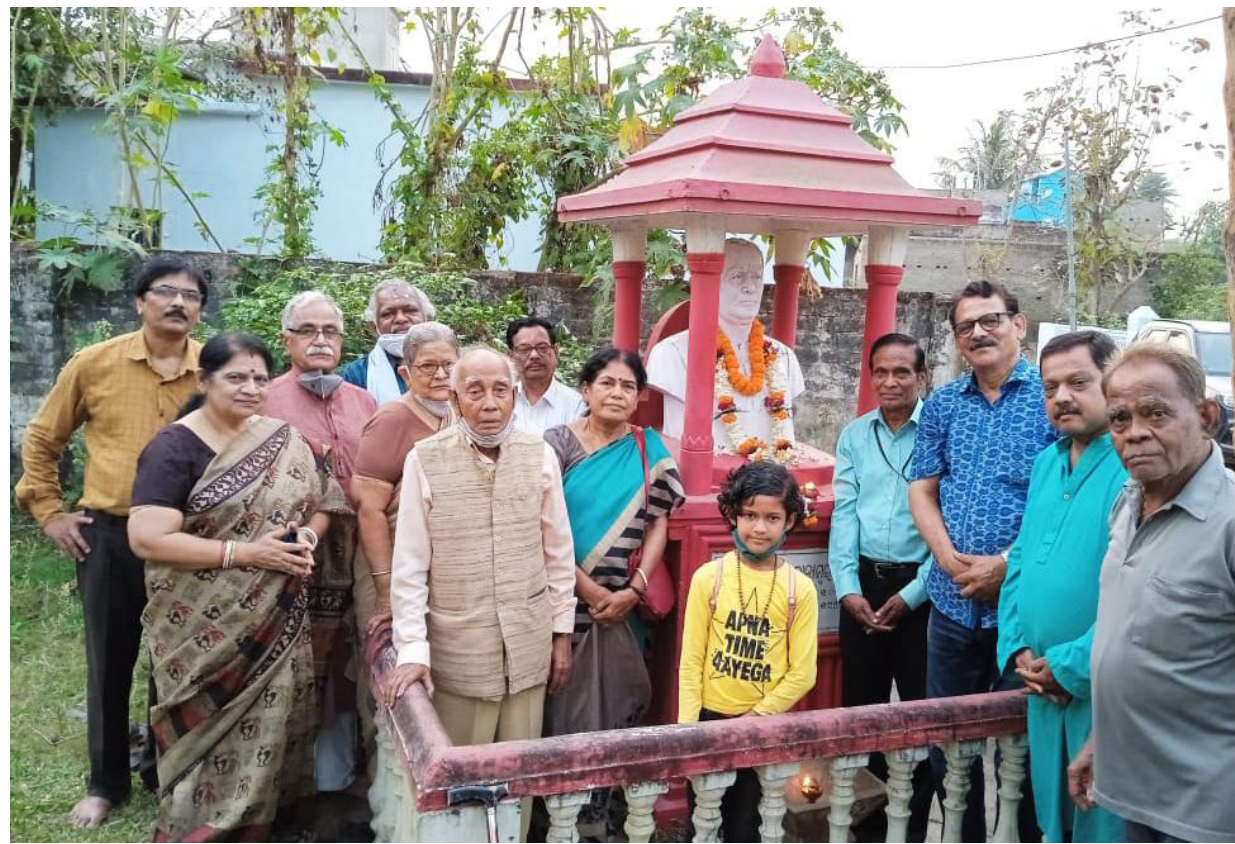
Bidya Bhushan Pandit Banamaber Achatya 122th birthday ceremony. & Sahitya Sabha Held

Cuttack Sadar(KCN): Cuttack Sadar 42 Mouza leading organisation Daya-

poetry reading program held in the topic "Paribarare BAPA". This program Poet

Biswal, Speaker Sita Ballava Mohapatra, Godhuli Sahitya sansad Secretary

Anshuman Mishara, Atandrita Brahma, Cultural Secretary Rudra Narayan



midhi Pratiba Bikash Pratistan (DPBP) Patana H.O. Place Bidya Bhushan Pandit Banamaber Achatya Smritisansad and Godhuli Sahitya Sansad, BBSR observed Bidya Bhushan Pandit Banamaber Acharya 122th birthday ceremony. In starting discussion &

Ashok Pati, Sahitika Chandrakanta Panda, Teacher Prafull Chandra Mohapatra, Poet Jykrushna Nayak, Minati Panda, Ratna Manjari Panda, Jya Jyanti Pati, Sahitika Ramakanta Mishra, Sahitika Parshuram Diwabadi, Natryakara Dr. Bijaya Mohaty, President Er. Ashok

Bimala Singha, Patitapabana Mohapatra, Bidya Bhushan Pandit Banamaber Achatya Smriti committee President-his son Sesa Bhusana Acharya, daughter Anuradha Acharya, Renuka Acharya, Chinmayi Acharya, Ramakanta Mishara, Minakhi Nanda,

Das, Sr. Member Upanandra Barik, Madhab Parida, Poet Nirod Kumar Panda, Natabara Behera, Ashim Das joined with discussed about the greatness, Ideal nature, dedication for society etc.. In the End secretary Nayan Chandra Mohanty gave thanks to all.

Validity of soon-to-expire learner licenses extended: Delhi transport department

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Delhi Transport Department has extended the validity of learner's driving licences expiring on March 31 by two months till May 31, 2022. Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot announced the development and said it is the final opportunity for people to get their learner's licences renewed. "Those Learner's Licence whose validity is going to expire by March 31 has been extended for a period of 2 months i.e., up to May 31. Pls note that this is the last

and final opportunity," Transport Minister said in a tweet. He also attached a picture of the order issued by his department in this connection. The order issued by the Transport Department on Thursday said that the validity of driving learner's licences has been extended from time to time because driving skill test and new appointments for the test were suspended in pursuance of Delhi Disaster Management Authority guidelines to contain COVID-19 spread.

Team Excise On Record Seizure

Cuttack(KCN): Team State Excise has made a record number of arrests and seizures during the Urban Election in the State. Ashish Singh, Commissioner State Excise led a Special

637.6 grams brown sugar, 2532 litre India made Foreign Liquor, 2810 litre beer, 786.6 litre country liquor, 2705.7 litre OS liquor, 27232 duplicate EAL, 7260 duplicate company able and 144 bikes & four

Ganja case, arrested two accused and seized 150 kg ganja and one Bolero. On March 19, the Rourkela Excise team detected one duplicate IMFL case in Rourkela, arrested one accused and

seized 525 kg ganja worth Rs 26 lakh and arrested one person. The Balasore Excise team seized 260 grams of brown sugar worth Rs 26 lakh and arrested one accused on March 6. The Dhenkanal Ex-



Drive against crimes under Excise & NDPS Act during the period from 25 February to 24 March, in view of smooth conduct of the General Election to Urban Local Bodies, 2022. Mr. Singh is taking continuous and sustained enforcement activities by Team Excise during the election period, 3895 number of cases were detected with arrests of 3195 accused persons. Similarly, 112263 litre of ID liquor, 909395 litre of ID Wash (base raw material for manufacturing country Liquor), 2916 KGs of ganja, 1037.14 litre of duplicate IMFL, 9341.08 litre non-duty paid IMFL, 527.7 litre spirit,

wheelers along with other incriminating excisable articles were seized during the one months period. Total seizure value of seized items / goods will be around Rs 11.65 crore. The work of enforcement agencies of the Excise Department has regularly been monitored from the Excise Directorate. The major detected cases include seizure of 110 kg of ganja by EI & EB unit - II, Cuttack on March 24, 2022. The Bhubaneswar Excise detected one excise case and seized 132 ltrs IMFL, 242 ltrs Beer and 60 ltrs CL on that day. On March 20, the EI & EB unit -II, Cuttack detected one

seized 223 ltrs of duplicate IMFL, 5000 pieces of duplicate EAL and other materials. Similarly, state Flying Squad, Cuttack conducted raid upon one duplicate IMFL manufacturing Centre at Kanheipur of Bhubaneswar area of Dhenkanal district and seized 360 litre of spirit imported from Kolkata in 6 drums, 60 litre duplicate IMFL whisky, 2850 duplicate Hologram (EAL) on March 14. The Berhampur EI & EB unit arrested two accused and seized 400 KG ganja worth of Rs 20 lakh on March 14. The seized ganja is transported from Gajapati district to Uttar Pradesh. On March 10, Koraput Excise team

seized liquor worth Rs 70 lakh and arrested 3 accused at Baunsaokhari under Hindol Police Station area of Dhenkanal District on March 1 early morning. The EI & EB Unit-II, Cuttack detected one NDPS (Brown Sugar) case at Khurda Town and seized 188 grams of Brown Sugar on February 28. On February 26, 2022, the EI & EB Unit Berhampur busted one duplicate IMFL Manufacturing unit at Jiniguda village in Berhampur excise District with seizure of 214 Litre duplicate IMFL, 165 litre spirit along with other raw materials & sealing machines.

Soundarya College of Law inaugurated its Moot Court Society on 24th March 2022

Bengaluru (KCN): The program began with an invocation song by Ms. Sandhya K. S., 5th Sem LL.B. It was followed by the welcome address by Dr. Shobha Rani, Asst. Prof., Soundarya College of Law. The lamp was lit by all the dignitaries and student representatives. The Inaugural Address was rendered by Adv. Nithin, Advocate, High Court of Karnataka. He highlighted the fact that Advocates profession is a Holy profession. He was of the opinion that researchers play a

guarding the significance of 'samskaras' in our life and also the respect which one should have for the "black coat". After which, Sri K.Mathai, Director



huge role for the moots. He also opined that mooting helps a student to apply what is taught in class and relate it to a problem at hand. According to sir's view it is our ability to think outside the box which can bring many laurels. The Presidential Address was rendered by our beloved chairman, Sri. Soundarya P Manjappa. Sir enlightened us with his wisdom and spoke to us re-

Administrations, Soundarya Group of Institutions, Sri. Keerthan Kumar, CEO, Soundarya Education Trust and Dr. B. P. Mahesha, Principal, Soundarya College of Law addressed the students. The session ended with a vote of thanks by faculty co-ordinator, Mr. Hanumanthe Gowda, Asst. Prof. Soundarya College of law.

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Bollywood's Independent Music Album 'Dil Se Dil Tak'

Bhubaneswar/East : In a first-of-its-kind creative attempt to bridge that gap between Singh, "I consider myself an 'expressionist' and I just have to keep creating. I'm a lover of



Bollywood and popular music, Entertainment and Sports Guru, Shailendra Singh turns Music and Video Director of Dil Se Dil Tak – an independent Bollywood music album featuring ten songs of ten different genres, each with its own music video. Always one to use his experience and platform to include new, young artists alongside India's best talents,

music and saw real gap between the storytelling songs that we love in films, and the unburdened creation of independent music. So I wanted to make it. I brought together so many talented artists to



Shailendra Singh features an unprecedented 200 different artists on the much-awaited album. The proceeds generated from this unique album will be used to help Covid-19 pandemic affected children through the Magic Bus Foundation.

Dil Se Dil Tak is Bollywood's first independent music album to bring so many artists together to create independent, stand-alone music, but with all the drama and storytelling of the nation's beloved Bollywood.

Says Music and Video Director, Shailendra

create this album with me, appreciated each and everyone's contribution and really believe we made magic in Dil Se Dil Tak."

For first film that Shailendra Singh produced, Pyaar Mein Kabhi Kabhi, he was awarded a Limca World Record for 'the most number of debuts in a film', launching the careers of over 200 of Bollywood's biggest talents. India's Serial Entrepreneur and Inceptor of Percept Ltd, Sunburn, Guestlist4Good and Boss Entertainment, he is the entertainment and sports industries' all-rounder. He established 23 successful startups in 32 years of his career,

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



NEW DELHI: Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book #YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the cation, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of the former Chairman

of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

is a powerful Producer and Director of films, bestselling author of F?@K Knows and Youth Icon for the new, young India.

Shailendra Singh is a master-storyteller, creating songs that blend the best of each music genre with an emotional and gripping story in the song and accompanying video. The music videos were shot at picturesque locations all over the country from Himachal Pradesh to Spiti Valley, to various untapped locations in Maharashtra. Filled with colorful characters and glamorous production values, Dil Se Dil Tak is all set to create sensation in the musical world.

One of India's most public philanthropists, Shailendra Singh explains, "During the Covid-19 pandemic crisis we all were equally hit. But in every crisis there is an opportunity.

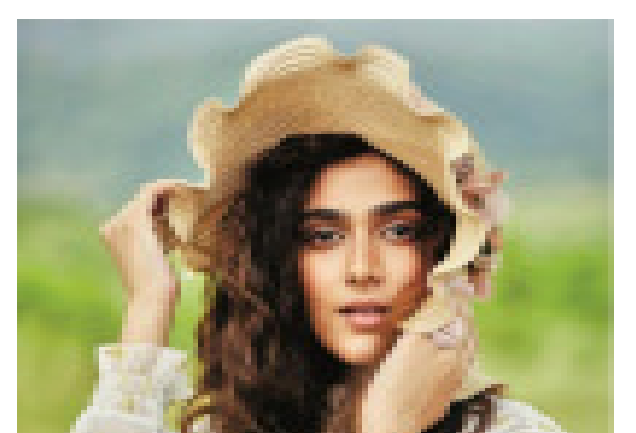


Whenever there is darkness there will soon be the light. I wanted to engage both established and new artists in film and music to create something India has never seen before. No sponsors, no agenda... just a pure musical and video experience. And with a heart – to help those who are still suffering the most, the underprivileged children of India."

Dil Se Dil Tak is produced by Boss Entertainment; Shailendra Singh is the Music and Video Director; Anjana Ankur Singh is the Music Composer; Arshad Khan is Director of Photography; Dinesh Mali has edited the music videos.

Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

Ajay Devgn's Mayday has been creating a massive buzz because of its interesting star



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

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

Home-made Cucumber Facial Mist for Summers

Looking fresh and glowing all day long can be quite a struggle, especially in summers when we have to deal with dry and dehydrated skin.. Well, it is not easy to deal with pollution, dirt and oil due to continuous exposure to harsh sunlight/ UV radiations . It is hard to maintain a fresh face with severe environmental conditions during summer time .

There's nothing quite like a refreshing face mist in the summertime. Facial sprays are a great way for hydrating, reviving, and brightening skin throughout the day.

Face mists also moisturize skin and leave you with a glowy complexion.

Experts suggest that treating our skin with fresh seasonal fruits is one of the best ways to pamper our skin as nothing could beat an all-natural facial spray made at home by yourself

Cucumber is one of the cheapest, safest, and most sustainable options in summer and it works excellent for our skin.

Its high water content not only hydrates your skin, but also acts as a natural coolant to your skin. It soothes, calms and revitalizes sun-damaged skin. Moreover, it closes the pores and reduces oiliness. Cu-

cumber face masks can revive tired skin

and get rid of sun tan and acne. Depending on the ingredients, the spray mist can tone the skin, or close the pores, or reduce oiliness. It can also have a healing effect on eruptive conditions and may moisturize the skin. Simply formulated, a facial spray can be a wonderful pick-me-up treatment. Facial mists also help to "set" your make-up. Instead of a powdery or chalky finish, you can have a moist and healthy look after applying make-up.

To make a spray mist at home, you will need a spray bottle and distilled water. Or, you can use mineral water, instead of distilled water. Rose water may also be used. In fact, you can put rose water in the spray bottle and chill it in the fridge. You can also mix rose water in equal quantities with cucumber juice. Cucumber is a natural coolant and cucumber juice can be a wonderful face toner and an astringent. It closes the pores and reduces oiliness of the skin. It also has a mild skin whitening effect.

Cucumber is packed with natural toning properties, so you can use it twice a day as a toner alone.

You can make a facial mist with cucumber juice, mixing the juice of one cucumber with one tablespoon of rose water and one cup of mineral water. It will not only

Shahnaz Husain

tone the skin, but also remove tan over a period of time.

Cucumber juice can also be mixed with one teaspoon of mint juice and a cup of mineral water.

The juice of one cucumber can also be mixed with half teaspoon lemon juice, one teaspoon aloe vera juice and one cup rose water. Chill the mixture in the fridge. This spray mist will close the pores and also moisturise the skin, without making it oily. You can also mix one tablespoon of cucumber juice with one cup coconut water. It makes a most refreshing skin toner, also cooling the skin. It is also a skin whitening beauty treatment if used over a period of time and lightens skin blemished.

You can also take 10 gms of rose petals and put them in a bowl. Add two cups of hot water to cover them and let them infuse in the water. Leave overnight. Next morning cool and strain and then add one tablespoon of cucumber juice and the contents of one Vitamin E capsule. Mix well. Put in a spray bottle and use it to spray a fine mist on the face. It helps to tone, refresh and nourish the skin.

Cut a fresh cucumber and ripe tomato into chunks. Blend the chunks in a food processor and process until smooth. Pat the mixture, without rubbing, onto your face and neck using your fingers. Let it sit on your skin for five minutes. Rinse well with

lukewarm water and pat dry with a clean towel. Keep the remaining mixture in a container and store it in your refrigerator for up to 15 days. Use it daily.

Take the juice of medium size ½ cucumbers in a small bowl. Pour ½ cup of distilled water. Add 1 tsp of aloe Vera juice. Finally add 1 tsp of witch hazel. Mix it well and keep it in a small bottle, Use it whenever you need freshness

One should take care not to use too much facial mist sprays. They provide a cool, fresh feeling, but that does not mean you drench yourself with it. Too much can actually cause your make-up to run, instead of helping to set it.

Hold the spray bottle about 6-8 inches away from the face and spritz the solution 2-3 times. Allow it to dry naturally while ensuring that the skin absorbs all the goodness!

Home beauty recipes should not be made in large quantities.

You should use a light moisturizing spray and avoid using too much.

Different ingredients can be steeped in hot water, cooled and then strained and used in a facial mist. Among these are lemon and orange peels, lemon or orange slices, grapefruit, aloe vera juice, etc., apart from cucumber. Store the liquid in a refrigerator.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

Enhance Export Preparedness

NITI Aayog has launched second edition of Export Preparedness Index (EPI). The EPI aims to examine the export performance and the export readiness of the states and union territories.

EPI 2021 entails 4 pillars, 11 sub pillars and 60 indicators and covers across 28 states and 8 UTs. As per the index, Gujarat emerged as the top-performing state in the 'Coastal States' category, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka. In the category of 'Landlocked States', Haryana was the best-performing state. Among 'Himalayan States' and 'Union Territories', Uttarakhand and Delhi are the top-performing states respectively.

The framework consists of four main dimensions: Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem and Export Performance.

The existence of favorable trade policy in a region forms the basis for the strategic advantage to the stakeholders and provide a vision of the state government. The pillar covers the paramount trade policies vital for the expansion of export business. It evaluates whether the particular policy has been implemented in the state or not.

A prevalent environment with good infrastructure, connectivity, and access to finance play a significant role in attracting new investments in any region. A conducive eco-system with regulatory ease and a facilitative environment spurs business activity. This pillar tries to capture the performance of the states on similar grounds. The existence of efficient business ecosystem strengthens the backward and forward linkages of the exporting industry, thereby enhancing their output and growth. It covers a wide range of areas like Ease of Doing Business, Innovative Capacity, Cluster strength, Financial Ability, Logistics and more. In addition to the comprehensive enabling

environment in the state, peculiar attention must be

given to the export business ecosystem, which drives competition and growth in the export specific sector. The pillar covers indicators like area under Export Promotion Industrial Parks, Export Promotion Zones, Existence of Trade Guide, Number of Inspection agencies - NABCB certification and others, which are essential to attract new investors and increase the productivity of the existing ones.

Measuring export performance is necessary to assess actual results. This particular pillar, unlike others, is an output-based dimension. It helps to examine how much the states have achieved and improved in the export sector. Growth and Diversification of exports constitute the export performance of the states.

All the vital parameters, namely Export Promotion Policy, Institutional Framework, Business Environment, Infrastructure, Transport Connectivity, Access to finance, Export Infrastructure, Trade Support, Research and Development Infrastructure, Growth Orientation and Export Diversification have been covered as sub pillars under the four main dimensions of the index. The sub-pillars cover sixty indicators in total.

There is a high scoring range amongst Indian states on the EPI, where Gujarat has the highest score of 78.86 and Lakshadweep with the lowest score of 2.12. Gujarat has topped the index with a strong display in various sub-pillars such as Export promotion policy, Business Environment and Infrastructure. Notably, other coastal states such as Maharashtra and Karnataka occupy the index's second and third positions.

Pradeep Kumar Panda

All three states have performed consistently across

pillars, thus consolidating solid scores. These states are among the top states in the export contribution of more than 50 per cent in India in 2020-21. The best performing states in EPI have also been some of the top scorers in the innovation and LEADS index, which reflects the role of increasing innovative capacity and logistical infrastructure in shaping export growth. Moreover, these states have struck a balance in existing basic and export infrastructure, driving the export growth in the regions. An additional advantage to these states is that they enjoy the strong presence of industries that drive investment and FDI inflows, further enhancing manufacturing tendencies in the region. Every region needs to strike this balance between overall competitiveness, innovation and export performance like Gujarat and Maharashtra.

From landlocked states, it is Haryana that emerges as a top performer. Except for trade support and export growth and orientation, the state has performed tremendously well across all pillars and sub-pillars. Bihar and Chhattisgarh are some of the weaker states in this category. They need to improve their performance under the business ecosystem. Export Ecosystem and export performance pillars, considering that they indicate a glaring lack in both enabling and facilitating factors that could drive the states towards export-oriented growth. A policy measure is not enough to foster export business and export growth in a region. Even though Bihar has necessary policy measures, it does not have adequate infrastructure to facilitate an enabling export environment. Amongst Himalayan states and City-states, Uttarakhand and Delhi are the top-

performing states. Delhi performs well on EPI due to higher FDI inflows, better transport connectivity, logistics and investment attracted because it is the national capital. Delhi's satisfactory performance on the innovation index has also driven its score in the business environment sub pillar. On the other hand, Uttarakhand has attracted significant investments over the last three years. It has brought initiatives such as single-window clearances, a loan scheme for exporters, a trade guide and further improved export market penetration.

Odisha is ranked 13 with export preparedness score of 42.04. In Coastal State Category, Odisha is ranked 6. Odisha has declined from rank 5 in 2020 Index to rank 13. Export preparedness score has declined from 58.23 to 42.04. In Coastal State Category, Odisha has declined from rank 4 to rank 6. Odisha has scored best in Policy Pillar while score is lowest in Business Ecosystem. In sub-pillars, Odisha has scored 100 in Export Promotion Policy, 59.32 in Institutional Framework, 62.35 in Business Environment, 14.59 in Infrastructure, 35.83 in Transport Connectivity, 35.17 in Access to Finance, 38.72 in Export Infrastructure, 1.04 in Trade Support, 12.33 in R&D Infrastructure, 31.64 in Growth and Orientation and 29.63 in Export Diversification.

The idea behind the index is to create a benchmark to rank these states and UTs to help them individually promote a conducive export environment in the region. The index is an essential tool for policymakers and exporters to identify the drivers and obstacles, and examine the same to strategize a viable export map for the state.

Economist

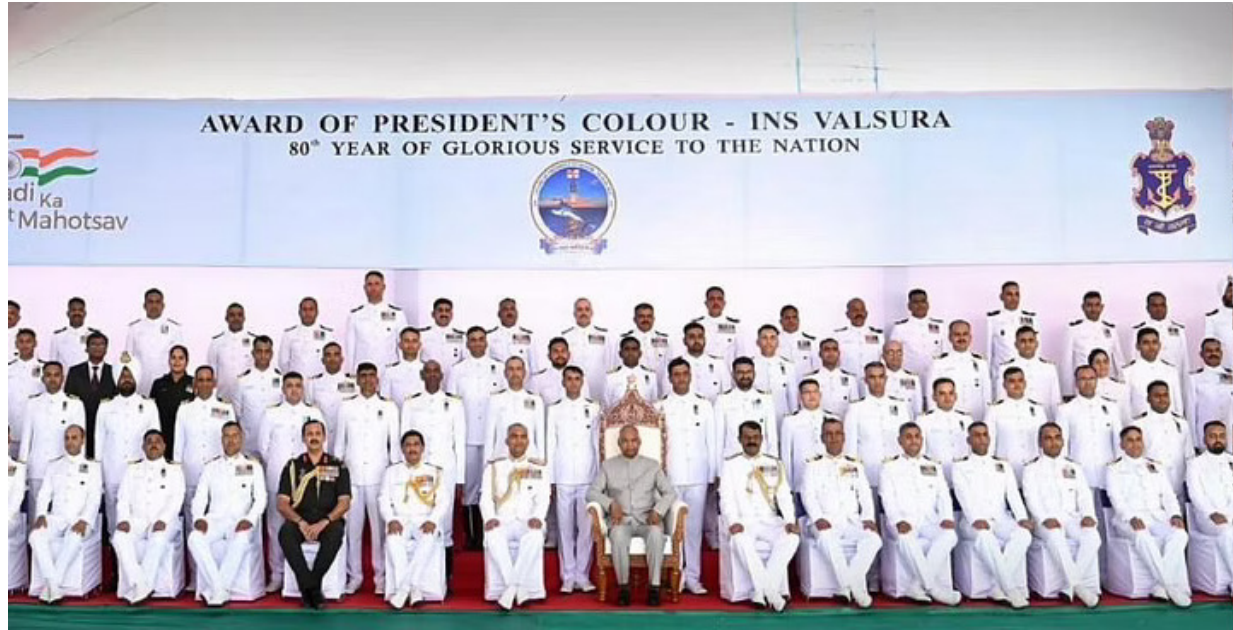
President Kovind presents President's Colour to INS Valsura for its yeoman service to nation

In recognition of the services rendered by the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura, the President of India on Friday presented the President's Colour to the Unit. Indian Navy in a statement said, "Ram Nath Kovind, the President of India presented the presti-

to 1942, when the operational necessity mandated creation of an advanced Torpedo Training Facility to enhance the firepower of the Royal Indian Navy during World War-II. Post India becoming a Republic, the unit was renamed as INS Valsura on 01 Jul

technological excellence in contemporary technology also in training officers and sailors. Overall, the establishment conducts more than 262 courses a year and has an annual training throughput of more than 750 officers and 4200 sailors. INS

them for their professionalism and dedication to safeguard our maritime borders. He further highlighted the vital role of the Indian Navy as the 'Preferred Security Partner' in the Indian Ocean Region and urged the men in whites to continue their selfless and



gious President's Colour to INS Valsura on 25th Mar 2022. The 'Nishan Adhikari' Lt Arun Singh Sambyal received the President's Colour on behalf of the unit, in an impressive parade." The unit paraded 150 men Guard of Honour for President. Over 800 Officers and men of INS Valsura, looking spectacular in their ceremonial dresses, marched proudly to the tunes of the Naval Band.

"The President's Colour is bestowed upon a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation, both in peace and in war. The Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force to be awarded the President's Colour by Dr Rajendra Prasad on 27 May 1951." Said the Indian Navy. The legacy of INS Valsura dates back

1950. Thereon, INS Valsura has transformed itself into an epitome of professional technical training and has exponentially grown to keep pace with the Indian Navy's modernisation plans. The unit has always stayed ahead of the curve to equip the officers and sailors of the Indian Navy with requisite skill-sets to maintain and ensure combat worthiness of the increasingly complex weaponry and electronic systems besides keeping pace with the advancements in Information Technology. The unit imparts quality training on contemporary and niche technologies through progressive augmentation of training infrastructure. Setting up of Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and Medium Voltage labs in recent years exemplifies its quest for

Valsura has also emerged as the preferred training destination for our Friendly Foreign Navies. 1800 trainees from 15 Friendly Foreign Navies have been trained till date from this premier institution. As part of social outreach programmes in the Saurashtra region, INS Valsura has initiated a number of welfare measures. The re-building of Navy Moda village post the devastating earthquake of 2001 was a commendable effort towards community service. In September 2021, during the floods in Jamnagar, over 400 citizens, including the elderly, ladies and children, were rescued by the teams of INS Valsura. On this landmark event, the President of India congratulated the officers and sailors of INS Valsura and commended

dedicated service to the nation. President Kovind also released a special postal cover to commemorate the occasion. The award of the President's Colour marks a very important milestone in the history of INS Valsura. "The President's Colour shall be proudly displayed and carried at all Ceremonial Parades at INS Valsura, in accordance with Naval traditions. It's a symbol of yeoman service rendered and would motivate the officers and men." the Navy said. Acharya Devvrat, the Governor of Gujarat, Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command along with other senior civil and military dignitaries graced the occasion.

SpiceJet, Boeing, CSIR-IIP forge ties for eco-friendly aviation fuel

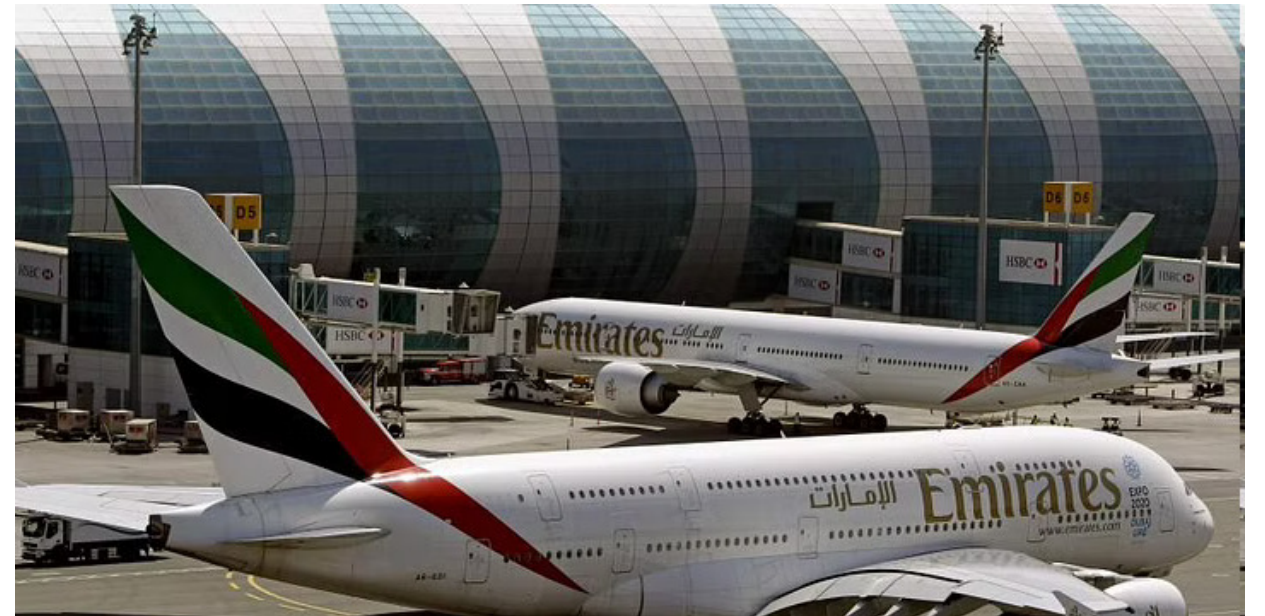
HYDERABAD: SpiceJet, Boeing and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) on Friday announced that they are working together to explore opportunities for the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in the Indian aviation industry. The coordination is part of their commitment to helping reduce carbon emissions to achieve environmental goals, a press release from the three firms said. They would work to

leverage SAF supply from CSIR-IIP and its production partners and licencees to help SpiceJet decarbonise its fleet. SAF can reduce CO2 emissions by as much as 65 per cent over the life-cycle of fuel with the potential to reach 100 per cent in the future. It is recognised as offering the most immediate and greatest potential to decarbonise aviation over the next 20 to 30 years, the re-

lease said. In 2021, Boeing committed to delivering its commercial airplanes capable and certified to fly on 100 per cent SAF by 2030. This announcement builds on Boeing's long-term industry leadership and investment to develop SAF around the world by partnering with airlines, fuel companies, governments and research institutions to expand SAF supply and reduce its cost, it

further said. Ajay Singh, chairman and managing director of SpiceJet, said, "This expanded work with Boeing with which we already share a strong partnership through the highly efficient 737 MAX, along with the Indian Institute of Petroleum, which is the frontrunner for developing SAF in India, is a step in the journey to ensure air travel is sustainable for future generations.

Emirates decides to resume all scheduled flights out of India



NEW DELHI: Emirates will resume all its scheduled operations from India beginning in April. This follows the Indian government's decision to permit all scheduled carriers to resume their international operations from March 27. Emirates will operate 170 weekly flights from nine cities within India. These include Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai,

Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Thiruvananthapuram. Emirates is also going to resume flying the Airbus A380, which is a double-decker aircraft. Meanwhile, UAE has revised its Covid travel restrictions and protocols in response to positive indicators that the emirate has entered the pandemic recovery phase. ALSO READ | Finnair launches

Mumbai-Helsinki direct flight; services to start from July. The updated regulations from the Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi, have removed the Green List system for all passengers flying from Abu Dhabi. Fully vaccinated inbound passengers from India are no longer required to take an RTPCR test before boarding their flights at Indian airports. They must still

present an official Covid 19 vaccination certificate with a readable QR Code upon arrival. Unvaccinated inbound travellers must still show a negative PCR test result obtained within 48 hours of their scheduled departure, or a Covid recovery certificate dated within 30 days of departure, complete with a readable QR Code. Travellers under the age of 12 are exempt.

India, China relations are 'work in progress' says EAM Jaishankar, Wang Yi suggests 3-point approach

NEW DELHI: Since the Galwan conflict happened in 2020, India and China's relations have not come back on track. China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, met with External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar, today and the two had a three-hour long interaction. "I would describe our current situation as work in progress, obviously at a slower pace than desirable and my discussions with FM Wang Yi today were aimed at expediting the de-escalation process," Dr Jaishankar said adding that the frictions and tensions that arise from China's deployments since April 2020 cannot be reconciled with a normal relationship between two neighbours. Meanwhile, Wang Yi said, China and India should put their differences on the border issue at a 'proper position' in bilateral relations and stick to the 'right direction' of bilateral ties. Wang Yi and Dr Jaishankar had been in touch

since the past two years. They met in Moscow in 2020 and then in Dushanbe in July and September. "We have had telephonic conversations during this period. And the focus of these interactions have naturally been on the situation in our border areas. Our meeting had led

see each other's development with a win-win mentality. Third, both countries should take a part in the multilateral process with a cooperative posture," Xinhua news agency quoted Wang Yi as saying. The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on interna-

which would enable them to travel home," Dr Jaishankar said. India and China have had 15 rounds of talks between Senior Commanders and progress has been achieved on several friction points from the disengagement perspective. This needs to be



to an understanding on disengagement and de-escalation. The challenge, of course, has been to implement it on the ground," Dr Jaishankar added. Wang Yi has proposed a three-point approach to achieve the development of bilateral relations. "First, both sides should view bilateral relations with a long-term vision. Second, they should

tional issues like Ukraine and Afghanistan. They also discussed bilateral on education, travel and commerce. "I appraised the minister about the plight of Indian students who are stranded in China since the outbreak of the pandemic and wanted to come home. He assured us that once he is back he would look into this and work out a way

taken forward since the completion of disengagement is necessary for discussions on de-escalation to take place. The impact of the tensions in the border areas on the overall relationship has been visible in the past two years. This is only natural since peace and tranquility in the border areas have been the foundation of stable and cooperative ties.

Odisha civic polls: 110 sensitive booths in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR: Around 7.25 lakh voters will exercise their franchise in the elections to Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to decide the fate of 12 mayor candidates and 289 corporator candidates in 67 wards. 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.

The future of education is student centric and experiential, educators and academia deliberate at CII's Education East Summit

Bhubaneswar (KCN): "It is vital to create analytical minds and encourage young minds to ask questions and probe so that they rise up to the challenges of the world and adapt themselves to all situations," Dr Ajoy Ray, Former Director, IEST said to all the educators and education stakeholders present today at the inaugural of the Education East Summit organized by CII in Kolkata. Dr Ray requested teachers present to encourage students, especially in schools, to let go of rote learning and capture attention through storytelling and various out-of-the-box activities to shape up minds of the future. Adding that not asking questions is one of the biggest blun-

will result in reimagination and excellence in learning as creative skills in terms of employability has become important globally. Capitalizing on the new ways of learning and the fact that people are open to consuming differently, there is a huge opportunity for private edutech companies to revision education by bringing technology, tools and infrastructure, she added. According to her, the need of the hour is to build the right curriculum and create a conducive learning atmosphere as well as bridge skill gaps in this geography. "The future of education is student centric and experiential," said Dr B V R Mohan Reddy, Chairman,

tion; reduce silos of skill and knowledge and do activities experientially; make classes more hybrid and interactive with gadgets though the value of classrooms will exist and be vital; train teachers well as pedagogy change is imperative and improve significantly the industry interaction with education to transform India into a knowledge society. Speaking at the occasion, Dr Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director, East & North East, British Council said that the social purpose of education was brought to the forefront due to the pandemic though the impact of digitization on education is yet to be seen. According to him, digital literacy skills are "patchy" and its impact need to

CEO, Heritage Group of Institution opened the summit with a remark that recently both the School and higher education regulators have initiated a series of radical reforms, such as allowing graduate students to pursue doctorate degrees, doing away with the mandatory PhD requirement to teach in central universities, introducing a common entrance test for admission to undergraduate courses in central university colleges, permitting autonomous colleges to offer online degrees, semester exams in schools particularly for classes between 9 and 12.

Ms Bratati Bhattacharyya, Co-Chairperson, CII Eastern Region Education subcommittee



ders of our times, Dr Ray called for non-linear thinking, learning with fun and learning to do things that are environmentally sustainable. He also asked CII to work with all stakeholders and create a learning centre in Kolkata for creating logic/statistics and mathematics. Ms Pratibha Mohapatra, Vice President & MD, Adobe India in her Keynote Address at the summit spoke at length about the need for holistic learning where the use of both the left and right side of the brain is equally important. This, according to Ms Mohapatra, will help to apply creativity and tell stories which

CII National Education Council & Executive Chairman, Cyient delivering his theme address at the Summit. Education 1.0 where knowledge resided with the teacher evolved to Education 2.0 with knowledge disseminated in books and Education 3.0 with distance learning and we are now in Education 4.0 which makes teaching and learning interactively, he added. According to Dr Mohan Reddy, the post pandemic world would now focus on learning which has to be student centric where they can learn from anywhere, get taught as per requirement /desire and technology would provide the distract-

be assessed. Dr Chakrabarti emphasized on collaboration for assessment of students which will help them work as a team professionally and also agreed with Ms Mohapatra that the right and left brain alignment needs to be in focus. The inaugural session also had a special address from Mr Madan Mohanka, Mentor, CII Eastern Region Education Subcommittee & Executive Chairman, Tega Industries Ltd who emphasized on assessing changes in attitudes of schools/institutes after reopening post pandemic. Mr Pradip Agarwal, Chairman, CII Eastern Region Education subcommittee &

& Secretary General, Shikshayatan Foundation delivered the vote of thanks at the inaugural. The two day Education East Summit will have sessions like The Future Classroom: What Will It Look Like and How Will It Be Different?; Beyond COVID: How to Close the COVID Achievement Gap; Rethinking Schools: In Education 5.0 Perspective; Higher Education in India: Vision 2030; The Future Campus: Redefining the Purpose of Universities and Improving Research Operations and Output: Role of HEIs with educators, technology experts, academicians joining virtually and physically.

Voters list goof-up deprives people of exercising their franchise in Odisha ULB polls

BHUBANESWAR/CUTTACK: Several residents of Twin City were deprived of their right to vote due to goof-ups in voters' list for elections to Bhubaneswar and Cuttack Municipal Corporations on Thursday.

In State Capital, many voters could not find their names in the BMC voters list. A group of people also staged a protest in Gadakana over the issue. A number of voters from Jaydev Vihar, Khandagiri and other places alleged that though the names of their family members were in the voters list, their names were missing. Subhadarsini Mishra, a journalist who went to exercise her franchise at booth 482 said she had to return without voting as her name which was in the Assembly voters list was missing from the BMC list. She also alleged that some polling personnel even asked her to show chirkuti (voter's slip) which is not allowed inside the polling booth. Like her, many returned home without voting. In Cuttack city, the electoral rolls were prepared in a manner that women were registered as the residents of one ward and their husbands names were found in the voters list of another ward. At least 25 per cent of voters were unable to find their names in the wards they stay in. Names of many were missing or listed in other wards as a result of which, they stayed away from voting. Ajay Das, a resident of Rajendra Nagar in Ward 52, found his name listed in Ward 53. But when he reached the polling booth in Ward 53, he was shocked to find out that someone had already voted on his behalf.

"The past elections were never so troublesome. I reached the booth in my area to be asked to search my name in the electoral roll of Ward 53. I found my name there but on entering the booth, I was told that a vote had already been cast in my name," said Das, who blamed the polling officials behind the mismanagement and negligence in checking the identity of the voters. Ashok Sahu of Jobra Majhi Sahi in Ward 40 also had to face trouble in locating names in



the voters list. Names of his wife and other family members were found in the list of Ward 41. However, his and his sister's names were missing from the list of both the wards. "We did not check the voters list before coming to vote because we had voted in all the past elections from Ward 40. There is no reason for us to believe that our names would be deleted or shifted to voters list of other wards," he said. The family ended up not voting. "What will we get by voting in another ward when we do not know the corporator candidate there," he said. CMC officials admitted several names had been left out during the door-to-door survey. "Mistakes pointed out by people regarding their names had been corrected," they said.




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Indian fuel retailers lost \$2.25 billion in last five months: Moody's

NEW DELHI: Oil Marketing Companies have lost around \$2.25 billion in revenues from 5th November to 21st March, the period

daily losses on petrol and diesel sales.

"Based on our estimates of average sales volume between November and first three weeks of

March 2022 in the country despite high crude prices in the International market. During this period, the Brent Crude Future, the benchmark

around \$111 per barrel, the three rated entities - IOCL, BPCL and HPCL will incur a combined daily loss of around \$65 million-\$70 million on the sale of petrol and diesel unless fuel prices are increased to cover the rising crude oil prices.

The average oil price in the first three weeks of March is \$111 per barrel against \$82 per barrel in early November. It means the costs for the state-owned refining and marketing companies are currently higher by around \$29 per barrel without any corresponding increase in revenue.

Thus, based on the current market prices, the oil marketing companies are incurring a revenue loss of around \$25 per barrel and \$24 per barrel on the sale of petrol and diesel respectively.



when they stopped revising fuel prices despite high crude prices in the international market.

As per a study by Moody's Investors Service, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are incurring around \$70 million in

March, the state-owned refining and marketing companies together have lost around \$2.25 billion in revenue on petrol and diesel sales. This equates to around 20% of the combined FY2021 EBITDA for the three entities," reads the report.

The price of petrol and diesel was on halt between 4th November 2021 and 21

of global crude price, even touched the highest \$139 per barrel on 7 March 2022. The prices were revised by the Indian fuel retailers on both diesel and petrol by 80 paise per litre on 21st March and by the same amount again on 22nd March. As per Moody's investors' study, if crude oil prices continue to average

Maoists are on Wane

Bhubaneswar: As many as 58 Maoist cadres have been neutralised in police action, 194 have been arrested and 108 surrendered during the last five years, Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal said on Friday.

While addressing the State Assembly on the inaugural day of the budget session, the Governor said Left Wing Extremism (LWE) was dealt with firmly during the last five years. The number of LWE affected districts now stands at 10 from 21, due to the proactive response of the state government and the security forces, he added.

The turnaround in the situation in Swabhimani Anchal (earlier known as cut-off area) of Malkangiri district, which once was a Maoist bastion, has been the most redeeming feature in the success achieved in the anti-LWE front in the state, he said. Stating that the overall law and order situation has remained by and large peaceful in the state in 2021, Prof. Lal said that communal tension, agitations by different labour and service organisations and students' unrest, if any,

were contained through the process of dialogue and police alertness.

Due consideration and empathy were shown in dealing with tribals, dalits,



women, farmers, weaker sections, senior citizens and people of minority communities during their protests, agitation and demonstrations over different issues concerning them, he said. The state government is placing much needed emphasis on human resources requirements of the state police, he said, adding that 4,205 posts in different ranks have been created to augment the capacity of the state police during the last five years. Similarly, 29 police stations, five outposts and one town outpost have been created during the period, he pointed out.

Informing about the achievements under several welfare schemes of his government, the governor said: "My government is committed to provide pucca

beneficiaries under food security, the state government has been implementing its own State Food Security Scheme from October 2018. Under this scheme, 2.18 lakh households comprising 7.15 lakh eligible beneficiaries are covered.

For large-scale conservation of surface water inside streams and rivers, the government has approved 30 in-stream storage structures during 2021-22 in the first phase. Groundwater recharge through 779 minor irrigation and panchayati raj tanks covering 15 districts has also been taken up in association with the Green Climate Fund and work in 71 tanks has been completed in 2021-22, the Governor said.

For financing of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) of sharecroppers, BALARAM scheme was launched aiming to cover five lakh farmers through one lakh JLGs. Till now, 22,358 JLGs have been formed and 6,214 JLGs have been provided with credit support of around Rs 59 crore, he pointed out.

RBI releases framework for geo-tagging of payment system touchpoints

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday released the framework for geo-tagging of payment system touchpoints to ensure proper monitoring of the availability of payment acceptance infrastructure.

Geo-tagging refers to capturing the geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) of payment touchpoints deployed by merchants to receive payments from their customers.

The payment acceptance infrastructure includes Point of Sale (PoS) terminals and Quick Response (QR) codes.

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it is focused on deepening digital payments and providing inclusive access to all citizens of the country.

"To achieve this objective, it is imperative that robust payment acceptance infrastructure is available and accessible across the length and breadth of the country," it said.

Naveen attends Assembly

Continued from page-1

sports programmes in Kalinga Stadium and moved on the road in front of the Assembly, but did not come to the House.

The Chief Minister was also criticised for not physically attending his office at Lok Seva Bhavan and the state legislature despite touring different districts to launch the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) smart health cards ahead of the three-tier panchayat elections. In December, the ruling dispensation also drew flak when Patnaik inaugurated a state-run restaurant here while the Winter Session of Odisha Legislative Assembly was on but did not show up in the House.

Mr. Patnaik, since the outbreak of the pandemic, used to work from his residence - 'Naveen Niwas' - on virtual mode. He attended the previous session of the Assembly through video conferencing even as opposition parties demanded his physical presence in the House. Even a delegation of the opposition BJP led by Leader of Opposition Pradipta Kumar Naik, had visited Naveen Niwas and invited him to attend the House as he is leader of the House besides being president of the ruling party.

CM Mr. Patnaik came to the Assembly and attended the proceedings of the House following significant improvement in the COVID-19 incidents across the state. Odisha on Friday registered 55 fresh infections taking the COVID-19 tally to 12,87,378. The state presently has 458 active cases, Department of Health bulletin said.

The Assembly session is being held with strict adherence to the COVID-19 protocol as all the attendants had to undergo RT-PCR test and maintain social distancing in seating arrangement between MLAs. Apart from members, ministers, all the staff and media persons also underwent COVID-19 tests, a official said.

The Budget session will be held for only seven days. The discussion on the Governor's Address will take place for two days on March 26 and March 28. The session will conclude on March 31.

As per the schedule, the Vote On Account for the year 2022-2023 will be presented by Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari on March 30 and the Appropriation Bill will be tabled on March 31.

Congress leaders from Haryana meet Rahul Gandhi, suggest measures to strengthen party

Continued from page-1

He said there were no differences among the leaders and elections will be fought unitedly. The meeting comes days after Rahul Gandhi met Bhupinder Hooda and exchanged views on the current political situation in the state. Gandhi has been having several rounds of meeting with state leaders and had met party leaders from Gujarat earlier this week.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi had also met party leaders from Himachal Pradesh last week.

Party leaders from Madhya Pradesh are also set to meet Sonia Gandhi soon.

Some of them have rushed to Delhi to meet her over the functioning of the Pradesh Congress Committee under Kamal Nath.

Some of them have expressed unhappiness in his leadership and differences are coming out in the open, sources said.

Yogi Adityanath, jumbo cabinet of 52 sworn-in at glittering ceremony

Continued from page-1

those who have been dropped include the likes of Dr Dinesh Sharma, Siddharthnath Singh, Shrikant Sharma, Ashutosh Tandon, Dr Mahendra Singh, Satish Mahana, Neekanth Tiwari and Mohsin Raza to name a few.

A cursory look at the new cabinet, it becomes clear that this time the BJP think tank has decided to give a chance to young and new faces as of the 60 ministers of previous cabinet, only 20 could make to this one.

Former Uttarakhand governor Baby Rani Maurya is among the new inductees in the Yogi cabinet. The BJP leader is a prominent Scheduled Caste face belonging to the Jatav community. She has also served as the first woman mayor of Agra besides being the member of National Commission for Women.

Moreover, UP BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh has also been inducted as a cabinet minister. In previous Yogi cabinet, Singh was a Minister of State with Independent charge but was asked to take over as party's state chief in 2019.

Some of the bureaucrats-turned-politicians have also made it to the cabinet. One name that stands out among cabinet ministers is that of Arvind Kumar Sharma, former IAS officer of Gujarat Cadre. Supposedly close to PM Narendra Modi, Sharma had taken VRS and joined the BJP in January 2021. Currently, he is an MLC and had been active in BJP organisation as stat vice-president.

Similarly, former top cop and Kanpur commissioner Asim Arun, who hung his boots taking VRS just two months before the polls joining the saffron brigade, has been inducted as MoS with Independent charge. Asim Arun has won a very difficult seat of Kannauj Sadar (SC) for the BJP.

In the new cabinet of 52, 38 are newly-elected MLAs, 10 are MLCs and four are non-members, who would have to take up a seat either in assembly or council within six months.

The BJP decision makers have chosen the ministers keeping the caste calculus in mind. While the ministers coming from upper castes have made the biggest cut with 21, OBCs are not much behind getting a near equal representation with 20 berths. However, eight ministers come from the scheduled castes along with one each from Scheduled Tribe, Muslim and Sikh.

The only Muslim minister in previous Yogi cabinet has been replaced by another Muslim face—Danish Azad Ansari—from Ballia. He is general secretary of BJP minority cell. However, the hand of the decision makers seems a little tight over the representation of women in cabinet which stands out to be just 9 per cent. With only five ministers—one each in the rank of Cabinet and MoS Independent charge, three have been inducted as MoS.

All Time Mineral Revenue Record

Continued from page-1

its own revenue amounting to Rs. 62,788 crore till the end of December, 2021 which is about 84% more than the collection during the corresponding previous year period.

The windfall collection of mining revenue is the main driver of revenue collection during 2021-22. This has provided ample fiscal space for my Government to meet the requirement towards COVID management, livelihood generation and capital outlay for infrastructure development, he added.

Praising State's fiscal management, the Governor said Odisha has been a pioneer State in implementing international best practices in Public Financial Management. Recently a few other States have expressed their desire to partner with Odisha in implementing Public Financial Management reforms to strengthen and improve the quality of disclosures on public finances.

To enhance transparency and budget credibility, he said the State Government has been providing complete budget information in user-friendly formats in the website of the Finance Department as well as the dedicated Odisha Budget portal.

The Budget Session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly will continue till March 31. Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari will present a Vote on Account (Budget) for the 2022-23 on March 29 and discussion on the Budget will be conducted on the same day. The Appropriation Bill on Vote on Account will be laid before the House on the concluding day (March 31).

Saina Nehwal exits Swiss Open

BASEL: Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal exited



the Swiss Open after losing her women's singles second round to lower-ranked Kisona Selvaduray of Malaysia here.

The 23rd-ranked Indian could not maintain the consistency she showed in the first game to lose 21-17, 13-21, 13-21 against her 64th-ranked opponent on Thursday night. However, four of her compatriots, including double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and World Championships silver winner Kidambi Srikanth, progressed to the quarterfinals of their respective events.

Ecuador, Uruguay book their places for World Cup in Qatar

SAO PAULO: Ecuador and Uruguay have secured their spots at soccer's

can get it by beating Paraguay at home on Tuesday. Colombia, with 20 after its 3-0

past Qatar. Three matches and three wins after new coach Diego Alonso

win.

Their best chance to equalize came in added time with a long and high shot by Miguel Trauco, which goalkeeper Rochet barely kept out of his goal.

BRAZIL 4, CHILE 0 Brazil coach Tite wanted to test a light offensive trio with Vinicius Jr, Neymar, and Antony.

The excited fans leaving the Maracanã Stadium after the match suggested the idea was well worth it. Neymar scored from the spot in the 44th minute and two minutes later assisted Vinicius Jr to score his first goal for the national team.

Brazil's Neymar, center, and teammates celebrate their 4-0 victory over Chile during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. (Photo | AP)

Antony nearly scored with a lob past Chile goalkeeper



World Cup in Qatar, joining Brazil and Argentina from South America.

The third-place Ecuadorians lost 3-1 at Paraguay on Thursday, but they achieved one of the four direct spots after the Uruguayans, in fourth position, beat Peru 1-0 in Montevideo, a result that also allowed them to book their flights to Qatar.

Ecuador and Uruguay reached 25 points on the table and can no longer be overtaken by other teams. Brazil and Argentina had earlier secured two of the region's direct spots. Uruguay's Giorgian de Arrascaeta scored the goal that advanced both his team and Ecuador into the next World Cup in the 42nd minute from close range in a hard-fought match. It was very different in Ciudad del Este, where Ecuador was no match for Paraguay.

Robert Morales opened the scoring in the ninth minute, Ecuadorian defender Piero Hincapié scored an own goal from long range seconds before the half-time whistle and Miguel Almirón added a third in the 54th minute.

Jordy Caicedo scored for Ecuador from the spot in the 85th minute. The fifth position, which qualifies for an international playoff against an Asian team, is still up for grabs. Peru, with 21 points,

win against Bolivia, needs to beat Venezuela and cheer against the Peruvians. Chile, with 19 points, will have to overcome Uruguay in Santiago and hope other results go its way.

La Roja will not be very confident about that result after being crushed by Brazil 4-0 at the Maracanã Stadium. Colombia managed to stay alive with its first goals in almost 700 minutes in South American qualifiers.

It beat Bolivia with

took over, an Uruguay team with a lot of fighting spirit will play its fourth consecutive World Cup. It could even finish third in South American World Cup qualifiers depending on Tuesday's results.

Uruguay's Diego Godin reacts after a 1-0 victory over Peru in a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. (Photo | AP)

The first minutes of the match in Montevideo didn't make local fans too



goals by Luis Diaz in the 39th minute, Miguel Borja in the 72nd, and Mateus Uribe shortly before the final whistle.

The remaining match of the penultimate round of South American World Cup qualifiers will be played on Friday when Argentina takes on Venezuela in Buenos Aires.

URUGUAY 1, PERU 0 By the end of last year, Uruguay was nearly out of the World Cup, firing its veteran coach Oscar Tabárez and struggling to see a future

confident, though, with Peru's Gianluca Lapadula nearly scoring with a header in the fifth minute.

Unlike in previous matches, Uruguay recovered control and scored in its first clear opportunity. Rodrigo Betancur passed to Darwin Núñez on the left, and he crossed to Josema Giménez.

He fired on the post and De Arrascaeta just pushed it to the net. Uruguay kept the pressure and hit the bar with Valverde in the 48th minute. But Peru did little to trouble the hosts despite its need for a

Claudio Bravo, but the referee awarded a penalty in the same play.

Philippe Coutinho then made it 3-0 in the 72 minute. In added time, substitute Richarlison scored his with a crossed shot. Neymar will not play against Bolivia on Tuesday due to a third yellow card.

A win by Brazil would give it 45 competition points, a record for a South American qualifying tournament. The previous mark of 43 was set by Argentina in qualifying for the 2002 World Cup.

Australia win third Test to claim historic series against Pakistan



LAHORE: Australia claimed a historic victory against Pakistan on Friday, taking the three-Test series 1-0 with a 115-run win on the fifth day of the last match in Lahore. Australia are in Pakistan for the first time since 1998, having previously

refused to tour over security fears.

Jubilant crowds of Pakistani cricket lovers have flocked to stadiums in Rawalpindi, Karachi and Lahore throughout the series in full support of both Pakistan and Australia, under-

terred by the presence of heavy security.

The first two Tests ended in draws. Set a challenging 351-run target in the final test, Pakistan were bowled out for 235 with Imam-ul-Haq scoring 70 and skipper Babar Azam 55.

The hosts lost their

last five wickets for just 22 runs, spinner Nathan Lyon finishing with 5-83 in an excellent show of spin bowling while skipper Pat Cummins took 3-21.

Scores: Australia 391 and 227-3 dec; Pakistan 268 and 235

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