

## Crime branch arrests Sarmistha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Just in five days after taking over the sensational murder

deceased cameraman Manas Swain worked. Both the accused will

Niranjan Sethi have been arrested in connection with the brutal murder of the 28-

agency, he added. He demanded to hand over the case to the CBI for an unbiased probe.

This case is similar to the Mamita Meher murder case. Both the murder cases are linked to sex scandals and in both cases Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra's name has surfaced. Despite this, his name is not included in the investigation in any of the two cases, he alleged.

As per the police, the cameraman was kidnapped from Bhadrak on February 6 and brought to Dayal Ashram, an old age home, run by the prime accused in Bhubaneswar, where he was assaulted physically.

Later, on March 12, the body of Swain was recovered from Badhipatna hills in Rajsunakhala area of Nayagarh.



case of cameraman Manas Swain, Crime Branch has arrested Sarmishta Rout, the prime accused in the case along with her associate.

"A joint team of Crime Branch and Bhadrak police has arrested Sarmishta Rout and her associate Jhuna Bhoi from the Nalanga area of Bhadrak district this morning," said Sanjeeb Panda, Additional Director General (ADG), Crime Branch.

Sharmishta Rout is the owner of the web channel where the

be produced before JMFC court, Chandbali today. The CB team will request the court for a 10 day remand of the Sarmishta, Jhuna Bhoi along with five others, who were arrested earlier in connection with the case, he said.

Following the order of DGP, on March 23, the Crime Branch has taken over murder case and started investigation immediately.

Earlier, five persons including former Odisha Information Service (OIS) officer

year-old cameraman. Meanwhile, the murder case was echoed in the State Assembly by Congress during the Zero-Hour. Congress Lawmaker Santosh Singh Saluja demanded CBI probe into case as the victim's wife has alleged the involvement of Minister of State (MoS) for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra in the murder.

Due to the involvement of a Minister, conducting a fair and unbiased investigation cannot be ensured by any state

## Huge 'Atmanirbhar' push as Centre plans to procure military equipment worth Rs 5 lakh crore from domestic source

NEW DELHI(KCN): The defence ministry on Monday said it plans to procure military equipment worth

jected figure of procurement from domestic sources while replying to a question in Rajya Sabha.

and sonar systems by 2024. A second list, putting import restrictions on 108 military weapons

ministry released a list containing 2,500 items, which have already been developed indigenously. It also released a list of 351 equipment that will be developed within the country by December 2024.

The minister in his reply mentioned the lists and the government's priorities.

"The positive indigenisation list comprises defence equipment which will be designed, developed and manufactured over a period from 2020 to 2025," he said, adding that it was not possible to assess at

opened soon, sources said. On March 22 night, three brothers Sambhu Swain (25), Pandab Swain (23), Raja Swain (28) and their minor cousin Chandan Swain of Narendrapur village were attacked and killed by one Sadhu Swain and his associates over passing of comments at Pitala

daily needs. The situation is likely to worsen further if the shops are not re-



Rs 5 lakh crore from the domestic industries in the next five to seven years in line with its policy of promoting indigenous defence manufacturing. Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt put out the pro-

In August 2020, the ministry announced that India will stop the import of 101 weapons and military platforms like transport aircraft, light combat helicopters, conventional submarines, cruise missiles

and systems such as next-generation corvettes, airborne early warning systems, tank engines and radars, under a staggered timeline was issued in May last year.

In December, the

## Traders to keep shutters down as cops grope in dark for killers

BERHAMPUR(KCN): As police grope in the dark for the killers of four siblings even after five days of the gruesome murders, traders and shopkeepers of Pitala Chowk, the place where the crime took place, have decided to keep their shutters down till all the accused are arrested.

Aska towns, is a prominent business

protest, residents are struggling to get their



hub of the region. With traders keeping their shops closed since March 23 in

daily needs. The situation is likely to worsen further if the shops are not re-

## In an attempt to save his government, Imran supports ally PML-Q leader as its CM candidate in Punjab

LAHORE(KCN): Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's party said on Monday that it will support ally PML-Q leader Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Punjab chief minister candidate, in a bid to placate allies of the ruling coalition to vote against a no-trust motion introduced by the opposition in the National Assembly.

The prime minister's aide on political communication, Shahbaz Gill, made the announcement on twitter.

### National spokesperson of BJP Aparajita blames Odisha leadership for BJP debacle

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): National spokesperson of BJP and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi on Sunday once again targeted the State leadership of her party after the back-to-back debacle in the panchayat polls followed by the just concluded elections to urban local bodies (ULBs).

"The party has performed miserably in

"Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf will support Chaudhry Pervaiz

Elahi for the post. Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q)



Elahi as a candidate for the chief minister [in Punjab] and the PML-Q has announced to support PM amid in no-con-

Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said that Prime Minister Khan has nominated

leader Moonis Elahi confirmed that the post has been accepted by Elahi.

Khan's protege and

### Continued on: P-7

the UPB polls and I accept the defeat. The need of the hour is to

flected at the grassroots level," she told mediapersons

win the mandate of the people even after staying in power for more than two decades.

"Why is the BJD so nervous and scared of the Opposition? I would like to know why the ruling party is spending so much money to win elections. This is not good for democracy," she said.

Since the BJD has



strengthen our State leadership. If the State leadership is not strengthened, the same will not be re-

here on Sunday. She assailed the ruling BJD for the unabashed use of money and muscle power to

National spokes

## State registers 10.1 % Growth

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As per advance estimates made for the financial year 2021-22, the State registered 10.1 per cent growth compared to 8.8 per cent growth in national economy, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said on Monday. While giving his statement on the motion of thanks on the Governor's speech in the Assembly, the Chief Minister said the State economy contracted by 5.3 per cent compared to 7.3 per cent contraction in the national economy during the financial year 2020-21 due to slow down. However, now the economy has recovered, he said.

"Recovery of the economy from the impact of the pandemic was a huge challenge, and we have met this challenge with resolve and we have been able to successfully reboot our



economy," said the CM.

Over the last 10 years, the State has grown at an average rate of 6.5 per cent against the national average of 5.3 per cent. However, during the fiscal 2020-21, due to the slow down, the State's economy contracted by 5.3 per cent compared to 7.3 per cent contraction in the national economy and that would mean, the State was comparatively less affected, he said. He said Odisha is the only state to be fully FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) compliant since enactment. Fiscal prudence and inclusive development are our twin policy objectives that guide our growth trajectory.

Stating Odisha is the pioneer state in implementing international best practices in public financial management, the Chief Minister said his Government is providing complete budget information in user-friendly formats in the website of the finance department as well as the dedicated Odisha budget portal.

In spite of the pandemic, Odisha has emerged as a leading investment destination with attracting over Rs.4.4 lakh crore investment intents during the last three years, with more than 1.53 lakh employment opportunities, he said. The State Government has provided special financial support to the MSME sector to tide over the Covid crisis. The Government had continuous engagement with the industry to ensure that their production and logistics are not hampered by the pandemic, he pointed out.

"We aim to saturate all rural households with tap water connection by 2024 with a capital outlay of Rs.50,263 crore under the State saturation plan. Odisha is a trend setter in the country in achieving universal coverage of tap-water connections," he stated.

Our food security mission has secured 4th place among large States in the third State Food Safety Index for 2020-21, he said. Informing about various incentives and aids provided to needy people during the Covid-19 pandemic, Patnaik said cash incentive of Rs.2,000 (in two tranches) per to each of the beneficiary families has also been provided by incurring an expenditure of Rs.960 crore. The government has distributed financial assistance of Rs.3,000

Continued on: P-7

# Heritage Group of Institutions Celebrated International Women's Day

Kolkata (KCN): In an era when society is fighting for gender equality, The Heri-

Woodland Hospital, Ms. Kiran Uttam Ghosh; International Designer, Ms. Seema

emony, which was followed by felicitations. The head of each Heritage Group Institution presented a brief message on gender equality and welcomed the guests. Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, began her statement by stating that celebrating Women's Day on a single day while doing injustice to women on the other days by the society, is never a good thing

the curtains in the cultural sphere. Ms. Kiran Uttam Ghosh, began her speech with self-humor, talking about how average she was in school but her strong will got her to where she is now proving that anyone can succeed with the appropriate determination and gave another example by mentioning her maid's daughter's success in life. Ms. Seema Sapru highlighted her old school thought process on gender equality but with the twist that humans are capable of doing anything, thus chances should be given to everyone equally based on their needs and skills. The programme also witnessed the address of Sri prabir Roy, Director, Kalyan Bharti Trust, and address by Shri P .K. Agarwal , CEO , Heritage Group of Institutions. Dr. Madhupa Bakshi concluded the event by counter-questioning the guests with facts, which was followed by audiences asking questions to the guests and the session ended with the National Anthems of India, Australia and France.



Heritage Group of Institutions emphasized this critical problem and highlighted it in a panel discussion on March 22, 2022. Heritage Group of Institutions cordially invited its students and members to this panel discussion on GENDER EQUALITY TODAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW. The guests of the panel

Sapru; Principal The Heritage School and



Dr. Madhupa Bakshi; Dean The Heritage



discussion were: Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Consul General of Australia, Mr. Didier Talpain: Consul General of France, Dr. Rupali Basu; MD,

Academy. The event started with the mark of HGI's undying tradition to invite the almighty at the beginning of an important event by lighting cer-

## SOA On Financial Market Awareness

Bhubaneswar(KCN): A regional seminar to spread awareness about the financial markets



was organised at the Institute of Business and Computer Studies (IBCS), SOA's faculty of management sciences, on Saturday. The event, organised to mark the Global Money Week, was attended by students of the institute.

Anshuman Das, Deputy General Manager of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Somnath Majumdar of Central Depository Services (India) Ltd (CDSL) and Soumya Ranjan Sahoo of BSE were the resource persons.

They spoke on different issues related to the financial markets and explained to the younger generation as to how the markets were safe for investment. They also conducted a creative art and tagline competition on 'Investing in Indian Capital Markets'.

## SOA Bags Best Edu Institute Award

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA)

Dubai. The conference was held at the Interconti-

Mr. Ripti Ranjan Das, Placement Head of Institute of Technical



has been conferred with the 'Best Educational Institute — Eastern India' award at the recently concluded International Education 2.0 Conference at

mental Dubai Festival City from March 23 to 25. Prof. Nachieketa K. Sharma, Director of SOA's International Relations and Outreach Programme and

Education and Research (ITER), SOA's faculty of engineering and technology, received the award. Prof. Sharma, who was one among three

## Participation of Balunkeswar Nodal Bidyapitha in State Bharat Scout Guide camp

Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : In State Bharat Scout camp the Balunkeswar Nodal Bidyapitha,Deuli,42 Mouza 4 nos Scout students joined under

Bhubaneswar State Head Office periphery students A m r i t a n s h u Pati,Satya Sankar Parida,Akif Khan and Anshuman Panda

cise, swachh Bharat Abhiyan, gardening work, dance-acting, laughing to others, speech, mantaly healthy with capable, Surya Namaskar,

life. When they return to Bidyapitha, the honorable headmistress is given congratulation wishes and provides a certifi-



the guidance of Headmistress and Guide Captain Sulochana Dash. In this Program start from 21th till date 25th at unit - 3

were joined with all student of other District and learn how to manage,fittest in new unknown place, Maintain discipline, Patted, Yoga, exer-

Aerobics MOP, reportar ID preparation with all other programs participation. The students get a chance and opportunity to make a new

cate. Teacher Sudarshan Behera, Teacher Rupali Rupajita also joined and made the program a grand success.

## Posing threat to old bridge over Budhabalanga river in Odisha , JCBs lift sand unabated

BARIPADA(KCN): Despite direction from the Mayurbhanj administration and the Revenue department, illegal sand mining has been going on unhindered from around the 500-metre radius of the protected columns supporting the bridge over Budhabalanga river in the district. Local residents alleged that sand lifting has

been going on with the help of JCB machines, which are not allowed near the columns of the bridge due to the threat they pose. They claimed that since there was a nexus between the Revenue officials and the sand mafia, more than 50 tractors are engaged in transporting sand every day.

## Two days long all India strike by trade union begins at Barbil

Barbil (KCN): AITUC, CITU RNTUC, LPF, all

common man . The policies are of anti-labour, anti-farmer

corporates at through away prices. The c o u n t r y ' s

people laws to All shops and markets were closed, and no movement of vehicle was seen. General secretary, CITU(M) Indmamani Behera, pointed out the policies on labour code, economic policy etc to favour corporate ignoring common man . The policies are of anti-labour, anti-farmer and anti-people. The country is going through an economic downturn due to flawed economic policies. With the rise in the price of diesel, cooking gas , cooking oil and many other grocery items ,it is becoming more and more difficult for ordinary people to arrange two time food for the family . KapilMohanty, joint secretary AITUC on the other hand, said the BJP government did not do a single industry ,but all these government agencies are being sold to corporates at through away prices. The c o u n t r y ' s unemployment rate is below 40 years old today. They are demanding to revoke all bills goes against the people of India . They will submit a 12-point demand letter to the government in this regard.Barbil.28th March(KCN).AITUC, CITU RNTUC, LPF, all banking and insurance, all railway trade unions has called a nation wide strike on 28th and 29th March describing centre's BJP led government as anti-labour, anti-farmer and anti-



banking and insurance, all railway trade unions has called a nation wide strike on 28th and 29th March describing centre's BJP led government as anti-labour, anti-farmer and anti-people laws to All shops and markets were closed, and no movement of vehicle was seen. Situ's General secretary, C I T U ( M ) Indmamani Behera, pointed out the policies on labour code, economic policy etc to favour corporate ignoring

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** The Supreme Court granted interim protection to Ekta Kapoor.



preme Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for alleged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted in-

terim protection to Kapoor. She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her. The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.

## 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 caption, 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.

## Warner Bros announces Chocolate Factory prequel titled 'Wonka' to release on March 17, 2023

(GNS Bureau) Moving ahead with

The project, which has a script from

Based on Roald Dahl's popular



"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" prequel, titled "Wonka", Warner Bros has declared the release date of movie. As per media reports, Paul King of "Paddington" fame will tackle the movie, which will debut in theatres on March 17, 2023.

Simon Rich, will follow "a young Willy Wonka and his adventures prior to opening the world's most famous chocolate factory." David Heyman, whose credits includes the "Harry Potter" franchise and "Paddington", is backing the movie.

children's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", the classic story follows a poor boy named Charlie, who is one of five youngsters to win a golden ticket to tour the world-renowned, yet highly secretive, chocolate factory run by Willy Wonka.

## Katrina's sister Isabelle Kaif to feature opposite Pulkit Samrat in 'Suswagatam Khushaamadeed'

(GNS Bureau) Isabelle Kaif to feature opposite Pulkit Samrat in Suswagatam Khushaamadeed. Its a social entertainer with an

sister of actress Katrina Kaif, she took to Instagram to announce her upcoming project. She wrote, "Namaste - Aadaab Ab hogi

our chemistry is quite dhamakadaar. People on the set say that we look like a patakha together. Isabelle has brought fresh



underlying message on social harmony. In this film, Pulkit will essay the role of a Delhi boy, Aman, with Isabelle playing the role of Noor who hails from the city of Agra. Isabelle Kaif is a

jaldi aapse mulaqaat! So excited to share with you guys the first look of Suswagatam Khushaamadeed." Actor Pulkit Samrat said that, "I must say that

energy on the set. She's extremely hard-working and has impressed everyone on the set. She is stunning and brings a streak of innocence to her character. She has left me mesmerised."

# Sociology of Religious Divide in India

India has the distinction of being the land from where important religions namely Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism have originated at the same time the country is home to several indigenous faiths tribal religions which have survived the influence of major religions for centuries and are holding the ground firmly. The regional co-existence of diverse religious

groups in the country makes it really unique and the epithet unity in diversity is brought out clearly in the Indian Census. The essential role of religion, according to French Sociologist Emile Durkheim, is to celebrate and maintain the standards that are necessary for societal integration. If that were the case, readers could wonder how religion went from societal integration to social cleavages and division. In an ideal world, religion's purpose in society is still Durkheimian. What has gone wrong is the way religion is used in society. This has a lot to do with the political exploitation of religious communities in India, which has been going on since the 1950s, and especially in the last two decades.

At the census 2011, out of 1.21 billion population, little over 966 million (79.80%) have returned themselves as followers of

Hindu religion, 172 million (14.23%) as Muslims or the followers of Islam, 27.8 million (2.3%) as Christians, 20.8 million (1.72%) as Sikh, 8.5 million (0.70%) as Buddhists and 4.5 million (0.37%) are Jain. In addition, over 8 million have reported professing other religions and faiths including tribal religions, different from six main religions. India is unquestionably the best example of a pluralist and multi-cultural nation, given its religious variety. Given its huge size, India is less harmonic than most other societies, and is more dissonant than most others. In this context, the creators of our Constitution resolved, on behalf of the people of India, to transform India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic, as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution, and to provide JUSTICE, LIBERTY, EQUALITY, and FRATERNITY to all of its residents. The fact that India is still a long way from the aforementioned lofty aspirations is self-evident. Part of the reason for this is because Hinduism, India's majority religion, is centred on caste.

The Hindus have tainted the air all throughout, and everybody is afflicted - Sikh, Muslim, and Christian," wrote Dr. BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, of caste being essentially the breath of Hindus. As a result, both religion and society have been transformed, with caste and communal divisions as well as religious animosities. If

**Pratap Kishore Mohanty**

the State had honoured its constitutional

mandate and worked the Constitution in earnest to make India a full-blooded democracy, India could have overcome these divisions and antagonisms and used its pluralist and multicultural social landscape and demographic mosaic to the nation's democratic development in the true sense of the Preamble of the Constitution. The state's failure, unpardonable; for as Ambedkar said in the Constituent Assembly, democracy is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic; however good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work on it happened to be a bad lot. The state's failure, unpardonable; for as Ambedkar said in the Constituent Assembly, democracy is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic; however good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work on it happened to be a bad lot.

The institution of universal adult franchise, as prescribed by the Constitution, breathed new life into the caste system, which the constitution's founders had hoped would fade away with the progressive growth of democracy's political and social articulation. This was the outcome of our politicians' continued use of caste as a tool for vote-bank politics. When castes became vote As a

retoric of expectations, competitive populism is crucial to wooing diverse constituencies politically. In this context, populist and often socially discordant and regressive measures such as caste-based reservation for backward classes (OBCs), caste-based reservation for the backward among the forward classes, and caste-based reservation for the backward among the forward classes are used to garner votes.

Politicians are primarily to blame among Hindus for the ongoing caste conflicts, atrocities against, and oppression of SCs and STs. While politicians are to blame for the polarisation and social separation between Hindus and Muslims, the deterioration of the Muslims' existential situation should be viewed in a larger historical and geographical context. Despite the fact that Christians are the second-largest minority group after Muslims, Christians, unlike Muslims, do not view history with bitterness. This is due to historical reasons, namely the religion of the colonial rulers. The emergence of Hindutva through its incremental politics has caused resentment among both religious communities since the 1980s. It can only be undermined by India's rapid growth of secular and civic space, rather than turning to "strident secularism" as a counterweight to "strident Hindutva," which can only have a negative impact on the country.

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# For personal care startup Clensta International, Red is new Green

Excerpts:  
RM: How big is the overall personal care segment in India? At what rate is it growing?



Gupta: The skincare market in India has grown significantly as people have started to believe that good skin not only helps in maintaining beauty but also nurtures physical well-being. From sticking to a basic skincare routine to experimenting with specific ingredient-based products, customers are looking to focus on healthy skin.

India's beauty and personal care market industry attained a value of Rs 54,558 crore in 2020. The market is further expected to grow at a CAGR of 11 per cent in the forecast period of 2022-2027. The India beauty and personal care market is expected to exhibit a CAGR of 6.5 per cent during 2022-2027.

RM: Out of this what would be the break-up of skincare and oral care and others?

Gupta: The Category wise break-up of the Indian cosmetic industry includes –  
Hair Care- \$ 3 billion  
Oral Care – \$ 1.74 billion  
Skin Care- \$ 1.63 billion  
Fragrance- \$ 0.47 billion  
Cosmetic- \$ 0.16 billion

Under oral care category, Toothpaste segment dominates the oral care market with the market share of 50 per cent along with its various variants. Under skin care category, facial care products share 34 per cent of total skin care market, dominate the market along with its various variants.

Under hair care category, hair oil dominates the market having market share of 57 per cent followed by hair shampoo along with its various variants. Under fragrance category, deodorants dominate the market with the cur-

rent market size of Rs 25.5 billion while perfume along with its innovations is growing fast.

In 2017, bath and shower had the highest market size in the cosmetic industry amounting to 3.4 billion U.S. dollars. Hair care expected to surpass bath and shower in 2022, with a market size of 4.8 billion U.S. dollars.

RM: Are you present in all the categories/sub-categories within the personal care segment? If not, do you have plans to do that, going forward?

Gupta: Presently, we are not offering services in all of the segments of beauty and personal care industry. However, going forward we have plans to offer promising solutions in several categories of the beauty and personal care industry.

RM: This space is increasingly getting dominated by transnationals and large Indian FMCGs. How do you propose to take then on?

Gupta: It is true that the beauty and personal care industry has a huge influence from transnationals and the big Indian FMCGs. However we as a brand believe that we shall continue to be relevant in the space. We shall be able to do so by sticking to our core values of customer centricity and offering personalization as per gender, age, region to our unique customers. Our innovative product line up has been keenly planned keeping in mind the eccentricity of our customers. The difference is that its evolution is driven by the principles of transparency, self-love, inclusivity, convenience, and sustainability. This truly shall enable us to serve with purpose.

RM: Tell us something about your R&D facilities, thrust on R&D and your association with IIT, Delhi?

Gupta: Clensta International has a special partnership with the premier Indian Institute of

**Ritwik Mukherjee**

Technology Delhi (IITD). We have a trustworthy access to

the advanced instrumentation facility at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) without any restriction.

The technical mentorship and technology support from this institute of national importance is a one of our core strengths. Our association is further strengthened by having a strong team

**From: Ritwik Mukherjee**  
**For this fledgling startup in the personal care space, Red is the new Green as it is set to launch innovative range of products using red aloe vera, which is about 22 times more powerful than common aloe vera, as it has higher nutrient concentrations. The amino acid content of Red Aloe Vera is double to that of common Aloe Vera. Clensta International, founded in 2016, is preparing itself to take on the biggies in the personal care segment. With its R&D centre at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, the company is making a foray with its innovative range of products, developed in a scientific way for their absorption into the skin through a transdermal technology and activation of olfactory lobes. Speaking to Ritwik Mukherjee exclusively, Puneet Gupta, Founder, Clensta International, delves at length on India's personal care industry, its evolution and Clensta's growth plans.**

headed by Professor Anurag Singh Rathore, Faculty at Chemical Engineering Department, as a scientific advisor and Director to provide quality guidance for the development of innovative products.

RM: How many products do you propose to roll out from your stable over the next 1/2 years and under which category? What is the revenue/turnover, you are looking at two years down the road?

Gupta: Clensta International plans to roll out about 100 products in personal care range. We aim to offer products in several new categories keeping the needs of our customers in mind. Our goal is to reach a Gross Merchandising Value of 1000 crore in the next 3 years.

RM: How are you positioning your products-premium segment/mid segment/mass market?

Gupta: We position our range of innovative products in the mass premium segment.

RM: What would be the marketing channels?  
Gupta: We shall be relying on the following range of marketing channels like Omnichannel, Digital first, General Trade, Modern Trade, Departmental stores, Pharmacies, International Business, Direct Selling and through our websites.

At this point, let me point out that the beauty



and skincare industry is one of the most complex industries with diverse customer tastes and needs. The rise of awareness and ease of accessibility of products through a multichannel approach, including company stores and websites, e-commerce channels and doorstep delivery, etc. are driving the market. This revolution has impacted the beauty industry as well in many ways – whether by creating a greater connection between brands and customers or by reducing entry barriers to innovations by new brands in serving hitherto unfeasible niche customer cohorts. The consumer has started to shift, but not completely move, from cosmetics to skincare even incorporating multi-purpose products which serve both purposes.

RM: How much of your business would come from online sales and how much from physical retailing?

Gupta: We aim to have 60 to 40 ratio for online sales and physical retailing respectively. We are expecting to grow at a rate of 80 per cent from the online sales and at 20 per cent rate from the physical retailing segment.

RM: Would you be targeting tier-II, tier-III markets as well? How much of your sales might come from these smaller cities and towns?

Gupta: Yes we shall be offering our services in tier-II, tier-III markets as well. We are expecting a contribution of 20 per cent from these markets segment.

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

## NTPC seeks 2-yr coal linkage extension for Darlipalli

BHUBANESWAR: As coal production from Dulanga coal mine is falling short of the annual target set by the National Thermal Power Cor-

balance requirement is met from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) through linkage coal. The Dulanga coal block which became

MT per annum by 2022-23. However, the target cannot be achieved due to some prevailing issues related to rehabilitation and resettlement of

1,313 MW power for two years. The Standing Linkage Committee-Long Term (SLC-LT) of the Coal Ministry had granted extension of bridge linkage to NTPC for its Darlipalli plant on April 10, 2018 for two years till 2022. The coal linkage was on a tapering basis from 2018 to 2022 as per approved mining plan.

Tapering linkage is a short-term linkage which is provided to those coal consumers who have been allocated captive coal blocks for meeting the coal requirements of their linked end use plants (EUPs) in such cases where the production of coal from these blocks does not synchronise with the requirement of the EUPs.

“The merry-go-round (MGR) project of NTPC is under construction. Once it is over, the national PSU will meet the additional coal requirement from other parts of the country through railways,” sources maintained.



poration (NTPC), the power major has requested the Ministry of Coal for extension of bridge linkage for its Darlipalli thermal power station in Sundargarh district. The pit head-based thermal power plant sources its requirement of fossil fuel from the captive Dulanga coal mines allocated to NTPC in 2015. With a daily requirement of about 25,000 tonnes, the Dulanga mine has the capacity to meet 20,000 tonnes. The

commercially operational from October 1, 2020 had set a target to produce 4.75 million tonne (MT) in 2021-22. However, it could achieve production of 3.51 MT till December, 2021 as against the annual coal requirement of over 9 MT for the 1,600 MW (2 X 800 MW) super critical Darlipalli thermal plant.

“The captive coal block of NTPC has set a target to achieve ultimate peak rated capacity (PRC) of 7

affected families,” informed sources in NTPC regional office here said. Since NTPC is expecting to achieve the PRC by 2023-24, the national PSU has moved to the Ministry of Power to take up the case with the Ministry of Coal for further extension of the bridge linkage of coal from MCL for its fuel security.

The coal estimate of Darlipalli super thermal power plant is estimated at 82 per cent load factor for daily generation of

## Prime accused in murder of cameraman Manas Swain nabbed after evading cops for 45 days

BHUBANESWAR: In a major breakthrough related to cameraman Manas Swain's murder, the police on Monday arrested the prime accused in the case Sarmistha Rout and her associate Jhuna Bhoi from Nalanga area in Bhadrak district.

Crime Branch and Bhadrak Police officers nabbed the two accused after they managed to evade arrest for over 45 days. “Sarmistha Rout and Jhuna Bhoi will be produced in JMFC Court in Chandbali on Monday. We will apply in the court for a 10-day police remand of the seven accused arrested in connection with the case,” said Crime Branch ADG Sanjeeb Panda.

The Orissa High Court had earlier rejected the anticipatory bail plea of Sarmistha.

Manas had earlier worked as a cameraman with the web-channel of Sarmistha for about six months but he quit his job in January this year af-

least five accused - Sarmistha, Jhuna, Ranjan Nayak, Bhagyadhar Nayak and Bibek Nayak waylaid him. Sarmistha asked

day on February 7 and thrashed him black and blue. While the shelter home for the elderly people is running on the ground floor, the first floor of the building is lying vacant.

The accused served Manas dinner on February 7 night and left the building. They found him dead when they returned to the spot the next day.

According to the police, the culprits buried Manas' body near Nayagarh district's Budhipatna area at about 8 pm on February 8. So far, the police have arrested eight persons including retired Odisha Information Service (OIS) official Niranjana Sethi for their alleged involvement in the murder. Niranjana was aware and part of all the planning related to the kidnapping of Manas and disposing of his body after he succumbed, said police.



ter having a fallout with her. Police said initial investigation suggests Manas was murdered as he was in possession of a memory chip having some sensitive content related to a few high profile people. He had visited Palashpur village in Bhadrak district on February 6 to record videos of a wedding. He was heading towards Digachhia on a two-wheeler with one of his associates and a local on February 7 morning when at

Manas to hand over the memory chip. When Manas said the memory chip was in Bhubaneswar, she reportedly slapped him. The miscreants then bundled the cameraman into Sarmistha's car. They brought him to an elderly people's shelter home - Dayal Ashram, run by Sarmistha, near Sundarpada area of the Capital City. They kept him confined on the first floor of the two-storeyed building for the entire

## Ukraine war threatens food supplies in fragile Arab world

BEIRUT: Loyal Aswad was already exhausted by Lebanon's devastating two-year economic collapse. Now, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine sends food and energy prices soaring even further, she finds herself struggling to put food on the table for her family of four.

“Even bread is not something we take for granted anymore,” said the 48-year-old housewife, standing recently in a supermarket aisle in front of gallons of cooking oil whose prices had risen to an all-time high.

From Lebanon, Iraq and Syria to Sudan and Yemen, millions of people in the Middle East whose lives were already upended by conflict, displacement and poverty are now wondering where their next meals will come from. Ukraine and Russia account for a third of global wheat and barley exports, which countries in the Middle East rely on to feed millions of people who subsist on subsidized bread and bargain noodles. They are also top exporters of other grains and the sunflower seed oil that is used for cooking.

Even before the war in Ukraine, people in countries across the Middle East and North Africa were not getting enough food to eat. Now with trade disruptions spurred by the conflict, more commodities are becoming either unaffordable or unavailable.

“Put simply, people cannot afford food of the quality or quantity that they need, with those in conflict- and crisis-affected countries ... at greatest risk,” said Lama Fakih, Middle East and North Africa Director at Human Rights Watch.

A similar set of circumstances led to a series of uprisings starting in late 2010 known as the Arab Spring, when skyrocketing bread prices fueled anti-government protests across the Middle East, noted Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

“When prices jump, and poor people cannot feed their families, they will be on the streets,” Georgieva remarked Sunday at the Doha Forum, a policy conference in Qatar.

In Iraq and Sudan, public frustration at food prices and a lack of government services erupted in street protests on several occasions over the past several weeks.

“People have a right to food, and governments should do everything in their power to pro-

tect that right, otherwise we risk not only food insecurity but the insecurity and instability that gross deprivation on this scale could trigger,” Fakih said.

The war also has sparked concern that much of the international aid upon which so many in the Arab world depend will be diverted to Ukraine, where more than 3.7 million people have fled the war, Europe's largest exodus since World War II.

“For the millions of Palestinians, Lebanese, Yemenis, Syrians, and others who live in countries experiencing conflict, catastrophic economic meltdowns, and increasing humanitar-



ian needs, this would be equivalent to shutting down critical life support,” states an analysis released by Carnegie Middle East experts last week.

In Syria, 14.6 million people will depend on assistance this year, 9% more than in 2021 and 32% more than in 2020, Joyce Msuya, the United Nations' assistant secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and deputy emergency relief coordinator, told the U.N. Security Council in February.

In Yemen, basic needs are becoming even harder to meet for millions of impoverished people after seven years of war. A recent report by the U.N. and international aid groups estimated that more than 160,000 people in Yemen were likely to experience famine-like conditions in 2022. That number could climb much higher still because of the war in Ukraine. A U.N. appeal for the country earlier this month raised \$1.3 billion, less than a third of what was sought.

“I have nothing,” said Ghalib al-Najjar, a 48-year-old Yemeni father of seven whose family has lived in a refugee camp outside the

rebel-held capital of Sanaa since fleeing fighting in their middle-class neighborhood more than four years ago. “I need flour, a package of flour. I need rice. I need sugar. I need what people need (to survive).”

In Lebanon, which has been in the throes of economic collapse for the past two years, panic has set in among a population worn down by shortages of electricity, medicine and gasoline.

The country's main grain silos were destroyed by a massive explosion at a Beirut port in 2020. Now, with just six weeks of wheat reserves, many fear even darker days ahead.

Several large supermarkets were out of flour and corn oil this week.

“Whatever is put on shelves is being bought,” said Hani Bohsali, head of the food importers syndicate. He said 60% of the cooking oil consumed in Lebanon comes from Ukraine and the rest comes mostly from Russia.

“This is not a small problem,” he said. Bohsali noted that a search is underway for alternative places from which to import needed products, but he said other countries have either banned food exports or significantly raised prices.

Meanwhile, 5 litres (1 gallon) of cooking oil in Lebanon now costs around the same as the monthly minimum wage, which is still fixed at 675,000 Lebanese pounds, or \$29, despite the currency having lost around 90% of its value since October 2019. Families, including Aswad's, also are spending ever-larger portions of their monthly income on neighbourhood generators that light up their homes for most of the day in the absence of state-supplied electricity. Even those are threatening to shut down now, saying they can no longer afford to buy fuel on the market.

“We are back to the Stone Age, stocking up on candles and things like toast and Picon (a processed cheese brand) in case we run out of everything,” Aswad said.

In Syria, where more than 11 years of brutal

war has left more than 90% of the country's population living in poverty, products such as cooking oil — when they can be found — have doubled in price in the month since the war began in Ukraine. On a recent day at one government cooperative in the capital of Damascus, shelves were almost empty except for sugar and napkins.

Egypt, the world's top importer of wheat, is among the most vulnerable. Economic pressures, including rising inflation, are mounting in the country, where about a third of the population of more than 103 million lives below the poverty line, according to official figures.

An Associated Press journalist who toured markets in three different middle-class neighbourhoods in Cairo earlier this month found that the price of food staples such as bread — items that Egyptians refer to as “eish,” or life — have increased by up to 50%. Inflation is likely to swell further due to the upcoming Muslim holy month of Ramadan, typically a time of increased demand.

Consumers have accused merchants of exploiting the war in Ukraine to raise prices even though they have not yet been affected.

“They make profits from our pain,” lamented Doaa el-Sayed, an Egyptian elementary school teacher and mother of three. “I have to reduce the amount of everything I used to buy,” she said.

In Libya, a country wracked by a yearslong civil war, the latest spike in the price of food staples has people worried that tough times are ahead. And in Gaza, prices that had already started to rise skyrocketed after the war in Ukraine erupted, adding an extra challenge to the 2 million residents of the impoverished Palestinian enclave who have endured years of blockade and conflict.

Fayeq Abu Aker, a Gaza businessman, imports staples such as cooking oil, lentils, and pasta from a Turkish company. When the company cancelled the cooking oil contract after the war began, Aker turned to Egypt. But despite the country's proximity to Gaza, prices there were even higher. A box of four bottles of cooking oil now costs \$26, double the price before the war.

“In 40 years of my business, I have never seen a crisis like this,” he said.

# No borrowing from Market

Bhubaneswar: The State Government State, Pujari said all State Governments in



has not borrowed a single penny from the open market during the current financial year 2021-22, said Finance Minister Niranjana Pujari here on Monday. While replying to a question raised by Opposition member Suresh Routray on loan burden on the

mained in an upper position than Odisha, when it comes to loan burden, Pujari said. "I am very much hopeful that Odisha will secure the bottom position in the loan burden after the end of this financial year," the Minister stated. For a developing State, loans are being raised for development purposes. Whatever fund raised through borrowing since 2004-05, all funds spent for development activities, Mr.Pujari said, adding, "Never the loan utilized for non-plan purpose or providing salary to the employees."

In his written reply, the Minister informed that the per capita loan burden in the State has decreased after several years. From Rs 23,761.82 crore by the end of financial year 2020-21, the figure now reached at Rs 22,827.54 till January 2022 of the current

India borrow funds, which is as per the FRBM Act. The Act has empowered the State to raise funds upto 25 per cent of the GSDP, he said. Odisha is in the bottom position but not the last in India on loan burden. Excluding Karnataka, all other States have re-

fiscal (2021-22). Excluding this year, the per capita debt burden has witnessed an increasing trend since 2010-11. From Rs 9,358.35 in 2010-11, per head debt burden reached Rs 23,761.83 by the end of 2020-21, with a steady increase. During the current FY till January, the State has borrowed Rs 10,834.29 crore. The loan borrowing includes Rs 7078.58 crore borrowing from Government of India, Rs 1955.71 crore from NABARD and Rs 1800 crore Rural Electrification Corporation and other sources. However, the loan repayment figure succeeded the borrowing figure as the Government has made repayment of Rs 12,817.47 crore till January of this year. All thanks to the resource management team, who made it possible when the entire country is still reeling under economic slowdown due to Covid-19 pandemic.

# Window Clears 2071 Cr Investment

Bhubaneswar: Hemant Kumar Sharma, Principal Secretary Industries has said that the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) has accorded in principle approval to 12 investment projects envisaging investment of around Rs.2071 Crore, and employment opportunity for more than 3535 persons. Presenting financial and technical details of the investment proposals, in SLSWCA Principal Secretary Industries, Mr.Sharma said that the projects were employment intensive and were from the sectors like tourism, hospitality, food processing, manufacturing, feed production for live-stock, steel, downstream, logistic park, and iron ore beneficiation. Sri Sharma also outlined the possible effect that such industries would make on the macro and micro level economy of the State. It may be pertinent here to mention that SLSWCA had approved other 28 projects of worth Rs 3770.10 crore with employment opportunities for 16,845 persons within last 110 days. As such, including the present investment proposals, SLSWCA committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra approved total 40 investment projects of worth Rs. 5841.40 crore envisaging employment opportunity for 20,380 persons. Giving in principle approval to the projects, Chief Secretary, Mr.Mahapatra di-

rected IPICOL to make realistic assessment of the land and water requirements as per the benchmark set against different types of industries. While emphasizing on expeditious completion of the construction, Sri Mahapatra directed that the industries



should employ the youths 'skilled in Odisha'. The approved projects included the proposal of Swosti Premium to set up Gopipur Palm Resort in Ganjam district with an investment of Rs. 95 crore, and employment opportunities for over 230 persons; Pushpam Realty to set up a Resort and Spa facility in Puri district against an investment of Rs 67.27 crore, and employment opportunity for over 500 persons; Ashribad Engineering and Construction to set up a 5-Star Hotel in Khordha district envisaging an investment of Rs 59.33 crore, and employ-

ment opportunity for over 151 persons; Shree Metaliks to set up Iron ore beneficiation and Pellet making Plant in Keonjhar district with investment of 650 crore, and employment opportunity for over 750 persons; Siddhiridhi Interna-

tional to set up a Billet and Pellet plant in Keonjhar district with an investment of Rs. 308 crore, and employment opportunity for over 516 persons; Panchawati Steels to set up a Sponge iron and steel billet plant in Keonjhar district with an investment of Rs 203 crore, and employment opportunity for over 211 persons; J.K. Blotech for establishment of grain based ethanol and power plant in Cuttack district with investment of Rs. 215 crore employment potential for over 250 persons; LMB Congimerate to set up Ethanol plant in Sundargarh district

with investment of Rs.148 crore and employment opportunity for 112 persons; Rourkela Sponge to set up Ethanol plant in Sundargarh district with investment of Rs.135 crore and employment opportunity for 150 persons; Utkal Feeds to set up Hatchery, Breeder Parent Unit and Egg layer unit in Khordha and Dhenkanal districts with investment of Rs. 54.17 crore and employment opportunity for 165 persons; Spino Paper and Boards to set up a Kraft paper and Duplex board manufacturing unit in Cuttack district with investment of Rs.56.17 crore and employment opportunity for 200 persons; and, the proposal of Hindustan Aqua to set up a Logistic Park with Cold Chain, food court, retail facility and entertainment Centre in Puri district with investment of Rs. 80 cr and employment opportunity for more than 300 persons. Development Commissioner Pardeep Kumar Jena, Additional Chief Secretary Forest and Environment, Mona Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary Revenue and Disaster Management, Satyabrata Sahu, ACS Water Resources Anu Garg, Principal Secretary Energy, Nikunja Bihari Dhal, Principal Secretary Steel and Mines Sri Deo Ranjan Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Ashok Kumar Meena, MD IPICOL, Bhupinder Singh Poonia along with other senior officers of the concerned departments participated in the discussions.

# Vigilance Arrests 43 Govt Servants

Bhubaneswar: The Vigilance Directorate has registered 62 cases and arrested 43 Government officials for indulging in corrupt practices in 2022, so far, said Yeswant K Jethwa, Director Vigilance here on Monday.

"Out of the total arrested officials, 14 are Class 1 officers. Going forward, with the support of the Government we are enhancing the human resource capabilities and infrastructure of Odisha Vigilance to meet future challenges," he said. Opening the doors of Vigilance further for officials from other wings of Government as well as professional experts such as bankers, CAs, engineers etc. is in the pipeline, informed the Vigilance Director. Besides, procurement of forensic and electronic aids for detection & investigation is being done. With these inputs, Odisha Vigilance is committed to further strengthen its anti corruption actions with better results in coming days, he said. Giving a warning message to the corrupt babus, Mr.Jethwa said, "Our anti corruption drive will continue and we are committed to take strong action against corruption in future." Meanwhile, the Vigilance has made a record amount of cash seizure during raids on properties of Ashis Kumar Dash, SE Rural Works, Malkangiri lo-

cated at Shantivan, Belgachia, Trishulia and Cuttack.

During a four day long raid, the Vigilance officials seized Rs 1.36 crore cash from Mr.Dash, which is the highest amount of cash seizure in the history of vigilance. During searches, further Rs 1 crore 15 lakh cash and 632 gm gold including biscuits/coins were recovered. Earlier, Rs 21,75,470 cash and 602 gm gold was recovered at Malkangiri. With this total recovery comes to Rs 1 Crore 36 lakh 75 thousand cash (which is the highest in the history of Odisha Vigilance) and 1.2 kg gold, said vigilance DSP, Susant Kumar Biswal. During searches, details of 12 bank accounts in Axis Bank (in name of family, relations, associates) operated by engineer Dash have been unearthed, in which Rs 2.25 crore cash deposits have been unearthed, the vigilance officials said. Earlier, deposits worth 1.77 crore were unearthed. With this, deposits worth over Rs 4 crore in bank FDs/Savings/Insurance etc have been unearthed, so far. Verification of various Bank accounts and two bank lockers are still to be done. So the assets are likely to increase further, they informed.



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## Indian consumers show cautious optimism; balancing non-discretionary spends: Report

NEW DELHI: Indian consumers are showing cautious optimism and balancing non-discretionary spending as they are

resumed their business travels, it added. According to the report, about 83 per cent of consumers are likely to travel for



saving more for the future, according to a report. Indian consumers are prioritising shopping, recreational and entertainment activities, according to the Deloitte Consumer Tracker report.

The consumers surveyed are planning to spend a large share of their wallets on personal care and clothing, recreation, entertainment and leisure travel, followed by electronics and home furnishings and restaurants, it said.

"The analysis indicates a ray of positivity amongst consumers, who are now cautiously balancing their happiness and spending and saving more for the future," the report noted. With corporate India returning to "business as usual" and travel restrictions gradually easing, Indians have

## Byju's, Qatar Investment Authority announce MENA region-focused edtech subsidiary in Doha

NEW DELHI(KCN): Byju's and Qatar Investment Authority have partnered to launch a new edtech business and research and development centre in Doha, a statement said on Monday. The new entity in Doha will drive research and innovation to create learning solutions customised for students in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Byju's said it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary of Byju's in Doha. "The business will introduce Byju's personalised and innovative learning offerings for students in the Middle East and North Africa region and set up a research and development centre in Doha," it added.

As per the pact, QIA and Byju's will initially work together to set the stage for the MENA-focused online education business. The new entity, which will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Byju's in Qatar, would introduce the edtech major's

business within the next three months.

Expressing positive sentiments, the majority of the consumers have stated that they are optimistic about their financial situations within the next three years as workplaces are opening and COVID-19 cases are decreasing. Porus Doctor, Partner and Consumer Industry Leader, DTILLP, said that the first three months of 2022 have been an adventurous roller-coaster ride with Indians witnessing the third wave of COVID-19 (Omicron variant), leading to a surge in prices of everyday items and supply chain disruptions. "Indian consumers are showing a propensity to save more as the immediate future seems uncertain," Doctor said.

personalised learning offerings to the region. Besides, it will also set up a new research and development centre in Qatar to create customised learning content and products in the Arabic language.

"Since 2019, QIA has been a key investor in Byju's and has witnessed the company's accelerated growth into India's most valuable start-up and the world's most valued company in the edtech sector," the statement said. With over 150 million learners and products across 120 countries, Byju's offers personalised learning programmes for students across K-12, test prep and professional upskilling segments.

Byju Raveendran, Founder and CEO of Byju's, said: "As we continue to witness accelerated growth in Indian and international markets, we are excited to partner with QIA in this next phase of expansion, development and building innovations in learning in the MENA region. Together, we hope to achieve stronger development outcomes".

## NSE co-location case: Court allows CBI to collect Chitra Ramkrishna's handwriting specimen

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Monday allowed the CBI to collect the handwriting sample of former managing director and chief executive officer of National Stock Exchange (NSE) Chitra Ramkrishna in connection with the NSE co-location case.

Special Judge Sanjeev Aggarwal also extended Ramkrishna's judicial custody till April 11, after she was produced before the court at the end of her earlier judicial custody.

The court passed the order on the applications moved by the CBI, which said that the investigation was at a very crucial stage and it was examining several digital pieces of evidence in the case.

ALSO READ | Revealed: The Chennai house that Chitra Ramkrishna sold to Anand Subramanian's wife in 2021!

The CBI had arrested Ramkrishna after her anticipatory bail application was dismissed by the court earlier.

The court on March 26 sought CBI's response on Ramkrishna's bail plea and posted the matter for April 8.

The court recently dismissed the bail application of NSE's former group operating officer (GOO) Anand Subramanian in the case.

The CBI had recently questioned Ramkrishna in the matter.

The Income Tax (IT) Department earlier raided various premises linked to Ramkrishna in Mumbai and Chennai.

Ramkrishna has also been on the radar of the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Recently, the CBI court had sent Subramanian, advisor to Ramkrishna, to CBI custody.

He was arrested by the CBI from Chennai in connection with the NSE case.

The arrest was made in the case related to the co-location scam, the FIR for which was registered in May 2018, amid fresh revelations about irregularities at the country's largest stock exchange.

ALSO READ | Were ex-CEO of NSE Chitra Ramkrishna and Anand Subramanian planning to turn neighbours?

The CBI is probing the alleged improper dissemination of information from the computer servers of the market exchanges to the stock-brokers.

## Traders keep shutters down as cops grope in dark for killers

Continued from page-1

Chowk within Hinjili police limits.

Sadhu, who also sustained injuries in the attack, is currently undergoing treatment at MKCG Medical College and Hospital. Police said he will be arrested after his discharge from the hospital. However, the others involved in the murders are yet to be nabbed.

Reliable sources said five persons are being interrogated in connection with the murders. However, police are tight-lipped over the investigation and reluctant to disclose the names of persons who are being interrogated.

Hinjili IIC Abhimanyu Das said all the accused involved in the crime will be nabbed soon. Armed police have been deployed at Pitala Chowk after the murders took place to avert any untoward incident.

On the other hand, the delay in arresting the culprits has irked the locals who said Sadhu is involved in several criminal cases including murder and extortion. They claimed that police can easily identify Sadhu's associates from the call details of his cellphone. But surprisingly, the cops are still clueless about the killers. "It seems there is pressure on police to delay the arrest of the accused," alleged a villager of Narendrapur.

## person of BJP Aparajita blames Odisha leadership for BJP debacle

Continued from page-1 CONTINUED ON: P-7

been claiming that it is working for the people and providing a good and transparent administration, it should not use money and the administration to earn a victory, she said.

The MP who fielded a political novice Suniti Mund as the mayor candidate of BJP for Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), said Mund has secured over 1.13 lakh votes despite distribution of money by the ruling party. "I happy that BJP's mayor candidate received over 1.13 lakh popular votes and 10 party corporator candidates won with the blessings of the voters. I also thank the voters for reposing faith in the party," Sarangi said.

The bureaucrat-turned-politician had also blamed the State BJP leadership for the miserable performance of the party in the three-tier panchayat polls. She had then said the party needs strong leadership in Odisha to win the trust of voters in the upcoming elections. She had advised the party for introspection to improve performance. State BJP president Samir Mohanty did not comment.

Earlier, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has penalized the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and its former CEOs Chitra Ramkrishna and Ravi Narayan and two other officials for lapses in recruitment at the senior level.

Ravi Narain was the MD and CEO of the NSE from April 1994 till March 2013, while Chitra Ramkrishna was MD and CEO of the NSE from April 2013 to December 2016.

The market regulator observed that the NSE and its top executives violated securities contract norms relating to the appointment of Anand Subramanian as group operating officer and advisor to the managing director.

## Huge 'Atmanirbhar' push as Centre plans to procure military equipment worth Rs 5 lakh crore from domestic source

Continued from page-1

this juncture the actual on account of the decision to not import the items.

"However, as per available projections, it is estimated that over approximately Rs 5 lakh crore worth of equipment included in both the positive indigenisation lists will be procured from domestic industry over the next five to seven years," he said.

In the last few years, the government has taken a series of measures to boost domestic defence manufacturing.

In May last year, the government announced increasing the FDI limit from 49 per cent to 74 per cent under the automatic route in the defence sector.

India is one of the largest importers of arms globally.

According to estimates, the Indian armed forces are projected to spend around USD 130 billion (one billion is equal to 100 crores) in capital procurement in the next five years.

The government now wants to reduce dependence on imported military platforms and has decided to support domestic defence manufacturing.

The Defence Ministry has set a goal of a turnover of USD 25 billion (Rs 1.75 lakh crore) in defence manufacturing in the next five years that included an export target of USD 5 billion (Rs 35,000 crore) worth of military hardware.

The government on Monday said that a total of Rs 3,343 crore has been received as foreign direct investment (FDI) in the defence sector since 2014.

In response to a question in Rajya Sabha, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the defence sector needs continuous investment for capacity enhancements and the creation of state-of-the-art technologies.

"During the period from 2001-2014, a total FDI inflow of about Rs 1,382 crore was reported and from 2014 till date, a total FDI of about Rs 3,343 crore has been reported," he said.

To a separate question, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt said the "term 'Martyr' is not used in Indian Armed Forces."

He was asked about the definition of martyr and whether the government has stopped the use of the word for those who made supreme sacrifices in the line of duty.

Asked whether the government is considering a system of conferring letters of acknowledgement from the President and the Prime Minister's Office on the families of armed forces personnel killed in action, Bhatt said no such proposal has been received for consideration.

To another question, Bhatt said the government created the Defence AI (Artificial Intelligence) Council (DAIC) in 2019 for providing necessary guidance to enable and effect the development of an operating framework for the adoption of the application of AI in the defence sector.

He said all the three services have established institutional mechanisms in the form of AI Sub Committee and Joint Working Group on AI. "As part of the data management framework, the services have formulated data policy and appointed data management officers," he said. Bhatt also said that the budget allocated and utilised in the past three years for the research and development of indigenous defence aircraft was Rs 3,280 crore and Rs 2,835 crore respectively.

He said 100 per cent rate of success has been achieved for the various research carried out for the development of indigenous defence aircraft.

## In an attempt to save his government, Imran supports ally PML-Q leader as its CM candidate in Punjab

Continued from page-1

hand-picked Punjab chief minister Usman Buzdar presented his resignation to the prime minister on Monday.

The PML-Q, an important ally of the PTI at the Centre and the Punjab province, has acquired a central role in the ongoing political drama despite having only five Members of the National Assembly.

The PML-Q had reportedly asked Prime Minister Khan to announce Elahi as the replacement of Punjab Chief Minister Buzdar before calling the National Assembly session to take up the Opposition's no-trust motion.

Buzdar's removal was also sought by Prime Minister Khan's closest confidants in the party. "Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi meets Prime Minister Imran Khan.

All issues were settled in the meeting.

PML-Q expresses confidence in PM and announces support.

Chief Minister Usman Buzdar tenders his resignation to PM.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has decided to nominate Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi as the new Chief Minister of Punjab," Habib wrote on Twitter.

Earlier, a no-confidence motion was also filed against Buzdar.

According to an official handout issued by the provincial assembly secretariat, 127 provincial lawmakers signed the no-trust motion against Buzdar, while 120 signed the requisition notice to summon session within 14 days. The political temperature in Pakistan has been slowly reaching a boiling point in the wake of the no-trust move by the Opposition in the National Assembly.

The Opposition parties are confident that they can get the support of 172 members in the house of 342 to dislodge the government, while the government claims that it enjoys the required support in the house to foil the attempt.

Khan came to power in 2018 with promises to create a 'Naya Pakistan' but miserably failed to address the basic problem of keeping the prices of commodities in control, giving air to the sails of opposition ships to make war on his government.

Khan, 69, is heading a coalition government and he can be removed if some of the partners decide to switch sides.

The PTI has 155 members in the 342-member National Assembly and needs at least 172 lawmakers on its side to remain in the government.

## State registers 10.1 % Growth

Continued from page-1

under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana to each beneficiary for repair, renovation of their pucca houses sanctioned since 2014. It is further proposed to provide financial assistance of Rs.5,000 each to eligible but left-out households of the state who are yet to get any rural housing assistance, he added.

Speaking about sports development, Mr.Patnaik said Odisha is playing a key role in the turnaround of Indian sports scenario with its continuous support for players and investment in sports infrastructure.

In recognition of the brilliant performance of the Indian hockey team at Tokyo Olympics-2020, the CM said his government has decided to sponsor Indian Hockey for another 10 years till 2033. Transforming the sports landscape and empowering athletes is the vision of the government, he added.

At least 15 per cent seats in medical and engineering colleges of the State have been reserved for students of Government High Schools. Under 5T-High School Transformation Programme, 1,076 high schools have been transformed in the first phase and 3,365 more high schools will be transformed in the second phase, thereby providing world class infrastructural facilities and studying atmosphere to our children in the Government High Schools, he ended.

## IPL 2022: Gujarat Titans opt to bowl against Lucknow Super Giants in battle of IPL debutants



MUMBAI: Gujarat Titans won the toss and opted to bowl against Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League here on Monday.

Teams: Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill, Matthew Wade, Vijay Shankar, Abhinav Manohar, Hardik Pandya (c), David Miller, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid

Khan, Lockie Ferguson, Varun Aaron, Mohammed Shami. Lucknow Super Giants: KL Rahul (c), Quinton de Kock, Evin Lewis, Manish

Pandey, Deepak Hooda, Krunal Pandya, Mohsin Khan, Ayush Badoni, Dushmanta Chameera, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan.

## Bopanna-Shapovalov pair enters Miami Open quarterfinals

MIAMI: India's Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov stunned the top-seeded

Miami Open tennis tournament here. The unseeded Indo-Canadian pair surprised Mektic and Pavic 6-3 7-6(3) in

seeded pair of Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands and Great Britain's Neal Skupski for a place in the semifinals.

3 7-6(8) in the second round. Bopanna and Shapovalov earlier registered a fighting 6-7(5) 6-2 10-3 win over



Croatian pair of Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic in straight sets to enter quarterfinals at the

a second-round doubles match on Sunday. Bopanna and Shapovalov will now face the sixth-

Koolhof and Skupski defeated the Spanish-Italian combination of Pedro Martinez and Lorenzo Sonego 6-

Marcelo Avrevalo of El Salvador and Jean-Julien Rojer of Netherlands in the opening round of the ATP Masters 1000 event.

## Canada advances to FIFA World Cup for first time in 36 years

TORONTO: Cyle Larin, Tajon Buchanan and Junior Hoilett scored and Canada secured its first World Cup berth in 36 years with a 4-0 victory over Jamaica on Sunday.

Canada has been to the World Cup just once before, in 1986. "Speechless. Dream come true," midfielder Jonathan Osorio said. "We all dreamed of this as little kids, and as a Canadian that was impossible. Today the impossible happened. It's an incredible feeling."

Canada missed out a chance to secure a spot in Qatar last week with a 1-0 loss to Costa Rica. It was Canada's first loss in three World Cup qualifying rounds and it snapped a six-game winning streak. Boosted by the home crowd at BMO Field, Canada rebounded in a big way against the Jamaicans, who were already eliminated from World Cup contention.

Following the match, the fans broke into the Canadian national anthem and Osorio led the crowd for a drum chant before the team danced on the field. Buchanan circled the field waving Canada's flag. Canada coach John Herdman became the first coach ever to

lead both a men's and women's team to a World Cup berth. He coached the Canadian women's team from 2011-18.

In a post-game interview, Herdman was doused with champagne by Canadian goalkeeper Milan Borjan.

"Canada is a football nation, man. We better believe it,"



Herdman said. "And we're going to keep coming. We've only gotten started."

Canada sits atop the table in the final qualifying round with 28 points, followed by the United States (25 points), which held the edge over third-place Mexico (25) on goal difference. The United States defeated Panama 5-1 and Mexico downed Honduras 1-0 in the late games Sunday. Costa Rica won 2-1 at El Salvador to maintain fourth place with 22 points and prevent the U.S. from being able to clinch Sunday night. Anthony Contreras scored on a bicycle kick in the 30th minute, Christian Gil tied the score

one minute later and Joel Campbell put the Ticos ahead in the first minute of first-half stoppage time. Costa Rica hosts the U.S. on Wednesday night.

The top three finishers in the North and Central American and Caribbean region book the trip to Qatar. The fourth-place team goes to an inter-

continental playoff against a team from Oceania. The Canadians wrap up the qualifying round Wednesday in Panama.

Because Canada was ranked 73rd in July 2020 when the format was announced, it had to advance through two early rounds and was playing its 17th qualifier Sunday. Canada has improved to 33rd. Snow fell at times at BMO Field. Temperatures were in the 20s at game time but its didn't daunt a red-clad crowd of more than 29,000.

Larin put Canada in front early with his team-leading 13th goal of the qualifying tournament. He had another clear chance

in the 38th minute but the ball went just wide.

Larin is one goal behind Ali Mabkhout of the United Arab Emirates for most goals in qualifying for Qatar. Larin, who leads the national team with a best-ever 24 goals, has had six goals in the final round.

Buchanan scored in the 44th, celebrating with a backflip, to put Canada up 2-0 going into the break. Hoilett added the final goal in the 82nd and an own goal in the 88th to round out scoring.

"Look, I'm just happy for these lads," Herdman said. "When I first took over and I said 'We're going to go to the World Cup, we'll qualify. I don't think they believed us.'"

Just one of Canada's players Sunday was alive when the nation was last in the World Cup: Captain Atiba Hutchinson was 3 when the Canadians lost to France, Hungary and the Soviet Union by a combined 5-0 at the 1986 tournament in Mexico. Canada has been playing without star Alphonso Davies, who missed the previous three qualifying matches because myocarditis was discovered after he caught COVID-19 in January.



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