

## Tight security at Lingaraj temple

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The City police have made tight security arrangements at 11th

smooth conduct of the festival, said Bhubaneswar DCP Umashankar Dash.



century Lingaraj temple here for Maha Shivaratri to be celebrated on Tuesday. About 35 platoons of police force and over 100 officers will be deployed to ensure

Besides this, a joint team of Commissionerate Police and BMC will enforce Covid-19 guidelines like maintaining social distancing inside the temple.

## UK says evicting Russia from UN Security Council among 'all options'

LONDON(KCN): The UK government is open to removing Russia as one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council following the invasion of Ukraine, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman said Tuesday. "I think it's something we want to discuss with the UN obviously," the spokesman, who speaks on condition of anonymity, told reporters. "There are the mechanisms in place for that

which are well established," he said, adding that Johnson had yet to stake out a position himself on the question. "What is right to say is that we want to see Russia iso-

lated diplomati- cally, and we will China, and France. The five are meant



adding that Johnson had yet to stake out a position himself on the question. "What is right to say is that we want to see Russia iso-

consider all options to achieve that." Britain is also one of the five permanent members alongside Russia, the United States,

to guarantee international peace and security, but Russia stands accused of trashing the UN rulebook with its offensive on Ukraine.

## PM Narendra Modi asks Indian Air Force to evacuate stranded Indians in Ukraine

NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked the Indian Air Force (IAF) to evacuate Indians stranded in

Till now, only private Indian carriers have been evacuating Indians from Romania and Hungary, countries with land borders with

geared up for any requirements of evacuation of Indian citizens from Ukraine. C-17 is IAF's largest transport aircraft and it has the

has called for the IAF to join the exercise. Leveraging the capacities of the IAF will ensure that more people can be evacuated in a shorter time frame, they noted. The large C-17 aircraft will also help deliver humanitarian aid to war-hit Ukraine more efficiently, they said. Indians are travelling by road to Ukraine's borders with Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland etc, from where they are being taken by the Indian government officials to the airports for the evacuation flights. The Indian Embassy in Ukraine on Twitter advised all Indian nationals -- including students -- to leave Kyiv urgently on Friday itself, preferably by available trains or through any other means available.



Ukraine due to the Russian military offensive against that country, sources said on Tuesday. The IAF is likely to deploy several C-17 aircraft as part of Operation Ganga from Tuesday, they said.

Ukraine on the western side, as the Ukrainian airspace has been shut since February 24. India began evacuation of around 14,000 of its stranded citizens on February 26. In a statement on Tuesday, the IAF said it is

capacity to carry approximately 300 passengers in it during a humanitarian relief mission. The sources said that in order to scale up the ongoing evacuation efforts under Operation Ganga, Modi

## Soundarya Central School felicitates Sannidhi Kulkarni for her achievements in the field of literature

Bengaluru (KCN): On the occasion of National Science Day, during the inaugural function, Sannidhi Kulkarni of grade 5 was felicitated with the winner's shield, Certificate, a copy of Katashi Tales and the cash prize of 7,500 rupees for her win in Grow your Buds Poetry Rendition Contest 2021. Motivational Strips Media Spokesperson Sreekala P Vijayan announced the prize in the formal function on behalf of forum and it's founder Shiju H Pallithazheth. Soundarya Central School Principal Mrs. Renukadevi congratulated her on behalf of the school and management. Sannidhi spoke about the motivation by her teacher, Sreekala P Vijayan has changed her life and now she is getting ready to publish her debut book.



## Russia-Ukraine War LIVE Updates

### Karnataka student killed in shelling, confirms MEA

Russia/Ukraine (KCN): Russian forces shelled Ukraine's second-largest city on Monday, killing at least 11 civilians on Tuesday. Governor Oleg Sinugubov accused Moscow of targeting residential areas. Kyiv says 352 civilians have been killed, including 14 children, since the invasion began last Thursday.

violating international law in its invasion of Ukraine, EU chief Charles Michel said. "The rules-based international order, democracy, human dignity are also under attack. This is geopolitical terrorism, pure and simple," Michel, the president of the European Council, told the European Parliament.

Russian shelling on Ukraine's second-largest city Kharkiv killed at least 10 people and left many more injured, emergency services said, in an attack that targeted the central square and the main administration building.



The Kremlin said it was too early to draw conclusions from a first round of talks held with Ukraine on ending the war following Moscow's invasion last week.

Meanwhile, satellite photos show a convoy of Russian forces north of Ukraine's capital stretching for 40 miles.

The vast convoy of armoured vehicles, tanks, artillery and support vehicles was 17 miles (25 kilometers) from the centre of Kyiv and stretched for about 40 miles, according to satellite imagery from Maxar Technologies.

The Maxar photos also showed deployments of ground forces and ground attack helicopter units in southern Belarus.

The Russian army tells them they can "freely leave" on one highway as it hints of attacks on civilian areas.

Karnataka student from Haveri district died in an attack by Russian force at Kharkiv city of Ukraine on Tuesday morning. It is said Naveen, who stepped out from Arkhitektora Beketova Metro station bunker to bring groceries, died in a shell attack on the street of Kharkiv. The incident took place around 7 am of local Ukraine time. The United Nations launched an emergency appeal Tuesday for USD 1.7 billion to provide urgent humanitarian aid to people caught up in the Russian invasion of Ukraine and refugees fleeing the fighting.

The UN estimates that 12 million people inside Ukraine will need relief and protection, while it projected that more than four million Ukrainian refugees may need help in neighbouring countries in the coming months.

Russia is guilty of "geopolitical terrorism" by

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said President Vladimir Putin had been informed about the talks and that "it is too soon to assess" their outcome.

182 Indian citizens from Ukraine have been brought back to India, by the seventh evacuation flight as part of Centre's Operation Ganga. Iran's supreme leader said US policies are to blame for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, calling for an end to the war that broke out last week. "The root cause of the Ukraine crisis is the US and the West's policies," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a televised speech marking a Muslim religious anniversary.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described Russian shelling of his country's second city as a war crime and said defending the capital from Moscow's army was a top priority. Russia's bombardment of civilian targets in Kharkiv broke international rules of conflict, the EU's foreign policy chief said. "The shelling against civilian infrastructure violates the laws of war. The EU stands unwavering at the side of Ukraine in these dramatic moments," Josep Borrell said after a call with Ukraine's foreign minister.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said Russian President Vladimir Putin had "shattered peace in Europe" by invading Ukraine, adding that the Western defence alliance would defend "every inch of our territory".

CONTINUED ON: P-5

## BJD Sweeps in 762 ZPs

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As the results of the Zilla Parishad elections tick down, Governing Biju Janata Dal headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sweeps the three-tire panchayat polls leaving behind the opposition BJP and Congress much behind its tally.

The latest trend issued by the State Election Commission (SEC) said that the BJD had already won and was leading in 762 Zilla Parishad seats while BJP's tally was just 46

and the BJD is heading towards a landslide victory in the panchayat polls after smashing its previous records.

The regional party had secured 651 ZP seats in 2012 panchayat elections while its tally was 464 in the 2017 elections. There were 852 ZP seats in Odisha.

On the other hand, the opposition BJP, which secured 297 ZP seats in 2017 elections, this time is about to lose about 250 seats while Congress is also likely to come down to 36 seats in 2022 from its tally of 60 seats in 2017. Considering this trend, the BJD is likely to form Parishads in all 30 districts of the state, including the saffron party bastions of western Odisha, Mayubhanj and Malkangiri.

In western Odisha, from where the saffron party won at least six of its 8 Lok Sabha seats in 2019 general elections, also won 169 of 212 Zilla Parishad seats in Bolangir, Nuapada, Sonepur, Kalahandi, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Sundargarh, Malkangiri and Mayurbhanj.

The BJD has almost reversed the results here this time with the trends indicating an 80 per cent win in these districts.

The results of the panchayat elections is significant as it will have an impact on the ensuing general elections for the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) which is scheduled to be held on March 24, 2022.

Altogether 2.2 lakh candidates were in the fray and the SEC has already



and Congress's share was 36 seats.

While Independents are leading in three seats, others are ahead in four other seats.

Of the 620 ZP seats results announced so far, the BJD secured 552 seats followed by BJP 31 and Congress 30. Independents and others share just 7 seats.

These votes were counted on the two previous days while the counting process was underway in 331 other seats on Monday.

Taking both the results declared and the trend,

CONTINUED ON: P-7

# Satyabrata Bhajan On Lord Shiva

Bhubaneswar (KCN): On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri, a

artists were seen singing the song sitting before Lord Shiva with folded hands.

and having gifted to us on the blissful Mahashivaratri," \*said Nagendra

Namita Agrawal, Arabinda Muduli. Prior to that, Mr.Sahu, while serving in School & Mass Education Deptt has voiced series of songs relating to various popular schemes of Government like MO S C H O O L A B H I Y A N , O D I S H A A D A R S H A V I D Y A L A Y A , 5 T H I G H S C H O O L T R A N S F O R M A T I O N as well as Literacy MISSIONS which were appreciated by all section of people



Bhajan on Lord Shiva voiced by Ace Mandarin, Satyabrata Sahu has been released. ACS Revenue & Disaster Management, Mr.Sahu has sung the "Deba Deba Mahadeba" Bhajan in an excellent melodious tone. Mr.Sahu having a wonderful voice, sang the Bhajan like a professional playback singer. Apart from audio the Bhajan has also been videographed and has been uploaded in Youtube channel of Sidharth Music. The Top Mandarin along with four other

The video uploaded on YouTube is all set to hit the internet as over 3000 viewers have watched it within a few hours. The song composed at Sidharth Music is available on JioSaavn, Wynk, Gaana, Apple Music, Amazon Prime Music, iTunes and Spotify. G u r u j i C h a n d r a b h a n u Satpathy has liked the song and commented that...Excellent rendition, May Sri Sai Bless you... "Thank you Satya for such a wonderful devotional song so nicely sung by you

Panda, who was a school mate and seen Mr. Sahu singing from his childhood days in AIR. On February 2, Mr.Sahu had voiced famous Odia Bhajan Jagannatha Ho Kichhi Magunahin Tate.....In just three weeks of time, over 15,000 people have viewed the song and large number of people praised Mr.Sahu for his voice. The song gives a very pleasant divine feeling to the listener, even though the song has already been sung by famous singers like Late Bhikari Bal,

# GST collection records 21% Growth

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Government has collected GST Revenue to an extent of Rs.4101 Crore in the month of February, while achieving

has collected Rs.760 Crore extra. India has collected Gross GST revenue in the month of February 2022 Rs1,33,026 crore.

Rs 10,340 crore (including Rs 638 crore collected on import of goods). The Union Government has settled Rs 26,347 crore to CGST and Rs 21,909 crore to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of February 2022 after regular settlement is Rs 50,782 crore for CGST and Rs 52,688 crore for the SGST. The revenues for the month of February 2022 are 18% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year and 26% higher than the GST revenues in February 2020. During the month, revenues from import of goods were 38% higher and the revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are 12%

higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year. February, being a 28-day month, normally witnesses revenues lower than that in January. This high growth during February 2022 should also be seen in the context of partial lockdowns, weekend and night curfews and various restrictions that were put in place by various States due to the omicron wave, which peaked around 20 January. This is for the fifth time GST collection has crossed Rs 1.30 lakh crore mark. Since implementation of GST, for the first time, GST cess collection crossed Rs 10,000 crore mark, which signifies recovery of certain key sectors, especially, automobile sales.



23 Percent growth over corresponding period of last year. State Government had collected Rs. 3341 Crore during February, 2021 and in February 2022, it

Out of which CGST is Rs 24,435 crore, SGST is Rs 30,779 crore, IGST is Rs 67,471crore (including Rs 33,837 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is

# Inter-college Debate Competition organized by Heritage Law College, Kolkata

Kolkata(KCN) : For the first time in post Covid period, on 28th

students from several esteemed colleges across Kolkata such as

competition. Shri Satya Sundar Sarangi, Advocate of Calcutta

historical episodes and probability of the implementation of the



February, 2022, Heritage Law College, Kolkata organised an inter college debate where the motion was "THIS HOUSE BELIEVES

Department of Law, Calcutta University, Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri Law College, South Calcutta Law College, Sister Nivedita

High Court, Member of Supreme Court Association and Indian Council of Arbitration with Legal Aid Services, West Bengal presided as the judge

Uniform Civil Code. The students' team of Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri Law College emerged as the winner and Adrita Chaudhuri from the



THAT UNIFORM CIVIL CODE IS A Distant Dream in India". Undergraduate

University, University of Engineering and Management as well as Heritage Law College had participated in this

of the competition. Prof. S. S. Chatterji, Dean Heritage Law College spoke on such topics like the context,

winning team became the Best Speaker. Heritage Law College became the runner's up.

# 38<sup>th</sup> Reunion of JDI Ex-Students' Association

Kolkata (KCN): (Report : Sanatan Mahakud) : JDI Ex- Students' Association organized its 38<sup>th</sup> Reunion of Alumni students at Jhapordah Dule Institution school premises on February 27, 2022. The entire program observed under all restrictions of COVID -19. Approximately 95 alumni students of all age actively participated in the event. The program started with offering the flower to pay respect to former principal of the school Late Satish Chandra Ghosh and Late Prashad Pal. The members of the Association also offered one minute silence prayer for the departed souls of the teachers, staff and alumni students. The main programme started at 11.30 AM with an inaugural song by Mr. Priyanshu Chatterjee followed by sharing the experience by some alumni members and teachers. President of the Association Mr. Shyam Sundar Datta formally introduced founder members of the Association with the new members of the association.

On this occasion Association has felicitated one founder member of the association named Mr. Ahindra Nath Dey for his voluntary contribution for the development of the association and one successful alumni student Mr. Samit Mondal for his dedication to the IT Induser and society. Association also felicitates top three successful students of Madhyamik 2021 and H.S 2021 for each three streams Science, Arts and Commerce. The program followed by lunch and students quiz. Quiz master Mr. Indrajit Dhanki conducted students quiz with the help of Mr. Rahul Parui, Mr. Deborshi Deb Mondal and Ms. Sabita Paul. Second half program started with wonderful cultural events which includes dance, song and music events performed by Mr. Probhat Chakroborty, Vice President of the association. Alumni members enjoy the day with their batch mates, seniors and juniors. The entire program ends with vote of thanks given by Secretary of the Association Sri Joydev Ghosh.

# Biju Yuba Jantadal condemn the allegation of defeated candidate BasantiNaik in press meet

Barbil (KCN): PramilaNaik, a Sarpanch candidate backed by Champua MLA Meenakshi Mahant, and BasantiNaik, backed candidate of former MLA Sanatan Mahakud, clashed in Bhadrasahi Gram Panchayat of Zone-24 under JodaBlock. On last round counting Legislative-backed candidate Pramila Naik declared as winner by five votes. The Mahakud backed candidate get discontented and blocked Bhadrasahi Chowk, alleging fraud in the counting of votes. Bus passengers who were traveling far and wide were stranded for hours as the passenger buses were not allowed to go. The defeated candidate Basanti Naik alleged



that the vote count had been rigged and demanded a recount. Condemning this a press conference was held on behalf of the JuvaBiju Janata Dal of Bhadrasahi Gram Panchayat, citing his demands as undemocratic and unethical. Panchayat president Indrajit Barik told before the press that Five contestants were contesting in the elections, but PramilaNaik won by five points in the final round. BDO had conducted count in the presence of all the members of contestants. He asserted that her allegation on the counting from 7 to 14 round is totally ambiguous and inappropriate.

# Race for Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation seats begins

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): With the State Election Commissioner (SEC) announcing the schedule for urban polls, the race for selection of aspirants for the Mayor and corporator seats in the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has begun in BJD, BJP and Congress. With a large number of aspirants lobbying for Mayor and corporator seats, the ruling BJD is struggling to pick names, even as BJP and Congress have decided to release the list of corporator aspirants before announcing the selection of their Mayor candidates. BJD leaders said as there will be a direct election to the post of Mayor, reserved for women candidates, Chief Minister and party supreme Naveen Patnaik will announce the name of a suitable candidate at an appropriate time. At least three

to four aspirants are in the race to get a ticket from the party for the Mayor's seat. Besides, multiple aspirants are lobbying for BJD tickets for corporator seats in most of the wards, particularly Bhubaneswar central. This has thrown more challenges for the party in finalising the names of the candidates. However, a BJD leader said the names would be released in the first phase for wards that fall under the Bhubaneswar Ekamra constituency. The BJP has also launched its exercise to select mayor and corporator aspirants. Keeping in view the performance of the party in the previous civic polls and this panchayat election, the party is mulling to pick a strong candidate as its Mayor face in the civic polls.

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## Maara Movie Review: A grounded remake of Charlie with quite a bit of heart

If you didn't know that Maara is the remake of the Malayalam film, Charlie, the opening shot of fireflies fluttering about is a strong hint of the magic contained within the universe of this film. Shortly, you see little Paaru in rapt attention, as a nun narrates to her the story of a soldier who's travelling across seas and jungles in a quest to find his soul. This is pretty much the story of this film as well, as Paaru (Shraddha Srinath) grows up to find herself in a similar quest for her soul, well, soulmate, in Maara (Madhavan). There's another quest for a soulmate in this film, one undertaken by Vellaiyan (a wonderful Mouli), one that is later taken over by Maara. The film is a reinforcement of the power of stories, of the stories each of our lives are. This is why there are multiple characters with their own short stories, including those of Selvi (Abhirami), the sex worker, and Kani (Sshivada), the guilt-ridden doctor. The implication is that no one story is necessarily more important than another. I got the sense that Maara doesn't think of himself as a hero or a saviour, even if those around him seem to believe that. He's merely a tool, a person who breezes through life hoping to repay the extraordinary help that Vellaiyan has done to him. I loved this touch because shorn of it, Maara, the character, could have felt idealistic and

unrelatable—which would have gone against the point of the film itself. This way, there's a reason for why Maara is the way he is, why he can't afford to stay at one place for too long. I quite enjoyed that Madhavan plays this character without

kites, in the sketch-book and its pencil illustrations... hell, even in the blotches of Maara's acid-wash hoodies. There's a call through this film, through its characters, to refuse to fall into the trap of mundanity and indif-

small community. Maara, the film, suggests that perhaps, just perhaps, his way of life could also come down to the courage to choose to step away from the norm. Realise the magic of life in you, it seems to be saying... notice the al-

speaking about Maara says, "destiny". Another likens him to a mythical character, Santa Claus, while commenting on Maara's habit of sudden appearances that usually result in joy to whoever he meets. Maara himself, as he

about Meenakshi; watch his eyes grow wide in surprise, and almost well up under the weight of decades of mourning. Ghibran's background music and Thamarai's evocative lyrics add so much to such scenes as well. It's wonderful that films like Maara are able to offer elderly characters like Mouli's as much purpose and are able to see them for the individuals that they are, instead of simply as a crutch for a lead character. Of course, much of this credit must go to the original film, Charlie. In a world that is in a tearing hurry, at a time when films and stories are designed to be rapid for fear of making audiences impatient, films like Maara come as a welcome relief. In this film, at least two important exchanges—between Vellaiya and Paaru, and later, between Maara and Kani—happen as wood slowly burns to ember, as tender faces are lit by the warm glow of a fireplace. It's for such moments that I'll remember this film, even if some inconsistent performances and some synthetic moments stop it from being truly great. Nevertheless, it's a film that has heart and that encourages empathy towards those around us, and if possible, to note that magicality doesn't need to be thought of an otherworldly trait, if only we cared to pay more attention to the beauty around us.



a sanctimonious flavour—and more importantly, in a way that shows that Maara isn't above vulnerability. There's no moral superiority in that ascetic laughter of his—which probably can be thought of as even the desperate attempt of an unhappy man to be happy, chained as he is to his lifelong quest.

**Director: Dhilip Kumar**  
**Cast: Madhavan, Shraddha Srinath, Mouli**

The film is almost a homage to art—and the dreaminess inherent in it. This can be spotted throughout the film: In the pretty wall murals, in the art plastered across and drawn all over the walls of Maara's home, in the designer

ference, into routine and repetition. Maara is pretty much the film equivalent of 'Follow the white rabbit'. That's perhaps why during a conversation between Maara and a thief (Alexander Babu), you can see a neon sign in the background that reads 'White Rabbit'. The usual response to such a call is to cite a lack of financial security, and while that is a reason to be empathetic about—especially given the enviably cushy work-free existence Paaru seems to be leading in this film—we could also note how Maara, who's hardly a wealthy man (as a thief realises), makes the choice to get by, winning and returning favours in his

most mystical beauty of existence. It's also likely that this is why the film's many shots are lit as they are, with many faces often aglow, as though in the presence of a halo. This is why the coincidences in this film become palatable. The central idea at the heart of this film is of two lonely souls in search of each other. Take note of that inexplicable attraction little Paaru feels as she sees a speeding train from within her bus. Or take note of that instinctive smile from Maara as he steps into his room, a room that Paaru has lived in briefly. In such a film, coincidences are to be thought of as divine providence, or as one character, when

does many times in this film, underplays this notion that he's a mystical being. It's his understanding—and you will see it from his eyes when he's engaged in conversation with every single character—that each of us is magical, as are our stories. In this film with performances that range from great to over-the-top, I loved Mouli in particular, who plays Vellaiya, an old man consumed by his unrequited love. Watch him in that scene with Paaru as he brings to her an old photo of his beloved, Meenakshi, but hesitates after seeing her be so charmed by photos of Maara instead. Watch him in another scene with Paaru as she tells him

## Shooting for third season of 'Four More Shots Please' to begin soon: Kirti Kulhari

**MUMBAI(KCN):** Bollywood actor Kirti Kulhari on Thursday said shoot for her series "Four More Shots Please!" is set to commence in coming days. The Amazon Prime

Taking to Instagram, Kulhari shared her excitement to team up with her co-actors again for the new season. "And we are back #fourmoreshotsplease #season3 shoot begins su-

tions, the show was recently nominated in the best comedy series category at the 48th International Emmy Awards. On the film front, Kulhari is currently awaiting the release

## Vijay Sethupathi, Katrina Kaif in Sriram Raghavan's next?

It was recently revealed that Sriram Raghavan's upcoming film, Ekkis, has been put on hold. A big-budget military drama starring Varun

Santosh Sivan, is a Hindi remake of Maanagaram (2017). He is also rumoured to star in an upcoming web series directed by Raj and

Sriram Raghavan's last film was Andhadhun (2018) with Ayushmann Khurrana and Tabu. The film is getting a Tamil and Telugu re-



Dhawan, the film was delayed due to Covid-19.

Now, rumour has it that Sriram has signed Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi for his next. If true, this is the latest Hindi project Vijay Sethupathi is attached to—the others being Laal Singh Chadha and Mumbaikar. The latter, directed by

DK. The unrevealed series will also star Shahid Kapoor.

Banita Sandhu clarifies on COVID-19 diagnosis, says she 'continues to test negative'  
**MUMBAI(KCN):** "October" actor Banita Sandhu on Thursday said she has continued to test negative for COVID-19 since her arrival to the country in January 3, contrary to what is being reported in media.

make with Prashanth and Nithiin, respectively, in the lead.

According to health department sources, Sandhu had tested positive for COVID-19 on January 4 in Kolkata after flying from United Kingdom and was admitted to a private hospital after she refused to be treated in a government facility.



Video series, which also features Sayani Gupta, Maanvi Gupta and Bani J, follows a quartet of friends who deal with their relationships, work-life conflicts, ambitions and anxieties in a male-dominated society.

per soon. Lovely to be back with the crazy 3," Kulhari wrote alongside a series of candid photos with Gupta, Gagroo and Bani. Created by Rangita Pritish Nandy and produced by Pritish Nandy Communica-

of the Hindi remake of Hollywood blockbuster "The Girl on the Train", starring Parineeti Chopra. The movie, which premiere on streamer Netflix on February 26, will feature Kulhari as a British cop.

## Paper industry pins high hopes on policy initiatives for agroforestry

The Indian paper industry accounts for about 5 per cent of the world's production of paper. The estimated turnover of the Indian paper industry is Rs. 70,000 crore (domestic market size of 80,000 crores) and its contribution to the exchequer is around 5,000 crore. The industry provides direct employment to 500,000 persons, and indirectly to around 1.5 million. Paper mills use a variety of raw materials viz. wood, bamboo, recycled fibre, bagasse, wheat straw, rice husk, etc. In terms of share in total production, approximately 21 per cent are based on wood, 71% on recycled fibre and 8% on agro-residues. The per capita paper consumption in India at around 15 kg, is way behind the global average of 57 kg.



India is the fastest-growing market for paper globally and it presents an exciting scenario; paper consumption is poised for a big leap forward in sync with economic growth. The futuristic view is that growth in paper consumption would be in multiples of GDP and hence an increase in consumption by one kg per capita would lead to an increase in demand of 1 million tonnes. The government's avowed support to boost

agroforestry in the country as stated by the finance minister

**Ritwik Mukherjee**

in her budget speech and subsequently endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare recently has been welcomed by the paper industry. According to the Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA), the availability of additional 25 lakh hectares of land for agroforestry, besides the industry's own agroforestry drive, will go a long way in ensuring raw material security for all wood-based industries.

Presenting the Union Budget 2022-23, the finance minister had stated "Policies and required legislative changes to promote agroforestry and private forestry will be brought in". Subsequently, the Ministry of Agriculture has also stated that financial support will be provided to the farmers to promote agroforestry. "Finance Minister's special mention of policy initiatives for agroforestry has got the paper industry upbeat. The industry has worked incessantly with over 5 lakh marginal farmers over the last several years and has successfully brought 12 lakh hectares of largely degraded land under plantations. However, despite the efforts of the paper industry in promoting plantations against all odds, the

availability of wood domestically is still inadequate compared to the demand of India's paper industry", said A S Mehta, President, IPMA. Policies and legislative changes to promote agroforestry, such as support for bund plantations under the different schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture and loans / other credit facilities as given in the case of agriculture crops, can certainly provide a fillip to the efforts of the Paper Industry. Paper Industry is ready to partner with the Government and all other stakeholders in this endeavour, added Mehta.

According to IPMA, if additional 25 lakh hectares of degraded land (forest land, non-forest Government land, Forest Development Corporation Land, etc.) in the country is harnessed for the agroforestry programme, it can provide employment to at least 10-15 lakh persons, supplement incomes of farmers, increase country's tree cover, provide environmental benefit, and also generate enough raw material for all wood-based industries at globally competitive rates. This is also necessary to make India's paper manufacturers competitive vis-à-vis ASEAN players who have long-term forest concessions in their countries and can export paper to India at nil basic

customs duty under the Free Trade Agreement between India and ASEAN.

However, the paper industry has stated that an increase in the basic customs duty on import of recovered paper/wastepaper, an important raw material used by the Paper Industry, from nil to 2.5 per cent has come as a dampener. The industry is passing through challenging times and is hard-pressed for raw materials in view of supply-side constraints. An increase in import duty on wastepaper will add to the production cost. Since the domestic paper recovery rate in India is around only 40 per cent as compared to over 70 per cent in developed countries, the import of recovered paper/wastepaper is crucial for domestic value addition to meet the growing demand for paper in the country, and also for exports. Imposition of import duty on recovered paper/wastepaper will harm the competitiveness of India's paper industry and is not justified till the time that the collection and recovery of waste paper in the country does not increase significantly through efforts by all stakeholders towards domestic waste segregation and recycling.

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

## Maha Shivaratri 2022: Know Date, History, Significance, Wishes, Messages, and more

It is one of the most auspicious festivals of Hindus which is celebrated by devotees with lots of fervour and aplomb. This year it is celebrated on 1 March (Tuesday). According to Drik Panchang, the festival falls on the Chaturdashi Tithi during Krishna Paksha in the month of Magha. On this day devotees do fasting, rudra abhishek, and worship Lord Shiva to seek his blessings.

It is said that Shivratri is the amalgamation of two strong forces in the universe is Shiva and Goddess Shakti. Shiva is known as the God of death and Goddess Shakti as a power that vanishes evil powers.

According to Puranas several stories and legends describe the origin of the Shivratri festival.

One story says, during Samudra Manthan, a pot emerged from the ocean which consists of poison. All the Gods and demons were terrified that this will destroy the entire world and so, Gods ran to Lord Shiva for help. To protect the entire world from the evil effects, Shiva drank the entire poison and held it in his throat instead of swallowing it. Due to this, his throat becomes blue and so he is also known as Neelakantha. Shivratri is celebrated as an event due to which Shiva saved the world.

Another story that is mentioned in the Shiv Purana is: Once upon a time Brahma and Vishnu were fighting among themselves that who is superior among the two. Other Gods were terrified and so they went to Lord Shiva to intervene in the war. To make them realise the futility of their fight, Shiva took the form of a massive fire that spread across the length of the universe. By seeing the magnitude, both the Gods decided to find one end each to establish supremacy over the other. So, for this Brahma assumed the form of a swan and went upwards on the other hand Vishnu assumed as Varaha and went into the earth. But the fire has no limit and they searched thousands of miles but couldn't find the end. On the journey upwards, Brahma came across a Ketaki flower. He asked Ketaki from where she had come; Ketaki replied that she had been placed at the top of the fiery column as an offering. Brahma could not find the upper limit and took the flower as a witness and came.

At this, Shiva revealed the true form and became angry.

**Shikha Goyal**

Brahma did not find the uppermost limit and told lie. So, he was punished by Shiva for telling a lie and cursed that no one will pray for him. Even the Ketaki flower was banned from being used as an offering for any worship. Since it was on the 14th day in the dark half month of Phalgun when Shiva first manifested

moonless night, the goddess observed fast for his good

health after their marriage. Today also, this ritual is followed by an Indian woman who prays for the long life of their husband.

Maha Shivratri is observed in several states of India like Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and

night, chant mantras in praise of Lord Shiva. Women pray to be blessed with a good husband and a happy married life. On this day, in various temples fairs and cultural programmes are organised.

It is also believed that those people who perform puja, fast, and offer prayers to Lord Shiva blessed with good luck.

Maha Shivratri: Wishes and Messages

1. May all the difficulties in your life be banished by Lord Shiva. Happy Maha Shivratri!
2. May the divine glory remind you of your capabilities and help you in attaining success. Happy Maha Shivratri!
3. May the blessings of Lord Shiva always stay with you and your family. Happy Maha Shivratri!
4. This Maha Shivratri, may Lord Shiva destroy all your sorrow and eliminate all the troubles to help you lead a happy and healthy life. Happy Maha Shivratri!
5. May Lord Shiva bless you with good health, happiness, and prosperity. Happy Maha Shivratri!
6. May Lord Shiva guide you and your family all your life! Happy Maha Shivratri!
7. May you be showered with Lord Shiva's choicest blessings on the auspicious day of Maha Shivratri.
8. A day when positivity wins over negativity. Happy Maha Shivratri!
9. May Lord Shiva gives power and strength to everyone facing difficulties. Happy Maha Shivratri!
10. May happiness and peace surround you and your loved ones. Happy Maha Shivratri!

So, now you may have to know about the history behind celebrating the auspicious festival Maha Shivratri and its significance.



himself in the form of a Linga, the day is especially auspicious and is celebrated as Maha Shivratri. Worshipping Shiva on

Bihar.

It is celebrated as the anniversary of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. It is also celebrated as a day when Shiva saved the world from the pot of poison. And also, this day marks when Brahma and Vishnu got involved in an argument about their supremacy.

**Maha Shivratri 2022: It is an auspicious festival which is also known as the 'GREAT NIGHT OF LORD SHIVA' and is celebrated in several forms. Do you know the origin of Maha Shivratri and its significance? Take a look!**

this day is believed to bestow one with happiness and prosperity.

According to another popular legend, Shiva granted Goddess Parvati, an avatar of Shakti, and wished to marry him as he was impressed by her devotion. On a

Maha Shivratri: Significance Followers and devotees of Shiva observe special puja, perform fast in several temples of Shiva across the world. They offer milk to the Shivaling and pray for moksha. Several devotees pray the whole

The author is a journalist and a content writer with 9+ years of experience. She is a Science Graduate with Post Graduate degrees in Mathematics and Mass Communication & Journalism. She has previously taught in an IAS coaching institute and was also an editor in the publishing industry. At jagranjosh.com, she creates digital content on General Knowledge. She can be reached at shikha.

# Odisha unlocks, but some curbs on festivals stay

**BHUBANESWAR:** As Odisha witnessed a sharp decline in Covid cases since the last fortnight, the State government has unlocked all activities while restricting the

Monday, the office of the Special Relief Commissioner said, Holi and related rituals will not be observed in public places throughout the State. "People may

local situation," the order said. All activities such as social, religious, political, sports gatherings, exhibitions and trade fairs have been allowed in compli-

Marriage processions will be allowed with prior written approval from competent authorities subject to the ceiling of 100 participants including bridegroom,

The district magistrates, municipal commissioners and police commissioner of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack have been authorised to decide the number of people in public gatherings as they feel appropriate in view of the prevailing pandemic situation. "Under no circumstances, the number of participants shall exceed the ceiling for the entire event," the order said. The government on February 18 had lifted the night curfew from the State.

**NEW GUIDELINES**  
No Holi celebration in public places  
Restricted Shivaratri celebration  
Marriage and related gatherings 500  
Funerals - 250

# Bhubaneswar police raid fake doctor's clinic, find underground room

**BHUBANESWAR:** City police investigating frauds committed by fake doctor Ramesh Chandra Swain raided his clinic in Dhenkanal district and found an underground room in the building. They are probing if Swain carried out any medical procedures

sonating a doctor and made a lot of money by cheating unsuspecting patients. He then purchased land in the same locality and set up a new building to accommodate the clinic in 1997 which he named Sai Shree, police said. The clinic is in operation and has 17 to 18

ary 14. Investigators said 66-year-old Swain gave them a tough time during questioning since Friday. "Questioning Swain has been exasperating as he is either lying or is attempting to deceive us. He is not cooperating with us and we are also not able to be harsh on him considering his age," said a police officer. Special squad in-charge ACP Sanjeev Satpathy, who is leading the investigation, said they are using the reverse technique and tracing/contacting the victims to elicit information about him. Police have established that Swain married at least 18 women across the country for financial gains but the accused told the investigators that he married just five women and the rest were staying with him willingly. Swain used to shuttle between his wives by claiming that he had important meetings in different cities. He rarely travelled in buses and trains and mostly used to take flights.



there illegally. The clinic Sai Shree was set up by Swain in Kamakhyanagar in 1997 without having the requisite permission. The raids were conducted on Saturday but prior to that, most of the staff had fled the facility and police came across only the caretaker. Swain had started a clinic in a rented building in Kamakhyanagar in 1992-1993 by imper-

rooms but all are vacant now. Meanwhile, his three-day remand ended on the day. He will be produced before a court here on Monday. Commissionerate Police officers have planned to request the court to grant them another seven-day remand for further questioning him. He has so far been brought on remand twice after being arrested on Febru-



celebration of Holi in public places. The State government had on February 25 issued a separate order on Maha Shivaratri celebrations. Issuing the Covid guidelines for the month of March on

celebrate Holi with family members in their houses only and not in any public place. Collectors and municipal commissioners may impose any further restrictions as desirable in consideration of the

ance with Covid protocols. However, there will be a ceiling of 500 persons in social functions like marriage and thread ceremony while the number is 250 for funerals and related functions.

priest, friends, relatives, guests, members of band party, light and sound systems. The number of persons in the marriage procession will be counted towards the ceiling of 500 persons.

## Karnataka student killed in shelling, confirms MEA

Continued from page-1

More than 660,000 refugees have fled the conflict in Ukraine to seek shelter in neighbouring countries, the UN Refugee Agency said.

"We have now over 660,000 refugees who have fled Ukraine to neighbouring countries in the past six days alone," spokeswoman Shabia Mantoo told reporters in Geneva.

"The numbers are exponentially increasing... At this rate, the situation looks set to become Europe's largest refugee crisis this century." British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on a visit to Poland that the West would keep up sanctions pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime indefinitely after it invaded Ukraine.

Britain said it was adding top lender Sberbank to its list of Russian entities sanctioned over the invasion of Ukraine, and warned that the costs would only increase for the Kremlin.

France said on Tuesday that Western sanctions against Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine will cause the Russian economy to collapse. "We will bring about the collapse of the Russian economy," Finance Minister Bruno Le

Maire told the Franceinfo broadcaster a day after France, the EU and others said they would impose a new round of sanctions on Russia.

The central square of Ukraine's second city, Kharkiv, was shelled by advancing Russian forces Tuesday -- hitting the building of the local administration -- regional governor Oleg Sinogubov said.

"This morning the central square of our city and the headquarters of the Kharkiv administration was criminally attacked," Sinogubov said in a video on Telegram.

Israel has begun sending 100 tons of humanitarian aid to assist people caught up in the fighting in Ukraine. An El Al plane was loaded with dozens of cardboard boxes at the country's main international airport. Israel's Foreign Ministry says it is sending medical equipment and medicine, water purification systems, thousands of tents, blankets, sleeping bags and coats.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked the Indian Air Force to evacuate Indians stranded in Ukraine due to the Russian military offensive against that country, sources said on Tuesday. The IAF is likely to deploy several C-17 aircraft as part of Operation Ganga from Tuesday, they said.

The strongman leader of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, said Tuesday that Chechens have been killed in Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Kadyrov, a former rebel-turned-Kremlin-ally, has given his backing for President Vladimir Putin's attack on Ukraine, sending his notorious fighters to the country.

SpiceJet will operate a special evacuation flight to Kosice, Slovakia today to bring back Indian nationals stranded in Ukraine. Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju is travelling to Kosice as a Special Envoy of the Indian Government to oversee the evacuation.

All Indian nationals living in Ukraine including students are advised to leave Kyiv urgently today. Preferably by trains or through any other available means, it said.

Taiwan says it sent 27 tons worth of medical supplies to Ukraine via a flight to Germany late Monday.

Foreign affairs ministry spokesperson Joanne Ou told reporters Tuesday that Taiwan was happy to assist as "a responsible member of the international community, and a member of the democratic camp".

Taiwan has strongly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and had said it would impose economic sanctions against Russia.

It has yet to reveal what those sanctions were, but the island is a dominant manufacturer of semiconductor chips, which are crucial to tech products ranging from smartphones to cars.

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Till now, only private Indian carriers were evacuating Indians from Romania and Hungary, countries with land borders with Ukraine on the western side, as the Ukrainian airspace had been shut since February 24.

In order to scale up the ongoing evacuation efforts under Operational Ganga, PM Modi has called for the IAF to join the exercise, the sources said.

Australia will provide Ukraine with USD 50 million in missiles, ammunition and other military hardware to fight Russian invaders. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Tuesday elaborated on his country's plans after revealing a day earlier that his government would provide Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with lethal military equipment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday and briefed him on various issues, including the Ukraine crisis, official sources said. The government has launched "Operation Ganga" to evacuate Indian citizens, mostly students, from Ukraine, which has been attacked by Russia.

A huge Russian military convoy was massing on the outskirts of Ukraine's capital Tuesday as fears grew the invading forces were set to launch devastating assaults aimed at taking control of Kyiv and other major cities.

Initial ceasefire talks between Moscow and Kyiv on Monday failed to secure a breakthrough, with Russia shelling residential areas in Ukraine's second city Kharkiv and other areas of the country after the negotiations.

Putin's claim to rid Ukraine of Nazis is especially absurd given its history. Russian President Vladimir Putin justifies his war on Ukraine as a peacekeeping mission, a "denazification" of the country.

In his address to the Russian people on Feb. 24, 2022, Putin said the purpose was to "protect

people" who had been "subjected to bullying and genocide" for the last eight years.

And for this we will strive for the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine.

The victims of the genocide claimed by Putin are Russian speakers; the Nazis he referenced are the elected representatives of the Ukrainian people.

While Ukraine's new language laws have upset some minorities, independent news media have uncovered no evidence of genocide against Russian speakers.

Top-seeded Elina Svitolina, a 27-year-old professional tennis player from Ukraine, says she will withdraw from the Monterrey Open rather than face a Russian opponent at the Mexican tournament unless tennis's governing bodies follow the International Olympic Committee's lead and insist that players from Russia and Belarus are only identified as "neutral athletes".

Svitolina wrote Monday on Twitter that she did not want to play her opening-round contest against Anastasia Potapova "nor any other match against Russian or Belarussian tennis players until" the WTA women's tour, ATP men's tour and International Tennis Federation "follow the recommendations of the IOC" and bar those countries' competitors from using any national symbols, colors, flags or anthems.

Artillery kills 70 Ukraine soldiers  
More than 70 Ukrainian soldiers were killed after Russian artillery hit a military base in Okhtyrka, a city between Kharkiv and Kyiv, the head of the region wrote on Telegram.

Dmytro Zhyvtskyk posted photographs of the charred shell of a four-story building and rescuers searching rubble.

In a later Facebook post, he said many Russian soldiers and some local residents also were killed during the fighting on Sunday. The report could not immediately be confirmed.

The ninth flight carrying 218 stranded Indian nationals has departed from the Romanian capital Bucharest for New Delhi under Operation Ganga, informed External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday.

Earlier late on Monday night, another flight from Bucharest with 182 Indian nationals departed for Mumbai.

Ukraine's ambassador to the US is telling senators her country needs more military weapons as it fights the Russian invasion.

Senators emerged from a Monday evening meeting with Ambassador Oksana Markarova at the Capitol as Congress is preparing supplemental funding to help Ukraine during the crisis.

The White House is seeking at least \$6.4 billion in military and humanitarian aid. "They need more arms," said Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., the chairman of the Intelligence Committee. "It's David versus Goliath," said Sen. Jim Risch of Idaho, the top Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee.

"I think that any human being reading the reports coming out of there realise that this is dire." Senators in the US are working to provide ammunition such as anti-tank and anti-aircraft systems to Ukraine -- what Risch called an "all of

the above" effort. More than half a million people have fled Ukraine in the last five days, the UN's refugee agency says, with tens of thousands more dis-



placed inside the country. India has said that it was deeply concerned over the deteriorating situation in Ukraine and reiterated its call for immediate cessation of violence and end to hostilities, saying all differences can only be bridged through honest, sincere and sustained dialogue.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti told a rare emergency special session of the UN General Assembly on Ukraine convened on Monday that New Delhi is doing whatever it can to undertake immediate and urgent evacuation efforts of Indian nationals still stranded in Ukraine.

"My government firmly believes that there is no other choice but to return to the path of diplomacy," he said.

US President Joe Biden said on Monday said Americans should not worry about a nuclear war after Moscow put its nuclear deterrent on high alert amid a barrage of Western reprisals over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In response to a question about whether US citizens should be concerned about a nuclear war breaking out, Biden said "no".

White House officials said earlier in the day the United States sees no reason to change its nuclear alert levels at this time, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said.

"But it's also important to remember that, even over the course of the last several months and years, when we have had significant disagreements with Russia over a range of issues, Russia and the United States have long agreed that nuclear use would have devastating consequences and have stated many times, including earlier this year, that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," she said in response to a question. Throughout the crisis, Russia and President Putin have falsely alleged that it is under threat, including from Ukraine, including from NATO, she noted.

## South Yorkshire mayor holds successful round table discussions with high commissioner of India to UK

Kolkata (KCN): The long-established relationship between South Yorkshire and India was strengthened this week at a prestigious Round Table event hosted by the Indian High Commission in London. Keynote speakers at the event were the High Commissioner of India to the UK, Ms Gaitri Issar Kumar, South Yorkshire Mayor Dan Jarvis MP MBE and Richard Stubbs, Chair of the South Yorkshire India Advisory Board.

The event focused on the opportunities for more South Yorkshire businesses to export to and establish a presence in India, and for more Indian businesses to trade with and invest in

The event was moderated by Kevin McCole, Managing Director from UK India Business Council (UKIBC) and final concluding comments were given by Rachel Clark, Director of Trade & Investment at South Yorkshire MCA.

UKIBC's Kevin McCole said: "It is clear from the discussion today - from what Mayor Jarvis, the High Commissioner, and the brilliant Indian businesses all said - that there are real and un-tapped opportunities to grow South Yorkshire - India trade and investment flows. South Yorkshire has huge amounts to offer Indian companies, not least the talent and technology they are looking for to help them grow. And India has huge amounts to offer South Yorkshire businesses, not least a large and fast growing market that is becoming ever-more easy to enter due to pro-business reforms being made across the country."

The Round Table closely follows the announcement by India's largest private sector company Reliance Industries that it has acquired Sheffield based Faradion Ltd. This investment is expected to grow jobs in South Yorkshire whilst opening new sites in India, creating growth and value in both countries. South Yorkshire MCA is planning a trade mission to India later in the year, with a reciprocal visit back to South Yorkshire by India's business and civic leaders from the Maharashtra region. The UK's High Commissioner to India is expected to visit South Yorkshire in March when she will be hosted at a number of key businesses and locations in the region.

The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, which operates its India Growth Champions Scheme, in association with the UK India Business Council, has also seen strong demand recently from this region's businesses for support and guidance with increasing exports to India. In total, there are 447 businesses in South Yorkshire that currently export to India. Experts predict that India will be the third largest economy in the world by 2030. In 2015, South Yorkshire exported £81m worth of goods to India - making it the region's 12th largest trading partner. In 2017, South Yorkshire MCA introduced the strategy: 'Make in India, Design and Develop with the South Yorkshire Region'. Since then, the relationship between South Yorkshire and India has grown and developed and has been able to open up greater trading opportunities.

Trading with countries such as India is expected to help South Yorkshire businesses to recover from the Coronavirus lockdown, with international trade expected to be a key factor in driving forward future growth and prosperity in the region.



South Yorkshire.

Mayor Dan Jarvis spoke about how he welcomed the India High Commissioner's support for South Yorkshire. He explains: "This was a very positive and timely discussion for South Yorkshire, in light of the Free Trade Agreement currently being negotiated between the UK and Indian governments. India is such an important trade and investment partner for the UK and in South Yorkshire there are tremendous opportunities for our businesses in key areas such as advanced manufacturing, healthcare and digital to increase their engagement with India."

He adds: "We are proud to be working so closely and collaborating with India's business and Government leaders, as part of enhancing trade relationships which are mutually beneficial. Establishing our South Yorkshire India Advisory Board is a key part of our commitment."

South Yorkshire LEP Board Member Richard Stubbs gave an overview of the key assets in South Yorkshire, such as the Advanced Manufacturing Park, ARMC, AWRC, Doncaster Sheffield Airport and the Olympic Legacy Park and the benefits of locating a business here. He discussed how the recently established South Yorkshire India Advisory Board plans to further enhance awareness of South Yorkshire's India Programme and the mutual benefits it brings to both countries.

The South Yorkshire India Advisory Board includes representatives from Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Sheffield, the Olympic Legacy Park, AMRC, the local Chambers, as well as key businesses and stakeholder contacts in South Yorkshire and India. After this a video was shown which gave an introduction to the South Yorkshire region and the benefits for those who choose to live, work, study and invest here.

Sadar Development my Moto:  
Ideal Lady Sujata Sethi

Cuttack Sadar (KCN): Social worker, Highly Educated, Social Reformer, Pious lady



Smt. Sujata Sethi win as Sarapancha of Kishorenagar GP Cuttack Sadar. For information Sujata Working with leading Social organization Utkal Vikash Parisad (UVP) doing variety type of Seva in all times, the public have lots of faith on her Seva work for the betterment of society. Sujata Sethi trying best for development of there locality.

## 'Spinal Odisha' takes part in Kolkata marathon

KOLKATA (KCN): Institute of Neurosciences Kolkata celebrated its Annual Sports Day 'Inkotsav' on February 20th and 27th with track and field events of 50m, 100m, 200m and 400m taking place. Apart from that, tug-of-war, relay race and indoor games events like table tennis, badminton and carom were held as well. Former Field Hockey player and Gold Medalist, Summer Olympics 1964, Shri Gurbaksh Singh was the Chief Guest for the event; along with Arjuna Awardees Mr. Rahamatullah Molla, Ms. Sushmita Sinha Roy, Ms. Pinki Pramanik and Mr. Harishankar Rai being the guests of honor. The Institute of Neurosciences Kolkata also organized a 5km long marathon 'Jugalbandi' where wheel chair participants took part alongside other participants. Twelve members from 'Spinal Odisha' along with nine members from 'Spinal West Bengal' took part in the marathon. Para-athlete Kamala Kanta Nayak from Puri in Odisha who has a Guinness World Record for the maximum distance covered on a wheelchair participated in the 'Jugalbandi'. Kamala Kanta

Nayak had created the Guinness World Record for the maximum distance covered on a wheelchair by covering a distance of 215.4



kilometers in a record time of 24 hours. He is also 16 times half-marathon runner, 13 times full marathon runner and the Captain of the Odisha Wheelchair Basketball Team. Marathon 'Jugalbandi' was the first of its kind to be organized in the city of Kolkata to generate awareness among differently-abled people. The marathon started at 7:00 am from Victoria Memorial on February 27th and the event was graced by the presence of Firhad Hakim, Honorable Mayor of Kolkata and Sri Laxmi Ratan Sukhla, former MLA and former member of the Indian Cricket Team.

## 5 killed in road accident on NH 149 in Odisha's Angul dist



ANGUL: Five persons were killed in a road accident at Kantiapasi under the Khamar police station limits in the Angul district. The deceased have been identified as Gaur Chandra Sahu (30) of Mandhata village, Dilip Sahu (28), Bapun Sahu (23), Ranu Pradhan (22), and Pinu Sahu (23) of Injidi village.

Police sources said the accident occurred when the car in which they were travelling rammed into a stationary truck on

the left side of the road. They all were reportedly under influence of alcohol.

The five-member group had come to Pallahara to ascertain the rural poll result. The ill-fated car hit the truck when they were returning after the counting finished.

"They had their dinner at a Dhaba near Kantiapashi along NH 149 and after taking their dinner they were returning to the village. The driver of the car suddenly lost his balance

and hit the truck parked on the roadside.

Police said the five died on the spot and the car and their bodies were damaged severely in the mishap. The car was reduced to rubble, indicating the high speed at which the vehicle was running, the police said.

Police personnel reached the spot and retrieved the mangled remains of the bodies. The bodies were shifted to Khamar hospital for post-mortem.

## National Science Day at BJEM School

BHUBANESWAR: An exhibition of science models and posters was organised on the occasion of National Science Day at BJEM School here on Monday. Two students of the school Shifa Prizm of Class VII and Trisha Patro of Class VIII were fe-



licitated for their science project 'sweat-free mask' which they had presented in the 29th National Children's Science Congress.

Writer and professor of Physics from SOA University Nachiketa K Sharma joined the event as chief guest and spoke about the advantage of learning science in mother tongue. He also discussed the 'Raman Effect' with the students. School chairman Raghunath Mishra, manager Pratap Kumar Jena and principal Sandhya Jena were present.




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### Neha Patel, Indian student from Ukraine welcomed by Ms Aryama Sanyal, Varanasi Airport Director and CISF at Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport, Varanasi



Kolkata: There was a heartwarming event connecting Varanasi in UP with Ukraine in Eastern Europe. As part of Government of India's evacuation efforts for stranded Indian

Students in war torn Ukraine, Operation Ganga, Ms Neha Patel returned home to India. On reaching her home town Varanasi, Ms Neha was welcomed by Ms

Aryama Sanyal Airport Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi and the CISF. An official of UP Government was also present. Ms Sanyal presented

Ms Neha with a momento, a Charkha symbolising Mahatma Gandhi's universal and eternal message of peace. Ms Neha is a 1st year MBBS Student in Ukraine.

### Fiscal deficit at 59 per cent of the budget target till Jan 2022



NEW DELHI: India's fiscal deficit till January-end worked out at 58.9% of the annual budget target for 2021-22, according to the data released by the government on Monday. As per the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, the fiscal deficit was 66.8% of Revised Estimate

(RE) of 2020-21 during the corresponding period of the last fiscal. The deficit was Rs 9,37,868 crore at end-January 2022 against an upwardly revised annual estimate of Rs 15.91 lakh crore. The total receipts of the government in end-January were Rs 18.71 lakh crore or

85.9% of the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2021-22. The collection is about 80% of the RE of 2020-21 in the same period last year. The net tax revenues are Rs 15.47 lakh crore during April-January 2021-22. It is 87.7% of the RE of 2021-22. In the last fiscal, it was 82% of RE 2020-21.

The government's total expenditure at the end-January stood at Rs 28.09 lakh crore or 74.5% of this year's RE. Last year, it was 73% of RE for the same period. The CGA data highlights that the fiscal deficit of the government for 2022-23 is estimated to be Rs 16,61,196 crore.

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

Chitra Ramkrishna sold a house in one of Chennai's toniest locations, Seethammal Colony Extension, to Anand Subramanian's wife Sunitha Anand for Rs 3.2 crore on February 23, 2021, it has emerged. Anand happens to be the man at the centre of ex-CEO and MD of NSE Chitra's Himalayan Baba revelations. The 2081-square-foot flat is in a white, five-storied building named Vishranti (Rest). At least one Jaguar and two BMW cars were seen parked in the complex that has only four families in residence. One of Tamil film's most famous comedians lives at this address. Arrested by the CBI and flown to Delhi for further questioning, Anand, who is six months shy of his 51st birthday, had been living here since 2012 with his wife and family, according to a well-connected source.

Anand, of course, was the man who rose to become the Group Operating Officer of the NSE from nowhere. He was drawing a princely salary of Rs 4.21 crore a year when he and Chitra Ramkrishna were booted out. Only when the news of Anand's arrest became public did people in the Colony realise that he had been an NSE hotshot and figured prominently in the mails that Chitra exchanged with the Himalayan Baba. Also that he was the man whom the EY (Ernst & Young) investigation into these mails -- codenamed Project Apostle -- pinned down as the Baba, a conclusion based on the cyber footprints the firm had unearthed. The Peak that was brought down Interestingly, Anand, while largely keeping to himself in Seethammal Colony Extension, had pulled off an attention-grabbing act in the neighbourhood recently. He had been involved in the purchase of a two and quarter grounds plot, one where a house named 'The Peak' once stood. In its place, a grand home is now being raised, with four bedrooms, a hall, a dining room, a pooja room almost as big as the hall, a lounge, gym, and car parking area.



The revelation that Anand was staying in a flat originally registered in Chitra's name on July 14, 2010 and sold to his wife 11 years later adds a new chapter to an already filmy story that has gripped the nation. It is proof that Chitra and Anand's links stretch well before his NSE days (April 2013-October 2016) and have carried on well beyond. The Anands largely kept to themselves in the locality, The New Indian Express learnt. They would go for daily walks and Anand was an active member of the Colony association. The source said Anand while being "stingy" was otherwise "nice". Always sporting vibhuti on his forehead, he kept a keen eye on the Colony association accounts and had made suggestions in certain matters involving the law. The family seems to have been devout. The priest always collected the keys to the 'temple', situated in the alcove of the outer walls that fenced their building, from them, a person working there said. But beyond this, the people residing in the locality knew little else of them. "No one has gone into their house. Everything about him was secretive. He did not open up to anyone," a resident who happened to meet Anand regularly said. Crucially, no one had any inkling of their roles at the NSE before the arrest. Sunitha, it must be remembered, held a prime post at NSE, Chennai once upon a time, and

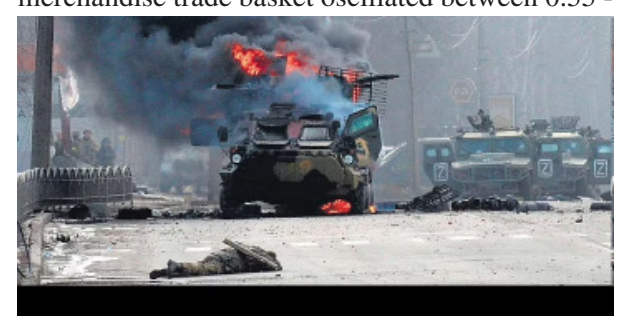
The cost of the property alone is estimated to be in the region of Rs 15 crore. Construction work -- excluding the plumbing, wiring, painting and interiors -- has been quoted at Rs 1.1 crore. Anand Subramanian was the client for whom this almost 6000-square-foot two-storeyed house was being built. (Photo | Sunish P Surendran, EPS) Owned earlier by a professor of English who was working in Hong Kong, according to our source, it had subsequently been bought by a doctor working in Seychelles. This doctor had been trying to offload the property for the past four-five years till he finally found a buyer in Anand Subramanian. Or had it been bought by Sunitha's cousin sister as Anand kept insisting to those he knew? Arre Baba! Not just Anand Subramanian, his wife Sunitha Anand too got exorbitant hikes at NSE As we stood chatting under a leafy tree, the person who shared this information wondered, "Could this cousin be Chitra? I have heard after Anand's arrest that Sunitha was related to Chitra and they could even be cousins." Another tale around the duo -- this time without a Baba in the mix -- had sprung up on a late Chennai evening. With inputs from Gladwin Emmanuel and Sunish P Surendran

### Ukraine war may see import bills topping USD 600 billion this fiscal, pushing up inflation, CAD: Report

MUMBAI: The ongoing crisis in Ukraine is set to push the country's import bills beyond the USD 600 billion mark this fiscal, given India's import dependence on crude oil, natural gas, gems and jewellery, edible oils and fertilisers, which can lead to a spike in inflation and current account deficit, and a falling rupee, warns a report. Ratings agency India Ratings on Tuesday said the ongoing geopolitical risks arising from the Russia-Ukraine war would push India's import bills higher for items such as mineral oils and gas, gems and jewellery, edible oils and fertilisers. As a result, merchandise imports may cross USD 600 billion in FY22, up from USD 492.9 billion in the first 10 months.

The impact will be felt more on inflation, a widening current account deficit and a falling rupee, its chief economist Devendra Pant said in the report, adding a USD 5 per barrel increase in crude oil prices will translate into a USD 6.6 billion increase in trade/current account deficit. The ramifications of the Russia-Ukraine war on the domestic economy will be felt via higher global commodity prices (crude oil has been on a boil, surging to USD 103.15 a barrel on February 27). Even the forex crunch facing Sri Lanka is likely to have some macro impact on India, he added. Merchandise trade with Sri Lanka had peaked at USD 7.46 billion in FY15, and since then it has declined to USD 4.42 billion in the first three quarters of FY22. Likewise, merchandise trade with Ukraine, which had peaked at USD 3.11 billion in FY13, has declined to USD 2.35 billion so far in FY22 from USD 2.59 billion in FY21. India's merchandise trade with Russia was a bit

higher at USD 8-11 billion during FY18-FY21 and stood at USD 9.44 billion so far this fiscal. In percentage terms, Sri Lanka's share in India's merchandise trade basket oscillated between 0.55 -

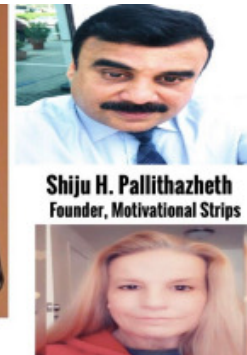


1.06 per cent since FY05, Ukraine's share has been at 0.24 - 0.42 per cent and that of Russia between 0.79 and 1.39 per cent, standing at 1.27 per cent so far this fiscal. Overall, the country has been maintaining a merchandise trade surplus with Sri Lanka and a trade deficit with Ukraine and Russia during FY04-FY21. Trade surplus with Sri Lanka was USD 2.88 billion and with Ukraine and Russia at USD 1.60 billion and USD 4.34 billion, respectively, so far this year. On the impact on inflation due to higher imported prices and weaker rupee, the report said a 10 per cent increase in petroleum product prices without factoring in currency depreciation will lead to a 42 basis points (bps) increase in retail inflation and 104 bps in wholesale inflation. The impact of a 10 per cent increase in price of sunflower oil without factoring in currency depreciation will be a 12.6 bps increase in CPI and a 2.48 bps jump in wholesale inflation, he added. A 10 per cent increase in prices of these two commodities alone can push retail and wholesale inflation upwards by 55 bps and 109 bps, respectively. The report fears that the conflict can trigger capital flight from emerging markets, which can result in weakening of the rupee but it expects the higher forex reserves (USD 632.95 billion as of February 18) to provide a cushion to a large extent.

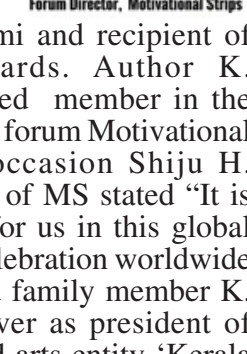
**Motivational Strips Founder applauds newly appointed president of Kerala Sahitya Akademi K Satchidanandan** Bengaluru (KCN): Koyamparambath Satchidanandan is appointed as the new President of Kerala State's coveted art entity Kerala Sahitya Akademi. He was the former secretary



**K. Satchidanandan**  
President, Kerala Sahitya Akademi



**Shiju H. Pallithazheth**  
Founder, Motivational Strips



**Sabrina Bryant**  
Forum Director, Motivational Strips

of Indian Sahitya Akademi and recipient of scores of literary awards. Author K. Satchidanandan is a valued member in the world's most active writers forum Motivational Strips and during the occasion Shiju H. Pallithazheth, the founder of MS stated "It is indeed a happy moment for us in this global family and a moment of celebration worldwide on the news of our valued family member K. Satchidanandan taking over as president of Kerala's apex cultural and arts entity 'Kerala Sahitya Akademi'. It will be a source of inspiration for many. The Forum Director Sabrina Bryant extended her best wishes to K. Satchidanandan from Motivational Strips US office on Monday and stated that she was hopeful that the academy will grow leaps and bounds under Satchidanandan's leadership.

### BJD Sweeps in 762 ZPs

Continued from page-1 declared 36,523 ward members, 126 Sarpanchs, 326 Samiti members, and one Zilla Parishad nominee as elected uncontested. On the serious drubbing in the rural polls, BJP MP from Bargarh Suresh Pujari said, the party must analyze the reasons of losing ZP seats in all the districts, particularly in the western region, considered as the strong bastion of the saffron party. Union Minister Bisheswar Tudu, who had extensively campaigned for the BJP in Mayurbhanj district, blamed the State Administration for "influencing voters by using its government machinery". "I am surprised over the panchayat election results. It is hard to believe that the polls were conducted in a free and fair manner," Mr. Tudu said. BJP MP from Balasore Pratap Sarangi, however, described the election results as the reflection of money power. According to political analysts, the distribution of smart health cards under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana by the BJD Government proved to be a game-changer in 2022 panchayat polls.

# Russia suspended from international soccer over Ukraine war

GENEVA: Russian teams were suspended Monday from all international soccer, including qualifying matches for the 2022 World Cup, as Moscow was pushed toward pariah status in sports for its invasion of Ukraine.

World soccer body FIFA and European authority UEFA banned Russian national and club teams from their competitions "until further notice." Russia's men's national team had been scheduled to play in World Cup qualifying play-offs in just three weeks' time.

"Football is fully united here and in full solidarity with all the people affected in Ukraine," FIFA and UEFA said in a joint statement. The high-level punishment involving sports and

against the war-torn country. It was barred from 1994 World Cup qualifying, before emerging as separate nations.

Decisions by FIFA and UEFA can typically be challenged on appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne. The Football Union of Russia said in a statement that it would "reserve the right to challenge" the decision.

"I feel sorry for my boys," said Russia coach Valery Karpin. "They were dreaming about playing at the World Cup. Now their hope is gone." Hockey followed suit, with international and NHL officials also punishing Russia.

The International Ice Hockey Federation banned Russia and close ally Belarus from competitions

to athletes from Russia and Belarus.

It was not a total blanket ban by the IOC, which also did not specifically suspend the national Olympic committees of Russia and Belarus.

Where exclusion was "not possible on short notice for organizational or legal reasons," then teams from Russia and Belarus should compete as neutral athletes with no national flag, anthem or symbols, including at the upcoming Winter Paralympics in Beijing, the IOC said.

Russian Olympic committee leader Stanislav Pozdnyakov said in a statement "there is only one comment to make -- we categorically disagree," adding it would help national federations to challenge "discriminatory rulings." Sports bodies across Europe already had moved against Russia on Monday by refusing to host or play against its teams.

Finland wants the Russian hockey team banned from the men's world championships it will host in May, the Swiss soccer federation said its women's team will not play Russia in July at the European Championship, and German soccer club Schalke said it had decided to end its longstanding partnership with Gazprom.

In the World Cup, Russia's potential future opponents Sweden and the Czech Republic had joined Poland saying they would refuse to take the field. The World Cup is scheduled to begin Nov. 21 in Qatar. FIFA had tried to compromise Sunday by suggesting Russia play at neutral venues without its flag and anthem and under the "Football Union of Russia" name.

That aligned with sanctions imposed by CAS in December 2020 to punish Russia for state-

backed doping and cover-ups of cheating, and applied at last year's Tokyo Olympics and this year's Winter Games in Beijing.

Polish soccer federation president Cezary Kulesza said Sunday it was "totally unacceptable" that FIFA had not immediately expelled Russia from World Cup qualifying and said Poland is "not interested in participating in this game of appearances."

Another future opponent, Albania, also said Sunday it would not play against Russia in any sports. Russia and Albania are scheduled to meet twice in June in the UEFA Nations League soccer tournament.

In hockey, the sport's governing body has come under pressure from Finland and Switzerland to ban Russia and Belarus, both due to play at the world championships in May in Helsinki and Tampere.

Finnish Hockey Association chairman Harri Nummela said in a statement Monday it had talks with the Zurich-based IIHF to exclude the two countries from the sport internationally.

Meanwhile, World Rugby suspended Russia and Belarus from all international events and cross-border club rugby, and suspended the Russian Rugby Union's membership.

Those moves effectively ended the bid by Russia's men's team to qualify for the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France — the men lay fifth in the six-team Rugby Europe Championship — and the women's sevens team's hopes of qualifying for the World Cup Sevens in South Africa this year. The women are third in the ongoing sevens world series.



politics — something not seen for decades — came after the International Olympic Committee pushed dozens of sports governing bodies to exclude Russian athletes and officials from international events.

The IOC said this action was needed to "protect the integrity of global sports competitions and for the safety of all the participants."

Denying Russia a place on the international stage could deliver a financial and psychological blow to the country, along with tarnishing its image as an elite sports powerhouse.

FIFA's move excluded Russia from the World Cup ahead of qualifying playoff on March 24. Poland already had refused to play its scheduled game against Russia.

UEFA also took the last remaining Russians in European club competitions this season, Spartak Moscow, out of the second-tier Europa League. Spartak's scheduled opponent on March 10 and 17, Leipzig of Germany, advances directly to the quarterfinals, UEFA said.

Russia now faces the kind of isolation suffered by Yugoslavian teams in 1992 after war broke out in the Balkans and by South African teams and athletes during the apartheid era of racial segregation and discrimination.

South Africa was suspended by FIFA in 1964 and expelled in 1976 over apartheid, then reinstated in 1992. Yugoslavia was dropped from the 1992 European Championship on short notice, a day after the UN approved sanctions

## Spanish league to denounce racist insults against Cádiz player

MADRID: The Spanish league said Tuesday it will denounce racist insults by a fan against a Cádiz player. The fan appeared to make gestures imitating a monkey as defender Carlos Akapo, who is Black, walked behind the goal while returning to the bench after being substituted in the second half of Cádiz's scoreless draw at Granada on Monday.

The league said it has been trying to identify

at all age levels and said it was moving the 2023 world junior championship out of Siberia.

The NHL also condemned the invasion, suspending all business dealings in Russia and ruling out the possibility of holding events there in the near future.

"We also remain concerned about the well-being of the players from Russia, who play in the NHL on behalf of their NHL clubs, and not on behalf of Russia," the league said. "We understand they and their families are being placed in an extremely difficult position."

It was not immediately clear how the decisions would affect Russian tennis players, including top-ranked Daniil Medvedev, in Grand Slam, ATP and WTA tournaments outside the authority of the International Tennis Federation.

The IOC also went directly after President Vladimir Putin, who turned the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics into a personal project. Putin's golden Olympic Order, which was awarded in 2001, has been withdrawn, the IOC said in a statement.

The Olympic body's call also applied to athletes and officials from Belarus, which has abetted Russia's invasion by allowing its territory to be used to station troops and launch military attacks.

The IOC said it acted "with a heavy heart," but noted that the impact of war on Ukrainian sports and athletes who cannot now take part in competitions outweighed the potential damage done

Akapo stopped for a moment after noticing what happened and said a few words to the fan, who repeated the gesture. "I told him that was not necessary, but he kept doing the same gesture," Akapo said after the match. "People like that don't deserve to be in a stadium. They don't represent the Granada supporters. I don't understand how someone can insult others like that." The 28-year-old player from Equatorial Guinea said "three or four" fans insulted him, with one of them calling him a "monkey."

Another Granada fan in front of the man who appeared to be insulting Akapo apparently asked him to stop provoking the player.

The league was also reportedly trying to identify a Rayo Vallecano fan who tried to spit on Real Madrid goal-

keeper Thibaut Courtois as he prepared to take a goal kick in a league match on Saturday. Last year, the league denounced racist insults by a Barcelona fan against Madrid forward Vinicius Júnior during a "clásico" at the Camp Nou. The year before, the league condemned racist insults by Espanyol fans against Athletic Bilbao forward Iñaki Williams.



the fan and will take the case to Spanish authorities so they can pursue the necessary measures against him.

"RACISM must be eradicated," Akapo wrote on Twitter. "It is unfortunate that in 2022 there are acts like this on a soccer field. We must set an example from the stands ... We can't give that example to children or anybody else."

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