

Concern for Calcutta urges all to celebrate rich spirit of Calcutta

Kolkata(KCN): Concern for Calcutta organised a wonderful programme to celebrate indomitable spirit of Kolkata in the spheres of Literature, Music and Culture at Saturday Club yesterday evening. Mamta Binani President of NGO urged all to celebrate rich

combined with a healthy mind are the elements that Self-nourish the body and contribute to the total wellness.

Sumit Roy, a lyricists famous for his ode to Calcutta numbers presented the theme songs, all about Kolkata, which he sung in multiple



spirit of Calcutta. Social Activist and Chairman Advisory Board of the NGO Narayan Jain said we are so proud of our heritage and culture and all should promote it. Calcutta is mini India and people from all States are happily living here together, added Jain. Supriya Newar a poet and author of books on Kolkata Chronicles and Kolkata Classics in her speech depicted the life and attitude of common Calcuttans who live in the City's OLIGOLI. She also recited her some poems with amazing command on the Bengali vocabulary as well as English.

Dipika Agarwal writer of Best Selling Amazon title, "Harvesting Happiness" spoke on Holistic Wellness and share tips for maintaining god health and said ensuring Mental Balance in right measure can do wonders on the health and happiness of an individual. Proper Diet, Exercise, Yoga

languages along with his companion singers Roopa Sarkar, Nirmalya Chakraborty, Joeeta Basu, Preeyam Budhia, R.K. Burman and Aayushi Gupta and kept 100 Plus Members spellbound.

Past presidents R.L. Auddy, Rajendra Khandelwal, KS Adhikari, Pawan Paharia and Deepak Jain actively participated in making this programme enjoyable. Other prominent members who contributed to the befitting organising of the programme were Sharat Jhunjhunwala (Vice president), Lekha Sharma (Secretary), Seema Sonthalia, Prof Pradyot Banerjee, Subhas Mukherjee, Annapurna Mishra, KC Tewari, Pratibha Jain, Indrani Netram, Jagat Baid, K.N. Gupta, Vineeta Burman, Sonali De, Rajendra Bardia, Ranajit Banerjee, Rakesh Nahar, Rakesh Casyab and AC Baid.

Boost for Buddhist Center

New Delhi(KCN): tional Convention



Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 2566th Buddha Jayanti Celebration at International Convention Center and Meditation Hall at Lumbini, Nepal. He was accompanied by Prime Minister of Nepal,

Sher Bahadur Deuba, and his spouse Arzu Rana Deuba. Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal, Prem Bahadur Ale, who is Chairman of the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT), Chief Minister of Lumbini, Kul Prasad KC, Vice Chairman of LDT, Venerable Metteyya Shakya Putta, and several Ministers of the Government of Nepal were among the other dignitaries present.

Both the Prime Ministers addressed the nearly 2500 attendees, which included monks, Buddhist scholars and international participants. Later Prime Minister, Mr. Modi, offered prayers at the Mahaprinisha Stupa at Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, on the occasion of Buddha Purnima today. In a tweet, the Prime Minister also informed that the government is making numerous efforts to boost infrastructure in Kushinagar.

SOA Bags Top Varsity Award

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be Univer-



sity has been honored with the top university of India award for 2022 by Competi-

tion Success Review (CSR) which also chose the university for 'Excellence in Education' award.

SOA's Founder Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak was also honored as Eminent Founder of Leading Institute of India award. Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER) and School of Hotel Management (SHM), SOA's faculties of engineering and technology and hospitality and tourism management respectively, were chosen for top institutes of India award by the magazine.

The awards were presented at a function held in New Delhi on Sunday to mark the completion of 60 years of the CSR magazine in the presence of its founder SK Sachdeva.

Sachdeva praised Prof. Nayak for his relentless endeavour to make SOA one of the country's front ranking educational institutions.

SOA's Officer-on-Special Duty Pritam Nayak received the awards on behalf of the university.

BJD Eyes Cooperative Sweep

Bhubaneswar(KCN): After making landslide victories in both Urban and Panchayat elections, the Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is eyeing to ensure a similar result in the ensuing Cooperative Election in the State. Chief Minister and BJD President Naveen Patnaik on Monday held an interactive session with the party functionaries to review the preparedness made for the Cooperative Body election through videoconferencing mode.



In the first phase, the elections to more than 6,000 primary societies will be held on June 19 and June 26 and after this process is over, the election to the Central and Apex Societies will be held.

The Chief Minister said the BJD has done very well in the last Urban Local Body (ULB) election and Panchayat elections. All the party leaders and workers have put in their best efforts to ensure a landslide victory in both, he said.

"The results have been most satisfactory for us, and we have been able to form a zilla parishad in all the 30 districts. Our party candidates have won as mayors & corporators, chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and councilors in almost all ULB's CONTINUED ON: P-7

Aam Aadmi Party workers' Conference Organized in Gurugram



New Delhi(KCN): Aam Aadmi Party's workers' convention was organized in Gurugram on Saturday. Haryana in charge Dr. Sushil Gupta presided over the function. During this, he got Dr. Manveer Chhillar to

join the AAP along with others, Dr. Manveer a well-known social worker, belongs to the Bahadurgarh assembly constituency. After joining the party, Dr. Manveer Chhillar said that since the Aam Aadmi

Party came into existence, the active-ness of educated people in politics increased. Influenced by the policies of the Kejriwal government, he joined the party. At the same time, he said that the Aam Aadmi Party

government will definitely be formed in Haryana in the coming time. Let us tell you that Dr. Manveer Chhillar is a resident of Bamdoli village under the Bahadurgarh assembly constituency and is a doctor by profession.

Santha Bhima Samman For Sethi

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ace Mandarin and a Noble Poet



Bishnupada Sethi has been conferred with this year's State Level Santha Bhimabhabha Samman at a function organised by the Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi Shitya Parishad at Sarala Bhawan in Cuttack yesterday. This prestigious award has been conferred on Mr. Sethi for his literary creations, especially his captivating poems. Mr. Sethi, serving as Principal Secretary to Government of Odisha, remained an ardent follower of Mahima Dharma, the philosophy, which the saint poet preached. Mr. Sethi has published several books of his poetry collections including Where Shall I Go, My World of Words, Beyond Feelings and Beyond Here and Other Poems. The first one Where Shall I Go, published in 2005, became so popular that it was translated into Urdu and Odia.

Mr. Sethi has extended help for the development of Bhima Bhoi Samadhipitha Khaliapali in Sonepur district. His articles on the saint poet and his own poems speak volumes for his versatility as an author.

For this work, he has been awarded with the Bhima Bhoi Sruti Samman in 2018. Mr. Sethi

had also received Bhima Bhoi Award for his contribution to popularize Mahima philosophy in Odisha.

When he was serving as Higher Education Secretary, the erudite IAS officer has decided to set up a Chair at Gangadhar Meher University (GMU) in Sambalpur, in the name of Bhima Bhoi to carry out interdisciplinary research in the area of social sciences including literary creations and 'Dalit' literature.

Even the UGC has introduced the life and works of Bhima Bhoi in the curriculum while various hospitals and institutions are being named after the legend.

Bhima Bhoi, a 19th Century poet and prophet of the Mahima religion, was born in western Odisha.

Not much is known about Bhima Bhoi, but he was by birth a Kondh and was born with abject poverty and was deprived of education and a decent living.

He spent his life in Redhakhol and Birmaharajpur in the later part of the 19th Century.

Bhima Bhoi's Mission was "Jagat Uddhara" (liberation of the entire world) and he believed in one God, one society and one religion. And Mr. Sethi is propelling this noble mission in letter and spirit.

Mr. Sethi is now serving as Principal Secretary School & Mass Education, Commerce & Transport, Information & Public Relations as well as Chairman of Odisha Hydro Power Corporation.

Research Engineer From Bengal Receives Intel Achievement Award

Kolkata (KCN): With the escalation of innovations, products are taking nano forms. With the reduced space and heat dissipation, thermal management has become an important aspect in making innovative products to meet



the market demand. The thermodynamic-based technology has its applications in vari-



ous industries like aviation, electronics, medical, material processing, and HVAC systems. Technological innovation has made it pertinent in almost every growing industry. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced 'Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' to provide further motivations to the Start-up ecosystem, innovation and research in India in the year 2020. IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC) have developed two microprocessors named SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit) respectively using Open Source Architecture under the aegis of Microprocessor Develop-

An employee of Rungta company allegedly assaulted by some villagers

Barbil (KCN): The Barbil Police have arrested one person for allegedly attack to a company employee. Sources said that Sumit Chand one employee designated as manager P & A was attacked by some miscreants on the way his return on 9th May at about 9.30 AM from Karakhendra plant to Karakola plant by a Bolero. Biju Munda, Sunil Munda and two other person suddenly came on the way and stopped his vehicle. They abused Sumit with filthy language and assaulted

allegedly with iron rod



and wooden sticks. Sumit was severely injured and the

Two juvenile detained in connection with one murder at Joda

Barbil(KCN): Three juvenile detained in connection with murder of one person of Shastri Nagar by Joda police station in Keonjhar district. AS per information the deceased Sikandar Mahakud was caught raid handed while trying to molest an

widow illegally. The incident was seen by two of her son along of their one friend. They get irritated seeing this and attacked Sikandar by means of Wooden cane and pipe after tying him in a place. Shikandar get seriously injured and rescued

by some locals who later sent him to TISCO hospital for treatment. But Sikandar died in the hospital. Police has taken these three to the custody. Police let one accused free while two sons of the victim widow have confessed their crime.

ment Programme of MeitY.



According to Padmanabha Shakhthivelu, General Manager, Electrolube India, with the increased use of nanotechnology and product miniaturization, the need for efficient thermal management within the devices is also increasing. By using effective thermal management techniques, excessive heat can be managed, enabling densely populated designs to be achieved without compromising the life expectancy of the device. In such a situation prevailing in our Country, an awesome achievement of Dr. Amitesh Saha, an alumnus of Heritage Institute of Technology created a breakthrough in making innovations in Novel Thermal Technology that can be used to propel microprocessors thus ensuring an effective thermal management technique to increase the longevity of electronic devices. Recently in 2021 he had won the Intel Achievement Award for this discovery and officially he was felicitated in the previous week of May 2022 in the presence of Pat Gelsinger, the CEO of Intel.

Currently Amitesh is working as a Senior R&D Engineer- Thermals at Intel. A B.Tech-Chemical Engineering graduate from Batch-2008, Heritage Institute of Technology with a Doctorate from University of Rhode Island, Amitesh published some of the fabulous research papers in leading journals and was also working as a Materials Scientist at Brady Corporation prior to Intel.

"I am proud to achieve such an honour which is achieved by few in the world. My alma mater Heritage Institute of Technology had supported me a lot in achieving my vision and creating a strong foundation in Chemical Engineering for which I am thankful to the faculty members. I want to visit the Institute in future and want to contribute significantly in research and development," said Dr. Amitesh.

driver of the concerned Bolero managed to take him from the spot. Primarily he was treated at Barbil CHC and referred to Cuttack later. The accused have snatched his gold chain and wallet too. On complain of Annand Sahu designated as AGM HR of Rungta company, Barbil police is investigating the matter and arrested Kartik Mahakud of Karakhendra village involved in the case. Weapons used in the attack recovered from the accused and forwarded to court.

More suspects will be arrested soon said Sushant Dash, IIC, Barbil.

Experts raise concern over rising liver cancer mortality

CUTTACK(KCN): Even as liver cancer or hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is becoming a serious public health concern in the country, detection of cancer in advanced stages is making treatment difficult and many lives are lost in the process. Health experts, who came together at a two-day conference on 'Guidelines for management of HCC in India', organised by the Indian National Association for Study of Liver (INASL) in Puri, expressed concern over the rising mortality due to liver cancer in the country. "More than 80 per cent of the patients suffering from liver cancer usually report

Risk of childhood myopia has doubled post COVID - AIOS

New Delhi(KCN): In an endeavor to raise awareness against vision defects, (especially myopia), from the west, there has been no such practice patterns available for Indian ophthalmologists and



among the pediatric population, All India Ophthalmology Society in partnership with Sun Pharma, today launched, consensus guideline on prevention and management of childhood myopia. The event was launched in the honorable presence of Dr Lalit Verma- Elected President AIOS(2022-23), Dr Harbansh Lal-Vice President AIOS, Dr (Prof.) Namrata Sharma- Secretary AIOS, Dr (Prof.) Rohit Saxena, among various other eminent personalities. The event emphasized on the importance of early and timely detection and intervention in childhood myopia cases, showcasing open discussions by the chairpersons.

"It is indeed a proud privilege to bring out this National, Expert Based Consensus Statement regarding Management of childhood myopia. While there have been many guidelines published by pediatric ophthalmologists preferred clinical practice for our country. This document hopes to fill this void and provide guidelines best suited in the Indian scenario. Myopia or short sightedness constitutes a significant health problem in children worldwide." Said Dr Lalit Verma. Recently Indian regulatory body CDSCO has also approved a pharmacological drug Atropine 0.01% in India for the treatment of progressive myopia, so early screening can help timely intervention and provide kids a bright future. "Myopia being the most widely spread

vision defect, is very common and is estimated to affect atleast one-fifth of the global population, accounting for atleast 45% among adults, and 25% among children. Unattended or uncorrected short-sightedness is the most common cause of vision loss, developing cataract, macular degeneration, retinal detachment or glaucoma. In the times of COVID, and the rapid transformation to digital platform, kids and school children, have fallen



under the radar of various types of vision defects, with most cases of short-sightedness. In such cases it is mandatory to seek immediate correction, with eyeglasses, contact lenses or surgical intervention if required, to prevent complications in adulthood." Said Dr Namrata. "AIOS is one of the largest ophthalmology society in the world and is dedicated to the welfare of the eye health in India. Myopia or short sightedness constitutes a significant health problem in children worldwide. The prevalence of myopia has shown a

Experts raise concern over rising liver cancer mortality

ment. Despite that, around 2.72 lakh people are dying annually in India due to



there are ways to effectively manage it. With majority reporting in advanced stages, it is important to formulate strategies for their management, and thus save lives," said Prof. SP Singh,

Paul, member NITI Aayog, expressed concern over growing mortality rate due to chronic liver disease. "Sufficient health infrastructure has been created by the Central govern-

ment. Despite that, around 2.72 lakh people are dying annually in India due to

ate and advanced stages. A lot of new medications and therapeutic interventions have come up for treating liver cancer. It should be a combined effort of physicians (hepatologist), radiation oncologist, liver surgeon, transplant surgeon, medical oncologist and nuclear medicine. Prof. Singh said, and added the objective of the meeting was to formulate standardised guidelines for treatment and management of HCC. As many as 35 experts from across the country participated in the meeting presided by Chairman HCC Taskforce, Dr Subrat Kumar Acharya. Member of the taskforce, Dr. Manoj Kumar Sahu of Apollo Hospital had coordinated the conference.

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The last song of director Shivaji R Narayan's Bhojpuri film 'Shola Shabnam-2' was recorded

Bombay (KCN), recorded in the voice of produced under the Sen. The film is di- Kumar, Recordist



Sanjay Sharma Raj): D C Madana (Teri



The last song 'Phoolwa Si Mahek Jingia Tohar...' of Bhojpuri film 'Shola Shabnam-2' was re-

Aakhya Ka Yo Kajal Fame) & Khushbu Jain at Dilip Sen's Studio, Andheri (West), Mumbai. Its



banner of Shivputra Films. The music of the film is by Dilip Bharti & Yash

rected by Shivji R Narayan. Lyricist S R Rakesh Sharma, Singer D C Madana, Singer Khushbu Jain,

Composer Dilip Sen, Actress Muskan, Director Shivji R Narayan, Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Mumbai (Maharashtra) Shri Santosh Kokat & Editor Rohit Gupta etc. were present.

On this occasion, director Shivaji R Narayan said, "It is a social film, which is about the life of a singer. The shooting of the film will start from August 6 in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh. In which actor Manoj R Pandey, actress Srishti Sharma, villain Girish Sharma, Jaiwant Kumar, Anjana Singh and many local artists will participate. The shooting of the film will be completed in a month."

From 2.0 to Raazi, top 10 Indian movies based on worldwide gross

2018 has been an eventful year for Indian cinema. From Sanju to Sarkar, the industry faced a row

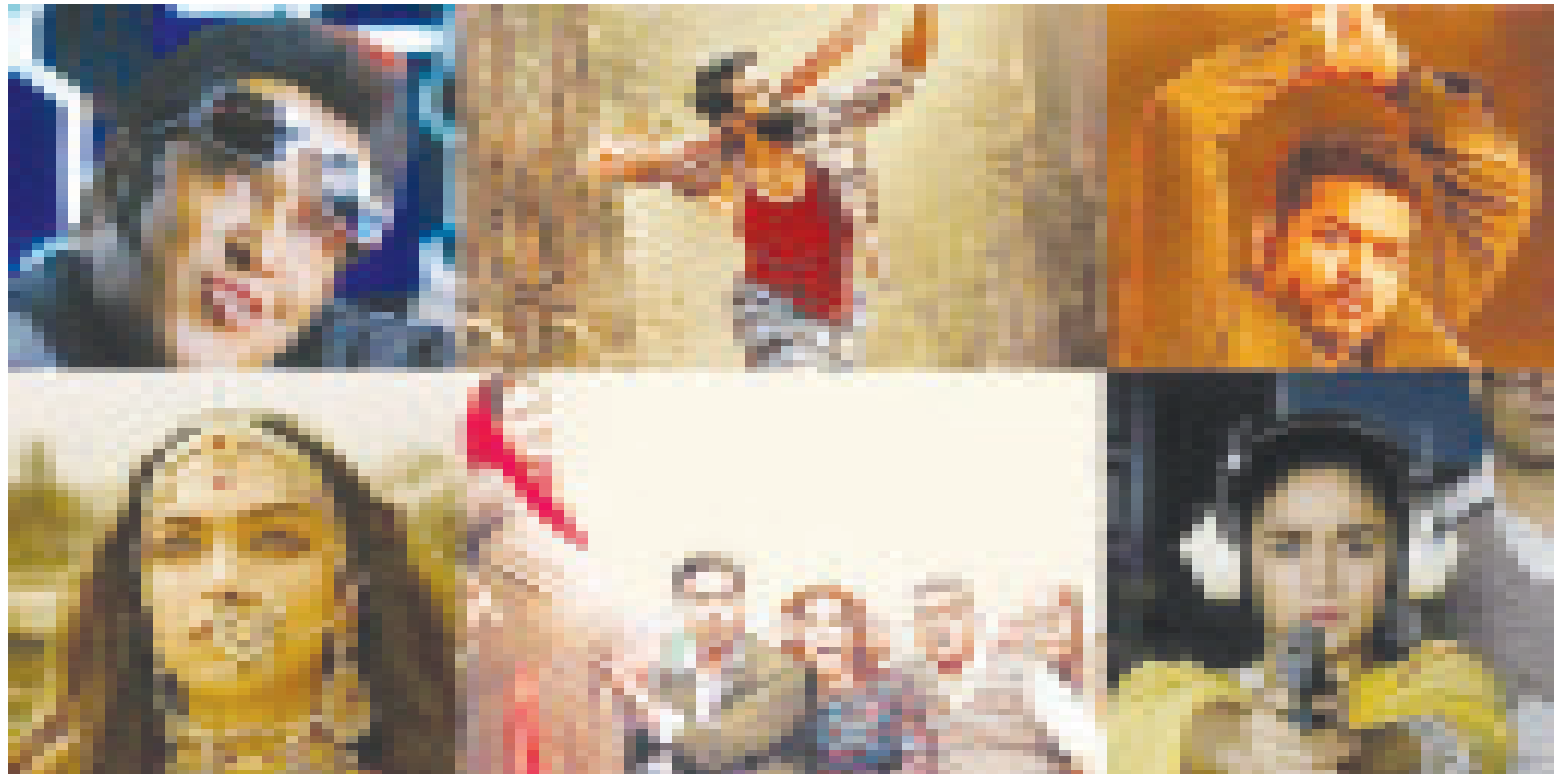
watched the film yet, book your tickets right away!
2. Sanju: Sanjay Dutt's

Queen Padmavathi, which drew the flak from right-wing groups. Unlike the claims by the reli-

Sarkar's plot is about a successful businessman from the USA coming to India to cast his vote

6. Baaghi 2: This Tiger Shroff-Disha Patani starrer failed to im-

'Baaghi 3,' which will be out on March 6, 2020.
7. Thugs of Hindostan:



The film set in the 18th century earned Rs 130 crore in the box office against the 275 crore budget ending up a huge disaster at the box office despite having strong star cast including Aamir Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Katrina Kaif. The film received hilarious reactions on social media as well. Later, Aamir Khan apologised for failing to entertain people. Even Katrina Kaif, Fatima Sana Shaikh expressed their disappointment.
8. Badhaai Ho:

of controversies. Yet some movies shined amid the storm.

According to IMDb, here's the list of ten movies that performed well in the box office last year.

1. 2.0: It won't be an exaggeration to call 2.0 as India's 'Superhero' movie. True to that, Kollywood and Bollywood superheroes Rajinikanth and Akshay Kumar played the lead roles in the movie. The movie has so far earned over Rs 700 crore worldwide already and is still running successfully in theatres. Directed by Shankar, who's known to make magnificent movies, 2.0 comes with a social message for people on why one should reduce the use of mobile phones. Also, it is the first Tamil film to enter the 700 crore club. If you haven't

biopic 'Sanju' minted Rs 340 crore at the box office and was declared as 'double blockbuster' film. The movie showed the different phases of the controversial actor Sanjay Dutt, which really didn't go well with some organisations. RSS openly criticised the movie in their mouth piece 'Panchjanya.' However, the movie became a huge hit in no time. It's definitely Ranbir Kapoor's best work ever. The movie was a comeback for both the reel and real Sanjus.
3. Padmaavat:

Initially scheduled to be released in 2017, the movie was caught in a row of controversies and finally got released early this year in January. Set in medieval Rajasthan, the story revolves around the life of

gious fanatics, the movie actually portrayed queen Padmavati in the best light. However, the film's team was asked to remove a few scenes from the movie before its release. Despite the fuss, the movie became a blockbuster at the box office, earning Rs 293 crore.
4. Race 3:

'Our business is our business, none of your business' line from the movie took the internet by storm and hundreds of memes were made on it. Based on relationship and royalties, this is the first film in the series that Salman Khan was a part of. Race 3 was critically panned and failed to do the expected business. But in spite of being a flop, it managed to mint Rs 166 crore in the box office.
5. Sarkar:

on election day. To his shock, he finds out that his vote has already been cast by someone else. So he decides to take up a political battle against the miscreants and how he survives the race makes the rest of the story. Directed by AR Murugadoss, the movie got into a huge row and was criticised by the ruling Tamil Nadu government for allegedly misrepresenting AIADMK's late leader J Jayalalithaa and the government freebie schemes.. A few scenes were deleted from the movie too. The matter was later settled in Madras HC. It was much hyped that actor Vijay may begin his political career after this movie. Sarkar was well received by the Tamil audience and it made Rs 151 crore in the box of-

press audience due to its poor storyline line. Despite that, the movie minted Rs 161 crore in the box office and became a blockbuster. The story is about an army man trying to save his ex-lover's kidnapped daughter. The Baaghi series will have a third part

Badhaai Ho is nothing but fun! Made at a 30 crore budget, the movie became a mega-blockbuster, minting Rs 136 crore in the box office. This unconventional story is about a 25-year-old man facing embarrassment in society as his mother gets pregnant.

Just 'normal' to exclude women in decision making process: Adil Hussain

MUMBAI(KCN): Actor Adil Hussain has offered support to the growing group of female artistes who are asking the reason for women's absence from the Bollywood delegation of producers and actors that recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues faced by the film industry.

On Tuesday, an 18-member panel, including Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar, Ajay Devgn, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Prasoon

Joshi, met Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

The meeting of the delegation came under fire on Wednesday for its exclusion of female representation with some activists and filmmakers pointing out that it was 2018 and asking, "Where are the women?" Adil took to Twitter to criticise the panel that met the prime minister, saying it has become the habit to exclude women from the decision making process.

The Core Ingredient under the N.D.P.S. Act, 1985

The substantial object of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 is to control the Narcotic Drugs at National and International Level and to protect it from misuse and abuse of drug traffic. Before the



Act 1985 was introduced there were three Central Acts for controlling and regulating the use of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances such as The Opium Act, 1857;

The Opium Act, 1878 and Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930. The period of imprisonments were not sufficient to control the crime and the drug traffickers were let off by the courts with nominal punishment. Therefore, the Central Government brought the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 by abolishing the above mentioned three Acts and the stringent punishments have been introduced for the infringement of the provisions under the Act 1985. The standard of punishments and the provisions have been evaluated through various international treaties and protocols. The Government of India was party to these treaties and conventions which entail several obligations. To control the illicit traffickers a comprehensive legislation was required on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Hence the bill was introduced and finally the Act was passed in the year 1985 and got the assent of the President on 16th September, 1985.

The Act contains 6 chapters. Chapter 4 of the Act contains 25 sections dealing with the offences and penalties. The definitions under Section 2 also contain the clarifications about the quality and quantity of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The Clause vii(a) contemplates "commercial quantity" which means in relation to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, any quantity greater than the quantity specified by the Central Government by notification in the official gazette. The clause viii(a) contemplates illicit traffic means in relation to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as under:

[(viii) "illicit traffic", in relation to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, means-

- (i) cultivating any coca plant or gathering any portion of coca plant;
- (ii) cultivating the opium poppy or any cannabis plant;
- (iii) engaging in the production, manufacture, possession, sale, purchase, transportation, warehousing, concealment, use or consumption, import inter-State, export inter-State, import into India, export from India or transshipment, of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances;
- (iv) dealing in any activities in narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances other than those referred to in sub-clauses (i) to (iii); or
- (v) handling or letting out any premises for the carrying on of any of the activities referred to in sub-clauses (i) to (iv); other than those permitted under this Act, or any rule or order made, or any condition of any license, term or authorization issued, thereunder, and includes-

- (1) financing, directly or indirectly, any of the aforementioned activities;
- (2) abetting or conspiring in the furtherance of or in support of doing any of the aforementioned activities; and
- (3) harbouring persons engaged in any of the aforementioned activities;

Since the illicit traffic is not confined to a particular country and many new drugs of addiction have become to be known as Psychotropic Substances, the Central Government has comprehensively adapted various provisions in the Act through international treaties and protocols. Therefore it is relevant to refer the definition of "international convention" as under Section 2(ix) of the Act:-

- (ix) "International Convention" means -
- (a) the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 adopted by the United Nations Conference at New York in March, 1961;
 - (b) the protocol, amending the Convention mentioned in sub-clause (a), adopted by the United Nations Conference at

Geneva in March, 1972; the Convention

Radha Shyam Jena

- on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 adopted by the United Nations Conference at Vienna in February, 1971; and
- (d) any other international convention, or protocol or other instrument amending an international convention, relating to narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances which may be ratified or acceded to by India after the commencement of this Act;

The Section 35 of the Act deals with the presumption of culpable mental state. Presumption of culpable mental state of accused arises only after the evidence proved beyond reasonable doubt. In the case of Bhola Singh Versus State of Punjab (2011) 11 SCC 653, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has dealt with the specific provisions under the Act such as Section 35, 25 and 15. Section 15 deals with the punishment for contravention in relation to poppy straw. Section 25 deals with the punishment for premises etc. to be used for commission of an offence. Section 35 categorically deals with presumption of culpable mental state which has been explained in the said section that "culpable mental state" includes intention, motive, knowledge of a fact and belief in or region to believe a fact. In the above mentioned case stated supra Bhola Singh Versus State of Punjab wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held the provision of presumption of culpable mental state would be attracted only when the prosecution has discharged its initial burden. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the appeal considered the relevant provision at para 8, 10 and 11 and set aside the judgment of the High Court and acquitted the appellant Bhola Singh. The said paragraphs are reproduced as under:

"8. We have considered the arguments advanced by the learned counsel. We see that Section 25 of the Act would not be applicable in the present case as there is no evidence to indicate that Bhola Singh, the appellant had either knowingly permitted the use of the vehicle for any improper purpose. The sine qua non for the applicability of Section 25 of the Act is thus not made out.

10. While dealing with the question of possession in terms of Section 54 of the Act and the presumption raised under Section 35, this Court in Noor Aga v. State of Punjab while upholding the constitutional validity of Section 35 observed that as this section imposed a heavy reverse burden on an accused, the condition for the applicability of this and other related sections would have to be spelt out on facts and it was only after the prosecution had discharged the initial burden to prove the foundational facts that Section 35 would come into play.

11. Applying the facts of the present case to the cited one, it is apparent that the initial burden to prove that the appellant had the knowledge that the vehicle he owned was being used for transporting narcotics still lay on the prosecution, as would be clear from the word "knowingly", and it was only after the evidence proved beyond reasonable doubt that he had the knowledge would the presumption under Section 35 arise. Section 35 also presupposes that the culpable mental state of an accused has to be proved as a fact beyond reasonable doubt and not merely when its existence is established by a preponderance of probabilities. We are of the opinion that in the absence of any evidence with regard to the mental state of the appellant no presumption under Section 35 can be drawn. The only evidence which the prosecution seeks to rely on is the appellant's conduct in giving his residential address in Rajasthan although he was a resident of Fatehabad in Haryana while registering the offending truck cannot by any stretch of imagination fasten him with the knowledge of its misuse by the driver and others."

It would be pertinent to state that the Hon'ble Supreme Court while admitting the SLP of the Appellant Bhola Singh was pleased to dismiss the appeals of the other accused persons. The allegation against the Appellant Bhola Singh

that he was the co-owner of the truck and that while purchasing

the truck he had given his residential address in Rajasthan whereas he was a resident of Haryana. The High Court had drawn the presumption under Section 35 of the Act against him holding that by giving a fake address, his culpability was writ large. In the case of Avtar Singh & Ors. Versus State of Punjab (2002) 7 SCC 419 the Hon'ble Supreme Court while considering the case in favour of the Appellants charged under Section 15 of the Act held that possession was the core ingredient to be established before the accused in the instant case are subjected to the punishment under Section 15. The relevant para 6 & 7 of the judgment are reproduced as under:

"6. Possession is the core ingredient to be established before the accused in the instant case are subjected to the punishment under Section 15. If the accused are found to be in possession of poppy straw which is a narcotic drug within the meaning of clause (xiv) of Section 2, it is for them to account for such possession satisfactorily; if not, the presumption under Section 54 comes into play. We need not go into the aspect whether the possession must be conscious possession. Perhaps taking a cue from the decision of this Court in InderSain v. State of Punjab arising under the Opium Act, the learned trial Judge charged the accused of having conscious possession of poppy husk. Assuming that poppy husk comes within the expression poppy straw, the question, however, remains whether the prosecution satisfactorily proved the question, however, remains whether the prosecution satisfactorily proved the fact that the accused were in possession of poppy husk. Accepting the evidence of PW 4, the Head Constable, it is seen that Appellant 3 (Accused 4) was driving the vehicle loaded with bags of poppy husk. Appellants 1 and 2 (Accused 1 and 2) were sitting on the bags placed in the truck. As soon as the vehicle was stopped by ASI (PW2), one person sitting in the cabin by the side of the driver and another person sitting in the back of the truck fled. No investigation has been directed to ascertain the role played by each of the accused and the nexus between the accused and the offending goods. The word "possession" no doubt has different shades of meaning and it is quite elastic in its connotation. Possession and ownership need not always go together but the minimum requisite element which has to be satisfied is custody or control over the goods. Can it be said, on the basis of the evidence available on record, that the three appellants - one of whom was driving the vehicle and the other two sitting on the bags, were having such custody or control? It is difficult to reach such conclusion beyond reasonable doubt. It transpires from the evidence that the appellants were not the only occupants of the vehicle. One of the persons who was sitting in the cabin and another person sitting at the back of the truck made themselves scarce after seeing the police and the prosecution could not establish their identity. It is quite probable that one of them could be the custodian of the goods whether or not he was the proprietor. The persons who were merely sitting on the bags, in the absence of proof of anything more, cannot be presumed to be in possession of the goods. For instance, if they are labourers engaged merely for loading and unloading purposes and there is nothing to show that the goods were at least in their temporary custody, conviction under Section 15 may not be warranted. At best, they may be abettors, but, there is no such charge here. True, their silence and failure to explain the circumstances in which they were travelling in the vehicle at the odd hours, is one strong circumstance that can be put against them. A case of drawing presumption under Section 114 of the Evidence Act could perhaps be made out then to prove the possession of the accused, but the fact remains that in the course of examination under Section 313 CrPC, not even a question was asked that they were the persons in possession of poppy husk placed in the vehicle. The only question put to them was that as per the prosecution evidence, they were sitting on the bags of poppy husk. Strangely enough, even the driver was questioned on the same lines. The object of examination under Section 313, it is well known, is to afford an opportunity to the accused to explain the

circumstances appearing in the evidence against him. It is unfortunate that no question was asked about the possession of goods. Having regard to the charge of which the appellants were accused, the failure to elicit their answer on such a crucial aspect as possession, is quite significant. In this state of things, it is not proper to raise a presumption under Section 114 of the Evidence Act nor is it safe to conclude that the prosecution established beyond reasonable doubt that the appellants were in possession of poppy husk which was being carried by the vehicle. The High Court resorted to the presumption under Section 35 which relates to culpable state of mind, without considering the aspect of possession. The trial court invoked the presumption under Section 54 of the Act without addressing itself to the question of possession. The approach of both the courts is erroneous in law. Both the courts rested their conclusion on the fact that the accused failed to give satisfactory explanation for travelling in the vehicle containing poppy husk at an odd hour. But the other relevant aspects pointed out above were neither adverted to nor taken into account by the trial court and the High Court. Non-application of mind to the material factors has thus vitiated the judgment under appeal.

7. Coming to the case of the third appellant who was driving the vehicle, there is one more infirmity in the prosecution case. He would have been charged alternatively for transporting the offensive goods without permit or authorization as required by law; but such a charge was not laid. There was not even a reference to Section 8 of the Act. The result is, he too goes scot-free."

The Hon'ble Supreme Court while deciding the above mentioned case has also referred the case of InderSain Versus State of Punjab (1974) 1 SCR 215 wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the plain ordinary grammatical meaning of the words of an enactment affords the best guide. The relevant paragraphs of the said judgment relating to the prosecution to prove the possession of the articles within the exclusive knowledge of the accused are reproduced as under:

"Normally, it is true that the plain ordinary grammatical meaning of the words of an enactment affords the best guide. But in cases of this kind, the question is not what the words mean but whether there are sufficient grounds for inferring that Parliament intended to exclude the general rule that *mens rea* is an essential element in every offence, And, the authorities show that it is generally necessary to go behind the words of the enactment and take other factors into consideration. So, in the context it is permissible to look into the object of the legislature and find out whether, as a matter of fact, the legislature intended anything to be proved except the possession of the article as constituting the element of the offence....."

"In the last analysis, therefore, it is only necessary for the prosecution to establish that the accused has some direct relationship with the article or has otherwise dealt with it. If the prosecution proves detention of the article or physical custody of it, then the burden of proving that the accused was not knowingly in possession of the article is upon him. The practical difficulty of the prosecution to prove something within the exclusive knowledge of the accused must have made the legislature think that if the onus is placed on the prosecution, the object of the Act would be frustrated."

The Hon'ble Supreme Court after examining the case pros and cons including the evidence, additionally also referred to the provision under Section 8 of the Act was pleased to set aside the conviction and sentence of the Appellants such as Avtar Singh & Ors.

Therefore, while trying a case under the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985 the special court constituted under the Act should examine the ingredients of the charges meticulously before drawing the final conclusion for convicting and sentencing an accused person since the punishment of imprisonment is long and rigorous.

The author is a Advocate Supreme Court Advocate, 209, New Lawyers' Chamber, BhagwanDass Road, New Delhi-110001, Email id: rs.jena@yahoo.co.in

Tibetans hail PM Modi's visit to Lumbini, warn Nepal to be wary of Chinese manoeuvres

NEW DELHI(KCN): Connected by the noble thread of Buddhism, India and Nepal are deepening cooperation in many spheres, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his first visit to the birthplace of Lord Buddha, Lumbini, on Monday. Besides India and Nepal, Tibetans too were upbeat about PM Modi's visit to Nepal.

"China uses Buddhism for political reasons and we are glad that India and Nepal are strengthening ties again. Nepal needs to

be careful of China and Nepalese leaders need to be mindful of Chinese political



manoeuvres," said Tenzin Lekshay, spokesperson of the Central

Railways earns additional Rs 1500 crore from senior citizens by suspending ticket concession: RTI

NEW DELHI: The Railways has generated an additional revenue of over Rs 1,500 crore from senior citizen travellers in two years since March 2020 when the assistance was suspended after the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, an RTI response has found. In its reply to a Right to Information query filed by Madhya

RTI reply said, it was Rs 2,082 crore from male passengers, Rs 1,381 crore from female travellers, and Rs 45.58 lakh from transgenders. Female senior citizen travellers are eligible for a 50 per cent concession, while male and transgenders can avail 40 per cent in all classes. The minimum age limit for a woman to

As a result of this, in July 2016, the Railways made the concession for the elderly optional. The Railways incurs a huge burden of around Rs 2,000 crore every year due to around 53 types of concessions it offers to various kinds of passengers. The senior citizen concession amounts to around 80 per cent

their senior citizen concessions, but it was not a success. In fact, according to a Comptroller and Auditor General report in 2019, the response to the 'give it up' scheme from the senior citizen passengers was not very encouraging. The report said that out of total 4.41 crore senior citizen passengers, 7.53 lakh (1.7



Pradesh-based Chandra Shekhar Gaur, the Railways said that between March 20, 2020 and March 31, 2022, the Railways did not offer concessions to 7.31 crore senior citizen travellers. These included 4.46 crore males over the age of 60, 2.84 crore females over 58 and 8,310 transgender people. The total revenue from senior citizen travellers during the period is Rs 3,464 crore, which includes an additional Rs 1,500 crore earned due to the suspension of the concession, according to the RTI response. As for the gender-wise break-up for the overall revenue from senior citizens, the

avail the concession is 58, while it is 60 for a man. The concessions, which were put on hold from March 2020 after the coronavirus pandemic hit the country, have remained suspended to this day, with senior officials indicating they might not be retained. While train services remained suspended through most of 2020 and parts of 2021, the demand for concessions began surfacing as services normalised. Over the last two decades, the railways concessions have been a much-discussed topic with multiple committees recommending their withdrawal.

of the total discounts given by the national transporter. Earlier, the Railway had tried to encourage people to give up

per cent) opted to give up 50 per cent concession and 10.9 lakh (2.47 per cent) gave up 100 per cent concession.

New Lanka PM Wickremesinghe wants to privatise SriLankan Airlines as part of steps to revive economy

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Monday said he proposed to privatise the national carrier Sri Lankan Airlines as part of his plan to help tackle the debt-ridden country's crippling economic and political crisis. Sri Lanka is currently experiencing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. "I propose that the loss-making Sri Lankan Airlines be privatised," Wickremesinghe said in his first address to the nation. Sri Lankan Airlines

made large losses after former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa removed Emirates as its managing shareholder, the Economy Next website reported. "In the 20/21 year alone its loss was 45 billion rupees. By 2021 March 31 its total losses were 372 billion rupees," the prime minister said while announcing other measures to tackle the problems faced by Sri Lanka's economy. "Even if we privatise it we have to bear the loss," he said. "You should note that this loss has to be borne by the poorest of the poor who has not

'Shivling' at Gyanvapi mosque: VHP rakes up theory of temple's existence; Owaisi hits back

NEW DELHI(KCN): Hours after one of the parties in the Gyanvapi mosque complex case claimed a 'Shivling' has been found on its premises, the Vishva Hindu Parisad (VHP) on Monday termed it a proof of the existence of a temple there and hoped it will lead to an "obvious outcome".

VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said the faces of those who were trying to "hide the truth" have been "painted black" with the "finding" of the 'Shivling' on the mosque premises. The VHP's reaction came after the counsels representing the Hindu petitioners in the Gyanvapi mosque-Shringar Gauri worship case claimed a Shivling was found during a court-mandated videography survey conducted on the premises of the mosque premises in Varanasi. Following this, a local court, hearing the matter, directed the district administration to seal a spot in the Gyanvapi Masjid complex. In a video message, the VHP international working president Alok Kumar said the "existence of a 'Shivling'" on the Gyanvapi mosque premises was "self-evident" that a temple was there and hoped that "everyone" in the country will "accept and honour this proof."

"It's very good news. The Shivling has been found in the presence of both parties and their lawyers. The finding of Shivling is self-evident. It has been proved that the place, where

the Shivling has been found, is a temple today and was a temple in 1947 also," the VHP leader said. "I hope that everyone in the country will accept and honour this proof, and the country will move in the direction of its obvious out-

come," he added. While counsels representing the Hindu side claimed that a 'Shivling' was found, a mosque management committee spokesperson disputed the claim, telling a television channel that the object was part of a "fountain". He said lawyers representing the mosque committee were not fully heard before the sealing order was announced. The VHP's international working president said, "The matter is in court which has taken the proof under its protection and given the responsibility to the police officials to ensure that no tampering was done with it."

"We hope that the subject reaches its logical conclusion."

Alok Kumar said the VHP wanted to wait for the court's verdict in the matter till the construction of the Ram



CONTINUED ON: P-7

Poll results since 2018 puncture Rahul's claim that Congress is only alternative to BJP

NEW DELHI: Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's claim during the 'Chintan Shivir' meet in Udaipur that it is the only alternative to the BJP/RSS has come under fire as the party's electoral performance shows it has lost 19 state assembly polls since 2018, many to regional players that are taking over the space once occupied by it. The data shows that of the eight states that went to the polls in 2018, the Congress won three key states - Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. It was one of the best performances since the 2014 Lok Sabha debacle and the credit was given to leadership of Rahul Gandhi, who took over as party chief in 2017.

However, since then, the party has not won any assembly elections while it formed governments as a junior partner in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu. In all, the grand old party lost 19 state assembly elections between 2019 and March 2022. Rahul's comments also invited criticism from several regional players who said that the Congress leader should first assess his own party's condition. ALSO READ: Rahul's comments on regional parties 'bizarre', out of sync with Congress' own declaration: RJD

The JMM, which is an ally of the Congress in the coalition government in Jharkhand, called it Rahul's

self-assessment. "He is entitled to his opinion, but who gave him the authority to comment on ideology? How are we running the party without any ideology?" the party said. The Congress has suffered big losses to regional players like the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Trinamool Congress and Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS), who are in the process of occupying space at its expense. The most recent example is Punjab, where the AAP recorded a sweeping victory after the Congress leadership in the state was engaged in infighting. The AAP is looking to expand its footprint in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, where elections are due later this year. Calling it unfortunate, the RJD, the party's ally in Bihar, was of the opinion that had the former Congress president been mindful of the outcome of poll fights against the BJP, he would have realised "the ideological and electoral commitment that is brought by such regional outfits, which he said do not have the capacity". The party also saw a humiliating defeat in the Kerala assembly elections last year, with the Left parties coming back for a record second term in the state. At the recent CPI (M) party Congress, party general secretary Sitaram Yechury spoke about a weakened Congress and how the party is not seen as an electoral threat by the BJP/RSS.

set foot in an aircraft," Wickremesinghe said. Wickremesinghe was unable to privatise SriLanka in an admin-

61 countries. Last month, SriLankan Airlines said it recorded its first profitable fourth quar-



ter (Q4) since 2006 for the financial year that ended on March 31, 2022 with a group net profit of USD 1.7 million despite pandemic

challenges. Sri Lanka is grappling with a devastating economic crisis, with prices of everyday goods soaring, and there have been widespread electricity shortages for weeks. Since March, thousands of anti-govern- ment protesters have taken to the streets, demanding that the government resign. In a pre-dawn operation, the Sri Lankan military had to evacuate Mahinda Rajapaksa hours after he resigned. Mahinda Rajapaksa, the elder brother of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resigned following clashes between pro- and anti-government protesters. The military were called after protesters twice tried to breach the Prime Minister's Temple Trees private residence compound overnight.

Confusion, resentment ensues as trees face axe in Bhubaneswar's Pokhariput



BHUBANESWAR: Felling of trees at Biharilal Stadium in Pokhariput area of the Capital has blown up into a controversy with the trust that managed the ground alleging that the action was taken despite an order from the Executive Magistrate to maintain peace of the land. For the last few days, trees from a part of the stadium are being chopped, much to the discontentment and resistance of the locals as well Biharilal Sports Trust which manages the ground where tournaments are held. While the Trust claimed that it has been trying to convert it into a mini stadium, the Sports Department has reportedly sanctioned Rs 6 crore

to R&B division for implementation of the project in the 6 acre stadium. However, the project remains a matter of confusion. Trust general secretary Nirvaya Kumar Samantray said, "Initially they were informed that an indoor stadium will be constructed in the ground. However, RTI query revealed that they have planned a multi-purpose hall in the stadium." It was the Bhubaneswar Development Authority which had erected boundary wall of the stadium which was earmarked for sports and games. The members claimed that some of the trees that felled in 1 to 2 acres land within the

ground were decades old. However, the Trust members pointed out that the work order for the multi-purpose hall was issued by R&B division and trees were felled by forest officials despite Executive Magistrate's order to Airport Police Station IIC to guard against breach of peace over the suit land on May 13. They said the stadium is being managed by them on behalf of the villagers since 1989 and that the government was considering handing over the possession of land to the Trust as they had filed an application for land alienation last year. The land is owned by GA department. "We had urged Sports department

several times to not take up construction project in the stadium and withdraw the fund that it had released to R&B division-II for the construction work. However, no action was taken in this regard," said Trust president Akhya Kumar Jena. While Sport and R&B officials could not be reached for their comments, officials from City Forest Division said around 40 trees have been felled for the project as per requisition of Sports department to R&B division for which compensatory afforestation will be done in the city at an investment of Rs 3.79 lakh. Around 400 saplings will be planted to recover the loss, said an official from the division.

Oram targets Puri MLA for supporting Parikrama work

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The support extended to the Srimandir Parikrama project by BJP MLA from Puri Jayant Sarangi has come in for sharp criticism from senior party leader and former union minister Jual

of the party should have a word with him," he added. Though several senior leaders of the party including Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and national spokesperson Sambit Patra have targeted the

beautification work under the project should be taken up within the confines of the existing laws of the land. The Sundargarh MP also came down heavily on BJD MP from Puri Pinaki Mishra for giving wrong in-

formation about the project in the Parliament. "Mishra has given wrong information in Parliament that some toilets are being constructed. But a lot of illegal constructions are going on," he added. Oram said that the State unit of the party will apprise the Central leadership about the illegalities of the project. State



Oram who said that the legislator seems to be under some pressure. Stating that construction works going on near the Jagannath temple are illegal, Oram expressed unhappiness over Sarangi's statement urging people not to politicise the issue. "He seems to be under pressure. The State president

Odisha government for going ahead with the construction works violating the laws, Sarangi had called upon the State and the Centre to work in close coordination to complete the work. Oram's observation has come a day after Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the

government should immediately stop work in view of the ASI's joint inspection report which said that the project work is being carried out without permission from competent authority, Oram alleged that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is being deliberately kept in the dark.

Live operative workshop on Laser Proctology in FMMCH



Balasore(KCN): A continued medical education program cum live operative workshop on Laser Proctology was organized on 15.5.22 in Surgery department, FM Medical College, Balasore under the banner of the Association of Surgeons of India (ASI), Odisha chapter. The program was inaugurated by Governing Council member of ASI Dr. Banabihari Mishra, executive members of ASI, Odisha chapter namely Dr. Pratap Rath, President, Dr. G. B. Bal, Vice President, Dr S. Sutar Hony. Secretary in presence of organising chairman Dr. Sushil Kumar Pattanaik, Professor & HOD, Surgery, organising secretary, Dr. Saroj

Raj and guest faculty Dr. Kalyan Kar. A scientific program was conducted by Dr. Niranjana Sahoo, Associate Professor, Surgery and Laser surgeon from Kolkata Dr Kalyan Kar followed by live operative workshop by Dr Kar. Eight patients of Piles, Fissure, Fistula and Pilonidal Sinus were operated by Laser Technique. 68 surgeons from all over Odisha were sensitized through live telecast in the venue. Prof. Pattanaik told that would develop the skill of using the new growing technology of Laser Surgery among next generation surgeons.




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Extreme temperatures compound poverty in Pakistan's hottest city

JACOBABAD, PAKISTAN: By the time Pakistani schoolboy Saeed Ali arrived at hospital in one of the world's hottest cities, his body was shutting down from heatstroke. The 12-year-old collapsed after walking home from school under the burning sun, his day spent sweltering in a classroom with no fans. "A rickshaw driver had to carry my son here. He couldn't even walk," the boy's mother Shaheela Jamali told AFP from his bedside. Jacobabad in Pakistan's arid Sindh province is in the grip of the latest heatwave to hit South Asia -- peaking at 51 degrees Celsius (124 Fahrenheit) at the weekend. Canals in the city -- a vital source of irrigation

"If our water plants weren't here, there would be major difficulties for the people of Jacobabad," said Zafar Ullah Lashari, who operates an unlicensed, unregulated water supply. "Nothing we can do" In a farming village on the outskirts of the city, women wake up at 3am to pump drinking water all day from a well -- but it is never enough. "We prefer our cattle to have clean drinking water first, because our livelihood depends on them," said Abdul Sattar, who raises buffaloes for milk and sale at market. There is no compromise on this, even when children suffer skin conditions and diarrhoea. "It is a difficult choice but if the cattle die, how

capacity to cope." "Battlefield" Along a dried-up canal filled with rubbish, hundreds of boys and a handful of girls in Jacobabad pour into a school for their end-of-year exams. They gather around a hand pump to gulp down water, exhausted even before the day begins. "The biggest issue we face is not having basic facilities -- that's why we experience more difficulties," said headteacher Rashid Ahmed Khalhoro. "We try to keep the children's morale high but the heat impacts their mental and physical health." With extreme temperatures arriving earlier in the year, he appealed to the government to bring forward summer vacations, which normally begin in June.

A few classrooms have fans, though most do not. When the electricity is cut just an hour into the school day, everyone swelters in semi-darkness. Some rooms become so unbearable that children are moved into corridors, with youngsters frequently fainting. "We suffocate in the heat. We sweat profusely and our clothes get drenched," said 15-year-old Ali Raza. The boys told AFP they suffered from headaches and frequent diarrhoea but refused to skip lessons. Khalhoro said his students are determined to break out of poverty and find jobs where they can escape the heat. "They are prepared as though they are on a battlefield, with the motivation that they must achieve something."

Tibetans hail PM Modi's visit to Lumbini, warn Nepal to be wary of Chinese manoeuvres

Continued from page-5 Tibetan Administration. China had for long wanted to develop Lumbini and had offered to spend \$3 billion for turning it into a World Peace City through the Asia Pacific Exchange and Cooperation Foundation (APECF). "A Chinese backed foundation and the Nepal government plan to transform Lord Buddha's birthplace in Lumbini into a magnet for Buddhists, the same way as Mecca is to Muslims and the Vatican for Catholics," according to the Lumbini Recovery Plan in the APECF website. The airport at Lumbini that was inaugurated on Monday was built with China's investment and there is a monastery too that has come up with their support.

ALSO READ: PM Modi holds bilateral talks with his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba in Lumbini China's active interest in Nepal through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is making everyone wary of their intentions now.

"I have always told my friends in Nepal that you are second in line after Tibet to be occupied by China. Make no mistake. From what it seems right now, Nepal seems to have understood China's objective and has pushed back in India's favour with whom they have had historical and cultural ties," Lekshay said. China also has plans of connecting to Nepal via train under the Sino-Nepal Railway project, connecting Tibet to Nepal. At present there are trains from Lhasa to Shigatse. Extension from Shigatse to Gyirong (540 km) is under construction. The distance between Gyirong to Kathmandu is just 120 km.

"When the two parts are completed and linked, international tourists will be excited about it because they can travel through the magic Himalaya regions between China and Nepal," according to Tibet Tourism. Meanwhile, PM Modi and Nepal's PM Deuba visited the Mayadevi temple in Lumbini on Monday.

"Happy to be among the wonderful people of Nepal on Buddha Purnima," PM Modi tweeted on reaching Lumbini, where he laid a foundation stone for the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage in Lumbini. Though six MoUs were signed between the two nations, India needs to consider Nepal's requests of improving connectivity by opening more airports that would enable thousands to fly into each other's countries more conveniently. Though both PM Modi and PM Deuba agreed in principle to establish sister city relations between Lumbini and Kushinagar, a further push needs to be given by permitting direct flights linking more airports like Pokhara and Bhairawa in Lumbini with India.

'Shivling' at Gyanvapi mosque: VHP rakes up theory of temple's existence; Owaisi hits back

Continued from page-5 temple in Ayodhya.

"Now under the changed circumstances, we will place this matter before the revered Sant fraternity in the meeting of our Kendriya Margdarshak Mandal."

The meeting will be held in Haridwar on June 11 and 12, Kumar said.

After the court's verdict comes, the VHP will decide its next course of action, he said, adding that it would not be appropriate for him to comment any further on the matter as it is sub-judice.

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday said Muslims are not ready to lose another mosque after the Babri Masjid, on a day it was claimed in a Varanasi court that a Shivling was found in the Gyanvapi complex during a survey.

Reacting to the development, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya tweeted, "No matter how much you hide the truth, it will come out one day."

"Satya hi Shiv hai (Truth is Shiva)," he said. The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) claimed that the "finding" has proved that earlier a temple stood on the spot.

Earlier in the day, a Varanasi court directed the district administration to seal a pond in the Gyanvapi Masjid complex after counsels representing the Hindu petitioners said a Shivling was found during a court-mandated videography survey.

Referring to the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya three decades ago and a 1949 incident when idols of Hindu deities surfaced there, Owaisi asked Muslims to take a pledge that they won't allow its repeat in Varanasi.

In a video posted on his twitter handle, Owaisi said Muslims are not ready to lose another mosque after the Babri Masjid.

"When I was 19-20 years old, the Babri Masjid was snatched from us, and inshallah, we will not allow this to happen with children of the age group," he said.

He urged community members to take a pledge that they won't allow the loss of another mosque.

"We know your tactics and we will not allow you to sting again," he said apparently referring to right-wing Hindu outfits.

"The mosque exists and it will exist inshallah till the judgment day. The Gyanvapi mosque existed and till the time Allah keeps the world intact, the mosque will remain," he said.

Owaisi said Muslims should make efforts that mosques keep flourishing.

"Ramzan is over and the walls of mosques are longing for people, who had offered namaz at the home of the God for 30 days.

The mosques in villages and localities should be kept alive as evil forces want to deprive us of our culture.

They should get the message that the Muslims are not ready to lose a mosque in India again," Owaisi said.

In a tweet, the AIMIM chief also said the incident is a textbook repeat of December 1949 in Babri Masjid, apparently referring to the appearance of idols in the mosque then.

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) expressed happiness over the claimed discovery and said it proved that earlier a temple existed there.

"This Shivling was found in the presence of lawyers from both sides. Therefore, the place where the Shivling has been found is a temple. It has been proved," VHP's working president Alok Kumar said in Prayagraj on Monday.

"I hope this evidence will be respected by people of the whole country," he said, hoping that this matter would reach its logical conclusion.

Kumar said, "Since the matter is in the court, it would not be appropriate to comment further. After the court's verdict, we will think about it further and then the VHP will be able to decide what further steps need to be taken."



for nearby farms -- have run dry, with a smattering of stagnant water barely visible around strewn rubbish.

Experts say the searing weather is in line with projections for global warming.

The city is on the "front line of climate change," said its deputy commissioner Abdul Hafeez Siyal. "The overall quality of life here is suffering."

Most of the one million people in Jacobabad and surrounding villages live in acute poverty, with water shortages and power cuts compromising their ability to beat the heat.

It leaves residents facing desperate dilemmas. Doctors said Saeed was in a critical condition, but his mother -- driven by a desire to escape poverty -- said he would return to school next week.

ALSO READ | At 49 degree celsius, Delhi city turns into hot cauldron

"We don't want them to grow up to be labourers," Jamali told AFP, her son listless and tearful at her side.

Heatstroke -- when the body becomes so overheated it can no longer cool itself -- can cause symptoms from lightheadedness and nausea to organ swelling, unconsciousness, and even death.

Nurse Bashir Ahmed, who treated Saeed at a new heatstroke clinic run by local NGO Community Development Foundation, said the number of patients arriving in a serious condition was rising.

"Previously, the heat would be at its peak in June and July, but now it's arriving in May," Ahmed said.

Labourers forced to toil in the sun are among the most vulnerable.

Brick kiln workers ply their trade alongside furnaces that can reach up to 1,000 degrees Celsius.

"The severe heat makes us feel like throwing up sometimes, but if I can't work, I can't earn," said Rasheed Rind, who started on the site as a child.

"Water mafias" Life in Jacobabad is dominated by attempts to cope with the heat.

"It's like fire burning all around. What we need the most is electricity and water," said blacksmith Shafi Mohammad.

Power shortages mean only six hours of electricity a day in rural areas and 12 in the city. Access to drinking water is unreliable and unaffordable due to scarcity across Pakistan and major infrastructure problems.

ALSO READ | IMD: Relief from heatwave likely over central India, SW monsoon advances into Andaman

Khairun Nissa gave birth during the heatwave, her last days of pregnancy spent wilting under a single ceiling fan shared between her family of 13.

Her two-day-old son now occupies her spot under its feeble breeze.

"Of course, I'm worried about him in this heat, but I know God will provide for us," said Nissa. Outside their three-room brick home, where the stench of rotting rubbish and stagnant water hangs in the air, a government-installed water tap runs dry.

But local "water mafias" are filling the supply gap.

They have tapped into government reserves to funnel water to their own distribution points where cans are filled and transported by donkey cart to be sold at 20 rupees (25 cents) per 20 litres.

would the children eat?" he said.

Pakistan is the eighth most vulnerable country to extreme weather caused by climate change, according to the Global Climate Risk Index compiled by environmental NGO Germanwatch.

Floods, droughts and cyclones in recent years have killed and displaced thousands, destroyed livelihoods and damaged infrastructure. Many people choose to leave Jacobabad in the hottest months, leaving some villages half empty.

Sharaf Khatoon shares a makeshift camp in the city with up to 100 people surviving on a few meagre rupees that male family members earn through menial labour.

They usually relocate the camp in the hottest months, 300 kilometres away to Quetta, where temperatures are up to 20 degrees Celsius cooler. But this year they will leave late, struggling to save the money for the journey.

"We have headaches, unusual heartbeats, skin problems, but there is nothing we can do about it," said Khatoon.

Professor Nausheen H. Anwar, who studies urban planning in hot cities, said authorities need to look beyond emergency responses and think long term.

"Taking heatwaves seriously is important, but sustained chronic heat exposure is particularly critical," she said.

"It's exacerbated in places like Jacobabad by the degradation of infrastructure and access to water and electricity which compromises people's

BJD Eyes Cooperative Sweep

Continued from page-1

and the candidates supported by us have won as chairperson and vice-chairperson in most of the blocks," he pointed out.

"From the point of view of our party, this election is very important to us and has to be fought with all seriousness," the CM directed the party leaders.

Stating this has now become BJD's new benchmark of political strength in the entire State, the BJD Supremo urged upon his party leaders to utilize this strength strategically everywhere, so that the BJD can fare much much better than the last time in the cooperative elections.

The party has formed District Level Committees in each district to monitor the elections at the primary level.

For better supervision and monitoring four Zonal Committees for the Central, North, South, and West zones have also been constituted to coordinate with the District Committees and Observers of the districts of the respective zones, he informed.

Similarly, for overall monitoring and supervision of the entire election process a State Level Committee has also been constituted that will coordinate with the districts in the smooth conduct of the elections.

"The State Committee should take a review of the Zonal Committees and the district committees once a week till we go for the Primary and Apex level elections and submit their weekly observations regarding our preparedness, progress and prospects for my perusal," he added.

OCA Prez Lauds Women Players

Cuttack: Odisha Mr. Mohanty wished
Cricket Associ- bright future for both



ation(OCA) President Pankaj Lochan Mohanty has expressed happiness over the selection of two senior women players by the All-India Women's Selection Committee for upcoming Women's T20 Challenge.

the senior players with their inclusion in the Team They are Priyanka Priyadarshini Sahoo and Sujata Mallick. The Women's T20 Challenge to be played from 23-28 May at Pune's MCA stadium. The senior women

players from Odisha will be part of the Trailblazers team led by Captain Smriti Mandhana. And they will get opportunity to be part of this women league with the best of Indian women's cricket players along with leading stars from overseas (South Africa, England, West Indies and Australia). Sanjay Behera, Secretary OCA and all other Office Bearers of OCA have wished these cricketers well for the upcoming tournament and a bright future ahead. In the meantime, newly appointed Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cuttack Pinak Mishra visited the Odisha Cricket Association, Barabati Stadium for the first time after joining office as the

DCP, Cuttack. This visit was an initial inspection ahead of the T-20 international match between India vs South Africa on 12 June 2022 with Barabati Stadium hosting the 2nd T20 game in the South Africa Tour of India T-20 series. Mr Mishra was felicitated in the OCA office by the former Secretary Ashirbad Behera, in the presence of Sanjay Behera, Secretary, OCA along with other distinguished members of the association. The DCP Cuttack visited the ground along with his colleagues and discussed about various aspects involved in the upcoming T-20 International event for smooth conduct of this event.

When camaraderie, bonding were the key ingredients in India's Thomas Cup triumph

NEW DELHI: India's maiden Thomas Cup title on Sunday came on the back of some solid camaraderie shown by the players on and off the court. However, HS Prannoy has revealed that 'bonding' is something which is not common in a sport like badminton, where shuttlers play individually in tournaments.

should give credit to all the players out there and I think we made a conscious effort to do this because we knew this is not something which is very common amongst us... because we play individual events the entire year. "And, to come to a team event and all of a sudden to gel is slightly tough. But I

help and support each other because that's what is going to change the results in the entire tournament," opined Prannoy, who played the semifinal with an ankle injury and still managed to guide the team into the final. Badminton stalwart, Kidambi Srikanth, termed it as one of the biggest achievements

manes also," said Srikanth, who clinched the deciding singles in the final beating world No. 9 Jonatan Christie comfortably to guide India to the historic win. He said that despite being the oldest member of the contingent in a team comprising of youngsters, he didn't have to give any motivational speeches.



The 29-year-old said following India's gold medal-winning performance against the most successful team in the tournament's history -- Indonesia -- that the players made a "conscious effort" to gel and ensure there were slip-ups this time around. Not getting overawed by Indonesia's reputation -- they have 14 titles to their name in the tournament -- India defeated the favourites 3-0 on Sunday after previously reaching the Thomas Cup semis in 1952, 1955, and 1979. Prannoy, whose selection in the side for the tournament had raised questions, said, "The way everyone bonded this week, I think I

think we all made this conscious effort," said Prannoy, who had won the decisive singles game against Rasmus Gemke of Denmark in the semifinal to earn India its maiden entry in the final. He said that from the day the team left Hyderabad for the tournament in Bangkok, the focus and discussion centred around team bonding, which he felt is the essence of a team sport. "The day we left Hyderabad, we had a team discussion saying that this is the time where we can win this... we have a team which can actually challenge for the title. But the only thing, which we will have to consciously do is to

in his personal career. "Individual events are always different from team events and we hardly get to play any team events. Thomas and Uber Cups are one of the biggest team events that we have. So, when you actually end up winning such a big tournament, it really is a very big win. It will actually take a while before you actually know what has happened. "I would rate this as one of my biggest wins, that's for sure. Everyone did extremely well. I don't think there is any one individual to be singled out. Everyone in the team has done extremely well. Having said that, it was one of my best perfor-

"Well, I might have played more number of events than anyone else, but I didn't have to give any big, long-long speeches. It was just about letting them know that they are doing well and it is just that you get just one hour to play... and you really get that one hour to do well every day. I am very happy that all the youngsters really stepped up and played really well when it mattered. Frankly, I didn't have to tell them anything," said the 29-year-old Srikanth. "They were really pumped up, very excited... when we came here we said whatever it takes to win this medal we will do. And, these youngsters handled the pressure well."

Football Mess: COA member Bhaskar Ganguly writes to CJI to approve AIFF constitution prepared by his panel

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Bhaskar Ganguly, a member of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators, has urged the apex court to approve the constitution formulated by the panel and ask the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to conduct elections un-



der its aegis. In a letter written to Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, Ganguly, a decorated India international, informed that he and co-administrator S Y Quraishi have submitted the draft constitution of the AIFF in January 2020. In a 2017 order, the SC had appointed a Committee of Administrators comprising former Chief Election Commissioner Quraishi and Ganguly to formulate the constitution of the AIFF in consonance with the National Sports Code. "...the same has been submitted by us in January 2020, but till date there is not much of movement in the case, resulting (to) AIFF unable to take any decision for election and their present president complete his tenure as per the terms," Ganguly wrote in the letter. "...my prayer to the Hon'ble Court to take priority of this case and approve the new constitution and advise to implement to AIFF immediately and conduct the election as per the 'new constitution' so that development of football in India can continue."

Ganguly said he was unable to hire any advocate as he was "working on this project without any financial support from anywhere (sports ministry/AIFF)." Meanwhile, the pending case is set to come up before a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday. The SLP has been listed before a bench comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud, Surya Kant and P S Narasimha. On Thursday, the SC had agreed to hear a plea of Delhi Football Club alleging the "illegal" continuation of (executive) committee and Praful Patel as president of AIFF for over a decade. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana was told by lawyer Prashant Bhushan that an illegal committee is continuing to head the AIFF due to the non-hearing of a petition of the football body against the 2017 decision of the Delhi High Court. The AIFF elections were due in December 2020 but it has not held the polls, citing the pending case in the Supreme Court regarding its constitution. Patel completed his three terms and 12 years as AIFF president in December 2020, the maximum permitted to a national sports federation chief under the Sports Code. The AIFF moved an application in the SC only a month before its elections were due, seeking certain clarifications on the status of its constitution, which was under scrutiny in the apex court since 2017. In an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court last month, the Sports Ministry had said that Patel has no mandate to continue as AIFF president as he has already served three terms and the national body should hold elections without any further delay.



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