

128-year-old Sanskrit toll closed, BJP demands its revival

BARIPADA(KCN): The 128-year-old Sanskrit Toll here im-

Alleging neglect of the state government in keeping the cen-

State Government did not render the support required, said Baripada MLA Prakash Soren.

"The State government did not provide any financial assistance for the infrastructure development, as a result there is no protection wall around the school. Thus the land has been illegally encroached upon by vendors," alleged Soren. Anti-socials occupy the place to carry out unlawful activities on the premises, sources said. The MLA however, claimed that the Pradhan Pandit or headmaster of the institute Tarasankar Mohapatra retired from service on February 28 and the District Education Officer Nabakishore Giri gave charge tem-

porarily to Jaysri Nanda. But the toll remains closed. "We demand immediate posting of adequate manpower, both teaching and non-teaching, opening the institution, allowing admission of students and provision of financial assistance for infrastructure development." "The institution is connected to the emotion of Mayurbhanj people and a memory of the Maharaj who had contributed immensely to the field of health, education, literature and development of the district," Soren said. He alongwith Kavi Bishnu Satpaand other workers of BJP and local people presented a memorandum in this regard to district Collector Vineet Bhardwaj.



parting Sanskrit education to students has remained closed for the past few months depriving students of education. A single key, however, keeps hanging at the entrance of the institution. Though the Mass Education Department directed enrolment of 20-30 students at the institute, admissions and readmissions to the institute have been stalled owing to the closure of the school for the past few months.

Century-old institution alive, leaders and workers of BJP on Monday demanded immediate action for its revival. The toll was built by Maharaj Sriramchandra Bhanjdeo in 1894 for the development of Sanskrit language and offered education to students from class 6 to 10. The Centre has given priority for the development of Sanskrit language so that more teachers and students can be produced but the

Send sweets to Mohan Bhagwat when he is in Bengal, but ensure there are no riots: Mamata to police

KHARAGPUR (KCN): Taking a dig at the RSS chief's planned visit to the state, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday asked the police to greet him with "sweets and fruits" while ensuring there are no "riots" during the four-day stay of the organisation's chief Mohan Bhagwat. Bhagwat will be

present at a RSS training camp, starting Tuesday and

of the RSS pradhan's (chief) stay at Keshiary from May

Let him realise how cordial we are with our guests," Banerjee told her officers at a review meeting here. "Provide him proper protection and also ensure that there are no riots," Banerjee told the inspector in-charge of Keshiary police station during the administrative meeting here. Senior RSS functionary Debasis



slated to continue for three weeks, at Keshiary. "What is the purpose

17 to May 20? "You can send him sweets and fruits on behalf of the administration.

CONTINUED ON: P-7

'Adityanath should not meet Raj Thackeray during his Ayodhya visit': BJP MP

NEW DELHI (KCN): BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Tuesday re-

temple town unless he apologised to North Indians because of his opposition to them in

ing to meet Raj Thackeray for last several years to question him about the way he

dians, then he should apologise to saints. Thackeray is scheduled to visit Ayodhya on June 5 Singh's party colleague, BJP MP from Ayodhya Lallu Singh, has, however, extended support to Raj Thackeray. "Everyone is welcomed in Ayodhya. It is due to Lord Ram's blessings that devotees come to Ayodhya," said Lallu Singh. Raj Thackeray's nephew Aditya is likely to visit the temple town on June 15 to pay obeisance to Lord Ram. Aditya, the son of Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray, is also the minister for tourism and environment in the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition government in that state.



iterated his opposition to MNS chief Raj Thackeray's proposed visit to Ayodhya and said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath should also not meet him. "Thackeray won't be allowed to enter the

past," Singh said. Addressing a press conference here, Singh alleged that Thackeray has encouraged "atrocities" against North Indians in Mumbai and he should apologise to them. "I have been try-

has misbehaved with north Indians in Maharashtra. I will not allow him to enter Ayodhya until he apologise to north Indians," Singh said. He further said if Thackeray cannot apologise to north In-

Changes in Odisha Congress not now

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Changes in the State unit of the Congress will have to wait at least for a month after the meeting of



Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik with general secretary of All India Congress Committee (AICC) Priyanka Gandhi. Patnaik's meeting with Priyanka during the 'Chintan Shivir' of the party at Udaipur has come as a dampener for his detractors in the party as it gave a hint that he will continue in the post for the time being. The OPCC president discussed the organisational situation in the State Con-

gress and invited her to Odisha. Sources said that Priyanka agreed to visit Odisha and give time for organisational matters in the party. The fact that the Congress leaders from the State including the MLAs had failed in their mission of changing Patnaik from the top post was evident from the meeting they had with former president Rahul Gandhi at New Delhi. Rahul chastised them for the indiscipline and warned of strong action in future. Patnaik who returned from New Delhi looked confident and said that the programme for Priyanka's visit to the State is being worked out. He said that Congress will perform well in Brajrajnagar bypoll and win it. The Brajrajnagar bypoll and the organisational elections of the party starting next month have also come as a breather for Patnaik as he will lead the party's campaign in the bypoll. Besides, as the organisational elections of the party will be held next month, there is minimum chance of a change in the OPCC during the period.

Nayapalli Lions Club organises physiotherapy camp

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Nayapalli Lions Club, Kunal Pattnaik and Vridhajan Seva



CN): A physiotherapy camp was organised between May 12 and 15 by president of Kishore Das, in association with Secretary of Odisha Red Swastik Society Debasis

Santhan, Udaipur. The camp, organised for the public at Lions Bhawan in

Nayapalli, was inaugurated by district governor lion Purna Chandra Padhi, MJF, along with lion Suresh Chandra Nayak. During the camp, district governor (elect), Dr Prem Kumar Arora, emphasised on how to cure back pain, cervical pain, frozen shoulder and spondylitis without medicines and surgery. More than 50 patients attended the camp.

Naveen likely to Campaign

Bhubaneswar(KCN): BJD Supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik likely to campaign for party candidate Alaka Mohanty during ensuing by-elec-

the campaign during past elections held since the outbreak of Covid-19. All eyes are now on whether he will go for campaigning this time or not. As the Opposi-

Singh, Women and Child Development Minister Tukuni Sahu and Industries Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra will campaign for BJD candidate Alaka



tion to Brajrajnagar Assembly constituency in Jharsuguda district. The Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Tuesday announced its list of 40 star campaigners for the bypoll. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is on top of star campaigners while names of several Ministers, MPs, MLAs and senior leaders have been included in the list. The Chief Minister has remained out of

Mohanty. Similarly, BJD General Secretary (Organisation) Pranab Prakash Das, Government Chief Whip Pramila Mallik, Rajya Sabha MPs Prasanna Acharya, Sujit Kumar, Munna Khan & Sasmit Patra, Ollywood actor Arindam Roy & Akash Das Nayak, former bureaucrat Nalinkanta Pradhan and Cuttack Mayor Subash Chandra Singh will take part

Behera, Snehangini Chhuria, Rohit Pujari, Priti Ranjan Ghadei, Debesh Acharya, Rajendra Dholakia, Rita Sahu, Prasanta Behera, Saroj Meher, Bikram Panda and Latika Pradhan have been named in the list. Final list of candidates for the by-poll will be out today. The by-elections to the Brajrajnagar Assembly seat will be held on May 31. The counting of votes and declaration of results is scheduled for June 3.

5 easy ways to make healthy breakfast ideas to resume work from office

Kolkata/East(KCN): Working from the office alongside your office colleagues and friends is no longer a dream as offices have started opening. While most of us secretly wished for offices to open and are excited to start working from the long seen workstations again, going back to the office routine still feels hard. The two most challenging issues in the office routine are waking up early and preparing a healthy breakfast. A meal that does not consume much time and is easy to prepare so you can reach the office on time.

To your rescue, celebrated chef Sanjeev Kapoor and dietician Sonia Sinha of Fitfoody.in curated a list of 5 tasty and healthy recipes that can be prepared in the nick of time. Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, a firm believer of healthy eating, said, "Most of us took a step towards a healthy lifestyle during the pandemic and the travel time that we saved every day, helped. But now offices have opened, this means leaving office in a hurry. But don't break the momentum of eating healthy. Remember that it is important to add lots of vegetables and fruits to your eating habits for a healthy, balanced diet. But don't forget that raw vegetables and fruits may be laden with pesticides and germs as they travel places before reaching you. Hence, it is crucial to thoroughly clean your vegetables with a

natural action vegetable cleaner like Nimwash before consuming them. With 100% natural action, Nimwash has neem and citrus extracts which effectively wash away and cleans vegetables & fruits effectively with the power of natural ingredients."

The chef shares the following easy-to-make healthy breakfast recipes:

Broccoli Toast: Heat sufficient water in a non-stick pan and add sweet potatoes to cook till they are done. Trim the edges of the bread slices and halve them. Heat another non-stick pan to place bread halves in it and drizzle a little olive oil to make them golden and crisp. Mash sweet potatoes. Remove pan from heat, add salt, butter, cream, and red chilli powder, and mix well. Remove the toasted bread pieces from the pan and place on a plate. Heat orange juice in the same non-stick pan. Add salt and crushed peppercorns, mix well and let it reduce. Add broccoli, mix well and cook till the broccoli turns a little soft. Transfer into a bowl and let it cool slightly. Spread some mashed sweet potato mixture on each toasted bread half. Place some broccoli over the sweet potato and serve immediately.

Oatmeal and Mushroom Breakfast Stir Fry: Dry-roast oats in a non-stick pan till light golden. Remove from heat and set aside. Heat one tablespoon olive oil in another non-stick pan.

Add the garlic and sauté till golden. Add the onion and sauté till translucent. Add the button mushrooms, oyster mushrooms, salt, crushed peppercorns and torn thyme sprigs, mix and cook on high heat for two to three minutes. Add three cups water, mix and bring to a boil. Add the roasted oats and stir continuously till it is cooked. Add the spinach, mix well and remove from heat. Heat some olive oil in another non-stick pan. Break-in an egg, sprinkle some salt and crushed peppercorns and cook till golden from the underside. Similarly, prepare with remaining eggs. Put some oats-spinach mixture on individual serving platters, place one fried egg on top and serve hot.

Dietician Sonia Sinha of Fitfoody.in said, "As most of my clients are working, I share a list of easy to make healthy recipes that are balanced and do not take too much time to prepare, so they don't feel burdened in the morning. I also advise my clients to plan their meals a day before so they have all the ingredients in place. If they have limited time, I suggest they wash the vegetables with a herbal cleaner like Nimwash before chopping and storing them. Remember, only selected vegetables can be chopped and stored a night before, so choose wisely."

Dietician Sonia Sinha shares the following balanced meal recipes to make the

morning routine easier.

Palak Mushroom Sandwich: Add 1tbsp of chopped ginger, garlic and green chilly in 1/2 tsp oil. Add onion, mushrooms and boiled spinach and stir fry till the mixture is dry. You can put some herbs or masala of your choice and add a little paneer or low-fat cheese to the mix. Stuff it in toasted bread, and your sandwich is ready.

Palak Paneer Rolled Oats: Add some chopped garlic, ginger, green chillies and onion in 1tsp oil. Put some carrot, beans and 1tbsp peas. Add the rolled oats and stir fry. Put the chopped or steamed spinach (with water) and paneer cubes in the mixture. Add some water if required and stir. Put some salt, pepper or mix herbs as per your taste. If you want to add more protein, break one egg on top and sprinkle salt on the egg. Cover the lid and cook for 2-3 mins. A fit and yummy Oats recipe is ready.

Besan Chilla: A perfectly balanced meal that takes no time to make is Besan chilla stuffed with sauteed veggies. Make a thin batter of besan and curd, add black pepper and salt according to taste and make a thin chilla (like dosa). Now, chop your favourite vegetables like capsicum, bell pepper, carrot, tomatoes, beetroot etc. and saute. Once the besan chilla is crisp, stuff it with the sauteed vegetables and serve with green chutney."

HITK Alumnus Part Of The Team That Made New Biomaterial To Heal Wounds

Kolkata (KCN): The utility of antibiotics to heal bacterial infections suffered a damage with the advent of multi-drug resistant pathogens, and it was high time for the researchers to develop other ways of curing such bacterial infections. In this context, few scientists had developed a new biomaterial that can be used to heal the wounds and accelerate the process of healing. The same was used in mouse models for a trial run that proved to be successful.

ogy (HITK) B.Tech-Biotechnology, 2008 Batch had been a part of this research team



The research findings were published in the journal 'Biomaterials Science'. The research work was done by a group of scientists from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi, IIT Delhi and National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar. Proud to state that Dr. Amit Jaiswal, Associate Professor, IIT Mandi and an alumnus of Heritage Institute of Technol-

which discovered such a wonderful way to disinfect wounds. The newly made Biomaterial discovered by the scientists had been derived from polymer pullulan which is secreted by the fungus *Aureobasidium pullulans*. As told by Dr. Jaiswal that the use of biomedicine as an antimicrobial biomaterial had not been explored much. Pullulan as a biomaterial is commercially used in food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industry for its non-toxic, non-mutagenic and non-immunogenic properties. Moreover it is easy to manufacture as well.

The newly discovered biomaterial can be used in gel form as well. To get optimum results, the same can be used to make hydrogel-based wound dressings.

Excise Squad Seized Huge Quantity of ID Liquor and Gur Wash



Khordha(KCN): Excise personnel launched an operations and raided several illegal country liquor manufacturing units in the village of Samantarapur and Mangarajpur under Begunia PS of

Khordha District on Tuesday. Seized 4200 ltrs Gur Wash and 230 ltrs ID liquor and distillation apparatus. All the seized properties are destroyed at the spot. The Excise personnel said "the approximate value of

seized articles are 2 lakhs 33 Thousands Rupees. This area has a long history of people distilling country liquor illegally and selling in the market. The raids was conducted by Inspector of Excise,

Khordha Range, Bhairab Sahu, Inspector of Excise Mobile Unit, Sasmita Hota, OIC, Khordha, B. Manoj Kumar, OIC, Jatni, Geetanjali Behera and all the Excise staffs of Khordha, Begunia and Jatni.

India - Vietnam: 50th year of Establishment of Diplomatic relationship celebration

Kolkata (KCN): Celebration of the establishment of 50th year

in New Delhi in collaboration with Indo Vietnam Solidarity

by Consul General of Vietnam in Mumbai as well as other diplomats from Vietnam in India as well as other Vietnamese officials based in India.

Vietnam and India. Keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Tilottama Mukherjee spoke on various aspects of multi faceted India Vietnam Relationship

Poet and Activist . Md. Salim , Secretary CPI(M) West Bengal State Committee chaired the seminar. The seminar was moderated by Dr. Pravamaye Samantaray Poet & Lecturer Kendrapara Auto. College, Odisha who is also Secretary of India Vietnam Solidarity Committee (IVSC) . On behalf of India Vietnam Solidarity Committee, Smt. Kusum Jain addressed the august gathering. Prem Kapoor of IVSC gave vote of thanks. Deputy Head of Mission of Embassy of Cuba in New Delhi and Hony.Consul of Maldives in Kolkata Shri Ram Krishna Jaiswal attended the seminar. The seminar reaffirmed the theme " Long Live India Vietnam Friendship" .

Man arrested for viaraling video of his

Barbil (KCN): Police arrested an youth for viaraling sex video of an adult girl at Barbil under Barbil police station of Keonjhar district. As per source accused Arbind Mahanta of

Krushnachandrapur village under Betnati police station of Mayurbhanj district had developed relationship with an adult girl of Mahant Basti, Barbil through Facebook.

Latter he had conjugal relationship with the girl on the pretext of marriage. On 15th May the victim girlalleged that the accused developed a relationship with her with a promise that he would marry her, but instead of that the accused viral their relationship video in the public. Based on the girl's complaint, a case under section 376, 366, and 376 (2) (n) of IPC has been registered against the accused by Barbil police . The accused was arrested and forwarded to court.



of Diplomatic Relationship between India and Vietnam started on 15th May 2022 in Kolkata with week long celebration of 132nd Birth Anniversary of Great Leader of Vietnam Ho Chi Minh. Vietnam will celebrate 132nd Birth Anniversary of Ho Chi Minh on 19th May . Ho Chi Minh born on 19th May 1890. Vietnamese Embassy

Committee organised National seminar on "Ho Chi Minh and India " at National library in Kolkata. Kolkata has historical relationship with Vietnam including Vietnamese freedom movement. The seminar was opened by His Excellency Mr Pham Sanh Chan Ambassador of The Socialist Republic of Vietnam in New Delhi. It was attended



During Inagural address ,Ambassador Pham Sanh Chan spoke on historical connection between people of Vietnam and India over 2500 years . Ambassador Pham emphasized on people to people relationship between people of

and it's growth path since the establishment of diplomatic relationship. Guest speakers on the seminar was Prof. Tridib Chakraborty , Shri Gautam De, former Regional Director of ICCR, Mr. Amitava Chakraborty

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



CHENNAI (KCN): Actress Kajal Aggarwal, who teams up with actor-filmmaker Kamal Haasan for the first time in the upcoming Tamil film "Indian 2", says signing the project has been a step up in

her over a decade-long career.

Last seen on screen in Telugu film "Kavacham", Kajal has already begun prepping for her role in "Indian 2".

"I'm really thrilled to be part of

the project. I'm quite excited about my role and the skills I will get to learn on the job. I see signing 'Indian 2' as a step up in my career," Kajal told IANS along the sidelines of the launch of beverage brand 7Up's

new campaign, 7Up Ponneram.

Ponneram translates to golden times in English. Kajal said her career's golden times started when she signed S.S. Rajamouli's "Magadheera".

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

Talking about what excited her most about the association with 7Up, Kajal said: "It's a brand a lot of us can easily identify and relate with. I like the fact that it's a very clear beverage. It's also a drink that lets you take a step back and chill. I treat success or failure by taking a step back and I believe it gives you a lot of clarity."

On the career front, Kajal is keenly looking forward to the release of "Paris Paris", the Tamil remake of Kangana Ranaut's "Queen".

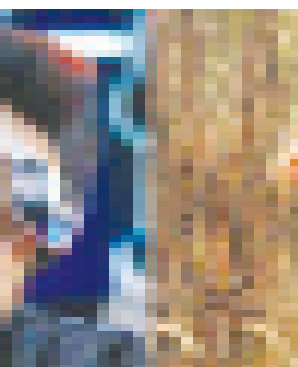
"Paris Paris" will be Kajal's first release of 2019.

"When I was offered the 'Queen' remake, I saw it as a story that can be explored in many languages. It's a simple story of a simple girl that I could connect with on many levels. I'm sure there are a lot of girls across different parts of Tamil Nadu who will relate to this story and I'd be glad if this film empowers them," she added.

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

of controversies. Yet some movies shined amid the storm.



declared as 'double blockbuster' film.

The movie showed the different phases of the controversial

ing Rs 293 crore.

4. Race 3:

'Our business is our business, none of your business' line

and the government freebie schemes.. A few scenes were deleted from the movie too. The matter was

ceived hilarious reactions on social media as well. Later, Aamir Khan apologised for failing to entertain

but it leaves you with a thought to ponder.

9. Rangasthalam:

With the right mix of content for a commercial flick, Rangasthalam made it big in the box office by collecting Rs 151 crore. The story is about how a young man with hearing impairment and his brother decide to dethrone their village's president who's been ruling the village for 30 years.

10. Raazi:

An adaptation of Harinder Sikka's 'Calling Sehmat' novel, Raazi is based on the true story of an Indian spy, who gets married into a Pakistani family of military officials to spy on Pakistan during the Indo-Pak war of 1971. It's easily Alia Bhatt's career best. The movie minted Rs 121 crore in the box office against the budget of Rs 30 crore.

It's been a great year for Indian cinema which took us on a journey of emotions, from laughter to tears, sometimes of joy. Though a lot of films didn't make it to this list, good films silently made it into the hearts of the audience.

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.

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 watched the film yet, book your tickets right away!

2. Sanju:

Sanjay Dutt's biopic 'Sanju' minted Rs 340 crore at the box office and was

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

ing Rs 293 crore. 4. Race 3: 'Our business is our business, none of your business' line

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people. Even Katrina Kaif, Fatima Sana Shaikh expressed their disappointment. 8. Badhaai Ho:

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. Watching this movie will hurt your belly from laughing

This Tiger Shroff-Disha Patani starrer failed to impress 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 '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 re-

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 office.

6. Baaghi 2:

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Climate Change and Food System

Climate change is a growing threat to our food systems, with grim implications for food and nutrition security, livelihoods, and overall well-being, especially for poor and vulnerable people around the world. The imperative for urgent action on climate change — both to achieve the major emissions reductions needed to limit global warming and to increase adaptive capacity and resilience — is drawing global attention.

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has recently published Global Food Policy Report 2022. The report sets out a broad range of opportunities for accelerated action that should be considered in policy and investment decision-making for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience. The impacts of global warming are becoming increasingly evident. Higher temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, sea level rise, and growing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, extreme heat, and cyclones are already reducing agricultural productivity and disrupting food supply chains. Beyond its direct impacts on production, climate change will create cascading effects on livelihoods, communities, and sustainability through interconnections among economic, environmental, social, and political spheres. At the same time, food systems are estimated to contribute more than a third of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions responsible for climate change, placing food production at the center of attention as both a contributor to global warming and a critical sector for mounting an adaptive response to climate change.

Even in the absence of climate change, food systems face enormous challenges and demands. Hunger and malnutrition are rising, and over 3 billion people currently cannot afford a healthy diet. Food systems are the world's largest "employer," but for many, particularly women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, agriculture-based livelihoods are precarious. In addition, food systems are major contributors to environmental degradation beyond GHG emissions, including deterioration of water

resources and loss of habitat and biodiversity, which compromise the environmental services that support food production.

Yet global aspirations for food systems are extremely high. As was made clear in 2021 at both the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and UNFCCC COP26, food systems must play a central role in achieving multiple, pressing sustainable development and climate goals, from the local to the global level. These aspirations envision food systems that are far more nature-positive, deliver improved and more resilient livelihoods, empower disadvantaged groups, and produce a healthy mix of foods at affordable prices. Food systems are called on to accomplish all these goals in the context of a rapidly changing climate and while making a substantial contribution to achieving net zero GHG emissions by 2050. Action to address climate change has begun, but it urgently needs to be accelerated by hastening innovation, reforming policies, resetting market incentives, and increasing financing for sustainable food systems transformation, as well as promoting healthy diets and building resilience. The world remains far from achieving the emissions reductions needed to constrain warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. While this goal remains feasible, the longer we wait, the more difficult achieving it will become. Looking forward, scenarios from IFPRI's IMPACT model indicate that rising temperatures will negatively impact agricultural yields, driving up prices and resulting in increased hunger, especially in Africa. Unless action is taken now, this toll will add to the many people pushed into poverty and hunger by extreme weather events, as well as by local shocks and global crises, such as COVID-19 and the current war in Ukraine, that disrupt food systems and raise food prices. Food production, distribution, and consumption practices must be adapted to climate change to better support rural livelihoods and provide healthy diets for all, even as population and income growth increase the demand for food. At the farm level, adaptation must address changing growing conditions, water scarcity, droughts and floods, increased risks of destructive weather events, and related risks of disease and pests. Along value chains, storage and logistics will also be affected by climate

Pradeep Kumar Panda

change, and price volatility will increase, with

implications for processors, traders, and consumers as well as farmers.

Climate change will put increasing pressure on scarce natural resources, which can increase the risk of conflicts. Such conflicts can affect entire value chains and are a major driver of increases in global food insecurity and hunger. Recent experience with the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how disruptions in one part of a value chain can have wide-reaching impacts. But it has also shown us how food systems, including public and private sector actors, can respond and adapt quickly to severe shocks. A number of promising innovations show potential to support adaptation and build resilience while also increasing productivity. These climate-smart innovations include new crop varieties that better withstand climate shocks and improve yields, solar energy for product storage, and digital technologies that expand access to knowledge and services for rural producers.

Many climate-smart innovations, such as no-till farming, agroforestry, and landscape management, will also support mitigation by sequestering carbon or reducing emissions. However, technical innovations will never reach their full potential without the right enabling environments, including policy incentives and governance approaches that promote climate-positive change and inclusion of all food systems actors. Policies and institutions at the local, national, and international levels need to incentivize the development and adoption of new technologies and practices and ensure adequate finance is available. They must recognize potential trade-offs — in terms of yields and efficiency — between sustainable systems and existing or other modern farming practices and between sectors, such as energy and water. Policies must also facilitate coordinated action across stakeholders and ensure equitable systemic transformation for all.

Despite international commitments to reduce GHG emissions, total net anthropogenic GHG emissions continue to rise. Stepped-up efforts to reduce GHG emissions are required of developed economies, and progress by developing and emerging economies is also necessary, but it is important to bear in mind that the least developed countries accounted

for only 3.3% of global GHG emissions in 2019. Food systems are estimated to generate as much as 34% of total GHG emissions, which stem from agriculture and land use, storage, transport, packaging, processing, retail, and consumption. Continued progress in energy and transport sector technologies can reduce fossil-fuel use and emissions throughout food systems, including in irrigation, processing, transport, cold storage, and waste recycling. However, two-thirds of food systems GHG emissions — or about 21% of total emissions from all sources — are from agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU). AFOLU has potential to deliver substantial emissions reductions and carbon sequestration. It is the only economic sector with serious potential to become a net emissions sink — pulling more GHGs out of the atmosphere than it emits — through creation and protection of carbon sinks such as forests. Of AFOLU CO₂ emissions, almost half are from land use change and management.

Net agricultural land expansion is now concentrated in the developing world, primarily in Africa and South America, while land use change in some developed countries is offsetting emissions. Some developed countries have scope for creating larger net sinks for emissions, but developing countries should prioritize fostering agricultural practices that both raise productivity and turn the tide on AFOLU emissions. Significant GHG mitigation can also be achieved by reducing nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizers and methane emissions from paddy rice and enteric fermentation (from cattle and other ruminant digestion) as well as decreasing emissions intensity through sustainable production systems and reduced food loss and waste. Shifting food consumption toward healthy diets has also been found to have substantial potential for emissions reduction. Combined, these efforts could move the world toward net zero emissions.

Achieving the ambitious goals set for food systems will require inclusive, holistic approaches that consider all components of our food systems, from local to global and from farmer to consumer. Charting optimal pathways for sustainable food systems transformation will be challenging, but we must step up our efforts now to ensure our global future.

The Author is an Economist

Why are women still opting for unsafe home births in India?

Between 1990 and 2018, India has made notable progress in reducing its maternal mortality rate (MMR). However, this progress has not been uniform throughout the country. Low-performing states (LPS) such as Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand still have a relatively higher MMR as compared to the national average (Figure 1). A key component of maternal healthcare is institutional delivery, which reduces the risk of preventable maternal and neonatal mortality arising due to delivery-related complications. To promote and improve the uptake of institutional deliveries in India, the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) was implemented as India's flagship scheme under the National Rural Health Mission in 2015. It has been designed to reduce high out-of-pocket payments and associated catastrophic health expenditure incurred at the point of care. JSY offers centrally sponsored conditional cash transfer incentives—upon delivery and throughout postnatal care—to beneficiaries delivering at public health facilities and authorised private hospitals registered under the scheme. The amount of financial disbursement differs across states, with LPS receiving nearly double the amount (USD 13.6–19) compared to the high-performing states. JSY also provides beneficiaries with free transportation services to healthcare facilities and accredited social health activist or ASHA-led prenatal and postnatal care. Despite these incentives, the coverage of institutional delivery remains extremely low in specific subnational regions and among socio-economically disadvantaged groups. It is especially stark in India's nine LPS, which contribute to 12 percent and 62 percent of all glo-

bal and national preventable maternal deaths respectively.

Graph showing India's maternal mortality rate in low-performing states - maternal mortality rate

To further understand the relationship between institutional delivery utilisation and JSY scheme coverage across these nine LPS, we analysed data from the National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4), 2015–16. Our findings indicate that states with the highest institutional delivery coverage had a high JSY scheme coverage and vice versa. In Odisha, for example, both institutional delivery (87 percent) and JSY coverage (73 percent) were found to be high. In contrast, in states such as Bihar where uptake of institutional delivery was lower (66 percent), JSY coverage also remained low at 54 percent (Figure 2).

Graph showing the proportion of women opting for institutional delivery in the past five years - maternal mortality rate

These findings raise a few other important questions: First, despite comparatively high institutional delivery coverage, why does MMR remain high in states such as Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan? And, second, why does the uptake of institutional delivery as well as JSY utilisation remain low in states such as Bihar and Jharkhand in spite of monetary incentives? On probing these questions further, we found that a range of socio-demographic factors (beyond financial incentives) determine whether or not a woman will opt for institutional delivery. Accessibility to health facilities

Even though there has been a committed emergency transport support system under JSY, beneficiaries still face difficulty in accessing them,

Ria Saha

sometimes due to unavailability or severe

delays. We found this to be the case, especially for women residing in the rural areas of Assam, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Our findings indicate that transport-related challenges, coupled with the overall lack of health facilities, resulted in more women in rural areas opting for unsafe home deliveries as compared to their urban counterparts.

The second important factor that determined the uptake of institutional deliveries was household wealth. In Assam, women from the richest households were 14 times more likely to deliver in a health facility compared to the poorest households. We found a similar pattern in other states such as Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Evidence suggests that even though JSY offers cash incentives, beneficiaries face several obstacles in obtaining them, with untimely cash disbursement being a major issue. Women from poorer households are unable to account for and make some of the necessary payments in advance. For example, in rural districts of Madhya Pradesh, women reported that they did not receive the entire cash reward upon institutional delivery. This is because they had to make forced side payments to the hospital staff, ASHAs, and incur other transport and medicine expenses—all of which were deducted from the cash reward. In addition to this, beneficiaries also face problems while opening local or regional bank accounts and are unsure of when and exactly where their cash rewards will be deposited.

Across the nine LPS, we found that child marriage also deterred institutional deliveries. This may be attributed to the lack of autonomy and

restrictions imposed by family members on child brides. Overall, women who married before the age of 18 were 22 percent less likely to opt for institutional delivery than women who married at 18 years or later.

In our study, education emerged as an important determinant across all the states. Women who had higher educational attainments were almost four times more likely to utilise in-facility birth compared to those who were less educated. The importance of education was majorly observed in the states of Assam and Chhattisgarh where it appeared as the second most important predictor of institutional delivery. Drawing from our research, we can infer that access to education over time could equip women to be more aware of the clinical health benefits of delivering at a health institution.

How can we improve institutional delivery coverage?

Conditional cash transfer incentives under JSY have not proven to be sufficient and satisfactory in escalating the demand for and utilisation of institutional delivery services. However, state-specific solutions can help improve the uptake of safe in-facility deliveries among beneficiaries; this is integral to their sexual and reproductive health rights. Here are a few suggestions:

Ria Saha is based out of London, United Kingdom, and is working as a senior public health intelligence analyst at Medway Council, NHS England. She holds a BSc in Microbiology from the University of Calcutta and an MSc in Environmental Science from the University of Ottawa, Canada. She also has an MSc in Global Public Health Sciences from the University of California, San Francisco Institute for Global Health Sciences.

1 officer, 3 posts: Aparajita flags 'serious impropriety'

BHUBANESWAR: Amid raging controversy over Srimandir Parikrama project, BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi on Monday launched a scathing attack on the State government alleging there is 'serious conflict of interest and financial impropriety' in the implementation of the project.

She alleged that assigning one IAS officer three positions directly associated with the multi-crore heritage corridor project around the Shri Jagannath Temple cannot be a coincidence. The BJP national spokesperson told here that the present Secretary of the Works Department and Chairman of Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation (OBCC), the State PSU which is executing the Srimandir Parikrama Project, is also the Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

"Is this a mere coincidence or it is a design? As SJTA administrator, he (the IAS officer) is awarding work to OBCC, passes bills and making payments. As OBCC Chairman, he has been entrusted to execute work and receive payments. This cannot be a coincidence," she said and also wanted to know how the person floating tender and releasing funds for the project could be the same who was awarded the project contract. "This is a conflict of interest and violates all norms of financial prudence and the requirements of checks and balances," she said and demanded an answer from the State government in this regard. Sarangi also said this a well-planned conspiracy and burning example of financial irregularities in the State which people of Odisha will never support. "Had this not been a planned conspiracy, the breach of rules and laws wouldn't have been possible," she said.

To back her claims, Sarangi came up with a

copy of the Supreme Court order dated November 4, 2019 where the apex court had directed the State government to depute a full-



time Chief Administrator 'not by way of additional charge forthwith' four years back. "On what basis the Odisha government disobeyed



the order of the apex court and what was the vested interest behind it?" Sarangi asked. The Bhubaneswar MP, however, avoided commenting on Puri's BJP MLA Jayanta Sarangi, who has been facing criticism within the party, for his alleged support to the project.

Criminal Cases Against ZP Members

Bhubaneswar: As many as 82 out of 726 analyzed Zilla Parishad (ZP) members, who have elected during the recently concluded Panchayat Elections, have declared criminal cases against themselves. The Odisha Election Watch and Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), who

criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

Informing about serious criminal cases, the ADR further said that 53 (8%) out of 661 ZP members from BJD, 4(11%) out of 37 members from BJP, 6(27%) out of 22 members from INC, 1(33%) out of 3 zilla parishad members from JMM and 1(50%) out of 2 Independent members have declared serious criminal cases

analysed the self-sworn affidavits of the victorious candidates, have said this in its latest report released on Tuesday.

The ADR has analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 726 out of 851 Zilla Parishad Members in the Odisha Panchayat Elections 2022. The rest of the affidavits were not analysed as they were not available or uploaded on the website at the time of making this report.

Out of 82 ZP members have declared criminal cases against themselves, 15 elected members have declared cases of attempt to murder (IPC Section-307).

Similarly, 65 (9%) ZP members are facing serious criminal charges including cases related to attempt to murder, crimes against women etc, according to a report.

As many as 12 zilla parishad members have declared cases related to crimes against women.

Informing party-wise ZP members with criminal cases, the report said 66 (10%) out of 661 ZP members are from ruling BJD, six (16%) out of 37 ZP members are from BJP followed by 7(32%) out of 22 elected members of Congress, 1(33%) out of 3 members from JMM, 1 (100%) out of 1 member from CPI (M) and 1(50%) out of 2 Independent members have declared

against themselves in their affidavits.

Out of the 726 zilla parishad members analysed, 95 (13%) are crorepatis, according to the report.

Highest 90 (14%) out of 661 crorepati ZP candidates are from BJD, while 3 (8%) out of 37 ZP members are from BJP and 2 (9%) out of 22 ZP members are from INC.

The average of assets per zilla parishad members in the Odisha Zilla Parishad Elections 2022 is Rs 56.60 lakhs.

The ADR report said that 451 (62%) ZP members have declared their educational qualification to be between 5th pass and 12th pass, while 256 (35%) ZP members have declared having an educational qualification of graduate and above. There are 6 ZP members who are Diploma holders. Moreover, 7 ZP members have declared themselves to be just literate and 6 other members have not given their educational qualification,

The ZP members have declared their age to be between 21 and 50 years while 88 (12%) ZP members have declared their age to be between 51 and 70 years whereas 373 members have not declared their age in the affidavit. Out of 726 zilla parishad members analysed, 385 (53%) ZP members are women.

Sweden signs NATO request, Finland formally endorses move

STOCKHOLM: Finland's Parliament has overwhelmingly endorsed a bid from the Nordic country's government to join NATO.

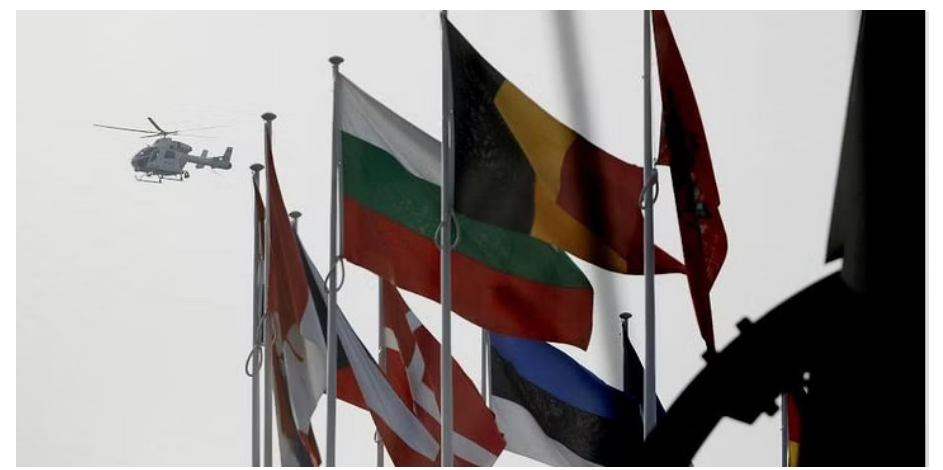
Lawmakers at the 200-seat Eduskunta legislature voted 188-8 Tuesday to approve Finland seeking membership in the 30-member Western military alliance.

The vote was seen a formality as Finnish President Sauli Niinisto and Prime Minister Sanna Marin announced the intention on Sunday, and lawmakers' approval wasn't necessarily required. However, both

Niiniisto and Marin stressed that it was important for the Parliament to weigh in

quarters in the coming days together with Nordic neighbor Sweden where the

nation of 5.5 million since World War II, after which the country adopted a policy



on the NATO bid, described by the Finnish head of state as "historic".

Finland is now expected to sign a formal application and file it to NATO head-

government announced a similar NATO bid on Monday. If Finland joins NATO it will be the biggest defense and security policy shift in the history of the

of military nonalignment and neutrality. Finland, which shares a long border with Russia, fought two wars against Moscow during World War II and lost about 10% of its territory.

Pact for Skill Development

New Delhi: In line with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious program 'Mission Karmayogi,' which is a first-of-its-kind experiment in the

direction of capacity building and modernizing the mindset, methodology, and skill set of government employees, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) recently

partnered with the Indian School of Business (ISB) to conduct capacity-building programs for MSDE officials. A total of 120 officers (30 per batch) across divisions under MSDE would be undergoing a comprehensive five day long residential training across ISB Hyderabad and Mohali campuses.

The first batch of 30 officers have completed their training from ISB Mohali campus with a convocation ceremony held for the officers. The MSDE Management Development Program is aimed at upskilling the MSDE officers facilitating capacity building training of a mixed batch of officials including officers from MSDE, Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) Principals, Sector Skill Councils, CEOs, State Skill Mission Directors, and Jan Sikshan Sansthan (JSS) & National Skill Development

Corporation (NSDC). The MoU between MSDE and ISB was signed in the presence of

comprehending complexities to ensure sustained success.

The training at ISB

ally lead to a practical understanding of the core components of business strategy and we look forward to creating a new generation of upskilled workforce that drives the innovative future of India, he added.

As per the advisory issued by Capacity Building Commission under Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT), a standing Capacity Building Unit for MSDE was created via office memorandum dated 17 January 2022, which shall be responsible for coordination with Capacity Building Commission and implementation of various capacity building interventions for all employees under MSDE on a continuing based approach upon Training Need Analysis (TNA). Key initiatives undertaken by Capacity Building exercise at MSDE, induction programs for India Skill Development Service (ISDS) officers; self-defense training of all the MSDE women employees; 5 days Art of Living training program in stress management for 765 officials MSDE officials; and capacity building in management and leadership of 120 officials including officers from MSDE ecosystem.



Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

The primary goal of the programme is to strengthen leadership skills while developing a strategic mindset that will aid in gaining insights into data analytics and digital transformation. Through strategic leadership and management development programmes, the MSDE and ISB are encouraging officials to instill a culture of innovation within their respective organisations. The batches are strategically designed to encourage cross-learning while embracing new challenges and

was also graced by Parveen Pardesi, Member Admin, CBC who delivered a holistic lecture on the Role of Governance in building a Skill Ecosystem. Expressing his view on the development program, Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said that with India sprinting towards becoming a superpower, it is essential for government employees to upskill themselves to become productive contributors to the economic growth of India. We intend to promote cross-learning through these development programs, which will eventu-



Spanish government proposes wider abortion rights, menstrual leave

MADRID: The Spanish government approved a draft bill Tuesday that widens abortion rights for teenagers and may make Spain the first country in Europe entitling workers to paid menstrual leave. The measures are part of a package of proposals that will be sent to the Spanish parliament for debate. The package includes an extension of abortion rights, scrapping the requirement for 16- and 17-year-olds to obtain parental consent before terminating a pregnancy.

The Spanish move comes just as the US Supreme Court appears poised to reverse that country's constitutional right to abortion, in place for nearly a half-century.

Spanish government spokeswoman Isabel Rodríguez said the proposals represented "a new step forward for women, a new step forward for democracy."

The Spanish government also proposes giving workers who are experiencing period pain as much time off as they need, with the state so-

cial security system "not employers" paying for sick leave. As with any other temporary medical incapacity, a doctor must sign off on the health problem. The driving force behind the law is the junior member of Spain's left-wing coalition government, the "United We Can" Party. It was not immediately clear whether the Socialist-led coalition has enough support in

parliament to pass the proposed legislation, which could take months.

The government, which came to power almost four years ago, has made women's rights one of its political banners. The Cabinet has 14 women and eight men in ministerial positions. Abortion on demand is permitted in Spain through the 14th week of pregnancy.

Excavation Unearths Ganga Structure

Puri: Archeological Survey of India (ASI) on 17 May revealed that a lion sculpture traced during excavation for the Heritage Corridor Project in Puri, could date back to Ganga Dynasty. ASI's Bhubaneswar Circle Superintending Archaeologist Arun Kumar Mallick, who along with a team of experts, rushed to Puri for inspection of the damaged lion sculpture recovered during excavation of the heritage corridor project on Monday.

The state government was implanting the project which has further intensified into a major controversy after the ASI informed the Orissa High Court that the work carried out near the 12th century shrine in Puri did not have proper permission from the competent authority. The sculpture was found on the premises of the Emar Mutt, about 75 meters

from the 12th-century Shree Jagannath

sculpture could be dating back to the

periphery area of the Jagannath temple for the Puri Heritage Corridor Project. The ASI had already mentioned about recovery of two more such sculptures from the site and submitted pictures of those in its affidavit to the Orissa High Court on 9 May. The ASI, through its affidavit, had earlier informed the high court that no heritage impact assessment studies were conducted before the commencement of the project.

"At several locations stratified deposits of about 15 to 20 ft have taken place, which has caused irreparable damage to the heritage site," the ASI had said.

Following the unearthing of the sculpture, locals demanded a ground-penetrating radar survey (GPRS) before the digging work is continued at the periphery of Shree Jagannath Temple.



Temple. A part of the sculpture was damaged during the mindless digging work, locals have alleged.

The ASI team led by Mr. Mallick analyzed the architect, species of the rock and the quality of artifacts from different angles, saying that the lion sculpture could be dating back to the Ganga Dynasty period.

"The ancient lion

time of the Ganga dynasty era. However, there can be more clarity on its history only after it is tested in the archaeological laboratory," Mr. Mallick told Media. The East Ganga Dynasty ruled from Kalinga (ancient name of Odisha) early 5th century to early 15th century.

This is the third such lion sculpture found during excavation works in the 75-metre

'Agenda of the public': Vijayvargiya denies BJP hand behind row over Gyanvapi mosque

INDORE: BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya on Tuesday said religious issues like the one related to Varanasi's Gyanvapi mosque complex,

in the Congress. "No BJP worker has filed the case in the (Varanasi) court on the issue of Gyanvapi mosque. The case has been filed by a common citizen who is a

tion from issues like rising inflation and unemployment.

The mosque is located close to the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple and a Varanasi court

Bhojshala dispute in neighbouring Dhar district, the BJP leader from Madhya Pradesh advised the communities involved in the row to sit across the table and resolve the issue amicably.

Bhojshala is an ASI-protected monument, which Hindus believe is a temple of W a g h d e v i (Saraswati), while the Muslim community treats it as Kamal Maula Mosque.

On the issue of local body elections in Madhya Pradesh, he said the BJP will ensure that more than 27 per cent OBC candidates are fielded in these polls and his party will protect the rights of the community. The Supreme Court last week directed the state election commission (SEC) to notify local body polls in Madhya Pradesh within two weeks without the other backward classes (OBC) quota.



where a court-ordered videography survey has been completed, are being raised by common citizens and not his party.

He said such issues are being raised by members of the public as they feel the BJP governments at the Centre as well as in Uttar Pradesh are capable of resolving them in a proper manner and also because they do not have faith

great devotee of Lord Shiva," Vijayvargiya told reporters here.

"It (the Gyanvapi mosque issue) is not an agenda of any particular party. It is an agenda of the public," he asserted.

The BJP leader was responding to allegations levelled by the Opposition that the saffron party was raking up the Gyanvapi mosque and other emotive matters to divert people's atten-

Drive Against Helmet-less Driving

Bhubaneswar:Helmet-less driving is a ma-

The State Transport Authorities have is-

State Transport Authority (STA). In the town area 462 riders were issued challans for not wearing a helmet. A total of 793 Driving Licenses were confiscated for suspension.

It has been observed that out of the accidents taking place on NH/SH many are related to two-wheeler riders. Due to continuous enforcement activities people are using helmets in the urban areas but are unfortunately avoiding wearing helmets on highways where protection is much more needed, the officials said.

As per accident data, 1308 persons, including riders (868) and pillion riders (440) of motorised two-wheelers, were killed

in road accidents in the year 2021. Most of them did not have helmet. While 1280 persons were grievously injured and 747 had minor injuries in motorcycle accidents. According to the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019, riding without helmet attracts a penalty of Rs 1,000. If a person riding pillion is not wearing a helmet, then the driving licence of the rider will be suspended for three months and a fine of Rs 1,000 will be imposed against him/her.

The ongoing special drive against helmetless riders began on May 15 and will continue till May 21.



major cause of accidents and grievous injury across Odisha. To curb it, the State Government has launched a state-wide special drive against riding two-wheelers without wearing helmets on national and state highways.

sued a total of 3333 challans in the last couple of days, officials said on Tuesday. As many as 3190 riders were issued challan for riding two-wheelers without wearing helmets on NH/SH by enforcement officers of

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WPI inflation at record high of 15.08 per cent in April on price rise across all items

NEW DELHI: Wholesale price-based inflation soared to a record high of 15.08 per cent in April on price rise across all items, including food products and chemicals & chemical products. To tame stubbornly high inflation, the RBI earlier this month hiked its key interest rate by 0.40 per cent and cash reserve ratio by 0.50 per cent in a surprise move.



to a record high of 15.08 per cent in April mainly on account of spiralling prices of food, fuel and other commodities, which may prompt the Reserve Bank to hike interest rates in upcoming monetary policy review next month. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) at 15.08 per cent is the highest in the new series, the data for which is available since 2012-13. The WPI inflation has remained in double digit for the 13th consecutive month since April last year.

The high rate of inflation in April 2022 was primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude petroleum & natural gas, food articles, non-food articles, etc. as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in food articles was 8.35 per cent as prices of vegetables, wheat, fruits and potato witnessed a sharp spike over the year-ago period. In the fuel and power basket, inflation was 38.66 per cent, while in manufactured products and oil seeds, it was 10.85 per cent and 16.10 per cent, respectively. Inflation in crude petroleum and natural gas was 69.07 per cent in April. Data released last week showed that retail inflation rose to a near eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April, remaining above the Reserve Bank's inflation target for the fourth straight month. To tame stubbornly high inflation, the RBI earlier this month hiked its key interest rate by 0.40 per cent and cash reserve ratio by 0.50 per cent in a surprise move.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said with some correction in commodity prices as a result of the bleaker demand outlook in China offsetting the depreciation in rupee, the WPI inflation may recede mildly below 15 per cent in May 2022, while remaining uncomfortably elevated. The heat wave led to a spike in prices of perishables such as fruits, vegetables and milk, which along with a spike in tea prices pushed up the primary food inflation. The core-WPI inflation reverted to a

high inflation, the RBI earlier this month hiked its key interest rate by 0.40 per cent and cash reserve ratio by 0.50 per cent in a surprise move. ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said with some correction in commodity prices as a result of the bleaker demand outlook in China offsetting the depreciation in rupee, the WPI inflation may recede mildly below 15 per cent in May 2022, while remaining uncomfortably elevated. The heat wave led to a spike in prices of perishables such as fruits, vegetables and milk, which along with a spike in tea prices pushed up the primary food inflation. The core-WPI inflation reverted to a

Economy likely to grow 12-13 per cent in Q1: Icr

MUMBAI: Citing the second highest business activity index reading in 13 months in April, rating agency Icr on Tuesday forecast the economy to grow 12-13 per cent in the first quarter of the current fiscal.

However, Icr has maintained its annual GDP projection at 7.2 per cent for this fiscal citing worries over inflation and the resultant RBI tightening.

"Our business activity monitor for April at 115.7 indicates that activity was roughly 16 per cent higher than the year ago (period) and pre-COVID levels in spite of the global headwinds," Icr Chief Economist Aditi Nayar told PTI. This high growth may persist in May, especially on an annualised basis, which should translate into a double-digit GDP expansion

in Q1 at 12-13 per cent. However, this may not sustain and the annual growth in volume and activity may moderate, she said.

According to her, higher input costs may dampen GVA growth to single-digits. "Therefore, we maintain our GDP growth forecast at 7.2 per cent for FY23". Citing rising inflation worries, she said the consumer price index is expected to average at 6.3-6.5 per cent this fiscal.

The biggest upside risks to inflation and growth come from the runaway fuel prices and the impact of the war in Ukraine. This is also the primary reason for maintaining low GDP growth forecast at 7.2 per cent for the full year and higher one on a low base effect. On the interest rate front, Nayar said the central bank is expected to hike rates by 25 basis points each in the June and August policy reviews and September action will depend on the direction of the war and its impact on the commodity prices. Earlier in the day, the

agency, in a report, said its business activity monitor stood at 115.7 in April, which is the second highest in 13 months and low base exaggerated growth to 16.1 per cent. The index stood at 123.7 in March compared to 107.8 in February.

The monitor includes high frequency indicators related to 14 industrial and service sectors and is an index of high frequency economic indicators that gauge economic activity each month. The monitor is constructed using 14 monthly high frequency indicators including auto production, output of Coal India, electricity generation, non-oil merchandise exports, rail freight traffic, ports cargo traffic and vehicle registrations.



US hopes India would 'reconsider' its decision to restrict wheat export

NEW YORK: The US hopes India will "reconsider" its decision to ban wheat exports, with Washington "encouraging" countries not to restrict exports as that will exacerbate food shortages, amidst Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

India, the world's second-biggest wheat producer, has banned wheat exports in a bid to check high domestic prices amid concerns of wheat output being hit by scorching heat waves.

The decision would help control retail prices of wheat and wheat flour, which have risen by an average 14-20 per cent in the last one year, besides meeting the foodgrain requirement of neighbouring and vulnerable countries.

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield, during a virtual New York Foreign Press Center briefing on Monday, said: "We have seen the report of India's decision. We're encouraging countries not to restrict exports because we think any restrictions on exports will exacerbate the food shortages".

"But you've again, India will be one of the countries participating in our meeting at the Security Council, and we hope that they can, as they hear the concerns being raised by other countries, that they would reconsider that position," she said. Thomas-Greenfield was responding to a question on India's decision to restrict wheat exports.

The US envoy said that Ukraine used to be a breadbasket for the developing world, but ever since Russia started blocking crucial ports and destroying civilian infrastructure and grain silos, hunger situations in Africa and the Middle East are getting even more dire. This is a crisis for the whole world, and so it belongs to the UN.

"We have a responsibility to the millions who are worried about where they'll find their next meal or how they'll feed their families. This week is about owning that responsibility and taking action to alleviate food insecurity around the globe," she said.

ALSO READ | Wheat export banned to contain inflation, maintain food security The US is President of the UN Security Council for the month of May and will host a signature event on food security this week against the backdrop of international conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war that have brought food insecurity to the fore.

On May 19, Secretary of State Antony Blinken will preside over an open debate on the 'Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Conflict and Food Security.'

On the eve of the Security Council meeting, Blinken on Wednesday will chair a global food security call to action ministerial meeting which will bring together officials from dozens of countries to review their urgent humanitarian and development needs to address global food security, nutrition and resilience, Thomas-Greenfield said.

"This will include countries with diverse perspectives ranging from major food providers to those facing significant food crises," she said.

Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V Muraleedharan, who will be in New York from May 17 to May 20, will participate in the high-level Ministerial Meeting on 'Global Food Security - Call to Action' and deliver a statement at the UNSC open debate.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) had said in a notification last week that wheat exports will be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the Government

of India to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their governments.

India's wheat exports stood at an all-time high of 7 million tonnes, valuing USD 2.05 billion, in 2021-22 fiscal year on better demand of Indian wheat from overseas. Of the total wheat exports, around 50 per cent of shipments were exported to Bangladesh in the last fiscal.

Thomas-Greenfield had said that the open debate will examine the nexus between conflict and food security and the Council will consider steps needed to ensure increasing



food security does not drive new conflicts, instability, particularly in fragile states. The US on Monday launched several days of action on global food security, an issue Thomas-Greenfield said has been a priority for the Biden administration from day one.

ALSO READ | Chinese media defends Indian wheat export curb after G7 criticism

"The hard truth we have to reckon with is that people starve every day all around the world even though we have more than enough food to go around. Worse, many go hungry and don't know where their next meal will come from because warmongers are intentionally using starvation as a weapon of war."

"Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria, Somalia and Yemen are just a few examples of places where conflict is driving people to desperate hunger. These days of action are about bringing this crisis to the center of the world's attention, and this all takes on heightened significance given Russia's brutal and unprovoked war in Ukraine", Thomas-Greenfield said.

India has noted with concern that the Ukraine conflict is having a destabilising effect with broader regional and global implications.

"Oil prices are skyrocketing and there is shortage of food grains and fertilisers. This has had a disproportionate impact on the Global South and developing countries," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti has said.

Last week, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in Vienna that he is "deeply concerned" over hunger becoming widespread in different parts of the world because of the "dramatic food security situation we are facing because of the war in Ukraine."

It is my belief that, independently of many other solutions that deal with the need to keep markets open, to avoid export bans, to do everything to interfere in the markets to keep prices as low as possible.

"I do believe that there is no solution to the problem without bringing back to the markets the food production of Ukraine and the food and fertiliser production of the Russian Federation and Belarus," Guterres had said.

Send sweets to Mohan Bhagwat when he is in Bengal, but ensure there are no riots: Mamata to police

Continued from page-1

Chowdhury however hit back saying "It is interesting that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has become curious of our socio-cultural activity. At the same time, we urge her to visit Tablighi Jamaat camps run by Islamic organizations".

He said it will be good if Banerjee sees the RSS camp for herself where he claimed youth are imparted physical training along with educational and cultural activities there.

Archer Abhishek Verma bags top-three finish in qualifications, India fourth



GWANGJU (South Korea): Star compound archer Abhishek Verma claimed a top-three finish in the qualifications round as India grabbed the fourth seeding in the team event in the World Cup Stage 2 that got underway here on

Tuesday. The former World Cup gold medallist shot 709 out of a possible 720 to finish with a two-way tie for the second spot with local heavyweight Kim Jongho, who went ahead with his number of 10+X scores.

Aman Saini was the next best Indian in the compound men's section with 702 points at 13th spot, ahead of 31st placed Rajat Chauhan (698) as the trio took fourth place and will take on Italy in a tricky opening round clash.

In the women's com-

pound section, Avneet Kaur and Muskan Kirar took the 14th and 15th places by shooting identical 689s, while Priya Gurjar (675) came 35th as they got a bye into quarters where they will face fourth seed Chinese Taipei.

Legacy on the line for Rangers in Europa League final

GLASGOW: Rangers captain James Tavernier wants to leave his legacy on the Glasgow giants by delivering just the club's second European trophy on their 150th anniversary in Wednesday's Europa League final.

The Scottish side face Eintracht Frankfurt in Seville aiming to add to their 1971/72 Cup Winners' Cup success.

"It would put me in the category amongst the greats in the club. That's where we all want to be," Tavernier told Sky Sports on the

"I'm really honoured and proud that we are in the final in Seville."

The scale of the achievement is all the greater given the journey Rangers have been on for the past decade.

The Gers all-time top goalscorer Ally McCoist was the manager when mounting debts forced the club into liquidation in 2012.

"Nine years ago we were playing East Stirling in the Third Division," said McCoist.

Rangers ascent

"It's all about stages and steps on the journey back. Last season was phenomenal to go through that campaign undefeated and win the title back. That was immense, but this is just another level."

Fortress Ibrox The jubilation for the blue half of Glasgow at stopping Celtic's bid for 10-in-a-row was tempered by the full season being played behind closed doors.

With 50,000 back in the stands, Ibrox has been a fortress on the road to Seville with

crossroads with the outcome at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan set to dictate their path.

Celtic have already snatched back the crown as Scottish champions and with it direct entry to next season's Champions League.

Lift the Europa League and Rangers will join them in the group stages for the first time since 2010 with the extra bounty of their European prize money from this season and next season's Super Cup to come.

Van Bronckhorst replaced Steven Gerrard mid-season and an overhaul of the squad is expected in the Dutchman's first summer window. Veterans Allan McGregor and Steven Davis, as well as influential centre-back Connor Goldson are out of contract at the end of the season

Other heroes of the run to the final, Ryan Kent, Joe Aribo and Alfredo Morelos will also enter the final year of their deals at Ibrox.

The cycle of a team that has restored Rangers' pride at home and abroad may be coming to a close.

But they can make sure they will be fondly remembered forever if they put Frankfurt to the sword.



prospect of lifting the trophy.

"We want to put a legacy down for the day we retire. You can look back on your career and be proud of it."

No Scottish side has won a European trophy since Alex Ferguson led Aberdeen to the Cup Winners' Cup in 1983.

"It means a lot, it's not often that you play a final in Europe. As a Scottish team, it's very rare that it happens," said Rangers boss Giovanni van Bronckhorst. "So

through the leagues was not as smooth as expected. McCoist lost his job in 2014 during a season in which they failed to gain promotion from the Championship. Even when back in the top flight, Rangers comparative lack of resources and poor management at all levels struggled to halt Celtic matching a record nine consecutive league titles.

However, Rangers renaissance began by winning the title without even losing a game last season.

tens of thousands set to follow their team to Spain.

Braga and RB Leipzig found to their cost that a 1-0 lead was not enough as Rangers were inspired to 3-1 wins with home advantage in the second legs of quarter-finals and last four.

However, hope they can cope far from home in the final comes from a stunning 4-2 win away to Borussia Dortmund in the last 32.

Having come so far, Rangers are not a

Injured 2019 finalist Marketa Vondrousova to miss French Open



PRAGUE: The French Open finalist from 2019, Marketa Vondrousova said Monday she had undergone wrist surgery, which will rule her out of this year's edition of the Grand Slam tournament.

"The last few weeks were not easy, I have

been experiencing recurring pain in my wrist," the current world number 35 said on Instagram, posing with a bandaged left forearm. "After seeing a couple of doctors I decided to get this small surgery done to be able to play pain free," added

Vondrousova, the silver Olympic medalist from last year. "Staying positive through the recovery and can't wait to be back on the court soon," said the 22-year-old Czech. The French Open is due to start on May 22.

Vondrousova played her last singles game at Stuttgart in April where she was ousted by Ons Jabeur from Tunisia in three sets in the round of 32. In the 2019 French Open final, Vondrousova lost to Australia's Ashleigh Barty in straight sets.




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