



Respectful homage to Former Prime minister Bharat Ratna Rajeev Gandhi on his 31st Death anniversary celebrated as Anti terrorism day.

Hyderabad gang rape: Kin of suspects killed in fake encounter seek action on cops

HYDERABAD(KCN): The families of four people, accused of rape and murder of a woman veterinarian and were killed in an alleged encounter with the police near here in 2019, on Friday sought financial help and also punishment to the policemen who shot dead the suspects. The reaction of the families came after the Supreme Court appointed three-member Commission, which inquired into the alleged encounter, said in its report that the four were deliberately fired at with an intent to cause their death.

Three jumbos die in Odisha's Keonjhar after being hit by train while crossing track

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): A mishap took place near Banspani three elephants, Behera Hattung, which were hit by a train around 70 km from



Keonjhar. According to forest officials, a herd of 22 elephants was crossing the railway track when a goods train carrying iron ore hit the jumbos. A female elephant and two calves sustained grievous injuries in the incident. **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

13 Industrial Projects Launched

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik on Friday inaugurated three industrial projects and performed ground-breaking of 10 projects.

These diversified projects ranging across food



processing, tourism, paper/package, manufacturing, and polymers & plastic sectors will create potential employment for over 3390 persons in the State.

Some of the leading companies promoting these projects include Mayfair Hotels & Resorts Ltd, Orifood and Beverage Private Ltd, Mash Spirits Pvt Ltd, Sambalpur Biofuels Private Ltd, and more.

Congratulating the companies on this auspicious occasion, the Chief Minister said, "Odisha is fast emerging as a major manufacturing hub in the country for sectors ranging

from metal and minerals to food processing. "Targeting the development of a conducive environment for industrial development, my Government has always endeavored to provide a hassle-free and prompt doing business environment for the investors in Odisha," he said.

The state's relationship with the industries has been fruitful both in the context of economic development and also social development. One of the key reasons why Odisha was able



to post a successful fight against the COVID-19 pandemic was this synergetic Government industry relationship, he said.

The CM further said, "We were able to quickly re-purpose various industrial units to manufacture and deliver critical services during the pandemic period. As we move out of pandemic, the government's focus on 5T philosophy viz. Transparency, **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

T20 Cricket Ticket Online from 1 June

Cuttack (KCN): India-South Africa T20 Match at Barabati Stadium will

A high level preparatory meeting held at the OCA Conference



President Pankaj Lochan Mohanty has announced that Online booking for the First T29 International Cricket Match will begin from 1 June. And the counter tickets for the forthcoming

be sold on June 9 and June 10. The decision to sell the tickets for the T20 International Cricket Match between India VS South Africa which is to be played on 12 June, said he.

Secretary Sports & Youth Services R Vineel Krishna, Twin City Police Commissioner Saumendra Kumar Priyadarshi, DCP Cuttack Pinak Mishra Secretary OCA Sanjay Behera

and others were present in the meeting.

Online tickets will be sold through the Paytm application. Some tickets will be spared for sales through offline mode too at OCA ticket counters. The tickets in the offline mode will be sold on June 9 and 10, said he. Team India is going to lock horns with the Proteas in the first T20 match of the series at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on June 12. The visitors South Africa is scheduled to play a 5-match T20 series in India from June 9 to 19.

Obituary



✓ Ranjan Kumar Roul

Uttar Pratap, Jaraka, Jajpur

DOD:11/05/2022



Pray peace for the departed soul



Deeply Mourned By - Mother, Wife, Sisters, Brother-in-law, Uncle (Surya Mani Roul), Aunty, Daughters (Kitty, Sweety, Family, Friends & Relatives.

Members of Friends of Bhadrak

Union ministers to visit villages to mark Modi government's anniversary: BJP, credits 'MYY factor'

JAIPUR (KCN): Crediting the "MYY factor" for its victory in the recent assembly polls, the BJP on Friday announced that all Union ministers will visit villages across the country to mark eight years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government and take feedback on welfare schemes.

Addressing a press conference, BJP's national general secretary Vinod Tawde elaborated on MYY - -- "mahila" (woman), youth and "yojana" (welfare schemes) and said the party will celebrate eight years of the Modi government on the theme of "sewa, sushasan aur garib kalyan". The BJP's coinage of 'MYY factor' was seen by some as a counter to the so-called 'MY factor',

which has been associated with its regional rivals like RJD in Bihar and Samajwadi party in UP for their wide support among Muslims and Yadavs. The support of voters,

during the BJP's national office-bearers' meeting, chaired by its president JP Nadda here. During the meeting, the BJP also expressed concern over the crime situation in

ernment. "All the Union Ministers will visit villages across the country to interact with beneficiaries (of welfare schemes) and stay overnight there," Tawde said, adding



who benefited from many Central government welfare schemes, to the BJP in the recent elections has been seen as a major factor for its big win. The decision of sending the ministers to villages was taken

the Congress-ruled Rajasthan. The party in a statement said history will remember Prime Minister Modi "as a symbol of kindness and compassion" as it cited a number of welfare programmes launched by his gov-

the exercise is aimed at taking people's feedback. Hailing Prime Minister Modi's leadership for the party's victory in the assembly polls of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, Tawde **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Sethi Bats for Common Man

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ace Mandarin and noted author, Bishnupada Sethi, feels that literature should reflect common man's life and aspirations.



Mr.Sethi, Principal Secretary School & Mass Education, who has a natural feeling for common men and women strongly

Commerce & Transport and Information & Public Relations expressed his mind while speaking at a book release function, here on Thursday. Releasing noted poet, Mahendra Mallick's poetry book "Deha Daptar" at Buddha Temple here, Mr.Sethi said that contemporary poems are people-centric as they reflect the images of the present day society. Based on his own literary experience, Mr.Sethi who himself is an erudite author,

said that we see the picture of present society and people's various issues and sufferings. Speaking on the occasion noted author Dash Benhur said that literature is the bridge between man and society. Reviewing the book, noted critic Benudhar Padhi lauded Mr. Mallick's creativity reflected in his book "Deha Daptar". Former Administrator and poet Mr.Mallick said that one's personal experiences are reflected in poetry.

Vishwa Shanti Homyagna on Buddha Poornima

New Delhi (KCN): On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Poornima and in the virtuous memory of our senior karyakarta Late Shri Ashok Bagdi ji, on 16th May 2022 Tuesday, Anandam Foundation, Delhi Branch organised a "Vishwa Shanti Homyagna" at Valmiki Mandir, Dwarka More, New

Delhi. It started on 10a.m. with Vedic mantras followed by Bhajan with the coordination of Gayatri Parivar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi Branch. The locals joined us merrily and contributed in the programme. Local Karyakarta of Delhi branch Shri Dalvir Singh Aswal and his wife Smt.

Sakuntala Aswal performed the Yagya as hosts(Yajmaan). It was concluded with Purnahuti & Prasadam at 2pm. Shri Vikrant Kumar Bagri, Dr. Vivek Sharma and Shri Prabhat Kumar Upadhyay (Karyakarta of Delhi Branch) coordinated the whole programme. Many

Professors, Advocates, Doctors, Teachers, Social Workers also attended the programme. Shri Manoj Das, General Secretary of Anandam Foundation was also present on the holy occasion. Total 134 people (invitee) attended the ritual

National Dance Festival - "Nrutya Mohini"

Kolkata (KCN): Sai Aradhana Dance Academy has been

this context, the academy has successfully organized the 1st Na-

from the state and outside were expected to participate

Near Xavier Square, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar.



successfully working for the holistic development of the children by teaching various dance forms like classical, modern, folk & semi-classical from the year 2014. To add the academy has been conceptualized to organize a National Level Dance Festival to provide a platform to showcase the talents of the danseuses round the country along with an exposure to the budding dance talents of the state as well. In

tional Dance Festival the "NRUTYA MOHINI" in 2019 where 120 numbers of dancing talents from different parts of the Nation were participated. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was not possible to conduct the festival for last two years, and again after restoration of the normalcy we are going to organize the 2nd edition on 22.05.2022 (Sunday) where 150 numbers of dancing talents

to perform and to be honoured. Eminent Odissi Dance Exponent Guru Smt. Minati Pradhan will be honoured with the prestigious Nrutya Mohini Award-2022 during the occasion. This Mega event will be inaugurated at 10.00 am and the valedictory Ceremony will be conducted at 06.30 pm on 22.05.2022 (Sunday) at Utkal Rangamancha, Guru Kelu Charan Odissi Research Center,

Shri Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism & Culture, Odisha, Shri Susant Kumar Rout, Hon'ble MLA, Bhubaneswar North, Smt. Sulochana Das, Hon'ble Mayor, BMC, Smt. Manjulata Kanhar, Hon'ble Dy. Mayor, BMC, Shri Achyutananda Swain, Corporator, Ward. No.16, BMC and Smt. Monalisha Sahoo, Corporator, Ward. No.14, BMC has kindly consented to inaugurate the festival. Shri Sabyasachi Mohapatra, Eminent Film Director & Producer, Shri Priyadarshi Mishra, Chairman, Orissa State Housing Board, Shri Abhinna Kumar Hota, National President, WHRPO, Shri Kishore Dwibedi, Chairman, World Odisha Society, Guru Dr. Manoranjan Kumar Pradhan, Reader in Odishi Dance, Utkal University of Culture, Bhubaneswar, Shri Arajit Mallick, Eminent Social Activist and Shri Sidharth Swarup Dash, MD, DNC will join at the valedictory ceremony. We will be grateful if you kindly pull out some time to attend the festival.

Tax evasion in real estate sector

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Based on complaints received from purchaser of flats and subsequent data analytics done by State GST Enforcement Wing, search and inspection of the business premises of some of the real estate developer were undertaken, which reveals the following facts.

1. That some of the real estate developers having turnover of more than Rs.100 Cores have shown NIL turnover in their VAT returns.
2. That they have collected VAT @2% on gross value of the

3. That some of them have collected VAT on the strength of money receipt and not through invoice with an intention to evade payment of tax.
4. That few of them have filed return showing all taxable turnovers as tax exempted turnover with a motive to not pay any tax to the Government.
5. That One of them has shown the intra-state

transaction as inter-state transaction. Data has been collected from Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA) by the State GST Department. Investigations in respect of 12 developers have been completed and adjudication for 8 developers (namely (1) Z Estate Pvt. Ltd., (2) D. N. Homes Pvt. Ltd, (3) S J Developers & Housing Pvt. Ltd., (4) Vipul Ltd, (5) Ashiana Homes Pvt Ltd, (6) Utkal Builder Ltd (7) Utkal Realtors Pvt. Ltd. & (8) B.N. Developers Pvt. Ltd) have been completed with

huge discrepancies. Keeping in view of the large scale tax evasion, Commissioner of CT & GST has directed to make scrutiny of returns of real estate developers who have taken up residential & commercial projects in order to ascertain the genuineness of the turnover disclosed by them and payment of tax by the real estate sector. While conducting this exercise, Commissioner has also instructed to ensure that no genuine taxpayer is put into any kind of harassment.

Public Right Association Rescued Destitute Women in DHH Khordha



Khordha(KCN): A 47 old women Manju Lalta Behera who was left to fend for herself on the Help Desk of District Head Quatre Hospital (DHH) Khordha was rescued and admitted to

a shelter home with the help of Subhalkhmi Samantaray, President, Public Right Association, Sayed Ansar Alli, President, Khordha, District Social Media Organization, Bapa,

Maa Sevashrama and all the members of Biswakarma Organization. The help desks employees Pratap Parida, President Goutam Moharana, Founder of Bapa, Maa Sevashrama and the

members of Biswakarma organization, Rama Chandra Mohapatra, Nibash Moharana, Prasanna Kumar Moharana and all the members of Public Right Assist are assist him.

Yours Hope Foundation Distributes Clothes, Make up Items and Biscuits



Khordha (KCN): The leading volunteer organization of state Yours Hope Foundation Trust continue his selfless service to the welfare of the poor peoples in our society and distributed clothes, make up

items and biscuits among the children in the village of Paikarapur, near Saltara, Khordha. The general public and villagers express thanks and grateful to Yours Hope Foundation to organized this

types of activities. The programme was assist by the head of the village Fakira Nayak and the members of Yours Hope Foundation, Jayanta Tripathy, Kanhu Charan Behera, Joges Panda, Manash

Nayak and others member of organization. The programme become grand success under the guidance of Founder and Chairman Yours Hope Foundation Trust Mrs. Reena Rani Nayak.

Three elephant killed in a train accident under Champua range

Barbil(KCN): Three elephants, including two calves, were killed after being hit by a goods train at Behera hatting near Banspani railway station of Keonjhar district in Odisha. As per information the accident took place near Bansapani under the Joda forest section of Champua range when a herd of around 22 jumbos were crossing railway tracks at around 7.30 pm on Thursday. One elephant calf died on the spot, while a female pachyderm and another calf succumbed to their injuries this morning as informed by DFO, Keonjhar. Having heard of the news PCCF and RCCF of Forest department rushed to the spot along with their team to monitor the situation. The railway authorities were also informed about presence

of the elephants there and speed of the train was contained at 25kmph. The accident took place due to darkness," another senior forest official said. Some locals also said the elephant herd prevented forest officials to preform rescue operation. How ever all dead bodies were recovered and the elephants were buried in the ground. Activists expressed concern over the frequent elephant deaths due to train accidents in the mineral-rich Keonjhar district. As many as 11 elephants were killed due to train accidents and four others due to road mishaps, while 13 jumbos died of electrocution in the last eight years. This is too matter of panic said one environmentalist.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



NEW DELHI: Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered

them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a

candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I

like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book

#YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the caption, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon.

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

(GNS Bureau) Moving ahead with

The project, which has a script from

Based on Roald Dahl's popular



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Why Are Indian Women Forced To Tolerate Marital Rape With Sealed Lips?

In 2015, the RIT



Foundation of Delhi filed a petition in the Delhi High Court challenging the legitimacy of the "marriage exception" in the rape law. The High Court issued a notice to the central government. In 2016, the centre filed an affidavit saying that marital rape can not be criminalised. In 2017, the organisation

AIDWA (All India Democratic Women's Association) filed a similar appeal. But, the centre opposed it by stating that the criminalisation of marital rape may "destabilise the institution of marriage."

In December 2021, the hearing resumed again. In the subsequent months, the centre began to relook at the matter and its earlier stand. Even the government had told the court that it had begun consultation with other states. At last, in May 2022, the Delhi High Court deliv-

ered a split decision. The Judges Disagreed With Each Other.

Justice Rajiv Shakti favoured the criminalisation of marital rape, whereas justice C Hari Shankar didn't seem to agree with him. He, on the other hand, said that the provisions do not violate Articles 14, 19(1)A and 21 of the Indian constitution. Let's discuss the exact matter! Under the exception 2, provided in Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, sexual intercourse between a man and his wife is not rape if the woman is not

Dr. Sudipta Mishra

a minor. It means a husband can forcefully uphold his sexual desire for his wife without her consent and against her will... It is not a crime at all.

Given the current standard of the constitution, non-consensual sex of a husband and wife will not be registered as rape. Let's discuss the humanitarian value of a concept that I am going to represent.

The autonomy of a woman matters more than anything. Is the woman a sex slave? Why can't she not imply her choice to not have

sex with her husband? Why is there coercion to have sex in our country after marriage?

No Sacred Institution Allows For Rape!

If marriage is a sacred institution that allows the equality to both parties, then why a man, as a brute with his bestial tendency, begins to sexually torture his wife? Who has given him the right to smash and sabotage the sexual preference of the woman?

A wife tolerates the sexual oppression with a sealed lip due to our societal and

legal structures. Doesn't it violate the right to live with dignity as conferred by our constitution? A woman's consent and needs matter as much as the man's, in a marriage.

How many articles are violated by these autocratic rules sanctioned by the institution of marriage, which is ruling over our country with a nonchalant mindset?

When do we seriously rethink a denial of a woman for sex as a refusal to establish a physical relationship? Why do men think if she is interested in sex with her husband,

then why she will resist it?

We Need To Speak Up Now!

Well, if a woman is forced to have sex, then, in such a regressive society, who will save her from this known monster? Almost all countries of the world have criminalised marital rape to restore the dignity of their women. What we are waiting for?

Why will the criminalisation of marital rape defile the sanctity of our marriages? The man who is wedded to a woman with the holy mantras of our sacred scriptures,

should realise the importance of consent. Marriage never allows a husband to tarnish the dignity of a woman and break her confidence in society.

In the Hindu marriage, a married couple is always glorified and placed on the highest pedestal of our lives because of the grace and high values imbibed in them.

How long will we sit silently and enjoy the nasty and shameless, vicious cycle of trauma borne by our mothers, sisters and/or daughters?

The author is a freelance writer.

Climate crisis to be India's biggest threat this century

In the age of climate change, seemingly disparate phenomena are actually deeply connected. This makes joining the dots and thinking beyond silos not only desirable but imperative. Take one of the hottest headline



items of the day — the surging price of wheat in the country.

One reason wheat prices have shot up has to do with the intense heatwave that struck parts of India from March. That affected

the wheat crop just as the global wheat supply had shrunk due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine is one of the world's top wheat exporters. Russia and Ukraine together have nearly 25 per cent share in the global wheat market.

Geopolitical developments in Europe meshed with international trade and the heatwave in India. The result affects everyday life in the country, including the contents of Delhi resident Kumar's tiffin box.

Kumar, 45, packs three rotis instead of five for lunch when he leaves for work in a South Delhi beauty parlour. Ten kg of Shri Bhog atta, which cost Rs 180 six months ago, now costs almost Rs 100 more, he says. The soaring price of even the cheapest brands of wheat flour or atta has forced him to cut down on his intake: "The three children must be fed first." Kumar doesn't have a ration card which would entitle him to subsidised wheat and rice from the public distribution system. His wife and three children depend solely on his monthly earnings of Rs 15,000. Heatwave is in the news, but is by no means the only extreme weather event striking India. As I write, landslides and floods are wreaking havoc in the Northeast; nearly 500,000 people have affected in Assam alone.

Not every extreme weather event can be definitively linked to climate change, but scientists say climate change is leading to more frequent and more erratic and extreme weather — rising number of heatwaves, cyclones, droughts, unseasonal and heavy rainfall, lightning strikes, landslides, rise in sea level and more that is happening in the country and around the world.

There is a wealth of data that makes it obvious that these extreme weather events are worsening and that they are impacting the Indian economy — both the city and the countryside — with knock-on effects on human lives and livelihoods.

According to an analysis by Abinash Mohanty of the

Patralekha Chatterjee

Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), an Indian think tank, over 75 per cent of India's districts, home to over 638 million people, are now extreme climate event hotspots.

The 2020 CEEW study, the first-of-its-kind district-level profiling of India's extreme weather events, notes that the frequency of landslides, heavy rainfall, hailstorms, thunderstorms and cloudbursts, associated with floods, has surged by over 20 times between 1970 and 2019. In the last 15 years, 79 districts recorded extreme drought events year-on-year, exposing 140.06 million people



annually. The yearly average of drought-affected districts, the study says, increased 13 times in this period.

Since 2005, 24 districts in India have seen extreme cyclone events every year. This meant 42.50 million people being exposed to storm surges, intense cyclones and other associated events.

One trend flagged by the study that leaps out — the pattern of extreme events such as flood-prone areas becoming drought-prone and vice-versa — has changed in over 40 per cent of Indian districts.

All these trends have consequences for the economy and India's workforce. The ongoing heatwave in parts of the country has brought to the fore many data points about the impact of heat stress on the world of

work. There is an International Labour Organisation study

that says India is one of the countries most affected by heat stress, and that it lost 4.3 per cent of working hours in 1995. More worryingly, India is projected to lose 5.8 per cent of working hours in 2030, says the ILO. That climate change-fuelled "extreme weather events" is becoming a pressing economic concern can be gauged by what the Reserve Bank of India has to say. The April 2020 RBI Bulletin notes climatic conditions, comprising the two key indicators, precipitation and temperature, play a crucial role in the overall health of the Indian economy. It says that the occurrence of extreme

electricity, trade, tourist arrivals, and tractor and automobile sales.

India's earth sciences ministry recently issued an open-access publication about climate change which points out that "in response to the combined rise in surface temperature and humidity, amplification of heat stress is expected across India, particularly over the Indo-Gangetic and Indus river basins". It also points out that sea surface temperature (SST) of the tropical Indian Ocean has risen by 1°C on average during 1951-2015. This, it notes, is "markedly higher than the global average SST warming of 0.7°C, over the same period".

Given the deep connections between extreme weather events and the economy, it is

vital that policymakers do not think in silos and that all development plans factor in climate change and its impacts.

As of now, there is a growing awareness about the challenges ahead. But the responses are still in silos.

Rising heat, for example, has serious implications for water security. How seriously are we working towards managing water?

How are we storing it effectively and reducing losses due to evaporation? And the moment you think water, you must factor in energy and food — there is a clear nexus be-

tween the three.

The government has set up structures for coordinated responses. Every state government has a climate change cell, and there is the Prime Minister's council on climate change at the top. In November, the media reported that the council had not met since its first meeting on January 19, 2015. In almost every state these cells are ignored by other ministries.

The climate crisis is here. Our governance model needs an overhaul to tackle the biggest threat of the century.

Patralekha Chatterjee focuses on development issues in India and emerging economies. She can be reached at patralekha.chatterjee@gmail.com

Nitish Kumar 'authorised' by JDU to decide Rajya Sabha poll candidate

PATNA: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was on Friday 'authorised' by his Janata Dal (United) to take a call on the party candidate for the upcoming biennial Rajya Sabha elections in the state.

Elections to five seats in the Upper House of Parliament from Bihar are due early next month.

The JD(U) had held two of these seats though it may have to settle for one this time on account of its diminished strength in the state assembly.

Ministers and MLAs of the party made a bee-

line to the chief minister's official residence in the afternoon, fuelling all sorts of speculations on a day when the state's political atmosphere was highly charged on account of CBI raids in connection with yet another corruption case filed against Kumar's arch-rival, RJD president Lalu Prasad.

"All ministers and MLAs, including those who were out of Patna for some reason, have given their consent to authorise the chief minister for deciding the candidate for the Rajya Sabha election," Information and Public Relations Department Minister Sanjay Kumar Jha, who

is also a national general secretary of the JD(U), told PTI over phone.

Outside Nitish Kumar's residence, journalists posed questions to Shравan Kumar, another minister known to be close to the CM, about perceived doubts over Union minister RCP Singh being considered for another term in the Rajya Sabha.

"We have all unanimously authorised the chief minister to take any decision. We will abide by whatever he decides," the minister said.

A former IAS officer who owes his meteoric rise in the JD(U) to his proximity to the chief

minister, RCP Singh needs to be re-elected to Parliament in order to remain a member of the Union cabinet.

There have been speculations that Singh, who was the party's national president until his induction into the cabinet last year, may face



some difficulties in getting considered for another term.

It is believed that Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan, the current JD(U) president who is himself an old aide of Kumar but unlike RCP Singh has been active in politics for several decades, does not share a good equation with the latter.

It is also believed that Lalan, who is the party's leader in the Lok Sabha, felt slighted when RCP, his Rajya Sabha counterpart, was chosen for a cabinet post.

The Munger MP, who was a powerful minister in the state until being elected to the Lok Sabha in 2019, is said to have been hopeful of a cabinet berth for himself and Kumar had reportedly lobbied hard to facilitate induction of both RCP and Lalan.

The BJP, which enjoys a brute majority on its own in Parliament, has followed the principle of accommodating allies with a token representation and it was apparently in no mood to give more leeway to the JD(U).

Of the two Rajya Sabha seats held by JD(U), for which elections are due shortly, one was occupied by RCP Singh while the other has been vacant for nearly five years following the disqualification of veteran socialist leader Sharad Yadav.

The BJP, which holds two of the remaining seats, is expected to retain both without much difficulty.

The RJD, which held only one seat, may be able to clinch another by virtue of its improved strength in the assembly.

The re-election of Lalu Prasad's daughter Misa Bharti is being seen as a foregone conclusion but there seems to be no consensus on the candidate for the second seat.

A meeting of the RJD parliamentary board held earlier this week had, similarly, authorised Prasad to decide the candidates.

Report on Silger firing incident in which three people were killed submitted: Chhattisgarh CM

BIJAPUR: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Friday said his government had received the inquiry report into last year's Silger incident in Sukma district in which three persons were killed in an alleged crossfire between security forces and Naxals.

The (probe) report into the Silger incident has been submitted to the state government and it is being studied, following which further decision will be taken, the CM told reporters here. The magisterial inquiry into the incident was set up by the Sukma collector.

"After the Silger incident, I spoke to social organizations, public representatives of the area



and had sanctioned around Rs 600 crore for various development works. Roads and school buildings were constructed, tube wells were dug, anganwadi centre and public distribution shops (PDS) were opened in the area," he said. "Now, Silger has road connectivity and access to bus service. This is a big achievement of the government that Silger has access to public transport facility as it was hard to reach there earlier," the CM added. On May 17 last year, three persons died and five sustained injuries in alleged police firing when a huge group of villagers were protesting against the establishment of a new camp near Silger village along the border of Sukma and Bijapur. Police had then claimed Naxals hiding among the protestors opened fire at the camp, prompting security forces to launch retaliatory action. Police had also identified the three deceased as members of frontal outfits of the banned CPI (Maoist).

Joe Biden in Asia: New friends, old tensions, storms at home

SEOUL(KCN): President Joe Biden hopes to use his visit to Asia to confirm his belief that long-standing friendships can afford to become even friendlier — and pay dividends. His six-day trip starts in South Korea on Friday and ends in Japan at a time when world events are resetting the foundations of the global order.

The coronavirus pandemic disrupted supply chains and exposed the fragilities of a trade system focused primarily on low prices for consumers and high profits for corporations. Then Russia's invasion of Ukraine ushered in a return to Cold War-era intrigues.

The U.S. and other wealthy democracies — including Japan and South Korea — banded together to help Ukraine and punish Russia, but not all countries were ready to side with the alliance. China, India and others have aimed to stay cordial with Russia without crossing the sanctions.

The uncertainty leaves Biden determined to show that America's ultimate power rests with its ability to make friends and influence people rather than the raw capacity of its military and economy. A look at some of the key issues and themes on the table for Biden's visit:

EASING TENSIONS WITH NEW LEADERS

Relations between Japan and South Korea have been at their worst in decades because of disputes over wartime history and trade. These are rifts that the countries' two new leaders appear willing to heal, with Biden as a possible interlocutor who could help bring them closer together.

South Korea's Yoon Suk Yeol assumed the presidency a week ago on the expectation of better ties with Japan. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who took office in October, spoke with Yoon by phone the day after his March election victory, saying "sound relations" are crucial for regional and international peace and stability.

As Kishida sees it, the rules-based order is threatened by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Japan fears the war that began in February could embolden China to seize territories in the Pacific, a big reason why better relations with South Korea are desired. Still, Kishida skipped Yoon's May 10 inauguration, and dispatched his foreign minister instead. Because the U.S. has a relationship with both countries, one likely bridge toward improving relations is focusing on the shared interests of all three nations.

NORTH KOREAN PRESSURE COOKER Biden's visit comes as the allies face a growing threat from North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile program. The country's authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un is trying to force the United States to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power and he's out to negotiate security and economic concessions from a position of strength.

Kim has conducted 16 rounds of missile tests so far this year, including the country's first flight of an intercontinental ballistic missile in nearly five years in March. He's attempting to exploit a favorable environment to push forward his weapons program as the U.N. Security Council remains divided over Russia's war on Ukraine.

The challenges posed by a decaying economy and an escalating COVID-19 outbreak across an unvaccinated population of 26 million are unlikely to slow his pressure campaign. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan says U.S. intelligence shows there's a "genuine possibility" that North Korea will conduct another ballistic missile test or nuclear test

during or around Biden's visit.

Nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled for more than three years about disagreements over how to relax crippling U.S.-led sanctions in exchange for disarmament steps by the North.

STORMS AT HOME

Even half a world away from home, Biden can't escape the turbulence rippling through the U.S.

The stock market is tanking over fears about the economy. The baby formula shortage is frustrating families, even amid efforts to bring in imports and boost domestic supplies. The pain of the Buffalo, New York, mass shooting and the racist motives underlying the attack are still fresh. Add to that rising gasoline prices and the persistent challenge of inflation at a nearly 40-year high.

The president may want to train the public's attention on his efforts abroad, but he'll likely face tough questions about what's happening at home.

THE QUAD



It is meeting Tuesday, but what is it? The Quad is a partnership composed of the U.S., Australia, India and Japan with the expressed goal of a "free and open" Indo-Pacific region. The joint statement coming out of their 2021 meeting didn't mention China, yet many of the stances adopted by the Quad are interpreted as a check on China's ambitions to be the dominant power in Asia.

This time, the drama might be more internal and deal with the complex nature of democracy itself. That's because Australia is holding elections Saturday. If the incumbent party wins, Prime Minister Scott Morrison would already be set to attend Tuesday's meeting in Tokyo. But if his party loses, Morrison would have to quickly resign so that opposition leader Anthony Albanese could be sworn in ahead of the Tokyo meeting. Then there's the possibility that neither party captures a majority or the results are uncertain. If that happens, Albanese might be able to attend as an observer.

THE CHINA CONUNDRUM

Biden's visit is being carefully watched by China. The U.S. and its allies rely on China as a trade partner, yet rivalry persists as the shared economic interests have often revealed conflicting values systems. U.S. officials increasingly frame their relationship with China as one of competition.

Shortly before Russia invaded Ukraine in February, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin met at the Beijing Winter Olympics and told the world that the countries had a friendship of "no limits." Since the invasion, China has been critical of the sanctions imposed on Russia while appearing hesitant to cross the bans imposed

by the U.S. and its allies.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian alluded to China as "a third party" who should not be disadvantaged by agreements between the U.S. and Japan.

"The development of bilateral relations between the U.S. and Japan should not target a third party or harm the interests of third parties," Zhao said at a Thursday briefing.

A NEW ACRONYM: IPEF

Former U.S. President Donald Trump torched years of trade negotiations by pulling the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership in 2017. While Biden has portrayed himself as the anti-Trump, he's shown no enthusiasm for returning to the deal as written.

This leaves the U.S. coming to Asia to promote an alternative trade pact: the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. Or, IPEF.

What exactly would this framework do? It's about regional cooperation on trade, technology, supply chains, clean energy, worker standards, taxes and anti-corruption programs. None of that is necessarily controversial. But

a possible hurdle is the administration signaling that the framework won't involve the usual financial sweeteners of lower tariffs and easier access to American customers, a possible nod to a U.S. voter backlash against past trade deals.

Australia, India and Japan — the three other members of the Quad — are likely members of the framework. South Korea and some Southeast Asian countries are also seen candidates. But the framework is still in its early stages. It was announced Tuesday that the U.S. Commerce Department is bringing in Sharon Yuan from The Asia Group, a business advisory firm, to be its chief negotiator for the agreement.

MORE CHIPS, PLEASE

It's the engine of the digital age: Almost everything needs a computer chip. But the world simply lacks a reliable supply in the wake of the pandemic. U.S. government officials expect the shortages to ease toward the end of this year, but it might not be until 2023 that enough semiconductors are on the market to meet industry needs.

No one denies the need for more cooperation, but there's an open debate about how to increase production to withstand disease, war, extreme weather and other calamities. Biden wants to see more chips made in the U.S. South Korea and Taiwan want to increase the resiliency of their own production as a fix to this crisis, according to a briefing by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. And Japan's prime minister is making chips a cornerstone of his "new capitalism" policy, looking to make chips for robotic technology, artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

Apex Court Stays Odisha Varsity Act

New Delhi(KCN): The Supreme Court of India (SC) on Friday issued a stay on the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2020, which was enacted in Sep-

tember 2020. A division bench of SC judges comprising Justice SA Nazeer and Justice Krishan Murari stayed the Act for the next three months after hearing

a petition filed by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and retired professor of JNU Ajit Kumar Mohanty. The petitioners have opposed the act

through which the State Government wanted to regulate the appointment of teachers and other staff through the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC), which is

against the norms set by the UGC

The court sought a

served that the changes made in the procedure of recruit-

staff of state-run universities from the respective Senates

lations, take effective steps for the amendment of the

Celebrating Creativity, Rural Bengal & Humanity From Tagore & Ray

Kolkata (KCN): Satyajit Ray made

were also screened during the event.

'Anantar' which was screened on 19th May depicted the religious superstitions which are still being followed in many villages across Bengal. "Here we tried our best to unfold the story of a girl who became a victim of religious superstitions performed in many villages in Bengal even now," said Saurav who is the Director of the film.

B.Tech student from B.Tech- Computer Science Engineering 3rd year who was one of the leading members in the technical team for the film 'Anantar' as well as the coordinator for the film 'Itibritta'. Humanity was celebrated in these events organized for two days by the young techies who emphasized on the humane aspect of



around five films based on the short stories and novels written by Rabindranath Tagore - that was the most number of times he has ever adapted any one writer's work in his films.

It was at Shantiniketan that Satyajit Ray learned the indispensable qualities of a good painter and an artist. In later years, Ray's drawings, sketches, illustrations and designs have inspired many across the globe.

Both the films drew inspiration from the methodologies



adopted by Ray in The other one was

today's world which is greatly influenced by digitization paving the way to artificial intelligence, data science, robotics and many more. Ray's movies always cited the common problems and the characters portrayed the real faces of every Indian amidst the dynamic environment prevailing in the world. Pictographically the Indian common man was showcased through his films to the global audience. Tagore on the other hand wanted India to be cosmopolitan. He wanted cosmopolitanism to prevail over nationalism and Internationalism since both of them breed colonization within a country. Recently an event was organized by Heritage Law College on Rabindra Jayanti which witnessed an engaging talk given by Prof. Partha Pratim Basu from the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, on this topic. All these events created an excitement in the campus that moves beyond imagination drawing the picture of humanity which will be cherished forever.



To celebrate creativity, rural Bengal and humanity from the works of Satyajit Ray & Rabindranath Tagore, the Pravasana Club in association with Anubhav, Resonance, Ghungroo, Anahita, and Language Clubs of Heritage Institute of Technology organized a two day event 'Ray-trospective' and 'Gitanjali' on 19th & 20th May 2022 in the campus. Both the events exhibited some of the beautiful drawings and paintings made by the engineering students inspired from the movies directed by Ray based on the short stories and novels written by Tagore. Apart from these, two films made by the students of the College

making movies that won several awards in various film festivals in the world including the Oscars. "Satyajit Ray always depicted the problems faced by common man during his journey through life and the stories written by Rabindranath Tagore also displayed the same. Moreover they glorified rural Bengal in front of the global audience. This gave us the inspiration to celebrate the works of these two leaders in arts, films and literature thus giving us ample space for creativity to explore humanity at its best," said Saurav Sarkar, 2nd year student of B.Tech in Electrical Engineering. One of the films



reply from the Odisha Government and set the date for the next hearing on the matter after two months. In January this year, the Orissa High Court had upheld the validity of the Act dismissing three petitions that had challenged it. The High Court bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar ob-

jection of Vice-Chancellors and teachers for various universities were not unconstitutional. The Amendment Act of 2020, which was notified in the Odisha Gazette and came into force on September 4, 2020 did away with Odisha University Act and took away the power of recruitment of teaching

and gave it to the Odisha Public Service Commission. As the UGC Regulations are mandatory and as per UGC Regulations, 2018 every university or institution deemed to be university, as the case may be, shall as soon as may be, but not later than within six months of the coming into force of these Regu-

statutes, ordinances or other statutory provisions governing it, so as to bring the same in accordance with these Regulations. However, the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2020 is violative of the UGC Regulations 2018 and therefore the High Court of Orissa judgment was erroneous, claimed the UGC.



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RBI to pay Rs 30,307 crore dividend to government for FY22

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will pay the government Rs 30,307 crore as dividend for the fiscal year ended March 31, down from the second highest payout ever of Rs 99,122 crore paid in the previous year. The board approved the transfer of Rs 30,307 crore as surplus to the central government for the accounting year 2021-22 while deciding to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.50 per cent, RBI said in a statement. The decision on the dividend payment was taken in the 596th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of RBI, headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das, held on Friday. Last year in May, RBI declared a dividend of Rs 99,122 crore for the nine-month period (July



2020 to March 2021). The dividend was paid for that period as RBI aligned its financial year with the government's financial year.

Earlier, RBI used to follow the July-June period earlier as against the government's April-March financial year.

For the current fiscal, the government had estimated a receipt of Rs 73,948 crore as dividend revenue from the central bank and public sector financial institutions.

This is 27 per cent lower than the Rs 1.01 lakh crore received in FY22.

During its meeting, the board also reviewed the current economic situation, global and domestic challenges and the impact of recent geopolitical developments.

Further, the board discussed the working of RBI during the year April 2021 – March 2022 and approved the annual report and accounts for the accounting year 2021-22, the statement said.

RBI's latest dividend is down compared to last year as it may have taken a hit on the income side, with the central bank likely receiving lower interest income from its liquidity management operations.

In 2018-19, RBI paid a total of Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the government of which Rs 1.23 lakh crore was dividend and Rs 52,637 crore was towards excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF). RBI also decided to maintain a Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.50 per cent in line with recommendations of the Bimal Jalan Committee report. The panel had prescribed a Contingency Risk Buffer range of 6.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent. The meeting of the Central Board was attended by Deputy Governors Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao and T Rabi Sankar. Other Directors of the Central Board, Satish K Marathe, S Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer and Sachin Chaturvedi also attended the meeting. Sanjay Malhotra Secretary, Department of Financial Services and Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs too attended the meeting.

FDI inflow hits all-time high of USD 83.57 billion in 2021-22

NEW DELHI: India has recorded the "highest ever" annual FDI (foreign direct investment) inflow of USD 83.57 billion in 2021-22, the commerce and industry ministry said on Friday.

In 2020-21, the inflow stood at USD 81.97



billion, it added.

"India is rapidly emerging as a preferred country for foreign investments in the manufacturing sector," the ministry said.

"India has recorded highest ever annual FDI inflow of USD 83.57 billion in the Financial Year 2021-22," it noted.

FDI equity inflow in manufacturing sectors

SEBI tweaks cyber security, cyber resilience framework of bourses, clearing corps, depositories

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator SEBI on Friday tweaked the cyber security and cyber resilience framework of stock exchanges and

should include business critical systems, internet facing applications/systems, systems that contain sensitive data, sensitive personal data, sensi-

(VAPT) which includes all critical assets and infrastructure components like servers, networking systems, security devices and other IT

after approval from the Standing Committee on Technology of respective MIIs, within one month of completion of VAPT activity.



other market infrastructure institutions and mandated them to conduct a comprehensive cyber audit at least two times in a financial year.

Along with the cyber audit reports, they have been directed to submit a declaration from the MD and CEO certifying compliance by the market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) -- stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories -- with all SEBI guidelines and advisories related to cyber security issued from time to time, according to a circular.

Under the modified framework, MIIs should identify and classify critical assets based on their sensitivity and criticality for business operations, services and data management. The critical assets

diverse financial data, personally identifiable information data, among others. All the ancillary systems used for accessing or communicating with critical systems either for operations or maintenance should also be classified as critical system.

Further, the board of the MII will be required to approve the list of critical systems.

"To this end, MII should maintain up-to-date inventory of its hardware and systems, software and information assets (internal and external), details of its network resources, connections to its network and data flows," SEBI said.

According to SEBI, MIIs should carry out periodic vulnerability assessment and penetration testing

systems in order to detect security vulnerabilities in the IT environment and in-depth evaluation of the system's security posture through simulations of actual attacks on its systems and networks.

It further said MIIs should conduct VAPT at least once in a financial year.

However, for the MIIs whose systems have been identified as "protected system" by the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC), SEBI said the VAPT needs to be conducted at least twice in a fiscal.

Further, all MIIs are required to engage only CERT-In e m p a n e l l e d organisations for conducting VAPT.

The final report on the VAPT should be submitted to SEBI

Three jumbos die in Odisha's Keonjhar after being hit by train while crossing track

Continued from page-1

and died early on Friday.

Following the mishap, the elephant herd turned aggressive preventing forest personnel from carrying out any rescue operation.

The herd which were seen guarding the injured jumbos, later went inside the forests. Though a veterinary team reached the spot, forest officials said a postmortem wouldn't be required as the cause of death was known. The elephants will be buried in presence of the RCCF and DFO.

Meanwhile, sources said the PCCF Wildlife headquarters has sought a detailed report from the RCCF and DFO regarding the incident for necessary action.

Locals blamed forest officials for the mishap claiming that adequate precautionary measures were not taken though the elephant herd was camping in the nearby forests for the last one week.

The elephants were frequently moving in the corridor due to widespread deforestation and mining activities in Keonjhar region.

13 Industrial Projects Launched

Continued from page-1

Technology, Teamwork, Time, and Transformation, towards the development of the industrial sector has further strengthened."

This philosophy has created an industry-led ecosystem of value addition, sustainable employment generation and revenue augmentation in the State.

He congratulated the Industries Department for its continuous efforts in making Odisha the "Destination of Choice" for investors."

Speaking on the occasion, Industries Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra said, "Over the last two years, we have faced enormous challenges due to pandemic and its impact over lives and livelihood but the people of Odisha have faced the challenges head on and as we come out of the pandemic, we are seeing a New Odisha, an Empowered Odisha."

Despite the challenges, the State Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has ensured that the industries sector keeps functioning at its best, said the Minister.

"I am happy to inform you that this is the 7th ground-breaking ceremony we are having since 2020. It is a commendable effort by everyone involved in the process and to do it despite a global pandemic is even praiseworthy. We have ensured grounding/inauguration of projects worth over Rs 30,000 crores, generating a potential employment of nearly 40,000 in the State in this time period," he added.

The dignitaries present in the ceremony were Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Chief Secretary, VK Pandian, Secretary 5T and Private Secretary to CM, Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary Industries, Ranjana Chopra, Principal Secretary, MSME Department, Md Sadique Alam, Director of Industries, Odisha.

Industry veterans including Kavita Jain, Vice President and Head of Foods and Refreshment, HUL, BC Mohanty, Director, Orifood and Beverage Pvt. Ltd., Pooja Ray, Managing Director, Mayfair Hotels and Resorts Ltd., GVV Satyanarayanan, VP, Growel Feeds Pvt. Ltd. were also present through VC at the Inauguration/ Ground-breaking event.

Union ministers to visit villages to mark Modi government's anniversary: BJP, credits 'MYY factor'

Continued from page-1

said people voted for the BJP rising above various considerations, including caste.

"A new factor of MYY (mahila, youth and yojana) has emerged as a result of the Modi government's pro-people policies. And this factor was reflected in the recent assembly elections," Tawde said.

"Modi's resolve and work have created a segment of beneficiaries of government schemes and a new "MYY" equation, which is 'mahila', and youth and 'yojana', beyond the confines of castes and sects for creating a new India," the BJP said in a statement.

At the meeting, a resolution highlighting the Modi government's "India First" foreign policy was also adopted with the BJP saying that the policy checked regional imbalance.

The Modi government focused on the development of backward areas by terming them as "aspirational districts", it said.

Sharing details of the party's resolution on Rajasthan, BJP's national spokesperson and MP Rajyawardan Rathore said the state has become a "hub of crime in the country".

"On one side, Rajasthan tops in crime against women, on the other, it is at the lowest position in the implementation of welfare schemes," Rathore claimed.

This meet will be followed by the BJP's organisational general secretaries' meeting on Saturday.

