

Miss Adline Castelino, Miss Diva 2020 Visits CRPF Group Centre Langjing, Imphal

Imphal (KCN): Miss Adline Mewis Quardros Castelino, Indian model and beauty pageants titleholder of Miss Diva Universe 2020, Representative of Miss Universe 2020, 2022 with her team comprising Fashion Designer Kumarjit Laishram, Fashion Stylist Suraj,

women personnel, in particular, interacted and told their experiences as uniformed member of the force and the pride it has brought to them and their family members and how it has led to women empowerment.

Miss Adline appreciated the work of CRPF and assured to promote the exemplary work of CRPF through her Social Media handles and her speeches at relevant platforms. She thanked Mr. L. Lhoujem, CO, 143 Bn and Mr. Agrawal, IG, M&M Sector for curating her visit at a short notice.

On the occasion, Shri Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, DIG, Shri Madan Kumar, DIG, Shri A.N. Roy, DIG

(CH), felicitated the Diva and her team in a traditional manner by presenting shawl and



Models Sushna and Celena, visited CRPF Camp, Group Centre, Langjing, Imphal (Manipur) today i.e., on 26/05/2022. Shri Manish Kumar Agrawal, IPS, IGP, Manipur & Nagaland Sector welcomed her and her team and introduced them to the sacrificial Saga and various types of duties performed by CRPF in toughest circumstances.

During the short visit, she and her team showed a lot of interest and curiosity in the activities of CRPF and interactions with Jawans. She was surprised to meet the International/ National reputed players employed and serving in CRPF. CRPF



CRPF memento.

All Jawans and other ranks also expressed their happiness and joy to have among them celebrities and Miss Diva Universe 2020 in their midst.

RS By Poll Notification

Bhubaneswar(KCN):The Secretariat of Odisha Legislative Assembly (OLA) on Thursday issued formal notification for the by-election to a Rajya Sabha

As per the notification, candidates can file their nomination papers for the by-poll till June 2 while the papers will be scrutinized on June 3. The

9 AM to 4 PM on June 13 while counting will take place at 5 PM on June 13. BJD MP Subhas Chandra Singh resigned from the post in April after he was elected as Mayor of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC). The poll is being held for the rest of the period that is from April 24, 2022 to April 24, 2026.

Earlier, the Assembly had issued notification for the biennial poll for three RS seats from Odisha. The poll will be held on June 10 as the tenure of three Rajya Sabha members from Odisha – N Bhaskar Rao, Prasanna Acharya and Sasmit Patra will end on July 1.

The BJD is set to win all the four RS seats with a strength of 113 in an Assembly of 147. The BJP and

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seat from Odisha lying vacant following the resignation of BJD MP Subash Singh.

candidates can withdraw their nominations till June 6. If required, the polling will be held from

Blinken: US to leverage Russia-Ukraine bloc against China

WASHINGTON(KCN): Secretary of State Antony Blinken says the Biden administration is aiming to lead the international bloc opposed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine into a broader coalition to counter what it sees as a more serious, long-term threat to global order from China.

In a speech outlining the administration's

China policy to be delivered on Thursday, Blinken will lay out a three-pillar approach to competing



While the U.S. sees Russia and Russian President Vladimir

Putin's war in Ukraine as the most acute and immediate threat to international stability, Blinken will

"China is the only country with both the intent to reshape the international order — and, increasingly, the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to do it," he will say.

serious long-term challenge to the international order — and

that is the one posed by the People's Republic of China," Blinken will say.

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Guv Opens SoA Doc's Book



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Three books authored by Prof. Sisir Kanta Behera, Professor and Head of Department of Agricultural Engineering at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), were released by Odisha governor Prof.

Ganeshi Lal at the Raj Bhavan here on Wednesday. The books titled 'Greenhouse Technology', 'Farm Machinery and Equipment' and 'Renewable Energy for Development' have been pub-

lished by AkiNik Publications, Delhi. While appreciating the effort of Prof. Behera, the governor discussed the subject of the books with the author and gave his valuable suggestions. Prof. Behera, who

teaches at the Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS), faculty of agricultural sciences of SOA, said the books would be of great help to farmers, agricultural entrepreneurs, students and researchers.

Mo Sarkar Connects Public

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday said that his government has succeeded in building trust between public and government.

"My government has given a new dimension to the state's administrative system," he said, chairing a review meeting on the 'Mo Sarkar' initiative of the State government here.

He also exhorted all departments to include more people in the programme, including the Chief Minister's Office. The Chief Minister said that in the last two decades, Odisha has made great strides and set examples in many respects.

The programme, which started less than two years ago, has now given a new

succeeded in building trust between the public and government institutions.



model to the State's administrative system, he added.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the government has made significant changes in the way people view government and government institutions and asserted that it has also

Patnaik said that the feedback of the people has been recorded and steps are being taken on the basis of their views. Commenting on the initiative, the Chief Minister said that due to this change in the governance, the government would be

able to reach out to the last line of people and provide services to all those in need.

"That is why there is a need for a complete change of governance model," he said and expressed happiness that regular efforts in this direction have proved successful. "The feedback I get from the grassroots is encouraging," he said and added, "Fortunately, government officials and employees are now more responsible and compassionate in providing services to citizens."

Mr. Patnaik said he was happy that the administrative process has now become more participatory

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Chennai: PM Modi inaugurates projects, CM Stalin underlines Dravidian governance model

CHENNAI: Profusely eulogising Tamil language and culture as he did many times before, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, during his first government function in Tamil Nadu after the DMK government assumed office where Chief Minister MK Stalin shared a dais, promised that the Centre is fully committed to further popularising Tamil language and culture. He also underscored his government's commitment to helping the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Using the opportunity, the Chief Minister

spoke about the Dravidian Model governance and put forth vital demands for Tamil Nadu. Giving details of how Tamil Nadu contributes to the development of India in a crucial way, he urged the Centre to increase its contribution to the schemes and funds allocation. Without fail, he sought early assent for the NEET exemption Bill.

"Tamil Nadu is one of the most advanced states of our Indian Union. It will continue to serve as the engine for leading and moving the country's economy forward. Therefore, I want

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Parle Agro builds further growth opportunities for Farmers and its Fruit Processing Partners across India

Kolkata (KCN): India's largest beverage company, Parle Agro has always been at the forefront of innovation in the development of iconic fruit based beverages like Frooti and Appy which have captured the hearts of India. In order to cater to the massive demand of their products nationally and globally, Parle Agro is focused on updating their internal infrastructure and also aggressively building capabilities and capacities of their fruit processing partners across India.

Since 1985, Parle Agro has worked consistently with Fruit Farmers and Processors within India with a vision to encourage their development and give them opportunities to elevate their earnings. Parle Agro continues on this path and has invested heavily on their processing partners to help them extract their highest potential. Subsequently, the company has taken a determined stand to

source 100% from within India itself. Historically, Parle Agro has always sourced fruits from India while importing from China too, to meet their apple juice content needs. But

company's popular mango based drink, Frooti'. Parle Agro has grown exponentially to currently procuring around 150,000 MT of mango fruits into high quality mango

by Parle Agro. After its successful foray in creating robust mango processing supply chains, Parle Agro envisioned the creation of a similar network for apple

limited availability of apples and outdated technology in processing abilities of Apple Processing Units in India. Nationally, apples are procured from the regions of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, which have poor road infrastructure, low quality fruits, high transport costs, political turmoil, erratic weather and shortage of skilled labor. Therefore demand had to be fulfilled by some amount of imports. Parle Agro has worked actively towards changing the situation, leading to the complete discontinuation of all apple juice imports from China to sourcing these 100% from India. The company has supported in upgrading fruit processing facilities of four processors based in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Parle Agro is working closely with them to build their processing capabilities, increase outputs and build

efficiency leading to reduction in wastage. Speaking on the occasion, **Schauna Chauhan, CEO, Parle Agro** stated, "Parle Agro has, and will always be 'India-focused' in terms of sourcing raw materials and strengthening infrastructure. We aim to participate in India's glorious growth story by contributing to building India economically and by creating opportunities for small farmers and SMEs and MSMEs across India. Our goal is always to be at the forefront of improving and building up capabilities of our partners in India and deliver the best class products in the beverage category." Parle Agro has always been committed to source within India and create state-of-the-art fruit processing capabilities nationally, thereby actively and consciously contributing to India's Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan before it was even

conceived. Parle Agro prides itself on being an Indian company that has always followed the principle of, "India First" - having a tight focus on promoting procurement and operations within India whenever possible. Parle Agro has always been committed to build a strong network within India right from utilizing locally sourced produce, to pushing for technological advancements in its nationally located partner processing companies thus creating rapid new employment opportunities. In the future, Parle Agro seeks to consistently work closely with all stakeholders like fruit growers, its partner processors and the Government to minimize these shortcomings over time and increase yield and output. It aims to be able to fulfil its apple requirements sufficiently by the year 2023. **About Parle Agro:** A pioneer in the beverage industry, Parle Agro Pvt. Ltd.

is the largest Indian beverage company with a brand turnover of almost Rs. 7000 Cr. As a driving force of the Indian beverage market, it offers consumers a variety of products including Fruit Juice based still and sparkling drinks, Packaged Drinking Water and Dairy based beverages serving a variety of consumer needs. With 84 manufacturing facilities across India and international locations, Parle Agro caters to over 1.9 million outlets in India driven through more than 6000 channels partners. Along with its brands Frooti, Appy, Appy Fizz, B-Fizz, SMOODH, Bailley, Bailley Soda Frio, Dhishoom and Bombay 99, the organization has a continued belief in the power of innovation that drives strategy, product development and business practices. This belief has translated into Parle Agro establishing trends that have changed industry and consumer outlook and approach.

Building an Atmanirbhar Bharat by a focused impact on augmenting local economies

now, the company has completely stopped sourcing



apple juice imports from China and are sourcing them entirely from India alone through its network of Indian farmers.

Parle Agro's foray into the fruit based category in 1985 began with procuring 1,000 MT of mango fruit from their local fruit processing partners to create the

pulp; increasing their consumption of mangoes by 150

times. Parle Agro's range of fruit-based products currently utilize around 210,000 MT of fruit collectively. Over the past decade and a half, the company's consumption of fruits has increased five fold. **Approximately one third of the fruit pulp produced in India is consumed**

juice concentrate due to the immense popularity of its apple based drinks like Appy, Appy Fizz and B Fizz. **The company's requirement for apples has risen from 5,000 MT to around 60,000 MT of fruit.** This has had a significant impact on local economies by contributing to local farmers' incomes, as well as the growth opportunities for local apple processing partners. Certain challenges faced by apple processors in India had led to issues with procuring of this fruit 100% for beverage manufacturers like Parle Agro. Challenges included

Tech students enjoyed sports after a long Covid break



Kolkata (KCN): Inter-departmental sports commenced from 26th May 2022 and would continue till 3rd June at Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata. After a break from the

Covid-19 pandemic, students were quite energized to organize an inter-departmental football competition today as a part of other sports to celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship in the

campus. There's no sector of the society that the Covid-19 pandemic hasn't affected, and college sports are no exception. In fact, the impact is both complex and far-reaching.

Nevertheless the re-opening of campuses all over the country had prompted the students to pursue their dreams in sports be it in football, cricket, basketball, wrestling etc.

The inaugural session of the event was addressed by Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology in the presence of Mr. Sunil Singh, Head of the Department,

Physical Education and other faculty members of the college. The 8-day sports event will consist of inter-departmental Football matches, Basketball, Cricket,

Throwball and Volleyball. "I am quite happy to see the students quite excited to organize such an event," said Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of

Technology, Kolkata addressing the players today who would be playing the opening football match between the Department of Civil and Electrical Engineering.

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

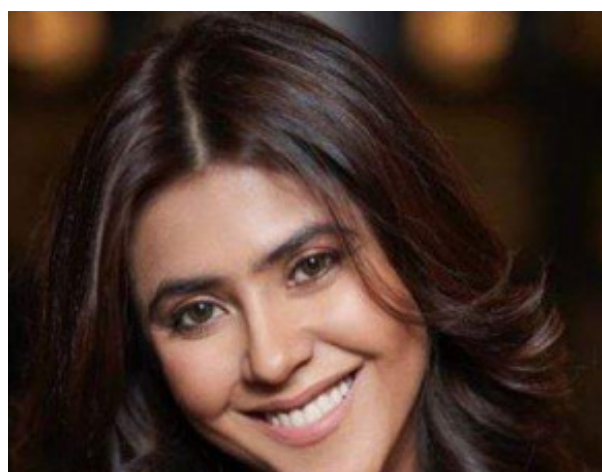


NEW DELHI: Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "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 cation, 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. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of the former Chairman

of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

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

NEW DELHI(K-CN): The Supreme 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 interim protection to

leged objectionable content in her web series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted interim protection to

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.

Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

Ajay Devgn's Mayday has been creating a massive buzz because of its interest-

the icing on the cake is that Ajay Sir is directing the film. It's actually happening!



ing star cast, which includes Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh and Angira Dhar. Talented actress, Aakanksha Singh has now joined the team. Aakanksha will essaying the role of Ajay Devgn's wife in the film. She joined the shoot yesterday. Aakanksha says, "It's like a dream come true to be a part of such a big and much-awaited film. I am so excited to share the screen with Ajay Sir and Amitabh Sir; and

It's an important role and I am lucky that the first muhurat shot of the film had me in it." Ajay Devgn took to social media to announce that the shoot had begun yesterday. "Happy to officially begin Mayday in a start-to-finish shooting schedule. Seek blessings from the Almighty and my parents. Nothing is complete without the support of all my fans, family and well-wishers. Releases on 29th April 2022 (sic)" he posted.

'Wanted to make a film on Indian Army with Shah Rukh Khan', says Director Kabir Khan

MUMBAI(KCN): Filmmaker Kabir Khan, who is gearing up for the release of his web series "The Forgotten Army: Azaadi Ke Liye", based on Indian National Army (INA), says he wanted to make a film on the subject starring Shah Rukh Khan. He added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a fee for the voiceover he gave for the series. "Shah Rukh has very graciously given the voiceover. The series is based on a true story, so there is an introduction of a few minutes before every episode along with real footage, where he has lent his voice. I talked about it with Shah Rukh earlier as well, when this was a film script. Back then, I wanted Shah Rukh to do the film. We even had a few meetings but we couldn't take it forward," said Kabir while promoting the series along with its lead actors Sunny Kaushal and Sharvari Wagh. Kabir added that Shah Rukh didn't charge a single

paisa for his voiceover assignment. "When I was making this series, I thought I should ask Shah Rukh (to be the narrator) because Shah Rukh's father had involvement with this army. His father knew General Shahnawaz Khan, who was an important part of INA. So, I knew he (Shah Rukh Khan) has sympathy and attachment with Azad Hind Fauj and I called him up. It's not an easy task to ask a superstar for a voiceover but Shah Rukh instantly agreed to do it. Usually, when you discuss a film with Shah Rukh, it's a long process, but in this case Shah Rukh literally did the voiceover for us on the second day. I don't know whether he would like me to reveal this, but he didn't take a fee from us. I think the kind of attachment he has with Azad Hind Fauj reflects in his act." Incidentally, Shah Rukh did a cameo in Kabir Khan's 2017 release "Tubelight", starring Salman Khan.

How to get rid of Body Acne during Summer

While there's a lot to love about this time of the year acne can really ruin your fun. Experiencing a higher level of acne



breakouts during the summer is extremely common on both the face and the body. During summer, acne not only appears on the face but also on chest, upper back, shoulders, and even the buttocks due to excessive sun exposure and heat. Be it pimples on arms in summer or summer pimples on body, they're everywhere. Different people get body acne for different reasons : genetics, oily skin or hormonal imbalances but there are a few lifestyle factors that can exacerbate it. If you're someone who struggles with summer pimples on a routine basis, this

one's for you.

This summer, get rid of tight-fitting

and occlusive clothes! Use more looser, lightweight breathable fabric like cotton and linen especially while exercising to reduce friction on your most sensitive, acne-prone areas in the body. You can benefit from simple practices such as showering or changing their clothes more often to avoid sweat from sitting on the skin and blocking pores.

You need to pay attention to your cleansing routine during summers, as a lot of dirt and oil gets accumulated on the face which attracts acne and other skin concerns. The longer bacteria sits on your skin, the more closely it bonds with it, making it increasingly difficult to remove. So make sure that you wash your face at least twice a day using a gentle cleanser that cleanses your skin without much harm. A cleanser that contains acne-fighting ingredients like salicylic acid can exfoliate and inhibit inflammation

However washing your face more frequently can also lead to over washing and drying out of the skin, and induce acne.

If you have been working out and sweating the whole day, it's best to immediately take a bath and avoid acne on the body.

However, wiping your sweat with a damp cloth may also help prevent breakouts if you're short on space or time. Follow up with a light moisturizer and sunscreen before heading to your

Shahnaz Husain

next stop. Also, once a week use a

good exfoliant to get rid of the dead skin accumulation and to clean your pores.

Ensure that hair and scalp are kept scrupulously clean. Keep the hair away from the face while you sleep. Wash pillow covers and towels in warm soapy water, after adding one teaspoon antiseptic lotion. Acne can also lead to scarring, which can be difficult to remove. So, it is important that an acne and oily-skin condition be checked from spreading.

Acne on the back is quite common, because back is very rich in oil glands. This makes the skin prone to blackheads, spots and pimples. One should pay extra attention to the back while bathing. Use a long-handled brush, loofah, or a rough washcloth to scrub the area gently while bathing. This keeps the pores clean and free of clogged pores.

Use an Ayurvedic medicated soap for bathing, which will help the acne condition on the back. In fact, anti-acne lotions and medicated ointments are also available. Sandalwood paste can be applied on the pimples, acne and boils on the back. If there is a rash, mix sandalwood paste with a little rose water and apply on the entire area. Wash it off with plain water after 20 minutes. Mix together one teaspoon cinnamon (dalchini) powder, half teaspoon methi seed powder, lemon juice and a few drops of honey. It should be a sticky paste. Apply it only on pimples,

boils or acne and leave on for a couple of hours, or even overnight.

A body scrub will also help to get rid of blackheads, which eventually lead to acne. You can make one at home by mixing rice flour with curd and pinch of turmeric. Apply the mixture and rub gently on the skin. You may need some help, or apply it with a long handled brush. Rub the mixture gently on the back and then wash off with plenty of water. This helps to remove dead cells, making the skin clearer and brighter. It also dislodges and discourages blackheads. In fact, a scrub will also help to minimize dark acne marks. Mix 2 tablespoons oats with egg white; apply it on the back and wash off when it dries. Lemon juice mixed with rose water in equal quantities can also be applied on the areas with dark acne marks. Wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes.

Acne can be the result of a congested system. Eat cereals and fibre -rich food and vegetables such as blueberries, grapefruit to detoxify body and clear your skin. If you have a persistent acne problem then food items like deep fried chips, French fries, pakodas, aloo tikkis etc are a strict no-no for you.. Add the juice of a lemon to a glass of water and have it first thing in the morning.

You need to also understand that if your acne gets aggravated, visit a dermatologist immediately, because acne can spread and cause extensive scarring.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

Letter to the editor

Sub:- Correspondence with UN Human rights needed

As World knows, Pakistan a multiheaded hydra also a native of terrorism, extremism & vandalism always indulge in exploitation. Reporters witnessing and uttering that hefty scourging of innocent one's taking place in PoK by ISI's. This region is under great trouble since terrorists from Pakistan increasing exponentially & indulging in turmoil & massacre. Most of PoK people are prisoned by means of barbarian act by Pakistani regime. Eventough our soldiers are doing thier best in border, Pakistani terrorists & militants are plunging in with the help of Chinese one's somehow to Kashmir through PoK. On the other hand in Balochistan especially innocent minorities & separatists who wants PoK to be part of India are getting targetted by ISI's militants. Most of them are imprisoned. This is the right time for our Ministry of External Affairs to pitch in to draw the attention of the international community towards PoK & Balochistan ongoing situation. Our Minister of External Affairs has to correspond with UN High commissioner for Human rights chief to divulge situations in Balochistan & PoK asking for rescue of innocent minorities & separatists who wants PoK to be part of India & who are imprisoned for no reasons by Pakistani regime. The correspondence should apprise High commissioner in particular exhibiting the Pakistani government's ongoing attempts to persecute and repress the minorities and separatists who wants PoK to be part of India in Balochistan & PoK. The correspondence should also urge for separation of Balochistan from Pakistan. Serious attempts are required by our central regime to make PoK as integral part of India as soon as possible either by peaceful means or by any other means if needed.

Vijaykumar H K
Raichur, Karnataka

Ways to RE-turn to environment, here are footsteps...

Waste is actually asset- so they say. And moves are afoot to turn waste into assets of various forms in many parts of the world including



India. This, in turn, has given rise to recycling of various products, which otherwise we throw out as wastes after their use. Textile recycling, for instance

is the process of recovering fiber yarn or fab-



ric and reprocessing the textile material into useful products. Textile waste products are gathered from different sources and are then sorted and processed depending on their con-



dition, composition and resale value. Clothing recycling, on its parts, is part of textile recycling. It involved recovering old clothing and shoes for sorting and processing. End

Ritwik Mukherjee

products include clothing suitable for re-use, cloth scraps or rags as well as fibrous material. Interest in garment recycling is rapidly on the rise, thanks to environmental awareness and landfill pressures. For entrepreneurs also, it provides a business opportunity. In addition, various charities also generate revenue through their collection initiatives for old



clothing. Kolkata-based Footstep Foundation, for instance, has teamed up with FACES and MTC Group, the four decade old company that strives to make a significant contribution towards resource management and conservation by providing raw material in the form of scrap, to recycling industries in India and across the world, to organise a trash to wealth initiative RE-Turn. It's a mission to develop skill among girls and women to use old clothes to make new household useful products like Table cloth, table mats, coaster, table runners, pillow and cushion covers, bed covers, floor rugs etc. Through this project not only efforts will be made to create a circular economy but also create a sustainable livelihood renewal initiative. Mind you that every piece of

clothing you are wearing has gone through a complex manufacturing process that uses a high amount of electricity, water and other energy sources. Recycling clothes saves energy by reducing or eliminating the need to make materials from scratch. One has to keep in mind that we cannot keep growing more cotton, and producing more new clothes. To feed a growing population's appetite for consumption, we have to start recycling, or as we

like to call it, pure cycling. Cotton, the primary fabric used in t-shirts, is a water-intensive crop and can be destructive for the soil. Given that it's not a food crop, it also takes away precious resources and arable land, which could be used to feed. Interestingly, by some estimates, current cotton farming could fill up land the size of modern-day Turkey. In India, more than 1 million tonnes of textiles are thrown away

every year, with most of this coming from household sources, according to the Indian Textile Journal. Textiles make up about 3 per cent by weight of a household bin. Textile waste is also the third-largest source of municipal solid waste in India. Therefore, what this Kolkata-based organisation led by a woman entrepreneur Sakuntala Chanda has kicked off, can truly be a game changer, if proper awareness is created and the plan is properly executed. Return of your old and used clothes can be your return to the society and environment.

Author is a Kolkata based Freelance journalist.

Rail Corridor on Fast Track Odisha Registers Highest IMR Drop

Bhubaneswar: The State Government has put the ambitious common outer rail corridor project in Talcher coalfields on fast-track mode with Development Commissioner (DC) Pradeep Jena asking concerned officials to expedite the project to transport coal from the mines located in the area.

During a review meeting recently, Mr. Jena asked concerned officials to split the outer corridor project into a suitable number of phases to provide railway access on priority basis to the mines where production is expected to start early, officials said on Thursday.

The State Government envisaged an efficient logistic infrastructure for evacuation of coal from various Coal mines (mostly non-CIL mines) in Talcher coalfields and directed IDCO to prepare a comprehensive planning in 2009.

Accordingly, IDCO has engaged several reputed agencies to prepare Feasibility Report, Master Plan and DPR. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) "Brahmani Railways Ltd" (BRL) was incorporated in 2013 by the IDCO and Commerce & Transport Department to take up the common corridor project, which included railway line, road and pipeline.

The DPR was finalised in July 2015. Project cost of railway infrastructure was Rs 4938 crore excluding the cost of

land, officials said. Following the Ministry of Coal initiative, the State Government signed an MoU with Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Railways in 2015 to create rail infrastructure for evacuation of coal

far, the officials said. Therefore, the State Government and Ministry of Coal have decided that MCRL should continue the Inner Corridor work and the Outer Corridor work should be taken up separately in

ing stations on the Outer Corridor, which will ensure optimal railway connectivity to all mines in the area.

Principal Secretary Industries Hemant Sharma emphasized the need to minimize transportation of Coal by Road. The mine owners should plan for a conveyor belt system from the mines to the loading railway station or plan a rail link from the Outer Corridor to their mines to eliminate involvement of road transport.

It was decided in the meeting to re-activate the existing SPV Brahmani Railway Limited (BRL) as a company fully under the Commerce & Transport Department and entrust the project to it. Mine owners will be invited for equity participation in the SPV, retaining at least 51% equity with the Odisha Government.

Jena emphasized that this process should be completed within 6 to 8 weeks. Thereafter, ORIDL should take up preparation of the DPR for the Outer Corridor and come up with the financial structuring of the project.

ORIDL will share the details of the Outer Corridor with the mine allottees and seek their plan of action for evacuation of coal through rail, he said.

The Government is also planning to declare the project as a Special Railway Project so that land acquisition can be done under Railways Act.



through a JV company named 'Mahanadi Coal Railway Limited' (MCRL) with equity participation by MCL (64%), IRCON (26%) and IDCO (10%). Then, it was decided to hand over the project to MCRL. The MCRL split the project into two parts—Inner corridor comprising the Jarapada—Tentuloi & Putagadia—Angul links and the Outer Corridor comprising the Western and Eastern Legs to the North of Tentuloi.

The MCRL has taken up the works of the Inner Corridor but the progress is very slow and they have not taken up the works of the Outer Corridor so

participative mode with the involvement of ORIDL and beneficiary Coal mine owners.

It was felt that the alignment approved for the Outer Corridor (beyond Tentuloi comprising the Western and Eastern legs) should be treated as frozen. Tentuloi station is under development by MCRL as part of the Inner Corridor which is expected to come up by December, 2025.

The DC observed that construction of a common corridor would reduce the quantum of land acquisition and individual mine owners should plan their loading activities on the designated load-



Bhubaneswar: Registering a major success in the field of healthcare, Odisha has reported the highest point decline in the country in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), 39 points decline from 2005 to 2020.

Such a drop in IMR is highest in the country, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. At present, the infant mortality rate in the

state has dropped to 36 per 1,000, he announced.

Expressing satisfaction over this great success, Chief Minister Patnaik congratulated all functionaries of the state government contributing in achieving this milestone.

Using his twitter handle Mr. Patnaik said "With effective implementation of quality healthcare

services & focus on safe institutional delivery of women, #Odisha has registered the highest point decline of 39 in Infant Mortality Rate in the country from 2005 to 2020. Odisha's IMR stands at 36/1000 live births."

At a review meeting, the Chief Minister said "This is the lowest rate in the country at this time of

year." Notably, Odisha has consistently been successful in various fields of development and set an example for other states, it has now achieved another milestone in healthcare.

The Chief Minister exhorted everyone to join the development journey of Odisha and bring more laurels for the State.

Government to promote development of climate resilient structures under MNREGA: officials

NEW DELHI: The rural development ministry is planning to promote climate resilient structures -- to be developed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) -- with the launch of a pilot project to train field workers, an official said on Thursday.

gral part of the planning process under the MNREGA.

This kind of planning will help optimise the resources and employ scientific ways to monitor works.

The GIS-based plan will support proper treatment of watersheds and help in water conservation and treatment of degraded soil.

geotagging is still underway and will complete when all assets under the MGNREGA are geotagged.

Special focus is being given to geotag natural resource management works especially the water-related works.

The unique exercise is being implemented in association with

missible works under the scheme, including those related to horticulture, food grain storage structure, farm pond, check-dam, trenches, cattle shed, goat shed, and rural connectivity.

During 2021-22 (as on March 27, 2022), a total of 83.82 lakh works were completed and 133.09



The move is aimed at strengthening the planning of climate resilient works and help India become a net-zero carbon emission country in the coming years.

It will also help the community to make smart decisions to mitigate the effect of change in the environment, the official said.

"Currently on a pilot basis, field functionaries are being trained on how to plan for a climate resilient structure," the official said.

The official also said that Geographic Information System (GIS)-based planning at gram panchayat level is now an inte-

GeoMGNREGA is another effort of the ministry under which it will ensure that the entire construction work - before, during, and after -- is geotagged.

The move is already bringing greater transparency and higher visibility to the scheme, the official said.

The official said that this move will be scaled up to monitor construction of assets at sub-activity level for closer scrutiny.

MNREGA has reached a new milestone by geotagging crores of assets and putting them in public domain, the official said.

The process of

National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO, and the National Informatics Centre. Further, construction of bio gas plants has also been started under the MGNREGA to help achieve carbon neutrality.

MGNREGA is aimed at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Act covers all rural districts of the country. There are 262 per-

lakh works were under construction under MNREGA.

From 2014-15 to 2021-22 (till May 7), the number of works created under Natural Resource Management (NRM) stood at 211.26 lakh.

The number of works under all plantation, horticulture, farm pond, and check-dams stood at 53.93 lakh, 18.53 lakh, 25.34 lakh, and 5.94 lakh respectively.

The number of works under rural connectivity, soak pit, cattle shed, and trenches stood at 32.85 lakh, 23.66 lakh, 11.51 lakh, and 6.06 lakh respectively during the same period.

Drink from tap project to start soon in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR: After Puri became country's first city to have a 24x7 drink from tap facility, the State government has now started executing the project in Bhubaneswar. Officials in Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) said they have earmarked Rs 35 crore under area-based development initiative for implementation of the drink-from-tap project in the City as a component of Smart City mission.

They said work order has been issued for the project and Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) will ex-

ecute it in the first phase at five localities for which Rs 20 crore will be spent. "Funds to the tune of Rs 10 crore has already been transferred to the Corporation to start the work," an official from the agency

Ashok Nagar. The initiative will ensure round the clock safe drinking water for the Bhubaneswar residents and also help in eliminating use of plastic bottles, said Municipal Commissioner and

This apart, BSCL officials said the approach will lessen the health hazards caused due to inconsistent delivery. Additionally, home investments on overhead water tanks, underground reservoirs, motor pumps, and RO-based water filters will also be eliminated, they said.

BSCL GM Kamaljit Das said after completion of the project in the five localities, the project will then be extended to other localities of the city. He said the move will also aid in the 100 per cent metering of domestic water connections and check excess water usage.

said. The five localities to be initially covered under the project will be Saheed Nagar, Satya Nagar, Kharvela Nagar, Bapuji Nagar and

BSCL CEO Sanjay Kumar Singh. He said the move will result in removal of 400 tonne of plastic waste annually in the Capital City.



Local administration vacate valuable land in Barbil

Barbil: The Barbil area of Kendujhar district is well-known for the mining activities and many small and large companies have been set up here and most of the people from different parts of the country are living in it. Many people comes over here from different part of the country and settled. But unfortunately maximum land owned by two major companies like OMC and OMDC, which covers say 60 percentage of total land. The immigration of people from different part of country get over crowded at Barbil. So they either purchase land or encroach government land



for their living. In a recent action of local administration has proved the fact. Knowing from a source, it has come to the notice of local administration regarding illegal encroachment of a valuable land in Sundura Mouza, Ward 15, Barbil Municipality. Barbil Tahsildar Alok Kumar Patel, Tehsil Revenue Supervisor Lal Mohan Mohapatra, Revenue Inspector Abani Kumar Mahant, Amin Barbil Municipality, Kirtan Mahakud accompanied with Police enforced to vacate the land from the occupant. Similarly number of perinial springs are being extinct in the area as many illegal encroachment forced to stop the flow. Government should take initiative to rejuvenate said one old resident of the area.

79% of students indicate they would like to rearrange the furniture – to suit individual needs and group discussions: Godrej Interio study

Mumbai: Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group, announced today that its business Godrej Interio, India's leading furniture solutions brand in home and office spaces, launched a trend report "Design Blueprint for 21st Century Learning Spaces". Education in India at the cusp of a revolution as it transforms from an instructional mode to an experiential mode. The Government of India's revamped National Education Policy (2020) aims at promoting multidisciplinary and technology-led education. Godrej Interio's latest trend report by their Workplace and Ergonomics Research Cell revealed trends that will shape the future of learning and are in alignment with the government's policy.

According to the trend report, 21st-century learning spaces should accommodate the unique needs of each student. Further, they must support the positive human relationships needed for effective learning, both formally and informally. The report further says these spaces are student-centred and tech-enabled which must enable individual and group learning, encourage innovation and foster a sense of healthy community. The report highlights the 5 broad aspects that comprise 21st Century Learning Spaces- Adaptable, Inviting, Smart, Comfortable and Safe.

Adaptable spaces support multiple learning modes in the same space and facilitates 'Me & We' Work. According to the report, 79 percent of the students indicate they would like to rearrange the furniture to suit individual needs and group discussions. In addition to this, 94 percent of teachers who can change their layout agree they can teach effectively, compared to 40.5 percent who can teach effectively but can't change their layout. Therefore, the learning environment must be adaptable, allowing for easy transitions between lecture mode, group presentation, and discussions.

Inviting spaces encourage creativity by transforming a 'boring, restrictive, or intimidating' space to one that is 'inviting, relaxing and invigorating. Therefore, underutilised spaces like wide corridors must be re-designed to create semi-open spaces for collaboration and tutoring.

The report also highlights that the 21st century learning spaces are Smart wherein technology can help personalise learning for students, stimulate their curiosity and boost experiences with 98.3% of teachers feeling that technology is beneficial in classrooms.

Comfortable learning spaces keep pace with the users' ergonomic needs, growth, and energy levels to reduce discomfort and improve concentration and wellbeing. According to the study, students spend nearly 6-8 hours of their day sitting, so the furniture should accommodate their natural need to move. Therefore, an active lifestyle needs to be encouraged by allowing opportunities that enable alternating postures.

Safety in learning spaces is essential to reduce the chance of physical injury and ensure a better experience.

Sameer Joshi, Vice President, Marketing (B2B), Godrej Interio said, "Education holds the power to influence the world's future. Transforming the current education system through innovative and contemporary teaching and learning methodologies is the need of the hour. To accommodate this change and in line with the Government's National Education Policy 2020, we have published a trends report stating how learning spaces must evolve and transform

into modern 21st Century Learning Spaces. Furniture is an enabler in building these spaces. At Godrej Interio, institutional furniture for educational purposes is an important segment for us as it contributes to improving the educational experience and readying the next generation to build a better world. By the end of FY22-23, we aim to generate INR 260 Cr revenue from educational furniture."

Godrej Interio provides educational furniture to over 16,000 educational institutes across India. About Godrej Interio: Godrej Interio is India's leading premium furniture brand in both home and institutional segments with a strong commitment to sustainability and centers of excellence in design, manufacturing and retail.

Led by the largest in-house design team in the country in the furniture category and awarded with 34 India Design Mark Awards till date, GODREJ INTERIO aims to transform spaces with its thoughtfully designed furniture to create brighter homes

and offices with products that have the highest design quotient in aesthetics, functionality and technology. With consistent pursuit of excellence and a special focus on health and ergonomics, GODREJ INTERIO's product portfolio comprises of a wide range of solutions Today, we design and manufacture furniture for office spaces, homes, educational institutes, healthcare facilities, laboratories and more. Along with furniture we offer Audio Visual and 360 Degree Turnkey solutions. Each of our product range revolves around comfort and aesthetics while delivering well-designed, long lasting and functional furniture solutions. In short, Godrej Interio helps the consumers to make every space the perfect setting for their myriad moods and moments.

Currently present in over 650 cities with 250 exclusive showrooms and 800 dealers, is one of the largest divisions of Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd., part of the Godrej Group, one of India's largest engineering and customer product groups.

Godrej Interio has 7 manufacturing facilities situated at Mumbai, Khalapur, Haridwar, Shirwal, and Bhagwanpur. GODREJ INTERIO's Shirwal Plant is Green Co Platinum Certified, and Mumbai Plants are Green Co Gold Certified. GODREJ INTERIO is widely known for its comprehensive sustainability certifications for its products in furniture category.

GODREJ INTERIO commitment to the environment has resulted in manufacturing products with lesser environment footprint. Our pioneering efforts include designing less environment burdening products, usage of eco-friendly materials and setting up less polluting and consuming processes, ensuring eco-friendly packaging and transportation and finally the extended responsibility of recycling/reuse of used furniture and scrap, thus ensuring a lifecycle approach to green. GODREJ INTERIO has the widest range of green choices for our customers which not only includes products but also services such as green interiors and recycling.

The brand boasts of noteworthy awards received so far- CII Exim Bank Award for Business Excellence 2016, Superbrands 2017-18, Reader's Digest Most Trusted Brand 2018 Gold (Home Furniture and Modular Kitchen), TRA's India's Most Consumer focused brand 2019, GreenCo Star Performer Award 2019, National Energy Leader Award at CII National Award for Excellence in Energy Management 2018.

Meesho hits 6-lakh sellers milestone, nearly half of them are unique to the platform

National: Meesho, India's fastest growing internet commerce company, announced that it has crossed 6 lakh seller registrations on the platform, recording a 7X increase since April 2021. An

increasing number of small businesses have joined Meesho in the past year as a result of the company's industry-first initiatives such as zero commission and zero penalty. Nearly half of these sellers operate only on Meesho, thereby making it the e-commerce platform of choice for small and medium businesses across the country.

Nearly 70% of all Meesho sellers hail from tier 2+ cities such as Amritsar, Rajkot and Tiruppur, among others. The company has been instrumental in transforming ~1 lakh small business owners into lakhpati and over 5,000 into crorepati since January 2021. Enabling sellers to tap into a large and diverse customer base has boosted their earning potential.

Commenting on this growth, **Lakshminarayan Swaminathan, CXO, Supply Growth at Meesho**, said, "We are building a platform that enables high growth and profit margins for MSMEs. Sellers on Meesho have seen their revenue triple since April 2021. It is immensely

fulfilling to see the role Meesho is playing in helping small businesses reach their full potential. When we say we're democratising internet commerce, that also means we are creating a level playing

field for sellers. Today, Meesho is the only platform that does not differentiate sellers on the basis of tiers, nor do we have a private label play or wholesale play. Through our seller-friendly initiatives, we will continue to further our vision of enabling 100 million small businesses to succeed online."

Meesho has built robust data-backed models that have helped create a user-friendly experience, resolve the pain points of sellers and introduce a greater degree of transparency to the e-commerce ecosystem.

Most small businesses in India are not yet technologically savvy and mobile-first. Meesho was the first Indian company to launch an integrated e-commerce mobile app for customers and sellers is part of the company's efforts to drive the digitisation of small businesses in the country. Through this app, sellers can manage their businesses better, whether it's order processing, payment tracking or inventory management.

- ✦ Witnessed 7X increase in seller registration since April 2021 along with ~3X growth in average seller revenue
- ✦ Recorded ~4X growth in the number of lakhpati sellers and ~5.5X growth in crorepati sellers since January 2021

- According to the study, 93% teachers surveyed feel that technology is beneficial in classrooms.
- Further, students spend nearly 6-8 hours of their day sitting, hence furniture should accommodate their need to move.



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Twitter to pay \$150M penalty over privacy of users' data

WASHINGTON: Twitter will pay a \$150 million penalty and put in new safeguards to settle federal regulators' allegations that the social platform failed to protect the privacy of users' data over a six-year span.

The Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission announced the settlement with Twitter on Wednesday. The regulators allege Twitter violated a 2011 FTC order by deceiving users about how well it maintained and protected the privacy and security of their nonpublic contact information.

From May 2013 to September 2019, Twitter told users that it was collecting their phone numbers and email addresses for purposes of account security. But it

platform, the government alleged.

The regulators also alleged, in a federal lawsuit filed Wednesday, that Twitter falsely claimed that it complied with U.S. privacy agreements with the European Union and Switzerland, which prohibit companies from processing user information in ways that are at odds with purposes authorized by users.

ALSO READ: Elon Musk revises Twitter financing plan; shares jump
"Twitter obtained data from users on the pretext of harnessing it for security purposes but then ended up also using the data to target users with ads," FTC Chair Lina Khan said in a statement. "This practice affected more than 140 mil-

more than 229 million users around the world. The \$150 million penalty and the required new compliance measures under the settlement must be approved by a federal court in California.

The FTC's 2011 order had alleged serious lapses in Twitter's data security that allowed hackers to gain unauthorized administrative control of Twitter, including access to nonpublic user information.

"Keeping data secure and respecting privacy is something we take extremely seri-

ously, and we have cooperated with the FTC every step of the way," Twitter's chief privacy officer, Damien Kieran, said in a blog post Wednesday. He said the company has taken steps in accord with the FTC on updating operations and making other improvements "to ensure that people's personal data remains secure and their privacy protected."

ALSO READ: Jack Dorsey steps down from Twitter's board of directors
Twitter announced in November the for-

mation of a new data governance committee within the company.

Word of the settlement came on the day of Twitter's annual shareholder's meeting. The drama of Tesla billionaire Elon Musk's proposed \$44 billion purchase of Twitter has swirled around the company for weeks. Musk, who is one of Twitter's largest shareholders, on Wednesday revised

the financing plan for his proposed takeover, raising investor hopes that he still intends to pull off the deal.

Twitter yields unrivaled influence on news, politics, and society thanks to its public nature, simple interface and of-the-moment immediacy. Some experts fear that Musk would relax content-moderation rules that offer some protection against white su-

premac, hate speech and threats of violence. The platform famously banned

former President Donald Trump following the assault on the U.S. Capitol in January 2021.

Blinken: US to leverage Russia-Ukraine bloc against China

Continued from page-1

"Beijing's vision would move us away from the universal values that have sustained so much of the world's progress over the past 75 years."

Thus, Blinken will lay out principles for the administration to marshal its resources, friends and allies to push back on increasing Chinese assertiveness around the world.

However, he will also acknowledge that the U.S. has limited ability to directly influence China's intentions and ambitions and will instead focus on shaping the strategic environment around China.

"We can't rely on Beijing to change its trajectory," Blinken will say in the speech, to be delivered at George Washington University. "So we will shape the strategic environment around Beijing to advance our vision for an open and inclusive international system."

The speech follows President Joe Biden's just-concluded visits to South Korea and Japan, where China loomed large in discussions. Biden raised eyebrows during that trip when he said that the United States would act militarily to help Taiwan defend itself in the event of an invasion by China, which regards the island as a renegade province.

The administration scrambled to insist that Biden was not changing American policy and officials said that Blinken will restate that the U.S. has not changed its position. Blinken will say that Washington still holds to its "One China" policy, which recognizes Beijing but allows for unofficial links with and arms sales to Taipei, according to officials familiar with the speech.

Those officials said Blinken will make the case that the global response to Putin's invasion of Ukraine serves as a template for dealing with China's efforts to mold a new and unpredictable world order to replace the rules and institutions that have guided relations between states since the end of World War II.

China, Blinken will say, has benefited greatly from that international order but is now trying to subvert it under the leadership of President Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party.

"Rather than using its power to reinforce and revitalize the laws, agreements, principles, and institutions that enabled its success, so other countries can benefit from them, too, Beijing is undermining it," Blinken will say. "Under President Xi, the ruling Chinese Communist Party has become more repressive at home and more aggressive abroad."

Investment in domestic U.S. infrastructure and technology along with stepping up diplomatic outreach to potentially vulnerable countries are other elements of the policy are key to the U.S. approach, Blinken will say.

In the latest manifestation of China's push to expand its reach that has drawn concern from the U.S. and other democracies, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday began an eight-nation tour of Pacific islands during which Beijing hopes to strike a sweeping agreement that covers everything from security to fisheries.

Wang opened his tour in the Solomon Islands, which last month signed a security cooperation pact with China that some fear could lead to a Chinese military presence there. The agreement was finalized shortly after the Biden administration announced it would open a U.S. embassy in the Solomons as part of its efforts to engage in the greater Indo-Pacific region.

The Biden administration has largely kept in place confrontational policies toward China adopted by its predecessor in response to Chinese actions in its western Xinjiang region, Hong Kong, Tibet and the South China Sea. And, while the administration sees areas for working with Beijing, such as combatting climate change, it will not trade cooperation for compromising on its principles regarding human rights and rule of law, Blinken will say.

RS By Poll Notification

Continued from page-1

Congress with 22 and 9 seats in the Assembly do not have the numbers to win a seat.

Speculation is rife in the ruling BJD over candidates for the new vacancies as all the four seats were held by the party.

Senior BJD leaders including those who have not got any position for a long time, those who lost the election and those who have recently joined the party are lobbying hard to get a party ticket for the election. There is buzz within the party that the Party Supremo might pick at least a woman candidate for the election. Names of many leaders including Sasmit Patra, Pradeep Majhi, Sulata Deo, Shrimayee Mishra, Prasanna Patsani, Santosh Amat, Susmita Bagchi and Manas Mangaraj are doing the rounds.

However, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will take the final call. Naveen, who always takes surprise moves by picking up a candidate at the grassroots level, may also repeat the same in this poll.

Mo Sarkar Connects Public

Continued from page-1

through the 'Mo Sarkar' program and that citizens have also been able to participate in government programs in the process.

"Equity and inclusive society can be built through continuous efforts in this direction," he said.

"I reiterate that the satisfaction of the people is not a goal, it is a continuous journey. We all need to continue to improve and be more proactive in solving people's problems," he told the Departments' officials.

The role of the departments should not be limited to collecting public opinion, but rather to address the problems that exist, he asserted.

"Employees who are outstanding at providing services to the public need to be recognized by the departments," he said.

At the event, the Chief Minister included three departments of Finance, Public Works and Commerce and Transport to join the 'Mo Sarkar' initiative.

The meeting also reviewed the activities of four departments— Home Affairs, Health & Family Welfare, Forests & Climate Change, Industry, the Small and Medium Enterprises and Water Resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra said that this was the biggest program to get feedback from the people.

Chief Minister's Secretary 5T VK Pandian said the feedback system of most departments is of high quality.

Secretary Electronics and IT Manoj Mishra said that 233 services in 28 departments have been included in the programme.

With today's inclusion, there are 250 services in 31 departments, he said.

'Mo Sarkar' has 11,28 government offices, and 199 authorities are engaged in collecting feedback.

The event was attended by Additional Chief Secretaries of various departments, Director General of Police, Principal Secretaries and other senior officials.



failed to disclose that it also would use the information to enable companies to send targeted online ads to users on the

lion Twitter users while boosting Twitter's primary source of revenue." The San Francisco-based company has

Fake reviews on e-commerce sites under Centre's radar; meeting with stakeholders

NEW DELHI: The consumer affairs ministry along with the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) will hold a virtual meeting on Friday with stakeholders including e-commerce entities to discuss the magnitude of fake reviews on their platforms, which mislead consumers into buying online products and services.

The purpose of the meeting is to prepare a road map ahead. The discussions will be broadly based on the impact of fake and misleading reviews on consumers and possible measures to prevent such anomalies, the ministry said in a statement.

Consumer affairs secretary Rohit Kumar Singh has written to all stakeholders: E-commerce entities like Flipkart, Amazon, Tata Sons, Reliance Retail, and others, besides consumer forums, law universities, lawyers, FICCI, CII, consumer rights activists, etc to participate in the meeting.

The secretary has flagged with stakeholders the results of an EU-wide screening of online consumer reviews across 223

major websites. The screening results underline that at least 55 per cent of the websites violate the unfair commercial practices directive of the EU, which requires truthful information to be presented to consumers to make an informed choice.

Further, in 144 out of the 223 websites checked, the authorities could not confirm that traders were doing enough to ensure that reviews were authentic, i.e, if they were posted by consumers who had actually used the product or service that was reviewed, the statement said.

The secretary said in the letter that consumers are increasingly shopping online for the purchase of goods and services with growing internet and smartphone use.

"Given that e-commerce involves a virtual shopping experience without any opportunity to physically view or examine the product, consumers heavily rely on reviews posted on e-commerce platforms to see the opinion and experience of users who have already purchased the goods or service," he said.

Manchester United reports revenue increase despite 'disappointing' season

LONDON: Manchester United's latest accounts show a 30 per cent increase in revenue for the three months until March 31 this year despite the club's worst season in the Premier League era. United's total revenue for the first three months of 2022 was £152.8 million (\$192 million), up 29.2 per cent from £118.3 million compared to the same period last year. The club earned an additional £34.1 million in matchday revenue in this period, with the coronavirus pandemic having limited matchday

revenue to £1.6 million in the third quarter of 2021. However, there was an operating loss of £21.8 million for the third quarter, compared to £21.6 million 12 months ago, with broadcast revenue down by 12 per cent to £51.5 million.

United's net debt was also up to £495.7 million, an 11.8 per cent increase on 12 months ago. The financial bulletin comes just days after United wrapped up the season in sixth place, with their lowest points total since the Premier League started in

1992. United's failure to qualify for next season's Champions League will be a significant hit to their finances going forward. They will instead compete in the less lucrative Europa League in new

place and 35 behind Manchester City

manager Erik ten Hag's first season in charge. United finished 13 points adrift of the fourth place and 35 behind Manchester City

as their wait for a first major trophy since 2017 goes on. In a statement accompanying the accounts, Manchester United chief executive Richard Arnold admitted it had been a poor campaign and vowed they would improve under former Ajax boss Ten Hag. "It's clearly been a disappointing season for the men's first team. Work is well under way to address this, led by our football director, John Murtough and our new manager, Erik ten Hag," Arnold said. "Resilience and high standards are core values for Manchester

United, and we are determined to achieve better results next season and beyond. "Faith in youth is another key tenet of the club and the continued success of our academy gives us confidence in the future." Arnold added that the recovery of the club's financial position after the impact of the pandemic reflected "the enduring strength of our commercial operations, which in turn support our ability to continue to invest in the club".



Portugal approves sale of Chelsea by Abramovich

LISBON: The Portuguese government has given its authorization for the sale of Chelsea by Roman Abramovich, who as a Portuguese passport holder needed its approval. The decision by Portugal was announced on Thursday, a day after the British government approved the sale of Chelsea by the sanctioned Russian oligarch to a consortium fronted by a part-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Portugal's rubber stamp was also needed for the deal worth 2.5 billion pounds (USD 3.1 billion) — the highest price ever for a sports

team — to go through. "The two competent national authorities, the ministry of foreign affairs and the ministry of finance, gave the green light to the request received from Roman Abramovich for a humanitarian waiver, allowing the English club to be transacted," the Portuguese government said in a statement. The government in Lisbon said its backing of the sale hinged on "the guarantee given by the British authorities that the proceeds from the sale will be used for humanitarian purposes, not directly or

indirectly benefiting the owner of the club, which is on the European Union sanctions list." It added that its position received the backing of the European Commission. Abramovich gained Portuguese citizenship in 2021 thanks to a law that offered to naturalize the descendants of Sephardic Jews who were forced to leave the Iberian Peninsula centuries before. Abramovich has been sanctioned by British and European authorities over his links to Russian President Vladimir Putin following the invasion of Ukraine.

British and Portuguese authorities had to ensure the oligarch would not profit from the enforced sale of the club. Abramovich's assets were frozen in March and Chelsea has been operating under a British government license which expires on Tuesday. The English Premier League approved the sale of the 2021 European champion on Tuesday. The buyers of the London-based club are led by Todd Boehly who, besides being part owner of the MLB's Dodgers, also has minority stakes in the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers and WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks.






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