

## Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa declares a state of emergency



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa Friday declared a state of emergency giving security forces sweeping powers for the second time in five weeks to deal with escalating anti-government protests.

A spokesman for the president said he invoked the tough laws to "ensure public order" after trade unions staged a nationwide strike Friday demanding his resignation over a worsening economic crisis.

## Convoy involved in mishap, Minister Satyavathi unhurt

MAHABUBABAD(KCN): Tribal Welfare Minister Satyavathi Rathod escaped unhurt when the cars in her convoy rammed into each other after the driver of the lead vehicle applied sudden brakes to avoid hitting a pig in Mahabubabad district on Thursday. The incident occurred near Maripeda Kargil centre in

Mahabubabad district. Speaking to Express, Maripeda Circle Inspector (CI) N Sagar said that the two cars in which the minister pilot and security guards were traveling suffered some damage due to the collision. The Minister later proceeded on her way and attended the district administration review meetings in

Mahabubabad district, said Sagar. When contacted Satyavathi Rathod told Express: "I am safe. The convoy drivers, and security guards also escaped unhurt. I request the party cadre and my well-wishers not to worry."

## Swabhiman Anchal: Once a Maoist citadel in Odisha, now a proud example of transformation

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Cut-off area of Malkangiri district, now known as 'Swabhiman Anchal', was formed as a consequence of construction of two major reservoirs at Machhkund in 1960s and Balimela in 1980s. The reservoirs created a 60 km-long water channel that surrounded the 150-odd villages from three sides and left the inhabitants of the area with no access to the mainland.

Situated at the tri-junction of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and

Chhattisgarh with extremely inhospitable terrains, the area had practically no access for government officials also, and, thus, became truly cut-off. The region comprising 9 Gram Panchayats, is mostly inhabited by the Didayis, a Primitive Tribal Group. Because of its inaccessibility for security forces also, this area had become a bastion of CPI (Maoist). Difficult topography made matters more severe.

The Odisha Government realised

CONTINUED ON: P-7

## CCHFV passes resolution terming WHO's modelling for India's COVID death estimate flawed

KEVADIA(KCN): A resolution was passed at the conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFV) on Friday strongly objecting to the WHO's estimates

port and urged Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to convey the country's disappointment to the WHO and raise it at higher international forums.



of 4.7 million COVID-19-linked deaths in India. The resolution stated that the modelling methodology used to reach the figure is "flawed" and that the WHO estimate is "unacceptable" to India as the country records Covid deaths systematically following a transparent and legal process, official sources said. On the second day of the CCHFV conference in Kevadia in Gujarat, around 20 state health ministers unanimously rejected the WHO re-

The state health ministers included those from Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Sikkim and Maharashtra. In its report released on Thursday, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that nearly 15 million people were killed either by the coronavirus or by its impact on overwhelmed health systems in the past two years, more than double the official death toll of 6 million. Most of the fatalities were in Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas. According to the report, there were 4.7 million Covid deaths in India -- 10 times the official figures and almost a third of Covid deaths globally. CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Uttarakhand bypolls: Congress fields Nirmala Gahatodi against Pushkar Singh Dhami



NEW DELHI(KCN): The Congress on Friday fielded Nirmala Gahatodi against Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami for the bypolls to the Champawat Assembly seat. Dhami, who had lost

from Khatima during the Assembly elections, is required to be elected to the state Assembly to continue as the chief ministers. The byelections will be held on May 31. A statement issued by Congress General Secretary Mukul

Wasnik on Friday said party president Sonia Gandhi approved Nirmala's candidature for the Champawat bypolls. Nirmala belongs to the Brahmin community and had come into limelight during an anti-liquor move-

ment nearly three decades ago. She has been a member of the state Congress committee and the All-India Congress Committee. She was also a minister of state in the previous state Congress government.

## Pope Francis says war in Ukraine is barbarous



VATICAN CITY (KCN): Pope Francis says Russia's war in Ukraine is particularly 'barbarous' given that it involves Christians killing fellow Christians in a scandal that should drive the faithful toward unity.

Speaking to members of the Vatican office that promotes Christian unity among Catholics, Orthodox and other Christian churches, Francis said Christians should ask themselves what they have done and

can do to foster fraternity with one another. Francis recalled that efforts at unifying Christians took off in the last century thanks to "the awareness that the scandal of the division of Christians had a his-

torical weight in generating the evil that has poisoned the world with grief and injustice." He said: "Today, in the face of the barbarism of war, this yearning for unity must be fueled again."

## For peace in Ukraine, actors like India are crucial: Italian foreign minister

NEW DELHI(KCN): Italian Foreign Minister, Luigi Di Maio, on Friday, expressed concern over the ongoing humanitarian

board," said Foreign Minister Maio. Dr Jaishankar too responded by saying that the meeting was warm and productive.

underlined the importance to safeguard the international order based on the UN Charter, with special regard to the respect

and cybercrime. In the context of recent geopolitical developments, views were exchanged on Afghanistan and Indo-Pacific and cooperation in the multilateral forums including G20.



crisis in Ukraine in a meeting with External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar. For peace in Ukraine, actors like India are crucial, he said. "I had a very productive meeting with my Indian colleague Dr Jaishankar. For peace in Ukraine actors like India are crucial. We strengthen our relationship across the

"We noted our expanding cooperation in cyber security, science and technology and space sectors. We also agreed that increasing interest of Italian companies in make in India and transfer of technology will further advance our bilateral relationship," said Jaishankar. The two ministers

for sovereignty and territorial integrity. Meanwhile, the talks focused on strengthening the India-Italy bilateral partnership in energy transition, security, and defence. The two ministers reiterated their commitment to closely work in countering common challenges related to terrorism, violent extremism,

India-Italy Strategic Partnership on Energy Transition was announced last year during Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's, visit to Italy and the two nations had agreed to explore partnerships in areas such as gas transportation, green hydrogen, biofuels and energy storage. In addition, they agreed to jointly organize an India - Italy Tech Summit on Energy Transition and Circular Economy, which will be held in Delhi on 17 November 2022. CONTINUED ON: P-7

# Appreciation for Reforms

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Cultural Association of Department of Finance celebrated Annual Ceremony here at Rabindra Mandap

Financial reforms and financial management have played an important role in this journey, he said. The Chief Secretary

eration, reforms in treasury system, implementation of FRBM Act and proper management of the State finance,

Vishal Dev said that Odisha has been recognised as a pioneer State in fiscal management in the country. He advised the officials to use technology to expedite their working style to achieve the target. The Cultural Association President Tarun Chandra Pal presided over the function while secretary Bhaktaram Patnaik delivered the annual report of the association. The officers and staff of the department presented a reform-oriented family drama named Dhara Akhire Luha. Their artistic performance



last evening. Principal Secretary Finance, Vishal Kumar Dev and Special Secretary Finance Nidhi Kumar Routray along with senior officials of the Department attended the function.

On this occasion Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra felicitated the winners of the competitions on different creative activities like essay, story and debate. Mr. Mahapatra complimented officers of the department for their expertise in implementation of financial reforms and better financial management in the State. From a fiscal deficit State, Odisha has now emerged as a speedy developed State in the country.

thanked the officers and staff of the Finance Department

he pointed out. Mr. Mahapatra appealed to the officers



for their hard work in proper management of the State Finance. Odisha has been recognised at national level in the field of revenue gen-

and staff to take Odisha to a new height of development. Speaking on this occasion, Principal Secretary, Finance,

made the audience spell bound. A souvenir of the Cultural Association Kautilya was unveiled on this occasion.

## Group centre, CRPF Imphal (Manipur) conducts Hindi workshop

Imphal (KCN): Group Centre, CRPF conducted Station level Hindi Workshop today i.e. on 06/05/2022 at Group Centre, CRPF,

Literature all over the world and the relation of Vedic with Greek Language. He explained Hindi as a source of National Integrity and



Imphal, (Manipur) in which officials of all offices stationed in Imphal have been participated. The Workshop was inaugurated by Shri Madan Kumar, DIG, GC, CRPF, Imphal who was the chief guest of the inauguration Ceremony. Shri Dinesh, Commandat, GC, Imphal, all officers, SOs and officials were present on the occasion. Shri Madan Kumar, DIG in his inaugural speech said that more stress is being given by Government of India to increase the use of Hindi in day to day official correspondence; therefore Hindi Workshops are necessary to impart practical training. He spoke on the overall development and popularity of Hindi

urged participants to increase the use of Hindi in the workplace. Shri Madan Kumar, DIG also delivered lecture on 'Cultural and Financial importance of Hindi' and 'Problems and solutions for working in Hindi. Shri Dinesh, Commandant delivered lecture on the noting, drafting and all type of letters in hindi. Shri Satyendra Singh, Assistant Commandant (Official Language) delivered lecture on the Filling of quarterly progress reports manual/online and implementation of Official Language Rules. Shri Satyendra Singh, Assistant Commandant(Official Language) welcomed the chief guest and also present vote of thanks.

# Kolkata's Aman Rahman secures Silver for the National Kickboxing Championship, dreams to be world's No. 1

Lolkata (KCN): A proud moment for the entire Heritage family to witness the achievement of Aman Rahman, a student of The Heritage Academy, Kolkata, from Bachelors of Busi-

Championship recently held at Goa. He won the runners-up position in the under 80kgs Senior Category. "Aman's performance in the kick boxing championship

tage Academy. "I dream to be among the top Kickboxers in the world. My college supports me a lot in pursuing my goals in life," said Aman Rahman describing some of the moments

weight loss. How many of us know this? This sport is very much well known in the west. It is also gaining a momentum in India as well. Aman's contribution is an example



ness Administration (BBA), second year, fourth semester, securing the second position winning a silver medal in the Hades K-1 Pro Interstate National Kickboxing

won our hearts. A very hardworking student and has the passion in making a career in Kickboxing," said Prof. Gour Banerjee, Principal, The Heri-

from the match. "Recent scientific study showed that Kickboxing improves concentration, contributes towards a healthy heart and obviously a tremendous

for his juniors as well to pursue their dreams to become successful in life," said Mr. P.K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

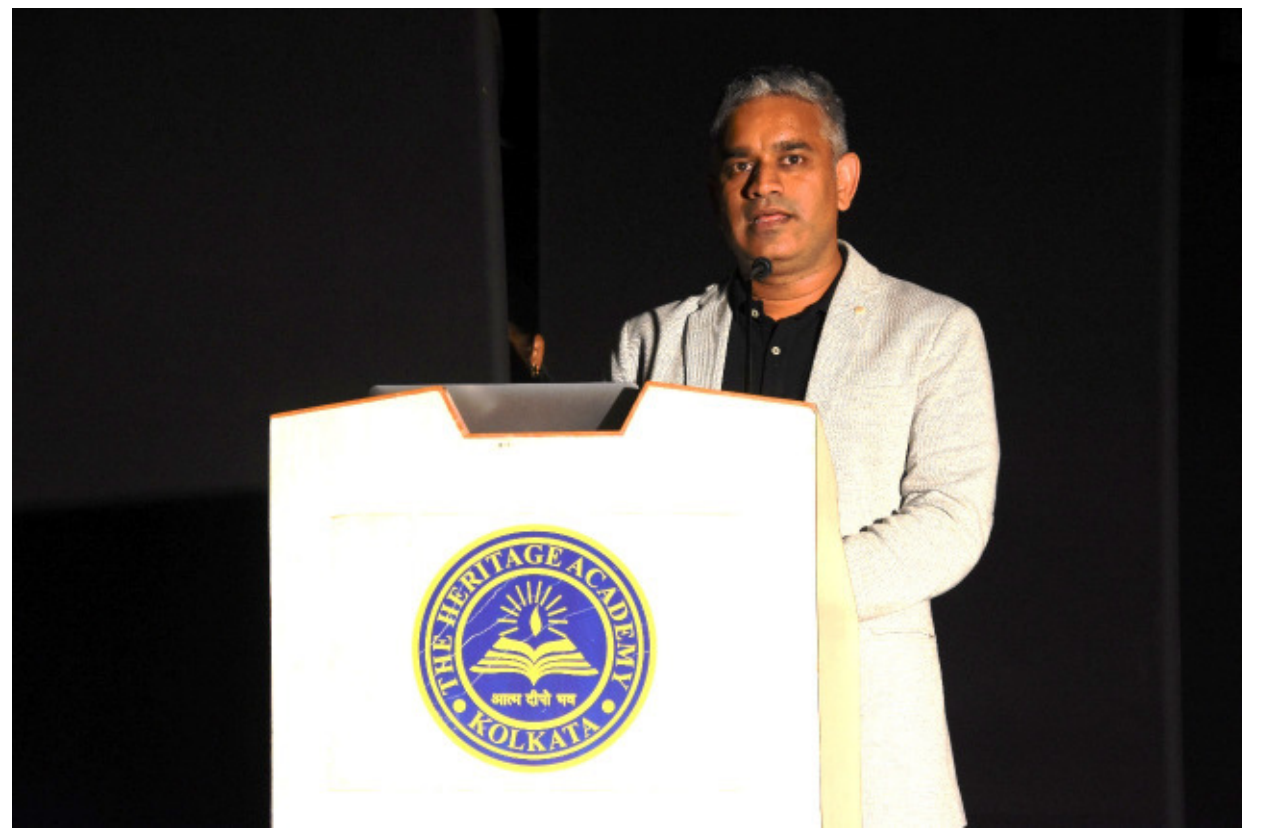
## India's AI market to reach USD 7.8 billion by 2025

Kolkata (KCN): This has been validated by the latest report of International Data Corporation (IDC) in India for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Market, 2021 that

Academy, Kolkata, organized an invited talk on Artificial Intelligence which was addressed by Mr. Prashant Pandey, Director of Technology, End-user computing,

lars of Artificial Intelligence, Mr. Prashant clearly distinguished Artificial intelligence & Machine Learning. Moreover he also spoke about the nec-

rent trend in the industry and such a talk will help the students in giving their practical inputs," said Prof. Gour Banerjee, Principal, The Heritage Academy.



predicts India's AI market to reach USD 7.8 billion by 2025 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 20.2%, from a market value of USD 3.1 billion in 2020. Recently on 5th May 2022, The Heritage

VMWare Asia-Pacific and Japan. During his address he said, "Artificial Intelligence is not authentic unlike human intelligence that comes with life itself." Briefly describing the four pil-

essary skills required to make a career in AI and how students can take into consideration some of the important aspects which can help them to make decisions. "An important topic which is now the cur-

The session also witnessed some exciting discussions on human behaviour and how AI can respond to the same citing some examples from AI applications which are currently being used in the Industry.

## Three youth arrested on charges of assaulting and robbing

Barbil(KCN): Barbil police of Kendujhar district today arrested three youths on charges of assaulting and robbing a driver. According to reports, Grummet Singh of the Barbil station area, complained that his truck driver Santosh Prasad had halted his vehicle near railway level crossing near the level crossing near Barbil Municipal office as railway gate were short. His driver went to fetch a bottle of water and again came back. At that moment, five or six young

men arrived and asked him to move forward and abused him with filthy language. On protest, He was beaten with wooden stick. The driver got injured. They snatched his mobile phone, Rs 13,500 and other vehicle document. Grummet Singh had lodged a complaint with the police. Barbil police have arrested MD Taufiq, MD Raju of Barkhat Nagar and Sahibudin Khan of Bagiabur Hatting under Barbil police station and seized their used bike vide regd.no OD09 C 3703.

**CLASSIFIED**

**CAUTION**

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. The Kalinga chronicle publication does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of The Kalinga Chronicle Publications shall not be held responsible/ liable for any consequences, in case such claims are found to be false.



**AUTOMOBILE**

**SALE**  
Kawasaki Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale. Contact: 2555326



**REAL ESTATE**

**SALE**  
Flats ready for possession before Rathayatra at Puri near Seabeach for sale. Contact: 9861078308

**PURCHASE**  
Required a Marshal/Commandor / Boleto in good condition. Contact 2555763

Residential plots at Pahala close to NH-5 and near Pata Railway Station, Bhubaneswar for immediate sale. Contact :0674-2556733  
Residential plots at

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF**

Classified advertisements are released daily. The normal classified advertisement is charged @ Rs. 5/- per word up to maximum number of 50 words. Any extra word will be Rs. 8/- per word. The minimum charges for any classified advertisement is Rs. 100/-. The options for bold lettering and outlining are also available and are charged @ 7/- and 10/- per word respectively. Extra charges for photographs Rs.100/- For Box No. Rs. 100/-

**HIRE**

For hiring of Car / Jeep / Bus on monthly basis. Contact : 2555763



**BUSINESS**

Saving 10,000/- for high return, extra earn and Foreign trip opportunity, 9238504001. Independent business work from home, training in Singapore, 9338014287.

Gohira Chhak in front of CV Raman Engineering College beside NH-5, near Tamando. Contact : 9238691168

**PURCHASE**

Simplex / Duplex building at BBSR contact : 9437002509

**ACCOMMODATION WANTED**

Required Single / Double / Triple Stored North/East facing building at Puri . Contact 9437143483



**TOURS & TRAVELS**

We provide luxury coach buses (16,25,32,41,52 seater) for Picnic, Excursion, Marriage. Maa Santoshi Travels, Contact : 9861079437  
For Luxury Passenger vehicle, Contact : Sagacity Tours & Travels, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Ph. 2540219

**WANTED**

**Required Driver/Peon/Attendant/ Aya**

Please Contact-8984600400

**ACCOMMODATION WANTED**

Required double/Single/ Multi storied Bungalow type North or East Facing Independent building At-Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar, V.S.S. Nagar, Mancheswar, Rasulgarh, Sallashree Vihar, Niladri Vihar.

Please Contact- 8338870595

**Ajay Devgn and Kajol are two of a kind**

Wife and husband and duo Kajol and Ajay Devgn are poles

Tanhaji is Ajay's centennial film in Bollywood. "We

believe that hard work pays off." At a time when

more than necessary. He keeps me grounded and makes

On the use of 3D technology, the actor says, "The technol-

younger generation is robbed of Indian history. "Not much has been written about unsung warriors such as Tanhaji in school textbooks. My children have not even read about him. During the British era they did not let people read about Indian warriors. Our textbooks have not changed much since then. So, I decided to do this film. The least we can do is respect our heroes. Maybe it will bring about a change in our country. But such films require an audience connect. So, we made it a commercial film with lots of music, action and drama."



apart in their behaviour. While he is quiet and speaks in monosyllables, she is animated and happy-go-lucky. The couple is currently in a celebratory mode as they recently marked their 21st wedding anniversary and are now busy promoting their upcoming film Tanhaji together. The duo is making a comeback on screen after a decade.

Their last film together Toonpur Ka Superhero in 2010 was also made under their own banner—Ajay Devgn Films.

Incidentally,

didn't know that it's his 100th film. It is a happy coincidence. We'd never planned to celebrate but it has all come together. I was supposed to write about his journey on Instagram but I couldn't figure which films to mention and which not to. There are so many outstanding movies and roles that he has done," beams Kajol.

On his journey in Bollywood, Ajay says, "Whatever work I have done has been very satisfying. People tell me to promote myself but I can't do that. I be-

lieve that hard work pays off." At a time when more than necessary. He keeps me grounded and makes me realise that I am going overboard at times," says Kajol on how their marriage works. The couple reveals that their children Nysa and Yug have not watched the film yet. "They don't like my movies because they feel I weep too much. They feel that I cry in happy scenes too," says Kajol. Ajay laughs and adds, "Nysa doesn't discuss much about films but Yug calls me Tanhaji Malsure when I reach home. Even when I call him he says 'Hello Tanhaji'."

me realise that I am going overboard at times," says Kajol on how their marriage works.

The couple reveals that their children Nysa and Yug have not watched the film yet. "They don't like my movies because they feel I weep too much. They feel that I cry in happy scenes too," says Kajol. Ajay laughs and adds, "Nysa doesn't discuss much about films but Yug calls me Tanhaji Malsure when I reach home. Even when I call him he says 'Hello Tanhaji'."

ogy that we've used has been done for the first time in India by Indians. I formed my own company for this. The CGI has been done completely by us. I have always tried to experiment with new techniques. Our director Om Raut had done all the research before we embarked on the path. In fact, we met Tanhaji's family and they would be on the sets every day. We recreated the sets as such locales are not available in the current situation."

The 50-year-old further rues how the

Nonetheless, Ajay says controversies could be raked up during the release. "We have tried to make an interesting film and kept the story straight so that we don't get into controversies. But the country is divided now. People can try and create some controversy or the other. I hope the youth realises that it's not easy recreating an unknown part of history in a movie," he concludes.

**Aditya Roy Kapoor, Disha Patani sizzle in new 'Malang' poster**

A new poster of Mohit Suri's Malang featuring Aditya Roy Kapur and Disha Patani is out. The poster highlights an intimate moment between the stars, framed against a surreal background.

Suri shares, "Passionate, exciting, energetic, mad, love is all this and more. Aditya and Disha's love depicts their liberated and Malang state of mind in this poster. I'm looking forward to seeing how the au-

dience perceives it." Malang was shot in Mauritius, Goa and Mumbai. Produced by T-Series, Luv Films and Ankur Garg, and Northern Lights Entertainment, the film is slated to release on February 7, 2020.

**Common man has always been the hero: Vikrant Massey**

**MUMBAI:** Actor Vikrant Massey says for him the common man is the hero in real life and he aims to showcase the same on-screen.

The actor believes "aam-aadmi" has been ignored by the film industry for too long and through his movies he wants him to take the centre stage.

"This is the time of common man. The person cleaning the drain is a common man, the common man are out on streets fighting.

"The common man has always been the hero and they have been ignored for too long. I am an actor, I can act and what I can do through my work is, become their voice," Vikrant told PTI in an interview here.

Coming from a lower-middle class family, Vikrant says he has had his fair share of struggles in life, and he has come out stronger.

"I was told I am a TV actor and I won't get to work in films. When I came here (films) I was told I can only be a hero's friend, but I am the

protagonist and the so-called hero. I have lived a journey. Like Amol in 'Chhapaak' is a common man, who left his job and is walking on this path. There are people, these are characters, who for me are the heroes."

The actor says he has always drawn inspiration from the society as he is not a trained performer.

"I travel a lot. I want to bring on-screen all my experiences. I am still learning, I am very young, what I see around me, I try to bring it on screen.

"I hope audiences like me, they laugh and cry with me and take away something from the characters I play.

I am not attempting to change the world, I want people to get aware of their own self, and relate to the characters I play," he adds.

Vikrant is looking forward to "Chhapaak", featuring Deepika Padukone as an acid attack survivor.

The film, directed by Meghna Gulzar, is inspired the life of Laxmi

Agarwal. The actor, who was earlier supposed to collaborate with Meghna on "Raazi", says he is happy to have got the opportunity to be part of her latest venture.

"The response has been positive so far and we are looking forward to January 10, when it releases. It's an opportunity for any aspiring artiste to work with Meghna, Deepika and on a story as such. I am fortunate to be a part of this film."

Vikrant says with "Chhapaak" their aim is to create awareness about acid violence.

"It is a heinous crime and no living being deserves this. No one has the right to have an impact or influence on anyone else's life in such a life-altering way.

"Through 'Chhapaak' our attempt is to talk about acid violence and we hope people take this film in the right way and there will be more awareness and discussion on this topic."

The film is scheduled to release on January 10.

**There was strange inherent comfort with Brad Pitt: Leonardo DiCaprio**

**LOS ANGELES(K-CN):** Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio

the film, which was well-received across the globe.

working with Brad was this strange inherent comfort and



says working with Brad Pitt on Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" was an incredible experience.

The actor said they both clicked instantly and were on the same page while portraying their respective characters in

DiCaprio played an ageing, out-of-work actor, Rick Dalton, in the film set in 1960s' Hollywood, while Pitt essayed the part of his stunt double and confident Cliff Booth.

"What was very interesting about

ease that we really both clicked into day one. It didn't need a lot of prep work. We talked about the script, and we instinctively knew that dynamic and relationship, and who these guys were to one another," the actor, 45, told Deadline.

# Finally. Rate Cut !!!

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s monetary policy committee (MPC) took the financial market by surprise yesterday. A little over three weeks after the six-member MPC voted unanimously to hold the policy repo rate at 4%, they changed course and increased it to 4.4% in an off-cycle meeting.

It's the first increase in repo rate since August 2018. RBI will separately increase the cash reserve ratio maintained by banks by half a percentage point to 4.5%. This is expected to suck out Rs 87,000 crore of liquidity. Monetary tightening is well underway now.

MPC was expected to nudge up interest rates later this year. The question therefore is, what triggered an unscheduled meeting to advance this? The answer is a combination of elevated inflation and the uncertainty around inflation's trajectory.

A volatile geopolitical situation has fuelled a surge in prices of many commodities. The pain has already shown up in India – retail inflation in March was 6.95%, led mainly by a jump in food prices. This surge in inflation has come at a time when even if aggregate demand is back at pre-pandemic levels, it's not yet robust. The abrupt turn in

monetary policy, therefore, was catalysed by a further apprehension.

The surge in fuel and food prices has come at a time when the price level of other items of consumption (core inflation) has remained high at around 6% for a year. MPC appears to fear the potential second-round impact of high commodity and food prices which occurs when firms raise sales prices and employees seek higher salaries to adjust to changing circumstances.

The Wholesale Price Index, or WPI, stood at 14.55% in March 2022 compared with 13.11% in February, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The high rate of inflation in March, 2022 is primarily due to rise in prices of crude petroleum and natural gas, mineral oils, basic metals, etc owing to disruption in global supply chain caused by Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Beginning April 2021, the WPI inflation has remained in double-digit zone for twelve consecutive months. While inflation has seen an increase in the last couple of months with a rise of 1.59%, the food and commodity prices continue to harden. Additionally, the food Index increased from 8.47 percent in February 2022 to 8.71 percent in March 2022 due to the increase in the cost of cooking oil that touched a new peak.

However, the reason for the high rate of inflation is primarily believed due to the

**Pradeep Kumar Panda**

rise in prices of crude petroleum, natural gas, mineral

oils, and basic metals, owing to disruption in the global supply chain caused by the conflict. This will result in amplifying cost pressures, and disrupt supply across the world; majorly impacting crude oil prices followed by food inflation to remain benign on account of normal monsoon and a rise in fertilizer costs and international food prices. Faster growth in prices is bound to harden inflation expectations going forward; this has the potential of creating a vicious cycle of inflation and inflationary expectations feeding into and off each other.

The Food Index consisting of 'Food Articles' from Primary Articles group and 'Food Product' from Manufactured Products group have increased from 166.4 in February, 2022 to 167.3 in March, 2022. The rate of inflation based on WPI Food Index increased from 8.47% in February, 2022 to 8.71% in March, 2022.

The index for fuel and power increased by 5.68% to 146.9 (provisional) in March, 2022 from 139.0 (provisional) for the month of February, 2022. Prices of Mineral Oils (9.19%) increased in March, 2022 as compared to February, 2022.

WPI worsened further to 14.55% in March, being the 12<sup>th</sup> straight month where the inflation has stayed in double digits. This was the highest month on

month WPI increase experienced by the economy since the WPI series began in 2004. The margins of companies across sectors may further face headwinds for at least next 2 quarters, owing to the Russia-Ukraine war as it continues to affect commodity and food prices, fresh set of restrictions if implemented due to the rising COVID cases can again be troublesome for the economy.

Therefore, the primary aim of an increase in repo rate at this juncture is to head off the second-round effects and preserve macro-financial stability. As yesterday's changes work their way through the economy's full spectrum of interest rates, borrowing costs on personal and home loans will rise. For savers in fixed income instruments, rates are set to increase.

The key takeaway from the announcement is the return of inflation as an important macroeconomic challenge. This will force RBI to prioritise fighting inflation over stimulating economic growth. It does shift the onus onto both GoI and states to adjust fiscal policy to adapt to the emerging situation.

For a start, taxes on pump prices of petrol and diesel need to be lowered to ease price pressure. Separately, agricultural policies need adjustments to ensure that food prices do not rise too high. The right fiscal policy will insulate the economy from a demand shock at this critical juncture.

RBI makes it clear inflation is now the big challenge, governments need to gear up to fight it.

The Author is an Economist

# India and the prejudiced perceptions

My journey to the Himalayas a few years ago as a young traveler and a yoga practitioner had been so resounding and significant at a personal level. As a yoga practitioner, my stay in one of the hermitages on the banks of the Ganges is still an enriching experience and what is vividly imprinted in my memory is the interactions that I was capable of with the foreign students among whom I met an old lady of 74 years from California. My

conversations with most of the forty of them from 20 countries have given me insights on what India is and a chance that I cherished to look at India through a western prism with clarity. I wondered at the level of commitment and love that those people had about the idea of India, especially the old lady from America who preferred to smear a pinch of soil on her forehead every morning calling India the holiest land and her second home. The entire duration of my stay with those India lovers made me really delve into the depth of what, as a country, India reflected to the foreign minds. The respect India at present is gaining is due to both the spiritual and political patronage that it was capable of for years. Spiritual it is, because we, as a country could deliver spiritual solace to a large number of global seekers with our inclusive ideals. Politically we are equally influential across the globe as a peace-loving nation that advocates for universal peaceful coexistence and brotherhood. Indeed, the aspects of influence that India is known for today, give it a special stature of recognition among countries of diverse interests and geopolitical aspirations. My

experience was personal and many, for that matter, must have experienced the same with little or more lucidity and serenity in the slopes of grandeur in the Himalayas. I thought to quote this at the backdrop of multiple disturbing clashes that began to rattle the country recently and India, with its global aspirations to emerge as a power, seems to be portrayed as standoffish and irresponsible when it comes to its ability to maintain equanimity as the diversity presses its nerves so hard. Agencies, foreign to the idea of India's cultural heritage are seemingly out to project the country as the most intolerant and a hostile destination devoid of peaceful coexistence. The western world always had a disparaging mindset on everything that politically India represented. The latest stroke has been from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). It made a comment on what it feels and identifies, that India according to the agency, is a tumultuous land with the minorities being strong-armed from practicing their religious faiths peacefully either by the state or by its religious majority. It also recommends India be identified as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) which it probably tags with those countries where religious freedom is frequently offended. The USCIRF identifies Russia, China, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan as the world's worst offenders of religious freedom. The spiritual values that India stood for ages never questioned the need of being in contradiction with other faiths. It always upheld the view of assimilation and never did animosity come its way of peaceful coexistence. This is the reason why many in the west are getting attracted to the eastern spiritual wisdom especially that India offers to the world, uncondition-

ally.

**M. R. LALU**

This happens in real terms because the basic tenets of India's spiritual wellbeing are based on diverse and pluralistic social engineering that it, from the ages of the sages, propagated with clarity and humility. Despite the belittling of the idea that India represents from different global platforms and some deliberate attempts from India too; there seems to be a spiritual essence emanating from the core of Indianness that keeps strengthening the country inexorably. Agencies, headquartered in America and elsewhere have been vigilant to mischaracterize the diversity that we have been successfully nourishing for long. Choosing to criticize a country based on intentionally selected issues that randomly lead to local skirmishes with a minority community at the receiving end; their intention surfaces with their studied silence on India when the majority community is persecuted by certain radicalized doctrines. We need to know the level of hypocrisy that India is rated with. Now, one example is enough to topple the argument that the USCIRF is making. The population registry of India reveals the fact that the country has been consistently witnessing an increase in the population of minorities since independence. Muslims alone, who comprised 9.8% of the country's population in 1950, is estimated to have grown to almost 14% or more today. This itself is evident from the fact that the main minority community has been flourishing in India while the country is blamed and debated worldwide by agencies and pseudo intellectuals painting its majority as an acrimonious sum. Pakistan and Bangladesh give us a gruesome picture of the minorities in those countries. They are being targeted, persecuted and forcefully converted and killed with their religious places desecrated and

destroyed and their population dwindling rapidly every passing day. The tendency that we are comfortable with, is to call the hostility in our neighborhood as a usual affair to the radicalized Islamic states. India is the country where the planet's largest human gathering takes place in the name of religion which indeed is the largest peaceful human gathering. The Kumbh mela is a perfect example of India's cultural heritage being displayed in its spiritual splendor seeking peace and prosperity for the entire humanity. Politically, India's independent stand on the Russia-Ukraine war was not disputed by the world. We could successfully convince the world the stand that we thought was right, without being judgmental and duplicitous on the pressure that the west and America put on us. This is emblematic to the sphere into which India has globally positioned itself as a responsible country. The binary that India is, in a largely polarized world is both, its spiritual and political might that it could successfully showcase in the last few decades gaining reverence. We are not to forget, the petty squabbles that we have been witnessing today and the international community took notice of, are the results of the suspicion that has gone deeper into the social psyche due to the centuries of conquests and political subjugations and misrepresentation of history. Today, what we need to have, is a larger canvas of acceptance, suitable to sprinkle a variety of colors to form a beautiful pictorial symphony of cohesion. The old lady from California with her soil smeared forehead is a symbol of reverence that India deserves and represents and we need to maintain it.

The author is a Freelance Journalist / Social Worker, Meppurathu House, Puthusserimala P.O -Ranni, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala State. Email: [mrlalu30@gmail.com](mailto:mrlalu30@gmail.com)

# Compensate or pay fine: DGCA tells airlines wrongly denying boarding to passengers

NEW DELHI: Airlines are indulging in "unfair practice" of denying boarding to passengers even when they report for

board. The DGCA's email said, "It has come to the notice of this office that various airlines are denying

to comply with the 2010 regulation at the earliest opportunity available, preferably at the airport, if the passenger has re-

benefits. However, in the absence of enough volunteers, the airline can evade giving any compensation if the affected passenger -- who has been denied boarding as the original flight is overbooked -- is given a ticket on a alternative flight that is departing within one hour of the original flight's departure.



their flights at the airport on time, Indian aviation regulator DGCA has stated. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) -- in an email on May 2 -- asked all Indian carriers to give compensation and facilities to passengers affected by such denial of boarding, failing which it would impose financial penalties on them. Sources alleged that Indian carriers have been overbooking their flights as COVID-19 cases are receding, and when the number of passengers exceed the number of seats in the aircraft, the airlines do not take them on-

boarding to passengers holding confirmed ticket on a flight, although they have presented themselves for boarding within the time specified by the airline." This "practice is extremely unfair" to the passengers and brings a bad name to the aviation industry, it added. To address such a situation, the DGCA had in 2010 issued a regulation that specified minimum compensation and facilities airlines must give to passengers who have been subjected to "denied boarding, cancellation or delay in flight", it said. The DGCA's e-mail directed the airlines

ported on time. "Any non-compliance of the provisions of the CAR (civil aviation requirement) will be viewed seriously and strict action will be initiated against the erring airline, including imposing financial penalties as per regulations," it mentioned. The 2010 regulation of the DGCA states that when the number of passengers who have been given tickets for a flight and have reported at the airport for boarding the flight on time are more than the number of seats on a flight, the airline must first ask for volunteers to give up their seats in exchange of certain

The airline has to give an amount equal to 200 per cent of basic fare plus fuel charge in case the alternate flight is scheduled to depart within 24 hours of the original flight's departure. The airline has to give an amount equal to 400 per cent of the basic fare plus fuel charge in case the alternate flight is scheduled to depart more than 24 hours after the original flight's departure, as per the regulation. In case the affected passenger does not opt for alternate flight, refund of full value of ticket and compensation, equal to 400 per cent of basic fare plus fuel charge, has to be given, the regulation said.

# Chhattisgarh CM's public feedback drive: 3 forest department officials suspended after villagers complain

RAIPUR: Continuing his crackdown on officials for alleged negligence in implementing government schemes, Chhattisgarh Chief

Kashyap, who is a 2015 batch Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer, Superintendent of Semarsot Wildlife Sanctuary Budhsai

Baghel on Friday reached Govindpur village in Pratappur assembly segment which falls in Surajpur, a government official said.

(for laxity) will be suspended. Government schemes are aimed at the welfare of people and farmers but they (pointing towards officials) are making a mockery of it," the CM said.



Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Friday ordered the suspension of three forest officials, including a Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), during his public interaction drive in the state's Surajpur district. Soon after the CM's directive, the state forest and climate change department issued suspension orders of Surajpur DFO Manish

Bhagat and Forest Range Officer (Ghui Range-Surajpur) S Sanskriti Barle. Bhagat was then posted as Sub Divisional Forest Officer in Surajpur. As a part of his constituency-wise drive, called 'Bhent Mulaqat', to seek direct feedback from people about the functioning of his government and implementation of welfare schemes,

"On getting complaints from villagers related to setting up 'gauthan' under Avarthi Charai Scheme, the CM ordered suspension of the officials," he said. In a video clip of the programme, the CM can be heard issuing directions for their suspension and then asking two officials were present there to leave. "Those responsible

As per the suspension orders, these officials allegedly showed indifference towards setting up 'gauthan' (places in villages where cattle are kept in daytime) under a scheme of the forest department. On the first day of his visit to Kusmi in Balrampur district on Wednesday, the CM had suspended Chief Municipal Officer (CMO) of Kusmi Nagar Panchayat, while some other officials, including two patwaris (village level revenue officer), were also suspended on his direction over two days.

# Centre Asks Heat Action Plan

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today reviewed the situation relating to Heat Wave Management and Monsoon Preparedness.

Prime Minister observed that we need to take all measures

fire hazards, enhance the capabilities of forest person-

for effective coordination between central and state agencies to



During the meeting, IMD and NDMA briefed about the persistence of high temperatures in March-May 2022 across the country. States and UTs have been advised to prepare Heat Action Plans as a standard response at the state, district and city levels. Regarding southwest monsoon preparedness, all states have been advised to prepare 'Flood Preparedness Plans' and undertake appropriate preparedness measures. NDRF has been advised to develop its deployment plan in flood affected states. Active use of social media for sensitization of communities has to be widely adopted.

to avoid deaths due to heat wave or fire incident and added that our response time towards any such incidents should be minimal. He stressed that in view of the rising temperatures, regular hospital fire safety audits need to be done. PM spoke about the need to work to substantially reduce the vulnerability of forests across the diverse forest ecosystems in the country against

nel and institutions for timely detection of a possible fire and for fighting fires, and to speed up recovery after a fire event. PM directed that in view of upcoming monsoons, arrangements for monitoring the quality of drinking water need to be ensured to avoid contamination and resultant spread of water-borne diseases. It was discussed in the meeting about the need

ensure preparedness of all systems for any incidents in the wake of heat wave and upcoming monsoons. The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary to PM, Advisors to PM, Cabinet Secretary, Secretaries in the Ministries of Home, Health, Jal Shakti, Member NDMA, DGs of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) & DG NDRF.

# Hindu youth murder: SC commission seeks report from Hyderabad police in 'honour killing' case

NEW DELHI: The National Commission for Scheduled Castes on Friday sought a report from the Hyderabad police on the action taken by it in the case of an alleged honour killing in Telangana. B Nagaraju, a Dalit in his mid-20s, was travelling on a motorcycle with his wife while he was confronted by his attackers--Syed Mobin Ahmed and Mohammed Masood Ahmed -- who came on a scooter, stopped the couple and attacked the man in

full public view at Saroornagar in Hyderabad. Mobin Ahmed is the woman's brother and Masood Ahmed is one of their relatives. Nagaraju and his wife were in love with each other for long and they got married in January this year against the wishes of the woman's family members, police said. Based on preliminary investigation, a senior police official told PTI that Mobin Ahmed was against his sister's relationship with Nagaraju and hence decided to "eliminate" him.

# 52-year-old Indian climber dies while trying to scale Mt.Kanchenjunga in Nepal

KATHMANDU: A 52-year-old Indian climber died while ascending the peak

some 386 metre below the 8,586 metre high peak. The climber refused

summitted the mountain peak and are now descending to the base camp from

Mt.Kanchenjunga, according to the organisers. Nepal this season issued permits to 68



of Mt Kanchenjunga in Nepal, according to the organiser of the expedition. Narayanan Iyer, a resident of Maharashtra, died on Thursday at 8,200 metre altitude of the world's third-highest mountain peak lying at the India-Nepal border, Nivesh Karki, executive director of the Pioneer Adventure, the organiser of the expedition. According to the preliminary report, the Indian climber died due to high altitude sickness,

to descend when the organisers "asked him to descend when he fell sick" while scaling the mountain, which led to his death, Karki told PTI. This is the first casualty of this season on Mt.Kanchenjunga. The organisers have been trying to retrieve the body of Iyer from the altitude that is described as the death zone. Other six climbers, including four Indian nationals, however, successfully

Camp IV, he said. The four Indian climbers who successfully ascended the peak are Bhagwan Bhikoba Chawle, 39, Manisha Rishi Gaid, 47, Pankaj Kumar, 21, and Priyanka Mangesh Mohite, 29. Two others who scaled the peak include Ms.Cira Idella Crowell from the US and Chung Han Lu, 38, from Taiwan. Besides six foreign nationals, Sherpa guides from Nepal also ascended the peak

foreign climbers for the 28,169-foot Kanchenjunga. Nepal, home to the World's highest peak Mount Everest, as well as, the third-highest peak Kanchenjunga, attracts hundreds of adventurers during the spring climbing season when temperatures are warm and winds are relatively calm. The Himalayan nation reopened its peaks to mountaineers last year after the shut down of the industry in 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Pradhan seeks hike in wage of mining workers Excise licensees plan strike against online billing software



**BHUBANESWAR:** Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday met Cabinet colleague and Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi and discussed various issues including wage hikes for contractual workers engaged in the mining sector.

The Minister who hails from Talcher requested Joshi to implement the recommendations of the high power committee for the contractual workers. Pradhan also requested Joshi to streamline the transportation of aluminum through

trucks in Angul and Kulad areas. He apprised Joshi of the problems faced by the truckers' associations of the two areas and also discussed the proposed expansion of the smelter plant of aluminum major Nalco at Angul. "We had discus-

sions on various issues pertaining to Odisha, including smooth transportation of aluminum in trucks in Angul & Kulad, hike in daily wage for contractual labourers engaged in the mining sector," Pradhan tweeted after the discussion.

### Three students take ill after consuming Shawarma in Tamil Nadu

**THANJAVUR:** Three students of

due to food poisoning and were admitted to

and Manikandan (21) -- staying at the



Veterinary College and Research Institute at Orathanadu here, who consumed Shawarma swooned at their hostel rooms

Thanjavur Medical College Hospital for treatment. The three students -- Praveen (22), Parameswaran (21)

institute's hostel had gone out for dinner on Thursday night and had Shawarma -- a dish of Arabic origin -- at a restaurant in

Orathanadu. After returning to the hostel, the three fainted in their rooms after vomiting. Subsequently, they were rushed to the hospital.

This incident comes in the backdrop of a 16-year-old girl who died of food poisoning after eating Shawarma at a local eatery in Kasaragod district, Kerala on Monday.

Shawarma is thinly sliced pieces of marinated meat, like lamb, chicken or beef rolled into a flat bread.

### Districts asked to initiate measures as Covid cases rise

**BHUBANESWAR:** With Odisha witnessing a nominal rise in Covid-19

new Covid cases in Delhi and some other northern and southern states. Since hun-

(ECoR) have been asked to step up surveillance and screen travellers returning

rose to 18 in last 24 hours from seven a couple of days back. A maximum of seven



cases, the State government has asked districts to initiate containment measures at railway stations and airports. Health Minister Naba Kishore Das has directed Additional Chief Secretary of Health department, RK Sharma, to ensure that special measures are put in place for Covid screening and surveillance is intensified. "There is a spurt in

dreds of people are returning from Delhi and other states by trains and flights, we must enhance the screening measures and get all symptomatic people tested," he said. The screening of passengers arriving at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) has been intensified and the use of masks has been made mandatory. The authorities of East Coast Railway

from states that are witnessing high cases. Earlier, the Health and Family Welfare department had asked all collectors to prepare micro-planning and keep a tab on clusters. Apart from maintaining the daily testing target, they were advised to keep Covid beds ready to tackle the possible surge in infection. Meanwhile, the fresh cases in the State

new cases were reported from Khurda, followed by three from Nuapada and two each from Balasore and Sambalpur. The test positivity rate stood at 0.06 per cent (pc) as 17,628 samples, including around 35 pc through RT-PCR, were tested during the 24-hour period. The active cases rose to 85 as only four patients recovered on Thursday.

**BENGALURU:** The new billing software for online purchase of alcohol by all retail licensees at the Karnataka State

when implemented multiple issues such as accounting, payments, indenting etc have emerged, which have impacted all

units. Since the new software does not recognise this the retailers are getting short supplied. The algorithms for

licensees. The Corporation took the decision following consultations with association and retailers on March 5. "There is no



Breweries Corporation Limited (KSBCL) has reportedly created a logjam amid a temporary shortage of stocks of alcohol, sources on condition of anonymity told TNIE. The Excise licensees (retailers) are planning to go on strike against the new indenting software.

"The new software was implemented from April 1 without any pilot. Hence,

stake holders; from retail licensees to distilleries," said sources. "The time for indent to be raised is 9 pm to 9 am. Retail licensees are spending sleepless nights to raise indents in middle of the night. Besides, big volume brands like Haywards/ Original Choice/Kingfisher strong beer have multiple supply source codes as they are supplied from multiple

allocation should have captured the challenge and allocation of stocks made to retailers," said sources. Senior Excise officers denied any glitches in the new online indenting system and said there is "no crisis." The KSBCL in a circular dated March 28 had announced an upgrade of the entire software system and introduction of web indenting to all lic-

restriction in quantity for the retailers to indent any liquor brand available. As web indenting facility is being extended to all the licensees there will be a system in place for rationing of liquor among indenting retailers intending to get a fair share in a situation of short supply/scarcity of any brand of liquor," the KSBCL had stated in the circular.



2021-2022

ADMISSION OPEN

Maharishi Public School, Baripada

STD-NURSERY TO VIII

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2021)

Find the Difference

- Small Classes
- Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
- Individual attention to each child.
- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Baghra Road, Baripada

For details

Contact :

Call-9438102188, 06792-255227

Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon

E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com



Find us on

Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada

## Maoist citadel in Odisha, now a proud example of transformation

Continued from page-1

that the Maoist citadel could be transformed into a well-administered area, not only by providing security, but through state intervention targeting the basic causes of discontent, disaffection, and maybe, despondency as well.

The Government also felt that the Maoists could hold sway over the area as the same had manifested in a social malaise which was no governance at all, thereby, no socio-economic development for several decades. As a matter of fact, the local population did not have any idea that there existed a government for the welfare of the people. This only got compounded as the Maoists took advantage of this with impunity and kept instigating the populace against the administration. Therefore, the State Government's vision revolved around making the local population have a feel of the government for their welfare and upliftment.

The first and the foremost task for the State Government undertook was to create access to the area which could only be approached through the water bodies by means of a steamer. Watershed moment

The Government expedited construction of Gurupriya Setu under heavy security. Then came the watershed moment in 2018 when Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the bridge and connected Swabhiman Anchal to the mainland. This bridge allowed security forces to get inside and plug the security vacuum that existed for decades. To bring about development and for any effective counter-insurgency strategy, it was imperative that first the area be cleared of Maoists and then some semblance of stability is brought with establishment of security camps to put in a system in place for development to be taken forward.

However, construction of Gurupriya Setu and connecting the cut-off area with the mainland was not enough. Since the entire area was physically separated from the mainland for decades; and there was no socio-economic development of the zone, disenchantment amongst the populace with the government was palpable. Over the years, the physical isolation and its strategic location being sandwiched between Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and also due to its difficult terrain and numerous water bodies and creeks, Naxals held sway in the area. They would inflict heavy casualties on the security forces whenever they ventured into the area and then disappear into obscurity. This is the reason why the entire top brass of Andhra Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee (AOBSZC) had made this their headquarters for a very long time. If we look back, we can see that Malkangiri district was one of the worst affected districts in the State and Swabhiman Anchal had been the hotbed of Maoist violence. Since the turn of the century and till the inauguration of Gurupriya Setu, this district had seen almost 500 instances of Maoist violence with a little less than 100 security personnel getting killed. This spiral of violence coupled with inaccessibility had taken the 35,000-odd people of the area off the map of the State.

Killing of 37 security personnel in 2008 and many other attacks on security forces were demoralizing for the administration. Even R Vineel Krishna, the then Collector of Malkangiri, was abducted while he was on way to attend a Janasampark Sivira in the cut-off area. Due to this security vacuum and perpetual threat of the Maoists, the inhabitants had no other option but to abide by the diktats of the Left Wing ultras. The hapless people had been caught in a vicious cycle here, where the causes and consequences fed on one another and together contributed towards denial of justice, security and life with dignity to the people. Prakash Singh and Ajit Doval, both illustrious police officers, in a paper wrote that the affected people do not have any ideological understanding or commitment to LWE but join the movement because of alienation, anger, fear or greed as was palpable here. In this backdrop, the Odisha Government realised that use of force could not be a panacea but providing basic services, like health, education, drinking water, roads etc., should be the primary objective. Naxalite ideology may be flawed but they had successfully struck a sympathetic chord with the people and convinced them that the administration was incapable of addressing their problems. Thus, mobilising the people against the depredations of the Naxals had to be an essential component of government strategy. As one can appreciate from the Punjab experience, once people are alienated and turn against the terrorists, the tide turns. The State Government, therefore, focused on addressing the deficient development and the unaddressed grievances of the people along with plugging

the security vacuum.

It was also very careful to avoid any collateral damage through intensive security operations. With access to the area provided by Gurupriya Setu, things were not the same. The Government took it upon itself to provide for rapid development and bring about transformation in the area. Through its SETU (Socio Economic Transformation and Upliftment) Scheme, it provided electricity, drinking water, health services and schools in the area. A special package for the area was also announced. Ushering in socio-economic development was the motto.

Operation Swabhiman

Odisha Police on its part, in the month of January 2020, along with BSF, CRPF, COBRA personnel and also Andhra Police launched an ambitious operation, Operation Swabhiman, in the area. More than 1000 police personnel were deployed and an attempt was made to provide security at every nook and corner.

This week-long operation was primarily to focus on giving a sense of security to the local population. During this operation, however, many development works like construction of roads, ghat cutting between Jantapayi and Jodambo via the hills of Hantalguda, digging of bore wells etc., were taken up. It turned the tide and people got alienated against the Naxals.

This had very positive and lasting impact on the populace to the extent that when Maoists came to Janturai and Jodambo villages to threaten the locals as to why they were supporting construction of road, the women folk took on the might of Maoists and pelted stones at them, forcing them to beat a hasty retreat.

In the melee that ensued, one Naxal lost his life and another was apprehended. This was the required spark and impetus which helped the Government make massive inroads and undertake developmental interventions in the area. As on date, not only has the Government provided security to all the 9 Gram Panchayats but also constructed roads, provided drinking water and health services, and introduced public transport in the form of Jana Seva Buses. Before this, in many parts, the only mode of transport was on the back of horses and mules. Now with the construction of roads, people can travel to their homes in their own vehicles or public transport. Livelihood intervention

The distance that could be covered in a day now can be undertaken in a couple of hours. Health centers have been opened and medical services are being provided at the doorstep after the introduction of ambulances. BSF now has put in place an ambulance in the reservoir as well.

At the same time, it was also important to wean people away from cultivation of cannabis which was a major source of livelihood. Through various schemes of the Government, people have been introduced to cultivation of turmeric and drumstick which is equally profitable. Few crores of fingerlings have been dropped into the reservoir for regenerating fishing. These steps have provided effective livelihood to the local inhabitants. Taking people away from cannabis cultivation has also hit the Maoists as they are unable to extort money from the villagers.

It is significant to mention here that the State Government did not have a myopic view of winning the area on the basis of force alone but by addressing issues like livelihood, drinking water, health and also educational requirements. At least 7,500 mobile phones were distributed in the area to the people to help them meet their educational and other requirements online during the lockdown period of COVID pandemic. With these interventions, development has reached the remotest corners of the area. The strategy of the Odisha Government in winning people's trust in a region that had a long history of neglect and injustice through rapid socio-economic development has paid dividends.

This is also buttressed by the fact that during the recently concluded 3-tier Gram Panchayat elections, voters of the area that had been the hot bed of the Naxals came out in huge numbers and participated in the electoral process. Swabhiman Anchal reported more than 77 per cent polling. This can also be viewed as a vote of confidence for the developmental initiatives of the Government. The region that was once considered a liberated zone for the Maoists, now, in true sense had become 'Swabhiman Anchal'. What has worked for the Government is that people participated in the development process to bring about tangible change in the area. The topography of the area that was once punctuated by landmine all over now is experiencing construction activities and deliverance of basic services. There is vibrancy in the air.

Swabhiman Anchal, through this transformation, can become the template, the model, for the rest of the country on how to redevelop a Maoist citadel.

(Amitabh Thakur is IG (Operations), Odisha Police. Views are personal)

## L&T Infotech and Mindtree merge to become India's fifth largest IT services provider

BENGALURU: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Friday announced the merger between its IT services business units L&T Infotech (LTI) and mid-cap IT company Mindtree. The merged entity, which will be called LTI Mindtree, has now become the fifth largest IT services provider after TCS, Infosys, HCL and Wipro in terms of market capitalisation, as it stands at Rs 1.68 lakh crore.

Shareholders of Mindtree will be issued shares of LTI at the ratio of 73 shares of LTI for every 100 shares of Mindtree. LTI Chairman A M

Naik said, "This merger represents our continued commitment to grow the IT services business in line with our strategic vision. The highly complementary businesses of LTI and Mindtree will make this integration a 'win-win' proposition for our customers, investors, shareholders and employees."

L&T took over Mindtree in 2019 and owns 61% of the IT company. L&T owns about 74% stake in L&T Infotech. When L&T took over Mindtree, it was said that the latter will be run as a separate entity, distinct from LTI

## Pharma dept suggests allocation of funds by institutes to promote startups

NEW DELHI: The Department of Pharmaceuticals has recommended the allocation of a fixed percentage of not less than 1 per cent of annual budget of institutes to fund and promote innovation and startup-related activities in the sector. In its common guidelines on pharmaceutical innovation and entrepreneurship for academic institutions, the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) also said that institutes might take a fixed percentage of (2 per cent to 9.5 per cent) equity in startup/spin-off companies in return for the services and facilities they provide. In order to encourage innovation and research and to facilitate entrepreneurship in NIPERs (National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research), the DoP has prepared the 'common guidelines on pharmaceutical innovation and entrepreneurship' for academic institutions under its control, an official statement said. The guidelines have been prepared after considering the National Innovation & Startup Policy 2019, National IPR Policy 2016 and similar policies of other institutes, and departments, it added. "The policy aims to transform the academic research into innovative and commercially applicable technologies/products; build a strong ecosystem for nurturing creativity and entrepreneurial activities and contribute to the self-reliant India mission (Atmanirbhar Bharat)," the statement said.

It aims to encourage faculty/staff members and students to pursue entrepreneurship while formulating policies and fostering an ecosystem to generate ideas across disciplines that can be transformed into successful technologies, products, and services, it added.

For institutes, as per the guidelines, the availability of resources needs to be ensured for pre-incubation and providing common facilities as part of the institute's financial strategy for prospective inventors and entrepreneurs.

Budgetary provisions should be available in terms of allocation of a fixed percentage (such as not less than 1 per cent) of institute's annual budget for funding, promoting and supporting innovation and startup-related activities.

In return for the services and facilities provided, an institute may take a fixed percentage of (2 per cent to 9.5 per cent) equity in the startup/spin-off company, based on employee contribution, support provided and use of the institute's Intellectual Property (IP). According to the guidelines, the entrepreneurial initiatives shall be evaluated on a regular basis using well-defined impact assessment parameters such as IP filed, products developed and commercialised and number of employment generated, and startups created. To encourage students, relaxation in attendance should be provided to enable them to dedicate time for entrepreneurial activities, and they should be allowed to sit for the examination, even if their attendance is less than 75 per cent, it said, adding institutes should provide relaxation to the PhD students in terms of a semester/year break or more, if needed, to devote time on startup ventures.

and L&T Technology Services. When L&T took control of the company, Mindtree co-founders NS Parthasarathy, Krishnakumar Natarajan and Rostow Ramanan had quit the firm. Mindtree became a public company in 2006 and its IPO was oversubscribed by over a hundred times. Mindtree has reported a 49% increase in its fourth quarter net profit at Rs 473 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2022. Its revenue for FY22 was at Rs 10,525.3 crore. In the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2022, LTI reported Rs 637.5 crore net profit and revenue at Rs 4,301.6 crore. It crossed the \$2 billion revenue mark with 26% growth in FY22. While shares of L&T Infotech on Friday fell 3.64% and closed at Rs 4,593.10, Mindtree shares closed at Rs 3,376, down 3.84% on the BSE.

## CCHFV passes resolution terming WHO's modelling for India's COVID death estimate flawed

Continued from page-1

The WHO report was discussed at the 14th conference of the CCHFV on Friday.

According to the resolution, India has a robust, legally mandated, comprehensive system of death registration.

Under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act-1969, states and union territories document actual number of deaths in the country. The Union Health Ministry on Thursday strongly objected to the use of mathematical models by the WHO for projecting excess mortality estimates linked to the coronavirus pandemic in view of the availability of authentic data, saying validity and robustness of the models used and methodology of data collection are questionable.

India is likely to raise the issue at the World Health Assembly and other multilateral forums, sources in the ministry said.

India has been consistently objecting to the methodology adopted by the WHO to project excess mortality estimates based on mathematical models, the ministry said in a statement.

"Despite India's objection to the process, methodology and outcome of this modelling exercise, WHO has released the excess mortality estimates without adequately addressing India's concerns," it said.

India had also informed the WHO that in view of the availability of authentic data published through the Civil Registration System (CRS) by the Registrar General of India (RGI), mathematical models should not be used for projecting excess mortality numbers for India.

"India firmly believes that such robust and accurate data generated through Legal Framework of a Member State must be respected, accepted and used by WHO rather than relying on less than accurate mathematical projection based on non-official sources of data," the statement added.

The three-day conference of the CCHFV, an apex advisory body of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, began here on Thursday. It is being chaired by Union Health Minister Mandaviya.

## For peace in Ukraine, actors like India are crucial: Italian foreign minister

Continued from page-1

External affairs minister S Jaishankar on a visit to Male, Colombo

Minister Maio also co-chaired a round table with Italian and Indian companies and spoke about concretizing the trade ties between business communities. He also met with India's commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

Yesterday, Maio visited Bengaluru where he met Chief Minister of Karnataka Basavaraj Bommai and inaugurated the premises of the new Consulate General of the Italian Republic. Minister Di Maio also visited the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Indian Institute of Science along with their Italian counterparts, the Italian Space Agency and Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste, with which scientific partnerships and joint projects are being developed.

## Manager Thomas Tuchel hopes for quick conclusion to Chelsea sale saga

LONDON: Chelsea's Russian owner Roman Abramovich put the Premier League club on the market in March, just days before he was sanctioned by the British government follow-

ing the invasion of Ukraine. After a lengthy bidding process involving several groups, Los Angeles Dodgers co-owner Boehly and his fellow investors were picked by Raine Group, the New York bank overseeing Chelsea's sale. Boehly's bid is expected to be put forward to the Premier League to undergo owners and directors tests, with the government required to grant the eventual

currently operating under the special license, which imposes several restrictions including a ban on signing new players and renewing contracts, there were fears over the future of the club if a sale wasn't completed before the end of May. However, Tuchel is confident the deal will be wrapped up in time for Chelsea to plan for next season. "I've been told last week that we have a preferred bidder and

things are going forward," Tuchel told reporters on Friday. "It's a pretty important week for the club, but I was fully focused on the pitch. But after what I heard last week, I'm confi-

dent. "Clearance is always the best, because when the situation is clear you can take actions, make judgements, take actions. "Otherwise you're in a passive role, and this is what we are right now." After initially embarking on a long winning run following Abramovich's decision to sell the club, Chelsea have struggled to find their best form recently. They suffered a pain-

ful Champions League quarter-final defeat at Real Madrid after nearly pulling off an epic comeback from a 3-1 first leg deficit. Chelsea's place in the Premier League's top four is also far from guaranteed. The Blues sit in third place, five points clear of fifth placed Tottenham with four games left in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League. Tuchel conceded the speculation over Chelsea's future was hard for his players to completely block out. "We tried to make it the smallest issue possible, but of course it is always there," he said ahead of Saturday's home game against Wolves. "We prefer to have it in a clear and forward-thinking situation. "This is what we're hoping for, we know what we deal with, this is what the circumstances are in improving the team, and that we can act, rather than react, or even worse, do nothing."



ing three straight in the Champions League this season against Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and now City. "From right now, we turn our attention to Liverpool," Rodrygo said, with Madrid using its league games "to prepare for the final." It's not known if Atlético's players will welcome Madrid with an honour guard for the new league champions before kickoff. Atlético does have something to play for beyond the pleasure of beating its rival. Diego Simeone's side remains in a fight to guarantee a top-four finish to ensure it stays in the Champions League next season. Atlético, which never mounted a convincing league title defence this campaign, has only won once in the last four rounds. That slump has let Real Betis get close at just three points back in fifth place. Barcelona and Sevilla will hope to solidify their Champions League berths. Second-place Barcelona has a tough match at Betis on Saturday. Coach Xavi Hernández will be without defender Gerard Pique after he injured his left thigh in its last game, a 2-1 win over Mallorca. Third-place Sevilla has a difficult outing at Villarreal on Sunday. It will be Villarreal's first match since it was eliminated from the Champions League by Liverpool. Unai Emery's side is in the fight for a Europa League spot, a competition it won in 2021.

## David Warner's magnificent knock sets up Delhi Capitals' 21-run win over Sunrisers Hyderabad

CHENNAI: David Warner was doing what he does best on Thursday. Up against his old side, it was sort of a grudge match for the Australian veteran, who has been as reliable as a swiss watch with the blade in IPL over the last decade or so (barring last season). Last year had been a forgettable season for the Australian, who was wearing the Sunrisers Hyderabad colours. Three-time Orange Cap winner with the team, runs had dried up and his once happy association with the club, with whom he had claimed the title in 2016, had turned sour. The southpaw was first stripped off captaincy



and eventually reduced to being a cheerleader for the team (was seen waving the flag in the stands in the second half of last season). So, ahead of Thursday's clash between SRH and Warner's current club, Delhi Capitals at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai, how Warner would go about his business was one of the main talking points. The Australian answered that in emphatic fashion, delivering his best this season (an unbeaten 92 off 58), a knock that helped DC post a 21-run win and move to fifth spot in the IPL table. Warner had set about with a four off the very first delivery of the second over by Sean Abbott, who was playing in the absence of injured T Natarajan. Prior to that, Bhuvneshwar Kumar was making the ball talk and had accounted for the wicket of Mandeep Singh, who had replaced Prithvi Shaw. Nerves were bound to be there for Warner, and that reflected in his shot against Abbott, which just evaded the fielder at cover point. Sensing Bhuvneshwar's threat, Warner played sensibly in the third over before opening up against Umran Malik, who struggled for line and length, in the next over. Two fours and a six

later, Warner was showing sign of things to come. Mitchell Marsh, No 3, was sent back soon and Warner went back into watchful mode along with skipper Rishabh Pant before finding occasional boundaries. SRH spinner, Shreyas Gopal, replacing Washington Sundar, was economical in his first over but Pant, after a 11-ball 4, hit different gear to launch three consecutive sixes and a four off Gopal in the ninth over. However, Pant, building a skyscraper in the DC batting chart, departed soon after. With 11 overs remaining, the responsibility was on Warner, batting at 42, to play the anchor role. He was joined by Rovman Powell, who was coming into the match having scored 104 runs of 52 balls in the last three matches. The duo kept the scoreboard ticking with some singles and twos. It was in the 12th over that Warner brought up his 54th IPL fifty, his fourth this season, with a pull off Malik's bowling.

Umran conceded as many as 52 runs in 4 overs. The fact that Powell was dropped off his bowling in the 15th over by SRH skipper Kane Williamson didn't help matters. That drop proved to be a massive as Powell unleashed his striking power, hitting sixes at will off almost every bowler. Bhuvneshwar, Abbott, Kartik Tyagi, Umran himself. No one was spared as Powell dominated the death overs, racing to half-century in the 20th over. By the time DC's innings was over, Powell had added more to finish at unbeaten 67, lifting the team to 207/3. Warner, meanwhile, couldn't have written a better script for himself. In reply, SRH lost three wickets within the first seven overs. In-form Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran kept the team in the hunt with a 60-run partnership before the former was dismissed. Pooran, though, was not willing to give up and was dealing in sixes. The West Indian went on to post his second fifty of the season (62 off 34 balls) but that proved to be all in vain for SRH. Brief Scores: DC 207/3 in 20 ovs (Warner 92 n.o, Powell 67 n.o) vs SRH 186/8 in 20 ovs (Pooran 62; Khaleel 3/30)

## Real Madrid gears for Champions League final against Liverpool with Atlético derby

BARCELONA: Real Madrid begins its countdown to the Champions League final against Liverpool by facing Atlético Madrid in a capital derby in the Spanish league. Carlo Ancelotti's Madrid has mostly pride to play for on Sunday after it clinched the domestic league title in the last round. Madrid has four league games remaining and the veteran Italian coach must perform the delicate balancing act of keeping his team in top competitive form while hoping to avoid any injuries to first-choice players in the run-up to the Champions League final on May 28 in Paris. When the league title was still on the line last weekend against Espanyol, Ancelotti started several bench players like rarely used striker Mariano Díaz and defender Jesús Vallejo. Madrid had no problem routing Espanyol 4-0 to wrap up a record-extending 35th league title. Madrid's fans are still savouring their team's dramatic 3-1 comeback win over Manchester City in the semi-finals of the Champions League on Wednesday to win 6-5 overall. Rodrygo, a 21-year-old forward, emerged as the team's saviour with two goals in the final minutes to force extra time and give Karim Benzema the chance to earn and convert the winning penalty. "In this shirt we learn to always fight until the end and that's the way it was," Rodrygo said after he etched his name into Madrid's long history of comebacks, includ-

ing three straight in the Champions League this season against Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and now City. "From right now, we turn our attention to Liverpool," Rodrygo said, with Madrid using its league games "to prepare for the final." It's not known if Atlético's players will welcome Madrid with an honour guard for the new league champions before kickoff. Atlético does have something to play for beyond the pleasure of beating its rival. Diego Simeone's side remains in a fight to guarantee a top-four finish to ensure it stays in the Champions League next season. Atlético, which never mounted a convincing league title defence this campaign, has only won once in the last four rounds. That slump has let Real Betis get close at just three points back in fifth place. Barcelona and Sevilla will hope to solidify their Champions League berths. Second-place Barcelona has a tough match at Betis on Saturday. Coach Xavi Hernández will be without defender Gerard Pique after he injured his left thigh in its last game, a 2-1 win over Mallorca. Third-place Sevilla has a difficult outing at Villarreal on Sunday. It will be Villarreal's first match since it was eliminated from the Champions League by Liverpool. Unai Emery's side is in the fight for a Europa League spot, a competition it won in 2021.

## MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL

Nurturing awareness Moulding Future

# ADMISSION OPEN FOR

## PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

A great Place to grow @ MPS

Call now for Application:

Laugh  
Play  
Learn  
Share

## MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

N-3 B/14-15, IRC Village,  
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar

PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)

E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com

Find us on  
facebook.com/maharishiplayschool

FOLLOW US  
ON TWITTER  
twitter.com/maharishiplayschool