

## Mamata seeks PM's intervention to deal Ganga-Padma river erosion in Bengal

KOLKATA(KCN): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of the grave threat of river erosion along the river Ganga-Padma and sought his interven-

extensively river-oriented state with the Ganga being a vital river in the state. It is true that the main objective of the construction of Farakka Barrage under the central government is to divert 40,000 cusecs of Ganga water to the Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system so that the navigability of Kolkata port is maintained," Mamata wrote.



"However, this has led to siltation on the river bed resulting in spilling, bank erosion and flooding in adjacent areas. This issue has been raised at the national level, not only by West Bengal but also by Bihar," the letter added.

tion to reconsider the decision of withdrawal of the extended jurisdiction of Farakka Barrage Project Authority (FBPA). The CM further urged him to take up bank protection schemes.

The West Bengal Chief Minister raised the same issue in a letter to the PM in February this year. Centre should do away with GST if it can't clear our dues: CONTINUED ON: P-7

## District status for Padampur by 2023-end: Naveen

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): In a big political move ahead of the Padampur bypoll, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday gave



assurance of granting district status to the sub-division by December 31, 2023. A separate Padampur district has been a long-standing demand of the people of the area.

The chief minister is reported to have given the assurance after a meeting with members of the action committee on district status to Padampur in the presence of state Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari. The Padampur district will have to be carved out from the Bargarh district.

A member of the action committee told mediapersons after the meeting that since the

model code of conduct is in force, the chief minister cannot make an official announcement in this regard. As the BJD president, he assured to include the demand in the party's manifesto for the bypoll.

The committee members said they will withdraw the agitation after the demand is mentioned in the BJD manifesto. In the run up to the by-election, dharnas are being held in front of the sub-collector's office at Padampur and Paikmal square over the demand.

Meanwhile, leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Narasingh Mishra alleged that assurance of district status to Padampur sub-division by the end of December next year is a violation of the model code of conduct. "He may be the BJD president, but he should not forget that he is also the CM of the state. Assurance of grant of district status to Padampur is a violation of the code of conduct," he said.

General secretary of the state unit of BJP Prithviraj Harichandan said that similar promises made by the chief minister before the 2019 election, still remain unfulfilled.

## Analysis : Have China and India shifted stance on Ukraine war?

NUSA DUA, INDONESIA: China and India, after months of refusing to condemn Russia's war in Ukraine, did not stand in the way of the release this week of a statement by the world's leading economies that strongly criticizes Moscow.

tions from China and India themselves, to raise questions about whether a real change is underway. Their positions will become clearer in the coming weeks, but for now, both nations, which have significant trade ties with Russia and have so far



stopped short of outright criticism of the war, may simply be looking out for their own interests and keeping future options open. Figuring out what exactly happened in Bali matters because there's a growing worry that without political and diplomatic pressure from China and India, Russia will be far less likely to end its war.

Could this, at last, signal a bold new policy change by Beijing and New Delhi to align themselves with what the United States and its allies believe is the best way to end a war that has brought death and misery to Ukraine and disrupted millions of lives as food and energy prices soar and economies crack? There's certainly an eagerness by a world weary of war to see it as the beginning of a shift by the burgeoning global powers. Look close enough, however, and there's enough subtlety, not to mention spots of vagueness, in both the official statement released at the end of the Group of 20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, and in ac-

The conflict in Ukraine loomed large over the two-day summit on Bali, which was attended by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. News early Wednesday of an explosion that rocked eastern Poland prompted U.S. President Joe Biden to hastily arrange an emergency meeting with the Group of Seven and NATO members at the summit. The backroom wrangling at the G-20 over how to address Russia's invasion in its statement was "very, very tough," summit host Indonesian President Joko Widodo said. "Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Pandian Reviews Health Infra

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Secretary to Chief Minister V K Pandian today visited Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar and reviewed the progress

to widen the road in front of the Academic Block of PGI, keeping in view the future traffic movement. He expressed satisfaction over the

met Senior Officials at the Conference Hall of Capital Hospital and discussed about the Master Plan for development of Capital Hospital

OB&CC to expedite the preparation of Master Plan. Principal Secretary, Works V V Yadav, Secretary, Health & Family



of work of Trauma Care and Surgery Complex building as well as Post Graduate Institute site. Shri Pandian advised the Executing Agency

progress of work of Trauma Care and Surgery Complex building and directed to complete it by December, 2023. Later Shri Pandian

with 2000 beds and also establishment of Odisha University of Health Science and also residential Quarters for the staff. Advised the

Welfare Shalini Pandit, MD, OB&CC J K Das and other Senior Officials were also present during the review.

## Dharmendra Pradhan urges probe into PMFBY functioning in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday requested his cabinet colleague and Minister for Agriculture



Narendra Singh Tomar for a probe into the functioning of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in Odisha and the conduct of the private insurance companies empanelled under the scheme especially Bargarh district.

Pradhan who met Tomar on Tuesday over inordinate delay in settlement of crop insurance claims of farmers of Bargarh district and succeeded in getting relief for the farmers again met the Union Agriculture minister and

made him aware of the grievances of farmers' groups of the district over alleged harassment at the hands of HDFC Ergo General Insurance Company.

Submitting a written letter to Tomar, Pradhan said the private insurance company has been entrusted with the responsibility of crop insurance under PMFBY by the state government for Paikamal, Jharbandh, Padmapur, Gaisilat, Sohela and Bijepur blocks of Bargarh district.

He said the company has paid abysmally low insurance sum against the crop loss due to drought during kharif CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Padampur bypoll: Ahead of nominations, Barsha speaks her heart out

BARGARH(KCN): The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Wednesday held massive public meetings in Padampur besides nearby Paikmal and Jharbandh to appeal for their candidate Barsha Singh Bariha for the by-election. Barsha will be filing her nomination on No-

my hometown," she said. On the occasion, former minister Pratap Jena came down heavily on BJP stating that the party blamed the state government for delaying the disbursement of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) claim amounts. "But later, they



November 17. Addressing her first public meeting in Padampur on Wednesday, Barsha, daughter of late Bijay Singh Bariha, requested people to trust her and sought the same support from people that her father had got. "Give me a chance, I promise to work for the people of

tweeted that the insurance company has been instructed to disburse the claims of crop insurance at the earliest. It is evident that the issue was getting delayed at their end," Jena said. Blaming the union government of not responding to the request CONTINUED ON: P-7



# Cop caught taking bribe on camera, video viral NIIF lends Rs.26 K Cr



Barbil(KCN): An excise official posted at Barbil in Keonjhar district of Odisha state is expecting a departmental enquiry who caught in camera while demanding bribes from a country liquor business man. The video surfaced online. The social media posts, which amplified the video has become a matter of discussion in the city. As per information the accused official is one lady ASI working under

Barbil excise police station. A person had secretly made a video of the ASI taking the bribe, which is now circulating on social media. While asking District excise superintendent, Narayan Meher, he said the department will not entertain such an attitude and act strictly against the person who malign the department's image. A departmental inquiry will be held soon.

New Delhi(KCN): National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has developed into an internationally credible and commercially viable investment platform, backed by several highly respected global and domestic investors who have invested alongside the Government of India in NIIF Funds. Union Minister Finance

Nirmala eral engagements of NIIF was endorsed by the GC. The GC appreciated that the two infrastructure Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), where NIIF has majority stakes, have increased their combined loan book from 24,200 crore to 226,000 crore in 3 years without experiencing any non-performing loans

been to invest in India. The Finance Minister exhorted the NIIFL team also to explore opportunities under the National Infrastructure Pipeline, PM GatiShakti and National Infrastructure Corridor, which include a big pool of investible greenfield and brownfield investment projects, and to try and crowd

The sectors that these funds focus on, the status of fund raise, and the kind of investments that have been made under them were shared with the GC. The GC was informed about the investments and performance of NIIF operating companies in sectors such as ports and logistics, renewable energy, and digital infrastructure besides its foray



Sitharaman chaired the Governing Council (GC) Meeting here on 17 November. NIIF's first bilateral fund – an "India Japan Fund" with contribution from GoI has been proposed through an MoU between National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) and Japan Bank for International Development (JBIC). The MoU was signed recently on 9 November, 2022. This key update regarding bilat-

(NPLs) till date. The GC also guided NIIF to undertake advisory activities proactively to support central and state governments to create a pipeline of investible PPP projects. The Finance Minister asked the NIIFL team to build on the work done so far and leverage India's attractive investment fundamentals to expand its operations. Smt. Sitharaman encouraged the team to continue discussions with investors from countries that are

in commercial capital into those opportunities. During the meeting an update on the progress made by NIIF over the last few years and key learnings from its investment operations were presented to the Governing Council. The GC was apprised of the current status of the 3 funds that are currently managed by NIIFL – the Master Fund, the Fund of Funds (FoF), and the Strategic Opportunities Fund (SoF).

into sectors such as waste management, water treatment, healthcare, EV manufacturing. The other members of the GC that attended the meeting were Ajay Seth, Secretary, Economic Affairs; Vivek Joshi, Secretary, Financial Services; Dinesh Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India (SBI); Hemendra Kothari, Chairman, DSP Group; and T V Mohandas Pai, Chairman, Manipal Global.

## Revenue collection on track

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In spite of market slowdown, Odisha's revenue collection is moving on right path with achieving 53.24 percent of the Budget Estimation made for the financial year 2022-23. According to official data, the State has collected revenue worth Rs 50150.20 crore from various sources by the end of October, 2022 against the budget estimation of Rs

same period of last financial year and last grew by 76.45 percent, if the collection of 2020 will be taken into consideration. The revenue generation from own-tax sources grew by 18.53 percent. The total revenue collection from own-tax sources during the period increased to Rs 24882.04 crore against last year's collection of Rs 20992.88 crore, dur-

Commissioner Ashish Singh, State Excise revenue has registered a growth of 21.28 percent till October this year. The State Excise revenue collection has been increased to Rs 3401.70 crore from Rs 3401.70 crore. Similarly, the non-tax revenue up to October, 2021 was Rs 24804.75 crore which is increased to Rs 25268.16 crore by October, 2022, thereby recording a

cent this year. Still, the mining revenue collection is on the right path as the State has achieved 52.15 percent of the revenue target of Rs 43444.06 crore made in the budget estimation for the current fiscal. On the other hand, the Grants from Centre have been falling down as the Government of India squeezed its fund flow under various schemes and heads, the officials said. The Grants from Centre fell by 26.75 percent till October of the current financial year. The State Government has got only Rs 7031.93 crore Grants from the Centre till last month against the receipt of Rs 9599.43 crore during the same of 2021-22 and Rs 14007.19 crore during April to October of 2020-21.



94200 crore for 2022-23 Fiscal. Due to the constant monitoring and initiatives taken by Principal Secretary Finance, Vishal Kumar Dev, the State has achieved more than 53 per cent in revenue collection in seven months of the financial year. The total revenue collection during the April to October period of 2021-22 was Rs 45797.62 crore and during October of 2020-21 was Rs 25955.16 crore. So, the overall revenue collection has increased by 9.5 percent till October end in comparison to the

ing the same period. Under the own-tax revenue, commercial tax collection was increased by 17.13 percent till October 2022. The commercial tax collection has increased from Rs 14104.61 crore till October 2021 to Rs 16520.24 crore till last month. Professional tax collection upto October 2022 grew by 21.47 per cent, while collection from land revenue and stamp duty & registration increased by 30.90 percent and 145.33 percent, respectively. With the regular review and continuous effort by Excise

growth of 1.87 percent. However, the revenue collection from non-ferrous mining & metallurgical industries has witnessed a minimal negative growth due to slowdown of market and price cut, sources said. The State Government has collected Rs 22656.01 crore from the non-ferrous mining & metallurgical industries till October 2022 against the collection of Rs 22952.94 crore till October of last year. It means the mining industry has witnessed a negative growth of 1.29 per-

cent this year. Still, the mining revenue collection is on the right path as the State has achieved 52.15 percent of the revenue target of Rs 43444.06 crore made in the budget estimation for the current fiscal. On the other hand, the Grants from Centre have been falling down as the Government of India squeezed its fund flow under various schemes and heads, the officials said. The Grants from Centre fell by 26.75 percent till October of the current financial year. The State Government has got only Rs 7031.93 crore Grants from the Centre till last month against the receipt of Rs 9599.43 crore during the same of 2021-22 and Rs 14007.19 crore during April to October of 2020-21. It means, the Central Grants fell by 31.47 percent in comparison to October, 2021 and 26.75 percent in comparison to October last year. However, the total Central transfer has witnessed a positive growth of 13.48 percent as the Central share tax amount has increased substantially by 41.19 percent till October this year. The State has received Rs 19671.40 crore share tax from the Union Government till last month against the receipt of Rs 13932.16 crore during the same period of previous financial year. The total transfer from Centre to Odisha stood at Rs 26703.33 crore till last month, which is 13.48 percent more than what the State had received till October last year.

## SOA Duo Shine in OJS

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Adyasha Mishra,

on Wednesday felicitated by the

Mohanty occupying the ninth place. Two others, Samikshya Sa and Ipsita Bhoi had occupied the 15th and 17th place respectively in the examination. Prof. (Dr.) Nayak felicitated Ms. Mishra and Mr. Mohanty at a special program held in the university while wishing them the best in their career. The other two students could not be present as they were away. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Nayak said the students had excelled in the examination because of the continuous effort and encouragement provided by

SNIL Dean Prof. S A K Azad and other faculty members. Expressing their happiness after the felicitation program, Ms. Mishra and Mr. Mohanty said they had received great support from the Dean of the institute during their preparation for the examination. The program was attended, among others, by Prof. Azad, Prof. Prabir Kumar Patnaik, Senior Professor, Prof. Madhusudan Das, Senior Professor, Dr. Chinmay Kumar Mohapatra, Associate Professor and Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare).



a student of SOA National Institute of Law (SNIL), SOA's faculty of legal studies here, who topped the Odisha Judicial Service (OJS) examination recently, was

university's Founder President Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak. In fact, four students of SNIL had cleared the OJS examination this year with Sitesh



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**Shanthnu Bhagyaraj joins Vijay's 'Thalapathy 64'**



After back-to-back Thalpathy 64 updates over the past two days, it is clear that the makers of the film are keen to capitalise on the trend. Today, they have

announced yet another detail about the Lokesh Kanagaraj directorial.

As we had earlier speculated, actor Shanthnu Bhagyaraj has in-

deed been roped in for Vijay's upcoming film, which already boasts of a stellar cast that includes names such as Vijay Sethupathi and Angamaly Diaries-

fame Antony Varghese.

This project will have Anirudh Ravichander composing for a Vijay film for the second time after Kaththi. Sathyan

Sooryan, who is the cinematographer for Lokesh's upcoming film, Kaithi, will handle camera duties in Thalpathy 64 as well.

Bankrolled by

Xavier Britto of XB Film Creators, Thalpathy 64 is also speculated to feature Malavika Mohanan, and this might be the update that the makers are expected to announce later today.

**Drama Queen Payal Goga Kapoor**

Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): Talented actress and daughter of well-known actor Goga Kapoor, who has performed in all kinds

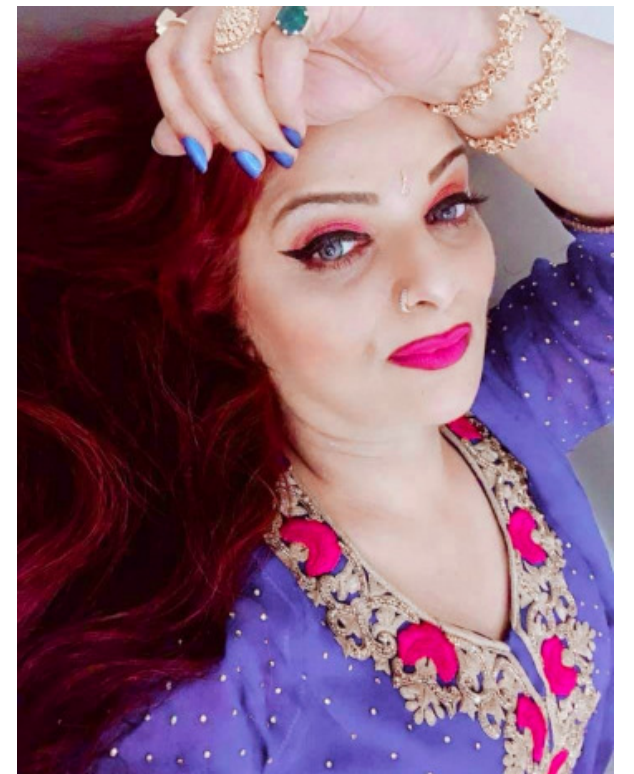
called her 'Drama Queen' (Theatre Queen). Just last week she had a super hit show Hindi family comedy drama 'Social Media' (Bachke

new play 'Jai Shri Ram(Ramayana)', presented by Puneet Issar and directed by Siddhant Issar.

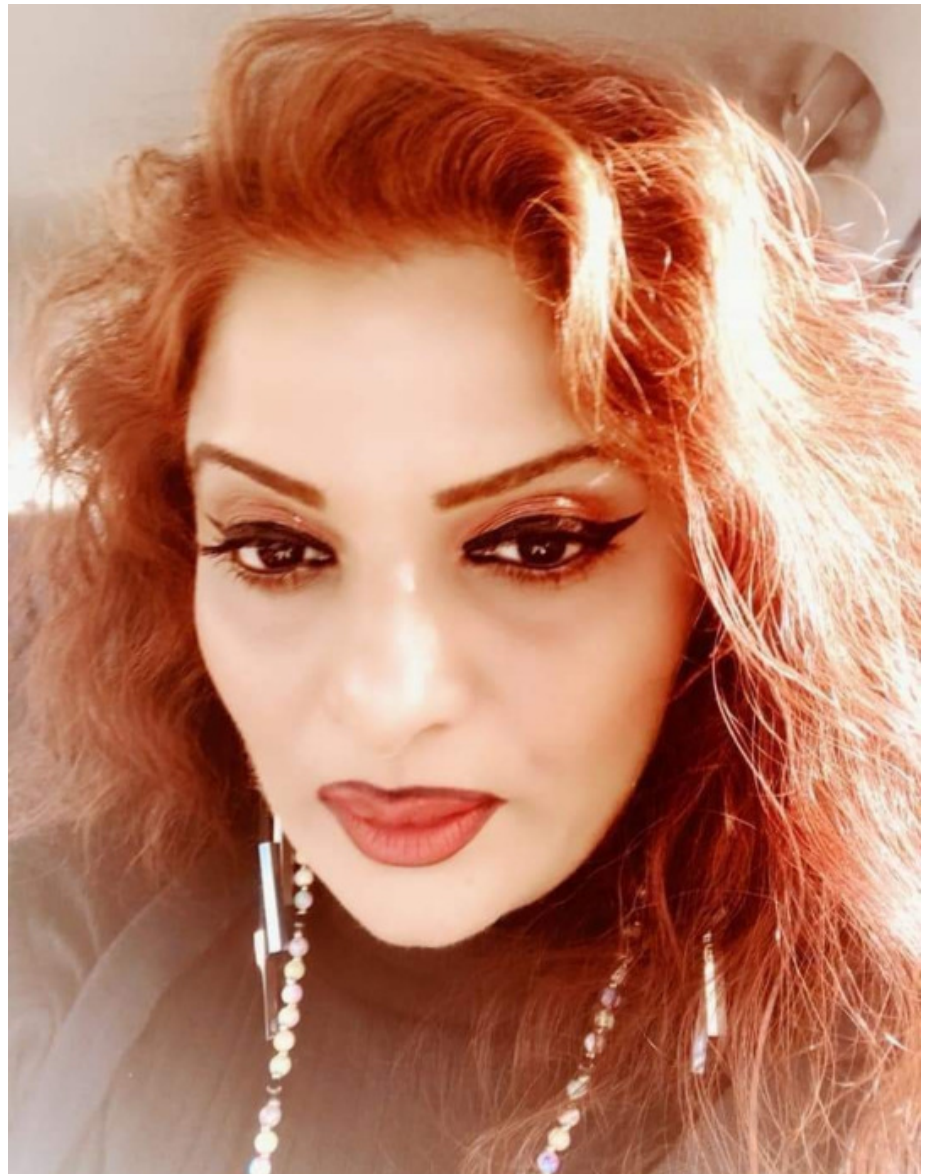


of plays, Payal Goga Kapoor has worked mostly in plays, some films and some serials and has taken her talent to a different level.

Rehna Re Baba) produced by Ruhi J Abbas and written by Sanjay Jha. In which she has be-



Payal says about this, "It is a two-and-a-half-hour show, in which the entire Ramayana is shown. In this, I play the role of Soorpanakha, sister of Ravana, but it is a different character. I look normal and beautiful in this and not a scary demon with big teeth. I am a good and slightly different kind of Surpanakha.



She likes stage show and live response from the audience of the play, due to which she worked more in plays and some people also

the country and abroad. There is a lot of variation in her character and I have loved performing it." This week is the show of Payal's



come Vindu Dara Singh's wife. There are many shades of Payal's character. Payal Goga Kapoor says, "The show was houseful and the audience loved it and hence, we are going to perform it all over

Barring a few people, no one has a long role in this." Payal Goga Kapoor had an Urdu play 'Daagh O Hijaab' with Shahbaz Khan, which also aired on Zee Theater channel on Thursday. Before this, she has worked in many films, serials and ad films. Now she will soon be seen in two web series. Regarding her future plans, Payal Kapoor says, "Now I am going to focus my full attention on films and serials. I want to maintain my identity as a good artist in the future also and I want to make my parents proud and always want to do good work and good karma."



# The Beauty in Tea

In winter herbal teas are basically warm hugs in a mug. Tea, in its brewed form, has been



known to treat all sorts of skin and hair conditions. Teas such as green, black, and peppermint are aromatically uplifting and can help to tighten pores. Chamomile and lavender flowers are calming

and can help to reduce inflammation. Antioxidants found in herbal tea help in slowing down the aging process. They also prevent free radical damage and restore the age of your cells in the body, resulting in making your skin look flawless and younger.

Drinking herbal tea is said to be preferable to any other beverage, due to its high antioxidant content. They contain polyphenols, which are powerful natural antioxidants. These not

## Letter to Editor

Dear Editor

The three musketeers of modern Bengali literature; namely, Manik Bandyopadhyay, Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay and Bhubhutibushan Bandyopadhyay are well known for their outstanding literary genius and exceptional humanitarian writing skills among devoted readers. The trio has successfully placed Bengali literature on the global literature map in the post Rabindranath Tagore era. Several movies in different Indian languages including Bengali have been made based on the monumental novels of all the three legendary authors that also helped to recognize Indian cinema on the global movie platform. Their monumental contributions to Bengali language and world literature will be always remembered with immense respect and gratitude for the period they have illustriously depicted through their writings. The exceptional portrayal of human emotions, joys, pain and suffering as well as documentation of the socio-cultural, socio-political and socio-historical backgrounds of the Bengali society by these three iconic authors in their literary works are considered as rare masterpieces of both Indian and Bengali literature.

I am not sure how many of us are aware of the fact that several of these jewels of Bengali literature are still been acted and dramatized in various government and private cultural and literary programs overseas by students, newly settled immigrants and senior citizens of Bengali Indian and Bangladeshi heritage. The simplicity of the language and the expressions used by the trio had always mesmerized their readers. These literary works indeed are a divine gift to our human society that has been very well received through successful translations into different Indian and European languages; due to their abject simplicity and freshness of contents. My heartiest congratulations and best wishes for all who has been proactively working in silence to preserve the works and legacy if the three monumental musketeers of Bengali literature.

Thanking you

Sincerely yours

Saikat Kumar Basu

378 Prince Anwar Shah Road  
Kolkata 700045 West Bengal India

only have health benefits, but actually help to delay the visible

signs of ageing on the skin and hair. They prevent and retard the degeneration caused by oxidation damage. Antioxidants also nourish skin cells and prevent skin damage. So, if you are prone to inflammation, dullness, and blemishes, you may opt for potent herbal teas.

Green tea contains a powerful antioxidant called EGCG that fights DNA damage from UV rays to prevent skin cancer. Green tea has zero calories and is penacca for those who wants to have slim ,active , smart body physique and get rid of belly fat .Green Tea contains EGCG which reduces waist size , aids weight loss and decreases body fat . Green tea helps to deal with problems of acne, blackheads, whiteheads, clogged and closed pores, . This is a natural astringent, and so mops up the extra sebum or oil, solving the problem at its root. It helps remove all the

Shahnaz Husain

dirt and grime from open pores, and then tightens the freshly cleansed pores to prevent pollutants from getting in.

Jasmine Tea is said to rejuvenate the skin, as it clears pigmentation and reduces fine lines and wrinkles. Jasmine tea keeps the skin moisturised and has anti-ageing benefits. Rose Tea is also said to be very good for the hair and skin. Rich in antioxidants, rose tea is also called natural retinol because it can help fight signs of premature ageing like wrinkles, fine lines and dullness on your skin. Furthermore, it contains vitamins A, B3, C and E, and helps to stimulate hair growth and make the scalp healthy.

Chamomile Tea--- Turn chamomile tea into ice cubes and wrap a few chamomile ice cubes in a cloth, then apply to eyes for 10 minutes at a time for puffy eyes . You can use chamomile tea as natural shampoo and condi-

tioner. Alternatively, You can steep two chamomile bags in hot water, then mix them with lemon juice and apply it on your hair for 5-10 minutes. It will help in lightening your hair in a natural way

Some other herbal teas can be made with Turmeric, which is said to lend a glow to the skin, due to it curcumin content. When added to tea, turmeric adds bright yellow-orange color and earthy, spicy notes. Turmeric is often included along with ginger in anti-inflammatory herbal teas. Turmeric also has anti-inflammatory antimicrobial, and antioxidant properties and helps acne-prone skin by controlling breakouts and closing the pores, and improving your skin health.

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

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

## Climate change impacting mountain regions badly

Environmental studies warn that, as a result of climate change, mountain landscapes all over the world is under risk and becoming more dangerous to communities nearby, while their faster evolution may bring additional environmental problems also. A recent environmental study warns that climate change will have a detrimental influence on mountain landscapes and human activities worldwide by increasing the danger of hazards such as river floods, landslides, debris flows, and other water bodies outburst deluge. Mountain snow and ice provide water for hundreds of millions of people worldwide, but this resource is under jeopardy due to shifting weather patterns and as mountain glaciers shrink. According to the scientists and environment studies, the water situation in Asia worsens in the nearby future swiftly. One study, demonstrates how complex mountain systems adapt to climate change in very different and often unexpected ways, and how

Vijaykumar H K

these responses can influence mountain landscapes and communities. Mountain glaciers are receding over the world as a result of global warming, affecting mountain formations alongside ecosystems and human beings. According to the studies, mountains should be viewed and maintained as integrated biological, physical as well as socio-ecological systems that include both people and physical environments. This may assist to protect these areas from future change. These are exacerbated by glacier retreat and also warming of permanently frozen area surrounding mountains mainly. Some ecosystems and seldom species are already endangered with extinction on a local scale, and mountain slopes are becoming greener as lowland forests expand to higher elevations. As a result, the effects of climate change are

greater on mountains than anywhere else according to environmental studies. This is a serious issue, not only for mountains but also for the surrounding areas. According to the experts, climate change has an impact on mountain communities and cultures. They claim that the movement of animals from one grazing location to another in a seasonal cycle and traditional agriculture are becoming extinct as grazing spaces diminish and water becomes scarcer. One important study also quotes that deforestation, mining, growth of cities, and commercial forestry are also displacing and impacting heritage, mountain landscapes, therefore our regime and every individual has to introspect regarding this seriously and act so as to reduce the impact of climate change mainly on the mountain ambiance.

Raichur, Karnataka, Social worker and Environmentalist

## Nabarangapur college @ 52 years

Nabarangapur college is the premier college of the district. It has been facilitating higher education in this remote southern corner of odisha state catering to the students of this locality. This college was established in the year 1971. After 52 years although it has not been declared government ,still then the college is going to celebrate it's golden jubilee celebration very shortly. It is regret to say that the only one and old college has not been declared as government till now. There is not any post graduation courses in this college campus for having higher education. The students who intend to have higher education ,they must move to jeypore or berhampur ,which is too expensive. It is not affordable for each and every one. Odisha as a state of boasts of more 1300 centres for higher education. A major chunk of it falls to the lot of private sector. On the average each district has been blessed with about 40 to 45 colleges within it's jurisdiction. It is regret to say nabarangapur district has no such blessings. It is content with merely only 15/16 colleges at best. After declaration as district some of the district offices added to the glory and un-employed youth of this district dreamt of new oportutinitities of employment, years and years passed, but did not bring much prospect. More than 70% of its population is predominantly tribal ,a bulk of ,who are below the poverty line ,illiterate, and deprived of the fruits of civilization. All most all the colleges are private ,except one modern degree college and a college situated at

Pratap Chandra Sahu

khatiguda run by energy dept. Govt of odisha. There are there to four blocks out of ten without having the privilege of starting the college in its jurisdiction. The premier institution, the



nabarangapur college currently in its golden jubilee year of inception however sneaks into territory of nandahandi block of nabarangapur district and beside nabarangapur town. You know illiteracy in the district is surprisingly high. Many factors contribute to the lower rate of literacy. As visiable on the national stage urge for comfortable job is the dream of the educated pout in the part of the state as well as country. Education is still measured in terms of degree we acqire and status we claim. Colleges built without any aim or objective tends to produce degree holders who do not fit into the society they enter. The tribal patens do not intend to send his/her children to school or college. It was an old tradition. They think that

it is financial loss to them. But they are developed now. But the education system I.e school or college is at their door-step. Society expects a rich dividend they invest only on higher education. It is general tendency. But the educated youth sheltered and nurtured other's expense refuses to recognise this debt and expects their devotion for making him/her more happy. This is malady of our age that systematically widens the gap between the haves and havenots. Although there are vocational courses in our old college but these are not sufficient in our curriculam. The inhabitants, educationists, lawers and journalists and senior citizens urge the government to convert the college as government college ,open p g courses in various subjects with requisite equipments as soon as it is possible. More and more teachers must be appointed soon. The infra-structure of college must be developed. The college drop-outs or degree-holders should be trained-up in the various vovational subjects like agricultural science, horticulture science, diary farm, vetermary science ,t v mechanic, computer science are preferred to philosophy carer in the need. Time and tide wait for none. So we must be conscious regarding our higher education. We the inhabitants of nabarangapur urge to our old college must be taken by government along with sufficient teachers posted with well developed infrastructure inside and outside the college campus opening p.g courses in all subjects.

Nabarangapur



## BJD targets Centre over crop insurance again

BHUBANESWAR: Targeting the Centre for delaying payment of crop insurance to the farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima

ing politics on farmers issues, Patra said there are so many other matter for this. He said as the scheme is named as Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the insurance money will have to be paid by the Centre. But the Centre delayed it for so many months, he added.

Referring to the letter submitted by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to Union Agriculture Minister

Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday, he said there is no merit in it. Stating that HDFC was empanelled by the Centre, Patra asked how such a company was empanelled in the first place. Stating that Pradhan should answer that first, and asked how is such a company then working in BJP ruled states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Tripura and Maharashtra. Patra said this is another classic example of how BJP is trying to mislead the farmers of Odisha by deflecting the fact that it was the Centre that was blocking the payment of crop insurance.

Yojana, BJD on Wednesday maintained that it is being released now after pressure from the farmers and continuous follow up by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Alleging that this has exposed the anti-farmer attitude of the BJP, BJD Rajya Sabha member and national spokesperson Sasmit Patra said that the saffron party had tried to stop the KALIA scheme during the 2019 election. Finally the scheme was cleared after the chief minister personally intervened and went to the office of the chief electoral officer in Bhubaneswar to explain about the scheme. Stating that the BJD does not believe in do-



## Gyanvapi case: Court to hear plea seeking worship of 'Shivling' in mosque complex

VARANASI: The Varanasi Fast Track Court on Thursday dismissed the Anjuman Islamia Masjid committee's plea challenging the maintainability of a suit to hand over possession of the

of prayer of S w a y a m b h u Jyotirlinga Bhagwan Vishweshwar, the handing over of the entire Gyanvapi complex to the Hindus, and banning the entry of Muslims inside the premises of the

Gyanvapi 'Shivling': Supreme Court During the previous hearings in the Varanasi court, it had refused to allow a 'scientific investigation' of the purported 'Shivling'. The Hindu side had

of the 'Shivling' by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the carbon dating of 'Argha' and the area around it. Referring to the order of May 17 of the Supreme Court, the Varanasi Court had



Gyanvapi Mosque premises to the Hindu side. The Court deferred the petition for the next hearing on December 2. The court was hearing the petition on the plea seeking worship rights of the 'Shivling' that the Hindu side claimed to be found on the Gyanvapi mosque premises. Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sanstha had also filed a separate petition in the fast track court of Varanasi after the alleged Shivling was found. The petition was filed by Kiran Singh, wife of Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sanstha President Jitendra Singh Vishen and others. The demands of the Hindu side include permission for the immediate beginning

Gyanvapi complex. In this case, the court under Order 7/Rule 11, said that "this matter is not maintainable." "Varanasi Court dismisses the plea filed by the Masjid committee challenging the maintainability of the suit in the Gyanvapi Mosque case. The next hearing is on December 1," said Anupam Dwivedi, Advocate Hindu side. The Muslim side is allowed to offer prayers on the premises till the matter is in court. The Supreme Court on November 11 extended its earlier order to protect the area where the 'Shivling' was stated to be discovered at the Gyanvapi Mosque complex during the court survey. Ensure safety of

demand carbon dating of the structure they claimed to be a Shivling found inside the Gyanvapi Mosque's wazukhana. However, the Muslim side said that the structure found was a 'fountain'. The Hindu side had then submitted an application in the Varanasi District Court on September 22 that sought a carbon dating of the object they claimed to be 'Shivling'. The Hindu side said that they would approach the Supreme Court against the Varanasi court's verdict refusing to allow a 'scientific investigation' of the purported 'Shivling', claiming to be found on the Gyanvapi mosque premises. On September 29 hearing, the Hindu side demanded a scientific investigation

said that "If the alleged Shivling is damaged by taking samples, then it will be in violation of the order of the Supreme Court". "If the Shivling is damaged, the religious sentiments of the general public can also get hurt", the Varanasi Court had said. Carbon dating is a scientific process that ascertains the age of an archaeological object or archaeological finds. After hearing both sides' arguments, the court reserved the order in the Gyanvapi Mosque-Shringar Gauri case. On May 20, the Supreme Court ordered the transfer of the case related to worship at Gyanvapi mosque from the civil judge to the District Judge, Varanasi.

## Meeting President Murmu experience of lifetime for 16-year-old Tejaswini



BERHAMPUR: Meeting President Droupadi Murmu was an experience of a lifetime for 16-year-old Tejaswini Panda. The youngster, who has written a book on the President, was invited to the meet the President at the Governor's House in Bhubaneswar by the state government. Tejaswini along with her parents met the President for a few minutes. "The interaction was unique and it inspired me to write on different issues," she said. Murmu congratulated Tejaswini and thanked her for writing the biography. "I also presented a copy of my book, 'Rashtrapati Droupadi Murmu' in Odia to the

President. She invited me to Rashtrapati Bhawan and I am eagerly waiting for the formal invitation," Tejaswini said. The youngster said Murmu's struggles and determination to fight against all odds inspired her to pen the biography. "The fact that she continued to fight against odds despite losing her husband and son, inspired me." A Plus Two student of Jagatsinghpur, Tejaswini plans to translate the book in English and a few other languages so that people from across the country can read about the daughter of Odisha who made it to the nation's highest constitutional post.

## Russia 'bears full responsibility' for Poland blast: Kyiv



KYIV: Ukraine said Thursday that Russia was ultimately responsible for a deadly missile blast in Poland this week after Washington announced it was likely fired by Ukrainian air defence. "We share the view that Russia bears full responsibility for its missile terror and its consequences on the territory of Ukraine, Poland and Moldova," Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Twitter, announcing he had spoken by telephone with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. A missile struck the

Polish village of Przewodow near the Ukrainian border on Tuesday, killing two people, and raising fears of an escalation of the conflict. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky said Wednesday that the missile was Russian but Kyiv's allies said the explosion was likely caused by a Ukrainian air defence missile launched to intercept Russian attacks. Warsaw, Washington and NATO stressed that Moscow was ultimately to blame for attacking Ukraine. The Kremlin said it had "nothing to do with the incident".

## Naveen announces Rs 100 cr prizes for education excellence

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday launched the Mukhyamantri Siksha Puraskar Yojana in which prizes worth Rs 100 crore will be given every year to students, teachers, alumni, school committee members and sarpanches for excellence and contribution in the field of education. Making the announcement at the concluding function to mark Sishu Divas at unit-IX government high school here, the chief minister said that around 50,000 students, 1,500 head teachers and teachers, alumni, sarpanches and school committee members will be awarded every year under the scheme. The CM also launched digital locker app for Council of Higher Secondary Education and the Board of Secondary Education for safe keeping of certificates, mark sheets and other documents. Addressing the function, Naveen said students should look to do the right work at the right time to move ahead in life.

He said the 5T transformation in the schools is meant to prepare the students to face the challenge of time. Stating that change is inevitable, the chief



minister advised the students to learn to manage oneself with the changing time. "Now it is time for you to study and do good in extra curricular activities like dance, sports and other aspects of life," he added. Advising the students to have a sense of responsibility, the CM said that they should respect their teachers, family members and be responsible for their village and school. He distributed prizes to students for their excellence, also released a coffee table book, magazine and Mo School newsletter.



# Candidates file Papers

Padampur(KCN): On the last day of filing of nomination papers, candidates of all three principal political parties in the State, Governing BJD and Opposition BJP and Congress have filed their papers for the Padampur by-election.

BJD candidate Barsha Singh Bariha, BJP's

ther," said BJD candidate Barsha.

"I will fight the election with local issues like delay in release of claims under PMFBY, input subsidy, separate district for Padampur, irrigation, etc. Will reach the voters with these issues and seek their blessings. After being elected, will put forth these demands



Pradip Purohit and Congress nominee Satyabhusan Sahu today filed their nomination papers for the by-election. The candidates filed their nomination papers at the Sub-Collector's office here.

While BJP and Congress nominees have visited the Returning Officer's office in big rallies, Governing BJD has decided to stay away from such show in support of farmers' who are agitating demanding input subsidy and crop insurance claims.

Senior BJP leaders Suresh Pujari, KV Singhdeo, Jayanarayan Mishra and Samir Mohanty Congress leaders including State President Sarat Pattanayak, CLP leader Narasingha Mishra and MLA Santosh Singh Saluja and Prasanna Acharya and Snehangini Chhuria have remained presence with their party candidates during filing of the papers. "I will fulfil the unrealised dreams of my fa-

before the State Government," Mr.Purohit said.

Congress candidate Mr.Sahu said he will raise all the problems the people of Padampur area are facing now. "Whatever work has been done in the area during my regime as an MLA, has not been done during any other MLA's tenure," claims he.

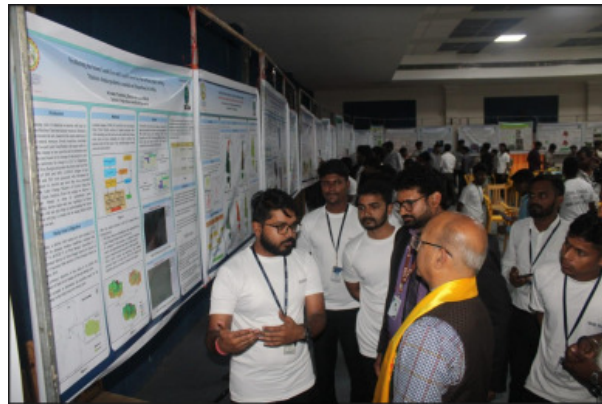
As per schedule, the scrutiny of nominations will be held on November 18 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is November 21.

The voting will be conducted from 7 am to 4 pm on December 5 and the counting of votes and declaration of results will be conducted on December 10.

Worth mentioning, the by-election was necessitated following the death of sitting BJD MLA Bijaya Ranjan Singh Bariha on October 3.

## Celebration of International Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Day - 2022 at Centurion University of Technology & Management, Odisha

Paralakhemundi / Bhubaneswar(KCN): "2nd International Geographical Information Systems Day - 2022, Hybrid Poster



Presentation" was organized by the Department of Civil Engineering and Center for Data Science on 16th November, 2022 at Centurion University of Technology & Management, Paralakhemundi. It is worth mentioning that this year Centurion University of Technology and Management,

world. A total of 302 submissions were received from national and international levels from which 104 abstracts were selected for the comprehensive hybrid poster presentation.

The program included the welcome speech of Prof. Sovan Sankalp and the coordinator of the event, Dr. Prafulla Kumar Panda inaugurated the event in the presence of Vice President, Professor D. N. Rao, Registrar, Dr. Anita Patra, Dean SoET Dr. Ashish Ranjan Das, Chief Guest Prof. I. V. Murali Krishna and Dr. ML Narsingham.

Prof. I. V. Murali Krishna on "Integrating Design thinking and AI into GIS Technologies" and Prof. S. M. Ramaswamy delivered a keynote address on "Virtues of GIS in Cutting Edge Areas of Geosciences". And also Dr. A. K. Kanungo, scientist, Space Application Centre, Andhra Pradesh, delivered a talk on "UAV Remote Sensing - The Future of Synoptic and Precise Imaging of the Earth" and Professor M. L. Narsingham delivered a lecture on "Application of Multi Criteria Decision Making Models in Water Resources Engineering".

Education Manager of ESRI USA, Dr. Joseph J. Kersky and GIS consultant, Mayuri Bhattacharya, highlighted the possibilities, career opportunities for students and faculty. In the end all the dignitaries gave a great message to the

society that will create a GIS centric culture in our society to improve the quality living of the local community.

President, CUTM, Odisha Professor Dr. Mukhtikant Mishra, Vice President Prof. D. N. Rao and Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Supriya Patnaik praised the organizers. And various Scientists, eminent educators and intellectuals praised the coordinators for this great program. In the end Dr. Kamal Kumar Barik thanked the honored guests.



Odisha was the only university among the 63 institutions in India to celebrate the International GIS Day. The program focused on GIS, Artificial Intelligence for water resource management, urban planning, environmental management, disaster management and image processing and applications of machine learning were presented in technical discussions and posters. More than three hundred participants participated in the program from all over the

# Naveen 'song' at Baliyatra forum, Opposition sees red

CUTTACK: A paean praising Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sung by BJD students' wing state general secretary Abinash Mohanty at Baliyatra here on Wednesday, has come under criticism with Opposition BJP and Congress blaming the administration for using the historical fair as a political platform. As per reports, a 'Patha Utsav' was organised by the district administration at the Baliyatra

Naveen Babu followed by BJD Zindabad slogans. Who gave permission and how far it is justified at the historic trade fair which is being celebrated commemorating the maritime history of Odisha," questioned Barabati-Cuttack legislature Mohammed Moquim. The MLA said the district administration seems to be indulging in propagating the ruling BJD's propaganda. The official who is in



ground involving persons belonging to different walks of life on Wednesday morning, and that is when Mohanty walked on to the Akshay Mohanty Manch and sang the song 'Hey Naveen Babu Ame Tuma Fan'. Sources said, several senior officials of the district administration were present in front of the stage, but no one came forward and opposed it.

"Baliyatra is not a political platform for propagating any party's propaganda. It is a matter of astonishment that how a BJD office bearer was able to sing the paean of

charge of holding the cultural programme should immediately beg apology otherwise the Congress will make it an issue, he added. Echoing the same, president, city unit of BJP Lalatendu Badu too has condemned the incident. "The district administration should not use Baliyatra platform for politics. The Akshay Mohanty Manch at Baliyatra seems to have turned into a political pandal," said Badu. Cuttack collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani refuted the allegations and said it is the choice of the singer to sing any song on the stage.




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## Central Govt Misusing ED & other central Agencies against Jharkhand Govt & opposite party leaders

Ranchi(KCN) In Jharkhand, ED is doing the work of applying antimony in one eye and kajal in the



other eye while interrogating the leaders. Making the above allegation, Vijay Shankar Nayak, the former candidate of Kanke Assembly Constituency, Central President of Jharkhandi Information Rights Forum, said in clear words that the way the ED in Jharkhand is interrogating the leaders of Jharkhand, only the leaders of the opposition party are 100% While the Bharatiya Janata Party is involved Jharkhand was in power for 15 years in Jharkhand, but till date no BJP leader has been questioned by ED, which is very suspicious and thought provoking that after all, non-BJP leader, opposition leader, leader of non-BJP ruled state is the victim of ED. Why are you becoming

Mr. Nayak also said that the extent is that Amar Bawari, Neelkanth Singh Munda, Neera Yadav, Randhir Kumar Singh, Louis Marandi, 5 former

ministers of Raghuvar government, their wealth increased by 1100% in 5 years in 2014. The total assets of Amar Bawri in 2019 totaled 7.33 Lakhs in a span of five years Randhir Kumar Singh's fees increased to 89.41 lakhs in 2014, the total assets in 2014 were 78.92, which increased to 5.06 crores in 2019 in five years, Neera Yadav's total assets in 2014 were 80.59 lakhs, which increased to 3.65 crores in five years. Gaye Lewis Marandi's net worth in 2014 was 2.5 crores Which increased to Rs 9.06 crore in five years in 2019. The total assets of Neelkanth Singh Munda in 2014 was Rs 1.46 crore, which increased to Rs 4.35 crore in five years in 2019. From 200 to 1100 percent in just 5 years There has been an increase but till date ED has not done the work of sending summons to these former ministers of BJP nor to ask them under what circumstances you came for questioning which has increased from 200 to 1100 percent in 5 years. Anti was never called nor summons was sent on these five ministers Corruption Bureau is investigating this matter and action is being taken. Mr. Nayak further said that corruption was not done in Jharkhand during the 15 years of previous BJP governments, one serious corruption was encouraged in the name of capital investment, I made Momentum Jharkhand and distributed crores of rupees. Went in the name of getting rid of water logging in the city But 357 crore looted in the name of sewerage drainage project, T-shirt toffee scam, song-music scam, decoration scam 5.50 crore rupees in the name of decoration, a total of ? 12 crore was looted in the name of decoration, which is still being investigated. SB is doing it. The scam in the electricity department has done the work of looting the hard earned money of the people Rs 333 crore was looted in the name of repair of Patratu thermal units Rs 22 crore was looted in the name of renovation of Sikidiri Hydel Jamshedpur Rs 29 crore was looted in the name of APDRP project Illegally giving electricity to industries in 4 Crore scam TDS scam in which ? 15 crore was looted and all of them were looted during BJP rule but ED never questioned BJP leaders which shows that ED is at the behest of BJP government sitting at center ED is being used to remove non-BJP governments from power. Mr. Nayak also said that ED is seeing corruption only in non-BJP leaders and in non-BJP ruled states, which is not a good sign for democracy. will not be allowed to succeed

## Researcher Felicitated

Bhubaneswar (KCN, Bureau): Yuva Aayam of Bharatiya Shikshan

Paper Writing Competition on "Subhash - Swaraj - Sarkar" from last of July to second October 20.



Mandal & Research For Resurgence Foundation has organised Research

Dr Sudipta Mishra from Odisha participated in the research paper writing competition and hopefully, she succeeded in the competition. Hence as a winner, she represented our state in the Young Researcher Conclave which was being held at Delhi, Galgotias University from 11 November to 13 November. With tremendous efforts, she struggled to excel at the national level event with all her fellow contestants.

## Analysis : Have China and India shifted stance on Ukraine war?

Continued from page-1

exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy," the statement said.

The less-than-universal language — "most members" — signals the presence of dissent, as does an acknowledgement that "there were other views and different assessments" and that the G-20 is "not the forum to resolve security issues."

The final product, however, was seen by some as a strong rebuke of a war that has killed thousands, heightened global security tensions and disrupted the world economy.

The public statement used language from a March U.N. resolution that deplored "in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine" and demanded, "its complete and unconditional withdrawal" from Ukrainian territory.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the G-20 summit's "surprisingly clear words" on Ukraine "wouldn't have been possible if important countries hadn't helped us to come together this way — that includes India and it also includes, for example, South Africa." "This is something which shows that there are many in the world who don't think this war is right, who condemn it, even if they abstained in the votes at the United Nations for various reasons," Scholz said. "And I am sure that this is one of the results of this summit: the Russian president stands almost alone in the world with his policy."

John Kirton, director of the G-20 Research Group, called it a "big breakthrough" and an "active shift" by China and India in which they joined the "democratic side of the great immediate geopolitical divide." G20 leaders to hold tough on Russia, urge end to Ukraine war

'No limits partnership'

Privately, however, some diplomats were wary about declaring that China has shifted its stance on Russia. Chinese President Xi Jinping may have simply made a decision to not be seen as a spoiler or outlier during face-to-face meetings with other leaders in Bali. The statement also allows China to avoid going all-in with a Russia that is looking more and more isolated as it increases attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure.

What Beijing hasn't done is change — or even publicly question — its fundamental relations with Russia. China has closely aligned its foreign policy with Russia in recent years, as pipeline projects and natural gas sales have brought them closer economically.

It has refused to publicly criticize Russia's aggression or even refer to it as an invasion while criticizing sanctions and accusing the United States and NATO of provoking Putin, although it has warned against allowing the conflict to go nuclear.

Just weeks before Moscow's invasion, the Russian and Chinese leaders met in Beijing, where they signed a joint statement affirming that their bilateral relationship had "no" limits.

It was unclear whether China pushed for the softening language in the G-20 statement acknowledging "other views and different assessments" and that the G-20 is "not the forum to resolve security issues," but Shi Yinhong, professor of international relations at Beijing's Renmin University, said it has pushed for such phrases on other occasions. 'Era not of war'

For India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also avoided criticism of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Modi, however, indicated for the first time in public India's discomfort with the attack when he met Putin in September.

"I know that today's era is not of war," Modi told Putin. That message "resonated very deeply across all the delegations and helped to bridge the gap across different parties and contributed to the successful outcome of the document" in Bali, Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra told reporters.

Navdeep Suri, a retired Indian diplomat, said he sees a subtle shift in India's position in dealing with Russia. China, however, may be "in a far more awkward position than India because China is the one that promised unlimited support to Russia a few days before the invasion," Suri said. "China has (now) gone along with such tough language, including the unconditional and complete withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine."

Dilip Sinha, another retired Indian diplomat, noted that India continues to buy oil, trade with Russia and abstain from U.N. resolutions critical of Russia. "There is a feeling of bravado in India that it has its way. I don't see any change at all in India's policy on Russia on the war in Ukraine," Sinha said.

## Dharmendra Pradhan urges probe into PMFBY functioning in Odisha

Continued from page-1

2021 season. The low payment of insured sums is the outcome of faulty crop cutting experiments (CCE) data provided by the state government officials and manipulation of yield data by the insurance company.

"The petitioners have alleged that these private insurance companies have manipulated the crop cutting experiment data in collusion with state government officials resulting in lower-than-expected insurance pay out. The ineffectiveness of the local administration and cunning tactics of the HDFC Ergo is derailing the implementation of PMFBY in Bargarh district," the letter said.

Enclosing a copy of GP wise pay out against expected claim of farmers with the letter, Pradhan said, "I request you to investigate this matter at your personal level and order a proper investigation towards the functioning of PMFBY and alleged malpractices by the officials of Government of Odisha during CCEs and conduct of private insurance companies empanelled in PMFBY scheme in the state, especially in Bargarh district."

## Padampur bypoll: Ahead of nominations, Barsha speaks her heart out

Continued from page-1

of the state government for abolition of GST on Kendu leaves, the minister said "the central government is weaving a web of deceit." Appealing to elect Barsha, the minister assured that BJD is always concerned about Padampur and the party being at helm in the state, a candidate from the BJD can bring about development in Padampur.

Besides Barsha, her contenders Pradip Purohit of BJP and Satya Bhusan Sahu of Congress would also be filing nomination papers on the last day on Thursday.

Several BJD leaders including Jena, Prasanna Acharya, Bargarh MLA, Debesh Acharya, Bhatli MLA, Susanta Singh, Sanjit Mohanty, Pradeep Majhi besides few other members were present at the Padampur meeting.

The by-election in Padampur was declared following the death of sitting BJD MLA of Padampur Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha on October 3. Subsequently, his daughter, Barsha was fielded by the party as their candidate on November 14.

## Mamata seeks PM's intervention to deal Ganga-Padma river erosion in Bengal

Continued from page-1

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

Referring to the reply by the Centre to her earlier letter, Mamata said in her letter, "The Union Minister, in his letter, has indicated that FBPA has executed anti-erosion/river protection work to the tune of Rs 342 crore during the period from 2005 to 2009. However, it is noticed that the area is still suffering from severe erosion problems at several sites."

"As a result, it is clear that the anti-erosion efforts have been attempted piecemeal, with no holistic approach taken. I would, therefore, request you to kindly advise the concerned department to conduct a joint study supported by suitable model analysis, involving the FBPA and governments of West Bengal and Bihar under the aegis of the Ganga Flood Control Commission," read the letter. Mamata Banerjee apologises for TMC minister's remark on President Murmu The Bengal CM pointed out in her letter that the existing jurisdiction of anti-erosion work of the FBPA needs serious re-examination at the earliest. She alleged even in their original jurisdiction, the FBPA has not taken up any comprehensive anti-erosion activity but has executed piecemeal work only to show off.

"Even during the period of extended jurisdiction, which remained valid from January 2005 to July 2017, the FBPA failed to plan and implement required anti-erosion works on the extended stretch of 120 km through the state government repeatedly urged," she said in the letter.

Mamata also alleged no central assistance was provided to address river erosion in the affected districts.



## World Cup draws attention to equal rights, including attire

Official-looking flyers have circulated on social media describing cultural expectations for fans attending the World Cup in Qatar. Some include rules for women's attire: Shoulders and knees must be covered. Prob-



lem is, it's bogus.

While the local organizing committee suggests that fans "respect the culture," no one will be detained or barred from games in Qatar because of clothing choices.

But persistent rumours swirling around appropriate garb and modesty at soccer's biggest tournament have also drawn attention to the country's record on equality.

Rothna Begum, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, has studied Qatar's male guardianship rules and women's rights in the conservative country.

"There isn't anyone is going to go around arresting you for this because there isn't an official dress code," Begum said. "There isn't a compulsory dress code and you can't get sanctioned for it. It's just a social restriction, a social tradition."

The local organizing committee includes a section on cultural awareness in its fan guide. "People can generally wear their clothing of choice. Shoulders and knees should be covered when visiting public places like museums and other government buildings," it said. The phrase "public places" is up to interpre-

tation.

The American Outlaws, the U.S. national team's supporters' group, produced its own fan guide.

"Fans can wear shorts and short sleeve shirts, and women are not required to cover their heads or faces. However, there are many buildings that require both men and women to cover their shoulders and knees before entering, including museums, shopping centres, and some restaurants," the guide says.

"We recommend that fans carry some pants and/or a top with sleeves if they plan on entering any buildings, as they may be asked to put them on.

"In the stadiums, men and women will be required to wear tops. People will not be permitted to go shirtless during matches or in public settings."

The first World Cup in the Middle East comes at a time when there is international attention on the treatment of women in Iran.

The nation, which sits across the Persian Gulf from Qatar, has been rocked by anti-hijab protests following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died while being held by morality police for allegedly violating the country's compulsory dress code for women. Activists have called for Iran to be expelled from the World Cup.

With Islam encouraging female modesty, most Qatari women wear headscarves and a loose cloak is known as the abaya. Begum, who wrote about Qatar and its treatment of women in a 2021 report for Human Rights Watch, said that while women have made progress in Qatar, they still face discrimination in almost every facet of their lives.

## Poonam, Deepti, Sneha, Pooja named captains for Women's T20 Challenger

NEW DELHI: India players Poonam Yadav, Deepti Sharma, Pooja Vastrakar and Sneha Rana were on Thursday named captains of the four respective teams that will feature in the Senior Women's Challenger T20 Trophy, to be played in Raipur from November 20. For fringe India and domestic players, the

Nuzhat Parween (WK), Shivali Shinde (WK), S.Anusha.

India B: Deepti Sharma (C), Shafali Verma (VC), Dhara Gujjar, Yuvashree, Arundhati Reddy, Nishu Chaudhary, Humeira Kazi, Devika Vaidya, S.S Kalal, Monica Patel, S.L.Meena, Simran Dil Bahadur, Taniyaa



event will be a good platform to display their talent ahead of the home series against Australia next month.

The inaugural Women's IPL takes place in March and that will also be at the back of the players' minds.

All games will be played at Raipur's Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium. The final will be played on November 26.

India A: Poonam Yadav (C), Harleen Deol (VC), Muskan Malik, S.Sajna, Amanjot Kaur, Disha Kasat, Shriyanka Patil, Saika Ishaque, Meghna Singh, Anjali Sarwani, Sahana Pawar,

Sapna Bhatia (WK), Laxmi Yadav (WK) India C: Pooja Vastrakar (C), S.Meghana (VC), Priya Punia, Simran Shaikh, Tarranum Pathan, K.P.Navgire, Anjali Singh, Rashi Kanojia Saranya Gadwal, Keerthy James, Komal Zanzad, Ajima Sangma, Richa Ghosh (WK), Mamatha (WK).

India D: Sneha Rana (C), Jemimah Rodrigues (VC), Ashwini Kumari, D.Hemalatha, Kanika Ahuja, Jasia Akhter, Yastika Bhatia, Priyanka Priyadarshini, Shikha Pandey, S.B.Pokharkar, Renuka Singh, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Aparna Mondal (WK), Sushma Verma (WK).

Women must get permission from male guardians to marry, pursue higher education and work at certain jobs. Guardians can bar women under 25 from travelling abroad. It's a conservative culture that has little tolerance for dissent among its own citizens, she said. "There are no independent women's rights organizations and that's partly because the authorities have laws that make it difficult for you to set up associations that are in any way deemed political. You are not allowed," Begum said. "Women find it difficult to express or demand their rights offline or even online."

That's one of the reasons critics are questioning FIFA for awarding the 2022 World Cup to Qatar. Observers certainly noticed when retired American soccer star Carli Lloyd wore a long, high-collared dress with long sleeves for the World Cup draw earlier this year.

A letter recently circulated among teams from FIFA president Gianni Infantino and secretary general Fatma Samoura asked nations not to bring political or ideological issues into the tournament. "Please," they wrote, "let's now focus on the football."

## Nature of the beast: Williamson on packed scheduling ahead of India series

CHENNAI: For the second time in as many years, New Zealand and India will be playing a white-ball series immediately after the T20 World Cup. Having reached the final of the 2021 T20 World Cup, the Blackcaps had 48 hours before taking the field against India in Jaipur for a T20I series.



"Obviously with a moving landscape like we're presented with at the moment, players have made a number of different decisions and Trent being a big part of our team, has done that. So, there's an opportunity at the moment with other guys on the fringe to get some opportunities. And for us, building a team and growing as a team is really important, but it's all still very new as well. So yeah, I think it's going to be an important thing to learn and get an understanding for how it looks over the next period," said Williamson. India vs New Zealand white-ball series will be streamed live on Prime Video from November 18.



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