

## Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan meets family of Tamil poet Bharathiyar in Varanasi

NEW DELHI(KCN): Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday met KV Krishnan, the 96-year-old nephew of Tamil poet Subramania Bharathiyar, and his family in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Sangamam celebrates the philosophical unity and commonality between our two great cultures," he further said.

The Union Minister also said that the poet will forever be an inspiration for the next generations.



One of the greatest Tamil literary figures of all time, Mahakavi Bharathiyar's home is on the banks of Hanuman Ghat in Kashi is a pilgrimage.

Pradhan said that Subramania Bharathiyar's ideals on social justice and women empowerment are more relevant now than ever.

"Kashi had a profound influence on shaping Bharathiyar's personality and Kashi Tamil

Earlier in the day, Pradhan Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan took stock of the preparations of 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to inaugurate a month-long event on Saturday.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam is being organized in Varanasi from November 17 to December 16 with the objective to rediscover, reaffirm and celebrate the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi - two of the country's most important and ancient seats of learning.

"Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan has been

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## Pratap Keshari Deb asks Tata Power to improve power supply in rural areas of Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb on Thursday asked Tata Power to ensure improved power supply with minimum disruption to rural areas of the state. Inaugurating the sixth distribution utility meet (DUM) 2022, organised by India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) here, Deb said he



received lot of complaints from rural consumers on frequent power cuts and low voltage during his recent visit to Padampur Assembly constituency where bypoll is scheduled on December 5.

Deb, who has been assigned Jharbandh block

of the Assembly segment by the BJD, said the expectations of people have gone up after the power distribution business of the state was handed over to Tata Power. Acknowledging the problems encountered by the company during the transition phase, the minister said the rapid transformation achieved during a short span of time will augur well for the state which has pioneered power sector reforms.

Later talking to media persons, Deb said the state faced power shortage during summer months (April and May) this year after one unit of NTPC's Darlipali thermal power plant went off the grid. The localised power cuts faced by consumers are temporary because of maintenance undertaken by the distribution utility.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the two-day meet, Tata Power CEO and MD Praveer Sinha said the electricity distribution sector of the state is

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## Russia says 'fortifying' annexed Crimean peninsula as Ukraine reclaims Kherson region

KYIV(KCN): Russia said Friday it was strengthening positions on the Crimean peninsula, annexed from Ukraine in 2014, as Kyiv's forces reclaim territory in the neighbouring Kherson region.

Moscow annexed Crimea in the wake of nationwide pro-democracy demonstrations that led to the ouster of Ukraine's former Kremlin-friendly president.

And it was used as a launching pad in February for the Russian invasion, with Moscow's troops pushing north and swiftly capturing towns and cities in southern Ukraine.

"Fortification work is being carried out on the territory of Crimea under my control with the aim of guaranteeing the security of all Crimeans," the Moscow-appointed governor of the region, Sergei Aksyonov, said.

He added that the military and law enforcement were already working in such a way to make sure Crimeans "feel safe".

His announcement comes as Ukraine forces in recent months have been pushing a counter-offensive in the south towards Crimea and last week reclaimed Kherson, the capital of the bordering the annexed penin-

sula.

With electrical and water supplies cut to the city following the destruction of key utilities by the retreating Russians, residents



moved fast to stockpile basic supplies in the southern Ukrainian city.

The deputy head of the Kherson region Sergiy Khlan announced Friday that Kherson city's

## BJD, BJP, Congress candidates file papers for Padampur bypoll

BARGARH(KCN): Political activities hit a high at Padampur as candidates of BJD, BJP and Congress on Thursday filed their nomination papers for the by-election scheduled on December 5. Barsha Singh Bariha, the BJD candidate and daughter of late Bijay Singh

Bariha, was the first to file her nomination. She was followed by BJP nominee Pradip Purohit and Congress candidate Satya Bhusan Bhoi. Besides, 10 other candidates also filed their papers on the last day of nomination.

Accompanied by senior BJD leaders, Barsha filed her papers in the afternoon. Former Bargarh MP and BJD leader Prabhas Singh said, "Barsha belongs to a political family and is well aware of the problems of Padampur. She is the best candidate to lead Padampur on the path of development. Though she filed

## Journalists Need to Adopt Emerging Tech: RS Dy Speaker Harivansh

New Delhi (KCN): Deputy Speaker, Rajya Sabha Shri Harivansh while lighting the lamp to inaugurate the National Press Day jointly organized by Accredited Journalists Association "AJA" and Press Club of India, the country's apex body of journalists, said that journalists should develop themselves, instead of depending only on the government for



our comforts, we will have to make a framework for mutual development together with the owners of the media houses / Mr. Harivansh said that the 150-year-old glorious Indian Journalism as ideal, we need to adopt new information technology. Former Speaker of Delhi Legislative Assembly, Dr. Yoganand Shastri discussed in detail the great partisan face of Mahatma Gandhi, while discussing the English compilation of the book "Gandhi and Ambedkar, Kitne Paas Kitne Door" written by well-known socialist thinker Raghu Thakur. Senior journalist and former Minister of Delhi government, Ramakant Goswami, inaugurating the souvenir of the Accredited Journalists Association "AJA", appreciated the activities of the organization and appealed to the journalists to dis-

her nomination today, I believe people of Padampur have already bestowed their blessings on her."

Talking to mediapersons before his nomination, BJP candidate Pradip said, he had deferred the nomination on November 14 to ex-



Pradip Purohit



Barsha Singh Bariha



Satya Bhusan Bhoi

tend support to the farmers fighting for their rights. "As an outcome, not only the insurance company has started disbursing crop loss claims after the intervention of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the state government also declared input assistance for farmers," he added.

Purohit hoped that

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charge journalism in an unbiased manner.

On this occasion, well-known socialist thinker Raghu Thakur said that journalists have to play an important role in keeping democracy safe in the country and demanded security of journalists, pen-



reintroduction of railway concession, free bus travel across the country, pension to journalists, provision of free treatment in private and government hospitals across the country, and other facilities etc. Mr. Chaturvedi demanded the government to constitute a media commission to solve the problems of journalists and give them constitutional rights and simplify the process of recognition of journalists by PIV. Press Club of India President Umakant Lakheda, General Secretary Vinay Kumar said that it is necessary to give proper respect and importance to journalists to ensure transparency in government work. Highlighted the activities / The program was conducted by Bhupender Kumar Jain, Senior Vice President of the organization / On this occasion, Anis-ur-Rehman, Vice President of the organization expressed gratitude to all the present guests and journalists.

news on Ukraine to others

The Ukraine presidency said it was doing everything possible to improve conditions in Kherson and that neighbouring territories, also battered by Russian forces, would aid the liberated territory.

"Our people there need a lot of help. Russians not only killed, mined but also robbed towns and cities. There is nothing left there in fact," the deputy head of the presidency Kyrylo Tymoshenko said.

Russia claimed to have also annexed the Kherson region along with three more in September, vowing to defend them with all available military means.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky has said his forces intend to recapture the peninsula as well.

There have been several explosions at or near Russian military installations in Crimea since February, including a coordinated drone attack on a key Russian naval port at Sevastopol.

In October, the Kerch bridge connecting the peninsula to the Russian mainland was partially destroyed in an

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later we will see whether the route becomes regular," a spokeswoman for the national railway operator told AFP.

Where's Putin? Russian leader leaves bad

## Baliyatra ends, record business for traders

CUTTACK(KCN): The historic Baliyatra festival concluded here on Thursday with vendors registering record business this year. The biggest fair of the state, organised after a gap of two years by the



district administration and Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) was extended by a day by the state government on the civic body's request. The fair not only brought cheers to traders but it also entered the Guinness Book of World Records with over 2,100 students of 22 schools making 22,000

paper boats in just 35 minutes. The event was organised at Barabati Stadium. Meanwhile, state-run Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS), which had set up 470 stalls including 30 food outlets at its national-level Pallishree Mela, registered sales of over Rs 21 crore by the end of the day. The society had registered business worth Rs 15 crore in 2019. Women entrepreneurs of different self help groups and producer groups from 30 districts across Odisha, artisans from 18 other states like Assam, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Delhi, West Bengal, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Jharkhand also participated in the Pallishree Mela. Governor Ganeshi Lal was the chief guest at the closing ceremony and felicitated PD, DRDA, Ambar Kar and Joint CEO, ORMAS, Cuttack Bipin Rout.

## Villages wholeheartedly support JSW Nuagaon mines capacity Expansion

Barbil(KCN): Neighborhood villages of Nuagaon Mines unanimously supported JSW Steel during the public hearing conducted to further environment clearance for the capacity expansion of Nuagaon iron ore mine.



JSW Steel proposed to have environment assessment for the Nuagaon Iron ore mine for production of 20 MTPA iron ore here with total excavation 22.013 MTPA with screening, crushing 4500TPH CPU and 30 MTPA grinding and beneficiation plant. Also, there will be 30 MTPA slurry transportation system over ML area

776.969(as per DGPS)/767.284 Ha (as per ROR). The residents of local villages like Nuagaon, Barapada, Gandhalpada, Guali, Katashi, Parediposi, Kohlarudukela, Panduliposhi, Topadihi expressed their interest to have the company its expansion. The public hearing was conducted by Keonjhar State Pollution Control Board and district administration.

Keonjhar Additional District Magistrate Susama Bilung and SPCB regional officer Prasanta Kar conducted the event.

During the public hearing, around 113 villagers from the neighboring villages spoke in the forum and majority of them supported to JSW project. Over 200 villagers participated in the public hearing. People emphasized on livelihood promotion and CSR activities in the area. The state government received 60 written representations at the venue. JSW officials assured the public for addressing the concerns of the affected areas in the coming days. The noted environmentalist Neeladri Mishra and SPCB regional officer Prasanta Kar emphasized on the future roadmap for environmental mitigation measures by the company.

## BJD-BJP face Off

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of the Padampur by-election, Governing BJD and Opposition BJP have locked their horns over delay in disbursement of crop insurance claims to farmers of Odisha affected due to drought in kharif 2021 crop season.



The delay in disbursing crop insurance claims under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and input subsidy has become a major issue for the by-election Padampur by-poll. The drought-hit farmers of the area are on a protest path and requested all political parties not to take part in the election process until their demands have not been fulfilled. To please the farmers, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on November 15 announced Rs.200 crore for the distressed farmers of the drought affected areas of the state.

While announcing the input subsidy, Patnaik had blamed the Centre for the delay. Despite continuous follow up and pursuance by the Odisha government with the technical advisory committee (TAC) under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, many of the affected farmers have not yet received their crop insurance dues, the CM had said in a statement. Countering Mr. Patnaik's allegation, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has written a letter to the Odisha CM. In the letter, Mr. Tomar said that the responsibility of floating the bids for the implementation of PMFBY, allocating the cluster of districts to the insurance companies (ICs) and agreement of premium rates vests with the state government as per the norms of the Revamped Operational Guidelines (ROGs). The responsibility of conducting transparent crop cutting experiments (CCE) through the CCE app also rests with the state government, he said.

He said that the Centre promptly responded to it and advised the state authorities to get them examined by STAC, which Odisha had not constituted despite it being part of the guidelines since 2020. "Also the GoI put up the matter before the TAC as soon as the appeals against STAC order were received and the matter was taken to its logical con-

clusion," Mr. Tomar wrote.

The Union Minister further informed that after due follow up, majority of claims in disputed districts have been settled at the TAC and complete settlement is expected by this week. Out of nine disputed districts, Rs. 723 crore is the total payable claim out of which Rs. 622 crores has been settled. Meanwhile, the BJP has announced to launch an indefinite satyagraha outside the Assembly, starting Friday. Addressing a press conference here, State BJP General Secretary Prithviraj Harichandan said they will launch the protest over several issues of farmers including farm assistance, crop insurance, and supply of fertilisers, Kalia money distribution. "The Potato Mission and Onion Mission have been completely failed in the State. But despite that, there is no policy in place to help farmers recover losses," he said. The BJP leader alleged that 90 percent of fertilisers available in the market are duplicate. Farmers don't get loans on time. They are at the mercy of middlemen for resources, supply of seeds, and fertilisers, Harichandan said. He further alleged that the farmers were getting Rs 4,000 under the KALIA scheme instead of Rs 10,000 as promised while referring to the 2019 elections.

Addressing media persons, BJD MP Sasmit Patra alleged that the letter of Mr. Tomar is flawed, faulty and is based on distorted facts and half-truths. The letter does not mention the CM's letter and state cooperation ministers' meeting with him.

"Now the farmers of Padampur and Odisha know that the PMFBY as the name goes is naturally of the Centre and only the Centre can take the final decision on any claims as admitted in the Centre's letter today and only they can direct the insurance companies to pay the Fasal Bima. The state has no role as far as the final decision is concerned," Patra said. On BJP's announcement for protest, Dr. Patra said that the BJP should instead hold the dharna before Parliament and urge its party at the Centre to give up its anti-farmer attitude.

"The BJP MLAs had unanimously supported the resolution along with all MLAs of BJD and Congress to increase the MSP of paddy to Rs 2930 in Odisha Vidhan Sabha in 2018. They should ask the Centre to implement it," Dr. Patra said.

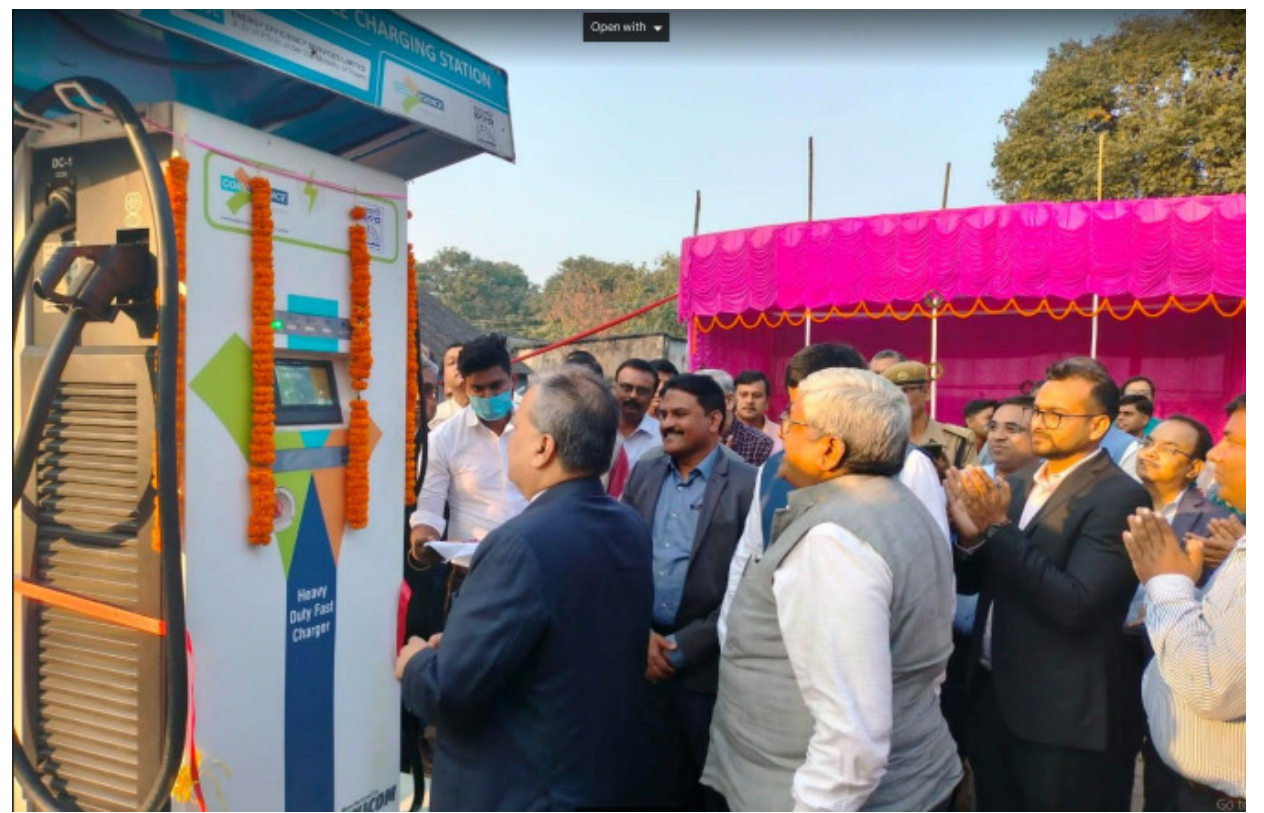
## Scribes receive pension on National Press Day

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): As many as 32 senior scribes were given pension by National Journalist Welfare Board (NJWB). The board, which observed National Press Day-2022 here on Wednesday, also felicitated meritorious journalism students.



Senior journalist Bamaipada Tripathy was awarded Utkal Sambadika Ratna Samman at the event. The board also honoured eminent journalists - Pritam Singh Bhatia, Achin Chakraborty, Sahana Tripathy, Ashok Pandey, Tanveer Khan and Himanshu Tripathy with Rashtriya Sambadika Gourav Samman and Nalco general manager Ashutosh Rath with Public Relations Samman. The event was chaired by NJWB chairperson Dipak Malviya and president Pradosh Patnaik.

## Chairman, DVC Inaugurates Electric Vehicle Public Charging Station at Maithon



Kolkata(KCN): An Electric Vehicle Public Charging Station is the first of its kind in DVC and has been jointly installed by DVC and EESL. This gala event was

attended by the Member Technical, the Member Finance, the Member Secretary and other senior executives of DVC. Necessary in-

## OMDC workers hold protest over non-payment of salaries

Barbil(KCN): Demanding regular and hike in salary workers of Orissa Mineral Development Corporation staged a demonstration in front of the office of OMDC, Thakurani, on Friday. It is to note that OMDC operates six iron ore and manganese ore mining leases at Barbil in the district of Keonjhar, Odisha. The leases are Dalki

formation regarding vehicle charging and exact location of this EV charging station can be accessed through ElectreeFi app.

Recently, one mines at Bariaburu is likely to be operational soon as the company has obtained statutory clearances. Workers alleged that since 2010, after the merger of company with Rastriya Ispat Nigam limited, a PSU company, salary of employees and statutory clearance activities are obstructed due to lack of interest, Debkanta Rath, one employee alleged. They are getting salary as per old wages act 1997. No initiative has been taken by the management to revise salary, rather their negligence compelled company to pay additional Rs 200 crore as penalty from their reserve payment of 1200 crore, said



Manganese Mines, Kolha Roida Iron & Manganese mines, Thakurani Iron & Manganese Mines, Belkundi Iron & Manganese Mines, Bariaburu Iron Mines and Bhadrasahi Iron & Manganese Mines. The lease rights of all the six mines have expired and, therefore, the company's mining operations are under suspension due to non availability of statutory clearances.

Barquatulla Khan, one employee "We have families. We find it next to impossible to pay the fees of our school going children, medical expenses etc. The local officials are giving us false assurances, said one of the protesters Muna Khan. The workers held a demonstration at Thakurani denouncing the management for not paying their salaries for the four months.

## Man gets 14 years RI under POCSO Act

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Fast Track Special Court (POCSO) Bhubaneswar on

Thursday awarded 14 years rigorous imprisonment to a 46-year-old man for attempting to rape his minor daughter. Judge BC Rout convicted MD Tafique under Sections 354, 376/511 and 506 of the IPC.

Mahila police in Bhubaneswar had registered a case against Tafique in September, 2020. The police launched an investigation into the

matter after the 17-year-old victim informed them that her father outraged her modesty and



attempted to rape her on several occasions at their house in Jadupur in 2018 and even in the preceding years. "The prosecution examined 11 witnesses and Tafique was convicted. All the sentences will run consecutively, which means he will face 14 years in prison," said special public prosecutor Rajib Sasmal.

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**WATCH 'Manikarnika' trailer: This Kangana Ranaut-starrer looks like bits from a Bhansali product**



MUMBAI(KCN): Finally it comes. The trailer of the beleaguered historical "Manikarnika - The Queen Of Jhansi" brings to us a furious, ferocious and feral Kangana Ranaut, who tells the 'gora log', "We both want Jhansi. But you want to rule. I want to serve." Well, precisely. The Rani Of Jhansi was passionately dedicated to her

kingdom. I don't see much of that dedication in the trailer. Much of it is devoted to displaying its leading lady's skills on horses and with swords. The trailer gives us an epic primer on 'Kangana Rides The Horse', 'Kangana Swats The Enemy', 'Kangana Bays For Blood', so on and so forth. There is so much of the talented ac-

triss' efforts to appear queenly, the trailer barely offers a glimpse of the impressive supporting cast, namely Danny Denzongpa, Atul Kulkarni, Suresh Oberoi and others who flit by in this steamroller view of a woman warrior's day-out binge. Threadbare thunder in a fancy teacup. Alarmingly and annoyingly, the film

wears a thick and heavy Sanjay Leela Bhansali hangover. In the way the camera zooms in and pans the long stretches of the battle scenes, I was taken back to Bhansali's "Bajirao Mastani". In fact one of Kangana's derring-do in a battle sequence here, she gambols over her army to strike was a move identical to Ranveer Singh's in

"Bajirao Mastani". ALSO READ: Ready to do a good movie down south, says actress Kangana Ranau So is Kangana's Jhansi Ki Rani, Bajirao or Mastani or both? It's a highly derivative world created by people who seem to have the resources but not the vision. We could do with a lot more chutzpah when recre-

ating such an important chapter from Indian history. It's not all a wash-out, though. Kangana seems to convey sufficient fire and elasticity. Her accent is a downer, though. This is the way the trailer moves: uplifting one moment down to being a disappointment the next. Let's hope the film is not as uneven in tone.

**When Julia Roberts realised she was famous**

LOS ANGELES (KCN): Actress Julia Roberts, 51, revealed that the first time she realised she was famous was when she was in a bathroom stall at age 21 and a fan asked her for an autograph. The actress had just starred in the 1988 film "Mystic Pizza" at the time of her bathroom encounter.

The Oscar-winner told the story during an appearance on an episode of a podcast, reports dailymail.co.uk. ALSO READ: 'Ben Is Back' film review She had her fame awakening after returning home to Georgia to visit her mother and younger sister. The three caught a movie and

Roberts stopped by the bathroom afterward. "It was after the movie was over and I was in the bathroom and there was a woman in the bathroom who said, 'Hey, girl in stall number one, were you in 'Mystic Pizza?'" she said. The pushy fan proceeded to slip something under the stall and asked the "Mystic Pizza" star to sign it.

**Hansika in Mohanlal's next Tamannaah Bhatia and Shruti Hassan are the new gal pals**

It seems Mohanlal-B to @Hansika for her While Rockline



Unnikrishnan team's untitled film is getting bigger and bigger. After Vishal and Srikanth, another popular south star Hansika Motwani will be making her Mollywood debut through the film. The update was announced by the director himself on his official Facebook page. "I wish great luck

new release Bogan. She will have a very special appearance in my Mohanlal film produced by Mr Rockline Venkatesh," posted Unnikrishnan. According to the director, who had last teamed up with Mohanlal for Mr Fraud, VFX and special effects will have a lot of importance in the the big budget project.

Tamannaah Bhatia has been bonding with her contemporary Shruti Hassan.

talk everyday due to their busy schedules, but they always make sure to make time on

for Shruti. Tamannaah says, "Shruti is a sweetheart and a dear



for a while now. Tamannaah chose to take some time out last week to meet her new BFF Shruti Hassan to celebrate her birthday. According to a source close to Tamannaah says. "Tamannaah and Shruti share a special bond, the two actresses may not be able to

each other's birthdays. Shruti Hassan, who celebrated her birthday couple of days ago with close friends, had Tamannaah as one of her special guests. It is said that Tamannaah makes it a point to not miss her friend's special day at any cost. She had also brought a special gift

friend. Since we both have tight schedules, we don't get much time to spend with each other the rest of the year, so I needed to be at her birthday party so that I could be with her. I have been attending her birthday since the last three years and making sure to be with her on her special day."

## Kanchan Shree's Fight against hunger continues...

"Kanchan Shree" is spreading the message of love, sacrifice and oneness uninterruptedly for more than past 20 years. The name has been synonymous with self-less service to humanity. Nestered in the serene and calm atmosphere of New Delhi's posh Vasant Kunj locality, the modest farm house is known as God's own kitchen in the vicinity. Everyday at 1 pm, people living within 5-6 km radius of "Kanchan Shree", rush to the farm house to find a wholesome meal free of cost served with great love and passion. On the otherhand, the staff and volunteers at "Kanchan Shree" eagerly welcome the guests — old and young — irrespective of their race, caste, religion and sex and enjoy serving them fresh, home-cooked delicious food. A group of trained cooks at "Kanchan Shree" use or-

ganic vegetables painstakingly produced/ grown at the kitchen garden in the backyard. Cause, "Kanchan Shree" believes in equality and honours everybody's self-respect. It believes in the spirit — Service to mankind is service to God, and "Basudheiba Kutumbakam", (World is one family). Here, all are equal.

The mission to help the needy started at South Extension 2 twenty years ago. The service to mankind continued. It served home-cooked food not only in the colony in South Extension but also at AIIMS keeping in view the requirement of the needy patients and their attendants. "Kanchan Shree" also realized that cooked food alone can solve one of their basic problems as most of the patients and their

### Bijaya Kumar Das

attendants were forced to spend sleepless nights under the open sky due to lack of proper accomodation/ shelter. Rain baseras were set up inside the AIIMS premises on a priority basis and the patients and their relatives heaved a sigh of relief.

When the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the entire Delhi, the free kitchen was shifted from the AIIMS to "Kanchan Shree" in Vasant Kunj. Every religion says feeding the hungry and offering drink to the thirsty is the most sacred work. The mission to serve the needy will continue unabated to seek their blessings.

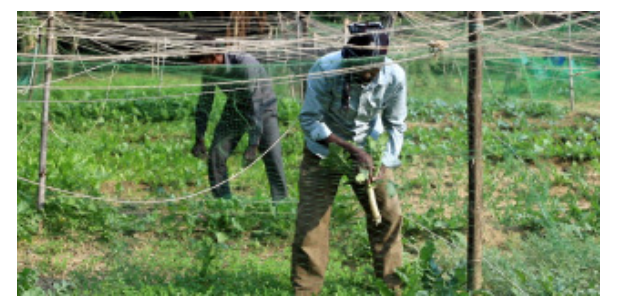
In this modren world, where cut-throat competition rules the roost, greed for power and money tops the priority list and where the

rich or affluent give a cold shoulder to their own people, who cares for the needy, under-privileged and sick? At this juncture, "Kanchan Shree" tries to give them a hand up to put smile to their faces.

Reports suggest, there is more than enough food produced in the world to feed everyone on the planet; Yet as many as 828 million people still go hungry. Isn't it an irony?

"Kanchan Shree" believes "Service to mankind is service to God and selfless service is among human virtues that play a significant role in shaping a better society. In the Bible, God promises not merely to love the poor and the hungry but to be active in their behalf: "I will satisfy her poor with bread..."

Long live humanity. Let hunger vanish from the world.



Mr Bijaya kumar Das is a delhi based Freelance Journalist

## UP BJP leaders to mend 64 seats with chunks of eastern UP voters in Gujarat

LUCKNOW(KCN): "Gujarat mein Modi chhe.....", the Gujarati-Bhojpuri mix rap released by Gorakhpur MP and popular Bhojpuri actor in his own voice has been doing rounds on social media platforms setting the tone for a robust campaign by UP BJP leaders in the poll bound state in the days to come.

Leading from the front, UP CM Yogi Adityanath commence his series of poll ral-

number of people from the belt between Jaunpur to Mirzapur stay in Gujarat.

Even CM Yogi, an MLA from Gorakhpur, is expected to address over a dozen rallies. Sources said that already a host of east UP MPs like Mahendra Nath Pandey (Chandauli), deputy CM Keshav Maurya (Kaushambi) and Deoria MLA Shalabh Mani Tripathi have been entrusted with the task of conducting a ground-level campaign in Gujarat.



lies by addressing three in Morbi, Bharuch and Surat on Friday. In fact, the party's central leadership has entrusted around 64 assembly segments across 16 districts to the UP unit to firm up support in the upcoming assembly elections as those seats have a respectable chunk of voters who hail from eastern UP.

As a result, the saffron brigade has roped in Bhojpuri film stars-turned-politicians like North East Delhi MP Manoj Tewari and Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kishan to campaign in districts like Ahmedabad and Surat.

"Their presence will resonate well with the settlers from Purvanchal," said a senior BJP leader campaigning in Gujarat. He said a good

Gujarat Assembly polls: BJP to conduct 'carpet bombing' campaign across 89 constituencies

Meanwhile, a group of senior party leaders including RS MP Laxmikant Bajpai, former UP minister Suresh Rana and cabinet minister Swatantra Dev Singh have been camping in the poll-bound state to help the local leaders doing the groundwork.

Moreover, the party leaders from other states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Jharkhand are also being deployed in Gujarat. BJP sources said that the UP unit is scheduled to send a team of 26 women leaders to Gujarat soon to drum up support for the party in the upcoming elections.

## Vikram-S marks Prarambh of private venture in Indian space programme

Sriharikota (KCN): India on Friday successfully placed three satellites into an orbit on a rocket completely developed by a four-year-old startup, marking the entry of the private sector into space activities, currently dominated by the state-run behemoth ISRO.

Skyroot Aerospace-designed Vikram-S, named in a befitting tribute to the father of the country's space programme Vikram Sarabhai, tasted success in its maiden mission. Skyroot Aerospace became the first privately held company in India after the space sector was opened for the private players by the Centre in 2020.

The 6-metre tall launch vehicle is one of the world's first few all-composite rockets that has 3-D printed solid thrusters for spin stability of the launch vehicle.

"This is a new beginning for the Indian private sector entering aerospace and a historic moment for all of us," Goenka said.

The three payloads riding piggyback on the rocket are from Chennai-based start-up SpaceKidz, Andhra Pradesh-based N-SpaceTech and Armenian BazoomQ Space Research Lab.

Vikram-S launched the payloads in about 500 km low inclination orbit.



"I am happy to announce the successful completion of Mission Prarambh, The Beginning, by Skyroot aerospace," a smiling Pawan Goenka, Chairman of the country's space regulator, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACe), said from ISRO's Mission Control Center here.

The rocket achieved an altitude of 89.5 km and a range of 121.2 km, "exactly what was planned by Skyroot Aerospace," he said.

The rocket "worked as planned" and Skyroot Aerospace has demonstrated various capability of sub-systems that will go into the orbital launch vehicle, he added.

The rocket integrated into the launcher soared after lifting off at the prefixed 11.30 am from the sounding rocket complex at the Indian Space Research Organisation's Satish Dhawan Space Centre, here, about 115 km from Chennai.

The Mission unveiled by ISRO Chairman S Somanath has three payloads with two belonging to domestic customers and one from a foreign client.

Transfer Orbit. PSLVs and GSLVs are launched from here.

Friday's mission is considered to be a significant milestone for Skyroot Aerospace as it would help test and validate majority of the technologies in the Vikram series of orbital class space launch vehicles, including many sub-systems and technologies that would be tested before lift-off and post lift off phases of the launch.

'Fun-Sat', a 2.5 kgs payload belonging to Chennai-based aerospace startup SpaceKidz, has been developed by students from India, the United States, Singapore and Indonesia.

The 545 kg Vikram launch vehicle consists of the Vikram II and Vikram III series.

The technology architecture of the launch vehicle offers unique capabilities like multi-orbit insertion and interplanetary missions, while providing customised, dedicated and ride share options covering a wide spectrum of small satellite customer needs, Skyroot Aerospace said.

The company added the rockets can be assembled and launched within 24 hours from any launch site.

In a departure from the routine, Friday's mission was launched from the complex where sounding rockets were used by ISRO.

The Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota has two launch complexes, each capable of providing complete support for vehicle assembly, check out and launch operations for any kind of missions -- Low Earth Orbit, Geosynchronous

## Terrorism cannot, should not be linked to any religion, nationality or group: Shah

NEW DELHI: India recognises that the threat of terrorism "cannot and should not" be linked to any religion, nationality or group, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

Addressing a session at the third 'No Money for Terror Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing', he said terrorism is, undoubtedly, the most serious threat to global peace and security but financing of terror is "more dangerous". Terrorists are constantly finding new ways to carry out violence, radicalise youth and raise financial resources. The darknet is being used by terrorists to spread radical content and conceal their identities, he said.

"Additionally, there is an increase in the use of virtual assets like cryptocurrency. We need to understand the patterns of these darknet activities and find their solutions," Shah said.

The home minister said the transformation of terrorism from 'Dynamite to Metaverse' and 'AK-47 to Virtual Assets' is a matter of concern for the countries and everyone have to work together to formulate a common strategy against it.

"I believe that financing of terrorism is more dangerous than terrorism itself because the 'means and methods' of terrorism are nurtured from such funding. Financing of terrorism weakens the economy

of countries," Shah told delegates at the conference hosted by the Ministry of Home Affairs here.

"We also recognise that the threat of terrorism cannot and should not be linked to any religion, nationality, or group," the home minister said, adding India has fortified the security architecture as well as the legal and financial systems to fight the menace.

"It is the result of our continuous efforts that terrorist incidents in India have come down drastically. This has also resulted in a drastic reduction in the economic losses caused by terrorism," he said.

In a veiled attack on Pakistan and China, the home minister said there are countries that "seek to undermine, or even hinder, our collective resolve to fight terrorism".

"We have seen that some countries protect and shelter terrorists. Protecting a terrorist is equivalent to promoting terrorism. It will be our collective responsibility that such elements never succeed in their intentions," he said.

Shah said no one should ignore terrorist safe havens or their resources. "We also have to expose the double-speak of such elements who sponsor and support them."

Therefore, it is important that this conference, the participating countries, and organisations do not take a selective or complacent perspective of the challenges of this region, he said.

Terrorists and terror groups now understand the nuances of modern weapons, information technol-

ogy, and the dynamics of the cyber and financial space very well, he said.

Referring to the regime change in Afghanistan, the home minister said after August 2021, the situation in the South Asian region has changed and the growing influence of Al-Qaeda and ISIS have emerged as a significant challenge to regional security.

"These new equations have made the problem of terror financing more serious. Three decades ago, the whole world had to bear the serious consequences of one such regime change, the result of which we all have seen in the horrific attack of 9/11," he said.

Shah said in this background, last year's changes in the South Asian region are a matter of concern for everyone. Along with Al-Qaeda, organisations in South Asia such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed continue to spread terror, he said.

India has been a victim of terrorism which is sponsored from across the border for several decades, the home minister said, adding, "Indian security forces and civilians have had to deal with incidents of extremely serious terrorist violence perpetrated in a sustained and coordinated manner."

"The international community has a collective approach that terrorism must be condemned in all its



forms. But the forms and manifestations of terrorism are continuously evolving due to technological revolution," he said.

The home minister said the emerging trends of the illegal trade of narcotics, and the challenge of narco-terror, have given a new dimension to terror financing. "In view of this, there is a need for close cooperation among all nations.

Multilateral institutions such as the United Nations and the presence of platforms such as the Financial Action Task Force, FATF, are most effective in terms of preventing terrorism in the field of combating the financing of terrorism," he said.

Shah said FATF is playing an important role in setting and implementing global standards to prevent and combat, money laundering and terrorist financing.

India remains committed to all efforts to combat terrorism, by sharing intelligence, capacity building for effective border control, preventing misuse of modern technologies, monitoring and preventing illicit financial flows, and cooperating in investigative and judicial processes, the home minister added.

## BJD hits back at Narendra Singh Tomar

BHUBANESWAR: The BJD countered Union Agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar's allegations of procedural lapses and

supported the resolution to raise the MSP of paddy to Rs 2,930 per quintal.

On Tomar's letter to the chief minister, the



discrepancies in crop cutting report data in a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik terming them half truths and distorted facts. The party also raised the issue of MSP on paddy and asked why it has not yet been fixed at Rs 2,930 per quintal by the centre despite an unanimous resolution passed in the state assembly.

Referring to BJP's announcement of launching a 'satyagraha' in front of the Assembly on farmers' issues, BJD spokesperson Sasmit Patra said the agitation should be staged in front of the Parliament. Matters relating to payment of crop insurance claims and fixing of MSP are the responsibility of the Centre, he said, adding BJD MLAs had unanimously

legged it is a well thought out diversionary tactic to shift the attention of people from genuine issues. He asked why Tomar did not mention anything about the chief minister's letter to him on August 29 demanding the centre to release the crop insurance funds to the farmers of Odisha. The meeting of Cooperation Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak with the Union minister on November 9 was also not mentioned in the letter, he added.

"As per Tomar's letter, if the orders for payment were passed by the technical advisory committee (TAC) on November 7, why did he tweet on November 15 claiming he is now directing insurance companies to pay the farmers of Padampur and Bargarh? Was it not only for electoral gains to grab people's attention in poll-bound Padampur?" Patra asked. He further said after regular follow-up from the chief minister and pressure from farmers, the Centre was forced to release 'Fasal Bima'.

# Time to revive cultural values to promote inclusion: Kerala Guv Arif Mohammad Khan

BHUBANESWAR: People of our country



must learn from the mistakes committed in the past and revive cultural values and practices to promote inclusion and bring back its glory in the global arena, said Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan here on Thursday. Delivering the Harishchandra Baxipatra Memorial Lecture on the 89th birth anniversary of late Odisha minister Harishchandra Baxipatra at Jayadev Bhawan here, Khan said, "It the course of our journey, we seem to have forgotten the rich culture, tradition and values of our society somewhere and during this downfall we also didn't realise the culturally enriched civilisation we have."

"Ours is a culture where there is no place for

exclusion. Yet we did so. We didn't do things that were needed to inculcate the values of our culture in our day to day life," he said. This will not only restore the social inclusion but also help India bring back its glory in the global arena, Khan said while speaking on the topic 'Social Inclusion and Global India.' The Kerala Gov-

ernor also said that those entering into politics must ready themselves for greater sacrifices in life. "When you are into politics you must remain prepared for sacrifice, no matter how big it is. You must continuously aspire for knowledge and wisdom and must treat everyone equally, whoever he or she may be," he said. Khandapada MLA and Sambad editor Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, former minister and president of Harishchandra Baxipatra Smruti Committee Panchanan Kanungo also spoke at the event. Former chairperson of State Commission for Women Lopamudra Baxipatra and BJP state vice-president Bhruge Baxipatra were also present.

## Isotope Studies by IIT Kharagpur along with Academia

### Sinica to Shed Light on How Cyclones Sustain their Energy

Kolkata,(KCN): Cyclones are increasingly becoming perilous to the coastal populations of the subcontinent. Climate change due to global warming, projects that the frequency of category 4 and 5 storms (60 to >70 m/s sustained wind speed) will be doubled by the



end of the 21st century. However, the question remains: why are some cyclones devastating while others are not? What controls the intensity of cyclonic winds and rains? Cyclones are gigantic vortices, 500-700 km in diameter and 20 km in height, which form when sea surface temperature is higher than normal. They get their energy from evaporation of the underlying seawater, forming spirally rotating rain bands around the centre called eye where the winds are strongest. The latent heat released during conversion of vapour to rain acts as fuel and the raining vortex moves on. However, one critical question has been bothering scientists: what are the exact mechanisms and the sources that supply moisture to the cyclone? Is it evaporation alone from the sea beneath, or the pre-existing atmospheric vapours?

The scientists from IIT Kharagpur and Institute of Earth Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taiwan have found the exact mechanism and the source that supply moisture to the cyclones. The research analyses the devastating aftermath of cyclones in respect to Cycle Sitrang which made its landfall on Bangladesh on October 25, 2022. The study indicates that the cyclone movement through the atmosphere continuously scavenges the existing vapour over the vortex cross-section much like a moving suction pump and provides the first experimental evidence of a theoretical model.

"West Pacific Ocean waters are the warmest in the world, producing nearly 30% cyclones of the world, that routinely devastate Taiwan, China and Japan. There cannot be any better place to study the internal mechanism of these cyclones. In Chinese the cyclones are called 'Typhoons' (daaihfung) meaning "great wind". We have studied four such typhoons, named Nepartak, Meranti, Malakas and Megi of category 4/5, which devastated Taiwan in the year 2016. Billions of dollars of properties and lives were damaged in the due course which formed the basis of this study. Our study indicates that the cyclone movement through the atmosphere continuously scavenges the existing vapour over the vortex cross-section much like a moving suction pump and provide the first experimental evidence of a theoretical model suggested by Russian atmospheric scientists," said Prof. Anindya Sarkar, Department of Geology & Geophysics and co-author of the research paper that has just been published in prestigious, 'Journal of Geophysical Research Atmospheres of American Geophysical Union.' Sourendra Bhattacharya, a former visiting Professor at IIT Kharagpur and the lead author of the paper cited, "Cyclones are extremely dynamic systems and rainfall as high



as ~150 mm per hour is very common. As the cyclone moves, shedding of this enormous amount of rain causes a progressive reduction in the ratio of the isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen in the leftover vapour mass. We tracked this magnitude of reduction, calculated and modelled to see how much rains were scavenged by these moving cyclones." Typhoons Nepartak (left) and Megi (right) devastated Taiwan in 2016 just like cyclone Amphan that struck the Indian east coast in 2020 caused death, misery and destruction.

# Tribal festival Parab kicks off

KORAPUT/JEYPORE: The month-long state-level tribal cultural festival Parab kicked off in Boipariguda's Tentuligumma village, the birthplace of freedom fighter Laxman Nayak, here on Thursday. Several public representatives, district and

Tara Prasad Bahinipati was present on the occasion.

As a major part of the month-long programme, a three-day fest will be organised in Koraput from December 17 where artistes from outside the state will



block-level officials and members of different cultural groups garlanded the martyr's statue after which the festival was officially declared open by Koraput collector-cum-president of district cultural council Abdaal M Akhtar. Cultural troupes from different parts of the district took out a rally besides organising torchlight parades to mark the commencement of the festival. Jeypore MLA

perform music and dance. Besides, a five-day national-level art and crafts mela will also be organised.

The festival is being held after a gap of two years owing to the Covid outbreak and this is the 25th edition. "I hope this edition of the festival will be successful with the whole-hearted support of people," said Akhtar.

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## Alibaba reports net loss of USD 2.9 billion in third quarter

BEIJING: Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba on Thursday reported a loss of 20.6 billion yuan (\$2.89 billion) for the third quarter, as the company grapples with an economic slowdown and an anti-monopoly crackdown.

The heavy net loss attributable to ordinary shareholders was primarily due to a "decrease in market prices of our equity investments in publicly traded companies", among other factors, the company said in a statement.

Alibaba's performance is widely seen as a gauge of Chinese consumer sentiment, given its market dominance.

Revenue for the three months ending September



30 was up three percent year-on-year at 207.2 billion yuan, which Chief Financial Officer Toby Xu said was achieved "in spite of the impact on consumption demand by the Covid-19 resurgence in China as well as slowing cross-border commerce".

Alibaba striving to maintain US listing amid delisting fears

Alibaba said it achieved revenue growth by "enhancing operating efficiency" as well as through the expansion of its logistics and services businesses, despite a slump in e-commerce sales within China. It comes after the company earlier this year reported flat quarterly revenue growth for the first time ever. Flagging demand

The company said in its statement on Thursday that revenue from domestic commerce had fallen in the third quarter, "mainly as a result of softer consumption demand, Covid-19 resurgence and restrictions, as well as ongoing competition".

In a sign of difficulties for Alibaba, the company appears to have laid off a number of employees, with its headcount down more than 1,700 from the previous quarter.

China's major tech companies have faced economic uncertainty, Covid-19 restrictions that have depressed consumer spending, as well as heightened scrutiny from regulators in recent months.

Fellow tech titan Tencent reported on Wednesday its second quarterly drop in revenue in a row.

Alibaba in particular has been at the centre of regulatory crackdowns at home and abroad.

Gaming giant Blizzard to suspend services in China US authorities have put the company on a watchlist that could see it delisted in New York if it does not comply with disclosure orders, causing its shares to slump.

Chinese authorities pulled a planned IPO by the company's financial arm Ant Group at the last minute in 2020, then hit Alibaba with a record \$2.75 billion fine for alleged unfair practices last year.

The company's Singles Day e-commerce festival, which traditionally dwarfs similar US events such as Black Friday and Cyber Monday, has been more muted in recent years. Alibaba -- alongside main rival JD.com -- did not release full sales figures for the shopping bonanza for the first time ever this year, instead saying in a statement that sales were flat from last year.

## Pratap Keshari Deb asks Tata Power to improve power supply in rural areas of Odisha

Continued from page-1

going through a commendable transformation in a short span of time. The discoms have not only reduced AT&C losses but also improved reliability in supply and customer connect.

In a bid to offer clean and green energy products and solutions to the people of Odisha, Tata Power is planning to set-up EV charging stations to promote clean mobility across the state. This apart, in order to boost use of renewable energy, Tata Power will offer rooftop solar installation, solar pumps and home automation solutions. President (T&D), Tata Power, Sanjay Banga said the company has envisaged an investment of around Rs 5,000 crore in the next five years to improve the old distribution networks.

## Rupee falls 37 paise to 81.63 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI: The rupee depreciated 37 paise to 81.63 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday, tracking the strength of the American currency in the overseas market and a muted trend in domestic equities.

Forex traders said the American currency strengthened after strong US retail sales data pointed to resilient consumption despite a slowing economy, adding room for tighter policy by the US Federal Reserve. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 81.62 against the dollar, then lost ground to quote at 81.63, registering a loss of 37 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee depreciated by 35 paise to close at 81.26 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges

the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.26 per cent to 106.55.



The Indian Rupee started this Thursday morning on a weaker note as the dollar stabilised as investors tried to assess the outlook for US Fed policy following stronger-than-expected retail sales data,

## Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan meets family of Tamil poet Bharathiyar in Varanasi

Continued from page-1

actively monitoring the preparations of the program in Varanasi to take stock of the arrangements ahead of Prime Minister's visit to Kashi," the Ministry of Education said in a statement.

Previously, he also held meetings with the Minister of Railways, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, officials of the Uttar Pradesh Government and other key stakeholders to ensure the successful organization of Kashi Tamil Sangamam.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam is being organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with other ministries like Culture, Textiles, Railways, Tourism, Food Processing, Information & Broadcasting and the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

The programme aims to provide an opportunity for scholars, students, philosophers, traders, artisans, artists and people from other walks of life from the two regions to come together, share their knowledge, culture and best practices and learn from each others' experience.

The endeavour is in sync with NEP 2020's emphasis on integrating the wealth of Indian Knowledge Systems with modern systems of knowledge. IIT Madras and BHU are the two implementing agencies for the programme. More than 2500 delegates from Tamil Nadu under 12 categories such as students, teachers, literature, culture, artisans, spiritual, heritage, business, entrepreneurs, professionals and others will be visiting Varanasi on eight-day tours.

"They will participate in seminars, LEC-DEMS (Lecture Demonstrations), site visits etc in special programmes curated for each of the 12 categories to interact with local people of the same trade, profession and interest," the ministry said.

The delegates will also visit places of interest in and around Varanasi including Prayagraj and Ayodhya.

Students of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and other Higher Educational Institutions will be participating in the academic programmes. They will study the comparative practices pertaining to various sectors in the two regions and document the learnings.

The first group of delegates consisting of 200 students started their tour from Chennai on November 17, their train was flagged off by Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi from the Chennai Railway station.

Along with this, a month-long exhibition of handlooms, handicrafts, One District One Product (ODOP), books, documentaries, cuisine, art forms, history, tourist places etc of the two regions will be put up in Varanasi for the benefit of the local people.

During the inaugural programme, Prime Minister will interact with the delegates coming from Tamil Nadu. The inauguration ceremony will witness various cultural performances such as vocal renditions by Ilaiyaraaja and book releases.

said Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities. "Weaker crude oil prices could cap losses, but Asian and

emerging market peers were weak this Thursday morning and could cap gains," Iyer noted.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.03 per cent to USD 91.90 per barrel.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex was trading 72.14 points or 0.12 per cent down at 61,908.58, and the broader NSE Nifty was trading lower by

32.60 points or 0.16 per cent at 18,377.05. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in capital markets as they offloaded shares worth Rs 386.06 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

## BJD, BJP, Congress candidates file papers for Padampur bypoll

Continued from page-1

people of Padampur, especially the farmers, will extend their support to him. "My fight for farmers will continue irrespective of the result of the by-election," he added.

Congress nominee Satya too filed his nomination in presence of senior party leaders.

President of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Sarat Pattanayak, who accompanied Satya Bhusan Bhoi, said, his party's major focus is welfare of farmers of Padampur. "We have planned our strategies and all party workers are ready at panchayat and block levels. We will start reaching out to the voters once the nomination filing process is over," he asserted.

Others in the poll fray include candidate of Odisha Janata Party Mukteshwar Dash, Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha nominee Bidyadhar Pandav besides independents Jayanta Thapa, Seshadev Sahu, Brundabana Purohit, Rebati Giri, Udit Bondia, Debarchan Naik, Debabrata Sunani and Gangadhar Saha.

## Russia says 'fortifying' annexed Crimean peninsula as Ukraine reclaims Kherson region

Continued from page-1

attack attributed to Ukraine by Moscow. Russia announced on Friday that it was making gains too in the eastern Donetsk region, which its forces have partially controlled since 2014.

Donbas battles

"As a result of offensive work carried out by Russian troops, the settlement of Opytnoe was liberated," defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said on Friday.

Moscow's forces, alongside troops from two breakaway regions in east Ukraine and mercenaries from Russia's Wagner group have been trying for months to capture the nearby town of Bakhmut.

'I thought I was going to die': Russia-perpetrated abuses widespread in Ukraine

Russia has responded with a fresh barrage of missile and drone attacks across Ukraine, crippling its power grid, after its troops withdrew from Kherson.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Thursday that some 10 million people were suffering blackouts as a result.

The Russian defence ministry said Friday it had launched "long-range, precision" weapons against military targets, specifically fuel and energy infrastructure.

"The goals of the attack have been achieved. All rockets hit exactly the designated objects," Konashenkov said.

The Ukrainian prosecutor general's office said Friday that the death toll from strikes earlier in the week on Vilniysk in the Zaporizhzhia region, which Moscow also said annexed, had left 10 people dead, including two children.

Tymoshenko meanwhile said six civilians were killed in four different regions of Ukraine following strikes Thursday.

## Jockey to invest Rs 290 crore in Telangana

HYDERABAD: In yet another significant investment in the textile and garment manufacturing sector in Telangana, Page Industries, makers of the Jockey brand of innerwear, has decided to set up garment manufacturing factories in Ibrahimpatnam and Mulugu with an investment of Rs 290 crore to



manufacture one crore garments and create 7,000 jobs.

Page Industries will lease the 'Plug and Play' facility in Ibrahimpatnam, which is being built by Whitegold Spintex Park in a 1.50 lakh sq. ft space. It is expected to employ 3,000 locals. Page Industries will build and develop a second facility in Mulugu, Siddipet district, on a 25-acre land parcel, employing 4,000 locals. Both the facilities will manufacture garments which include sportswear and athleisure wear. On Tuesday, a top management team from the company led by V. Ganesh, managing director, met with industries minister K.T. Rama Rao at Pragathi Bhavan. "Delighted to share that popular innerwear brand Jockey (Page Industries) will be setting up garment manufacturing factories in Ibrahimpatnam and Mulugu, producing 1 crore garments

creating 7000 jobs in the State. Hearty welcome and best wishes to the company as it embraces Telangana," Rama Rao tweeted.

The minister welcomed Page Industries to Telangana and assured them of the state government's full cooperation. The meeting was attended by principal secretary (industries) Jayesh Ranjan, TSIC VC and MD E.V.Narsimha Reddy, and director (textiles) Mihir Parekh. Telangana has already attracted investments from major textile and garment manufacturing companies, including Kitex, Welspun, Ganesh Ecosphere, Youngone, Gokaldas Images, Whitegold Spintex, Divya Textiles and others.

## Washington Sundar hopes Lancashire stint and rehab at NCA will come handy in NZ

WELLINGTON: Back to the T20I scheme of things after an injury lay-off of more than a year, off-spinning all-rounder Washington Sundar feels his stint at the English county

pleasant. Since we got here, we spent a lot of time going to restaurants and walking to shops. We enjoy doing those things, enjoy our privacy out here."



side Lancashire can help him do well in the ongoing limited-overs series in New Zealand. After enduring a long injury lay-off for the most part of the year, Washington made a return to the ODIs last month against South Africa at home and is hoping for a good show in the limited-overs tour of New Zealand.

"I have spent a lot of time at the NCA, my stint at Lancashire was amazing before I got injured, so I've worked a lot on my body, particularly my shoulder," Washington said on Friday ahead of the first T20I against New Zealand which was washed out.

"New Zealand is one of my favourite countries, the weather and the people are really

Washington's tryst with injuries started in July, 2021 when he had a fractured finger while batting for Combined Counties against the visiting Indian team in a warm-up game. He missed the entire domestic season and after that, he was down with COVID-19 before the white ball series in South Africa in January this year.

In February-March, he missed the twin white ball home series against the West Indies and Sri Lanka because of a hamstring injury.

During the IPL in April-May, he split his webbing and missed five games for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

After extensive rehabilitation, the BCCI

played a role in getting Washington a county deal with Lancashire.

Then again, a left shoulder injury, sustained during a 50-over game for Lancashire, ruled him out of the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe in August.

He said he will never play football for warm-up before matches.

"It was a weird accident that happened five or six years ago. I was playing football and broke my ankle. I will never play football in my life! There are so many things to do other than just play football."

Talented opening batter Shubman Gill said his earlier experience of playing in New Zealand could come in handy here.

"I came here for the U19 World Cup. Made my ODI debut here in 2019. Good to come back (to New Zealand). Definitely, I have fond memories of coming back to New Zealand. Whenever I know I'll be going to New Zealand it brings a smile," Gill said.

"I have been able to execute a few things I have been working on. It's always about me looking to score than looking for four or six. I want to play fewer dot balls, I want to keep ticking, ones, twos etc." "I've always felt that hitting sixes isn't about power; it's about timing. It's all about where I am meeting the ball. It's more about you waiting for the ball rather than swinging hard at the ball."

## Wimbledon to allow female players dress code exemption over period concerns

LONDON: Wimbledon will allow female players to wear dark-coloured undershorts from next year's tournament to ease anxiety over playing during their period, the All England Club announced on Thursday. There has been a clamour for Wimbledon to make an



exception to their traditional rules requiring players to wear all-white clothing.

Wimbledon chief executive Sally Bolton said: "We are committed to supporting the players and listening to their feedback as to how they can perform at their best."

"I'm pleased to confirm that, following consultation with players and representatives of several stakeholder groups, the committee of management has taken the decision to update the white clothing rule at Wimbledon," Sally Bolton said.

"This means that, from next year, women and girls competing at The Championships will have the option of wearing coloured undershorts if they choose. It is our hope that this rule adjustment will help players focus purely on their performance by relieving a potential source of anxiety."

The decision follows the example of a series of women's football teams, including Manchester City, to abandon playing in white shorts.

## Man United takes 'appropriate steps' after Ronaldo interview

DOHA: Manchester United has "initiated appropriate steps" in response to Cristiano Ronaldo's explosive interview with Piers Morgan.

The Premier League club's legal team was waiting to review the full footage of the 90-minute discussion in which

conclusion."

The 37-year-old Ronaldo is in Qatar to play in his fifth World Cup with Portugal. But his future at Old Trafford looks to be over, with the forward's position widely considered untenable even before the full interview aired on Wednesday

not aware of any interview that had taken place and had to wait until it was broadcast on TalkTV before determining the club's legal position.

United also said it wants the process to be concluded swiftly. Ronaldo's comments have added to an ac-

spect (me) the way I should deserve," Ronaldo said. "But it is what it is. That is probably why in the game against Tottenham, I left. ... This is why I say I don't have respect for him because he doesn't show respect for me."

"This is why we are in that situation. I have to be honest that things are not going well because of that. Because empathy doesn't exist."

Ronaldo, who failed to secure a move to a Champions League club in the off-season, paved the way for a potential departure in the January transfer window. "Maybe it's good for Manchester and probably is good for me as well to have a new chapter," he said. "Probably. But I don't know."

"If I will be back, I will be the same Cristiano. But I hope people will be on my side and let me shine like I did at all the clubs and all years."



Ronaldo criticized United manager Erik ten Hag, his teammates and the owners.

"Manchester United has this morning initiated appropriate steps in response to Cristiano Ronaldo's recent media interview," the club said Friday. "We will not be making further comment until this process reaches its

and Thursday.

A potential exit has been complicated by the limited number of clubs being able to meet his reported salary of about 500,000 pounds (\$590,000) per week. But if he is found to be in breach of contract, a possible outcome could be the cancellation of his deal. United officials were

rimonious few months since Ten Hag took charge at the end of last season.

United's manager already cut the Portuguese international from his squad and forced him to train away from the team when he refused to come on as a substitute against Tottenham. "I think he doesn't re-



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