

Bharat Jodo Yatra: Rahul unfurls national flag in front of Charminar

HYDERABAD(KCN): tricolour amidst a massive crowd at the Charminar to loud cheers and "Bharat



Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday unfurled the national flag in front of the iconic Charminar here, over 32 years after his father and then party chief Rajiv Gandhi had started the 'Sadbhava Yatra' from the same spot. The Congress MP unfurled the

congested Charminar locality. The party's general secretary Jairam Ramesh, senior leader Digvijaya Singh and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee chief Revanth Reddy were among those present at the event. Rahul arrived at

Jodo" slogans with a sea of national as well as party flags dotting the road leading up to the Charminar. The Gandhi scion also paid floral tributes to his father Rajiv Gandhi's photograph on the stage. Congress general secretary Jairam

Ramesh said the spot where Rahul Gandhi unfurled the tricolour was the same at which Rajiv Gandhi on October 19, 1990, started the 'Sadbhava Yatra'. Every year on that day, the Congress has raised the national flag here, he said, adding that this time they could not do it on October 19 so they were doing so Tuesday. The padayatra resumed from Matha Temple in Shamshabad Tuesday morning and halted at the Legacy Palace at Bahadurpura in Hyderabad for an afternoon break. The yatra's night halt will be at Gandhi Ideology Centre in Bowenpally.

Section 144 at Dhableswar shrine, maximum pax capped at 200 on hanging bridge

CUTTACK/ATHAGARH(KCN): Alarmed by the tragedy at Morbi in Gujarat, where over 140 people were killed in a suspension bridge collapse, the district administration on Monday imposed section 144 of CrPC at the famous Dhableswar shrine ahead of the Bada Osha and Kartika Purnima festivals on November 7 and 8.



The administration has also restricted the number of people on the hanging bridge connecting the temple to a maximum 200 at a time. The Shaiva pitha is located on an island of Mahanadi river in Athagarh. The shrine draws a multitude of devotees during the holy month of Kartika, which goes up to tens of thousands on Bada Osha. The devotees approach the temple by boats

on Mahanadi and also by road which is connected by a hanging bridge. The Dhableswar suspension bridge was constructed in 2006. It has a capacity to carry 600 persons at a time. The suspension bridge leading to the shrine, on which some cracks were detected recently, will remain closed for maintenance and repairs on Tuesday. The administration's move came after a team of experts detected some technical faults on the 254 metre long and two metre wide bridge which leads to the century-old Lord Shiva temple. "The bridge developed some technical glitch on Saturday following which a team of experts from Kolkata was called in. The experts carried out a thorough inspection on Sunday," said Athagarh sub-collector Hemant Kumar Swain. However, rituals at the shrine will continue as usual, he said. The detection of cracks and defects in the bridge came at the right time and the experts' inspection probably averted a tragedy like the one witnessed in Gujarat, said sources.

Global food concerns rise as Russia halts Ukraine grain deal

KYIV(KCN): US President Joe Biden has warned that global hunger could increase because of Russia's suspension of a UN-brokered deal to allow safe passage for ships carrying Ukrainian grain.

"It's really outrageous," said Biden speaking in Wilmington, Delaware, on Saturday. "There's no merit to what they're doing. The UN negotiated that deal and that should be the end of it."



Biden spoke hours after Russia announced it would immediately halt participation in the agreement, alleging that Ukraine staged a drone attack Saturday against Russia's Black Sea Fleet ships off the coast of occupied Crimea. Ukraine has denied the attack, saying that Russia mishandled its own weapons.

The grain initiative has allowed more than 9 million tons of grain in 397 ships to safely

CONTINUED ON: P-7

BJD protests delay in payment of farmers' claims, BJP hits back

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): BJD on Monday staged demonstrations across the state alleging non-payment of claims to farmers by insurance companies and targeted the Centre over the issue. BJD workers staged dharna near Raj Bhavan here as well as district collectorates and other government offices across the state demanding payment of crop insurance claims to the farmers for the kharif season of 2021



at the earliest. The party alleged that a large number of farmers are yet to get crop insurance money of kharif 2021 under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty alleged that insurance companies have held up payment of around Rs 500 crore to the farmers. He said though the state government had written two

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Dhamnagar's fast-paced development is my responsibility: Naveen Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR/BHADRAK(KCN): With a day left for campaigning to end for Dhamnagar bypoll, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday addressed the voters through virtual mode and asserted that development of the constituency will be his responsibility. "The general elections are only 18 months away. We can complete five years' work in the same period. I will look after the development of Dhamnagar. As development of the constituency will be taken care of by me, it will progress like anything," the chief minister said in his speech shown at 13 places across the constituency where workers'

conferences were organised. Expressing his happiness at the huge gather-



ings, Naveen said the government's focus is empowerment of women who have been given a new identity through Mission Shakti. Requesting people to vote for BJD candidate Abanti Das, the chief minister said he wants to see one of the mem-

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Is Modi govt trying to trick Supreme Court on the issue of reviewing sedition law?

New Delhi (KCN): The Narendra Modi government has been misusing the sedition law under Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code for quite some time. No amount of criticism from the civil society could stop the BJP-led governments at the Centre and the states from launching prosecutions against those who happened to oppose their arrogance with overt and covert intentions of manipulating the policies of the country until the Supreme Court itself had to pass an interim order on May 11, 2022 putting the provision of sedition on hold.

However, the Modi govt's love for the sedition law remains intact, as demonstrated by its stand in the Supreme Court on October 31, 2022 seeking more time to review the colonial provision.

Attorney General R Venkataramani requested the SC bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi that some more time be granted to the Centre as "something may happen in the Winter Session of Parliament". The top law officer of the government fur-

ther said that the issue had been under consideration by the authorities concerned and



moreover, there was "no reason to worry" in view of the May 11 interim order, which had put the use of the provision on hold.

On such an assurance and request, the SC bench hearing the petitions on the misuse of

the sedition law granted additional time to the Centre to take "appropriate steps" with regard to the reviewing of the colonial-era pro-

vision, which means continuation of the interim order putting on hold the contentious sedition law and the consequential registration of FIRs.

"In view of the interim directions issued by this court ... dated May 11, 2022, every interest and concern stand protected and as such there would be no prejudice to anyone. At his request, we adjourn the matter to the second week of January, 2023," the bench said.

The bench also took note of certain other petitions on the matter and issued notice to the Centre, seeking its reply in six weeks' time. The Modi government has thus succeeded in getting some more time from the Supreme Court, but for what? Had the government decided to drop Section 124A, the Attorney General would have informed the SC about it directly.

Since this was not the case, the second option, which is to retain the provision, is left alone though with certain changes. Information gathered from the sources in the government indicate that some clever ways are being sought and devised

CONTINUED ON: P-7

South Eastern Railway observers Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Kolkata(KCN): The South Eastern Railway (SER) authority observed Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) at its Headquarters, Garden Reach on Monday (October 31, 2022) to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Railway Protection Force (RPF), Civil Defence and SER Bharat Scouts & Guides. The General Manager also administered Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge to officers and staff. SER officers and staff pledged to dedicate themselves to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the Nation and also to strive hard to spread this message among the fellow country-

men. Ms. Joshi flagged off a MotorCycle Rally organised by RPF Personnel to mark the occasion. She also flagged off a "Run for Unity" organised at SER Headquarters, Garden Reach to spread the message of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. A large number of Security Personnel, Sports Persons of SER and members of Bharat Scouts and Guides took part in the Run

for Unity. Sri Atulya Sinha, Additional General Manager, Sri D B Kasar, IG-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner, Dr. Mahua Verma, Principal Chief Personnel Officer and other officers and staff were present on the occasion. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was also observed at all the four Divisions of SER viz. Kharagpur, Adra, Chakradharpur and Ranchi.

Police Care; Women, Kids

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Tusharkanti Behera, Minister of State, Home Monday inaugurated a Sampark Help Desk and 16 Child Friendly Police Stations in hybrid mode from the office of Crime Against Women and Children Wing (CAW&CW), Crime Branch, Odisha. Making a presentation on Sampark Help

formed that child friendly police stations in the state have been developed with a view to provide child friendly atmosphere. The 16 Police Stations inaugurated today have their interiors pointed to attract the children and are equipped with soft toys, library having animated story books, swings for children, washrooms, separate breast feeding corner for lactating mothers, recreation means like TV etc.



Desk, Rekha Lohani, ADG CAW&CW informed that the Help Desk has been initiated with technical collaboration from UNICEF. Shrimati Lohani said the objective of such an initiative is to address the issues of gender violence by providing psychosocial support to the victim of sexual violence who face tremendous trauma post the incident, connecting the victim to various support agencies in the district like DCPU, DSWO, CWC, Childline, One Stop Centers, district mental health professionals etc. Shrimati Lohani also said that empowering the victims by informing them of their rights and entitlements in their journey to secure justice, referrals and follow-up action. While enumerating the success stories of Sampark Help Desk during the trial run period, ADGP informed that State Government has already approved for its short term augmentation and scaling up of its capacity to cater to the requirements of this vulnerable sections of the society. The audio visuals developed to create awareness in communities on child protection and mental health issues were also displayed on the occasion. Besides, the ADG CAW&CW further in-

stated that the step was in 'tune with the 5T charter of the government. He informed that under the able leadership of Chief Minister, the state of Odisha has been able to create reputation of violence free State at the National level. Lauding the initiative DGP Odisha Sunil K Bansal stated that the step would help empower the victims of gender violence who would now have access to professional psychosocial support with their confidentiality intact. Besides, child friendly spaces in PSs would help provide the children a corner where they could ventilate their grievance/statements without any fear or apprehension in a friendly environment. Arun Bothra, ADG CID-CB stated that timely psychosocial help to the victims of gender violence can go a long way in saving many precious lives, many of whom often resort to extreme steps fearing social stigma. He expressed confidence that Sampark Help desk along with Child friendly PS will help in bridging the gap between police and the public. Also present on the occasion were Shubha Sarma, Secretary WCD, representatives from UNICEF and other senior officers.

Bless Abanti; BJD Boss

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Making an appeal to the voters of the Dhamnagar Assembly constituency, where by-election is scheduled for November 3, BJD Supremo requested to bless Abanti Das, Party candidate by casting their votes on the 'Conch' sign for development and growth. Chief Minister said that "I am responsible for

is their new identity. The good work of Women SHGs has made me very happy. So I want to see a 'Maa' as your MLA. You want too. Women are able to perform all the responsibilities beautifully," he said. "With your help, Odisha is now famous all over the country in the field of development. I fully believe that this trend will continue



the development of your region. I am responsible for the development of Dhamnagar constituency," he said campaigning for party's candidate in the constituency virtually at as many as 13 places.

Mr.Patnaik said that Odisha has gained a reputation across the country in the field of development. "I myself will see how the development of Dhamnagar will progress. I am responsible for the development of Dhamnagar constituency," he told voters. "Only 18 months are left for the general election and in this time we can do five years' work," he promised to the people.

BJD Supremo said, "As you know, Biju Janata Dal is always with you in happiness and sadness. It has been working for you and for the welfare of all the people."

Mr.Patnaik said that Dhamnagar is a land of peace and harmony and of brotherhood. "This is the biggest identity of Dhamnagar. We are all working to protect this identity," he said. CM said he was happy that the benefits of Kalia Jojana, Mission Shakti and Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana have reached the eligible people in the constituency.

"Women are now empowered. Mission Shakti

further with your support," he said. "The views you had in the 2019 elections have changed in 2022 Panchayat and Municipal elections. You believed the 'Conch' sign in the last panchayat and urban local bodies' elections. I am indebted to you for the huge support and opportunity you have given to the 'Conch' sign," the Chief Minister said. Complementing the voters of the constituency for having given a chance to the Biju Janata Dal in all the 6 Zilla Parishad seats of Dhamnagar, he said, "Similarly, you have chosen nine of the 11 ward members in Dhamnagar NAC and given the chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of the NAC."

"I fully believe that this trend will continue in this election too and the development of Dhamnagar will go further. Now the general election is only 18 months away. In this time we can do five years of work. I will see for myself. The development of Dhamnagar will continue further," he asserted. Election meetings were organized at 13 places of the constituency, which witnessed massive gatherings. Thousands of people of all sections anxiously waited to hear the speeches of the Chief Minister, The entire area resonated with dance, song, music and slogans as the Chief Minister addressed the crowd through virtual media at around 5.30pm. Ministers and Lawmakers are camping in the Gram Panchayats and campaigning for the BJD Candidates.

South Eastern Railway observes vigilance awareness week

Kolkata(KCN): Ms. Archana Joshi, General Manager, South Eastern Railway (SER) administered Integrity Pledge to officers and staff of SER Headquarters on Monday (October 31, 22) as a part of observance of Vigilance Awareness Week from October 31 to November 6, 2022. This year the theme of Vigilance Awareness Week is "Corruption free India for a developed Nation".

Shri Atulya Sinha, Additional General Manager, Sri Vijay Kumar Panjari, Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer, SER and other Principal Head of Departments along with officers and staff attended the oath taking ceremony. SER officials took pledge to follow probity and rule of law in all walks of life; to neither take nor offer bribe; to perform all tasks in an honest and transparent manner; to act in

public interest; to lead by example exhibiting integrity in personal behaviour and to report any incident of corruption to the appropriate agency. The objective of observance of Vigilance Awareness Week is to promote transparency, integrity and accountability as well as to create increased awareness amongst the railway employees, public and stakeholders to participate in the fight against corruption.

During the Vigilance Awareness Week, different programmes like Seminar, Workshop, Vendors Meet, Street Play, Walkathon, Quiz Competition, Essay/Poster-making / Slogan writing Competition etc will be organised over the SER jurisdiction. Vigilance Awareness Week is also being observed in four divisions of SER viz. Kharagpur, Adra, Ranchi and Chakradharpur.

State gears up enforcement

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary Commerce and Transport has reviewed road accidents occurred in the State. Accordingly the Department of Commerce and Transport has asked authorities to gear up enforcement initiatives. In order to check road mishaps, the State Transport Authority (STA) on Tuesday launched a two-month enforcement drive across the State.



A month-wise analysis of road accident statistics has revealed that winter times, especially November to February account for nearly 30 percent of road accidents. This is because of low visibility caused by fog and smog during these months.

Moreover, there is an increase in vehicle frequency on the road due to travelling by various road users to picnic spots and tourist destinations for holiday season in the State

including Christmas and the New Year eve. The data also suggests that drunken driving and over-speeding also increase during this period which leads to accidents and fatalities.

Keeping these factors in mind, starting today, the STA has launched the special enforcement drive to promote safety, reduce accidents and fatalities throughout the State. Lalmohan Sethi, Additional Commissioner Transport (Enforcement & Road Safety)

said, "The main aim of this drive is to create a sense of responsibility among the road users for prevention of road accidents and fatalities in the winter season. It has been observed that more accidents and fatalities occurred during the month of November to February."

He said that the drive will be extensively carried out through the state with special focus on National Highway & State Highway.

"Due to continuous enforcement activities people are following rules in the urban areas but are unfortunately not abiding by rules in rural areas and national highways where protection is much more needed. As per the data available more accidents and fatalities are noticed in the rural areas compared to urban areas and most of the accidents occurred on the National Highways," he said. Mr.Sethi appealed to the road users to fol-

low the traffic rules and take care of their safety while driving.

"Road Safety is a shared responsibility. I appeal to the public to adhere to traffic rules and help in reducing road accidents and fatalities related to it," said the officer.

The transport authorities will take stern action against those found flouting Motor Vehicle rules. Enforcement Drives will focus on driving without helmet and seat belt, drunken driving, over speeding, use of mobile while driving, driving by juveniles, checking of road worthiness of the vehicle, wrong side driving, driving without registration mark and dangerous parking.

Special enforcement drives will be conducted jointly with Police near accident prone zones and major junctions of NHs & State Highways.

CLASSIFIED

CAUTION

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



AUTOMOBILE



REAL ESTATE

SALE

Kawasaki Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale. Contact: 2555326

PURCHASE

Required a Marshal/Commandor / Boleo in good condition. Contact 2555763

SALE

Flats ready for possession before Rathayatra at Puri near Seabeach for sale. Contact : 986 1078308

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

Residential plots at

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

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

HIRE

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



BUSINESS

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

PURCHASE

Simplex / Duplex building at BBSR contact : 9437002509

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required Single / Double / Triple Stori ed North/East facing building at Puri . Contact 9437 143 483



TOURS & TRAVELS

Saving 10,000/- for high return, extra earn and Foreign trip opportunity, 9238904001. Independent business work from home, training in Singapore, 9338014287.



MATRIMONIAL

BRIDE WANTED

Wanted bride for Khandayat Boy, 37plus, Caste no bar, 0674-2555763

GROOM WANTED

Wanted Groom any service / business family for a Bramhin Girl. Contact 2555226

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

WANTED

Required Driver/Peon/ Attendant/ Aya

Please Contact-8984600400

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

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

Please Contact- 8338870595

Disney's Marvel unit files lawsuits to keep rights to 'Avengers' characters from copyright termina-

WASHINGTON: Disney's Marvel unit has filed lawsuits to



acquire full control of 'Avengers' characters including Spider-Man, Iron Man, Black Widow and others. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the complaints come against the heirs of some late comic book ge-

Colan. The legal document seeks "declaratory relief that these blockbuster characters are ineligible for copyright termination as works made for hire." Reportedly, if Marvel loses, Disney would have to share owner-

terminations from Ditko as well as Larry Lieber's (who worked at Marvel as a writer, too) estate. In August, the administrator of Ditko's estate filed a notice of termination on Spider-Man, which first appeared in comic book form

in 1962. Under the termination provisions of copyright

2023, reported The Hollywood Reporter. Larry also filed termination notices to Marvel in May. The heirs of the comic book creators (including Black Widow creator Don Rico) are being represented by Marc Toberoff, who had also represented Superman creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster in an unsuccessful termination attempt against DC which saved off termination by counterclaiming against Toberoff. As per The Hollywood Reporter, Dan Petrocelli represented the publisher at that time and will be representing Disney for the new case. Petrocelli has already filed several

lawsuits against Lieber, Don Heck, Patrick Ditko, Don Rico and Keith Dettwiler. The cases will focus on the creation of famous comic book characters and who should be deemed the statutory author. One of the complaints filed on Friday asserted, "Marvel had the right to exercise creative control over Lieber's contributions and paid Lieber a per-page rate for his work." If the plaintiffs win, Disney would have to share profits with the others and hold on to at least a share of character rights as co-owners. As per The Hollywood Reporter, the termination provisions of copyright law only apply in the United States, allowing Disney to continue

'Kanyadaan' an outdated ritual or important custom? Alia Bhatt's ad sparks debate

The bride, pretty, radiant and in red, sits in front of the sacred fire, her family, the groom and his parents around her, the love flowing like a balmy breeze. And in that arguably most precious moment, she looks into the camera and asks, "why must a woman be commodified through the custom of 'kanyadaan' literally 'donating a daughter'."

The ad for a lehenga brand featuring Bollywood star Alia Bhatt as the much-indulged daughter and granddaughter has fired debate on social media platforms and elsewhere on the age-old tradition of giving away the daughter.

Many term it Hindu phobic for casting aspersions on a ritual that is part of the warp and weft of society, others appreciate it for calling out the patriarchy that underderscores the custom and there are those that feel it should have gone even further in its rejection.

"There is a growing number of young women who are beginning to think about the issue, especially as increasing number joins the workforce, has access to ideas (via social media etc) that are critical of 'women as property' concept. This ad reflects that," sociologist Sanjay Srivastava told PTI. In the 1.41 minute ad, Bhatt, the self-assured woman of today who also does a selfie pout with her father while at the 'mandap', recalls her lifetime of 'othering' in a monologue - her fond grandmother saying she would one day go to her own home, her father not reacting when people called her "paraya dhan" (alien property) and her mother calling her a 'chidiya' which would fly away one day.

The Manyawar ad ends with the grooms' parent also joining in in the ritual (though it is unclear whether they too are giving away their son) and Bhatt's bride saying it should be 'kanyamaan' (respect for the girl child) and not 'kanyadaan', and asking, "Am I a thing to be given away?" Her angst finds a wide echo. Actor Dia Mirza, who decided to do away with the rituals of both "bidai" and "kanyadaan" when she got married to businessman Vaibhav Rekhi, said they wanted the wedding to reflect their "beliefs and not outmoded ideas." "Neither of us believes that women are com-

modities to be given away or 'donated.' Women have agency, selfhood and can make decisions about their lives on their own so my wedding reflected exactly that by not including a ritual like 'kanyadaan'," the actor told PTI.

She even engaged a female priest for her wedding to emphasise gender equality. "It is time for young couples to define how they want to get married and if their ceremony is truly representative of their personalities and love for each other," said the actor, who is also the United Nation's National Goodwill Ambassador from India.

The ritual of giving away the bride is, of

married. 'Kanyadaan' is like you're giving me away and you have nothing to do with me anymore. You're severing ties like I'm some object basically that you're giving away. My parents did understand it but the issue was 'this is how it is, has been and will be'."

Actor Kangana Ranaut was among those who disagreed. Criticising the ad in an Instagram post, she said, "Humble request to all brands. Don't use religion, minority, majority politics to sell things. Stop manipulating naive consumers with shrewd divisive concepts and advertising. Please stop mocking Hindus and their rituals."

One of the Twitter users echoed similar sentiments.



"Our traditions are not regressive, your mindsets surely are! Kanyadaan is a sacred tradition, where a father/parent parts with their most precious and cherished daughter, a bitter-sweet emotional moment filled with hopes, promises and dreams," the user wrote. Women's rights activist Shabnam Hashmi said the attacks on the ad "reflects the highly patriarchal mindsets of our society".

course, not just about Hindu weddings.

It is also a vital part of a Christian wedding service where the father walks down the aisle with his daughter and "hands her over" to the waiting groom.

Brought up on tradition and a diet of popular culture, including movies, both Indian and western, many women have now begun to question the patriarchal traditions of wedding ceremonies across societies.

Mumbai-based IT analyst Meghna Trivedi, who got married in February last year, said the ritual of 'kanyadaan' does not make sense in today's day and age but had to undergo the ritual anyway.

Trivedi, a Gujarati who married a Punjabi, said she asked the priest to find another way but he maintained 'kanyadaan' is a "must".

"What you mean by 'kanyadaan' is that you're giving away your daughter to somebody else and that is something you have to do in your life and it's related to your duties as a parent that now your daughter belongs to another family," she told PTI.

"But I'm still my parents' daughter after I got

advertisement and raises important questions of women's dignity and equality," Hashmi told PTI.

Sociologist Shrivastava added that people reacted negatively because there is an increasing intolerance against anything that is seen to question 'Indian traditions'.

The reaction, he said, also reflects a "male anxiety" about the changes that are happening in addition to the current climate where it has become difficult to question anything Indian/Hindu.

There were also those who felt the ad didn't go far enough.

"The idea should not be to perpetuate the custom but to break away from it," said a young woman, who welcomed the ad and the questioning of traditions but would have preferred that it didn't end with the parents of both sides taking part in it.

A radical break would have been more effective in sending out the message, she said.

However, a debate reflects a churn.

And in that sense, any discussion is welcome, even if it has unlikely beginnings in an ad for a bridal lehenga.

When Bihari youths shine in the world of Business

As Bihar and Biharis across the world are celebrating an ancient Hindu festival Chat along with people from eastern Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and the Madhesh region of Nepal, one feels like asking young and energetic Biharis: Why they do not try their luck in the world of business? If they can crack all the competitive examinations and become students of prestigious temple



of learning to Sarkari babus and more, what stops them from making inroads in a world that is waiting for them to touch dizzy heights?

Seriously, it is an issue that deserves to be discussed at a length to find the possible reasons for people of the land of knowledge and wisdom so shy of becoming an entrepreneur? Why more often than not they love to become a government official, teacher, journalist, banker, advocate or an engineer? Imagine even after post economic liberalisation that took place in 1991 the thinking of an average Bihari has not changed. They still like to work for someone else rather than people work for them. It is no secret that after economy was freed from the vice-like grip of plethora of bureaucratic hassles, even people from those states and castes have started doing something of their own that were not known for doing a business. That way economic liberalisation was a game changer.

However, Biharis have not changed and they are following the old order vigorously. What is really surprising is that even Marwaris based in Bihar have not done anything worthwhile in business. So, they have shed their business acumen and hunger to make money in business.

If you look for big time entrepreneurs/ industrialists/corporate houses from Bihar, it is most likely that you would not find anyone other than Anil Agrawal, founder and chairman of Vedanta Group, country's leading private security agency SIS founder Chairman RK Sinha, Alkem Pharma, Aristo Pharma and few others. Alkem Pharma and Aristo are promoted by Samprada Singh and Mahendra Prasad respectively. The former was RS MP for seven times. Indeed, they are big names of their respective fields with huge turn over and massive workforce.

Of course, things have changed for better and better after 1991 when India accepted liberalisation in letter and spirit. That paved the way for the likes of N.Narayan Murthy, Nandan Nilekeni (both Infosys), Sachin and Binny Bansal (both Flipkart), Bhavish Agrawal of Ola Cabs, Deep Kalra of Make My trip and many, many others to realise their dreams into reality. They all started their venture in a very humble way. Bansal duo have since then already sold their Flipkart to Amazon and quietly earned astronomical sums.

It is no secret that Infosys Limited got huge push after 1991. In the first decade of its existence from 1981 to 1991, Infosys grew

Vivek Shukla

very slowly. And now, Infosys is the second-largest Indian IT company after Tata Consultancy Services. Currently, this IT major is in news as the founder's chairman N. Narayanmurthy son in law Rishi Sunak has become the Pime Minister of Britain. Who can deny that the IT major would not have seen this kind of steep growth had India not went on the liberalization path. Lo and behold, the stunning success stories of Zomoto, Infosys, Ola and others have failed to inspire Bihari youths in a big way to change their chosen path. This is rather unfortunate.

Noted social scientist of Bihar Mahanth Rajiv Ranjan Das explains the psyche of an average Bihari- " In order to be successful in business, you have to be bold and ready to take risks. Bihari by nature is averse to taking any risk. Average Bihari is a happy go lucky guy. That's in his grains. He is a contented guy. He is not hungry for more. He feels that if gets a job, especially a government job, then he feels top of the world. With this mindset, do not expect him to be an entrepreneur."

Some also argue and claim that the dreadful Lalu Raj proved to be last nail in the coffin of entrepreneurship of Bihar as hundreds of Bihari entrepreneurs left their state and opened their shops in various parts of the country. Many of them have settled in Gujarat, Delhi and Maharashtra. Some of them are into pharma business.

In the backdrop of extreme dismal state, the likes of Dushyant Sinha and Mohammad Razi are challenging the claims of Mahanth that

Biharis are by nature are not business minded. For Instance, Dushyant Sinha currently runs a big media consultancy firm from Noida. In a span of couple of years, Sinha's company Integrated Centre for Consultancy Pvt. Ltd (ICCP) has grown manifolds. The company has served Puri Constructions, Anantraj Industries, Ansal Housing, CREDAI, Prateek Group, Gulshan Homz, Ajnara India, Purvanchal Group, Paras Hospitals, Hotel Ashoka(ITDC), Hotel Grand, Goldsok Group, Mapsko, OMAXE,OYO, Raheja Developers, Gaur, Mahagun and many other companies. Dushyant Sinha, who traces his roots to both Bihar and Jharkhand, says, "With a management degree in Finance and Marketing from a B-School, I left my job and floated my own company."

Saharsa native and Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) alumnus, Mohammad Razi is running an extremely successful business of setting up exhibitions. Razi had no plan to do any business till he came to Delhi after doing his engineering degree. Like most of the other Biharis, he wanted a job. But Delhi had changed his mind and he changed tracks. Both Dushyant and Razi are based in NCR.

RK Sinha, founder chairman of SIS Securities that employs over 2 lakh people, has a piece of advice for Bihari youngsters. According to him, "They should start some service-based business. They can start a setup from their home too. Service sector can change the very thinking of Bihari youngsters. If they have any sparkling idea, they must work on it and shine."

The Author is a columnist and former Editor

The Indian civil aviation industry: Down the memory lane

The glorious domestic flyer of India before the era of the entry of the private domestic airlines into the aviation industry is a nostalgia in itself. It has served the nation for over five decades since its humble beginning post independence. However, acute mismanagement at both higher and lower levels of administration, failure in upgrading the infrastructure in time, high levels of corruption, falling profit, increasing debt, lack of adequate funding at the appropriate time and numerous wrong policies adopted at different times lead to the slow but certain extinction



bought by the Tata industrial group; and we could hope to see a revival of the industry in the not so distant future. The Boeing 737s are 120-140 seaters aircraft. Before these started coming in 1970-71, there were (French) Caravelles with twin Rear Engines. Seating being 2x3, ie 1AB, CDE. The 737s were the 1st with 6A breast seating, ie 1ABC,DEF. The Caravelles were less than 100 seaters as far as I remember. Around 90 or so. The 1st Jets for Important Domestic routes. From mid 60s till late 70s. Before Caravelles, there were the British Viscounts, with 4 abreast seating Turboprop, 4 Engines. Seating, 1AB,CD.

Saikat Kumar Basu

started building (on License from Hawecker-Siddley).

The twin Turbo Prop HS-748 Avro for very short domestic routes. The Dorniers came in the 80s, and what was mostly used during that time was the Vayudoot for North East and other short haul routes. Journalist Tamal Ghosh suggested, "Before I forget, let me share that the entry of the A-300 (Airbus 300); the first domestic twin engined, twin aisle wide body was done in 1975 with a approximate sitting accommodation for about 270 passengers." It is interesting to note that first time the J-Class (ie Executive or Business Class) was introduced in the trunk domestic routes. The "Fly by Wire" A-320 came in the 90s. However, with the exception of the Vayudoot Dorniers; all the above were Indian Airlines aircrafts to be very specific.

Air India used the wide body A-310 for Medium Haul routes like the Middle-East and similar medium distance range routes. The Air India (after Japan Airlines, Cathay Pacific and the British Airways) was the first Asian Airlines to go for 'Jet' around 1961. Then

The Vayudoot was a regional airline established on 20 January 1981 as a joint-venture between the two state-owned airlines. The airline has its headquarter at New Delhi's Safdarjung Airport. The airline was planned to serve the North East zone. But this unit continuously ran in losses since its establishment as a result of poor numbers of passenger turnout. due to low occupancy. Finally the Government of India, unable to run this heavy loss making unit, decided for both complete closure and privatization as the viable alternatives for the survival of the Civil Aviation industry in the country. as the carrier's route and fleet structure made the operation unprofitable.

Unfortunately post 90s slowly both the airlines started losing their grounds due to abject mismanagement and corruption at the highest level. The deterioration started 2-3 decades back and slowly the skeleton of the organizations with huge loans on their backs started showing up. Then the catastrophic decision was made by the Central Government to merge the two airlines Air India and Indian Airlines into one Air India. The monumental losses of Air India was thus transferred to the extinct Indian Airlines, turning the government run Air India (a corporation) into a detrimental sick industry. Successive Indian governments provided massive economic bailouts to help Air India survive; but the industry kept choking due to poorly run business abs intense competitions from private airliners. Then the Indian Government decided to sell it off to reduce the liability. It went through numerous loops and turns, when finally the Tata Group was successful in winning the open tender to but it if from the government. The routes, fleet structure, aging aircrafts, overwhelming number of staff members with salaries and other job benefits, lack of vision and failure to take proper steps in time as well as consistent financial losses year after year pushed the government towards deciding for selling off the assets abs liabilities of Air India through a public bid process.



Jumbo B-747 came in the year 1971 after a gap of almost a little over a decade. Incidentally, this was a 4U engine. Acclaimed journalist who has travelled extensively on both Air India and Indian Airlines, during their hay days, respected Mr. Tamal Ghosh mentioned, "..... I have flown in Dakota, Viscount, Caravelle, F-27 Fokker Friendship, Avro HS-748, Dornier (in Nepal);also the Boeing 707, Boeing 737(different versions), B-747 Jumbo, B-757(of RNAC) and B-787 Dreamliner.The ILLyushin-62 (4 rear mounted engines) of Aeroflot, DC-8(Thai Airways) and also the A-380." These were strong competitors during that time frame.



tion of one of the world's best domestic flying services.

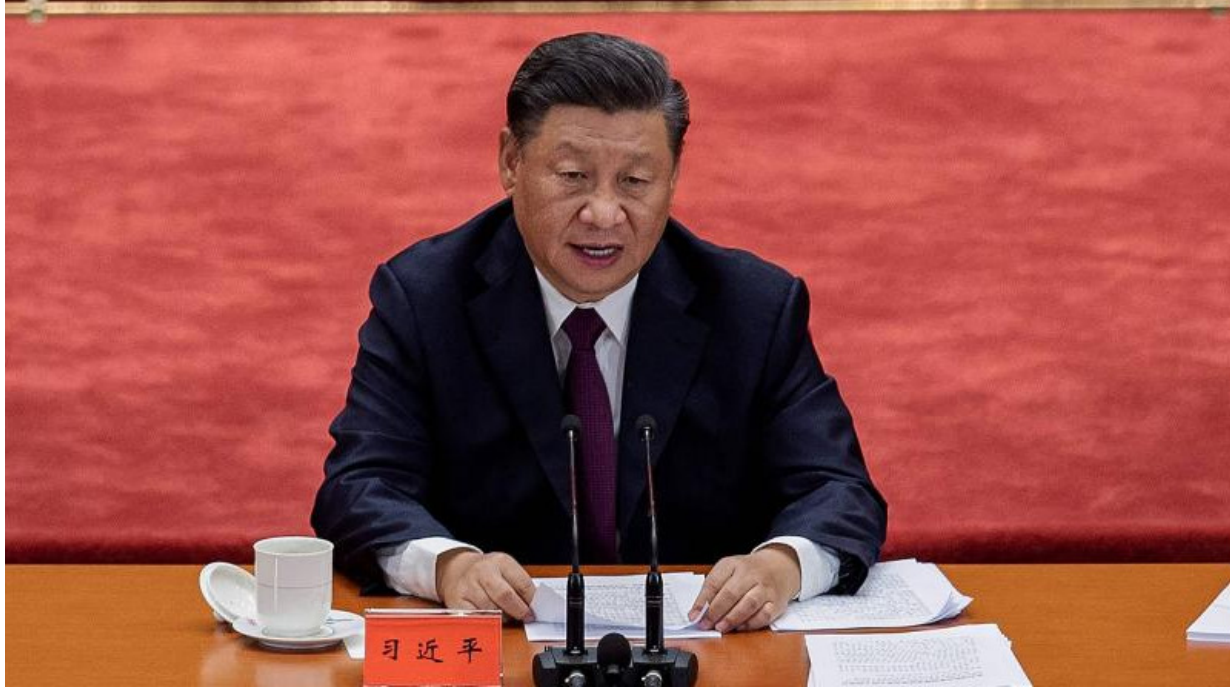
Later the domestic flyer Indian Airlines and the commercially sick Air India (the international flyer) were merged. A business decision that was later regretted by successive Central Governments of India. The glorious service and nostalgia associated with Indian Airlines, that no longer exists, is still fresh in the public mind. Today Air India has been

Total seats less than 50. For Important Domestic routes like the Kolkata-New Delhi (CCU-DEL) was a 3 hour journey. Viscounts were from 50s (with Skymasters, Dakota etc). There was also the twin engined, short take off landing Turbo Prop (used extensively for North-East India) Dutch Fokker Friendship-27. There was a Jet version too which Did Not Come to India. The twin engined F-28, Fokker Fellowship. Then in 70s India(HAL)

378 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, West Bengal India

President Xi extends condolences to President Murmu, PM Modi over Guj bridge collapse

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid,



sent condolence messages to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he was shocked to learn about the deadly bridge collapse in Gujarat's Morbi city that claimed 135 lives. In his message, President Xi said he was shocked to learn of the deadly collapse, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. "On behalf of the Chinese government and people, Xi extended deep condolences over the deaths and sincere sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured," it added. On the same day, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang also sent a message of condolence to Prime Minister Modi. Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi also sent a condolence message to his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar over the bridge collapse. Wang extended deep condolences over the deaths and sincere sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured. The more than a-century-old bridge, which had reopened five days back after extensive repairs and renovation, was crammed with people when it collapsed on Sunday evening. As many as 135 people have been killed in the Morbi bridge collapse tragedy and 170 others rescued. Several world leaders, including US President Joe Biden, Russian President Vladimir

on Monday extended their condolences to the families of the people who lost their lives in the tragic bridge collapse.

Mangarh tribal massacre not given due place in history, mistake now being corrected: PM Modi

JAIPUR/MANGARH: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked Rajasthan and the governments of neighbouring states for a roadmap to develop Mangarh Dham, a memorial to a tribal uprising against the British, an event that he said has not been given its place in history. "Over 1,500 tribals were killed in firing by the British on November 17, 1913, but unfortunately, in the history written post-Independence, this was not given its due place. Now, the country is correcting the mistake committed decades ago," he said, addressing a gathering, comprising tribals, among others, at the memorial. While the event was on, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) tweeted that the prime minister has declared the dham a national monument. Later in the day, the tweet was removed. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who shared the dais with Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, had been demanding this status for the dham. Remembering Govind Guru, who had led the 1913 uprising, Modi said Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra together under the leadership of the Centre can develop the dham more so that the tribal leader's place can get a global

No police officer who commits wrongs should be protected: Kerala CM

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday said no police officer

His words assume significance as recently there have been several instances of police brutality and illegal actions which garnered media attention.



From incidents of beating up people inside the police stations to stealing mangoes from a roadside shop, all were reported in the media in the last month from the state. While warning of "strict and swift action" against such officers or personnel, the CM said criticism from the public or other quarters over such incidents should not

who commits a wrong should be protected, and such a stand would ensure that everyone worked honestly and without fear.

Speaking on the occasion of Kerala Police Formation Day, Vijayan said there were isolated incidents of police personnel or officers indulging in activities which were wrong or against the discipline of the force and such individuals should not be protected. "Anyone who cannot uphold discipline and regulations of the force can be a part of the police -- this is the stand that should be taken. Then only everyone can work honestly and without any fear," he said.

cause uneasiness and ought to be instead taken positively to make improvements in the force. There needs to be strict vigilance against recurrence of such isolated incidents as the same tarnishes the honour or the force, he added. At the same time, he lauded the police for its investigative skills which led to the solving of the human sacrifice case as well as the most recent incident of poisoning to death of a young man by his female friend. He also praised the steps taken by the force to counter use of drones and communal tensions in the state as well as its efforts during the natural disasters and COVID-19 pandemic in Kerala.

identity. The event is being seen as the BJP's outreach to the tribal community ahead of the assembly polls in Gujarat in the next few weeks and in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh next year.

During the freedom struggle, Bhils and members of other tribes engaged in a long stand-off with the British, with over 1.5 lakh tribals rallying to the Mangarh Hill on November 17, 1913, under the leadership of Govind Guru, according to an official release. The British opened fire at this gathering, leading to the Mangarh massacre, it said.

Modi's visit is likely to leave an impact on assembly constituencies in northern parts of Gujarat where assembly elections are going to be held. In Rajasthan, eight districts -- Banswara, Dungarpur, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Rajasamand, Sirohi, Pratapgarh and Pali -- fall under the sched-

uled area that has a total of 37 assembly constituencies, of which 21 are held by the BJP, 11 by the Congress, two by the Bhartiya Tribal Party and three by Independents.



Highlighting the contribution of tribals to the freedom struggle, the prime minister said that the Centre is working with a clear policy for the development of tribals across the country, from Rajasthan and Gujarat to the Northeast.

Water, electricity and health, among other facilities, are being provided and they are being linked to employment opportunities while forest wealth is also being protected, Modi said.

Tribals had started the freedom struggle even before the revolt of 1857, he said, adding that the community has a rich history of sacrifice in the freedom movement.

Sharing the dais with the chief ministers, Modi also said that a discussion about the comprehensive development of Mangarh Dham has been held here. He said that "all of us have a strong desire for the magnificent expansion of Mangarh Dham and for this, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra need to work together".

"It is my request to all the four state governments to hold a detailed discussion in this direction, prepare a roadmap so that Govind Guru's place too can create its identity in the whole world," he said. Speaking on the occasion, Gehlot said he was happy that recently the prime minister spoke to the chief secretaries of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh about the dham.

"This means that it was on your mind and you thought you should have information about it prior to your visit. I urge you again to declare Mangarh Dham a national monument," he said.

In its now deleted tweet, the PIB said, "PM@narendarmodi declares Mangarh Dham as National Monument.#Rajasthan. The prime minister said he believes that the development of the dham will make this area "an awakened place for the inspiration for the new generation".

Some may call it a national monument or any name can be given to it, but the central government and tribal communities in all these four states have a direct connection to the dham, Modi said.

"These four states and the government of India can take it to a new height and in that direction, the central government is fully committed," he said.

On Govind Guru, Modi said he was a social reformer, revolutionary, saint and religious leader and he not only opened a front against the atrocities under the British rule but was also against social evils.

Govind Guru was not a king from a princely state yet he was a hero to lakhs of tribal people.

Though he lost his family, he never lost his courage, the prime minister said.

Modi said that developmental works were carried out in the portion of the Mangarh Dham which falls in Gujarat when he was the chief minister.

This helped in spreading the teachings of Govind Guru and also improving the quality of life of the people, he said.

Modi said earlier this entire area was a barren land but was transformed with greenery after he appealed to everyone via the Van Mahotsav platform. "I thank the people of the region for selflessly working for the campaign," the prime minister said.

Putin says Russia will not nuclear bomb against Ukraine

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday denied having any intentions of using nuclear weapons in Ukraine but described the conflict there as part of alleged efforts by the West to secure its global domination, which he insisted are doomed to fail. Speaking at a conference of international foreign policy experts, Putin said it's pointless for Russia to strike Ukraine with nuclear weapons.

"We see no need for that," Putin said. "There is no point in that, neither political, nor military."

Putin said an earlier warning of his readiness to use all means available to protect Russia didn't amount to nuclear sabre-rattling but was merely a response to Western statements about their possible use of nuclear weapons. He particularly mentioned Liz Truss saying in August that she would be ready to use nuclear weapons if she became Britain's prime minister, a remark which he said worried the Kremlin.

What were we supposed to think? Putin said. "We saw that as a coordinated position, an attempt to blackmail us."

In a long speech full of diatribes against the United States and its allies, Putin accused them of trying to dictate their terms to other nations in a dangerous, bloody and dirty domination game.

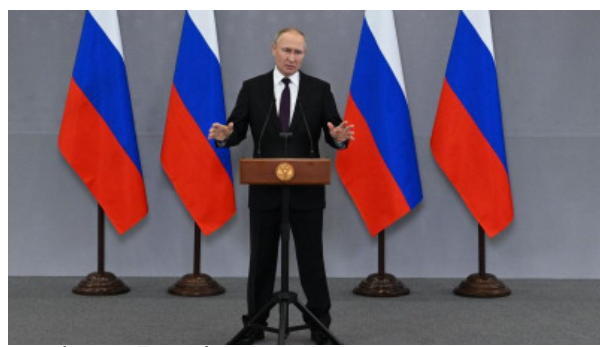
Putin, who sent his troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24, has cast Western support for Ukraine as part of broad efforts by Washington and its allies to enforce its will upon others through a rules-based world order.

He argued that the world has reached a turning point, when the West is no longer able to dictate its will to humankind but still tries to do it, and the majority of nations no longer want to tolerate it.

The Russian leader claimed that the Western policies will foment more chaos, adding that

he who sows the wind will reap the whirlwind. Putin claimed that humankind now faces a choice: accumulate a load of problems that will inevitably crush us all or try to find solutions that may not be ideal but could work and could make the world more stable and secure.

Without offering evidence, the Russian leader repeated Moscow's unproven allegation that Ukraine was plotting a false flag attack involving a radioactive dirty bomb it would try



to pin on Russia.

Ukraine has strongly rejected the claim, and its Western allies have dismissed it as transparently false. Ukraine argued Russia might be making the unfounded allegation to serve as a cover for its own possible plot to detonate a dirty bomb.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told reporters on Thursday that the US has still not seen anything to indicate that Putin has decided to use a dirty bomb.

Putin said he personally ordered Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu to call his foreign counterparts to tell them about the purported plot.

He maintained that Russia knows the Ukrainian facilities working on the project.

He mocked the allegations by Ukraine and the West that Russia was firing on the territory of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in southern Ukraine as ravings. Russian troops have occupied the plant, Europe's larg-

est, since the early days of the conflict.

Putin also expressed bewilderment about Washington's policy on China, noting that tensions sparked by a recent visit to Taiwan by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi come amid the US-Russian showdown over Ukraine.

Why spoil relations with China at the same time? Putin said. "It seems to defy logic and common sense. It looks like ravings."

He hailed Russia's relations with China, but said he hadn't warned Chinese President Xi Jinping about his intention to send troops into Ukraine when he visited Beijing days before that to attend the 2022 Winter Olympics. Asked about Washington's threat to re-evaluate its relationship with Saudi Arabia over the Riyadh-led OPEC+ alliance's move to cut oil production, Putin argued that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was acting in his nation's interests and the need to stabilise global energy markets.

"They need to respect the crown prince and Saudi Arabia, and they will respond in kind, Putin said. And they will also respond in kind if they are spoken to in a boorish manner."

The Russian leader said Russia isn't the enemy of the West but will continue to oppose the purported diktat of Western neo-liberal elites, accusing them of trying to subdue Russia. Their goal is to make Russia more vulnerable and turn it into an instrument for fulfilling their geopolitical tasks, they have failed to achieve it and they will never succeed, Putin said.

Putin reaffirmed his long-held claim that Russians and Ukrainians are part of a single people and again denigrated Ukraine as an artificial state that received historic Russian lands from Communist rulers during the Soviet times.

In that context, he acknowledged that the fighting in Ukraine effectively amounts to a civil war, although the Kremlin calls its actions in Ukraine a special military operation.

Congress launches Bharat Jodo Yatra in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Congress on Monday launched its Bharat Jodo Yatra in Odisha to highlight the failure of the BJP government at the Centre and BJD in the state. The yatra was launched from Indira Gandhi park here by president of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Sarat Pattanayak in the presence of state in-charge A Chella

The leaders and functionaries of the party will visit 25 districts in the state covering 2,250 km in 100 days during the yatra. Pattanayak said the Odisha part of the yatra is being undertaken as part of the party's national campaign launched by Rahul Gandhi.

The party will draw the attention of people towards various problems faced by the country since the BJP came to power at the Centre. Besides, issues of price rise, growing unemployment, inflation and intolerance prevailing in the country during the last eight year rule of BJP will be raised, he said.

The party will also highlight the misrule of BJD in Odisha during the last 22 years. Pattanayak said rampant corruption, unemployment, poverty and misuse of official machinery by the ruling party will be highlighted during the yatra. Leaders will have discussions with women, sports personalities, senior citizens and farmers on various issues. Apart from MPs, MLAs, leaders and workers of different party wings, unemployed youths, students, farmers and labourers participated in the yatra.



Kumar and several other senior leaders. The leaders paid floral tributes at the statue of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary before starting the yatra. On day one, the leaders and workers of the party walked 12 km before halting at Lakshwar temple in Phulnakhara. The yatra will remain cancelled on Tuesday as senior leaders including the OPCC president will be away campaigning for the party's candidate in the Dhamnagar bypoll.

Jhijhir Polo: The Forgotten Suspension Bridge of Odisha

The Jhijhir Polo over the Jalaka River was the first suspension bridge of Eastern India. It was on the Old

Anil Dhir

were supported by suspension chains attached to two multi stranded cables. The huge nuts and steel hangers joined the chains to the deck.

The Suspension Bridge got washed away during a flash flood in July 1928. Some of the villagers in the nearby hamlets still have pieces of the original chains that were used in the bridge. A new arched bridge was built slightly upstream in 1930, which is still in use.

Dhir says that the old plaque which was installed in the left tower had indecipherable writing on it. It has since disappeared. The twin towers of the bridge were of non-cement construction, made of stone blocks, bricks and lime masonry. The towers still stand at the two ends, however the fast flowing river has made them bend backwards. Both the tow-



Jagannath Sadak, in Mathani village near Basta. Just 750 metres off from the present highway, the remains of the once grand bridge can still be seen.

Completed in 1905, it was constructed on the lines of the Hanging Bridge of Punalur, Kerala which had been designed by the Scottish Engineer Albert Henry in 1897. The Jhijhir Polo, was situated in a bend of the turbulent Jalaka river near the Mathani village. It was based on English Engineer Brunel's original design and was an engineering marvel of its time. It was named Jhijhir because of the supporting iron chains that hung from the stay cables. Today only the remains of the two towers on the either banks can be seen.

The Jalaka was a turbulent river for most of the year, crossing it was dangerous. A wooden bridge that was in place used to be washed away frequently. The pilgrims of the Jagannath Sadak used to be held up at both the ends for days. The suspension bridge was chosen as setting up a pier would have been difficult in the soft clayey bed.

The remains of the old bridge were discovered by the Intach's Anil Dhir when he had surveyed the Old Jagannath Sadak in 2010. Hidden in overgrowth, the team and cleared the vegetation and the two ruined towers emerged.

There are many legends attached to the Jhijhir Polo. The old folk of the village say that people were afraid to cross the bridge as it swayed. The pack animals, both bullocks and horses were reluctant to cross it because it was unstable. They animals had to be coaxed across. Local lore has it that after the bridge was completed, four elephants were made to criss-cross the bridge for a full day to test its strength.

The two towers at either end bore the weight of the bridge. The deck of the bridge was initially made of thick wooden planks which

ers are in a condition of acute distress. The right bank tower is cracked in two places and may disintegrate in the fast flowing river. The left tower is totally engulfed by a banyan tree. The foundations of both the towers have been revealed by the erosion of the river bed.

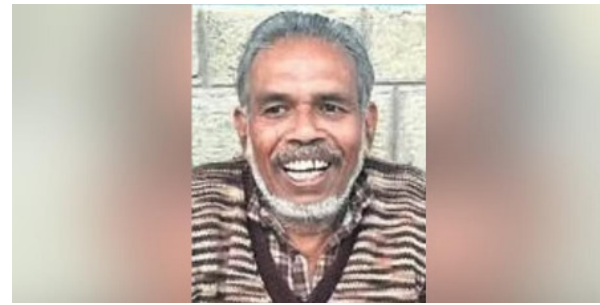
This remain of this forgotten historical bridge in one small corner of Odisha should be properly preserved. The bridge had been listed



and documented in the report made by Intach. In fact there are 27 bridges of the Old Jagannath Sadak which are still in use. The oldest at Jaleswar was recently demolished in spite of protests. The bridges of the Old Jagannath Sadak are engineering marvels which have survived the ravages of time and like other monuments are testimony of the engineering skills of early times.

Journalist, educationist Prof Vepa Rao passes away

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Prof Vepa Rao, one of the most popular teachers of journal-



ism and mass communication in India, passed away in Hyderabad on Monday. He was 78. He served as a professor at Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Dhenkanal in 1996-97, and continued to mentor aspiring journalists till the end. Born in 1946 in

Andhra Pradesh, Prof Rao completed his higher studies in Kolkata and IIMC, Delhi.

He worked as a senior journalist for a long time and introduced many successful columns, novel ideas. He also experimented with all aspects of publication before shifting to academics in 1987 and joined Indian Institute of Advance Study (IIAS) Shimla as resident fellow to work on Communication and Development. The Himachal Pradesh University invited him to head its department of Journalism and Mass Communication in 1990. In 1997, Himachal Pradesh University created a professor's post and elevated him, besides it also gave him State Award for 'Development Reporting', the same year. A doctor of literature (DLitt) Prof Rao, has also authored a book 'A Curve in the Hills'.

Art can to spread awareness on breast cancer in Chennai



CHENNAI: Apollo Cancer Centre launched 'ArtCan', an initiative which uses art as a medium to spread awareness of breast cancer. The hospital joined hands with artists and survivors to curate art that educates women about

the importance of regular self-breast examination.

The mural arts, unveiled on Monday, were inaugurated by actress Prayaga Martin in the presence of Tanya Mallavarapu Reddy, founder of Mallavarapu Studi, a release said. Through ancient Kerala mural arts, eight steps of

self-breast examination bring attention to the issue of breast cancer. Each frame reflects the story of a woman who acted on time and defeated cancer. These steps were depicted in a book called 'Chitra Sutra,' it said.




2021-2022

ADMISSION OPEN

Maharishi Public School, Baripada

STD-NURSERY TO VIII

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2021)

Find the Difference

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

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL
 Baghra Road, Baripada
 For details
 Contact :
 Call-9438102188, 06792-255227
 Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon
 E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com

Find us on
 Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada

Rupee gains 10 paise to close at 82.71 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee appreciated 10 paise to close at 82.71 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, as the greenback retreated from its elevated levels.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the



local currency opened at 82.74 and witnessed a high of 82.59 and a low of 82.79.

It finally settled at 82.71 against the American currency, registering a rise of 10 paise over its previous close amid a positive trend in domestic equities.

On Monday, the rupee had settled 34 paise lower at 82.81.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.49 per cent to 110.98. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 1.42 per cent to USD 94.13 per barrel. "Rupee consolidated in a narrow range ahead of the important events that are lined up," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst,

53 people drown in Bihar during four-day Chhath festivities



PATNA: As many as 53 people drowned in rivers and other water bodies in various parts of Bihar during the four-day Chhath festivities, said a disaster management official here on Tuesday.

Expressing grief, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh each for the next of kin of each deceased, the official said.

The CM directed all district magistrates to ensure expeditious payment to the victims' families.

BJD protests delay in payment of farmers' claims, BJP hits back

Continued from page-1

letters to the Centre seeking its intervention, but no concrete step has been taken so far. Meanwhile the BJP attacked the state government for trying to cover up its failure. Describing the move a deliberate attempt to deflect attention of the people from the twin controversies - the Dharmendra Sahoo suicide and Archana Nag sextortion cases - state BJP general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan said the BJD has mastered the art of telling lies when in trouble.

Dismissing the BJD allegation of central negligence, Harichandan said the state government had written twice to the Centre seeking intervention over non-payment of claims by insurance companies for kharif 2021. The request of the state was examined in the light of the revamped operational guidelines (ROGs) and it was advised to refer the disputes, if any, to the State Level Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). In case the matter stands unresolved at the STAC, the same can be escalated to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a central government committee.

Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

For the first time since the implementation of the monetary policy framework in 2016, the Reserve Bank will submit a report to the government on its failure to keep the retail inflation rate below 6 per cent for three consecutive quarters beginning January 2022. The central bank has called a special meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on November 3.

The US Fed is expected to raise rates by another 75 bps on Wednesday and further hawkish statements could extend gains for the greenback.

Pound and Euro recovered last week and the BoE policy statement that will be released this week will be important for these major crosses, Somaiya added.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 374.76 points or 0.62 per cent to end at 61,121.35, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 133.20 points or 0.74 per cent to 18,145.40.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Monday as they purchased shares worth Rs 4,178.61 crore, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, manufacturing activities in India remained robust and price pressures were contained in October as new orders and production rose, according to a monthly survey released on Tuesday.

The seasonally-adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was up from 55.1 in September to 55.3 in October.

According to the official, five people drowned in Purnea district on October 30, while three deaths each were reported from Patna, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur and Saharsa. One person each died in Gaya, Begusarai, Katihar, Buxar, Kaimur, Sitamarhi and Banka among other districts.

"At least 18 people died in the state on October 31, the last day of the festival. The state disaster management is trying to establish the identity of all deceased at the earliest," added the official.

Dhamnagar's fast-paced development is my responsibility: Naveen Patnaik

Continued from page-1

bers of the Mission Shakti represent the constituency in the Assembly.

Stating that the benefits of initiatives like Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA), Mission Shakti and Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana have reached the people, the chief minister said people have faith in the conch (BJD's symbol).

He said because of this people changed the verdict of the 2019 general elections, 2022 panchayat and urban local body elections by voting for BJD candidates. The BJD won all the zilla parishad seats in Dhamnagar. In the ULB elections that followed, BJD won nine wards out of 11 in the NAC besides the chairperson and vice-chairperson posts. He hoped this trend will continue in the bypoll.

Apart from locals, party workers and thousands of women listened to the chief minister's speech. Senior leaders of the party including ministers, observers and MLAs were present at the workers' conferences.

GST collection at Rs 1.52 lakh cr in Oct, second highest ever

New Delhi: GST revenues rose 16.6 per



cent to about Rs 1.52 lakh crore in October -- making it the second highest collection ever.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection had touched a record high of nearly Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April. In October last year,

Global food concerns rise as Russia halts Ukraine grain deal

Continued from page-1

leave Ukrainian ports since it was signed in July, and the UN chief on Friday urged Russia and Ukraine to renew the deal when it expires in late November. The grain agreement has succeeded in bringing down global food prices, which have fallen about 15 per cent from their peak in March, according to the United Nations.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the decision predictable and said Russia has been deliberately aggravating the food crisis since September. Currently, some 176 ships loaded with grain are being prevented from sailing from Ukraine's ports, he said. This is food for more than 7 million consumers. "Why is it that a handful of people somewhere in the Kremlin can decide whether there will be food on the tables of people in Egypt or Bangladesh?" he said Saturday in his nightly address to the nation.

Other Ukrainian officials were more vehement, with one saying that Russia has started a real-life hunger games for the world's poor. A ship with 40,000 tons of grains bound for Ethiopia under the United Nations aid program could not leave Ukraine on Sunday as a result of Russia's suspension of the deal, said Oleksandr Kubrakov, Ukraine's minister of infrastructure.

Russia's action is facing international condemnation. European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell urged Russia to reverse its decision in a tweet Sunday. Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN secretary general, said the world body is in touch with Russian authorities about the decision and that it's vital all parties refrain from any actions that would impede the grain initiative. Russia had been setting conditions to withdraw from the deal for some time, the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank said.

The institute said even if Ukraine did order an attack Saturday on Russia's Black Sea Fleet, that would have been proportionate to Russia's intense bombing campaign against Ukrainian civilian targets and energy infrastructure in recent weeks.

Earlier this month, Moscow intensified its missile and drone strikes on Ukraine's power stations, waterworks and other key infrastructure, damaging 40 per cent of Ukraine's electric system and forcing the government to implement rolling blackouts. Kyiv's mayor said the Ukrainian capital's power system was operating in emergency mode.

The Kremlin said it was ready for peace talks but stressed that they should be held with Washington, which Russia views as Kyiv's mastermind, Dmitry Peskov, a Kremlin spokesman told Russian state television on Sunday.

Obviously, the deciding vote belongs to Washington. It is impossible to talk about something, for example, with Kyiv, he said.

Such a demand is unlikely to be accepted by the governments in Ukraine or the US. As diplomats focused on ships full of grain, Russian missile attacks kept pounding key frontline hot spots in Ukraine.

In the past 24 hours, Russian missiles killed at least five people and wounded nine, according to Zelenskyy's office. In fierce fighting in Ukraine's east, Russia is trying to capture the city of Bakhmut and several villages in the area have been shelled.

the revenues stood at over Rs 1.30 lakh crore.

The gross GST collected in the month of October 2022 is Rs 1,51,718 crore of which Central GST is Rs 26,039 crore, State GST is Rs 33,396 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 81,778 crore (including Rs 37,297 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 10,505 crore (including Rs 825 crore collected on import of goods), which is second highest till date, an official statement said.

GST mop-up has been over Rs 1.40 lakh crore for eight months in a row.

During the month of September 2022, 8.3 crore e-way bills were generated, which was significantly higher than 7.7 crore e-way bills generated in August 2022.

Is Modi govt trying to trick Supreme Court on the issue of reviewing sedition law?

Continued from page-1

to somehow retain the provision in the Indian Penal Code rather than dropping it outright.

It is still not clear, apart from the Modi government's love for the sedition law as a tool to silence its critic, what the Centre would do. However, since the majority in the government and the political leadership are insisting on somehow retaining this provision, the officials are just trying to suitably reframe the section 124 A, so that an "appropriate" amendment should be brought in the Winter Session of Parliament. If that happens, it would amount to only retaining the provision through the backdoor and by tricking the Supreme Court of India.

There is a school of thought in the power corridors to entirely drop the provision the IPC to avoid the allegation of playing tricks with the Supreme Court, since in the landmark order passed on May 11, the bench had strictly put the contentious law on hold till the Centre completed its promised review of the colonial relic and also asked the Union and the state governments not to register any fresh case invoking the offence.

The bench had also directed the ongoing probes, pending trials, and all proceedings under the sedition law to be kept in abeyance across the country and those in jail on sedition charges could approach the court for bail.

However, the inordinate and unexplained delay in fulfilling the promised review by the Centre is mysterious, especially when the government wants more time and the Supreme Court has granted the same.

Moreover, there is a long history of the misuse of this provision during the British Raj and in independent India. During the colonial rule, the sedition law was used primarily to suppress dissent and imprison freedom fighters which included even Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

Under the BJP's rule, there has been an unprecedented spurt in the registration of sedition cases against Opposition leaders, journalists, human rights activists, and other civil society members etc, who happen to criticize the malfunctioning or faults of the government.

The provision has clearly been misused to silence the critics and suppress dissent, allegedly to establish an autocratic 'Hindu Rashtra', against the spirit of 'secular democratic republic' of the Constitution of India. Thus, the sedition law is seen as a threat to the existence of democracy. It is due to this reason that the Editors Guild of India, Major General (Retd) SG Vombatkere, former Union Minister Arun Shourie, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCIL) and others have challenged the provision in the SC, contending that the law causes a "chilling effect" on free speech and is an unreasonable restriction on the fundamental right to free speech and expression.

It would be unfortunate if the Modi government succeeds in tricking the SC and the country by amending or diluting the provision and retaining it in the IPC.

The Supreme Court of India has a great responsibility in protecting the citizens against such tricks. The Sedition law must go.

Super Cop Superannuates

Bhubaneswar: An illustrious career of 37 years came to a close with the retirement of Super Cop BK Sharma on superannuation pension. A finest IPS officer with national and international exposure as well as standing today hung up his boots from government service.

Coming from a celebrated family of Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Mr.Sharma was known since his childhood as an outstanding student with high degree of proficiency in History and English Literature. A Gold Medalist First class First in Graduation, Mr.Sharma completed his post graduation from the prestigious Hindu College of Delhi University before joining IPS in 1986.

In a career spanning over 37 years, Mr.Sharma held charge of four important districts of Odisha, including the Capital City of Bhubaneswar.

A long stint of 7 years in prestigious Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI) shaped him as an ace investigator with specialization in economics offenses, cyber crime, narcotic investigation and his passionate subject of wild-life enforcement.

The tenure also took him to different parts of the world to collaborate with foreign police forces and attend various seminars and meetings, including Interpol sessions in Lyon, France.

Upon his return to the State in 2006, Mr.Sharma headed Crime Branch for Seven long years and took it to great heights of pro-

fessional competence. His dynamism resulted in expansion and growth of Economic Offence Wing, Special Task Force and Cyber Crime Division. Most sensational cases



which shook the conscience of the State and attracted huge media attention were investigated in Crime Branch and successfully prosecuted.

The crowning glory in the career of Mr.Sharma is the establishment and strengthening of the first Police Commissionerate in the twin city of Bhubaneswar Cuttack.

As the Police Commissioner of Four years he built the institution from scratch and established such systems and processes that it could earn the credibility of the citizens. The impressive building, which has become a tourist attraction now, of the Police Commissionerate stands testimony to the competence and determination of Mr.Sharma to see that the new institution acquires an identity and visibility which will be difficult to miss.

He was there as the DGP and Head of the Police Force of the State for a short period. As they say, length doesn't determine the levels of achievements, provided one has the

dedication and competence to build. Mr.Sharma built a system of feedback mechanism in the Police Stations, deftly handled law and order situations in mining belts, conducted State-wide raids against Dadan trafficking and successfully brought down fatality rate of accidents through strict enforcement measures.

Many in the State Police remember the dynamism and promptitude that he had brought about in his otherwise short tenure.

After 20 months as Director Printing and Stationery when Mr.Sharma handed over charge on 31 October, high encomiums were paid to his competence level in the farewell function, while every employee wanted a personal photo with him to cherish the memory of having been his colleague. Such was the charm and the magic of the man.

Many who know him vouch for his human character and compassion. His attitude towards the poor and the needy was one of empathy. Many get mesmerized with his eloquence and extempore delivery on critical issues. He surely had his weaknesses and shortcomings, like every individual has. But on a day that he retires, people were unanimous in their opinion that a good human being and an effective officer has left the arena of public service. Surely he shall be missed and remembered.

Future awaits to see him in a new role and avatar as a dynamic officer like him can never rest in peace and shall surely dedicate his energies and experience in more constructive and meaningful activities ahead, feel insiders in Directorate of Police.

T20 World Cup 2022: Caution before aggression Down Under

CHENNAI: After the early exit of India from the 2021 T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates, among the biggest concerns was the conservative approach from the top order. With Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul, India had formed a top three who took time to get their eye in before accumulating big scores, especially while batting first, in the shortest form of the game.

It was a long-overdue problem for India, which they tried to address as soon as the new team management took over. It's no secret that they had consciously made a choice to bat aggressively in the powerplay under the realm of head coach Rahul Dravid and captain Rohit.

In the lead-up to the 2022 T20 World Cup, they were batting at a strike rate of 141.59 in 31 innings during the first six overs. And it is not just India. Australia (140.93), England (134.5), and New Zealand (135.7) were all trying to make the most of the field restrictions. It was a well-chalked-out plan, especially for India, considering how this approach enabled them to set higher totals to chase than just par totals as they used to.

However, the ongoing T20 World Cup in Australia has taken most teams by surprise, to evaluate and rethink their approach. Across venues, the new ball is moving around, troubling the batters, and with the extra bounce that some surfaces have offered, most teams have had trouble batting aggressively during the powerplay. The pacers who could swing the ball both ways are making merry.

Although three of the top five wicket-takers so far are spinners, the names of the pacers in the list tell a story. Blessing Muzarabani, Bas de Leede, Taskin Ahmed, Josh Little, Sam Curran, Arshdeep Singh, Paul van Meekeren, Trent Boult, and the list goes on.

Qatar gives fans paid trips to sing at World Cup ceremony

GENEVA: Up to 1,600 fans of the teams that qualified for this year's World Cup are being recruited for an all-expenses-paid trip to Qatar to sing in the opening ceremony and stay for at least two weeks promoting positive social media content about the soccer tournament and the host nation.

Fans from each of the 32 teams are needed for a five-minute, fan-themed section of the ceremony before Qatar plays Ecuador in the opening match

sulted with a "Fan Leader Network" of more than 450 people in 59 countries to help improve the World Cup for visitors.

"As the tournament nears, we have invited our most active fan leaders to personally nominate a small selection of fans to join us as our guests to participate in the opening ceremony," the Qatari Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy said, as a way of "thanking them for their collaboration."



on November 20. They will perform a chant or song specific to each country, chosen by the organizers, according to documents seen by The Associated Press.

"We will share with you the chant/song selected from your country to ensure you are familiar with it," organizers told the fans.

The program has excluded "persons with obvious political affiliation" and aims to recruit 30 to 50 supporters from each team who were able to show "their status as a purist fan," the documents state.

"The camera will focus on each national fan group in turn," the recruits have been told about the show at Al Bayt Stadium north of Doha. "Be ready in your shirt, flags and scarves to cheer and shout."

The fans are being offered economy-class flights and use of apartments worth thousands of dollars to stay until at least December 4, or for the entire tournament if they choose, plus a daily allowance of 250 Qatari riyals (\$68).

The opening ceremony project is an extension of a longer-term plan by World Cup organizers to choose "Fan Leaders" in each country who are asked to be social media influencers using the hashtag "IAMAFAN."

Those key fans are asked to "incorporate, where appropriate" content provided by Qatari organizers and support the World Cup "by 'liking' and re-sharing third party posts."

The fan leaders have been told "we are not asking you to (be) a mouthpiece for Qatar," but "it would obviously not be appropriate for you to disparage" the country or the tournament.

The influencers have also had to agree to "report any offensive, degrading or abusive comments" on social media to the organizing committee and, if possible, take screenshots.

In a statement, Qatari organizers said they had con-

The Qataris claim that the influencers are "leaders within their communities." But the Football Supporters Europe group, which is recognized by UEFA to consult on fan issues, disputed that assertion.

"What is very clear is that they are not fan representatives. They are employees or volunteers of the World Cup and should be considered as such," FSE executive director Ronan Evain told the AP.

About 1.2 million international visitors are expected in Qatar for the month-long tournament, which has faced criticism and scepticism ever since the gas-rich emirate was picked by FIFA in December 2010.

Qatar was among nine candidates to host the 2018 or 2022 World Cup. The process later underwent a FIFA-appointed investigation into the integrity of bidding campaigns.

The FIFA ethics committee, which had limited powers to gather evidence, said in a 2014 report published in full three years later that there was widespread misconduct among the bidders but it had not swayed the hosting votes. Russia was awarded the 2018 World Cup and Qatar got the 2022 edition.

Qatar has since faced intense scrutiny and criticism of its treatment of migrant workers, who were needed to build essential World Cup projects including stadiums, metro lines, roads, hotels and apartments, often in the oppressive heat.

Although Qatar bid to stage a June-July tournament with air-conditioned stadiums, FIFA decided in 2015 to move the World Cup into cooler months in the middle of the traditional European soccer season.

Fans who wished to be picked for the trips to performing in the opening ceremony had to send a statement or image showing their love of soccer by an Oct. 10 deadline. They are being given tickets only to the opening match, during what was described to them as a "curated visit to Qatar" with no obligation to take part in other events such as a soccer tournament for fans.

"It is an unpaid and voluntary role," the Qatari organizing committee said.

MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL

Nurturing awareness Moulding Future

ADMISSION OPEN FOR

PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

A great Place to grow @ MPS

Call now for Application:

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)

E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com

Find us on
[facebook.com/maharishiplayschool](https://www.facebook.com/maharishiplayschool)

FOLLOW US
ON TWITTER
twitter.com/maharishiplayschool