

## Odisha CM writes to Centre over withdrawal of GST on Kendu leaves

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha Chief minister Naveen Patnaik has urged the Central government to consider withdrawal of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Kendu (Tendu) leaf in the State as it is adversely affecting the trade and livelihoods of people dependent on it. In a letter dated 25.11.2022 to the Finance Minister and Chairperson of GST Council Niramala Sitharaman, the CM requested that the 18 per cent GST on Kendu

leaf be rolled back in the greater interest of the State of Odisha as lakhs of people associated with the trade are getting affected. Stating that Kendu, a minor forest produce, is the financial backbone of about eight lakh leaf pluckers, binders and seasonal workers most of whom belong to the tribal community and poorest sections in the State. Naveen said imposition of GST on the item has a negative impact on the implementation of



welfare schemes meant for these targeted categories. "The tribal people collect the leaves as part of their right defined under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest

Dwellers (recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. They have the right to procure and sell these products. Imposition of GST (18 per cent) on Kendu leaves is adversely affecting the

Kendu leaves trade. This in turn affects the livelihoods of Kendu leaves pluckers, binders & seasonal workers and implementation of the social security and welfare schemes for them. In the interest of the livelihoods of the Kendu leaves dependent community it is urged upon to withdraw the imposition of GST on Kendu leaves for the greater interest of the State of Odisha," the letter read.

## Cold wave returns in Odisha; over 20 places record below 15 degree C

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** After a few days gap due to low pressure system over the Bay of Bengal, the chilly winter days are back in Odisha. According to observation by the Regional Meteorological Centre of IMD, more than 20 places in Odisha recorded below 15 degree Celsius last night. While the minimum temperature at G Udayagiri stood at 10 degree C, Phulbani and Daringibadi recorded



10.5 degree C each. Similiguda recorded 10.9 degree C last night. Similarly, Kirei recorded 9.5 degree C, Koraput 12.5 degree C, Angul 12.6 degree C,

Keonjhar 11 degree C, Bhawanipatna 14.2 degree C, Balasore 14.7 degree C, Baripada 14 degree C, Deogarh 11.7 degree C, Sonapur 13 degree

C, Bargarh 13.4 degree C, Balangir 13.6 degree C, Jharsuguda 11.2 degree C, Sundargarh 12 degree C, Hirakud 12.8 degree C, Kendrapara 14 degree C, Chandbali 14.9 degree C, and Sambalpur 14.3 degree C. The night temperature dropped to 14.5 degree C in Bhubaneswar and 15 degree C in Cuttack. Besides, Dhenkanal, Nabarangpur, Bhadrak and Titilagarh stood at 15 degree C in the past 24 hours.

## Odisha govt notifies Mahendragiri hill as biodiversity heritage site

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha government has declared Mahendragiri hill in Gajapati district as biodiversity heritage site to preserve local habitats rich in plants and animal life. "The government has been pleased to declare an area of 4250 hectare of Mahendragiri covering two reserve forests (Idongiri and Mahendra) in the district of Gajapati under forest division of Parlakhemundi as the second biodiversity heritage site of Odisha," read a notification issued by the Forest, Environment & Climate Change (FE&CC) department.

## Rail Minister Reviewed Railway Projects In Odisha with ECoR Officials



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Communications & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav Ji in his visit to Odisha today (26th November, 2022) reviewed the ongoing Railway projects and traffic facility works with the General Manager and other Principal Heads of the Departments of East Coast Railway at ECoR headquarters at Rail Sadan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar.

As the projects in the State are being given priority for speedy construction work and early completion; Shri Vaishnav advised Railway Officials to expedite the construction work so that the ongoing works will be completed at the earliest. He also advised Railway

officials to remain constant touch and coordination with all agencies including State Government Officials, to complete the projects at the earliest.

Later Shri Vaishnav participated in the Odisha Nirman Conclave-2022 and informed about the transformation in Indian Railways with multiple vision, new innovation, early completion of projects, port connectivity etc.

Informing the media, Shri Vaishnav said that; before 2014, Odisha was getting merely 830Cr budgetary allocation. In the current year, Odisha got about 10 thousand Crores budgetary allocation, which is much more than the expectations. He also informed that, mere 20 to 25 Kms of Rail Line was being developed in the State

before 2014. Last year, about 180 KMs of rail line was completed in the State and this year about 550 Kms of Rail Line will be developed. This indicates the huge change in Odisha in the field of Railway development.

Shri Vaishnav also informed that, 28 Stations have been planned to be redeveloped, where Tender process completed and works going on at 28 Stations. He also informed that Odisha will also get Vande Bharat Express, very soon. Apart from this, 5G Connectivity in the State will be provided very soon.

Apart from this, Shri Vaishnav also informed that, Railway is planning to run Jagannath Circuit Train before Rath Yatra which will showcase the great Culture, Heritage and History of Lord Jagannath and Odisha.

## President of India graces the valedictory function of the Constitution Day Celebrations organised by the SUPREME COURT of India

**New Delhi:** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu delivered the valedictory address at the Constitution Day Celebrations, being organised by the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi today (November 26, 2022). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that we are commemorating today the adoption of the Constitution that has not only guided the journey of the Republic over the decades, but has also inspired several other nations in the drafting of their constitutions.

The President said that the Constituent Assembly was composed of elected members who represented all the regions and communities of the nation. They included stalwarts of our

Freedom Movement. Thus, their debates and the document they prepared reflect the values that guided the struggle for Independence. They had their own dreams and ideas about the character of this nation, but they were united in their desire to see it freed of shackles. They all made great sacrifices to ensure that the coming generations would breathe the air of a free nation.

Highlighting the fact that the 389 members of the Constituent Assembly also included 15 women, the President said that when some of the leading nations in the West were still debating women's rights, in India, women were participating in the framing of the Constitution. She said that women's participation in public



life since Independence has shown an upward trend, but there is no reason to be content. She said that she understands that Judiciary also strives to enhance gender balance. The President said that the cornerstone of the Constitution is summed up in its Preamble. Its singular focus is on how to increase social good. Its entire edifice

rests on justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. When we speak of justice, we understand it is an ideal and achieving it is not without obstacles. The onus is on all of us to make the process of seeking justice affordable to all. She appreciated the efforts made by the Judiciary in this direction.

The President said that the question of access

often goes beyond cost matters. The Supreme Court of India and several other courts now make judgments available in a number of Indian languages. This praiseworthy gesture makes an average citizen a stakeholder in the process. She noted that the Supreme Court and several other courts have started live proceedings. She said that it would go a long way in making citizens effective stakeholders in the dispensation of justice.

The President said that the Constitution outlines a map for good governance. The most crucial feature in this is the doctrine of separation of functions and powers of the three organs of the State, namely, the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. It has been the hallmark of our Republic that the three organs have respected the boundaries set in place by the Constitution. Each of the three aims to serve the people. It is understandable that in the zeal to best serve the interests of citizens, one or the other of the three organs may be tempted to overstep. Yet, we can say with satisfaction and pride that the three

have always attempted to keep the boundaries in mind while doing their best to function in the service of the people.

Towards the end of her speech, the President made impromptu observations about her own experience as the governor of Jharkhand in addressing the problems growing number of undertrial prisoners who were languishing in jails. She also recalled her days as political activist in Odisha to highlight that the excessive cost of litigation was a major impediment in delivery of justice. Appreciating instances of speedy delivery of justice, she urged the executive, judiciary and legislature to evolve an effective dispute resolution mechanism to mitigate the people's plight. In the end, the

President summed up her speech by saying that the Supreme Court has earned a reputation for its superior standards and lofty ideals. It has played its role as the interpreter of the Constitution in the most exemplary way. Landmark judgments passed by this Court have strengthened the legal and constitutional framework of our nation. She said that the Supreme Court Bench and the Bar are known for their legal scholarship. The Supreme Court has been served by Judges who have provided intellectual depth, vigour and vitality necessary to create a world-class institution. She expressed confidence that the Supreme Court would always remain the sentinel of justice.

Popular people's Daily of Odisha  
Churu Nagarik Parishad activities are admirable

## Delhi's Neelachala Seva Sangha elects New Office Bearers

New Delhi(KCN): New office Bearers of New Delhi's premier cultural cum religious institution Sree Neelachala Seva Sangha (SNSS) have been elected recently. The Sangha has been engaged in managing the affairs of Lord Jagannath Temple in Hauzkhwas of National Capital since 1967. Nine Office

Vice – Presidents are Gajendra Prasad Samanta, Khirod Chandra Patra and Rama Chandra Das. Three New Joint Secretaries are Abhaya Kumar Pradhan, Ashok Kumar Pradhan and Dilip Kumar Swain. The incumbent treasurer Pankaj Mohanty got re-elected as Treasurer of the Sangha.



bearers and sixteen executive committee members have been elected for a period of three years and shall hold office till 2025. While all the office bearers have been elected unopposed, keen contest was witnessed among candidates stood for executive members.

Ravindra Nath Pradhan got elected as Secretary of Sree Neelachala Seva Sangha for a

The Sixteen Newly elected executive committee members of SNSS are Ajay Pradhan, Abhiram Sutar, Ashok Kumar Pradhan, Sukant Kumar Sahoo, Amulya Kumar Ojha, Ranka Nidhi Sahoo, Nisidha Kumar Das, Bijay Kumar Sahoo, Kishore Chandra Samal, Jitendra Kumar Mohapatra, Sumitra Jena, Suraj Nayak, Dibakar Khuntia, Ashok Kumar Nayak, Dilip Kumar Rout and Pradeep Swain.



fourth consecutive terms. Shri Pradhan has been holding this coveted position of the Temple management since 2012. The current acting President Bighneswar Rout has been elected as President. Three elected

## BJD, BJP members spar over farmers' issues in House

BHUBANESWAR: Politics over farmers' issues dominated the discourse inside and outside the House ahead of by-poll to Padampur Assembly constituency as the BJD and BJP staged protests and took out rallies on Friday demanding early payment of crop insurance dues and input subsidy. Proceedings in the Assembly were disrupted as soon as the question hour started with BJP and BJD members rushing to the well of the House and creating a ruckus over issues relating to farmers. Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha had to adjourn the House twice till 4 pm as chaos prevailed because of slogan shouting by opposition as well as ruling party members in the well. Similar situation prevailed in the House after it reassembled post lunch recess. Though the Speaker convened an all-party meeting to normalise the situation, it failed to resolve the issue forcing him to adjourn the proceedings till Saturday. BJD MLAs including several ministers, staged a dharna

near the Mahatma Gandhi's statue on the Assembly premises and then marched to Raj Bhawan carrying banners and posters to submit a memorandum to Governor Ganeshi Lal in this regard. Similarly, BJP MLAs also took out a rally to 'Raj Bhawan' after staging a protest in the Assembly. The Congress members targeted both the state and the Centre for the plight of farmers. They accused the state government of delaying input subsidy and hit out at the Centre for delay in settlement of crop insurance claims. After coming out from Raj Bhawan, former minister Sashi Bhushan Behera told mediapersons that though a unanimous resolution was passed in the Assembly for raising the MSP of paddy to Rs 2,930 per quintal, the Centre is yet to meet the demand. Besides, the BJD also demanded quick payment of crop insurance claims to farmers and steps to ensure proper lifting of rice from the state by Food Corporation of India (FCI).

## State asks GST withdrawal

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of crucial Padampur by-poll, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw 18 percent GST imposed on kendu leaves.

Writing a letter to Sharimati Sitharaman, Shri Patnaik said kendu leaf, a minor forest produce (MFP) is the financial backbone of about 8 lakhs kendu leaf pluckers, binders & seasonal workers of Odisha and mostly belong to the tribal community and poorest of the poor of the society. The tribal people collect the leaves as part of their right defined under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. They have the right to procure and sell these products, he said.

"Imposition of GST (18 percent) on kendu (tendu) leaves is adversely affecting the kendu leaves trade. This in turn affects the

livelihoods of kendu leaves, pluckers, binders & seasonal workers and implementation of social security and welfare schemes for them," the Chief Minister said in his letter. In the interest of livelihoods of the kendu leaves dependent community, Shri Patnaik urged the GST Council Chairperson to withdraw the GST imposed on kendu leaves for the greater interest of Odisha.

On November 23 this year, Shri Patnaik had announced a bonus of Rs.1,000 for each plucker and Rs 1,500 for each seasonal staff and binders in

the first phase. These above developments came in the wake of the upcoming bypoll to Padampur assembly segment in Bargarh district on December 5.

Notably, thousands of people from Bargarh district including Padampur area have been engaged in the kendu leaf trade.



## 'Churu Nagarik Parishad activities are admirable'

Kolkata(KCN): Churu Nagarik Parishad activities are admirable and helpful to the Society particularly for eyes and Homeopathy treatment of needy said HP

and Vivek Gupta, MLA also appreciated the commendable activities of people of Churu. Dr SK Sharma, former Sheriff of Calcutta, Rajendra Khandelwal, Consul of Niger,

table Trust, Sunder Devi Laxmi Devi Parakh Trust & Others.

Famous singers Maaruti Mohtaa and Manoj Dube presented popular numbers songs in Rajasthani as well as bollywood songs and the same were highly appreciated by all.

Agarwal, Ankit Agarwal, Lalit Bagla, Pawan Agarwal, Pawan Dhanuka, Deepak Jain, IP Goenka, Sumit Seksaria, Rajendra Kothari, P.R. Kothari, KS Adhikari, Rajendra Bardia, Kamal Baid, Ashok Parakh, SM Goenka, Swati Banerjee,



Budhia, Chairman of Patton Group while addressing Deepawali Musical Programme on Sunday evening. C.M. Bachhawat former Member West Bengal Taxation Tribunal and Ex Additional Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal said that various NGOs of Rajasthan should join hands to serve the people. NG Khaitan, Solicitor & President, Bharat Chamber of Commerce

Ramakant Burman, MD of Greenfield Environ, Vineeta Burman and Literary personality RM Lakhotia also graced the occasion. BL Soti, President of Parishad welcomed all dignitaries and participants. Narayan Jain, Chairman, Programme Committee and former President said that Parishad was founded in 1952 and he spoke about the welfare activities undertaken with the help of Associated Char-



On this occasion Prakash Parakh (Past President), Ram Prasad Saraf, KL Banthia, Jagat Baid, BG Roy, KN Gupta, Pradyot Banerjee, BL Dugar, Aarti Singh Kavi, Rajesh

Rahul Baid actively participated to make the programme successful. Jagat Baid Secretary thanked all. Sonali Das, TV Anchor conducted the programme very well.

## Get ready with dog tags, proposes new BMC norm

BHUBANESWAR: Pet owners will now have to mandatorily put their name and address tags on their dog collars or pay stiff penalty for violation as the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has readied a by-law to regulate pet dog ownership in the Capital city. Further, a person will be allowed to keep a maximum of two dogs as pets.

The by-law to be known as 'Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (Registration and Proper Control of Dogs) by-law' has been drafted in view of increasing incidents of dog bite in the city. As per the draft, a person must not keep a dog older than four months within BMC jurisdiction without registration. The dog is to be registered when kept or brought within BMC area on or before April 1 ev-

ery year or within seven days of its arrival. After registration, which will cost around Rs 500, the owner will be given a metal token or tag having his/her name and address engraved on it. The owner will be required to fix the tag on his/her dog's collar. Any dog without tag collar, tag/metal token found on the streets will be lifted by the civic body and a fee of Rs 300 per day, maximum up to Rs 2,500 for the detention period, will be collected from the owner during its recovery. The owner will be required to keep the dog chained while taking it outside. Ferocious dogs will have to be muzzled when they are taken outside. Any harm to a person or livestock by the dog will be the responsibility of the owner.

## Jagannath express before Jatra

Bhubaneswar(KCN): To promote Jagannath culture and heritage, Indian railways is going to launch Jagannath Express under the Bharat Gaurav train project before next Rath Jatra.

This was announced by Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw here on Saturday.

Speaking to media persons here, like Ramayan Express, Jagannath Express train service will be launched under the Bharat Gaurav project (theme-based tourist circuit trains).

Jagannath Express will be launched to promote the rich Jagannath culture, food and language. Design of the train and Jagannath circuit has been finalised. The service will be launched just before the next Rath Jatra, he said.

The Railways Minister said that his Ministry is also going to launch Vande Bharat Express train service in Odisha soon.

Commenting on the introduction of metro train service in Odisha, he said, "It can be done after getting a complete proposal from the state government. Till now, no proposal has been received from Odisha."

He further informed that the Modi government has allocated Rs. 5,600 crores to digitally connect about 7,600 unconnected villages in Odisha. Besides, 5G service will be introduced in Odisha in the first phase only. All these initiatives will help to boost the digital economy in the state, he added. Speaking at a programme organised by a lo-

cal news channel here, the Railways Minister has said that Odisha is going to witness a complete transformation in the railway sector.

Tenders for transformation of 28 stations have been awarded. Railway projects worth 55,941 crore have been sanctioned for the state, of which projects worth around Rs 4000 crore have been sanctioned during the

last seven to eight months, Shri Vaishnaw said.

Before 2014 during the UPA government, Odisha was getting Rs 838 crore per year in the railway sector. When the Modi government came to power, it doubled and then increased the allocation by four times. Now, in the current financial year, Odisha got Rs 9,734 crore for development of rail-

ways, he said. During the Congress regime, railway lines of total length of only 25 to 26 km were constructed each year in Odisha. However, railway tracks of 180 km were laid in the last financial year and this year, so far, 238 km has been already completed in the state, further informed the minister.

He also said that Odisha is the only State in India, which can become a \$1-trillion economy. The State is rich in Aluminium and Steel. So, it can also have the potential to become a world leader in Aluminium production, he added.



## 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

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

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 Storiied North/East facing building at Puri . Contact 9437 143 483



TOURS & TRAVELS

We provide luxury coach buses (16,25,32,41,52 seater) for Picnic, Excursion, Marriage. Maa Santoshi Travels, Contact : 9861079437 For Luxury Passenger vehicle, Contact : 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

## Five Six Seven Eight Series Review: Electrifying performances elevate this insipid drama

In recent years, there hasn't been a lot of content aimed at mid-teens. Now, the void has been filled by the first-of-its-kind, dance-based web series, Five Six Seven Eight, created by Vijay. While childhood and mid-teenage are said to be blissful phases filled with innocence and high spirits to conquer anything and everything, it is believed that films for them will nurture the abilities of empathy, critical thinking, conflict resolution, and understanding worldviews. And the recently released Five Six Seven Eight, with camaraderie, teamwork, and talent as the core ideas, aims at fostering much-needed motivation and hope for youngsters.

Director: Vijay, Prasanna JK, Mrudhula Sridharan

Cast: Ditya Sagar Bhande, Nagendra Prasad, Chinni prakash, Vivek Jogdande  
Stream: Zee5

The eight-episode mid-teen dance drama series is about Semba (Ditya) and Vikram (aka Viky), budding dancers from humble and elite backgrounds, respectively. As the rival gangs prepare for the biggest dancing competition in the world, an unexpected incident puts them all in a rough phase, but it turns out to be a blessing in disguise for them.

Semba, a street dancer, lives in a slum juxtaposing a skyscraper building where her mother, Veni, works as a domestic help. In one of the initial scenes in the series, Veni chases Semba to make her take care of their fish stall. However, Semba can't resist but break into dance when she hears the drum roll. She yields to her instinct and even goes on to sing a hearty song on how she is destined to leap onto the moon and skies.

Semba and her friends are unstoppable. With a firm belief that they, dancers, don't need wings to fly, they sway away hardships with a joie de vivre attitude. For them, getting dance shoes and acquiring formal training is a luxury beyond imagination. But that does not stop them from marching towards the goal. On the other hand, Viky is a passionate dancer from an affluent household. He and his friends belittle and make fun of Semba and the team's humble background. The series also highlights the privileges of the affluent and the ordeals of the downtrodden.

However, the well-intentioned ideas don't translate into anything magical or inventive because of shallow writing. The element of

dance is mired in a conventional drama that tags maids as thieves and blames the less privileged when things go wrong. There's only a respite when Semba shows her dissent to ill-treatment in her capabilities. The sub-plots are predictable with the uptown girl and proxy revenge tropes. Nevertheless, these shortcomings take a back

before their performance. Kudos to the teen dancers, as they deliver a compelling screen presence added with terrific performances. Highly inspired by the Step Up and High School Musical franchises, the series marks an honest attempt at the Indianisation of the dance drama genre, popular in the West. It also tries to be more than just a dance drama



seat whenever Semba, Viky and friends set the dance floor on fire. These youngsters' mindblowing performances throughout the eight episodes are a visual treat! The finesse in the acrobatics, rhythmic synchronisation and aesthetic presentation of dance forms ranging from Tamil folk to freestyle western by the young talents create a zesty mood whenever they pop up. Sam CS' creates an exuberant musical landscape with an impressive mix of genres.

The stage show sets remind us of some of the famous talent shows we grew up watching. Interestingly, the series creator Vijay adds a lovely nostalgic reference from one of his films, the Vijay-starrer Thalaivaa, by naming Semba's dance team Tamil Pasanga.

Although the plot is predictable, a rather fair narrative with a cliffhanger ending-of-sorts in each episode makes this series watchable. The first episode offers a glimpse of the climactic conflict that unfolds on the eve of the grand finale. The following episodes intercut between the flashback that shows how these teens make it to the international competition and the challenges they encounter

by entwining values like standing up for each other, unity and a healthy competitive spirit. Opting for a non-preachy tone saves the series from boring its young viewers.

Five Six Seven Eight offers some high moments and one of them is when Semba realises how her passion for dance can serve a purpose that would change the life of her close friend.

A few issues in the series could have been dealt with better with more thoughtful writing. There's a track featuring a secret admirer of Semba. Although it is aimed to be a funny gag, the boy is just one safe step away from becoming a stalker. And it is also unclear if the makers looked into juvenile laws while filming the scenes involving a minor's arrest and remandment, as they are replete with the exertion of force.

As a whole, the Five Six Seven Eight series has its heart in the right place. Watching the innocence and joyous spirit of these dancing stars is truly energising. I am sure the series will make you want to reach out for your dancing shoes and start grooving.

## Chellam sir Udhay Mahesh returns to direction, GV Prakash to play the lead



Disney+Hotstar is venturing into theatrical film production along with Kavithalayaa Productions and its first Tamil film will star GV Prakash in the lead. Directed by Udhay Mahesh, who rose to fame for playing Chellam sir in The Family Man, the film stars Anaswara Rajan as the female lead.

The yet-to-be-titled film went on floors today and is said to be a heart-warming family drama. "Devadarshini plays Prakash's sister in the film, and the story revolves around the bond he shares with his sister's daughter,"

shares Udhay, who is back to filmmaking after sixteen years. About getting back to direction, he says, "Post The Family Man recognition I started getting a lot of offers from Bollywood. I had to turn down six films to make time for my directorial. Working with Kavithalayaa was long due. I was supposed to make a film for them long ago, and a couple of my other projects failed to take off. But the COVID break gave me the time and space to pen this interesting script."

The film has Flowers TV-fame Baby Meghana

playing Prakash's Niece and it also stars Daniel Anne Pope, Subbu Panchu, Madhusudhan Rao and Namonaryanan in important roles.

We had previously reported that composer Hesham Abdul Wahab will be making his Tamil debut with a GV Prakash-starrer. Now it has been confirmed that the project is none other than the Udhay Mahahesh directorial. The film will be hitting the theatres next year and post the silver screen run it will make it is digital premiere on Disney+Hotstar.

## Creative Minds of Tomorrow from West Bengal to Create Ripples

They all belong to the age-group of 18 years-35 years, but very much creative in thoughts and works. They come from various walks of life from our society and stay at different corners of West Bengal. Toufique Mondal hails from Bardhaman. Sanket Das is from Falakata, Alipurduar, North Bengal. Shubham Hembram hails from Rupnarayanpur, near Asansol, Paschim Bardhaman and Dipanwita Sen, from Behala, Barisha, South 24 Parganas. Subarna D is from Kolkata, Somnath Bag from Chinsurah, Hooghly and Sonam Nurboo from Changthang, Ladakh (now pursuing film career in Kolkata). They all pursue John Keats's philosophy, 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever....Its loveliness increases; it will never...Pass into nothingness'.... and for such a poetic pursuit they plunged into activities of creativity in films & animations. Such brilliant minds (75 in total) were honoured by the Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Anurag Thakur some days back on the sidelines of the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) at Goa.

A keen sports enthusiast Toufique Mondal started his educational journey at Holy Rock School,

Bardhaman, West Bengal. After passing Standard VIII, Toufique watched a video on YouTube on 'Technical Guruji' interviewing the Rap-star Honey Singh regarding making music. Singh used to utilise a software-FL Software for his music. Mondal installed the trial version of the software out of curiosity and started learning music production from various creators on YouTube. After a year, he succeeded in making full-fledged songs on the LogicProx software.

Toufique's first audience was his parents and his friends. After several efforts, he succeeded in getting enrolment in Whistling Woods International, Mumbai, for serious pursuits in music composition. While pursuing this, he got entry into '75 Creative Minds' programme through this institution only. He submitted his music samples & got selected and was also invited for a seven-day project by which he got the opportunity to work with the professionals in Goa, along with the 75 creative minds from throughout India. All these minds were invited to the 53rd IFFI, where they worked on a film project sponsored by ShortsTV, London. After the completion of the project, they were awarded with a

### ■ Srijata Saha Sahoo



certificate of excellence from IFFI and NFDC. Toufique has been offered with another new project and thus he is dreaming big of entering into the Bollywood music industry as a music producer and excel in this creativity.

Dipanwita Sen is still a college-goer but also pursues film-making and animation and for this she is doing courses in a city-based animation institute located at Park Street. Her animation films 'The Kick' and 'Couple' have already earned recognition from the Juries and she is dreaming big to earn fame in this field.

Sonam Nurboo, though represents rugged and mountainous Ladakh, he is pursuing now film courses in Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI), located in Panchasayar, Kolkata, though his thoughts and inspiration arrive from the mighty mountain life, he love to draw many aspects

of the daily happenings around him and he also finds joy in exploring, telling and listening stories. He also has a special liking for the visual aspects of film-making. Other than cinematography, his wish fulfilment is that of a great director. His film 'Sun behind the Clouds' based on West Bengal has been nominated in the second edition of the '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow'.

Somnath Bag appeared very much cheered as the 'Purple Team' which he represents won the 53 Hour Film Challenge competition, powered by NFDC and of course a part of the 53rd IFFI in which challenges were thrown to the competitors to come up with short films in 53 hours. 34 year old Bag served as an Assistant Director in the film 'Dear Diary' directed by Priya Raj Kapoor. Bag is now studying Film Sound design in a PGD course

from Roopkala Kendra, Kolkata. In 2021, he got the national level award from the Centre for his film 'Gobra'. At present, he is working as a director and music composer.

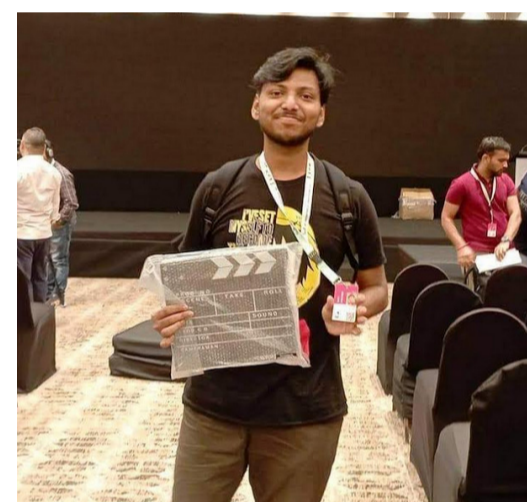
Subham Hembram is from Rupnarayanpur, Asansol, Paschim Bardhaman. Though he is a Commerce graduate, he had passion for drawings and paintings since his childhood and he passed a painting degree from Bharat Kala Kendra in 2018-19. During the lockdown, he used to paint for a whole day and upload his paintings in social media Facebook and Instagram. His friends from Facebook advised him to try animation and he started following Japanese Anime from which he achieved inspiration to start on his own. He took such lessons from an institution located in the heart of the city, Park Street. He made his first animation film 'Nina-The

Story of a Nomad Life' and released it on YouTube on September 12, 2020. After a year, the film got selected for the Frameology, International Student Film Festival of India in 2022 and finally, the film got selected for the '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' at IFFI, Goa, 2022.

Subarna D, an ace animator from the city, created her fantasy in the form of animation film 'Amayi'. The story is of a woman who is haunted by nightmares of her past and her possible future of becoming the next village circumciser. When she is asked to take up the job and circumcise her daughter, she realizes she can't conform to the traditions and the customs of her community, she

Festival, the same year.

Last, but not the least, Sanket Das from Falakata, North Bengal. Currently, he is studying for a Diploma in Animation and VFX as he pursues graduation in Science from Calcutta University. His animation journey started from live sketching and after Higher Secondary, he started nourishing his passion for painting and animation by watching Japanese Anime and Disney classic series. It is two and half years, he is nurturing his passion and presently pursuing specialisation in 3D animation. Before getting selected for the '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' of IFFI, Das got selected for Frameology International Film Festival, this year



must fight back. This particular film got screened and applauded in Anancy international animation festival in 2021 as well as in Krakow Film

The story goes on....the show also goes on.... A number of creative young minds from several corners of the country from 19 States got a suitable platform to showcase their creativity in this year's IFFI Goa, which is sure to instill others also, who will be able to unfurl their wings in an open platform in near future. Let us hope for the best.

### Editor To Letter

#### Dear Editor

Gautam Buddha one of the greatest exponent of Dhamma and the karmic doctrine spoke against violence, hatred, adultery, lying, murder, drunkenness etc. But Buddha did not talk about giving up any kind of food. Buddhist vegetarianism is the practice of vegetarianism by significant portions of Mahayana Buddhist monks and nuns (as well as laypersons) and some Buddhists of other sects.

In Buddhism, the views on vegetarianism vary between different schools of thought. The Mahayana schools generally recommend a vegetarian diet because Gautama Buddha set forth in some of the sutras that his followers must not eat the flesh of any sentient being. Similar difference of opinions regarding diet is also noticed among various sects of Hinduism, Christianity and Sikhism too. Important to note that Buddhist ethics is simply not restricted to verbal or physical practices only; but, also includes mental purification too.

However, food to my mind is not the issue at all. But the way a section of Buddhist monks are getting involved with power politics, corruption, adultery, ethnic violence, genocide across some parts of South and South East Asia is alarming! Particularly incidents from ethnic violence abs killing filled of Sri Lanka and Burma (Myanmar) and Thailand, Cambodia, Laos (corruption and adultery) goes against the monumental principles and teachings of Buddhism. Fractionation, political and religious polarization among various sects of Buddhism is another alarming discourse that is silently taking shape and form in different places. This is also disturbing!

**Saikat Kumar Basu**  
378 Prince Anwar Shah Road  
Kolkata 700045 West Bengal India

## There is no democracy without a constitution

### ■ Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

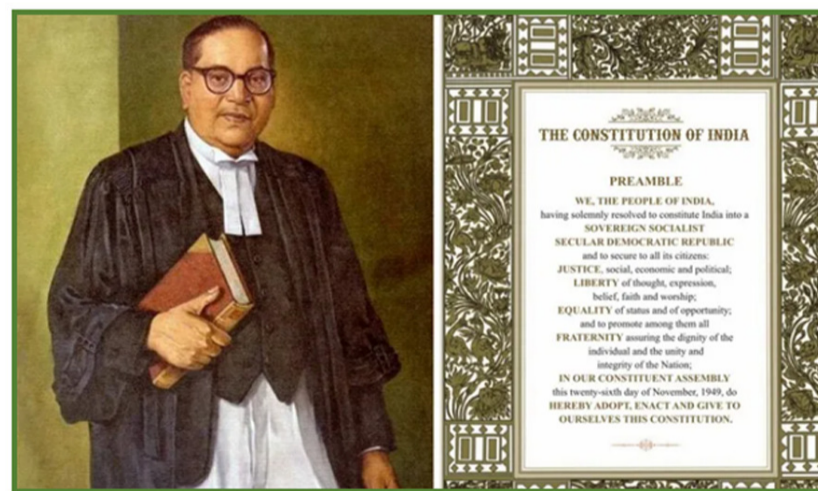


26th November is observed as Constitution Day that is also known as Samvidhan Divas or National Law Day. On November 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India formally adopted the Constitution of India. It came into force on January 26, 1950. Constitution Day aims to bring awareness about the importance of the Constitution and Dr B R Ambedkar. The ideals behind the Preamble to India's Constitution were laid down by Jawaharlal Nehru's Objectives Resolution, adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 22, 1947. Representatives from several fields were voted into the constitutional assembly. There were four notable members viz. Dr. B.R Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, B.N Rau, and Sardar Vallabhai Patel. Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi had marked November 26 as the Constitution Day of

India in 2015. A fascinating fact about the Indian constitution is that it was enacted at the time of independence, when India faced enormous challenges, including safeguarding the lives and welfare of millions of people who had been displaced by the partition. In the face of violence and uncertainty, the Constituent Assembly drafted a Constitution that reflects the nation's exceptional diversity, spanning languages, races, castes, and classes.

From 1947 to 1950, India continued to use the legislation implemented when it was a dominion of Britain. In the meantime, the Constituent Assembly drafted the Constitution of India, which would replace the Government of India Act, 1935, as the country's fundamental governing document. The Constitution of India is the longest Constitution in the world, which describes the framework for political principles, procedures and powers of the government.

Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected President of the Constituent Assembly. A Drafting Committee was appointed to draft the Constitution and Dr B.R. Ambedkar was appointed as the Chairman. The making of the Constitution took a



total of 166 days, which was spread over a period of 2 years, 11 months and 18 days. It had 395 articles in 22 parts and 8 schedules at the time of commencement. Now it has 448 articles in 25 parts and 12 schedules. The Indian Constitution provides an elaborate list of Fundamental Rights to the citizens of India. The Constitution also provides a list of 11 duties of the citizens, known as the Fundamental Duties. The Constitution serves as guidelines for every citizen.

It helped India to attain the status of a Republic in the world. Once Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that "governments would come and go, political parties would be formed and dissolved, but the country should survive, and democracy should remain there forever" In a democratic constitution, it sets some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens. These limits are fundamental in the sense that government may never trespass them. The term 'Equality' means no section of society has any special privileges and all the people have given equal opportunities for everything without any discriminations. Everyone is equal before the law. A citizen of India is given

freedom of Speech and Expression, freedom of Assembly, freedom of Association, freedom of Movement, freedom of Residence, and Freedom of Profession and Occupation through Art. 19. Unlike several countries of the world, we are free to practice, profess, and propagate any religion under Art. 25. Dr. Ambedkar, the chief architect of our constitution, has said that Article 32 is the soul of our constitution. All the talk of rights is useless if there is no recourse against their transgression. Under this article, a citizen is free to go to the Supreme Court for violation of his rights.

Our Indian Constitution was written after a thorough analysis of the existing constitution of the world. The framers of the constitution have incorporated the good things from all the places. Let us remember that democracy is not merely a form of Government but it is essentially an attitude of respect and reverence towards fellowmen.

**B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society,**  
Jodhpur Tekra  
Satellite  
Ahmedabad

## Ukraine works to restore water, power after Russian strikes

KYIV: Ukrainian authorities endeavored Saturday to restore electricity and water services after recent pummeling by Russian military strikes that vastly damaged infrastructure, with President

Kyiv, the capital. "In total, more than 6 million subscribers are affected. On Wednesday evening, almost 12 million subscribers were cut off," Zelenskyy added.

He allowed himself a

ministration said water connections had been restored throughout the city, but that about 130,000 residents remain without electricity. City authorities said Saturday morning that all

a U.N.-brokered deal but have still been far short of pre-war levels, driving up global prices. "Today, we stand united in stating that hunger must never again be used as a weapon," Scholz said in a video message. "That is why we cannot tolerate what we are witnessing: The worst global food crisis in years with abhorrent consequences for millions of people — from Afghanistan to Madagascar, from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa."

He said a World Food Program ship was in the process of delivering Ukrainian grain to Ethiopia, and Germany was adding another 10 million euros to efforts to help expedite grain shipments from Ukraine. In Kherson, residents continued to flee — or try to. A salvo of missiles struck the recently liberated city for a second day on Friday.



V o l o d y m y r Zelenskyy saying millions have seen their power restored since blackouts swept the war-battered country days earlier.

Skirmishes continued in the east and residents from the southern city of Kherson headed north and west to flee after punishing, deadly bombardments by Russian forces in recent days. The strikes have been seen as attempts at Russian retribution against Ukraine's beleaguered but defiant people after Ukrainian troops over two weeks ago liberated the city that had been in Russian hands for many months.

"The key task of today, as well as other days of this week, is energy," Zelenskyy said in his nightly televised address late Friday. "From Wednesday to today we have managed to halve the number of people whose electricity is cut off, to stabilize the system." He said, however, that blackouts continued in most regions, including

rare show of pique about how Kyiv authorities were faring, alluding to "many complaints" with the rollouts of "points of invincibility" — public centres where residents can stock up on food, water, battery power and other essentials — in the capital. "Please pay attention: Kyiv residents need more protection," he said. "As of this evening, 600,000 subscribers have been disconnected in the city. Many Kyiv residents were without electricity for more than 20 or even 30 hours." "I expect quality work from the mayor's office," he said, alluding to the administration of Mayor Vitali Klitschko. The president and the mayor have sporadically sparred since Zelenskyy took office in 2019. Zelenskyy has accused Klitschko and officials around him of corruption, while Klitschko contends the president's office has put him under political pressure. Early Saturday, the Kyiv municipal ad-

power, water, heating and communication services would be restored within 24 hours.

The scramble to restore power came as Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo met Saturday with Zelenskyy in Kyiv. De Croo tweeted that Belgium was "releasing new humanitarian and military aid," but gave no immediate details.

Meanwhile, Ukrainians were marking the 90th anniversary of the start of the "Holodomor," or Great Famine, that killed more than 3 million people over two years as the Soviet government under Josef Stalin confiscated food and grain supplies and deported many Ukrainians.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz marked the commemoration by drawing parallels with the impact of the war on Ukraine — a key supplier of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other foodstuffs — on world markets. Exports from Ukraine have resumed under

## AAP to record historic victory in Gujarat polls, become a national party: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asserted on Saturday that his Aam Aadmi

"The Aam Aadmi Party was formed 10 years ago on this day. In these 10 years, the party created many

the Punjab Assembly polls earlier this year, the AAP is betting big in poll-bound Gujarat. It has fielded

eral seats in the polls to be held in two phases on December 1 and 5.

According to the



Party (AAP) will record a "historic victory" in the upcoming Gujarat Assembly polls and become a "national" political party.

Congratulating the party workers on the 10th anniversary of the AAP's foundation day, Kejriwal said the party has created "many histories" in Indian politics since it came into existence on November 26, 2012, and become "a new hope" for the people of the country.

histories in Indian politics with the immense love of the public and the hard work of the workers," Kejriwal, the national convenor of the party, said in a series of tweets.

"The AAP has offered new hope to the people of the country and gained their trust," he said.

"With yet another historic victory, the AAP is going to become a national party very soon," he said. Riding high on its stupendous victory in

candidates in all 182 Assembly constituencies in the BJP-ruled state.

Till the 2017 Assembly polls, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress were the main contenders in Gujarat. With the AAP joining the fray with its high-decibel campaign, the state is set to witness a three-cornered poll contest this time.

The Kejriwal-led party is hoping to gain its foothold in the state by winning sev-

rules, a political party gets the status of a "State Party" if it secures 6 per cent of the votes polled and two seats in a legislative assembly. If a party gets the status of a "State Party" in four states, it automatically becomes a "National Party."

The AAP is recognised as a "State Party" in Delhi, Punjab and Goa. If it secures 6 per cent of the votes polled and two seats in Gujarat, it will earn the tag of a "National Party."

## 258 projects worth over Rs 7 lakh crore cleared in last four years: Pratap Keshari Deb

BHUBANESWAR: Industries, MSME and Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb on Friday claimed that the state government has cleared industrial



projects worth Rs 7.34 lakh crore in last nearly four years. In a written reply, the minister informed the Assembly that the state level single window clearance authority (SLSWCA) has approved 258 large scale industrial projects with an estimated investment of Rs 7,34,113.73 crore since 2019-2020.

However, 16 projects with an estimated investment of Rs 5,122.83 crore have been commissioned so far. The units will generate employment opportuni-

ties for 7,453 people. The rest 242 are in different stages of implementation, he stated.

This apart, 98 medium scale projects with an estimated investment of Rs 10 crore or more each have been cleared till October 30. Construction activities of 30 such projects are going on, he informed the House.

The big ticket projects include Rs 1,02,275 crore steel plant of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel Ltd at Kendrapara, Rs 1,00,300 crore expansion plan of petroleum and petrochemicals refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd at Paradip and Rs 97,070 crore liquid steel and cement plant of Jindal Steel Odisha Ltd at Angul.

Some other projects are Rs 78,225 crore hydrocarbon processing complex of Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd at Balasore, Rs 55,000 crore integrated steel plant of Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd at Sambalpur, Rs 47,599 crore expansion plan of Tata Steel at Kalinga Nagar and Rs 41,653 crore alumina refinery at Kashipur. Replying to another question, the minister informed that of the 149 commissioned projects in last 10 years, eight big projects have been shut due to several factors.

## PM Modi on Constitution Day urges to further strengthen India as mother of democracy

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of Constitution Day urged for further strengthening the identity of India as the mother of democracy. Constitution Day is celebrated every year on 26th November to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.

Speaking at the Constitution Day event organised by the Supreme Court on Saturday, he added that be it individuals or institutions, our duties are our first priority. Laying emphasis on the nation completing 75 years of Independence, Modi while terming Amrit Kaal as 'Kartavya Kaal' said that our duty, as the country embarks on journey for the next 25 years of development, should be primarily towards the nation. "The Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal is the time for duty towards the country", he said.

Informing that India will attain the G20 Presidency in a week's time, Modi laid emphasis on the need to promote prestige and reputation of the country globally. "It is our collective responsibility. The identity of India as the mother of democracy needs to be further strengthened."

Modi also informed that to ensure timely justice, laws are being made easier and accessible for common citizens and the Judiciary is taking many steps

in this regard.

Underlining youth centric spirit, Modi stressed on the need to make youth aware about the Constitution of India for better understanding of topics such as Equality and Empowerment. PM Modi recalled the circumstances that stood before the country when the Constitution was initially drafted. He also mentioned that the youth must learn of the Constituent Assembly debates at the time of its formation.

Highlighting the role played by women members of the Constituent Assembly such as Dakshayani Velayudhan, Durgabai Deshmukh, Hansa Mehta, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and other women members, PM lamented that their significant contribution towards the nation is rarely discussed.

PM also paid tribute to the ones who had lost their lives in Mumbai terror attacks on November 26, 2011. He also launched various new initiatives un-

der the e-court project which includes Virtual Justice Clock, JustIS mobile app 2.0, Digital court and S3WaaS websites.



Speaking at the valedictory function, President Draupadi Murmu said that the Supreme Court has played its role as the interpreter to the constitution in the most exemplary way. "Landmark judgments passed by this court have strengthened the legal and constitutional framework of our nation. SC bench and bar are known for their legal scholarship. This court would always remain the sentinel of justice," she added.

Recalling her time when she was born in a small village, she said, "We used to consider three people as our god- 'teacher' 'doctor' 'lawyer'. She also said that something needs to be done for the people languishing in jail even for petty offences since they aren't aware of their fundamental rights as well as fundamental duties. Against this backdrop, she said that something has to be done by the legislature, executive, judiciary in this regard.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju highlighted the need to encourage local languages in court. He said that the BCI under the chairmanship of ex-CJI SA Bobde had set up a committee for examining the feasibility of having common court vocabulary. He also said, "GOI is committed to social diversity and has been requesting CJs of HCs to provide for the same while sending proposal for appointments of judges." Underlying the need for enhancing the representation of marginalised communities and women, CJI DY Chandrachud said, "It's crucial that we tap on experience of diverse section of people who are a part of judiciary. Their knowledge and understanding would strengthen the institution. All the more important that representation of marginalised communities and women in legal profession and judiciary is enhanced."

## Centre celebrates constitution Day

New Delhi: Samvidhan Diwas (Constitution Day) is being celebrated across India with great fervor and gaiety today to commemo-



rate the adoption of the Constitution of India and to honour and acknowledge the contribution of Founding Fathers of the Constitution. Officers and Officials of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA), under the leadership of Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs G Srinivas read the Preamble to the Constitution of India, today in Parli-

ment House, New Delhi.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as an active participant in this national program, has revamped and updated two digital portals, one for reading Preamble to the Constitution in English and 22 other languages mentioned under 8th Schedule to the Constitution (<https://readpreamble.nic.in/>) and another "Online

Quiz on the Constitution of India" (<https://constitutionquiz.nic.in/>).

These updated and revamped portals were launched by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi on 25 November.

Public at large is showing great interest and enthusiasm in participating on both these portals and getting participation certificates

## Mahendragiri@Biodiversity heritage

Bhubaneswar: To preserve local habitats rich in plants and animal life, the State Government has declared Mahendragiri hill in Gajapati district as Biodiversity Heritage Site.

ACS Forest, Environment & Climate Change (FE&CC), Mona Sharma has issued a detailed notification on this crucial announcement.

"The Government has been pleased to declare an area of 4250 hectare of Mahendragiri cov-

been discovered from Mahendragiri which has increased the phytogeographical significance of the hill.

The hill is an abode of 20 species of threatened medicinal plants ascertained by Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Tradition (FRLHT), Bangalore.

Out of 154 threatened plant species identified for Odisha, at least 60 species are reported to occur here which is ascertained from various scientific publications.

It is also an abode for two species of tree ferns: *Cyathea spinulosa* (Flying spider-monkey tree fern) and *Cyathea gigantea* (Tree fern). Out of

153 species of Orchids found in Odisha, 44 species are occurring here.

Similarly, out of 41 threatened medicinal plants found in Odisha as per IUCN, 20 species are occurring in Mahendragiri with suitable population for conservation function.

The faunal diversity of the hill consists of 388 species of animals which include 27 species of mammals, 165 species of birds, 60 species herpetofauna (23 species of snakes, 15 species of amphibians, 3 species of turtles, 19 species of lizards), 100 species of butterflies and 36 species of moths occur here. The hill complex is a critical habitat for Caecilians, Golden Geckos and frogs, 6 species of owls and 3 species of owl.

ering two reserve forests (Idongiri and Mahendra) in the district of Gajapati under forest division of Parlakhemundi as the second 'Biodiversity Heritage Site of Odisha,' read the notification.

Notably, Mandasaru Gorge area, spread over 544 hectare in Kandhamal district, is State's first such heritage site, notified in 2016.

The State Government has issued the notification after receiving recommendations from the Odisha Biodiversity Board.

OBB Chairman and veteran IFS Officer Rajiv Kumar took up the issue with all seriousness and approach the State Government for such an initiative.

The Board, prior to approaching the State Government, had received proposals from Biodiversity Management Committee of Gandahati GP, DFO, Parlakhemundi and non-government organisation LIPICA, Berhampur to declare Mahendragiri hill as biodiversity heritage.

Mahendragiri hill, located 1000 metre above mean sea level, is one of the biological, ecological and archaeological important mountain ecosystems in Odisha.

The hill ecosystem acts as a transitional zone between flora and fauna of Western Ghats and the Himalayan biogeographic zones making the region an ecological estuary of genetic diversities. With increased altitude, the hill complex demonstrates several micro climatic conditions like tropical shola, tropical semi-evergreen, tropical moist-deciduous & tropical dry deciduous.

The diversified vegetation with rich floral diversity represents 40% of the reported flora of Odisha. A total of 1,358 species of plants including 1,042 species of angiosperms under 122 families, 60 species of pteridophytes, 104 species of bryophytes, 53 species of lichens and 72 species of macrofungi and 2 species of gymnosperms occurring in the hill ecosystem.

In terms of botanically curious plants, 44 species of orchids, 8 species of insectivorous plants and more than 300 species of medicinal plants are found here.

Of late 5 new plant species with their type localities in different parts of the hill have

It is also the habitat for Rock Python and Royal Bengal Tiger. The four-horned antelope or Chowsingha, the Ruddy mongoose (Herpestes smithi), East-Himalayan long-tailed minivet, red breasted falconet, gray-headed fishing eagle, white eared bulbul and slender billed scimitar babbler are found here are of great conservation interest.

Mahendragiri hill also plays a pivotal role in maintaining the ecological balance and controlling the climate of the entire south Odisha and Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

Presence of high altitude dry ever-green Shola Forest above 1000 m above mean sea level is the distinctive vegetation of this hill which supports several threatened and endemic plants and animals.

It is also home to ancient temples of Kunti, Bhima, Arjuna and Yudhisthir which come under the coverage of Antiquate Monument Archaeological Remains and Sites Act 1958 and draw nearly 1 lakh devotees every year.

The rich biological resources of the hill and the associated traditional knowledge practised by the tribal communities residing in and around this ecosystem are under immense pressure due to various anthropogenic and climatic factors and seek long-term protection, conservation and management measures.

## 146 Cr for Cold Care

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday ordered disbursement of Rs 300 winter assistance to all the beneficiaries to buy blankets by December. Secretary to CM V K Pandian moderated the meeting.

This will benefit over 48 lakh beneficiaries under Madhubabu Pension Yojana and National Pen-

keeping the poor, especially the senior citizens, safe.

He also directed to pay special attention to ensure that no one is left helpless in the open during winter. For this, he advised the Panchayati Raj Department, Urban Development Department, District Collector and Municipal authorities to take



sion Yojana (NSAP) and for this the state government has sanctioned Rs. 146 crore.

Winter has set in different parts of the State and the Indian Meteorological Department has predicted that the severity of winter will increase further in the coming days with a significant decrease in the temperature in interior areas like Koraput and Kandhamal.

The Chief Minister's direction came at a review meeting on the cold wave in the state and the provision of winter aid to the poor.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of

immediate action.

Notably, once in every two years the State Government has been providing summer and winter assistance to the pension beneficiaries.

As of now 855 shelters have been opened in the State. It was decided in the meeting to use panchayat offices and school houses as night shelters where necessary.

According to the instructions of the Chief Minister, steps will be taken to ensure that all the beneficiaries get this help during these two days, November 30 and December 1.





# 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://facebook.com/maharishiplayschool)



FOLLOW US  
ON TWITTER  
[twitter.com/maharishiplayschool](https://twitter.com/maharishiplayschool)

## Series of steps underway to promote India-UAE trade pact to boost exports, says official

NEW DELHI: The commerce department in association with the Embassy of India in the UAE is taking a series of steps such as organising buyer-seller meets and encouraging states to organise road shows there to enhance utilisation of the free trade agreement between the countries, a senior official said on Friday.

The agreement, which was implemented in May, has helped in pushing India's exports to the UAE.

India's exports to the UAE rose by 12.5 per cent to USD 12.67 billion in June-October 2022.

Imports during the period have increased by 21 per cent to USD 22.2 billion, Joint Secretary in the

department, Srikanth Reddy, told reporters here.

He said that dedicated efforts are

automobiles, coffee, tea, and spices are registering healthy growth in exports after implementation

series of CEPA (comprehensive economic partnership agreement) specific

organise road shows in places like Dubai. Uttar Pradesh is planning to do the show in the middle of

"We are also trying to build a virtual transit corridor" to make the movement of Indian goods

soon hopefully we will see some kind of agreement on that. There is a lot of interest on both sides," Sudhir said.

Meanwhile, the commerce ministry in a statement said that India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have agreed to expedite the conclusion of the requisite legal and technical requirements for the formal resumption of the free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations.

"Both sides emphasized that the FTA will create new jobs, raise living standards, and provide wider social and economic opportunities in India and all the GCC countries," it said.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Nayef Falah M.A.I-

Hajraf, Secretary General, GCC, on Thursday announced the intent to pursue negotiations on the India-GCC FTA.

It may be noted that the GCC is currently India's largest trading partner bloc. Bilateral trade in 2021-22 was valued at over USD 154 billion with exports valued at USD 44 billion and imports at USD 110 billion.

GCC countries contribute almost 35 per cent of India's oil imports and 70 per cent of its gas imports.

India's overall crude oil imports from the GCC in 2021-22 were about USD 48 billion, while LNG and LPG imports in 2021-22 were about USD 21 billion.

Investments from the GCC in India are currently valued at over USD 18 billion.



underway to raise awareness about the agreement.

Sectors like electrical machinery and equipment, gems and jewellery, cereals, chemicals,

of the trade agreement, Reddy added.

He said that the department in association with the Indian Mission in the UAE is organising a

trade promotion events in the UAE.

Speaking at the media briefing, India's Ambassador to the UAE Sunjay Sudhir said that states are being encouraged to

next month, he said adding several buyer-seller meets have been organised for different export sectors like engineering and gems and jewellery.

seamless via Dubai and Abu Dhabi to third countries, as they are important transit points."

"This is actively under consideration on both sides and

## Inflation hovers over shoppers seeking deals on Black Friday

NEW YORK: Cautious shoppers hunted for the best deals at stores and online as retailers offered new Black Friday discounts to entice consumers eager to start buying holiday gifts but weighed down by inflation.

Due to elevated prices for food, rent, gasoline and other essentials, many people were being more selective, and reluctant to spend unless there was a big sale. Some were dipping more into savings, turning to "buy now, pay later" services that allow payment in instalments, or running up their credit cards at a time when the Federal Reserve is hiking rates to cool the US economy.

Sheila Diggs, 55, went to a Walmart in Mount Airy, Maryland early Friday looking for a deal on a coffee maker. To save money this year, she said the adults in her family are drawing names and selecting one person to shop for.

"Everything's going up but your paycheck," said Diggs, who manages medical records at a local hospital.

This year's trends are a contrast to a year ago when consumers were buying early for fear of not getting what they needed amid supply-network clogs. Stores didn't have to discount much because they were struggling to bring in items.

2023 will be year of disinflation in Asia: Morgan Stanley

Early shopping turned out to be a fleeting trend, said Rob Garf, vice president and general manager of retail at Salesforce, which tracks online sales. People this year are holding out for the best bargains, and retailers responded this week with more attractive online deals after offering mostly lackluster discounts earlier in the season.

The average discount rate in the US across all categories online was 31% on Thanksgiving, up from 27% the previous year, according to Salesforce data. The steepest discounts were on home appliances, general apparel, makeup and luxury handbags.

Macy's Herald Square in Manhattan, where

discounts included 60% off fashion jewellery and 50% off select shoes, was bustling with shoppers early Friday.

The traffic was "significantly larger" on Black Friday compared to the previous two years because shoppers feel more comfortable in crowds, Macy's CEO Jeff Gennette said.

He said that bestsellers from Macy's online sale, which started last weekend, included 50% off beauty sets. Last year Macy's, like many other stores, had supply chain issues and some of the gifts didn't arrive until after Christmas.

"Right now we are set and ready to go," he

figure out what to buy before showing up.

"With the economy, people are planning a little more," she said.

Delmarie Quinones, 30, went to a Best Buy in Manhattan to pick up a laptop and printer she ordered online at \$179, down from \$379. Quinones, a health home aide, said that higher prices on food and other expenses are making her reduce her spending from a year ago, when she had money from government child tax-credit payments.

"I can't get what I used to get," said the mother of five children, ages 1 to 13. "Even when it was back to school, getting them essentials

But with more shoppers visiting stores this year, growth in online sales slowed.

Shoppers spent \$5.3 billion online on Thanksgiving Day, up 2.9% from the holiday last year, according to Adobe Analytics, which monitors spending across websites. Adobe expects that online buying on Black Friday will hit \$9 billion, up just 1% from a year ago.

Black Friday saw some of the labor unrest that has rippled through the retail industry over the past year. A coalition of trade unions and advocacy organisations are coordinating strikes and walkouts at Amazon facilities in



more than 30 countries under a campaign called "Make Amazon Pay."

Among other places, hundreds of workers at a facility near the German city of Leipzig staged a protest Friday, calling for better working conditions and higher pay.

And at Walmart stores, some employees had Wednesday's deadly shooting at a company store in Virginia in the back of their minds.

Jude Anani, a 35-year-old who works at a Walmart store in Columbia, Maryland, said the company offers training on how to react in such circumstances but he would like to see more protection. He was happy to see a police officer standing outside the store, as is typical on Black Friday, and wished that was the case "most of the time during the year."

Against today's economic backdrop, the National Retail Federation — the largest retail trade group — expects holiday sales growth will slow to a range of 6% to 8%, from the blistering 13.5% growth of a year ago. However, these figures, which include online spending, aren't adjusted for inflation, so real spending could even be down from a year ago. Analysts consider the five-day Black Friday weekend, which includes Cyber Monday, a key barometer of shoppers' willingness to spend. The two-month period between Thanksgiving and Christmas represents about 20% of the retail industry's annual sales.

said.

Sophia Rose, 40, a respiratory specialist visiting Manhattan from Albany, New York, was heading into Macy's with big plans to splurge after scrimping last year when she was still in school. She put herself on a budget for food and gas to cope with inflation but had already spent \$2,000 for holiday gifts, and plans to spend a total of \$6,000.

"I am going to touch every floor," she said. "That's the plan."

Customer traffic was also higher than last year at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, according to Jill Renslow, executive vice president of business development of the shopping center. She said 10,000 people were at the sprawling mall during the first hour after the 7 a.m. opening, though inflation prompted many shoppers to

was difficult."

Major retailers including Walmart and Target stuck with their pandemic-era decision to close stores on Thanksgiving Day, moving away from doorbusters and instead pushing discounts on their websites.

But people are still shopping on Thanksgiving — online. Garf said Salesforce data showed online sales spiked in the evening during the holiday this year, suggesting people went from feasting to phone shopping. And with holiday travel up, he said a greater share of online shopping occurred on mobile devices this year.

"The mobile phone has become the remote control of our daily lives, and this led to an increase in shopping on the couch as consumers settled in after Thanksgiving dinner," Garf said.

## Rain threat looms large as India eye series-levelling win

**New Delhi:** A heavy rain threat looms over New Zealand's shot at acquiring pole position in Super League standings and India's chances of levelling the ODI series as the teams prepare for Game 2 of the three-match rubber, in Hamilton on Sunday (November 27).

Records tumbled in Auckland as Tom Latham and Kane Williamson put on a batting masterclass that enabled the hosts to successfully chase down a 300 plus target only for the second time against India for an early lead in the ODI series. The 7-wicket win already saw them climb two places in the Super League table, and with a quick



turnaround time between the two games, New Zealand would have hoped to surpass Australia (120), England (125) and even India (129), but already qualified by virtue of being hosts) to secure an easy passage to the 2023 World Cup. The inclement weather forecast, however, may see all of that postponed

until Christchurch. With their regulars rested, India struggled more with the ball in the series opener. Both debutants, Arshdeep Singh and Umran Malik, proved expensive, though the small boundaries at Eden Park also played a hand in that. Even the most experienced - Tim Southee, who picked

up three wickets for the hosts - leaked 73 in his 10 overs. Amidst such a run fest, it was Washington Sundar who impressed the most both with an all-round show. His late assault of 37\* in 16 balls, featured three sixes and as many boundaries, pushing India's total to over 300. Later on, he also proved

to be the most economical bowler on the day with just 42 runs given off his 10 overs. As such, the off-spinning allrounder has presented a strong case for a World Cup berth. Probable XI: Finn Allen, Devon Conway, Kane Williamson (C), Daryl Mitchell, Tom Latham (wk), Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner, Adam Milne, Matt Henry, Tim Southee, Lockie Ferguson

Probable XI: Shikhar Dhawan (C), Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Sanju Samson, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Umran Malik, Arshdeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal

## FIFA World Cup 2022: HUGE blow to Brazil as Neymar ruled out due to INJURY

**New Delhi:** Brazil has suffered from a massive blow within their squad as superstar Neymar has been ruled out of the group stage fixtures of the FIFA World Cup 2022 Qatar alongside Danilo. Brazil clinched a comfortable 2-0 win over Serbia but the PSG superstar got injured during the clash on Thursday. The 30-year-old was in fine form before the World Cup started and was expected to be an influential character in the dressing and the field as well for Brazil in this year's World Cup. "Neymar and Danilo went through a MRI on Friday afternoon and we found ligament damage in the ankle of both of them," said a Brazil official. "They will miss the next game for sure and we



will be cautious as they will undergo treatment in order to try to get them in shape so they can play again in the World Cup." Notably, Neymar was the most fouled player from the Brazil team in their clash against Serbia. He was fouled 9 times during the match. Neymar was substituted in the 79th minute by Brazil's coach and was seen crying on the bench after suffering from the injury. Earlier, Brazil team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said Neymar sprained his right ankle.

He declined to speculate on whether he would be available to play in the team's next match against Switzerland on Monday. Coming to Brazil's clash against Serbia, A spectacular acrobatic kick followed an easy tap-in from close range as Richarlison scored both goals in Brazil's 2-0 victory over Serbia on Thursday (November 24) at the FIFA World Cup 2022. After the match, the Tottenham striker learned of the extent of Neymar's injury.

## I have pretty good relationship with Langer: Mitchell Starc

**New Delhi:** Mitchell Starc, the Australian pacer, has played down the possibility of the home crowd jeering the team in the opening Test against the West Indies, to be played at the Optus Stadium Perth from Wednesday (November 30). The defence came following the sacking of Justin Langer from his position as the head coach, and the former Western Australia batter's comments about anonymous 'cowards' in the team who backstabbed him by leaking details of his behaviour.



"Always had great crowds in Perth," Starc said on Saturday. "There's been a lot of talk about not having Test cricket over here for a long time. Hopefully the public can support that. Show us what Test cricket means to them." He went on to add, "I

have a pretty good relationship with Langer. We exchanged text messages post the (T20) World Cup. I'm pretty comfortable with my relationship with JL. "Was mentioned that there could be some noise around it obviously being in the west and with JL having a commentary spot. We're comfortable...spend a lot of time together as a three format group. It's all preparation for this Test match. Not too much is going to distract us. I'm sure we'll see (Langer) at

the ground and throughout the summer." Starc, who has picked 287 wickets in Tests, will be in pursuit of his 300th scalp in the upcoming two match Test series, to be played at Perth and Adelaide - with the second one being a day-night affair. The left-arm pacer has picked 14 wickets in two Tests at the Optus Stadium and believes the surface will offer even support to both the batters and the bowlers. "(Adelaide and Perth are going to be) good contests between bat

and ball," he said. "(In Perth) you're rewarded for good shots and likewise rewarded for good bowling. The India Test (in 2018) was a very good wicket for three days and as the Test wore on, the cracks got bigger...played a lot of tricks in the fourth innings. A very good bat versus ball wicket that presented challenges for both."

With Australia set to play their first Test since July this year, Starc doesn't want to play down West Indies' chances, also taking into account the visiting team's victory over England at home earlier this year.

"Definitely not taking any teams lightly. We know what the West Indies can serve up at their best. It's a good chance to kick-start our summer of Test cricket and hopefully some exciting cricket will be played."

## Kotak, Troy Cooley accompany India A to Bangladesh

**New Delhi:** Shitanshu Kotak, the former Saurashtra batter, has travelled with the India A side as the head coach, accompanied by Troy Cooley, the fast bowling coach at Bengaluru's National Cricket Academy (NCA), who will serve as the bowling coach. T Dilip, the India fielding coach, has temporarily been given the charge of the A side. He will join the national side later next month.

The Abhimanyu Easwaran-led India A side left for Dhaka on Thursday for a couple of four-day games -

from November 29 to December 2 and again from December 6 to 9 -- which will overlap with the India-Bangladesh three-match ODI series, which starts on December 4.

The full-strength India side, with Rohit Sharma as skipper and Rahul Dravid as coach, will leave for Bangladesh on December 1. India will also play two Tests, part of the World Test Championship, from December 14-18 and December 22-26.

Saurabh Kumar, the left-arm spinner from Uttar Pradesh, who is



part of the India A side, will come in place of Ravindra Jadeja, who is yet to recover from his knee injury. The national selectors will confirm the replacement in a couple of days. They have already announced Shahbaz Ahmed in place of Jadeja for the three ODIs, apart from replacing the injured Yash Dayal with Kuldeep Sen. As reported earlier, it has been business as

usual for the members of the Chetan Sharma-led selection committee, who have been dismissed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after India got eliminated in the semifinals of the recently-concluded Twenty20 World Cup in Australia. Three of the four selectors - Sunil Joshi and Harvinder Singh and Sharma - are in Ahmedabad to watch the knockouts of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Debasis Mohanty, the other selector, has stayed away due to a family commitment.



# 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](https://twitter.com/maharishiplayschool)