

Putin says people of annexed Ukraine regions are 'Russia's citizens forever'

MOSCOW (KCN): Russian President Vladimir Putin on Fri-

day warned the West that the people of four Moscow-occupied Ukrainian regions were "our citizens forever" as he prepared to formally annex them at a Kremlin ceremony.



"I want to say this to the Kyiv regime and its masters in the West: People living in the Lugansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia (regions) are becoming our citizens forever," Putin said, adding that they had made an "unambiguous choice" to join Russia. He urged Ukraine to sit down for talks to end

control of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions and would protect them as part of its sovereign territory. He accused the West of fueling the hostilities as part of its plan to turn Russia into a "colony" and a "crowd of slaves."

The ceremony in the Kremlin's opulent white-and-gold St. George's Hall comes three days after the completion of Kremlin-orchestrated "referendums" on joining Russia that was dismissed by Kyiv and the West as a bare-faced land grab, held at gunpoint and

based on lies. Putin and his lieutenants have bluntly warned Ukraine against pressing an offensive to reclaim the regions, saying Russia would view it as an act of aggression against its sovereign territory and wouldn't hesitate to use "all means available" in retaliation, a reference to Russia's nuclear arsenal.

Russian strike on Ukrainian city kills 23, wounds many Asked about Russia's plans, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that at the very least Moscow aims to "liberate" the entire Donetsk region.

The annexations are Russia's attempt to set its gains in stone, at least on paper, and scare Ukraine and its Western backers with the prospect of an increasingly escalatory conflict unless they back down — which they show no signs of doing. The Kremlin paved the way

for the land grabs with "referendums," sometimes at gunpoint, that Ukraine and Western powers universally dismissed as rigged shams. With Ukraine vowing to take back all occupied territory and Russia pledging to defend its gains, threatening nuclear-weapon use and mobilizing an additional 300,000 troops despite protests, the two nations are on an increasingly escalatory collision course.

Drone attack hits Ukraine; US vows 'consequences' over nukes The Russian-backed separatist leader of Donetsk, Denis Pushilin, said the city is now "half-encircled" by Ukrainian forces. In comments reported by Russian state news agency RIA Novosti, he described the setback as "worrying news."

"Ukraine's armed formations," he said, "are trying very hard to spoil our celebration,"

Nadda pans 'brother-sister' party Congress, seeks BJD defeat

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Virtually kickstarting the campaign for 2024 general elections from Odisha, BJP national president JP Nadda on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the Congress and the "family-owned" parties including BJD, while giving a clarion call to party workers to install a double engine government to steer the State into the path of rapid economic progress.



Addressing a rally of around 25,000 party workers from panchayats at Janata Maidan here in his first ever visit to Odisha after assuming the charge of party president, Nadda said, the Congress has been reduced to a mere

"brother-sister" party. "Today, we are fighting the Congress, but the party no longer remains national or Indian as it has become a brother and sister party," he said.

Describing the Opposition political parties including Congress and BJD as family-owned outfits, he said, in as many as 12 states, the BJP is fighting against family-run parties. From north to south, every other political party is dynastic – be it the Abdullahs in Jammu and Kashmir to Karunanidhi family in Tamil Nadu... the Thackeray, Pawar families in the West to the Laloo Prasad Yadav-Tejaswvi Yadav and Mamata Banerjee-CONTINUED ON: P-7

Replica of Mysore's iconic Lalitha Mahal at Bomikhal

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The replica of Mysore's iconic Lalitha Mahal will be yet

another attraction of Durga Puja in the Capital city this year. The Bomikhal Durga Puja Samiti has set aside a budget of whopping Rs 50 lakh to set up the palace and put in place other arrangements for the festival.



"Around 30 to 40 artists from Kolkata are working on the Lalitha Mahal themed pandal for the last two-and-a-half months," said Bomikhal Durga Puja Samiti president Prakash Chandra Jena. The replica will be 120 feet wide and 80 feet high. Jena said the inte-

rior of the palace, created using plywood, decorative laminate layers and other materials will be equally impressive. "A team from our committee finalised the design for this year's theme after visiting the palace. Efforts are on to make it one of the best pandals in the city this year," he said. Lalitha Mahal is the second largest palace of Mysore.

The palace is said to have been built in 1921 on the orders of Maharaja of Mysore Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV for the exclusive stay of the then Viceroy of India. Apart from the replica of the palace, adequate lighting arrangements will be made to illuminate roads up to 1km on both sides of the pandal. The height of the idol at the pandal will be around 12 feet and it will adorn a silver crown. A 20 feet high medha (backdrop) is also being crafted to decorate the pandal.

Shri Ashok Kumar Parija Takes over as KIIT-DU's Chancellor

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Senior Advocate and Advocate General of Odisha Shri Ashok Kumar Parija has joined as the new Chancellor of KIIT Deemed to be Uni-

DU; Prof. Saranjit Singh, Pro-VC; Dr. CBK Mohanty, Pro-VC; Prof. Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar, and other senior functionaries of KIIT-DU.

spanning over 38 years. He was designated as a senior advocate by the High Court of Orissa in 2003 and appointed as the Advocate General by the Govern-

University for the next five years. KIIT Deemed to be University will continue its journey towards educational, research and all-round excellence with renewed



versity on 29th September 2022. Shri Parija took charge of the office from Professor Ved Prakash after the completion of his term. He was welcomed by Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS, in the presence of Prof. S. K. Acharya, Pro-Chancellor, KIIT-DU; Prof. Sasmita Samanta, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Deepak Behera, VC, KISS

After the completion of Chancellor Prof. Ved Prakash's term on 10th August 2022, the KIIT authority selected Shri Parija for the post of Chancellor. As Chancellor is an honorary position, it will not hamper his work as Advocate General. Shri Ashok Kumar Parija is among the most respected advocates in the country having a long distinguished service

ment of Odisha in 2019. He served as the Chairman of the Bar Council of India in 2011, the apex regulatory body for the legal profession and education, and took several steps to improve legal education in India. Welcoming Shri Parija, Dr Samanta said, "Shri Parija is a renowned Odia person. In the capacity of Chancellor, Shri Parija will advise the

vigor under the able leadership of Shri Parija". The post of Chancellor of KIIT-DU has been held by many eminent personalities and academicians since its inception. Earlier, Prof. Hari Gautam, former UGC Chairman; Prof. N. L. Mitra, eminent legal academician; and Prof. Ved Prakash, former UGC Chair-

Politics to serve People

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday said politics is just a medium to serve the people.

Addressing the Zilla Parishad Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Corporators on digital mode on the concluding day of the two-

the State how the State is marching ahead due to the strong leadership and transparent administration.

Naveen Patnaik's vision and ideology have helped the party win five times in a row, said Industries Minister Pratap Deb. He appealed



to party activists to work hard to win for the sixth time.

Senior BJD leader Sanjay Kumar Dasburma highlighted the negligence of the Central Government in various sectors and said the party will continue its fight against such injustice. Finance Minister Niranjana Pujari said that the State is mak-

ing progress due to better financial management. He said the State Budget has now increased to Rs two lakh crore from Rs 11.5 crore in 2000.

Rural Development Minister Pritirajan Ghadai said the Government had given priority to communication in implementing various schemes. The budgetary allocation for the construction of roads has increased from Rs 298 crore to Rs 17,424 crore.

Ghadai appealed to party leaders to apprise the people about such developmental activities. Senior Vice President Debi Prasad Mishra asked party cadres to explain to people during the padayatra how the Government led by Naveen Patnaik is working for the welfare of the people of Odisha.

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IIT Kharagpur Signs LoI with TUM for Collaborative Research on Electric Mobility Systems

Kolkata (KCN): Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT Kharagpur) has signed a LoI (Letter of Intent) with the Technical University of Munich (TUM) on Indo-German Collaborative Research Centre of Intelligent Transportation Systems (IGCRCoITS) at the Institute itself. The collaborative Research & Development (R&D) between both the institutions will emphasize on the main areas

toral research in diversified areas of academia along with numerous publications in reputed journals and conference papers in the area of Intelligent Transportation. Along the lines of promoting Intelligent Transportation, IIT Kharagpur launched an M.Tech programme on Electric Transportation.

As Prof. Virendra Kumar Tewari, Director, IIT Kharagpur puts it, "This Centre would form



of intelligent transportation enhancing Electric Mobility Systems including automobiles, rail, marine craft, UAVs etc. Vehicle Energy Management, Battery Management Systems, Transportation Software and Security, Public Transportation, Data-driven transport planning and emerging mobility solutions will be the major focus areas. The Indo German Partnership (IGP) project was agreed on sponsorship by Germany and India to foster collaborations and interactions between the Institutions. The first such workshop was launched on November 25, 2020.

The first phase of the FutureTrans project started from 2018, established workshops, research groups, sponsored as well as doc-

the umbrella academic unit orchestrating and synergizing with several research centres and facilities on transportation at IIT Kharagpur including the IGCRCoITS. The FutureTrans project assures self-sustainability of IGCRCoITS in terms of resources and expansion along with inclusion of new participants from the academia and industrial domains, for both India and Germany. Advanced research, consultancy, advisory and training programmes with participation of various beneficiary partners will create new domains to implement Intelligent Transportation Systems which will be a conducive implementation of intellectual product designs."

WFP Chief Lauds Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Bishow Parajuli, Country Director World Food Program (WFP) called on Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Minister Food Supply & Consumer Welfare &

Cooperation in Lok Seva Bhawan here today. This activity should be undertaken in all

implementing districts .Mr.Nayak while thanking for the support WFP have extended for setting up of Grain ATM in Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation , requested to provide at least two machines each for the five Municipal Corporations in the State.

During the discussion Himansu S Bal , Odisha Head WFP and other Officers were present,

Saurav Ganguly to burn 50-foot-tall Ravana effigy on Dussehra organized by Salt Lake Sanskritik Sansad & Sanmarg at Central Park (Salt Lake), Kolkata

Kolkata,(KCN): Keeping up with the tradition of burning the tallest effigy in the city

burn a 50-foot tall Ravana and 40 feet effigies of Meghnad and Kumbhakaran at the Central Park (Salt Lake), Kolkata. The main objective of this event is to provide a vibrant interface between the citizens and the rich culture & tradition of West Bengal. The event is expected to draw thousands of devotees, who will through the grounds to witness the annual ritual - the burning of an effigy of demon king Ravan. Many people of Hindu faith

observe Dussehra through special prayer meetings and food offerings to the gods at home or in temples throughout India. They also hold outdoor fairs and large parades with effigies of the demon king Ravana, which are burnt on bonfires in the evening. Idols of goddess Durga are immersed in bodies of water. Speaking about the event, Sri. Pradeep Toddi, President of Salt Lake Sanskritik Sansad said, "It would be really special to have Sourav Ganguly as our chief guest this year. We have made many special arrangements at Central



of joy during Dussehra, Salt Lake Sanskritik



Sansad Committee & Sanmarg is all set to

Singh Boosts Law Learning

Cuttack(KCN): Tough Cop Ashish Kumar Singh, Commissioner of Excise, Odisha has advised the Excise Officials to participate proactively and implicate the law properly during the search, seizure and investigation. Mr.Singh has instructed all the Excise officers to go through the latest Judgements of High Court. He told that with the accused persons resorting to new technology in illicit trafficking and the changes in law, it is imperative for all to be knowledgeable for observing the mandatory provisions of the Act and for adducing evidence in the Court.

Commissioner of Excise Mr.Singh was



addressing a day-long seminar on Excise Act and Bottling Plant Operation was organized by the Excise Directorate, Odisha.

Rama Chandra Mishra, Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Enforcement explained in detail about the provisions of Excise Act and its

proper implementation to avoid acquittals by the Investigating Officer (IO). Further, he presented the procedure of confiscation and compounding of cases.

Rajat Kumar Praharaj, EDC, Cuttack presented the procedure of Bottling Plant Operation. Rama Chandra Palata, Additional Commissioner of Excise and Joint Commissioner

, Dibyalochan Mohanta, Dandapani Behera and Dambarudhar Khanda, Deputy Commissioners of Excise also participated in the seminar. The Excise officers of the State during interaction made

queries in the doubt clearing session and which were suitably explained and they were taught about the procedure of search, seizure, investigation and the technique of adducing evidences etc.

Excise Commissioner, Mr.Singh concluding the seminar stressed upon conducting such seminars in each month and stated that steps are being taken to train all Excise Officers in the coming days and hope that all Officers to take advantage of such seminars to make themselves comfortable in disposal of their day-to-day enforcement activities.

Annual project exhibition "Echo Empire" organised at DAV, Kalinga Nagar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): DAV Public School Kalinga Nagar organised "ECO EMPIRE" - the Annual Project



Exhibition by the students of LKG-Std II with an endeavor to promote scientific temperament and attitude of living in harmony with nature among the budding learners. The program was inaugurated by the Chairman Sj Madan Mohan Panda. Appreciating the innovative projects displayed by the stu-

dents, he encouraged the students to develop the spirit of scientific enquiry and logical approach for a better tomorrow. More than 198 students of LKG- Std-II demonstrated their inventive exhibits of around 60 types on



the theme 'Save Environment'. The projects that aimed at spreading awareness among the masses about different environmental issues were an eye opener for all. The tender kids put up a splendid effort in arousing consciousness among the visitors of the urgent need to restrain our reckless activities that cause irreparable

Park ground to celebrate the victory of good over evil, besides burning of the 50-foot-tall



effigy of a strongly built Ravana, we will be also organizing a separate fire show during the event.

Sri. Lalit Beriwal, Margdarshak of Salt Lake Sanskritik Sansad said, "We would be celebrating our 10th year of Dussehra event which is also known as East India's biggest event. As Vijaya Dashami marks the end of the annual Durga Puja festival, effigies of Ravan are burnt across the country to celebrate the victory of good over evil. We will be hiring artists from various states to perform during the function. Apart from this, a series of rituals will be performed before the burning of the effigy where we are expecting a crowd of more than 25,000 people."



loss to the environment and in giving the clarion call of our duty and responsibility in handing over a better world to the next generation. Principal Sri Bipin Kumar Sahoo encouraged the young eco vanguards and con-



gratulated them for their noble efforts. The entire programme was smoothly conducted under the supervision of the academic Co-Ordinator and the whole-hearted support of all the teachers and staff.

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Inauguration ceremony of Youth Association of Mohammad Ali Park Durga Puja celebrating 54th Year with it's theme as Sheesh Mahal

Kolkata(KCN): The members of Youth Association of Mohammad Ali Park have taken up the challenge to discover the theme "Sheesh Mahal" which was inaugurated today by Sri. Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Member of Parliament & was attended by: Sri. Vivek Gupta, MLA; Smt. Rehana Khatun, Councillor & Borough Chairman; Smt. Smita Bakshi, Ex MLA; Sri. Sanjay Bakshi, Ex MLA; Sri.



Rajesh Sinha, Councillor & many other eminent personalities. They will be completing 54th years of Durga Puja celebrations this year.

Sheesh Mahal is also known as the "Mirror Palace". Gorgeous precious stones and glass, beautifully hand-crafted paintings make Sheesh Mahal a wonder. Mirror-work has long played a significant role in all types of decor, and Rajasthan takes the credit for introducing the world to novel ways of utilising mirrors. The need to beautify affects all aspects of life in Rajasthan and was initially employed to decorate homes. But, in truth, the mirror was first used as an adornment on the



outside walls - embedded neatly on the mud walls. Small and circular in shape, these mirrors have an appealing design with white chalk surrounding them.

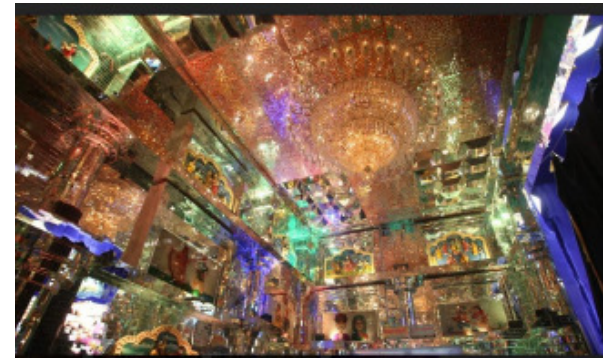
Speaking to the media, Mr. Surendra Kr. Sharma, General Secretary of Mohammad Ali Park Durga Puja said, "We have come up with

the Sheesh Mahal theme this year since many people had requested us as they could not visit Rajasthan but wanted to have a taste of the architecture in Kolkata itself. From the quintessential corners of the mind comes alive the wanderlust exploring the rich culture and heritage of an era gone by. To make the celebrations even more vibrant and regal, we are



designing this Mirror Palace as one of the magnificent piece of architecture built with beautiful precious stones and glass and with beautiful handmade paintings."

The wall and ceiling of the Pandal is carved with beautiful paintings and flowers which is made of pure glass and precious stone. It consists of exquisite artwork. The reflection of light converts a small ray of light also into thousand of stars and it looks fantastic and by this you can get an idea of what level of architecture has been used in making this Pandal.



Jaipur's Sheesh Mahal has stood testament to the changing time and evolving cityscape. Going back to why Sheesh Mahal was built in ancient times at Rajasthan and what was the need of this. Many people have this question in their minds. This Mahal was made by glass in ancient days because the queen was not allowed to sleep in open air but she loved to see the stars while sleeping. So the king ordered his architects to make that kind of mahal which could solve the problem. And the architects built Sheesh mahal which was built with stones and glass and in night the reflection of two candles in glass looks like stars

Rowel Star- The new shining Star of the Rajasthan Music Industry

Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): The Rajasthani music industry is going leaps and bounds, celebrating the new singing star Afjor Khan aka Rowel Star. This new generation of Rajasthani singers is making headlines for his outstanding singing style and making the world shake legs with his unique Rajasthani songs.

Afjor Khan, popularly known as Rowel Star on Social Media, has created a sensation in the Rajasthani music world with his mesmerizing voice and affective tone. "I am an ardent fan of Guru Randhawa and take his inspiration for my songs. I want to create some unique mix of folk songs with blending hip-hop and wanted to give something new to the music world, says Rowel Star." He recently gave his voice to two new songs, "Tera Shoot" & "Nahiyo Jeena", making the Rajasthani cultures a step ahead in this ever-evolving music world. The shoot of these songs has recently been completed in Dubai and will be out very soon to rock the floors!

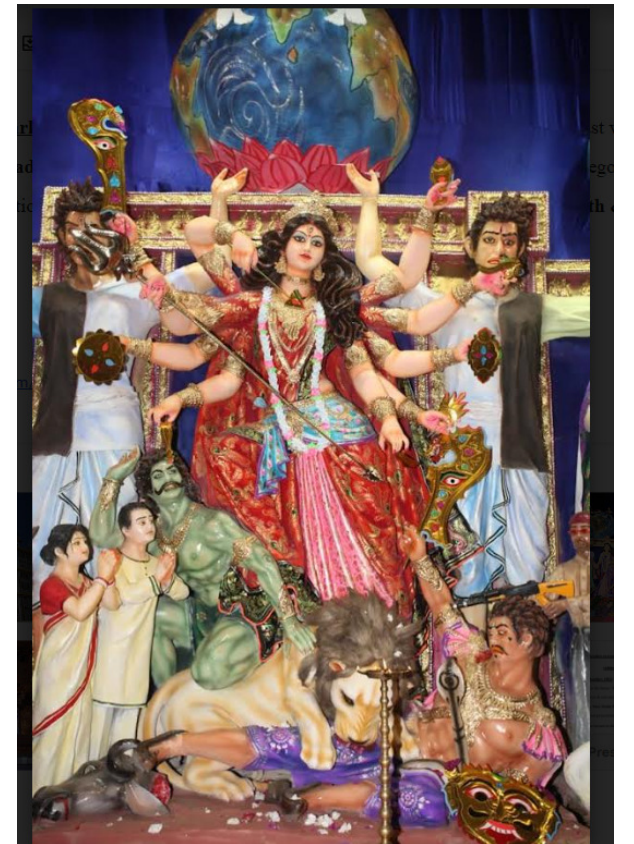
About his upcoming projects, Rowel Star



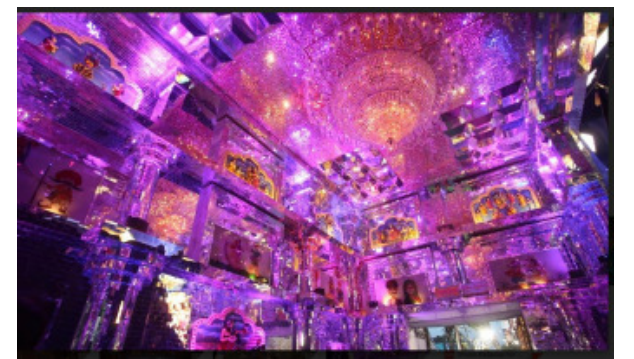
will be seen sharing the floors with renowned Rajasthani Singer Sumsa Supari. They together have shot the song recently in Dubai in various amazing locations. The song will be out soon and published on the YouTube channel Sumsa Supari Films. Rowel Star's songs, Maro Sajaniyo, Bannasa ke Mijaj, and Jai Jasol Maa album

in whole room. And second reason was that for palace built. The King used to shift from Sukh Niwas to Sheesh Mahal in winter season. The ceiling mirror glass reflection of the candles keep the room warm.

On this occasion, Mr. Ashok Ojha, Joint Sec-



retary of Mohammad Ali Park Durga Puja said, "With thousands of flickering reflections, the Sheesh Mahal Pandal will illuminate its surroundings, bringing it to life. One can relive the beautiful history of the palace



at this Pandal. It will be a reflection of the beauty and grandeur of the royals of Rajasthan. There are various paintings and artworks inside the Puja Mandap that will both interest and astound you. The craftsmanship of this pandal is breath-taking. The paintings of hunting murals on the walls and the distinctive mirror and glass work contribute to the venue's splendour."

are the most popular and trending, creating a sensation on his YouTube channel and blessing him with millions of views and subscribers. Born and raised in a small village in the Panawara district of Barmer, Rajasthan, Afjor has been fascinated by the music culture since he was five. He was sent to his maternal house at Sindhari for schooling. During his school days, he sang songs and attracted many ears listening to his soulful voice. His teacher once gave him a chance to sing a song on Republic Day, which grabbed praise from the entire school.

It was the year 2007 when Afjor Khan won the hearts of millions for singing the famous Rajasthani song of those days, "Maharana Pratap", which rolled out tears from listeners' eyes. His soulful voice created a huge impact on people's minds. Afjor won the gift price of Rs.1500/- for his singing. After the impressive response to his performance, there was no looking back for Afjor Khan, and his journey of becoming Rowel Star has kick-started!

Gandhi's Ahimsa: A Panacea for worldly evils

As the world commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's 153rd birth anniversary on October 2 this year let us have a careful glance at his principle of non-violence or ahimsa which he



had followed so sincerely in his life. The present world where war, terrorism and human right violations have become the order of the day, the need for the Gandhian principle of ahimsa is felt by one and all as a remedial measure. Some of the contemporary leaders of India like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose did not support his non-violent approach while bargaining for Indian independence with the insensitive British Government. It was Gandhi who turned an ordinary looking principle of non-violence into a powerful political weapon to pressurize the formidable British Government to crumble under tremendous pressure and to concede the Indian people's demand for self-rule or independence.

Turning the pages of history we know that the American War of Independence (1776), the French Revolution (1789) and the October Revolution (1917) of Russia were full of

bloodshed and violence. Similarly, almost all the former

colonies of Great Britain have got independence through violent method and at a heavy cost of human life. However, India's freedom movement spearheaded by Gandhiji stands out for its uniqueness as it had resorted to ahimsa or non-violence as its method to free India from the yoke of colonialism. When we come to dwell on Gandhi's non-violence we know that it is usually attributed to his family upbringing. His father Karamchand Gandhi and mother

Putlibai were followers of Vaishnavait cult that was based on ahimsa and non-injury to all living creatures. His mother was an adherent of Pranami sect which stressed on syncretism. The Pranamis respected both Hindu and Islamic moral tenets which ultimately developed his secular outlook. This apart, Gandhi's interaction with Christian scholars like C.F. Andrews and Edwin Arnold indoctrinated him with the basic ideas of Christianity thoughts. Mahatma Gandhi also borrowed his ideas of non-violence from scriptures like New Testament and Gita. The Buddhist and Jaina principles of ahimsa too enriched his thoughts on ahimsa. So, there is

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Nayak

no denying the fact that nuggets of morality of different religions purified his nature, subdued his aggressive tendencies and made him a pacifist. Moreover, he derived his ideas of non-violence from the Hindu moral principles of "Ahimsa Paramadharma" (non-violence is the greatest religion) and "Vasudeva Kutumbakam" (World is a family). Though Gandhi is a much misunderstood personality, his unique contribution to the world and intellectual legacy for the posterity can not be undermined. He is accused of being responsible for the partition of India and is often made a scapegoat for it by his detractors. He cared a fig for the derogatory words "half-naked fakir" used by Winston Churchill against him rather he used his power weapon of non-violence to drive away the British from India. As Indians we must take pride in the fact that people's leaders of other countries too have adopted the Gandhian method of ahimsa and satyagraha to achieve their political goals. Martin Luther King Junior, the Black American Leader followed the Gandhian non-violent method from 1955 until his death in 1968 during the Civil Rights Movement in the USA to resist the inhuman

Jim Crow Law that discriminated against the coloured people. Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Laureate Myanmar leader adopted Gandhian principle of non-violence during her epic fight against the military junta in 1988. The Time magazine dubbed her "one of the children of Gandhi and his spiritual heir to non-violence" in 1999. The United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution on June 15, 2007 to declare October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi as International Day of Non-violence. It is indeed a positive sign that the civilized countries of the world have openly shown their preference for non-violence as a panacea to worldly evils like racialism, dictatorship, war, terrorism and human right violence. Many destructive wars could have been avoided, had the rival countries come to the negotiating tables through peaceful means. The mankind has witnessed two world wars because of mutual misunderstanding and belligerent attitudes. Only non-violence and pacifism could have averted the possibilities of those worst predicament, but unfortunately it was not to be.

The Author is a Retired Principal & an eminent Columnist

Traditions and Significance of Navratri

India could well be called the land of festivals. The amalgamation of difference cultures, languages and religions ensures that there is a festival being celebrated in some part of India almost every week. One



of the more popular festivals which are celebrated all over Gujarat is NAVRATRI. It is one of the most colourful festival of Gujarat. In Gujarat,

people eagerly wait for the 9 nights (NAVRATRI) when they worship goddess Durga/Amba Mata through the traditional dance of Garba. The festival is celebrated to commemorate Maa Durga's win over the demon Mahishasura and represents the victory of peace and dharma over ego and evil.

NAVRATRI (the word literally means "nine nights") is one of the holy festivals of Hinduism. It is a festival of nine nights, during which we worship goddess of Shakti. NAVRATRI festival is observed twice a year, once in the month of Chaitra and then in Ashvini. It lasts for nine days in honour of the nine manifestations of Durga. During NAVRATRI devotees of Durga observe a fast. Brahmins are fed and prayers are offered for the protection of health and property. The 9 nights festival of NAVRATRI begins on the first day of Ashvini of the bright fortnight. The festival of nine nights in October, preceding the Dussehra is a special feature of Gujarat when people assemble in village squares and temple compounds and sing and dance till the wee hours in the morning. They worship the mother goddess and her numerous manifestations during the festival. The three aspects viz. Durga, Lakshmi or Sarawati of the Divine Mother are worshipped during Devi NAVRATRI puja, the nine nights. She is also known as in her destructive, protective, and knowledge giving roles respectively. The NAVRATRI festival is closely followed by the Sharad Purnima, the full moon night in the Ashvini month; when under the moon light people partake of Prasad rice and milk. Durga/Amba mata or the destructive aspect of the divine mother is worshipped during the first three nights. On the succeeding three nights, her protective aspect of Lakshmi

and on the last three nights, her knowledge aspect or Saraswati are worshipped. All over India

people are very keen to know the Navratri colors 2018 in order to plan the costumes to wear for the specific day of Navratri. In fact, the offices and local trains also shine in these colors. The color scheme of all 9 days gives a healthy opportunity for the womenfolk celebrating Navratri to dress themselves up in the specified color of the day of Navratri.

Every state celebrates has its own customs and rituals, Bengalis's celebrate the Durga puja with lot passion, and in Maharashtra and Gujrat people

celebrate with Garba and Dandiya, in Telangana it is celebrated as

Batukamma, but what unites all states is the celebration of Nine forms of Goddess. The most characteristic dances of Gujarat during NAVRATRI are the Rasa and Garba dances which are performed at all levels of society by men and women. The leader of the group sings the first line of the song while the rest repeat it in chorus; the beat being produced clapping hands or striking sticks in unison. The origin of the Rasa is traced back to the legends connected with the life of Lord Krishna. The Rasa is performed in Gujarat on Navaratra; and other important festivals associated with harvest and crops.

The most impressive artistry of the Rasa dances of Gujarat and Saurashtra is displayed in the Dandiya Rasa by men. It is a counterpart of the Garba of the women. In Garba, at every step they gracefully bend sideways, the arms coming together in beautiful sweeping

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

in clap.

While in Raas, the dancers use sticks at the end of which tiny bells (ghungrus) are tied so that they give off a clear jingling sound when they strike one another. This dance has a very complicated rhythm pattern and even though the dancers begin in a slow tempo, the dance develops in such manner that each person in the circle not only performs a solo dance with his own sticks, but also has a complex multiple relationship with both his partners on either side as also partners



opposite him in the circles. There is a great deal of freedom in the movements and sticks are beaten in standing, sitting or lying position. Occasionally, the men weave patterns of an intertwined rope in a circle; they lie on the floor with the two sticks being beaten above their heads and chests; sometimes instead of hands, the feet hold and strike the sticks. The Dandiya Rasa is obviously of ancient origin and of ritual significance. The ritual of the Navaratra of the sowing and sprouting of corn for nine days and the climax through a variety of dances links agricultural and urban societies. Today in the cities and town the dance is a social activity and entertainment rather than religious agricultural or fertility symbol. The Garba of Gujarat is the most popular women's folk dance of Gujarat. During NAVRATRI, pot is ceremoniously placed attractive designs are made on the pot and a light is placed inside. Village girls bearing pots (garbis) on their heads go from door to

door and dance around the respective house.

There are variations in the garba different regions communities and dancers have involved their own style and steps. The Garba is indeed a ceremony in which everyone can take part irrespective of caste or social position. The dances are accompanied by drums (dholak) and the vocal women. The songs of the Garba are often history and melodious and have been handed down through generations. The origins of the seem to be a tribal dance revolving around a hunt; later it was transformed into an agricultural ritual dedicated to the goddess Ambika. Today it is a social dance at all levels of society. In essence, it continues to be a fertility dance.

The day after NAVRATRI i.e. the 10th day after Ashvini, is Dussehra which celebrates the victory of lord Rama over Ravana. Ravana is burnt in effigy, often giant dummies of Ravana stuffed with fireworks are shot with arrows until they blow up before a large, applauding audience. Ahmedabad is one of the greatest places to enjoy NAVRATRI. All kinds of Rasa-Garbhas, Dandia Raas etc. are practiced in this period, feasting and fasting are important cultural aspects of this day, and various rituals are performed at temples of the 9 Goddesses of Hinduism. The atmosphere is electric and revelry is in the air.

One would find that Dussehra festival has immense mythological significance. It can also be interpreted as "Dasa-Hara", which means the cutting of the ten heads of Ravana. As per Ramayana, Ram did Chandi-Puja and invoked the blessings of Durga to kill Ravana, the ten-headed king of Lanka who had abducted Sita. Durga divulged the secret to Ram how he could kill Ravana.

For *Amdavadis* NAVRATRI & DUSSEHRA is a jigsaw puzzle of people - of every faith and religion, living together to create a unique and colourful variety. Festivals like NAVRATRI in Gujarat symbolize people's cultural, social and religious aspirations. They help people to live a fuller and better life, remove monotony and provide healthy recreation. They promote unity, fellow-feeling, self-discipline and austerity.

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

Kharge, a Gandhi family loyalist poised to be 2nd Congress prez from Karnataka

BENGALURU: Popularly known as "Solillada Saradara" (a leader without defeat) in his home-State of Karnataka Mapanna Mallikarjun Kharge, who on Friday filed nomination for the Congress' presidential polls, is a hardcore loyalist of the Gandhi family.

If elected, he will be the second AICC presi-

sembly polls.

Kharge, who was leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019, could not become the Leader of Opposition as the grand old party could not get the post as its numbers were less than the mandated 10 per cent of the total number of seats in the Lower House.



dent from Karnataka after S Nijalingappa, and also a Dalit leader to hold the post after Jagjivan Ram.

A leader with more than 50 years of experience in politics, 80-year-old Kharge, who was elected MLA for nine times in a row, has seen a steady rise in his career graph from humble beginnings as a union leader in his home-district of Gulbarga, now Kalaburagi. In 1969, he joined the Indian National Congress and went on to become president of the Gulbarga City Congress Committee.

That Kharge was unconquerable at the hustings was mirrored until 2014 Lok Sabha polls in which he bucked the Narendra Modi wave that swept Karnataka, particularly Hyderabad-Karnataka region, and had won from Gulbarga with a margin of over 74,000 votes.

He has won from Gurmitkal Assembly constituency nine times in a row before he plunged into the Lok Sabha poll arena in 2009 and has been a two-time MP from Gulbarga parliamentary segment.

However, in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls the veteran leader was defeated by BJP's Umesh Jadhav in Gulbarga by a margin of 95,452 votes. That was the first electoral loss in Kharge's political life spanning several decades.

A hardcore Congressman loyal to the Gandhi family, Kharge has played multiple roles in different ministries that have enriched his experience as an administrator.

He has also served as the Leader of the Opposition in Karnataka Assembly and at the central-level as also in the party where he had served as KPCC chief during the 2008 As-

sembly polls. He has served as Union Cabinet Minister-Labour and Employment, also Railways and Social Justice and Empowerment in the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government.

He had also held various portfolios in successive Congress governments that governed the State and was also president of Karnataka Congress and Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly.

In June 2020, he was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka, and is currently the 17th Leader of the Opposition in Upper House of Parliament succeeding Ghulam Nabi Azad in February last year.

He was several times seen as a top contender for the Chief Minister post in Karnataka, but could never occupy the post.

"Why do you keep saying Dalit again and again? Don't say that. I'm a Congressman," Kharge has said several times in the past, whenever the Dalit CM topic cropped up with him as the contender.

Sober by temperament and nature, Kharge has never landed in any major political trouble spot or controversy.

Born in a poor family at Varavatti in Bidar district, he did his schooling and BA as well as Law in Gulbarga. He was into legal practice for some time before plunging into politics.

He is a follower of Buddhism and is the founder-chairman of Siddharth Vihar Trust that has built the Buddha Vihar complex in Gulbarga. Married Radhabai on 13 May 1968 and they have two daughters and three sons. One son Priyank Kharge is an MLA and a former Minister.

Suicide bomber strikes Kabul education centre, killing 19

KABUL(KCN): A suicide bomber struck an education centre in a Shiite area of the Afghan capital on Friday, killing 19 people and wounding 27, including teenagers who were taking university practice entry exams, a Taliban spokesman said.

The morning explosion at the centre took place in Kabul's Dashti Barchi neighbourhood, an area populated mostly by ethnic Hazaras, who belong to Afghanistan's minority Shiite community.

The Islamic State group has carried out repeated, horrific attacks on schools, hospitals and mosques in Dashti Barchi and other Shiite areas in recent years.

Around 300 recent high school graduates, boys and girls, had come to the Kaaj Higher Educational Centre at 6:30 am to take practice exams, said one survivor, 19-year-old Shafi Akbary.

The facility helps students prepare and study

for the entrance exams, among other activities. About an hour into the session, the blast went off.



"First, we heard the sounds of a few gunshots at the main gate. Everyone was worried and tried to run to a different direction," said Akbary, speaking to The Associated Press

Veteran star Asha Parekh receives Dada Saheb Phalke award

NEW DELHI: Veteran actor Asha Parekh was on Friday honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke award, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cin-

the jury for the recognition that they have bestowed upon me, my long journey and fulfilling the journey in the film industry," said Parekh, who is the

Malini, Poonam Dhillon, Udit Narayan, and TS Nagabharana -- selected Parekh for the honour.

Parekh, whose stardom was at par with

but as a leading lady in Nasir Hussain's 1959 movie "Dil Deke Dekho", opposite Shammi Kapoor. A director and producer as well, Parekh had helmed the ac-



ema.

Parekh, 79, was presented the award by President Droupadi Murmu during the 68th National Film Awards ceremony, held at Vigyan Bhawan here.

The veteran said she is grateful to receive the prestigious award a day before her 80th birthday.

"It is a huge honour to have received the Dada Saheb Phalke award. It makes me very grateful that the recognition comes to me just one day before my 80th birthday.

"This is the best honour I could get from the Government of India. I would like to thank

BJP's Suvendu Adhikari urges Centre to check 'illegal diversion' of funds by WB govt

KOLKATA: Accusing the West Bengal government of "illegally diverting" Central funds, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, urged Union Finance minister to take appropriate steps so that the "malpractices" come to an end.

He made the accusation in a series of tweets and also wrote a letter to the Union Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in this regard. The BJP leader in a tweet alleged that the state government had "tactfully" opened the State Nodal Account of Public Finance Management System in a private bank where the State Emergency Relief Fund Account was in op-

recipient of the award for the year 2020.

Describing the Indian film industry as the "best place" to be in, the actor said she continues to be attached to the movies in her own small way even after 60 years.

"Our film industry is the best place to be in. And I would like to suggest to the youngsters who are in this industry to have perseverance, determination, discipline, and to be grounded, and I congratulate all the awardees tonight," she added.

The five-member Dada Saheb Phalke Award committee -- comprising Asha Bhosle, Hema

male contemporaries

Rajesh Khanna, Rajendra Kumar and Manoj Kumar in the 1960s - 1970s,

started her acting career at the age of 10 with the 1952 film "Aasmaan". In a career spanning over five decades, she starred in over 95 films that include titles such as "Dil Deke Dekho", "Kati Patang", "Teesri Manzil", "Baharon Ke Sapne", "Pyaar Ka Mausam", and "Caravan".

She made foray into films as a child artist with 1952's "Aasmaan" and went on to star in Bimal Roy's "Baap Beti" two years later.

Parekh made her debut in 1952's "Aasmaan" and went on to star in Bimal Roy's "Baap Beti" two years later.

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claimed TV drama "Kora Kagaz" that aired in the late 1990s.

The screen legend was also the first female chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). She served from 1998-2001.

The actor came out with her autobiography, "The Hit Girl", co-written by film critic Khalid Mohamed, in 2017. She was also honoured with the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award of the country, in 1992.

Last year, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019 was conferred on Rajinikanth.

eration so that Central funds could be "easily diverted".

"It is a can of worms waiting to be opened," he wrote on the micro-blogging site on Thursday.

The MLA from Nandigram requested the Union minister to "keep a tab" on the transactions of the state government and attached a copy of the letter, dated September 29, with his tweet.

Adhikari later tweeted, "one tweet of mine and West Bengal government is out of line. A scared WB government, wary of covering their tracks, is desperate to destroy evidence."

over the phone. "Soon after that, a huge explosion occurred inside the centre."

Akbary, who was unharmed, said he saw dozens of bodies and wounded people scattered around him.

"I was so afraid and couldn't even move myself to help them. Later, other people ran inside and took us out," he added.

Akbary said he has attended classes at the centre the past six months. Khalid Zadran, the Taliban-

appointed spokesman of the Kabul police who gave the casualty toll, said students were among the victims of the blast, but he did not specify how many.

ALSO READ| Taliban: Car bomb near Kabul mosque kills seven, wounds 41

He said education centres in the area will need to ask the Taliban for additional security when they host events with big gatherings like Friday's exam prep.

Police have arrested a suspect who may have links to the attack, Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Nafi Takor said later. He was unable to provide any updates on the casualties. The Emergency NGO Hospital in Kabul said in a tweet it had received 22 patients so far, adding that most of them were women aged 18-25 who were taking an exam.

Husnia Azimi was one of those killed in the suicide bombing. She left home Friday morning to attend the exam, even though her sister Zainab told her it was late and not to go. "Once she left, it was around 09:00 am that we heard about the explosion," said Zainab. "We didn't hear its

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Change Lifestyle; SUMUM Odisha: Assistant engineer of IDCO in Vigilance net

Bhubaneswar: Lifestyle changes and stress management are the keys to avoiding cardiac problems in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic which had derailed human physiological system in many cases, cardiologists said on World Heart Day on Thursday.

"A self-centred man is bound to be stressful. Stress management is crucial and an inclusive attitude towards life can make matters

trained manpower, was planning to set up valve clinic, coronary clinic, heart failure clinic, pediatric clinic and arrhythmia clinic. Besides, setting up of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery and Robotic Cardiac Surgery units was in the pipeline as also taking up of heart and lung transplant surgery.

Dr. Vibhutendra Mohanty, Senior Consultant, Interventional Cardiologist, said heart attack



easier," Dr. Bana Bihari Mishra, Senior Consultant, Cardio Vascular and Thoracic Surgery at SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM) here, said while making a presentation on the occasion.

Dr. Mishra said Covid-19 had caused deaths and adversely affected the health of people who were found to have become prone to suffer from blood clots. "People need to be careful about food intake and avoid a sedentary lifestyle," he said while recommending at least 30 to 45 minutes of walk every day.

Dr. Sarat Kumar Sahu, Senior Consultant, and Head of the Department of Cardiology, in the hospital, also focused on a balanced diet, regular exercise and the need to avoid stress. Dr. Sahu said keeping the sugar level down and the blood pressure under control was important while ensuring that the process of deposit of cholesterol in the blood vessels was slowed down.

Speaking about new advances made in cardiac science, he said the lesser invasive transcatheter treatment of structural heart diseases was becoming popular amidst the explosion of innovative devices and concepts in recent times.

Dr. Mishra said the cardiology department of SUM Ultimate Medicare, which was fully equipped with advanced instruments and

Naveen urges partymen to popularise welfare schemes of Odisha government

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday asked party leaders and workers to popularise welfare schemes launched by the State government among the people during the month-long Jana Sampark Yatra of the BJD starting October 1.

Participating in the two-day preparatory meeting of the party for the yatra virtually from

the party has now become a mass movement to protect the interest of the people. BJD which was launched 25 years back by the Chief Minister has now become a big tree and represents the hopes and aspirations of 4.5 crore people of the State.

Stating that Odisha government under the leadership of Naveen Patnaik has changed the



Bengaluru, the CM called upon partymen to make it a success. As the country is now observing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, he advised party leaders to make people of the State aware of the contributions of freedom fighters from Odisha.

All Ministers, MPs, MLAs, state office-bearers and representatives of frontal organisations of the party from attended the meeting on the first day. The two-day organisational meet of the BJD coincides with the visit of national BJP president JP Nadda to Odisha.

Presiding over the meeting, organisational secretary of the BJD Pranab Prakash Das said

State from a deficit economy to a surplus one, senior vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra said that people should be made aware of this success during the Jana Sampark Yatra. Minister for Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak said Odisha has now become a food surplus State. Nayak said Odisha has become number one State in ensuring food security. Senior leader Prasanna Acharya targeted the Opposition political parties for being busy preparing strategy to defeat the Chief Minister while he is working to banish poverty from the State. Several other senior leaders and former ministers also addressed the meeting.



BHUBANESWAR: Vigilance officers on Thursday carried out search at the property of Manoj Kumar Lenka, who is working as an assistant manager (civil) in BCD-II division of Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) over allegations of amassing disproportionate assets.

During the search, Lenka was found in possession of a three-storey build-

Vigilance officers on Thursday carried out search at the property of Manoj Kumar Lenka, who is working as an assistant manager (civil)

ing in Koradakanta, one market complex at Uttara Chowk, a shop at Metro Mansion in Rabi Talkies Square, one flat at Grand Ashiyana apartment in Puri, a house in city's Jharpada area, and two houses in Pattamundai.

He was also found in possession of six plots in Bhubaneswar, and Puri and Kendrapara districts having a market value of Rs 41.80 lakh, bank, postal and insurance

deposits worth over Rs 65.76 lakh, gold and silver ornaments worth more than Rs 12.32 lakh, household articles worth over Rs 14.60 lakh, among other assets.

"So far, Manoj Kumar Lenka has been found in possession of assets worth more than Rs 3.53 crore. He is being questioned to ascertain how he accumulated these assets and further action will be taken accordingly," said a Vigilance officer.



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Small savings rates raised by 10-30 bps; PPF, NSC excluded

New Delhi: After a gap of nine quarters, Interest rates for government (KVP), the one-year term deposit scheme of



the central government on Thursday raised interest rates on a handful of small savings schemes that do not get income tax benefit. While the interest rate on Public Provident Fund and National Savings Certificate were retained, the rates for five other schemes, where income accruing is taxable, have been hiked by up to 30 basis points. The interest rates were last revised for the first quarter of 2020-21, by

reducing the rates. Interest rates for government (KVP), the one-year term deposit scheme of revised both tenure and interest rates. The new rate for KVP would be 7 per cent against 6.9 per cent and the maturity period is 123 months against 124 months. Monthly Income Scheme would earn 10 basis points more at 6.7 per cent as compared to existing 6.6 per cent. However, Public Provident Fund and National Savings Certificate will continue to have an annual interest rate of 7.1 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively.

the post office will continue to earn an interest rate of 5.5 per cent in the quarter. Term deposits of five years will fetch an interest rate of 6.7 per cent, to be paid quarterly, while the five-year recurring deposits will earn interest of 5.8 per cent, the same as in the current quarter. The interest rate on girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samridhi Yojana was retained at 7.6 per cent, while savings deposits will continue to earn 4 per cent per annum.

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Modi to launch 5G telecom services in India tomorrow

NEW DELHI: The Fifth Generation or 5G services will be a reality in India soon as the government on Friday confirmed officially that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch 5G services on Saturday in the national capital.

The government also said that the 5G

2035," the government said in its official release.

Apart from the mega launch of 5G services, Modi will also inaugurate the sixth edition of the Indian Mobile Congress (IMC). The IMC 2022 is scheduled to be held from October 1- October 4 with the theme of "New digital Universe" which will bring together thinkers, entrepreneurs, innovators, and government officials to discuss and showcase unique opportunities emerging from the rapid adoption and spread of digital technology," the PMO statement said. However, the ministry of communications in a separate statement

said the 5G can unleash new economic opportunities and societal benefits giving it the potential for being a transformational force for Indian society. "It will help the country leapfrog the traditional barriers to development, spur innovations by startups and business enterprises as well as advance the 'Digital India' vision," it said. In a bid to facilitate the service providers, the department of telecommunications (DoT) has also amended Right of Way (RoW) Rules 2016 in August 2022, wherein the charges for RoW permissions have been made reasonable and a ceiling for RoW charges for installation of 5G small cells and optical fibre cable on street furniture has been fixed. Recently, 5G spectrum auctions were conducted successfully and 51,236 MHz was allocated to telecom service providers with a gross revenue of Rs 1,50,173 crore. The auction aggregated the demand for a robust 5G ecosystem that can cater to its use cases involving IoT, M2M, AI, Edge Computing, Robotics etc," the ministry said.



technology will provide a lot of facilities to mobile users such as seamless coverage, high data rate, low latency, and highly reliable communications among others. Besides, it will also increase energy efficiency, spectrum efficiency and network efficiency as well.

However, sources close to development said that Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance Jio and Airtel are expected to take the lead in the race followed by Vodafone Idea (Vi), and will announce their respective launch dates on the same day as well. "Even Vi on today partnered with CareGame — the Paris-based gaming technology company, to offer 5G cloud gaming experience to its users at IMC 2022," the sources added.

The launch of 5G services pan-India in the country, the world's second-biggest smartphone market after China, follows years of intense preparation by the government. "The 5G launch will progressively cover the entire country over the next couple of years. The cumulative economic impact of 5G on India is estimated to reach \$450 billion by

Rupee plunges 37 paise to close at all-time low of 81.90 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee plunged 37 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.90 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday as the strengthening of the American currency overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

In the intra-day trade, the rupee slipped below the 82-level for the first time against the American currency, as a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor appetite.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 81.90, then fell further to close at an all-time low of 81.90 against the American currency, registering a decline of 37 paise over its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee settled 14 paise higher at 81.53 against the dollar.

The rupee has nose-dived to a fresh record low amid the risk-averse mood in the markets, said Sugandha Sachdeva, Vice President - Commodity and Currency Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

The slide in the domestic equities and a strong greenback getting close to the crucial 115 mark, almost more than a 20-year high, also dragged the local unit down, Sachdeva added.

"The greenback has surged around 19.50 per cent for the year. Most of the Asian currencies, including the local unit, are reeling under pressure amid the monetary tightening campaign in the West and concerns about a global economic slowdown," Sachdeva said.

Sachdeva further added that limited intervention by the RBI amid declining forex reserves is also leading to the current bout of selling spree witnessed in the

Nadda pans 'brother-sister' party Congress, seeks BJD defeat

Continued from page-1

Abhisek Banerjee in the East. The BJD is also a family-based party, he said.

"On the contrary, the BJP is the only party that is ideology-based and values its cadres. It is only BJP that believes in 'Seva hi Sangathan'. When no family-run parties or regional ones were visible on the field during the Covid-19 pandemic, it was only BJP workers who helped the people," Nadda said. Focussing on Odisha, Nadda termed the Naveen Patnaik government inefficient and corrupt and exhorted party workers to go to the people and tell them what the Narendra Modi government at Centre has done in the last few years and how the BJD government has plundered the huge financial assistance received from the Centre under various welfare schemes.

"It pains to see that dead bodies are carried on shoulders and expecting mothers are still carried on cycles or makeshift structures and some of them delivering babies on road due to non-availability of ambulance," Nadda said adding when he was the Union Health Minister he had given all required assistance including adequate number of ambulances to Odisha.

Nadda slams Odisha govt

Hitting out at the State government for depriving more than 60 lakh families from the benefit of the Central health assurance scheme Ayushman Bharat, he urged the people to give a fitting reply to the BJD in the next election.

"It is a matter of shame that lakhs of poor people of the State are living in kutcha houses and pipe water supply to all households is not possible within the target year of 2022. Funds allocated under MGNREGS are embezzled through production of false and duplicate bills," he added.

"I have a small grouse against you that you are taking too long to bring the BJD to power in the State. The State must have a double engine government after the next election and it is your responsibility to make it happen," he said.

rupee. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.43 per cent to 114.59.

According to experts, the focus will now shift to the RBI's meeting this week, with its decision due on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.41 per cent to USD 85.92 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 509.24 points or 0.89 per cent to end at 56,598.28, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 148.80 points or 0.87 per

cent to 16,858.60. Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,823.96 crore, as per exchange data.

Suicide bomber strikes Kabul education centre, killing 19

Continued from page-7

sound, but once we got the news, we went to all the hospitals, Ali Jinnah hospital, Watan hospital, and other hospitals."

"But when we went to the Emergency Hospital, we got a call from Ali Jinnah hospital that my sister's dead body was found. Then we went back there and saw her body."

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. But the Islamic State group, the chief rival of the Taliban, has been waging a campaign of violence that has intensified since the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in August 2021.

Afghanistan's Hazaras, who are mostly Shiite Muslims, have been a frequent target of the violence.

In Dashti Barchi, IS carried out a 2020 attack on a maternity hospital that killed 24 people, including newborn babies and mothers, and an attack on a school in 2021 that killed more than 90, mostly schoolgirls.

The neighbourhood sees frequent bombings of minibuses and, earlier this year, a school and another education centre were hit near simultaneously, killing six.

The local police chief, Abdul Rahman Nafiz, criticised the centre for failing to inform security officials about the practice exam.

ALSO READ: At least 4 killed, 10 wounded after blast near Kabul mosque

"Neither police officials nor intelligence officials were aware of any activity going on or a big exam happening in this centre, so the officials from the centre were very reckless," he said.

"Now our mujaheddin (Taliban police) are here, and they are investigating the incident." Amnesty International's South Asia campaigner, Samira Hamidi, said Friday's attack showed the "utter failure of the Taliban, as de-facto authorities, to protect the people of Afghanistan."

She said the Taliban have taken few measures to protect the public, especially Shiites and Hazaras "Instead, their actions of omission and commission have only further aggravated the risk to the lives of the people of Afghanistan especially those belonging to ethnic and minority communities," she said.

The US chargé d'affaires for Afghanistan, Karen Decker, condemned Friday's attack in a tweet.

"Targeting a room full of students taking exams is shameful; all students should be able to pursue an education in peace & without fear," she said.

"We hope for a swift recovery for the victims & we grieve with the families of the deceased."

The United Nations children's agency UNICEF said it was appalled by Friday's horrific attack. "Children and adolescents are not, and must never be, the target of violence," it said in a tweet.

Since seizing power, the Taliban have banned most girls beyond the sixth grade from attending school. But female high school graduates from previous years can go to university.



National Games: Injured wrist not a dead weight for supreme Mirabai

GANDHINAGAR(KCN): Given the fact that weightlifting competitions start within a day or two post the opening ceremony, weightlifter, S Mirabai Chanu, never gets an opportunity to be a part of the special occasion, be it the Olympics or the Commonwealth Games. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics silver medallist, however, on Thursday got a

chance to make her debut at the opening gala and she didn't miss it. Given her progress since the last National Games in 2015, the lifter not only witnessed the glittering ceremony in person but also became the flagbearer for her state, Manipur. "It's true I attended the opening ceremony for the first time and it really felt nice. Becoming flagbearer of Manipur and winning

the first gold for my state was the icing on the cake," Mirabai told media persons here in Gandhinagar after finishing on top of the podium in 49kg on Friday. The 28-year-old former world champion has been head and shoulders above her competitors on the national circuit for some time and the same was on the display once again as she won the compe-

dition comfortably with only two attempts each in snatch and clean and jerk sections. Two-time CWG champion. K Sanjita Chanu, also from Manipur, finished second with Odisha's Sneha Soren bagging bronze. **READ HERE** | Weightlifting at National Games: Mirabai Chanu pips Sanjita for 49kg gold Mirabai had finished behind Sanjita twice

before eventually overpowering her at the Gujarat Games.

over Sanjita after the snatch section by lifting 84kg in her

"I have been feeling the pain in my left wrist for the past

and doing all the exercises advised by him. I hope it will get alright in a week."

The World Championships scheduled in December this year is her next target and she doesn't want to leave any stone unturned for the event. "Worlds is my priority as it will also serve as a qualifying event for the 2024 Olympics. The 2022 Asian Games re-scheduled for next year will be my next target. I couldn't compete at the 2018 Asiad due to a back injury and next year, if I compete, I will make my debut at the event. I hope to win a medal for my country there as well," she signed off. Meanwhile, Charu Pesi of Arunachal won gold in men's 61kg while Muna Nayak of Services Sports Control Board and Zakhuma of Mizoram bagged silver and bronze respectively in the same weight category.



She lost gold to Sanjita at the 2014 Glasgow CWG and finished second at the 35th National Games in 2015. Even Mirabai, who has bagged umpteen medals in the international events so far, looked overwhelmed with her first gold at the event. "The Games are being held after seven years so I was very excited. What's more important is that I have also won my first gold in the event for Manipur." She took a lead of 2kg

second attempt and then lifted 107kg in her second clean and jerk attempt to pocket the gold with an overall lift of 191kg. Sanjita lifted an overall weight of 187kg (82kg + 105kg). Sneha lifted 169kg (73kg+96kg). Well aware that she had already done enough to finish first, Mirabai didn't take third attempts in both sections. The reason? She didn't want to put pressure on her left wrist, which had been injured a month back.

month. I think the injury happened because of lifting heavy loads. It was detected during an MRI scan. Because of the injury, I didn't train properly and just to ensure that it does not aggravate further, I attempted only two lifts in both sections," the lifter said. Speaking further on the nature of the injury, Mirabai said the pain had increased a bit in the last one week. "The pain has increased but I am in regular touch with my physiotherapist

ICCR organised Top Diplomats' visit to Durga Puja

Kolkata (KCN, Partha Roy): ICCR zonal office in Kolkata organised visit of top dip-



Andalib Elias decided to try his hand on Dhak and played Dhak at Tala Prattoy pandal. Durga Puja is intangible cultural heritage of Indian subcontinent. Across Bangladesh, a large no. of Durga Puja are organised by Hindu community every year. Though ICCR Kolkata was organising visit of diplomats & important celebrities to puja pandals earlier, this year's visit by diplomats to various puja pandals has special significance as it is for the first time after UNESCO inscribed Durga Puja in Kolkata in the list of intangible heritage of the world. Theme based Durga Puja started in 1930s by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the great son

lomats based in Kolkata to several award winning theme based Durga Puja in North & South Kolkata on 29th September 2022, i.e. on Dr "Chaturthi" of Navaratri. Consul General of USA Ms. Melinda Pavak, Consul General of Japan Mr. Nakagawa Koichi, Consul General of Thailand Ms. Acharapan Yavapras, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh Mr. Andalib Elias, Director, Goeth Institute Ms. Astrid Wege and several others visited Durga Puja at Tala Prattoy, Lala Bagan Nabankur, Chorebagan Sarbojanin, in north Kolkata and Kalighat Milon Sangha, Tridhara, Ballygunge Cultural Association, and Deshpriya Park in south Kolkata. Top Diplomats were accompanied by Director of ICCR Ms. Minakshi Misra,



of Bharat Mata who was involved in organising several Durga Pujas in Kolkata. Theme based Durga Puja provides great opportunity to the organisers to promote social awareness about various issues & challenges those are affecting life of human beings as well as society at large on the planet earth. As the climate change is global issue, organisers of many theme based Durga Puja highlighted it through their decoration of pandals. Enthusiasm of the diplomats in the city was visible in their interaction with the organisers and in their involvement to understand various themes of various puja pandals. Chorebagan Sarbojanin organisers served cold drink to



Regional Director of ICCR Mr. R. Parthiban, former Regional Director of ICCR Mr. Gautam De. Theme based Durga Puja in Kolkata is arguably largest public art display festival in the world. Tala Prattoy pandal is celebrating power of human touch where theme is "Riti Motion". One can feel the energy as one enters the pandal. Organisers of Tala Prattoy pandal welcomed the visiting dignitaries with "uttoriyo" and with beating of Dhak. Mr.

the guests. At Kalighat Milon Sangha, the organisers served tea to the visiting dignitaries. At Ballygunge Cultural Association, the organisers welcomed the visiting dignitaries by doing aarti, putting tika on forehead, playing conch shell. The organisers also served snacks and tea to the guests. The tour came to end by visiting Deshpriya Park pandal and with greetings "Sharadiya Subechha" and Happy Durga Puja to all.




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