

Congress will restore old pension scheme if voted to power in Himachal: Priyanka Gandhi

SHIMLA (KCN): Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday promised to restore the old pension scheme for government employees in Himachal Pradesh if the Congress was

held on November 12, the Election Commission of India announced on Friday. Gandhi said she guaranteed that the decision to restore the old pension scheme and create one lakh

the state but unemployed youths had not been provided jobs. She promised that five lakh jobs would be provided to unemployed youths in five years and announced

of changing governments every five years and said the ruling party changed the trend by not making any development. The Congress leader also addressed the increasing trend of drug addition in the state and said a policy would be created and de-addiction centres opened in every district.

Primary health centres will also be strengthened to provide better health care facilities to people. Gandhi added that she made her house in Himachal as her grandmother (former prime minister Indira Gandhi) wanted to build a house and retire there but was martyred before she could. Earlier, she paid obeisance at Maa Shoolini Temple in Solan district before formally launching the party's election campaign in the hill state

Gandhi also hit back at the BJP for claiming that Himachal would buck the trend of changing governments every five years and said the ruling party changed the trend by not making any development. The Congress leader also addressed the increasing trend of drug addition in the state and said a policy would be created and de-addiction centres opened in every district. Primary health centres will also be strengthened to provide better health care facilities to people. Gandhi added that she made her house in Himachal as her grandmother (former prime minister Indira Gandhi) wanted to build a house and retire there but was martyred before she could. Earlier, she paid obeisance at Maa Shoolini Temple in Solan district before formally launching the party's election campaign in the hill state

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voted to power in the Assembly elections. The AICC general secretary made the announcement while addressing the 'Parivartan Pratigya Rally' at Thodo Maidan in Solan district and added that the old scheme was withdrawn by the BJP government at the Centre. Elections to the Himachal Pradesh Assembly will be

jobs would be taken in the first meeting of the new Congress Cabinet. Two lakh employees in the state have been sitting on a 'dharna' (sit-in) to demand restoration of the old pension scheme for two months but no government representative met them, she said.

Gandhi also alleged that 63,000 posts were lying vacant in

a monthly allowance of Rs 1,500 to women to help raise the standard of living. "This is the time to change, otherwise you will not get anything in the next five years," she said. "If you vote the Congress to power, Himachal Pradesh will grow."

Gandhi also hit back at the BJP for claiming that Himachal would buck the trend

MiO Road Show @ HYD

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of third edition of Make in Odisha (MiO) Conclave, 2022, Team Odisha led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is scheduled to leave for Hyderabad

hopes from Hyderabad as well. The focus sectors during the roadshow are going to be IT/ITeS, Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals, Textiles & Apparel, ESDM & Data



on a two-day visit from 16 October to woo investors.

In an earnest & continuing effort to be the investment destination of choice for domestic and global investors, the Government of Odisha, in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the National Industry Partner for Make in Odisha Conclave '22 will host Odisha Investors' Meet in Hyderabad on 17 October, 2022. The Team Odisha will be there to participate in the meet, a senior official said here on Friday.

The other key members of the delegation include Industries, MSME & Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Industries Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma, E&IT Secretary Manoj Kumar Mishra and Executive Chairman of Start-Up Odisha Omkar Rai. After successful roadshows in New Delhi, Mumbai & Bengaluru, the delegation has high

Center, Food Processing, and Renewable Energy, informed the official.

On 17 October, the high-level delegation led by the Chief Minister would be hosting investors for one-on-one G2B (Government to Business) meetings during the entire day.

In the evening, Odisha Investors' Meet will be held in Hotel Taj Krishna, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, from 6 PM onwards. The Chief Minister will interact with the investors and apprise everyone present about the State's flagship investment summit, the Make in Odisha Conclave'22 and invite them to the event, the official said.

To further promote this flagship investment summit and understand first-hand the requirements of investors looking to invest in Odisha as well as ensure that the state provides best-in-class support and facilitation to the investors, the Government of Odisha has embarked on the Odisha Investors' Meet with Hyderabad being the next destination, he added.

The 105th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association in December

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The 105th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association



is slated to be organized at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University at Ranchi in Jharkhand on 27-29 December 2022. It is the oldest and one of the largest conferences in India to debate, discuss and deliberate on the important economic and related issues of the country, growing in strength with almost 1000 papers being presented by scholars, both budding and veterans from all over India and across the globe.

The 105th Annual Conference is planned around five cardinal themes including - Lessons learned from the past for planning rapid growth, drivers of high economic growth, Social and Economic Equality for Inclusive Growth, Efficient Resource Use, and Envi-

ronmental Protection, Green and Inclusive Growth for Sustainable Development.

Currently, Dr Achyuta Samanta, a noted Educationist and humanitarian, as the President of the Indian Economic Association, has left no stone unturned to make this conference after two years of pandemic a huge success in terms of providing workable solutions to the policymakers as India passes through a rough stage as far as its economy is concerned. The burgeoning prices of wholesale and retail goods, high annual and food inflation, the effects of the global economic slowdown and the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict pose a serious cause of concern and academic analysis of the same is indispensable.

"I hope some blueprint of action and policy suggestions will emerge at the Conference which will go a long way in providing sustainable solutions for policymakers to ameliorate the problems of the common man and ensure that growth is inclusive with no one left behind.", said Dr Samanta while launching the newsletter of the 105th Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association in Bhubaneswar in the presence of Dr Anil Kumar Thakur, Chief Convener, Indian Economic Association at Bhubaneswar on 13 October 2022. The objectives of the Indian Economic Association are academic and include the holding of Annual Conferences; the publication of the proceedings of the Annual Conferences; the publication of a Journal, such other actions to promote economic science and the dissemination of economic information. Notably, the stated objectives of the Association have been broadened over the years, by incorporating newer aspects into its ambit and framing the detailed Constitution of the Association in tune with the emerging needs and tendencies

Open revolt in BJD, former MLA files nomination as independent for Dhamnagar by-poll

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Former MLA Rajendra Das on Monday openly revolted against the party leadership and filed nomination papers for the Dhamnagar by-poll as an independent candidate after he was denied ticket by the BJD.

Das went in a procession to the block office at Bhadrak along with his supporters before the submitting the nomination papers. "I am confident about winning as I have the blessings of my elders and support of the public,"

Das told mediapersons.

Stating that his aim is to serve the people of Dhamnagar, Das announced that he will not withdraw his

winning this time. Ruling BJD's decision to field Abanti Das, chairperson of Tihidi panchayat samiti had sparked off strong resent-

ment from the supporters of Das. Day-long efforts on Thursday by the BJD's organisational secretary Pranab

Das had successfully contested the assembly election from Dhamnagar as a BJD candidate in 2009 by defeating Bishnu Charan Sethi. However, he had lost to Sethi in 2019 election by a margin of less than 5000 votes.



ment from the supporters of Das. Day-long efforts on Thursday by the BJD's organisational secretary Pranab Das and several other MLAs to

Film on Rag to Riches

Bhubaneswar: Rag to Riches Story will sell well in the Film Industry. So allegedly a blackmailer Archana Nag story is likely to hit the celluloid world. Born from a poor family in once



dubbed as 'Hunger Zone', Kalahandi district, Archana owns a palatial complex with imported interior decorations, luxury cars, four high-breed dogs and a white horse.

Archana, who was arrested last week on the charge of extortion, was so intriguing that an Ollywood filmmaker has planned to make a movie on her life.

In the police records, however, the lady is a blackmailer who allegedly

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Excellent freight loading and earning performance of ER

Kolkata (KCN): Eastern Railway (ER), although widely known as passenger carrying Railway zone, is continuing the endeavour for achieving excellence in freight loading performance. In the month of September 2022, the ER recorded a freight loading of 6.09 million tonnes in comparison to 5.58 million tonnes loaded in Sep-

tember of previous year thus registering a substantial growth of 9.14% with respect to that of last year's loading in the corresponding month. The cumulative figure of ER's freight loading during first six months of the current financial year (2022-23), i.e., from April to September, 2022 recorded as 38.74 million tonnes in comparison to 35.14 million tonnes loaded till September in the previous financial year (2021-22), thus registering a massive growth of 10.24%. So far as the total cumulative freight revenue earnings is concerned, the ER has earned ₹3014.71 crore which is 7.65% higher than the freight revenue earning of ₹2800.46

crore in the previous financial year. The above freight loading and freight earning performance of the ER demonstrates its sincere commitment to maintain back-end supply chain and to ensure adequate and timely dispatch of essential commodities to the different parts of this vast nation tirelessly as an engine to development for the country.

SER to run special Train between Shalimar and Barhni

Kolkata (KCN): With a view to clear the extra rush of passengers during the Chhath Festival, South Eastern Railway (SER) has decided to run a pair of Special Train between Shalimar-Barhni-Shalimar leaving Shalimar o-n October 27, 2022 and leaving Barhni o-n October 29, 2022. The 08117 Shalimar-Barhni Special will leave Shalimar at 7.55 pm o-n October 27, 2022 and will reach Barhni at 10.00 pm at night,

the next day. In the return direction, the 08118 Barhni-Shalimar Special will depart Barhni on October 29, 2022 at 08.00 am and will reach Shalimar at 10.00 am, the next day. The train with two AC 2 Tier, two AC 3 Tier, 12 Sleeper Class and two General Second Class coaches will have stoppages at Santragachi, Kharagpur, Tatanagar, Purulia, Bhowjudih and Mohuda stations in the SER jurisdiction.

Special train to run between Kolkata & Agartala

Kolkata (KCN): The Railway authority has decided to extend the 02518/02517 Guwahati-Kolkata-Guwahati Bi-Weekly Special up to Agartala o-nce in a week with introduction of a new train no. 02502/02501 Agartala-Kolkata-Agartala special. The 02502 Agartala-Kolkata special will leave Agartala at 07:30 am o-n every Wednesday between October 19, 2022 & April 30, 2023 to reach Kolkata at 3:00 pm o-n the next day and the 02501 Kolkata-Agartala special will leave Kolkata at 9:40 pm

at night o-n every Sunday between October 16, 2022 & April 30, 2023 to reach Agartala at 05:15 am on the third day. With this extension, the existing Bi-Weekly service of the 02518/02517 Guwahati-Kolkata-Guwahati special has been reduced to weekly, i.e., leaving Guwahati o-n every Saturday in between October 15, 2022 & April 30, 2023 and leaving Kolkata o-n every Thursday in between October 20, 2022 & April 30, 2023. The timings and stoppages of the 02518/02517 Guwahati-Kolkata-

Guwahati will remain unchanged. Hence the services of the 02518/02517 Guwahati-Kolkata-Guwahati special will remain cancelled as under:

- The 02518 Guwahati-Kolkata special (on every Wednesday from Guwahati between October 19, 2022 & January 25, 2023)
- The 02517 Kolkata-Guwahati special (on every Sunday from Kolkata between October 16, 2022 & January 29, 2023).

The 02502/02501 Agartala-Kolkata-Agartala special will stop at

Bandel, Nabadwip Dham, Katwa, Azimganj, Jangipur Road and Malda Town stations en route in both directions over Eastern Railway (ER) Jurisdiction. The train will have General Second class, Sleeper Class and Air-conditioned accommodations. Booking of Kolkata - Agartala special (02501) is available through PRS & internet. In addition to mail/express fare, special charges will be realised. Concessional booking is not allowed. The Tatkal Quota is not available.

Jan Ahaar opens at Howrah Station (Old Complex)

Kolkata (KCN): As a part of the Eastern Railway (ER)'s continuous endeavour to ensure more & more passenger convenience, newly revamped Jan Ahaar outlet has been reopened at Howrah station Old Complex on October 11, 2022 in presence of Shri Manish Jain, the Divisional Railway

Manager, Howrah and other senior officers of ER & IRCTC. The newly renovated Jan Ahaar is renovated to enable commuters to enjoy high quality food at reasonable prices. A variety of delicious food items comprising both vegetarian & non-vegetarian including sweets will

be made available at affordable prices. The menu & price of the food items are duly approved by IRCTC so that commuters can enjoy a wide variety of delicacies with guaranteed hygiene. Wide array of items will be available for facilitating passengers o-n IRCTC approved competitive rates

o-nly. This Jan Ahaar has been reopened though a private vendor at an annual license fee of ₹2,16,39,786/- for a period of five years o-n 40:60 profit sharing basis between Railways & IRCTC, thereby earning more non-fare revenue for the ER.

Special Train between Santragachi and Patna

Kolkata (KCN): With a view to clear the extra rush of passengers during Chhath Festival, the South Eastern Railway (SER) authority has decided to run o-ne pair of Special Train between Santragachi-Patna-Santragachi leaving Santragachi o-n October 28, 2022 and leaving Patna o-n October 29, 2022. The 08109 Santragachi-Patna Special will leave Santragachi at 2.55 pm o-n October 28, 2022 and will reach Patna

at 10.30 am, the next day. In the return direction, the 08110 Patna-Santragachi Special will depart Patna o-n October 29, 2022 at 11.30 hrs and will reach Santragachi at 04.20 am, the next day. The train with two AC 2 Tier, three AC 3 Tier, 12 Sleeper Class and three General Second Class coaches will have stoppages at Kharagpur, Tatanagar, Purulia, Muri, Ranchi and Lohardaga stations in SER jurisdiction.

Editor in Chief News Mania Ms. Bornali Biswas-Bharat Dignity Awards 2022 launched on 10th year celebration of News Mania:

Kolkata(KCN): The News Mania, a unit of AB News Pvt. Ltd. launched its first edition of 'Bharat Dignity Awards 2022' on 25th September at Taj Vivanta to celebrate the completion of 10th glorious year of the publication.



Thirty two awardees and two Tributes from different spheres of life were felicitated with 'Bharat Dignity Award' memento. Honourable Shri Tathagata Roy, Former Governor of Meghalaya & Tripura, Chief Guest of the event lit the lamp and said, "This is praiseworthy to take initiative to celebrate

10th years' journey of News Mania. Through launching such an award ceremony for dignitaries from different walks of life. I wish News Mania Group to continue their journey successfully in future." Honourable Shri Debashish Kumar, MLA, and Member MIC in KMC was the Guest of Honor at the programme. He made his way through a busy schedule to grace the occasion. Sri Debashish Kumar said "This is such a beautiful moment to be part of such wonderful initiative by News Mania. I congratulate all the awardees for their con-



tribution to society" Sri Purnendu Bhattacharjee, Nationally acclaimed artiste was Guest of Honor of and thanked the organisers for such a wonderful programme.

Special mention should be made of the presence of Shri Shri Swami Sivananda Baba. Swami Sivananda Baba is 127 years old and a spiritual yoga guru. He was one of the awardee whose presence made the evening an auspicious occasion.

Renowned dignitaries from various fields like art and culture, music, film, social work, administration, special achievements illuminated the event with their presence and graciously accepting the awards. Important Guests of Honour and the programme associates were also felicitated. Awardees were very happy and shared their views, thanked and conveyed good wishes for News Mania and Bharat Dignity Award. Vedatronics weaved a mesmerizing tapestry of music through their inaugural presentation. The guest and dignitaries were overjoyed by the magical performance of Awardee Guru Sanchita Bhattacharyya. Tapash Debnath one of the Awardee added to the joy with his rhythm of Kathak Dance.

He is the king of laughter, the merchant of happiness.

Mr Shakil Ansari who is one of the Awardee graced the stage with his thrilling performance as well.

Moubani Sorcar performed the "Panncho Devi" keeping Mahalaya as the essence and was felicitated as "Amaar Durga" of News Mania.

Bureaucrat Debashis Sen, Co Chairman of Techno India group Manashi Roy Chowdhury, Tabla Virtuoso Pandit Prosenjit Poddar, Educationist and Social Activist Dr Ashutosh Sharma from Madhya Pradesh, fashion designer Tejas Gandhi, Social Activist Nandini Bhattacharjee were among a host of luminaries presented the inaugural Bharat Dignity awards at a glittering function in the city. Special Tribute was given to Late Ashok Kalanuria Founder of Kalakar Awards and Late Wasim Kapoor Celebrity Painter.

Others who received the awards in person on Sunday included Paediatrician Anjan Bhattacharya, Beautician & Stylist Priscilla

Corner, cinematographer Abhishek Basu and Financial Planner Subhankar Dasgupta, Psychological Counsellor Ankhee Gupta, Real Estate Developer, Social Activist Dipika Jalan Voice of India Sonakshi Kar, Vocalist Sandip Bhattacharjee, Vedatronics, SIMS School of Hotel Management and Decent International Institute of Hotel Management.

Those who received the awards in absentia included danseuse Mamata Shankar, film director Goutam Ghosh, Educationist and social activist Uma Purkayastha actor Rajatava Dutta, singer Usha Uthup, actor Victor Banerjee, Film maker Aparna Sen, Pilot Mahasweta Chakraborty, Co founder of Wow Momo Sagar Daryani and magician PC.Sorcar Jr.

The anchor of the programme was RJ Abhishek and Deboleena. Vote of Thanks was given by Ashif Shah, Associate Partner of News Mania.

Valuable Partners: programme partner -Deor's den, Electronic media partner- TV9

Radio partner -Red FM, Social Media partner -Paulomi Niyogi Consulting, Outdoor partner -Sight Advertising, PR Partner-Integral Advisory, Research Partner-Hindustan Research Corporation, You tube partner -Janyavi, Hospitality Partner =Romania, Guest Felicitation Partner - Maple Digital Service Private Limited.

Editor in Chief and Founder of News Mania Ms. Bornali Biswas said, "On AzadiKa Amrit Mahotsav of 75th Indian Independence as initiated by honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and completing 10th glorious year of News Mania, we are presenting the 1st edition of 'Bharat Dignity Awards' to honour and felicitate the honourable personalities who have successfully been the inspiration of India.

Bharat Dignity Awards 2022 aims at acknowledging success, recognizing contributions, appreciating efforts, and celebrating the growth of the contributors as the industry widely remains a major contributor to the economic development of our nation building."

About News Mania: The News Mania Weekly is a registered national tabloid and portal. The tabloid is renowned for its outlandish cover stories mainly based on crime, common people, politics, entertainment, supernatural themes and an approach to news that verged on the satirical motives.

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A Kung Fu Master Cosmo Zimik will arrive in India from the US on August 8 and release a documentary film in Mumbai

Mumbai (India) on all digital platforming and training others. He currently re- Global Sports Fed- 2022' USA, and



(KCN, Sanjay forms. It's based on ers. He currently re- Global Sports Fed-

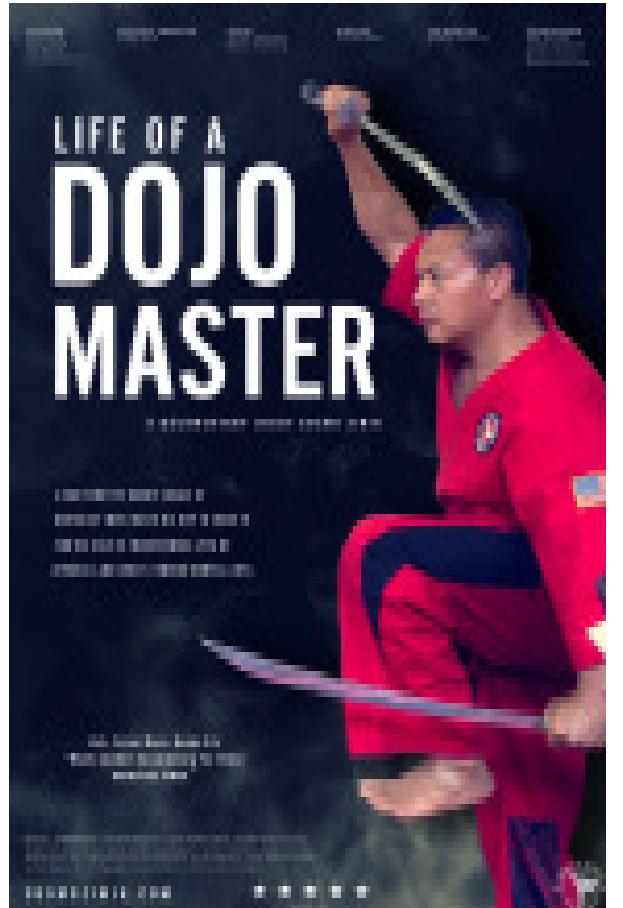


Sharma Raj): A Kung Fu Master Cosmo Zimik will arrive in India from the USA on August 8, 2022 and release the documentary film 'Life of A Dojo Master' with Chitah Yajnes Shetty in Mumbai, which will be sent to several film festivals and will be released Shooting for third season of 'Four More Shots Please' to begin soon: Kirti Kulhari

the life of Master Cosmo Zimik, a man born in the remote region of Northwest India, who made his way to the USA over twenty years ago. Master Cosmo Zimik started his martial arts career in Manipur, Northeast India, and has traveled the world teaching sides in Idaho, USA where his dojo, Empty Hand Combat, teaches Burmese Thaing Bando to at-risk youth, youth, and young adults to become martial artists. He trains them to become warriors and helps the community. Chitah Yajnes Shetty, founder of eration, also conferred an 8th-degree black belt to Master Cosmo Zimik. Master Cosmo Zimik has trained over 5000 kids and over 2000 have been under privileged kids and 'At Risk Youth' in Nampa, Idaho USA. The youth come from various backgrounds

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kids are homeless, staying in a homeless shelter with their moms. Their father is gone from their lives. Some kids have parents who are drug addicts and have left them to be raised by grandparents. Some are orphans who are looking for hope in life. He trains them in martial arts and gives them Free Uniforms, Boxing Gloves, and basic needs including shoes and clothing. He also helps them overcome life's hardship and their real-life struggles (including anxiety and depression), by counseling and pointing them in the right direction through Martial Arts. Master Cosmo Zimik also received an award from the Mayor of Nampa City for 'Making a Difference', from the Elk Lodge for 'Citizen of the Year

Idaho Channel 7 (NBC) Heroes for outstanding work in the community. He is the founder of Martial Arts Sports ministry, Athletes in Action (India) in 1995, Chief Instructor and Owner of Empty Hand Combat International LLC, Co-founder of Hong Kong Gospel Martial Arts 1999, 1st place in Power breaking at the 2003 Battle of LA (National Martial arts championship), Khru (Instructor) Muay Thai – Muay Thai Mission since 2009, 6th Degree Black Belt in Burmese Thaing Bando Martial Arts, 7th Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo, International Technical Advisor – Chitah Jeet Kun Do, International Advisor Board Member – World Martial Arts School Federations.

Vijay Sethupathi, Katrina Kaif in Sriram Raghavan's next?

It was recently revealed that Sriram Raghavan's upcoming film, Ekki, has been put on hold. A big-budget military drama starring Varun

for his next. If true, this is the latest Hindi project Vijay Sethupathi is attached to — the others being Laal Singh Chadha and

ing web series directed by Raj and DK. The unrevealed series will also star Shahid Kapoor. Sriram Raghavan's last film was



Bani J, follows a quartet of friends who deal with their relationships, work-life conflicts, ambitions and anxieties in a male-dominated society.

a series of candid photos with Gupta, Gagroo and Bani. Created by Rangita Pritish Nandy and produced by Pritish Nandy Communications, the

Parineeti Chopra. The movie, which premiere on streamer Netflix on February 26, will feature Kulhari as a British cop.



Dhawan, the film was delayed due to Covid-19. Now, rumour has it that Sriram has signed Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi

Mumbaikar. The latter, directed by Santosh Sivan, is a Hindi remake of Maanagaram (2017). He is also rumoured to star in an upcoming

Andhadhun (2018) with Ayushmann Khurrana and Tabu. The film is getting a Tamil and Telugu remake with Prashanth and Nithiin, respectively, in the lead.

Living with Disability & Disasters

13th October is the day celebrated as International Day for disaster Risk Reduction to bring awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face. "Disaster means catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from nature or man-made causes, or by accident or negligence which result in substantial loss of life, of human suffering or damage to, and destruction of property, or damage to, or degradation of environment, and is of such nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of affected areas."

According to the statistics, 68% of India's land is prone to drought, 60% to earthquakes, 12% to floods and 8% to cyclones, making India one of the most disaster prone countries in the world, affecting overall 85% of Indian land and more than 50 million people. Disaster management is the regulation of dealing with and avoiding risks. It involves preparing for a disaster before it happens. Every year, we experience some natural disaster but we have no strategy to alleviate its effects. Natural disasters are no doubt, beyond human control. It is observed that from the natural calamities happening we haven't learnt lessons from them. Damage to the ecology wreaked by deforestation and construction of dams has been the core cause of such a massive disaster. India is becoming a breeding ground for natural calamities and it is high time that we formulated some plans to go green in the country by reducing mounting pollutants. Business interruptions can occur anywhere

& at anytime. It is impossible to predict what may strike when and therefore it has become binding to prepare for such disaster scenarios. Disaster risk management is a critical, if couched, factor in daily decision - making. A variety of risk financing and other financial tools have been developed to facilitate management of risks. A disaster disrupts business activities on which the local population depends, affecting livelihood recovery and means to earn a living. This is particularly true when new skills are needed for new types of jobs. Stout financing tools can help the poor to break the poverty cycle by protecting their development gains, reducing impacts and losses of disaster shocks. It is observed that risks from injury, sickness or disaster are a critical dimension of poverty and can easily threaten the small savings and fragile livelihoods of poor families. There should be systematic resort to "disaster drills" to educate the public on what to do during an earthquake. Preparedness is the key to managing any more such disasters. Although a 2005 law on disaster management has been put into effect at the national level, it exists only on paper in a few states and districts. A national disaster response force was also formed for rescue and evacuation. It is an unfortunate reality in the age of highly hazardous industry that accidents are bound to happen. It is however the responsibility of all sectors of society to ensure that we are prepared to cope with the aftermath. Disaster management is like breathing, if you don't, you die. Disaster Management starts with 'D' but begins with 'YOU'. If we need to change anything, it has to start from our home. As

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

we know that our family may not be together when all off a sudden a disaster strikes, it is important to create a plan in advance. One must find reliable information sources, warning systems and alert systems in advance. Family communication is one of the most important. We may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with us as we will have no time to search for the supplies we need or shop for them. Disaster can take place anywhere and at any time. It is important to know what to do and have a plan before a disaster strikes. Disaster preparedness measures can significantly reduce the shock of disasters on people's lives, livelihoods and assets. It is therefore necessary that to survive the disaster, every family must take responsibility for their own disaster preparedness from Home itself. People talk about business continuity plan during a disaster, natural disaster insurance, socio-economic effects of a disaster, the preparedness on the national level, and so on. We all know that it is impossible to avoid disasters, but it isn't impossible to plan ahead of time so that we can minimize the impact that any given disaster might have on us or on our family's health, safety and property. One must remember that the future belongs to those who prepare.

The biggest concern is the attitude of policy makers, implementers and local government towards investing in people-oriented preparedness at different levels. There is a growing need to look at disasters from a development perspective. Disasters can have devastating effect on communities and can significantly set back development efforts to a great extent. Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and relief are four

elements, which contribute to and gain from the implementation of sustainable development. The need of the hour is to chalk out a multi-pronged strategy for total disaster management comprising prevention, preparedness, response and recovery on the one hand and initiate development efforts aimed towards risk reduction and mitigation on the other cities. For India, preparedness will have to begin with the updating of construction norms for quake-proofing. Then, inspection of all construction, old and new, must be made a priority to check for adherence. In old buildings, measures to address vulnerability, such as retro-fitting with steel structures, have to be implemented compulsorily. Lessening the potential damage, as much as responding to a disaster, needs to be part of India's disaster management strategy. We need to accept earthquakes as a reality and do everything in our power to redefine development plans, especially in terms of building quake-resistant buildings. There should be systematic resort to "disaster drills" to educate the public on what to do during an earthquake. Preparedness is the key to managing any more such disasters. There have been many cases where there has been a relief and rescue mobilization but by the time the teams reach the damage would have already been done. Disasters are episodic but are recurrent. Therefore, it is rightly said that "Those who work the Disaster Management way, live to work another day. Safety is a race we can all win. Preparedness is the only key to the success of Disaster Management Plan and without citizens' involvement and participation any effective plan is rendered ineffective."

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

Kind, Kindness and Kindhearted

God arranged several kinds of things in our world as well as universe. There are living beings and nonliving things. Human lives among them felt every kind of requirements from every kind or categories as created by God. Living beings are dependable among each other. Like as tree, animal, human etc. They never detach from each one. From

analysis we can found that the creation among the living being, the human is most selfish and always think over own development to live with luxurious environment. We must agree on the fact that other living beings except human have rights to live getting with all opportunities from nature or from other means. However human manipulates or dominate over the situation and explore every prospect for

self. Ultimately the rights of other living beings are violated. Here human became selfish. Even some people hunting animals, kept bird in cages, cutting tree for various purpose. They lose their kindness when involve themselves in illegal ways for self empowerment, stealing or violence kind of activities. Kindness not an activity to only for grant or charity to fulfill anybody's wish, but the taker should be eligible to get kind from selflessness, concern, care, affectionate, helpful, empathetic, person or group who realizes and associated with the situation.

Here the story reflects kind of kindness of kindhearted persons. Once a person came back to home. On road the person saw that it was written notice on a wall that I lost 50 rupees on this road, if anybody got it, kindly return me. I am a blind old woman. Address was written there. The person started to visit the place and found a thatched home at the end of the village. The person knocked

Mr. Subhanarayan Satapathy

the door and a lady comes out with a stick. She was blind and alone. The person gave 50 rupees to the blind old woman and said please take your amount which was lost. But the blind old woman told that somebody written that notice on the wall for me. Again said that almost 30 people came here before you and offered me 50 rupees each. The person bewilders and requested to keep the money as the person felt her requirements and needs a lot. The blind old woman said you please tatter the notice when you go on that way. The person said yes, to the blind woman and came back. But the person thought upon the act which was initiated by a kind hearted person for offering kind to fulfill the needs of the blind old woman thereby creating kindness. Again the person thought that the old woman would have told same to the people who have already met her before me. The person considered that it is kindness and happening well for the blind old woman as well as

society. So the person was not tattered the notice and came back. Similarly so many examples are there in our society where daughter or son ignores or neglect biological old parents and somewhere the children switch on the umbrella over the domestic animal during rain. So kind ness is there within us. Intention to just explore and deliver it. So creating a positive environment and looking forward other's benefit an act of kindness. The report of Kindness health facts say that witnessing acts of kindness produces oxytocin, occasionally referred to as the 'love hormone' which aids in lowering blood pressure and improving our overall heart-health. Oxytocin also increases our self-esteem and optimism, which is extra helpful when we're in anxious or shy in a social situation. It is a process and feeling given by God for self well being and other's benefit. So recognize kind, express kindness and be kindhearted.

Bijipur, Brahmagiri, Puri

Glory & dignity of nabarangapur soil " sri sadasiba tripathy "

The veteran political leader sri sadasiba tripathy was born on 21st april 1910 at nabarangapur. The birth centenary has been observed on 21st april 2010 at state level in a royal manner. He was pious but seldom visited temples for performing puja, who was god-fearing but his only motto was " work is worship " and only aim was " service to down trodden ". In his life time he was TRUE follower of Mahatma Gandhi and followed the great saying what ever you do please look and think of the poorest of the poor, the weakest of the weak and the most sufferer, who would be benefitted by your action and doing. He was chanting and materializing the above quoted sloka while discharging his duties in whatever position he might be occupied i.e. minister, social worker, teacher, farmer, or chief minister or freedom fighter. He was none other than "sadasiba tripathy". The human instinct generally is found to be running after name, fame, prominence, dominance and love for showing oneself more than what he actually was. As a minister he was going through deep in thinking perfect like artist and head of architects i.e. revenue of law of govt. Of odisha. There is exceptional personalities like him. Such type of persons are rare

and his sacrifice, contribution to society and state worth and ability are often forgotten. His contribution as minister of govt. Of odisha was not confined with revenue only, but extended to reforms in supply, excise, forest, irrigation, health, education, general administration, road & building, water supply also. But most renowned the department was " revenue " in his ministership. He was honest to pie such an extent he was offered a costly car by a mining owner when he was chief minister, but he denied to accept that one. How many persons would deny such a costly offer. Today this type of denying is out of imagination and out of thought of dream. He led a highly sound moral character throughout his life. He believes on simple living and high thinking. He was truthful, faithful, helpful, sympathetic lover of tribal people. He was well wisher of poor & needy people. He loved pandits, writers, farmers so on. He was seventh chief minister of odisha. He had kept in his mind the departments like general administration, mining, coal, education, health, irrigation, road & building, supply, water, finance, industry, forest, planning & coordination, energy panchayat raj, child wel-

Pratap Chandra Sahu

fare and revenue. Land reformation act was the utmost key milestone of his political career. He will be remembered for ever for his contribution. Sadasiba tripathy was a teacher before coming to politics. He was a truly freedom fighter. He resinged from teachership & joined in national movement. He participated in actively in freedom movement and had been imprisoned as freedom fighter. He was in jail at berhampur with renowned freedom fighter lakhman nayak. Nabarangapur is proud of her son like sadasiba tripathy, who did not hacking for power never. His only aim to serve the people. He was famous for his simplicity. He never runs after power or money. Self publicity is his allergy. He was away from any kinds of bribes, cheating, scams. He was against black money. After he chaired as chief minister his residence at nabarangapur remained as it was without moderating. But now-a-days it is quite opposite to the version of sadasiba tripathy. If some one comes to nabarangapur he may believe by seeing the fact. Now-a-days if some one makes entry into politics, you will find costly car, luxurious building with him. But in case of the then chief minis-

ter it is quite different. He was the chief minister for the period 21st 1965 to 8th march 1967. We the people of nabarangapur feel glory and dignity for him. The motherland nabarangapur is really lucky having such a son like sadasiba tripathy. The rules of revenue Reformed like bhoodan odisha, yagnya samiti, odisha estate abolition act, orissa land reforms act, orissa survey and settlement act. These are significant contribution of sadasiba tripathy to revenue department of govt. Odisha then, which would be written in golden letter in the history of odisha. He had profound wisdom. Here the dynamic personality of sadasiba tripathy as revenue minister. It would take volumes of to write his knowledge and ability sacrifice for odisha. He was famous for single system of revenue laws. Thus the entire system so far revenue department was concerned was imaginably complex. All the team who worked with him were highly appreciate of sadasiba tripathy's magnanimity, deep knowledge and tactness. Our heartily tribute to such a great soul like sadasiba tripathy, who is ever memorable.

Nabarangapur

Rahul supports use of local languages for exams

BENGALURU: While the opposition to the imposition of Hindi is growing in Karnataka,

fications of the Central government, which will be published either in Hindi or English.

On another query about privatisation of government-owned companies, Rahul Gandhi



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said students should be allowed to take exam in the language that he wishes to.

"Every state should have the right to use its language and if students wants to do exams in that language then they should allowed to do exams in that language," Rahul Gandhi said while interacting with job-seekers in Chitradurga on Thursday as part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Rahul Gandhi was responding to comments made by a student, who said it is difficult for even a post-graduate to understand the noti-

fications of the Central government, which will be published either in Hindi or English.

She told Rahul Gandhi that she hailed from the rural part of the state and does not have knowledge of Hindi. She said she finds it difficult to get a Central government job because she can't speak Hindi.

Responding to the query, Rahul Gandhi said, "I think it is a fundamental thing. Kannada is your language and deserves a space. If you want to communicate in Kannada, then it is your right to communicate in Kannada."

"A language is much more than what you simply use for conversation. A language has hope, has imagination and has history in it," the Congress leader said.

said, "I don't agree with the rampant privatisation of government assets. When we were in power, we did not allow privatisation because it is public sector units that give employment to weaker sections."

He assured that a "strategy" will be evolved so that millions get jobs. Meanwhile, Janata Dal Secular leader and former chief minister H.D. Kumaraswamy suspected a "hidden" agenda of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party to "impose"

Hindi in the state. "Kannada is experiencing threats at every step. Now, the Central government is plotting to destroy Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya and others," Kumaraswamy said.

Rape used in Ukraine as a Russian 'military strategy:' UN

PARIS: Rape and sexual assault attributed to Moscow's forces in Ukraine are part of a Russian "military strategy" and a "deliberate tactic to dehumanise the victims", UN envoy Pramila Patten said.

sault since the beginning of the war, Patten said. The first cases were reported just "three days after the invasion of Ukraine" on February 24, she added, referring to a

INS Arihant carries out successful launch of submarine launched ballistic missile

NEW DELHI: India's strategic strike submarine INS Arihant carried out successful launch of a ballistic missile on Friday, the defence



ministry said. The missile was tested to a predetermined range and it impacted the target area in the Bay of Bengal with high accuracy, validating all operational and technological parameters, it said. "The successful user training launch of the SLBM (submarine launched ballistic missile) by INS Arihant is significant to prove crew competency and validate the SSBN programme, a key element of India's nuclear deterrence capability," the ministry said.

"A robust, survivable and assured retaliatory capability is in keeping with India's policy to have 'credible minimum deterrence' that underpins its 'No First Use' commitment," it said in a statement.

crime" that is largely underreported. "World is watching" Patten said her fight against sexual violence was "a battle against impunity". "That's why I went to Ukraine (in May): to

"Is it because it is now happening in the heart of Europe? That might be it." She said she hoped, however, that the focus on Ukraine would not detract from other conflicts.

Eight years after the Act, sorcery violence remains a challenge in Odisha

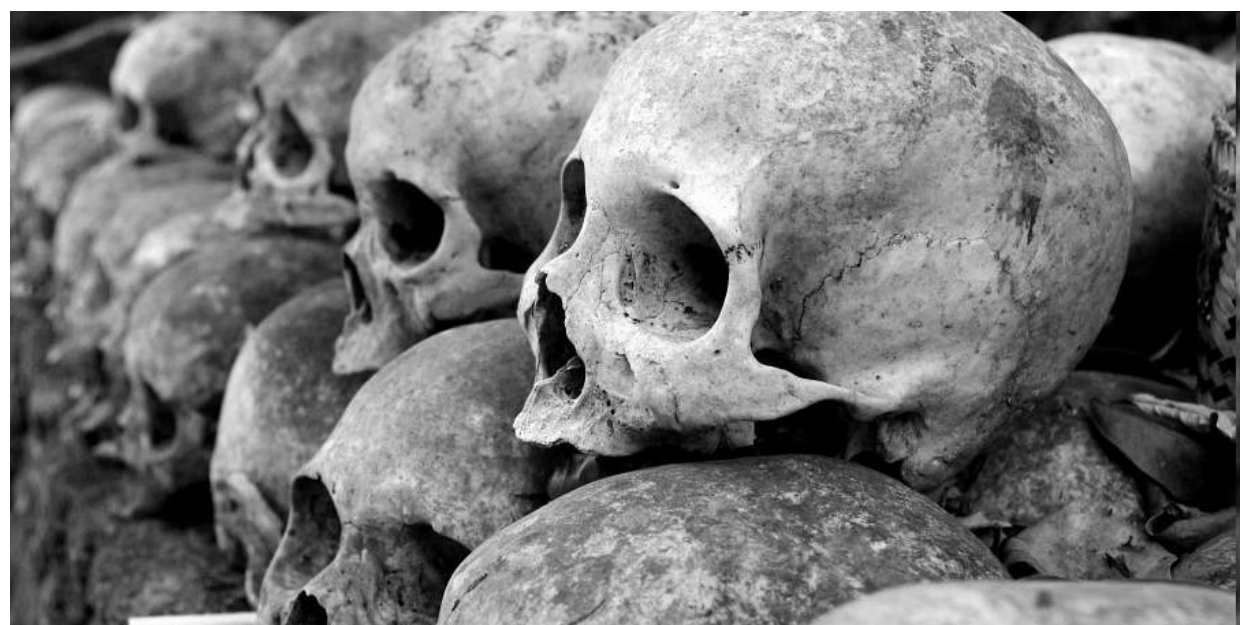
BHUBANESWAR: The blood-curdling human sacrifice in Kerala is a chilling reminder of sorcery and witchcraft-related violence that exists in Odisha which implemented a special legislation to deal with the menace eight years back.

This year, about 61 FIRs have been registered under Odisha Prevention of Witch Hunting Act 2013. Forty of them are serious in nature. Mayurbhanj district topped with 25 offences; Keonjhar stood at the second spot with 11 cases.

recorded between 2010 and 2019 throughout the State.

"This number is based on case studies, RTI applications and interviews of family members of people who were killed over sorcery and the accused. In most of the cases, probe focuses only on murder," its secretary Debendra Sutar said.

ADG (Crimes against Women & Children wing) Rekha Lohani refutes that violence or human sacrifices cases are under-reported. After implementation of Mo Sarkar, more



Between 2014 and 2021, 597 cases have been registered under the Act by the Crime Branch, says Sashiprava Bindhani, former State Information Commissioner who had petitioned the Orissa High Court in 2011 for a separate law to deal with witch hunting violence.

As per National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, in last eight years, one incident of human sacrifice (in 2019) has been reported in Odisha. During 2019-2021, as many as 29 witchcraft related murders were recorded. In 2014, when the Act was implemented, the number stood at 32.

However, activists claim human sacrifices are under-reported by kin of the victims as well as police. As per a study conducted by Odisha Rationalist Society, 70 human sacrifices were

victims are now coming forward to register complaints under the Act, she says.

"Odisha Police has been providing the victims access to justice - be it through swift registration of complaints or ensuring rehabilitation grants/compensation reaches them on time," Lohani said. She acknowledges that witchcraft is a societal problem and cannot be dealt with by the police alone.

Most of the violence is reported from Rayagada, Sundargarh, Parlakhemundi, Ganjam and Gajapati apart from Apart from Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar. Victims of the brutality are usually women, particularly from the Scheduled Caste and tribal communities. Most of incidents are done with an intent of revenge, grab landed property or seek sexual favours from women, says Bindhani.



Pramila Patten told AFP in an interview. "All the indications are there," the UN special representative on sexual violence told AFP on Thursday, when asked if rape was being used as a weapon of war in Ukraine.

"When women are held for days and raped, when you start to rape little boys and men, when you see a series of genital mutilations, when you hear women testify about Russian soldiers equipped with Viagra, it's clearly a military strategy," she said. "And when the victims report what was said during the rapes, it is clearly a deliberate tactic to dehumanise the victims."

The United Nations has verified "more than a hundred cases" of rape or sexual as-

send a strong signal to the victims, to tell them that we stand with them and to ask them to break their silence," she said. But it was "also to send a strong signal to the rapists. The world is watching them, and raping a woman or girl, man or boy, will not be without consequences".

Rape as a weapon of war has been reported in conflicts worldwide, from Bosnia to the Democratic Republic of Congo. But the war in Ukraine has marked a turning point in international attitudes, the UN envoy said. "There is now political will to fight impunity, and there is consensus today on the fact that rapes are used as a military tactic, a terror tactic," Patten said.

"I find this attention to... sexual violence linked to conflicts to be very positive," she said, unlike in the past when the issue was viewed as "unavoidable", mere "collateral damage" or even a "cultural issue". Patten said she was also concerned about the risk of human trafficking. "The women, girls and children who have fled Ukraine are very, very vulnerable, and for predators, what is happening in that country is not a tragedy but an opportunity," she said. "People trafficking is an invisible crime, but it's a major crisis." More than seven million Ukrainians have fled the fighting into other European countries since the war started, the UN refugee agency says.

Naveen unveils upgraded, new services at AHPGIC

CUTTACK: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday virtually inaugurated several upgraded and new services at Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer (AHPGIC) here. The facilities have been set up on a six-storey building constructed over the existing LINAC centre of the institute at a cost of ₹38.36 crore. These include an in-patient department (IPD), an intensive care unit (ICU) for comprehensive cancer care and a Positron Emission Tomography-Computed Tomography Scan (PET-CT) scan machine.

The Chief Minister said the State government is committed to transform AHPGIC into one of the best cancer care institutes of the country. The new facilities will be immensely helpful in boosting cancer care and management at the institute. With the commissioning of IPD and ICU services, the bed strength of the institute will increase to 507 from 281 including a 20 bed ICU. "This will certainly be a huge relief for patients," he asserted. The CM said PET-CT scan is considered as one of the central pillars in management of



Orientation Programme for SJPU Personnels at Puri

Puri (KCN): An orientation programme on Mission Vatsalya, Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Childrens Act 2015, Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act 2012 and other laws for protection of Children has been conducted on 14th October

2022 at Conference Hall of Reserve Police line, Puri. Total 50 officials including Additional Superintendent of Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Inspector In Charge & Officer In Charge of Mahila Sishu Desk of all Police Stations, Director & Coordinator of Childline, Superintendents & Officer in Charge of Child Care Institutions

were attended and participated in the programme. Mr. Pradip Kumar Sahoo, Additional District Magistrate, Puri inaugurated the programme and addressed to work in a coordination manner for the best interest of children and protection of their rights. Mr. Prafulla Chandra Badjena, Addl SP Puri, Mr. Mahabir Rudranarayan Sahoo, Chairperson CWC Puri, Mr. Bijayananda Mishra Member JJB Puri, Ms. Manobrata Satapathy DSP Puri were joined as Hon'ble Guest and delivered their views and experience. Mr Manoj Kumar

Tripathy, DCPO, Puri welcomed to the participants, guests and resource persons. Eminent Resource persons namely Mr. Jameswar Mishra, Joint Director, Public Prosecution, Bhubaneswar and Mr. Guruprasad Sibasankar Mishra, DSP-BPSPO, Bhubaneswar were imparted training on different laws for protection of children, Coordination & Convergence, Role and responsibility of Special Juvenile Police Unit. Mr Santosh Kumar Sahu, Legal Probation Officer deliberated on victim compensation scheme, functioning of JJB & Children's Court.

Mr. Subhanarayan

Satapathy, Protection Officer of DCPU, Mr. Ramashankar Patra, Member CWC, Ms Anjali Nayak Member JJB, Mr. Debasish Rath, Director Childline, Ms Sumita Ghosh -Counslutant Action Aid were discussed on issues and challenges faced by Childline, CWC, JJB, CCI and Police during rescue, production, rehabilitation, social mainstreaming of CNCs & CILs. Mr. Bijay Kumar Parida, Social Worker DCPU conferred vote of thanks. Ms. Rojalini Patra, Counselor & Ms Kamala Maharana, SW of DCPU assisted for smooth management of the programme.

Dhamnagar bypoll: Rebellion in BJD camp after Abanti candidature

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The BJD's game plan of playing the woman card by fielding Abanti to counter sympathy wave in favour of the BJP candidate Suryabanshi Suraj Sthitaprajna seems to have backfired as it has alienated the major camps in Dhamnagar. The situation has come to such a point that party workers belonging to the faction of former MLA Rajendra Das have openly revolted Abanti Das's candidature for the bypoll.

The possibility of Das filing his nomination paper as a rebel candidate cannot be ruled out altogether even as the party has pressed into service several MLAs besides organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das and Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak to persuade him. A sulking Das and his rival Muktikanta Mondal, also a former MLA and husband of BJD MP from Bhadrak Lok Sabha seat Manjulata Mondal, are not happy over the candidature of Abanti. Sources said Mondal had tacitly supported the candidature of Abanti to scuttle the chances of Das getting the ticket when it be-

came clear that he is not going to be fielded because of one-man, one-post formula.



Sources said that the BJD used Abanti, a protégé of Das, to scuttle his chances of getting the ticket. Das had brought Abanti into politics and promoted her. He is also stated to have played a major role in her becoming the chairperson of Tihidi block. The BJD leadership had assured Das that he was going to be nominated, but a last minute change of mind by the BJD leadership has surprised Das and his followers.

Meanwhile, talking to mediapersons at Dhamnagar, Das neither confirmed nor denied about his contesting as an independent. "I am consulting with my supporters. I will take a decision," he said. The last date of filing nomination is October 14.

cancer. "The PET-CT scan facility at AHPGIC is first-of-its-kind in a State government hospital. Along with the LINAC machine, more facilities are also being developed for diagnosis and treatment of patients," he said. The government has included further expansion of AHPGIC under the SCB re-development plan. A new OT complex, OPD, pathology, academic area and resident hostels will be developed under the plan.

"In order to strengthen cancer care in the

State, government has approved cancer care units in 10 districts. Besides, we have already initiated steps to set up specialised cancer hospitals at Bargarh and Jharsuguda. We have also set up palliative care centres at the district level. I believe with these steps, Odisha will emerge as a hub of cancer care in the eastern region of the country," said the Chief Minister. He advised doctors and para-medical staff to treat cancer patients with empathy and develop confidence in them.



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BJD faces Rebel Jolt

Bhadrak(KCN): For the first time in any by-election for Assembly seat, the Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is facing a rebel jolt in by election to Dhamnagar (SC) Assembly



constituency.

After denying party ticket for the by-poll, former BJD MLA Rajendra Kumar Das on Friday filed his nomination as an independent candidate for November 3 by election. The BJD has officially nominated Abanti Das as its candidate for the Assembly seat. Both Abanti Das and Rajendra Das came in two separate processions with their supporters and filed their nomination with the Sub Collector Bhadrak on the last day of nomination.

Mr.Das said he had filed his nomination as an Independent after the BJD did not give him a ticket to contest the by elections. He claimed that he had the support of the people of Dhamnagar and hoped to win the election.

Bank of England announces more market support measures amid recent tax cuts

LONDON: The Bank of England on Monday said it was launching a temporary facility aimed at easing liquidity pressures that arose after the UK government's budget shocked markets.

The BoE "announces additional measures to support market functioning", said a statement, adding that the central bank was ready to increase the size of its UK government bond

"I lost the 2019 elections narrowly (to BJP's Bishnu Charan Sethi) as a group conspired against me. I will fight the by-election with the blessings of the people, especially elders, to serve Dhamnagar," Mr.Das said.

"People have their sympathies with me. I am confident of a win," Mr.Das said.

Rajendra Kumar Das who had won the Dhamanagar Assembly seat on BJD ticket in 2014 but lost to Bishnu Charan Sethi of BJP by a margin of 4625 votes in 2019 election will be a strong contender for the seat this time.

The seat fell vacant following the demise of sitting BJP MLA Bishnu Sethi on September 19 last.

The Governing BJD on Wednesday had announced the name of Tihidi Block Chairperson Abanti Das as its candidate for the by-election and Rajendra had agreed to support Abanti after several party leaders including BJD Organisational Secretary Pranab Prakash Das had pacified him.

But, later, he went back on his stand and announced to contest the election as an independent candidate. Meanwhile, worried BJD rushed its senior party leaders to Dhamnagar to resolve the issue but failed.

BJD Lawmaker and District Observer Pranab Balabantray said the filing of nomination by Rajendra Kumar Das would have no impact on election results. He said party candidate Abanti Das will win the by-election.

The BJP has named Suryavanshi Suraj, son of deceased Bishnu Charan Sethi as the party candidate for the by-election and he has filed his nomination on October 10 and already started campaigning in the constituency.

On the other hand, the Congress has fielded its party president for Dhamnagar Block SC Cell Baba Harekrushna Sethi as its candidate for the seat. Mr.Sethi filed his nomination paper on October 13 in the presence of several senior party leaders.

If Rajkishore Das does not withdraw his papers, BJP will definitely benefit from internal fights within BJD. As October 17 is the last date for withdrawal of candidature, the real fight for the by-poll will be known after the deadline. For the by-poll, polling will be conducted on November 3 next and counting of votes and declaration of results will be made on November 6 next.

the dollar. That triggered the emergency buying of long-dated bonds by the BoE.

The central bank has so far made purchases of so-called gilts totalling around £5 billion (\$5.5 billion), far less than its £65-billion limit.

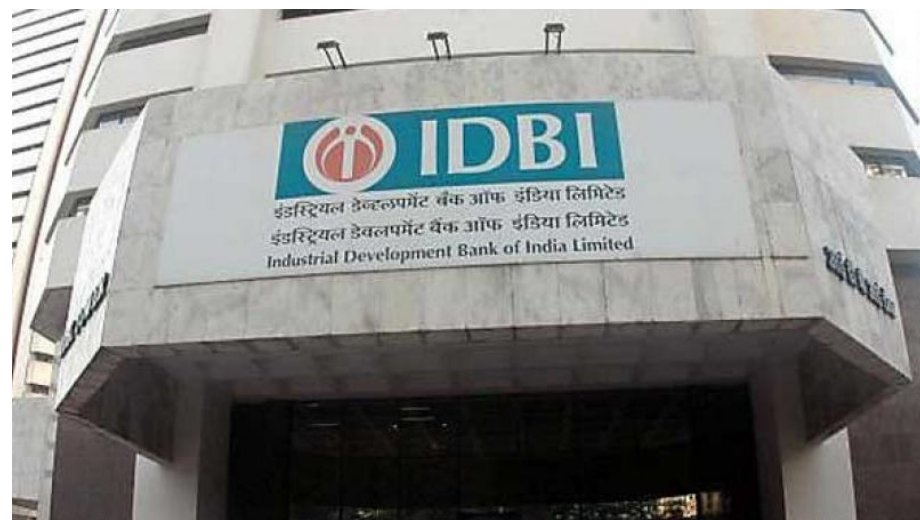
ALSO READ | Dramatic U-turn: UK scraps tax cut for wealthy that sparked market turmoil

The purchases are "to restore market functioning in long-dated government bonds and reduce risks from contagion to credit conditions for UK households and businesses," the BoE stressed in Monday's statement.

Owing to the turmoil, Fitch last week lowered the outlook on its credit rating for British government debt to negative from stable.

The pound was down slightly against the dollar Monday but comfortably above the record-low level that was close to parity.

Financial bids for IDBI Bank likely to be invited by March



NEW DELHI: The financial bids for IDBI Bank privatisation is likely to be invited by March and the conclusion of the sale process is expected in the next financial year, officials said.

Last week, the government along with Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) invited preliminary bids for selling 60.72 per cent stake in IDBI Bank. The last date for putting in Expression of Interest (EoI) is December 16.

Once the EoIs come in and the interested parties clear RBI's 'Fit and Proper' assessment and gets Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) security clearance, data room access would be given to qualified bidders. It is only after due diligence, that bidders would put in financial bids.

Usually it takes about six months for the process of due diligence to get completed and financial bids to come in. We hope to invite financial bids for IDBI Bank by March, officials added.

Considering that this would be the first case of strategic sale in bank, a lot of queries are expected to be raised during the due diligence process.

The process of IDBI Bank strategic sale is likely to conclude by September, the officials added.

Private sector banks, foreign banks, Reserve Bank of India(RBI) registered non-banking finance companies, Sebi-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), a fund/investment vehicle incorporated outside India would be allowed to submit bids, either individually or as

consortium.

The net worth threshold for bidders has been kept at Rs 22,500 crore, and they must report net profit in three of the past five years. Besides, 40 per cent of the equity would have to be locked in for 5 years.

Currently, LIC holds 49.24 per cent stake in IDBI Bank, while the government holds 45.48 per cent stake.

The remaining 5.2 per cent stake is with the public shareholders.

The combined stake of the government and LIC in IDBI Bank would come down from 94.72 per cent, to 34 per cent after the conclusion of this strategic sale.

The government will sell 30.48 per cent stake and LIC will offload 30.24 per cent, taking the total to 60.72 per cent, along with transfer of management control.

In case, the bidder intends to amalgamate IDBI Bank with itself, the government and LIC will vote for such amalgamation or merger at the board or shareholder meetings.

The announcement of IDBI Bank privatisation was first made in Union Budget of 2021-22, following which the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in May 2021.

IDBI Bank was categorised as Private Sector Bank by the RBI with effect from January 21, 2019, consequent upon LIC acquiring 51 per cent of the total paid-up equity share capital of the

bank.

Shares of IDBI Bank closed at Rs 46.55 apiece, up 9.02 per cent over previous close on the BSE. At the current market price, the sale of 60.72 per cent stake would fetch about Rs 30,000 crore to the exchequer.

Film on Rag to Riches

Continued from page-1

extorted money from rich and influential people such as politicians, businessmen and film producers with threats of making public photos and videos of their intimate moments. Archana, who was born in Lanjigarh was brought up in Kesinga, a Trade Center of Kalandhadi.

Her mother was working at Kesinga and later she shifted Capital City in 2015.

Twin City Police sources said that she initially worked for a private security firm and later joined a beauty parlor where she met Jagabandhu Chand of Balasore district and married him in 2018. It is alleged that she ran a sex racket while working in the beauty parlor.

Mr.Chand operated a used car showroom and was in contact with Big Shots and Moneyed Men like Powerful politicians, Estate Builders, Industrialists and others.

His and Archana's photographs with influential persons including some MLAs have gone viral on social media creating a state-wide hue and cry.

Archana also befriended rich and influential persons and is alleged to have provided them with feminine company. Police claimed that she then took intimate pictures of these powerful persons and later blackmailed them for money.

In a complaint made at Nayapally police station, a film producer alleged that Archana demanded Rs 3 crore from him after showing him his photos with other girls.

She was arrested on 6 October on the basis of another complaint by a girl who accused Archana of using her in this racket.

Oollywood filmmaker Sridhar Martha said he has planned to make a feature film on the life of Archana.

The police have urged the Economic Offence Wing to probe into the financial issues related to the Archana blackmailing case.

"An internal assessment made by the police revealed that the couple has acquired properties worth Rs 30 crore in a span of only four years from 2018 to 2022," a senior police officer said.

Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh said, so far only two cases have been registered against Archana in this connection.

If other blackmailed victims lodge complaints against her, the police will initiate action, the DCP said.

Archana's bank statements are being examined by the police.

Politics has also started playing its part in this tale of sex, money and betrayal.

Congress will restore old pension scheme if voted to power in Himachal: Priyanka Gandhi

Continued from page-1

She started her address with "Shoolini Mata Ki Jai" and also released the Congress' election theme song.

Gandhi's rally comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed two rallies in Una and Chamba after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of various projects, including flagging off India's fourth Vande Bharat Express from Una.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the Congress' Himachal unit president Pratibha Singh, Leader of Opposition in Himachal Assembly Mukesh Agnihotri, the party's election campaign committee chairperson Sukhvinder Sukhu, senior leader Rajeev Shukla and Leader of Opposition in Punjab Assembly Pratap Singh Bajwa also addressed the rally.

India to debut women's Premier League next year

NEW DELHI: India is set to inaugurate a five-team women's edition of the Indian Premier League next year to run ahead of the money-spinning Twenty20 tournament, media reports said. The new competition will be formalised when the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) meets next week, news agency PTI re-

ported on Thursday. It is tentatively set for March to fit between the next T20 Women's World Cup in South Africa and the start of the next IPL season. "We intend to conduct the Women's IPL on similar lines with the Indian Premier League," the board reportedly said in a letter sent to state cricket associations. Media outlets said the letter outlined a

proposal for a season of 22 games that capped overseas players to six per team, with only five allowed in the playing XI. Franchises for five teams will be sold by the BCCI, but a final decision on how they would be allocated and where they will play remained unclear. "Delighted to see that the #WIPL is on its way," Indian cricket commenta-

tor Harsha Bhogle wrote on Twitter. "This is the beginning of something big and we must all support it." The board did not respond to AFP's requests for comment. India's women cricketers have shone in recent years despite being overshadowed by the wildly popular IPL and the exploits of Rohit Sharma's side.



Fox to avoid World Cup off-field controversy in Qatar

NEW YORK: Fox plans to avoid coverage of Qatar's controversial treatment of migrant workers during World Cup broadcasts, much as it didn't address criti-

Cup matches on giant screens in public fan zones amid concerns over rights violations of migrant workers and the environmental impact of the tournament in Qatar.

within 35 miles (55 kilometres) of Doha. Four years ago, the 12 venues were spread around Russia and Fox called 33 matches onsite, including all but one

age on Fox and other networks. "When we first saw the tournament being moved to November/December, we, like a lot of people said, oh, boy, that's tough. It's

The international team made the finals of the Women's T20 World Cup in 2020 and won silver at this year's Commonwealth Games

in Birmingham. Former captain Mithali Raj, the world's leading women's ODI run-scorer, retired from all international formats this

year shortly before the release of a Bollywood biopic recounting her 23-year career. The IPL is a huge earner for Indian

cricket and the tournament made more than \$11 billion for the economy each year, according to pre-pandemic estimates.



cism of Russia's government during the 2018 tournament. "Our stance is if it affects what happens on the field of play, we will cover it and cover it fully," David Neal, executive producer of Fox's World Cup coverage, said Thursday. "But if it does not, if it is ancillary to the story of the tournament, there are plenty of other entities and outlets out there that are going to cover that. We firmly believe the viewers come to us to see what happens on the field, on the pitch." Neal spoke at an event to debut images of the network's set in Doha made of LED screens, the hub of its coverage of a tournament that runs from Nov. 20 to Dec. 18. "This set, in typical subtle Fox fashion," he said, "I think it will be visible from Mars." Qatar has been criticized over its treatment of the workers who built the World Cup venues. Paris' city government will not broadcast World

Neal also said that he did not regret bypassing coverage of issues such as racism and sexism in Russia four years ago. "I think the quizzical thing about what's happened with Russia is that they took all that international goodwill that they had correctly earned as a really great host of the World Cup, and that's now gone," he said. Fox took over from ESPN as FIFA's U.S. English-language World Cup broadcaster starting with the 2015 women's tournament and has rights through the 2026 men's tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada. It will televise 34 of 64 matches this year on the main Fox network and the remainder on its FS1 cable network. U.S. Spanish-language television rights are held by NBCUniversal's Telemundo. Fox will have commentators call all matches from stadiums in Qatar, where the eight venues are

during the knockout rounds. John Strong and Stu Holden, the lead announce team, attended the event along with host Rob Stone, analysts Alexi Lalas and Maurice Edu, and reporter Jenny Taft. With the tournament shifted from its traditional June/July time slot because of Qatar's summer heat, games will take place during the NFL and college football seasons. Fox debuted a "Superfan Santa" advertisement last weekend tying soccer to Santa Claus. "On Thanksgiving Day, yes, it's great to be around family. It's better to be around the television with your family so you don't have to talk to them all the time," Stone said. "So Thanksgiving Day, it is Luis Suárez. It is Cristiano Ronaldo. It is Neymar. It is Cowboys-Giants. That's a lot of TV. That's a lot of time you don't have to talk to the in-laws." Some weekend games will overlap with football cover-

against football," Neal said. "We came to realize that it's an advantage. The simple fact is there are more eyeballs available in November and December than there are in the summer. There are more people available to television who are able to tune in, and instead of having to attract people in from the beach to watch what we're doing, they're already there." The U.S. is back in the World Cup after missing the 2018 tournament. "One of our proudest moments as an entity, certainly as a World Cup rights holder, was the month worth of storytelling that we did in Russia, and it was about that 33rd character: 32 teams and the host country," Neal said. "This time around we got a huge advantage over that because we got the United States there. The United States team I think we all believe has a legitimate chance of getting out of the group stage."




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