

## Naveen unveils new hospital complex in Kendrapara

BHUBANESWAR/KENDRAPARA(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the new complex of Kendrapara district headquarters hospital (DHH) on Thursday. The new DHH complex has 200 beds, a modern OPD unit, casualty and trauma care unit, five-bed trauma ICU, radiology and MRI CT scan facilities, advanced operation theatre complex, 15-bed special newborn care unit with kangaroo maternal care facility and 34-bed ICU. Addressing the function through virtual mode, the Chief Minister said the modern hospital will bring a change in healthcare sector in the State. Patients of Kendrapara will

no longer have to go to Cuttack and Bhubaneswar for treatment as they can now avail quality healthcare in their own district. Stating that each life is important and the State government is following this policy, Naveen advised the doctors and health staff to serve patients with commitment. "A smile on patient's face and confidence in the heart will be a great reward and can bring immense satisfaction," he said.

Highlighting the improved health services in Odisha, the Chief Minister said lakhs of people are getting quality treatment at no cost under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana. The



scheme has solved the problem of treatment faced by poor people to a large extent, he said. Attending the event, Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb said Kendrapara was the 'Karmabhoomi' of Biju Patnaik and the Chief Minister has a special vision for its development. "Today, a new milestone has been achieved in the field of healthcare in Kendrapara district," he added.

Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak said it was a day of pride and glory for the people of Kendrapara as over `100 crore has been sanctioned by the Chief Minister for improvement of health services in the district. Funds have been provided for improving infrastructure of all health centres in the district. Among others, Kendrapara MLA Shashibhushan Behera, Secretary to the Chief Minister (5T) VK Pandian, district Collector Amrit Raturaj and

senior officials were present. Seven brokers nabbed from DHH Kendrapara: Police on Thursday arrested seven brokers including four women from the DHH for allegedly diverting patients and their attendants to private clinics. Posing as relatives of patients, police personnel caught hold of the brokers on the hospital premises. SDPO Jayant Mohapatra said the accused were reportedly being paid for redirecting patients to private clinics. Many doctors and owners of nearby private clinics and diagnostic centres are reportedly involved in the racket, he added.

## Pakistan's Election Commission disqualifies former PM Imran Khan on charges of concealing assets

ISLAMABAD(KCN): Pakistan's elections commission on Friday disqualified former Prime Minister Imran Khan from holding public office for five years, accusing him of unlawfully selling state gifts and concealing assets, his spokesman and officials said. The move is likely to deepen lingering political turmoil in the impoverished country.



Fawad Chaudhry told reporters that the Election Commission of Pakistan announced the much-awaited verdict in the capital, Islamabad. Chaudhry condemned the move. According to legal experts, Khan will lose his seat in the National Assembly under the

verdict. Balkh Ser Khosa, a prominent lawyer, said Khan was disqualified from holding public office by the Election Commission of Pakistan because he unlawfully sold state gifts given to him by other countries when he was in the power. He said Khan also hid the profits he earned from selling those gifts from tax authorities.

The latest decision comes months after the parliament ousted Khan through a no-confidence vote. Angered over Khan's disqualification, his Tehreek-e-Insaf party urged supporters to take to the streets to peacefully condemn the commission's decision, CONTINUED ON: P-7

## KIIT-TBI to nurture defence startups



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The KIIT Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI) has been identified as one of the five incubation partners by the Ministry of Defence to build the capacity of defence related startups and mentor them towards scaling up.

Accordingly, the KIIT-TBI will be a major partner for the innovation for Defence Excellence programme, the announcement of

which was made during the DefExpo 22 at Ahmedabad on October 18. An agreement was also signed between KIIT-TBI and the iDEX, Defence Innovation Organisation of Department of Defence Production under Ministry of Defence. This is one of the major achievements of the university in its quest for joining the government-led initiative in creating robust startup-based ecosystem.

## India successfully test fires medium-range ballistic missile

BALASORE(KCN): India on Friday successfully test-fired indigenously-developed



new generation medium-range ballistic missile Agni Prime from the Odisha coast, Defence Research and Development

Organisation (DRDO) sources said. The sleek missile was test fired from a mobile launcher from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island around 9.45 am, they said.

The solid-fuelled canisterised missile met all mission parameter during the test, they added. All its navigation was tracked and monitored by radars and telemetry equipment positioned along various points, the officials said.

The missile's stroke range is between 1,000 km and 2,000 km, they said.

The last trial of the missile was conducted on December 18 last year from the same base, which was also successful.

## Rahul's yatra continues to evoke good response in Kurnool district

KURNOOL(KCN): Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra continues to evoke a good response from people in the district. On the third day of his yatra, representatives of Visakha Ukku Parirakshana Porata Committee, Pratyeka Hoda Vibhajana Hameela Sadhana Samithi, Amaravati Parirakshana Samithi, Andhra Pradesh Chayath Raj Chamber, AP Unemployed youth Association, Madiga Dandora and several people's organisation met Rahul seeking his support in getting their problems solved. Rahul responded positively to the issues taken to his notice.



He promised to get them solved if Congress comes to power at the Centre. Rahul resumed his yatra from Banavasi in Yemmiganur Assembly segment.

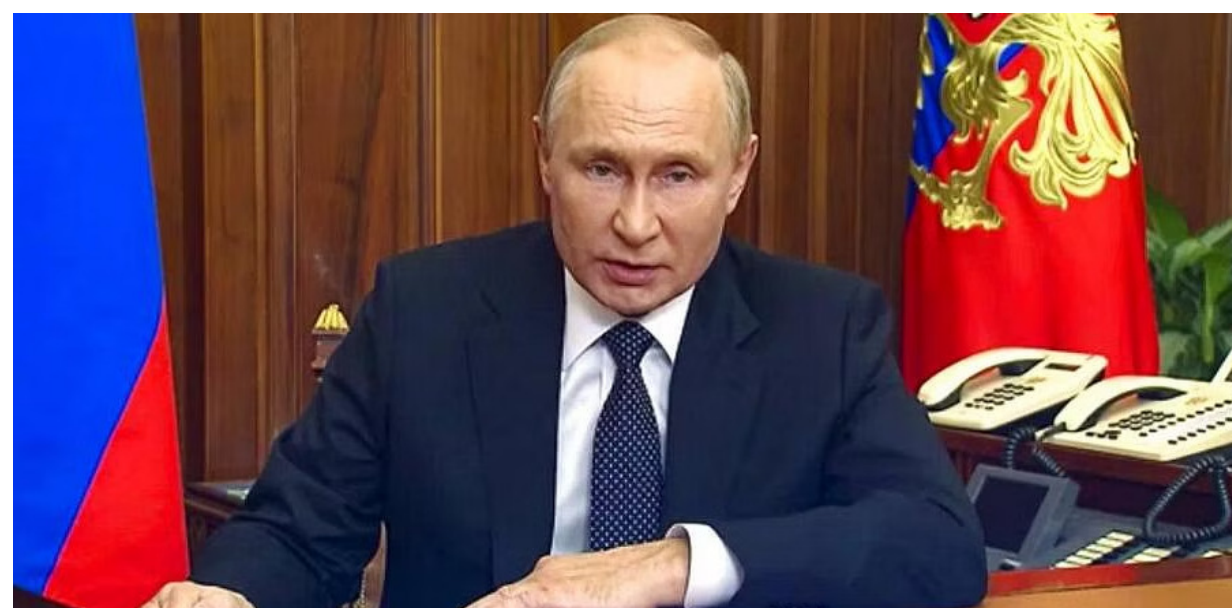
After walking a few kilometers, Rahul took a break at Mugati in the morning session. During the second session, he covered Machani Somappa Circle in Yemmiganur and addressed street corner meetings at Kalvakuntla village. Later, Rahul visited Mantralayam Mutt and offered prayers to Sri Guru Raghavendra Swamy. He stopped near the helipad ground on the outskirts of Mantralayam for a night halt on 43rd day of his yatra.

## Kremlin responds to Erdogan, says Putin 'open to negotiating' with Ukraine

MOSCOW(KCN): Russian President Vladimir Putin has been open for negotiations with Ukraine "from the very beginning," and "nothing has changed" in that respect, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Friday, commenting on remarks made by Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"If you remember, President Putin tried to initiate talks with both NATO and the United States even before the special military operation," Peskov said, referring to Russia's aggression against Ukraine that started almost eight months ago.

"Putin was open to negotiations when a document was almost agreed on between Russian and Ukrainian (negotiators). So in that respect, nothing has changed. The position of the Ukrainian side has changed.



Ukrainian law now prohibits any negotiations." This comes after Erdogan had ear-

lier said that Putin appeared to be "much softer and more open to negotiations" than

in the past. "We are not without hope," he said of the possibility of negotiations to end the conflict.

The Turkish leader, who has held meetings with Putin during the war, says he is optimistic that a U.N.- and Turkish-brokered deal that allowed the shipment of millions of tons of Ukrainian grain to world markets can be extended. Erdogan told a group of journalists that he had discussed extending the grain corridor deal with both Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Meanwhile, Russian officials have repeatedly said they will not negotiate the return of the four Ukrainian regions Moscow illegally annexed last month. After the land grab, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy ruled out any talks with Moscow as long as Putin remains president.



# Haphazard parking of trucks at leads to accident In Barbil -Joda area

**Barbil (KCN)** The stretch of State Highway from Bhadra sahi to Nalda area in Keonjhar district has doubled up as an illegal terminus for trucks and container lorries, much to the chagrin of locals, who call it a death trap.

Yesterday three accident occurred on this road ,in which one driver met fatal accident where two other serious were taken to Keonjhar hospital. All these occurred due to illegal parking .Many organisation including Regional Media Forum has approached administration to get strict on the issue. But



“no such action was taken, and the situation remains the same. The authorities are very diligent in punishing those riding without helmets and driving without seatbelts. When will they wake up to the danger of these parking illegalities?” a senior citizen from Barbil questioned. “The truck driver also say that they have inadequate place to park in



comparison to number of truck plying on the road and there is an urgent need for a truck terminus in this area and traffic police should be strict for those disobey traffic rules. Local also appeal to the administration to look into this matter, and put an end to this parking nuisance immediately.”



Despite repeated complaints to every authority possible - the police, the Regional Transport Office (RTO), remains clogged with heavy vehicles, with hundreds of trucks parked on both side of the road round the clock say locals

Residents claim that at least four people have died in road accidents caused directly or indirectly by the parked trucks, and countless others have been injured, over the past one



year, but the authorities are somehow still allowing this public nuisance to go unchecked,” said some residents, who lives nearby. Being a mining area, apart from interstate vehicles, trucks from all over country also halt , adding to the confusion on the busy stretch.

## GSI Ties Up with Geo-science Australia for RMT Projects

**Kolkata(KCN):** The Geological survey of India (GSI) has recently signed Term of reference (TOR) with Geo-science Australia (GA) with reference to critical mineral targeting, Regional Mineral Targeting or RMT project, Digital Core Library, DSRS and MT surveys in India. An interactive meeting between the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Geo-science Australia (GA) under the MoU was also held through video-conferencing to discuss the modalities of the implementation of the recently signed Term of Reference (TOR). DG, GSI Shri S Raju extended warm welcome to GA team on the behalf of GSI and briefed about existing collaboration with Geo-science Australia, particularly for evaluating the potentiality of deep seated and concealed deposits in the country as well as implementation of RMT projects. He expressed his pleasure for signing of

TOR and hoped all components of ToR will be executed in a time bound manner. He further elaborated about GSI's thrust areas of collaboration, viz. DSRS and MT surveys, establishment of digital drill core library, creation of retrievable data of critical minerals, where technical assistance is required from GA. He wanted to know from the GA team about the type of Geochronological techniques adopted by GA for R&D purpose and Ore genesis as well as total coverage of area in Australia by various surveys like DSRS, MT and drilling. Shri D.V. Ganvir, Dy. Director General (National Mission Head II), elaborated on the programme to be covered as per the signed TOR. He informed that, GSI has selected three projects covering geological potential areas for critical mineral exploration and invited the team leaders of the projects to present

updated status and possible collaboration. The team projects of three projects in eastern Dharwar, Singhbhum and Aravalli cratons from three regions, viz. Dr. M.L. Dora (Southern Region), Shri J. P. Mohakul (Eastern Region) and Shri Rohan Das (Western Region) delivered brief presentations on updated status, work carried out for identification of potential areas and possible areas of collaboration where GA can impart technical assistance for discovering critical mineral deposits. Dr. Karol Czarnota, Senior Science Advisor, GA, informed that GA will provide technical guidance as an exchange program to implementation of GSI's thrust areas, such as DSRS and MT surveys, and the establishment of a digital drill core library. The geophysical team of GA will provide more details on data acquisition and processing for DSRS and MT surveys.

Mr. Anthony Schofield, Director, GA discussed function or flow path of drill core repository in GA, hyperspectral data collection from drill core and function of multi-sensor core logger etc. Dr. Geoffrey Fraser, Director, Geochronology and Stratigraphy, GA described the time required for the completion of Geochronology activities. Further, he explained the methodology for sample collection and sample preparation, detailed sample description and activities to be taken up in the laboratory. He further informed that GA is analysing in-house U-Pb dating and having collaboration with other agencies/ Universities in Australia for other dating techniques. He also assured that they can help GSI for exploring the possibilities with similar organisations in Australia for Sm-Nd dating etc. if required.

# ICAR-CIFRI Comes Forward for Boosting Rural Women go for Ornamental Fish Farming

**Kolkata(KCN):**To fulfil the vision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, ICAR-CIFRI extended the support in a cluster basis to develop an ornamental fish village by adopting 30 women beneficiaries in the age group of 22-42 in its on-going Scheduled Caste Sub plan (SCSP) programme at Dhanyaganga Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Sargachi on October 19, 2022. This activity of ICAR-CIFRI is a continued effort on mission mode in which more than 450 beneficiaries in 4 states are adopted from the rural front. In association with various

are the backbone of Indian economy. This small effort given by the ICAR-CIFRI in collaboration with the Ramakrishna Mission and newly established KVK, in its adopted village could enhance the visibility of the vari-



ous programmes implemented in the village targeting doubling farmer's income. Further he stressed upon the women empowerment and encouraged them to come forward to show their interest for the wellbeing of their family by contributing from a tiny scale from the begin to a large scale with a span of two-three years that will build up a greater scope in the ornamental farming in the country as Bengal leads the ornamental farming from the front.

In this programme a meeting was organised in which all aspects of ornamental fish farming particularly handling of live-bearers was



KVKs, Indian Science Congress Association, Rotary International, Ramakrishna Mission, reputed NGOs and district administrations particularly fisheries department. Today's programme was inaugurated by head of the Ramakrishna Mission, Sargachi Swami Biswamayananda Ji Maharaj.

Dr. B. K. Das in his inaugural address told the various dimensions of ICAR-CIFRI activities for uplifting the SC and tribal communities in the country as a whole and West Bengal in particular. He also informed about a package of practice prepared in a manual form in the local language could benefit the newly



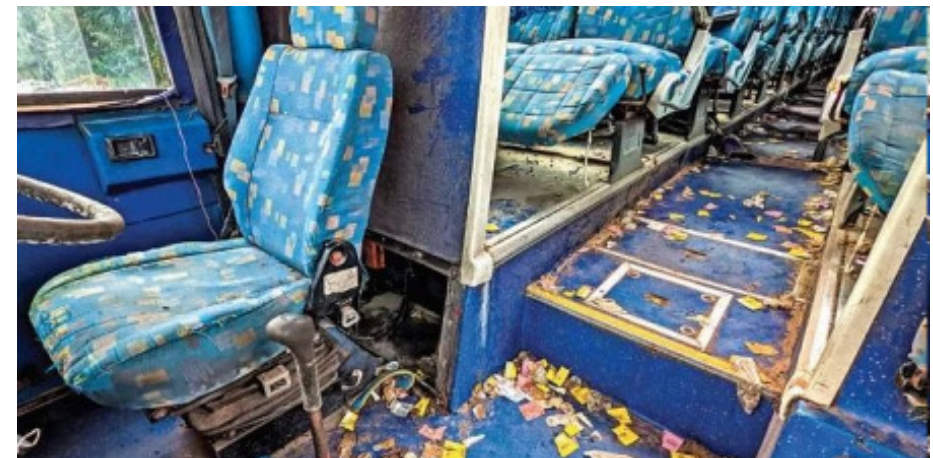
adopted women beneficiaries and uplift their knowledge for the adoption of ornamental fish farming. He also remarked that all hand holding support for initial establishment would be provided from the institute under SCSP programme.

Swamiji sensitised to fulfil the dream of the Prime Minister to “Make in India” concept as an export hub of ornamental fish, rural women entrepreneurship in a small scale can lead the sector in an exportable front as they

## Sex and the City: OSRTC bus depot turns prostitution hub after dark

**BHUBANESWAR(KCN):** Right behind the scenic Khandagiri-Dhauiligiri hills, the OSRTC bus depot has turned into a haven for

much so that locals find the area unsafe to use as it has become a den for criminal elements. Strangely enough, police patrol vehicles



are seen parked around the corner sometimes but it is business as usual for those indulging in the trade. Locals complain about rise in incidence of snatching of valuables, mobile phones, and other items from the commuters. “Currently, only tourist buses operate from the depot. In the evening, the area becomes completely deserted and anti-socials take advantage of it,” said a police source. In past, a violent clash had broken out between locals and some unscrupulous elements at the same bus depot. The locals had alleged that a group of people attempted to snatch valuables from a student. An officer of Khandagiri police station said they are aware of the situation and patrolling is conducted regularly, especially during late hours, to check the unlawful activities in the area.

Step into one of the abandoned buses and you will see the passenger vehicles are crawling with used condoms. Barely a kilometre from the local police station, the depot is where tourist buses operate from during the day. In the nights, it turns into a parlour for sex. Unscrupulous elements lurk in the shadows to bargain a deal with those soliciting customers. Currently, there are about three buses which have been abandoned at the depot and all of them are used for a flourishing sex trade. So



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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 Sharma Raj) forms. It's based on martial arts. He currently re- Global Sports Fed-

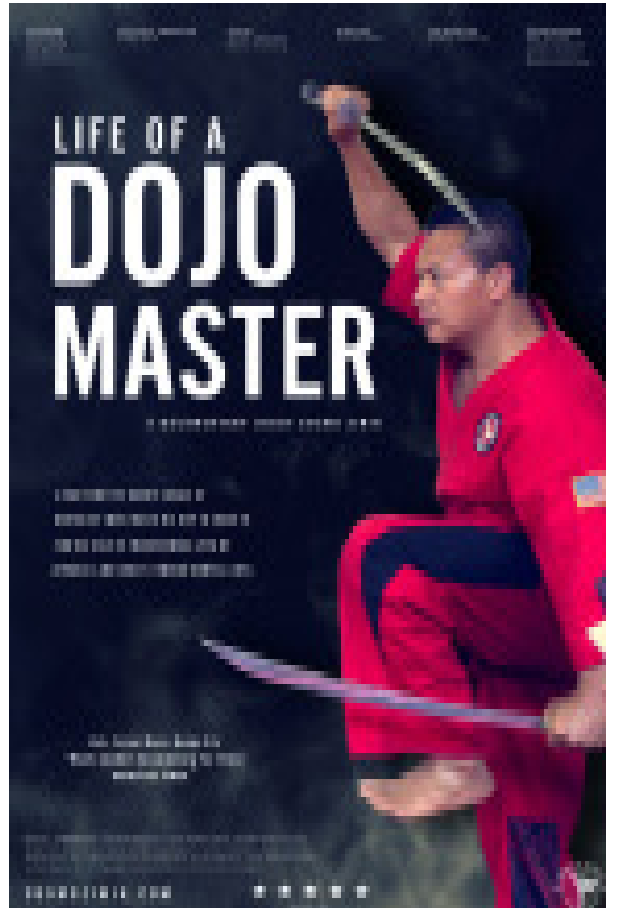


Sharma Raj): A Kung Fu Master Cosmo Zimik will arrive in India from the USA on August 8, 2022 and release the documentary film 'Life of A Dojo Master' with Chitah Yajnes Shetty in Mumbai, which will be sent to several film festivals and will be released Shooting for third season of 'Four More Shots Please'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



# Congress - From its existential crisis to a breath of relief

Sincerely, I waited and waited until the result of the Congress presidential election was out. When it was out, the



dominant question crept into my mind was about the next possible move by Shashi Tharoor. But he, unlike his G-23 compatriots, decided to march in tune with the party high-command's dictums. And that was brilliant. The presidential election in the Congress party has been a moment that blessed all the insiders of the party to once again conveniently lean on to show their depth of servitude to the party dynasty. And Shashi Tharoor for definitive reasons would be an outsider even if he is inside the party and strictly be alienated among the leaders in the Congress for his audacity to remain intelligently independent when others, the loyalists are blissful to think the way they are directed to think by the family high command. A well qualified, well read and well-known Tharoor has come out with a decent phraseology saying that

## Letter to Editor

Dear Editor

For long I have been thinking about what Depavali or Dewali or globally recognized as India's famous Festival of Light really means to us all? Is this simply a day of celebration and festivities filled with trills of lighting numerous lamps (diyas), burning crackers, worshipping Laxmi-Ganesha to pray for health, wealth, prosperity and wisdom (across North, Central and West India) or worshipping Goddess Kali (Eastern India) as a symbol of victory of virtue over vice? Diwali is celebrated with pomp and grandeur across India and abroad with an air of rejoice, hope, festivity, glamour and celebration. But we need to remember that we actually light the diyas and candles all around the house to break the silence of the night and celebrate the emotional sparkle of spiritual and emotional bliss. We worship Goddess Kali, incarnation of the Goddess Durga representing eternal power, energy, strength and courage. Kali is believed in the Hindu mythology as the divine Supreme Creator and Destroyer of the Universe. SHE also represents time and space that continues to move forward infinitely. We worship our Gods and Goddesses not just for money and success on this auspicious day; but to extend our sincere gratitude and thankfulness, for the all round well-being and happiness of our loved and dear ones, for receiving divine bliss, mental peace and solitude from our mortal pains and worries and to rejuvenate our spirit with love, hope, compassion and empathy for all around us. It is the celebration of not an external light; but a rare festival or occasion every year to rekindle and recharge our own exhausted soul with the light of knowledge, wisdom, gratitude and humbleness. Let this year be the most grandeur and memorable Dipavali for you all!

Thanking you  
Sincerely yours

Saikat Kumar Basu, 378 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata 700045 West Bengal India, Mobile: 8697491914, WhatsApp: +1 403 894 4254, Email: saikat.basu@alumni.uleth.ac

'the revival of the party has truly begun.' But the

officially unofficial presidential candidate of the Congress party will remain eclipsed and indignantly undermined, if he continued in his present party. The ripple of political movements the Congress has presently come up with has seriously made the party once again a well meaningful subject of political discourse even though it is out of power. Electing an octogenarian as its new president from outside the Gandhi family, the eligible votary in the party has indirectly endorsed its reluctance to give the grand old party a chance to metamorphose into a fresh avatar under a younger and intelligent Tharoor.

Tharoor could not win the presidency but his candidature should be seen as an announcement of an open dissent that has been visible and the effect of a quest that some of the insiders of the party cherished while plotting their rebellion. Tharoor may change his mind and prefer a decent exit from Congress before the general elections approach as he claimed that the entire electoral endeavour for the presidential election was stage-managed and sheepishly rigged. Though his candidacy was a public display of democratic disagreement inside the party, the leadership of the party projected this as an act of amiability and freedom rather than anarchy and acrimony in its democratic structure.

The essential eligibility irrespective of his old age, Mr. Kharge was supported for was his family proximity that the party family endorsed and staged the election drama for. Being powerful without any power in the party, Rahul Gandhi has consistently maintained his dominance in Congress. His longest walk intended to recapture the lost glory of the party has fundamentally added to the complexity that the Congress establishment is. An intelligent manoeuvre to stay away from the potential pitfalls such as the future political debacles; he has once again managed to stay in limelight without any visible responsibility. The party with its behavioural ethos to stay under the protective shadow of a family has almost

M. R. LALU

lost its eminence since 2014. The storm that had

shattered its hopes and dreams must be giving nightmares to the Congress even today. The Modi factor, the winning strategy that the BJP is banking on, had been a profound hindrance for the Congress from gaining influence.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra by Rahul Gandhi and the coronation of Mallikarjun Kharge, a family loyalist as the President of the party, gives the Congress a chance to set up a parallel party structure that the BJP enjoys. There, it is Narendra Modi the supreme leader and a party president probably taking his orders. This can also be seen as an overall experiment put in place well before the general elections 2024, in which, if consensus could be built to project a new Rahul Gandhi, totally reinvigorated after the yatra, emerging with a well knitted acceptance across party lines as a serious contender to Modi. The BJP must be counting this as a win-win situation. The Tharoor factor being crumbled from becoming instrumental in the Congress party's constitutionally structural build-up, the new elected president does not seem to have the mettle to bring about an increased vigour among its cadre; the only personality who would attempt to flex his muscles to take on the Modi juggernaut is Rahul Gandhi alone. Since that being the case the BJP does not have to do so many somersaults to retain its previous tally.

The present scenario in the Congress is a true replica of renunciation that the Sonia era espoused in 2004. She was eulogised and hysterically beatified by the same loyalists in the party for her renouncing the post of the Prime Minister. Rahul Gandhi also for whatever reasons decided not to embrace the responsibility of the president and has certainly been extolled by the same loyalists for turning himself a renunciate. A frenzied party cadre thronging to his yatra in states where the Congress has little significance echoed this view decisively. For them, the yatra would definitely transform the family scion of the party into its ultimate saviour. His 'no' to the presidency and his excitement to take a long march,

which indeed, if completed as per the plan, would turn out to be a thrilling achievement for him in his personal pursuit of political relevance. Walking through the entire stretch of the dryness of his political career, as a leader, the Rahul factor is all set to gain prominence. Interestingly, after Modi, in India he is the only leader who enjoys a great deal of celebrity status in politics. From 7 September to the distance that he should be inching closer to its culmination is expected to galvanise pro-Congress sentiments. But to counter a pan-India Modi impact, the entire stretch of distance he decided to walk is not enough. But unpredictability is the master when politics begins to play its tricky games. If the Rahul yatra helps the Congress to embellish its presence with little eminence, it can also garner more political support from unexpected areas. Areas where the crowd sat to hear him throughout the rain are indicative to the attention that the electorate rewarded him for his newborn maturity.

With brand Modi's USP intact, the BJP is all set to focus on the upcoming state elections. The Congress is yet to make any noteworthy start. A repeat of the saffron surge in its strong turf is predicted and undoubtedly this election does not bring any slippery moment for the BJP in Gujarat. But in Karnataka, with the tussle and fuss in the leadership of both the parties, the state elections are far from a viable prediction. The repeat of a BJP sweep and Congress decline would further damage the prospects of the party and the effect of its historic yatra would not refurbish on the celebrated Rahul makeover and his prospects in the national elections would be grimmer. But the Kharge coronation will ultimately pull the Rahul Gandhi factor into a visible sphere of recognition as a serious leader and he should be aware of the genuine challenge that the Bharat Jodo Yatra throws at him. He needs to establish his organisational popularity with meaning and purpose. In case of his party's losing mandate in the upcoming state elections, his reformer's image and saviour's prerogatives would crumble.

The author is a Freelance Journalist / Social Worker, Meppurathu House, Puthusserimala P.O -Ranni, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala State. Email: [mrlalu30@gmail.com](mailto:mrlalu30@gmail.com)

## Dilip Mahalonabis & "ORS - the most important medical discovery of the 20th century"

During the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War lakhs of destitute were displaced to refugee camps and Cholera was killing them off in huge numbers. The only treatment, Saline solution infusion was difficult to get and also very difficult to be injected into the bloodstream by an untrained person. The then young Dr Dilip Mahalonabis and his selfless team urgently prepared a solution of readily available sugar, salt & baking soda\*. On drinking this elixir, the moribund patients were magically immediately relieved and the subsequently use of this therapy has saved crores of lives worldwide till date. This experimental discovery was hailed by the prestigious medical journal Lancet as "the most important medical discovery of the 20th century"



Dr Deepankshu Shekhar Mandal

of November 1934 (Kishoregunj, now Bangladesh). He completed his MBBS from Calcutta Medical College and qualified as a Paediatrician from England. He joined the International Center of Johns Hopkins University at the Belegghata Infectious Disease Hospital, Kolkata in 1964 and initiated research on Oral Rehydration Therapy with the participants being the cholera patients treated there. Later, after his monumental victory over the cholera epidemic of 1971, Dr Mahalonabis was associated with the World Health Organization's Diarrhoeal Disease Control programme. He also had a stint as the Director of Clinical Science at the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research in Bangladesh. He was hugely clinically invested in the Institute of Child Health, Park Circus Kolkata and contributed his life's savings there. Dr

Dilip Mahalonabis in 1991 founded the 'Society for Applied Studies' to inculcate field working and hands-on research. Recipient of numerous notable accolades, he was also awarded in 2002 the Pollin prize, considered the apex award in Paediatrics by Columbia University. Dr Mahalonabis, aged 87, passed away on the 16th of October 2022 in Kolkata. His timely and brave scientific contribution during a dark humanitarian crisis must be honoured in our deeds and memories for eternity.

\* This composition was an improvisation borne out of a logistically nightmarish emergency but after tireless research and much refinement by Dr Mahalonabis and others, we have today's lifesaving ORS, and it has glucose (sugar), sodium chloride (salt), Potassium chloride and Trisodium citrate.

Dr. Deepankshu Shekhar Mandal, is Professor of Physiology, CNMCH Kolkata



# Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan facing politics ban over gifts case

ISLAMABAD(KCN): Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan could be barred from political office Friday when the election commission rules on charges he misled officials about gifts he received from foreign leaders while in power. The case is another twist in political wrangling that began even before Khan's April ouster, and is one

allowed to keep those below a certain value. More expensive items must go to Toshakhana, but in some cases the recipient can buy them back at around 50 per cent of their value -- a discount Khan raised from 20 per cent while in office. Pakistan newspapers have for months carried lurid stories alleging Khan and his wife received lavish



of several being fought by the former international cricket star and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

Pakistan's courts are often used to tie up lawmakers in lengthy proceedings that rights monitors criticise for stifling political opposition, but the commission's involvement in this case stems from the obligation of elected officials to declare all their assets.

"In our opinion the Election Commission of Pakistan is not a court, therefore they can't give a declaration to disqualify anyone," PTI senator Syed Ali Zafar, a barrister representing Khan, told a press conference Friday ahead of the ruling.

The case centres on a government department known as "Toshakhana", which during the Mughal era referred to the "treasure houses" kept by the subcontinent's princely rulers to store and display gifts lavished on them.

Government officials must declare all gifts, but are

## Ukraine warns Russia planning to destroy hydro dam

KYIV: Kyiv accused Russia of planning to destroy a hydroelectric dam in the eastern Kherson region, where Ukrainian soldiers have been steadily advancing and Moscow-installed authorities have begun evacuations.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russian forces had mined the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant with the intent of blowing it up, in what would amount to a "catastrophe on a grand scale." Hundreds of thousands of people around the lower Dnipro River would be in danger of rapid flooding if the dam was destroyed, Zelensky warned in a speech Thursday to European leaders.

He said cutting water supplies to the south could also impact the cooling systems of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest.

And the North Crimean canal, which provides a crucial water supply to Crimea -- occupied since 2014 by Russia -- could be destroyed.

Russia's goal is to halt the Ukrainian advance in the region and protect Russian troops, according to Zelensky's adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak.

- Energy battlefield- Cities across Ukraine began curbing electricity consumption ahead of winter Thursday as authorities warned that heavy damage to the country's energy grid by Russian attacks would spark a new wave of refugees from the country.

"Russia's leadership has given the order to turn the energy system itself into a battlefield. The consequences of this are very dangerous, again for all of us in Europe," Zelensky said in an address to the EU council.

Energy-saving measures were put in place across the country after Russian missile and drone strike destroyed at least 30 per cent of the country's power stations in a week, according to authorities.

Following blackouts in parts of Kyiv overnight, the city's mayor Vitali Klitschko urged businesses to limit screens and signage lights "as much as possible." "Even small savings and a reduction in electricity consumption in every home will help stabilise the operation of the national energy system," he said. Ukrainians responded defiantly.

"It's not going to change our attitude, maybe we will only hate them more," said Olga, a resident of Dnipro in central Ukraine who declined to give her last name. "I would rather sit in the cold with no water and electricity than be in Russia," she said.

People were rushing to buy auxiliary power supplies like generators and batteries, according to Kyrylo, an electronics vendor.

Speaking of the coming winter, he said: "I think that there will be nothing that we cannot survive."

"There will be some kind of heating in any case, and the fact that it will be 16 (degrees Celsius, or 61 Fahrenheit) instead of 20 doesn't matter much. Just put on a thermal and socks," he said.

- Iranians on the ground -

gifts worth millions during trips abroad.

They included luxury watches, jewellery, designer handbags and perfumes.

Khan is accused of failing to declare some gifts or the profit made from selling them.

The complaint to the election commission was first brought when Khan was still in office by the Pakistan Democratic Movement, a coalition whose members now make up the government.

At the time Khan said he had not made public some gifts on national security grounds, but in a written submission admitted buying items worth nearly 22 million rupees (\$100,000), and later selling them for more than twice that amount.

He says the valuation was done through proper channels. If the commission does rule against Khan, he could face punishment ranging from suspension to being banned from public office, but extreme rulings are usually challenged in court and frequently overturned.

# Shivraj Patil's jihad remarks attempt to 'insult' Hindutva: BJP; Cong calls the comments 'unacceptable'

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Friday stepped up its attack against the Congress over its leader Shivraj Patil's claim that Bhagavad Gita also spoke of jihad, saying that this is one more attempt to smear Hindutva by the opposition party, which disassociated itself from the remarks, terming them as "unacceptable".

The Congress also said the former governor and former Union home minister has clarified his comments and asserted that Bhagavad Gita is a key foundational pillar of Indian civilization.

Attacking the Congress, BJP spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi demanded that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge or its leader Sonia Gandhi should respond to Patil's comments.

He noted that Mahatma Gandhi in his commentary on the Hindu epic had described it as a source of 'Anasakti Yoga' (selfless action) while Bal Gangadhar Tilak expounded his philosophy of 'Karma Yoga' through his study of Gita and added that Congress leaders now see jihad in it.

BJP national spokesperson Prem Shukla alleged that Congress has long been involved in the conspiracy to "insult Hindu, Hindutva and Hindustan" and Patil's remarks are yet another chapter towards this. Congress leaders in the past have drawn a parallel between Hindutva with terror organisations like Boko Haram and Taliban, he alleged.

Former Union ministers Sushilkumar Shinde and P Chidambaram had spoken about "saffron terror", he said.

Gita is the philosophy of humanity, Shukla asserted. The BJP also accused the Congress party of playing vote bank politics.

With the BJP seizing on Patil's remarks to corner it, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh took to Twitter to give the party's view.

"My senior colleague Shivraj Patil reportedly made some comments on Bhagavad Gita that's unacceptable. Subsequently, he clarified. The Congress's

stand is clear. Bhagavad Gita is a key foundational pillar of Indian civilisation," he said.

He also shared on Twitter excerpts from Jawaharlal Nehru's book 'The Discovery of India', wherein the former prime minister wrote: "The message of the Gita is not sectarian or addressed to any particular school of thought. It is universal in its approach for everyone, Brahmin or outcaste. 'All paths



lead to me,' it says. It is because of this universality that it has found favour with all classes and schools." Patil on Thursday claimed that the concept of jihad was not just in Islam but also in Bhagavad Gita and Christianity.

Speaking at the launch of Congress veteran and former Union minister Mohsina Kidwai's biography, Patil, also a former Lok Sabha Speaker, said it is said there is a lot of discussion of jihad in the religion of Islam. The concept comes to the fore when despite having the right intentions and doing the right thing, nobody understands or reciprocates, then it is said one can use force, he said.

"It is not just in Quran, but in Mahabharata also, the part in Gita, Shri Krishna also talks of jihad to Arjun and this thing is not just in Quran or Gita but also in Christianity," he claimed in his remarks in Hindi.

Reacting to Patil's comments, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla on Thursday tweeted, "after AAP's Gopal Italia & Rajendra Pal, not to be outdone in Hindu hatred & vote bank politics, Congress' Shivraj Patil says Shri Krishna taught 'Jihad' to Arjun! "Congress coined Hindu/Saffron terror, opposed Ram Mandir. Questioned Ram Ji's existence, said Hindutva=ISIS," Poonawalla tweeted.

# Ghaziabad: Woman who levelled 'fabricated' gang-rape charge booked along with 3 others

GHAZIABAD(KCN): Police have registered a case against a woman and three others after she allegedly levelled a "fabricated" gang-rape charge in an attempt to grab property.

Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal on Wednesday had said that the 36-year-old woman was found wrapped in a jute bag, with her hands and legs tied, and an iron rod was inserted in her private parts.

However, the Ghaziabad police on Thursday dismissed as "fabricated" the Delhi woman's claim that she had been raped and brutalised by five men and that a had been hatched over a dispute over a "small" property.

The National Commission for Women has also said that contradictory statements were made by the woman and her family members.

On Friday, Circle Officer (City-2) Alok Dubey said that the woman and her accomplices Azad, Afzal and Gaurav have been booked under Indian Penal Code sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 467 (forgery of valuable security), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating) and 471 (fraudulently or dishonestly using as genuine any document which the person knows or has reason to believe to be forged).

Of the initial five suspects, the Ghaziabad police on Wednesday had said that four people had been taken into custody following the allegation of the woman.

During a press conference on Thursday, when asked if a clean chit will be given to the four of them, Inspector General, Meerut, Praveen Kumar, said, "We have not got any evidence against them. Prima facie, in this case, no such incident has taken place. So, there is no question of getting evidence."

On the women's claim that she was kidnapped, the officer had said, "No. She had gone to a designated place of her own will."

Chats analysed by police also show that money was also paid to individuals to publicise the case, he had said. The woman had claimed that she was

raped by five men for two days.

DCW chief Maliwal had said the incident reminded her of the Nirbhaya case.

She was referring to the brutal gang-rape and assault of a 23-year-old paramedic student on the



intervening night of December 16-17, 2012 inside a moving bus in south Delhi by six people before being thrown out on the road.

The DCW had also issued a notice to Ghaziabad police in connection with the case.

On Thursday, Inspector General Kumar had also said that during investigation, it was found that Azad's phone was switched off around the time the woman purportedly disappeared.

On the property dispute, he said the dispute was about a "small" property.

"A woman named Sameena gave the property to Azad in 2021 who in turn gave its power of attorney to a man named Deepak Joshi. There was talk about giving this property to the Delhi woman. The case regarding this was going on in the court," the officer said.

Authorities at the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital had on Wednesday said the woman's condition is stable and no internal injury has been found yet.

Nipun Agarwal, Superintendent of Police (City-I) Ghaziabad, on Wednesday had said the victim claimed that after raping her, the accused had inserted an iron rod in her private part but when the police tried to get her medically examined at a Meerut hospital, she refused.

"Doctors then referred her to the Meerut Medical College for treatment but she refused to go there as well. The woman was then taken to a Delhi hospital," the SP had said.







## NCLAT directs Jet Airways' new owner to clear unpaid provident fund, gratuity dues

NEW DELHI: Insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT on Friday directed Jet Airways' new owner - Jalan-Kalrock consortium - to pay the unpaid provident fund and gratuity dues of employees of the carrier, which is going to restart its operation. It has directed the former resolution professional to "compute the payments to be made to workmen and employees within one month from today" and communicate the same to the Jalan-Kalrock consortium to take steps for the payment.

Allowing a batch of petitions filed by payment of date of insolvency provident fund dues commencement,



the associations of workmen, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers, Officers and Staff Association and others, a two-member NCLAT bench had asked the new owner to make

payment of date of insolvency commencement, entitled to payment of their gratuity and workmen, who were demerged into AGSL (Airways subsidiary Airjet Ground Services Ltd), a subsidiary of Jet Airways shall not be there, since the demerger has not been treated as a termination of their services. "The employees are also entitled to the payment of their full provident fund, unpaid up to the date of the insolvency commencement date," said the 143-page-long NCLAT order. The order also said, "It is made clear that full payment of provident fund would be of that unpaid part of provident fund, which has not been deposited by the Corporate Debtor in the EPFO". However, the appellate tribunal denied other prayers by the workmen and employees of Jet Airways. of the Jalan-Kalrock consortium. Five appeals have been filed by workmen and employees of Jet Airways (India) and three by operational creditors.

The NCLAT order came over the petition challenging the orders of the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal, which had on June 22, 2021, approved the bids

### Pakistan's Election Commission disqualifies former PM Imran Khan on charges of concealing assets

Continued from page-1

which Khan's party was expecting. The latest move comes days before Khan was expected to announce his much-awaited march on Islamabad to force the government of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to hold snap elections. Sharif's coalition government petitioned the Election Commission, seeking action against Khan on charges that he unlawfully sold state gifts that he had received from heads of other states when he was in the power. Khan is also accused of concealing the money he received by selling those gifts. Since his ouster, Khan has claimed that his government was toppled by Sharif under a U.S. plot. Sharif and Washington both have denied the allegation. Shortly after Khan's disqualification, Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari wrote of Khan on Twitter: "He who would spread lies about alleged corruption of his political opponents has been caught red-handed."

## State Eyes Revenue Growth

Bhubaneswar : With sustained improvement in collection of own tax and own non tax revenue it is expected that State's own revenues are to register 'Moderate Growth' in Financial Year 2023- 24. According to officials of the Department of Finance, the recovery of the economy post pandemic as well as high inflationary regime has resulted in higher realization of direct and

2.7 percent in 2023. RBI has projected India's economy to grow around 7.2 percent during this fiscal and will have a growth of 6.5 percent during 2023-24. In the case of Odisha, the economy is projected to register higher growth of about 8 percent in 2022-23 as well as in 2023-24, informed a senior official of the Finance Department.



indirect taxes at national and sub-national level during the current year. Fall of iron ore prices will partially affect the revenue from the mining sector during the FY 2022-23. However, the State would be able to realize revenue at the level of Budget Estimate by compensating the shortfall through higher tax revenue, the officials said. State's own revenues are expected to register moderate growth in FY 2023- 24. Besides, the grant-in-aid from Government of India projected to fall in 2022-23 and 2023-24 due to cessation of GST compensation to the States, they said. Considering all these factors, there is a need for higher capital spending. So, the total Government expenditure is expected to increase by about 12 percent in FY 2023-24 over the current year's revised estimates. The Capital Outlay is budgeted at Rs.38, 732crore (5.4% of Gross State Domestic Product) in 2022-23 Budget Estimate. As per the latest IMF projection, the world economy is expected to grow 3.2 percent this year, before slowing further to a

The Odisha FRBM Act, 2005 mandates to maintain revenue balance and contain the fiscal deficit within 3 percent of GSDP. Additional annual borrowing space of 0.5 percent of GSDP would be available during the four-year period from 2021-22 to 2024-25 as per recommendation of 15th Finance Commission subject to fulfillment of sectoral reforms prescribed by Government of India from time to time. Provision for carrying forward of unused borrowing space to successive financial years would also be available for the State till FY 2024-25. The requirement of higher Capital Expenditure is contingent upon generation of higher revenue surplus by rationalization and prioritization of revenue expenditure. Thus, the State Government would try to adhere to FRBM requirements for Revised Estimates, 2022-23 and Budget Estimates, 2023-24 with containing the fiscal deficit within 3 percent of GSDP. Both the financial years are going to be revenue surplus years for Odisha, senior officials are expecting.

entitled to payment of their gratuity and workmen, who were demerged into AGSL (Airways subsidiary Airjet Ground Services Ltd), a subsidiary of Jet Airways shall not be there, since the demerger has not been treated as a termination of their services. "The employees are also entitled to the payment of their full provident fund, unpaid up to the date of the insolvency commencement date," said the 143-page-long NCLAT order. The order also said, "It is made clear that full payment of provident fund would be of that unpaid part of provident fund, which has not been deposited by the Corporate Debtor in the EPFO". However, the appellate tribunal denied other prayers by the workmen and employees of Jet Airways. of the Jalan-Kalrock consortium. Five appeals have been filed by workmen and employees of Jet Airways (India) and three by operational creditors.

## Land for Land Loser

Bhubaneswar : In an aim to ensure shelter for those who lose land/home for two mega projects in Cuttack city, development of SCB Medical College & Hospital and Taladanda Canal, will get 2000 sq ft of land from the Government. Following the approval of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Revenue and Disaster Management ACS Satyabrata Sahu has asked RDC Central Division, Cuttack to take steps in this regard. "Government have been pleased to accord in-principle approval for addition in Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy for "Re-Development of SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack" & "Improvement of Road on both left & right Embankment of Taladanda Canal from Ranihat Chhak to Biribati" as proposed by Collector, Cuttack and recommended by you," Mr.Sahu said in his letter.

During land acquisition, the Cuttack District Administration found that some of the persons losing their land and building for the aforesaid project are not willing to accept the compensation under the existing R&R packages and are demanding land in lieu for their land and value of the structure being calculated without depreciation. It is noticed that under the above mentioned provision, the extent of land of equal value is too small for a person to construct a house for dwelling purposes. Hence, the Government has decided to allot 2000 sq ft of land to the losers against their compensation. In case the land loser is interested to acquire land in lieu of land for dwelling house purposes, he/she depending on availability may be allotted a maximum of 2000 sq. ft. of Government land on Rayati basis for homestead purpose, sources said. The value of the land being allotted will be adjusted against the total amount of

compensation payable to the land loser in respect of the land and building being acquired from him/ her. In case the amount of compensation is more than the value of the plot to be allotted, after adjustment towards the value of the said plot, the balance amount of compensation will be paid to the land loser. On the contrary if the amount of compensation payable to the land loser is lesser than the value of the plot to be allotted, the land loser can secure its allotment by paying the balance amount in addition to the total amount of compensation due to him, they said.



As a part of the 5T initiative, the State Government had announced plans for the revamping and modernizing of the SCB Medical College and Hospital in November 2019. As per the plans the hospital will be revamped as a 5000 bedded integrated hospital with state-of-the-art facilities and will be developed as an AIIMS Plus institute with an investment of around Rs 5,000 crore in two phases. Similarly, the Taladanda Canal, one of the oldest canals constructed by the British to provide water to farmlands in Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur districts is all set to regain its past glory and also become a landmark for the Millennium City soon. The project also envisages the development of Canal Embankment Road connecting the SCB Medical College and Hospital thereby easing traffic woos.



## Ronaldo refused to come on as sub, says Manchester United boss Ten Hag

LONDON: Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag confirmed on Friday that Cristiano Ronaldo refused to come on as a substitute during this week's win against Tottenham, saying there had to be "consequences" for his behaviour.

Post-match talk following the impressive



2-0 victory over Spurs at Old Trafford on Wednesday has been dominated by the early exit of the 37-year-old Portuguese superstar.

Ronaldo headed down the tunnel before the final whistle and made a hasty departure from Old Trafford.

United announced on Thursday that the forward had been dropped from the squad for Saturday's clash with Chelsea following his tantrum.

Asked at his pre-match press conference whether Ronaldo had refused to come on as a substitute against Spurs, Ten Hag said: "Yes."

Ten Hag said: "What (happened in) the talk is between Cristiano and me. The (club)

statement is also clear, I think."

But the Dutch manager, in his first season at Old Trafford, said Ronaldo "remains an important part of the squad."

The forward was also among those that left Old Trafford early in July's pre-season friendly against Rayo Vallecano, leading Ten Hag to underline the importance of players staying to support their teammates.

Asked how he deals with the situation, the Dutchman said on Friday: "How we did. I am the manager. I am responsible for the top sport culture here and I have to set standards and values and I have to control them."

"We are in a team, so we have standards, we have values and I have to control that. After Rayo Vallecano, I told (you) it was unacceptable but he wasn't the only one. That is for everyone."

"When it's the second time, that will have consequences. That is what we did. We miss him tomorrow. That is a miss for us. For the squad it's a miss."

"But I think it's important for the attitude and mentality from the group. Now we have to focus on Chelsea and that is the most important."

Heat of the moment Ronaldo responded to his omission from

the squad by saying he had acted in the heat of the moment.

"I've always tried to set the example myself for the youngsters that grew in all the teams that I've represented," he posted on Instagram on Thursday. "Unfortunately that's not always possible and sometimes the heat of the moment gets the best of us."

"Right now, I just feel that I have to keep working hard in Carrington, support my teammates and be ready for everything in any given game."

"Giving in to the pressure is not an option. It never was. This is Manchester United, and united we must stand. Soon we'll be together again."

The former Real Madrid and Juventus star scored 24 goals in all competitions in 2021/22 in his first season back at Old Trafford, where he made his name as a global star.

But, disappointed by United's failure to qualify for the Champions League, he has tried and failed to engineer a move away from Old Trafford.

Ronaldo, a five-time Champions League winner with Real and United, has started only two Premier League games this season and has just one goal to his name in the English top flight.

The forward, who missed United's pre-season tour to Australia and Thailand for "family reasons", also reacted badly when he was substituted by Ten Hag in last week's draw against Newcastle.

## Halep says will fight to clean name after doping suspension

ROMANIA(KCN): Former world number one Simona Halep said Friday she will "fight until

tegrity Agency (ITIA) said. Halep, the current world number nine, said the positive test was "the biggest



the end" to prove she did not knowingly take a prohibited substance after she was provisionally suspended for doping. A sample that Halep provided during the US Open in August showed traces of Roxadustat, a drug that stimulates the production of red blood cells and is used in the treatment of patients with kidney problems, the International Tennis In-

shock of my life". "Throughout my whole career, the idea of cheating never even crossed my mind once, as it is totally against all the values I have been educated with," the Romanian tweeted. "I will fight until the end to prove that I never knowingly took any prohibited substance and I have faith that sooner or later, the truth will come out."

## Possible cyclone likely to hit east coast on Oct 25; West Bengal, Odisha on alert

A low-pressure system over the Andaman Sea is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm and reach West Bengal-Bangladesh coasts on October 25, causing wind gusting to 110 km per hour, the IMD said on Friday.

Sanjib Bandopadhyay, the deputy director-general of Regional Met Centre in Kolkata, said that the

Tarpaulin, dry food and medicines have also been adequately stocked in these districts, the official said.

The Kolkata Police's disaster management team has been asked to work in tandem with Kolkata Municipal Corporation to address any emergency, he added.



system is likely to cause light to moderate rain in Gangetic West Bengal, with isolated heavy rain in the coastal districts of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur.

He said that it is likely to cause light to moderate rain in Kolkata on October 24 and 25.

"Wind speed of 45 to 55 km gusting to 65 kmph will occur in the coastal districts of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur on October 24, while on October 25, wind speed will reach 90 to 100 kmph gusting to 110 kmph," he told reporters here.

Wind speed of 30 to 40 kmph gusting to 50 kmph will occur in Kolkata and adjoining districts of Howrah and Hooghly, he said.

"It will not be a super cyclone and further movement of the system will be updated by the IMD in due course," Bandopadhyay said.

Super cyclone Amphan, which ravaged the coastal districts of West Bengal in May 2020, had a wind speed of 185 kmph when it made landfall near Sundarban, officials said.

The West Bengal government has begun the process of evacuating people from low-lying areas in Purba Medinipur and South 24 Parganas districts to safe shelters in the wake of the cyclone forecast, a senior official said.

"Leaves of all district magistrates, SPs and emergency department workers have been cancelled as a part of the preparedness for the possible cyclone," he said.

Odisha's Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallick said all districts and coastal region authorities were directed to be prepared to deal with any eventuality.

The system is likely to trigger heavy rainfall when it crosses parallel to the state's coast on Monday.

Mallick said personnel of the fire service department, the ODRAF and NDRF are on

standby for any emergency situation. Odisha's Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena appealed to the people not to panic as the cyclone is likely to be 200 km away from the state's coast at Dhamra Port in Bhadrak district when it will head towards West Bengal-Bangladesh coasts.

"The Odisha government is in touch with the NDRF, Indian Navy and Coast Guard in view of the forecast. Odisha coast may experience maximum 50 to 60 kmph wind speed when the weather system crosses parallel to the state's coast," he said.

The IMD in its forecast said that the low-pressure area over Andaman Sea is likely to move west-northwestwards and concentrate into a depression, and deep depression thereafter on October 23.

The system is very likely to recurve northwards subsequently and intensify into a cyclonic storm over westcentral and adjoining eastcentral Bay of Bengal by October 24, the Met said.

"Thereafter, it is likely to move north-northeastwards and reach near West Bengal-Bangladesh coasts on October 25, skirting Odisha coast," the Met department said in its forecast.

The Northeast, including south Assam, east Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura, will receive rainfall on October 24, 25 and 26 under the impact of the system, it said.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea from October 23 until further notice.

The cyclonic storm is expected to be christened 'Sitrang', as suggested by Thailand.




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- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

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**Baghra Road, Baripada**  
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**Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon**  
**E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com**

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