

Special Nuakhai holiday in Sambalpur, Bargarh district in Odisha

SAMBALPUR(KCN): Festive joy doubled for residents of Sambalpur and Bargarh on Tuesday after the State government declared an additional holiday in the two districts for the agrarian festival Nuakhai scheduled to be celebrated on September 1. The Revenue Divisional Commissioner, North declared the day following Nuakhai as a special holiday on the basis of authorisation by joint secretary Madhu-smita Sahoo on behalf of the State government. As per the letter issued by the office of the RDC, the day following Nuakhai (September 2) has

been declared a special local holiday in Bargarh and Sambalpur districts.

Naveen Patnaik requesting him to declare two days of holiday for the

demand of people." Earlier, the RDC had announced a special local holiday in



The demand for a two-day holiday during Nuakhai was raised by several local outfits. Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly Jayanarayana Mishra and Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari had also written to Chief Minister

Nuakhai festival. Member of Paschimanchal Peoples' Forum Sapan Mishra said, "It is a matter of joy for us. The State government has finally declared the day following Nuakhai a holiday. It was a long-standing

Balangir, Sonepur and Jharsuguda districts besides the Sadar sub-division of Sundargarh. On Monday, the government announced that all banking institutions in Odisha will remain closed on the occasion of Nuakhai.

Ganesh Puja celebrations return to Odisha Capital in full glory

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Gigantic idols of Lord Ganesh at Puja pandals are set to be the biggest attraction in the State Capital that will celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi on Wednesday with all its pomp and grandeur after a gap of two years. Around 50 puja committees and associations have taken permission from both Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Commissionerate Police to organise the celebrations after the two-year Covid hiatus. Committees said keeping in view the guidelines of the Pollution Control Board, they are mostly using natural and eco-friendly paints to colour the idols. A 51-ft-tall idol at the Badagada pandal will be the biggest draw, which has been made using clay, bamboo, straw and other similar products, said Rakesh Mohanty, a member of the Bright Star Youth Association which is organising the Puja. Apart from Badagada, Saheed Nagar has also



built a 46-ft-high idol of Lord Ganesh for this year's Puja. Sitting on a chariot of five horses, the idol has been sculpted by artisans from Kolkata. The idol will then be recycled after immersion, said Umanath Mishra, senior advisor of Winner Association that has been organising the celebrations in Saheed Nagar locality here for the last few years. Moreover, both the associations at Badagada and Saheed Nagar will offer laddu of around 50 kg at their respective pandals. Large idols will also adorn the pandals of Nayapalli, Damana and other parts of the city. Associations will continue the Puja celebration for five to seven days. Some of the Puja associations also planned cultural functions and Bhajan Sandhyas near the pandals during this period. With the Puja celebration commencing on Wednesday, the city markets witnessed a huge rush for shopping.

BJP trying to destabilise RaGa's Bharat Jodo Yatra: Congress

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM(KCN): Ahead of Rahul Gandhi-led Kanyakumari to Kashmir 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', which is scheduled to begin on September 7, AICC general secretary and the party's chief spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said the march is not aimed at any upcoming election but it is a response to the economic, social and political challenges faced by the country under the BJP. Ramesh, who was in the capital with AICC general secretaries Digvijaya Singh and Tariq Anwar to assess preparedness for the yatra, termed the all-India march a 'mass contact programme'. He accused the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of working overtime to "destabilise" the yatra. He hinted that there could be a new Congress president amid the yatra if the organisational election process goes as per schedule. Asked about senior Congress leaders quitting the party, Digvijaya Singh downplayed it and

said these leaders did not leave on ideological grounds. Without naming Ghulam Nabi Azad, Digvijaya asked why the veteran leader had not issued a single statement against BJP, RSS or Modi. Ramesh said the party does not underestimate the BJP's "capacity for mischief" under any circumstances. The foisting of an Enforcement Directorate (ED) case on the Gandhi family was one such attempt, he said. Digvijaya, the yatra's chief planner, added that the party was capable to deal with the issue. He said the yatra, which will begin from Gandhi Mandapam on September 7, will enter Kerala on September 11. "The yatra will be in the state for 18 days and cover seven districts," he told reporters. The 148-day-long yatra will pass through 12 districts and two union territories. Along with 100 national 'padayatris', there will be another 100 'adithi padayatris' joining from states not covered by the yatra. Another batch of 100 'pradesh yatris' will join as the march passes through their respective states.



Mikhail Gorbachev, who steered Soviet breakup, dead at 91

MOSCOW(KCN): Mikhail Gorbachev, who set out to revitalise the Soviet Union but ended up unleashing forces that led to the collapse of communism, the breakup of the state and the end of the Cold War, died Tuesday. The last Soviet leader was 91. Gorbachev died after a





Message

Warm Greetings to the People of Barachana – Dharmasala dist.- Jajpur, Odisha on the occasion of Nuakhai.
Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantray
Barachana – Dharmasala, Jajpur Odisha

Mamata cautions Trinamool minister against making controversial remarks against party leaders

KOLKATA(KCN): West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday cracked the whip on minister Srikanta Mahata and cautioned him from making controversial remarks against party leaders from the showbiz industry. She also asked Mahata to apologise, a TMC



Mahata, the minister of state for consumer affairs and an influential leader from West Midnapore district, had courted controversy on Sunday by claiming that several Trinamool Congress MLAs and MPs from the showbiz industry have become looters and that the party's top brass is ignoring honest workers. He was show caused for his statement, which the party top brass said "has harmed the party's image". Mahata had said that if the TMC MPs and MLAs from the showbiz industry are considered its assets "How long can we be with this party?" "If there are instances of loot of money, it is advisable for a minister to go to jail. Otherwise, people will point fingers at ministers and label all of us as thieves. Aren't all of us facing similar taunts?" the minister had said. He was referring to the arrests of senior leaders Partha Chatterjee and Anubrata Mondal by central probe agencies in connection with the school jobs recruitment scam and alleged cattle smuggling respectively.

minister said. "The chief minister rebuked Mahata for his remarks and asked him not to make controversial remarks in future. He was asked to tender an apology," the senior TMC Minister said.

Rajnath Singh: India fully equipped to deal with all kinds of threats

New Delhi(KCN): Defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday that the 2016 surgical strikes and the 2019 Balakot airstrikes were proof that India's military prowess was no less than that of any country. He asserted that India was no longer weak; the country



was strong and well-equipped to deal with all challenges. "India has never attacked any country, nor has it captured an inch of foreign land. But if anyone tries to cast an evil eye, we will give a befitting reply," said Singh at a function in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The defence minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India had been

CM Naveen Patnaik pitch for climate-friendly sustainable development

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday pitched for a climate-friendly sustainable development as environment and development are both essential. Virtually addressing the induction programme of 35 assistant environmental engineers and assistant environmental scientists who joined the Odisha State Pollution Control Board, the CM said environment and climate change is the single most

important issue in the world in the current times. Describing the gravity of the issue, Naveen said now the world is in the midst of climate change which has made life difficult for people all around the globe. This year, there are severe drought conditions in Europe and China, Pakistan is facing a massive flood situations never seen in several decades, he said and added that in India also different states are witnessing droughts or floods because of uneven rains in the monsoon. "Therefore, it's time to act now and course correct ourselves. For us, Development and Environment are both essential. We require climate-friendly sustainable development," he added.

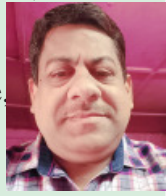




The Tricoloured's Call

Sanjib Kumar Dash

Saluting our prodigious Tricoloured, with the wheel of truth amidst, flying in sky of new arena, waving an ever alarming call, that reminds a story unforgettable scribbled wherein, the anguish of innocent lot, ransacked, offered with satanic acts, beaten black n blue often.



The beautiful flag urges In flashback, to envisage those sanguinary fields, of suppressed mutiny, the fighters' tale who shed blood, ushered rays of hope, a renaissance, to regain the usurped land, from abyss of utter dismay, sticked with hunger and despair.

The sacred cloth addresses for our attention towards a deep contemplation to redeem, to unite, to respect all caste, creed n religion, to smash sabotage of all sorts, to rejuvenate truely, the past glory of Mother India.

Reader in Physics, Deogarh College

Distance

Dwit David Philip

Distance doesn't matter road is there,
Distance doesn't matter
Phone is there,
Distance doesn't matter
Internet is there,



If response is there !

What I eat that doesn't matter
If doesn't relise, it does matter
Distance matters

One cell is adjoining to other,
Cancer, gangrene, fire, flood

Humen
Villages
Districts
States
Nations
Adjoining to each other, Neighbours

Centurian says to Jesus,
Distance doesn't matter

The invisible thread, while you are reading, that matters.

Traveler, Chaibasha. Jharkhand, India

Quotation of the Day

KEEPINSPIRING.ME

“

In the middle
of every
difficulty lies
opportunity.

”

- Albert Einstein -

An Arts and Crafts Trail: Tracing Odisha's Handmade History

Odisha, from time immemorial, has been home to a wide range of art and crafts. Although many of them have their origin rooted in religious rites and household requirements, today they have evolved in form and presentation to attract modern buyers.

Applique, Pipili

The colourful applique art of Odisha is frequently seen across India, often used as canopies during functions and for interior decorations. Pipili, the original home of this traditional art, is about 20km by road from Bhubaneswar. As you drive into the town, you will find rows of shops on both sides of the road, where the artists are busy cutting coloured fabrics in various designs and stitching them on yards of cloth. Sometimes, the patterns are embellished with decorative stitches and bits of glass. Today the colour palette of fabrics range beyond the traditional red, yellow, black and white. According to local people, the art originated as part of religious rites. The appliqued cloth would be used to make 'chandua' or canopy and 'chhati' or umbrella; pieces of the embroidered cloth would be used to cover the heart-shaped top of the 'tarasa'. The drapes used to cover the giant wooden chariots of Puri's Lord Jagannath and his siblings are also the applique work of Pipili. To ensure the survival of the art form, the tailors have devised ways to attract the modern buyers. Now they are making designer parasols, purses, handbags, bed covers, wall hangings, lampshades, etc.

Tarkashi, Cuttack

Tarkashi or silver filigree of Cuttack is one of the most exquisite handicrafts of Odisha. It is amazing to see the craftspeople using the finely drawn silver wires to give shape to ornaments and artefacts. While the ornaments can be perfect accessories for all occasions, the mind-boggling range of artefacts—floral and animal shapes, boxes and other containers, miniature boats, statuettes to name a few—can be used as interior decorations or gifts.

Pattachitra, Raghurajpur

Pattachitra artists produce some of the finest pieces of art in the state. Pattachitra artists produce some of the finest pieces of art in the state



Raghurajpur, about 5km from Puri, is a crafts village of Odisha. It is here that you will 'pattachitra' painters at work. Stiffened cloth is used as the canvas on which paintings are

made. In the old days, pattachitra artists would paint pictures of Lord Jagannath to be sold to pilgrims who would come to Puri during the 'anasara' period (when the deities would remain in seclusion for a fortnight prior to the Rathayatra). The artists would also make the Ganjifa or Ganjapa playing cards, some of which now find a place of honour in museums around the globe.

Palm Leaf Painting, Raghurajpur

Palm leaf has long been used to make auspicious recordings, including religious texts and horoscopes. In Odisha, artists used to paint directly on the palm leaves cut to the required size. The tradition of painting snippets from religious texts or incidents continues even today. The palm leaf paintings are now being made more user-friendly to attract modern buyers. Greeting cards, bookmarks and other decorative items make lasting souvenirs and gifts.

Stone carving, Puri

The famous chariot wheel in the Konark Sun



Temple is a supreme example of stone carvings spread across Orissa

The famous chariot wheel in the Konark Sun Temple is a supreme example of stone carvings spread across Orissa. Probably no traveller to Odisha leaves the state without at least one miniature stone replica of the famous wheels of the Konark Sun Temple, in their luggage. The land of lofty temples built of stone and embellished with rich carvings, Odisha is home to master stone carvers

since time immemorial. You will find most handicraft shops storing these stone carvings in many sizes. From statues of gods and goddesses to copies of famous sculptures seen in

Uttara Gangopadhyay

temples, to utility items, there is a lot to

choose from.

Wood carving, Puri

The Puri Temple has three popular idols which are prime examples of wood carvings. The Puri Temple has three popular idols which are prime examples of wood carvings. Two of the best examples of Odisha's traditional woodcarving are the three idols of the Puri temple – Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra, as well as the huge chariots they ride in during the annual Rathayatra (Chariot Festival). The miniature idols and toys on sale may be bought as souvenirs.

Brass and bell metal, multiple places

A select group of craftspeople are trying to keep the tradition of brass and bell metal wares alive

A select group of craftspeople are trying to keep the tradition of brass and bell metal wares alive

Despite pressure from modern technology and material, a select group of craftspeople are still



trying to keep the tradition of brass and bell



metal wares alive. It is not difficult to come across traditional factories where the age-old 'lost wax' process is still being used. Various

kinds of religious artefacts, household utensils and decorative items are made. The flexible brass fish, usually made in the Ganjam region, is an interesting souvenir.

Dokra, mostly tribal areas

Dokra or Dhokra is an alloy of brass, nickel and zinc. The metal is used to give shape to a stylised range of decorative artefacts. Divine figures, animal statuettes, lamps, etc. reflect age-old designs. Candle stands, pen holders, ashtrays, small plates, etc. are also being made. According to Odisha Tourism, Kuliana in Mayurbhanj district, Kaimati in Keonjhar district, Sadeiberni in Dhenkanal district and Adakata in Nayagarh district are some of the best places to see the artisans at work.

Other crafts to shop for

Odisha is a shopper's delight if you are looking for traditional crafts. Apart from the ones already mentioned, Odisha is also known for its papier-mâché products, woven mats and other products made from golden grass, coconut shell carving and coir craft, betel nut carving, murals, terracotta, and seashell products, etc.

Sand art, Puri

Although now seen across many beaches of Odisha, sand art is a recent addition to the state's long list of art and crafts. Sand art is best enjoyed on the Puri beach, largely owing to the efforts of master artist Padma Shree Sudarsan Pattnaik. You may find Pattnaik (if he not travelling that is) and his students making huge sand sculptures based on commemorative themes at Puri beach. Usually in December, during the time of the Konark Festival, Odisha Tourism organises the annual International Sand Art Festival at the Chandrabhaga Beach, near Konark Sun Temple.

Information: The traditional art and craft wares of Odisha can be bought at government and privately owned emporiums in Bhubaneswar and other major towns of Odisha. Odisha government emporiums are also found in major cities in India. Small items made of seashells, stones, wood, etc. are also available at stalls crowding popular tourist destinations such as Puri and Konark.

The writer is a from the stone carvings that make up its famous temples to the Pattachitra artworks of Lord Jagannath and the sand art found in Puri, discover the distinct culture of this eastern Indian state

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Actor Anasuya files complaint



Hyderabad: Actor Anasuya Bharadwaj on Monday lodged a complaint with the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal

(NCRP) against persons who made abusive comments against her for the past few days on social media platforms.

In her tweet the actress allegedly hinted at a reference to actor Vijay Deverakonda and the lukewarm response to his recent

movie Liger on Friday, was followed by her being trolled by the actor's fans on Twitter, who also resorted to age shaming.

Shweta Avasthi in a crime comedy, Dilwala



Shweta Avasthi is all set to be seen in Dilwala, a crime comedy directed by Veerabhadram Chowdary, in which she's paired with Naresh Agastya. Shweta says it was her performance in her debut film Merise Merise, which Veerabhadram saw and liked, that won her the role. "He gave me a brief narration, and I got the hang of the character quickly," she

shares, adding that she plays a chirpy girl in the film. "I am working on my diction to get my lines and expressions right," she adds. "A lot of things happen around me, and the protagonist sees me in a miserable situation. He tries to help me get out of the predicament," says the actress, who is also working on a web series directed by Suresh Krissna. It's been three years

since she came into the industry, and Shweta says she's getting used to the dynamics of the trade — erratic schedules, sudden shoot cancellations, etc. "Since I have been frequenting Hyderabad, the city has become my second home. And I have a big circle of friends here too," she says. Interestingly, when Shweta is not working in films, she's an entrepreneur. She has

been running a hostel for girls in Pune for the last six years, and also owns a hotel. As a working woman, whenever she had to go out of Pune, she found herself searching for safe and clean accommodation. "I felt girls who want to stay or work in Pune feel the same. Hence, I started a safe and a hygiene hostel facility," she reveals, adding that her entrepreneurship functions as a backup plan.

Amitabh Bachchan tests positive for Covid-19

Almost two years since actor Amitabh for Covid-19.



first contracting the coronavirus, legendary

Bachchan announced that he tested positive

In a tweet, Amitabh Bachchan wrote, "I have

just tested CoViD + positive.. all those that have been in my vicinity and around me, please get yourself checked and tested also." Celebrities and fans alike took to social media to express their best wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery of the thespian. The 79-year-old actor, who was recently seen in Nagraj Manjule's Jhund, is awaiting the release of Ayan Mukerji's Brahmastra, and has an interesting lineup of projects including Uunchai, Project K, and the Hindi remake of The Intern in various stages of production.

'Cobra' movie review: A solid Vikram anchors a plot that goes around in circles

Hardly 15 minutes into the three-hour, three-minute, and three-second film, the film takes us to 13-odd locations. We also see a couple of high-profile assassinations take place. We move across places like Odisha, Scotland, France, London, and Kolkata, and within seven minutes of his appearance on screen, Vikram, who plays Madhi, a mathematical genius moonlighting as an assassin-for-hire, is shown in at least six different get-ups. It is clear director Ajay Gnanamuthu, much like the protagonist of his film, Cobra, loves numbers and puzzles. But in his attempt to give us a grand film that is a marriage of a clever thriller and a poignant emotional drama, Ajay falters quite a bit to give us a half-decent film that just about slithers to a tame end.

Firstly, Cobra wants to be a lot of things. However, it isn't backed by sound writing to pull it all off. After an initial buildup about Madhi's mathematical prowess in doing some of the most outlandish assassinations halfway across the world from his nondescript house in Chennai, we hardly see him exercise this brilliance. Yes, we see him wriggling out of some tight corners using his intellect, but we aren't really sold on the mathematical part of it.

We have seen our fair share of Ethan Hunts, and even Agent Vikrams who have done all of it without knowing the difference between Pythagoras and Euclid. It is a shame that Ajay didn't really flesh out this aspect of his protagonist rather than just making it a simple gimmick. This could have been forgiven if the other aspects of Cobra really came together to give us a gripping film.

The central plot of a mathematical genius/assassin meeting his match with a world-is-mine villain, an uber-smart Interpol officer, and one surprise villain does have the makings of a fun exercise... If only,



the stars aligned. "We took nearly five hours on make-up for each look in Cobra," says actor Vikram. Let's take the case of the caricaturish villain, Rishi, who is played in the most outlandish of fashion by Roshan Mathew. It is a role that seems to have been modelled by Siddharth Abhimanyu and Harley Quinn. He exudes manic energy that comes across as a case of someone trying so hard that it hurts to watch because his role is all fluff and has no substance.

Irfan Pathan plays Interpol officer Aslan and is actually not bad at all, and in his case, it is nice to see someone try this hard, especially with his Tamil dialogues. Points to Ajay Gnanamuthu for giving Aslan enough high moments to ensure this role doesn't just become another Aryan from Vivegam.

Similarly, Ajay neatly weaves the women — Srinidhi Shetty, Meenakshi Govindarajan, and Minalini Ravi — into the story. However, the dichotomy in the writing comes to the fore in the romance portions. While these scenes show potential, the dialogues are trite, and the performances are contrived too. These dips in the narrative take away from the highs that the assassin portions take us through.

The surprise package is definitely the roles played by Anandaraj, Muhammad Ali Baig, Miya George, and the actor who plays the childhood version of Vikram. These portions, powered by a terrific Vikram, are a hoot. It is such a relief from the other sequences that oscillate between vapid and exciting and nothing in between.

Despite whatever happens to the host of other characters or plot points in the film, there is no doubt that Cobra is only about one man... Vikram and his fascination for characters allow him to satiate his love for prosthetics.

It is a Vikram show through and through, and it is understandable why the actor felt so strongly about this film. Ajay peppers this film with a host of bright, bold, and interesting ideas, which don't always hit the bull's eye with their execution. AR Rahman's background score (barring that grating pathos BGM) and solid songs aid the narrative, which jumps across timelines at the same pace that it jumps across continents.

This non-linear approach and throwing bits and pieces of information hoping that the latter half will resolve all these issues is both a hit and a miss. The plot gets unnecessarily convoluted, and the glimmers of brilliance are offset by the fillers that come in the form of romance and exposition.

With a premise like this, and a bunch of oh-so-convenient plot twists that definitely remind us of a few films, including a blockbuster Hindi film from the recent past, Cobra ticks almost all the boxes we have grown to expect from a Vikram starrer, including the disappointment of the actor being the brightest star in a rather middling film.

Get rid of strawberry legs at home with these remedies

Comedones, also known as "Strawberry legs" is a term used for dark spots that appear on the legs. This name owes its origin to the fact that the dark spots look like strawberry dots. According to a dermatologist, "Strawberry legs occur when enlarged pores or hair follicles trap dead skin, oil, and bacteria. A person often experiences strawberry legs following shaving. Other skin conditions that can cause strawberry legs to include clogged pores, folliculitis, dry skin, and keratosis pilaris." Although there may not be any itching or pain, the condition can cause embarrassment, as they are visible.



But there's nothing to fret about those strawberry spots, as you can easily get rid of them by proper exfoliation, scrubbing, and waxing. Make a paste by mixing one tablespoon of baking soda with one teaspoon of water. Apply this paste to your legs and let it dry naturally. Rinse with cold water

Aloe vera is a very powerful moisturizer and has

excellent skin healing properties. Applying it every day will always keep the skin hydrated.

Take fresh Aloe Vera from leaf and apply it to your legs and massage gently for a few minutes. Let the skin absorb the aloe vera and then rinse it with cold water

Mix 3 tbsps brown sugar, 2 tbsps fresh aloe vera gel and 1 tbsps of olive or coconut oil in a bowl. Put it all over your legs and start massaging it in circular motions. Continue scrubbing your legs for 20 minutes. Wash off with cool water. Pat dry and apply some moisturiser.

Mix 1 egg white with 1 tablespoon of lemon juice and apply it all over your legs. Leave it on for 10 minutes then rinse.

Egg whites help tighten the skin whereas lemon juice is a natural bleaching agent

Since shaving can result in this condition, men are advised to shave in the direction of hair-growth. Women, who shave their legs, should shave in the direction against hair growth. You are also advised to change razors in good time. Epilation and waxing can also lead to in-growing hair. Waxing removes hair by the roots, but when the hair starts growing, it can turn inwards. In-grown hair is com-

Shahnaz Husain

mon in areas like the legs and under-arms. Moisturising the skin before and after shaving

also helps. Avoid pinching the skin with your nails, or applying unsterilized needles, or pins, to take out the hair. This can lead to skin infections and eruptions. The condition does not really lead to anything very serious. Regularly exfoliating and moisturizing the legs can also prevent and treat strawberry legs. If home remedies do not help, do consult your doctor

What one can do to deal with the problem is to soften the hair properly before shaving with warm water and shaving cream. Avoid shaving the hair when it is dry. After waxing, wrap ice cubes in a clean cloth and apply it on the waxed area for a few seconds at a time. This helps to close the pores. Exfoliation with scrubs also helps to remove cellular build-up (dead skin cells) and thus loosen the in-growing hair. The scrub should be rubbed gently on the skin with small circular movements and then washed off with water. Ready-made scrubs are easily available nowadays. Keeping the pores free of clogged oil helps to prevent open pores and also reduce them. This can be done by proper cleansing and deep cleansing. The skin should be

cleansed with specialized cleansers, which help to reduce oiliness of the skin surface and the pores. After cleansing, wipe the skin with an astringent lotion or skin tonic, using cotton wool. The use of a loofah while bathing can also help in preventing the problem.

Sometimes, when the in-growing hair is visible, it can be gently extricated with a pair of tweezers and then pulled out. However, if there is inflammation or pain, be careful when using tweezers.

Warm compress is also said to help. Dip a soft towel in hot water, wring out the water and apply it on the area. Repeat this a few times. This is said to soften the hair and bring it closer to the skin surface, where it can be seen. Warm compress or steam also helps to open the pores, while exfoliation or even skin brushing helps. Skin "brushing" helps the elimination of toxins. The entire surface, should be brushed, using a rough cloth, or a natural bristle brush. Begin from the feet and go upwards. Then brush from lower to upper arms. Go across the shoulders and back. Brush gently on the chest and abdomen.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

Kejriwal's Revdi-A New Age Governance?

With Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's rant on sops

Pratap Kishore Mohanty



and hand-outs reigniting the debate over freebie culture in India, it is worth taking a look at where and when such practices entered Indian politics. In general, Tamil Nadu politics in particular can be used to pinpoint the beginnings of freebie culture in contemporary India. Between 1954 to 1963, the late Kumaraswami Kamaraj, who served as the Chief Minister of the former Madras state, offered perks including free meals and education for students. Following that, DMK founder CN Annadurai advanced the practise by promising to distribute 4.5 kg of rice for 1 Re through the public distribution system if he were to win the 1967 state election. Naturally, he won, but because of the financial strain, he could only implement a limited rollout of the rice subsidy. [* File contains invalid data | In-line.JPG *][* File contains invalid data | In-line.JPG *] Since then, freebie culture has exploded all over the country, with voters being given everything from bottles of alcohol and chicken biryani to goats in exchange for their votes. Furthermore, the viability of the promises made is not necessarily a deciding factor. Think about the ridiculousness of the goodies that a Madurai-based independent candidate for the state of Tamil Nadu in 2021 promised. Thulam Saravanan, a reporter for the local newspaper at the time, ran for office with the emblem of a dustbin and promised supporters helicopters, automobiles, gold, robots for the home, trips to the moon lasting 100 days, and, most oddly, fake icebergs to keep his constituents "cool." For good measure, promises of free iPhones were thrown in. While he first asserted that everything was doable, he would subsequently clarify that the claims were only made as a joke, ostensibly in an effort to mock politicians who offered freebies.

While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson and attorney Ashwini Kumar

Letter to Editor

Jobs shrinking for Civil and Mechanical Engineers

Thousands of recent graduates in civil and mechanical engineering are now furiously battling for a shrinking pool of jobs and facing an increasingly uncertain future due to attenuating economy. According to data, one out of every three graduates of civil and mechanical engineering in cities are unemployed. With the economy expanding slowly, about 50,000 graduates in civil, mechanical engineering entering the market every year. Due to the slowing economy and the competition between experienced workers and newcomers with engineering degrees for entry-level positions, MSME and MNC businesses are reluctant to hire. Such positions have vanished from the tech and other sectors, which typically hire new talent. Analysts blame a slowing economy crippled by Covid-19 lockdowns, as well as the large cohort entering the labour force during the graduating season, for the slim prospects facing Engineering youth. Long lines of recent graduates in civil and mechanical engineering are standing in queue for jobs. However, headhunters are claiming that because there were so few open positions, they are selectively choosing Engineers from prestigious universities.

Yours,
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Upadhyay filed the PIL, prime minister Narendra Modi's recent "revdi

culture" jab, in which he cautioned the youth against opposition parties' attempts to win votes by giving out free revdis, is thought to be the origin of the most recent debate on freebies (sweets). The political brawl over gifts is nothing new, but several people were taken aback by the SC's immediate response. The Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana-led SC bench proposed the creation of an expert body to address the issue of freebies and election promises during the PIL hearing on August 3. This body would include representatives from the Niti Aayog, Law Commission, Finance Commission, Reserve Bank of India, and members of the ruling party and opposition parties. In order to be able to issue the order for the committee's formation, the top court also requested proposals from the petitioner, the government of Canada, and the Election Commission. It's interesting that EC has already opted not to participate.

In general, the expense of funding giveaways and social welfare programmes is a problem in many states, endangering the financial stability of Punjab, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh, as well as appearing to foretell a significant fiscal crisis in other states. Punjab's power subsidy, which now costs the state exchequer more than 16% of total revenues and is one of the most notoriously troublesome policies, is among the most expensive. A negative impact on the industry results from such revenue expenditures that lower capital investments necessary for long-term growth. This is a problem in Punjab, even though its per-unit energy rate for industrial customers is comparable to Tamil Nadu's while being roughly 50% higher than Gujarat's. Due to the policy of domestic user subsidies in Punjab and Tamil Nadu, both discoms are heavily indebted. Freebies and subsidies have an impact on budgetary allocations, and the sacrifice that results from present consumption of capital investment for future growth—which is advantageous to both the person and India in a competitive world—is the most problematic. In India's situation, it is crucial to act quickly if it is to meet the \$10 trillion goal and begin to catch up to its existential neighbour, China, as well as find relief from pressures coming from other parts of the world. There are some significant problems with freebies in India and maybe other comparably underdeveloped nations as well. Giving 300 free electricity units to the least fortunate is not immoral. However, when seen as a whole, it does entail paying a huge subsidy cost in order to sacrifice the now for the future. Cynical politicians don't seem to care that the outcome could have major consequences, such as bankruptcy for the state in question and contentious interstate transfers to prevent it from being postponed.

Indian leaders must first gain people's trust in order to put some reason into the distribution of perks and subsidies. They will need to address the severe lack of trust in the Indian polity, which is understandable given the prevalence of wrongdoing and corruption. It leads common people to come to the conclusion that accepting what is offered is preferable to believing what politicians promise about a bright future. However, Narendra Modi demonstrated in Gujarat that it is feasible to alter how people act by convincing voters to reject power theft in exchange for a consistent 24-hour supply. In Gujarat recently, the same voters rejected the AAP's offers of bribery to secure votes.

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Why there is discrepancy between conduct & pronunciation ?

A few months ago i noticed that my college going son had

Pratap Chandra Sahu

started shuttling madly between college and home. He would be at home for a few minutes ,then return to college appear after some time only be gone again. In my life time i have seen all kinds of pendulums ,but it was the first time i was seeing a human pendulum considering that it was my own son who was behaving in this odd manner ,i decided to put a stop to it before he cycled himself to death. So when for the twentieth time the front door squeaked open and tired and cursing son of mine entered the roost. I confronted him and said , " sonny there are easier ways of loosing weight than cycling five hundred miles a day."

He did not say anything just dragged himself to the nearest sofa and collapsed on it. The expression on his face showed he had not been impressed with his remarks. I went and sat near him. I could see sweat shining on his skin and it was obvious he was in no mood for talking. But i had to find out what the matter was. So after taking for some time and telling him how worried i was about him. I asked who he was behaving like a ping pong ball i managed to get a low reply out of him. Unfortunately i could not quite make out what he meant. From what i understood seemed though he said his old behaviour had some thing to do with lightning. Now what had lightning to do with my son odd behaviour? I became serious and said,"son this is the age for you study ,you should not bother if clouds want to rain or not." If the winds want to blow , let it blow and if lightning wants to strike let him to do so."

I looked at his face and could not continue any more. He wore that some expression of unbelieving be wilderment which any sensible human being would have when shown a companzee playing foolish antics is told." Now this here is our great great grand father "

After starting at me in that same manner for what seemed like eternity the finally explained that what he meant was that the teachers in his college had gone on lightning strike.

He expected this reply to clear my confusion but unfortunately it did not. You see in my halycon days I had heard of all kinds strikes indefinite and definite stikes ,token strikes and pen down strikes etc. But it was the first time i was going to hear such a thing as lightning strike. What really shocked me was the fact that instead of saying the students had gone on a strike,my son was saying that it was the teachers who had done so. I sat on his sofa not knowing what to say,just shaking my head trying to clear it. Seeing me in that condition my son must have realised that he had not learned the lessons in communication skills well enough that must have worried him because the kind politicians in the name of new education policy had added a few languages to the students. Curriculum to help them communicate themselves better. So he immediately tried to rectify the wrong. From what he said I learned that the teachers had come up with a novel way of going on strike let me explain. The students go to college in

morning,the college functions normally for a period or two

thensuddenly there is a storm and lightening and presto ! The classes are called off and the teachers are in strike. But after one hour or two the storm cleared-up ,the lightening strike called-off only to be followed by another strike after two to three days,god knows. The students remained in a date of uncertainty not knowing when the lightening strike would happen. Some way wonder why the teachers go on such lightening strike? The answer is simple. By making college function for a few periods no one would dare to cut their salary. In this way the teachers would be safe and only the sufferers are students. But who bother for the students? I do not think colleges are built for students shake. After hearing all this i could understand why my son was behaving like yo-yo. But what could not understand why the teachers are taking such drastic measures? Unfortunately tried to give an explanation I said well I am sure your teachers must be having some probable reasons for this kind of rude behaviour ,may be they are trying to accustom you to the life of uncertainty which you are bound to face once you leave college.

Oh are they?was the quick response. Even though technically he was asking a question his tone was such that I could not dare to answer him. Because instead of sounding like a question it sounded more like oh really?you must be out of your mind!

As the days went by the stormy conditions of the college did not improve. Two months before the exam.my son like most of other students realised he was not going to pass unless he would go for tution. So they consult teachers for taking extra classes. The teachers are enough kind and accepted their request to help for what he called a small fee. Every time I counted one thousand rupees within a little gap that made them a small fee. I felt to be crying but undone. It is fortunate that the teachers shows behave in this manner. It seems their long association with the younger generation is finally taking it's toll. They have started behaving in a good manner to the students. Ofcourse i have nothing against people demanding their rights but it would be nice if once in a while they thought of their duties as well.

Now the year is over. I gaze back trying to see what the students have learned. Through out the year they learned as the yankee could put it to fight for your rights ,boy to hell with your duties godown those for who you are responsible. Before the exam.they learned how to bribe the right person and get question paper. During the exam.they learned how to cheat any copy ? Seeing all these the sincere & talented students get disheartened. They work & labour hard throughout the year and in the end those who do not even deserve to pass ,secure above 90% marks. Of course we should look the bright side. The present day almost all the institutions are perfect places to prepare students how to cope with corrupt society. You are given eyes to see and ear to hear,but not to protest.

Nabarangapur

Odisha turns high performer

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCRS) has initiated a detailed study to assess the implementation status of the road safety directions issued to the States.

In this regard, a team of consultants engaged by the Committee visited Odisha for 15 days in the month of June. The team assessed the extent and quality of actions taken by the State Government.

As per the compliance report shared with the



Transport Department, Odisha has scored 66.0 per cent and is categorised as 'High Performers' in implementation of the various road safety directions. They have specially praised a few initiatives of the department including Project Rakshak, Vahak and National Road Safety Short Film Festival, officials said.

The team has also praised helmet compliance in the city of Bhubaneswar. The agency also praised the smart queue system implemented at RTO, Bhubaneswar. The report states that the smart queue system is working perfectly fine with the help of complementing infrastructure.

As per the report, it has been observed that while the State is in the higher performer

Ganesh Chaturthi: Communal clash breaks out in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD(KCN): On Monday, at least 13 people were detained after a communal clash erupted in Vadodara during a Ganesh Chaturthi procession. Stone-pelting broke out when a procession

Solanki, the brother of Haresh who belongs to Malgadh village in Deesataluka, said he consumed poison on Saturday. Haresh was hospitalised in Palanpur in a critical condition. He was

been registered against five members of the Sheikh family," sub-inspector BG Suthar said. Earlier in the week, an FIR was registered on Friday after a woman told the police that her son

himself using a dupatta. After this, a complaint was lodged against Sonam Ali and her brother Mukhtar Zakir Ali. "We detained Sonam Ali from Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday," J.T.



carrying an idol of Lord Ganesh was passing through Panigate Darwaza. No one was injured. An FIR was registered against members of both sides on charges of rioting and unlawful assembly. Meanwhile, five persons were arrested in Banaskantha district on Monday after complainant Rajesh

allegedly depressed after five persons "brainwashed" his wife, Chandrika, to get converted to Islam and moved a petition before the court in her name, seeking permission to live separately. The accused allegedly pressured Haresh to either convert or pay Rs 25 lakh for getting reunited with his family. "A case has

had died by suicide after being forced beef by his live-in partner and her brother. Rohit Singh had killed himself in Surat on June 27 after posting a suicide note on Facebook, which was brought to the notice of his illiterate family only recently. According to the FIR, Singh, a resident of Udhna area, hanged

Sonara, ACP-B Div Surat, said. Fir lodged Stone-pelting broke out when a procession carrying an idol of Lord Ganesh was passing through Panigate Darwaza. No one was injured. An FIR was registered against members of both sides on charges of rioting and unlawful assembly.

National Sports Day Celebrated at DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): National Sports Day competitions, physical fitness a special felicitation ceremony were also organised.



Celebrated at D.A.V Public School, Kalinga the school and the gold medalist of International Taekwondo championship Master Pratyush Mohanty was felicitated. The student of the school Sulagna Rath & A b h y a r t h a n a Samanta narrated the achievements of Major Dhyanchand in the filed of sports. At the beginning a floral tribute was given to Major Dhyanchand as a mark of respect. The physical education dept. of the school and other staff members are contributed wholeheartedly for the smooth conduct of the function.



Nagar to mark the birth anniversary of legendary sporting talent of the country Major Dhyanchand. Amdist different sports

Millennium City decks up for Ganesh Chaturthi after two years of Covid lull

CUTTACK(KCN): The Millennium City has been decked up and is all set for the public

a welcome arch replicating the Barabati Stadium at the cost of Rs 2.30 lakh. Similarly, Dibyajyoti Club has erected a gate replicating the Kedarnath temple at a cost of Rs 3 lakh. While Nuapada's Biswarup Club has constructed an arch based on the theme of an ancient cave at a cost of Rs 1.7 lakh, another club in Nuapada has constructed a gate replicating the Rashtrapati



celebration of the Ganesh Puja festival. Around 1,500 Ganesh idols will be worshipped by different Puja committees, clubs and other youth and cultural associations in and around the city.

While individual households were rushing to buy ready-made small idols, the puja committees have installed life-sized idols at their decorated pandals, planning for a grand celebration with a budget ranging from Rs 8 to Rs 10 lakh.

Apart from colourful decorations and lights, many Puja committees, clubs and youth associations have erected welcome arches to woo the revellers. The welcome arches have been constructed mostly in the Nuapada locality of the city. Nuapada Press Colony Club has constructed

Bhavan. "Earlier we had constructed Belur Math, Kashi Biswanath temple. But after Odisha's Droupadi Murmu became President of India, we decided to construct a Rashtrapati Bhavan-themed gate, said club president Purusottam Lenka.

The Puja organisers have arranged melody and dance troupes for holding cultural programmes as part of celebrations, with the immersion ceremony to be carried out in three phases on September 4, 11 and 18.

As many as 1,045 Puja committees, clubs and other youth and cultural associations in and around the city had sought permission from Commissionerate Police for holding Puja and immersion ceremonies.

Registration of farmers up for Kharif sale in Odisha

JEYPORE: The Civil Supplies Department, Koraput, on Tuesday received a record number of

panchayats to facilitate the farmer's registration so that they can sell their produce in a hassle-free manner in December.

registrations from farmers of 14 blocks of the district, for selling their paddy in the ensuing Kharif season. For the first time this year, around 44,149 farmers submitted their documents for registration as against 38,703 farmers who registered during the last Kharif season. The department had engaged 20 large area multi-purpose societies, 23 women SHGs and two pani



"Farmers have come to know of the advantages in selling paddy to the government. The MSP by the government fetches better value and this awareness has increased the number of farmers who have registered for the procurement process," said Secretary of Koraput Krushak Kalyan Manch Narendra Pradhan.

At 77, this Ganesh idol maker in Hyderabad most sought after

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad's reputed artisan of Ganesh idols, 77-year-old Sunder Singh Kalakar, is busy giving final touches to hundreds of idols. While his nimble fingers shape up Ganesh idols of various sizes and shapes, his two sons assist him in great devotion. Local pandal organisers are making a beeline to him to purchase idols, mostly above 5 feet in

ones, until mid 70s. "Then former chief ministers T. Anjaiah and Marri Chenna Reddy and a few other leaders met me and assigned me to make bigger Ganesh Idols. They promoted bigger Ganesh idols in pandals in the city and later, it became a trend and youth started showing interest. Now you can see how

big this festival is. As the trend was catching up, I became famous. Former Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu, used to take Ganesh Idols from me and distribute them in Andhra Pradesh.

"We lived in abject poverty those days. My grandparents and great grandparents used to live with us. It was a big family and it was difficult to get

three square meals a day. So, from my grandfather I learnt this art.

My elder brother became the best artist, who worked for temples across south India. We used to make small mud toy animals and sell them. As the Ganesh festival became big, we got a name and it brought us prosperity," Sunder Kalakar said.

"This festival has given so much employment to the artists and other workers in other sectors who directly or indirectly are benefited," he added.



height. There are more than one lakh idols in the city which are of above five feet in height, and of them, close to thousand idols are made by Sunder Kalakar.

Right now, 90 craftsmen from Calcutta and Maharashtra are working in various capacities in all his eight workshops.

According to Sunder Kalakar, earlier, there were not so many pandals or not many people used to install Ganesh idols. Most of them installed idols at homes, that too smaller

"Swayat Sasan Dibas" celebrated at Barbil

Barbil.(KCN).31st August.Every year on August 31, 'Local

Mohanta hoisted the flag in presence of Abhisekh Panda, ex-

Barbil CHC. In the late noon a new office building of

fice, now the problems of common citizens will be resolved immediately said Laxman Mahanta,Chairman Barbil municipality. It is noteworthy that local officials and council can hold meeting with people from time to time in the office to monitor the problems of the residents and better implementation of the government's plans in the area said Minakshi Mahanta ,MLA Help desk will made available for the problems of common citizens in the new MLA office building, so that the



Self Governance Day' is celebrated to recognize that the powers of the municipalities are in the hands of the people. This year, 'Swayat Shasan Dibas' (Local Self Governance Day) was celebrated today with much fanfare at Barbil Municipality in the district of Keonjhar.

All officials gathered in the Municipality office premises to observe local self-governance day by

executive officer of the municipality fol-

lowed by sweet dis-



hoisting the national flag. Municipality Chairman Laxman

tribution to school children,fruit distribution to patient at

Member of Legislative assembly of Champua constituency Minakshi Mahanta in presence of other esteem guest Himansu Bhusan Behera, SDPO,Barbil and many other officials and dignitaries of the town. The new municipal office building constructed at a cost of Rs 4crore approx. With the creation of this new building of-

villagers who come to the office do not have any kind of problem and the minor problems of the applicant can be resolved quickly said Abhisekh Panda In the evening souvenir of Barbil municipality was unveiled followed by cultural function at Vikas Mahal, Barbil.The residents have expressed happiness over the construction of this magnificent building.

US has concerns about any country exercising with Russia: White House

WASHINGTON: The United States has concerns about any country conducting military exercises with Russia which has waged an "unprovoked and brutal" war against Ukraine, the White House has said after Moscow announced the Vostok 2022 drills will involve more than 50,000 troops from China, India and several other countries.

Russia said on Monday that the Vostok 2022 military exercises will be held from September 1 to 7 in different locations in the Far East and the Sea of Japan and involve more than 50,000 troops from China, India and several other countries.

The exercises will allow the armies of the participating countries to "practice defensive and offensive operations" at seven training grounds of the Eastern Military District and in maritime and coastal areas of the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan, the Russian Defence Ministry was quoted as saying by the state-owned TASS news agency in a statement. "The strategic manoeuvres will bring together over 50,000 troops and more than 5,000 items of armaments and military hardware, in particular, 140 aircraft, 60 combat ships, gunboats and

support vessels," it said, adding that it will engage troops from China, India, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Syria and several ex-Soviet nations. In Washington, White House Press Secretary Karen Jean-Pierre, while responding to questions on the military exercises hosted by Russia, said the US has voiced its concerns. "The United States has concerns about any

exercising with Russia while Russia is waging this unprovoked war." When the reporter further asked if the US planned to take any action or do anything about it, the press secretary said, "I don't have anything else to share." "But we have -- we have been pretty public - I've been asked this question with other countries as well, and we've been pretty consistent in our state-

ministry said. "The drills are set to master the skills of commanders and headquarters in exercising command and control of combined arms and coalition forces to repel acts of aggression in the Eastern direction and in the Far Eastern maritime zone, raise compatibility and interoperability of the collation forces in jointly coping with the objectives of maintaining peace, protecting in-



country exercising with Russia while Russia wages an unprovoked, brutal war against Ukraine. But, of course, every participating country will make its own decisions. And I'll leave it at that," she told reporters aboard Air Force One on Tuesday. When she was specifically asked why "not put any pressure on India", Jean-Pierre said, "My first sentence there is saying that we have concerns over any country

ments," she said. There were no immediate comments from the Indian Army or the Ministry of Defence in New Delhi on the participation of Indian soldiers at the Vostok-2022 military exercises in Russia. Russia's military contingent in the drills will involve military command centers and troops of the Eastern Military District, Airborne Force units, long-range and military transport planes, the Russian defence

terests and ensuring military security in the Eastern region," the ministry said. Last year, India attended Exercise ZAPAD 2021 drills in Russia in which 17 countries including China and Pakistan took part. The Russian defence ministry stated earlier that during the drills the participating forces would practice measures to maintain military security in the eastern region.



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Indian economy grows by 13.5% in first quarter of fiscal 2022-23

NEW DELHI: India's economy grew by 13.5 per cent in the April-June period this fiscal - the fastest in the last four quarters -- on account of better performance by the agricul-

ture and services sectors, official data showed on Wednesday. India remained the fastest growing major economy as China registered economic growth of 0.4 per cent in the April-June 2022 quarter. The Indian economy grew by 20.1 per cent in April-June 2021-22, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).



ture and services sectors, official data showed on Wednesday.

India remained the fastest growing major economy as China registered economic growth of 0.4 per cent in the April-June 2022 quarter. The Indian economy grew by 20.1 per cent in April-June 2021-22, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 8.4 per cent in July-September 2021, 5.4 per cent in October-December 2021 and 4.1 per cent in January-March 2022. The first quarter growth at 13.5 per cent is less than the RBI's projection of 16.2 per cent released earlier this month.

"Real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q1 2022-23 is estimated to attain a level of Rs 36.85 lakh crore, as against Rs 32.46 lakh crore in Q1 2021-22, showing a growth of 13.5 per cent as compared to 20.1 per cent in Q1 2021-22," the NSO statement said. The real GDP in absolute terms stood at Rs 27.03 lakh crore in the April-June quarter in

Rupee rises 47 paise to close at 79.44 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee appreciated by 47 paise to close at 79.44 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, supported by a firm trend in domestic equities.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.92 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 79.44 and a low of 79.92 against the American currency during the session.

It finally ended at 79.44 against the US dollar, up 47 paise from its previous close of 79.91.

In the previous session, the rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at 79.91 against the American dollar. The rupee fell to its all-time low of 80.15 against the US dollar in intra-day trade.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six cur-



rencies, slipped 0.06 per cent to 108.76. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 2.23 per cent to USD 102.75 per barrel.

"Indian rupee outperformed among the regional currencies following month-end rebalancing inflows and recovery in risk assets on the expectation of inflows. Most of the Asian currencies firmed after a sharp drop on Monday," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Parmar further said that the rupee registered the biggest one-day gains after July 29, and Tuesday's move affirms the short-term reversal in the trend and "we could see further appreciation towards 79.20 and 78.70 while breaking of 79.80 will negate the said view," he said.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 1,564.45 points or 2.70 per cent higher at 59,537.07 points, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 154.10 points or 0.89 per cent to 17,467.00.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Monday, offloading shares worth Rs 561.22 crore, as per exchange data.

Latest GDP numbers make for a pretty jingle as Indian economy begins to hum again

The Indian economy took the ribbon with a 13.5% growth in Q1, FY23. The latest numbers are in line with consensus estimates of 13-15%, but sorely missed the RBI's forecast of 16.2%. It means, the subsequent quarters have to make up for the under-delivery and ensure that FY23 GDP growth cracks at 7.2%. Just two years ago around this time,

national output contracted by an unspeakable 24% pushing the economy into despair. The National Statistics Office's provisional estimates released Wednesday showed real GDP at Rs 37 lakh crore in Q1, FY23, yet again firming up hopes of 2022 being a year of repair, even as 2021's anticipated Great Reset scarcely materialized.

Analysts reason that a base effect of 20.1% growth during the same period last fiscal, the moderate impact of the Russia-Ukraine war and a recovering service sector activity to have supported growth.

What makes the double-digit 13.5% growth rate a pretty jingle is that, unlike in the past, Q1 numbers are promising given that the two vital, but lagging sub-components -- consumption and investment accounting for 88% of the GDP -- are ready to run laps, perhaps at twice the speed this fiscal, and make up for the lost ground.

Consumption, which alone accounts for 56% of the GDP -- saw a 26% jump over last year in spite of inflationary pressures and rising interest rates. As per ICRA, the demand shift towards contact-intensive services from discretionary consumer goods for the mid-to-higher income groups is perhaps driving consumption. And given the cautiousness in export demand, and high commodity prices on volumes as well as margins for the industrial sector would translate to a relatively moderate industrial growth.

Private investment too is exhibiting signs of improvement with gross fixed capital formation growing by 20% in Q1, FY23 over the Q1, FY22. However, though the headline investment number seems encouraging, granular bank credit data shows that the share of large corporate projects is yet to make a complete revival. However, government expenditure, which kept the economic momentum going during the pandemic years, settled for a slender growth of 1.3% in Q1, curiously breaking away from the government's tradition of frontloading spending in the first two quarters of the fiscal.

Mikhail Gorbachev, who steered Soviet breakup, dead at 91

Continued from page-1

long illness, according to a statement from the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow.

Though in power less than seven years, Gorbachev unleashed a breathtaking series of changes. But they quickly overtook him and resulted in the collapse of the authoritarian Soviet state, the freeing of Eastern European nations from Russian domination and the end of decades of East-West nuclear confrontation.

US President Joe Biden called Gorbachev a man of remarkable vision and a rare leader who had the imagination to see that a different future was possible and the courage to risk his entire career to achieve it.

The result was a safer world and greater freedom for millions of people, Biden said in a statement.

Hard to think of a single person who altered the course of history more in a positive direction than Gorbachev, said Michael McFaul, a political analyst and former US ambassador in Moscow, on Twitter. His decline was humiliating. His power hopelessly sapped by an attempted coup against him in August 1991, he spent his last months in office watching republic after republic declare independence until he resigned on December 25, 1991. The Soviet Union wrote itself into oblivion a day later. A quarter-century after the collapse, Gorbachev told The Associated Press that he had not considered using widespread force to try to keep the USSR together because he feared chaos in the nuclear country.

The country was loaded to the brim with weapons. And it would have immediately pushed the country into a civil war, he said.

By the end of his rule, he was powerless to halt the whirlwind he had started. Yet Gorbachev may have had a greater impact on the second half of the 20th century than any other political figure.

I see myself as a man who started the reforms that were necessary for the country and for Europe and the world, Gorbachev told the AP in a 1992 interview shortly after he left office.

I am often asked, would I have started it all again if I had to repeat it? Yes, indeed. And with more persistence and determination, he said.

ALSO READ | India@75: How Indian economy regained its mojo and how it can be the bird of gold again

While growth in consumption, investments and government spending was in line with expectations, trade, particularly, exports surprised with a 14% growth in Q1, notwithstanding the anticipated blow due to geopol-



itical headwinds, high commodity prices and rupee depreciation. The April-June quarter bore the brunt of geopolitical disturbances due to the war and as supply chains were disrupted and commodity

prices spiked. The Indian crude basket soared to \$118 a barrel in early June and averaged \$109.50 a barrel for the entire quarter. Still, exports managed to pack a wallop in Q1.

On the production side, the eight sub-components were a mixed bag. Agriculture and allied sectors stuck to its trendline 4% growth, manufacturing, the missing piece in the growth story, finally broke away from the negative territory clocking a 4.8% growth over the previous year. Construction, which too has been playing hopscotch, into turned in a 17% growth over last year. Overall, it's the services sector that found a fresh wind and sprung back with a robust 18% growth in Q1 over last year.

The deepest horrors of the Covid-pandemic barely halted, when 2022 met with double trouble via the Russian war and rising inflation, which threatened to wreck the modest recovery economies began making against odds. Then there are several little evils like exchange rate volatility, rising energy and commodity prices, foreign capital outflows and supply chain disruptions appearing like annoying pop-ups for emerging economies. In sum, what countries like India need isn't stratospheric growth rates, but efforts to avoid the setbacks from slowing down the recovery process.

This is essential not only for our own sake but also for the larger good. For, the IMF projects India's growth at 7.4% in FY23, contributing 14% to global growth. And India being the second most important driver of the world economy after China, which is showing signs of weakening, any slip-up in India's growth could scalpel out the global average. As it is, the world's largest economy, the US, is in a technical recession and if more join this sorry parade, even recovering economies could be hauled back into the sick bay.

Gorbachev won the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending the Cold War and spent his later years collecting accolades and awards from all corners of the world. Yet he was widely despised at home.

Russians blamed him for the 1991 implosion of the Soviet Union a once-fearsome superpower whose territory fractured into 15 separate nations. His former allies deserted him and made him a scapegoat for the country's troubles.

His run for president in 1996 was a national joke, and he polled less than 1% of the vote. In 1997, he resorted to making a TV ad for Pizza Hut to earn money for his charitable foundation. Gorbachev never set out to dismantle the Soviet system. He wanted to improve it.

Soon after taking power, Gorbachev began a campaign to end his country's economic and political stagnation, using glasnost, or openness, to help achieve his goal of perestroika, or restructuring. In his memoirs, he said he had long been frustrated that in a country with immense natural resources, tens of millions were living in poverty.

Once he began, one move led to another: He freed political prisoners, allowed open debate and multi-candidate elections, gave his countrymen freedom to travel, halted religious oppression, reduced nuclear arsenals, established closer ties with the West and did not resist the fall of Communist regimes in Eastern European satellite states. But the forces he unleashed quickly escaped his control.

Long-suppressed ethnic tensions flared, sparking wars and unrest in trouble spots such as the southern Caucasus region. Strikes and labour unrest followed price increases and shortages of consumer goods. Competitive elections also produced a new crop of populist politicians who challenged Gorbachev's policies and authority. Chief among them was his former protege and eventual nemesis, Boris Yeltsin, who became Russia's first president. The process of renovating this country and bringing about fundamental changes in the international community proved to be much more complex than originally anticipated, Gorbachev told the nation as he stepped down. However, let us acknowledge what has been achieved so far. Society has acquired freedom; it has been freed politically and spiritually. And this is the most important achievement.

Emma Raducanu out of US Open; Naomi Osaka and Venus Williams, too

NEW YORK: The welcome and support for Venus Williams in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Tuesday afternoon were not the same as they were for her sister, Serena, a night earlier. Nor was the result. Venus, who turned 42 in June, has not made any pronouncements about her future in tennis, unlike her younger sibling, and while she has been successful and influential, too — a seven-time Grand Slam champion; a Black woman in a predominantly white sport — the fanfare and attention are not the same.

Playing in front of thousands of empty blue seats in an arena quite silent at the start, although growing louder later, Venus bowed out in the first round of the U.S. Open for the second consecutive appearance, losing 6-1, 7-6 (5) to Alison Van Uytvanck.

"She means so much to female tennis. Tennis, in general," Van Uytvanck said. "She's a legend." This was the 23rd trip to Flushing Meadows for Venus, who made it to the final in 1997 as a teen then won the trophy in 2000 and 2001, and her record 91st time participating in a major tournament.

Venus had never lost in the opening round at the U.S. Open until 2020, then was absent last year. Asked what keeps her motivated these days, she answered: "Three letters: W-I-N. That's it. Very simple."

At night, Emma Raducanu became only the third defending U.S. Open champion to lose in the first round, eliminated by Alizé Cornet 6-3, 6-3. And yet another past champ bowed out in straight sets when Naomi Osaka, who won two of her four Grand Slam titles in New York, was eliminated by Australian Open runner-up Danielle Collins 7-6 (5), 6-3 in a match that ended after midnight.

Osaka, a former No. 1, also lost in the first round of the French Open this year and has slid to 44th in

the rankings. She had been 3-0 head-to-head against Collins, but this fun-to-watch, hard-hitting matchup went the other way.

"When you lose to somebody three times," said the 19th-seeded Collins, who has struggled with injuries this season, "you have nothing to lose, so I tried to go for it and hope for the best."

Raducanu, who was 18 and ranked 150th when she won the title as a qualifier a year ago, was bothered by hand blisters — she took a medical timeout for treatment after the first set — and was outplayed by Cornet, a 32-year-old from France who also



upset No. 1 Iga Swiatek at Wimbledon.

"Obviously really disappointing. Really sad to leave here. It's probably my favorite tournament. But also, I mean, in a way, (I'm) happy, because it's a clean slate," Raducanu said. "I'm going to drop down the rankings. (Will) climb my way back up."

Also playing under the lights was 22-time major champion Rafael Nadal, who returned to the U.S. Open for the first time since 2019 and beat 21-year-old Rinky Hijikata 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3. Nadal did not show any serious lingering issues with the torn abdominal muscle that forced him out of Wimbledon in July.

Venus was off the tour in singles entirely from August 2021 until less than a month ago and is now 0-4 since her return. Her ranking — which 20 years ago was No. 1 — is 1,504th this week.

"It was definitely the longest time I have been away from tennis and been without a racket in my hand. So it was a completely new experience for me, getting a racket back in my hand and trying to accli-

mate as quick as possible to be ready for the U.S. Open, which was not easy," she said. "Definitely playing lots of great points, but in the end, it's just rust. There is nothing you can do about that except for, you know, not be rusty at some point."

It was Serena who announced to the world on Aug. 9 that she was getting ready to step away from her playing career, leaving unclear exactly when the end would be, although she hinted it could come at the U.S. Open. So her first-round match Monday fell into the category of a must-see happening, drawing a record crowd of more than 29,000 to the tournament grounds, including more than 23,000 in Ashe — and the atmosphere was uproarious and electric from start to finish of her 6-3, 6-3 victory over Danka Kovinic.

Now Serena, who won six of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles in New York, will move on to a matchup against No. 2 seed Anett Kontaveit in Ashe on Wednesday night.

And then she and Venus will join forces in doubles on Thursday, teaming up for the first time anywhere since 2018 this week.

When a reporter wanted to know whether retirement has been on Venus' mind, she replied: "Right now, I'm just focused on the doubles."

So how did that reunion of a pairing that has earned 14 Grand Slam titles in that event come about?

"It was Serena's idea. She's the boss, so I do whatever she tells me to do," Venus said. "We have had some great wins. It would be nice to add some more."

Van Uytvanck now meets Clara Burel, who eliminated Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina 6-4, 6-4.

In other action on a humid and windy Day 2 at the hard-court tournament, women's winners included 2017 champion Sloane Stephens, No. 1 Iga Swiatek, No. 6 Aryna Sabalenka, No. 8 Jessica Pegula, No. 9 Garbiñe Muguruza, No. 13 Belinda Bencic — whose opponent, Andrea Petkovic, said she is retiring from pro tennis — and No. 22

Karolina Pliskova, the 2016 runner-up in New York.

Men who advanced included 2014 champion Marin Cilic, No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz, No. 7 Cam Norrie, No. 8 Hubert Hurkacz, No. 9 Andrey Rublev, No. 11 Jannik Sinner, No. 15 Marin Cilic, No. 17 Grigor Dimitrov and No. 28 Holger Rune, who meets John Isner next.

Neither Williams attended the other's first-round singles match; Venus said she watched Serena on TV but was not there in person because of her own early start the next day.

Their mother, Oracene, and sister, Isha, were in the guest box each time. On Tuesday, they saw Venus struggle from the outset, particularly with her used-to-be-feared serve and groundstrokes that were not calibrated correctly. So many into the net. So many landing long.

After some of her 25 unforced errors, Venus would wince or fiddle with her racket strings or tug on the brim of her visor.

Ten of those miscues came on backhands, far outnumbering her two winners on that side.

There were a half-dozen double-faults, just three aces. She faced 12 break points and dropped four of her 10 service games.

Just 20 minutes in, there was a 4-0 lead for Van Uytvanck, a 28-year-old from Belgium who is ranked 43rd and came into the day with a 1-8 career mark at the U.S. Open.

Venus did make a bit of a stand, breaking to open the second set and holding for 2-0. But that would be her only break of the match and soon enough, Van Uytvanck was putting away a volley winner to close out the win.

A night earlier, Serena was feted during a post-match ceremony that included a video tribute from Oprah Winfrey and a lengthy on-court interview. After this match, Venus simply slung her red equipment bag over her left shoulder, carried her racket in her right hand, and quickly walked off toward the locker room.

FIFA lifts ban on AIFF, decks cleared for India to host women's U-17 World Cup

Zurich/New Delhi: World football governing body FIFA on Friday lifted the ban imposed on the AIFF after the Supreme Court terminated the mandate of the Committee of Administrators (CoA), clearing the decks for India to host the Women's U-17 World Cup in October.

FIFA had suspended the AIFF on August 15 for "undue influence from third parties" and had said the U-17 Women's World Cup "cannot currently be held in India as planned."

The suspension, the first time in AIFF's 85-year history, lasted just 11 days after the Supreme Court on Monday dissolved the three-member CoA, constituted by it in May, while modifying its earlier orders to ensure that India hosts the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup from October 11-30.

"The Bureau of the FIFA Council has decided to lift the suspension that was imposed on the All India Football Federation (AIFF) due to undue third-party influence," the FIFA said in a statement.

"The decision was taken after FIFA received confirmation that the mandate of the committee of administrators that was set up to assume the powers

"The darkest hour of Indian Football is finally over. The suspension that was slapped on midnight of August 15 on the AIFF, has been lifted by FIFA.

"We sincerely thank FIFA and AFC, especially the AFC General Secretary Datuk Seri Windsor John for guiding us in such difficult times. We also take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and the Hon'ble Sports Minister Shri Anurag Thakur ji for solidly standing by us at this crucial juncture," Dhar said. On Tuesday, Dhar had requested FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura to "reconsider their decision of suspending the AIFF".

"It is with immense pleasure that we inform you that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India took up our matter and vide order dated 22.08.2022 was pleased to pass directions regarding the full repeal of the CoA mandate and consequently the AIFF having full charge of the AIFF's daily affairs," Dhar wrote in the letter.

"In view of the above, we request the FIFA and especially the Bureau to reconsider their decision of suspending the AIFF.

"Since the conditions set out in your Letter for lifting of the suspension stand satisfied, we request that an order to that effect be passed at the earliest for the AIFF to continue with the smooth running of football in India," the letter further stated.

The CoA, headed by former Supreme Court judge A R Dave, had been overseeing the affairs of the AIFF since the May 18 order of the top court, which ousted Praful Patel as the president of the federation. The other two members of the CoA are former chief election commissioner S Y Quraishi and ex Indian football team captain Bhaskar Ganguly.

"The day-to-day management of AIFF shall be exclusively looked after by the AIFF Administration led by the Acting Secretary General. The mandate of the Committee of Administrators appointed by the order of this Court stands terminated," the SC said in its verdict on Monday. The top court also postponed the August 28 elections of the AIFF by one week to allow a changed electoral college and the start of the nomination process.

The order came on a fresh plea filed by the Sports Ministry seeking modification of the May 18 and August 3 orders of the court after consultation with the FIFA. The AIFF elections will now be held on September 2 with the legendary Bhaichung Bhutia and former goalkeeper Kalyan Chaubey set to have a straight fight for the post of president.



of the AIFF Executive Committee had been terminated and that the AIFF administration had regained full control of the AIFF's daily affairs.

"As a consequence, the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 scheduled to take place on 11-30 October 2022 will be held in India as planned," FIFA said it and the AFC will continue to monitor the situation and will support the AIFF in conducting its elections in a timely manner.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur termed the lifting of ban as a victory for the game.

"Delighted to share the Bureau of the FIFA Council decided today to lift the suspension of the AIFF with immediate effect. The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 scheduled to take place on 11-30 October 2022 will be held in India as planned!"

"A victory for all football fans!" Thakur tweeted. AIFF acting general secretary Sunando Dhar welcomed the move and thanked FIFA, AFC and Thakur for their roles in lifting the ban.



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