

Modi, Putin to meet on sidelines of SCO: Kremlin



NEW DELHI(KCN): Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Uzbekistan this week and discuss issues of strategic stability, the situation in the Asia Pacific region and bilateral coop-

eration within the UN and G20, the Kremlin has announced. Putin and Modi will attend the 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) that will be held in the Uzbek city of Samarkand on September 15-16.

"A conversation on the international agenda with Modi will also take place, the sides will discuss issues of strategic stability, the situation in the Asia Pacific Region, and, of course, cooperation within major multilateral formats, such as the UN, the G20 and the SCO," the of-

ficial Russian news agency TASS quoted Presidential Aide Yuri Ushakov as saying. However, the Ministry of External Affairs has not yet confirmed the meeting between Modi and Putin. But, it neither denied reports on Wednesday.

Thousands queue up to pay respects to Queen Lying-in-State

London(KCN): One of the biggest logistical events ever witnessed in London is underway on Thursday as the first few thousand members of the public file past the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II, Lying-in-State at Westminster Hall in the Houses of Parliament complex in the heart of the UK capital.

A week since the 96-year-old monarch died peacefully at her Scottish summer residence of Balmoral Castle, her coffin has been part of a historic journey by road and air until it was conveyed in a grand procession from Buckingham Palace to lie in state in the historic hall within the Palace of Westminster. The ancient ceremony of Lying-in-State, dating back to the 19th century, involves the coffin resting on a raised platform called catafalque in the middle of Westminster Hall as members of the queuing public are allowed in to walk briskly past.

arch at Westminster Abbey at 11 am.

The BBC has been live streaming the Lying-in-State, which involves mourners from around the UK and even different parts of the world join a swiftly moving queue to walk through the hall, some pausing very briefly at the side of the coffin in reflection or in prayer. Members of the royal family had private time with the coffin overnight on Tuesday, when the Queen spent her final night at her London residence of Buckingham Palace.

On Wednesday afternoon, her coffin was taken on a horse-drawn gun carriage through central London in a procession that included King Charles III, his sons William and Harry and the late monarch's other children ? Princess Anne and Princes Andrew and Edward. Thousands flocked the route to observe the procession, which was accompanied by gun salutes and Big Ben chimes. Large screens had been set up in Hyde Park for those un-



Within hours of the Lying-in-State ceremony opening to the public at 5pm local time on Wednesday evening, the queue was said to be over 4-km-long winding around the river Thames.

According to the Department of Digital, Media and Sports (DCMS), which is coordinating the logistical aspect of the ceremony, the queue would not be allowed to get any longer than 16 kilometres and has warned mourners of an estimated 30-hour overnight wait to get to Westminster Hall.

The 24-hour round-the-clock process will remain open to the public until 6.30am local time on Monday, just hours before the funeral ceremony for Britain's longest-reigning mon-

able to gain access to the viewing spots along the procession route.

The next few days of the UK's state mourning will be focussed around the Lying-in-State as the new monarch continues his duties under Operation Spring Tide and makes a visit to Wales on Friday to complete his tour of all parts of the United Kingdom. Meanwhile, the King will also hold audiences with British Prime Minister Liz Truss and other senior officials related to the preparations for the state funeral on Monday. President Droupadi Murmu will be representing India at the funeral, expected to be attended by around 500 world leaders including royalty and heads of state and government.

Shalini Pandit as Secretary of Health, Subha gets Women and Child Development

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The State government on Wednesday posted Shalini Pandit as Secretary of Health and Family Welfare department. Pandit, serving as Mission Director of National Health Mission, was also in additional charge as Special Secretary of Health and Family Welfare department. Effecting a reshuffle at the top administrative level, the government shifted and also gave additional charges to 10 senior bureaucrats. According to a notification issued by the General Administration department, Principal Secretary in the Energy department Nikunja Bihari Dhal was given additional charge of Excise department. Besides, he will also be in charge as Chairman, Grid Corporation of Odisha (Gridco). Similarly, Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary in the Agriculture and Farmers'

Empowerment department will be in additional charge of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department. He will replace



Subha Sarma who has been appointed Secretary of Women and Child Development (W&CD) department.

Suresh Kumar Vashishth, Secretary in Science and Technology department has been appointed Secretary in Fisheries and Animal Resource Development. Bhaskar Jyoti Sarma, Secretary in Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities department will remain in

Economic Offences Wing busts IT refund scam in Bhubaneswar, arrests one



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): A major Income Tax refund scam allegedly being operated from Delhi NCR area has been busted by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Bhubaneswar. The EOW wing has arrested Neeraj Singla (28), a resident of Faridabad in Haryana in this connection and brought him to the Capital on a three-day transit remand. EOW officials said the accused is a Chartered Accountant (Intermediate) and one

of the main conspirators and beneficiaries of the TDS refund fraud.

They said the accused owns several dubious firms/companies such as All India Transport Services, CKS Acoustics and GDS Associates. He along with his other associates, mainly chartered accountants having knowledge about internet and the loopholes in the system allegedly ran this scam by forging documents and identity of other companies.

CM Patnaik woos business stalwarts in Mumbai for MIO 3.0; Vedanta commits Rs 25K cr investment

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Amid the buzz over Vedanta's move to set up a semiconductor chip plant in Gujarat and an iPhone manu-

facturing hub in Maharashtra, group chairman Anil Agarwal met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Mumbai on Wednesday and reasserted the company's continued investment in Odisha.



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Agarwal said the company has lined up new investments of more than Rs 25,000 crore for expansion of aluminium, ferrochrome and mining business, which will create more job opportunities and revenue for the State. "Vedanta stands testimony to what is possible

is reflected in the State's ease of doing business rankings. Single window clearance system, 5T framework and focus on infrastructure projects have increased the investor community's confidence in Odisha," he said after the meeting with the Chief Minister. Naveen interacted with India's top business honchos in the run up to the Make-in-Odisha Conclave 200 in Bhubaneswar later this year and invited them to explore vast opportunities for investment in

Railway Authority to Transform Railway Coaches into Heritage Look Restaurants in Various Stations of North Bengal

Kolkata (KCN): To develop an additional source of revenue, the Indian Railways is in the process of giving facelift to old railway coaches into cosy, aesthetic, heritage looking restaurants. Christened as 'Restaurant on Wheels', the rail coach restaurant is already in operation in the circulating area of Asansol railway station under Eastern Railway in West Bengal. With the proliferation of LHB coaches, the old coaches of Indian Railways are being pulled out from service. These old

initiated to convert some of its old train coaches, which are not fit for use, by modifying them into restaurants. A coach restaurant is ready to be operational at New Jalpaiguri station area. Works for setting up of 15 more such coach restaurants at various locations over the five divisions of NFR have also been finalised.

In Alipurduar division, setting up of seven coach restaurants, one each at New Coochbehar, New Alipurduar, Madarihat,



train coaches, whose operations are discontinued by the Railways, have been utilised for coach restaurants.

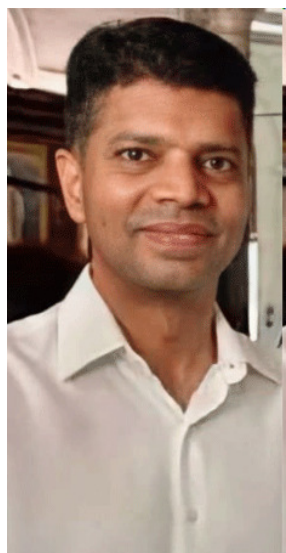
When such a restaurant was inaugurated in Asansol, the target was to raise Rs 50 lakh as non-fare revenue over a period of five years. The Non Fare policy ensures that the Railways is adding bulk to their income through various sources other than freight and passenger receipts. Under five-year contracts, the offeree will be able to open their restaurants in the coaches provided by Indian Railways, but the ownership of the refurbished freights will remain with the Railways. Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has also

Lataguri, Chalsa, Raja Bhat Khawa and New Mal has been finalised. Coach restaurants are being planned and works are under progress at eight locations in Alipurduar.

The coach restaurants are being designed with aesthetic and beautifully heritage look for the attraction of travellers. People can enjoy with family and friends to have ecstatic feeling while getting experience of dining in train coaches. There will be facilities to buy food, snacks and beverages at the coach restaurants. Apart from generating non-fare revenue for railways, this initiative of NFR is expected to create employment for both skilled and unskilled workers.

Timeline for 5 Airports

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With an aim for commercialization of the Airports in Odisha, State Government has fast-tracked at least five Airports with datelines for commercial operations. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is harping on implementation of the Airport Projects in a time bound manner. Thanks to overdrive of V K Pandian, Secretary to Chief Minister, the Airports of Rourkela, Jeypore, Utkela, Rangeilunda and Malkangiri are put on fast-track mode for commercialization efforts.



While Rourkela Airport will be in all readiness by 31 October, 2022 as Odisha is hosting the FIH Mens' Hockey World Cup 2023 at Rourkela and Bhubaneswar. Airports Authority of India (AAI) will implement flight operations and the

Airport already been licensed for 2B Category and it has been decided to upgrade into 2C Category. One of the most reputed airlines, Alliance Air is selected to operate from Rourkela Sector. So far Jeypore Airport in Koraput is concerned; the Airport has been developed for 2B Category with Day VFR Flight Operation.

IndiaOne Air is the selected Airline Operator for the route connecting Jeypore City with Bhubaneswar and

Vishakhapatnam. IndiaOne Air has already positioned its Cessna Grand caravan 208, a Nine Seater capacity aircraft for operations.

In Western Odisha, another airport, Utkela Airport in Kalahandi has been developed for 2B Category with Day VFR Flight Operation and its aerodrome licensing is under process, officials say.

IndiaOne Air is the Selected Airline Operator (SAO) for the route connecting Utkela City with Bhubaneswar and Raipur.

It is planned to be developed as a 3C Category airport and timeline for completion of all the infrastructure works for 3C Category Airport has been set. All infrastructure parameters will be completed by 31 December, 2023, officials say.

In the meantime Master Plan for 3C

Category Airport is submitted to Airports Authority of India, said sources. Another important Airport is Rangeilunda Airport in Ganjam district, which is coming up in an area of 36 Acres with a cost of nearly Rs.100 Crore. This is planned for a 2B Category Aerodrome and operationalization of the Airport is planned by 31 December, 2022.

One of the most critical Air Connectivity is Malkangiri Airport, for which Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has asked to operationalize by 15 January, 2024. Malkangiri, the Maoist Infested Zone requires air connectivity on priority basis and the State Government has set the timeline for the project coming up with a cost of Rs.55 Crore, officials say.

Amat Lauds OSPCB

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Pradip Kumar Amat, Minister Forest, Environment and Climate Change has lauded efforts of Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB). While inaugurating the Foundation Day Ceremony of OSPCB here on 14 September, Minister Mr. Amat pointed out the importance of OSPCB, its role and responsibility to make our environment habitable in the present context as well as for future. Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue, Disaster, Forest, Environment & CC, Satyabrata Sahu spoke at length about the role of OSPCB in controlling pollution in the State.

ACS Mr. Sahu pointed out the remarkable journey of the State Pollution Board since its inception and pointed out for more awareness campaign associating every sector from the society.

OSPCB Member Secretary, Dr K Murugesan spoke at length about the State Pollution Control Board. Member Secretary Dr. Murugesan presented the Activity Report of the Board.

Many dignitaries from Government and previous Chairman and Member Secretaries of Board were presented their opinion in the function.

Er. N R Sahu, CEE welcome all the guest and Susanta Nanda, addressed the gathering as Guest of Honor and gives best wishes for Board's future growth.

In this occasion Board also releases three periodicals under its Integrated Coastal Zone management Program namely Health Card of Paradeep, Gahirmatha and Dhamra coastal Stretch. Board also distributed the Pollution Control Excellence and Appreciation Award to selected Industries, mines and health care units from the State.

Mr. Amat, Chief Guest, Minister, PR&DW, Forest, Environment & CC, I&PR. In this occasion as a customary Prof. Pratap Panda, Professor and Head, Dept. of Marine Sciences & Chairman PG Council, Berhampur University, delivered the Dr.M.K.Rout memorial lecture on 'Climate Change and extreme weather events'.

Lastly the meeting was closed with delivering the vote of thanks by the Administrative office of the Board Sri Debadutta Pattnaik.

Er to run Puja special train between Sealdad & Puri

Kolkata (KCN): To clear the extra rush of passengers during the ensuing Festive season, the Eastern Railway (ER) is going to run Puja Special trains between Sealdah & Puri.

The 03101 Sealdah – Puri Puja Special will leave Sealdah at 11:50 pm at night o-n every Saturday between October 1, 2022 & October 29, 2022 (5 trips) to reach Puri at 9:35 am the next day and the 03102 Puri – Sealdah Puja Special will leave Puri at 3:50 pm o-n every Sunday between October 2, 2022 & October 30, 2022 (five trips) to reach Sealdah at 2:00 am the next day.

The above special train will stop at Bhattanagar, Andul, Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur K. Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road stations enroute in both directions.

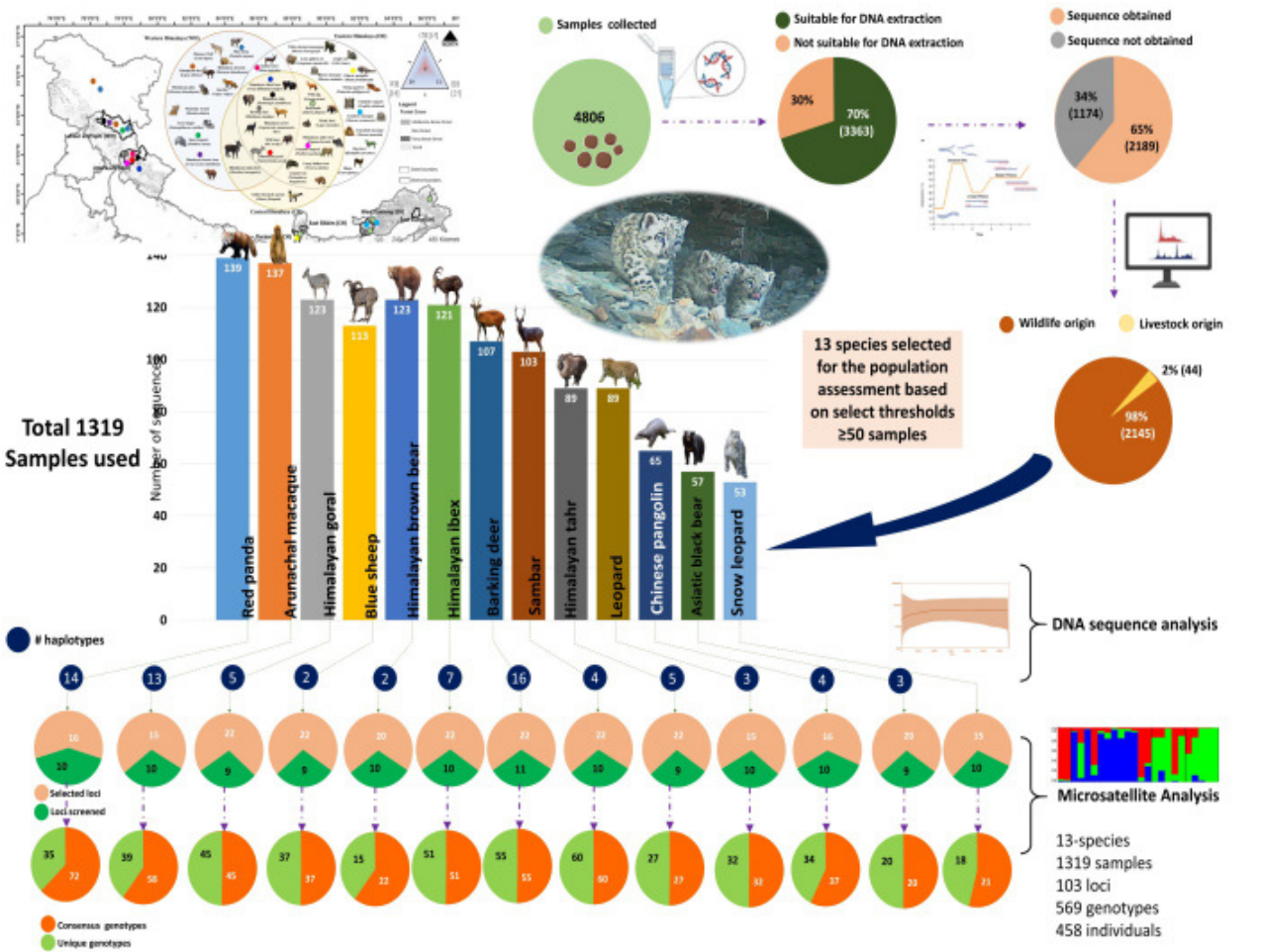
The booking of the Sealdah – Puri Puja Special train (03101) will be available o-n & from September 17, 2022 through PRS & internet. Special charge in addition to normal fare will be realised for this puja special train. No concessional booking is allowed in this train. Tatkal quota will not be available.

No Parallel Work ever done in India under One Single Project Using Faecal Samples: Dr Dhriti Banerjee

Kolkata(KCN): A real demonstration of monitoring of large and threatened mammals in the Indian Himalayan Region has been made by the team of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) scientists by use of non-invasive genetics. This has been the largest attempt from the Indian Himalayan region (IHR) where 4806 faecal samples were processed

ZSI Shri Lalit Sharma who heads the GIS & Wildlife Section of the organisation, coordinated the project activities. Low to moderate levels of genetic variability was observed and most species exhibited stable demographic histories.

The project was awarded to the institute under the large grant category of National Mission



for non-invasive genetic monitoring of threatened mammals covering six study sites namely Lahaul and Spiti, Uttarkashi, Darjeeling, East Sikkim, West Kameng and East Siang, stated ZSI Scientist Shri Mukesh Thakur. Altogether the scientists had at least one site that represented all biotic provinces of the Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan Bio-geographic zones. According to Dr Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, "It was not an easy and straightforward task for the scientists, but the study made a benchmark to be followed". She also assured that no parallel work has ever been done in India under one single project as far as the number of species studied genetically with the use of faecal samples.

The scientists identified 37 mammals and 13 species were studied for their genetic make-up, population structure and genetic fitness. Shri Thakur along with another scientist of

on Himalayan Studies supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC).

The study has estimated an unbiased population genetic account for 13 species that may be monitored after a fixed time interval to understand species performance in response to the landscape changes.

Dr Banerjee stated, "This type of deliverable is only possible with the strong determination, pervasiveness, clarity of vision and unbiased contribution/coordination of all the team members."

The study has been published in the "Science of the Total Environment", which is available online from September 11, 2022 and reveals the pragmatic permeability with the representative sampling in the IHR in order to facilitate the development of species-oriented conservation and management programmes.

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WATCH 'Manikarnika' trailer: This Kangana Ranaut-starrer looks like bits from a Bhansali product



MUMBAI(KCN): Finally it comes. The trailer of the beleaguered historical "Manikarnika - The Queen Of Jhansi" brings to us a furious, ferocious and feral Kangana Ranaut, who tells the 'gora log', "We both want Jhansi. But you want to rule. I want to serve."

Well, precisely. The Rani Of Jhansi was passionately dedicated to her

kingdom. I don't see much of that dedication in the trailer. Much of it is devoted to displaying its leading lady's skills on horses and with swords. The trailer gives us an epic primer on 'Kangana Rides The Horse', 'Kangana Swats The Enemy', 'Kangana Bays For Blood', so on and so forth.

There is so much of the talented ac-

triss' efforts to appear queenly, the trailer barely offers a glimpse of the impressive supporting cast, namely Danny Denzongpa, Atul Kulkarni, Suresh Oberoi and others who flit by in this steamroller view of a woman warrior's day-out binge. Threadbare thunder in a fancy teacup.

Alarmingly and annoyingly, the film

wears a thick and heavy Sanjay Leela Bhansali hangover. In the way the camera zooms in and pans the long stretches of the battle scenes, I was taken back to Bhansali's "Bajirao Mastani". In fact one of Kangana's derring-do in a battle sequence here, she gambols over her army to strike was a move identical to Ranveer Singh's in

"Bajirao Mastani".

ALSO READ: Ready to do a good movie down south, says actress Kangana Ranau So is Kangana's Jhansi Ki Rani, Bajirao or Mastani or both?

It's a highly derivative world created by people who seem to have the resources but not the vision. We could do with a lot more chutzpah when recre-

ating such an important chapter from Indian history.

It's not all a wash-out, though. Kangana seems to convey sufficient fire and elasticity. Her accent is a downer, though.

This is the way the trailer moves: uplifting one moment down to being a disappointment the next. Let's hope the film is not as uneven in tone.

When Julia Roberts realised she was famous

LOS ANGELES (KCN): Actress Julia Roberts, 51, revealed that the first time she realised she was famous was when she was in a bathroom stall at age 21 and a fan asked her for an autograph.

The actress had just starred in the 1988 film "Mystic Pizza" at the time of her bathroom encounter.

The Oscar-winner told the story during an appearance on an episode of a podcast, reports dailymail.co.uk.

ALSO READ: 'Ben Is Back' film review She had her fame awakening after returning home to Georgia to visit her mother and younger sister. The three caught a movie and

Roberts stopped by the bathroom afterward.

"It was after the movie was over and I was in the bathroom and there was a woman in the bathroom who said, 'Hey, girl in stall number one, were you in 'Mystic Pizza?'" she said.

The pushy fan proceeded to slip something under the stall and asked the "Mystic Pizza" star to sign it.

Hansika in Mohanlal's next Tamannaah Bhatia and Shruti Hassan are the new gal pals

It seems Mohanlal-B to @Hansika for her While Rockline



Unnikrishnan team's untitled film is getting bigger and bigger. After Vishal and Srikanth, another popular south star Hansika Motwani will be making her Mollywood debut through the film. The update was announced by the director himself on his official Facebook page.

"I wish great luck

new release Bogan. She will have a very special appearance in my Mohanlal film produced by Mr Rockline Venkatesh," posted Unnikrishnan.

According to the director, who had last teamed up with Mohanlal for Mr Fraud, VFX and special effects will have a lot of importance in the the big budget project.

Venkatesh, who has made films like Bajrangi Bhaijaan and Linga, is the producer, the project also boasts of an excellent crew. Manoj Paramahansa, who has cranked camera for films including Vinnaitaandi Varuvaaya and Nanpan, is the cinematographer. 4 Musics, the band behind the hit songs of Oppam, will be scoring the music.

Tamannaah Bhatia has been bonding with her contemporary Shruti Hassan.

talk everyday due to their busy schedules, but they always make sure to make time on

for Shruti. Tamannaah says, "Shruti is a sweetheart and a dear



for a while now. Tamannaah chose to take some time out last week to meet her new BFF Shruti Hassan to celebrate her birthday.

According to a source close to Tamannaah says. " Tamannah and Shruti share a special bond, the two actresses may not be able to

each other's birthdays. Shruti Hassan, who celebrated her birthday couple of days ago with close friends, had Tamannaah as one of her special guests. It is said that Tamannah makes it a point to not miss her friend's special day at any cost. She had also brought a special gift

friend. Since we both have tight schedules, we don't get much time to spend with each other the rest of the year, so I needed to be at her birthday party so that I could be with her. I have been attending her birthday since the last three years and making sure to be with her on her special day.

Open defecation – a national shame

Open defecation is a national shame and India tops in number of people open defecating. Open defecation in India is a grave issue and needs to be addressed on top priority. According to UN report prompting the Government to admit it as a "huge shame", India still has the largest number of people defecating in open in the world. Report of WHO and the UNICEF say 597 million people practice open defecation in India. No doubt, most of the people who defecate in open, lack awareness about sanitation. But apart from this, the single major factor which forces people to defecate in open is poverty. One in three people, or 2.3 billion people worldwide, have to share a toilet with multiple families in a community. Open defecation poses a serious threat to the health of children in India. It exposes women to the danger of physical attacks and encounters such as



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

s n a k e bites. According to the UN, countries where open defecation is most widely practiced have the highest number of deaths of children under the age of five, as well as high levels of under-nutrition, high levels of poverty and large disparities between the rich and poor. No country in the world has more open defecation than India, where one in two people defecate outside. Every year, 200,000 children in India die from diseases caused by fecal contamination. Although toilets were built, without adequate motivation to use them, village people often continued to adhere to centuries-old practices, and abandoned the new toilets or put them to alternative uses. In fact there is still a traditional thought that the presence of toilets in the compound makes the later impure. Educated or uneducated, people in rural areas, for want of indoor plumbing use open space for defecating. There are some people who think that open defecation is more hygienic and having an indoor toilet is

dirty and filthy. Improving sanitation in the villages has proved to be one of India's greatest development challenges. One of the main challenges faced in the drive to eliminate open defecation is the inadequate human resource base for sanitation. While leading a non-violent movement for India's independence from the British in 1947, Gandhi spoke about the need to improve hygiene and cleanliness in the country. "Sanitation is more important than political independence," he said. It is a shame that 70 years after independence and India is still in such a state, where people have no knowledge, no resources to maintain a minimal level of hygiene. It's not that all those 60% people who don't use toilet are not financially able to construct toilets in their homes, actually many of them possess TV, cooler, motorcycles and many other accessories but don't feel the need to have a toilet inside their compound. No doubt, access to sanitation in rural India is improving, the increase is not equitable.

Open defecation is still almost universal among the poorest 20 per cent of the population. We need a grass root campaign on how many diseases can be avoided by basic cleanliness and how spending on toilets is as important as developing other infrastructure. Whatever welfare measures taken so far by the government has not reached fully the mass. We don't need to build new temples, mosques, churches, gurudwaras etc. Public toilets with good water facility are the need of the hour. In a country like India it is very difficult and takes a long time to change the practice of open defecation in rural areas. Most of the toilets which are started for public use are being neglected by the people due to improper maintenance. It is the matter of hygiene that can attract more people to use toilet. The implementation of toilet system can be carried out in a phased manner with prior creation of awareness through media. It is not that government is only responsible. People have to take responsibility for their own well being as well.

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

On the Occasion of World Ozone Day on 16th September 2022

Global Cooperation to Protect Life on Earth

All of us learnt about ozone in our academic books, magazines, journals that Ozone is a molecule made up of three oxygen atoms, often referenced as O₃. The ozone layer is one layer of the stratosphere, the second layer of the Earth's atmosphere. The Ozone layer is a thin part of the Earth's atmosphere that absorbs almost all of the sun's harmful ultra violet light and protects life on earth. If it was absent, millions of people would develop skin diseases and may have weakened immune systems. The main reasons for the ozone hole are chlorofluorocarbons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl bromide and hydro chlorofluorocarbons. According to NASA, each year for the past few decades during the Southern Hemisphere spring, chemical reactions involving chlorine and bromine cause ozone in the southern polar region to be destroyed rapidly and severely. This depleted region is known as the "ozone hole". The area of the ozone hole is determined from a map of total column



Mr. Subhanarayan Satapathy

ozone. It is calculated from the area on the Earth that is enclosed by a line with a constant value of 220 Dobson Units. The value of 220 Dobson Units is chosen since total ozone values of less than 220 Dobson Units were not found in the historic observations over Antarctica prior to 1979. Also, from direct measurements over Antarctica, a column ozone level of less than 220 Dobson Units is a result of the ozone loss from chlorine and bromine compounds. The human activities cause the emission of halogen source gases that contain chlorine and bromine atoms. These emissions into the atmosphere ultimately lead to stratospheric ozone depletion. The source gases that contain only carbon, chlorine, and fluorine are called "chlorofluorocarbons," usually abbreviated as CFCs. These are released by solvents, spray aerosols, refrigerators, air-conditioners, etc. The molecules of chlorofluorocarbons in the stratosphere are broken down by ultraviolet radiations and release chlorine atoms. Similarly the ozone layer has been found to be depleted by certain natural processes such as Sun-spots and stratospheric winds, volcanic eruptions

etc. So, every individual should also take steps to prevent the depletion of the ozone layer. One should avoid using pesticides and shift to natural methods to get rid of pests instead of using chemicals. The vehicles emit a large amount of greenhouse gases that lead to global warming as well as ozone depletion. Therefore, the use of vehicles should be minimized as much as possible or a vehicle shall be used more and more. Most of the cleaning products have chemicals that affect the ozone layer. We should substitute that with eco-friendly products. Maintain air conditioners, as their malfunctions cause CFC to escape into the atmosphere. To control over the activities community and Government level interference is highly required. Now, air Conditioners are hugely used in public and private transportations like; buses, cars, aero plane ad offices, homes etc. Refrigerators are available in almost all houses. Still there is no restriction on discharging such harmful gases. There is no limit of its uses, which load over on electricity as well as contaminate pure air and harms Ozone layer. Most of the people

are going away from nature. They are enjoying the natural beauty but leaving in and depending on artificial materials and things. ACs are used not only in summer but also in all weather conditions. People are aware of its harmfulness. However, they ignore it or its optimum use reveals to stay in luxurious comfort. Though there are regulations to reduce ozone depleting substance, Montreal protocol, but regulations for people to reduce discharging such substances due to domestic, official, transport use of the machineries and control over such gases shall be formulated and implemented. When the ozone layer is thinned (depleted), more ultraviolet radiation than usual is measured to reach Earth, raising Earth's temperature and increasing risk of sunburn and skin cancer. So Individual to Country and global level effort are required to protect the layer. For sustainable development in terms of agriculture, health, livelihood, reducing disaster and quality lives, Ozone protection is everyone's responsibility for which cooperation of every person is inevitable. Thus to infer, there is Ozone Layer, there are lives on earth.

Bijipur, Brahmagiri, Puri

The role of women in tribal communities

In most of the tribal communities the girl has freedom in selection of her own life partner and for affecting divorce or in marriage. Though marriages are arranged on the basis of conveniently a girl is never married against her willingness. Love marriages are also allowed giving equal privileges to both boys & girls to select their marriage mates. If their parents oppose, beloved couple elope away to a distant place & stay in a relative's house. The youth organisations give scope them to be married. In tribal community practice shifting in cultivation for which help women is badly needed. The women are hardly capable of undertaking strenuous duties, cleaning the shrubs, on poduland manuring hoeing dressing, reaping, weeding the crops after harvesting are done by women. However there is taboo for women in respect of horticulture. Women are forbidden to climb trees. The tribal women weave mats, stitch beat cups. Women help in making bricks and work for wages in their spare time. Women accompany men getting fire wood, bamboo, roots and others forest products. In construction and repairing the house women help men in all sorts of work except thatching taboo from them. They cook fetch water clean utensils plastering verandah & walls with cowdung. Besides all

Pratap chandra sahu

these women have to take care of their children. The position of women in family sphere is high. Women are treated with affection & tenderness. Women are not allowed the feast related to rituals. Women are permitted to participate in dance which considered appealing to deities for welfare of community. The status of women in the tribal community can be certain only after taking into consideration. The women's opportunity for social participation, nature and extent of work behaviour of men towards them, mode of economic pursuits, social taboos attached to women have influence in determining their status. While discussing the status of women in tribal community there is no unanimity of opinion. The anthropologists have two opinions. One is tribal societies women play high level status on the other way women are always in a depressed situation. This divergence views may be attributed to methodological error of generalization on the basis of specific date and various interpretation of what constitute the status. The status are associated with gender, because societies are satisfied not only on the basis of caste class religion and so on but also on the basis of objects roughly corresponding to

both the sexes alongwith properties whereas difference between sexes is based on biological & reproduction function the difference in gender relate various social and cultural attributes. Hence sex is biological where as gender is sociological. So the concept of women and men become significant not only due to the difference between but also the concept which enables us in a better way to recognize society and social relationships. In indian society it is determined women's status on the basis of some indicators like the form, extent of work, political participation level of education state of health representation in decision making bodies and to property. Hence these social cultural factors, economic and political roles differentiate status of women from their male counterparts. Tribal marriage is patrilocal and family in patrilineal the patri protestal. The descent is carried through male line, the family line descending from rather to son in case of paraja tribal. After marriage daughter leaves father's house and becomes a member of her husband's family. However there is some difference in theory and practice. A woman is consulted in important family affairs and is never surpassed completely by her

house. A married daughter is not entitled to get inherit her father's property after her father's death. But a person dies without son, his property is owned by his daughter. A widow mother does not own the property, she will stay with her son or daughter. So far as social life is concerned women in paraja family enjoy a high position like santal & kondh. Influence of liquor among tribals is an old practice and it has got deep-rooted reason rather than it has become a social status during the occasions of various rituals such as marriage dada liquor is consumed despite its ill-consequence instead of steps for its eradication the practice and prevalence is rather encouraged in order to exploit them. This is why most of the development programmes meant for their benefit frustrated. The tribal women strongly opposed opening the liquor shops. Sincere actions taken by the women to eradicate liquor influence upon the tribals. Mostably the women are enjoying equal status with that of men in each and every field of life, but they are always in backfoot. A tribal woman has right to choose her own life partner. She has freedom to work outside the home. She loves at first sight one whom she meets in course of pursuing her own business.

Nabarangapur

'Lakes remain thirsty even as Bengaluru drowned': Activists blame land mafias for floods

BENGALURU: The torrential rain in the city that flooded the houses and offices of tech honchos and turned roads into rivers of sorts could not fill most lakes, thanks to the land mafia who turned the feeder canals of these water bodies into a sewerage drain and diverted their flow, environmentalists

Scheme...Reason why Bengaluru is flooding Further, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) reduced the width of its feeder canal from 60 ft to a mere 10 feet wide drain in two years. The feeder canal of the lake carries the sewage of the nearby apartments and residential layouts, he



said. This mischief by the land sharks in connivance with some vested interests in various civic agencies and in the government led to the death of lakes in the city, Leo Saldanha, coordinator of Environment Support Group alleged. Bengaluru, which the British rulers had called as a 'City of thousand lakes' for having over 1,600 lakes, has about 400 water bodies today in the Bengaluru metropolitan region.

"Those lakes which disappeared gave way for residential layouts, bus stands, bus terminals and tech parks. Sadly, those 400 lakes are also on the verge of destruction,"

Citing the example of Subrahmanyapura Lake in South Bengaluru, he said it has reduced to a cess-pool and is choked with weeds.

One can hardly imagine that barely 15 years ago, people used its water from drinking and took bath in it, he pointed out.

"Ironically, not only the Bangalore Development Authority developed a layout on another lake 'Venkatarayana Kere' on upstream of Subrahmanyapura Lake, but a powerful builder also constructed two massive residential complexes exactly on the feeder canals of these two lakes -- Subrahmanyapura and Venkatarayana Kere," Saldanha claimed.

ALSO READ | No Master Plan, no Master Plan

claimed. The drain does not empty a drop of rainwater into the lake. Instead, it is diverted to straightaway flow into the subsidiary of the Vrushabhavathi river.

The Vrushabhavathi river is now reduced to a major sewage drain, Saldanha said.

"It is a fact that the Subrahmanyapura lake got the attention of the court from 2009 and we are now in 2022. The attention of the court was focused on it. But even with judicial oversight, the Raja Kaluve (feeder canal of the lake) has been destroyed. Apartments have been constructed. This shows the weakness of the system," Saldanha said.

Ravi Kumar, a resident of Chikkalasandra in the region, charged within a radius of two km of the Subrahmanyapura lake, land sharks gobbled up Chikkalasandra Lake, Ittamadu Lake and Narayana Kere and turned them into a residential layout illegally while the civic agency finds itself helpless to recover them.

"The civic agencies had removed encroachment of Chikkalasandra lake a few years ago but today once again the encroachers are back.

This time even the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is parking its garbage vehicles inside the 'lake bed', allowing others to encroach on it," Kumar alleged.

Noted activist S R Hiremath who led a campaign

against the encroachment of government land in Karnataka, especially in Bengaluru said Bellandur Lake, which is the largest water body of the city, had been the victim of rampant encroachment as residential developments happened on its wetland region and its feeder canals.

"I had fought a legal battle against the encroachment with the help of eminent lawyer Prashant Bhushan in the Supreme Court and also fought cases in the High Court. The problem is those who grabbed the government lands are very powerful and are holding important posts in government in-

stitutions as well as all the political parties," Hiremath said. As water recedes, Mahadevapura residents now fear infections. Due to the heavy downpour in the past one week, the lake swelled to monstrous proportions submerging all those areas, which were encroached upon.

"I live in Bellandur. I am unable to move out due to flooding for the past one week. It's been more than 15 years, since I moved to this place but never ever, I experienced such a flood," an executive of a corporate company told PTI requesting anonymity.

Peace pact signed with 8 tribal militant groups of Assam

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday signed an agreement with eight tribal militant organisations based in Assam to bring a lasting peace in some areas of the state.

The tripartite agreement among the central and state governments and the eight groups, including All Adivasi National Liberation Army, Adivasi Cobra Militant of Assam, Birs

in a new era of peace and harmony in Assam," Sarma said.

Except the hardline faction of the banned ULFA, led by Paresah Baruah, and the Kamatapur Liberation Organisation, all other rebel groups active in the state have entered into peace agreements with the government. In January, all cadres belonging to the Tiwa



Commando Force, Santhal Tiger Force, and Adivasi People's Army, was signed here in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma among others.

The groups are in ceasefire since 2012 and living in designated camps.

"I am sure signing of the agreement will usher

Liberation Army and the United Gorkha People's Organisations surrendered with arms and ammunition.

In August, the Kuki Tribal Union militants laid down their arms. In December 2020, around 4,100 cadres belonging to all factions of the Bodo militant group NDFB had surrendered their arms before the authorities.

Xi, Putin meet in Uzbekistan as Ukraine war dominates

SAMARKAND: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin met for talks on boosting ties between their countries on Thursday, an encounter that follows a major setback for Moscow on the battlefield in Ukraine.

The two leaders met in Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a security alliance created as a counterweight to US influence that also includes India, Pakistan and four ex-Soviet nations in Central Asia.

Along with Russian's attack on Ukraine, backdropping the summit are the brief eruption not far from the event site of hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as strains in China's relations with Washington, Europe, Japan and India due to disputes over technology, security and territory.

Speaking at the start of his one-on-one talks with Xi, Putin blasted what he described as an "ugly" effort by the United States and its allies to maintain their perceived global domination.

"Attempts to create a unipolar world have recently taken an absolutely ugly shape. They are absolutely unacceptable for the vast majority of countries on the globe," the Russian president said in opening remarks.

Xi was more careful, saying that together with Russia, China was ready to "set an example of a responsible world power and to play a leading role to take the rapidly changing world on a track of sustainable and positive development."

The SCO summit in the ancient city of Samarkand is part of Xi's first foreign trip since the start of the coronavirus pandemic 2 1/2 years ago, underscoring Beijing's desire to assert itself as a regional power.

The presidents' meeting came after Russia was forced to pull back its forces from large

swaths of northeastern Ukraine last week amid a swift Ukrainian counteroffensive. Ukraine regaining control of several Russian-occupied villages and cities represented Moscow's largest setback since its forces had to retreat from areas near the Ukrainian capital early in the war.

Xi's government, which said it had a "no limits" friendship with Moscow before the in-



vasion of Ukraine in late February, has refused to criticize Russia's military actions. Beijing and India are buying more Russian oil and gas, which helps Moscow offset the impact of Western sanctions imposed over the invasion.

"We highly appreciate the well-balanced position of our Chinese friends in connection with the Ukrainian crisis," Putin said at the start of his talks with Xi.

Russia, in turn, has strongly backed China amid tensions with the US that followed a recent visit to Taiwan by US House Speaker

Nancy Pelosi.

"We condemn the provocations of the US and its satellites in the Taiwan Strait," Putin told Xi.

Putin also met Thursday with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, whose country is on track to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Raisi said Moscow and Tehran were finalizing a major treaty that would bring their

relations to a "strategic level."

He and Putin both criticised the US at the start of their meeting. Raisi accused the US of breaching its obligations under Iran's nuclear deal with world powers. Putin gibe American officials, saying "They are masters of their word - they give it and then take it back whenever they want."

The Russian leader also held meetings with Central Asian leaders and planned to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

Putin is also scheduled to meet one-on-one with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan. Turkey and Azerbaijan have the status of 'dialogue partners' with the SCO.

Earlier this week, Azerbaijan and Armenia engaged in cross-border shelling that killed 176 troops on both sides, marking the most serious hostilities in nearly two years between the decades-long adversaries. The fighting has put Moscow, which has tried to maintain close ties with both countries, in a precarious position.

Putin's meeting with Erdogan will be closely watched for their statements on Ukraine and a July deal brokered by Turkey and the UN to clear the way for exports of grain and other agricultural products that were stuck at Ukraine's Black Sea ports after the Russian invasion.

The Chinese leader is promoting a 'Global Security Initiative' announced in April following the formation of the Quad by Washington, Japan, Australia and India in response to Beijing's more assertive foreign policy. Xi has given few details, but US officials complain it echoes Russian arguments in support of Moscow's attack on Ukraine.

The region is part of China's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative to expand trade by building ports, railways and other infrastructure across an arc of dozens of countries from the South Pacific through Asia to the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

On Thursday, Xi met with President Sadyr Zhaparov of Kyrgyzstan and said Beijing supports the 'early operation' of a planned railway linking China, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, the Chinese foreign ministry said. China's economic inroads into Central Asia have fuelled unease in Russia, which sees the region as its sphere of influence. Xi made a one-day visit Wednesday to Kazakhstan en route to Uzbekistan. Pope Francis was in Kazakhstan, but they didn't meet.

Bhubaneswar to host Durga Puja at 178 pandals

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The State Capital all set to celebrate Dussehra in a grand way after two year's of Covid break, will host Durga Puja at 178 pandals this year, informed Mayor Sulochana Das. Das who chaired a coordination meeting with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and other line departments said, "The Puja will be organised by 178 pandals. This will be more than the Cuttack city where the number of pandals this

with Commissionerate Police and BMC had already been held this month, while Monday's meeting focused on coordination among line departments such as Watco, TPCODL, R&B, PHEO and other divisions to ensure hassle-free and smooth Puja this year. Issues pertaining to roads, drains, sanitation activities, public toilets and food safety were also discussed in the meeting. Both the Mayor and Municipal Commissioner Vijay



year is 173." "The festival this year will be celebrated with all pomp and grandeur as there will be no restrictions on public darshan like the last two years because of Covid-19," she said. Das, however, clarified that though BMC doesn't have any mandatory Covid restrictions, devotees will be encouraged to follow Covid safety norms and wear mask to protect themselves and others from the spread of the virus. The Mayor said as part of the celebrations, cultural programmes at Puja pandals will be allowed till night.

Amruta Kulange asked the officials concerned to speed up road and pothole repair work. BMC sanitation wing was asked to step up measures and draw plans to keep the areas clean during Puja, while Kulange also asked officials of TPCODL and fire services to ensure prevention of accidents due to short-circuit or fire. The BMC Commissioner said an SOP will be released soon for the smooth conduct of Puja celebrations. The civic body will also take help of corporators to monitor services and traffic issues in their areas.

Saffron Road Map Ready

Puri: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has chalked out its strategy and road map to counter the BJD Government and win the 2024 general elections in Odisha at its three day training program concluded here on Thursday. The leaders discussed several issues during the training

vote percentage in Panchayat, Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. They stated that the BJP vote percentage in 2014 Lok Sabha was 21.8 percent which further increased to 38.4 percent in 2019 Lok Sabha elections, a phenomenal rise. Similarly, in the 2014 Assembly elec-

prepared and handed over to functionaries who will work at booth level and enlighten the electorate about huge funds being released to the State Government under several welfare schemes by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking to reporters here, Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan

The party workers will spread awareness among the people about large-scale corruption in the state and urge the electorate to vote BJP to power, party's General Secretary Golak Mahapatra said. Today National General Secretary, BL Santosh, Union Railway Minister



program and on the last day central big-wigs instill winning mantra into the party members. The party is eyeing to win the Assembly polls and at least double the MP seats in the 2024 general elections in the State, party insiders said. During the training program many BJP leaders gave a call to oust what they alleged was the corrupt BJD Government. After fifteen brainstorming sessions, the leaders presented poll statistics over the considerable increase in the party

tion the party got 18 percent vote which increased to 32 percent in the 2019 assembly poll. The ruling BJD's polling percentage in 2014 Lok Sabha elections was 44.1 percent which reduced to 42.8 percent, a decline by 1.3 percent in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP leaders said. The party leaders said they will work to get 120+ Assembly seats with 50 percent vote share in the upcoming general elections in the State. A charter of work schedule has been

Mishra said, "BJP will certainly form the government in Odisha in 2024. We are planning to win the required number of seats to form the Government." Odisha will see real development through a double-engine Government, he claimed. On BJD's winning election, Mishra said they misuse Government machinery and money during elections. In almost all constituencies, they capture booths with the help of local police who work as BJD goons in the elections, he alleged.

Ashwini Vaishnav, National General Secretary D. Purandeswari and Union Agriculture Minister Radhamohan Singh addressed the party members during the workshop. Reacting to the claim of BJP, BJD leader and Government Chief Whip Prasant Muduli said, "Earlier also many Central BJP leaders had visited Odisha and prepared strategies. But, they failed, because, BJP people are not connected with people at the grassroots level."

For first time in WB, Apsez Ltd invests Rs. 298.26 Crore for mechanisation of berth no. 2 at HDC of SMP, Kolkata

Kolkata (KCN): The Concession Agreement between Haldia Dock Complex (HDC), SMP, Kolkata and M/s. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ) w.r.t. Mechanisation of Berth No. 2 of Haldia on DBFOT basis has been signed today at SMP, Kolkata Head Office in presence of Shri Vinit Kumar, Chairman, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP), Kolkata and Shri Subrat Tripathy, CEO, Ports, APSEZ. The Concession Agreement has been signed by Shri A. K. Mehera, Deputy Chairman (Haldia), SMP, Kolkata and Shri Sudip Dasgupta, COO, Dhamra Port. In this programme, Shri Samrat Rahi, Deputy Chairman (Kolkata), SMP, Kolkata, Shri Sulaiman Lakadawalla, AGM-M&A, APSEZ, Shri Shiv Shankar, Manager (M&A), APSEZ and Heads of the Departments of Haldia Dock Complex and Kolkata Dock System were also present.

The project will help increase the cargo handling capacity and also fast evacuation of cargo at Haldia Port. The cargo will be handled in environment friendly manner and shall lower the cost of handling by Port Us-



This is the maiden step of APSEZ to enter the region through competitive bidding at HDC, SMP, Kolkata. The mechanisation of the berth would be done on Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer ("DBFOT") basis at HDC. The project involves mechanization of Berth No 2 at HDC by an investment of Rs 298.26 crore to handle 3.744 MT of dry bulk cargo per annum. The project is for handling Dry Bulk cargo by the way of unloading from vessel by Mobile Harbor Crane/unloader, conveying through conveyor system, storage at yard by stacker-cum-reclaimer and loading into wagons through mechanized silo loading system. M/s. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ) has emerged as the highest bidder by quoting a royalty of Rs 75.07/MT. The concession period would be of 30 years and the operation at the berth is expected to commence from September, 2025.

ers at Haldia. This shall lead to direct and indirect employment opportunities with revenue generation to the tune of Rs. 22.5 crores per annum for HDC, SMP, Kolkata. The signing of concession agreement marks another step towards the survival and growth strategies of HDC, SMP, Kolkata w.r.t. handling of higher volume of cargo just after the Letter of Award for creation of additional berth at Shalukhali was issued on 18th August, 2022. Mention may be made here that in view of much needed Mechanization and Upgradation under PM Gati Shakti programme at SMP, Kolkata on 10.02.2022 Letter of Award (LOA) for Mechanization and Upgradation of berth No. 2 at HDC was handed over to M/s. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ) by SMP, Kolkata in presence of Shri Vinit Kumar, Chairman, SMP, Kolkata and Shri Karan Adani, whole time Director & CEO of M/s. Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ). Appreciating this significant achievement, Shri Kumar stated that despite being the only riverine major port in country, SMP, Kolkata has been constantly maintaining its pivotal position in Indian Major Ports for the past 153 years.



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Many countries interested in bilateral rupee trade: FM

HYDERABAD: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said many countries have

trade in the rupee, she said, in a way it is opening the Indian economy more than what can be imag-

creasing interest of the global trading community in the domestic currency. The announcement

dertaking imports through this mechanism shall make payment in INR which shall be credited into



evinced interest for bilateral trade in the rupee after the RBI announced a mechanism recently. Speaking at Mindmine Summit 2022, she said this along with other steps taken by the government is towards full capital account convertibility. "It isn't the rouble-rupee which was in the old format. Now this (bilateral rupee trade) formulation, which I am glad the RBI has come up at a time which was so critical," she said when asked if India is ready for capital account convertibility. Highlighting that many countries have evinced interest in

ined. "Post-pandemic, India is coming up with so many out-of-the-box solutions...I would like to highlight the fact that we are a lot more open with the Indian economy, a lot more open in the way we are talking to countries, we are willing to have our digital platform become interoperable between countries to enable cross-border transactions," she said.

It is to be noted that the RBI in July issued a detailed circular asking banks to put in place additional arrangements for export and import transactions in the rupee in view of in-

by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to allow cross-border trade transactions in the rupee is a timely move and a step towards internationalisation of the currency.

Currently, a large part of bilateral trade between India and Russia is getting settled in the rupee due to sanctions imposed by the US and Europe following Moscow's attack on Ukraine.

The RBI had said that for settlement of trade transactions, banks concerned will require special rupee vostro accounts of correspondent banks of the partner trading country.

"Indian importers un-

derstanding the special vostro account of the correspondent bank of the partner country, against the invoices for the supply of goods or services from the overseas seller/supplier," it had said.

Exporters undertaking overseas shipments of goods and services through this mechanism will be paid the export proceeds in the rupees from the balances in the designated special vostro account. As per the circular, the rupee surplus balance held can be used for permissible capital and current account transactions in accordance with the mutual agreement.

Vaishnav urges telecom service providers to improve services

NEW DELHI: Telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Wednesday urged the telecom service providers (TSPs) to focus on improving the quality of service by three to four times from current level. The minister, while addressing the Digital Infrastructure Providers Association's (DIPA) annual conference, said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi constantly reviews

is going to be a very exciting journey and noted that many countries took multiple years to reach 50% 40% coverage. "We are targeting a very, very aggressive timeline. The government has given a target of 80% coverage in a short timeframe. We should definitely cover at least 80% in a very short time frame," said Vaishnav.

The minister also said the government is coming up with the second reform for the telecom industry. "So, the key takeaways from today's session are that there will be very soon another wave of reforms," said the minister.

The minister is also concerned about power consumption by mobile towers and called it a big issue. He asked the industry people to come up with a solution, which can reduce the carbon footprint of the telecom industry. "How can we use more and more renewable energy or something like green energy," asked the minister. "Please come up with some sort of solution, which can really reduce the power and carbon footprint of the telecom industry. It is the one item which I'll request you to come up with some options," requested the minister.



each and every aspect of the telecom industry, thus it is now up to the telecom service providers or the infrastructure providers to come up with better quality of service. "I will be requesting TRAI to send a new consultation paper on increasing the quality of service parameters so that whatever is the quality of service that we are seeing today should now improve significantly," said the minister. His comment assumes significance as there are many reports of call drops and patchy networks. The minister said the journey of 5G

Fitch cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 7 per cent for FY23

NEW DELHI: Fitch Ratings on Thursday slashed its projection of India's economic growth to 7 per cent for current fiscal year, citing elevated inflation levels and higher interest rates.

Fitch, which had in June projected India's GDP to grow by 7.8 per cent in 2022-23, also forecast a slowdown in growth to 6.7 per cent in FY24 from its earlier estimate of 7.4 per cent.



In its Global Economic Outlook September 2022 released on Thursday, the rating agency said the GDP growth of 13.5 per cent in April-June, as per official data, was below its June expectation of 18.5 per cent increase.

"We expect the economy to slow given the global economic backdrop, elevated inflation and tighter monetary policy," it said. "Inflation moderated in August as crude oil prices eased, but the risk to food inflation persists given negative seasonality towards the end of this year."

The wholesale-price-based inflation softened to 11-month low of 12.41 per cent in August, even though retail inflation inched up to 7 per cent. Fitch joins other agencies who have downgraded India's economic growth forecast following a below-expected 13.5 per cent expansion in April-June (the first quarter of current fiscal year).

Moody's Investors Service expects India's GDP growth to slow from 8.3 per cent in 2021 to 7.7 per cent in 2022 and to decelerate further to 5.2 per cent in 2023.

In March, Moody's had forecast that India's economy could expand at 8.8 per cent in 2022.

Citigroup has sharply cut its FY23 growth projection to 6.7 per cent from 8 per cent earlier while Goldman Sachs revised it to 7 per cent from 7.2 per cent. SBI expects 6.8 per cent growth from April 2022 to March 2023 (FY23) and India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) pegs it at 6.9 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects the economy to grow 7.2 per cent in current fiscal year.

Fitch said core inflation, which excludes food, fuel and light, remained elevated at 6 per cent while inflation expectations have also stayed high.

The RBI's latest survey of household inflation expectations eased in July, but expectations are still far above pre-pandemic levels.

Destabilising inflation expectations could risk triggering second-round effects. "While the RBI expects monthly inflation data to be volatile in the near term, its expectation is for consumer price inflation (CPI) to ease towards the end of the year," it said.

The RBI has raised its benchmark repo rate by 140 basis points since May, including 50 basis points last month, to 5.4 per cent. "We expect the RBI to continue raising, to 5.9 per cent before year-end," Fitch said.

"The RBI remains focused on reducing inflation, but said that its decisions would continue to be 'calibrated, measured and nimble' and dependent on the unfolding dynamics of inflation and economic activity."

The rating agency expected policy rates to peak in the near future and to remain at 6 per cent throughout next year.

The US-based agency said it expects the rupee value to remain at 79 against the US dollar by the end of

Shalini Pandit as Secretary of Health, Subha gets Women and Child Development

Continued from page-1

additional charge of Science and Technology department.

The notification said that Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar, Director, Scheduled Tribe Development has been appointed as the Additional Secretary of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department. She will retain the additional charge of CEO, ORMAS.

Brundha D, Managing Director of Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL) has been appointed as Mission Director, National Health Mission. She will have additional charge as MD, OSMCL and Commissioner, Food Safety.

Similarly, Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Special Secretary to government in Commerce and Transport department will have additional charge as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited. Saroj Kumar Mishra, Special Secretary in Finance Department has been posted as Special Secretary of Health and Family Welfare department.

2022, while the retail inflation at around 6.2 per cent. It said supply shocks and inflation are hitting the world economy hard and expects the world GDP to grow by 2.4 per cent in 2022, revised down by 0.5 percentage points.

In 2023, the world GDP will grow by just 1.7 per cent, 1 percentage points lower than previous estimates. "The eurozone and UK are now expected to enter recession later this year and the US is expected to suffer a mild recession in mid-2023," Fitch said.

On China, it said the recovery is constrained by the pandemic restrictions and a prolonged property slump while projecting growth to slow to 2.8 per cent this year and recover to only 4.5 per cent next year.

"We've had something of a perfect storm for the global economy in recent months, with the gas crisis in Europe, a sharp acceleration in interest rate rises, and a deepening property slump in China," said Brian Coulton, Chief Economist, Fitch Ratings.

CM Patnaik woos business stalwarts in Mumbai for MIO 3.0; Vedanta commits Rs 25K cr investment

Continued from page-1

the State and ease of doing business available here.

Besides Agarwal, Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra, APAR Industries Chairman Chaitanya Desai, WAAREE Group CMD Hitesh Chimanlal Doshi, JM Baxi Group MD Dhruv Kotak and CFO of STT GDC India Bimal Khandelwal held discussions with him.

"There's only one way to describe CM @Naveen_Odisha - A Class Act. Cerebral, calm, confident, he's a man of few words who lets his actions do the talking. One of his greatest legacies will be a model for mitigating natural disasters that is being emulated around the world," tweeted Mahindra after his meeting.

Naveen also met SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, ICICI Bank Executive Director Rakesh Jha and Country Head of HDFC Bank Arvind Vohra and apprised them about the growth opportunities in the banking sector. He invited them to set up new branches and expand banking services in the unbanked areas.

Addressing the potential investors, Naveen said Odisha is one of the fastest growing economies in the country and has consistently grown above the national average in the last decade and a half.

"Odisha has been ranked among the top states in India in terms of live manufacturing investments and have been accorded the achiever status in the recently released ease of doing business ratings by the Centre. The Make in Odisha Conclave is a platform for our state to showcase our growth story and to present what we have to offer to our investors across the globe. It is also a platform for industry captains and thought leaders to talk about the future outlook of various industrial sectors," he said.

During one-to-one interaction with industry leaders as part of the curtain raiser event for third edition of the summit, the Chief Minister discussed about new industrial propositions and highlighted huge scope in component manufacturing, setting up of ancillary, downstream industries, logistics services, maritime trade and cargo operations in the State.

Minister for Industries, MSME and Energy Pratap Keshari Deb stressed the State's highly skilled workforce and said Odisha has established a first of its kind World Skill Centre (WSC) to make youth job-ready.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra shed light on how Odisha has been one of the major breakout states in the country in terms of development, registering impressive GSDP growth rates year after year and industrializing at break-neck speed.

Principal Secretary of Industries department Hemant Sharma, IPICOL Chairman Bhupendra Singh Poonia and FICCI Maharashtra State Council Chairman Sulajja Firodia Motwani also spoke.

Former Pakistan umpire Asad Rauf dies of cardiac arrest

NEW DELHI: Former Pakistan umpire Asad Rauf has died after suffering a cardiac arrest in Lahore.

He was 66.

Rauf had made his first appearance as an umpire in international cricket in 2000. He officiated in 64 Tests (49 as on-field umpire and 15 as TV umpire), 139 ODIs and 28 T20Is and was one of Pakistan's leading umpires in the mid 2000s.

His family members confirmed that he suffered a cardiac arrest on Wednesday night and

with his family for their loss," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) President Ramiz Raja tweeted.

Rauf, who had played 71 first-class matches for National Bank and Railways before taking up umpiring, was appointed in the ICC elite panel in April 2006.

Once considered a top umpire alongside compatriot Aleem Dar, Rauf fell from grace when the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) banned him in early 2016 for involvement in corruption and misconduct during the Indian Premier League.

Although the BCCI banned him in 2016, Rauf had come under suspicion after being named as one of the accused by the Mumbai Police in IPL spot-fixing scandal in 2013.

He was accused of taking gifts and bribes to fix matches. Soon after, reports

emerged of Rauf's involvement in breaching the International Cricket Council (ICC)'s Anti-Corruption Code. He was also withdrawn from the Champions Trophy and dropped from the ICC elite panel. While banning him for five years, the BCCI had said that he was involved in breaching the ICC anti-corruption code several times during the league while officiating as umpire. After the BCCI ban, Rauf's umpiring career came to an end as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also implemented a ban even for domestic matches and from being involved in any cricket related activities in Pakistan. For the last few years Rauf was running a shop to sell clothes and shoes at the Landa Bazar in Lahore.



was taken to a hospital but he died there.

"He had not been feeling well for the last couple of days while running his business and came home early. Doctors say he had a cardiac arrest," his brother said from Lahore.

He will be buried in Lahore near his home on Thursday evening.

Rauf, who was also an accomplished first class batter and toured with the Pakistan team without playing a Test or an international match before turning to umpiring, also officiated in 11 women's T20 games.

"Saddened to hear about passing of Asad Rauf. Not only was he a good umpire but also had a wicked sense of humour. He always put a smile on my face and will continue to do so whenever I think about him. Many sympathies

T20 World Cup clash between India and Pakistan sold out: ICC



DUBAI: The ICC T20 World Cup match between India and Pakistan has been sold out as over 500,000 fans have already booked their place to attend the showpiece event in Australia, starting October 16.

The clash between the arch-rivals, scheduled at the MCG on October 23, is sold out, "with additional standing room tickets snapped up within

minutes of going on sale."

"An official re-sale platform will be launched closer to the event, where fans can exchange tickets at face value," ICC said in a release.

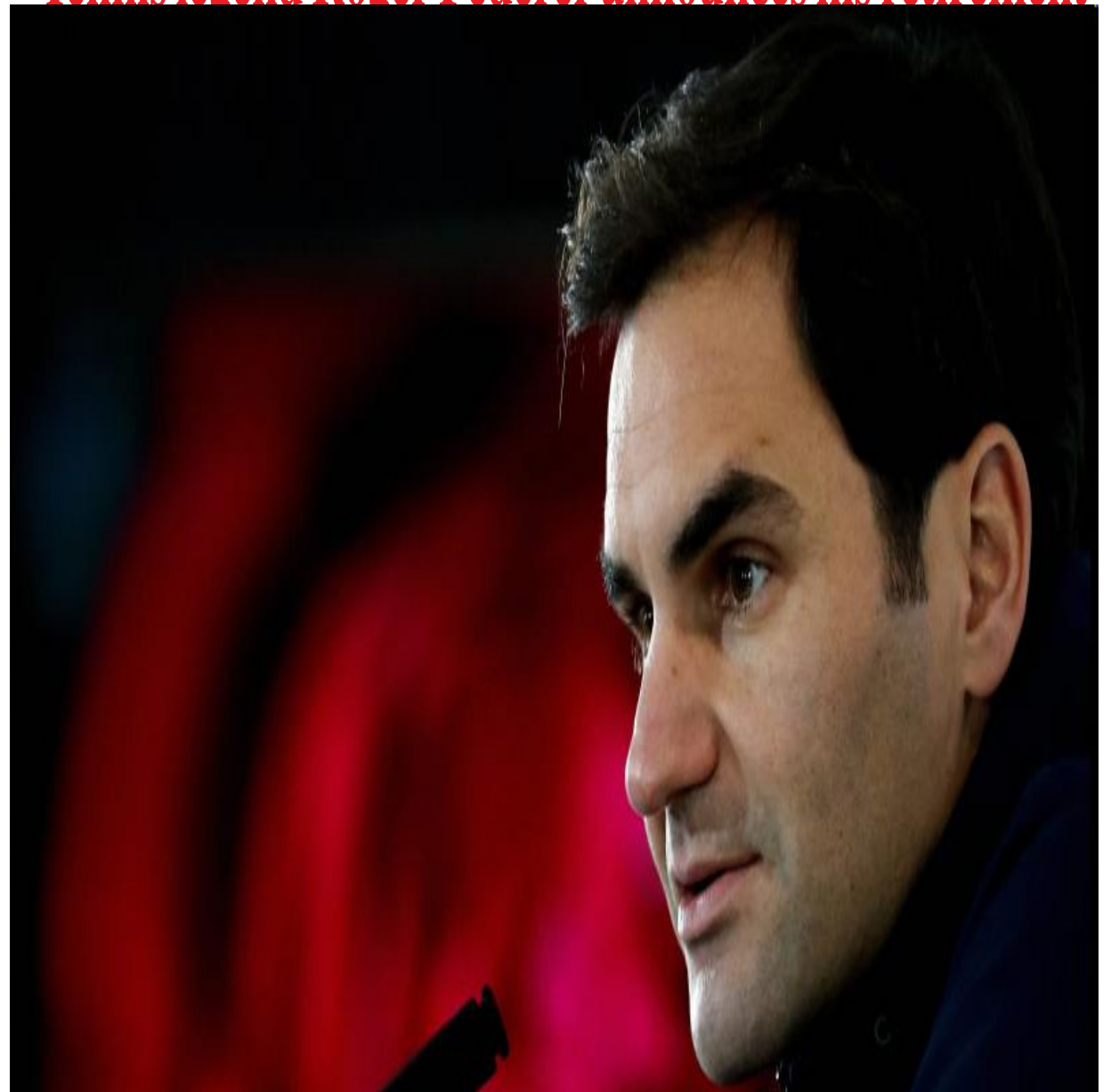
The ICC said "fans from 82 different countries have purchased tickets to watch the world's best players from 16 international teams, marking the return of full stadiums at ICC events for the first

time since the Women's T20 World Cup in 2020, which culminated with 86,174 fans for the final at the MCG."

"Current ticket allocations are also all sold for the double-header at the SCG on 27 October featuring South Africa v Bangladesh and India v Group A runner-up. Fans are encouraged to join the waitlist in the event of additional tickets becoming available."

The governing body said "only a very limited number of tickets remain for Australia's opening Super 12 fixture against New Zealand at the SCG on 22 October, the double-header featuring Pakistan v Group A runner-up and India v South Africa at Perth Stadium on 30 October, and Pakistan v South Africa at the SCG on 3 November."

Tennis legend Roger Federer announces his retirement



HYDERABAD: Stating that the upcoming Laver Cup will be his last ATP tournament, Tennis great Roger Federer announced his retirement on Thursday.

Thanking his opponents, Federer made a heartfelt social media post in which he said "I was lucky enough to play so many epic matches

that I will never forget. We battled fairly, with passion and intensity, and I always tried my best to respect the history of the game. I feel extremely grateful."

The 41-year-old star has played more than 1500 matches and won 20 major titles, dominating the court for a period of over 24 years.

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